



WHITESTONE
solar farm

WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM

Volume 5: Reports and Statements

5.1 Consultation Report Appendix F Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

Application Document ref. EN0110020/APP/5.1
Revision 01
June 2026

Planning Act 2008
Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms and
Procedure) Regulations 2009
Regulation 5(2)(q)

Contents

APPENDIX F1 ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT	2
1 OVERVIEW	3
2 INTRODUCTION	9
2.1 Overview of the consultation process	9
2.2 Early engagement and non-statutory consultation	10
2.3 Scoping.....	23
3 APPROACH TO STATUTORY CONSULTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCC	24
3.1 Overview	24
3.2 Approach to community consultation	24
3.3 Development of the SoCC	25
3.4 Publication of the SoCC	26
4 STATUTORY CONSULTATION	27
4.1 Overview.....	27
4.2 Consultation with statutory consultees (s42).....	27
4.3 Notification of the Secretary of State (s46).....	35
4.4 Consultation with local communities (s47) and Compliance with the SoCC	35
4.5 Responses to the Statutory Consultation under Section 42.....	44
4.6 Responses to the Statutory Consultation under Section 47.....	46
4.7 Changes to the Proposed Development following the statutory consultation.....	51
4.8 Further consultation and engagement	54
5 CONCLUSIONS	55
6 REFERENCES	56
APPENDIX F2 COMPLIANCE WITH THE SOCC	57
Appendix F2.1. Publicising the Consultation	57
Appendix F2.2. Providing information about the Proposed Development	58
Appendix F2.3 After the consultation	60
APPENDIX F3 RESPONSES FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES	61
Appendix F3.1 City of Doncaster Council AOCM Response.....	61
Appendix F3.2 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council AOCM Response.....	70
Appendix F3.3 North East Derbyshire District Council AOCM Response	74

APPENDIX F1 ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

1 OVERVIEW

- 1.1.1 This Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report ('the Report') has been prepared by Whitestone Net Zero Ltd ('the Applicant') in connection with its application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) ('the Application') for Whitestone Solar Farm ('the Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2 The Proposed Development is a solar farm with associated battery storage that would be located on approximately 1,100 hectares of land within the administrative boundaries of City of Doncaster Council (CDC), Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC), Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC), collectively referred to as 'the host authorities'.
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Development meets the criteria to be considered as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under section 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) (as amended by The Infrastructure Planning (Onshore Wind and Solar Generation) Order 2025) as it is a proposed generating station which would be within England, generates electricity directly from sunlight, would not be offshore and would have a generating capacity of more than 100 MW.
- 1.1.4 In 2024, the Government introduced new statutory guidance for NSIPs:
- Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ('the Guidance') (published April 2024) [REF-2].
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus ('the Prospectus') (published 16 May 2024) [REF-6].
- 1.1.5 Both the Guidance and the Prospectus introduce a pre-application requirement for prospective applicants to record and submit to the Planning Inspectorate an Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report which:
- establishes the consultation undertaken to date;
 - confirms that the commitments set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) have been met; and
 - provides a summary of consultation responses received and how these responses are shaping the application.
- 1.1.6 This Report should enable the Planning Inspectorate and the host authorities to give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the Applicant to date, minimising the risk of non-acceptance at the acceptance stage.
- 1.1.7 The Applicant shared a copy of this Report with the host authorities on 4 February 2026. A copy of the responses provided by the host authorities is appended to this Report (see **Appendix F3**).
- 1.1.8 This Report provides an overview of how the Applicant has complied with pre-application statutory requirements set out in the PA 2008. This Report does not include detailed information about the non-statutory consultation or other engagement activities, which will be included in the Consultation Report submitted as part of the Application.
- 1.1.9 **Table 1.1** below provides a checklist to demonstrate that each of these requirements has been fulfilled and indicates where in this Report more information can be found. The accompanying appendices provide evidence of how each of the requirements has been met.

Table 1.1 Checklist of consultation requirements under sections 42-48 PA 2008

Requirement	Requirement met / comment
<p>Section 42(1)(a) - Did the Applicant consult such persons as may be prescribed?</p> <p>(The persons prescribed for the purposes of s42(1)(a) are the statutory bodies listed in Schedule 1 to The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended by the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024) (the APFP Regulations)). [REF-4]</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Paragraphs 4.2.2-4.2.5 explain how the Applicant identified the relevant s42(1)(a) prescribed consultees.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.2.15 sets out that on 8 September 2025 the Applicant notified the prescribed consultees identified under s42, stating that responses must be received by 11:59pm on 28 October.</p> <p>The list of prescribed consultees is included at Appendix C1.1 of the Consultation Report. A copy of the letter sent to prescribed consultees is provided at Appendix C1.2 of the Consultation Report.</p>
<p>Section 42(1)(aa) - Did the Applicant consult the Marine Management Organisation (MMO)?</p> <p>The MMO must be consulted in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in s42(2) of the PA 2008.</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>Section 42(1)(b) Did the Applicant consult each local authority that is within s43?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Paragraphs 4.2.6 and 4.2.7 explain how the Applicant identified the relevant local authorities, which are listed in Table 4.2 of this Report.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.2.15 sets out that those local authorities were notified on 8 September 2025 of the Applicant's intention to submit the Application and of the requirement to consult.</p> <p>A copy of the letter of notification is included in Appendix C1.3 of the Consultation Report.</p>
<p>Section 42(1)(c) - Did the Applicant consult the Greater London Authority (if in Greater London area)?</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>

CONSULTATION REPORT APPENDIX F

Requirement	Requirement met / comment
<p>Section 42(1)(d) - Did the Applicant consult each person who is within one or more categories set out in section s44?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Paragraphs 4.2.8-4.2.14 explain how all persons with an interest in land (PILs) were identified.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.2.15 explains that the Applicant wrote to PILs on 8 September 2025. A copy of the letter is included in Appendix C1.4 of the Consultation Report.</p>
<p>Section 45(1)-(2) - Did the Applicant notify the persons consulted under s42 of the deadline for the receipt of responses to the consultation; and if so was the deadline notified 28 days or more starting with the day after receipt of the consultation documents?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Paragraph 4.2.15 explains that the Applicant provided notification on 8 September that consultation responses were due by 28 October, which is more than 28 days.</p> <p>Copies of the letters sent to the relevant consultees under s42 are provided at Appendices C1.2-C1.4 of the Consultation Report.</p>
<p>Section 46(1)-(2) - Did the Applicant supply information to notify the Planning Inspectorate (acting on behalf of the Secretary of State) of the proposed application; and if so was the information supplied to The Planning Inspectorate on or before the date it was sent to the s42 consultees? Was this done on or before commencing consultation under s42?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Section 4.3 sets out that the Applicant supplied information to notify the Planning Inspectorate in accordance with s46 on 8 September 2025, which was (i) on the same date as the notification to the s42 consultees and (ii) before the commencement of the s42 consultation on 16 September 2025.</p> <p>A copy of the s46 notification letter is provided at Appendix C2.1 of the Consultation Report and a copy of the s46 notification acknowledgement letter from the Planning Inspectorate is provided at Appendix C2.2 of the Consultation Report.</p>
<p>Section 47(1) - Did the Applicant prepare a statement setting out how the Applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>A copy of the Applicant's final Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) is provided at Appendix B3 of the Consultation Report.</p>

CONSULTATION REPORT APPENDIX F

Requirement	Requirement met / comment
Section 47(2) - Were the relevant local authorities consulted about the content of the statement?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Paragraph 3.3.4 describes that relevant local authorities were consulted from 24 July – 22 August 2025.</p>
Section 47(5) - Has the Applicant had regard to any responses received when preparing the statement?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Table 3.1 sets out the changes the Applicant made to the draft SoCC in response to feedback from the local authorities.</p>
Section 47(6) - Was the statement made available for inspection in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land; and was a notice published in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land which states where and when the SoCC could be inspected?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Section 3.4 sets out that the SoCC was published on the Applicant’s project website on 10 September 2025 and notices were published in local papers on 11 September.</p> <p>A copy of the notices and the newspaper clippings are included in Appendix C3 of the Consultation Report.</p>
Regulation 12 of Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the “EIA Regulations”) - does the statement set out whether the development is EIA development; and does it set out how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Pages 8-9 of the final SoCC explain that the Proposed Development is EIA development for the purposes of the EIA Regulations and set out how the Applicant would publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information.</p>
Section 47(7) - Has the Applicant carried out the consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Section 4 of this Report sets out how the community consultation was carried out in line with the final SoCC. Appendix F2 provides evidence that the commitments within the final SoCC have been carried out.</p>
Regulation 4(2) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the “APFP Regulations 2009”) - Did the Applicant publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner set out in regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Paragraphs 4.4.4-4.4.6 explain that the Applicant produced a combined s47/s48 notice. The notice is included at Appendix C3.1 and the newspaper clippings are included at Appendix C3.2-3.9 of the Consultation Report.</p>

Requirement	Requirement met / comment
<p>Did the s48 notice include the required information set out in regulation 4(3) of the APFP Regulations?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The published combined s47/s48 notice, supplied at Appendix C3.1 of the Consultation Report, contains the required information as set out below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The name and address of the applicant (page 1, paragraph 1); 2. a statement that the applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State (page 1, paragraph 1); 3. a statement as to whether the Proposed Development is EIA development (page 2, paragraph 2); 4. a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the Proposed Development (page 1, paragraphs 4-6; and 5. a statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development were available on a website maintained by or on behalf of the applicant (page 2, paragraph 6); 6. the address of the website where the documents, plans and maps may be inspected (page 2, paragraph 6); 7. a telephone number which can be used to contact the applicant for enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps (page 4, paragraph 1); 8. the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection on the website (being a date not earlier than the deadline on page 3, paragraph 3 (page 2, paragraph 6); 9. whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge (page 2, paragraph 6); 10. details of how to respond to the publicity (page 3, paragraph 2); and 11. a deadline for receipt of those responses by the Applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice is published (page 3, paragraph 2).

CONSULTATION REPORT APPENDIX F

Requirement	Requirement met / comment
<p>Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations - Has a copy of the s48 notice been sent to the EIA consultation bodies and to any person notified to the Applicant?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>A copy of the combined s47/s48 notice was sent to the relevant consultation bodies as part of the s42 consultation.</p> <p>A sample of the s42 consultation letter provided at Appendix C1.2 of the Consultation Report, confirms a copy of the combined s47/s48 notice was enclosed.</p>
<p>Section 49(2)-(3) - Has the Applicant had regard to any relevant responses to the s42 and s47 consultations and s48 publicity?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Sections 4.5 and 4.6 of this Report describes how the Applicant has reviewed and taken account of the responses received during the statutory consultation to date.</p> <p>Further engagement with relevant prescribed consultees will continue and shape how this feedback is addressed in the Application documents. The detailed responses to feedback will be included in the Consultation Report.</p>
<p>Section 50 – Has the Applicant had regard to the relevant guidance issued by the Secretary of State about pre-application procedure?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>As covered in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of this Report.</p>

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Overview of the consultation process

2.1.1 The Applicant has undertaken a continuous programme of engagement in parallel with, and complementary to, its two formal phases of pre-application consultation as described in **Table 2.1**. The important distinction between consultation and engagement are as follows:

- Engagement relates to discussions between the Applicant, community and stakeholders outside formal phases of consultation. The programme of engagement undertaken by the Applicant outside of formal phases of consultation will be detailed in the Consultation Report submitted as part of the Application.
- Consultation relates to the formal stages of consultation. There were two stages of consultation: the first was non-statutory (November 2024 – January 2025) and will be detailed in the Consultation Report, while the second consultation (September – October 2025) is considered to be statutory and is further detailed in this Report.

Table 2.1 Summary of pre-application consultation and engagement activities

Dates	Activities
Early engagement and non-statutory consultation	
1 November – 14 November 2024	Early engagement with host authorities, community members and near neighbours
18 November 2024 – 31 January 2025	First consultation (non-statutory)
3 March – August 2025	Ongoing engagement with the community, host authorities and technical organisations
EIA Scoping	
22 April 2025	Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate
3 June 2025	Scoping Opinion published
Development of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	
27 June – 11 July 2025	Informal consultation with local authorities on the draft SoCC
24 July - 22 August 2025	Formal consultation with local authorities on the draft SoCC
11 September 2025	Notice of Availability of the SoCC as prescribed by s47(6) of the PA 2008
Statutory consultation	
8 September 2025	Notification as prescribed by s42 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations
8 September 2025	Notification of the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State as prescribed by s46 of the PA 2008

Dates	Activities
11 September– 18 September 2025	Notification of the consultation as prescribed by s48 of the PA 2008
16 September – 28 October 2025	Consultation as prescribed by s42 of the PA 2008 and in accordance with the SoCC as prescribed by s47(7) of the PA 2008

2.2 Early engagement and non-statutory consultation

- 2.2.1 The Applicant conducted consultation outside of the statutory consultation period. This included a period of ‘early engagement’ from 01 November 2024 to 18 November 2024, before a period of non-statutory consultation which occurred between 18 November 2024 and 31 January 2025. After this non-statutory consultation period, the Applicant continued to engage with stakeholders and the community through March and July 2025.
- 2.2.2 The purpose of this non-statutory consultation was to provide information on the early proposals and to seek feedback that could inform design development and the environmental impact assessments at an early stage in the design process.
- 2.2.3 Ahead of the Proposed Development being announced publicly, the Applicant met with relevant local authorities to introduce the Proposed Development and explain the development process shown in **Table 2.2**.

Table 2.2 Early engagement meetings with local authorities

Dates	Stakeholders	Topics discussed
1 Nov 2024	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Planning Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad project description • Approach to consultation • Planning performance agreement (PPA)
11 Nov 2024	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Planning Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft masterplan • Consultation strategy
12 Nov 2024	City of Doncaster Council Planning Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad project description • Approach to consultation • Planning performance agreement (PPA) • Draft masterplan • Consultation strategy

2.2.4 To introduce the Proposed Development and first consultation, the Applicant notified the local community as follows:

Table 2.3 Notification of non-statutory consultation

Dates	Activities
12 Nov 2024	Door knocking to 26 properties particularly close or adjacent to the proposed Order Limits
13 Nov 2024	Sending emails to MPs, councillors from CDC and RMBC and host parish councils with an offer to meet
13 Nov 2024	Sending emails to consultees who would be considered relevant statutory consultees for the purposes of s42(1)(a) PA 2008.
13 Nov 2024	Posting leaflets within the consultation zone (approx. 30,000 addresses) introducing the Proposed Development and upcoming consultation
13 Nov 2024	Launching project website whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk with further project information
13 Nov 2024	Issuing a press release to local media outlets with information about the Proposed Development and upcoming consultation
2 Jan 2025	Writing to properties in Conisbrough to announce an additional information event

- 2.2.5 To provide more information about the Proposed Development, the Applicant developed the following materials which were all available on the project website:
- A masterplan for each of the three components of the Proposed Development: Whitestone 1, Whitestone 2 and Whitestone 3, showing the proposed Order Limits, the areas identified to potentially host solar panels and associated infrastructure, and the areas identified for potential landscape mitigation and enhancement.
 - A consultation booklet that provided more information about the Applicant, the development process, and the Proposed Development.
 - A questionnaire to collect feedback.

Public events, site visits and stakeholder meetings

2.2.6 During the consultation period, the Applicant hosted eight public information events where members of the community could learn more about the Proposed Development through the consultation materials and by asking questions of the project team. These events were scheduled to be in venues across the project area, such that no one would need to travel more than 15 minutes and to be at various days and times to accommodate a variety of work/life schedules. The details of these events are set out in **Table 2.4**.

Table 2.4 Non-statutory Public Information Events

Dates and times	Location	Public attendance
Friday 29 Nov, 12pm – 4pm	The Ruddle Centre, Doncaster Road, Braithwell, Rotherham S66 7BA	97
Saturday 30 Nov, 10am – 4pm	Aston cum Aughton Leisure Centre, Aughton Rd, Swallownest, Sheffield S26 4SF	67
Tuesday 3 Dec, 2pm – 6pm	Harthill Village Hall, Harthill, Sheffield S26 7YL	134
Wednesday 4 Dec, 2pm – 6pm	Consort Hotel Consort Suite, 8 Brampton Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham S66 9JA	78
Thursday 5 Dec, 10am – 2pm	Ulley Village Hall, Main Street, Ulley, Sheffield S26 3YD	59
Tuesday 10 Dec, 6pm – 7pm	Webinar	7
Monday 13 Jan, 3pm – 7pm	Lord Conyers Hotel, Conisbrough, Doncaster DN12 3LZ	165
Tuesday 14 Jan, 2pm – 6pm	Consort Hotel Consort Suite, 8 Brampton Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham S66 9JA	95
	Total public attendance	702

2.2.7 In addition to the public information events, the Applicant offered to meet with anyone who lived adjacent to the proposed Order Limits or felt that their views would potentially be significantly impacted (near neighbours). The meetings were an opportunity for the project team to answer any questions and get detailed feedback and on-site assessments of the potential impacts. This resulted in 16 site visits as detailed in **Figure 2.1**.

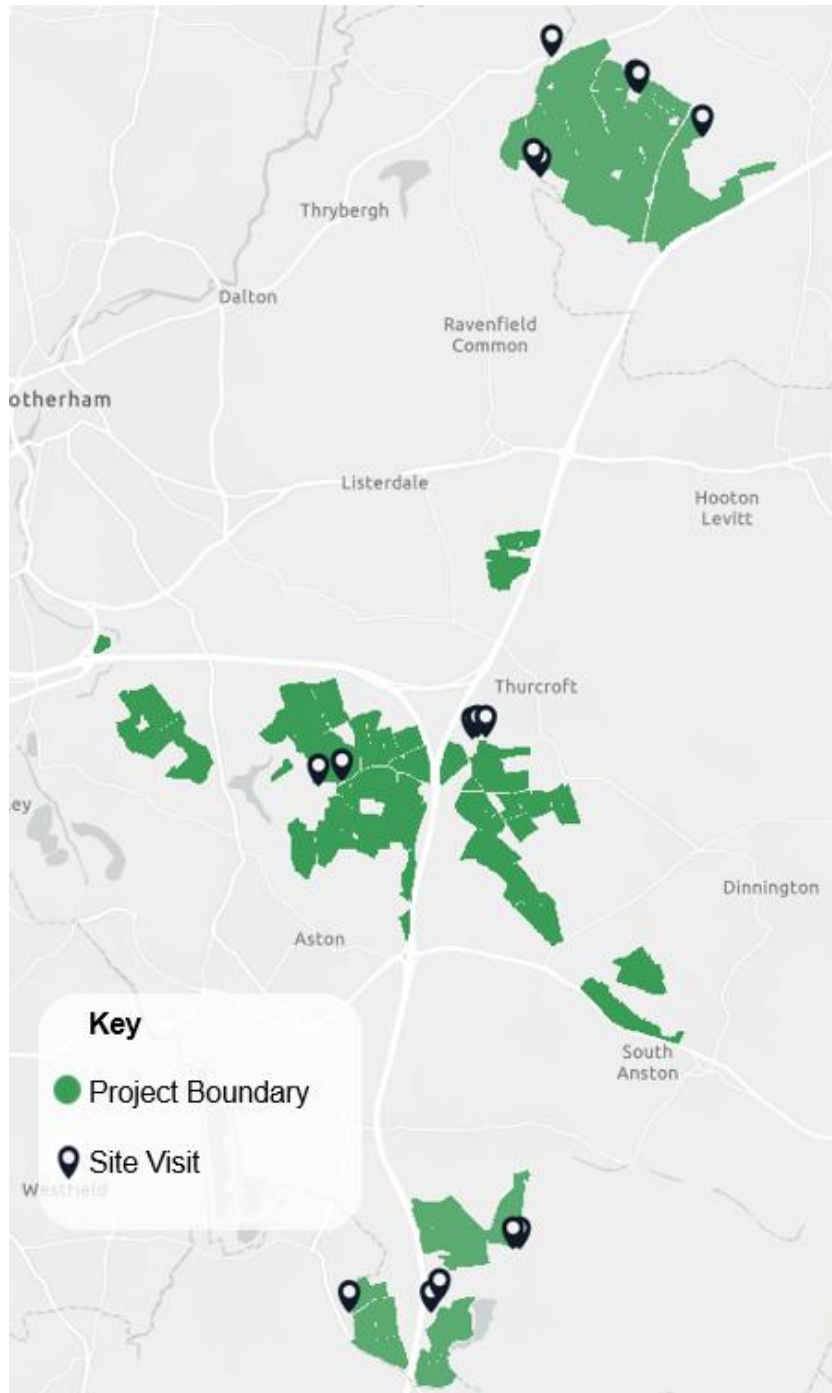


Figure 2.1 Site visits during non-statutory consultation

2.2.8 The Applicant also offered to meet with host elected representatives, including the parish councils, district councillors and MPs, to provide more information about the Proposed Development and receive their feedback. Two of the MPs, nine of the parish councils and two host authorities responded. These are detailed in **Table 2.5** below. The meeting with CDC occurred after the end of the consultation, so it is described in **Table 2.8**.

Table 2.5. Stakeholder meetings during non-statutory consultation

Dates	Attended by	Topics raised	Applicant response
20 Nov 2024	Staff (on behalf of John Healey MP)	Concerns raised about the size of the development, whether all communities were notified about the consultation, proximity to properties, loss of amenity, impact to historic landscape, lack of community benefits and battery storage safety. An additional information event was requested to be held in Conisbrough.	The Applicant added the requested additional event in Conisbrough. The Applicant explained the approach to consultation and the planning process and how these topics would be addressed through the development of the project.
2 Dec 2024	Jake Richards MP	Concerns raised about size of development, proximity to villages, the nature conservation site near Brampton and lack of community benefits. Requests for maintaining public footpaths, mitigating the visual impact and considering access routes carefully.	The Applicant explained the development process and how these topics would be addressed through both consultation and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
5 Dec 2024	Hooton Roberts Parish Council	Concerns raised about location, size of the development, use of agricultural land, loss of amenity, flood risk and requests for more detail.	The Applicant explained how there would be more detail provided at the statutory consultation stage and that these topics would be addressed through the EIA.
11 Dec 2024	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Planning Officers 3 rd Meeting	Overview of the Application process.	The Applicant explained the Application process.

CONSULTATION REPORT APPENDIX F

Dates	Attended by	Topics raised	Applicant response
6 Jan 2025	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Officers and Councillors	Overview of the Application process, consultation strategy, draft masterplan. Concerns raised about the size of the development and different sections, proximity to villages, cumulative impacts of other proposals, the visual impact, the funding behind the scheme and how the project would be decommissioned.	The Applicant explained the Application process, the consultation process and showed the draft masterplans. The Applicant explained how there would be more detail provided at the statutory consultation stage and that these topics would be addressed through the EIA.
13 Jan 2025	Conisbrough Parks Parish Council and Braithwell with Micklebring Parish Council	Concerns raised about the size of the development, the environmental impact, effect on biodiversity, loss of agricultural land, visual and landscape impact, loss of Green Belt land, economic effect, impact on property value and impact on nearby residents.	The Applicant explained how there would be more detail provided at the statutory consultation and these topics would be addressed through the EIA.
14 Jan 2025	Harthill with Woodall Parish Council	Concerns raised about continued disruptions to the local community after Northern Powergrid works, visual impact on the village.	The Applicant explained how there would be more detail provided at the statutory consultation stage and that these topics would be addressed through the EIA.
15 Jan 2025	Todwick Parish Council	Acknowledged the need for renewable energy projects and that many villages have been built on Green Belt land. They encourage continued engagement with the community.	The Applicant explained how there would be more detail provided at the statutory consultation stage and these topics would be addressed through the EIA.

CONSULTATION REPORT APPENDIX F

Dates	Attended by	Topics raised	Applicant response
20 Jan 2025	Whiston Parish Council	Questions about the development process, and interest in community benefits, particularly for the parish hall.	The Applicant explained how there would be more detail provided at the statutory consultation stage and that these topics would be addressed through the EIA.
20 Jan 2025	Wickersley Parish Council and Ravenfield Parish Council	Acknowledged the need for renewable energy projects, but raised concerns about the size of the development, loss of agricultural land, cumulative impacts of other proposals, construction vehicle access being difficult, visual impact. Requested that there be biodiversity net gain and all footpaths are maintained. Ravenfield Parish Council also raised concerns about residents in the parish not receiving leaflets notifying them of the consultation.	The Applicant explained how there would be more details provided at the statutory consultation stage and that these topics would be addressed through the EIA. The Applicant expanded the consultation zone to include Ravenfield for the update letter sent out in January 2025.
21 Jan 2025	Thurcroft Parish Council	Concerns raised about the size of the development, the mental health of residents, the proximity to Brampton, the visual impact and effect on property values.	The Applicant explained how there would be more detail provided at the statutory consultation stage and that these topics would be addressed through the EIA.

Feedback to the consultation

- 2.2.9 The following methods were available for individuals to submit their written feedback by the deadline:
- Completing the online questionnaires located at the project website
 - Completing the printed questionnaires available at the information events or by request
 - Emailing the project inbox at info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
 - Writing to the Freepost address: Whitestone Solar Farm, Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK Local.
- 2.2.10 The Applicant received written feedback during the non-statutory consultation from the following entities:

Table 2.6 Feedback from non-statutory consultation

Method	Number
Emails from technical organisations that would be considered prescribed consultees	17
Online questionnaires	476
Printed questionnaires	55
Emails to the project inbox	408
Total	956

- 2.2.11 Following the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant analysed all of the responses received. All sources of community feedback, including emails and questionnaires (paper and online) have been aggregated, summarised and grouped by topic. The most common comments, their frequency and the Applicant’s response are included in **Table 2.7** below.

Table 2.7 Key topics raised in feedback from non-statutory consultation

Comment	Frequency	Applicant response
Concern about visual impact to countryside views	419	The Applicant’s approach to the design the Proposed Development aims to avoid, reduce or mitigate potential significant visual impacts. In response to feedback from the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant reduced the solar area by more than a quarter around homes, villages, and public rights of way (PRoWs). See the updated masterplan (Appendix A 3.4-3.6)
Concerns about impact to biodiversity and wildlife	411	Developments like this will soon be required to increase biodiversity by 10%, but solar farms can often provide a larger increase. The Applicant is in the process of identifying opportunities to protect existing wildlife and create new habitats for native species across the site, including planting native grasses and wildflowers, as well as hedgerows and trees around the site, and incorporating features like mammal gates within fences. The Applicant will continue to consult with relevant prescribed consultees,

CONSULTATION REPORT APPENDIX F

Comment	Frequency	Applicant response
		including Natural England, on the approach to protecting wildlife and enhancing biodiversity.
General opposition to the proposals	335	Noted.
Concern about using agricultural land	308	<p>National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-3 [REF-8 and REF-9] state that it is likely that solar developments of this scale may need to use agricultural land, but that Applicants should seek to minimise their impact on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land where possible.¹ Through the site selection process, the Applicant avoided areas of BMV located further to the east of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The Clean Power 2030 Action Plan calls for the rapid acceleration of solar development from 18 GW now to 45 - 47 GW by 2030 [REF-10]. The Solar Roadmap explains the plan to achieve this target, and that only 0.4% of agricultural land would be needed [REF-11].</p> <p>Furthermore, the Applicant is exploring opportunities for agriculture to continue within the Proposed Development through the grazing of sheep under and around the panels.</p>
Request to use rooftops, industrial units, supermarkets, car parks, railways, or brownfield sites instead	273	<p>The Applicant started as a rooftop solar developer and continues to build new rooftop projects for homes, schools and businesses, as well as smaller scale solar projects. To reach national energy targets, a mix of energy developments is needed, and importantly, not all roofs are suitable or available for solar.</p> <p>The site selection process included reviews of the CDC and RMBC Brownfield Land Registers; however, there was no brownfield land of an adequate land area to facilitate a large-scale solar project either</p>

¹ Both EN-1 and EN-3 were updated in December 2025, however, the policy around use of BMV has not changed.

CONSULTATION REPORT APPENDIX F

Comment	Frequency	Applicant response
		individually or in combination with other sites.
Concern about building on Green Belt land	272	The Applicant recognises that the land identified for the Proposed Development is on the Green Belt. The Applicant is working to develop the project in a manner that supports many of the same goals as the Green Belt, such as providing opportunities for ongoing agriculture under the panels through grazing, as well as continued recreational access through current PRowS and new proposed permissive paths across the site. Solar farms also provide habitats for local wildlife and can increase biodiversity across the site.
Concern about flood risk and panels increasing the risk of flooding	257	The Applicant will provide more information at statutory consultation and in the draft Environmental Statement (ES).
Concern about impact to PRowS, including footpaths and bridleways	174	<p>The Applicant recognises the importance of PRowS and is committed to continuing recreational access through current PRowS and new permissive paths across the site.</p> <p>Based on feedback from the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant suggested new permissive paths to expand recreational access across the site and formalise informal paths that are already being used. The Applicant committed to including a 15m offset from either side of paths. In most cases, we have been able to provide more than this minimum by removing panels from the field on one side of the path.</p>
Concern about the impact on the historic Conisbrough Parks	120	<p>As part of the environmental assessments, the Applicant will consult with the South Yorkshire Archaeological Service, Historic England, local authorities and other stakeholders to understand existing heritage features in the local area and our approach to mitigating potential impacts.</p> <p>The Applicant will also complete geophysical surveys across the majority of the solar areas to identify underground</p>

CONSULTATION REPORT APPENDIX F

Comment	Frequency	Applicant response
		cultural assets and desk-based assessments to identify above-ground assets, including listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled monuments. This information will be detailed in the draft ES.
Concern about the size and scale of the proposals and request to reduce the size	119	In response to feedback from the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant reduced the solar area by more than a quarter around homes, villages, and PRowS.
Concern about impact to property values	118	There is no evidence to suggest that there is any impact on house prices due to nearby solar projects in the UK. At this stage, the Applicant's approach to the design of the Proposed Development aims to avoid, reduce or mitigate visual impacts as much as possible.
Concern about noise of construction and construction vehicles	116	<p>As part of the environmental assessments, the Applicant will assess the potential impacts during construction and identify solutions to minimise these potential significant impacts. This will include developing a traffic management plan, in consultation with local highways authorities, to minimise the traffic impacts on local roads as well as using appropriate mitigation measures to reduce dust, noise and other impacts as much as possible.</p> <p>The Applicant will complete noise assessments to understand what the current, baseline noise levels are in the area. This information will be detailed in the draft ES.</p>
Concern about effect to Conisbrough Castle, Roman Villa and St Peters Church and the views from them	115	<p>As part of the environmental assessments, the Applicant will consult with the South Yorkshire Archaeological Service, Historic England, local authorities and other stakeholders to understand existing heritage features in the local area and our approach to mitigating potential impacts.</p> <p>The Applicant will also complete geophysical surveys across the majority of</p>

Comment	Frequency	Applicant response
		the solar areas to identify underground cultural assets and desk-based assessments to identify above-ground assets, including listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled monuments. This information will be detailed in the draft ES.

Changes in response to feedback

2.2.12 After the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant made significant changes to the masterplan to reduce approximately one quarter of the solar areas. These changes were made in response to feedback from the consultation, particularly through the site visits, and were designed to reduce potential visual impacts to homes, villages, and PRowS. This includes removing solar areas around isolated dwellings near Conisbrough, and the villages of: Firsby and Clifton in Whitestone 1; Brampton-en-le-Morthen and Ulley in Whitestone 2; and Harthill, Woodall and High Moor in Whitestone 3. Wherever possible, the Applicant also removed solar panels from one side of a PRow to protect the sense of openness. In most cases, these areas remained in the Proposed Order Limits as potential mitigation land.

2.2.13 In order to inform the community and other stakeholders about how the Proposed Development had been updated in response to feedback from the non-statutory consultation, and prior to the start of the statutory consultation, the Applicant completed a round of engagement in March and April 2025 as detailed in **Table 2.8** below. Throughout this period, the project website included an option for an individual to sign up for project updates through the ‘Keep Informed List’, which was used for periodic updates, as described below and during the statutory consultation.

