Submission ID: SEB1B3D87

1. I am requesting that the Examining Authority visits my home at [redacted] and several locations throughout Firsby, Conisbrough Parks and Ravenfield as part of its examination of Whitestone Solar Farm.
2. I have lived at Firsby for more than 40 years. I know the surrounding countryside, roads, footpaths, bridleways and historic landscape extremely well. I have witnessed changes over the years, but nothing compares with the scale of the development now proposed.
3. I am not against renewable energy. I have installed solar panels on my own roof and a heat pump. My objection concerns the scale and location of Whitestone 1 and the effects it could have on my home, my access and the countryside that surrounds us.
4. My first and most important request is for the Inspectors to visit [redacted], preferably as an accompanied inspection by prior arrangement, to understand its setting and relationship with the proposed development.
5. My home is not simply another property marked on a plan. I have lived here for over four decades, and the surrounding countryside is part of my everyday life. Its outlook, peace and rural setting are among the reasons this is my home.
6. I am extremely concerned that Whitestone 1 would substantially change that setting. I would like the Inspectors to see the views from my property and surrounding land, appreciate the topography and consider whether the Applicant's landscape assessment adequately represents the effects on my home.
7. This proposal has already caused me considerable worry and stress. The uncertainty surrounding my home, the countryside and my access arrangements has affected my peace of mind. I would ask the Examining Authority to appreciate the personal consequences of living with this uncertainty.

Lack of engagement by the Applicant

8. I am particularly disappointed by the limited direct engagement I have received from Whitestone. My concerns were raised with the assistance of my MP, John Healey, who requested that the Applicant meet with me. Instead of the face-to-face meeting I had hoped for, I received an email.
9. Given the potential consequences for my home and land, I do not believe this has provided an adequate opportunity to explain my circumstances or understand how the Applicant intends to address my concerns.
10. I would therefore particularly welcome the Examining Authority visiting my property. I would be pleased to explain the setting, my access arrangements and the practical issues that I do not believe have been properly appreciated.

Firsby Lane — the only lawful vehicular access to all residential properties at Firsby

11. My second major priority is for the Inspectors to examine Firsby Lane, including the location of the proposed construction crossing and any associated traffic controls.
12. Firsby Lane is the only lawful vehicular access to all residential properties at Firsby. This is not simply an access issue affecting my home or one neighbouring property. Any restriction, obstruction or interruption has potential consequences for the entire residential community.
13. I have legal access rights serving [redacted]. I am deeply concerned about the possibility of access to my own home becoming subject to construction controls, temporary restrictions or delays.
14. I also allow friends to graze their horses on my land. Reliable access is therefore important for their daily care and welfare, including feed and hay deliveries, veterinary visits, farriers and emergencies.
15. I would like the Inspectors to consider what it would mean for residents to have access to their homes controlled by construction arrangements. I do not believe residents should have to wait for a marshal or construction vehicles simply to enter or leave their properties.
16. I am particularly concerned about emergency access. If an ambulance or fire engine needs to reach a resident urgently, could the proposed crossing or construction controls cause a delay? What would happen if a construction vehicle broke down or obstructed the lane?
17. I ask the Examining Authority to establish whether the Applicant has undertaken a location-specific assessment of the proposed crossing, including the consequences for residents, emergency services, carers, deliveries, agricultural movements and equestrian activities.
18. I am also concerned that elements of the detailed construction traffic management arrangements appear to be left for determination at a later stage. I question whether this is sufficient where the affected road provides the only lawful vehicular access to an entire residential community.
19. I ask the Inspectors to visit the actual proposed crossing location and examine whether the conflict could be avoided through an alternative construction arrangement, rather than relying on future traffic management measures.

Conisbrough Parks — landscape, heritage and public rights of way

20. Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 13 — towards Hooton Woods and land parcel 29

I would particularly like the Inspectors to walk along Bridleway 13 towards the higher ground near Hooton Woods.
I do not believe the Applicant's selected viewpoints adequately represent the changing views and experience of people using this route.
I understand that a viewpoint previously considered along this bridleway was removed from the landscape assessment. I ask the Examining Authority to visit this location and consider whether the landscape, topography and wider historic setting have been adequately assessed.

21. Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 2 — Firsby Lane / Hilltop Farm towards Arbour Lane

I request an inspection of this route and its relationship with Firsby Lane, the surrounding countryside and the proposed construction arrangements.
I would particularly like the Inspectors to appreciate the relationship between the public rights of way network, existing residential access and agricultural activities.

22. Conisbrough Parks Footpath 3 — Arbour Lane towards Park Lane

I ask the Inspectors to visit this footpath and appreciate the relationship between the historic landscape, surrounding farms and the proposed development.
I am concerned that extensive solar infrastructure, fencing and associated works could substantially alter the experience of walking through this countryside.

23. Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 4 — Park Lane

I request an inspection along Bridleway 4, including the area near the proposed electrical infrastructure.

