

EN0110020 – Whitestone Solar Farm

PROCEDURAL REPRESENTATION (A)

22nd October 2026

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1 Introduction

1.1 The CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire wish to suggest the following to the Inspectors:

2 Suggested Site Inspection Routes for Viewpoints (Unaccompanied)

W1 - Conisbrough Castle

2.1 The inspectors note of unaccompanied site visits does not specify that views were obtained from the Conisbrough Castle Keep. The charity therefore suggest that the Whitestones 1 area is viewed from Conisbrough Castle Keep roof viewing area and from the upper window in the Keep which faces towards the Whitestones 1 area and Conisbrough Deer Park. The window in question highlighted by an orange circle below.

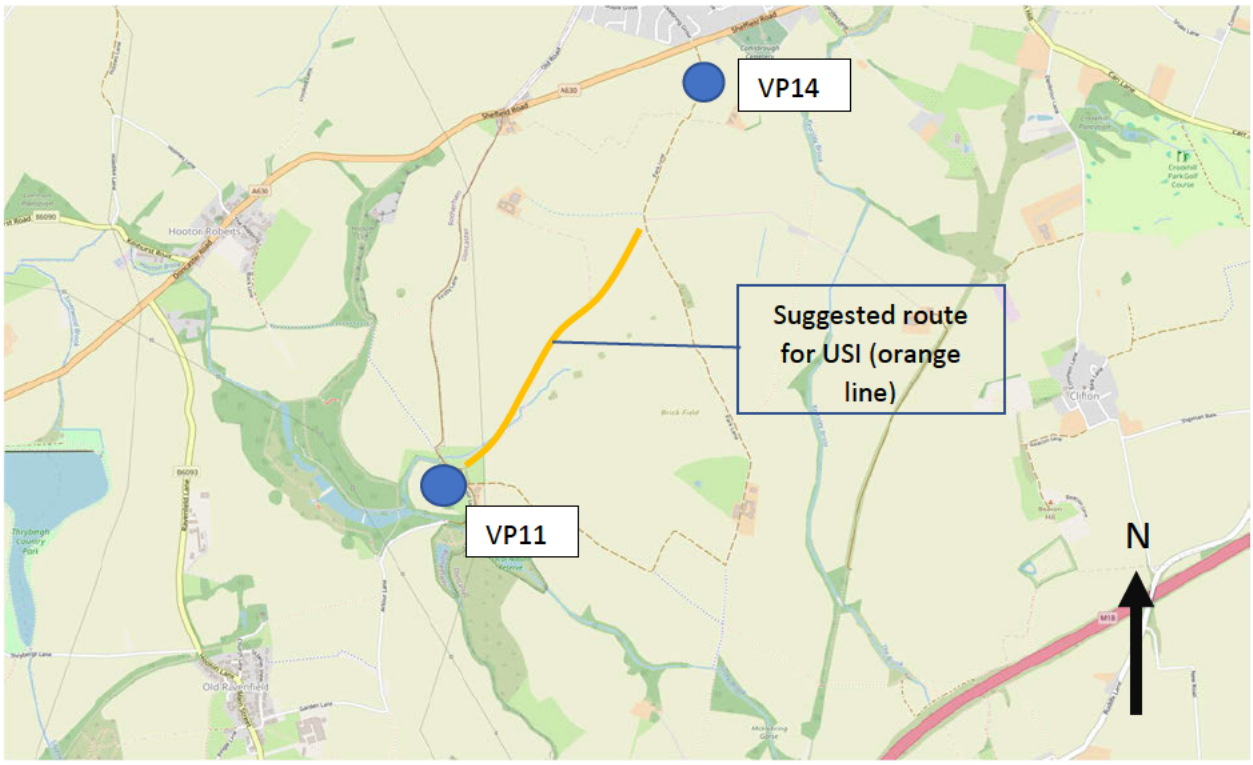


Photo 1: English Heritage, Conisbrough Castle

2.2 The reasons for this are the claimed relationship between the view from the window afforded for those watching for the return of hunting parties in the Medieval period. Also, the views connect the Castle to the historic landscape of the Deer Park.