Table 2.8 Engagement after non-statutory consultation

Dates	Audience	Engagement activities
11 Feb 2025	CDC Councillors	Meeting to introduce the Proposed Development, provide a summary of the feedback received during the non-statutory consultation and explain next steps.
3 Mar 2025	John Healey MP, Jake Richards MP, Sally Jameson MP	Meeting to provide the updated masterplan.
6 Mar 2025	Near neighbours	Email to offer a follow-up meeting for those individuals that requested a site visit during the non-statutory consultation.
12 Mar 2025	Jake Richards MP	Follow-up meeting on the updated masterplan and next steps
12 Mar 2025	Staff on behalf of John Healey MP	Follow-up meeting on the updated masterplan and next steps
20-22 Mar 2025	Near neighbours	12 follow-up meetings with near neighbours to explain how the Proposed

CONSULTATION REPORT APPENDIX F

Dates	Audience	Engagement activities
		Development had been updated in response to their feedback
26 Mar 2025	Local community	Press release to local media
31 Mar 2025	Local community	Leaflet showing the updated masterplan posted to properties within the consultation zone
31 Mar 2025	Keep Informed List	Email to the Keep Informed List
31 Mar 2025 and 3 April 2025	Parish councils	Two webinars for the host parish councils to explain the changes to the masterplan and next steps
19 July 2025	Parish councils, ward councillors, MPs	Community benefit workshop
8 August 2025	Sarah Champion MP	Introduction to the Proposed Development, site walkover to discuss potential visual impacts
8 August 2025	Firsby Residents group	Meeting to discuss updated masterplan
8 August 2025	Near neighbours	Meeting to discuss Land Interest Questionnaire

2.3 Scoping

- 2.3.1 On 23 April 2025, the Applicant submitted an EIA Scoping Report and a request for a Scoping Opinion to the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) under the provisions of the EIA Regulations. This described the scope and methodology for the technical studies proposed to provide an assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment and, where necessary, described suitable mitigation measures. It also described topics and sub-topics proposed to be scoped out of the EIA process, and the justification for doing so. The EIA Scoping Report was developed following consultation with several statutory consultees and the host authorities. Meetings that took place as part of this process will be set out in more detail in the relevant topic chapters of the Environmental Statement (ES).
- 2.3.2 Following consultation with statutory bodies, the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) adopted a Scoping Opinion on 3 June 2025. The ES is based on the Scoping Opinion.
- 2.3.3 Key issues raised in the Scoping Opinion and the Applicant's response were set out in the draft ES. All issues have been considered during the EIA process.
- 2.3.4 Following the adoption of the Scoping Opinion, consultation was undertaken with relevant statutory consultees in the preparation of the draft ES and has also been considered in the preparation of the ES (including where required by the Scoping Opinion).
- 2.3.5 The Applicant additionally reviewed the list of consultees contacted by the Planning Inspectorate as part of its consultation on its Scoping Opinion to ensure that all organisations contacted by the Planning Inspectorate were included in subsequent consultation activity. All consultees included in Appendix 1 and 2 of the Scoping Opinion were consulted by the Applicant as part of the statutory consultation.
- 2.3.6 The Applicant was not notified of any additional consultation bodies under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations.

3 APPROACH TO STATUTORY CONSULTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCC

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 As required by section 47(1) of the PA 2008, the Applicant prepared a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) setting out how it proposed to consult people living in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. In accordance with section 47(2) of the PA 2008, the Applicant consulted each local authority within section 43(1) of the PA 2008 (i.e. the host authorities) on the contents of the draft SoCC. The Applicant then updated the SoCC in response to feedback from the local authorities and made available and published the SoCC in accordance with section 47(6) of the PA 2008.

3.2 Approach to community consultation

3.2.1 In preparing the draft SoCC, the Applicant's approach was informed by best practice, guidance from the Planning Inspectorate, Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, engagement with the host authorities and feedback from the non-statutory consultation.

3.2.2 The Applicant's approach to pre-application statutory consultation was designed to ensure not just that the consultation would meet legal requirements, guidance and best practice for applications for development consent under the PA 2008, but that anyone with an interest in the Proposed Development had the opportunity to learn more about the proposals and provide their feedback. To ensure the consultation was accessible, the Applicant included the following:

- Providing several mechanisms by which individuals could be notified directly: the Keep Informed email list; by contacting parish councils and other elected representatives directly; the list of community groups, which includes gateway organisations for hard-to-reach individuals in addition to the direct-mail leaflet to addresses within the consultation zone; press releases and advertisements on social media.
- Developing multiple materials for individuals to learn more about the proposals for the Proposed Development using non-technical language in multiple formats.
- Providing multiple methods for interested parties to provide their written feedback.
- Offering to provide materials in alternative formats upon request, including large print, etc.
- Hosting events at venues across the project location, selected for their size and accessibility, to be roughly 15 minutes from any property in the area
- Hosting events at different times of the day and on different days of the week, including a Saturday, to accommodate various work/life schedules.

3.3 Development of the SoCC

- 3.3.1 The Applicant provided the opportunity for two rounds of consultation on the draft SoCC with the host authorities. The first round was considered informal in order to provide initial views ahead of the formal consultation required by section 47(2) of the PA 2008.
- 3.3.2 The Applicant contacted the host authorities to offer a meeting on the draft SoCC. The Applicant met with RMBC on 25 June 2025 and with CDC on 4 July 2025. Their informal feedback is provided in **Table 3.1**. NEDDC responded to say that they were unable to attend a meeting, and DCC did not respond.

Table 3.1 Informal feedback on the draft SoCC

Stakeholder	Informal feedback on draft SoCC	Applicant response
CDC	<p>Moving the Ravenfield event to the evening to be at a different time of day to the Conisbrough event.</p> <p>Organising an update for newly elected members at CDC.</p> <p>Adding Firsby Residents Association to the list of community groups.</p>	<p>The Applicant moved the Ravenfield event to the evening to be at a different time of day to the Conisbrough event.</p> <p>The Applicant organised a briefing meeting for newly elected members at CDC.</p> <p>The Applicant ensured that Firsby Residents Association was added to the list of community groups and invited them to the parish council briefing webinar.</p>
RMBC	<p>Correcting the list of parish councils to include Dinnington Town Council rather than "Dinnington Parish Council".</p>	<p>The Applicant corrected the list of parish councils to read Dinnington Town Council.</p>
NEDDC	No response	Noted
DDC	No response	Noted

3.3.3 The Applicant formally consulted the host authorities on the draft SoCC from 24 July to 22 August 2025, in accordance with section 47(2) of the PA 2008.

Table 3.2 Formal Feedback on draft SoCC

Stakeholder	Feedback on draft SoCC	Applicant response
CDC	No further comments	Noted
RMBC	No further comments	Noted
NEDDC	Add Eckington Parish Council to the “Keep Informed” list	Eckington Parish Council is a relevant parish council and will be notified as required.
DDC	No response	Noted

3.4 Publication of the SoCC

3.4.1 In accordance with Section 47(6) of the PA 2008, on 10 September the SoCC was published on the Applicant’s dedicated project website where it was available to download free of charge. It was also available in printed copy, or on USB, by request (though the Applicant did not receive any such request).

3.4.2 In accordance with Section 47(6) of the PA 2008, on 11 September the applicant published a notice in a newspaper circulated in the vicinity of the land that explained where the SoCC could be inspected. These publications were chosen as they have the highest average circulation figure of local newspapers with a distribution area covering areas of Whitestone 1, Whitestone 2 and Whitestone 3.

Table 3.3 Publication of s47 notices with SoCC Availability

Date	Publication
11 September 2025	Derbyshire Times, Doncaster Free Press, Rotherham Advertiser
16 September 2025	London Gazette, The Guardian
18 September 2025	Derbyshire Times, Doncaster Free Press, Rotherham Advertiser

3.4.3 The SoCC was also available for inspection in printed copy at all of the public information events for the statutory consultation, which are described in Chapter 4 of this Report.

4 STATUTORY CONSULTATION

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 The Applicant conducted statutory consultation (Phase Two Consultation: updated plans and proposals) on the Proposed Development in accordance with the PA 2008, APFP Regulations and the EIA Regulations between 16 September and 28 October 2025.
- 4.1.2 The purpose of the consultation was to seek the views of statutory consultees and members of the community on the updated proposals of the Proposed Development.
- 4.1.3 The Applicant conducted consultation under s42, s47 and s48 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations [REF 1] simultaneously. This meant that all materials made available for consultation under s47 and s48 of the PA 2008 were available to consultees under s42 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations [REF 1].

4.2 Consultation with statutory consultees (s42)

- 4.2.1 Section 42 of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to consult with the prescribed consultees under s42(1)(a), relevant local authorities under s42(1)(b), and PILs under s42(1)(d). Consultation was not undertaken with the Greater London Authority under s42(1)(c) given that the Proposed Development is outside of that authority's administrative area.

Identification of consultees under s42(1)(a)

- 4.2.2 Prescribed consultees under s42(1)(a) are defined in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations [REF-4], which sets out the circumstances in which there is a requirement to consult or notify a specific party.
- 4.2.3 **Appendix C.1.1** of the Consultation Report sets out each consultee prescribed in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations [REF-4], whether that consultee was included in the consultation, and a justification for that inclusion or exclusion, where relevant – for example, consultation was not undertaken with the Marine Management Organisation given the Proposed Development is not likely to affect the marine environment.
- 4.2.4 When identifying relevant s42(1)(a) prescribed consultees, the Applicant had regard to the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note three: EIA Notification and Consultation [REF-5].
- 4.2.5 To identify the host and neighbouring parish councils, the Applicant applied the updated proposed Order Limits to the administrative boundaries and identified 21 host and 25 neighbouring parishes, or a total of 46 relevant parish councils. This is a larger list of parish councils than was included in the non-statutory consultation described in Chapter 2 due to the addition of potential cable routes, access roads, and other changes to the draft Order Limits. The relevant parish councils are shown in **Figure 4.1** and listed in **Table 4.1**.

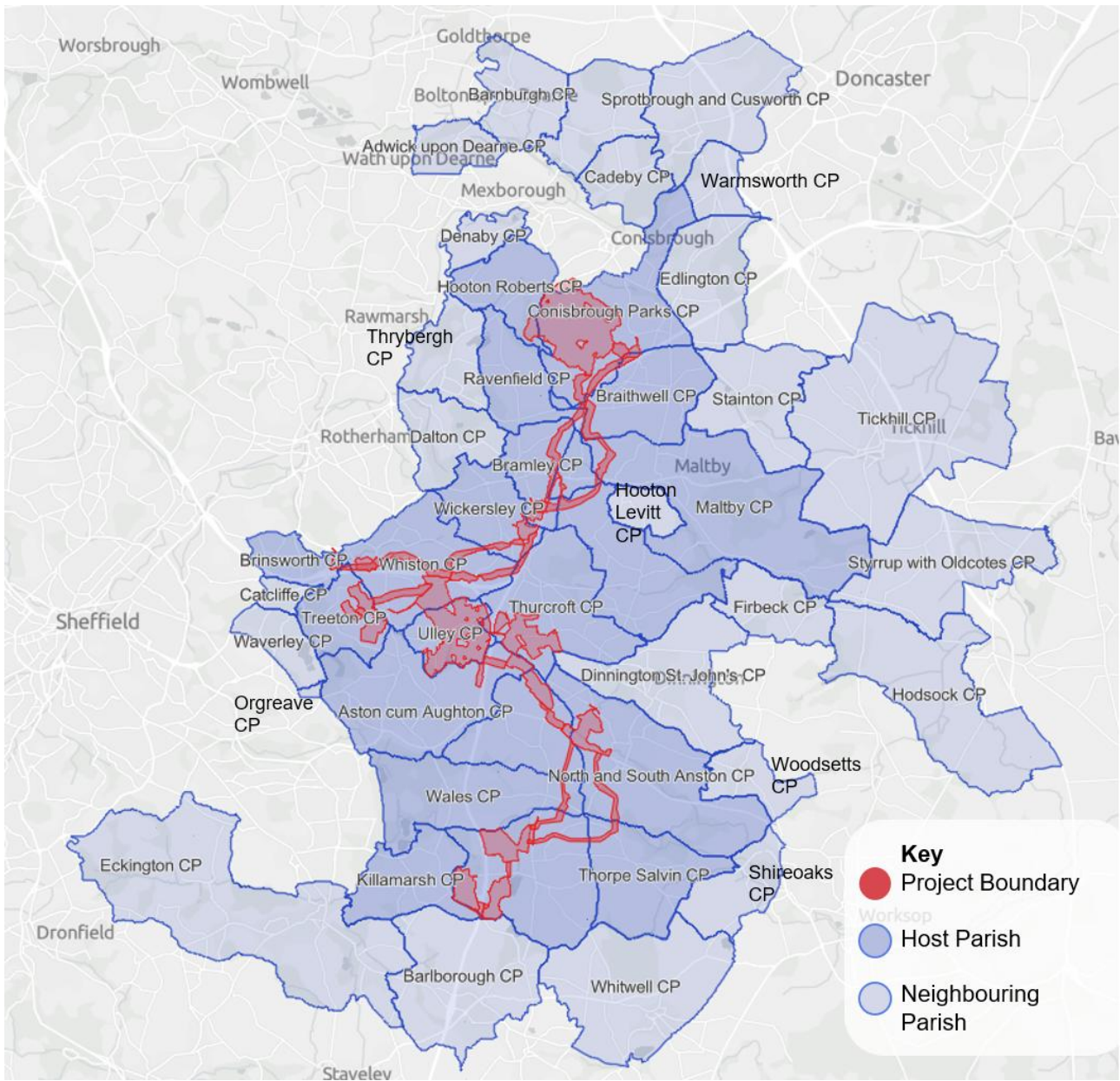


Figure 4.1 Relevant parish councils for the purposes of consultation under s42(1)(a)

Table 4.1 Relevant parish councils for the purposes of consultation under s42(1)(a)

Parish Council	Host or Neighbouring
Anston Parish Council	Host
Aston cum Aughton Parish Council	Host
Braithwell with Micklebring Parish Council	Host
Bramley Parish Council	Host
Brinsworth Parish Council	Host
Conisbrough Parks Parish Council	Host
Harthill with Woodall Parish Council	Host
Hellaby Parish Council	Host
Hooton Roberts Parish Meeting	Host
Killamarsh Parish Council	Host
Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council	Host
Maltby Town Council	Host
Ravenfield Parish Council	Host
Thorpe Salvin Parish Council	Host
Thurcroft Parish Council	Host
Todwick Parish Council	Host
Treeton Parish Council	Host
Ulley Parish Council	Host
Wales Parish Council	Host
Whiston Parish Council	Host
Wickersley Parish Council	Host
Adwick upon Dearne Parish Council	Neighbouring
Barlborough Parish Council	Neighbouring
Barnburgh and Harlington Parish Council	Neighbouring
Cadeby Parish Council	Neighbouring
Catcliffe Parish Council	Neighbouring
Dalton Parish Council	Neighbouring
Dinnington St Johns Town Council	Neighbouring
Eckington Parish Council	Neighbouring
Edlington Town Council	Neighbouring
Firbeck Parish Council	Neighbouring
High Melton Parish Council	Neighbouring
Hodsock Parish Council	Neighbouring
Hooton Levitt Parish Council	Neighbouring
Old Denaby Parish Council	Neighbouring
Orgreave Parish Council	Neighbouring
Shireoaks Parish Council	Neighbouring
Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council	Neighbouring
Stainton Parish Council	Neighbouring
Styrrup with Oldcotes Parish Council	Neighbouring
Thrybergh Parish Council	Neighbouring
Tickhill Town Council	Neighbouring
Waverley Community Council	Neighbouring
Warmsworth Parish Council	Neighbouring
Whitwell Parish Council	Neighbouring
Woodsetts Parish Council	Neighbouring

Identification of consultees under s42(1)(b)

4.2.6 Section 42(1)(b) of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to consult with the local authorities identified as falling within s43 of the PA 2008, which sets out four categories of authority:

- A is a neighbouring local authority (s43(2)) that shares a boundary with a unitary council or lower-tier district 'B' council within whose area development is situated
- B is either a unitary council or a lower-tier district council in which the development is situated – a host local authority.
- C is an upper-tier county council in which the development is situated – a host local authority.
- D is either a unitary council or an upper tier county council which shares a boundary with a host 'C' authority – a neighbouring local authority (s43(2A)).

4.2.7 Details of the identification of relevant local authorities, including whether they are an A, B, C or D authority, and the criteria for their identification, are included in **Table 4.2** and shown in **Figures 4.2** and **4.3**.

