



WHITESTONE
solar farm

WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM

Volume 6: Environmental Statement

6.20 Appendix 6.11: Otter and Water Vole Report

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ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

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6.11A	Photographs of otter and water vole suitability points

Glossary

Term	Meaning
<i>Cable Corridor</i>	Corridors within which the high voltage cables would be constructed.
<i>Development Consent Order (DCO)</i>	A statutory order made by the relevant Secretary of State pursuant to The Planning Act 2008 to authorise a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project which provides consent for the project and means that a range of other consents, such as planning permission and listed building consent, will not be required. A DCO can also include rights of compulsory acquisition
<i>Environmental Statement (ES)</i>	Environmental Statement which presents the environmental information relating to the Proposed Development. The ES has been prepared 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>Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)</i>	NSIPs are large scale major development projects in England or Wales which fall into the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy; • Transport;

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Term	Meaning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste; • Waste Water; and • Water. <p>The primary legislation which applies to NSIPs is called the Planning Act 2008. When these types of development meet the threshold described in the Planning Act 2008, they need a Development Consent Order before they can be built.</p>
<i>Order Limits</i>	Total area comprising the Site and Cable Corridor.
<i>Study Area</i>	This is an area which is defined for otter and water vole surveys which includes the Order Limits as well as potential spatial and temporal considerations of the impacts on relevant receptors.
<i>The Applicant</i>	Whitestone Net Zero Ltd
<i>The Application</i>	The Application to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero for a Development Consent Order.
<i>The Proposed Development</i>	The proposed Whitestone Solar Farm
<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>AIL</i>	Abnormal Indivisible Load
<i>BESS</i>	Battery Energy Storage System
<i>DBRC</i>	Derbyshire Biological Records
<i>DCO</i>	Development Consent Order
<i>DBRC</i>	Derbyshire Biological Records Centre
<i>EPS</i>	European Protected Species
<i>EPSM</i>	European Protected Species Mitigation
<i>ERM</i>	Environmental Resources Management Ltd
<i>ES</i>	Environmental Statement
<i>NERC</i>	Natural Environment Research Council
<i>NSIP</i>	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
<i>PV</i>	Photovoltaic
<i>RBRC</i>	Rotherham Biological Records Centre
<i>SBRC</i>	Sheffield Biological Records Centre

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Acronym	Meaning
<i>W1</i>	Whitestone 1
<i>W2</i>	Whitestone 2
<i>W3</i>	Whitestone 3

Units of Measurement

Units	Meaning
<i>ha</i>	Hectares
<i>km</i>	Kilometres
<i>kV</i>	Kilovolt
<i>m</i>	Metres
<i>MW</i>	Megawatt

6.11 Otter and Water Vole Survey Report

Introduction

- 6.11.1 This Appendix has been prepared on behalf of Whitestone Net Zero Ltd ('the Applicant') to set out the survey methodology and results of the otter and waver vole surveys in relation to the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application for the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of Whitestone Solar Farm (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development').
- 6.11.2 This Appendix is supported by the following figures in **ES Volume 3, Figures [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**:
- **Figure 6.1: Land Parcel Reference**
 - **Figure 6.11.1: Otter Evidence - Whitestone 2**
 - **Figure 6.11.2: Otter Evidence – Whitestone 3**
 - **Figure 6.11.3: Otter and Water Vole Suitability Assessment Points – Whitestone 1**
 - **Figure 6.11.4: Otter and Water Vole Suitability Assessment Points – Whitestone 2**
 - **Figure 6.11.5: Otter and Water Vole Suitability Assessment Points – Whitestone 3**
 - **Figure 6.11.6: Otter and Water Vole Suitability Assessment Points – Cable Corridors**
- 6.11.3 This Appendix is supported by the following annexes located at the end of this document:
- **Annex 6.11A: Photographs of otter and water vole suitability points**

The Order Limits

- 6.11.1 The extent of the Order Limits are described in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Site and Surrounding Area [EN0110020/APP/6.3]** and shown in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.1: Order Limits [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**. The Proposed Development is described in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]** and shown spatially on the **Works Plans [EN0110020/APP/2.3]**.

The Proposed Development

- 6.11.2 The Proposed Development involves the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of more than 100MW of solar photovoltaic (PV) array, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), onsite substations and supporting infrastructure, and grid connection infrastructure. The grid connection infrastructure would connect the Proposed Development to the new National Grid substation at Brinsworth (Long Lane 400kV Substation).
- 6.11.3 As the Proposed Development would have a generating capacity in excess of 100MW, it is considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008.

