Submission ID: S50CA9FF3

Whitestone Solar Farm — EN0110020
Request for Examining Authority Site Inspections and Objection to Whitestone 1
Submitted by: Sam Mawhood
Resident of: Ravenfield, South Yorkshire
Procedural Deadline A — 27 October 2026
Dear Examining Authority,
Why this countryside matters to me
1. I am a resident of Ravenfield and wish to express my strong objection to Whitestone 1. I respectfully request that the Examining Authority visits the countryside, public rights of way and roads around Ravenfield and Conisbrough Parks before making its recommendations.
2. I regularly enjoy the local countryside through dog walking, walking with friends and spending time outdoors. I am also a horse owner and have experience of riding the bridleways around Conisbrough Parks.
3. These are places I know from actually using them. The countryside around Ravenfield is not simply somewhere I pass through. It is part of my life and one of the reasons I value living here.
4. I have walked the footpaths around Firsby and Conisbrough Parks with friends, including residents who would be directly affected by Whitestone 1. I have also ridden horses along the bridleways in this countryside.
5. Having experienced these routes both on foot and on horseback, I appreciate how important it is that they remain safe, open and enjoyable for different types of countryside users.
6. I understand the importance of renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions. However, I believe the location and scale of Whitestone 1 would cause substantial harm to the countryside and local communities, and that these effects need much closer examination.
Ravenfield Footpath 10 — a route I actually use
7. On Sunday 25 October 2026, I walked my dogs on Ravenfield Footpath 10. This is a recent example of my own use of the countryside and why I am concerned about the proposed development.
8. Walking along this route allows me to enjoy the open landscape, fresh air, views and peaceful surroundings. These are the qualities that make the countryside around Ravenfield special.
9. I am particularly concerned about the potential effects of Whitestone 1 on the views across the historic landscape towards Conisbrough Castle and the wider countryside of Conisbrough Parks.
10. I ask the Examining Authority to walk representative sections of Ravenfield Footpath 10, rather than relying solely on a photograph taken from one selected viewpoint.
11. The experience of walking a route changes as you move along it. Views open and close, the topography changes and different parts of the landscape become visible.
12. I would like the Inspectors to experience this for themselves and consider whether the Applicant's landscape assessment adequately represents what people using the route would see.
13. I am concerned that extensive solar panels, security fencing and associated infrastructure could substantially alter the experience of using this footpath.
14. I do not believe that keeping a public footpath open necessarily means that the experience of using it remains unaffected.
Ravenfield Footpath 6 and the area around the primary school
15. I am also concerned about Ravenfield Footpath 6, particularly the section near Ravenfield Primary Academy and the woodland around Hollings Lane.
16. This is an important part of the local recreational network, connecting residents with green spaces and opportunities to walk away from busy roads.
17. I would like the Examining Authority to visit this area and appreciate the existing woodland, countryside and relationship between the paths and nearby residential community.
18. I am concerned that the effects of Whitestone 1 should not be considered solely in relation to the development fields. The wider network of countryside routes used by Ravenfield residents also needs to be understood.
19. I ask the Inspectors to consider the importance of these spaces to people who walk dogs, exercise and enjoy the countryside, including families and children.
Ravenfield Bridleway 4 and Footpath 2
20. I am particularly concerned about Ravenfield Bridleway 4, from St James' View towards Garden Lane, and Ravenfield Footpath 2, from St James' Church towards Ravenfield Ponds and Arbour Lane.
21. These routes form part of the wider network of paths and bridleways connecting Ravenfield with the surrounding countryside.
22. As someone who has ridden horses and walked extensively in this area, I know how important these routes are for safe recreational access.
23. I am concerned that the introduction of extensive fencing, solar infrastructure and construction activity could change the character of the countryside through which these routes pass.
24. For horse riders, the safety of a route involves more than its width or legal status. The surrounding environment, visibility, unexpected movements, vehicle activity and potential sources of disturbance can all affect whether a route feels safe to use.
25. I ask the Examining Authority to consider the actual experience of horse riders, walkers and other users, particularly where construction traffic or proposed infrastructure could affect existing routes.
26. I would also like the Inspectors to appreciate the historic setting around St James' Church, Ravenfield, and the relationship between the church, the surrounding countryside and the connected public rights of way.
