Submission ID: S9B89FA00

1. I am requesting that the Examining Authority visits [redacted], Firsby Lane and the surrounding countryside as part of its examination of Whitestone Solar Farm, particularly Whitestone 1.
2. I am an [redacted] resident and co-owner of [redacted]. I have lived and worked in the Firsby and Ravenfield area for many years and know this countryside extremely well. I have walked its fields, lanes, footpaths and bridleways for decades and have always felt part of this landscape.
3. As I have grown older, my [redacted] has become [redacted] I am [redacted] that I once could, but that does not make the surrounding countryside, its views or its historic character any less important to me.
4. I would particularly appreciate the Inspectors visiting [redacted], by prior arrangement, to see my home and its setting. I would welcome the opportunity to explain my concerns in person without having to travel to a distant meeting or walk long distances.
5. I ask that my age and [redacted] are taken into account when considering the effects of the development, particularly access to my home, the ability of others to reach me and the practical difficulties I have experienced in trying to understand the proposal.

Firsby Lane — my access rights and the wider residential community

6. One of my greatest concerns is Firsby Lane. I have ownership and access interests connected with the lane, yet I have only learned indirectly that Whitestone proposes works or construction arrangements which may affect it.
7. Firsby Lane is the only lawful vehicular access to all residential properties at Firsby. It is not merely an agricultural track or an access serving one property. It is the route upon which an entire residential community depends.
8. For someone of my age and with [redacted], reliable vehicular access is particularly important. I need to know that family members, visitors, carers if required, medical services and emergency vehicles can reach my home without unnecessary difficulty or delay.
9. I am very concerned about the proposed construction crossing affecting Firsby Lane and any associated traffic controls. I ask the Examining Authority to inspect the actual location and consider what the arrangements would mean for residents who have no alternative lawful vehicular route to their homes.
10. I do not believe that the consequences of a construction crossing can be understood simply by looking at the movement of construction vehicles. The Inspectors need to appreciate that residents would still need to go about their daily lives, whatever construction activity was taking place.
11. I would like to know whether residents could be delayed, whether the lane could be obstructed by construction vehicles or machinery, and what would happen if an ambulance or other emergency vehicle needed immediate access.
12. I also ask whether Whitestone has considered the consequences of equipment failure, vehicle breakdowns or other unexpected incidents at the proposed crossing.
13. I request that the Examining Authority establishes whether the Applicant has undertaken a specific assessment of the effects on Firsby residents, including [redacted] people and those with [redacted], rather than relying only on general construction traffic management arrangements.
14. I would also like the Applicant to demonstrate why this construction arrangement is necessary and whether an alternative layout or access arrangement could avoid interfering with Firsby Lane altogether.
15. I am concerned that important details of temporary traffic management appear to be left for determination after consent. I question whether that provides sufficient certainty for residents whose only lawful vehicular access may be affected.

My land ownership, access rights and consultation

16. I am also concerned about how my land ownership and rights have been identified by the Applicant.
17. I became aware of the possible effects on my land and rights through other people rather than through direct communication from Whitestone. As far as I am aware, I have not received a formal notification explaining how the development could affect my interests.
18. I would therefore ask the Examining Authority to establish whether I have been correctly identified in the Applicant's Book of Reference and whether all my relevant land and access interests have been recorded.
19. I specifically ask the Examining Authority to consider the following questions:

Am I correctly identified in the Book of Reference as an owner or person with an interest in affected land?
Have my ownership interests in [redacted] and any other relevant land been correctly recorded?
Have my legal rights over Firsby Lane been identified?
Was I a person who should have received a notice under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008?
If so, was a notice issued, when was it issued and to what address?
What powers, if any, does the Applicant seek over my land or existing rights?
What steps has the Applicant taken to engage directly with me about those matters?

20. I am not alleging that the Applicant has necessarily acted unlawfully. I am asking for these matters to be checked properly because I have not received the information I would have expected as someone whose property and rights may be affected.
21. I am particularly concerned about the possibility of compulsory acquisition or the creation of new rights affecting land in which I have an interest. I ask that the precise powers sought, their necessity and their consequences for my existing rights are established before any such powers are recommended.
22. I do not believe that I should have to discover through neighbours that a major infrastructure project might affect my land or access rights.

Difficulties participating in the examination

23. I do not have a computer and have found it extremely difficult to understand the proposal and how it may affect me.
24. I have needed help from a member of the Firsby community to prepare my representation and understand the application documents. There are enormous numbers of plans, reports and technical documents, most of which are accessed online.
25. For an [redacted] person without access to a computer, this creates a real difficulty in participating effectively. It is especially concerning when the matters involved include my home, land ownership and legal rights.
26. I ask the Examining Authority to take these circumstances into account and, where practicable, provide a reasonable

