



WHITESTONE
solar farm

Project Update Webinar

20 July 2026

Agenda

Review of the application
Traffic and Transport
Wildlife and Biodiversity
Permissive Paths

Next Steps

Pre-Examination & How to register
Examination & What to expect

Questions

Introduction to the Application

On 10 June we submitted our Application to the Planning Inspectorate, and on 3 July it was accepted for examination. The full application documents are available on the Planning Inspectorate's website in the Examination Library.

Volume 1 – Application Form

Volume 2 – Plans, Drawings and Sections

Volume 3 – Draft Development Consent Order

Volume 4 – Compulsory Acquisition Information

Volume 5 – Reports and Statements

Volume 6 – Environmental Statement

Volume 7 – Other documents

EN0110020 – Whitestone Solar Farm Examination Library

Application Documents from Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

Application form

APP-001	1.1 DCO Application form
APP-002	1.2 Application Cover Letter
APP-003	1.3 Guide to the Application
APP-004	1.4 Copies of Newspaper Notices
APP-005	1.5 Pre-Application Programme Document
APP-006	1.6 Section 55 Checklist
APP-007	1.7 Electronic Application Index

Plans / Drawings / Sections

APP-008	2.1 Location Plan
APP-009	2.2 Land Plans
APP-010	2.3 Works Plans
APP-011	2.4 Streets and Rights of Way and Access Plans
APP-012	2.5 Traffic Regulations Plans
APP-013	2.6 Statutory and Non-Statutory Ecological Sites
APP-014	2.7 Statutory and Non-Statutory Historic Assets
APP-015	2.8 Crown Land Plan
APP-016	2.9 Vegetation Removal Plans

Draft Development Consent Order

APP-017	3.1 Draft DCO
APP-018	3.2 Explanatory Memorandum
APP-019	3.3 Draft DCO Validation Report

Compulsory Acquisition

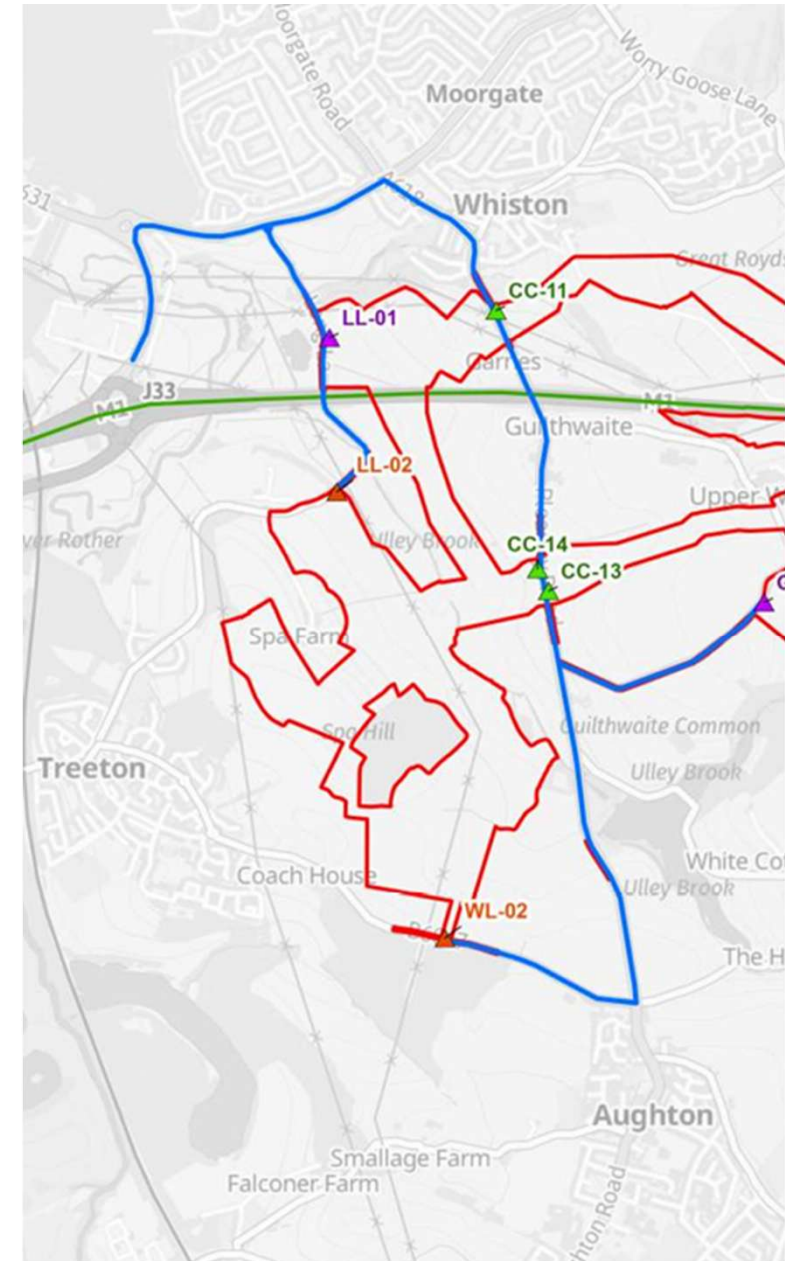
APP-020	4.1 Statement of Reasons
APP-021	4.2 Funding Statement
APP-022	4.3 Book of Reference
APP-023	4.4 Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker

Consultation and Engagement

APP-024	5.1 Consultation Report
APP-025	5.1 Appendix A Non-Statutory Consultation
APP-026	5.1 Appendix B SoCC Development
APP-027	5.1 Appendix C Statutory Consultation Notification
APP-028	5.1 Appendix D Statutory Consultation Materials
APP-029	5.1 Appendix E Statutory Consultation Feedback Part 1
APP-030	5.1 Appendix F Statutory Consultation Feedback Part 2

Traffic and Transport

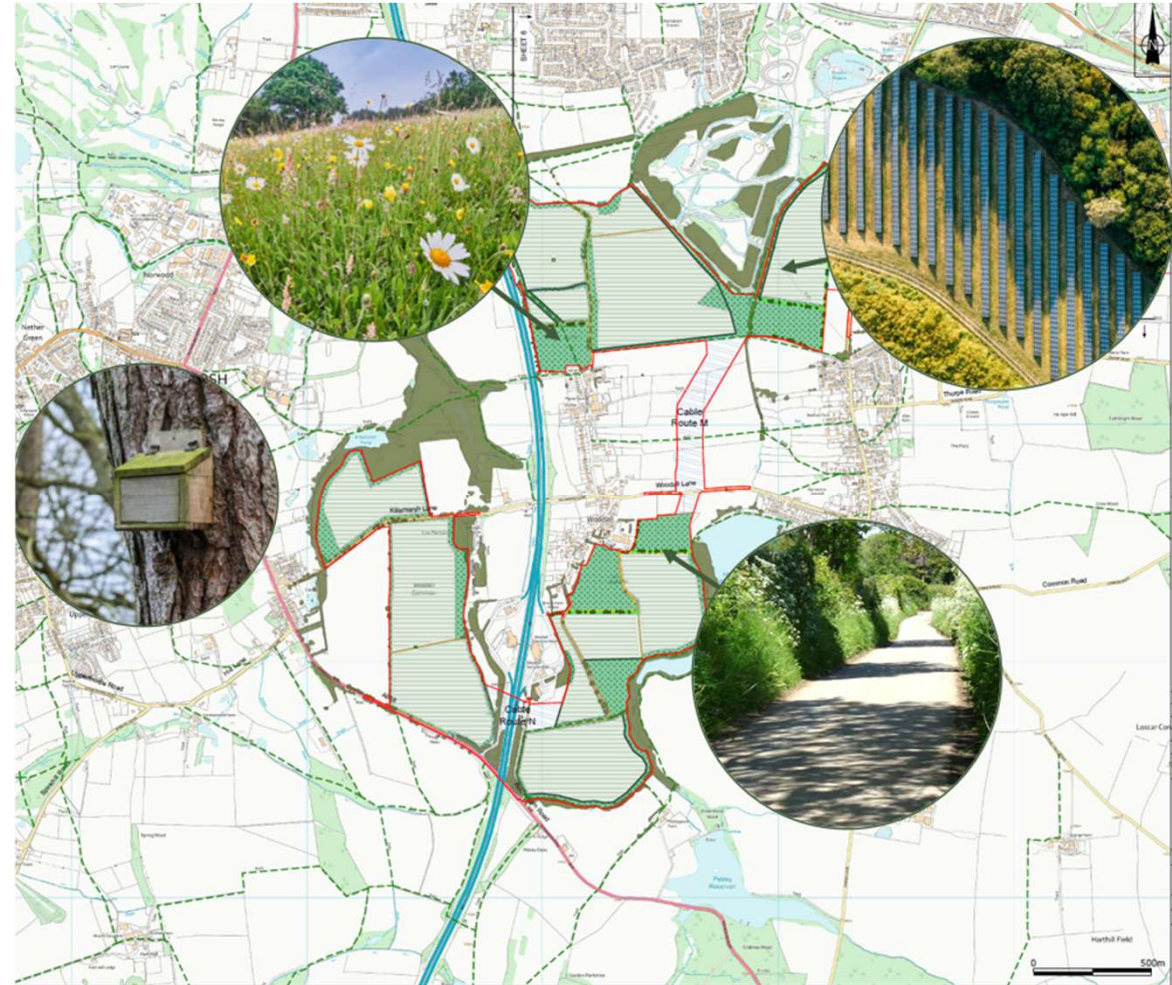
- Key changes made after the last round of consultation for traffic include:
 - Removing the access point in Whitestone 1 on the eastern side due to the removal of the substation option
 - Adding a new traffic access point in Treeton to split traffic levels
- The outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) shows the routes that construction traffic would use to access the site, the access points to turn into the site and the estimated traffic numbers at each location.
- It also includes as well as best practices to reduce impacts such as:
 - Scheduling deliveries outside of peak traffic hours
 - Monitoring and ensuring compliance with routing
 - Using signage and traffic marshalls at crossing points