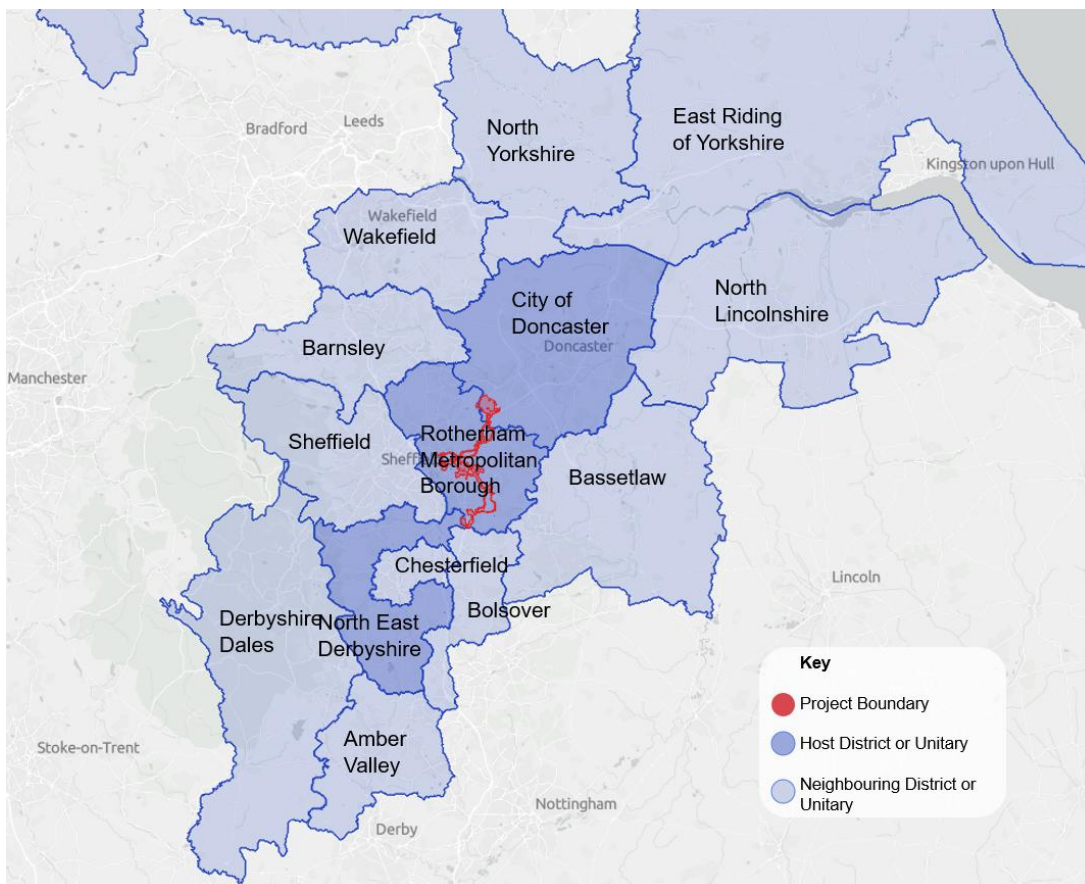


Figure 4.2: Relevant A and B authorities for the purposes of consultation under S42(1)(b)

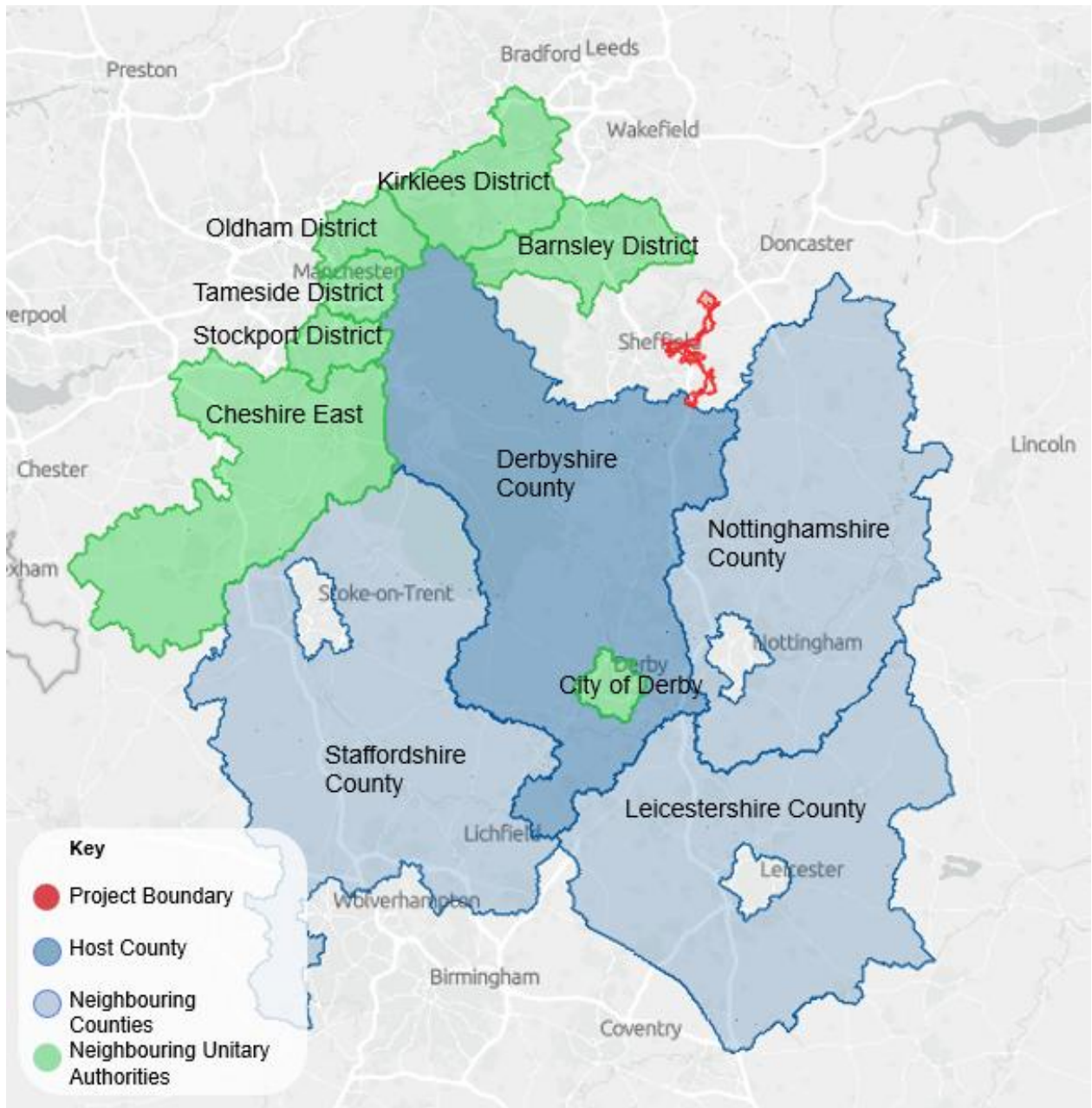


Figure 4.3 Relevant C and D authorities for the purposes of consultation under s42(1)(b)

Table 4.2 Relevant local authorities for the purposes of consultation under s42(1)(b)

Name	A, B, C, or D authority	Criteria for identification
City of Doncaster Council	B	The Proposed Development would be located in this unitary authority.
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	B	The Proposed Development would be located in this unitary authority.
North East Derbyshire District Council	B	The Proposed Development would be located in this district council.
Derbyshire County Council	C	The Proposed Development would be located in this county council.
Amber Valley Borough Council	A	This district council neighbours one of the host districts or unitary authorities.
Bolsover District Council	A	This district council neighbours one of the host districts or unitary authorities.
Chesterfield Borough Council	A	This district council neighbours one of the host districts or unitary authorities.
Bassetlaw District Council	A	This district council neighbours one of the host districts or unitary authorities.
North Lincolnshire Council	A	This unitary authority neighbours one of the host districts or unitary authorities.
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	A	This unitary authority neighbours one of the host districts or unitary authorities.
North Yorkshire Council	A	This unitary authority neighbours one of the host districts or unitary authorities.
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council	A	This unitary authority neighbours one of the host districts or unitary authorities.
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	A, D	This unitary authority neighbours one of the host districts or unitary authorities and the host county council.
Sheffield City Council	A, D	This unitary authority neighbours one of the host districts or unitary councils and the host county council.
Derbyshire Dales District Council	A	This district council neighbours one of the host districts or unitary councils.
Nottinghamshire County Council	D	This county council neighbours the host county council.
Leicestershire County Council	D	This county council neighbours the host county council.
Staffordshire County Council	D	This county council neighbours the host county council.
Cheshire East Council	D	This unitary authority neighbours the host county council.
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	D	This unitary authority neighbours the host county council.
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council	D	This unitary authority neighbours the host county council.
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	D	This unitary authority neighbours the host county council.
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council	D	This unitary authority neighbours the host county council.

CONSULTATION REPORT APPENDIX F

Name	A, B, C, or D authority	Criteria for identification
Derby City Council	D	This unitary authority neighbours the host county council.
South Yorkshire Combined Authority	D	This combined authority neighbours the host county council.
Peak District National Park Authority	D	This planning authority neighbours the host county council.

Identification of consultees under s42(1)(d)

4.2.8 Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to consult each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in s44 of the PA 2008 with respect to the Application as follows:

- Category 1 persons: landowners, lessees, tenants or occupiers (s44(1));
- Category 2 persons: those with an interest in the land or the power to sell and convey or release the land (s44(2)); and
- Category 3 persons: those who the Applicant thinks that, if an order for development consent were to be made and fully implemented, would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim for compensation (s44(4)).

4.2.9 Section 44 Landowner Identification Process: The Applicant's land referencing consultancy employed a number of methods to identify Section 44 persons, adopting good practice and in accordance with relevant guidance and advice. Methods included:

- the issue of Land Interest Questionnaire (LIQ) letters to all landowners/occupiers and utility companies potentially affected;
- searches at the Land Registry;
- review of legal title documents;
- Companies House and Electoral Roll searches;
- searches for registered correspondence to the relevant address (where appropriate); site visits; and
- discussions with known owners/occupiers, amongst others.

4.2.10 Where an interest remained in 'unknown' ownership, or where it was not clear whether an interest existed or not (in each case following diligent inquiry), the Applicant posted a site notice in the vicinity of the land in question as part of the Statutory Consultation. The notices were secured in place by cable ties and monitored weekly. The notices were monitored for six weeks alongside the general notices. Where notices were removed or damaged before the end of the monitoring period they were replaced, and at the end of the monitoring period the notices and cable ties were taken down and removed. In addition to this, enquiries were also made with adjacent landowners via phone, email and in-person contact to identify owners of unregistered land.

4.2.11 Section 44 places a duty on the Applicant to make 'diligent inquiry' as to the identification of Category 1, 2, or 3 persons. The term 'diligent inquiry' is not defined in the PA 2008, but it sets a threshold of inquiry to allow the termination of that inquiry when reasonable and recognised avenues of research have been exhausted. The Applicant also had regard to the Planning Inspectorate's *Advice Note 4 'Section 52'* (March 2017) (now replaced by *Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the process for obtaining information about*

interests in land (under Section 52 of the Planning Act 2008)'(August 2024)) [REF-7].

- 4.2.12 Environmental Impact Assessment: As part of the preparation of the draft ES, the Applicant's environmental specialists and land referencing teams collaborated in identifying receptors potentially impacted by the Proposed Development with a view to understanding whether there were any 'Category 3' persons who might have a 'relevant claim' for compensation as defined by section 44(6) of the PA 2008. The Applicant determined that there were no potential Category 3 individuals due to the Applicant's commitment to not significantly increase noise levels.
- 4.2.13 During a consultation event an interested party identified themselves as having not received a statutory consultation letter. After undertaking an internal inquiry, it was confirmed a notification letter had been sent to the correct address. The interested party provided us with an alternative address that they wished to receive a copy. On 23 October 2025, a copy of the statutory consultation letter was sent to the alternative address, and the consultation period was extended until 23 November 2025 for that consultee.
- 4.2.14 A list of the Category 1, 2 and 3 interests will be provided in the Book of Reference submitted with the Application.

Consultation notification under s42 of the PA 2008

- 4.2.15 The Applicant wrote to all consultees identified under s42 of the PA 2008 to notify them of the consultation. The Applicant wrote by first class post to consultees identified as falling within s42(1)(a), s42(1)(b), and s42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 on 8 September 2025, providing information on the Proposed Development, explaining the Applicant's intention to submit the Application, listing the documents being provided as part of the consultation, explaining how to respond to the consultation and providing the deadline for submitting feedback.
- 4.2.16 Within the letter sent on 8 September 2025, the Applicant included a link to its website, where the consultees could find a copy of consultation materials including the consultation booklets, the masterplans, the draft ES, the SoCC, and the questionnaire.
- 4.2.17 A notice of the proposed application which was publicised in accordance with s48 of the PA 2008 and the requirements set out in Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations [REF-4]. A copy of the notice was also provided to relevant consultation bodies in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations [REF-1]. This notice was included as an attachment to both the 8 September 2025 letters to the s42(1)(a), s42(1)(b), and s42(1)(d) consultees. The s42(1)(d) consultees also received a map showing the Proposed Order Limits.
- 4.2.18 The host parish councils as shown in **Figure 4.1** and **Table 4.1** were contacted by email and first-class post with a similar letter, including an invitation to meet during the statutory consultation period.
- 4.2.19 Copies of the letters sent to consultees under s42 of the PA 2008 are included in **Appendices C1.2-1.4** of the Consultation Report.
- 4.2.20 All of the letters and emails were delivered without any bounce-backs or failed deliveries.
- 4.2.21 The Applicant consulted with PILs under s42(1)(d) and s44 of the PA 2008 at that time. For the statutory consultation, there were 340 Category 1 and 2 consultees.

4.3 Notification of the Secretary of State (s46)

- 4.3.1 Pursuant to s46 of the PA 2008, the Applicant must send the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) the s42 consultation documents on or before commencing the s42 consultation. The Applicant wrote to the Planning Inspectorate on 8 September 2025 to provide this notification.
- 4.3.2 The notification provided on 8 September 2025 included the consultation documents listed above electronically via a link to the Applicant's website and a covering letter. These are included in **Appendix C2.1** of the Consultation Report.
- 4.3.3 The Applicant received an acknowledgement of the receipt of its notification under s46 of the PA 2008 from the Planning Inspectorate on 10 September 2025 (**Appendix C2.2** of the Consultation Report).

4.4 Consultation with local communities (s47) and Compliance with the SoCC

- 4.4.1 The Applicant consulted with the local community in accordance with the SoCC provided in **Appendix B3** of the Consultation Report, as prescribed by s47(7) of the PA 2008. Full details of compliance with the SoCC are included in **Appendix F2**.

Identification of the community under s47 of the PA 2008

- 4.4.2 For the purposes of community consultation, the Applicant defined two zones of consultation:
- Zone 1: Core Consultation Zone: An area that included around 45,000 addresses which was drawn 2km from the Proposed Development boundary and then expanded further to ensure parts of communities were not excluded. Being in close proximity to the Proposed Development, this zone was selected as the group of homes and businesses that would have the greater interest in the project (**Figures 4.4-4.6**). This area increased after the non-statutory consultation in order to add the cable routes and other changes to the Proposed Order Limits.
 - Zone 2: The Broader Area: which is defined as the host districts of RMBC, CDC, and NEDDC.

