



WHITESTONE

solar farm

Introducing Whitestone Solar Farm

Introduction

We're writing to introduce our proposals for Whitestone Solar Farm.

Whitestone is a proposed new solar farm with battery storage located in South Yorkshire between Rotherham and Doncaster, which would connect into the National Grid at Brinsworth substation.

Whitestone is being brought forward by Green Nation, a solar developer with extensive experience in both rooftop and ground-mounted projects, currently managing 75 solar farms around the country, and working with Net Zero One Limited.

We're at an early stage in the process of developing our proposals. We will soon hold a community consultation on our initial plans from **18 November 2024 to 17 January 2025**, and we want to hear from you.

Your feedback is very important to us and will help us shape our proposals. You can learn more about Whitestone and how to take part in our community consultation on the following pages.

Why do we need Whitestone?

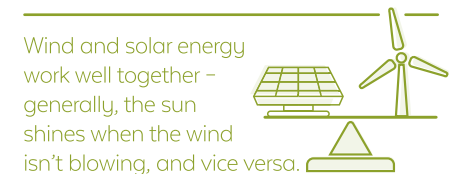
The UK has set a target for clean power by 2030, to help in the fight against climate change while supporting energy security and helping to reduce energy costs.

As we cut our reliance on fossil fuels, we need new renewable energy resources, like wind and solar, to come online. At the same time, our demand for electricity is set to double by 2050, as we shift away from gas boilers and traditional cars to heat pumps and electric vehicles.

This means there is an urgent need to develop clean, affordable energy here in the UK. Projects like Whitestone could play a major part in helping to reach these targets, by providing enough energy to supply up to 250,000 homes*.



rapidly in recent years, so that panels can now absorb energy even on cloudy days, and rainy weather helps keep the panels clean and cool.

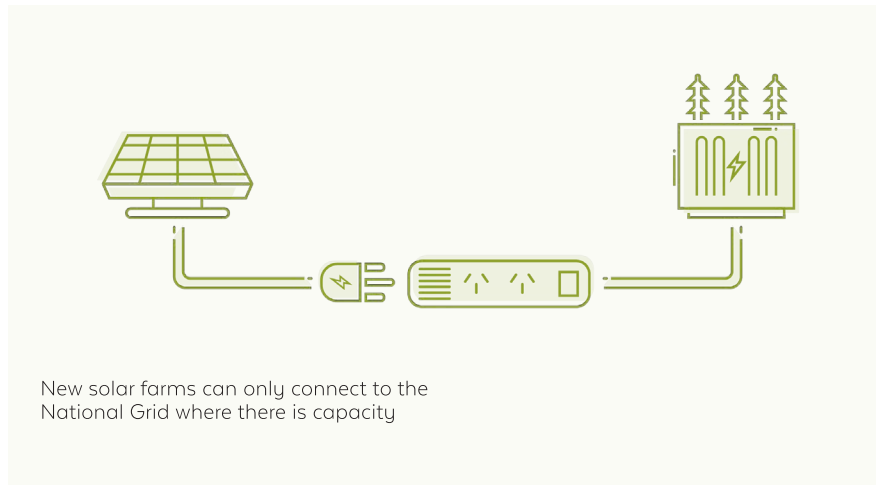


*This is based on the average energy consumption of 3,200 kWh per year.

Why here?

The National Grid connects power sources to power users across the UK, through a network of substations and pylons. However, new energy projects can only connect into the National Grid at locations with available capacity. Due to its historic role in the steel production industry, there was available capacity at the Brinsworth Substation in Rotherham, so we were able to secure an agreement for a new energy project to connect at this location.

Once we had our grid connection agreement, we looked for land nearby that would be suitable for solar. This includes characteristics such as suitable topography and enough light. We also wanted to avoid environmentally sensitive areas, for example, high quality agricultural land that is considered 'best and most versatile' where possible.

