WHITESTONE
solar farm

WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM

Volume 5: Reports and Statements

5.1 Consultation Report Appendix D Statutory Consultation Materials

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 D1 STATUTORY CONSULTATION BOOKLET

Appendix D1.1 Consultation Booklet Whitestone 1

Overview

We are now carrying out the second consultation for Whitestone Solar Farm. After the first consultation, held last autumn and winter, we have made significant changes to the project in response to your feedback. This includes a reduction of around one fourth of the solar panels across the project to create offsets around homes, villages, and public rights of way.

During this second consultation, we are presenting the updated masterplan as well as the draft Environmental Statement (draft ES). Feedback from this consultation will inform the updated proposals that we plan to submit next year in our application.

Whitestone is split across three areas, Whitestone 1 (WS1), Whitestone 2 (WS2) and Whitestone 3 (WS3). This booklet contains information about Whitestone 1.

Throughout this booklet you will see text boxes to indicate the specific questions we are asking for this consultation. You can respond to them through our online feedback form located at **whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk**. You can also submit your written feedback using the paper feedback form, by email or by freepost to the communications lines on the back of this booklet. Please provide your feedback by **11:59pm 28 October 2025**.

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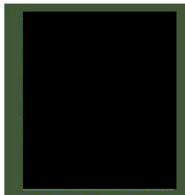
Scan here to access the online feedback form

Green Nation

Whitestone Solar Farm is being brought forward by Whitestone Net Zero Ltd (owned by Net Zero One Ltd). Net Zero One Ltd is a specialist renewable energy development business, founded in 2021 to ensure there is sufficient funding to build, operate and decommission Whitestone and other similar projects.

The overall manager for the project is Green Nation. Established in 2011, Green Nation has been among the leaders in making the energy transition work. It is a UK-based solar developer and manager of operational sites with extensive experience in both rooftop and ground-mounted solar projects. Green Nation currently manages 75 solar farms and more than 700 solar rooftop installations across the country. Its solar farm portfolio totals over 200 MW of electricity producing capacity for the UK.



"I want to thank everyone who took part in the first consultation and encourage you to provide your feedback again in this second consultation on our updated proposals. Your feedback matters to us, and we look forward to hearing from you."

Jonathan Thompson
CEO and Founder of Green Nation and Director of Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

Why solar?

The UK has committed to eliminating fossil fuels from the power supply, to provide energy security and reduce future energy costs while supporting the fight against climate change. Now that the last coal power station in the UK, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, has been closed down, new renewable energy sources are needed to come forward to keep the lights on. At the same time, our demand for electricity continues to increase and is projected to double by 2050. To meet these future energy needs, we must quickly ramp up production of renewable energy here in the UK.

The Clean Power 2030 mission sets a goal to triple solar capacity by 2030, as well as ramp up onshore and offshore wind development. Solar and wind work well together, and a mix of both helps provide stability to the energy supply. The Solar Roadmap explains how the UK will achieve the Clean Power mission and includes new mechanisms to increase rooftop solar installations. From 2027, most new homes will be required to include solar panels, known as the Future Homes Standard. We support the 'rooftop revolution' and continue to fund commercial rooftop installations as part of our broader business, but note that large scale solar developments are also needed to produce enough energy to meet our national energy goals.

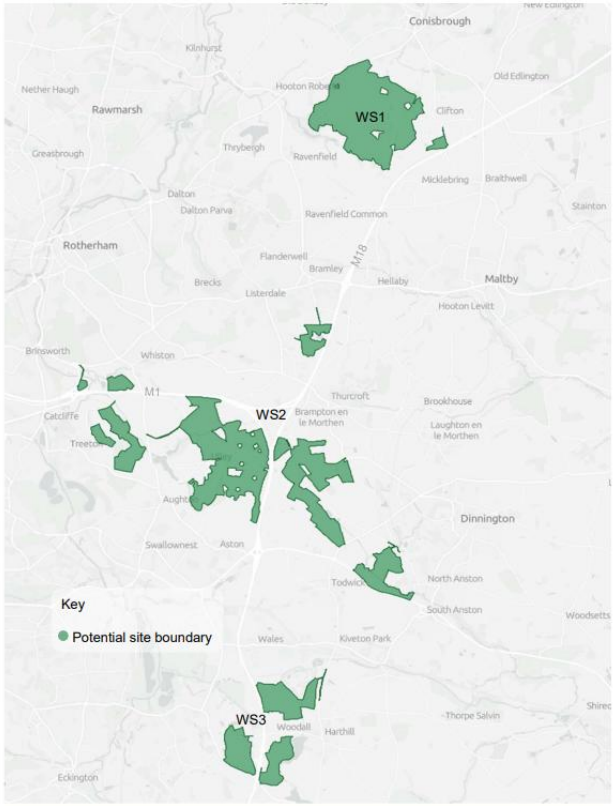
Why here?

The National Grid connects energy sources to energy users through a network of substations and overhead lines that run across the UK. However, new renewable energy projects can only connect into the National Grid where there is available capacity, which is limited. We secured an agreement to connect into the grid at Brinsworth substation and then searched for land near the grid connection point that would be suitable for solar. We also wanted to avoid environmentally sensitive areas and the highest quality agricultural land where possible.

This process has resulted in the project boundary we presented during the last consultation. We will continue to refine the proposals within this boundary to ensure that there are appropriate offsets and buffers from the community and other environmental features. See more about the buffers that we have included in the masterplan on pages 10-11, and provide your feedback about them in your response to the consultation questionnaire.

Whitestone would generate approximately 750 MW, which is enough to support 250,000 houses or 35 large hospitals.[1]

1 This is based on the average energy consumption of 3,200 kWh per year per home, and the average energy consumption of Sheffield Northern General Hospital.



We recognise that the land identified for the project is on the Green Belt. We are 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 public rights of way and new permissive paths across the site. Solar farms also provide habitats for local wildlife, and we plan to create new habitats for wildlife to increase biodiversity.

Development process

Because Whitestone would generate more than 50 MW of energy, it is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) according to the Planning Act 2008.[2] We are therefore required by the Planning Act to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to develop Whitestone.

We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate, who will review and consider the application on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS). We must demonstrate in our application that we have met requirements for pre-application consultation with local authorities, technical bodies and members of the community and how this has shaped our proposals. If the application meets the requirements, it will be 'accepted', and the Planning Inspectorate will then appoint an Examining Authority to review the application through a 6-month public examination period. After this stage, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation about whether to approve the application, and the SoS will make the final decision.

Indicative timeline

2 Under current law, the threshold to be considered an NSIP is 50MW, but this will increase to 100MW at the end of 2025. Whitestone is still above the new threshold and will continue to be considered an NSIP.

Consultation

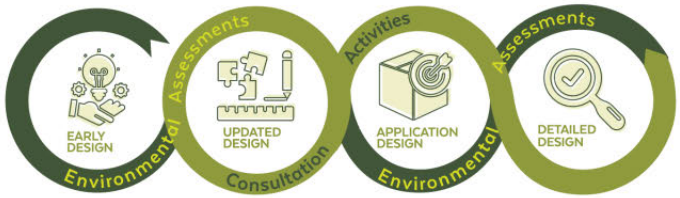
Before we submit our DCO application, we are required to consult with local communities, elected officials and technical stakeholders. We held our first consultation between November 2024 and January 2025 on our initial proposals. During that period, we received 940 pieces of feedback and met with 702 individuals at public events. We also met with MPs, parish councils, ward councillors and residents who live near the project boundary. We want to thank everyone who took the time to engage with the consultation and send in your feedback.

We reviewed all the feedback we received and made significant changes to the project design. This includes removing one fourth of the panels to create offsets around homes, villages and public rights of way (see pages 10-17 for more information about how the design has changed).

We also received feedback around the specific topics to consider in the environmental assessments, which we are now presenting in the draft Environmental Statement (draft ES) as part of this second consultation. This consultation is considered 'statutory' because it is required by the Planning Act 2008. See pages 26-29 of this booklet for more information on the draft ES or view it in its entirety at our project website (whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk) and in person at the public information events.

Design process

By their nature, the development of projects like Whitestone is iterative. This means that at each stage of consultation, we will present an updated project design that has been refined by consultation feedback and the results of the environmental and technical assessments. As the project progresses, we will be able to present a more refined and detailed design. Even if an individual or organisation submitted feedback during the first consultation, we would encourage them to submit their feedback again in the second consultation to help further refine the project.



1st Consultation
Autumn 2024

2nd Consultation
Autumn 2025

DCO submission
Spring 2026

Post Consent
2027

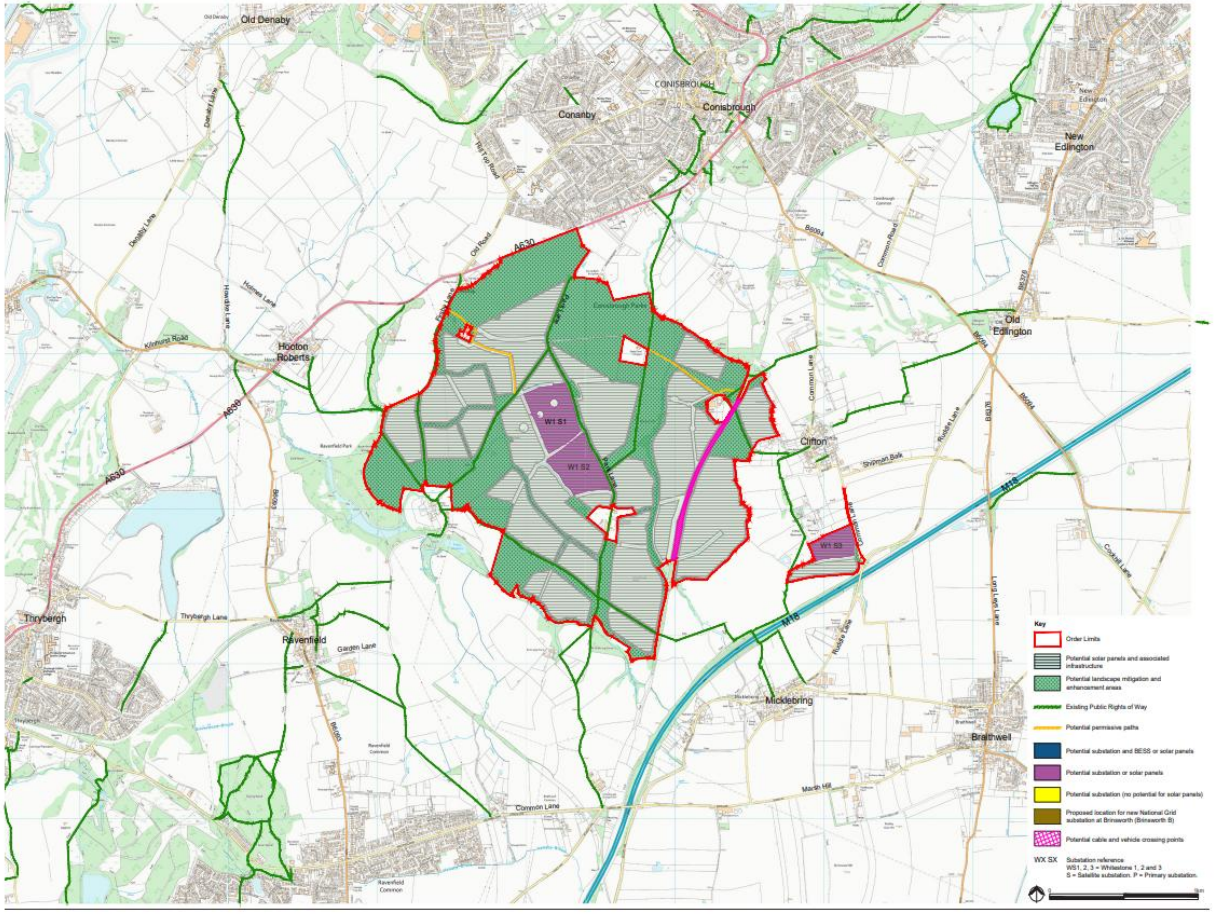
Design principles

We have defined the following design principles that we will use throughout the development process. These design principles will evolve in time and be informed by feedback from the local community and wider stakeholders.

- Maximise the amount of renewable energy provided to the National Grid
- Craft a project that is resilient to climate change
- Limit the amount of embodied carbon across the project where reasonable
- Engage with stakeholders to develop the design
- Find out what is important to people about the local area and seek to incorporate feedback
- Consider how people engage with their local environment and retain these patterns
- Enhance recreational access across the landscape
- Respect landscape character and cultural heritage
- Minimise visual impact
- Aim to support local wildlife and biodiversity
- Support local ecology and enhance biodiversity, enriching ecosystems where possible
- Support research and development

Design

Updated Masterplan - Whitestone 1



Summary of design changes

During the first consultation, we received detailed feedback around requested offsets near homes, villages and public rights of way to reduce potential visual impacts. In response to this feedback, we have removed around one fourth of the solar panels from the project. To better understand the scale of these changes for Whitestone 1, please see the images below.

Clifton

Before

After

Firsby

Before

After

Please provide your feedback on our updated masterplan.


Design
Design
Setbacks and environmental mitigation
Where we have removed solar panels from the project to reduce potential visual impacts, the land could be used for environmental mitigation and enhancement. These areas would not have any above-ground infrastructure, but may still be needed for underground cables or access tracks to support the rest of the project.
These spaces could be planted with a mix of native grasses or wildflowers to support local wildlife. Projects like Whitestone are now required to increase biodiversity by at least 10%, however, most solar farms exceed this requirement. We are exploring a variety of methods to increase biodiversity in these areas, which could include bat boxes, bug hotels and water scrapes to provide new habitats for vital pollinators, small mammals and bird species.
As we complete the environmental impact assessments, we may identify the need to set aside land for certain species to mitigate potential impacts in other areas of the project. If we identify that we do not need all of this land for mitigation, we may choose to remove it from the project boundary altogether. In this case, the land would remain with the landowner and could continue to be used as it is today.
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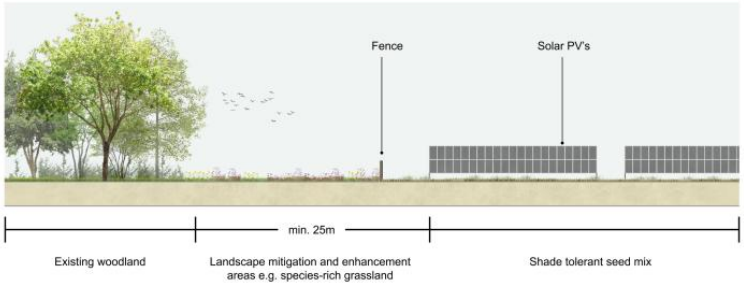
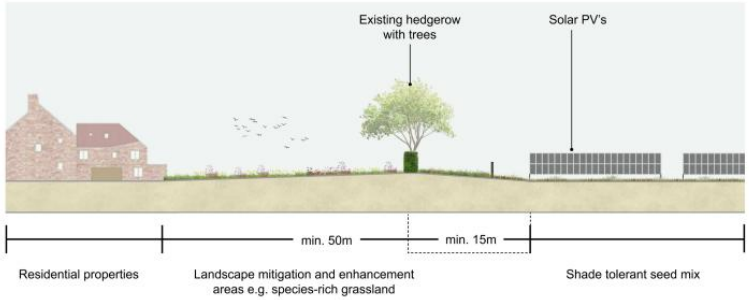
Design

Visualisations

Below are examples of offsets from woodlands and homes.





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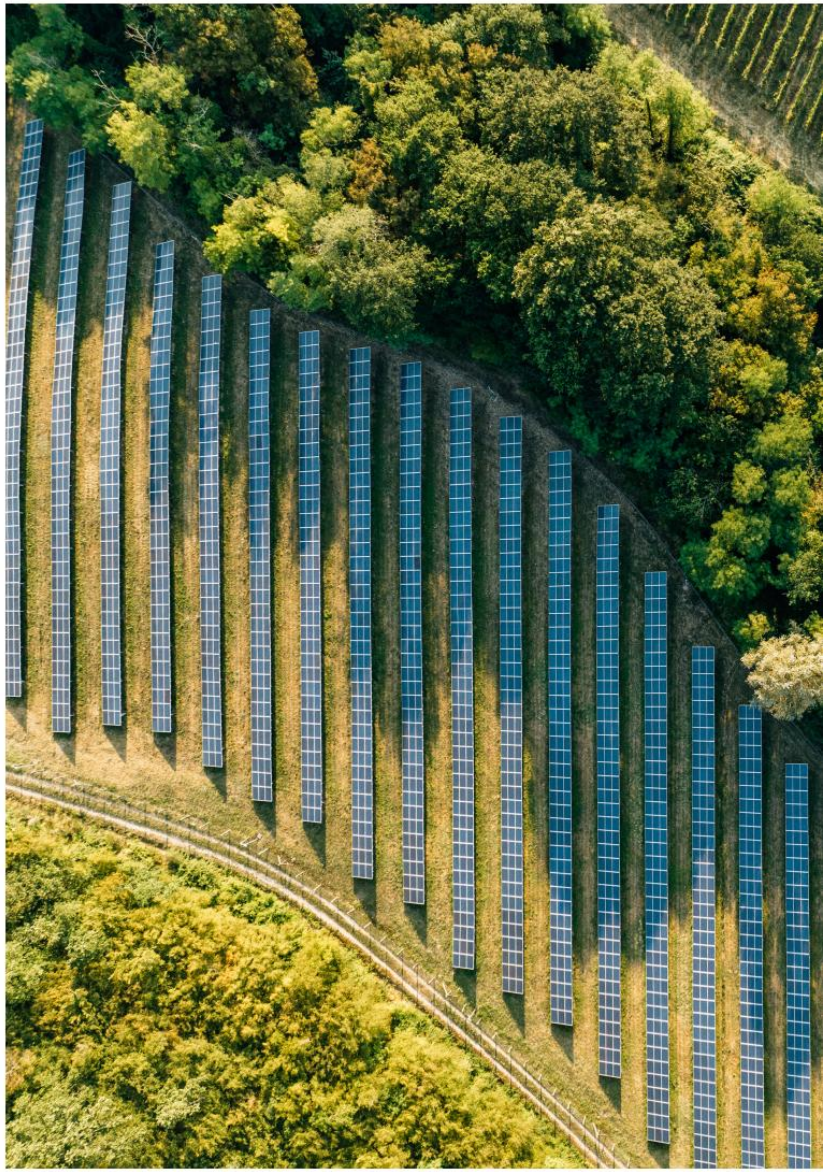


Existing public rights of way and new permissive paths

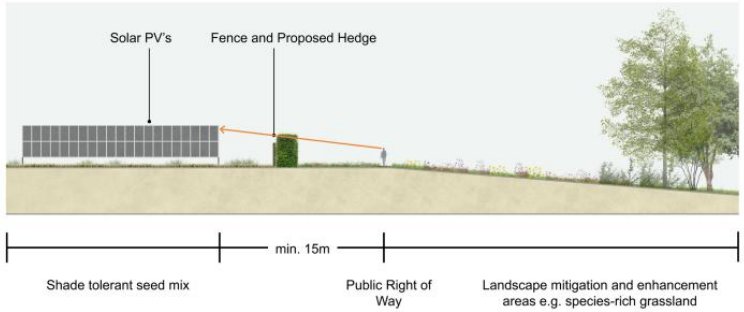
We currently anticipate that all existing public rights of way would remain open throughout the project's lifetime. However, some temporary closures may be needed during construction for safety reasons. Any public rights of way that are within the project boundary would be maintained by us. The masterplan includes a minimum of 15m offset from either side of paths, or 30m total. 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.

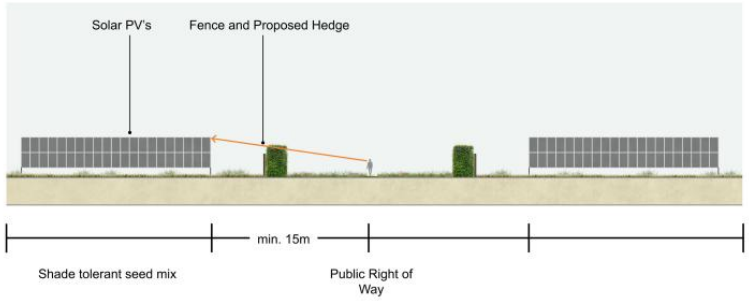
As part of the masterplan, we would like to offer new permissive paths to expand recreational access across the site and formalise informal paths that are already being used. In response to feedback from the first consultation and ongoing engagement with local stakeholders, we are proposing new permissive paths across the site (shown in the masterplan on pages 10-11). They would be available for walkers and cyclists throughout the lifetime of the project. These will continue to evolve based on feedback from this consultation and ongoing discussions with landowners.

Do you have feedback about the proposed permissive paths?

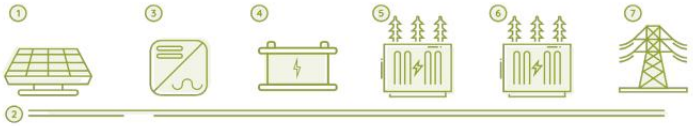
Are there other paths you would like to see?

Below are examples of offsets from public rights of way.





Components of a solar farm



1. **Solar panels** would collect energy from sunlight and convert it to low voltage, direct current (DC) electricity.

2. **Underground cables** would carry the electricity from the solar panels to other components around the site and to the final point of connection to the National Grid.

3. **Power conversion stations (PCS)** would change the power from DC to Alternating Current (AC) and increase the voltage.

4. **A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** would store the energy during times of low energy demand until it is needed. The BESS could also take up extra energy from the grid to store until it is needed most.

5. **Substations** would increase the voltage again to prepare it to enter the grid. Smaller 'satellite' substations would be located in Whitestone 1 and 2 to increase the voltage of the electricity. Another larger 'primary' substation would be needed to collect the electricity and increase the voltage again to prepare it to transfer to the National Grid.

6. The energy would then be transferred into the **National Grid** at the new substation near Brinsworth (Brinsworth B), so that it could go on to power homes, businesses, schools and hospitals across the UK.

Appearance

The power conversion stations (PCS) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) would typically look like shipping containers, with their technical components hidden inside. The PCS units would be painted green or other natural colours to blend into the landscape.

Security

For safety and security, fields with solar panels would be surrounded by fencing, of wooden post and wire configuration. The fence would include CCTV, installed along the fence lines looking inward. Mammal gates would be included to ensure that local wildlife can still move across the area, while keeping humans out. For safety reasons, the substations and BESS areas would need more substantial 'palisade' fencing to prevent anyone entering these areas.

Noise

The solar panels would be fixed, so they do not make any noise. However, some of the other components of the solar farm, including the power conversion stations (PCS), batteries and substations do make a buzzing sound. Therefore, it is important that we locate these components away from homes and other key locations to minimise potential impacts.

In the updated masterplan, the potential locations for substations and batteries are at least 250m away from homes to avoid noise impacts. The PCS units would be located in the fields with the solar panels, at least 100m away from homes and 50m away from public rights of way whenever possible. If they need to be located closer to homes or paths, then they would include noise mitigation to ensure that they do not increase ambient noise levels by more than 5 decibels subject to local context.

These distances will be further informed by ongoing noise assessments to better understand the existing noise levels and how the technology could create potential impacts.

Heights

Solar technology is evolving rapidly, which means that we might not be able confirm the specific details of components that we will use right now. Where this is the case, we are assessing the impacts of a 'worst-case' scenario. For example, if we don't yet know how tall a part of the project will be, we assess its tallest possible height. You may see this called 'the Rochdale Envelope' which is the principle that allows flexibility in design for DCO projects like Whitestone to permit changes in its design up to certain parameters. This is important so that we can account for uncertainties in the design and technological changes.

These are the maximum heights for the various components that we are assessing:

- **Solar Panels**: 3.8m
- **Wooden pole and wire fencing**: 2.2m
- **BESS**: 3.5m
- **Substations**: 13.5m

Substations and batteries

In order to collect the energy from the solar panels and transfer it to the grid, the project needs three substations: one primary substation in WS2, and one satellite substation for both WS1 and WS2. The primary substation would be up to 100m wide by 170m long, while the smaller satellite substations would be up to 90m wide by 130m long. As shown in the illustrative masterplan on pages 10-11, we have identified three different potential locations for the primary substation, and five potential locations for the satellite substations. These are based on technical assessments, including access and ground conditions, as well as proximity to homes and environmentally sensitive areas. Similarly, we have identified two different locations where the batteries could be located within WS2. We are now consulting on these options for substations and batteries in order to make the final decision on where they should be located.

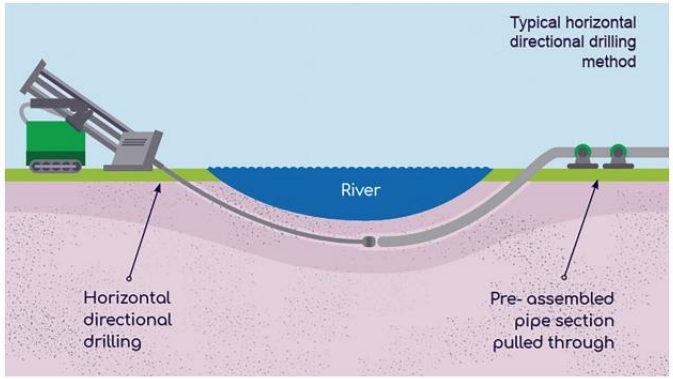
Example of a typical substation

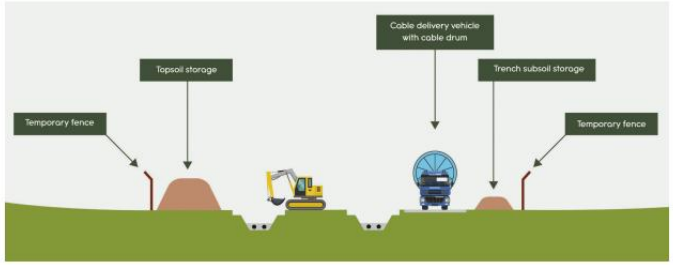
Please provide any feedback you have on the potential locations for the substations and batteries.

Underground cabling

Underground cables are needed to connect the sections of the project together and into the National Grid. After installation, these cables would no longer be visible, and normal activities could continue above them.

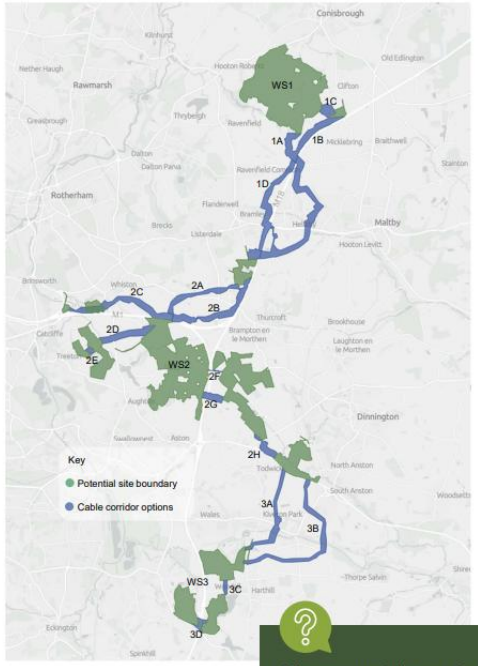
Most cables could be laid through open trenches, where the cable is laid approximately 1m below the ground level, and then soil is replaced on top. Through more sensitive areas, such as woodlands, highways, or streams, we may need to use trenchless crossing methods, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), which drills under the sensitive area and pulls the cable through.





Cable corridor options

To connect WS1, WS2 and WS3 to each other and into the National Grid, we have identified several options for the cable routes. These have been informed by technical assessments, as well as initial environmental assessments to avoid sensitive areas. We are now consulting on these cable route options to help make the final decision on which routes to use.



Please provide any feedback on the potential cable route options.

Protecting the environment

Because it is an NSIP, we are required to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the potential impacts of Whitestone during construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning. If we identify any potential significant impacts, we must also explain how we would mitigate them.

Key milestones in this process include:

- **The Scoping Opinion** is an important first step in the EIA process. We submitted our Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on our proposed approach to the EIA, and after consulting with technical stakeholders, they responded with their Scoping Opinion. This document details which environmental topics we must consider in the assessments, and now forms the basis of our assessments.
- **The draft Environmental Statement (draft ES)** includes the preliminary results of the EIA and is the subject of this consultation. We are required to consult on these initial results in order to fact check our approach and findings, before completing the assessments.
- **The Environmental Statement (ES)** will include the final results of the EIA and will be included in our DCO application. It will be informed by the feedback we receive on the draft ES.

All of the DCO application will be made public through the PINS website.

These are the environmental topics that we are assessing for the EIA:

- Biodiversity and nature conservation
- Climate change and greenhouse gas
- Landscape and visual
- Air quality
- Cultural heritage and archaeology
- Traffic and transport
- Ground conditions and land quality
- Noise and vibration
- Water resources and flood risk
- Socioeconomics, tourism and recreation and land use

Other environmental issues
Waste, glint and glare, telecommunications and utilities, major accidents and disasters, electromagnetic fields.

Scan here to view the Scoping Opinion

Scan here to view the full Draft Environmental Statement

Below are some of the key findings in the draft ES:

Biodiversity and nature conservation

We have consulted with the Environment Agency (EA), Canal and Rivers Trust, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England to understand the existing local ecology. We have also conducted a variety of surveys to identify protected or sensitive species, including badgers, winter birds, breeding birds, bats, great crested newts, reptiles, otters and water voles. Subject to the completion of the remaining surveys and the use of appropriate buffers in the masterplan, we do not expect any significant adverse effects and do expect significant benefits for biodiversity.

Landscape and visual

We used desk-based research to understand landscape character, and conducted on site walkovers, both in winter and summer, to assess potential views from viewpoints. This assessment considers residents within the local area, users of public rights of way and bridleways, users of the local road network, and visitors to local attractions. Some significant impacts are found just after construction. These will be mitigated with new plantings, including hedgerows and trees, to create a natural screening.

Cultural heritage and archaeology

We have consulted with South Yorkshire Archaeological Service to discuss our proposed approach to fieldwork. We have completed geophysical surveys across the majority of the solar areas to identify underground cultural assets. We have also completed desk-based assessments to identify above-ground assets, including listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled monuments, which include Conisbrough Castle and the Roman villa located in WS1. The masterplan includes offsets around these assets to reduce potential impacts. While a few minor impacts are identified, they are not considered to be significant and will be mitigated with further changes to the masterplan or introduction of natural screening.

Ground conditions and land quality

In addition to desk-based assessments, we have also completed agricultural land classification (ALC) surveys to identify soil quality across most of the solar areas, which found that 21% is considered best and most versatile land (Grades 1, 2, and 3a) while the remaining 79% is lower grade agricultural land.

Climate change and greenhouse gas

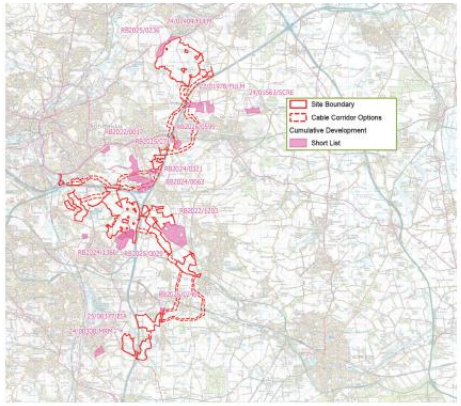
We have completed a carbon footprint assessment and found that while the project would produce around 525,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) during construction, operation and decommissioning, it would avoid 16 million tonnes of CO_2e through the production of renewable energy during the project's lifetime. This is a net reduction of 15.5 million tonnes of CO_2e.

Water resources and flood risk

The EA Flood Map shows that most of the site is in Flood Zone 1 (lowest flood risk), with some areas in Flood Zones 2 and 3. The project will be designed to remain operational without increasing flood risk elsewhere up to and including the 1 in 100 year flood risk event, which includes allowances for increases in rainfall and river flows due to climate change. We have found a potential negligible impact on flooding during the construction phase, which would be mitigated with drainage design and other best practices. By placing solar panels outside of high flood risk areas or growing grass below and between the panels, we find a negligible or even positive impact during the operational stage. The Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy available on our website sets out the surface water management measures which will be in place to ensure the project does not result in an increase in flood risk elsewhere.

Cumulative impacts

As part of the EIA, we must also assess the cumulative impacts of planned and consented developments in the local area. The map below shows the other projects that we have considered as part of this assessment. We will continue to consult on the list of projects to be considered. At this stage, we have identified the projects to include in this assessment considering timing, proximity, and we will work with these other developers to reduce potential impacts where possible.



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

Construction

If consented, we expect it to take around two years to construct Whitestone, beginning in 2027 and ending in 2029. During this period, construction would be phased across the site to minimise disturbance at any single location, however there would be work occurring at each of WS1, WS2 and WS3.

Management plans

Construction of Whitestone would be informed by our final 'detailed design' and a series of management plans that would be informed by ongoing consultation with local authorities and other technical experts. We will submit outlines of these plans in our DCO application. They will be based on best practices and will include:

- **Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP)** explains the measures and controls we will take to manage construction, including how we will avoid or reduce impacts such as noise, dust and disturbance.
- **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP)** describes how we will manage vehicles travelling to and from site during construction. We will consult with National Highways, as well as the local highway authorities to minimise impacts on local roads.
- **Outline Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan (oLBMP)** describes how we will manage and maintain the landscape and environmental mitigation.
- **Outline Skills and Supply Chain Management Plan** describes how we will maximise the local economic benefit from the project.
- **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP)**, provides an overview of the approach to safety for the proposed BESS.
- **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP)** will describe how to manage the decommissioning process at the end of the life of the project.
- **Outline Soils Management Plan (oSMP)** sets out methods and controls to protect and conserve the soil during construction.

Working arrangements

Working hours would typically be between 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 1pm on Saturday, with no work on Sundays or Bank Holidays. There may be times where we need to work outside these hours – for example, when we need to move a very large item like a transformer that cannot be broken up (called an 'Abnormal Indivisible Load') or to perform a trenchless crossing (e.g. HDD) on the cable route or solar area, we may do this at night or in the early hours of the morning. We would consult on activities like this with local authorities and communicate with residents in advance.

Construction compounds

These spaces would be needed for unloading and storing materials, staff parking and welfare facilities, and management offices and oversight. Their locations have been selected to minimise impacts on local roads.

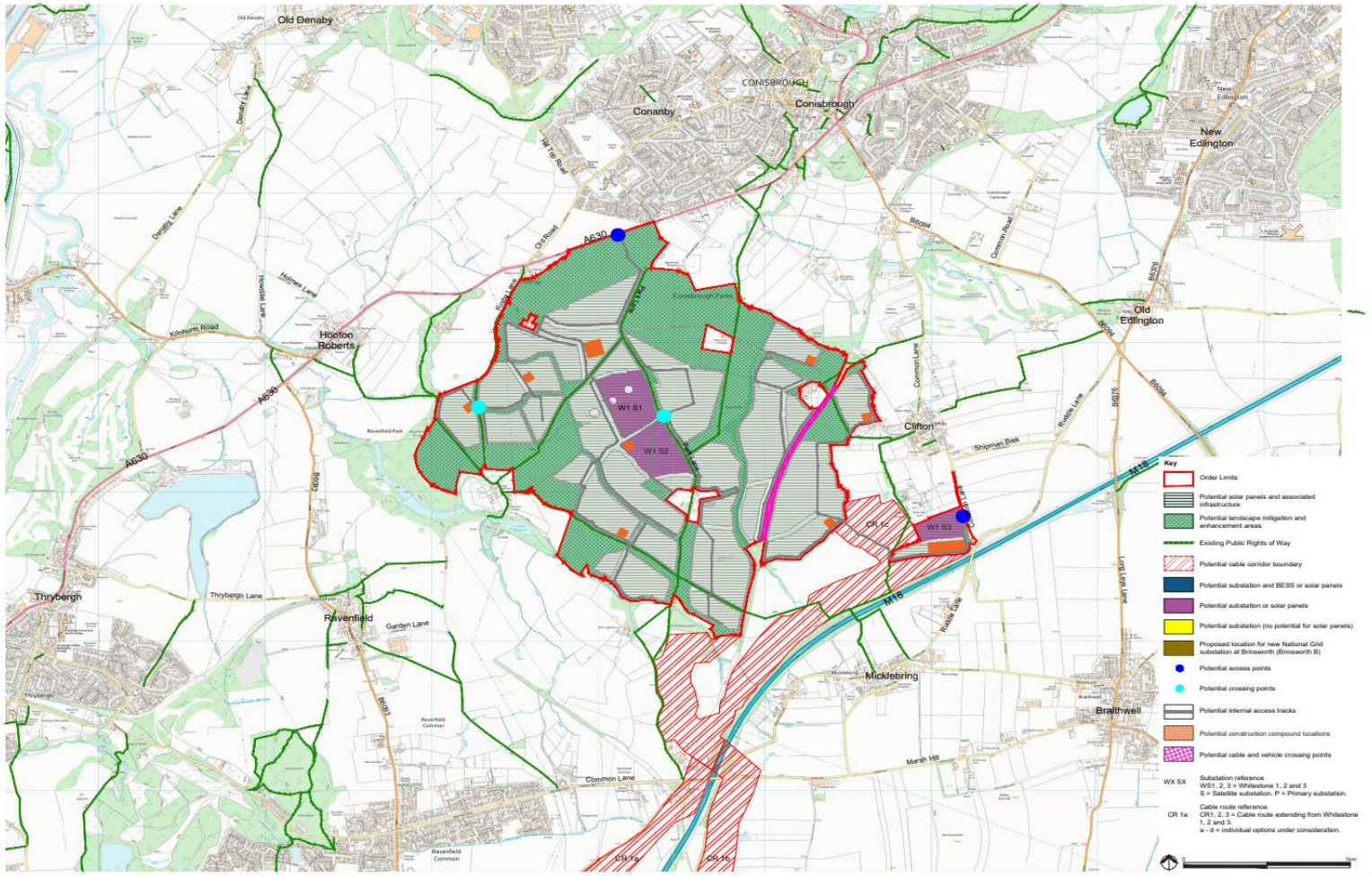
Traffic management

While we expect construction to take around two years, the level of activity would vary throughout this period. Construction traffic would include cars, small vans and minibuses to transport workers, as well as HGVs, mobile cranes, and a small number of abnormal indivisible loads (AIL) for construction materials. At the very peak of construction, we estimate that there would be 630 daily round trips by construction workers and approximately 203 round trips of HGVs per day. Construction delivery traffic would be scheduled to avoid peak traffic periods (8-9am and 5-6pm).

We have assessed the current local road network to understand which roads would be more suitable for construction traffic. This includes avoiding roads that would be too small for construction vehicles (HGVs) or have other size limitations on traffic. We have also assessed the current traffic levels to understand the potential impacts of construction vehicles. We have sought to avoid traffic through villages wherever possible.