Common Lane — construction traffic and road safety
27. I use Common Lane in Ravenfield and am particularly concerned about the potential increase in construction traffic associated with Whitestone 1.
28. Common Lane is part of the local road network used by residents and other road users. I am concerned about the potential effects of additional HGVs, delivery vehicles and construction movements entering and leaving the Ravenfield

area.
29. My concern is not simply the total number of vehicles predicted by a traffic assessment. It is how those vehicles would interact with existing traffic, pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders on rural roads.
30. I ask the Examining Authority to inspect Common Lane, including the proposed construction access arrangements and relevant junctions, to understand the practical conditions experienced by local road users.
31. I would particularly like the Applicant to explain how HGV movements, turning arrangements, visibility and potential conflicts with vulnerable road users have been assessed.
32. I am concerned about the proposal to rely on construction access arrangements that could introduce substantial vehicle movements into a rural area where roads were not designed around the needs of a development of this scale.
33. I ask whether alternative construction access arrangements have been adequately examined and whether the proposed arrangements can be demonstrated to operate safely in practice.
Ravenfield Primary Academy — school-time conditions
34. I am also concerned about the B6093 Moor Lane South and Main Street area around Ravenfield Primary Academy.
35. I ask the Examining Authority to visit this location during school arrival or collection times, if practicable, to understand the actual road conditions when children, parents and other road users are present.
36. School-time conditions can be very different from quieter periods of the day. Vehicle movements, parked cars, pedestrian activity and visibility all need to be considered in their proper context.
37. I am concerned that the Applicant's transport assessment should demonstrate whether proposed construction traffic routes could affect this area, directly or indirectly, including through displaced traffic or changes to local traffic conditions.
38. I would like the Examining Authority to establish whether school-time observations and appropriate assessments have been undertaken, rather than assuming that average traffic conditions adequately represent the busiest periods.
39. I believe that the safety of children and other vulnerable road users deserves particular attention when considering construction arrangements for a development of this scale.
Horse riding and the Conisbrough Parks bridleway network
40. As a horse owner who has ridden around Conisbrough Parks, I am especially concerned about the potential effects on equestrian access.
41. The bridleways around Conisbrough Parks provide opportunities to ride through open countryside away from busy roads.
42. These routes are valuable because of the surrounding landscape, their connections with other routes and the opportunity to exercise horses in a relatively peaceful rural environment.
43. I am concerned that extensive fencing, construction traffic, security infrastructure and changes to the surrounding landscape could make some routes less enjoyable or more difficult for horse riders to use safely.
44. I also have concerns about the introduction of enclosed corridors between fences, particularly where horses may encounter unfamiliar sights, sounds or movements.
45. I ask the Examining Authority to consider whether the Applicant has adequately assessed equestrian safety and the effects on the connected bridleway network, rather than looking at individual crossing points or diversions in isolation.
46. I would welcome the Inspectors walking representative sections of the bridleways around Conisbrough Parks to appreciate the existing conditions and the potential effects of Whitestone 1.
Green Belt, wildlife and agricultural land
47. I am concerned about the loss of openness and the change in character that Whitestone 1 could bring to the Green Belt countryside around Ravenfield and Conisbrough Parks.
48. These fields are not empty spaces. They form part of a working agricultural landscape and provide habitats, feeding areas and connections for wildlife.
49. I am concerned about the potential effects of extensive fencing, tracks and infrastructure on wildlife movement and the wider ecological network.
50. I would like the Examining Authority to consider whether the Applicant's ecological assessments adequately demonstrate how wildlife would continue to move through the landscape and whether proposed habitat improvements would compensate for any adverse effects.
51. I am also concerned about the use of productive agricultural land. Fields in this area contribute to farming and food production, including cereal crops.
52. I ask whether the Applicant has properly justified the agricultural land required for Whitestone 1, including its quality, current use and the potential implications for farming during the operational life of the development.
53. I recognise that some agricultural activities may be capable of continuing alongside solar development. However, I would like the Applicant to demonstrate what is realistically proposed for these particular fields, rather than relying on general statements about the compatibility of solar energy and agriculture.
The cumulative effects on our countryside
54. I am concerned that the effects of Whitestone 1 should not be considered in isolation from other existing or proposed developments affecting the wider area.
