

We will soon start a second round of consultation on our updated plans for Whitestone Solar Farm, a proposed solar farm with battery storage that would be located in South Yorkshire between Rotherham and Doncaster.

In response to the feedback we received at the first round of consultation from 18 November 2024 to 31 January 2025, we have made significant changes to the project design. This included removing around one fourth of the solar panels to create buffers around homes, villages and public rights of way. Based on technical and environmental assessments, we have now updated the masterplan to include the potential locations for substations, batteries, and cable routes.

We are presenting the updated masterplan for your feedback, along with the initial findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment. Feedback received during this consultation, along with ongoing environmental assessments, will continue to inform the project proposals.

#### Find out more

Visit the project website www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk for more information on our updated proposals. You can also attend any of the public information events to learn more and ask questions of the project team.

#### Public information events

Date and time	Location
2 October 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, S66 9DD
3 October 1pm-5pm	Todwick Village Hall, S26 1HJ
4 October 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre, DN12 3JX
7 October 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL
8 October 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Parish Hall, S65 4PT
14 October 3pm-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S26 3YD
15 October 12pm-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX

### Submit your feedback

Submit your written feedback via the following methods by 11:59pm on 28 October:

- Complete an online feedback form, available through our website: whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper feedback form, available at our information events or by request
- Send an email to: info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Write to: Whitestone Solar Farm
   Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local
   (no stamp is needed)











## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



### Why here?

The starting point for the project was the grid connection at Brinsworth Substation in Rotherham. From there, we looked for land nearby that would be suitable for solar while avoiding the most productive agricultural land and environmentally sensitive areas. We will continue to refine the design based on environmental assessments and feedback from the community.



## Why use agricultural land instead of rooftops or brownfields?

We support the rooftop revolution and continue to develop rooftop installations as part of our wider business. However, to meet national energy needs, large scale projects like Whitestone are needed because they can produce a significant amount of energy, and are a tried and tested technology that can be developed quickly.



## Have you taken environmental considerations into account?

We are undertaking a full Environmental Impact Assessment, which will assess potential impacts on biodiversity, landscape, flood risk, cultural heritage, and more. The initial findings from our assessments are part of this consultation and can be viewed in the draft Environmental Statement, available on our website whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk and at our public information events.



# Why does this application go to national government rather than through local planning?

Because of its size, Whitestone is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). Under the Planning Act 2008, we are required to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct and operate the project, which will be decided by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. Even though local authorities will not make the final decision, they have a vital role to play in shaping the proposals through consultation and ongoing engagement.



### Will my feedback be considered?

Yes, we are holding two consultations before the application is submitted. Our first round of consultation ran for 11 weeks, and included public events, meetings with parish councils and other stakeholders, and individual discussions with local residents. We received 940 pieces of written feedback, which we have reviewed and considered, to inform the updated design shown at this round of consultation. We are now holding our second consultation on the updated masterplan and draft Environmental Statement, which will help inform the proposals we submit in our DCO application next spring.



