Planning Inspectorate

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

Agenda for Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1):

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Open floor hearing 1	**Tuesday 10 November 2026** **Hearing starts at 2.00pm** Registration and seating available at venue from 1.30pm and virtual registration process from 1.30pm	**1925 Suite, Asseal New York Stadium, New York Way, Rotherham, S60 1FJ** and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams

Agenda items

1. Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the hearing

2. Purpose of the open floor hearing

3. Confirmation of those who have notified the Examining Authority (ExA) of a wish to be heard at the hearing.

4. Agenda

1	**Oral representations from interested parties (IPs) and any non-IPs** Each IP who has indicated a wish to speak will be invited forward in turn to speak at a table set up in front of the ExA, or via Microsoft Teams if attending online. Each non-IP who has indicated a wish to speak will then, at the ExA's discretion and if time permitting, be invited forward in turn to speak at a table set up in front of the ExA, or via Microsoft Teams if attending online. Oral representations should be **up to 3 minutes** long per person for individuals and **up to 5 minutes** long per person for those representing a number of people/organisations.

	If many people wish to speak, the ExA may further restrict the time available to each speaker. Oral representations should provide further detail, explanation and corroborative evidence on the matters raised in the speaker's relevant representation. The ExA may then ask questions of the speaker.
2	**Responses by the Applicant** The Applicant will be invited to respond to matters raised and to questions arising from the ExA either orally after all IPs/non-IPs have spoken, or in writing by deadline 1

4. Next steps

The ExA will review any actions arising from the hearing and will consider how those actions fit into the timetable and any next steps that need to be taken.

5. Close of open floor hearing 1

Purpose of the open floor hearing

The purpose of the hearing is to give interested parties an opportunity to make oral representations about the application. It does not have a subject-matter controlled agenda. The hearing is subject to the powers of control of the ExA, as set out in the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) and supporting legislation.

The ExA will invite parties to speak and may ask questions as it considers necessary. All comments, questions and answers are to be directed to the ExA and not directly to any other party. Once an issue has been identified it does not need to be repeated. It is sufficient to say that you agree with something a previous speaker has raised. All important and relevant issues raised at all OFHs are considered by the ExA and contribute towards its consideration of the planning balance in due course.

Attendees

Anyone wishing to attend the Hearing in person, who has not already advised the Case Team of this, should do so as soon as possible.

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the Whitestone Solar Farm project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website closer to the Hearing date. Interested Parties and members of the public who wish to observe the Hearing can therefore view and listen to the Hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded.

Timing

The ExA will keep to the agenda as much as possible. The hearing is not expected to go beyond 6.30pm.

Anyone who is not able to provide all their oral submissions by the close of the hearing should follow it up in writing.

Registration Process

Parties who have registered to speak (both in person and virtually) will receive a Joining Instruction email shortly before the Hearing which will include a link to the virtual event on Microsoft Teams, and a telephone number should they need to participate by telephone. To enable the Hearing to start on time at **2.00pm** those attending virtually should join promptly at **1.30pm** to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the Registration Process in good time.

Procedure at OFH

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provides that it is for the ExA to probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questions of persons making oral representations at Hearings. Questioning at the Hearing will be led by the ExA. Cross questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that an IP has had a fair chance to put its case.