



WHITESTONE
solar farm

WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM

Volume 6: Environmental Statement

6.1 Chapter 1: Introduction

Application Document ref. EN0110020/APP/6.1

Revision 01

June 2026

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

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ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Document Status					
Version	Purpose of Document	Authored by	Reviewed by	Approved by	Review date
Rev01	DCO Submission	ERM	TLT, Pershing, DWD, Whitestone Net Zero Ltd	Whitestone Net Zero Ltd	01 June 2026

Approval for Issue		
Whitestone Net Zero Ltd		1 June 2026

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Appendix Number	Appendix Title
1.1	Environmental Impact Assessment Authors

Glossary

Term	Meaning
<i>Cable Corridors</i>	Corridors within which the high voltage cables would be constructed.
<i>Environmental Statement (ES)</i>	The Environmental Statement which presents the environmental information relating to the Proposed Development. The ES has been prepared to present information for formal consultation in accordance with current EIA Regulation.
<i>Long Lane 400kV substation</i>	The new 400 kilovolt National Grid substation proposed on land immediately east of Long Lane, Brinsworth, S60 4JJ.
<i>Order Limits</i>	Total area comprising the Site and Cable Corridors.
<i>The Applicant</i>	Whitestone Net Zero Ltd.
<i>The Application</i>	The Application submitted to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order.
<i>The Proposed Development</i>	The proposed Whitestone Solar Farm.

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Term	Meaning
<i>The Site</i>	The land planned to be used for solar PV array and associated infrastructure, BESS, substations, and landscaping and habitat enhancement. The Site is split into W1, W2, and W3.
<i>Whitestone 1 (W1)</i>	The northern parcels of the Whitestone Solar Farm.
<i>Whitestone 2 (W2)</i>	The middle parcels of the Whitestone Solar Farm.
<i>Whitestone 3 (W3)</i>	The southern parcels of the Whitestone Solar Farm.

Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
<i>BESS</i>	Battery Energy Storage System
<i>DCO</i>	Development Consent Order
<i>DESNZ</i>	The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
<i>EIA</i>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<i>ERM</i>	Environmental Resources Management Limited
<i>ES</i>	Environmental Statement
<i>IEMA</i>	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
<i>ISEP</i>	Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals
<i>NGR</i>	National Grid Reference
<i>NPS</i>	National Policy Statement
<i>NSIP</i>	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
<i>PV</i>	Photovoltaic
<i>SoS</i>	Secretary of State
<i>W1</i>	Whitestone 1
<i>W2</i>	Whitestone 2
<i>W3</i>	Whitestone 3

Units

Units	Meaning
<i>ha</i>	Hectares
<i>kV</i>	Kilovolts
<i>MW</i>	Megawatts

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared by Environmental Resources Management Limited (ERM) on behalf of Whitestone Net Zero Ltd (the Applicant) in relation to the proposed Whitestone Solar Farm (the Proposed Development). The ES reports the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) being undertaken for the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.2 The Proposed Development comprises the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of more than 100 megawatts (MW) of solar photovoltaic (PV) generating modules and on-site Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities. It also includes on-site substations and supporting infrastructure, and associated grid connection infrastructure which would allow for electricity to be exported to the new 400 kilovolt (kV) National Grid substation proposed on land immediately east of Long Lane, Brinsworth, S60 4JJ (Long Lane 400kV substation)¹, for which the Applicant has secured a connection agreement. It should be noted that the new substation at Brinsworth is not part of the Proposed Development and is being taken forward by National Grid in a separate planning application².
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Development would be sited across approximately 1,488 hectares (ha) of predominantly agricultural land (the Site) within South Yorkshire, to the east of Sheffield and Rotherham, respectively. The Site is split into three main areas, shown in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.2: Site Referencing [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**:
- Whitestone 1 (W1), located south of Conisbrough (centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SK 503962);
 - Whitestone 2 (W2), located between Treeton in the west and Dinnington in the east (centred on NGR SK 477874); and
 - Whitestone 3 (W3), located south of Wales and Kiveton Park (centred on NGR SK 481807).
- 1.1.4 The Site would be connected by underground cables which would be located within Cable Corridors. Together the Site, and the Cable Corridors, form the Order Limits as shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.1: Order Limits [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**. Further detail of the Proposed Development including details on site access, ancillary works, landscape and ecological enhancements and cabling are included in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]**. Further detail regarding the Order Limits can be found in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Site and Surrounding Area [EN0110020/APP/6.3]**.
- 1.1.5 As the Proposed Development is an onshore energy generating station, the capacity of which will exceed 100MW of electricity, it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and therefore requires a Development Consent Order (DCO) under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended)³. This ES has been submitted as part of the application for a DCO (the Application). If granted, the DCO would authorise the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. As

a result of their national, strategic importance, DCOs are determined at a national level with the decision on whether to grant consent being made by the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).

- 1.1.6 As part of the DCO consenting process, the SoS is required to have regard to the relevant NPSs (National Policy Statements). The Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1)⁴, the NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)⁵ and the NPS for Electricity Networks (EN-5)⁶ are all relevant with respect to this scheme. Although there currently is no NPS specific to solar PV development, NPS EN-3 does include policy relevant to solar generating stations. These policy statements have therefore been considered throughout this ES.

1.2 The Applicant

- 1.2.1 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.
- 1.2.2 The overall manager for the Proposed Development 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 rooftop installations across the country. Its solar farm portfolio totals over 200MW of electricity producing capacity for the UK.

1.3 Requirement For an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 1.3.1 In the UK, NSIPs are generally required to be subject to an EIA under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended)⁷ (the EIA Regulations). EIA is a formal, iterative process which provides environmental information to decision-makers for them to make informed decisions when determining planning applications for proposed developments. The EIA process considers relevant environmental information to identify the potential significant environmental effects of a project and possible mitigation measures for avoiding, preventing, reducing or, where possible, offsetting these potential significant effects. It also identifies residual effects, which are effects remaining following the implementation of mitigation measures proposed as part of the scheme.
- 1.3.2 The requirement to undergo an EIA for schemes relevant to the NSIP planning process is determined by the definitions and criteria provided in Regulation 3 and Schedule 1, or Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations⁷, where;
- Developments listed in Schedule 1 must be subject to EIA; and
 - Developments listed in Schedule 2 are only subject to EIA if they are considered “*likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location*” – The criteria on which this judgement must be made are set out in Schedule 3.

1.3.3 Based on the above, the Proposed Development is considered a Schedule 2(3)(a) development as it constitutes “*Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water*”; and it is considered that due to the Proposed Development's nature, size and location, it has the potential to have significant effects on the environment. Further information on the approach to EIA can be found in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: EIA Methodology [EN0110020/APP/6.2]**.

1.4 Purpose of the Environmental Statement

- 1.4.1 This ES presents the findings of the EIA for the Proposed Development and has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 14(2) and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations⁸, which sets out the information required to be included within an ES, and to support the Application for Development Consent.
- 1.4.2 The purpose of this ES is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development during construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning, and sets out the measures proposed to mitigate for significantly adverse effects. The ES provides the environmental information required by the SoS to reach a balanced conclusion on the Proposed Development.
- 1.4.3 The assessment presented within this ES is informed by baseline environmental studies, surveys and technical assessments undertaken across the Order Limits and its surroundings (collected up to February 2026). These data have been used to establish the environmental baseline against which the potential effects of the Proposed Development have been assessed. The aim of this is to present the assessment in a logical and transparent manner, which can be tracked throughout the process of the Application and associated consultation.
- 1.4.4 The ES reflects the Proposed Development as defined within the Application and incorporates mitigation measures embedded through the iterative design and EIA process. The ES also summarises how consultation undertaken during the EIA process has informed the assessment and the development of mitigation measures.

1.5 Structure of the Environmental Statement

- 1.5.1 The ES comprises the following:
- Volume 6, Part 1: Chapters **[EN0110020/APP/6.1-6.18]**;
 - Volume 6, Part 2: Figures **[EN0110020/APP/6.19]**;
 - Volume 6, Part 3: Appendices **[EN0110020/APP/6.20]**; and
 - Non-Technical Summary **[EN0110020/APP/6.21]**.

The structure of the ES and corresponding information is detailed in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1: Structure of the ES

ES Chapters	Chapter Description
ES Volume 1, Chapter 1: Introduction [EN0110020/APP/6.1]	Introduction to the ES and structure, details on Chapters 6 to 18 (Technical Chapters), requirements of EIA regulations, and relevant legislation.

ES Chapters	Chapter Description
<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: EIA Methodology [EN0110020/APP/6.2]</p>	<p>The overall methodology for this EIA, for determining the significance of likely environmental effects.</p>
<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Site and Surrounding Area [EN0110020/APP/6.3]</p>	<p>Description of the Order Limits, including an overview of the environmental characteristics of the Order Limits and the surrounding area.</p>
<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN0110020/APP/6.4]</p>	<p>An outline of the main reasons for the location and design of the Proposed Development, considering the environmental effects, technical and commercial requirements, need for the Proposed Development and alternate options.</p>
<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]</p>	<p>Description of the Proposed Development, including the design parameters of each works area, and management during construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p>
<p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation [EN0110020/APP/6.6]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.7]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [EN0110020/APP/6.8]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Ground Conditions and Land Quality [EN0110020/APP/6.9]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Water Resources and Flood Risk [EN0110020/APP/6.10]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.11]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Air Quality [EN0110020/APP/6.12]</p>	<p>The ES considers the technical aspects of the Proposed Development which could result in likely significant environmental effects. Technical Chapters include methodologies for assessment of the Proposed Development with regard to receptors, measures for managing effects, and details on key consultation to date with statutory and non-statutory bodies that has informed the design.</p> <p>The Technical Chapters are structured as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction; ● Legislation, Policy, and Guidance; ● Consultation; ● Issues Scoped out of Assessment; ● Assessment Methodology; ● Baseline Conditions; ● Environmental Measures; ● Assessment of Likely Significant Effects including inter-cumulative effects; and ● Summary of Residual Effects.

ES Chapters	Chapter Description
<p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport [EN0110020/APP/6.13]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [EN0110020/APP/6.14]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Socio Economics, Tourism, Recreation, and Land Use [EN0110020/APP/6.15]</p>	
<p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics [EN0110020/APP/6.16]</p>	<p>An assessment of Environmental Topics which have been scoped out of being assessed in their own Technical Chapter. Each topic generally follows a more concise version of the structure used for the Technical Chapters as detailed above. Other Environmental Topics covered in this Chapter are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste; • Glint and Glare; • Telecommunications and Utilities; • Major Accidents and Disasters; and • Electromagnetic Fields.
<p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Cumulative Effects [EN0110020/APP/6.17]</p>	<p>An assessment of the likely combination of significant environmental effects generated by the Proposed Development on a single receptor (intra-cumulative effects).</p>
<p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 18: Summary of Significant Effects [EN0110020/APP/6.18]</p>	<p>A summary of significant residual effects as assessed within the ES, after the proposed mitigation has been considered.</p>

1.6 Addressing the Requirements of the EIA Regulations

1.6.1 This ES presents the findings of the EIA undertaken for the Proposed Development and has been compiled in accordance with the EIA Regulations⁷, specifically Regulation 14 and Schedule 4 relating to Environmental Statements. **Table 1.2** presents the requirements of the EIA Regulations, and where these are addressed within the ES.

Table 1.2: Requirements of the EIA Regulations and Applicable Chapters of the ES

Specified Information	Reference within the ES
<p>Regulation 14(2): An Environmental Statement is a statement which includes at least -</p>	
<p>(a) a description of the proposed development comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development;</p>	<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]</p>

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Specified Information	Reference within the ES
(b) a description of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment;	<p>ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-18 [EN0110020/APP/6.6] to [EN0110020/APP/6.18]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Figures [EN0110020/APP/6.19]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]</p>
(c) a description of any features of the proposed development, or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;	<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Site and Surrounding Area [EN0110020/APP/6.3]</p> <p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-17 [EN0110020/APP/6.6-6.17]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Figures [EN0110020/APP/6.19]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]</p>
(d) a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the applicant, which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the development on the environment;	<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN0110020/APP/6.4]</p>
(e) a non-technical summary of the information referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (d); and	<p>ES Volume 3, Non-Technical Summary [EN0110020/APP/6.21]</p>
(f) any additional information specified in Schedule 4 relevant to the specific characteristics of the particular development or type of development and to the environmental features likely to be significantly affected.	<p>ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-17 [EN0110020/APP/6.6-6.17]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Figures [EN0110020/APP/6.19]</p>

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Specified Information	Reference within the ES
	ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]
Regulation 14(3) The Environmental Statement must -	
(a) where a scoping opinion has been adopted, be based on the most recent scoping opinion adopted (so far as the proposed development remains materially the same as the proposed development which was subject to that opinion);	ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: EIA Methodology [EN0110020/APP/6.2]
(b) include the information reasonably required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the development on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment; and	ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-17 [EN0110020/APP/6.6-6.17] ES Volume 3, Figures [EN0110020/APP/6.19] ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]
(c) be prepared, taking into account the results of any relevant UK environmental assessment, which is reasonably available to the applicant with a view to avoiding duplication of assessment.	Where relevant within ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-17 [EN0110020/APP/6.6-6.17]
Regulation 14(4) In order to ensure the completeness and quality of the Environmental Statement -	
(a) the applicant must ensure that the environmental statement is prepared by competent experts; and	ES Volume 1, Chapter 1: Introduction [EN0110020/APP/6.1]
(b) the environmental statement must be accompanied by a statement from the applicant outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts.	ES Volume 1, Chapter 1: Introduction [EN0110020/APP/6.1] ES Volume 3, Appendix 1.1: Environmental Impact Assessment Authors [EN0110020/APP/6.20]
Schedule 4(1) A description of the development including in particular	
(a) a description of the location of the development;	ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Site and Surrounding Area [EN0110020/APP/6.3]
(b) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development, including, where relevant, requisite demolition works, and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases;	ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Site and Surrounding Area [EN0110020/APP/6.3] ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]

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Specified Information	Reference within the ES
<p>(c) a description of the main characteristics of the operational phase of the development (in particular any production process), for instance, energy demand and energy used, nature and quantity of the materials and natural resources (including water, land, soil and biodiversity) used;</p>	<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Site and Surrounding Area [EN0110020/APP/6.3]</p> <p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]</p>
<p>(d) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (such as water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases.</p>	<p>ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-17 [EN0110020/APP/6.6-6.17]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Figures [EN0110020/APP/6.19]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]</p>
<p>Schedule 4(2) A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects.</p>	<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN0110020/APP/6.4]</p>
<p>Schedule 4(3) A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the development as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge.</p>	<p>ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-17 [EN0110020/APP/6.6-6.17]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Figures [EN0110020/APP/6.19]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]</p>
<p>Schedule 4(4) A description of the factors specified in regulation 4(2) likely to be significantly affected by the development: population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for</p>	<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: EIA Methodology [EN0110020/APP/6.2]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-17 [EN0110020/APP/6.6-6.17]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]</p>

