Submission ID: SDE1CDBFC

I am writing as a business owner and resident to object to the Whitestone Solar Farm.
Should this project go ahead, the negative implications would be great to my business.
I bred my first foal at [redacted] in 2000 and have since then slowly built up the stud, the majority of the studs income, from hours upon hours of blood, sweat and tears has been invested straight back into the land to turn what was once a very unproductive area into a successful stud with excellent facilities.
I am one of the largest breeders of Irish draught horses in England.
I stand the highest scoring class 1 Irish draught stallion (Bannvalley Pride of Midnight) in the UK. He has held this accolade for the last 15 yrs. He has won at national level and earned a coveted gold merit for the success of his progeny. One of only 5 stallions to do this in the UK.
I have 7 top class, successful broodmares that include 5 show mares that have all won at National level both in the UK and Ireland, taking many prestigious championships at some of the top shows including wins at the Royal Dublin Show and most recently (sept 2025) overall supreme breeding champion at the IDHS(GB) national championship show. This is the highest recognition an Irish draught breeder could attain, a huge achievement that has been an ambition since starting the stud and gives me the platform to further develop as a business.
We have bred many foals that have won and taken championships at national and county level and are now competing successfully under saddle in all disciplines.
The value of stock here including the stallion, mares and youngsters runs into hundreds of thousands of pounds.
We have visiting outside mares that come to the stud to be put in foal that can be worth tens of thousands of pounds. Their owners trust me to look after and provide them with a safe place to stay.
The land was chosen and purchased to build the stud due to its private and extremely quiet location which combined with the surrounding green belt countryside creates a relaxing, safe environment which is conducive to the breeding and rearing of horses.
I had huge concerns when hearing of the proposed plans to build the White Solar farm on Conisbrough
The impact of the solar farm on the horses welfare is of great concern. Horses are flight animals and are easily worried and spooked. The erection of the solar panels with the machinery and noise involved to build the infrastructure so close to the stud could cause undue stress and panic to my mares and youngstock. Mares that are in foal need to be kept quiet and relaxed, galloping wildly around the field when worried can cause abortions in both early and late term mares. Foals running at their sides can become exhausted and unintentionally injured by their dams. Frightened horses can attempt to jump or run through fences and hedges causing life threatening injuries and death. If they should escape onto a road due to this, loss of life to the public and themselves is a very real risk. We are only a stones throw away from the M18 and the local roads are narrow with national speed limits.
When foaling, mares need to be kept quiet and feel safe in their environment. After my objection at the consultations Whitestone have taken out the proposed field directly behind the main buildings and facilities however nothing has been done to take out an area of solar panels on one of my boundaries that is too close for comfort. When discussing this with Whitestone they said they would look at treating this also as a sensitive area however they have not.
[redacted] is my own piece of heaven that myself and my partner have poured our hearts into for the last 25 yrs. it is a beautiful, peaceful oasis that has allowed us to live a fulfilled life that is richer than money can buy. It has been incredibly hard at times but one that I have never regretted as the joy that comes from spending 7 days a week, 365 days a year overlooking such a quiet, rural slice of our amazing countryside makes the tough times all worthwhile. We are now at a stage in our business to meet the special circumstances of building a rural workers dwelling in the green belt and are currently working towards submitting a planning application. This is vital for the welfare of my stock. However at the moment I do not live on site so the fear of access roads, noise and disturbance that could jeopardise the sustainability of my livelihood is amplified by the fact I am not always on site to deal with any issues that may arise from Whitestone. I am horrified that should this be successful the very view from my windows that attracted me to buying this land will be replaced with a sea of metal and industrial fencing. [redacted] is on higher ground than the proposed site and I will be staring at an industrial eyesore from dawn till dusk. I had confidence in buying land and working so hard to live from it all those years ago because It was in an area surrounded by conservation and green belt that was protected from urban sprawl and development not appropriate to the good of the
The depreciation of my stables and land will be significant should my hand be forced to sell due to the location no longer being suitable to run my stud due to the development.
As a resident the loss of Conisbrough parks would be terrible. We have very few green areas in the vicinity. The ancient hunting grounds from Conisbrough castle are treasured by the locals as a place to escape everyday life of work, busy households, built up towns and pollution. To be able to walk or ride through open countryside, listening to birds singing, watching wildlife with the most spectacular view of rolling countryside is so important to so many people. The rights of way will be ruined, there is no fun in walking through what will essentially be a security site with no views.
Both myself and my partner have been involved in farming all our lives. Whitestone seem to think that the land is of low quality and not of great agricultural value. I can assure you it is. Crop production often exceeds national averages and the fact we have clay land means we grow great grass. This is in itself a much needed feedstuff for animals, the success of M&T haylage who farm a large proportion of Whitestone 1 is testament to that. Their produce is internationally renowned and we ourselves make outstanding hay from this land.
I realise the need for renewable energy but you cannot ruin and ride rough shod over other necessary uses of the land to provide it. We are an island and need to provide food for our kingdom, animals and humans alike. It's a chain that works. Conisbrough Parks is totally the wrong place to have a Solar farm. It would appear to many to be driven by greed rather than necessity. The balance is wrong, the good from this project does not outweigh the bad. There are much less intrusive places to have solar power, admittedly not as economically sound perhaps. Ultimately what is the true cost of this project? Our beautiful countryside that has helped sustain the population for hundreds of years will be lost forever, the farmers and their knowledge will be long gone, a vast expanse of glass and metal that no doubt will be outdated within the next 30yrs will line the pockets substantially of a few. The horrors of what will become of this land and the cost to the environment in both building this project and disposing of it when it becomes redundant is huge.
I cannot support this project as it will have a significant negative impact on my business and have a detrimental effect on

the local population.
As a horse rider who uses the bridleways across conisbrough parks the proposed solar farm will cause great disruption to these rights of way whilst being developed and once built will ruin the scenic peaceful rides we use to get away from the busy roads