Construction

Construction



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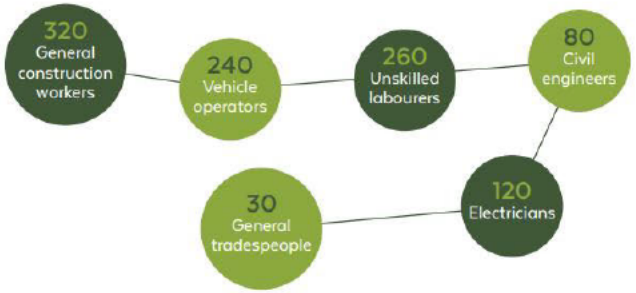
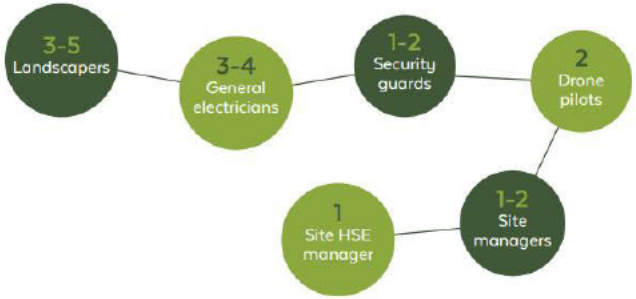
Jobs and skills

Constructing, operating and decommissioning Whitestone would require a wide range of skills and expertise. Where possible, we want to work to ensure those skills are developed and retained within the local community. Beyond the direct employment, there would be indirect jobs created through the supply chain and spending by the direct and indirect workers. This would result in more than 2,000 local jobs, and approximately £119,500,000 in benefits to the local economy during the construction period.

During construction, we envision a maximum of 600 construction jobs at the peak, to deliver materials and construct the solar farm. Across the construction period, this would include approximately:



Once operational, we would need a team of at least 11 local, full time employees to maintain and operate the project, including:



Community benefits

When we first introduced Whitestone, we explained that we were committed to providing a community benefit package to ensure that there are local benefits from the project. We want to design the community benefit package collaboratively with the community, to make sure that it provides a meaningful benefit that supports existing initiatives and priorities. In response to feedback from the first consultation and ongoing engagement with elected officials, we have developed the following proposal for your feedback.

We would like to offer a community benefit fund of £400 per MW per year. Based on the grid connection of 750MW, this would be £300,000 per year. Based on the maximum lifespan of the project of 60 years, this would amount to £18,000,000 for the life of the project. The final figure would be based on the operational MW output, the lifetime of the project, and the outcomes of this consultation.

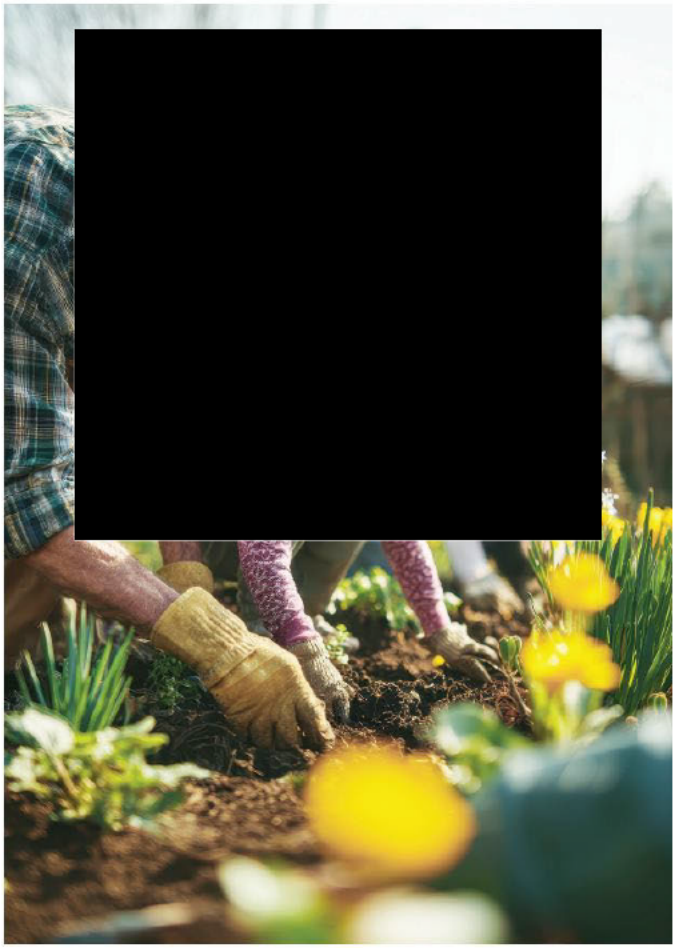
We recognise it is important that the fund be managed in a way that is both transparent and tailored to local needs, ensuring that the application process is clear and decisions are made openly. We propose that the funds would be available through a nominated fund manager to administer the funding, with local stakeholders and elected officials, such as parish councils and local councillors, serving on the board to advise on funding decisions.

Groups or individuals in the local community could apply for funding for projects or initiatives, such as:

- Improving local community facilities, like parish halls, schools, or community centres.
- Supporting education programmes, work study, and skills training for green jobs in local schools and colleges.
- Supporting existing charities and organisations that work in the local area on mental health, physical health and recreation, and other initiatives related to health and wellbeing.
- Support to reduce energy costs through insulation, rooftop solar, and other energy efficiency projects.

What would you like to see in the community benefit package?

Are there other ideas that you think should be included or considered?



Consultation

This consultation is running for six weeks, from 16 September to 28 October 2025. During this period, anyone can provide their written feedback on our proposals through the following methods:

- **Complete the online feedback form at** whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- **Complete a paper feedback form**, which is available at the public events or by request through the project's communications lines
- **Send an email to**: info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- **Write to**: Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local (no stamp is needed)

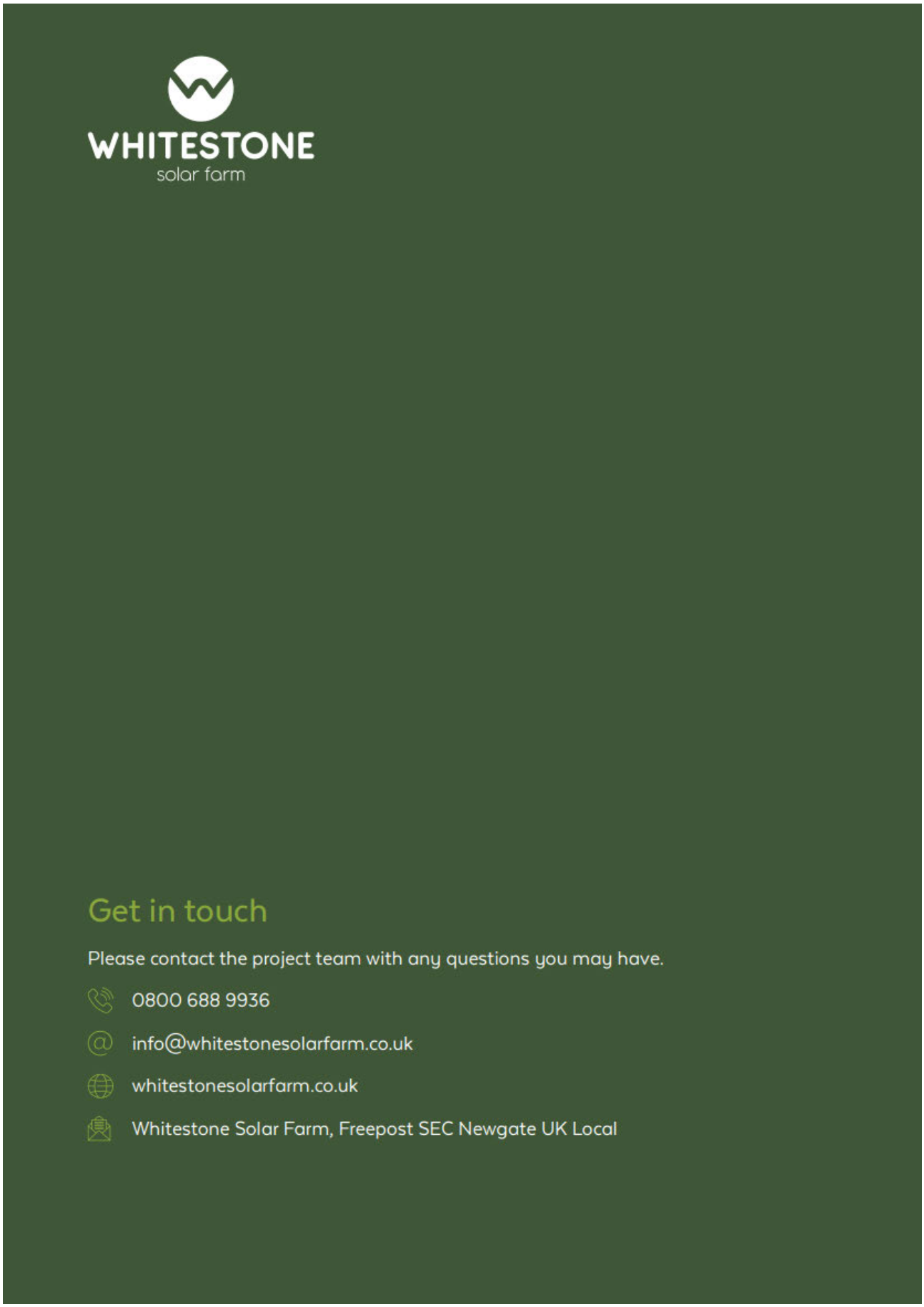
Scan here to access the online feedback form

Next steps

After the consultation has ended, we will review and consider all of the feedback we have received. This feedback, along with ongoing environmental assessments, will help inform the final masterplan and Environmental Statement that we submit in our DCO application.

Within the DCO application, we will also include a Consultation Report that shows how we have had regard to all consultation feedback and how the project has further evolved as a result of that feedback.

For future project updates, please visit our website to sign up for the 'Keep Informed List' at **whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk**.


WHITESTONE
solar farm
Get in touch
Please contact the project team with any questions you may have.
0800 688 9936
info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
Whitestone Solar Farm, Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local

Appendix D1.2 Consultation Booklet Whitestone 2

WHITESTONE
solar farm

Consultation Booklet

16 September – 28 October 2025

Whitestone 2

Overview

We are now carrying out the second consultation for Whitestone Solar Farm. After the first consultation, held last autumn and winter, we have made significant changes to the project in response to your feedback. This includes a reduction of around one fourth of the solar panels across the project to create offsets around homes, villages, and public rights of way.

During this second consultation, we are presenting the updated masterplan as well as the draft Environmental Statement (draft ES). Feedback from this consultation will inform the updated proposals that we plan to submit next year in our application.

Whitestone is split across three areas, Whitestone 1 (WS1), Whitestone 2 (WS2) and Whitestone 3 (WS3). This booklet contains information about Whitestone 2.

Throughout this booklet you will see text boxes to indicate the specific questions we are asking for this consultation. You can respond to them through our online feedback form located at **whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk**. You can also submit your written feedback using the paper feedback form, by email or by freepost to the communications lines on the back of this booklet. Please provide your feedback by **11:59pm 28 October 2025**.

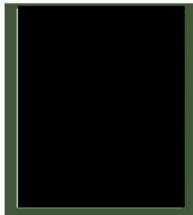
Contents

Scan here to access the online feedback form

Green Nation

Whitestone Solar Farm is being brought forward by Whitestone Net Zero Ltd (owned by Net Zero One Ltd). Net Zero One Ltd is a specialist renewable energy development business, founded in 2021 to ensure there is sufficient funding to build, operate and decommission Whitestone and other similar projects.

The overall manager for the project is Green Nation. Established in 2011, Green Nation has been among the leaders in making the energy transition work. It is a UK-based solar developer and manager of operational sites with extensive experience in both rooftop and ground-mounted solar projects. Green Nation currently manages 75 solar farms and more than 700 solar rooftop installations across the country. Its solar farm portfolio totals over 200 MW of electricity producing capacity for the UK.



"I want to thank everyone who took part in the first consultation and encourage you to provide your feedback again in this second consultation on our updated proposals. Your feedback matters to us, and we look forward to hearing from you."

Jonathan Thompson
CEO and Founder of Green Nation and Director of Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

Why solar?

The UK has committed to eliminating fossil fuels from the power supply, to provide energy security and reduce future energy costs while supporting the fight against climate change. Now that the last coal power station in the UK, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, has been closed down, new renewable energy sources are needed to come forward to keep the lights on. At the same time, our demand for electricity continues to increase and is projected to double by 2050. To meet these future energy needs, we must quickly ramp up production of renewable energy here in the UK.

The Clean Power 2030 mission sets a goal to triple solar capacity by 2030, as well as ramp up onshore and offshore wind development. Solar and wind work well together, and a mix of both helps provide stability to the energy supply. The Solar Roadmap explains how the UK will achieve the Clean Power mission and includes new mechanisms to increase rooftop solar installations. From 2027, most new homes will be required to include solar panels, known as the Future Homes Standard. We support the 'rooftop revolution' and continue to fund commercial rooftop installations as part of our broader business, but note that large scale solar developments are also needed to produce enough energy to meet our national energy goals.

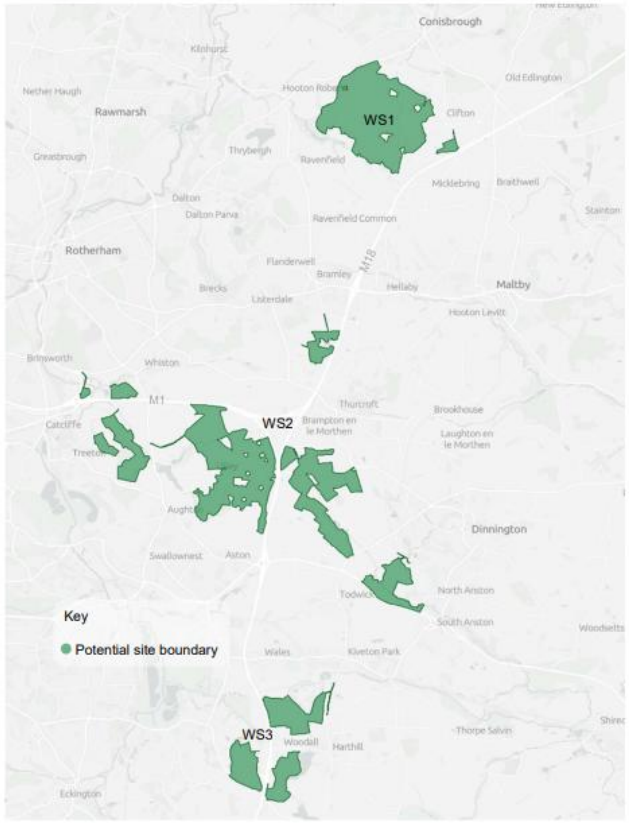
Why here?

The National Grid connects energy sources to energy users through a network of substations and overhead lines that run across the UK. However, new renewable energy projects can only connect into the National Grid where there is available capacity, which is limited. We secured an agreement to connect into the grid at Brinsworth substation and then searched for land near the grid connection point that would be suitable for solar. We also wanted to avoid environmentally sensitive areas and the highest quality agricultural land where possible.

This process has resulted in the project boundary we presented during the last consultation. We will continue to refine the proposals within this boundary to ensure that there are appropriate offsets and buffers from the community and other environmental features. See more about the buffers that we have included in the masterplan on pages 10-11, and provide your feedback about them in your response to the consultation questionnaire.

Whitestone would generate approximately 750 MW, which is enough to support 250,000 houses or 35 large hospitals.[1]

1 This is based on the average energy consumption of 3,200 kWh per year per home, and the average energy consumption of Sheffield Northern General Hospital.



We recognise that the land identified for the project is on the Green Belt. We are 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 public rights of way and new permissive paths across the site. Solar farms also provide habitats for local wildlife, and we plan to create new habitats for wildlife to increase biodiversity.

Development process

Because Whitestone would generate more than 50 MW of energy, it is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) according to the Planning Act 2008.[2] We are therefore required by the Planning Act to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to develop Whitestone.

We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate, who will review and consider the application on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS). We must demonstrate in our application that we have met requirements for pre-application consultation with local authorities, technical bodies and members of the community and how this has shaped our proposals. If the application meets the requirements, it will be 'accepted', and the Planning Inspectorate will then appoint an Examining Authority to review the application through a 6-month public examination period. After this stage, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation about whether to approve the application, and the SoS will make the final decision.

Indicative timeline

2 Under current law, the threshold to be considered an NSIP is 50MW, but this will increase to 100MW at the end of 2025. Whitestone is still above the new threshold and will continue to be considered an NSIP.

Consultation

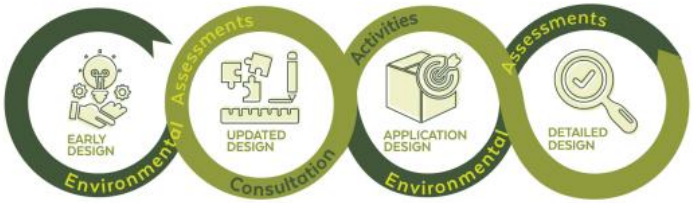
Before we submit our DCO application, we are required to consult with local communities, elected officials and technical stakeholders. We held our first consultation between November 2024 and January 2025 on our initial proposals. During that period, we received 940 pieces of feedback and met with 702 individuals at public events. We also met with MPs, parish councils, ward councillors and residents who live near the project boundary. We want to thank everyone who took the time to engage with the consultation and send in your feedback.

We reviewed all the feedback we received and made significant changes to the project design. This includes removing one fourth of the panels to create offsets around homes, villages and public rights of way (see pages 10-17 for more information about how the design has changed).

We also received feedback around the specific topics to consider in the environmental assessments, which we are now presenting in the draft Environmental Statement (draft ES) as part of this second consultation. This consultation is considered 'statutory' because it is required by the Planning Act 2008. See pages 26-29 of this booklet for more information on the draft ES or view it in its entirety at our project website (whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk) and in person at the public information events.

Design process

By their nature, the development of projects like Whitestone is iterative. This means that at each stage of consultation, we will present an updated project design that has been refined by consultation feedback and the results of the environmental and technical assessments. As the project progresses, we will be able to present a more refined and detailed design. Even if an individual or organisation submitted feedback during the first consultation, we would encourage them to submit their feedback again in the second consultation to help further refine the project.



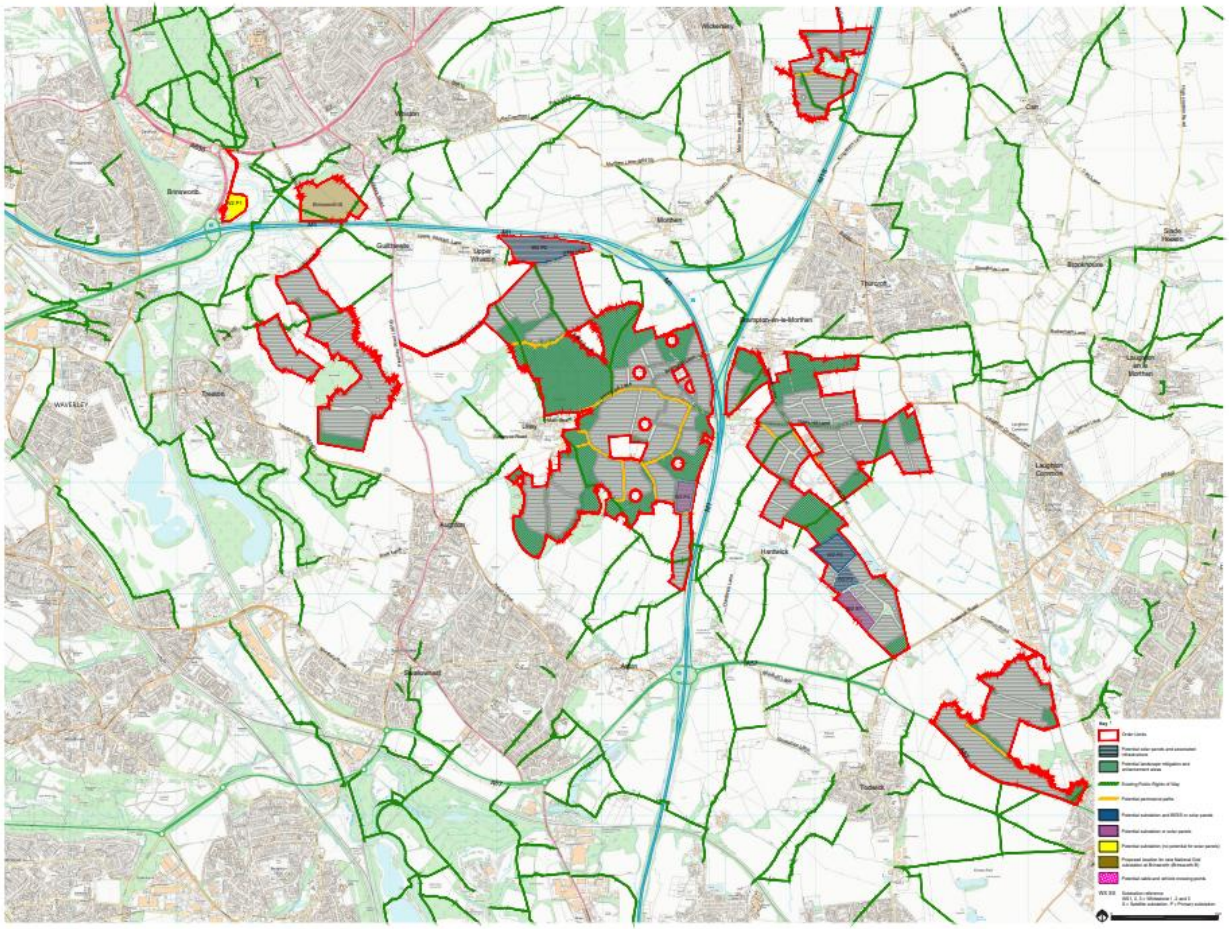
Design principles

We have defined the following design principles that we will use throughout the development process. These design principles will evolve in time and be informed by feedback from the local community and wider stakeholders.

- Maximise the amount of renewable energy provided to the National Grid
- Craft a project that is resilient to climate change
- Limit the amount of embodied carbon across the project where reasonable
- Engage with stakeholders to develop the design
- Find out what is important to people about the local area and seek to incorporate feedback
- Consider how people engage with their local environment and retain these patterns
- Enhance recreational access across the landscape
- Respect landscape character and cultural heritage
- Minimise visual impact
- Aim to support local wildlife and biodiversity
- Support local ecology and enhance biodiversity, enriching ecosystems where possible
- Support research and development

Design

Updated Masterplan - Whitestone 2



Summary of design changes

During the first consultation, we received detailed feedback around requested offsets near homes, villages and public rights of way to reduce potential visual impacts. In response to this feedback, we have removed around one fourth of the solar panels from the project. To better understand the scale of these changes for Whitestone 2, please see the images below.

Ulley

Before

After

Brampton

Before

After

Please provide your feedback on our updated masterplan.


Design
Design
Setbacks and environmental mitigation
Where we have removed solar panels from the project to reduce potential visual impacts, the land could be used for environmental mitigation and enhancement. These areas would not have any above-ground infrastructure, but may still be needed for underground cables or access tracks to support the rest of the project.
These spaces could be planted with a mix of native grasses or wildflowers to support local wildlife. Projects like Whitestone are now required to increase biodiversity by at least 10%, however, most solar farms exceed this requirement. We are exploring a variety of methods to increase biodiversity in these areas, which could include bat boxes, bug hotels and water scrapes to provide new habitats for vital pollinators, small mammals and bird species.
As we complete the environmental impact assessments, we may identify the need to set aside land for certain species to mitigate potential impacts in other areas of the project. If we identify that we do not need all of this land for mitigation, we may choose to remove it from the project boundary altogether. In this case, the land would remain with the landowner and could continue to be used as it is today.
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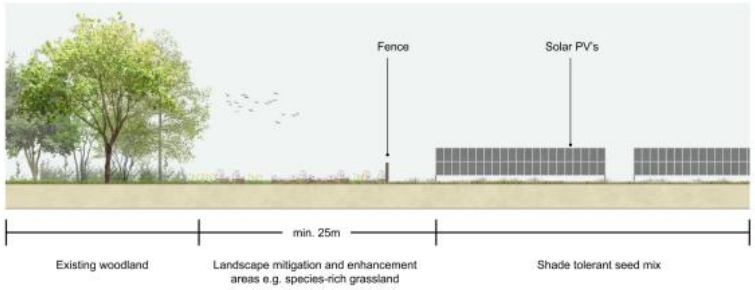
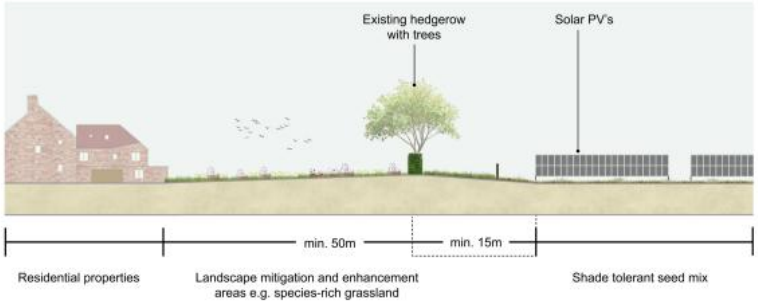
Design

Visualisations

Below are examples of offsets from woodlands and homes.





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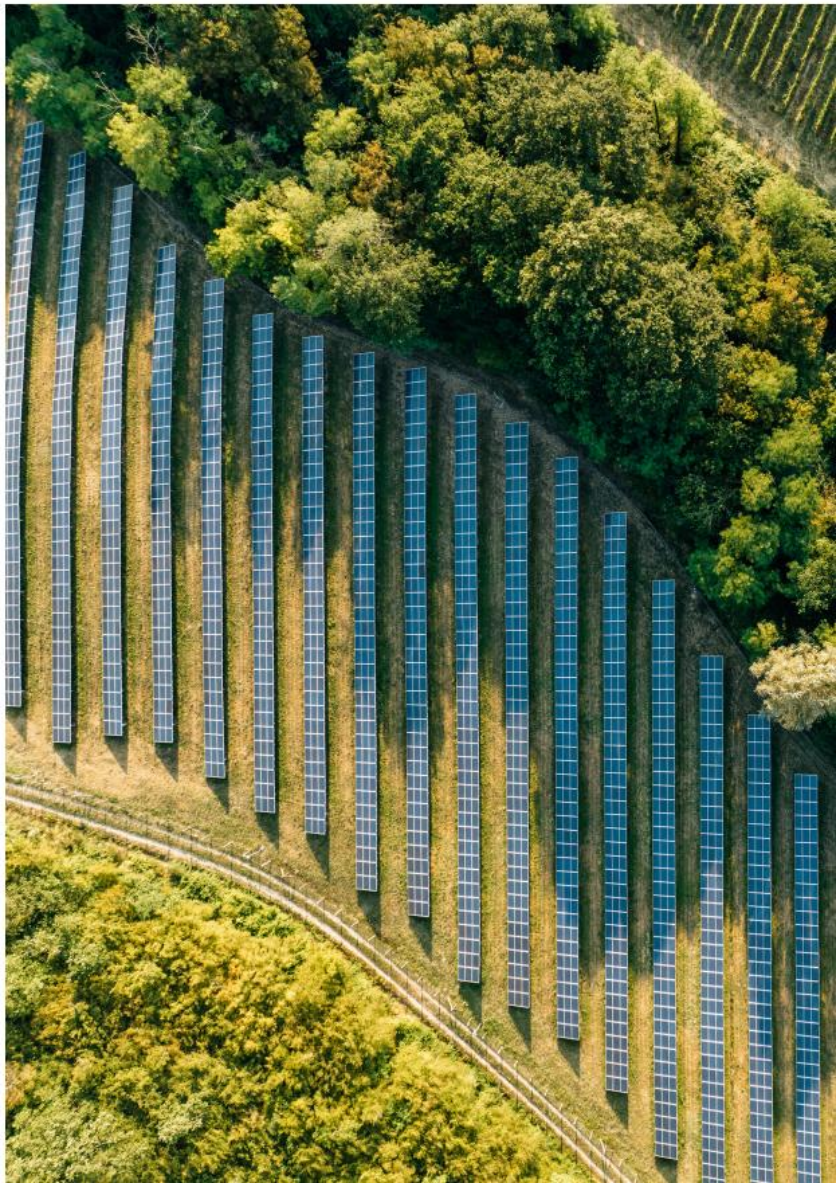


Existing public rights of way and new permissive paths

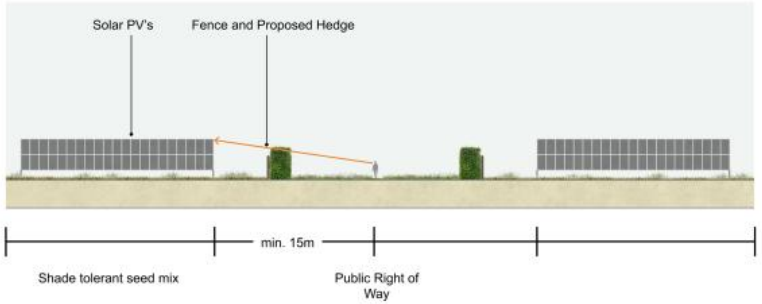
We currently anticipate that all existing public rights of way would remain open throughout the project's lifetime. However, some temporary closures may be needed during construction for safety reasons. Any public rights of way that are within the project boundary would be maintained by us. The masterplan includes a minimum of 15m offset from either side of paths, or 30m total. 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.

As part of the masterplan, we would like to offer new permissive paths to expand recreational access across the site and formalise informal paths that are already being used. In response to feedback from the first consultation and ongoing engagement with local stakeholders, we are proposing new permissive paths across the site (shown in the masterplan on pages 10-11). They would be available for walkers and cyclists throughout the lifetime of the project. These will continue to evolve based on feedback from this consultation and ongoing discussions with landowners.

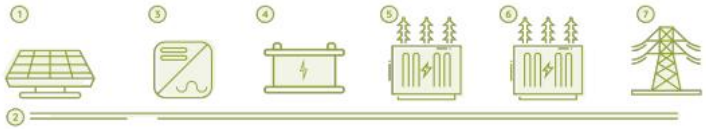
Do you have feedback about the proposed permissive paths?

Are there other paths you would like to see?

Below are examples of offsets from public rights of way.



Components of a solar farm



1. **Solar panels** would collect energy from sunlight and convert it to low voltage, direct current (DC) electricity.

2. **Underground cables** would carry the electricity from the solar panels to other components around the site and to the final point of connection to the National Grid.

3. **Power conversion stations (PCS)** would change the power from DC to Alternating Current (AC) and increase the voltage.

4. **A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** would store the energy during times of low energy demand until it is needed. The BESS could also take up extra energy from the grid to store until it is needed most.

5. **Substations** would increase the voltage again to prepare it to enter the grid. Smaller 'satellite' substations would be located in Whitestone 1 and 2 to increase the voltage of the electricity. Another larger 'primary' substation would be needed to collect the electricity and increase the voltage again to prepare it to transfer to the National Grid.

6. The energy would then be transferred into the **National Grid** at the new substation near Brinsworth (Brinsworth B), so that it could go on to power homes, businesses, schools and hospitals across the UK.

Appearance

The power conversion stations (PCS) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) would typically look like shipping containers, with their technical components hidden inside. The PCS units would be painted green or other natural colours to blend into the landscape.

Security

For safety and security, fields with solar panels would be surrounded by fencing, of wooden post and wire configuration. The fence would include CCTV, installed along the fence lines looking inward. Mammal gates would be included to ensure that local wildlife can still move across the area, while keeping humans out. For safety reasons, the substations and BESS areas would need more substantial 'palisade' fencing to prevent anyone entering these areas.

Noise

The solar panels would be fixed, so they do not make any noise. However, some of the other components of the solar farm, including the power conversion stations (PCS), batteries and substations do make a buzzing sound. Therefore, it is important that we locate these components away from homes and other key locations to minimise potential impacts.

In the updated masterplan, the potential locations for substations and batteries are at least 250m away from homes to avoid noise impacts. The PCS units would be located in the fields with the solar panels, at least 100m away from homes and 50m away from public rights of way whenever possible. If they need to be located closer to homes or paths, then they would include noise mitigation to ensure that they do not increase ambient noise levels by more than 5 decibels subject to local context.

These distances will be further informed by ongoing noise assessments to better understand the existing noise levels and how the technology could create potential impacts.

Heights

Solar technology is evolving rapidly, which means that we might not be able confirm the specific details of components that we will use right now. Where this is the case, we are assessing the impacts of a 'worst-case' scenario. For example, if we don't yet know how tall a part of the project will be, we assess its tallest possible height. You may see this called 'the Rochdale Envelope' which is the principle that allows flexibility in design for DCO projects like Whitestone to permit changes in its design up to certain parameters. This is important so that we can account for uncertainties in the design and technological changes.

These are the maximum heights for the various components that we are assessing:

- **Solar Panels**: 3.8m
- **Wooden pole and wire fencing**: 2.2m
- **BESS**: 3.5m
- **Substations**: 13.5m

Substations and batteries

In order to collect the energy from the solar panels and transfer it to the grid, the project needs three substations: one primary substation in WS2, and one satellite substation for both WS1 and WS2. The primary substation would be up to 100m wide by 170m long, while the smaller satellite substations would be up to 90m wide by 130m long. As shown in the illustrative masterplan on pages 10-11, we have identified three different potential locations for the primary substation, and five potential locations for the satellite substations. These are based on technical assessments, including access and ground conditions, as well as proximity to homes and environmentally sensitive areas. Similarly, we have identified two different locations where the batteries could be located within WS2. We are now consulting on these options for substations and batteries in order to make the final decision on where they should be located.

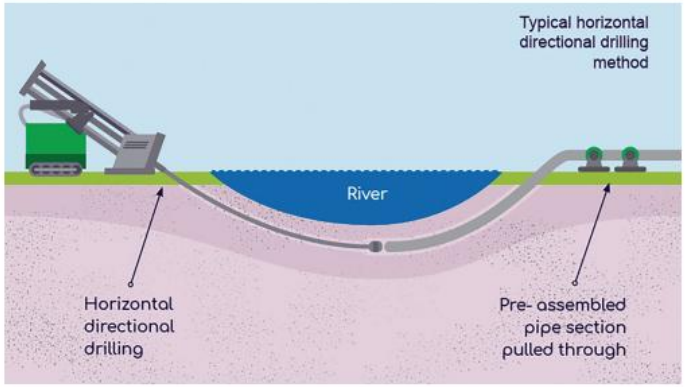
Example of a typical substation

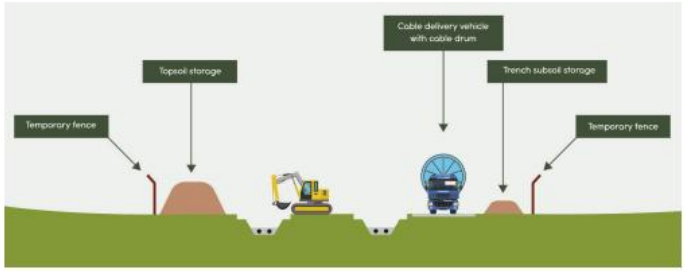
Please provide any feedback you have on the potential locations for the substations and batteries.

Underground cabling

Underground cables are needed to connect the sections of the project together and into the National Grid. After installation, these cables would no longer be visible, and normal activities could continue above them.

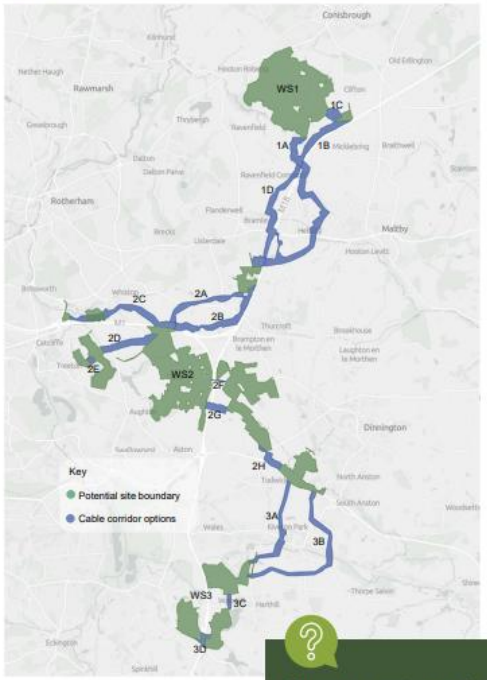
Most cables could be laid through open trenches, where the cable is laid approximately 1m below the ground level, and then soil is replaced on top. Through more sensitive areas, such as woodlands, highways, or streams, we may need to use trenchless crossing methods, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), which drills under the sensitive area and pulls the cable through.





Cable corridor options

To connect WS1, WS2 and WS3 to each other and into the National Grid, we have identified several options for the cable routes. These have been informed by technical assessments, as well as initial environmental assessments to avoid sensitive areas. We are now consulting on these cable route options to help make the final decision on which routes to use.



Please provide any feedback on the potential cable route options.

Protecting the environment

Because it is an NSIP, we are required to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the potential impacts of Whitestone during construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning. If we identify any potential significant impacts, we must also explain how we would mitigate them.

Key milestones in this process include:

- **The Scoping Opinion** is an important first step in the EIA process. We submitted our Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on our proposed approach to the EIA, and after consulting with technical stakeholders, they responded with their Scoping Opinion. This document details which environmental topics we must consider in the assessments, and now forms the basis of our assessments.
- **The draft Environmental Statement (draft ES)** includes the preliminary results of the EIA and is the subject of this consultation. We are required to consult on these initial results in order to fact check our approach and findings, before completing the assessments.
- **The Environmental Statement (ES)** will include the final results of the EIA and will be included in our DCO application. It will be informed by the feedback we receive on the draft ES.

All of the DCO application will be made public through the PINS website.

These are the environmental topics that we are assessing for the EIA:

- Biodiversity and nature conservation
- Climate change and greenhouse gas
- Landscape and visual
- Air quality
- Cultural heritage and archaeology
- Traffic and transport
- Ground conditions and land quality
- Noise and vibration
- Water resources and flood risk
- Socioeconomics, tourism and recreation and land use

Other environmental issues

Waste, glint and glare, telecommunications and utilities, major accidents and disasters, electromagnetic fields.