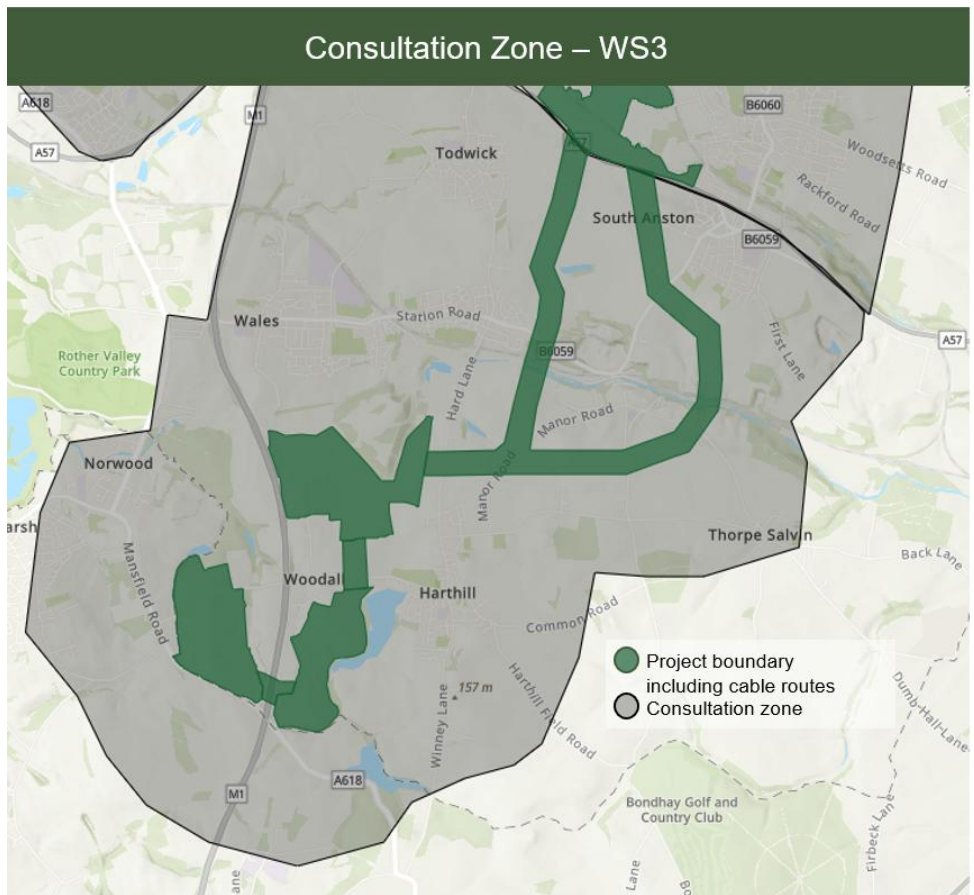


Figure 4.6 Core Consultation Zone – Whitestone 3

Notification of Consultation

- 4.4.3 Section 48 of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to publish a notice of the proposed application in accordance with Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations [REF-4].
- 4.4.4 The Applicant published a combined section 47 and 48 notice as required in the London Gazette, a national paper (the Guardian), and for two consecutive weeks in local newspapers, as described in **Table 4.3** below.
- 4.4.5 The local newspapers were chosen as they have the highest average circulation figure of local newspapers with a distribution area covering areas of Whitestone 1, Whitestone 2 and Whitestone 3. A copy of this notice as published, which confirms the name of the publication and the date it was published, is provided in **Appendix C3.1** of the Consultation Report.
- 4.4.6 All notices were published at least 28 days before the deadline to submit feedback on 28 October 2025.

Table 4.3 Dates of publication of s47/48 notice in newspapers

Publication	Date of publication
Doncaster Free Press	11 September 2025
Rotherham Advertiser	11 September 2025
Derbyshire Times	11 September 2025
The Guardian	16 September 2025
London Gazette	16 September 2025
Doncaster Free Press	18 September 2025
Rotherham Advertiser	18 September 2025
Derbyshire Times	18 September 2025

- 4.4.7 In addition to the statutory notices above and consistent with the SoCC, the Applicant provided several methods to notify the community of the upcoming consultation and how to take part, summarised in **Table 4.4**.
- 4.4.8 After the start of the consultation, the Applicant received feedback from the community requesting an additional information event to be held in Treeton. This additional event was communicated to the community in Treeton through an additional letter sent on 30 September 2025.

Table 4.4 Consultation notification under s47 of the PA 2008

Date	Event
10 September 2025	Leaflet sent to addresses in Zone 1
16 September 2025	Website updated with consultation materials
18 September 2025	Facebook adverts live
18 September 2025	Emails sent to keep informed list
23 September 2025	Emails sent to community groups and elected officials in Zone 2
26 September 2025	Press release sent to local media in Zone 2
30 September 2025	Letter to Treeton community regarding additional event

Consultation materials

- 4.4.9 The Applicant made the following materials available as part of consultation with the local community:
- The SoCC, which set out the Applicant's approach to consulting with the community (**Appendix B3**);
 - A consultation booklet providing a non-technical overview of the Proposed Development, the development process, initial EIA results, and next steps (**Appendix D1**);
 - The draft ES and accompanying Non-Technical Summary;
 - Pop-up banners that described the Proposed Development, how it had changed in response to feedback from the non-statutory consultation, and the Application process (**Appendix D5**);
 - Updated masterplans (**Appendix D2**);
 - A questionnaire to collect feedback (**Appendix D3**).
- 4.4.10 All materials were available on the project website to download for free. Printed copies of the booklet, masterplans and questionnaire as well as a USB containing the draft ES were also available for free upon request. There were several requests for the USB with all consultation materials, which were completed by first-class post. Printed copies of materials other than the draft ES were also available upon request, and many individuals requested these materials which were also sent out by first-class post.
- 4.4.11 The draft ES was available in printed copy for a fee of £750, however no one requested this option. This reflects the high cost of printing the document due to its size. This is a greatly subsidised rate in order to reduce potential burden on interested parties. The Applicant made the full printed version of the document available at all the public information events.
- 4.4.12 As explained in the SoCC, materials were also available in alternative formats upon reasonable request, however there were no such reasonable requests made.

Collection of responses

- 4.4.13 To capture feedback, the Applicant produced a consultation questionnaire inviting comments on the different elements of the Proposed Development. The questionnaire was made available online via the project website. Printed copies were also provided at the public information events and by request. The consultation questionnaire can be found in **Appendix D3**.
- 4.4.14 The questionnaire asked the following questions:
- Q1: Which site are you most interested in? (please tick)
- Whitestone 1
 - Whitestone 2
 - Whitestone 3
 - All of the above
- Q2: Please provide your feedback on our updated masterplan.
- Q3: Do you have feedback about the proposed permissive paths? Are there other paths you would like to see?

Q4: Please provide any feedback you have on the potential locations for the substations and batteries.

Q5: Please provide any feedback on the potential cable route options.

Q6: What would you like to see in the community benefit package? Are there other ideas that you think should be included or considered?

Q7: Do you have any comments on the environmental topics and the mitigation proposed?

Q8: Do you have any other comments you would like us to consider?

4.4.15 Consultees were able to submit their written feedback through the following methods:

- Completing the online questionnaire at the project website
- Completing the printed questionnaire and returning to the Freepost address: Whitestone Solar Farm, Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK Local
- Emailing the project inbox: info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Writing to the same Freepost address above.

Public information events

4.4.16 The Applicant hosted eight public information events during the consultation period. The purpose of these events was to present information about the Proposed Development through the consultation materials and by asking questions of the project team. The locations of the events are shown in **Figure 4.7** and listed in **Table 4.5** below.

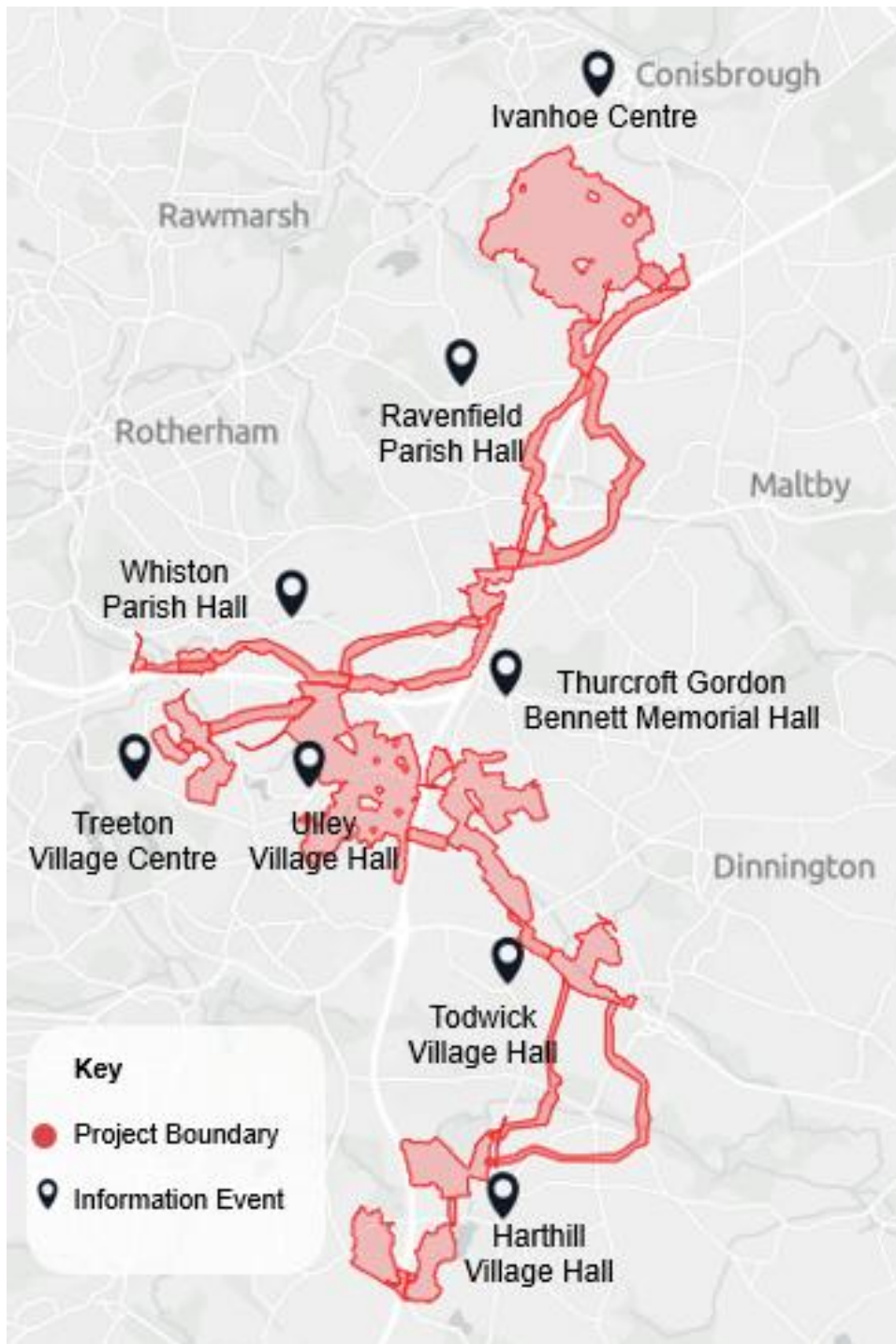


Figure 4.7 Location of public information events during statutory consultation

Table 4.5 Attendance at public information events during statutory consultation

Date and time	Location	Public Attendance
2 October 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, S66 9DD	64
3 October 1pm-5pm	Todwick Village Hall, S26 1HJ	43
4 October 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre, DN12 3JX	157
7 October 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL	108
8 October 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Parish Hall, S65 4PT	108
13 October 2-6pm	Treeton Village Centre, S60 5QT	82
14 October 3-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S26 3YD	74
15 October 12pm-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX	82
Total		718

4.4.17 The events were organised to be as accessible as possible for the public by:

- Occurring at various times of day and days of the week to accommodate various work/life schedules
- Being located in at least one venue in each of the three sections of the Proposed Development, with the next nearest venue at a different time of day
- Using accessible venues with sufficient capacity to accommodate the anticipated number of attendees

Meetings with stakeholders

4.4.18 On 17 September 2025, the Applicant wrote to the host parish councils and the Firsby Residents Association to notify them of the upcoming consultation and how to take part. The letter invited them to join a Zoom meeting on 30 September or to attend an in-person meeting before or after the public information events. Only one parish requested the in-person meeting. The Applicant also offered the host MPs a meeting during the statutory consultation. **Table 4.6** details the meetings that took place.

Table 4.6 Stakeholder meetings during statutory consultation

Date	Time	Attendees	Activity
30 September 2025	6pm-7:30pm	Various parish councils	Briefing on statutory consultation, updated masterplans and Q&A
13 October 2025	6pm	Treeton Parish Council	Briefing on statutory consultation, updated masterplans and Q&A
16 October 2025	2:30pm	Jake Richards MP	Updates on statutory consultation
21 October 2025	11am	Sally Jameson MP	Update on changes to the Proposed Development, the statutory consultation and community benefits

Analyzing Feedback

4.4.19 Within the consultation period, the Applicant received a total of 10,409 relevant responses to the statutory consultation.

Table 4.7 Feedback received from all consultees

Consultee	Feedback Received
s42(1)(a) – Prescribed Consultees	46
s42(1)(b) – Relevant Local Authorities	10
s42(1)(d) – PILs	38
s47 – Members of the Community	10,315
s48	0
Total	10,409

4.4.20 Responses were received, securely recorded and analysed by a consultancy specialising in public consultation and stakeholder engagement. The following process was utilised:

- When a response was received which provided identifying details (e.g., a postcode, name), the Applicant identified whether the response had been submitted by an individual or organisation under s42, s47 or s48.
- Each response was assigned a unique code, and their feedback was recorded against this code in a secure database.
- Paper questionnaires and letters were manually transcribed and recorded against the respondent’s unique code.
- Responses were analysed at sentence level, using thematic coding to group together comments on similar topics, with unique codes logged against comments to indicate frequency.
- An individual response was analysed in as many layers as was required to ensure that the entire sentiment was captured.
- The analysis process enabled all responses to be indexed according to the issues raised by respondents and allowed a detailed summary to be prepared of the content by themes and topics raised.

- 4.4.21 Adopting a similar approach to that recommended by the Planning Inspectorate’s Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report (August 2024), the Applicant grouped the responses under the three strands of consultation – s42, s47 and s48 – and then further by their relation to the Proposed Development – prescribed consultees/local authorities, members of the local community and landowners/those with a land interest.
- 4.4.22 None of the consultees who responded identified themselves as specifically responding to the s48 notice, so there is no separate grouping for s48 notice respondents. The Applicant notes that all consultees prescribed under s42(1)(a) and (b) were required to receive the s48 notice.

4.5 Responses to the Statutory Consultation under Section 42

- 4.5.1 A total of 46 responses were received from prescribed consultees under s42(1)(a) of the PA 2008. The consultees that responded are listed in **Table 4.8** below. Where these consultees are also PILs under s42(1)(d), this is indicated in the table. The detailed summary of their feedback and the Applicant’s response will be included in the Consultation Report and its appendices submitted as part of the Application.

Table 4.8 Feedback from consultees under s42(1)(a)

Prescribed Consultee under s42 (1)(a)	Also a consultee under s42 (1)(d)
Technical organisations	
Cadent Gas	Yes
Canal and Rivers Trust	Yes
Coal Authority/Mining Remediation	Yes
GTC	Yes
National Highways	Yes
Network Rail	Yes
NGET	Yes
Severn Trent	Yes
SY Fire and Rescue	Yes
Yorkshire Water	Yes
Environment Agency	No
Forestry Commission	No
Health and Safety Executive	No
Health Security Agency	No
Historic England	No
Indigo Network	No
Natural England	No
DCC Operations	No
NDC Welsh Waters	No
North Yorks Police	No
Northern Gas Networks	No
South West Water	No
Water Regulations South	No
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue	No
West Yorkshire Police	No

Prescribed Consultee under s42 (1)(a)	Also a consultee under s42 (1)(d)
Parish Councils	
Anston Parish Council	No
Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council	No
Braithwell with Micklebring Parish Council	No
Bramley Parish Council	No
Catcliffe Parish Council	No
Conisbrough Parks Parish Council	No
Dalton Parish Council	No
Edlington Town Council	No
Firbeck Parish Council	No
Harthill Parish Council	No
Hooton Roberts Parish Meeting	No
Ravenfield Parish Council	No
Todwick Parish Council	No
Treeton Parish Council	No
Ulley Parish Council	No
Wales Parish Council	No
Wickersley Parish Council	Yes

- 4.5.2 A total of 10 responses were received from local authority consultees under s42(1)(b) of the PA 2008. The consultees that responded are listed in **Table 4.9** below. Where these consultees are also PILs under s42(1)(d) this is indicated in the table. The detailed responses will be included in the Consultation Report submitted as part of the Application.

Table 4.9 Feedback from consultees under s42(1)(b)

Consultee under s42 (1)(b)	Also a consultee under s42 (1)(d)
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Yes
Bolsover District Council	No
City of Doncaster Council	Yes
City of York Council	No
Stockport Council	No
Amber Valley Borough Council	No
Chesterfield Borough Council	No
Derby City Council	No
Kirklees Council	No
North Lincolnshire Council	No

- 4.5.3 A total of 38 responses were received from PILs. The detailed responses will be included in the Consultation Report submitted as part of the Application, and the list of land interests will be included in the Book of Reference submitted as part of the Application.

4.6 Responses to the Statutory Consultation under Section 47

- 4.6.1 This section sets out summary detail of the relevant responses received from the local community the purposes of s49 of the PA 2008 including a summary of the most common topics raised.
- 4.6.2 The Applicant received 10,315 responses to the s47 consultation between 16 September and 28 October 2025. A total of 618 copies of the Applicant’s questionnaire, described in paragraph 4.4.14 above, were received either through the digital or paper methods. These responses have been combined and analysed together based on responses to each of the questions. Another 680 emails and letters were received, which have been analysed together by topic and subtopic. An additional 9,015 copies of petitions were received either by post, email, or through the online questionnaire. These petitions were analysed separately. The responses received via each of the available methods is set out in **Table 4.10** below.