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Specified Information	Reference within the ES
example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape.	
Schedule 4(5) A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia:	
(a) the construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works;	<p>ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-17 [EN0110020/APP/6.6-6.17]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Figures [EN0110020/APP/6.19]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]</p>
(b) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources;	<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation [EN0110020/APP/6.6]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Ground Conditions and Land Quality [EN0110020/APP/6.9]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Water Resources and Flood Risk [EN0110020/APP/6.10]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]</p>
(c) the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste;	<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.7]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.11]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Air Quality [EN0110020/APP/6.12]</p>

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Specified Information	Reference within the ES
	<p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [EN0110020/APP/6.14]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics [EN0110020/APP/6.16]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Cumulative Effects [EN0110020/APP/6.17]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]</p>
(d) the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters);	<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-17 [EN0110020/APP/6.6-6.17]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]</p>
(e) the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources;	<p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 17 Cumulative Effects [EN0110020/APP/6.17]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]</p>
(f) the impact of the project on climate (for example the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the project to climate change;	<p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Water Resources and Flood Risk [EN0110020/APP/6.10]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.11]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]</p>
(g) the technologies and the substances used.	<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]</p>
The description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in regulation 5(2) should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative	<p>ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-17 [EN0110020/APP/6.6-6.17]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Figures [EN0110020/APP/6.19]</p>

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Specified Information	Reference within the ES
<p>effects of the development. This description should take into account the environmental protection objectives established at Union level (as they had effect immediately before exist day) or United Kingdom level which are relevant to the project, including in particular those established under the law of any part of the United Kingdom that implemented Council Directive 92/43/EEC(1) and Directive 2009/147/EC.</p>	<p>ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]</p>
<p>Schedule 4(6) A description of the forecasting methods or evidence, used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment, including details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.</p>	<p>ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-17 [EN0110020/APP/6.6-6.17]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Figures [EN0110020/APP/6.19]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]</p>
<p>Schedule 4(7) A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements (for example the preparation of a post-project analysis). That description should explain the extent, to which significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, prevented, reduced or offset, and should cover both the construction and operational phases.</p>	<p>ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-17 [EN0110020/APP/6.6-6.17]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Figures [EN0110020/APP/6.19]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]</p>
<p>Schedule 4(8) A description of the expected significant adverse effects of the development on the environment deriving from the vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned. Relevant information available and obtained through risk assessments pursuant to assimilated law such as any law that implemented Article 3 of Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament, Article 4 of the Council Directive</p>	<p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics [EN0110020/APP/6.16]</p>

Specified Information	Reference within the ES
2009/71/Euratom, or UK environmental assessments may be used for this purpose provided that the requirements of any law that implemented this Directive are met. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for and proposed response to such emergencies.	
Schedule 4(9) A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 8.	ES Volume 3, Non-Technical Summary [EN0110020/APP/6.21]
Schedule 4(10) A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the Environmental Statement.	Provided in endnotes of each chapter.

1.7 Addressing the Requirements as set out in the Planning Inspectorate Guidance

1.7.1 Annex to the Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note Seven⁹ presents “*the information specified in Schedule 4 that will always be ‘relevant’ for inclusion in an ES*”. **Table 1.3** presents this information, and where details have been included in this ES.

Table 1.3: Information Required by the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seven (Annex) to be Included in the ES and Applicable Chapters of the ES.

Specified Information	Chapter Reference
1. a description of the proposed development including location, physical characteristics, operational characteristics, and expected residues and emissions;	<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Site and Surrounding Area [EN0110020/APP/6.3]</p> <p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Water Resources and Flood Risk [EN0110020/APP/6.10]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.11]</p>