55. The gradual introduction of infrastructure into different parts of the countryside can change the overall character of an area, even where individual developments are assessed separately.
56. I ask the Examining Authority to consider whether the cumulative landscape, environmental, traffic and recreational effects have been adequately assessed.
57. I believe the countryside around Ravenfield and Conisbrough Parks is valuable not only for its appearance but also for the opportunities it provides for exercise, wildlife, farming and mental wellbeing.
Locations I ask the Examining Authority to inspect
58. I respectfully request that the Examining Authority considers the following locations, particularly to understand the existing countryside, public rights of way, road conditions and potential effects of Whitestone 1.
59. My requested inspection locations are:
Ravenfield Footpath 10 — Braithwell Road towards Garden Lane (highest landscape priority). I walked my dogs on this route on 25 October 2026. I ask the Inspectors to walk representative sections and appreciate the changing views across Conisbrough Parks towards Conisbrough Castle, rather than relying on a single selected landscape viewpoint.
Ravenfield Footpath 6 — near Ravenfield Primary Academy and Hollings Lane woodland. To appreciate the existing

woodland, peaceful surroundings, recreational use and connections with the wider countryside.
Ravenfield Bridleway 4 — St James' View towards Garden Lane. To understand the existing bridleway environment, countryside views and importance of safe access for horse riders and other recreational users.
Ravenfield Footpath 2 — St James' Church towards Ravenfield Ponds and Arbour Lane. To appreciate the relationship between the historic church, surrounding countryside, recreational network and landscape character.
B6093 Moor Lane South / Main Street — Ravenfield Primary Academy. To observe the road environment, ideally during school arrival or collection times, and consider any potential interaction with construction traffic or changes to local traffic conditions.
Common Lane, Ravenfield — construction traffic and access arrangements. To examine the proposed construction access, relevant junctions, road conditions, HGV movements and potential conflicts with pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.
The Grazing Harts, Micklebring — surrounding countryside and landscape views. To appreciate the open countryside and views towards the proposed Whitestone 1 development, including the relationship between the existing rural landscape, nearby communities and the proposed solar infrastructure.
Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 13 — towards Hooton Woods and land parcel 29. To appreciate the open countryside, topography and experience of horse riders and walkers using the landscape.
Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 2 — Firsby Lane towards Hilltop Farm and Arbour Lane. To consider the connected equestrian and recreational network and any proposed construction interfaces.
Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 4 — Park Lane. To appreciate the existing rural character and potential effects of construction activity and electrical infrastructure.
Conisbrough Parks Footpath 3 — Arbour Lane towards Park Lane. To experience the open countryside and recreational connections between the surrounding communities.
60. I appreciate that the Examining Authority may not be able to visit every location. My priorities are Ravenfield Footpath 10, Ravenfield Footpath 6, Ravenfield Bridleway 4, Ravenfield Footpath 2, Common Lane, Ravenfield Primary Academy and The Grazing Harts at Micklebring.
61. I would particularly welcome an inspection of Ravenfield Footpath 10 because I have used it very recently and believe the Inspectors should experience the landscape from the perspective of people who actually walk these routes.
My request regarding Whitestone 1
62. I understand the need for renewable energy and recognise the importance of reducing carbon emissions.
63. However, I believe the benefits of renewable energy must be properly balanced against the effects of a development of this scale on the particular countryside in which it is proposed.
64. I remain seriously concerned about construction traffic, highway safety, the effects on horse riders and walkers, Green Belt openness, agricultural land, wildlife and the historic landscape.
65. I ask the Examining Authority to examine whether the Applicant has adequately assessed these effects individually and cumulatively, and whether reasonable alternatives could avoid the most sensitive parts of Conisbrough Parks.
66. I strongly object to Whitestone 1 and respectfully request that the Examining Authority considers recommending refusal of consent for Whitestone 1, or its removal from the Development Consent Order proposal, if the evidence does not justify its inclusion.
67. I value living in Ravenfield because of the countryside that surrounds us and the opportunity to enjoy it through walking, dog walking and horse riding.
68. I hope the Examining Authority will visit these locations, experience the landscape and road conditions for itself, and understand why I believe Whitestone 1 would be so damaging to the character and enjoyment of this area.
Thank you for considering my request.
Sam Mawhood
Ravenfield, South Yorkshire
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