Submission ID: S7D613AAF

Your total use of on-line and computer-based processes is excluding many local residents who want to express their objections and are prohibited from doing so - it is excluding many residents, as we are a much higher than average population in terms of over 65 age and mobility issues, and do not necessarily have computers or access to one.
The venue for the examination hearings is in Rotherham - not in Doncaster, where 90% of the Whitestone 1 project will be impacting.
The examination dates are all during the day on week-days, thus excluding hard-working people who cannot take time off work, and thus excludes their attendance.
One of the dates 11th November is Armistice Day and therefore civic dignitaries Dx Mayor, Councillors, MP's, Royal British Legion, ex-service men and women, and many members of the supporting public, who are fulfilling their civic and ceremonial duties and paying respects will be excluded from attending - the morning session on 11th at least should be re-scheduled.
No refreshments or coffee has been arranged so far. On checking with the Event Manager at New York Stadium, vulnerable and older generation residents and people who hve travelled a considerable distance, are expected to sit through 3 long days of meetings and hearings with nothing to eat or drink. Apparently we will have to go to nearby shops external to the stadium venue to get a takeaway?? This is very poor indeed.
Parking - I sincerely hope that ALL participants on the day, those speaking and those not speaking, to be issued with FREE parking permits.
I am registering my comments, to be considered in the examination hearings regarding the Whitestone 1 part of the WHITESTONE PROPOSAL. The themes for each of the hearings have not been published yet, so I don't know which issues to cover. The deadline for you to receive this is tomorrow 27th Oct 2026 - and you still haven't clarified this point, which is not fair and leads to confusion and lack of clarity. Therefore I will repeat my broad=based comments.
Whitestone 1 red line boundary adjoins my own farmland. Although I am not opposed to solar generation in principle, I absolutely REJECT and OPPOSE the industrial scale of the Whitestone proposal and where they intend to site it in WS 1, taking up the vast majority of my home parish Conisbrough Parks.
This is where I have spent all my life, as a farmer, a custodian of the land, producing food for the nation, caring for and nurturing the flora and fauna, the soils, and where my rural activities and pursuits for work and leisure are grounded. My parents and I have farmed [redacted] in Clifton since [redacted]- that is over [redacted] years of hard daily toil, a lifetime of dedicated work and effort, working through the night as well when needed, a frugal living sometimes - but a wealth of respecting, enjoying and appreciating this unique Conservation and Greenbelt land all around me with its rich historic and archaelogical treasures, including the Conisbrough Castle and Deer Park and productive farmland and incredible open, panoramic, rural green landscapes.
I know this local area like the back of my hand. I have lived and breathed in its tranquility and beauty all my life. My fields adjoin those along the western border that are proposed to be covered by Whitestone's solar panels in WS1. This is deeply disturbing and would be so destructive of me, the local community, for wildlife, for the substantial loss of productive farmland from out of the food chain, and an indelible stain on our custodianship of looking after this treasured heritage land in Conisbrough Parks.
When I am working my fields along Beacon Lane and look out across the beautiful open landscape, down through the valley with a clear uninterrupted panorama, of ancient hedgrows, fields and trees which have looked the same since I was a child, it nourishes and refreshes my soul and keeps me positive. It is part of me.
If Whitestone 1 is allowed to progress, everyday till I die, the proposed industrialised landscape will be in my sight which I will find totally depressing and soul-destroying. Such devastation should not be permitted.
VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY: My partner is [redacted] and uses her [redacted] to go along Beacon Lane to get to the beautiful panoramic view-point at the end of the lane, by the reservoir gates, some 400 ft above sea level to take in the breathtaking views. This is the nearest route from her house in Clifton to access the countryside safely and independently on her [redacted].
There seems to be no consideration in Whitestone's submission to treat her fairly and give her equal opportunity to enjoy access to the countryside, nor the other over 65's and disabled residents of Clifton. 43% of Clifton's adults are over 65 years old.
Many of the high proportion of older people in our village do the same route, as it's pretty flat along the top of the ridge, which then opens up to the fantastic view point at The Beacons, with other pathways and Bridleways to walk all the way to Micklebring, our neighbouring village. This is a very popular route with many dog-walkers from both Clifton and Micklebring and people from the surrounding villages use it on a daily basis.
There are lanes, bridleways, public pathways and farm tracks alongside and criss-crossing my land, so often my only communication with humans is with walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, bird watchers, dog walkers, people from Clifton village and Micklebring and beyond exercising and enjoying the nature and scenery. They won't do much of this if the land is filled with ugly industrial solar panels and infrastructure - and have to walk between prison-like fencing and security cameras. I will be worse off mentally without the human contact. Farming on your own can be a very lonely isolating job. I also welcome their `eyes' and `ears' to notice if things are wrong or someone is on my land without permission or a tree has fallen down, etc.
WILDLIFE: The footpaths, lanes and fields have wonderful wildlife that abides here and they are at the heart of who I am and my rural lifestyle and day-to-day routines. I see hawks and kestrels frequently. and obviously rabbits, hares, 3 types of deer, field and harvest mice, shrews, voles, foxes, amphibians, hedgehogs and a multitude of insects, dragonflies, pollinating insects - I could go on and on and on.
I keep bee hives on my land and the bees gather nectar from the fields of rape and crops on my small acreage BUT ALSO from the surrounding fields (that Whitestone are proposing to obliterate). This will impact on their productivity and welfare. The density of nectar as in acres of fields with rape seed in full bright yellow flower, would not be compensated by the severely restricted amounts of pollen available from a man-made solar desert with metal frames and glass.
In particular, the construction phase of the solar farm would destroy perennial habitats, squash and destroy many of the small mammals and insect life, including the very vulnerable harvest mice, which are very endangered and I believe are classified as a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species due to their seriously declining numbers. They would literally be

crushed to death.
At night, with our `dark skies' I get regular sightings of barn owls, bats, etc which have favourite look out trees and bushes for nesting and hunting. Indeed the RSPB Schedule 1 Species List states there are special penalties in England at all times of the year for endangering Barn owls, Bramblings and Fieldfare, which are among the long list of birds which frequent this immediate locality.
HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY: At the high end of Beacon Lane, just past the reservoir gates, a fire beacon was used in by-gone days to send warning signals to York in times of trouble or to communicate. It was used because of its height above the surrounding land and uninterrupted views right across the intervening valley - and this is the reason that it is still today the most stunning viewpoint across all the land. It would make the thousands of solar panels in this basin valley so horrendously visible and seen by all as we look down into it. It would be impossible to screen or hide the ugly industrialised sight.
There are other important artefacts and archaeological remains in Conisbrough Parks, such as the designated Romano-British Villa (Scheduled Monument SM 1491751) and its relationship with Conisbrough Castle and medieval Deer Park and Clifton Conservation area and our other heritage assets. The linkage between them is all-important and they should not be separated out and ring-fenced as Whitestone are attempting to do.
AGRICULTURE & SOILS
The main crops traditionally grown on my land and the adjoining fields under solar threat, are potatoes, wheat, barley and rape seed, and the soils are similar across Conisbrough Parks acreage, being a good mixture including clay soils. My neighbouring farmers and I, have produced an amazing quantity of good quality home-grown food from this local land - enough to feed millions. I can provide further details if needed.
The soil sampling that Whitestone have submitted is an inadequate sample size considering the topography and variation of the land parcels in question. A more representative sampling, probably carried out in a W pattern, would be 3 to 5 samples PER ACRE, not 2 samples per HECTARE as Whitestone has done.
In current times of drought, as we have experienced this year, the fact that we have a variety of soil types at our disposal is an advantage and, as in the case of heavy clays (which Whitestone seem determined to try and disparage), better yields have been produced for the very reason that clay soil holds more nutrients and water, than other `better' finer soils.