- 6.11.4 The Proposed Development would be located within the Order Limits. The Order Limits encompass the total area of the Proposed Development comprising the Site and Cable Corridors. The Site is specifically the land that is planned to be used for solar PV array and associated infrastructure, BESS, substations, landscaping and habitat enhancement. The Site is split into Whitestone 1 (W1), Whitestone 2 (W2) and Whitestone 3 (W3).
- 6.11.5 Highway Works are sections of the highway network that will contain localised improvements, such as improvements to road edge where it is deteriorated, or temporary highway and traffic works required to safely accommodate the Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) deliveries. These areas will support the movement of construction vehicles on narrower sections of the local highway network within parts of the construction vehicle routes to the Site, see **ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport [EN0110020/APP/6.13]**.

Legislation and Guidance

Otter

- 6.11.6 Otter is fully protected as a European Protected Species (EPS)¹.
- 6.11.7 It is an offence under the Habitats Regulations to:
- Deliberately kill, injure, disturb or capture otter;
 - Damage or destroy their breeding sites and resting places – even if otter are not present; and
 - Possess, control or transport otter (alive or dead).
- 6.11.8 It is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly²
- Disturb otters while they occupy a structure or place used for shelter or protection; and
 - Obstruct access to a place of shelter or protection.
- 6.11.9 The otter is listed as a ‘Species of Principal Importance for Nature Conservation in England’³. Under the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) Act 20026, otter is a material consideration in planning decisions, requiring developers and public bodies to mitigate impacts on their habitats.
- 6.11.10 Where development cannot avoid potential offences, then it is possible to apply for a European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licence, which is essentially a derogation licence to enable works to take place that would otherwise be illegal under the legislation.

Water vole

- 6.11.11 Water voles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981². It is an offence to intentionally:
- Kill, injure or take water vole;
 - Damage or destroy a structure or place used by water vole for shelter or protection;
 - Disturb or obstruct a water vole in a place used for shelter or protection; and
 - Possess or control them (alive or dead).

6.11.12 The water vole is listed as a ‘Species of Principal Importance for Nature Conservation in England’³. Water vole is a material consideration in planning decisions, requiring developers and public bodies to mitigate impacts on their habitats³. Where development cannot avoid potential offences, then dependent on impact, it is possible to apply for a ‘displacement’ or a conservation licence, which is essentially a derogation licence to enable works to take place that would otherwise be illegal under the legislation.

Survey Methods

Desk Study

6.11.13 A data search was requested from Sheffield Biological Records Centre (SBRC), Rotherham Biological Records Centre (RBRC), and Derbyshire Biological Records Centre (DBRC) on 01 July 2024, with the results detailed in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation [EN0110020/APP/6.6]**.

Field Surveys

Habitat Assessment

6.11.14 Multiple watercourses were identified on Site during an Extended UKHab walkover survey, undertaken by ERM between 19 June 2024 and 2 October 2024, see **ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.2: UK Habitat Survey Report [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**. It was therefore necessary to confirm whether the Site had habitats that could support otter and water vole and whether any evidence of these species were present.

Otter

6.11.15 All watercourses and surrounding habitats were searched, following general ‘standard’ survey guidance⁴ for the following signs:

- Shelters (holts): underground features where otters live. They can be tunnels within bank sides, underneath root-plates or boulder piles, and even man-made structures such as disused drains. Holts are used by otters to rest during the day and are the usual location of natal or breeding sites;
- Temporary shelters (couches): these are above ground resting sites. They may be partially sheltered, or fully exposed. Couches may be regularly used, especially in reed beds and on in-stream islands. Couches can be very difficult to identify and may consist of an area of flattened grass or earth. Where rocks or rock armour are used as couches, these can be almost impossible to identify without observing the otter in situ;
- Faeces (spraints or anal gel): may be used to mark territories, often on in-stream boulders. They can be present within or outside shelters and temporary shelters. Spraints have a characteristic smell sometimes described as being like jasmine tea, and often contain fish remains;
- Foraging signs: the remains of prey items may be found at preferred feeding stations. Remains of fish, crustaceans, molluscs, or skinned, legless amphibians may indicate the presence of otter;
- Prints: otters have characteristic footprints that can be found in soft ground and muddy areas;

- Paths: these are terrestrial routes that otters take when moving between resting sites and watercourses, or at high flow conditions when they will travel along bank sides in preference to swimming; and
- Slides and play areas: slides are typically worn areas on steep slopes where otters slide on their bellies, often found between holts or couches and watercourses. Play areas are used by juvenile otters in play and are often evidenced by trampled vegetation and the presence of slides.

6.11.16 Any of the above signs (apart from paths) are diagnostic of the presence of otter. It is often not possible to identify temporary shelters with confidence unless other field signs are also present. In order to confirm breeding status of a shelter, the shelter usually requires monitoring with a remote camera, undertaken under licence. Camera monitoring did not form part of the current survey scope. Spraints are the most reliably identifiable evidence of the presence of this species.

Water Vole

6.11.17 All watercourses within the Site and sections of the Cable Corridor were surveyed for water vole field signs as described in⁵. This involved searching for the following field signs:

- Faeces (droppings): recognisable by their size, shape, and colour. If not too dried-out these are also distinguishable from rat droppings by their smell;
- Latrines: droppings, often deposited in piles and frequently drummed / flattened with hind feet;
- Foraging (feeding stations): food items are often brought to feeding stations along pathways and hauled onto platforms. Recognisable as neat piles of chewed vegetation, often cut at a 45-degree angle;
- Lawns: may appear as grazed areas around land holes;
- Shelters (burrows): appear as a series of holes along the water's edge distinguishable from rat burrows by size and position;
- Nests: where the water table is high above ground woven nests may be found;
- Footprints: tracks may occur at the water's edge and lead into bank side vegetation. May be distinguishable from rat footprints by size; and
- Runways in vegetation: low tunnels pushed through vegetation near the water's edge; these are less obvious than rat runs.

6.11.18 Water vole droppings are the only field sign that can be used to determine water vole presence reliably on their own; a collection of these field signs found in close proximity to each other can indicate water vole presence⁵. Experience is required to distinguish feeding signs, burrows and footprints of water voles from those of other species.

6.11.19 Water vole surveys require a two-visit survey during the active water vole season to accessible banksides within the Site. Visit 1 (mid-April 2024 to June 2024) is to focus on identifying and classifying habitat suitability, water vole burrows and incidental field signs. Visit 2 (July 2024 to September 2024) is to focus on a detailed inspection of banksides for burrows and field signs. A minimum gap of two months is required between the first and second visits and surveys should not be carried out during or following periods of heavy rain.




Survey Limitations

- 6.11.20 Due to changes to the Order Limits, watercourses that were not originally assessed are now within the Cable Corridors and access points including watercourses W8 and W10.
- 6.11.21 Survey visits have only been partially completed within the Cable Corridors, as not all landowners within the Study Area granted access.
- 6.11.22 Due to the vast size of the Site and requirement to focus effort only on assessing habitats suitable for water vole, where watercourses were initially assessed during Visit 1 to be unsuitable for water vole, surveyors used their professional judgement to determine whether a second survey was necessary. Where habitats were found to be unsuitable, then the second visit did not take place.





Survey Findings

Otter

Table 6.11.1 Otter Evidence Results

Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Type of Evidence	Date	Comments	Figure Reference	Photographs of evidence
Whitestone 2	North eastern aspect of land parcel 156	Anston Brook	Spraint	19 May 2025	Spraint on fallen tree, lying across water.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.1 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 1	
	North eastern aspect of land parcel 156	Anston Brook	Spraint	19 May 2025	Old spraint on fallen tree stump, located approximately 1m above the watercourse.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.1 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 2	No photograph
	North eastern aspect of land parcel 156	Anston Brook	Spraint	19 May 2025	1 old spraint on leaning willow tree	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.1 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 3	
	North eastern aspect of land parcel 156	Anston Brook	Couch	20 May 2025	Possible couch beneath fallen mature willow, covered with moss.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.1 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 4	

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Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Type of Evidence	Date	Comments	Figure Reference	Photographs of evidence
	North eastern aspect of land parcel 156	Anston Brook	Resting place	07 August 2025	Possible day resting place, immediately next to a strip of unvegetated riverbank, which could indicate a slide.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.1 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 5	
	North eastern aspect of land parcel 156	Anston Brook	Resting place	07 August 2025	Possible resting place in hollow tree trunk.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.1 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 6	
Whitestone 3	Eastern aspect of land parcel 174	Broad Bridge Dike	Spraint	27 November 2025	Spraint found on prominent rock and fallen tree	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.2 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 1	
	Eastern aspect of land parcel 174	Broad Bridge Dike	Jelly	27 November 2025	Anal jelly on earth ledge at base of ash tree, on left bank. 1 fresh anal jelly, 6 recent anal jelly.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.2 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 2	

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Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Type of Evidence	Date	Comments	Figure Reference	Photographs of evidence
	Eastern aspect of land parcel 173 / south-west corner of land parcel 177	Broad Bridge Dike	Spraint	27 November 2025	Multiple spraints; mixture of old and fresh.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.2 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 3	
	Eastern aspect of 173 / western aspect of 177	Broad Bridge Dike	Spraint	27 November 2025	4 spraints; mixture of old, recent and fresh.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.2 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 4	
	Eastern aspect of 173 / western aspect of 177	Broad Bridge Dike	Spraint	27 November 2025	Multiple recent spraints	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.2 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 5	

Table 6.11.2 Otter Suitability Results

(Note that due to changes to the Order Limits, some Cable Corridor options are no longer chosen for inclusion. These have been greyed out in the below results table)