Wildlife and Biodiversity

The Illustrative Masterplan includes areas with solar panels, that would be planted with native grasses. Areas in dark green would be set aside for wildlife and would be planted with native wildflowers and grasses. We are proposing new hedgerows and trees in some areas to reduce visual impacts. We are also proposing enhancements like bird and bat boxes across the site, and mammal gates in fencing to allow small animals to traverse the site.

Based on surveys to understand baseline levels, these mitigation measures and the outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) we assess significant benefits for bats, otters, and other small animals.



While developments like Whitestone will soon be required to increase biodiversity by 10%, we have committed to a much larger increase of 28% for habitats, 30% for hedgerows, and 10% for watercourses.



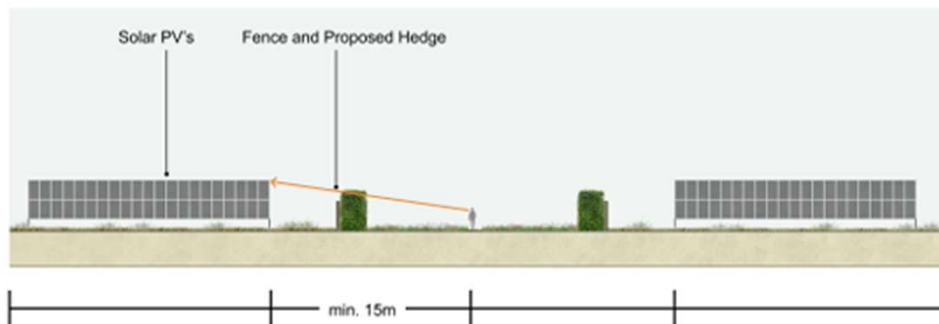
Permissive Paths

We have included 14.5km of permissive paths across the site to formalise existing permissive paths and create new access to connect existing public rights of way to other key locations.

They would be open to all users, including equestrians, cyclists and walkers.

They would be maintained by the Project for the lifetime of the development.

All permissive paths and public rights of way have at least a 15m offset from the path to the panels to maintain a sense of openness.



Pre-Examination Stage

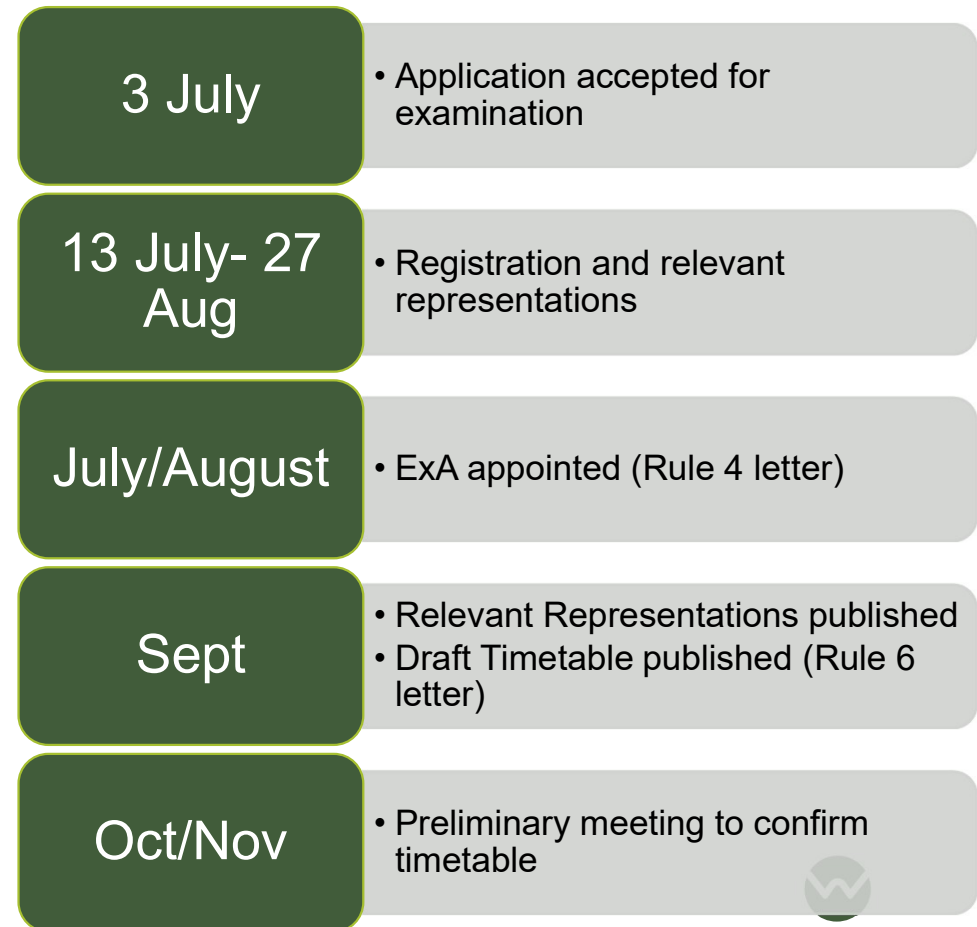
Pre-examination is a stage for the Planning Inspectorate to prepare for examination.