AGRICULTURE & CLIMATE (microclimate)
Also, with the climate getting drier for months on end during spring/summer, yields on better quality land diminishing and the amount of farmland ever decreasing (because of ground-mounted solar farms being uncontrollably built over it), there will be an increased demand for more of the lesser grade fields to be needed for key food production - just to keep apace. So ALL farmland will be required to help protect food security and feed a growing nation.
As a farmer, I am alert to the weather conditions. Due to the build up of increasing heat, the severity of El Nino effect here is predicted even this autumn to be the worst ever. This is likely to be increasing year on year. So along with repeated heat waves of extreme temperatures, not conducive to solar panels/battery storage followed by long months with no sun for and torrential rain and winds with El Nino effects, I would question how relevant and accurate the assumptions are that Whitestone have put forward, especially as the amended connection date in now Dec 2030 (worst-case scenario) and they have been using earlier dates to work out their forecasts. Also because of our specific location and topography, we often experience a micro-climate and different even from our local surrounding area.
CONSULTATION & UNDERSTATING: Whitestone consultation with the communities affected has been very poor and not inclusive. They have consistently under represented our good points and what we have told them in feedback eg on archaeological sites, land sampling, views and other attributes.
TRAFFIC: Narrow lanes all around and through the village are not suitable for heavy traffic - no paths at the side of the road, and there is a warning sign for no heavy vehicles. Long vehicles, breaking the rules or following satnav and ignoring the road warning signs, have repeatedly come to grief when trying to negotiate a 90 degree bend and have crashed through my paddock stone wall.
The fact that Whitestone have not been specific with which route they will take after they leave the A1 to the site, nor from the M18 to the site access worries me a lot, as drivers will have leeway to come along all sorts of unsuitable roads and sensitive receptors. Whitestone have already demonstrated that when they ignored sensitive receptors eg when they originally devised a route through Edlington past 5 schools, which would have negatively impacted on 1,700 pupils, fire station, cemetery, etc etc.
The staggered crossroads at the junction between A630 in both directions, Clifton Hill and Low Road is the single route to our nearest towns of Rotherham and Doncaster and is a particular bottleneck even now, let alone having thousands of extra HGV's and wider loads locking it up completely. The A630 is only a single carriageway road.
Whitestone have incorrectly stated rush hour times. The afternoon rush-hour starts just before school-collection time, around 2:45, not 5pm till 6 pm as stated. So this information should be re-assessed in their calculations. It gives a false impression of what conditions are really like, that we deal with every day. Because there are a number of arable and livestock farms in the immediate vicinity, there are also tractors, trailers, and heavy farm machinery traffic that also use these routes.
Obviously the A630 is the major bus route, too, for emergency vehicles through to either Rotherham or Doncaster Emergency Hospitals, and then there are funeral processions (sometimes with horse drawn carriages) to Conisbrough Cemetery on the A630, very close to where Whitestone want to make their site access. There are schools close-by, with pupils walking along this road or waiting at bus-stops. There is also a new housing development which is being built on the opposite side of the road, which will have major traffic implications, not just during construction stage of the estate, but ongoing when all the houses need to be serviced with bin collections, emergency services and every family likely to have a car or two.
The coinciding effect of having a huge housing estate being constructed on one side of the road, and a massive solar farm being built on the other side of the same road, with both entrances coming from and into the A630 within a stone's throw of each other seems crazy. Especially with roadworks on the road itself in connecting to services etc, with temporary traffic light systems tailing traffic right back - it will kill local trade, disrupt the everyday lifes of all our community beyond endurance, as well as all the dust and noise. I don't think the deep and severe implications of all this have been accounted for in Whitestone's "worst case scenarios".
LOCAL CRIME: I am very worried that all the high-value equipment, cabling, fencing etc that will be brought to the

adjacent locality, will attract the wrong kind of attention. Whilst thieves are stealing from the Whitestone compound, they will invariably go looking for other equipment and items - and will be drawn immediately to farms, houses, barns and sheds in this immediate vicinity.