Whitestone Area	Location Description	Watercourse Name	Overall Habitat Category	Rationale	Figure Reference
Whitestone 1	Northern aspect of LPs 35 and 36	Kearsley Brook	Unsuitable	Very slow flowing, with no evidence of a food source and choked with vegetation and obstructions in channel. Unsuitable for holts and foraging, but some commuting potential.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 1
	Western aspect of LP 35	The Brook	Unsuitable	Slow flowing and dry at some points, with no evidence of a food source. Unsuitable for holts and foraging but some commuting potential at points.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 2
	Running through LP 34	Tributary of Hooton Brook	Unsuitable	Dry ditch so no potential for commuting or feeding, and no suitable habitat for couches or holts present as very open with little shelter.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 3
	Southern aspect of LP 32, and northern aspect of 33	Unnamed ditch	Unsuitable	Dry open aspect ditch with no potential for commuting or feeding and no habitats for couches and holts.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 4
	Western aspect of LP 162	Unnamed ditch	Unsuitable	Dry drainage ditch dug into the field boundary with limited structure for couches. Also not suitable for holts, feeding or commuting.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 5
	Parallel to the above	Unnamed ditch	Unsuitable	Mostly dry ditch with some stagnant non-flowing water so no potential for commuting or feeding. No structures to support couches and holts.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 6
	Southern aspect of LP 162	Firsby Brook	Unsuitable	Wooded brook, with very slow flowing water pooling in debris dams. Substrate was mix of silt, gravel and stone with lack of suitable structure for holts and couches.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 7
Whitestone 2	Running through LP 60	Unnamed watercourse	Unsuitable	Recently excavated ditch, with unsuitable bank profile for holts. Slow water flow, dry at points.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 1
	Western aspect of LP 82	Unnamed watercourse	Unsuitable	Slow moving, low water levels with limited potential for commuting, foraging and holts.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 2
	Eastern aspect of LP 82	Ulley Brook	Sub-optimal	Mostly shaded but with some open sections. Moderate water flow. An assortment of old burrows found, both above and beneath water level, with no signs of otter spraint or feeding. Nearby mink spraints with shell fragments does indicate that the burrows below the water level could be used by crayfish, so some feeding opportunities. Potential for commuting.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 3
	Southern aspects of LPs 165, 91, 90 and northern aspect of LPs 97, 104, 99 and 105.	Ulley Brook	Sub-optimal	Slow flow and polluted, so while there is some potential for commuting and lay ups, there is poor foraging opportunities.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 4
	Through LP 165 and along southern aspect of LP 89	Tributary of Ulley Brook	Unsuitable	Dry ditch, puddled in areas with limited feeding opportunities (no evidence of food source) and no commuting potential. Open habitat with frequent dog walkers so unsuitable for holts and couches.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 5
	South eastern and south western aspect of LP 99	Unnamed ditch	Unsuitable	Dry ditch so limited feeding opportunities and no commuting potential. Located in an area frequented by dog walkers so not suitable for holts.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 6
	South western aspect of LP 110	Ulley Brook	Sub-optimal	Stream in heavily wooded area, with slow flow and poled water in some sections due to fallen trees, dead wood and debris. Stickleback in the pooled water offer feeding opportunities and there is some potential for commuting, but no evidence found. No couches were found among the trees and debris.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 7

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Whitestone Area	Location Description	Watercourse Name	Overall Habitat Category	Rationale	Figure Reference
	Through LP 111 and 112	Ulley Brook	Sub-optimal	Very slow flow through muddy pooled water and dry in some sections. Suitable for commuting but limited potential for holts and foraging.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 8
	Through LP 122 and 123	Unnamed watercourse	Unsuitable	Steep lined drainage ditch with water in the middle near culvert. Water dries within 20m of culvert. Lined with herbs and rushes but past this, the surrounding area is exposed with no suitable areas for holts or lay-ups.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 9
	North eastern aspect of LP 133	Possible tributary of Anston Brook	Unsuitable	Dry ditch with some pooled water. No evidence of a food source present and limited commuting potential.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 10
	South eastern aspect of LP 132	Unnamed watercourse	Unsuitable	Dry ditch unsuitable for commuting and feeding. Limited shelter and structures for holts and couches.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 11
	Eastern aspect of LP 127 and western aspect of LP 128	Unnamed watercourse	Unsuitable	Overgrown and shaded with slow flow so offers minimal potential for commuting and no evidence of a food source seen.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 12
	Through LP 141	Anston Brook	Sub-optimal	Very slow flowing, heavy shaded and choked with terrestrial vegetation. Some potential for commuting.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 13
	North western aspect of LP 153	Cramfit Brook	Sub-optimal	Moderate flow and some evidence of signal crayfish. However, sewage fungus recorded throughout the brook. This pollution reduces the potential for use by otter.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 14
	North western aspect of LP 156	Anston Brook	Sub-optimal	Steep banks and varied flow throughout section. Mostly silt banks, which are less stable and may not support holts and some sections of the bank were dredged. Evidence of low fish population, with some stickleback recorded, but visibly polluted water. Multiple sites of otter spraint found (see table 6.11.1).	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 15
Whitestone 3	Western aspect of LP 177 and eastern aspect of LP 173 and 174	Broad Bridge Dike	Suitable	Moderate flow. Suitable for commuting and foraging, as likely to have a food source of fish and crayfish. Unsuitable for layups and couches, as although extensive fallen trees and debris, the banks are heavily disturbed due to dog walkers. Multiple sites of spraint and anal jelly found (see table 6.11.1).	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.5 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 1
	North eastern aspect of LP 173 and northern aspect of 167	Unnamed drain / tributary of Broad Bridge Dike	Unsuitable	Ditch was dry on multiple visits so offers no potential for commuting and feeding. Suitable habitat for holts but heavily disturbed area by dog walkers.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.5 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 2
	Western aspect of LP 188	Country Dike	Suitable	Located in wooded area which offers potential for holts. Water levels were low at time of visit but still has potential for commuting and foraging, as provides connectivity between likely fish populations in adjacent lakes.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.5 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 3
	Eastern aspect of LP 190 and 191	Unnamed drain	Sub-optimal	Offers potential layup sites for otters at the northern end in the dense woodland and potential for commuting, but limited feeding opportunities due to low water levels.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.5 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 4
	Southern and eastern aspect of LP 200	Unnamed brook	Sub-optimal	Heavily shaded watercourse which was dry in sections. Potential for commuting and holt sites, but lacks available foraging opportunities	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.5 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 5
Cable Corridor					
Cable Corridor B	Watercourse along the eastern edge of SID-0039	W1 (Firsby Brook)	Suitable	Watercourse located in open woodland area with lots of potential for holts, in addition to feeding potential. However, there was evidence of disturbance from cattle and although rocks and logs were present suitable for territory marking, there were a lack of otter field signs.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 1) point 1