There is no statutory timeline, but it usually lasts around 4 months.

During this time:

- the Planning Inspectorate will appoint an Examining Authority (ExA)
- Individuals can register to be interested parties
- The ExA will issue a draft timetable (called a Rule 6 letter)
- The timetable and Principal Issues for Examination will be discussed at the Preliminary Meeting

Indicative timeline for pre-examination stage



Register to be an interested party

- You must register to take part in the upcoming examinations, to submit written feedback and speak at the hearings.
- You can register multiple times if you represent an organisation or need to register on behalf of another person.

Visit the Planning Inspectorate's website and complete the 'Register to have your say' form by 11:59pm 27 August.

If you are registering yourself as an individual

You will need your:

- full name
- address
- email address and telephone number
- registration comments about the project

If you are registering for an organisation you work or volunteer for

You will need:

- your full name
- the name of the charity or organisation you work for
- your work address
- email address and telephone number
- registration comments about the project

If you are registering on behalf of another person or organisation

You will need:

- your full name
- your address
- your email address and telephone number
- the details of the person, household or organisation you are representing
- their registration comments about the project



Submit your relevant representation

- When you register, you will be asked to submit your registration comments on the project, which are known as 'Relevant Representations'.
- Your Relevant Representation should include your key concerns about the project.
- After the registration period, they will be published on the Planning Inspectorate's website, and the project will have to respond to the issues raised.
- They will be read by the ExA and inform the main issues assessed in the Examination
- This is not the only time you can submit your views on the project. You can elaborate on your Relevant Representation as part of your Written Representation and future deadlines.
- You can use AI to draft your representation but must declare it.

▼ Do not include these details.

Use of language, hyperlinks and sensitive information

You should not use racist, inflammatory or abusive language, or include sensitive information (also called special category information) about yourself or others in your comments.

Do not include links to third party websites. You can include links to either GOV.UK or websites for chartered professional institutes like IEMA.

Examples of sensitive information

Sensitive information refers to:

- comments from children
- information relating to children
- information relating to health
- information relating to crime

It also means any information relating to an individual's:

- race
- ethnic origin
- politics
- religion
- trade union membership
- genetics
- physical characteristics
- sex life
- sexual orientation

Examination Stage

Examination takes place over up to 6 months, is primarily a written exercise, where the Examining Authority will submit a series of questions for the Applicant and other stakeholders to answer to identify key issues and look for resolution when possible.

There will be multiple deadlines to submit feedback, respond to prior submissions, and provide updated documents.

All documents will be published on the Planning Inspectorate's website under the Examination Library.

There are also likely to be two or three rounds of hearings where the Examining Authority will ask the Applicant and other parties questions and allow them to make submissions in person or online.

Indicative timeline for examination stage



Hearings and Site Inspections



Open Floor Hearing

- This is the opportunity for any interested party to speak about their views on the project.
- There is no agenda.



Issue Specific Hearing

- Inquisitorial to explore specific topics with relevant stakeholders. Individuals can speak.
- The detailed agenda will be published around 1 week in advance.



Compulsory Acquisition Hearing

- To discuss compulsory acquisition and land rights.
- Individuals with a land interest have been identified and notified by our land team.



Accompanied Site Inspection

- A visit to representative locations on the Site with the Examining Authority.
- Interested parties and the Applicant can suggest locations and can attend.



Questions