There are only 5 Rural Police Officers covering a huge area across Doncaster, and they are too stretched as it is. They have already expressed concern about this issue. Due to lack of resources, it is likely that some of the crimes may not be followed up, property restored, nor damage paid for, nor perpetrators caught and prosecuted. It will be us, the local farmers and property owners who will be the losers and even be put in harm's way. It will be a cumulative effect as word spreads amongst the criminal gangs.
NATIONAL CRIME: Our major infrastructure such as Whitestone's solar farm here, railways, power lines, communication lines and other natioanally critical services seem to be increasingly targeted for attack by hostile groups in this country who mean to do us harm. Bringing such infrastructure targets onto our local rural doorstep of Conisbrough Parks would seem to put us in harm's way, which could be avoided.
WATER: This is also an environmental issue that worries and concerns me. The squandered volumes of precious water resources that will be used to keep the thousands of solar panels clean is scandalous. Whether the water comes from local resources or tankered in from further afield, this is still an irresponsible use - and should be treated as a negative against the project. When I think how much volume will be used in comparison to what an average household consumption is - it is staggeringly irresponsible.
RUN-OFF WATER & FLOODING: The land slopes down from 400 foot into the valley below - much of the lower land being proposed by Whitestone for solar panels. Rain runs down from the highpoints naturally and episodes of flooding, severe in recent times, occur. This has previously affected many of the roads and houses along the A630 and roads leading away from it eg Low Road has been under water and there are marks on buildings as to where the levels have risen to. The substation at Brinsworth has been feet under water in the recent past, too. With the El Nino storms effect, this will get even worse this year and subsequently. Whitestone do not appear to have given local flooding issues much consideration and it should be examined further.
MORE THAN 1 CONSTRUCTION PERIOD: The technology about green energy and solar panels is changing rapidly and these proposed panels will be out of date within a year or two. Whitestone will be constantly having to change the types of panel, or configuration, or something, so we will get ongoing total disruption on site and on our local roads at frequent intervals throughout the proposed 60 years, not just at construction stage. Whitestone have not factored this into their calculations - they are not giving the `worst-case' scenarios in their submission.
SITE SELECTION: The developers Green Nation say they are experts in roof-top solar. With all the ex-industrial areas in Sheffield and Rotherham industrial estates, factories car parks and brownfield sites, why haven't these been used instead? Their assessmennt of other site options seems not to have been carried out against any set criteria. This needs further scrutiny.
60 YEARS IS PERMANENT, NOT TEMPORARY: It is not accurate and misleading to be told by Whitestone that this is a temporary use of the land - and that land would be restored to its previous state at the end of 60 years.
CUMULATIVE EFFECT WITH OTHER LOCAL PROJECTS: There are so many solar farms adjacent to our Parish and I don't think Whitestone have taken this cumulative effect into serious consideration. The saturation is too dense all next to each other. There is the impact of extra traffic coming on to the A630 from the ILOS Solar proposal between Hilltop, Conisbrough and Hooten Roberts, as well as the impact on traffic coming onto the A630 from the Quarry aproval near the Water Tower in Conisbrough. These all need to be factored in to Whitestone's figures and examined more closely.
BASELINE FIGURES: Whitestone have based all their assumptions on the construction phase lasting 2 years (2027-2029) and connection to the Grid at Brinsworth in 2029. However, in their Contract letter with the grid, which was submitted 5th Aug 2026 as a late submitted document, it is stated that connection would be up to 2030 (so worst case scenario should be stated as end of December 2030 (if everything goes to plan). Another update is that they now estimate construction to last 3 years. On such a huge project, in the hands of a company who has no experience on this scale, there is bound to be a lot of slippage - so I believe a contingency cushion should be made to be included over and above dates quoted.
Whitestone should therefore have to reassess all their figures, assumptions and projections on traffic, transport, emissions, climate etc etc to reflect this, and properly account for the "worst case scenarios", which will be worse than what they stated in their submission. Their frequent use of The Rochdale Envelope to avoid giving detail needs to be examined closely.
I would ask the Inspector to seek deeper examination of Whitestone for all of the above points I have identified in these pages. I would like to continue to be involved in commenting on this proposed project. Thank you.