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Whitestone Area	Location Description	Watercourse Name	Overall Habitat Category	Rationale	Figure Reference
	Watercourse along western boundary of SID-0067	W2	Unsuitable	Watercourse is a shallow ditch between agricultural fields. No potential for holts and foraging. Some potential for commuting, but more suitable commuting routes in the area.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 1) point 2
Cable Corridor 1B	Watercourse runs north to south through SID-0077	W2	Sub-optimal	Lack of structures suitable for holts and no evidence of feeding opportunities. Slow flowing water, but some potential for commuting.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 1) point 3
	Continuation of W2, runs north to south through SID-0090	W3	Sub-optimal	Watercourse heavily shaded by woodland and bramble throughout length, which offers good marking and holt opportunities. However, limited feeding opportunities.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 1) point 4
Cable Corridor C	Section of W18 in SID-0143, access only allowed surveying outside of cable corridor	W18	Unsuitable	Channel appeared completely dry, and covered in bramble so not suitable for holts, feeding or commuting.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 2) point 1
	Watercourse that runs along the north eastern boundary of SID-0161	W17	Suitable	Little evidence of feeding opportunities, although fisheries located nearby. There is some potential for holts but conditions are suboptimal and good commuting potential.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 2) point 2
	Watercourse runs along south western boundary of SID-0164	W25	Unsuitable	Very slow flowing with poor feeding and holting opportunities.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 2) point 3
Cable Corridor D1	Watercourse along south eastern boundary of SID-0162	W24	Unsuitable	Very slow flowing with poor feeding and holting opportunities.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 2) point 4
	Watercourse runs along north eastern boundary of SID-0186	W9	Unsuitable	Watercourse is a dry ditch with no feeding or holting opportunities and low commuting potential.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 2) point 5
Cable Corridor 3A	Watercourse runs east to west through SID-0389, parallel to chesterfield canal	W15	Suitable	Watercourse has suitable feeding and holting opportunities. Positive eDNA results were returned for white clawed crayfish in adjacent canal, which provides further feeding opportunities. While no field signs were returned in this section of watercourse within the cable route, field signs were recorded upstream within solar array, therefore it is likely that otters are also utilising this stretch of watercourse.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 3) point 1
Cable Corridor L	Watercourse runs along north eastern boundary of SID-0402	W13	Sub-optimal	Watercourse dry at time of survey but would offer good feeding and commuting potential when wet. Although no field signs were recorded within the cable route section of the watercourse, there was evidence of otter activity within 800m of the watercourse at Broadbridge Dike.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 2) point 2

Water Vole

Table 6.11.3 Water Vole Suitability Results

(Note that due to changes to the Order Limits, some Cable Corridor routes are no longer chosen for inclusion. These have been greyed out in the below results table)