Table 4.10 Feedback from consultees under s47 by method

Method	Count
Online Questionnaire	539
Paper Questionnaire	81
Emails	441
Written letter	239
Petitions	9,015
Total	10,315

- 4.6.3 Key themes across all forms of community feedback are listed below with the Applicant’s response and whether this feedback will result in a change to the design of the Proposed Development. The detailed analysis of this feedback will be included in the Consultation Report.

Table 4.11 Key feedback and applicant response

Feedback	Applicant Response	Change to Design
General statements of opposition to development in this location	<p>The starting point of the site selection process was the grid connection at Brinsworth Substation. While National Policy Statements strongly support the development of solar power to meet national energy targets, new solar developments can only connect into the National Grid where there is capacity. The Applicant was able to secure a grid connection agreement for 750 MW into Brinsworth Substation and then looked for land in the nearby area that would be suitable for solar.</p> <p>The Applicant avoided areas with environmental designations and the highest grade of agricultural land, as well</p>	Yes

CONSULTATION REPORT APPENDIX F

Feedback	Applicant Response	Change to Design
	<p>as dense urban areas to the west of the grid connection. The Applicant also sought willing landowners who wanted to be part of the Proposed Development. This resulted in the original Proposed Order Limits that was presented for the non-statutory consultation. The Applicant has reduced the areas for development at each stage of consultation in response to feedback to reduce potential impacts.</p>	
<p>Statements that the Proposed Development is too large</p>	<p>National Policy is clear on the need for solar developments, calling for a trebling of solar to 45-47 MW by 2030 [REF-10], and acknowledges that solar farms require 4-5.6 acres per MW. For a 750 MW grid connection, this would amount to 3,000-4,200 acres. When the Proposed Development was initially introduced, it was roughly 3,500 acres, which included both areas for solar development and areas set aside for environmental mitigation and enhancement.</p> <p>In response to feedback from two rounds of consultation and ongoing stakeholder engagement, the Proposed Development has been reduced significantly. The final size of the Proposed Development is now 2,888 acres, which includes 1,707 acres for solar and associated infrastructure and 1,181 acres for environmental mitigation and enhancement. This is a reduction of 37% of the developable area included in the first indicative masterplan for the non-statutory consultation, in response to feedback.</p> <p>The final masterplan has been refined in order to maximise clean energy provided to the national grid while also minimising potential impacts, resulting in a total amount of land within the guidelines.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Statements that solar technology should be located on rooftops or brownfields instead of agricultural fields</p>	<p>In order to produce enough energy to meet the grid connection agreement of 750 MW, ground-mounted solar is needed. The Applicant continues to develop rooftop installations as part of their broader business, but large-scale</p>	<p>No</p>

CONSULTATION REPORT APPENDIX F

Feedback	Applicant Response	Change to Design
	ground-mounted solar developments are needed to meet national energy targets. Brownfield sites were considered as part of the site selection process, but discounted due to either existing environmental designations, topography, proximity to settlements, size constraints or landowner interest.	
General concerns about visual impacts to PRowS	The Applicant has committed that all existing PRowS will remain open through the lifetime of the Proposed Development, other than temporary closures which may be needed for safety reasons during the construction phase. The Applicant has also proposed new permissive paths to expand access and formalise existing informal routes which are being used across the site. In order to reduce impacts on these paths, the Applicant has included a 10m offset from either side of the footpath to the fences, and a further 5m to the panels, for a total of 15m from the path to the panels as a minimum. This is significantly more than the 5m offset recommended by the British Horse Society. In response to feedback, the Applicant has further expanded this offset to include one open field to either side of the paths wherever possible.	Yes
Concern about visual impact around villages including Firsby, Clifton, Ulley, Harthill and Woodall	After the first consultation, the Applicant removed one quarter of the solar panels around villages and isolated homes near the Proposed Development. In response to the second consultation, the Applicant is further reducing the solar areas around Firsby, Clifton, Ulley and between Harthill and Woodall. Additionally, the Applicant has removed areas that were included for environmental mitigation from the project boundaries around each of these villages, so there will be no change in visual impact in these areas and the existing land use will continue.	Yes
Concern about impacts to properties near the Proposed Order Limits	In response to feedback from near neighbours to the Proposed Development, the updated masterplan makes changes to reduce solar panels near particular properties, including isolated properties:	Yes

CONSULTATION REPORT APPENDIX F

Feedback	Applicant Response	Change to Design
	Hilltop House, Conisbrough Parks Cottages, Greenlands, and properties near the edges of villages in Clifton, Firsby, Ulley, Brampton-en-le-Morthen, and Harthill and Woodall.	
Concern about loss of agricultural land and potential impacts to food security	<p>After the first consultation, the Applicant removed one quarter of the solar panels but left these areas within the Proposed Order Limits. After the second consultation and in response to environmental assessments and landowner engagement, the Applicant reviewed all of the areas that had been set aside for environmental mitigation to determine if they were necessary. Wherever possible, these areas have now been removed from the Proposed Development and will continue under their current land use to maximise agricultural production.</p> <p>The areas that remain in the Proposed Development for solar panels could be used for sheep grazing, which will continue to be developed as the Proposed Development progresses.</p>	Yes
Concern about impact to local wildlife	The Applicant has completed preliminary ecology surveys as shown in the draft ES and continues to engage with Natural England and the local authorities to ensure that potential impacts to wildlife have been assessed and mitigated if significant. While the areas set aside for environmental mitigation have been minimised, the Applicant has ensured that sufficient areas remain available.	Yes
Concern about construction traffic and impacts to local roads	The Applicant presented the proposed access points and access roads for construction traffic in the draft ES during the statutory consultation. In response to this feedback and ongoing engagement with National Highways and local authorities, the Applicant is altering some of the access points to new locations along the same roads and expanding the Proposed Order Limits slightly to allow for alterations to existing vegetation in order	Yes

CONSULTATION REPORT APPENDIX F

Feedback	Applicant Response	Change to Design
	to increase visibility for safety reasons at junctions and crossing points.	
Concern about impacts to heritage assets, including the Roman Villa near Clifton and Conisbrough Castle.	<p>The Applicant has continued to engage with Historic England, South Yorkshire Archaeology Service and the host authorities on the approach to heritage assets. To provide more offset around the Roman Villa and the conservation village of Clifton, the updated masterplan removes solar from the field to the north of the Roman Villa and has removed the potential substation and solar fields to the south of Clifton.</p> <p>While the Applicant remains confident of the assessment that there is no significant impact to Conisbrough Castle, the updated masterplan removes the mitigation areas south of Conisbrough from the Proposed Development so the existing land use will continue in these locations. The updated masterplan also removes a small area of solar to further offset from Conisbrough, so that the nearest solar panel is now 1.8 km from the castle.</p>	Yes
Concerns about potential fires from the BESS	The Applicant continues to engage with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue on the outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP) and is drafting a Statement of Common Ground that will be submitted with the Application.	No

4.7 Changes to the Proposed Development following the statutory consultation

4.7.1 The Applicant has updated the masterplan in response to feedback from the statutory consultation.

4.7.2 For Whitestone 1, the key changes are shown on **Figure 4.8** and include:

- Removing solar panels from:
 - the field north of Firsby;
 - south of an isolated dwelling near Firsby Lane;
 - north of Conisbrough Lodge; and
 - northwest of Clifton.
- Removing mitigation land from the Proposed Development:
 - north of Firsby;
 - along the A630;
 - between Conisbrough and Conisbrough Parks Cottages; and
 - West of Clifton.
- Selecting the substation location in the centre of Whitestone 1 at WS1 S2.
- Removing the potential substation and solar development south of Clifton and removing these fields from the draft Order Limits

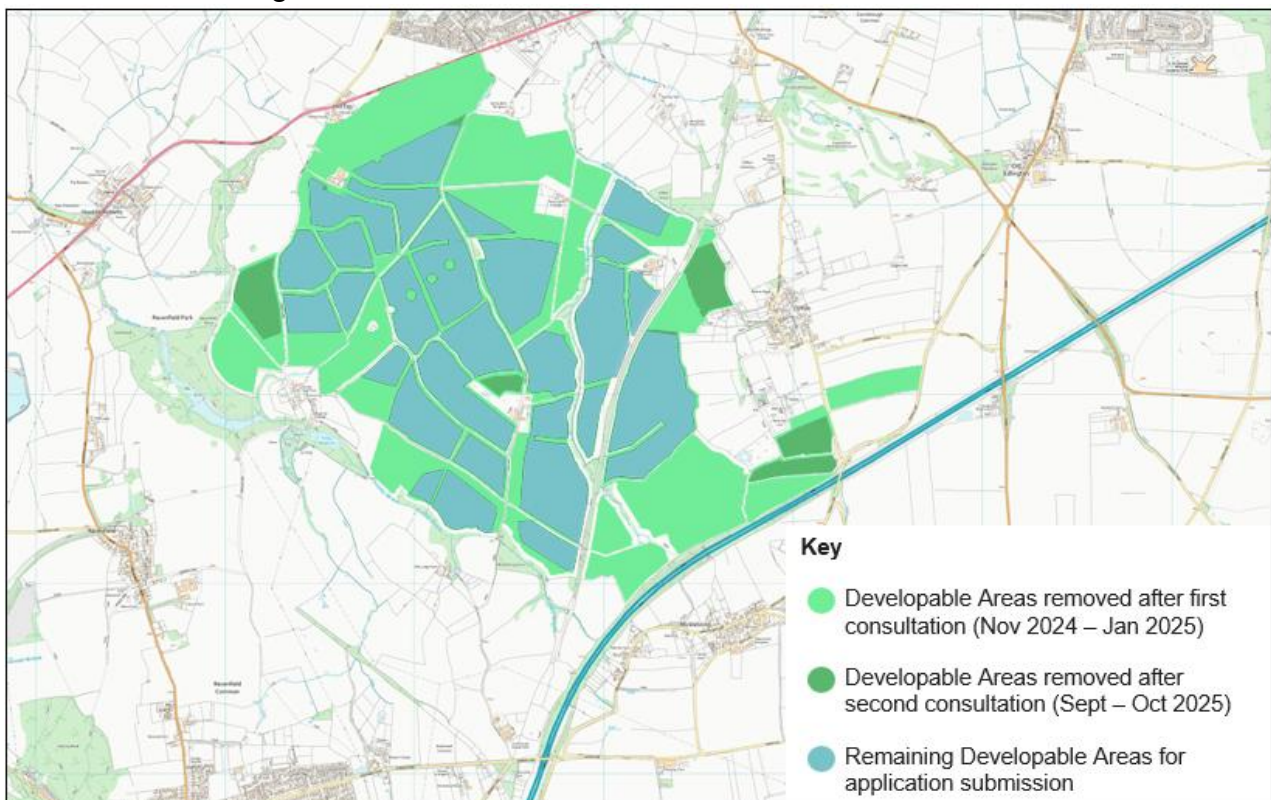


Figure 4.8 Changes to Developable Area – Whitestone 1

4.7.3 For Whitestone 2, the changes are shown in **Figure 4.9** and include:

- Removing solar panels from:
 - the area east of Treeton;
 - south of Ulley to the east of Turnshaw Road;
 - east of Ulley along Penny Hill Lane; and
 - north of Hardwick opposite an isolated residence along Long Road
- Removing mitigation areas from the Proposed Development:
 - on the south-facing hills north of Ulley; and
 - south of Brampton-en-le-Morthen.
- Selecting the primary substation location to the east of Upper Whiston along the M1 and selecting the secondary substation location to the east of Hardwick

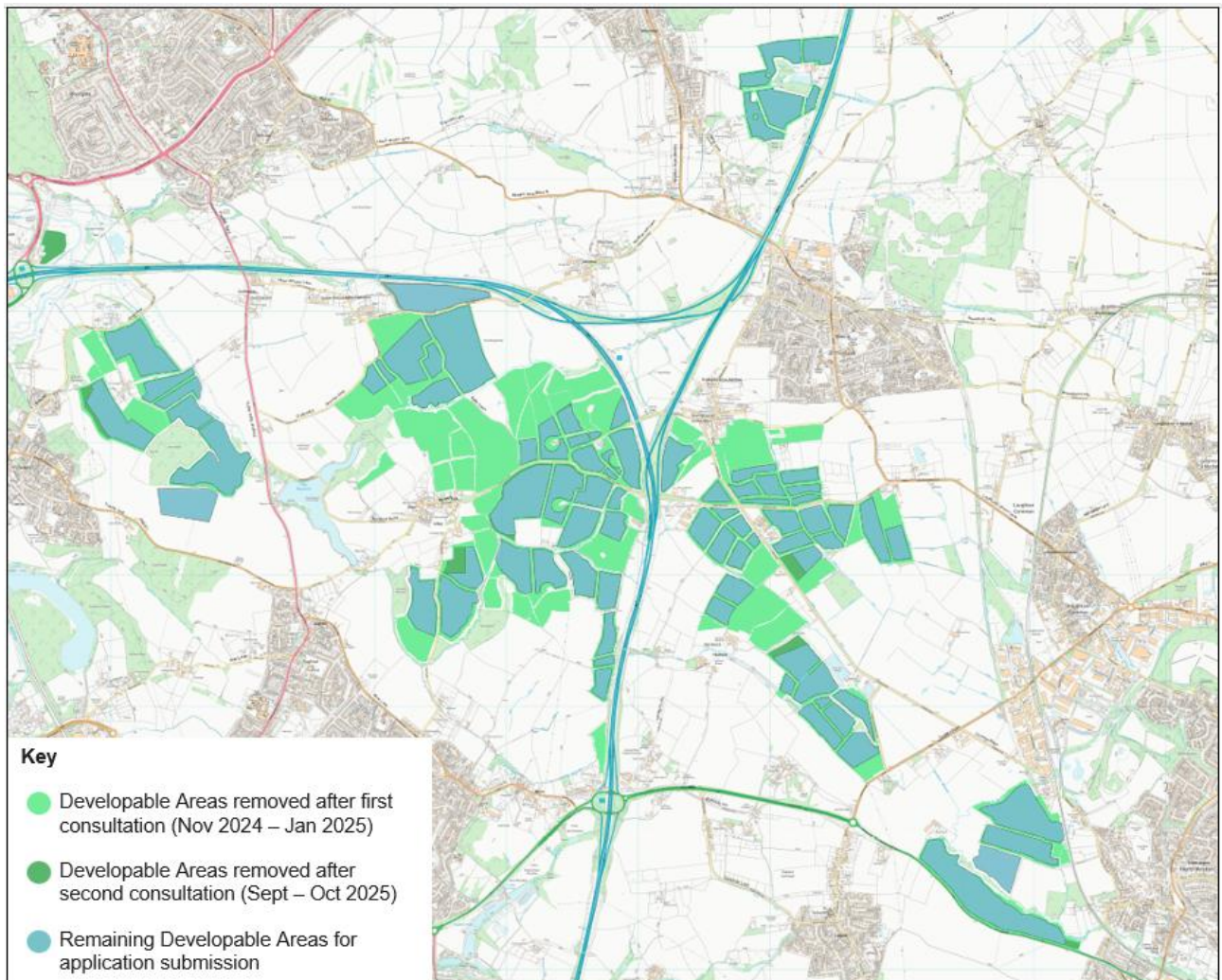


Figure 4.9 Changes to Developable Area – Whitestone 2

4.7.4 For Whitestone 3, the changes are shown in **Figure 4.10** and include:

- Removing solar panels from:
 - the southern-facing portion of the field north of Harthill to Kiveton Park; and
 - the northern portion of the field between Woodall and the Harthill Reservoir.
- Removing the mitigation areas from the Proposed Development:
 - to the east of High Moor; and
 - between Woodall and Harthill north of Woodall Lane and south of the PRow.