Scan here to view the Scoping Opinion

Scan here to view the full Draft Environmental Statement

Below are some of the key findings in the draft ES:

Biodiversity and nature conservation

We have consulted with the Environment Agency (EA), Canal and Rivers Trust, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England to understand the existing local ecology. We have also conducted a variety of surveys to identify protected or sensitive species, including badgers, winter birds, breeding birds, bats, great crested newts, reptiles, otters and water voles. Subject to the completion of the remaining surveys and the use of appropriate buffers in the masterplan, we do not expect any significant adverse effects and do expect significant benefits for biodiversity.

Landscape and visual

We used desk-based research to understand landscape character, and conducted on site walkovers, both in winter and summer, to assess potential views from viewpoints. This assessment considers residents within the local area, users of public rights of way and bridleways, users of the local road network, and visitors to local attractions. Some significant impacts are found just after construction. These will be mitigated with new plantings, including hedgerows and trees, to create a natural screening.

Cultural heritage and archaeology

We have consulted with South Yorkshire Archaeological Service to discuss our proposed approach to fieldwork. We have completed geophysical surveys across the majority of the solar areas to identify underground cultural assets. We have also completed desk-based assessments to identify above-ground assets, including listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled monuments, which include Conisbrough Castle and the Roman villa located in WS1. The masterplan includes offsets around these assets to reduce potential impacts. While a few minor impacts are identified, they are not considered to be significant and will be mitigated with further changes to the masterplan or introduction of natural screening.

Ground conditions and land quality

In addition to desk-based assessments, we have also completed agricultural land classification (ALC) surveys to identify soil quality across most of the solar areas, which found that 21% is considered best and most versatile land (Grades 1, 2, and 3a) while the remaining 79% is lower grade agricultural land.

Climate change and greenhouse gas

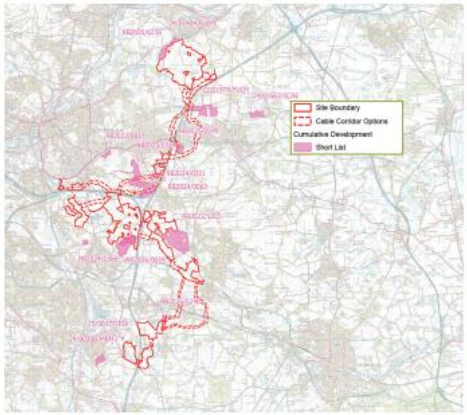
We have completed a carbon footprint assessment and found that while the project would produce around 525,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) during construction, operation and decommissioning, it would avoid 16 million tonnes of CO_2e through the production of renewable energy during the project's lifetime. This is a net reduction of 15.5 million tonnes of CO_2e.

Water resources and flood risk

The EA Flood Map shows that most of the site is in Flood Zone 1 (lowest flood risk), with some areas in Flood Zones 2 and 3. The project will be designed to remain operational without increasing flood risk elsewhere up to and including the 1 in 100 year flood risk event, which includes allowances for increases in rainfall and river flows due to climate change. We have found a potential negligible impact on flooding during the construction phase, which would be mitigated with drainage design and other best practices. By placing solar panels outside of high flood risk areas or growing grass below and between the panels, we find a negligible or even positive impact during the operational stage. The Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy available on our website sets out the surface water management measures which will be in place to ensure the project does not result in an increase in flood risk elsewhere.

Cumulative impacts

As part of the EIA, we must also assess the cumulative impacts of planned and consented developments in the local area. The map below shows the other projects that we have considered as part of this assessment. We will continue to consult on the list of projects to be considered. At this stage, we have identified the projects to include in this assessment considering timing, proximity, and we will work with these other developers to reduce potential impacts where possible.



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

Construction

If consented, we expect it to take around two years to construct Whitestone, beginning in 2027 and ending in 2029. During this period, construction would be phased across the site to minimise disturbance at any single location, however there would be work occurring at each of WS1, WS2 and WS3.

Management plans

Construction of Whitestone would be informed by our final 'detailed design' and a series of management plans that would be informed by ongoing consultation with local authorities and other technical experts. We will submit outlines of these plans in our DCO application. They will be based on best practices and will include:

- **Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP)** explains the measures and controls we will take to manage construction, including how we will avoid or reduce impacts such as noise, dust and disturbance.
- **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP)** describes how we will manage vehicles travelling to and from site during construction. We will consult with National Highways, as well as the local highway authorities to minimise impacts on local roads.
- **Outline Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan (oLBMP)** describes how we will manage and maintain the landscape and environmental mitigation.
- **Outline Skills and Supply Chain Management Plan** describes how we will maximise the local economic benefit from the project.
- **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP)**, provides an overview of the approach to safety for the proposed BESS.
- **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP)** will describe how to manage the decommissioning process at the end of the life of the project.
- **Outline Soils Management Plan (oSMP)** sets out methods and controls to protect and conserve the soil during construction.

Working arrangements

Working hours would typically be between 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 1pm on Saturday, with no work on Sundays or Bank Holidays. There may be times where we need to work outside these hours – for example, when we need to move a very large item like a transformer that cannot be broken up (called an 'Abnormal Indivisible Load') or to perform a trenchless crossing (e.g. HDD) on the cable route or solar area, we may do this at night or in the early hours of the morning. We would consult on activities like this with local authorities and communicate with residents in advance.

Construction compounds

These spaces would be needed for unloading and storing materials, staff parking and welfare facilities, and management offices and oversight. Their locations have been selected to minimise impacts on local roads.

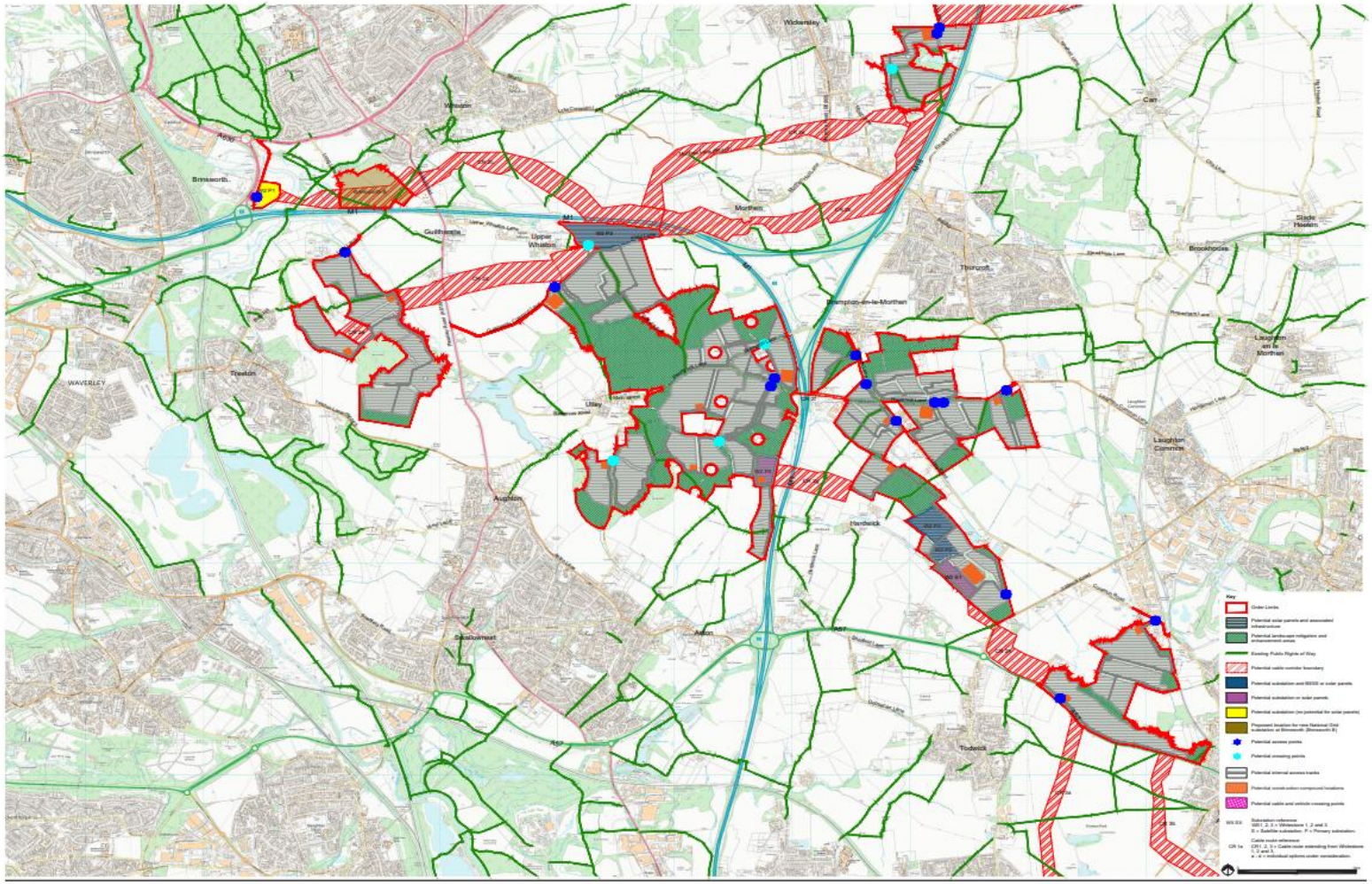
Traffic management

While we expect construction to take around two years, the level of activity would vary throughout this period. Construction traffic would include cars, small vans and minibuses to transport workers, as well as HGVs, mobile cranes, and a small number of abnormal indivisible loads (AIL) for construction materials. At the very peak of construction, we estimate that there would be 630 daily round trips by construction workers and approximately 203 round trips of HGVs per day. Construction delivery traffic would be scheduled to avoid peak traffic periods (8-9am and 5-6pm).

We have assessed the current local road network to understand which roads would be more suitable for construction traffic. This includes avoiding roads that would be too small for construction vehicles (HGVs) or have other size limitations on traffic. We have also assessed the current traffic levels to understand the potential impacts of construction vehicles. We have sought to avoid traffic through villages wherever possible.

Construction

Construction



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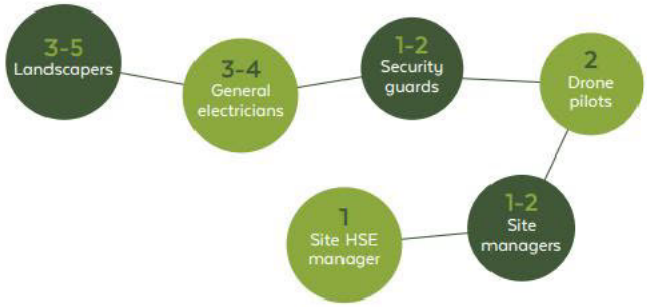
Consultation Booklet 33

Jobs and skills

Constructing, operating and decommissioning Whitestone would require a wide range of skills and expertise. Where possible, we want to work to ensure those skills are developed and retained within the local community. Beyond the direct employment, there would be indirect jobs created through the supply chain and spending by the direct and indirect workers. This would result in more than 2,000 local jobs, and approximately £119,500,000 in benefits to the local economy during the construction period.

During construction, we envision a maximum of 600 construction jobs at the peak, to deliver materials and construct the solar farm. Across the construction period, this would include approximately:

Once operational, we would need a team of at least 11 local, full time employees to maintain and operate the project, including:



Community benefits

When we first introduced Whitestone, we explained that we were committed to providing a community benefit package to ensure that there are local benefits from the project. We want to design the community benefit package collaboratively with the community, to make sure that it provides a meaningful benefit that supports existing initiatives and priorities. In response to feedback from the first consultation and ongoing engagement with elected officials, we have developed the following proposal for your feedback.

We would like to offer a community benefit fund of £400 per MW per year. Based on the grid connection of 750MW, this would be £300,000 per year. Based on the maximum lifespan of the project of 60 years, this would amount to £18,000,000 for the life of the project. The final figure would be based on the operational MW output, the lifetime of the project, and the outcomes of this consultation.

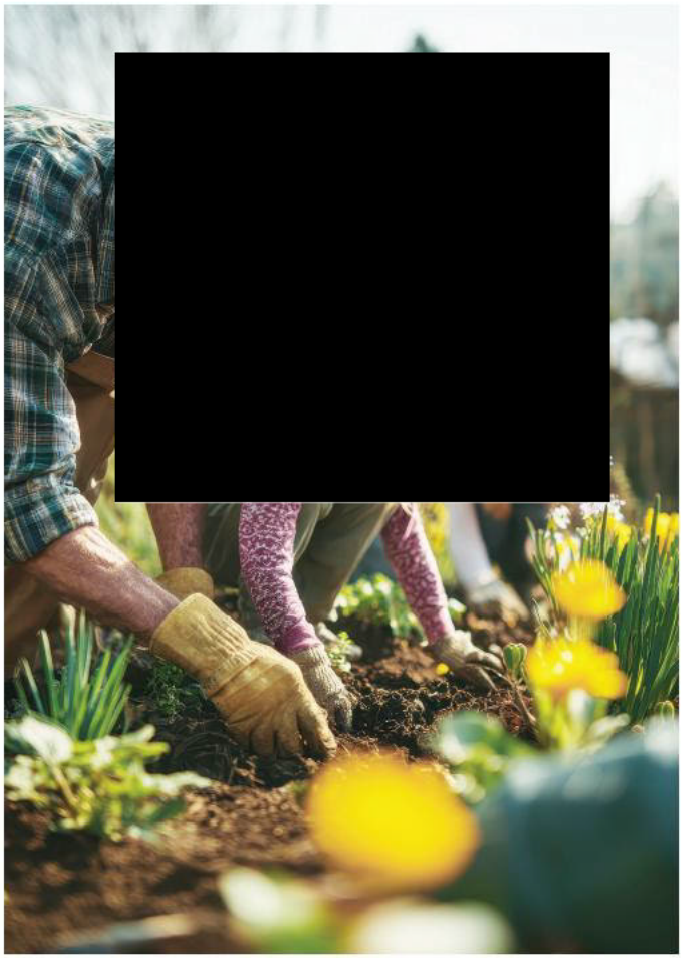
We recognise it is important that the fund be managed in a way that is both transparent and tailored to local needs, ensuring that the application process is clear and decisions are made openly. We propose that the funds would be available through a nominated fund manager to administer the funding, with local stakeholders and elected officials, such as parish councils and local councillors, serving on the board to advise on funding decisions.

Groups or individuals in the local community could apply for funding for projects or initiatives, such as:

- Improving local community facilities, like parish halls, schools, or community centres.
- Supporting education programmes, work study, and skills training for green jobs in local schools and colleges.
- Supporting existing charities and organisations that work in the local area on mental health, physical health and recreation, and other initiatives related to health and wellbeing.
- Support to reduce energy costs through insulation, rooftop solar, and other energy efficiency projects.

What would you like to see in the community benefit package?

Are there other ideas that you think should be included or considered?



Consultation

This consultation is running for six weeks, from 16 September to 28 October 2025. During this period, anyone can provide their written feedback on our proposals through the following methods:

- **Complete the online feedback form at** whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- **Complete a paper feedback form**, which is available at the public events or by request through the project's communications lines
- **Send an email to**: info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- **Write to**: Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local (no stamp is needed)

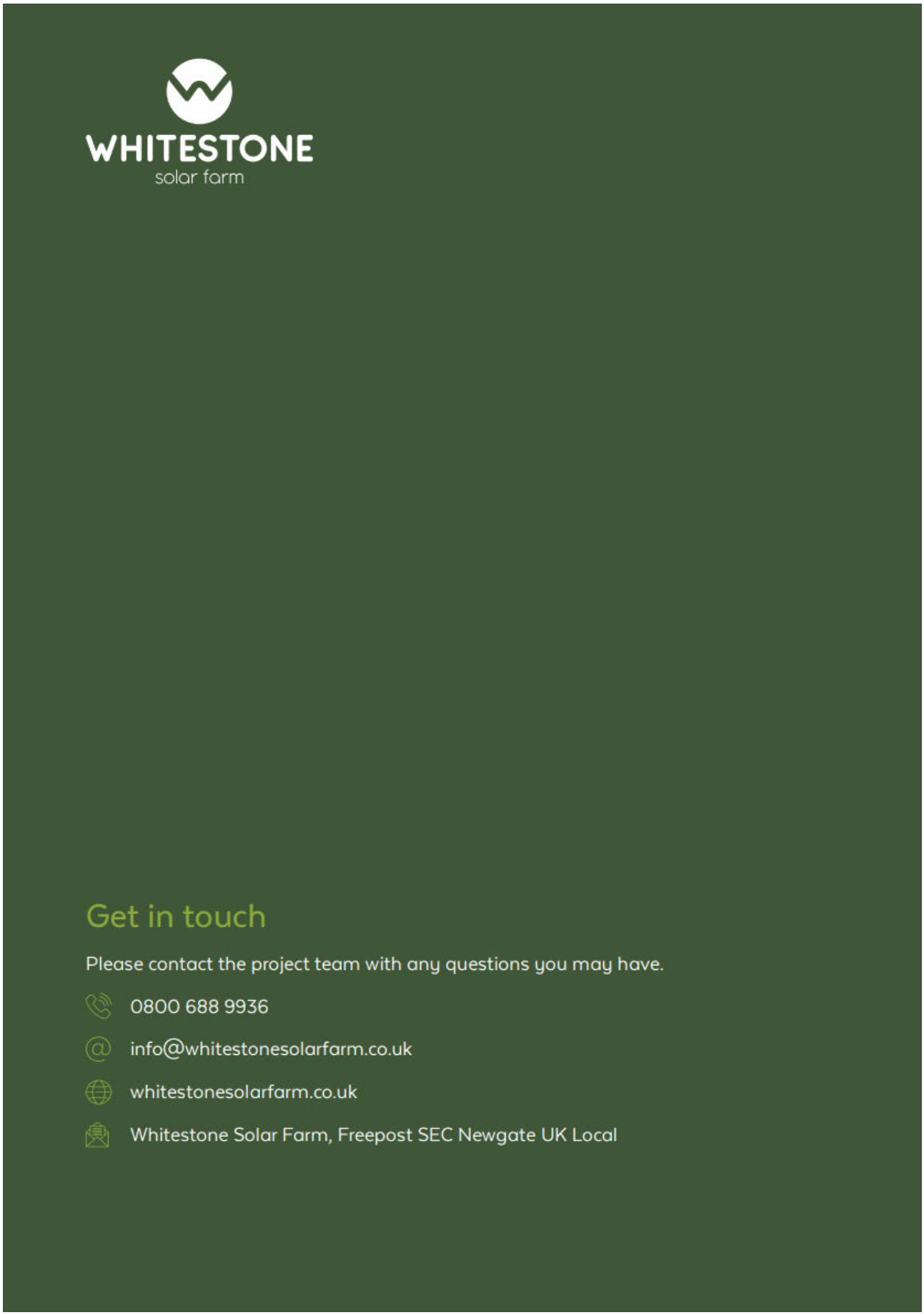
Scan here to access the online feedback form

Next steps

After the consultation has ended, we will review and consider all of the feedback we have received. This feedback, along with ongoing environmental assessments, will help inform the final masterplan and Environmental Statement that we submit in our DCO application.

Within the DCO application, we will also include a Consultation Report that shows how we have had regard to all consultation feedback and how the project has further evolved as a result of that feedback.

For future project updates, please visit our website to sign up for the 'Keep Informed List' at **whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk**.


WHITESTONE
solar farm
Get in touch
Please contact the project team with any questions you may have.
0800 688 9936
info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
Whitestone Solar Farm, Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local

Appendix D1.3 Consultation Booklet Whitestone 3

WHITESTONE
solar farm

Consultation Booklet

16 September - 28 October 2025

Whitestone 3

Overview

We are now carrying out the second consultation for Whitestone Solar Farm. After the first consultation, held last autumn and winter, we have made significant changes to the project in response to your feedback. This includes a reduction of around one fourth of the solar panels across the project to create offsets around homes, villages, and public rights of way.

During this second consultation, we are presenting the updated masterplan as well as the draft Environmental Statement (draft ES). Feedback from this consultation will inform the updated proposals that we plan to submit next year in our application.

Whitestone is split across three areas, Whitestone 1 (WS1), Whitestone 2 (WS2) and Whitestone 3 (WS3). This booklet contains information about Whitestone 3.

Throughout this booklet you will see text boxes to indicate the specific questions we are asking for this consultation. You can respond to them through our online feedback form located at **whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk**. You can also submit your written feedback using the paper feedback form, by email or by freepost to the communications lines on the back of this booklet. Please provide your feedback by **11:59pm 28 October 2025**.

Contents

Scan here to access the online feedback form

Green Nation

Whitestone Solar Farm is being brought forward by Whitestone Net Zero Ltd (owned by Net Zero One Ltd). Net Zero One Ltd is a specialist renewable energy development business, founded in 2021 to ensure there is sufficient funding to build, operate and decommission Whitestone and other similar projects.

The overall manager for the project is Green Nation. Established in 2011, Green Nation has been among the leaders in making the energy transition work. It is a UK-based solar developer and manager of operational sites with extensive experience in both rooftop and ground-mounted solar projects. Green Nation currently manages 75 solar farms and more than 700 solar rooftop installations across the country. Its solar farm portfolio totals over 200 MW of electricity producing capacity for the UK.

"I want to thank everyone who took part in the first consultation and encourage you to provide your feedback again in this second consultation on our updated proposals. Your feedback matters to us, and we look forward to hearing from you."

Jonathan Thompson
CEO and Founder of Green Nation and Director of Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

Why solar?

The UK has committed to eliminating fossil fuels from the power supply, to provide energy security and reduce future energy costs while supporting the fight against climate change. Now that the last coal power station in the UK, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, has been closed down, new renewable energy sources are needed to come forward to keep the lights on. At the same time, our demand for electricity continues to increase and is projected to double by 2050. To meet these future energy needs, we must quickly ramp up production of renewable energy here in the UK.

The Clean Power 2030 mission sets a goal to triple solar capacity by 2030, as well as ramp up onshore and offshore wind development. Solar and wind work well together, and a mix of both helps provide stability to the energy supply. The Solar Roadmap explains how the UK will achieve the Clean Power mission and includes new mechanisms to increase rooftop solar installations. From 2027, most new homes will be required to include solar panels, known as the Future Homes Standard. We support the 'rooftop revolution' and continue to fund commercial rooftop installations as part of our broader business, but note that large scale solar developments are also needed to produce enough energy to meet our national energy goals.

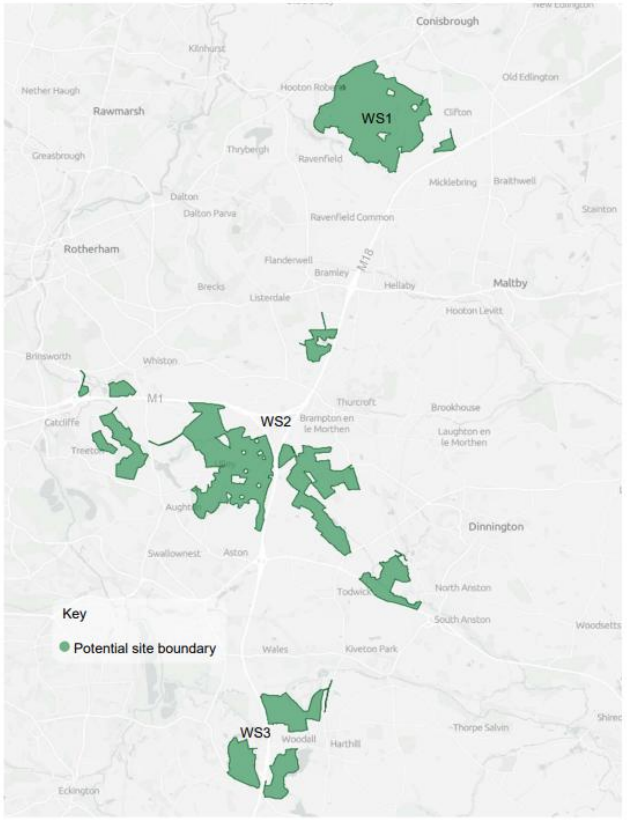
Why here?

The National Grid connects energy sources to energy users through a network of substations and overhead lines that run across the UK. However, new renewable energy projects can only connect into the National Grid where there is available capacity, which is limited. We secured an agreement to connect into the grid at Brinsworth substation and then searched for land near the grid connection point that would be suitable for solar. We also wanted to avoid environmentally sensitive areas and the highest quality agricultural land where possible.

This process has resulted in the project boundary we presented during the last consultation. We will continue to refine the proposals within this boundary to ensure that there are appropriate offsets and buffers from the community and other environmental features. See more about the buffers that we have included in the masterplan on pages 10-11, and provide your feedback about them in your response to the consultation questionnaire.

Whitestone would generate approximately 750 MW, which is enough to support 250,000 houses or 35 large hospitals.[1]

1 This is based on the average energy consumption of 3,200 kWh per year per home, and the average energy consumption of Sheffield Northern General Hospital.



We recognise that the land identified for the project is on the Green Belt. We are 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 public rights of way and new permissive paths across the site. Solar farms also provide habitats for local wildlife, and we plan to create new habitats for wildlife to increase biodiversity.

Development process

Because Whitestone would generate more than 50 MW of energy, it is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) according to the Planning Act 2008.[2] We are therefore required by the Planning Act to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to develop Whitestone.

We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate, who will review and consider the application on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS). We must demonstrate in our application that we have met requirements for pre-application consultation with local authorities, technical bodies and members of the community and how this has shaped our proposals. If the application meets the requirements, it will be 'accepted', and the Planning Inspectorate will then appoint an Examining Authority to review the application through a 6-month public examination period. After this stage, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation about whether to approve the application, and the SoS will make the final decision.

Indicative timeline

2 Under current law, the threshold to be considered an NSIP is 50MW, but this will increase to 100MW at the end of 2025. Whitestone is still above the new threshold and will continue to be considered an NSIP.

Consultation

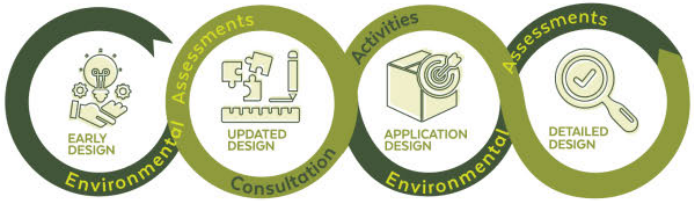
Before we submit our DCO application, we are required to consult with local communities, elected officials and technical stakeholders. We held our first consultation between November 2024 and January 2025 on our initial proposals. During that period, we received 940 pieces of feedback and met with 702 individuals at public events. We also met with MPs, parish councils, ward councillors and residents who live near the project boundary. We want to thank everyone who took the time to engage with the consultation and send in your feedback.

We reviewed all the feedback we received and made significant changes to the project design. This includes removing one fourth of the panels to create offsets around homes, villages and public rights of way (see pages 10-17 for more information about how the design has changed).

We also received feedback around the specific topics to consider in the environmental assessments, which we are now presenting in the draft Environmental Statement (draft ES) as part of this second consultation. This consultation is considered 'statutory' because it is required by the Planning Act 2008. See pages 26-29 of this booklet for more information on the draft ES or view it in its entirety at our project website (whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk) and in person at the public information events.

Design process

By their nature, the development of projects like Whitestone is iterative. This means that at each stage of consultation, we will present an updated project design that has been refined by consultation feedback and the results of the environmental and technical assessments. As the project progresses, we will be able to present a more refined and detailed design. Even if an individual or organisation submitted feedback during the first consultation, we would encourage them to submit their feedback again in the second consultation to help further refine the project.



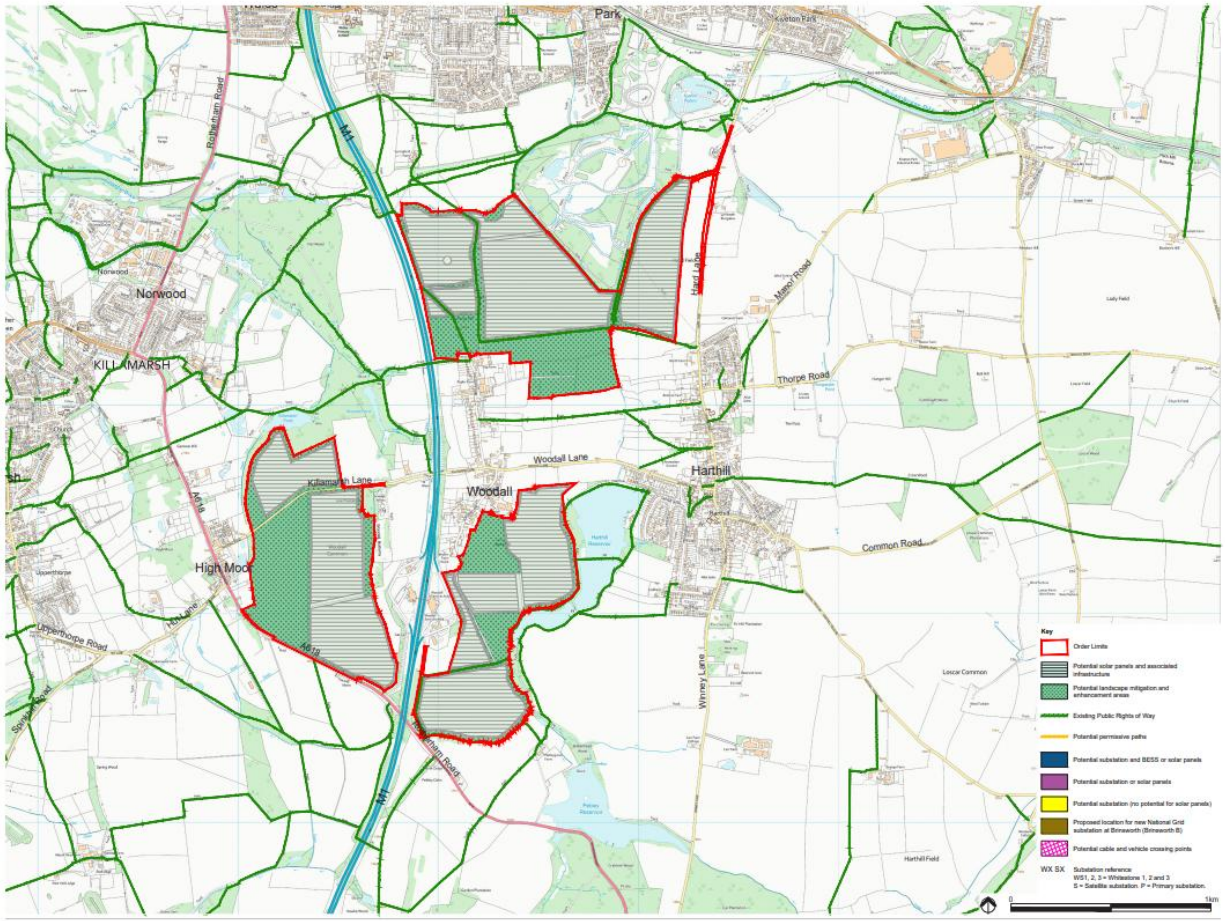
Design principles

We have defined the following design principles that we will use throughout the development process. These design principles will evolve in time and be informed by feedback from the local community and wider stakeholders.

- Maximise the amount of renewable energy provided to the National Grid
- Craft a project that is resilient to climate change
- Limit the amount of embodied carbon across the project where reasonable
- Engage with stakeholders to develop the design
- Find out what is important to people about the local area and seek to incorporate feedback
- Consider how people engage with their local environment and retain these patterns
- Enhance recreational access across the landscape
- Respect landscape character and cultural heritage
- Minimise visual impact
- Aim to support local wildlife and biodiversity
- Support local ecology and enhance biodiversity, enriching ecosystems where possible
- Support research and development

Design

Updated Masterplan - Whitestone 3



Summary of design changes

During the first consultation, we received detailed feedback around requested offsets near homes, villages and public rights of way to reduce potential visual impacts. In response to this feedback, we have removed around one fourth of the solar panels from the project. To better understand the scale of these changes for Whitestone 3, please see the images below.

Harthill

Before

After

Woodall Road

Before

After

Please provide your feedback on our updated masterplan.


Design
Design
Setbacks and environmental mitigation
Where we have removed solar panels from the project to reduce potential visual impacts, the land could be used for environmental mitigation and enhancement. These areas would not have any above-ground infrastructure, but may still be needed for underground cables or access tracks to support the rest of the project.
These spaces could be planted with a mix of native grasses or wildflowers to support local wildlife. Projects like Whitestone are now required to increase biodiversity by at least 10%, however, most solar farms exceed this requirement. We are exploring a variety of methods to increase biodiversity in these areas, which could include bat boxes, bug hotels and water scrapes to provide new habitats for vital pollinators, small mammals and bird species.
As we complete the environmental impact assessments, we may identify the need to set aside land for certain species to mitigate potential impacts in other areas of the project. If we identify that we do not need all of this land for mitigation, we may choose to remove it from the project boundary altogether. In this case, the land would remain with the landowner and could continue to be used as it is today.
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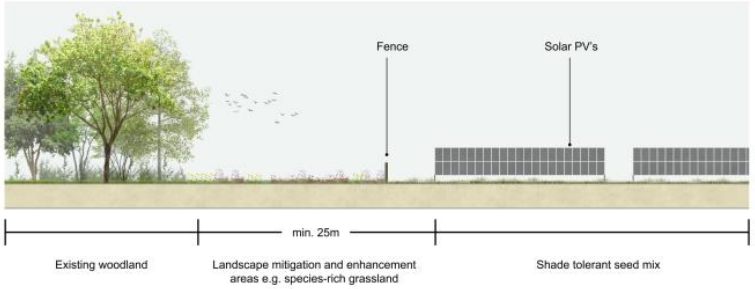
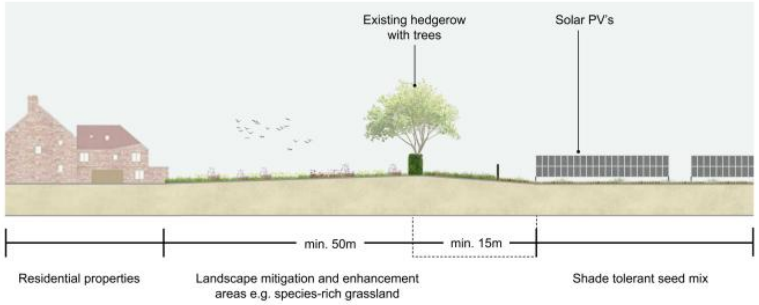
Design

Visualisations

Below are examples of offsets from woodlands and homes.





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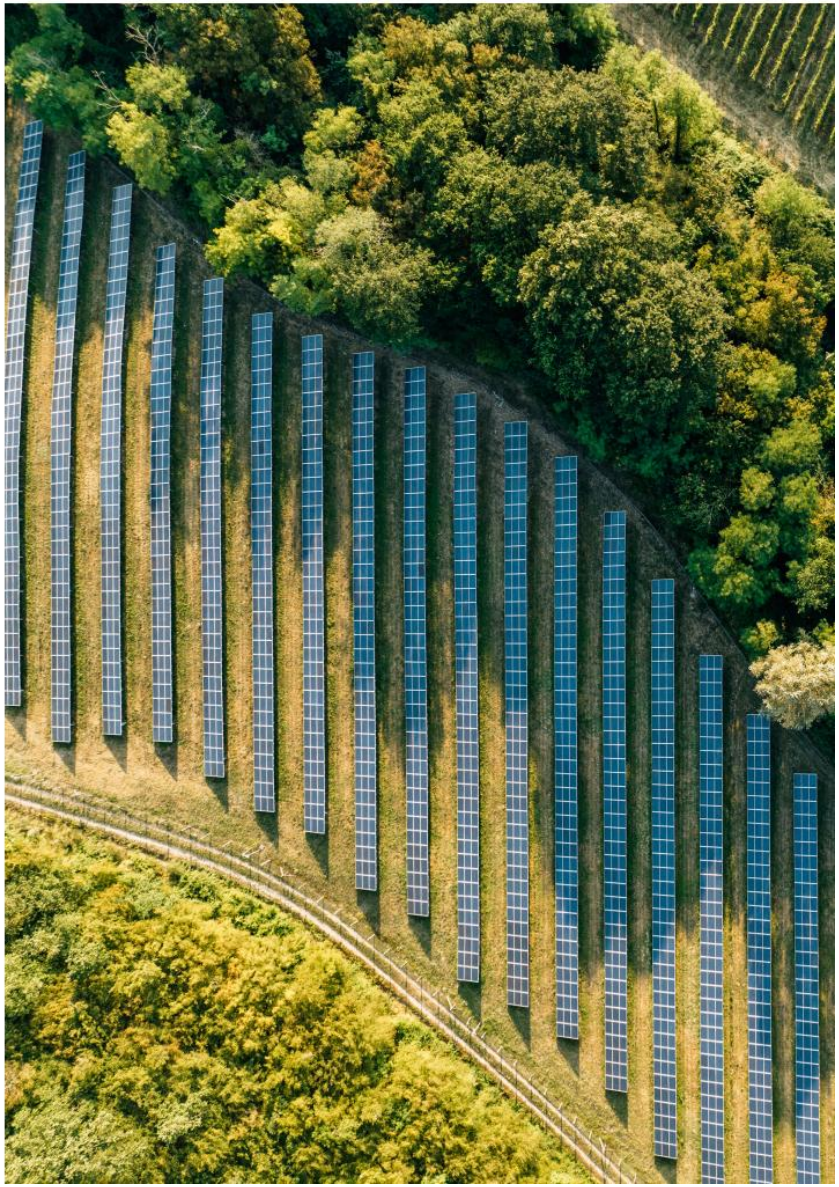


Existing public rights of way and new permissive paths

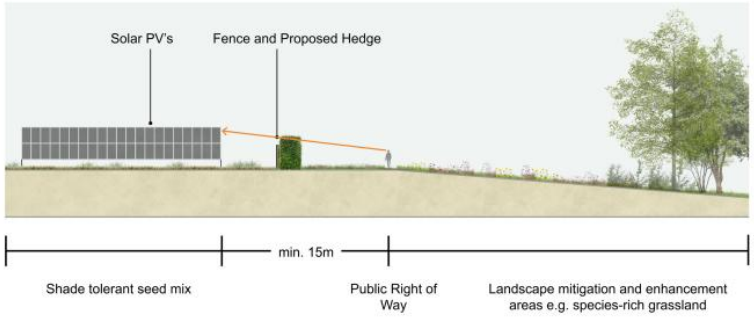
We currently anticipate that all existing public rights of way would remain open throughout the project's lifetime. However, some temporary closures may be needed during construction for safety reasons. Any public rights of way that are within the project boundary would be maintained by us. The masterplan includes a minimum of 15m offset from either side of paths, or 30m total. 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.

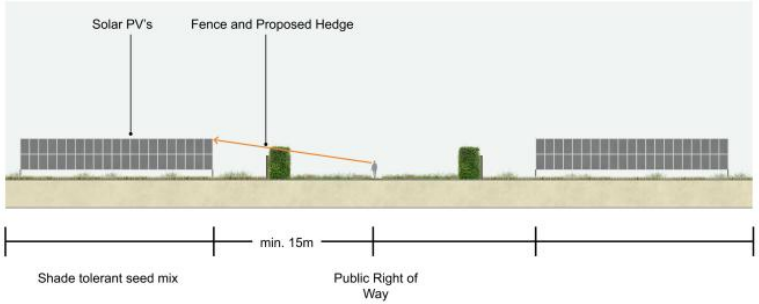
As part of the masterplan, we would like to offer new permissive paths to expand recreational access across the site and formalise informal paths that are already being used. In response to feedback from the first consultation and ongoing engagement with local stakeholders, we are proposing new permissive paths across the site (shown in the masterplan on pages 10-11). They would be available for walkers and cyclists throughout the lifetime of the project. These will continue to evolve based on feedback from this consultation and ongoing discussions with landowners.

Do you have feedback about the proposed permissive paths?

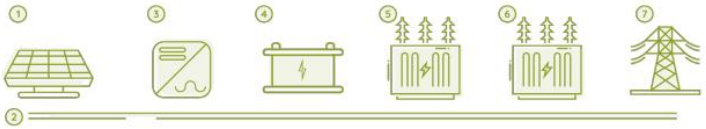
Are there other paths you would like to see?

Below are examples of offsets from public rights of way.





Components of a solar farm



1. **Solar panels** would collect energy from sunlight and convert it to low voltage, direct current (DC) electricity.

2. **Underground cables** would carry the electricity from the solar panels to other components around the site and to the final point of connection to the National Grid.

3. **Power conversion stations (PCS)** would change the power from DC to Alternating Current (AC) and increase the voltage.

4. **A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** would store the energy during times of low energy demand until it is needed. The BESS could also take up extra energy from the grid to store until it is needed most.

5. **Substations** would increase the voltage again to prepare it to enter the grid. Smaller 'satellite' substations would be located in Whitestone 1 and 2 to increase the voltage of the electricity. Another larger 'primary' substation would be needed to collect the electricity and increase the voltage again to prepare it to transfer to the National Grid.

6. The energy would then be transferred into the **National Grid** at the new substation near Brinsworth (Brinsworth B), so that it could go on to power homes, businesses, schools and hospitals across the UK.

Appearance

The power conversion stations (PCS) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) would typically look like shipping containers, with their technical components hidden inside. The PCS units would be painted green or other natural colours to blend into the landscape.

Security

For safety and security, fields with solar panels would be surrounded by fencing, of wooden post and wire configuration. The fence would include CCTV, installed along the fence lines looking inward. Mammal gates would be included to ensure that local wildlife can still move across the area, while keeping humans out. For safety reasons, the substations and BESS areas would need more substantial 'palisade' fencing to prevent anyone entering these areas.

Noise

The solar panels would be fixed, so they do not make any noise. However, some of the other components of the solar farm, including the power conversion stations (PCS), batteries and substations do make a buzzing sound. Therefore, it is important that we locate these components away from homes and other key locations to minimise potential impacts.

In the updated masterplan, the potential locations for substations and batteries are at least 250m away from homes to avoid noise impacts. The PCS units would be located in the fields with the solar panels, at least 100m away from homes and 50m away from public rights of way whenever possible. If they need to be located closer to homes or paths, then they would include noise mitigation to ensure that they do not increase ambient noise levels by more than 5 decibels subject to local context.

These distances will be further informed by ongoing noise assessments to better understand the existing noise levels and how the technology could create potential impacts.

Heights

Solar technology is evolving rapidly, which means that we might not be able confirm the specific details of components that we will use right now. Where this is the case, we are assessing the impacts of a 'worst-case' scenario. For example, if we don't yet know how tall a part of the project will be, we assess its tallest possible height. You may see this called 'the Rochdale Envelope' which is the principle that allows flexibility in design for DCO projects like Whitestone to permit changes in its design up to certain parameters. This is important so that we can account for uncertainties in the design and technological changes.

These are the maximum heights for the various components that we are assessing:

- **Solar Panels**: 3.8m
- **Wooden pole and wire fencing**: 2.2m
- **BESS**: 3.5m
- **Substations**: 13.5m

Substations and batteries

In order to collect the energy from the solar panels and transfer it to the grid, the project needs three substations: one primary substation in WS2, and one satellite substation for both WS1 and WS2. The primary substation would be up to 100m wide by 170m long, while the smaller satellite substations would be up to 90m wide by 130m long. As shown in the illustrative masterplan on pages 10-11, we have identified three different potential locations for the primary substation, and five potential locations for the satellite substations. These are based on technical assessments, including access and ground conditions, as well as proximity to homes and environmentally sensitive areas. Similarly, we have identified two different locations where the batteries could be located within WS2. We are now consulting on these options for substations and batteries in order to make the final decision on where they should be located.

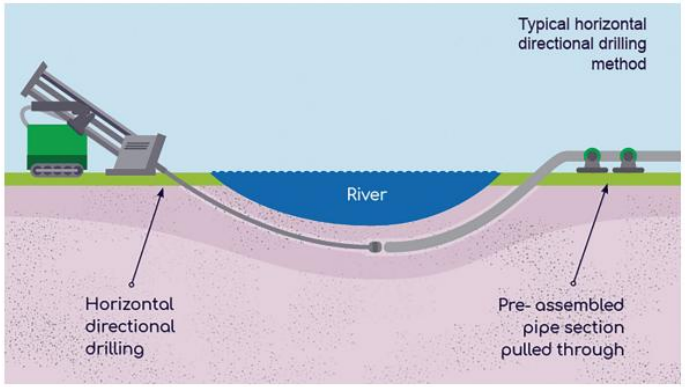
Example of a typical substation

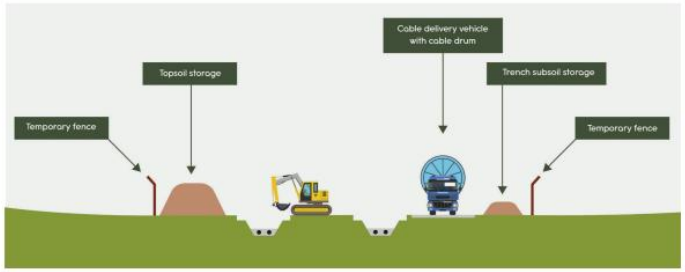
Please provide any feedback you have on the potential locations for the substations and batteries.

Underground cabling

Underground cables are needed to connect the sections of the project together and into the National Grid. After installation, these cables would no longer be visible, and normal activities could continue above them.

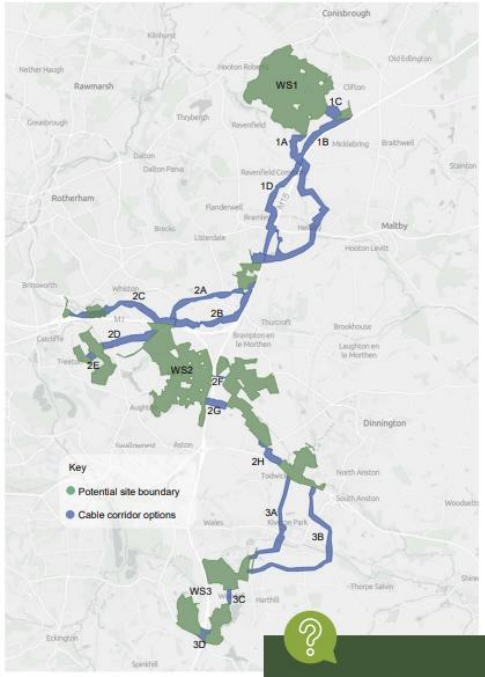
Most cables could be laid through open trenches, where the cable is laid approximately 1m below the ground level, and then soil is replaced on top. Through more sensitive areas, such as woodlands, highways, or streams, we may need to use trenchless crossing methods, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), which drills under the sensitive area and pulls the cable through.





Cable corridor options

To connect WS1, WS2 and WS3 to each other and into the National Grid, we have identified several options for the cable routes. These have been informed by technical assessments, as well as initial environmental assessments to avoid sensitive areas. We are now consulting on these cable route options to help make the final decision on which routes to use.



Please provide any feedback on the potential cable route options.

Protecting the environment

Because it is an NSIP, we are required to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the potential impacts of Whitestone during construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning. If we identify any potential significant impacts, we must also explain how we would mitigate them.

Key milestones in this process include:

- **The Scoping Opinion** is an important first step in the EIA process. We submitted our Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on our proposed approach to the EIA, and after consulting with technical stakeholders, they responded with their Scoping Opinion. This document details which environmental topics we must consider in the assessments, and now forms the basis of our assessments.
- **The draft Environmental Statement (draft ES)** includes the preliminary results of the EIA and is the subject of this consultation. We are required to consult on these initial results in order to fact check our approach and findings, before completing the assessments.
- **The Environmental Statement (ES)** will include the final results of the EIA and will be included in our DCO application. It will be informed by the feedback we receive on the draft ES.

All of the DCO application will be made public through the PINS website.

These are the environmental topics that we are assessing for the EIA:

- Biodiversity and nature conservation
- Climate change and greenhouse gas
- Landscape and visual
- Air quality
- Cultural heritage and archaeology
- Traffic and transport
- Ground conditions and land quality
- Noise and vibration
- Water resources and flood risk
- Socioeconomics, tourism and recreation and land use

Other environmental issues
Waste, glint and glare, telecommunications and utilities, major accidents and disasters, electromagnetic fields.

Scan here to view the Scoping Opinion

Scan here to view the full Draft Environmental Statement

Below are some of the key findings in the draft ES:

Biodiversity and nature conservation

We have consulted with the Environment Agency (EA), Canal and Rivers Trust, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England to understand the existing local ecology. We have also conducted a variety of surveys to identify protected or sensitive species, including badgers, winter birds, breeding birds, bats, great crested newts, reptiles, otters and water voles. Subject to the completion of the remaining surveys and the use of appropriate buffers in the masterplan, we do not expect any significant adverse effects and do expect significant benefits for biodiversity.

Landscape and visual

We used desk-based research to understand landscape character, and conducted on site walkovers, both in winter and summer, to assess potential views from viewpoints. This assessment considers residents within the local area, users of public rights of way and bridleways, users of the local road network, and visitors to local attractions. Some significant impacts are found just after construction. These will be mitigated with new plantings, including hedgerows and trees, to create a natural screening.

Cultural heritage and archaeology

We have consulted with South Yorkshire Archaeological Service to discuss our proposed approach to fieldwork. We have completed geophysical surveys across the majority of the solar areas to identify underground cultural assets. We have also completed desk-based assessments to identify above-ground assets, including listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled monuments, which include Conisbrough Castle and the Roman villa located in WS1. The masterplan includes offsets around these assets to reduce potential impacts. While a few minor impacts are identified, they are not considered to be significant and will be mitigated with further changes to the masterplan or introduction of natural screening.

Ground conditions and land quality

In addition to desk-based assessments, we have also completed agricultural land classification (ALC) surveys to identify soil quality across most of the solar areas, which found that 21% is considered best and most versatile land (Grades 1, 2, and 3a) while the remaining 79% is lower grade agricultural land.

Climate change and greenhouse gas

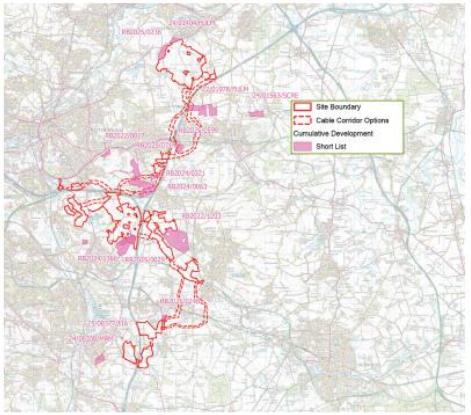
We have completed a carbon footprint assessment and found that while the project would produce around 525,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) during construction, operation and decommissioning, it would avoid 16 million tonnes of CO_2e through the production of renewable energy during the project's lifetime. This is a net reduction of 15.5 million tonnes of CO_2e.

Water resources and flood risk

The EA Flood Map shows that most of the site is in Flood Zone 1 (lowest flood risk), with some areas in Flood Zones 2 and 3. The project will be designed to remain operational without increasing flood risk elsewhere up to and including the 1 in 100 year flood risk event, which includes allowances for increases in rainfall and river flows due to climate change. We have found a potential negligible impact on flooding during the construction phase, which would be mitigated with drainage design and other best practices. By placing solar panels outside of high flood risk areas or growing grass below and between the panels, we find a negligible or even positive impact during the operational stage. The Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy available on our website sets out the surface water management measures which will be in place to ensure the project does not result in an increase in flood risk elsewhere.

Cumulative impacts

As part of the EIA, we must also assess the cumulative impacts of planned and consented developments in the local area. The map below shows the other projects that we have considered as part of this assessment. We will continue to consult on the list of projects to be considered. At this stage, we have identified the projects to include in this assessment considering timing, proximity, and we will work with these other developers to reduce potential impacts where possible.



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

Construction

If consented, we expect it to take around two years to construct Whitestone, beginning in 2027 and ending in 2029. During this period, construction would be phased across the site to minimise disturbance at any single location, however there would be work occurring at each of WS1, WS2 and WS3.

Management plans

Construction of Whitestone would be informed by our final 'detailed design' and a series of management plans that would be informed by ongoing consultation with local authorities and other technical experts. We will submit outlines of these plans in our DCO application. They will be based on best practices and will include:

- **Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP)** explains the measures and controls we will take to manage construction, including how we will avoid or reduce impacts such as noise, dust and disturbance.
- **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP)** describes how we will manage vehicles travelling to and from site during construction. We will consult with National Highways, as well as the local highway authorities to minimise impacts on local roads.
- **Outline Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan (oLBMP)** describes how we will manage and maintain the landscape and environmental mitigation.
- **Outline Skills and Supply Chain Management Plan** describes how we will maximise the local economic benefit from the project.
- **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP)**, provides an overview of the approach to safety for the proposed BESS.
- **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP)** will describe how to manage the decommissioning process at the end of the life of the project.
- **Outline Soils Management Plan (oSMP)** sets out methods and controls to protect and conserve the soil during construction.

Working arrangements

Working hours would typically be between 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 1pm on Saturday, with no work on Sundays or Bank Holidays. There may be times where we need to work outside these hours – for example, when we need to move a very large item like a transformer that cannot be broken up (called an 'Abnormal Indivisible Load') or to perform a trenchless crossing (e.g. HDD) on the cable route or solar area, we may do this at night or in the early hours of the morning. We would consult on activities like this with local authorities and communicate with residents in advance.

Construction compounds

These spaces would be needed for unloading and storing materials, staff parking and welfare facilities, and management offices and oversight. Their locations have been selected to minimise impacts on local roads.

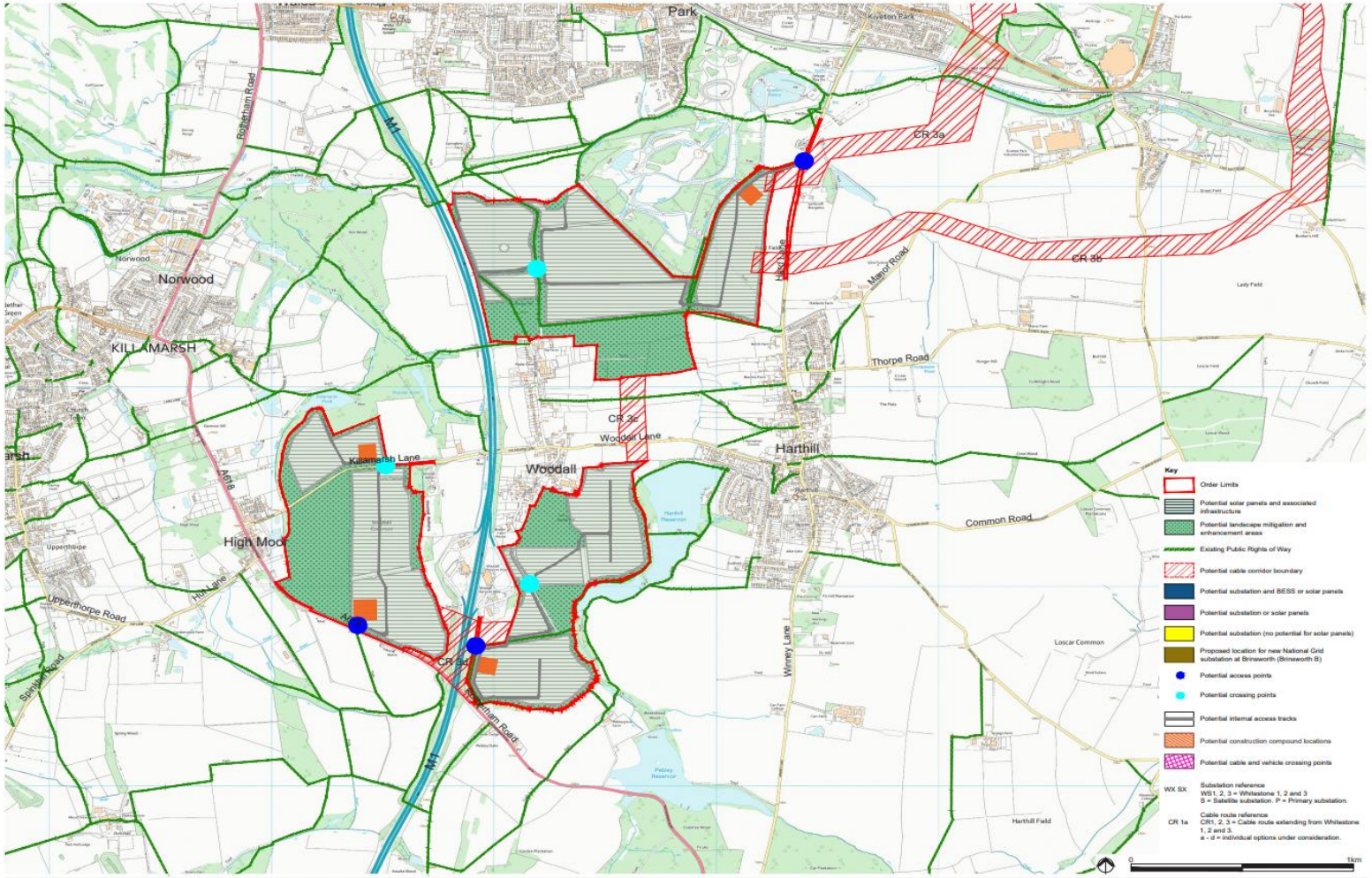
Traffic management

While we expect construction to take around two years, the level of activity would vary throughout this period. Construction traffic would include cars, small vans and minibuses to transport workers, as well as HGVs, mobile cranes, and a small number of abnormal indivisible loads (AIL) for construction materials. At the very peak of construction, we estimate that there would be 630 daily round trips by construction workers and approximately 203 round trips of HGVs per day. Construction delivery traffic would be scheduled to avoid peak traffic periods (8-9am and 5-6pm).

We have assessed the current local road network to understand which roads would be more suitable for construction traffic. This includes avoiding roads that would be too small for construction vehicles (HGVs) or have other size limitations on traffic. We have also assessed the current traffic levels to understand the potential impacts of construction vehicles. We have sought to avoid traffic through villages wherever possible.

Construction

Construction



32 Consultation Booklet

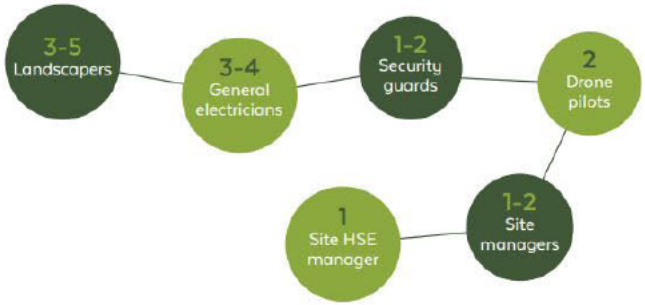
Consultation Booklet 33

Jobs and skills

Constructing, operating and decommissioning Whitestone would require a wide range of skills and expertise. Where possible, we want to work to ensure those skills are developed and retained within the local community. Beyond the direct employment, there would be indirect jobs created through the supply chain and spending by the direct and indirect workers. This would result in more than 2,000 local jobs, and approximately £119,500,000 in benefits to the local economy during the construction period.

During construction, we envision a maximum of 600 construction jobs at the peak, to deliver materials and construct the solar farm. Across the construction period, this would include approximately:

Once operational, we would need a team of at least 11 local, full time employees to maintain and operate the project, including:



Community benefits

When we first introduced Whitestone, we explained that we were committed to providing a community benefit package to ensure that there are local benefits from the project. We want to design the community benefit package collaboratively with the community, to make sure that it provides a meaningful benefit that supports existing initiatives and priorities. In response to feedback from the first consultation and ongoing engagement with elected officials, we have developed the following proposal for your feedback.

We would like to offer a community benefit fund of £400 per MW per year. Based on the grid connection of 750MW, this would be £300,000 per year. Based on the maximum lifespan of the project of 60 years, this would amount to £18,000,000 for the life of the project. The final figure would be based on the operational MW output, the lifetime of the project, and the outcomes of this consultation.

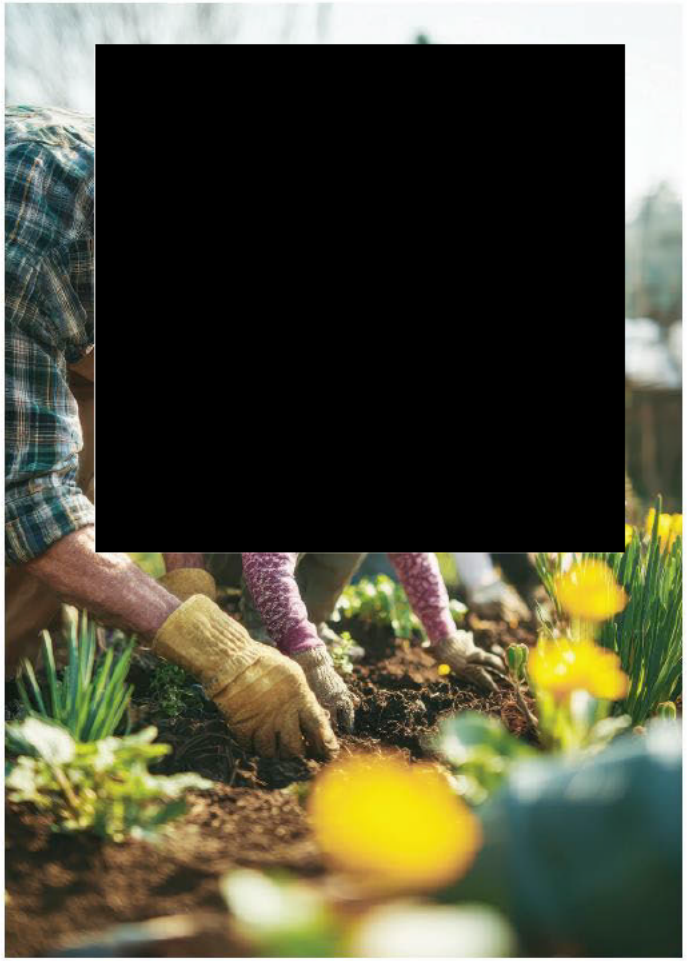
We recognise it is important that the fund be managed in a way that is both transparent and tailored to local needs, ensuring that the application process is clear and decisions are made openly. We propose that the funds would be available through a nominated fund manager to administer the funding, with local stakeholders and elected officials, such as parish councils and local councillors, serving on the board to advise on funding decisions.

Groups or individuals in the local community could apply for funding for projects or initiatives, such as:

- Improving local community facilities, like parish halls, schools, or community centres.
- Supporting education programmes, work study, and skills training for green jobs in local schools and colleges.
- Supporting existing charities and organisations that work in the local area on mental health, physical health and recreation, and other initiatives related to health and wellbeing.
- Support to reduce energy costs through insulation, rooftop solar, and other energy efficiency projects.

What would you like to see in the community benefit package?

Are there other ideas that you think should be included or considered?



Consultation

This consultation is running for six weeks, from 16 September to 28 October 2025. During this period, anyone can provide their written feedback on our proposals through the following methods:

- **Complete the online feedback form at** whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- **Complete a paper feedback form**, which is available at the public events or by request through the project's communications lines
- **Send an email to**: info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- **Write to**: Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local (no stamp is needed)

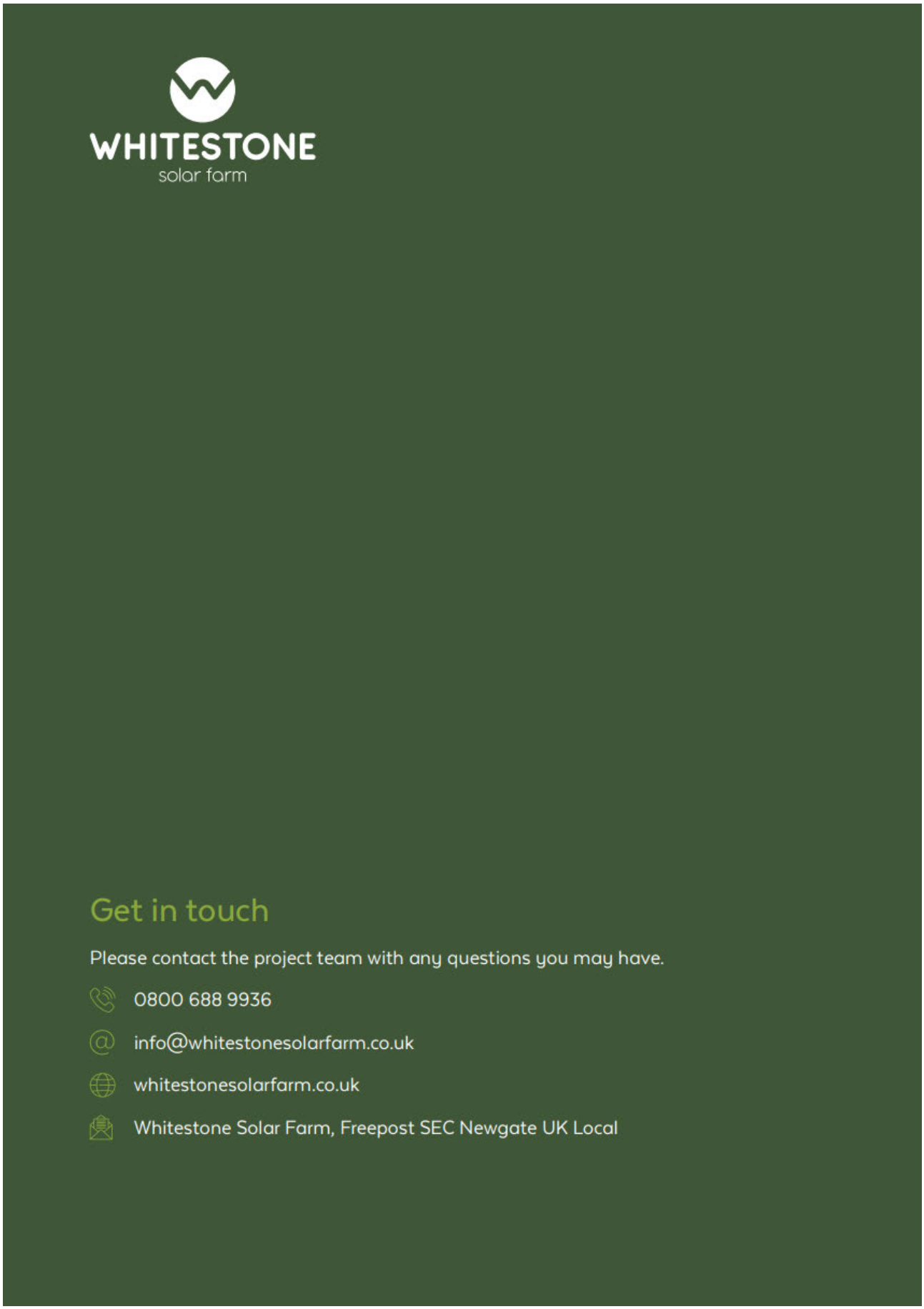
Scan here to access the online feedback form

Next steps

After the consultation has ended, we will review and consider all of the feedback we have received. This feedback, along with ongoing environmental assessments, will help inform the final masterplan and Environmental Statement that we submit in our DCO application.

Within the DCO application, we will also include a Consultation Report that shows how we have had regard to all consultation feedback and how the project has further evolved as a result of that feedback.

For future project updates, please visit our website to sign up for the 'Keep Informed List' at **whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk**.


WHITESTONE
solar farm
Get in touch
Please contact the project team with any questions you may have.
0800 688 9936
info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
Whitestone Solar Farm, Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local

APPENDIX D2 MASTERPLANS

Appendix D2.1 Indicative Construction Masterplan (8 slides)

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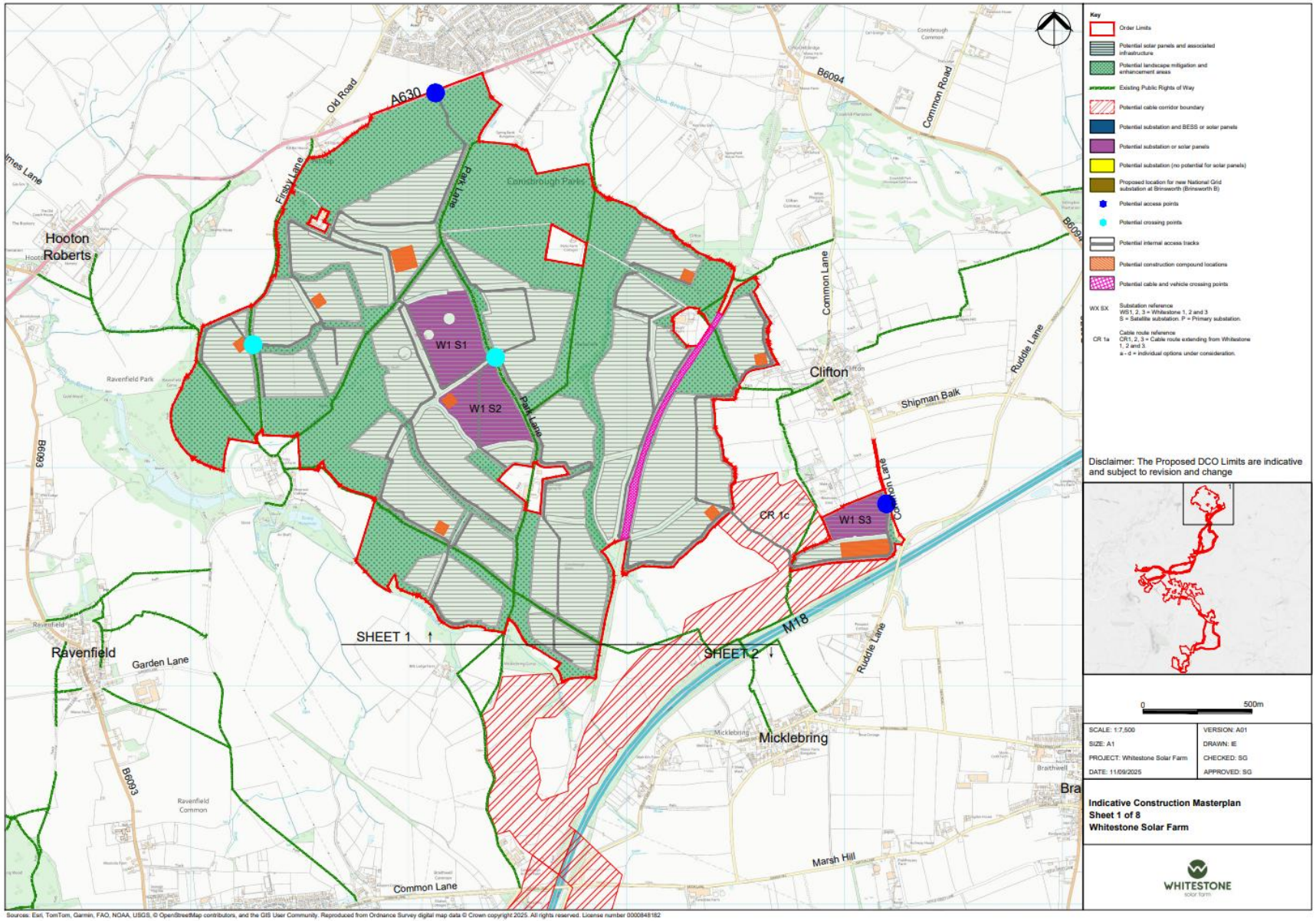
Key
Order Limits
Potential solar panels and associated infrastructure
Potential landscape mitigation and enhancement areas
Existing Public Rights of Way
Potential cable corridor boundary
Potential substation and BESS or solar panels
Potential substation or solar panels
Potential substation (no potential for solar panels)
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Potential crossing points
Potential internal access tracks
Potential construction compound locations
Potential cable and vehicle crossing points
WX SX
Substation reference
WS1, 2, 3 = Whitestone 1, 2 and 3
S = Satellite substation. P = Primary substation.
CR 1a
Cable route reference
CR1, 2, 3 = Cable route extending from Whitestone 1, 2 and 3.
a - d = Individual options under consideration.
Disclaimer: The Proposed DCO Limits are indicative and subject to revision and change
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SIZE: A1
PROJECT: Whitestone Solar Farm
DATE: 11/09/2025
VERSION: A01
DRAWN: IE
CHECKED: SG
APPROVED: SG
Indicative Construction Masterplan
Sheet 1 of 8
Whitestone Solar Farm
WHITESTONE
solar farm
A630
Old Road
Firsby Lane
Park Lane
Conisbrough Park
B6094
Common Road
Common Lane
Ruddle Lane
Shipman Balk
Clifton
Hooton Roberts
Ravenfield Park
B6093
W1 S1
W1 S2
W1 S3
CR 1c
SHEET 1
SHEET 2
M18
Ravenfield
Garden Lane
Micklebring
Braithwell
Marsh Hill
Ravenfield Common
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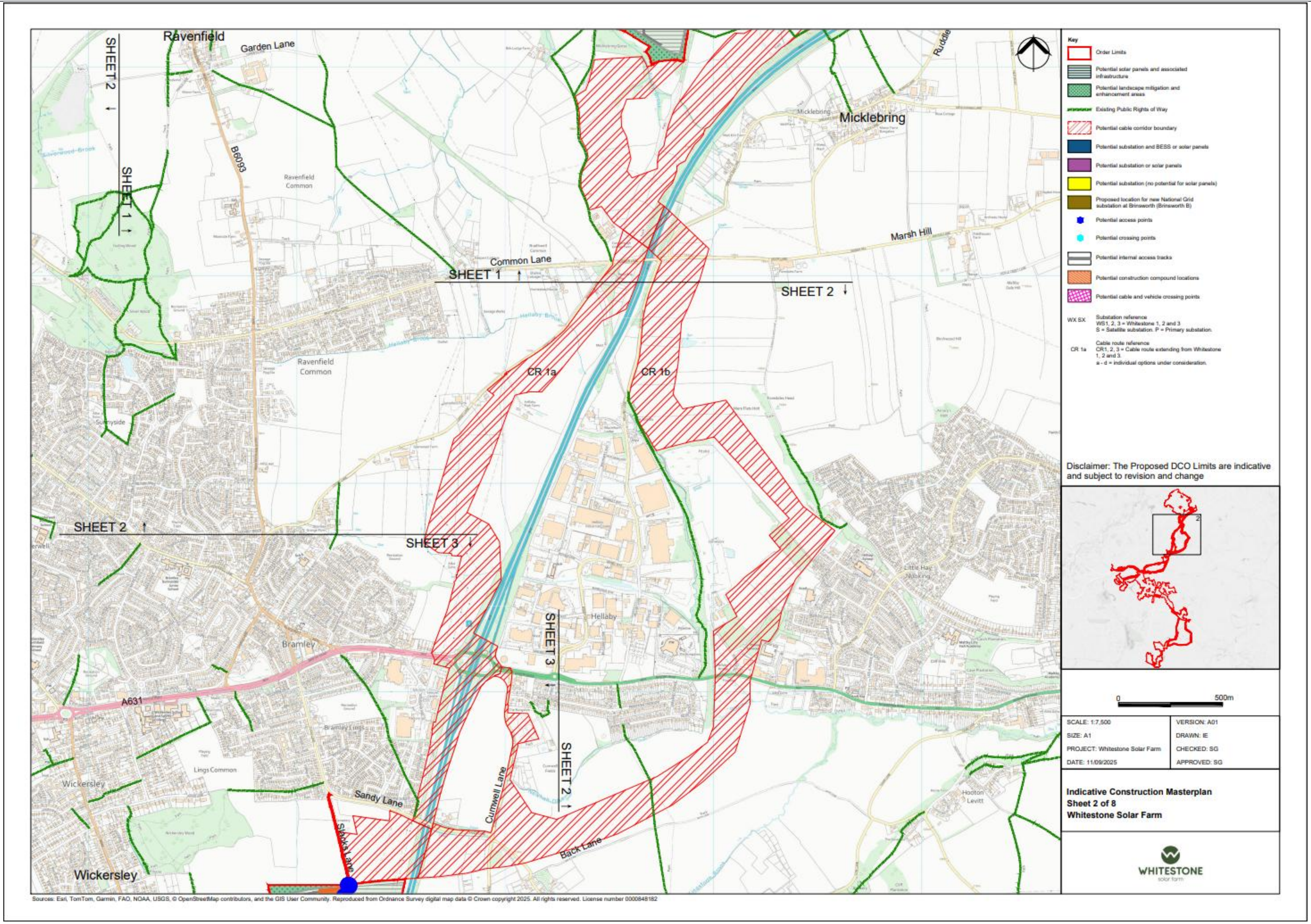
Ravenfield
Garden Lane
SHEET 2
SHEET 1
B6093
Ravenfield Common
Common Lane
SHEET 1
SHEET 2
Marsh Hill
Micklebring
Ruddle
CR 1a
CR 1b
Ravenfield Common
Sunnyside
SHEET 2
SHEET 3
SHEET 3
Hellaby
Bramley
A631
Bramley Lings
Lings Common
Wickersley
Sandy Lane
Cumwell Lane
SHEET 2
Back Lane
Wickersley
Little Hay Stocking
Hooton Levitt
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APPROVED: SG
Indicative Construction Masterplan
Sheet 2 of 8
Whitestone Solar Farm
WHITESTONE
solar farm
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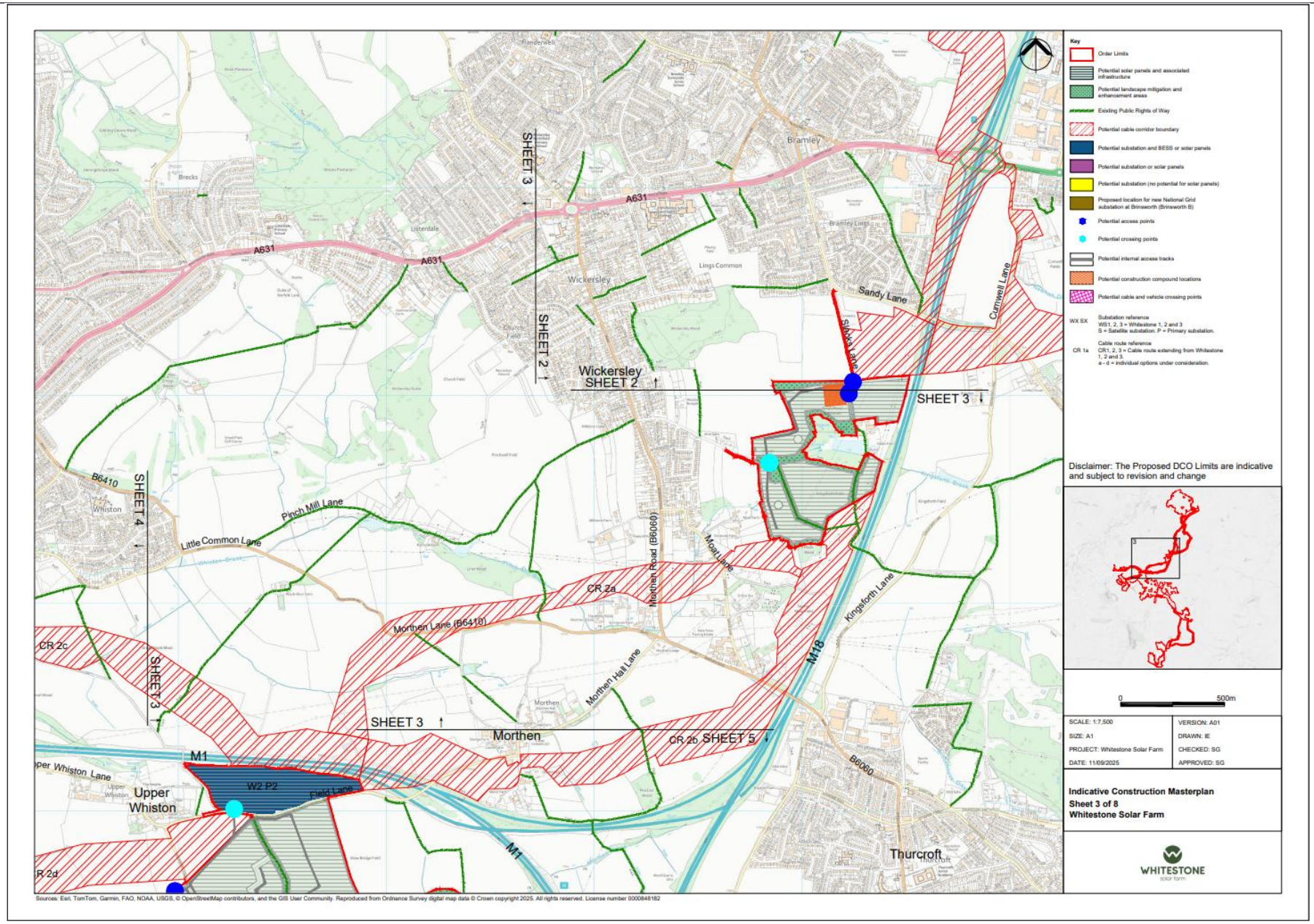
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CHECKED: SG
APPROVED: SG
Indicative Construction Masterplan
Sheet 3 of 8
Whitestone Solar Farm
WHITESTONE solar farm
Flanderwell
Bramley
Brecks
Listerdale
A631
Wickersley
Lings Common
Bramley Lings
Sandy Lane
Slipper Lane
Cumwell Lane
SHEET 3
SHEET 2
Wickersley SHEET 2
SHEET 3
B6410
Whiston
SHEET 4
Pinch Mill Lane
Little Common Lane
Morthen Road (B6060)
Moat Lane
CR 2a
Kingsforth Lane
Morthen Lane (B6410)
CR 2c
SHEET 3
M18
Morthen Hall Lane
SHEET 3
Morthen
CR 2b SHEET 5
M1
Upper Whiston Lane
Upper Whiston
W2 P2
Field Lane
B6060
M1
Thurcroft
R 2d
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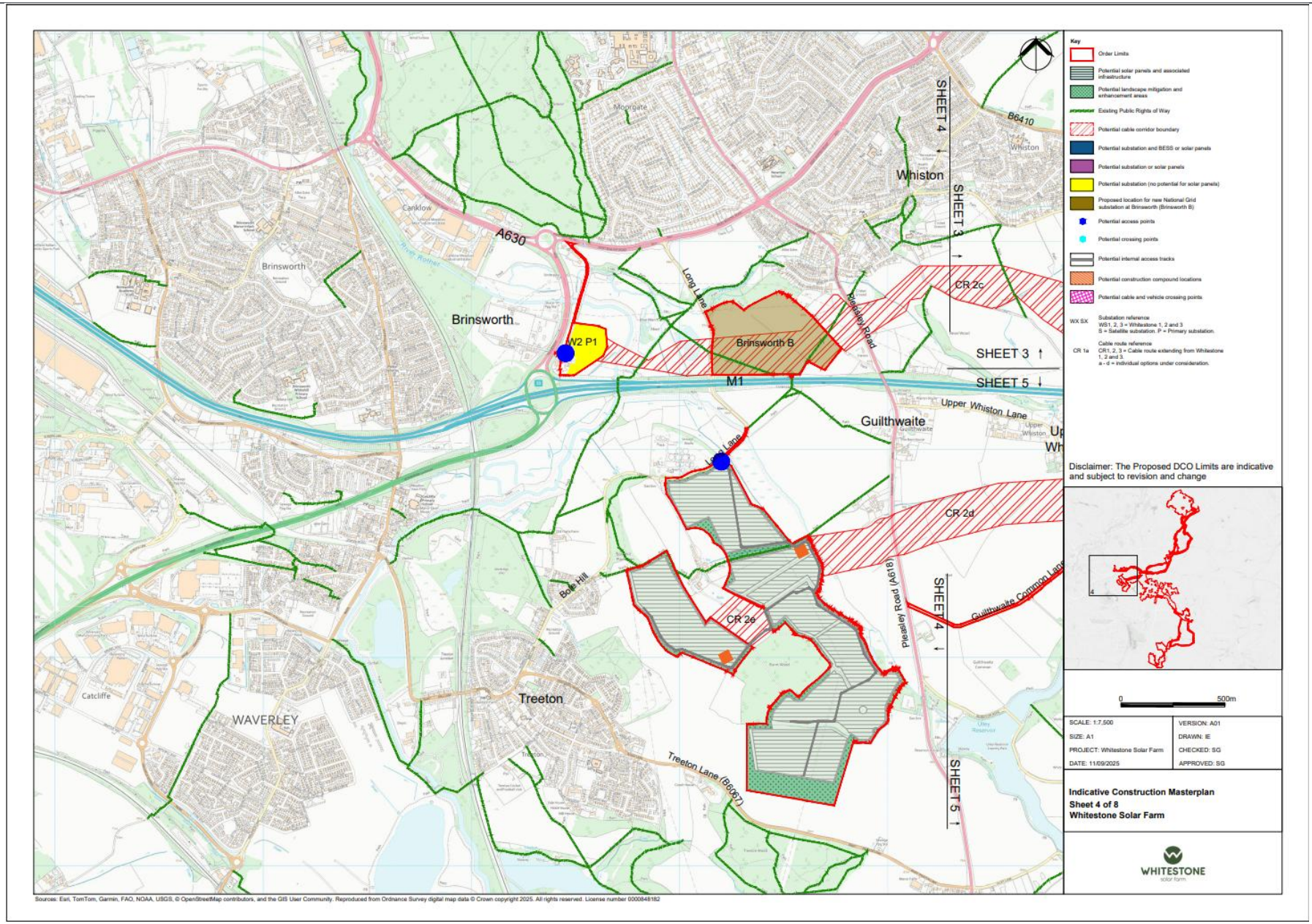
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Indicative Construction Masterplan
Sheet 4 of 8
Whitestone Solar Farm
WHITESTONE
solar farm
A630
M1
B6410
Brinsworth
Whiston
Guilthwaite
Treeton
WAVERLEY
Catcliffe
Canklow
Moorgate
Long Lane
Pleasley Road
Upper Whiston Lane
Bole Hill
Treeton Lane (B6067)
Guilthwaite Common Lane
Pleasley Road (A618)
W2 P1
Brinsworth B
CR 2c
CR 2d
CR 2e
SHEET 3
SHEET 4
SHEET 5
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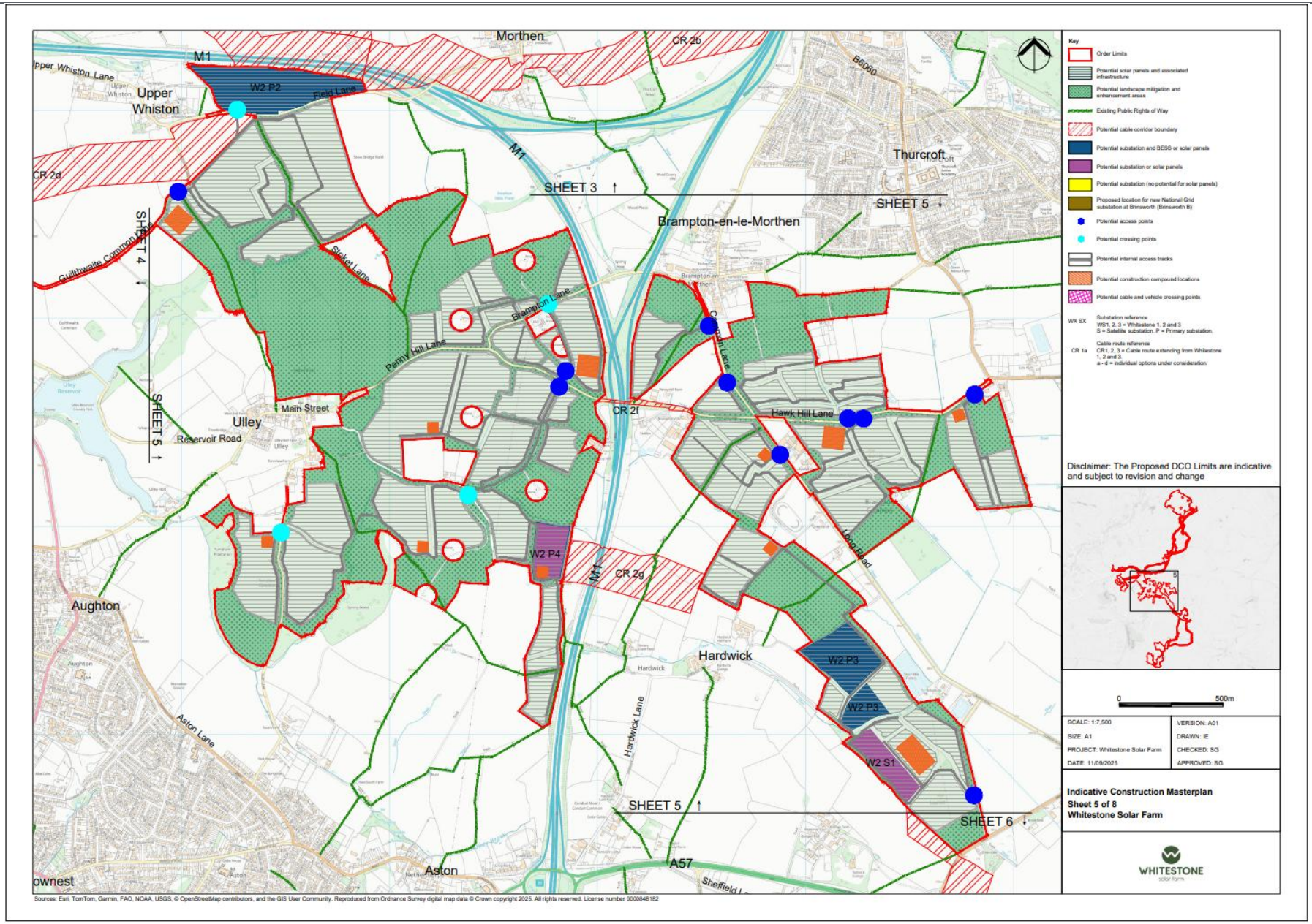
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CR 2b
M1
Upper Whiston Lane
Upper Whiston
W2 P2
Field Lane
B6060
Thurcroft
CR 2d
SHEET 3
SHEET 5
Brampton-en-le-Morthen
SHEET 4
Guilthwaite Common
Stokel Lane
Brampton Lane
Penny Hill Lane
Main Street
Ulley
Reservoir Road
SHEET 5
CR 2f
Hawk Hill Lane
W2 P4
M1
CR 2g
Aughton
Hardwick
W2 P3
W2 P3
W2 S1
Hardwick Lane
Aston Lane
SHEET 5
SHEET 6
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Sheffield
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Indicative Construction Masterplan
Sheet 5 of 8
Whitestone Solar Farm
WHITESTONE
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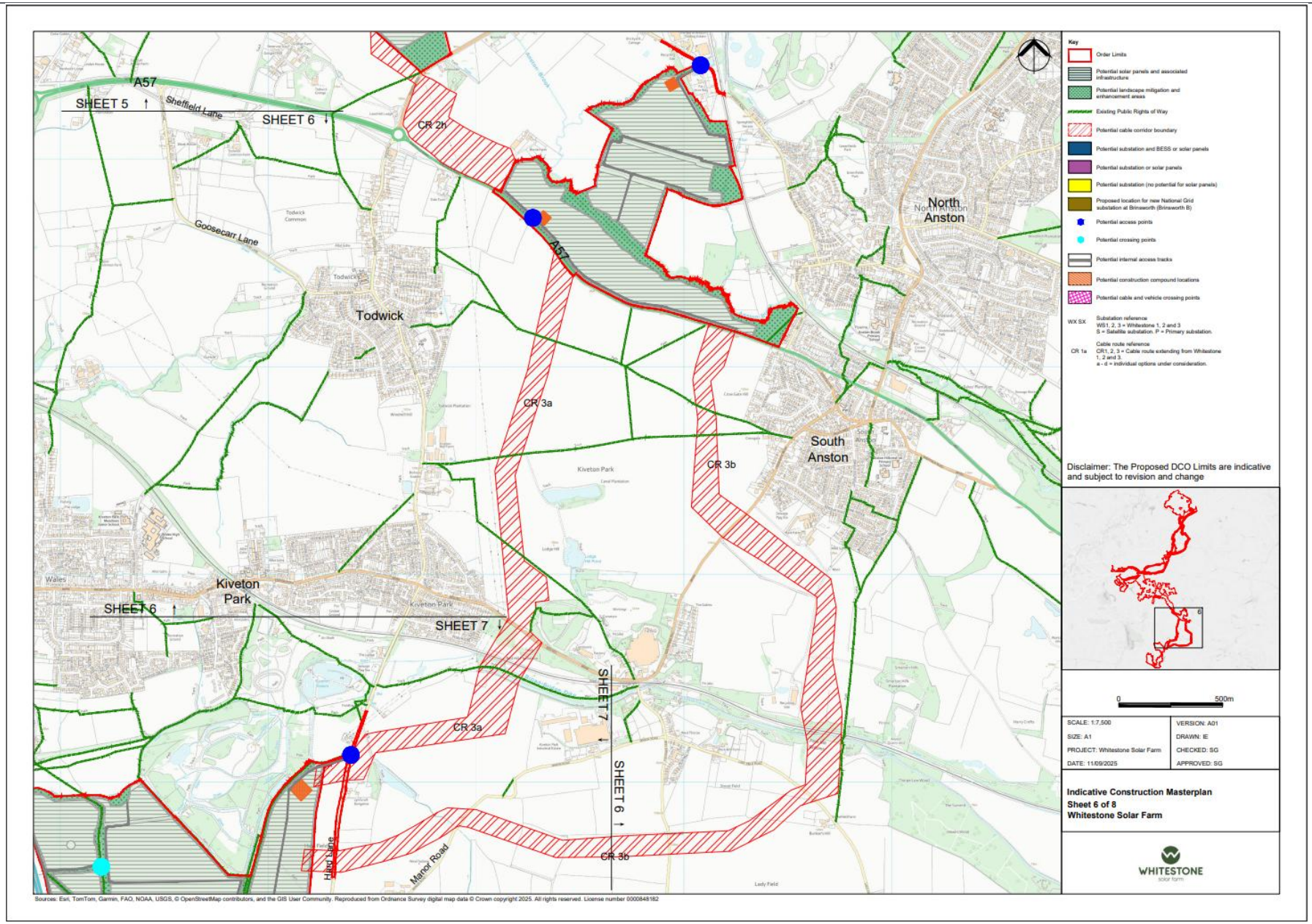
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Sheffield Lane
SHEET 6
CR 2h
Goosecarr Lane
Todwick
North Anston
South Anston
CR 3a
CR 3b
Kiveton Park
SHEET 6
SHEET 7
SHEET 7
SHEET 6
CR 3a
CR 3b
Manor Road
Hard Lane
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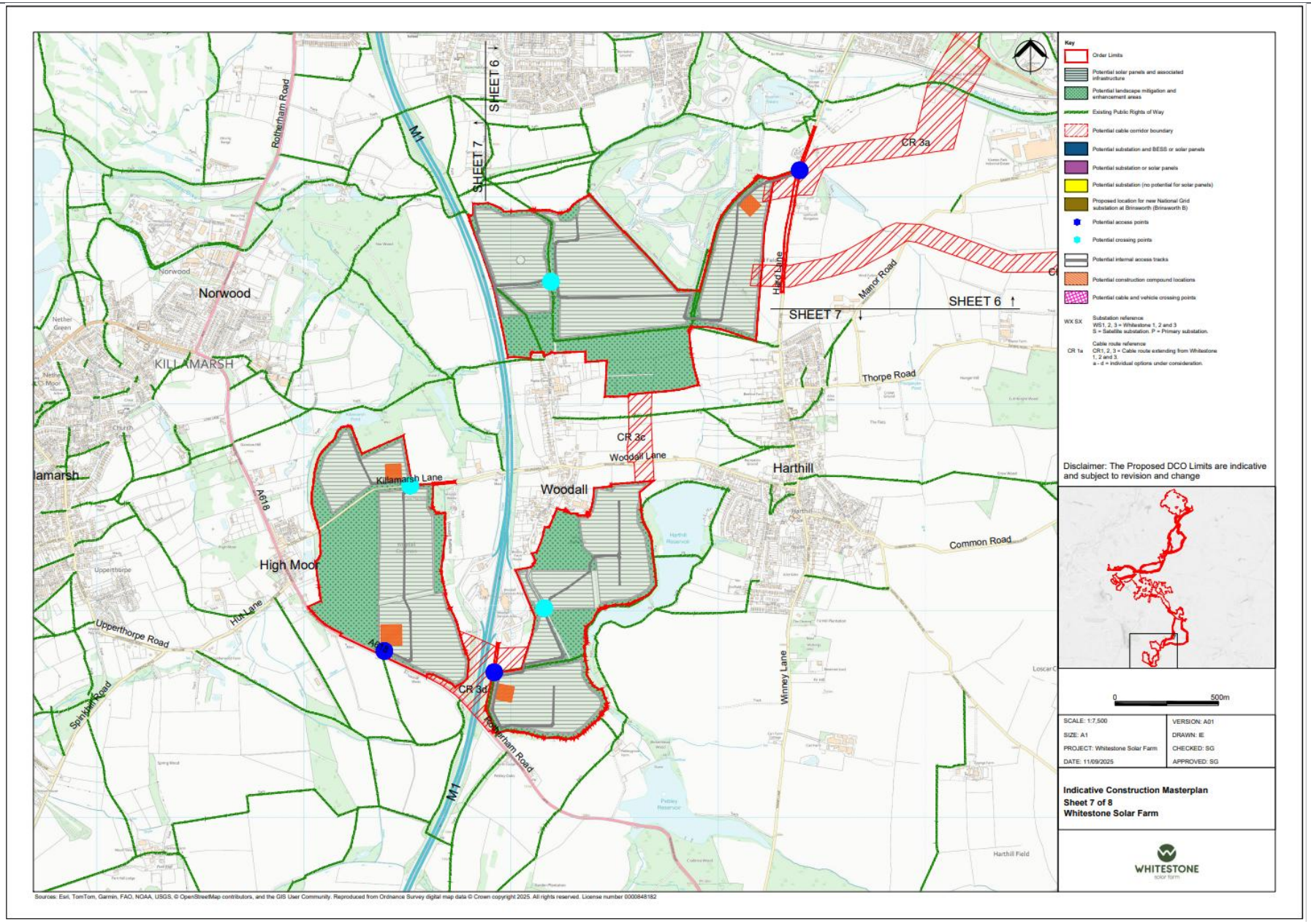
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SHEET 7
SHEET 7
SHEET 6
M1
M1
Rotherham Road
Norwood
KILLAMARSH
Nether Green
Norwood
Killamarsh Lane
A618
High Moor
Hill Lane
Upperthorpe Road
Upperthorpe
Spinkhill Road
Woodall
Woodall Lane
CR 3e
CR 3d
CR 3a
Harthill
Thorpe Road
Manor Road
Hard Lane
Common Road
Winney Lane
Harthill Field
Pebley Reservoir
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DATE: 11/09/2025
APPROVED: SG
Indicative Construction Masterplan
Sheet 7 of 8
Whitestone Solar Farm
WHITESTONE
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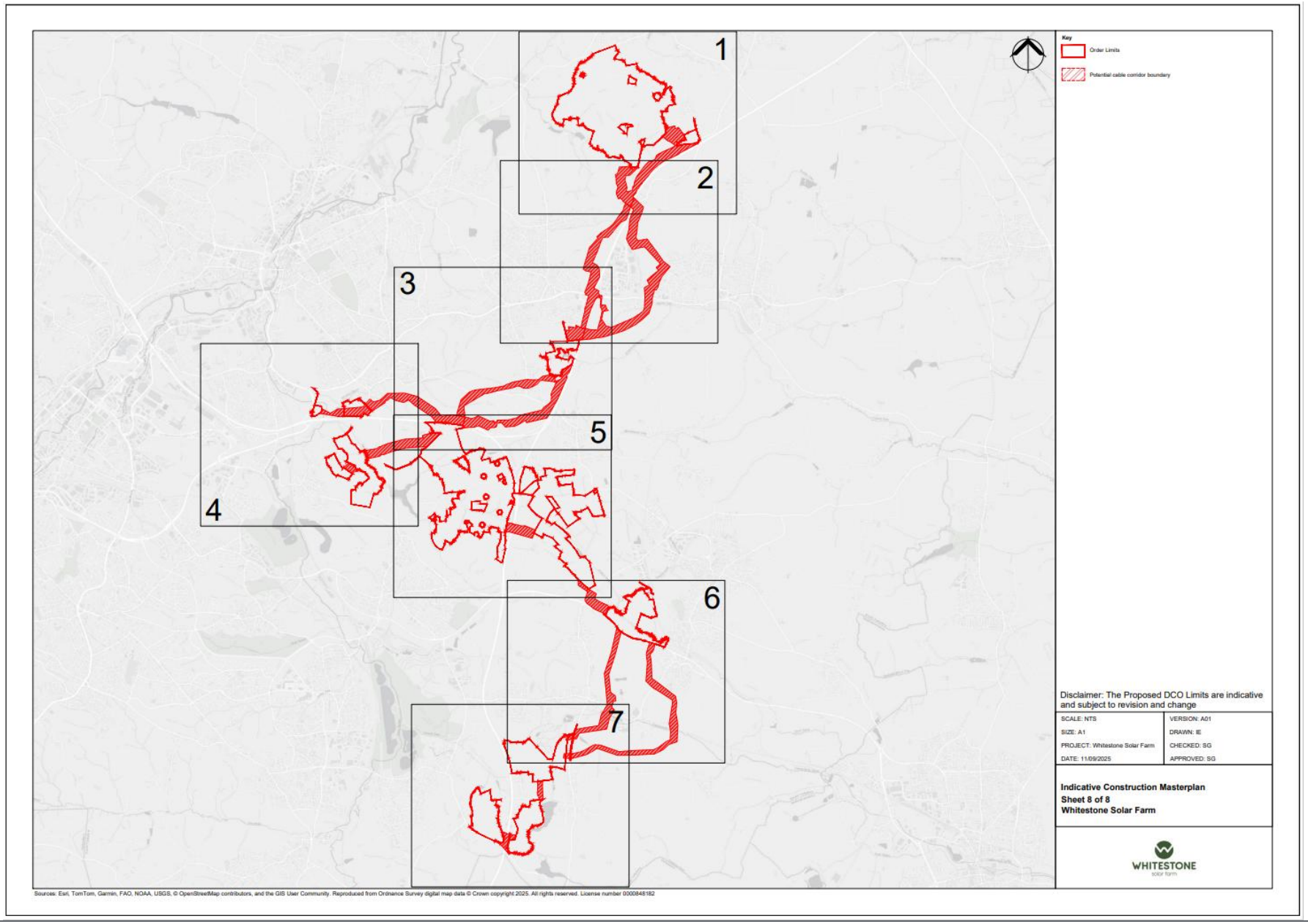
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
Key
Order Limits
Potential cable corridor boundary
Disclaimer: The Proposed DCO Limits are indicative and subject to revision and change
SCALE: NTS
VERSION: A01
SIZE: A1
DRAWN: IE
PROJECT: Whitestone Solar Farm
CHECKED: SG
DATE: 11/09/2025
APPROVED: SG
Indicative Construction Masterplan
Sheet 8 of 8
Whitestone Solar Farm
WHITESTONE
solar farm
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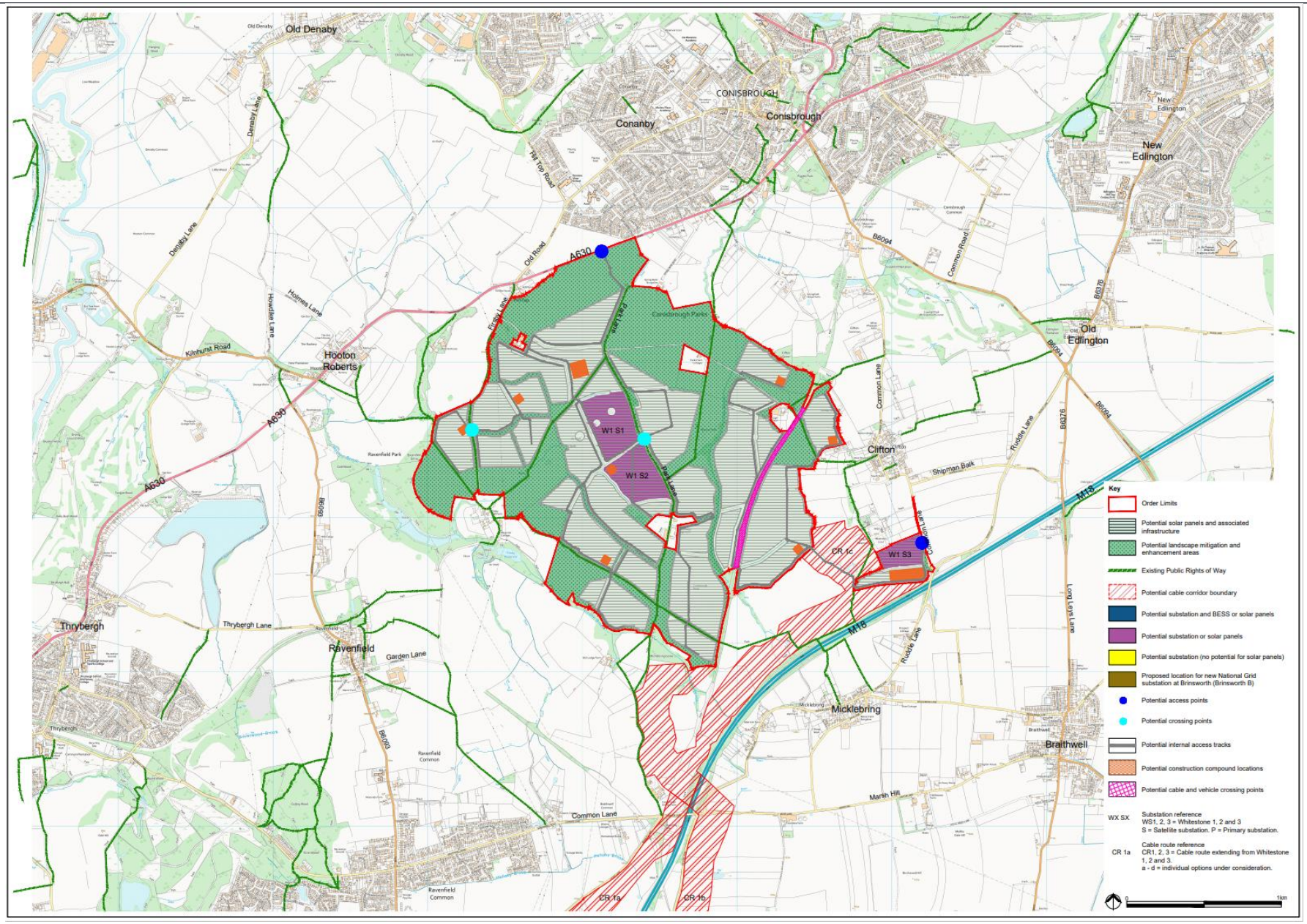
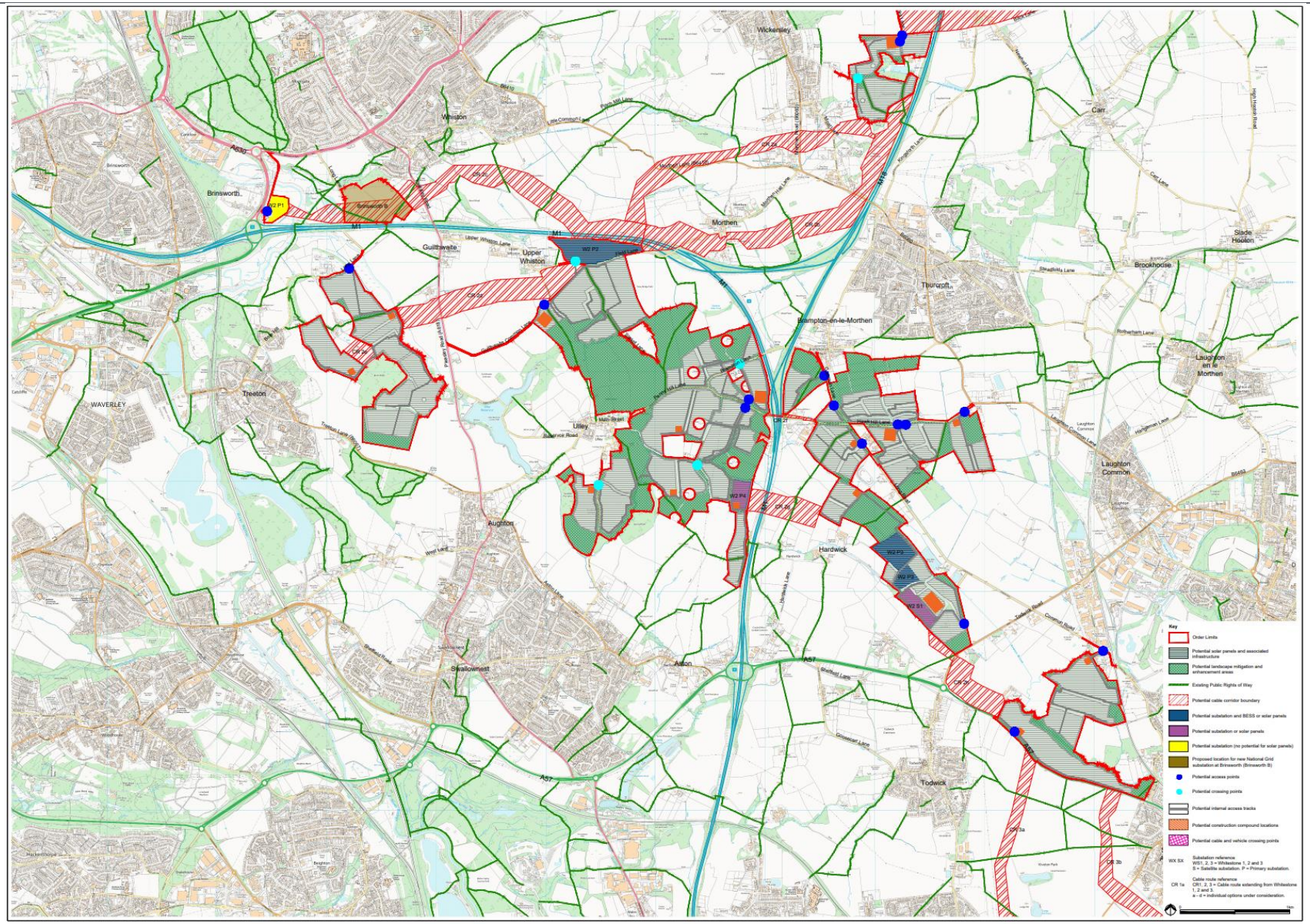
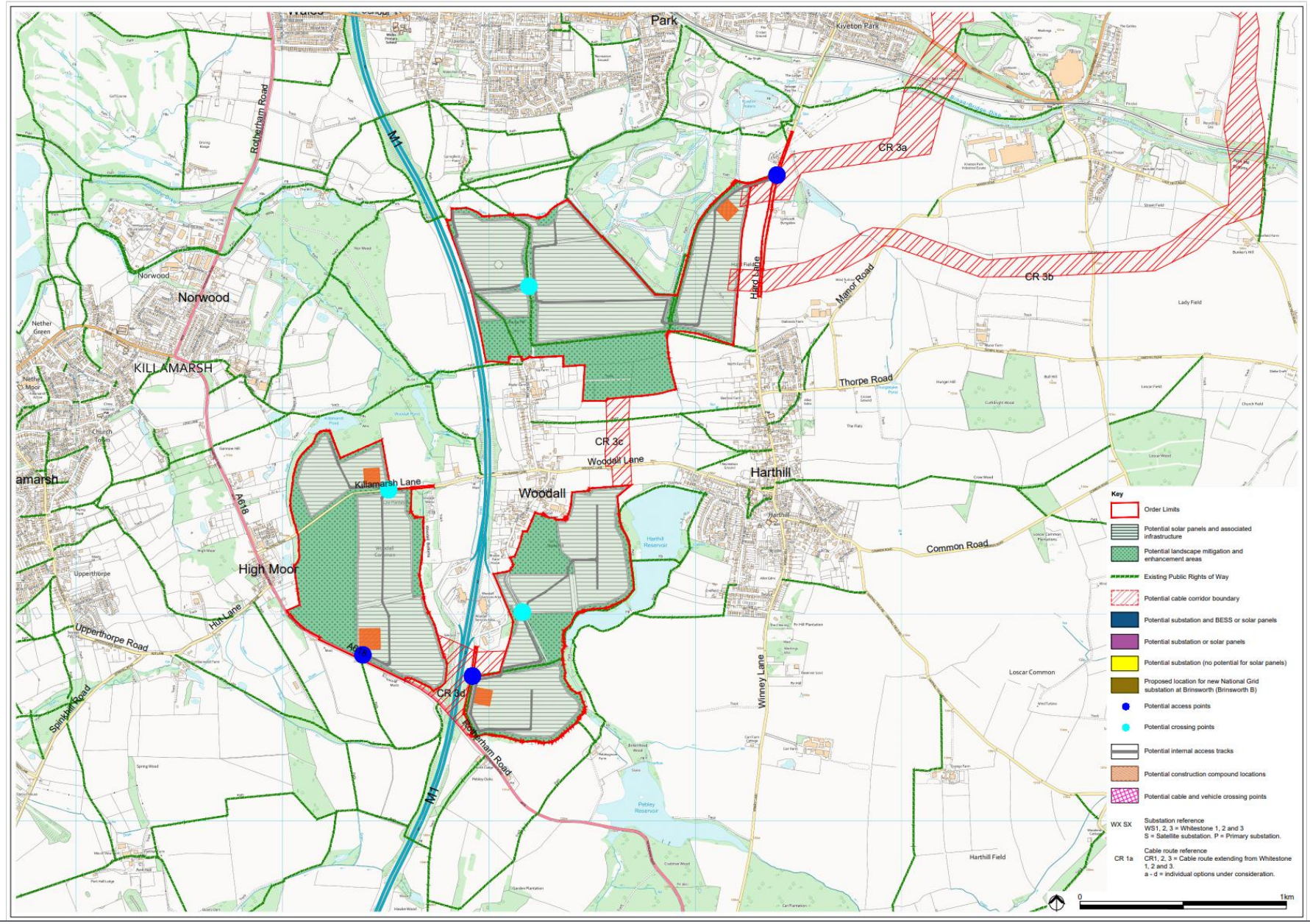
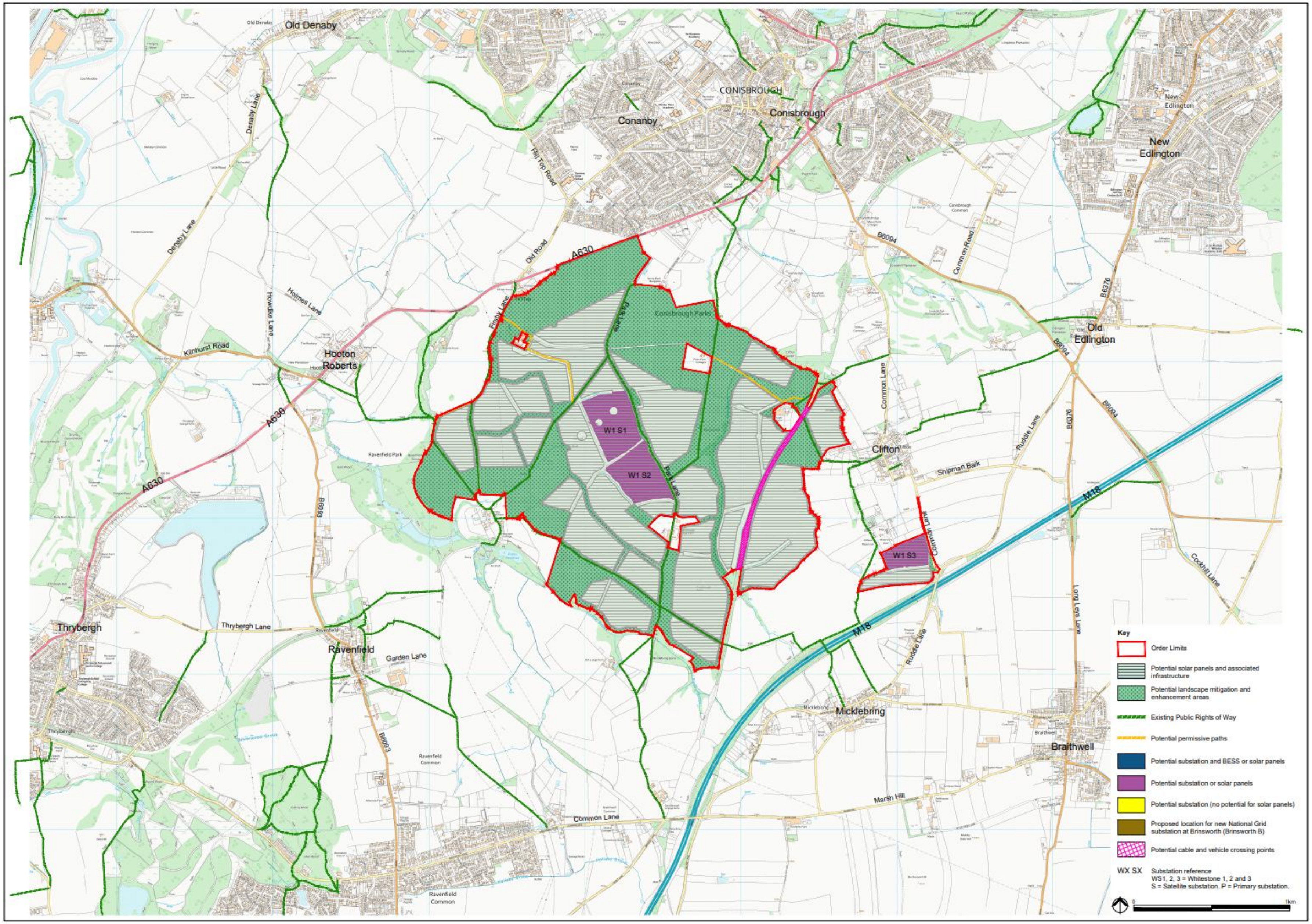
Appendix D2.2 Indicative Construction Masterplan (Whitestone 1, 2 and 3)

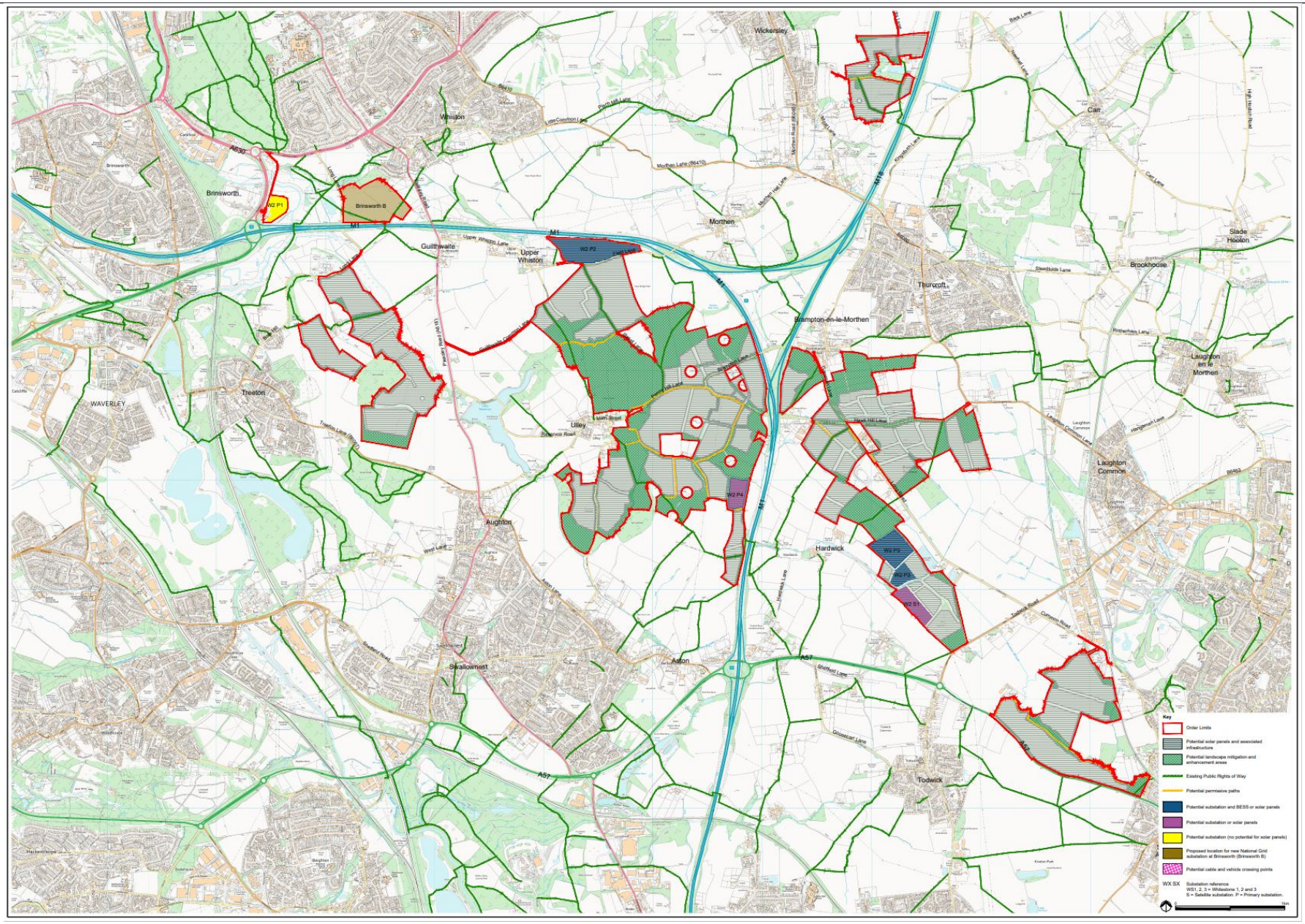

Old Denaby
CONISBROUGH
Conisbrough
Conanby
New Edlington
Old Edlington
Hooton Roberts
Clifton
Ravenfield
Thrybergh
Micklebring
Braithwell
A630
M18
B6094
B6376
B6089
W1 S1
W1 S2
W1 S3
CR 1a
CR 1b
CR 1c
Key
Order Limits
Potential solar panels and associated infrastructure
Potential landscape mitigation and enhancement areas
Existing Public Rights of Way
Potential cable corridor boundary
Potential substation and BESS or solar panels
Potential substation or solar panels
Potential substation (no potential for solar panels)
Proposed location for new National Grid substation at Brinsworth (Brinsworth B)
Potential access points
Potential crossing points
Potential internal access tracks
Potential construction compound locations
Potential cable and vehicle crossing points
WX SX
Substation reference
WS1, 2, 3 = Whitestone 1, 2 and 3
S = Satellite substation. P = Primary substation.
CR 1a
Cable route reference
CR1, 2, 3 = Cable route extending from Whitestone 1, 2 and 3.
a - d = individual options under consideration.
0
1km

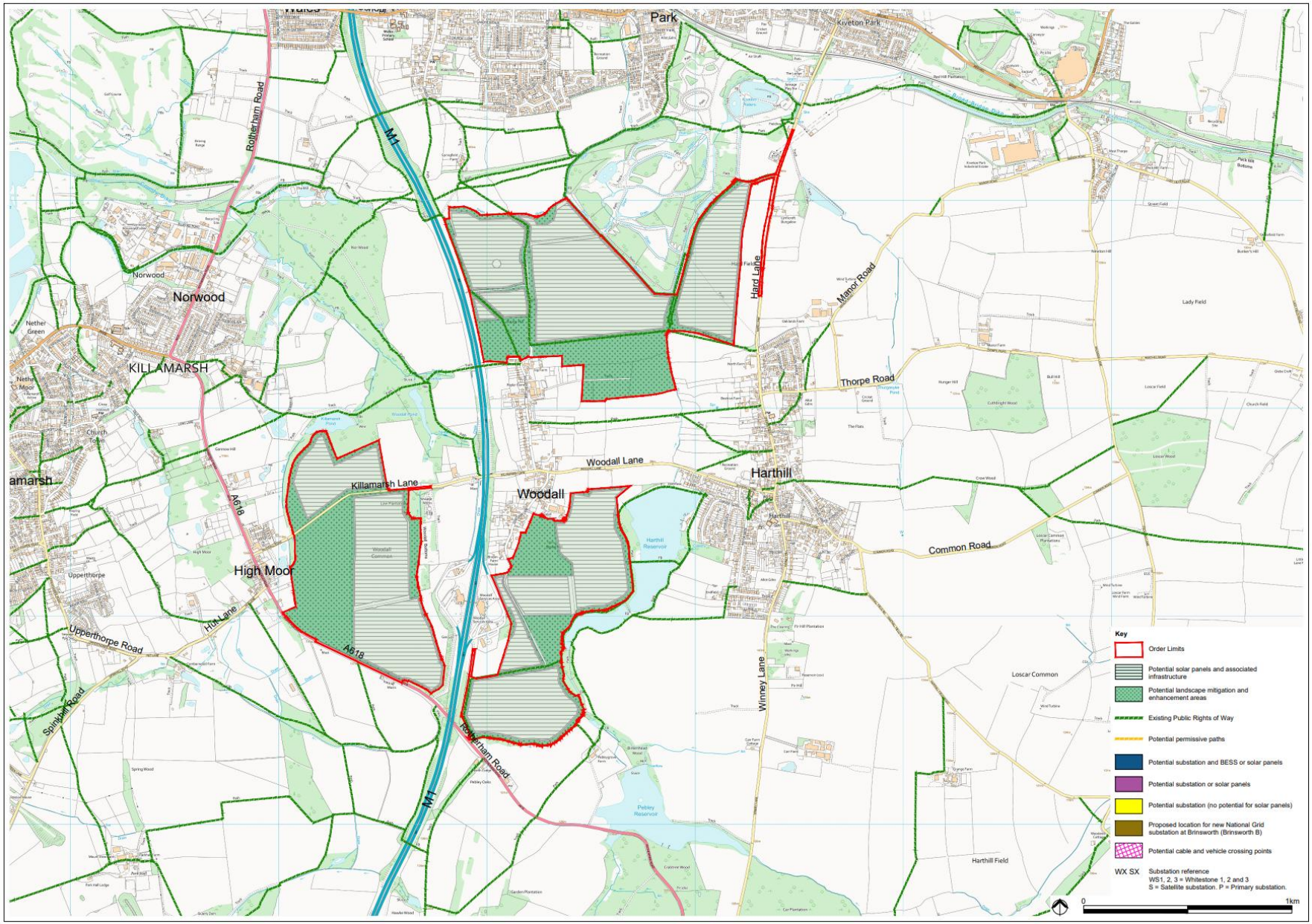

Wickersley
Whiston
Brinsworth
Carr
Morthen
Slade Hooton
Brookhouse
Thurcroft
Guilthwate
Upper Whiston
Brampton-en-le-Morthen
Laughton en le Morthen
Treeton
WAVERLEY
Ulley
Laughton Common
Aughton
Hardwick
Swallownest
Aston
Todwick
M1
A57
A630
Key
Order Limits
Existing Public Rights of Way
Potential cable corridor boundary
Potential access points
Potential crossing points
Potential internal access tracks
Potential construction compound locations


Park
Kiveton Park
Rotherham Road
M1
CR 3a
CR 3b
Hard Lane
Manor Road
Norwood
Norwood
Nether Green
KILLAMARSH
Thorpe Road
CR 3c
Woodall Lane
Killamarsh Lane
Woodall
Harthill
amarsh
A618
High Moor
Upperthorpe
Upperthorpe Road
Hill Lane
Common Road
Winney Lane
Loscar Common
Sandhill Road
CR 3d
Rotherham Road
M1
Harthill Field
Key
Order Limits
Potential solar panels and associated infrastructure
Potential landscape mitigation and enhancement areas
Existing Public Rights of Way
Potential cable corridor boundary
Potential substation and BESS or solar panels
Potential substation or solar panels
Potential substation (no potential for solar panels)
Proposed location for new National Grid substation at Brinsworth (Brinsworth B)
Potential access points
Potential crossing points
Potential internal access tracks
Potential construction compound locations
Potential cable and vehicle crossing points
WX SX
Substation reference
WS1, 2, 3 = Whitestone 1, 2 and 3
S = Satellite substation. P = Primary substation.
CR 1a
Cable route reference
CR1, 2, 3 = Cable route extending from Whitestone 1, 2 and 3.
a - d = individual options under consideration.
0
1km

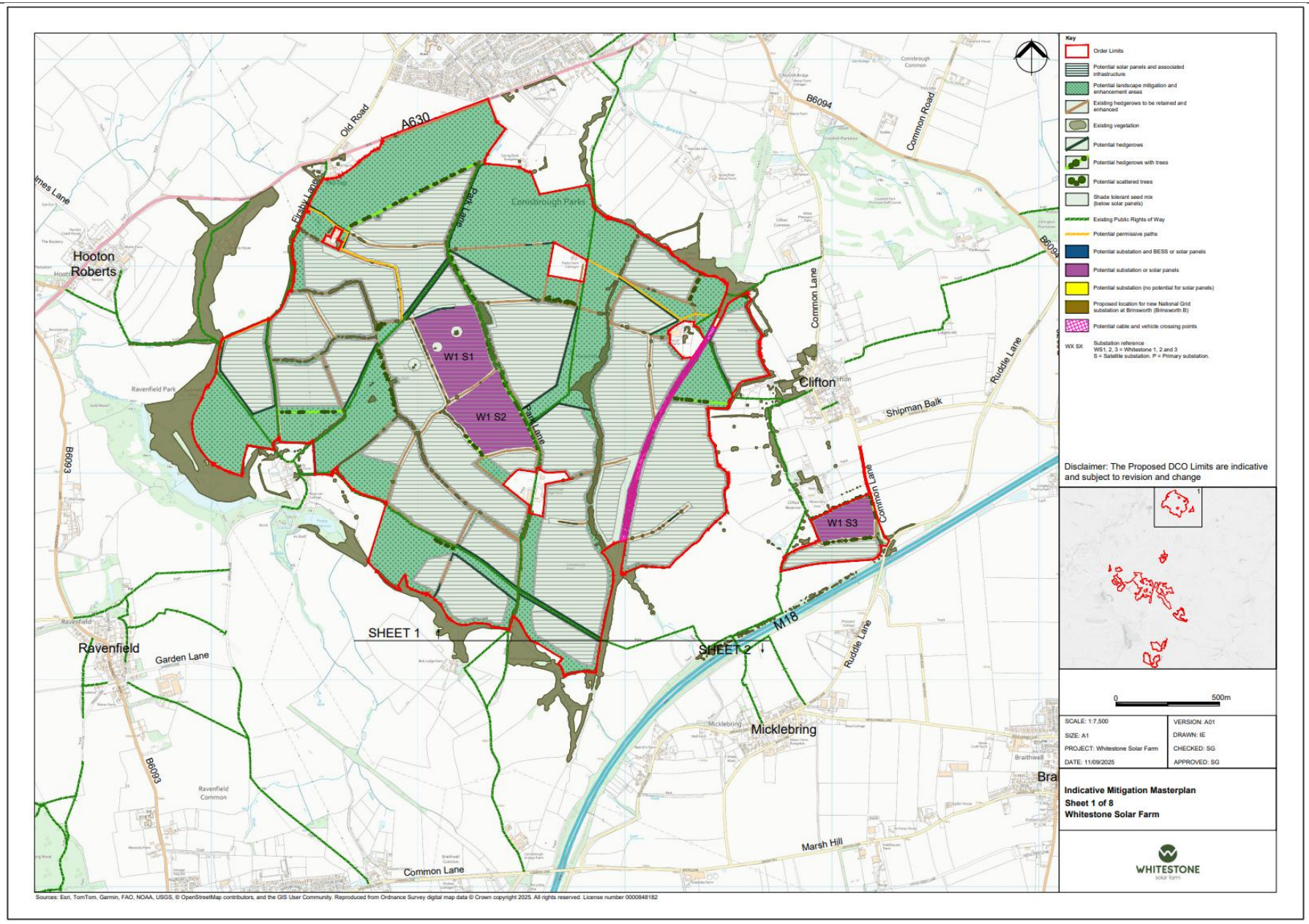
Appendix D2.3 Indicative Operation Masterplan (Whitestone 1, 2 and 3)


Old Denaby
CONISBROUGH
Conisbrough
Conanby
New Edlington
Hill Top Road
Denaby Lane
A630
Old Road
Holmes Lane
Howdike Lane
Kilnhurst Road
Hooton Roberts
Firsby Lane
Conisbrough Parks
Park Lane
W1 S1
W1 S2
W1 S3
Ravenfield Park
B6093
B6094
B6376
Common Road
Old Edlington
Common Lane
Clifton
Shipman Balk
Ruddle Lane
M18
Cockhill Lane
Long Leys Lane
Thrybergh
Thrybergh Lane
Ravenfield
Garden Lane
Micklebring
Braithwell
Marsh Hill
Ravenfield Common
Key
Order Limits
Potential solar panels and associated infrastructure
Potential landscape mitigation and enhancement areas
Existing Public Rights of Way
Potential permissive paths
Potential substation and BESS or solar panels
Potential substation or solar panels
Potential substation (no potential for solar panels)
Proposed location for new National Grid substation at Brinsworth (Brinsworth B)
Potential cable and vehicle crossing points
WX SX
Substation reference
WS1, 2, 3 = Whitestone 1, 2 and 3
S = Satellite substation. P = Primary substation.
0
1km


Wickersley
Whiston
Brinsworth
Brinsworth B
W2 P1
M1
A630
Guilthwaite
Upper Whiston
W2 P2
Morthen
Thurcroft
Brampton-en-le-Morthen
Brookhouse
Slade Hooton
Laughton en le Morthen
Laughton Common
Treeton
WAVERLEY
Ulley
W2 P4
Aughton
Swallownest
Aston
Hardwick
W2 P3
W2 P5
W2 S1
A57
Todwick
Key
Order Limits
Potential solar panels and associated infrastructure
Potential landscape mitigation and enhancement areas
Existing Public Rights of Way
Potential permissive paths
Potential substation and BESS or solar panels
Potential substation or solar panels
Potential substation (no potential for solar panels)
Proposed location for new National Grid substation at Brinsworth (Brinsworth B)
Potential cable and vehicle crossing points
WX SX
Substation reference
WS1, 2, 3 = Whitestone 1, 2 and 3
S = Satellite substation. P = Primary substation.


Park
Kiveton Park
Rotherham Road
M1
Norwood
KILLAMARSH
Hard Lane
Manor Road
Thorpe Road
Woodall Lane
Killamarsh Lane
Woodall
Harthill
Common Road
A618
High Moor
Upperthorpe
Upperthorpe Road
Hill Lane
Spinkhill Road
Winney Lane
Loscar Common
Harthill Field
Key
Order Limits
Potential solar panels and associated infrastructure
Potential landscape mitigation and enhancement areas
Existing Public Rights of Way
Potential permissive paths
Potential substation and BESS or solar panels
Potential substation or solar panels
Potential substation (no potential for solar panels)
Proposed location for new National Grid substation at Brinsworth (Brinsworth B)
Potential cable and vehicle crossing points
WX SX
Substation reference
WS1, 2, 3 = Whitestone 1, 2 and 3
S = Satellite substation. P = Primary substation.
0
1km

Appendix D2.4 Indicative Operation Masterplan (8 slides)


Key
Order Limits
Potential solar panels and associated infrastructure
Potential landscape mitigation and enhancement areas
Existing hedgerows to be retained and enhanced
Existing vegetation
Potential hedgerows
Potential hedgerows with trees
Potential scattered trees
Shade tolerant seed mix (below solar panels)
Existing Public Rights of Way
Potential permissive paths
Potential substation and BESS or solar panels
Potential substation or solar panels
Potential substation (no potential for solar panels)
Proposed location for new National Grid substation at Brinsworth (Brinsworth B)
Potential cable and vehicle crossing points
WX SX
Substation reference
WS1, 2, 3 = Whitestone 1, 2 and 3
S = Satellite substation. P = Primary substation.
Disclaimer: The Proposed DCO Limits are indicative and subject to revision and change
W1 S1
W1 S2
W1 S3
SHEET 1
SHEET 2
Hooton Roberts
Ravenfield
Clifton
Micklebring
Old Road
A630
Firsby Lane
Park Lane
Common Lane
Ruddle Lane
Shipman Balk
Garden Lane
M18
B6094
B6093
Marsh Hill
0
500m
SCALE: 1:7,500
SIZE: A1
PROJECT: Whitestone Solar Farm
DATE: 11/09/2025
VERSION: A01
DRAWN: IE
CHECKED: SG
APPROVED: SG
Indicative Mitigation Masterplan
Sheet 1 of 8
Whitestone Solar Farm
WHITESTONE
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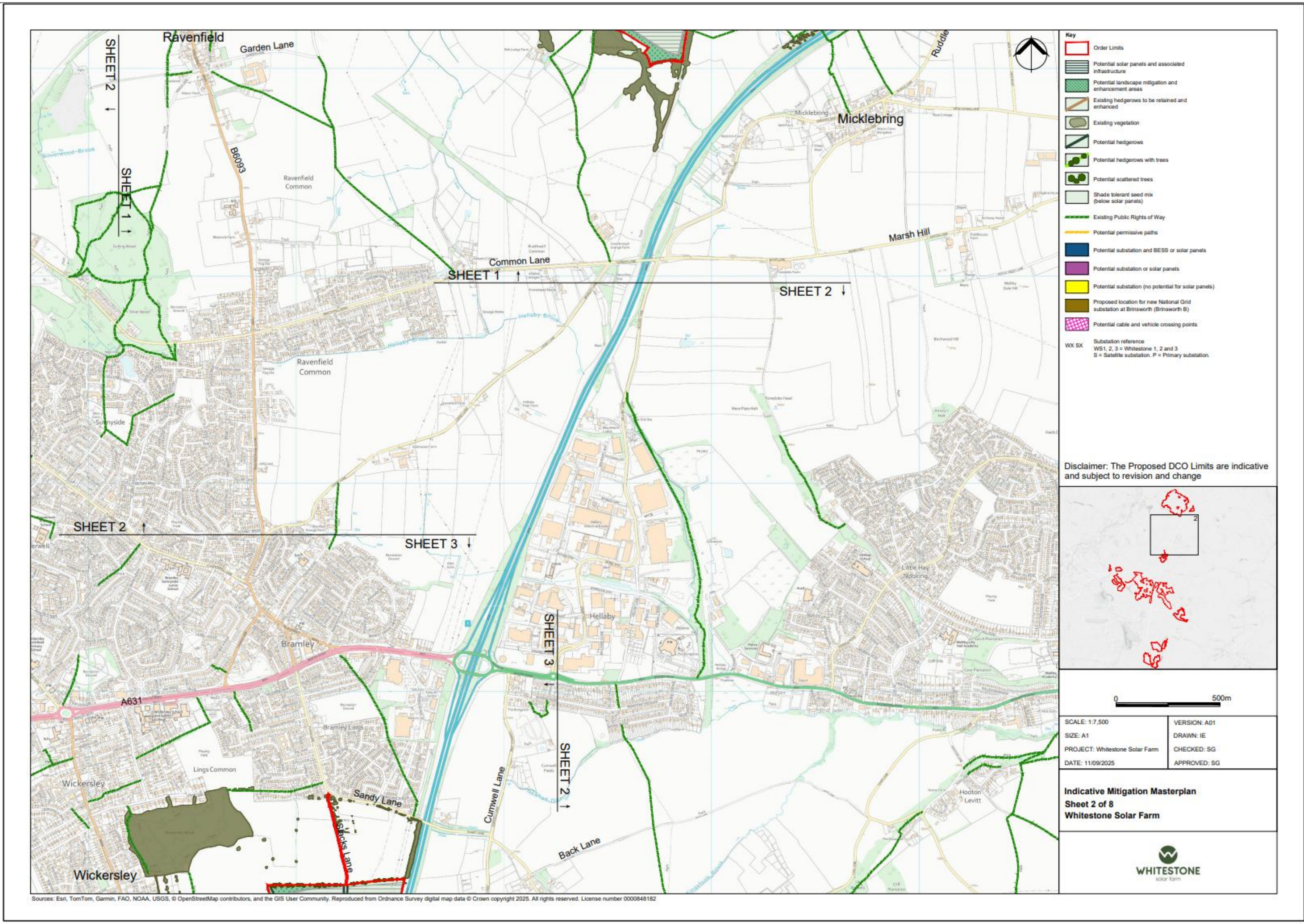