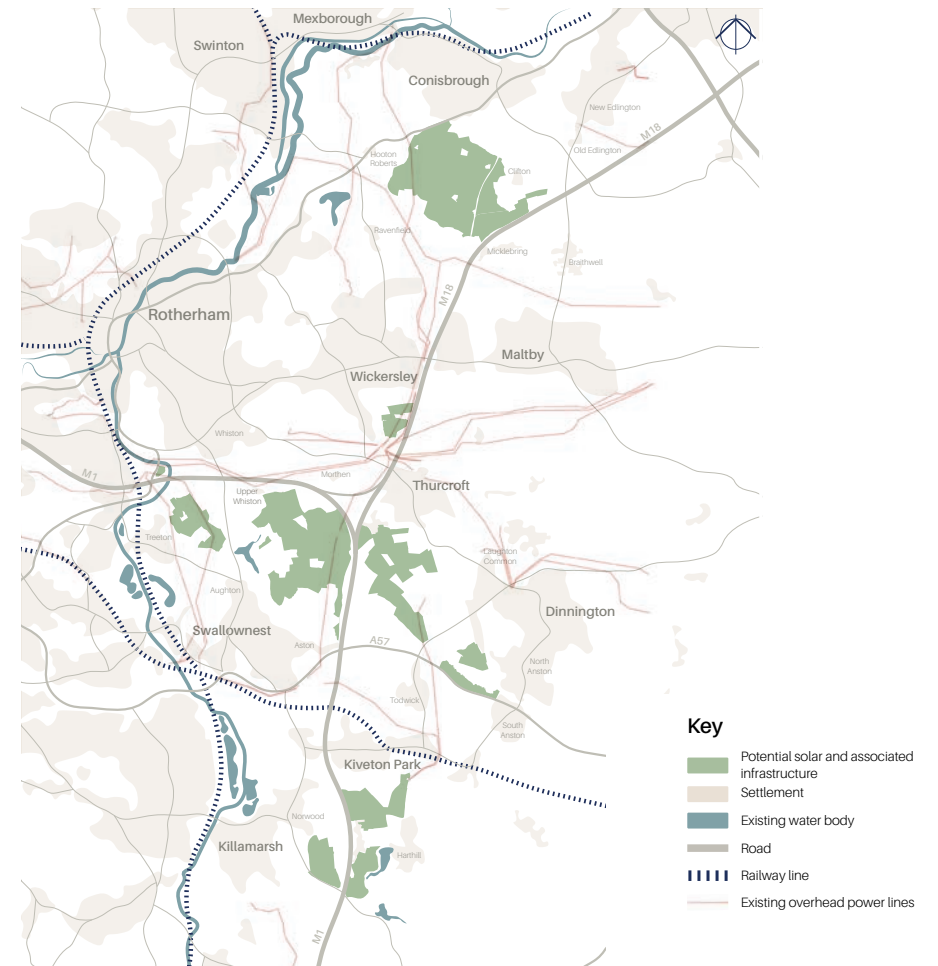


New solar farms can only connect to the National Grid where there is capacity

Whitestone location

This plan shows the area we are considering for Whitestone Solar Farm, however, not all of this area will be used for solar panels or infrastructure. We will also include areas to protect local wildlife and enhance biodiversity, as well as buffers around homes, public rights of way and other important features.

We are currently at a very early stage in the project's development. During the upcoming consultation, we want to hear feedback from technical experts and members of the community. This will help design the project in a way that is sensitive to the local environment and community.



Sensitive design

We want to design Whitestone sensitively to the local environment and community.

We appreciate that the land we are considering is designated as Green Belt. The Green Belt was created to prevent urban sprawl, where cities and towns grow into each other and eliminate the green spaces needed for wildlife and the local community's physical and mental well-being. Our aim is to design Whitestone sensitively, so that it can continue to support many of the same goals as the Green Belt.

Solar farms are good habitats, where local wildlife can flourish. After construction, solar farms are quiet neighbours. They require little activity for maintenance and few if any chemicals.

As part of our plans, we would include areas to protect existing wildlife and create new habitats to support native species. These will be informed by a series of environmental assessments and consultation with technical experts, including local wildlife groups, the Environment Agency and Natural England.

Solar farms can also help support mental and physical health. As part of our proposals, we would look at expanding options for recreation, by creating new permissive paths across the site that could be used by walkers, cyclists and equestrians.

These will be informed by consultation with the community, to identify how the project could help increase access or support local initiatives.

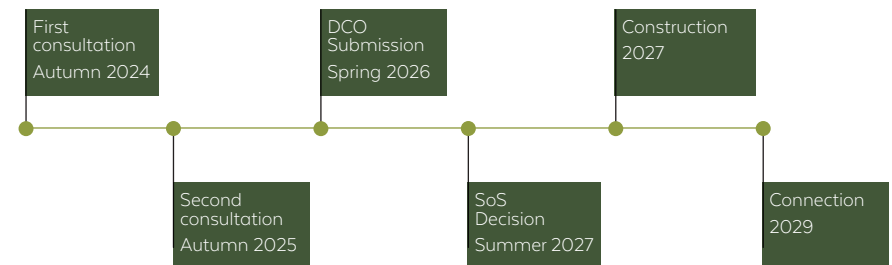
Planning process

Because Whitestone would produce more than 50 MW of energy, it is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means that we must apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to authorise its construction, operation and decommissioning, which would be decided at the national level by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Consultation is an important part of the development process for NSIPs. We will consult with the community members as well as technical experts (like Natural England and the Environment Agency) throughout the project's development to ensure local knowledge is built into the project design.

We currently plan to hold two rounds of consultation before we submit our DCO application. During the first round of consultation, we will present our initial proposals for the project design, including areas we believe could be used for solar and other infrastructure, and areas for environmental enhancements. We will ask for feedback on this initial design, which will inform an updated design that we will present during the second consultation next year.

At each stage of consultation, we will be able to present more detailed information as the project develops. This ensures that consultees have the opportunity to provide feedback throughout the project's development.



You can find more information about the planning process on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>

Community consultation



We will hold our first consultation **from 18 November 2024 to 17 January 2025**. During this time, you can learn more about our early proposals for Whitestone Solar Farm, including our draft masterplan, how we plan to assess environmental impacts, and benefits the project could bring to the community.

You can view all of our consultation materials through our website whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk or come to an in-person information event to learn more and provide your feedback.

The dates and locations of these sessions are:

DATE	LOCATION
Friday 29 November 12pm – 4pm	The Ruddle Centre, Doncaster Rd, Braithwell, Rotherham S66 7BA
Saturday 30 November 10am – 4pm	Aston cum Aughton Leisure Centre - Sports Hall, Aughton Rd, Swallownest, Sheffield S26 4SF
Tuesday 3 December 2pm – 6pm	Harthill Village Hall, Harthill, Sheffield S26 7YL
Wednesday 4 December 2pm – 6pm	Consort Hotel Consort Suite, 8 Brampton Rd, Thurcroft, Rotherham S66 9JA
Thursday 5 December 10am – 2pm	Ulley Village Hall, Main St, Ulley, Sheffield S26 3YD
Tuesday 10 December 6pm – 7pm	Webinar Please visit our webpage to register in advance
Tuesday 14 January 2pm – 6pm	Consort Hotel Consort Suite, 8 Brampton Rd, Thurcroft, Rotherham S66 9JA

Get in touch


0800 688 9936


info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk


whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk