



Planning Inspectorate
c/o QUADIENT
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough
SL1 4PN

Customer
Services: 0303 444 5000
e-mail: Whitestonesolarfarm
@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Ms L Freeman
Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

Case ref: EN0110020

Date: 3 July 2026

By email only

Dear Lucy

Planning Act 2008 – section 51

Application by Whitestone Net Zero Ltd for an order granting development consent for the Whitestone Solar Farm

Advice following issue of decision to accept the application for examination

On 3 July 2026 the Secretary of State decided that the application for the above project satisfied the acceptance tests under section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). The Planning Inspectorate's acceptance checklist and the application documents have been published and made available on the project page of our website.

In undertaking checks at the acceptance stage, the Inspectorate has made some initial observations in relation to the application. This letter comprises advice to the applicant provided under section 51 of the PA2008 in respect of these initial observations. The applicant should pay attention to its content and consider how appropriate action might be taken in response.

Consultees identified on a precautionary basis

Given the individual circumstances of this case, the Planning Inspectorate advises taking a precautionary approach to consultation under s42(1)(a) of PA2008 to ensure that all persons potentially affected by, or potentially likely to have an interest in the application are given the opportunity to participate fully in the examination of the application. On this basis, the applicant may wish to serve notice on the two parish councils listed in box 6 of the section 55 checklist when it serves notice of the accepted application under s56(2)(a) of the PA2008 to ensure that they are given the opportunity to register their interest at the relevant representation stage and make representations/ participate in the examination; unless there is a specific justification why this is not necessary.

Habitats Regulations Assessment clarifications

A No Likely Significant Effects Report was not submitted with the application; the Environmental Statement confirmed that there were no identified impact pathways to European sites and that this had been agreed with Natural England. The Inspectorate notes that the consultation response providing explicit agreement on this matter is not included in the submission and the applicant is requested to provide this response.

The applicant should also explicitly confirm that in-combination effects with other projects have been considered in reaching the conclusion that there are no pathways for significant effects.

Minor errors and omissions

There are minor errors and omissions, as reflected in Box 30 of the acceptance checklist.

At Schedule 13 of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) (Doc 3.1) will need to ensure that the names of the documents are consistent with the title description of the document that has been submitted.

There is an error reference in paragraphs 2.2.3 and 2.24 of the Consents and Agreements Position Statement (Doc 5.3).

The applicant needs to check the correct references are given throughout the application in documents such as the draft DCO (Doc 3.1) and the Planning Statement (Doc 5.4).

In the Planning Statement (Doc 5.4) appendix 1 4.3.21 is blank and appendix 1 4.3.15 refers to 'Figure 01' which should possibly refer to 'Figure 2'. The figure numbers and table numbers should be checked throughout the document.

In the Grid Connection Statement, (Doc 7.1) paragraph 6.1.3 says that the new Long Lane substation is shown on Sheet 9 of the Works Plans however, this is not shown on the Works Plans.

It would be helpful if part 1 to 3 tables in the Book of Reference (Doc 4.3) were searchable.

Within the Works Plans (Doc 2.3) the applicant should consider if it would be useful to have the works descriptions within the legend. On sheet 20 works '1-2F' needs to be checked to see if labelling is correct. Plots 4-11, 4-10, 4-9, 4-8, 4-7, 4-6 as identified in the Land Plan seem to be missing; if these are needed, they will need inserting.

It is noted in Appendix 13.2 Transport Statement (Doc 6.20) that this incorrectly refers to 'M62112' when this should be 'M621'.

Environmental Statement (ES)

Any error messages within the chapters and appendices will need to be corrected together with any missing words and typographical errors.

The naming of volumes and appendices will need to be consistent. It appears that chapters are labelled volume 6 when they are later referred to as volume 1. Also, ES

Appendix 8.9 Phase I Trial Trenching Report (Doc 6.20) is named Phase 'I' on the cover sheet when this should state 'Phase 1'.

Within ES Appendix 6.3 Badger Survey Report (Doc 6.20), reference to Nature Scotland is likely needed to be removed.

Please pay close attention to the advice set out in this letter and the accompanying s55 checklist and act on it accordingly. It is requested that you action these points as soon as reasonably practicable before the commencement of the preliminary meeting. This will contribute towards a more efficient examination and give any future Examining Authority comfort that the documentation is complete and accurate.

We trust you find this advice helpful, however if you have any queries on these matters, please do not hesitate to contact our office using the contact details at the head of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Luxton

Rebecca Luxton
Case Manager

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