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Overall Habitat Category		Rationale	Figure Reference
			Visit 1	Visit 2		
Whitestone 1	Northern aspect of LPs 35 and 36	Kearsley Brook	Unsuitable	No second visit required	Water course extremely choked and shaded, with no aquatic vegetation suitable for water vole feeding.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 1
	Western aspect of LP 35	The Brook	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Very shaded with none to minimal aquatic vegetation.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 2
	Running through LP 34	Tributary of Hooton Brook	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Dry ditch with no feeding opportunities suitable for water vole.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 3
	Southern aspect of LP 32, and northern aspect of 33	Unnamed ditch	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Dry ditch with minimal feeding opportunities suitable for water vole.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 4
	Western aspect of LP 162	Unnamed ditch	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Dry ditch.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 5
	Parallel to the above, to the east	Unnamed ditch	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Drainage ditch with stagnant water and minimal feeding opportunities.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 6
	Southern aspect of LP 162	Firsby Brook	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Wooded brook in heavily shaded area, which does not allow growth of suitable vegetation for feeding. Stone substrate unsuitable for burrows.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 7
Whitestone 2	Running through LP 60	Unnamed watercourse	Sub-optimal	No second survey required	Recently cleared ditch so while not currently suitable, if the vegetation is allowed to regrow and water levels rise it may offer potential for foraging and commuting water vole.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 1
	Western aspect of LP 82	Unnamed watercourse	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Heavily shaded section of watercourse, with little suitable vegetation.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 2
	Eastern aspect of LP 82	Ulley Brook	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sections vary between unsuitable, sub-optimal and suitable so water course was assessed overall as sub-optimal. Unsuitable sections were overgrown dry ditches without aquatic vegetation. Sub-optimal sections were shaded but had some patches of suitable vegetation. Suitable sections were steep banked pooled areas with suitable aquatic vegetation for water vole feeding.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 3
	Southern aspects of LPs 165, 91, 90 and northern aspect of LPs 97, 104, 99 and 105.	Ulley Brook	Sub-optimal	No second survey required	Sections vary between unsuitable, sub-optimal and suitable so water course was assessed overall as sub-optimal with habitat connectivity.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Overall Habitat Category		Rationale	Figure Reference
			Visit 1	Visit 2		
						[EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 4
	Through LP 165 and along southern aspect of LP 89	Tributary of Ulley Brook	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Dry ditch with some pooled water with minimal feeding opportunities.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 5
	South eastern and south western aspect of LP 99	Unnamed ditch	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Dry ditch with no suitable aquatic vegetation.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 6
	South western aspect of LP 110	Ulley Brook	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Heavily wooded area, with no in stream vegetation suitable for water vole feeding.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 7
	Through LP 111 and 112	Ulley Brook	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Watercourse was a muddy dry ditch with substrate of stone and rock unsuitable for burrowing with minimal aquatic vegetation.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 8
	Through LP 122 and 123	Unnamed watercourse	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Steep sided drainage ditch, with water only in the centre. Although little water and very overgrown, suitable aquatic vegetation was present.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 9
	North eastern aspect of LP 133	Possible tributary of Anston Brook	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Dry ditch with some pooled water at points. No aquatic vegetation present so no feeding opportunities.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 10
	South eastern aspect of LP 132	Unnamed watercourse	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Dry ditch with no feeding potential for water vole.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 11
	Eastern aspect of LP 127 and western aspect of LP 128	Unnamed watercourse	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Dry ditch in an overgrown shaded area which does not allow for the growth of aquatic vegetation required for water vole feeding.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 12
	Through LP 141	Anston Brook	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Heavily shaded area in most sections but some suitable vegetation, so possible food source. Plant species present included meadowsweet (<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>), hairy willowherb (<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>), reed canary grass (<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>) and dock (<i>Rumex spp.</i>)	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 13
	North western aspect of LP 153	Cramfit Brook	Suitable	Sub-optimal	Bankside substrate is a mixture of bedrock, silt and clay so in some points suitable bankside structure with potential to support water vole. Many tall herbs, including stinging nettles along with bramble. But recent pollution (sewage fungus throughout the brook) suggests most animal life has been destroyed.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 14
	North western aspect of LP 156	Anston Brook	Sub-optimal	Suitable	Varied flow throughout this section of watercourse, ranging from very slow to moderate. Watercourse ranged in width (2-3m) and depth (0.2 -	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Overall Habitat Category		Rationale	Figure Reference
			Visit 1	Visit 2		
					1.2m), due to a naturally occurring dam. Extensive portions had been dredged up from the left bank, cleared up and reprofiled recently at the first visit. Bank varies between steep mud banks and man-made blocks. Most sections of the watercourse is dominated by nettle which offers little as a food source, but juncus and willowherb also present in some sections, which has more value to water vole as a food source. Burrows found in bank but most were too small for water vole and no other evidence of water vole found.	[EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 15
Whitestone 3	Western aspect of LP 177 and eastern aspect of LP 173 and 174	Broad Bridge Dike	Sub-optimal	Unsuitable	On first visit, most sections of the habitat were assessed as unsuitable as there was a moderate to fast flow of water, lack of suitable vegetation due to shade and the area was frequently disturbed by dog-walkers. However, in one section, long grasses and herbs were present which would act as a valuable food source, so the overall watercourse was assessed as sub-optimal on visit 1. However, on visit 2, the unsuitable sections of this watercourse were deemed to outweigh the small section of suitable vegetation.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.5 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 1
	North eastern aspect of LP 173 and northern aspect of 167	Unnamed drain / tributary of Broad Bridge Dike	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Dry ditch. This watercourse was dry on visit 1, so was revisited to confirm it was still dry.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.5 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 2
	Western aspect of LP 188	Country Dike	Unsuitable	No second survey required.	Watercourse located in excessively wooded area. Due to this shade, no suitable vegetation present for water vole food source.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.5 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 3
	Eastern aspect of LP 190 and 191	Unnamed drain	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Watercourse located in excessively wooded area. Due to this shade, no suitable vegetation present for water vole food source.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.5 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 4
	Southern and eastern aspect of LP 200	Unnamed brook	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Watercourse located in excessively wooded area. Due to this shade, no suitable vegetation present for water vole food source, and poor bank profiles offers poor habitat for burrows.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.5 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 5
Cable Corridor						
Cable Corridor B	Watercourse along the eastern edge of SID-0039	W1 (Firsby Brook)	Suitable	To Be Scheduled (TBS)	Watercourse located in open woodland area, some shading but presence of aquatic vegetation and burrowing opportunities to support potential water vole population. Evidence of disturbance from cattle and lack of WV field signs on first visit. Second visit recommended.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 1) point 1
	Watercourse along western boundary of SID-0067	W2	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Watercourse is a shallow ditch between agricultural fields. Little burrowing potential and no field signs on first visit.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 1) point 2