opportunity for me to explain my concerns directly during an accompanied site inspection.
27. I also ask that the Applicant explains what steps it took to identify and communicate with landowners and rights holders who may not use computers or online consultation systems.
The countryside I have known for decades
28. I have known the countryside around Firsby, Conisbrough Parks and Ravenfield for much of my life. I know the old farmsteads, the views towards Conisbrough Castle, the landscape around St James' Church and the character of the former parkland.
29. When I look across this countryside, I do not see empty fields waiting for development. I see a landscape that has developed over generations and contains evidence of the area's history.
30. I am concerned about the scale of Whitestone 1 and the introduction of solar panels, fencing, tracks, cables and electrical infrastructure across this historic rural landscape.
31. I recognise that renewable energy is needed. My concern is whether this particular landscape is an appropriate location for development on this scale and whether its environmental and heritage effects have been properly weighed.
32. I ask the Examining Authority to consider the relationship between Conisbrough Castle, the former medieval deer park, the historic farmsteads, the archaeological landscape and the open countryside as a whole.
33. I am also concerned about the effects on public footpaths and bridleways. Although I cannot now walk as far as I once did, I know how valuable these routes have been to generations of local people.
34. A diversion or replacement route may maintain a legal connection, but it does not necessarily preserve the experience of walking through peaceful, open countryside.
Locations I ask the Examining Authority to inspect
35. [redacted] — my home and land
This is my first priority. I ask the Inspectors to visit my home, appreciate its setting and understand the relationship between the property, the surrounding countryside and the proposed development.
An accompanied visit could be arranged with my agreement, taking account of my [redacted].
36. Firsby Lane — proposed construction crossing and residential access
This is my second priority. I ask the Inspectors to visit the proposed crossing location and appreciate that the lane provides the only lawful vehicular access to every residential property at Firsby.
I particularly ask them to consider the consequences for elderly residents, medical and emergency access, and existing land and access rights.
37. Firsby Brook and Firsby Bridge
I request an inspection of the brook, bridge and surrounding land to understand local drainage conditions, the existing rural environment and any potential relationship with the proposed works.
38. Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 13 — towards Hooton Woods and land parcel 29
I have known this countryside for decades and ask the Inspectors to visit this elevated route to appreciate the topography and wider historic landscape.
I understand that an earlier landscape viewpoint along this route was removed from the Applicant's assessment. I ask that the adequacy of the remaining viewpoints is considered.
39. Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 2 — Firsby Lane towards Hilltop Farm and Arbour Lane
I ask the Inspectors to consider the relationship between the existing public rights of way, the rural landscape and proposed construction activity.
40. Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 4 — Park Lane
I request an inspection to appreciate the existing landscape and the potential effects of proposed electrical infrastructure and construction arrangements near the route.
41. Conisbrough Parks Footpath 3 — Arbour Lane towards Park Lane
I ask the Inspectors to consider the historic landscape and the experience of walking through the existing countryside.
42. Conisbrough Parks Route 14 — Arbour Lane towards Park Lane
I request consideration of views towards Conisbrough Castle and the wider historic landscape. The precise footpath and bridleway classifications should be confirmed against the definitive map.
43. Ravenfield Footpath 10 — Braithwell Road towards Garden Lane
I ask the Inspectors to consider the changing views across the historic landscape towards Conisbrough Castle, rather than relying solely on a single selected viewpoint.
44. Ravenfield Footpath 2 — St James' Church towards Ravenfield Ponds and Arbour Lane
I request consideration of the historic church and its relationship with the surrounding countryside.
45. Conisbrough Cemetery and the proposed A630 construction access
I ask the Inspectors to examine the relationship between the proposed construction access, existing road conditions, nearby residents and cemetery visitors.
46. I recognise that the Examining Authority may not be able to visit every location. My particular priorities are [redacted], Firsby Lane and its proposed crossing, Firsby Brook and Firsby Bridge, Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 13 and the historic landscape surrounding Firsby.
Request for consideration of removing Whitestone 1
47. Having lived and worked in this area for so many years, I am deeply concerned about the permanent changes that Whitestone 1 could bring to the countryside around my home.
48. My concerns include the scale of the development, the historic landscape, the effects on residents, the proposed construction crossing on Firsby Lane, my ownership and access rights, and whether I have been properly identified and consulted.
49. I respectfully ask the Examining Authority to examine whether the Applicant has provided sufficient evidence to justify the inclusion of Whitestone 1, taking account of the combined effects on the landscape, heritage, residential amenity, access and local community.
50. I also ask whether reasonable alternatives have been properly considered, particularly alternatives that could avoid the proposed interference with Firsby Lane and reduce the effects on the historic landscape.
51. If the Examining Authority concludes that the evidence does not justify the inclusion of Whitestone 1, I ask that it gives serious consideration to recommending the removal of Whitestone 1 from the Development Consent Order proposal.

52. I understand the need for renewable energy, but I do not believe that this means every location is suitable for development on this scale.
53. I have spent much of my life in this countryside. I am now [redacted] and [redacted], but I still value the landscape and depend upon reliable access to my home. I want to know that my property, my legal rights and my circumstances have been properly considered.
54. I respectfully ask the Inspectors to visit [redacted] and Firsby Lane, to see the position for themselves and appreciate the consequences that the proposed development could have for me and my family.
Thank you for considering my request.
Donald Sargent
Co-owner, [redacted]
Whitestone Solar Farm — EN0110020