Ravenfield
Garden Lane
B6093
Ravenfield Common
Common Lane
SHEET 1
SHEET 2
SHEET 3
Marsh Hill
Micklebring
Sunnyside
Bramley
A631
Hellaby
Wickersley
Lings Common
Sandy Lane
Cumwell Lane
Back Lane
Hooton Levitt
Key
Order Limits
Potential solar panels and associated infrastructure
Potential landscape mitigation and enhancement areas
Existing hedgerows to be retained and enhanced
Existing vegetation
Potential hedgerows
Potential hedgerows with trees
Potential scattered trees
Shade tolerant seed mix (below solar panels)
Existing Public Rights of Way
Potential permissive paths
Potential substation and BESS or solar panels
Potential substation or solar panels
Potential substation (no potential for solar panels)
Proposed location for new National Grid substation at Brinsworth (Brinsworth B)
Potential cable and vehicle crossing points
WX SX
Substation reference
WS1, 2, 3 = Whitestone 1, 2 and 3
S = Satellite substation. P = Primary substation.
Disclaimer: The Proposed DCO Limits are indicative and subject to revision and change
0
500m
SCALE: 1:7,500
SIZE: A1
PROJECT: Whitestone Solar Farm
DATE: 11/09/2025
VERSION: A01
DRAWN: IE
CHECKED: SG
APPROVED: SG
Indicative Mitigation Masterplan
Sheet 2 of 8
Whitestone Solar Farm
WHITESTONE
solar farm
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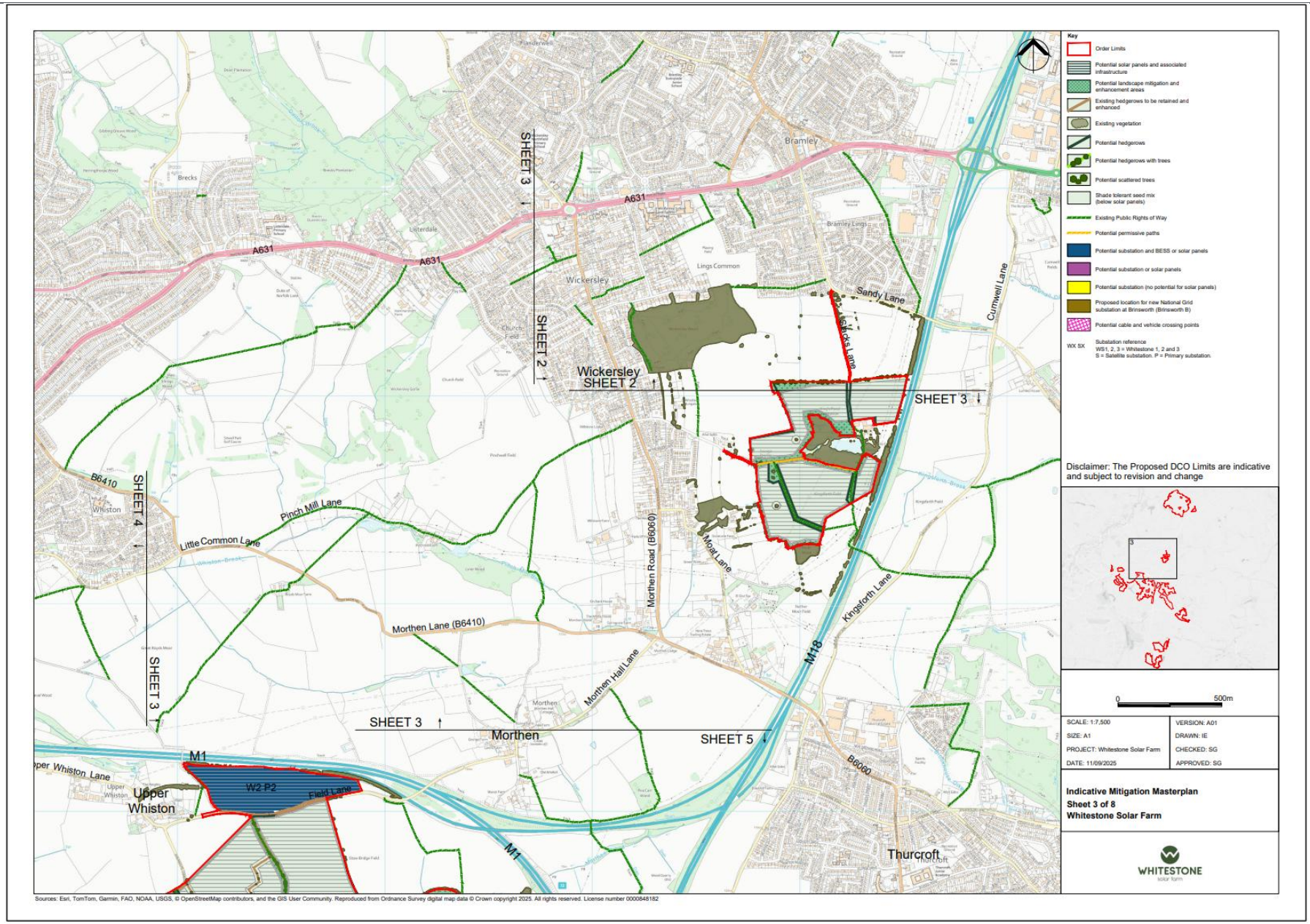
Key
Order Limits
Potential solar panels and associated infrastructure
Potential landscape mitigation and enhancement areas
Existing hedgerows to be retained and enhanced
Existing vegetation
Potential hedgerows
Potential hedgerows with trees
Potential scattered trees
Shade tolerant seed mix (below solar panels)
Existing Public Rights of Way
Potential permissive paths
Potential substation and BESS or solar panels
Potential substation or solar panels
Potential substation (no potential for solar panels)
Proposed location for new National Grid substation at Brinsworth (Brinsworth B)
Potential cable and vehicle crossing points
WX SX
Substation reference
WS1, 2, 3 = Whitestone 1, 2 and 3
S = Satellite substation. P = Primary substation.
Disclaimer: The Proposed DCO Limits are indicative and subject to revision and change
0
500m
SCALE: 1:7,500
SIZE: A1
PROJECT: Whitestone Solar Farm
DATE: 11/09/2025
VERSION: A01
DRAWN: IE
CHECKED: SG
APPROVED: SG
Indicative Mitigation Masterplan
Sheet 3 of 8
Whitestone Solar Farm
WHITESTONE
SHEET 2
SHEET 3
SHEET 4
SHEET 5
Wickersley
Bramley
Morthen
Upper Whiston
Thurcroft
A631
M1
M18
B6410
B6060
Sandy Lane
Cumwell Lane
Pinch Mill Lane
Little Common Lane
Morthen Road (B6060)
Moat Lane
Kingsforth Lane
Morthen Lane (B6410)
Morthen Hall Lane
Field Lane
W2 P2
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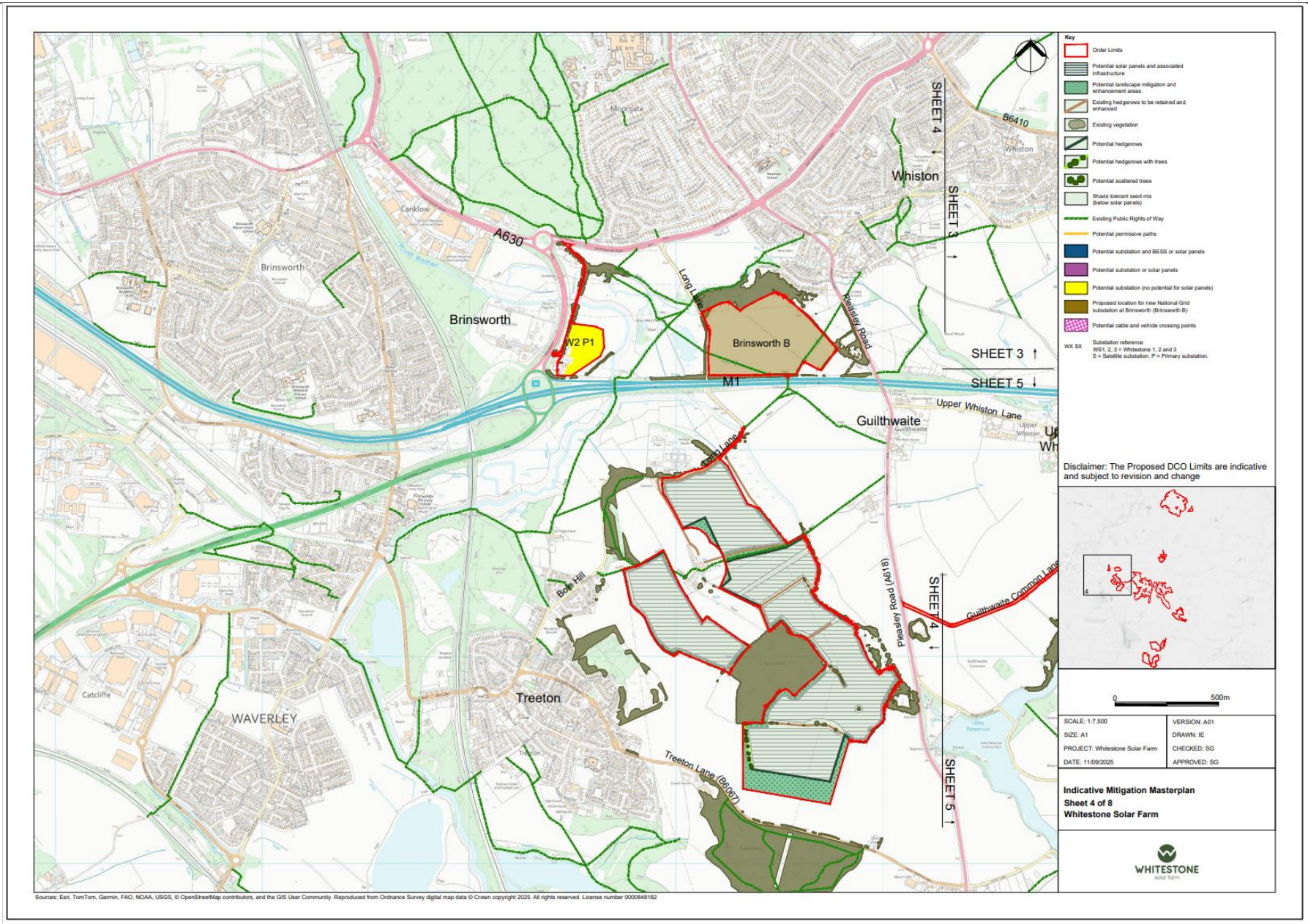
Key
Order Limits
Potential solar panels and associated infrastructure
Potential landscape mitigation and enhancement areas
Existing hedgerows to be retained and enhanced
Existing vegetation
Potential hedgerows
Potential hedgerows with trees
Potential scattered trees
Shade tolerant seed mix (below solar panels)
Existing Public Rights of Way
Potential permissive paths
Potential substation and BESS or solar panels
Potential substation or solar panels
Potential substation (no potential for solar panels)
Proposed location for new National Grid substation at Brinsworth (Brinsworth B)
Potential cable and vehicle crossing points
WX SX
Substation reference
WS1, 2, 3 = Whitestone 1, 2 and 3
S = Satellite substation. P = Primary substation.
Disclaimer: The Proposed DCO Limits are indicative and subject to revision and change
0
500m
SCALE: 1:7,500
SIZE: A1
PROJECT: Whitestone Solar Farm
DATE: 11/09/2025
VERSION: A01
DRAWN: IE
CHECKED: SG
APPROVED: SG
Indicative Mitigation Masterplan
Sheet 4 of 8
Whitestone Solar Farm
WHITESTONE
A630
M1
B6410
Brinsworth
Whiston
Guilthwaite
Treeton
WAVERLEY
Catcliffe
Canklow
Mogroate
Pleasley Road
Pleasley Road (A618)
Upper Whiston Lane
Guilthwaite Common Lane
Treeton Lane (B6067)
Bole Hill
Long Lane
Brinsworth B
W2 P1
SHEET 3
SHEET 4
SHEET 5
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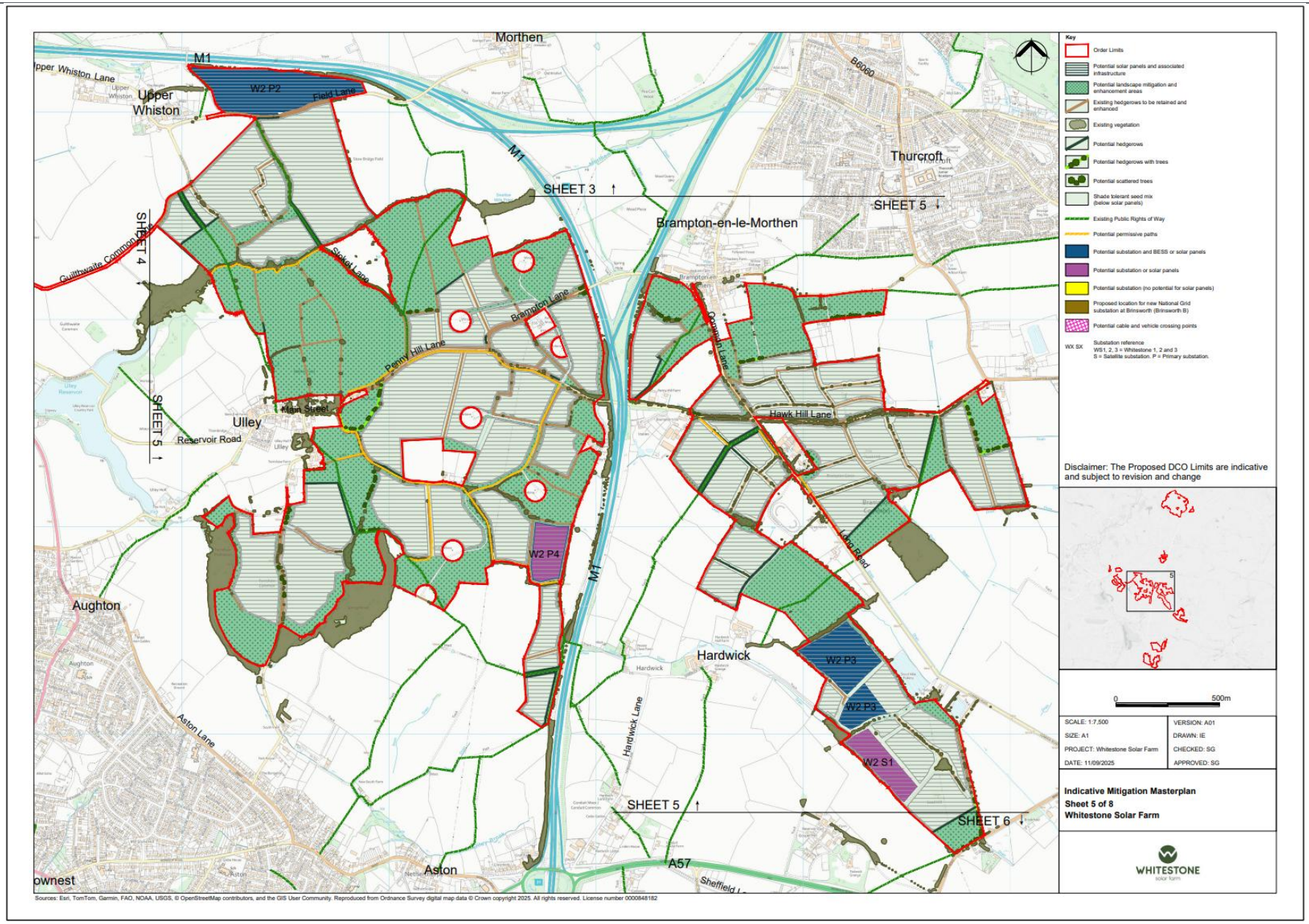
Morthen
M1
Upper Whiston Lane
Upper Whiston
W2 P2
Field Lane
B6060
Thurcroft
SHEET 3
SHEET 5
Brampton-en-le-Morthen
SHEET 4
Guilthwaite Common
Stokell Lane
Brampton Lane
Penny Hill Lane
Orgreave Lane
Hawk Hill Lane
Main Street
Ulley
Reservoir Road
SHEET 5
W2 P4
Aughton
Aston Lane
Hardwick
W2 P3
W2 P3
W2 S1
Hardwick Lane
SHEET 5
SHEET 6
Aston
A57
Sheffield
Key
Order Limits
Potential solar panels and associated infrastructure
Potential landscape mitigation and enhancement areas
Existing hedgerows to be retained and enhanced
Existing vegetation
Potential hedgerows
Potential hedgerows with trees
Potential scattered trees
Shade tolerant seed mix (below solar panels)
Existing Public Rights of Way
Potential permissive paths
Potential substation and BESS or solar panels
Potential substation or solar panels
Potential substation (no potential for solar panels)
Proposed location for new National Grid substation at Brinsworth (Brinsworth B)
Potential cable and vehicle crossing points
WX SX
Substation reference
WS1, 2, 3 = Whitestone 1, 2 and 3
S = Satellite substation. P = Primary substation.
Disclaimer: The Proposed DCO Limits are indicative and subject to revision and change
0
500m
SCALE: 1:7,500
VERSION: A01
SIZE: A1
DRAWN: IE
PROJECT: Whitestone Solar Farm
CHECKED: SG
DATE: 11/09/2025
APPROVED: SG
Indicative Mitigation Masterplan
Sheet 5 of 8
Whitestone Solar Farm
WHITESTONE
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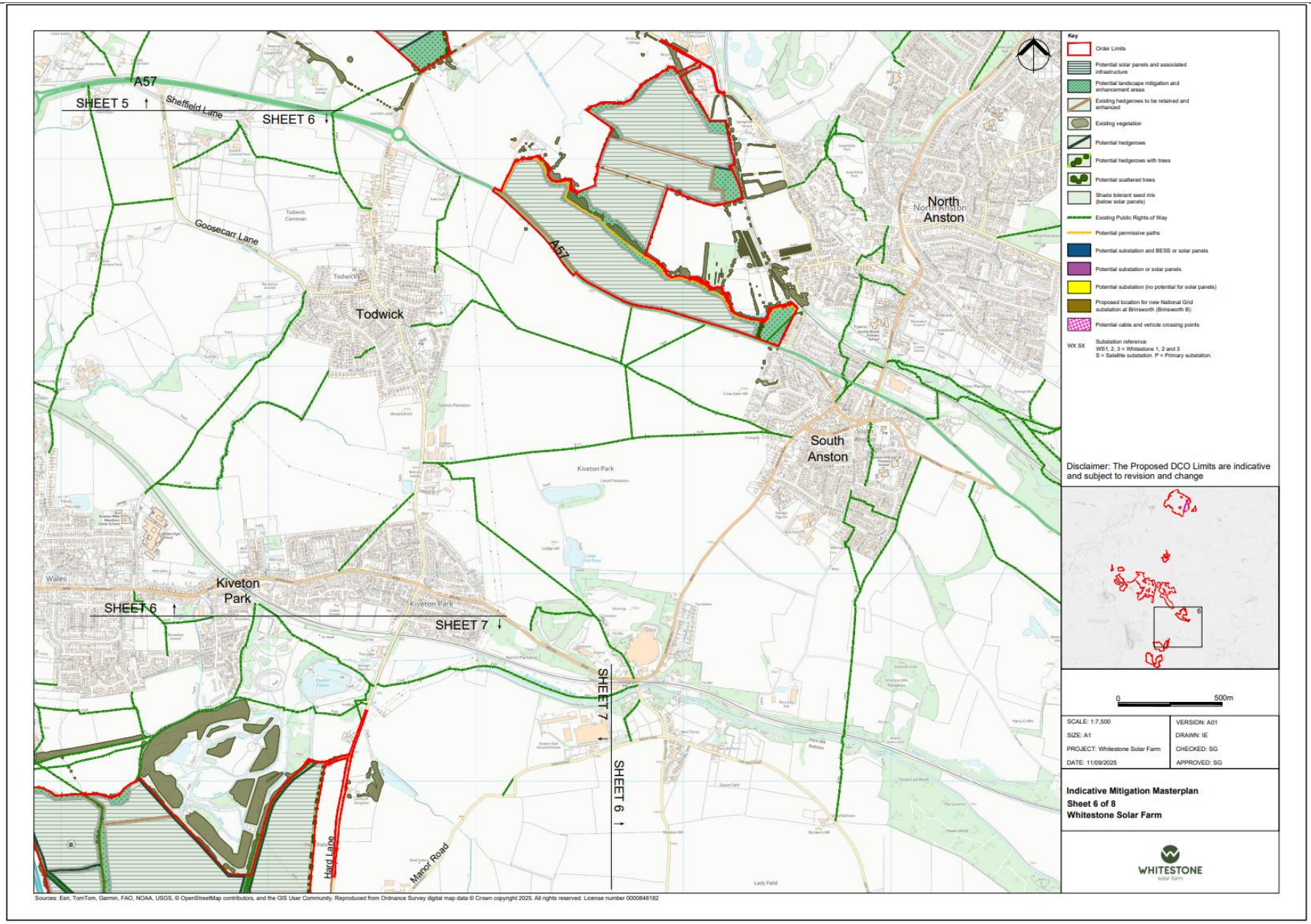
A57
SHEET 5
Sheffield Lane
SHEET 6
Goosecarr Lane
Todwick
North Anston
South Anston
A57
Kiveton Park
Wales
SHEET 6
SHEET 7
SHEET 7
SHEET 6
Hard Lane
Manor Road
Key
Order Limits
Potential solar panels and associated infrastructure
Potential landscape mitigation and enhancement areas
Existing hedgerows to be retained and enhanced
Existing vegetation
Potential hedgerows
Potential hedgerows with trees
Potential scattered trees
Shade tolerant seed mix (below solar panels)
Existing Public Rights of Way
Potential permissive paths
Potential substation and BESS or solar panels
Potential substation or solar panels
Potential substation (no potential for solar panels)
Proposed location for new National Grid substation at Brinsworth (Brinsworth B)
Potential cable and vehicle crossing points
WX SX
Substation reference
WS1, 2, 3 = Whitestone 1, 2 and 3
S = Satellite substation. P = Primary substation.
Disclaimer: The Proposed DCO Limits are indicative and subject to revision and change
0
500m
SCALE: 1:7,500
VERSION: A01
SIZE: A1
DRAWN: IE
PROJECT: Whitestone Solar Farm
CHECKED: SG
DATE: 11/09/2025
APPROVED: SG
Indicative Mitigation Masterplan
Sheet 6 of 8
Whitestone Solar Farm
WHITESTONE
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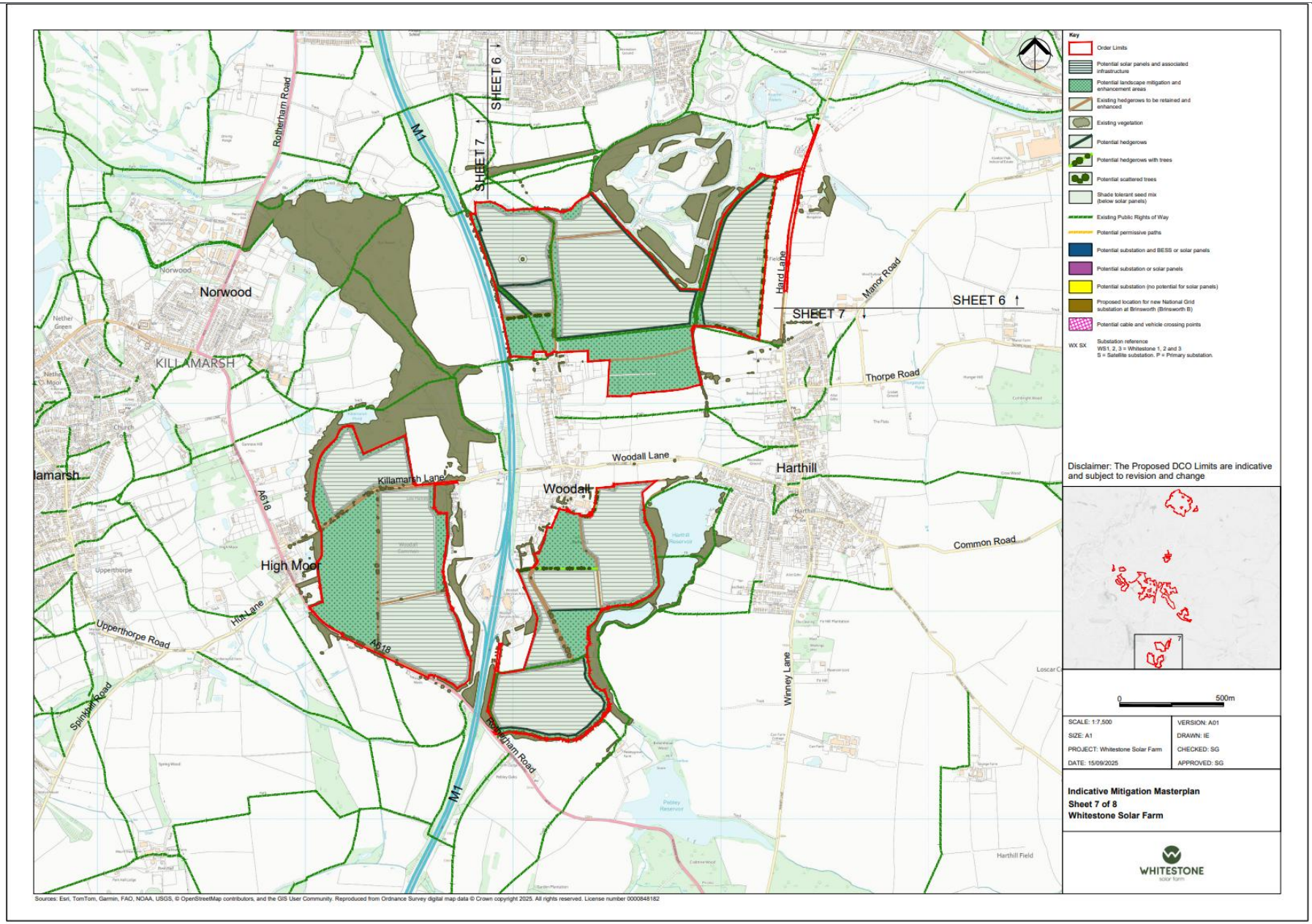
Key
Order Limits
Potential solar panels and associated infrastructure
Potential landscape mitigation and enhancement areas
Existing hedgerows to be retained and enhanced
Existing vegetation
Potential hedgerows
Potential hedgerows with trees
Potential scattered trees
Shade tolerant seed mix (below solar panels)
Existing Public Rights of Way
Potential permissive paths
Potential substation and BESS or solar panels
Potential substation or solar panels
Potential substation (no potential for solar panels)
Proposed location for new National Grid substation at Brinsworth (Brinsworth B)
Potential cable and vehicle crossing points
WX SX
Substation reference
WS1, 2, 3 = Whitestone 1, 2 and 3
S = Satellite substation. P = Primary substation.
Disclaimer: The Proposed DCO Limits are indicative and subject to revision and change
0
500m
SCALE: 1:7,500
SIZE: A1
PROJECT: Whitestone Solar Farm
DATE: 15/09/2025
VERSION: A01
DRAWN: IE
CHECKED: SG
APPROVED: SG
Indicative Mitigation Masterplan
Sheet 7 of 8
Whitestone Solar Farm
WHITESTONE
solar farm
SHEET 6
SHEET 7
SHEET 7
SHEET 6
Norwood
KILLAMARSH
Harthill
Woodall
High Moor
Woodall Lane
Killamarsh Lane
Thorpe Road
Common Road
Manor Road
Hard Lane
Winney Lane
Rotherham Road
Upperthorpe Road
Spinkhill Road
Hill Lane
A618
M1
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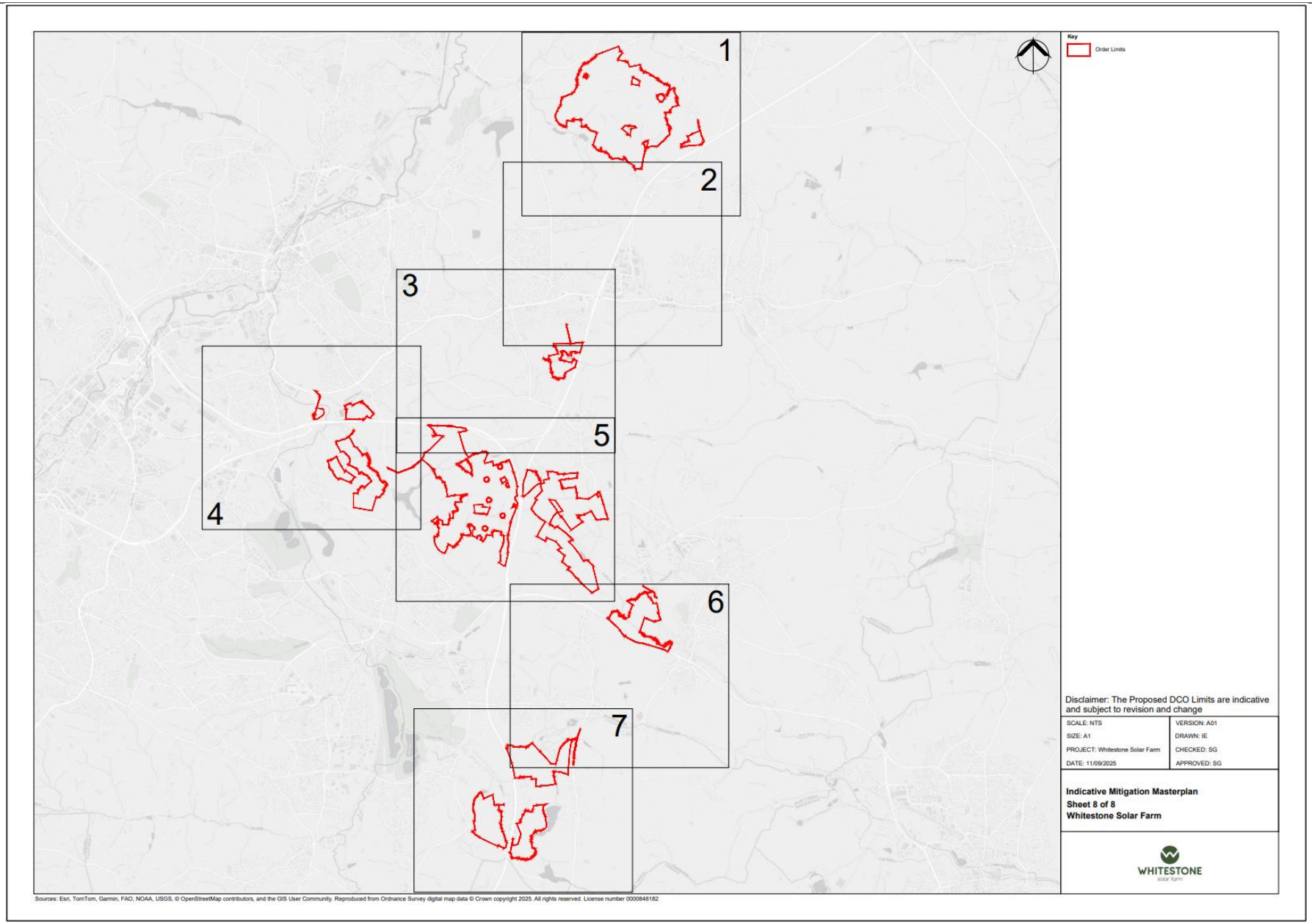
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
Key
Order Limits
Disclaimer: The Proposed DCO Limits are indicative and subject to revision and change
SCALE: NTS
VERSION: A01
SIZE: A1
DRAWN: IE
PROJECT: Whitestone Solar Farm
CHECKED: SG
DATE: 11/09/2025
APPROVED: SG
Indicative Mitigation Masterplan
Sheet 8 of 8
Whitestone Solar Farm
WHITESTONE
solar farm
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APPENDIX D3 STATUTORY CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

We are currently conducting our second round of consultation for Whitestone Solar Farm, and we want to hear from you.

This questionnaire is designed to be used alongside the consultation booklet, available on our website, at our information events or by request, which provides more information about the proposals. You can answer as many or as few questions as you like.

All responses must be received by **11:59pm on 28 October 2025**. To submit your feedback, return this completed questionnaire by post (no stamp required) to: **Whitestone Solar Farm FREEPOST SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL**.

You can also complete this questionnaire online at whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk or, if you would prefer to not use this form, you can email your feedback to **info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk**.

After this consultation, we will consider all the feedback that we have received, which will help inform the design.

By submitting your feedback, you agree to our terms and conditions and that you have read our Privacy Notice.

About you

You do not need to provide any personal information, however it will assist us in contacting you regarding your feedback, if needed. All personal information will be stored in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Name:

Email: Postcode:

Q1. Which site are you most interested in? (please tick)

These are shown on the map on **page 5** of the consultation booklet.

- ☐ Whitestone 1
- ☐ Whitestone 2
- ☐ Whitestone 3
- ☐ All of the above

Q2. Please provide your feedback on our updated masterplan.

You can view our updated masterplans on our website **whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk** or in the consultation booklet on **pages 10-11**.

Q3. Do you have feedback about the proposed permissive paths? Are there other paths you would like to see?

You can view our proposed permissive paths on **pages 10-11** in the consultation booklet.

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

You can find the potential locations on the illustrative masterplan on pages **10-11**.

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

You can find out more information about cable routes on **page 25** of the consultation booklet.

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

Please see **page 36** of the consultation for more information about our proposed community benefit fund.

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

For information on our preliminary environmental assessments, please see our consultation booklet from **pages 26-29** and the draft Environmental Statement, available to view on our website **whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk**.

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

Get in touch

Please contact the project team with any questions you may have.

0800 688 9936

info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

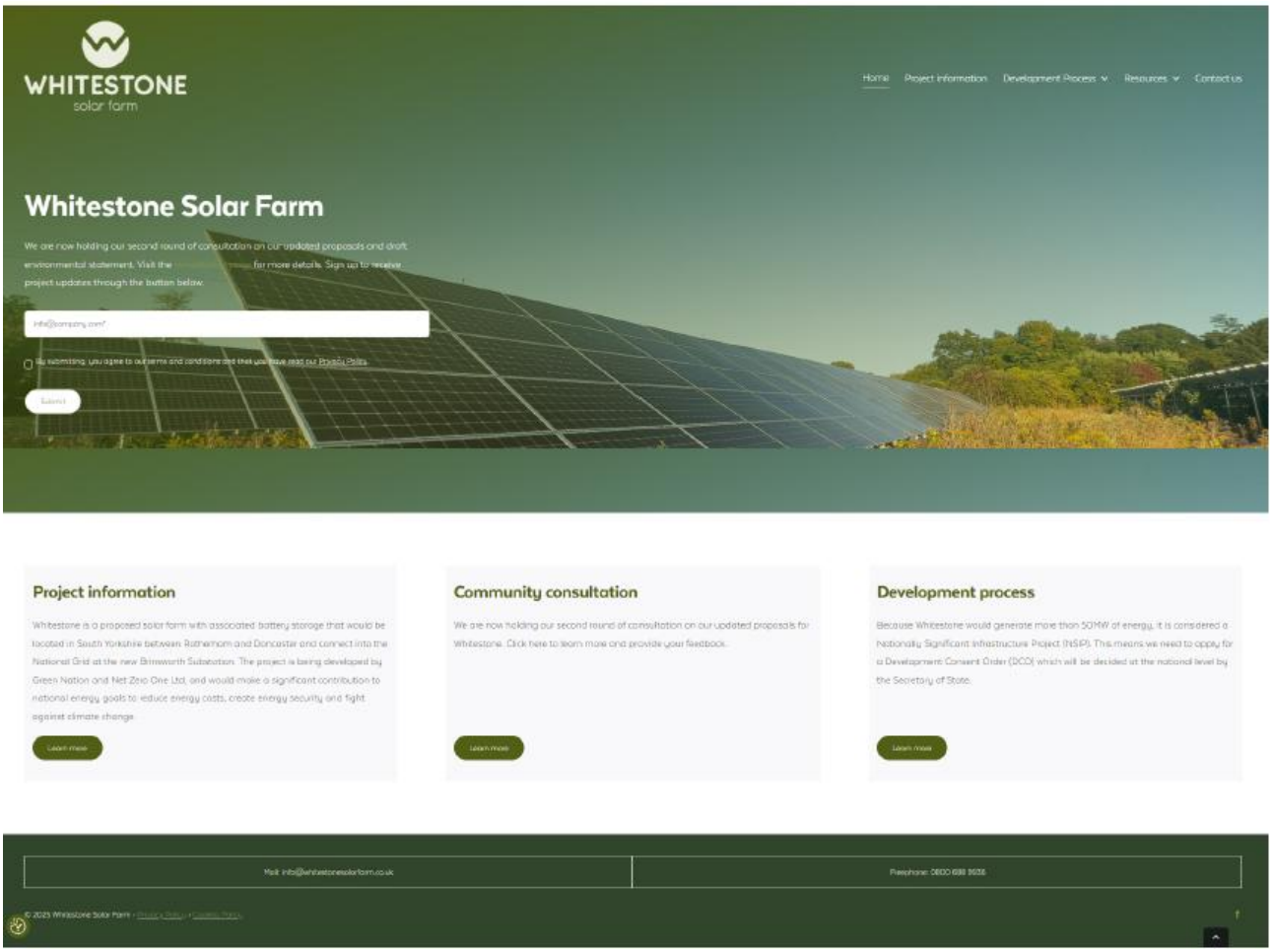
Whitestone Solar Farm, Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local

Privacy Policy

Personal information that is supplied to the Applicant in response to this consultation will be held securely and only used for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, the DCO process and further development of the Proposed Development. Outside of these purposes, the Applicant may be required to provide personal details if under a legal obligation to do so such as if the Planning Inspectorate requests original responses. For further details please see our privacy policy at: www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/privacy-policy-2/ and the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Notice at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notices

APPENDIX D4 SCREENSHOTS OF PROJECT WEBSITE

Appendix D4.1 Home Page



Appendix D4.2 Project Information page

WHITESTONE
solar farm

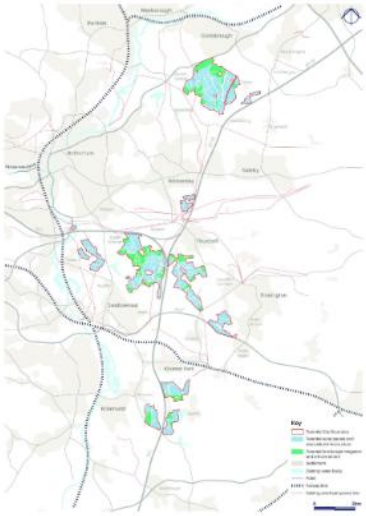
Home | Project information | Development Process | Resources | Contact us

Project information

Project location

Whitestone is a proposed solar farm that would be located in South Yorkshire, between Rotherham and Doncaster. The project is located across three sections, Whitestone 1 in the north near Conisbrough, Whitestone 2 in the centre around Ulley, and Whitestone 3, in the south near Harthill and Woodall.

The project would connect into the new National Grid substation near Brinsworth. Underground cables would connect the three sections of the project together and into the grid connection.



Why here?

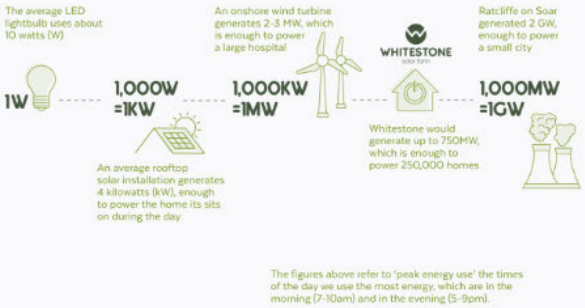
The National Grid connects power users to power sources across the UK, through a network of substations, pylons and cables. New energy projects can only connect into the National Grid at locations where there is available capacity. There was capacity at Brinsworth, so we were able to secure an agreement for a new energy project to connect at this location. Once we had secured the grid connection agreement, we looked for land nearby that would be suitable for solar. We also wanted to avoid environmentally sensitive areas and the highest quality agricultural land, where possible.

Why solar?

The UK has committed to eliminating fossil fuels from the power supply, to provide energy security and reduce future energy costs while supporting the fight against climate change. Now that the last coal power station in the UK, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, has been closed down, new renewable energy sources are needed to come forward to keep the lights on. At the same time, our demand for electricity continues to increase and is projected to double by 2050. To meet these future energy needs, we must quickly ramp up production of renewable energy here in the UK.

The Clean Power 2030 mission sets a goal to triple solar capacity by 2030, while also ramping up onshore and offshore wind development. Solar and wind work well together, and a mix of both helps provide stability to the energy supply.

The Solar Roadmap explains how the UK will achieve the Clean Power mission and includes new mechanisms to increase rooftop solar installations. From 2027, most new homes will be required to include solar panels, known as the Future Homes Standard. We support the 'rooftop revolution' and continue to explore commercial rooftop installations as part of our broader business, but note that large scale solar developments are needed to produce enough energy to meet our national energy goals.



Components of a solar farm

Whitestone would include the necessary components to collect energy from sunlight and prepare it to be transferred to the National Grid, where it will go on to power homes, businesses, schools and hospitals across the UK. Hover over the numbers below to learn more about the components that Whitestone would include.

Green spaces

In addition to the technical components that are needed for the project to operate, there would be green spaces beneath, between and around the panels. These areas would not have any above-ground infrastructure, and would be planted with a mix of native species, including grasses, wildflowers, hedges and trees to support local wildlife. These spaces would help reduce potential impacts by creating offsets away from key locations, including homes and public rights of way as well as environmental and culturally sensitive locations.

Detailed proposals

The project is still in early stages of design, but has already changed significantly in response to feedback from the first consultation, as well as the results of environmental and technical assessments.

Initial design (Autumn 2024)

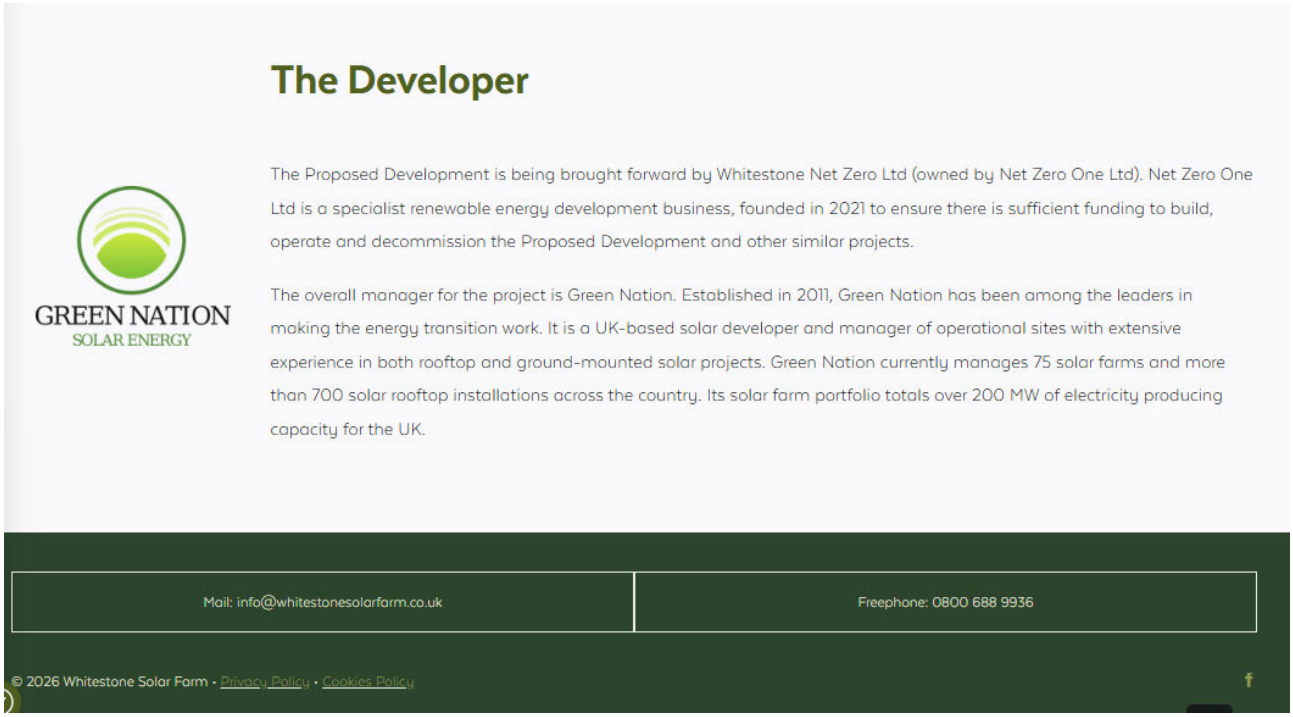
During the first consultation, we presented the initial proposals for Whitestone, which can be found here: Whitestone 1, Whitestone 2, and Whitestone 3.

Updated design (Spring 2025)

In response to feedback from the community and other stakeholders, we removed around one fourth of the area for solar panels in order to create buffers around homes, villages, and the public rights of way. Most of these areas are still included in the project boundary, and would be used for environmental mitigation and enhancement. This means that they would not have any above-ground infrastructure, but would be planted with a mix of native wildflowers and grasses to support wildlife. They are marked in green in the updated masterplans saved here: Whitestone 1, Whitestone 2, and Whitestone 3.

Current proposals (Autumn 2025)

Based on environmental and technical assessments, we have identified potential locations for the substations and batteries. We have also identified the potential cable route options to connect the three parts of the project together and into the National Grid. We presented these proposals for feedback in the second consultation.


The Developer
GREEN NATION
SOLAR ENERGY
The Proposed Development is being brought forward by Whitestone Net Zero Ltd (owned by Net Zero One Ltd). Net Zero One Ltd is a specialist renewable energy development business, founded in 2021 to ensure there is sufficient funding to build, operate and decommission the Proposed Development and other similar projects.
The overall manager for the project is Green Nation. Established in 2011, Green Nation has been among the leaders in making the energy transition work. It is a UK-based solar developer and manager of operational sites with extensive experience in both rooftop and ground-mounted solar projects. Green Nation currently manages 75 solar farms and more than 700 solar rooftop installations across the country. Its solar farm portfolio totals over 200 MW of electricity producing capacity for the UK.
Mail: info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
Freephone: 0800 688 9936
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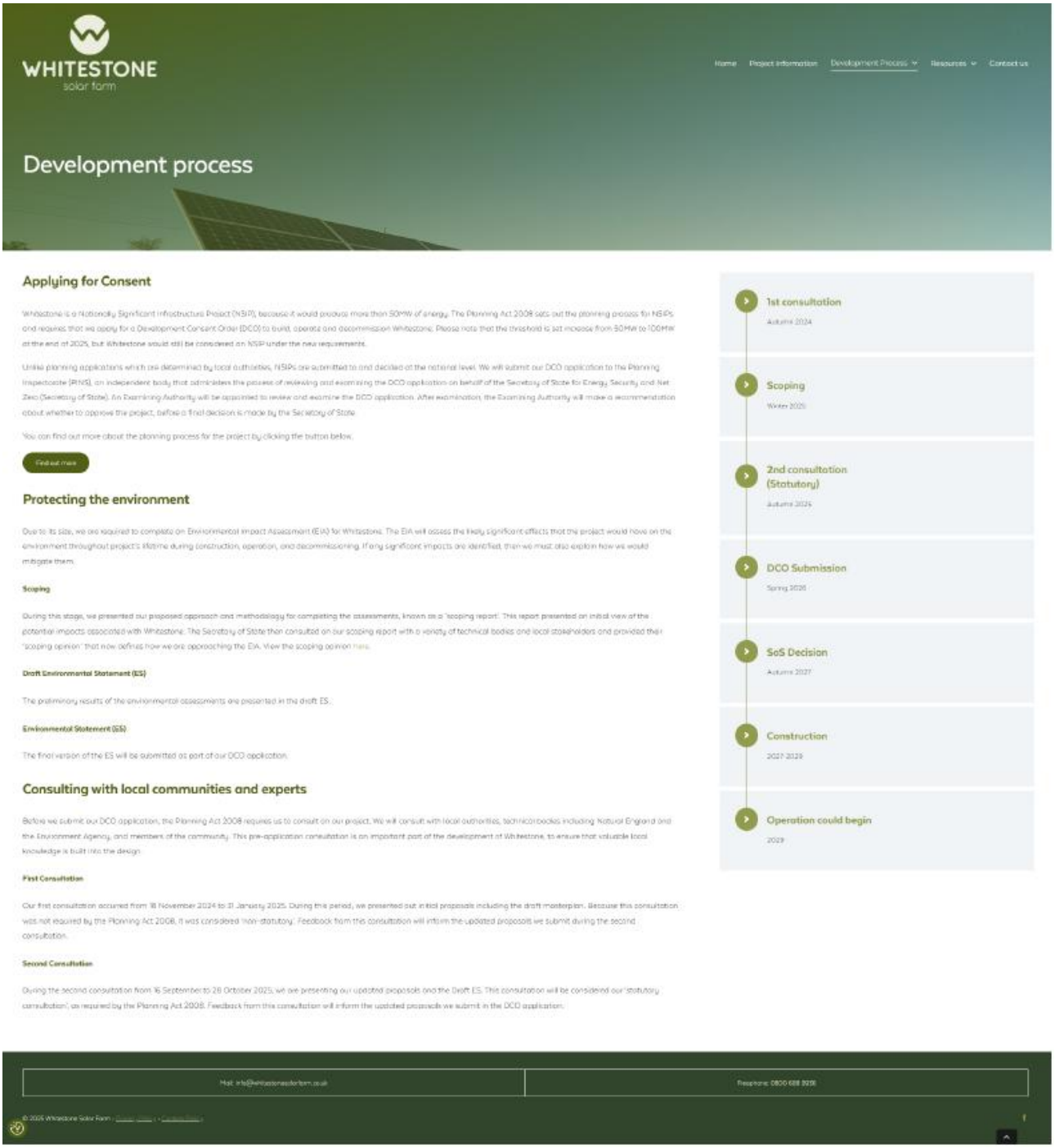
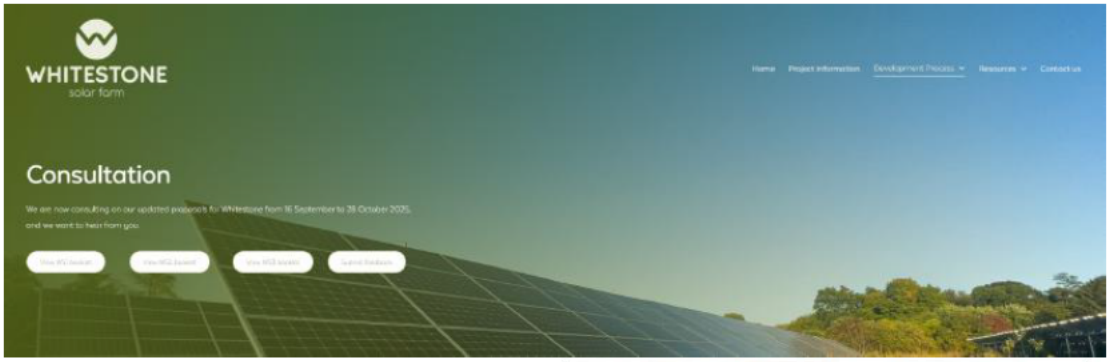
Appendix D4.3 Development Process page



Appendix D4.4 Consultation page



Consultation is an important part of the development of Whitestone Solar Farm. We held our first round of consultation from 18 November 2024 to 31 January 2025 on our initial proposals. We reviewed and considered all of the feedback we received and made significant changes to the project to address key concerns.

Our second round of consultation ran over a six-week period from 16 September to 28 October 2025. We presented our updated proposals and the preliminary results of the environmental assessments for consultation.

We want to thank everyone who took the time to engage with the consultation and submit their feedback. We are now processing and analysing this feedback so that it can be reviewed by the project team. Feedback from this consultation, along with the results of ongoing environmental and technical assessments will help inform the updated project design and final Environmental Impact Assessment that we submit in our application for development consent.

Consultation materials

Learn more about our updated proposals through the consultation materials below.

Consultation Booklet & Questionnaire

The Consultation Booklet is the main document for the consultation and has all the information you need to respond to the consultation questionnaire. There are three versions of the booklet, one each for section of the project:

- Whitestone 1
- Whitestone 2
- Whitestone 3

The questionnaire is available here.