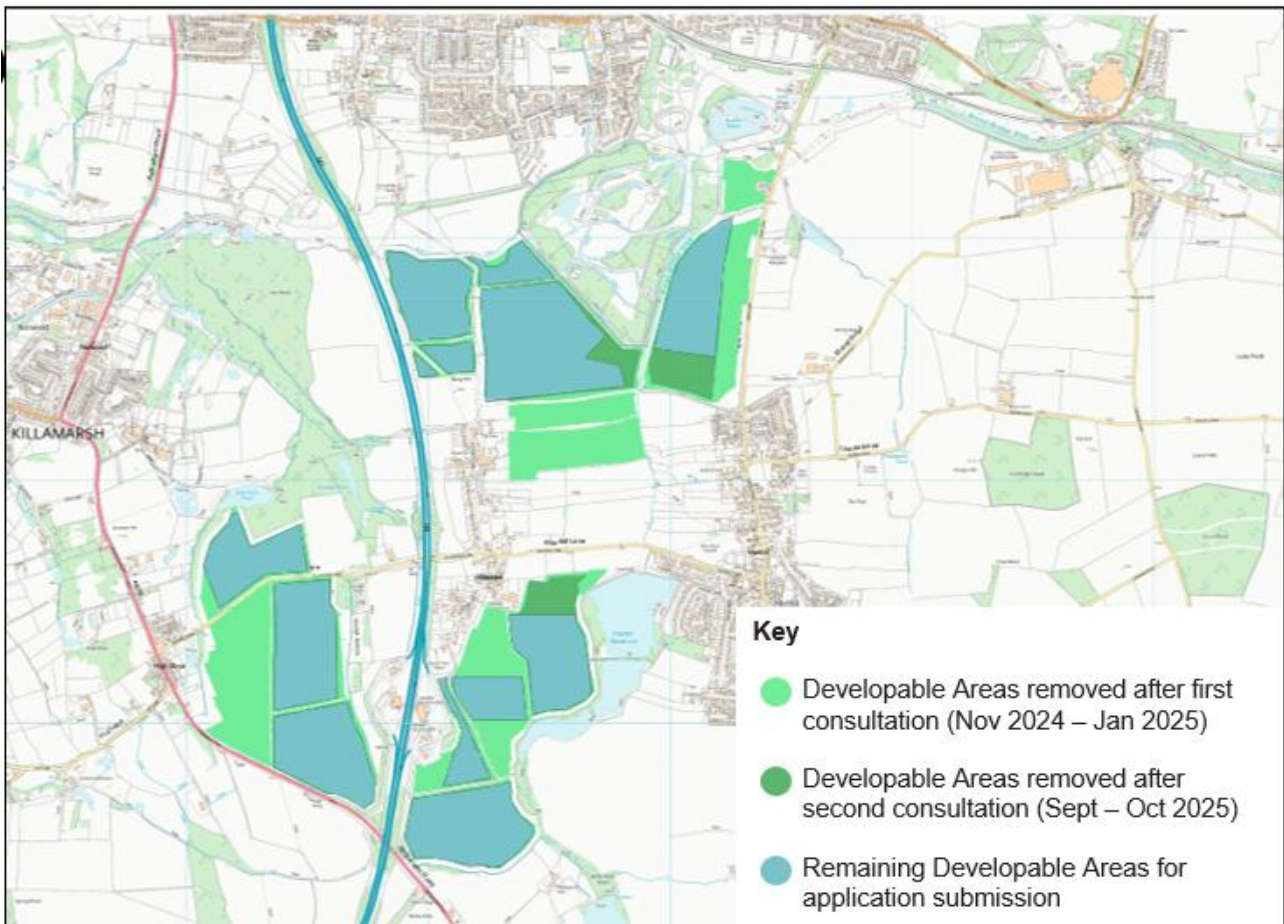


Figure 4.10 Changes to Developable Area – Whitestone 3

4.8 Further consultation and engagement

- 4.8.1 In response to feedback from the statutory consultation, ongoing engagement with local highway authorities and National Highways, as well as technical developments that have an impact on the Proposed Development, the Applicant has identified a number of places where making small changes to the proposed Order Limits would help reduce potential issues. These are largely related to construction traffic and access and the cable route.
- 4.8.2 The Applicant expects to run a targeted consultation on these minor changes, which will be conducted in line with the principles of the SoCC. After the targeted consultation, the Applicant will review any relevant feedback received to help inform any final proposals submitted in the Application.
- 4.8.3 The Applicant also intends to continue to engage with relevant prescribed consultees and local authorities to address key concerns and draft statements of common ground or protective provisions where needed. This engagement is expected to continue up to the submission date and will be described further in the Consultation Report.
- 4.8.4 In order to keep members of the community informed about the updated proposals and the next steps for the development process, the Applicant intends to produce a newsletter and offer stakeholder briefings prior to submission.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 As required by the Guidance and Prospectus, this Report has fulfilled the requirements of the AoCM. This Report has laid out details of the consultation undertaken by the Applicant to date, including non-statutory consultation, ongoing engagement and statutory consultation activities. This Report has detailed how the consultation complied with the commitments made in the SoCC. This Report has also shown a summary of the feedback received and how it is shaping the proposals.
- 5.1.2 At the point of writing this Report, the Applicant is making further changes to the Proposed Development in response to feedback from the consultation as described in section 4.7. As a result of ongoing engagement and project development, further changes may be included in the Application.
- 5.1.3 The Applicant has developed a comprehensive strategy that goes beyond legal requirements for consultation to create meaningful opportunities for engagement. Through two stages of consultation and ongoing engagement, the Applicant has sought detailed feedback and had regard to this feedback by implementing significant changes to the Proposed Development. The final masterplan is significantly different to the initial masterplan and has been shaped by the feedback received from the community and at each stage of consultation.
- 5.1.4 To create offsets around homes, villages and PRowS the Applicant has reduced the solar areas by 37% compared to the initial masterplan. The Applicant has also included 478 hectares for environmental mitigation and enhancement to ensure sufficient mitigation for ecology, visual impacts, heritage and other environmental topics, but minimised this area in order to reduce the total size of the Proposed Development by 17% compared to the original masterplan.

6 REFERENCES

- REF-1: The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations 2017).
- REF-2: Planning Inspectorate (2024). Guidance on the pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)
- REF-3: Planning Inspectorate (2024). Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report.
- REF-4: Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regulations 2009) (as amended by the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024)
- REF-5: Planning Inspectorate (2024). Advice Note 3: EIA Notification and Consultation
- REF-6: Planning Inspectorate (2024). Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus
- REF-7: Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the process for obtaining information about interests in land (under Section 52 of the Planning Act 2008)
- REF-8 Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2023). Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1).
- REF-9 Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2023). National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3).
- REF-10 Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2024). Clean Power 2030 Action Plan.
- REF-11 Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025). Solar Roadmap.

APPENDIX F2 COMPLIANCE WITH THE SOCC

Appendix F2.1. Publicising the Consultation

Actions	Evidence
Send a leaflet to the 'inner' consultation zone that includes around 45,000 addresses	A leaflet was sent on 9 September to announce the start of the consultation and invite them to attend public information events included in Appendix B4.1 .
Publish statutory notices in the Rotherham Advertiser, Doncaster Free Press, Derbyshire Times, London Gazette and a national newspaper in online and in print, and advertise on Facebook	A combined section 47 and 48 notice was published in the Doncaster Free Press, Rotherham Advertiser and Derbyshire Times on 11 September, and the same notice again on 18 September. The notice was also published in The Guardian and London Gazette on 16 September. Advertisements were posted on Facebook from 16 September until 28 October. A copy of the Facebook ads is located in Appendix B4.2 , and the notices are included in Appendix B3.1 .
Email the host and neighbouring parish councils the consultation information	The host and neighbouring parish councils were emailed 11 September to announce the upcoming consultation. A further email was sent on 17 September to the host parish councils to invite them to an online briefing on Zoom on 30 September. The Applicant offered an in-person briefing, but only Treeton Parish Council responded to request this, which took place on 13 October. The meetings are described further in Table 4.6 . The emails are included in Appendix B1.2 .
Email the community groups the consultation information	Emails were sent to the community groups on 18 September to announce the start consultation, explain how they could take part and invite them to the public information events. The community groups are listed in Appendix B4.4 and a copy of the email sent is included in Appendix B4.3 .
Email our 'keep informed' list the consultation information	Emails were sent to the 'keep informed' list on 18 September to announce the upcoming consultation and explain how they could take part and invite them to the public information events.
Email the elected officials from host and neighbouring regions the consultation information	Emails were sent to the host and neighbouring elected officials on 23 September to announce the upcoming consultation, explain how they could take part, and invite them to the public information events. The elected officials are included in the Appendix B4.4 , and a copy of the email sent is included in Appendix B4.3 .
Send a press release to local and national media outlets	A press release was sent on 26 September. The press release and the media list that was sent the press release are included in Appendix B4.5 .
Update the dedicated project website	The project website was updated on 16 September with the SOCC and the consultation materials. Screenshots of the website are included in Appendix C3 .

Appendix F2.2. Providing information about the Proposed Development

Actions	Evidence
<p>We will host in-person events where members of the community can learn about our proposals from members of the project team including technical experts across a variety of relevant topics.</p>	<p>As detailed in the SoCC and described further in Section 4.4, the Applicant held seven in-person events where the public could attend to view materials about the project and meet the project team, including experts from a range of topics. An additional information event was added in Treeton, making it eight in-person events. This was communicated to the community by sending out a letter to properties in Treeton.</p>
<p>We will schedule events for the community to learn about our proposals in locally convenient and wheelchair accessible locations on various days of the week and times of day to accommodate different work/life schedules.</p>	<p>The events were located in eight locations across the project to minimise travel time for the public to attend. These venues were selected not just for their location, but also based on accessibility and size to accommodate the events. The event times were chosen to be at a variety of different times in the day to accommodate different schedules of the public.</p>
<p>We will also offer to host a joint briefing for host parish councils.</p>	<p>On 17 September, the Applicant contacted all of the host parish councils, as detailed in the SOCC, who represent geographies that would host the project. The Applicant hosted an online Zoom meeting on 30 September to brief parish councils on the statutory consultation and answer any questions. Parish councils in attendance were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conisbrough Parks • Braithwell with Micklebring • Ravenfield • Bramley • Wickersley • Maltby • Ulley • Thurcroft • Harthill <p>Treeton Parish Council requested an in-person briefing, which was held after the Treeton public information event on 13 October.</p>
<p>We will produce a range of documents and materials to provide more information about Whitestone which will be available through our project website: www.whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk.</p>	<p>The leaflet, booklets, questionnaire, exhibition boards, draft ES, masterplans were available on the project website during the consultation period and continue to be available on the project website through the Document Library tab. These are included in Appendices D1, D2, D3, D4, and D5.</p>
<p>Hard copies of the consultation booklets, questionnaire and SoCC free of charge on request – as well as USBs containing all of the consultation materials (including the Draft ES). We will review requests for hard copies of the</p>	<p>Any requests received for hard copies of the consultation booklets, questionnaire, and SoCC were responded to and the relevant materials sent out in the post. The Draft ES was available in its entirety at the public information events. The document was too large to send out in the post.</p>

CONSULTATION REPORT APPENDIX F

Actions	Evidence
<p>Draft ES on a case-by-case basis. A fee to cover printing costs (up to a maximum of £750 for one full set of consultation documents including the Draft ES) may be charged to the recipient. Hard copies of all materials will be available at the public information events.</p>	
<p>Requests for consultation information in alternative formats (e.g. large print) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required.</p>	<p>There was one request for an audio version of the Draft ES. As with the print copies of this document, it was too large to be able to share in this way.</p>
<p>Throughout the consultation, we will operate the following communications channels for individuals to contact us with any questions.</p>	<p>These communication channels have been open throughout the project development.</p>

Appendix F2.3 After the consultation

Actions	Evidence
<p>If there are any changes needed to the arrangements described above, we will notify the community.</p>	<p>During the consultation, we received requests from the MP and the public to add an additional event in Treeton. The Applicant added this additional event to take place on 13 October. This was notified by writing to the community in Treeton via a letter on 30 September and updating the project website. The letter sent out to Treeton is in Appendix C4.6.</p>
<p>Our communications channels will remain open throughout the pre-application process to answer any questions from the community. Individuals can opt-in through the project website or consultation questionnaire to our 'keep informed' list if they would like to receive project updates.</p>	<p>The communications lines were open from the start of the project launch and continue to remain open now. Individuals can register to receive updates through the project webpage.</p>

APPENDIX F3 RESPONSES FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Appendix F3.1 City of Doncaster Council AOCM Response



Doncaster
Council

Contact: [REDACTED]
Web: www.doncaster.gov.uk

BY EMAIL:
[REDACTED]

Date: 24 February 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Whitestone Solar Farm Development Consent Order

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report (AoCM), a copy of which was provided to City of Doncaster Council (CDC), by email on 05 February 2026.

CDC understands that the Planning Inspectorate will seek the formal views from the Council about the adequacy of consultation, under section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 and that our representations at that time must be limited to whether the Applicant has complied with its duties under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act, and not broader matters such as the merits of the application itself.

With this context in mind, the following comments are provided.

Compliance with Statutory Requirements

CDC notes that the AoCM report sets out, in comprehensive detail, how the Applicant approached consultation under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008. Based on the information presented, the Council is satisfied that the statutory requirements have been met and that CDC was appropriately identified and consulted as a host authority.

Engagement with CDC on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Doncaster Council
Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU



CDC confirms that engagement has taken place with the Applicant since 2024, including during the preparation of the SoCC and throughout the subsequent statutory consultation stages.

Community Consultation

CDC acknowledges the consultation undertaken by the Applicant, including leaflet distribution, in-person events, online engagement tools and accessibility measures. The Council is therefore satisfied that the Applicant has complied with the agreed SoCC.

However, Conisbrough Parks Parish Council has written to CDC expressing significant concerns regarding the community consultation that has taken place to date. This is included in full as an Appendix to this response.

The Ward Councillors for Whitestone 1 have also been contacted to seek their feedback on the experiences of residents involved in the consultation and CDC reserves the right to share any such further feedback once received.

Furthermore, CDC understands from liaison with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, another Host Authority, that they received feedback raising significant concerns regarding the overall quality and effectiveness of the consultation, and that consequently this has been perceived as inadequate by stakeholders.

Based on the above, CDC has concerns regarding the efficacy of the consultation that has been undertaken.

Consideration of Feedback:

CDC notes that the Applicant has made changes to the draft masterplan following the Statutory Consultation, and these are provided at Figure 4.8 of the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report. However, CDC does not consider that these minor changes meaningfully address the detailed feedback provided in the Statutory Consultation response whatsoever. Moreover, the meetings that have subsequently been held between the Applicant and the Host Authorities have not sought to address that feedback in any substantive way. CDC made clear through this process the conclusion that Whitestone 1 should be removed from the Order limits completely. It is disappointing that so little has been done by the Applicant to properly acknowledge this position. Indeed, this lack of acknowledgement is reflected by the fact that the changes that have been incorporated in no way meaningfully address the objections raised.

Equally, some of the fundamental questions CDC raised through the Statutory Consultation response concerning the relative contribution that Whitestone 1 would make to energy generation when viewed against the very harmful impacts arising to the special, historic landscape have not been acknowledged or answered by the Applicant, despite repeatedly raising this with them.

CDC does not consider that dialogue in these respects has been altogether constructive and therefore questions whether the engagement to date has been meaningful. For example, on

topic specific discussions regarding heritage and historic landscape matters, very little was understood on the part of the Applicant of the special character of the historic landscape comprising Whitestone 1, other than their focus on intervisibility with Conisbrough Castle and its immediate setting. This is a fundamental oversight, betraying a clear misunderstanding of the wider historic landscape and CDC consequently does not consider the Applicant has taken reasonable steps to understand or engage with its objections in this respect.

Furthermore, it is notable that, despite the Host Authorities requesting sight of the draft DCO on various occasions, no draft has yet been provided. Officers are therefore concerned that the Applicant's intention to submit the DCO to PINS in May 2026 will provide very limited time for meaningful review by CDC prior to submission. This is not conducive to effective collaborative working and is contrary to the Government's guidance on early and ongoing engagement with local authorities during the NSIP process. We therefore reserve the right to make representations to PINS on this point in due course.

Conclusion

CDC is satisfied that the Applicant has addressed the statutory duties under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008. However, CDC has concerns about how meaningful the engagement has been on fundamental aspects of the project.

CDC will provide a full statutory adequacy of consultation response when formally requested by the Planning Inspectorate under section 55.