I am concerned about the potential effects on the historic landscape, the setting of surrounding buildings and the safety and experience of people using the route during construction and operation.
24. Conisbrough Parks Route 14 — Arbour Lane towards Park Lane
I would ask the Inspectors to visit this route, particularly locations offering views towards Conisbrough Castle.
The Castle, historic farms, medieval landscape and surrounding countryside form part of a wider historic setting that I believe requires careful consideration.
25. Conisbrough Parks Footpath 4 — Park Lane towards Clifton
I request an inspection of this route to appreciate the wider views across Conisbrough Parks and the relationship between the landscape and countryside towards Clifton.
Conisbrough — construction access and wider views
26. Conisbrough Cemetery and the proposed A630 construction access
I ask the Inspectors to visit the area around Conisbrough Cemetery and the proposed construction access from the A630.
I am concerned about the relationship between construction traffic, cemetery visitors, nearby residential areas, pedestrians and existing highway conditions.
27. Micklebring Grove / Sheffield Road, Conisbrough
I request an inspection of this area to consider the existing residential surroundings, the A630 corridor and the potential effects of construction traffic.
28. Beech Grove, Conisbrough
I ask the Inspectors to consider the local road environment and views from this area, including the potential effects of construction movements and changes to the surrounding landscape.
29. Grazing Harts public house, Micklebring
I would like the Inspectors to visit this location to appreciate the existing views across the countryside and consider the potential effects of the proposed development on the landscape experienced by residents and visitors.
Ravenfield — my regular walks to visit family
30. I regularly walk from Firsby towards Ravenfield to visit family members. These are familiar routes that I have used for many years, and I would like the Inspectors to appreciate how the countryside and public rights of way connect our communities.
31. Ravenfield Footpath 10 — Braithwell Road towards Garden Lane
I particularly request an inspection along this footpath to appreciate the changing views towards Conisbrough Castle and across the wider historic landscape.
I am concerned that the Applicant's selected viewpoint does not adequately represent the full experience of walking the route, including how the views change with the topography.
I ask the Examining Authority to consider whether the landscape and heritage assessment has adequately represented this experience.
32. Ravenfield Footpath 2 — St James' Church towards Ravenfield Ponds and Arbour Lane
I request an inspection to consider the relationship between St James' Church, the surrounding historic landscape and the countryside potentially affected by Whitestone 1.
33. Ravenfield Footpath 6 — Ravenfield Primary School and Hollings Lane woodland
I ask the Inspectors to consider the existing recreational value of this route, including its use by residents and families.
34. Ravenfield Bridleway 4 — St James' View towards Garden Lane
I request an inspection to appreciate the changing topography, the existing rural setting and the wider views across the countryside towards Conisbrough Parks.
35. B6093 Moor Lane South / Main Street — Ravenfield Primary Academy
I ask the Inspectors to visit this road, preferably during school arrival or departure times, to appreciate existing pedestrian activity, traffic conditions and the safety of children and other road users.
36. Arbour Lane, Ravenfield
I request an inspection of Arbour Lane and its connections with the surrounding public rights of way, countryside and historic landscape.
37. Common Lane, Ravenfield
I ask the Inspectors to consider the existing road conditions, recreational use and the potential interaction with construction traffic.
I would also like them to consider the experience of horse riders and other users, including the section with post-and-rail fencing, and whether proposed construction activity could affect the safe use of the surrounding network.
Flooding, drainage and historic landscape
38. Firsby has experienced flooding for many years. Firsby Brook runs through my land, and Firsby Bridge is immediately adjacent to it. I ask the Inspectors to see the local drainage conditions and understand the relationship between the proposed development, the watercourse and surrounding properties.
39. I am also concerned about the archaeological and historic importance of Conisbrough Parks, including the medieval deer park, historic pottery industry around Firsby and other archaeological remains.
40. These features should not be considered in isolation from the surrounding landscape. I would like the Inspectors to appreciate the wider setting and consider whether the combined effects of Whitestone 1 have been adequately assessed.
41. I have also raised concerns in my original representation about whether I was correctly identified and consulted as a person with land interests potentially affected by the development. I ask that these matters be considered alongside the direct effects on my property and access.
My priorities for the Examining Authority
42. I appreciate that the Examining Authority cannot visit every location requested. My highest priorities are:
[redacted] — residential setting, outlook and property-specific effects.
Firsby Lane — the proposed construction crossing and the only lawful vehicular access to all residential properties at Firsby.
Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 13 — towards Hooton Woods and land parcel 29, including the previously omitted viewpoint.
Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 2 — Firsby Lane and Hilltop Farm area.
Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 4 — Park Lane and proposed electrical infrastructure.

Ravenfield Footpath 10 — changing views towards Conisbrough Castle.
Conisbrough Cemetery and the proposed A630 access — construction traffic and highway safety.
Firsby Brook and Firsby Bridge — flooding, drainage and local conditions.
43. I would particularly welcome an accompanied site inspection at [redacted] I would be happy to arrange access by prior agreement and show the Inspectors the views, my land and the access arrangements that concern me.
Request for consideration of removing Whitestone 1
44. I respectfully ask the Examining Authority to consider whether Whitestone 1 should be removed from the proposed development, rather than relying solely on future mitigation measures to address its effects.
45. My concerns are not confined to one issue. They include the potential substantial change to the setting of my home, the proposed construction crossing affecting Firsby's only lawful residential access, flooding and drainage, the historic landscape of Conisbrough Parks, the public rights of way network and the effects on neighbouring communities.
46. I ask the Examining Authority to examine whether the Applicant has adequately assessed these matters individually and cumulatively, whether reasonable alternatives to the Whitestone 1 layout have been considered and whether the evidence demonstrates that its effects would be acceptable.
47. In particular, I ask whether the benefits attributed to Whitestone 1 justify the harm that may arise in this particular location, having regard to the relevant national planning policy, the historic landscape, residential amenity, access and environmental effects.
48. If the Examining Authority concludes that the evidence does not justify the inclusion of Whitestone 1, I respectfully request that it considers recommending its removal from the Development Consent Order proposal.
49. I have lived at Firsby for more than 40 years and have supported renewable energy through improvements to my own home. However, I do not believe that support for renewable energy means that a development of this scale should be accepted in this location without full consideration of its consequences.
50. I ask the Examining Authority to visit my home and the surrounding countryside before reaching its conclusions, so that it can appreciate what is at stake for me and the wider Firsby community.
Thank you for considering my request.