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT



Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Overall Habitat Category		Rationale	Figure Reference
			Visit 1	Visit 2		
Cable Corridor 1B	Watercourse runs north to south through SID-0077	W2	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Watercourse located in excessively wooded area. No suitable vegetation present for water vole food source, and poor bank profiles offers poor habitat for burrows. No field signs on first visit.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 1) point 3
	Continuation of W2, runs north to south through SID-0090	W3	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Watercourse heavily shaded by woodland and bramble throughout length. No suitable aquatic vegetation and poor habitat for burrows. No field signs on first visit.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 1) point 4
Cable Corridor C	Section of W18 in SID-0143, access only allowed surveying outside of cable corridor	W18	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Watercourse completely dry and heavily shaded by bramble along entire surveyed length. No field signs on first visit	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 2) point 1
	Watercourse that runs along the north-eastern boundary of SID-0161	W17	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Watercourse shaded by trees and overgrown. No feeding opportunities and poor burrowing habitat. No field signs on first visit.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 2) point 2
	Watercourse runs along south-western boundary of SID-0164	W25	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Watercourse heavily shaded by trees and scrub along entire surveyed length. Poor feeding and burrowing opportunities. No field signs on first visit.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 2) point 3
Cable Corridor D1	Watercourse along south-eastern boundary of SID-0162	W24	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Watercourse heavily shaded by trees and scrub along entire surveyed length. Poor feeding and burrowing opportunities. No field signs on first visit.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 2) point 4
	Watercourse runs along north-eastern boundary of SID-0186	W9	Unsuitable	No second survey required	Watercourse is a dry ditch and heavily shaded. No feeding or burrowing opportunities. No field signs on first visit.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 2) point 5
Cable Corridor 3A	Watercourse runs east to west through SID-0389, parallel to chesterfield canal	W15	Sub-optimal	TBS	Watercourse shaded along most of surveyed length, however some areas providing good feeding and burrowing opportunities to potentially support water vole population. No field signs on first visit. Second visit recommended.	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 3) point 1
Cable Corridor L	Watercourse runs along north-eastern boundary of SID-0402	W13	Sub-optimal	TBS	Watercourse dry at time of survey but would offer good water vole habitat with steep banks and riparian vegetation when water present. No field signs on first visit. Second visit recommended	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] (sheet 3) point 2

Summary and Conclusions






- 6.11.23 Following the otter surveys, the presence of otter was confirmed within the Site. A total of 13 points of evidence were recorded in the Solar Array area including spraint, anal jelly and possible couches and resting places. No evidence of otter was found in the surveyed sections of the Cable Corridor.
- 6.11.24 Out of the 35 otter suitability points presented in **Table 6.11.2**, 21 points were assessed to be 'unsuitable', 10 were 'sub-optimal', 4 were 'suitable' and none were assessed to be 'optimal'.
- 6.11.25 No confirmed evidence of water vole was found during the water vole surveys. On Visit 1, out of the 35 suitability points presented in **Table 6.11.3**, 25 points were assessed to be 'unsuitable', 8 were 'sub-optimal', 2 were 'suitable' and none were assessed to be optimal for water vole. On Visit 2, 26 points were assessed to not require a second visit, 2 points were 'unsuitable', 4 were 'sub-optimal', 1 was assessed to be 'suitable' for water vole and 2 points, both located in the Cable Corridor, still need a second visit to be scheduled at a later date.
- 6.11.26 The above totals exclude the three suitability assessment points located in Cable Corridor no longer chosen for inclusion, though they remain present and greyed out in the summary tables.