Yours faithfully



Head of Planning
Directorate of Place
City of Doncaster Council

Appendix 1 – Letter from Conisbrough Parks Parish Council dated 24 February 2026

Conisbrough Parks Parish Council

To: Head of Planning

Planning Department

City of Doncaster Council

24th February 2026

Subject: Inadequate Consultation by Whitestone Net Zero Limited (Whitestone Solar Farm)

Dear Mr Sykes

Conisbrough Parks Parish Council wishes to make you aware of its concerns and issues about the adequacy of the consultation process undertaken by Whitestone (Green Nation) regarding the proposed Whitestone Solar Farm. The Councillors consider the process to be fundamentally flawed and inadequate, failing to meet the legal requirements for meaningful community engagement as set out under the Planning Act 2008. Their detailed position is as follows:

1. Systematic Exclusion of Affected Communities

The consultation systematically excluded the residents most affected by this development:

- **Prohibitive Costs:** The Non-Technical Summary states that hard copies of the full Environmental Statement cost "up to £750", creating an unacceptable financial barrier to accessing essential information.
- **Over-reliance on Digital Platforms:** The process relied heavily on online materials, excluding elderly residents in communities such as Conisbrough Parks, Conisbrough, Ravenfield, Hooton Roberts, Micklebring, Clifton, and Firsby.
- **Technical Complexity Barrier:** The Environmental Statement uses impenetrable technical jargon that the Non-Technical Summary fails to adequately translate for ordinary residents. For example, the Non-Technical Summary describes "Moderate to Major Adverse (Significant)" effects in technical language that obscures serious harm and fails to explain in plain English how residents' daily lives will be affected.
- **Local Experience:** In Conisbrough Parks, many residents are elderly or lack reliable internet access, making it extremely difficult for them to participate meaningfully in a process so heavily dependent on digital communication. These points were brought to the attention of the Parish Council by residents who felt excluded and unable to access key documents or submit their views.

- **Lack of Inclusivity and Accessibility:** The second consultation events did not include one in Clifton, despite Whitestone (Green Nation) having previously attended meetings in an available village hall at the initial stage last year. Residents without internet access or transport to Conisbrough or elsewhere have not been treated in a fair and considerate manner, a matter brought to the attention of Parish Councillors and City of Doncaster Ward Councillors. This failure is unsatisfactory given that Whitestone 1 has a direct impact on landscape views from the village.

2. Inadequate Consultation Programme

Insufficient Public Events: Only seven public events were held for a development affecting multiple communities across nearly 2,000 hectares.

- **Poor Geographic Coverage:** Smaller communities like Clifton (part of Conisbrough Parks), Firsby, and Hooton Roberts were poorly served, forcing residents to travel significant distances.
- **Limited Accessibility:** Events were poorly timed for working families, with insufficient weekend options.
- **Conisbrough Parks Impact:** The nearest event for many Conisbrough Parks residents was held several miles away, with no provision for those with limited mobility or without private transport. This further disadvantaged those already struggling to access information.
- **Communications to residents via post in the parish were not consistent, some received correspondence and details of consultation whilst others did not, parishioners reporting these concerns to Parish Councillors. This demonstrates exclusion of residents and inadequacy of their consultation and engagement, especially given that a number of elderly residents don't have access to electronic communication.**
- **Consultation Response Time:** The consultation response time of six weeks during September and October 2025 was of great concern, given the volume and number of documents to consider, read, and process, in addition to the 'Consultation Booklet'. This is particularly pertinent when considering that the first consultation between November 2024 and January 2025 was eleven weeks with less information to read and process. This matter was brought to Whitestone's notice by numerous individuals and recognised organisations, including Ward Councillors and MPs. The Parish Council raised extreme concern that the time to read and process documents for the second consultation was far too short, not allowing for full discussion at meetings and to formulate this written response. As a Parish Council, Councillors requested an extension in a letter to Jonathan Thompson (CEO of Green Nation) earlier in the consultation (which was not responded to), and again in a letter in response to the

consultation of 23rd October, specifically requesting that the consultation period be extended until 28th November 2025.

3. Consultation on Outdated and Incomplete Information

- **Heritage Assessment Rendered Obsolete:** The heritage assessment is now fundamentally flawed. Historic England recently designated the Roman Villa at Conisbrough Parks as a Scheduled Monument after the heritage assessment was completed.
- **Underestimated Significance:** The assessment fails to account for this site, described as "undoubtedly one of the best surviving and most important sites in the region".
- **Inadequate Reassessment:** This designation should have triggered a complete consultation restart, not just cosmetic updates.
- **Local Context:** The Parish Council notes that the Roman Villa is a site of exceptional local and national importance, and its new status was not properly communicated to residents or reflected in consultation materials. This omission deprived the community of the opportunity to comment on a key heritage issue.

4. Failure to Provide Accessible and Complete Information

- **Non-Technical Summary Inadequacies:** The summary downplays significant impacts, describing "Moderate to Major Adverse (Significant)" effects in technical language that obscures serious harm. It fails to explain in plain English how residents' daily lives will be affected and omits key information about heritage impacts due to the Roman villa designation.
- **Technical Document Complexity:** The Environmental Statement chapters are impenetrable to ordinary residents, using expert-level language without adequate explanation. The volume and complexity, hundreds of pages, requires professional expertise to understand, and information is scattered across multiple volumes and appendices, making cross-referencing difficult.
- **Limited Information Provided:** The Parish Council did not receive all the documentation with information that needs consideration prior to this response. For example, the 'Draft Environmental Statement' was only available by request at an event, and refers to numerous appendices that have not been circulated by Green Nation. As a statutory consultee, the Parish Council did not receive some necessary documents despite written emailed requests. Most of the meaningful documents required for an informed consultation response were only available online and should have been provided free of charge to all statutory consultees, including this Parish Council. Furthermore, the consultation documents miss several points and there are many inaccuracies in the details and maps.

- **Conisbrough Parks Experience:** Residents reported that even the so-called Non-Technical Summary was difficult to interpret, and that attempts to seek clarification from the developer were met with generic or unhelpful responses.

5. Dismissal of Community Expertise

Despite receiving 940 responses in the first consultation:

- **Substantive Concerns Dismissed:** Community objections about fundamental site unsuitability were treated as minor design issues.
- **Cosmetic Changes Only:** Claimed design changes failed to address core problems raised by residents.
- **No Genuine Dialogue:** Technical responses failed to engage with community concerns.

6. Legal Requirements Not Met (Section 47, Planning Act 2008)

The consultation fails to meet statutory requirements for meaningful community engagement:

- **Accessibility Failure:** Systematic exclusion through digital bias, cost barriers, and technical complexity.
- **Inadequate Opportunity:** Insufficient public meetings and rushed timelines prevent meaningful participation.
- **Information Failure:** Technical documents and incomplete surveys prevent informed community input.
- **Geographic Bias:** Poor coverage of smaller communities most affected by the development.
- **Conisbrough Parks View:** The Parish Council believes these failures amount to a breach of both the letter and spirit of the Planning Act, and that the process has not enabled genuine participation by those most affected.

7. Procedural Inadequacies

- **Premature Consultation:** Consulting on incomplete surveys and outdated heritage assessments.
- **Information Barriers:** Financial and technical obstacles prevented community access to essential information.
- **Timeline Inadequacy:** Insufficient time for communities to coordinate responses to complex development.
- **Local Impact:** The Council notes that several key documents were updated or replaced during the consultation period, causing confusion and making it difficult for residents to know which information was current or relevant.

8. Impact on Democratic Decision-Making

These consultation failures undermine the entire planning process:

- **Compromised Community Input:** Affected residents could not provide informed responses due to accessibility barriers.
- **Flawed Evidence Base:** Decision-makers lack comprehensive information needed for balanced evaluation.
- **Democratic Deficit:** Systematic exclusion of communities violates principles of participatory planning.
- **Conisbrough Parks Perspective:** The Parish Council is concerned that the voices of smaller, rural communities have been marginalised, and that the process has failed to uphold the standards of transparency and fairness expected in major infrastructure planning.

9. Freepost Address Errors and Reliability of Consultation

Concerns regarding the Freepost address were raised early in the second consultation period, yet no correction was issued. The address advertised by Whitestone — “Whitestone Solar Farm, Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local”, was confirmed by Royal Mail’s Response Services Team as non-compliant with the Freepost Name licence held by SEC Newgate UK. The correct format should have been “Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL”, with the project name placed separately.

Royal Mail confirmed that items addressed using the incorrect format were initially flagged for surcharge or potential return, and delivery depended on manual intervention by Sheffield Mail Centre staff. This process relied on items being posted from the “local catchment”, even though the consultation area extends over 20 km and crosses multiple mail regions and counties. As a result, responses from some parts of the area or from national organisations may not have benefited from local intervention, risking lost or delayed submissions.

This administrative error undermines the accessibility and reliability of the statutory consultation process required under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 and raises serious doubt as to whether all public feedback has been properly received and recorded. Whitestone’s unwillingness to acknowledge or correct the issue, even when alerted by Parish Councils and by Members of Parliament, suggests a dismissive approach to local engagement and procedural accuracy.

10. Failure to Extend Consultation Period

Despite requests from Conisbrough Parks Parish Council and several other Parish Councils across the consultation area, Whitestone Net Zero Limited declined to extend the consultation period. Given the geographical scale of the proposed development and the number of communities affected, an extension would have been both proportionate

and reasonable. The refusal to allow more time has limited the ability of residents and local councils to fully understand and respond to the proposals.

Conclusion

Whitestone's (Green Nation) consultation represents a fundamental failure to engage meaningfully with affected communities as required by law. The systematic exclusion of residents through cost barriers, technical complexity, incomplete information, and rushed timelines violates both the letter and spirit of democratic participation in planning decisions. A development of this scale, affecting multiple historic communities and heritage assets, deserved proper consultation that genuinely includes and engages with those whose lives will be permanently affected.

Conisbrough Parks Parish Council urges City of Doncaster Council to take these serious procedural failings into account when providing feedback to the Planning Inspectorate on the adequacy of the consultation, and ask that a request is made to undertake a new, legally compliant consultation process.

Yours sincerely,



Clerk to Conisbrough Parks Parish Council

Appendix F3.2 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council AOCM Response



Regeneration & Environment

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Email the Council for free @ your local library!

Our Ref:
RB2025/0603

Please Contact: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: [REDACTED]

27th February 2026

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Whitestone Solar Farm – Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report ("AoCM Report") received by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) on 06 February 2026 by email.

RMBC understands that, in due course, the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) will seek the Council's formal views under section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 relating specifically to whether the Applicant has complied with its consultation duties under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Act. RMBC acknowledges that representations at that stage must be confined solely to statutory adequacy of consultation, and not to the planning merits of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

With this context in mind, RMBC provides the following comments.

Compliance with Statutory Requirements

RMBC notes that the AoCM report sets out, in comprehensive detail, how the Applicant approached consultation under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008. Based on the information presented, the Council is satisfied that the statutory requirements have been met and that RMBC was appropriately identified and consulted as a host authority.

Engagement with RMBC on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

RMBC confirms that constructive engagement has taken place with the Applicant since 2024, including during the preparation of the SoCC and throughout the

www.rotherham.gov.uk

subsequent statutory consultation stages. The AoCM Report accurately reflects Officer's input and the corrections sought during this process.

Community Consultation

RMBC acknowledges the consultation undertaken by the Applicant, including leaflet distribution, in-person events, online engagement tools and accessibility measures. The Council is therefore satisfied that the Applicant has complied with the agreed SoCC.

However, it is worth noting at this juncture, significant concerns have been raised by Parish Councils, local residents, and elected Ward Members. These concerns indicate that, while statutory compliance may have been achieved, the quality and effectiveness of the consultation has been perceived as inadequate by these stakeholders. Issues reported to officers include:

- Consultation process lacked transparency, clarity, and genuine community engagement.
- Flyers resembled junk mail and were frequently discarded; some also contained incorrect Freepost addresses, raising concerns about whether responses were received.
- Not all directly affected residents received communication about consultation events.
- Only a small number of drop-in sessions were held across a very large geographical area, many during working hours, with no formal presentations.
- Consultation events were poorly advertised and offered limited opportunity for meaningful participation.
- Treeton was initially excluded from both consultation rounds and only included after pressure from the local MP.
- Whitestone representatives showed poor local knowledge, dismissive attitudes, and were unable to answer key questions regarding flooding, traffic, biodiversity, and community benefits.
- After two years of planning, key infrastructure locations (cable corridors, battery storage, substations) remain undetermined and were not clearly presented.
- Technical documentation was extensive, but the consultation period was too short for residents and organisations to review and understand its implications.
- No consideration was given to extending the consultation period despite issues with incorrect or inconsistent addressing on leaflets and display materials.
- Engagement with both Inner Zone and Outer Zone communities was inadequate, leaving many residents unaware of the scale and impact of the development.
- Communication relied heavily on unclear maps and hard-to-read materials, making it difficult for residents to identify local impacts.
- No information has been provided on the Community Benefit Fund.

- The scale of the scheme, approx. 3,400 acres of Green Belt is not reflected in the limited and superficial consultation undertaken.
- Parish Council(s) believe the overall consultation process is unfit for purpose and should be declared null and void.
- Statutory Notice Failure - No Section 42 notice has ever been served on joint legal owner of Springvale Farm, despite the owners clear status as a statutory consultee. Whitestone were informed in October 2025 that the site forms part of a residential home and is an active Camping and Caravan Club Certified Site. Despite invitations to engage, telephone calls on 17–18 February went unanswered. A representative from Whitestone subsequently attempted entry without notice, contrary to the owners 48-hour requirement issued on 9 February. The representative opened the owners private residential gates and drove into their yard, blocking access. The follow-up email acknowledged a communication issue but not the perceived civil trespass. The engagement to date has not reflected statutory obligations, accurate mapping, or the operational realities of the Certified Site. The current access strategy is not legally or technically viable.

Consideration of Feedback

RMBC notes that the Applicant has made changes to the draft masterplan following consultation feedback, including reductions in solar panel areas and refinements to parcels of land adjacent to Rotherham communities. RMBC welcomes these changes and will continue to examine the evidence base when further submission documents are provided within the Environmental Statement (ES) and draft DCO.

RMBC will, in particular, scrutinise detailed assessments on transport, landscape, green belt, heritage, ecology, agricultural land quality, and other relevant environmental matters through the Local Impact Report and subsequent stages. Officers welcome continued constructive dialogue with the Applicant's technical advisors as the Environmental Statement is finalised and note that there are particular areas of concern, such as the LVIA where no meetings have yet taken place since the Council's initial comments on the draft ES.

Furthermore, RMBC wishes to highlight that, despite requesting sight of the draft DCO on various occasions, no draft has yet been provided. Officers are therefore concerned that the Applicant's intention to submit the DCO to PINS in May 2026 will provide very limited time for meaningful review by RMBC prior to submission. This is not conducive to effective collaborative working and runs counter to the Government's guidance on early and ongoing engagement with local authorities during the NSIP process. We therefore reserve the right to make reps to PINS on this point in due course.

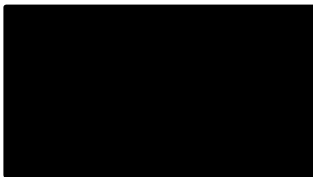
Conclusion

Although the Council recognises that the applicant has endeavoured to satisfy the statutory consultation obligations pursuant to section 42 of the Town and Country Act, at this point due to the failure to serve the appropriate notice at Springvale Farm the Council's position must be that statutory consultation requirements have not been

fully satisfied, unless you can provide appropriate evidence that service has legally taken place. Furthermore, RMBC wishes to emphasise the considerable dissatisfaction expressed by some local communities regarding the quality of the consultation experience. Subject to Data Protection legislation, this information can be provided and will be submitted to PINS in due course. RMBC also remains concerned regarding the absence of the draft DCO and the implications this may have for constructive pre-submission engagement.

RMBC will provide a full statutory adequacy of consultation response when formally requested by the Planning Inspectorate under section 55.

Yours sincerely



Executive Director Regeneration and Environment

Appendix F3.3 North East Derbyshire District Council AOCM Response



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

[REDACTED]
DWD ltd
69 Carter Lane
London
EC4V 5EQ

Our Ref:
Contact: [REDACTED]
Tel: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Date: 25 February 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Whitestone Solar Farm - Adequacy of Consultation Milestone - North East Derbyshire District Council

Thank you for consulting North East Derbyshire District Council on the above. I am writing to inform you that the council considers the consultation is adequate, however we do request that any future consultations are also sent to the Killamarsh West Ward members: Cllr Stephen Clough, Cllr Clive Fletcher and Cllr Carol Lacey as originally requested by us.

Otherwise we appreciate the work you have done to inform the local community and the changes made to the scheme following the feedback received.

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Principal Planning Officer.

North East Derbyshire District Council, District Council Offices, 2013 Mill Lane,
Wingerworth, Chesterfield, S42 6NG. www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk





WHITESTONE
solar farm

Contact

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

0800 688 9936