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Specified Information		Chapter Reference
		<p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Air Quality [EN0110020/APP/6.12]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [EN0110020/APP/6.14]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics [EN0110020/APP/6.16]</p>
2.	a description of the baseline scenario including the future baseline without development as far as can be assessed;	<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Site and Surrounding Area [EN0110020/APP/6.3]</p> <p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN0110020/APP/6.4]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-17 [EN0110020/APP/6.6-6.17]</p>
3.	a description of the methods used to predict significant effects;	<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: EIA Methodology [EN0110020/APP/6.2]</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-17 [EN0110020/APP/6.6-6.17]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Figures [EN0110020/APP/6.19]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]</p>
4.	a description of the likely significant effects (both positive and negative) of the proposed development having regard to impacts that are; direct and indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short, medium or long-term, permanent and temporary; and	<p>ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-17 [EN0110020/APP/6.6-6.17]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Figures [EN0110020/APP/6.19]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]</p>
5.	a description of avoidance and mitigation measures and to what extent these will be effective and a description of any proposed monitoring arrangements.	<p>ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-17 [EN0110020/APP/6.6-6.17]</p> <p>ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]</p>

1.8 Project Team and Competency

1.8.1 The delivery of the EIA for the Proposed Development is being led by ERM with support from other specialist organisations. ERM is a member of the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals' (ISEP's), (formally the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment's (IEMA's)) EIA Quality Mark. This scheme allows organisations to make a commitment to excellence in EIA activities and have this commitment independently reviewed.



1.8.2 In accordance with Regulation 14(4) of the EIA Regulations⁷, the ES has been prepared by competent experts. **ES Volume 3, Appendix 1.1: Environmental Impact Assessment Authors [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** outlines the relevant expertise or qualifications of the experts who have prepared the ES. The sections of this ES have been compiled by EIA practitioners and technical experts from the organisations shown in **Table 1.4**.

Table 1.4: EIA Team

EIA Topic or ES Section	Provider/Author
Introduction	ERM
EIA Methodology	ERM
The Site and Surrounding Area	ERM
Alternatives and Design Iterations	ERM / Icení / AECOM
The Proposed Development	ERM / AECOM
Biodiversity and Nature Conservation	ERM / Peak Ecology / Logika
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	ERM
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	ERM / Headland Archaeology
Ground Conditions and Land Quality	ERM / Land Drainage Consultancy
Water Resources and Flood Risk	ERM
Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Assessment	ERM
Air Quality	ERM
Traffic and Transport	ERM / AECOM
Noise and Vibration	ERM
Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation and Land Use	ERM
Other Environmental Topics	ERM / Pager Power
Cumulative Effects	ERM
Non-Technical Summary	ERM

1.9 ES Availability

- 1.9.1 The ES has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the Application and will be available to view on the Planning Inspectorate website.
- 1.9.2 If you would like further information about this ES, the Application or the Proposed Development, please contact the project team by using one of these methods:
- Call Freephone: 0800 688 9936 (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
 - Email: info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
 - Write to: Whitestone Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK Local (no stamp is needed)

References

- ¹ National Grid (2024) *Project Summary Document: Substation Near Brinsworth*. Available at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/document/155231/download> [Accessed January 2026]
- ² Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, (2026) *Application Number RB2025/1468*: Available at <https://planning.rotherham.gov.uk/fastweblive/detail.asp?AltRef=RB2025/1468&ApplicationNumber=&AddressPrefix=long+lane&submit1=Go> [Accessed February 2026]
- ³ His Majesty's Office (HMSO) (2008) *Planning Act 2008 (as amended)*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents> [Accessed January 2026]
- ⁴ Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. (2025). *Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)*. (Online). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025> [Accessed May 2026].
- ⁵ Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. (2025). *National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)*. (Online). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-2025> [Accessed May 2026].
- ⁶ Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. (2025). *National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks and Infrastructure (EN-5)*. (Online). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025> [Accessed May 2026].
- ⁷ Department of Communities and Local Government (2017) *Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017*. Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572> [Accessed January 2026]
- ⁸ Department of Communities and Local Government (2017) *Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017*. Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572> [Accessed January 2026]
- ⁹ UK Government. (2025). *Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects – Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements*. (Online). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-seven-environmental-impact-assessment-process-preliminary-environmental-information-an> [Accessed February 2026].



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