Indicative Masterplans

The indicative operational masterplan shows the updated design. This includes potential areas for development (solar panels, batteries and substations), as well as the proposed landscape mitigation and enhancement areas. This is available for each of the three sections of the project, as well as the whole project spread over 8 pages to be the same zoomed in perspective.

- Whitestone 1
- Whitestone 2
- Whitestone 3
- Whole project, 8 slides

The construction masterplan shows construction access, cable routes and compounds, and is available for Whitestone 1, Whitestone 2, Whitestone 3, as well as the whole project spread over 8 pages to show the same perspective.

- Whitestone 1
- Whitestone 2
- Whitestone 3
- Whole project, 8 slides

The Draft Environmental Statement

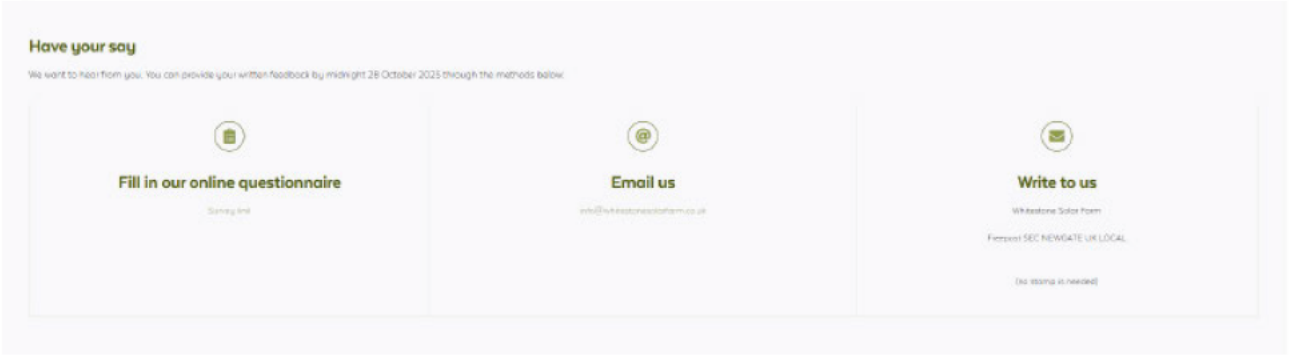
The non-technical summary and its figures are here.

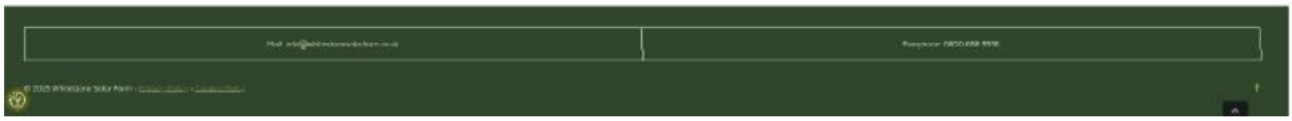
View the full document at the document library here.

Information events

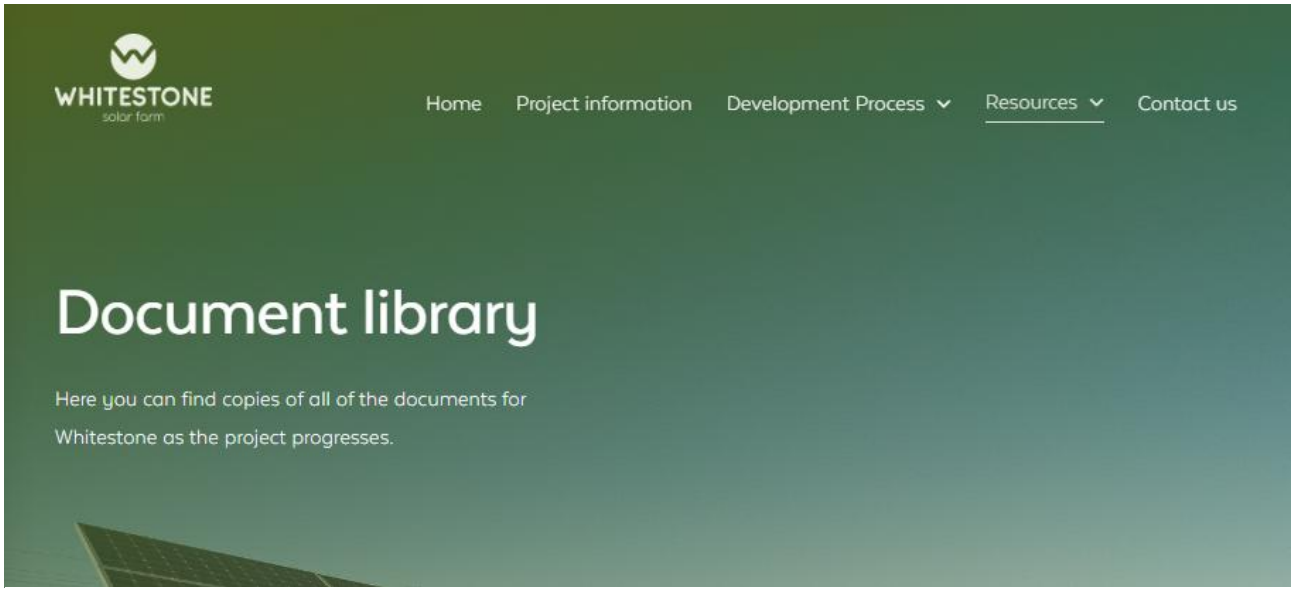
To learn more about our proposals and meet the project team, we held eight public information events during the consultation period.

Date	Location
Thursday, 2 October 2025 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, S66 9DD
Friday, 3 October 2025 1pm-5pm	Todwick Village Hall, S26 1HJ
Saturday, 4 October 2025 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre, DN12 3JX
Tuesday, 7 October 2025 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL
Wednesday, 8 October 2025 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Parish Hall, S65 4PT
Monday, 13 October 2025 2pm-6pm	Treeton Reading Room, S60 5QP
Tuesday, 14 October 2025 3pm-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S26 3YD
Wednesday, 15 October 2025, 12-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX





Appendix D4.5 Document Library



Second Consultation September – October 2025

- This is the leaflet to announce the consultation.
- This is the Statement of Community Consultation which explains how we plan to consult with the community.
- The exhibition boards from the public information events.
- **Consultation booklet** for
  - Whitestone 1
  - Whitestone 2
  - Whitestone 3
- **Illustrative Masterplans include:**
  - Updated illustrative masterplans for
    - Whitestone 1
    - Whitestone 2
    - Whitestone 3
    - The whole project over 8 slides.
  - Construction illustrative masterplans for
    - Whitestone 1
    - Whitestone 2
    - Whitestone 3
    - The whole project over 8 slides.
- **The Draft ES includes:**
  - the Non Technical Summary
  - the Non Technical Summary Appendix 1 Figures
  - the full document is available in the toggles below

Draft ES: Volume 1 - Chapters

1. Introduction
2. EIA Methodology
3. The Site and Surrounding Area
4. Alternatives and Design Evolution
5. The Proposed Development
6. Biodiversity and Nature Conservation
7. Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
8. Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
9. Ground Conditions and Land Quality
10. Water Resources and Flood Risk
11. Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Assessment
12. Air Quality
13. Traffic and Transport
14. Noise and Vibration
15. Socio-economics and Land Use
16. Other Environmental Topics
17. Cumulative Effects

Draft ES: Volume 2 - Figures

- Figure 3.1 Proposed Order Limits
- Figure 3.2 Site Referencing
- Figure 3.3 Environmental Designations
- Figure 4.1 Constraints for Site Location
- Figure 4.2 Alternate Site Options
- Figure 5.1 Penny Hill Wind Farm Site Restrictions
- Figure 6.1 Local Designated Sites
- Figure 6.10.1 Bat GLTA Results
- Figure 6.10.2 Bat Acoustic Static Monitoring Locations
- Figure 6.10.3 Bat Spring Transect Survey Routes
- Figure 6.2 International and National Designated Sites
- Figure 6.2.1a – 6.2.1j UK Habitat Classification – The Site
- Figure 6.2.2a- 6.2.2c UK Habitat Classification – The Cable Corridor Options
- Figure 6.2.3 Priority Habitats
- Figure 6.3 Land Parcel Reference
- Figure 6.4 Land Parcel Reference (Whitestone 2 North)
- Figure 6.5 Land Parcel Reference (Whitestone 2 West)
- Figure 6.6 Land Parcel Reference (Whitestone 2 East)
- Figure 6.6.1 Site Boundary and BBS Parcels
- Figure 6.6.2 Access Limitations
- Figure 6.6.3 Breeding Bird Survey Results – Skylark – W1 – A01
- Figure 6.6.4 Breeding Bird Survey Results – Skylark – W2 – A01
- Figure 6.6.5 Breeding Bird Survey Results – Skylark – W3 – A01
- Figure 6.6.6 Breeding Bird Survey Results – Lapwing, Grey Partridge and Yellow Wagtail – W1 – A01
- Figure 6.6.7 Breeding Bird Survey Results – Lapwing, Grey Partridge and Yellow Wagtail – W2 – A01
- Figure 6.6.8 Breeding Bird Survey Results – Lapwing, Grey Partridge and Yellow Wagtail – W3 – A01
- Figure 6.7 Land Parcel Reference (Whitestone 3)
- Figure 6.8.1-6.8.3 GCN – HSI and eDNA Assessment
- Figure 6.8.4a-6.8.4c GCN – HSI and eDNA Assessment – Cable Corridor Options
- Figure 6.9.1a Reptile Mat Locations – W1 – A01
- Figure 6.9.1b Reptile Mat Locations – W2 – A01
- Figure 6.9.1c Reptile Mat Locations – W3 – A01
- Figure 6.9.2a Reptile Sighting Locations – W1 – A01

- Figure 6.9.2b Reptile Sighting Locations – W2 – A01
- Figure 6.9.2c Reptile Sighting Locations – W3 – A01
- Figure 7.1 Study Area and Proposed Order Limits
- Figure 7.1.1 Cable Corridor Options Study Area
- Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) Overview
- Figure 7.2.1 ZTV (W1)
- Figure 7.2.2 ZTV (W2)
- Figure 7.2.3 ZTV – W3
- Figure 7.2.4 ZTV Cable Corridor Options
- Figure 7.2.5 ZTV BESS
- Figure 7.2.6 ZTV Substation – W1S1
- Figure 7.2.7 ZTV Substation – W1S2
- Figure 7.2.8 ZTV Substation – W1S3
- Figure 7.2.9 ZTV Substation – W2S1
- Figure 7.2.10 ZTV Substation (W2S2)
- Figure 7.3 Environmental and Landscape Designations
- Figure 7.4 National Landscape Character Areas
- Figure 7.4.1 Local Landscape Character Areas with ZTV – W1
- Figure 7.4.2 Local Landscape Character Areas with ZTV – W2
- Figure 7.4.3 Local Landscape Character Areas with ZTV – W3
- Figure 7.4.4 Local Landscape Character Areas – W1
- Figure 7.4.5 Local Landscape Character Areas – W2
- Figure 7.4.6 Local Landscape Character Areas – W3
- Figure 7.5 Representative Viewpoints and ZTV Overview
- Figure 7.5.1 Representative Viewpoints – W1
- Figure 7.5.2 Representative Viewpoints – W2
- Figure 7.5.3 Representative Viewpoints – W3
- Figure 7.5.4 Private Receptors and Public Rights of Way and ZTV W1
- Figure 7.5.5 Private Receptors and Public Rights of Way and ZTV W2
- Figure 7.5.6 Private Receptors and Public Rights of Way and ZTV W3
- Figure 7.6.1 – 7.6.58 Baseline Photography Photosheets_
- Figure 8.1 Location of Study Areas
- Figure 8.10 Non-Des Assets within 1 km Study Area
- Figure 8.11 Designated Assets within 1 km
- Figure 8.12 Designated Assets within 5 km
- Figure 8.13 Cable Corridor Options W1

- Figure 8.15 Cable Corridor Options W3
- Figure 8.16 Geophysical Results for W1
- Figure 8.17 Geophysical Results for W2 (Northern Parcels)
- Figure 8.18 Geophysical Results for W2 (Main Parcels)
- Figure 8.19 Geophysical Results for W3
- Figure 8.2 Non-Des Assets within Site Boundary
- Figure 8.20 Areas of Heightened Archaeological Sensitivity – W1
- Figure 8.21 Areas of Heightened Archaeological Sensitivity – W2 (Northern Parcels)
- Figure 8.22 Areas of Heightened Archaeological Sensitivity – W2 (Main Parcels)
- Figure 8.23 Areas of Heightened Archaeological Sensitivity – W3
- Figure 8.24 Events within W1
- Figure 8.25 Events within W2
- Figure 8.26 Events within W3
- Figure 8.3 Non-Des Assets within 1 km Study Area
- Figure 8.4 Designated Assets within 1 km
- Figure 8.5 Non – Des Assets within Site Boundary
- Figure 8.6 Non – Des Assets within 1 km (Northern Parcels)
- Figure 8.7 Non – Des Assets within 1 km (Main Parcels)
- Figure 8.8 Designated Assets within 1 km
- Figure 8.9 Non-Des Assets within Site Boundary
- Figure 9.1 Study Area
- Figure 9.2 ALC Survey Results
- Figure 9.3 Coal Mining High Risk Development Areas
- Figure 9.4.1-9.4.3 Mineral Resources
- Figure 9.5 SPZ and Groundwater Abstractions
- Figure 10.1 Study Area
- Figure 10.2.1 – 10.2.3 Surface Watercourses
- Figure 10.3.1 – 10.3.3 WFD Designated Watercourses & Waterbodies
- Figure 10.4.1 – 10.4.3 Flood Zones
- Figure 10.5.1 – 10.5.3 Modelled Flood Extents
- Figure 10.6.1 – 10.6.3 Historic Flood Map
- Figure 10.7.1 – 10.7.3 Flood Risk from Surface Water
- Figure 10.8.1 – 10.8.3 Flood Risk from Reservoirs
- Figure 10.9.1 – 10.9.3 WFD Groundwater Bodies Classifications
- Figure 10.10.1 – 10.10.3 Source Protection Zones
- Figure 10.11.1 – 10.11.3 British Geological Survey Aquifer Designations

- Figure 12.1 Air Quality Study Area
- Figure 13.1 Study Area – A01
- Figure 13.2 HGV Routing – Whitestone 1 – A01
- Figure 13.3 HGV Routing – Whitestone 2 East – A01
- Figure 13.4 HGV Routing – Whitestone 2 North West – A01
- Figure 13.5 HGV Routing – Whitestone 2 South West – A01
- Figure 13.6 HGV Routing – Whitestone 3 – A01
- Figure 14.1 Noise Monitoring Locations – W1
- Figure 14.2 Noise Monitoring Locations – W2
- Figure 14.3 Noise Monitoring Locations – W3
- Figure 15.1 Socio-economics Study Area (2019)
- Figure 15.2 Socio-economics Study Area (2024)
- Figure 15.3 Land Use, Tourism and Recreation Study Area
- Figure 15.4 Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Figure 15.5 Social Infrastructure
- Figure 15.6 Agricultural Land Classification
- Figure 15.7 Public Rights of Way and Other Recreational Receptors
- Figure 15.8 Tourism Attractions and Accommodation
- Figure 16.2.1 Residential and Transport Receptors – W1
- Figure 16.2.2 Residential and Transport Receptors – W2
- Figure 16.2.3 Residential and Transport Receptors – W3
- Figure 16.2.4 PRoW Receptors – W1
- Figure 16.2.5 PRoW Receptors – W2
- Figure 16.2.6 PRoW Receptors – W3
- Figure 17.1 Long-List of Cumulative Developments
- Figure 17.2 Short-List of Cumulative Developments
- Figure 17.3 Cumulative Effects Assessment – Zones of Influence

Draft ES: Volume 3 - Appendices

- Appendix 2.1 – EIA Scoping Report
- Appendix 2.2 – EIA Scoping Opinion
- Appendix 2.3 – Commitments Register
- Appendix 4.1 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Appendix 4.2 – Design Evolution
- Appendix 5.1 – Indicative Operation Masterplan
- Appendix 5.2 – Indicative Construction Masterplan
- Appendix 5.3 – Indicative Mitigation Masterplan
- Appendix 6.1 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Appendix 6.2 – UK Habitat Survey Report
- Appendix 6.4 – Interim Baseline BNG Report
- Appendix 6.5 – Wintering Bird Survey Report
- Appendix 6.6 – Breeding Bird Survey Report
- Appendix 6.8 – Interim Great Crested Newt Report
- Appendix 6.9 – Reptile Survey Report
- Appendix 6.10 – Protected Species Bat Survey
- Appendix 7.1 – Legislation, Policy, and Guidance
- Appendix 7.2 – LVIA Methodology
- Appendix 7.3 – Landscape Character Assessment
- Appendix 7.4 – Representative Viewpoint Assessment
- Appendix 8.1 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Appendix 8.2 – Cultural Heritage Baseline
- Appendix 8.3 – Sieving Exercise
- Appendix 8.3A – Sieving Exercise Assets
- Appendix 8.4 – Assessment of Indirect Effects to Setting
- Appendix 9.1 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Appendix 9.2 – Envirocheck Report – W1
- Appendix 9.3 – Envirocheck Report – W2
- Appendix 9.4 – Envirocheck Report – W3
- Appendix 9.5 – Envirocheck Report – Cable Corridor Options
- Appendix 9.6 – ALC Report
- Appendix 10.1 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Appendix 10.2 – Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy

- Appendix 11.1 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Appendix 12.1 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Appendix 13.1 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Appendix 13.2 – Transport Statement
- Appendix 13.2.A.1 – ATC Locations
- Appendix 13.2.A.2 – Collision Cluster Causation
- Appendix 13.2.A.3 – Proposed Access Points
- Appendix 13.2.A.4 – Proposed HGV Routing
- Appendix 13.3 – Fear and Intimidation Calculations
- Appendix 13.4 – Collision Calculations
- Appendix 14.1 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Appendix 14.2 – Baseline Conditions
- Appendix 14.3 – Construction Noise and Vibration Assessment
- Appendix 14.4 – Operational Noise Assessment
- Appendix 15.1 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Appendix 16.1 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Appendix 16.2 – Glint and Glare Report
- Appendix 17.1 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Appendix 17.2 – Long and Short List of Developments for CEA

Project update: August 2025

- This is the Programme Document.

Project update: March 2025

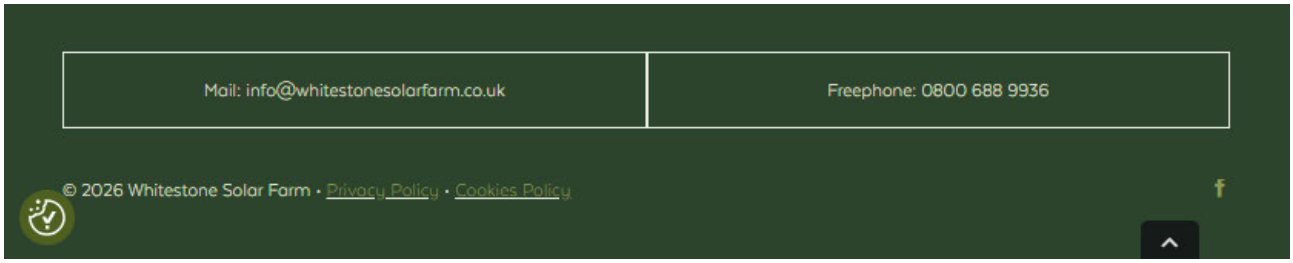
- These are the updated masterplans for Whitestone 1, Whitestone 2 and Whitestone 3.
- This is a community update newsletter for Whitestone 1, Whitestone 2 and Whitestone 3.

First Consultation (Non-statutory): November 2024 – January 2025

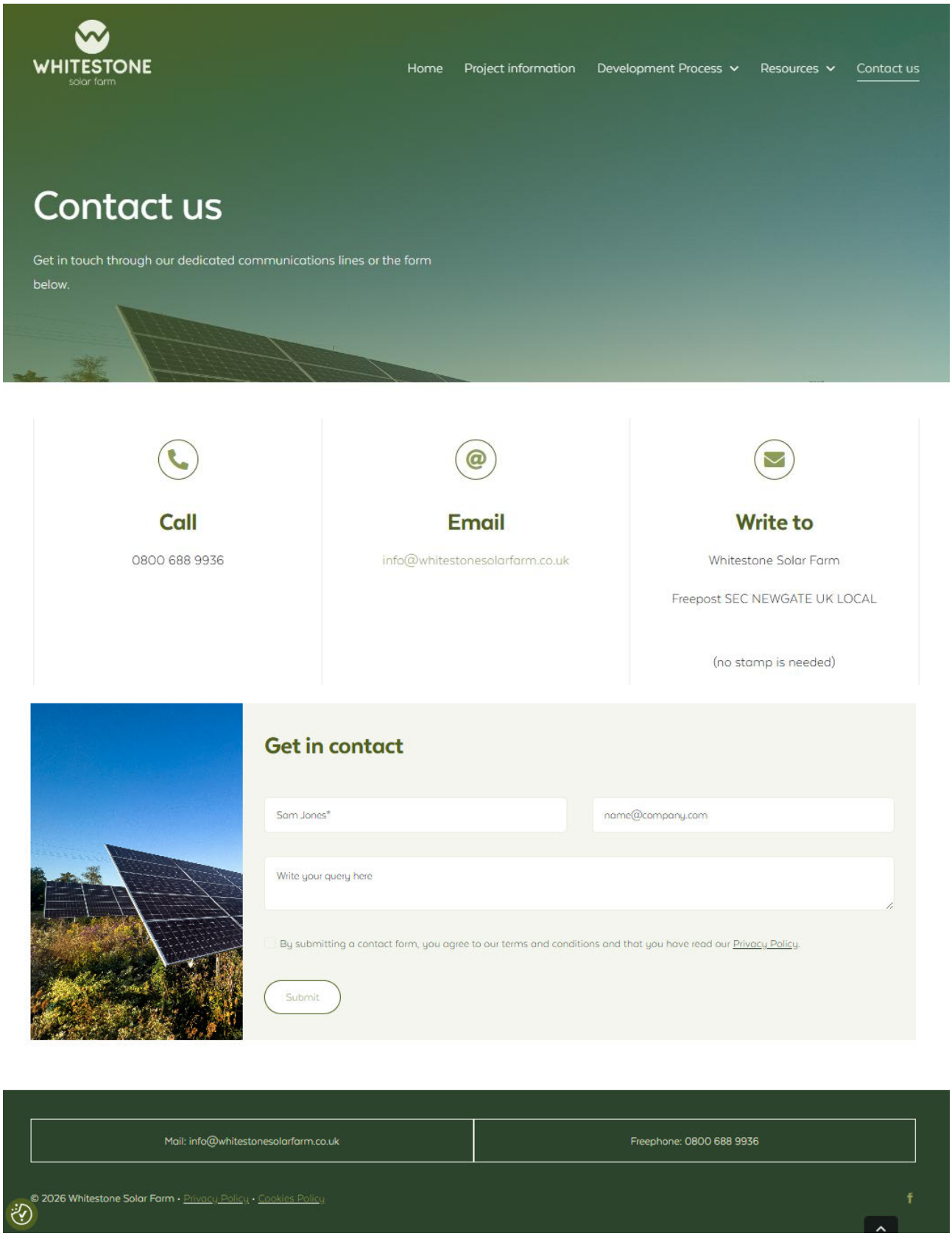
- Booklet- This is the consultation booklet to explain our proposals.
- Questionnaire – The questionnaire is available in a digital or print version.
- Masterplan – These are the draft masterplans for Whitestone 1, Whitestone 2 and Whitestone 3.

Launch

- Leaflet – This is a short leaflet to introduce the project.
- Project location map – This map shows the area we are considering for Whitestone.



Appendix D4.6 Contact us Page



APPENDIX D5 BANNERS FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENTS

WHITESTONE
solar farm

Welcome

Thank you for visiting our public information event about Whitestone Solar Farm.

We held our first consultation for Whitestone from November 2024 to January 2025. During that period, we received 940 pieces of feedback and met 702 individuals at public events. We also met with MPs, parish councils, ward councillors and residents who live near the project boundary. We want to thank everyone who took the time to engage with the consultation and send in your feedback.

In response to the feedback we received, we have made significant changes to the project design. This includes a reduction of around one fourth of the solar panels to create offsets around homes, villages and public rights of way. Based on technical and environmental assessments, we have now updated the masterplan to include the potential locations for substations, batteries, and cable routes.

During this second consultation, from 16 September to 28 October, we are presenting this updated masterplan as well as the draft Environmental Statement (ES) which includes the preliminary results of environmental assessments. Feedback from this consultation will inform the updated proposals that we plan to submit next year in our application.

During this event, you can review our materials that explain how the project has changed, meet the project team to ask any questions you may have, and submit your written feedback for this consultation.

Thank you for coming.

Green Nation

Whitestone is a proposed solar farm with battery storage that would be located in South Yorkshire between Rotherham and Doncaster. Whitestone Solar Farm is being brought forward by Whitestone Net Zero Ltd (owned by Net Zero One Ltd.). The overall manager for the project is Green Nation, a UK-based solar developer that was established in 2011 with extensive experience in both rooftop and ground-mounted solar projects.

WHITESTONE
solar farm

Why do we need solar?

Our demand for electricity continues to grow and is projected to double by 2050. To meet this demand with clean energy, more solar and wind energy projects are needed. The Clean Power 2030 mission sets a goal to triple solar capacity by 2030, as well as ramp up onshore and offshore wind development. Solar and wind work well together, and a mix of both helps provide stability to the energy supply.

We support the 'rooftop revolution' and continue to explore commercial rooftop installations as part of our broader business, but note that large scale solar developments are needed to produce enough energy to meet our national energy goals.

Why here?

The National Grid connects energy sources to energy users through a network of substations and overhead lines that run across the UK. However, new renewable energy projects can only connect into the National Grid where there is available capacity, which is limited. We secured an agreement to connect into the grid at Brinsworth substation and then searched for land near the grid connection point that would be suitable for solar. We also wanted to avoid environmentally sensitive areas and the highest quality agricultural land where possible.

This process has resulted in the project boundary we presented during the last consultation. We will continue to refine the proposals within this boundary to ensure that there are appropriate offsets and buffers from the community and other environmental features.

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Development process

Because Whitestone would generate more than 50 MW of energy, it is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) according to the Planning Act 2008.[1] We are therefore required by the Planning Act to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to develop Whitestone.

We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate, who will review the application on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS).

We must demonstrate in our application that we have met requirements for pre-application consultation with local authorities, technical bodies and members of the community and how that feedback has shaped our proposals. If the application meets requirements, it will be 'accepted', and the Planning Inspectorate will then appoint an Examining Authority to review the application through a 6-month public examination period. After this stage, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation about whether to approve the application, and the SoS will make the final decision.

Indicative timeline

First consultation – Autumn 2024
We held our first consultation from November 2024 to January 2025. Feedback from this consultation informed updated proposals we submit during the second consultation.

Second consultation – Autumn 2025
We are now in our second round of consultation, which is considered 'statutory'. Feedback from this consultation will inform the updated proposals we submit in the DCO application.

DCO Submission – Spring 2026
We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), who will review the application on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Examination – 2026-2027
During a six-month period, an Examining Authority made up of Planning Inspector(s) will be appointed by PINS to review and examine our application.

Decision – Summer 2027
After examination, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation about whether to approve the project, and then the Secretary of State will make the final decision.

Operation – 2029
If Whitestone is consented, after a two-year construction period the project could become operational in 2029.

1 Under current law, the threshold to be considered an NSIP is 50MW, but this will increase to 100MW on the end of 2025. Whitestone is still above the new threshold and will continue to be considered an NSIP.

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Design changes

In response to feedback from the first consultation, we have removed around one fourth of the solar panels. The following graphics show closeups of some of the changes to the masterplan to create offsets around homes, villages, and public rights of way.

Firsby

Before

After

Ulley

Before

After

Harthill

Before

After

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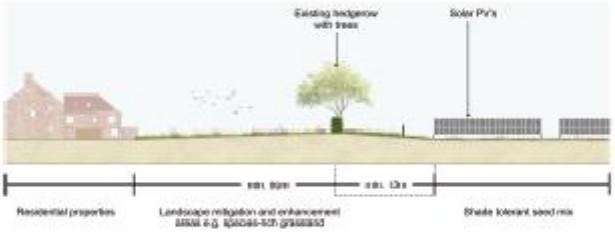
Green spaces

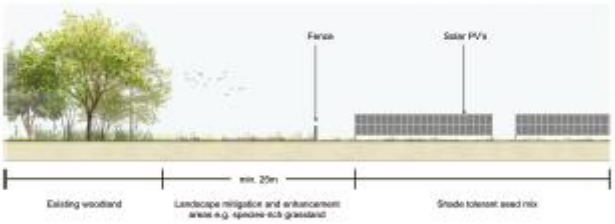
Where we have removed solar panels from the project to reduce potential visual impacts, the land could be used for environmental mitigation and enhancement. These areas would not have any above-ground infrastructure, but may still be needed for underground cables or access tracks to support the rest of the project.

These spaces would be planted with a mix of native grasses or wildflowers to support local wildlife. Projects like Whitestone are now required to increase biodiversity by at least 10%, however, most solar farms exceed this requirement. We are exploring a variety of methods to increase biodiversity in these areas, which could include bat boxes, bug hotels and water scrapes to provide new habitats for vital pollinators, small mammals and bird species.

As we complete the environmental impact assessments, we may identify the need to set aside land for certain species to mitigate potential impacts in other areas of the project. If we identify that we do not need all of this land for mitigation, we may choose to remove it from the project boundary altogether. In this case, the land would remain with the landowner and could continue to be used as it is today.

Below are examples of offsets from homes and woodlands.





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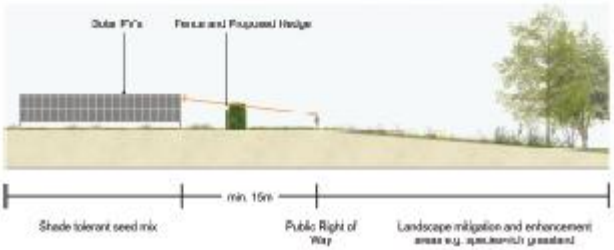
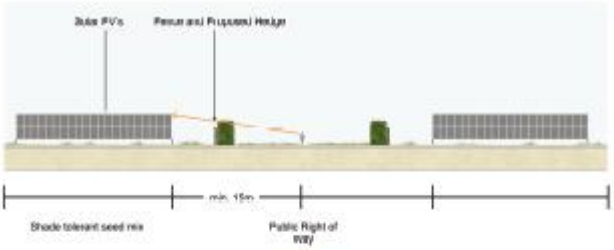
Public rights of way and permissive paths

We currently anticipate that all existing public rights of way would remain open throughout the project's lifetime. However, some temporary closures may be needed during construction for safety reasons. Any public rights of way that are within the project boundary would be maintained by us. The masterplan includes a minimum of 15m offset from either side of paths, or 30m total. 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.

As part of the masterplan, we would like to offer new permissive paths to expand recreational access across the site which are shown on the masterplan. These have been developed in response to feedback from the first consultation and ongoing engagement with local stakeholders. They would be available for walkers and cyclists throughout the lifetime of the project.

Below are examples of offsets from public rights of way.





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Components of a solar farm

① Solar panels
② Underground cables
③ Power conversion stations
④ Battery energy storage system
⑤ Satellite substations
⑥ Primary substation
⑦ National grid connection

1 Solar panels would collect energy from sunlight and convert it to low voltage, 1 direct current (DC) electricity.

2 Underground cables would carry the electricity from the solar panels to other components around the site and to the final point of connection to the National Grid.

3 Power conversion stations (PCS) would change the power from DC to Alternating Current (AC) and increase the voltage.

4 A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) would store the energy during times of low energy demand until it is needed. The BESS could also take up extra energy from the grid to store until it is needed most.

5 Substations would increase the voltage again to prepare it to enter the grid. Smaller 'satellite' substations would be located in Whitestone 1 and 2 to increase the voltage of the electricity.

6 Another larger 'primary' substation would be needed to collect the electricity and increase the voltage again to prepare it to transfer to the National Grid.

7 The energy would then be transferred into the National Grid at the new substation near Brinsworth (Brinsworth B), so that it could go on to power homes, businesses, schools and hospitals across the UK.

The PCS and BESS would typically look like shipping containers, with their technical components hidden inside. The PCS units would be painted green or other natural colours to blend into the landscape.

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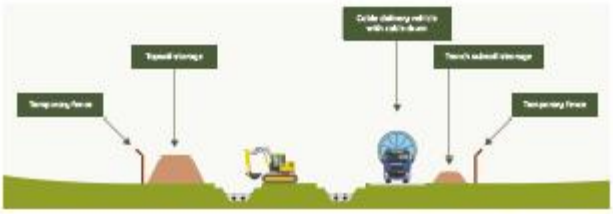
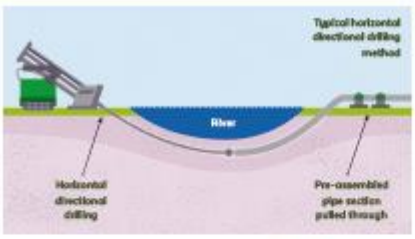
Cable corridor options

Underground cables are needed to connect the sections of the project together and into the National Grid, which would be laid approximately 1m below ground level. After installation, these cables would no longer be visible, and normal activities could continue above them.

In order to connect the three project sites to each other and into the National Grid, we have identified several options for the cable routes. These have been informed by technical assessments, and initial environmental assessments to avoid sensitive areas. We are now consulting on these cable route options to help make the final decision on which route to use.





Indicative diagrams of cable installation

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Environmental assessments

Because it is an NSIP, we are required to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the potential impacts of Whitestone during construction, operation and decommissioning. If we identify any potential significant impacts, we must also explain how we would mitigate them.

Key milestones in this process include:

- The Scoping Opinion is an important first step in the EIA process. We submitted our Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate on our proposed approach to the EIA, and after consulting with technical stakeholders, they responded with their Scoping Opinion. This document details which environmental topics we must consider in the assessments, and now forms the basis of our assessments.
- The Draft Environmental Statement (ES) includes the preliminary results of the EIA and is the subject of this consultation. We are consulting you on this currently, before completing our assessments.
- The Environmental Statement (ES) will include the final results of the EIA and will be included in our DCO application. It will be informed by the feedback we receive on the draft ES.

These are the environmental topics that we are assessing for the EIA

- Biodiversity and nature conservation
- Climate change and greenhouse gas
- Landscape and visual
- Air quality
- Cultural heritage and archaeology
- Traffic and transport
- Ground conditions and land quality
- Noise and vibration
- Water resources and flood risk
- Socioeconomics and land use

Other environmental issues: Waste, glint and glare, telecommunications and utilities, major accidents and disasters, electromagnetic fields.

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Construction

If consented, we expect it to take around two years to construct Whitestone, beginning in 2027 and ending in 2029. During this period, construction would be phased across the site to minimise disturbance at any single location, however there would be work occurring at each of WS1, WS2 and WS3.

Construction of Whitestone would be informed by our final 'detailed design' and a series of management plans that would be informed by ongoing consultation with local authorities and other technical experts.

Working arrangements

Working hours would typically be between 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 1pm on Saturday, with no work on Sundays or Bank Holidays. There may be times where we need to work outside these hours, but this would be agreed in advance with local authorities and communicated with residents.

Traffic management

While we expect construction to take around two years, the level of activity would vary throughout this period.

Construction traffic would include cars, small vans and minibuses to transport workers, as well as HGVs, mobile cranes, and a small number of abnormal indivisible loads (AIL) for construction materials. Construction delivery traffic would be scheduled to avoid peak traffic periods (8-9am and 5-6pm). We have assessed the current local road network to understand which roads would be more suitable for construction traffic and the current traffic levels. This includes eliminating roads that would be too small for construction vehicles or have other size limitations on traffic and avoiding villages when possible.

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Community Benefits

To ensure that there are also local benefits from the project, we would like to offer a community benefit fund of £400 per MW per year. Based on the grid connection of 750MW, this would be £300,000 per year. Based on the maximum lifespan of the project of 60 years, this would amount to £18,000,000 for the life of the project. These amounts may be subject to change depending on the final size and lifespan of the project.

We recognise it is important that the fund be managed in a way that is both transparent and tailored to local needs, ensuring that the application process is clear and decisions are made openly. We propose that the funds would be available through a nominated fund manager to administer the funding, with local stakeholders and elected officials, such as parish councils and local councillors, serving on the board to advise on funding decisions.

Groups or individuals in the local community could apply for funding for projects or initiatives, such as:

- Improving local community facilities, like parish halls, schools, or community centres.
- Supporting education programmes, work study, and skills training for green jobs in local schools and colleges.
- Supporting existing charities and organisations that work in the local area on mental health, physical health and recreation, other initiatives related to health and wellbeing.
- Supporting organisations that reduce energy costs through insulation, rooftop solar, and other energy efficiency projects.

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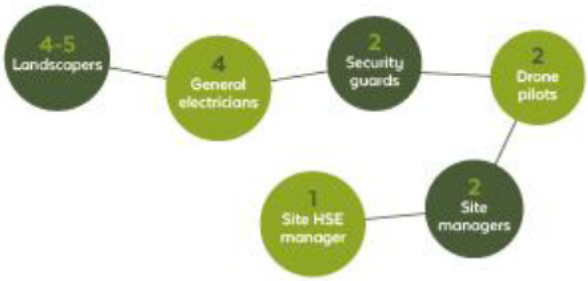
Jobs and skills

Constructing, operating and decommissioning Whitestone would require a wide range of skills and expertise. Beyond the direct employment, there would be indirect jobs created through the supply chain and spending by the direct and indirect workers. This would result in more than 2,000 local jobs, and approximately £119,500,000 in benefits to the local economy during the construction period.

During construction, we envision a maximum of 600 construction jobs at the peak, to deliver materials and construct the solar farm. Across the construction period, this would include approximately:

Once operational, we would need a team of roughly 11 local, full time employees to maintain and operate the project, including:



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Have your say

This consultation period is running for six weeks from 16 September to 28 October 2025. During this period, anyone can provide their written feedback on our proposals through the following methods:

- Complete the online feedback form at whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper feedback form, which is available at the public events or by request through the project's communications lines
- Send an email to: info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Write to: Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local (no stamp is needed)

Next steps

After the consultation has ended, we will review and consider all of the feedback we have received. This feedback along with ongoing environmental assessments will help inform the final masterplan and Environmental Statement that we submit in our DCO application.

Within the DCO application, we will also include a Consultation Report that shows how we have had regard to all consultation feedback and how the project has further evolved as a result of that feedback.

For future project updates, please visit our website to sign up for the 'Keep Informed List' at whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

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Contact

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

0800 688 9936