Annex 6.11A



Table 6.11.4 Photographs of Otter and Water Vole Suitability Points

Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Figure Reference	Photographs
Whitestone 1	Northern aspect of LPs 35 and 36	Kearsley Brook	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 1	
	Western aspect of LP 35	The Brook	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 2	




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Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Figure Reference	Photographs
				
	Running through LP 34	Tributary of Hooton Brook	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 3	
	Southern aspect of LP 32, and northern aspect of 33	Unnamed ditch	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 4	
	Western aspect of LP 162	Unnamed ditch	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 5	
	Parallel to the above, to the east	Unnamed ditch	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 6	





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Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Figure Reference	Photographs
	Southern aspect of LP 162	Firsby Brook	<p>ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 7</p>	
Whitestone 2	Running through LP 60	Unnamed watercourse	<p>ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 1</p>	




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Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Figure Reference	Photographs
	Western aspect of LP 82	Unnamed watercourse	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 2	
	Eastern aspect of LP 82	Ulley Brook	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 3	
	Southern aspects of LPs 165, 91, 90 and northern aspect of LPs 97, 104, 99 and 105.	Ulley Brook	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 4	




ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Figure Reference	Photographs
	Through LP 165 and along southern aspect of LP 89	Tributary of Ulley Brook	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 5	
	Southeastern and southwestern aspect of LP 99	Unnamed ditch	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 6	
	Southwestern aspect of LP 110	Ulley Brook	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 7	
	Through LP 111 and 112	Ulley Brook	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 8	



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Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Figure Reference	Photographs
				
	Through LP 122 and 123	Unnamed watercourse	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 9	
	Northeastern aspect of LP 133	Possible tributary of Anston Brook	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 10	



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Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Figure Reference	Photographs
	Southeastern aspect of LP 132	Unnamed watercourse	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 11	
	Eastern aspect of LP 127 and western aspect of LP 128	Unnamed watercourse	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 12	
	Through LP 141	Anston Brook	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 13	




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Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Figure Reference	Photographs
				
	Northwestern aspect of LP 153	Cramfit Brook	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 14	
	Northwestern aspect of LP 156	Anston Brook	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 15	




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Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Figure Reference	Photographs
				
Whitestone 3	Western aspect of LP 177 and eastern aspect of LP 173 and 174	Broad Bridge Dike	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.5 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 1	




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Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Figure Reference	Photographs
	Northeastern aspect of LP 173 and northern aspect of 167	Unnamed drain / tributary of Broad Bridge Dike	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.5 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 2	
	Western aspect of LP 188	Country Dike	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.5 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 3	
	Eastern aspect of LP 190 and 191	Unnamed drain	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.5 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 4	No photos taken
	Southern and eastern aspect of LP 200	Unnamed brook	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.5 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]point 5	No photos taken
Cable Corridor				
Cable Corridor B	Watercourse along the eastern edge of SID-0039	W1 (Firsby Brook)	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 1	





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Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Figure Reference	Photographs
	Watercourse along western boundary of SID-0067	W2	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 2	
CR1B	Watercourse runs north to south through SID-0077	W2	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 3	
	Continuation of W2, runs north to south through SID-0090	W3	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 4	

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Figure Reference	Photographs
Cable Corridor C	Section of W18 in SID-0143, access only allowed surveying outside of cable corridor	W18	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.7 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 1	
	Watercourse that runs along the north-eastern boundary of SID-0161	W17	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.7 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 2	
	Watercourse runs along south-western boundary of SID-0164	W25	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.7 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 3	

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Whitestone Area	Location description	Watercourse Name	Figure Reference	Photographs
Cable Corridor D1	Watercourse along south-eastern boundary of SID-0162	W24	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.7 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 4	
	Watercourse runs along north-eastern boundary of SID-0186	W9	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.7 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 5	
CR3A	Watercourse runs east to west through SID-0389, parallel to chesterfield canal	W15	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.8 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 1	
Cable Corridor L	Watercourse runs along north-eastern boundary of SID-0402	W13	ES Volume 3, Figure 6.11.8 [EN0110020/APP/6.19] point 2	

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- ² UK Government (1981). Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Schedule 5. Available online at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/5> (Accessed March 2026)
- ³ The otter is listed as a 'Species of Principal Importance for Nature Conservation in England'. Under the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) Act 20026, otter is a material consideration in planning decisions, requiring developers and public bodies to mitigate impacts on their habitats. Available online at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/41> (Accessed April March 2026)
- ⁴ Chanin, P. 2003. Monitoring the Otter *Lutra lutra*. Conserving Natura 2000 River Monitoring Series No. 10, English Nature, Peterborough
- ⁵ Dean, M., Strachan, R., Gow, D., Andrews, R. (2016). *The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook* (The Mammal Society Mitigation Guidance Series). Eds Fiona Mathews and Paul Chanin. The Mammal Society, London



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