W2 - Viewpoint's along the Public Right of Way between W1 VP11 and VP14 at Firsby Hall Farm

2.3 The charity suggests that the PRoW between VP11 and VP14 is followed by the ExA members to experience the relative tranquility and views from this area of countryside. It provides views and a perceptual experience not available from Firsby Lane or Park Lane and would in the opinion of the charity be likely to be particularly unmitigable in terms of the open nature of the landscape and tranquility from the perspective of someone walking that path. The route suggested is shown as an orange line on the map below.

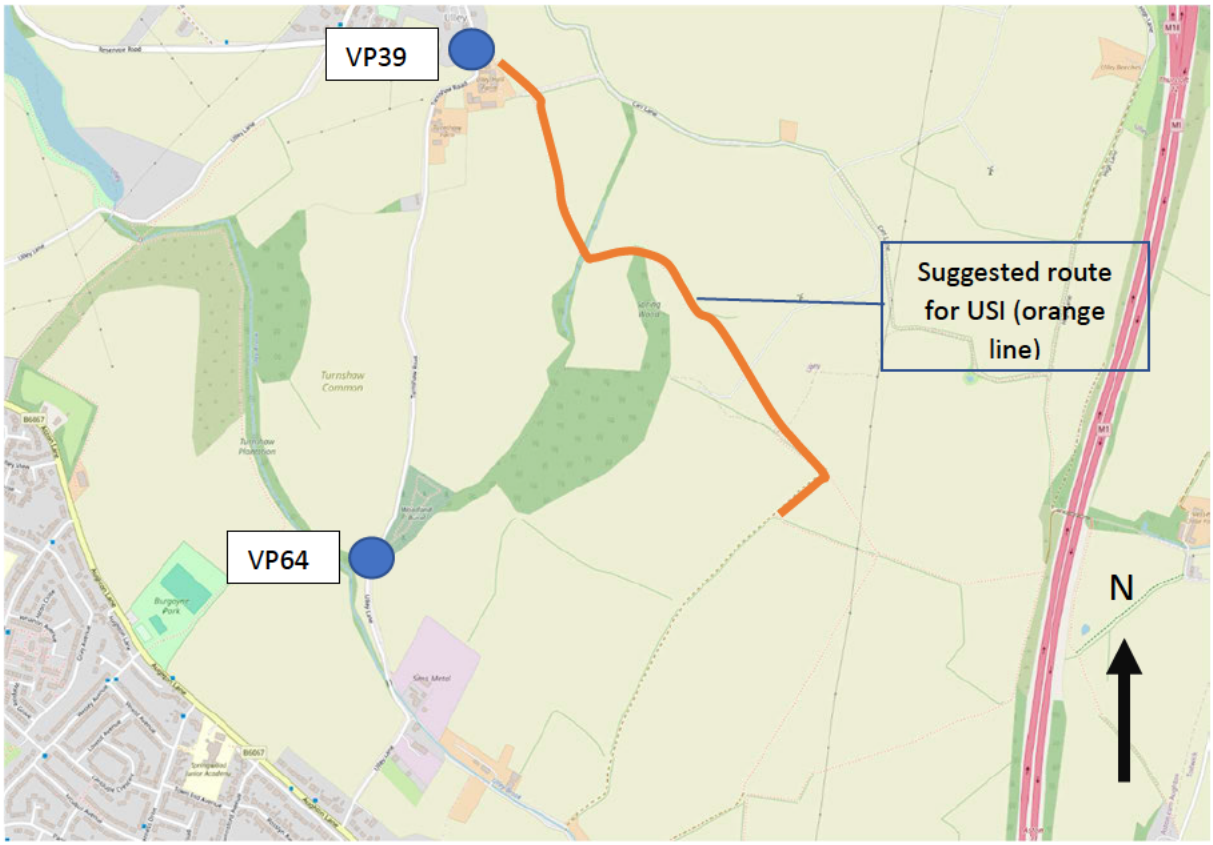


Map 1: Suggested public right of way for unaccompanied site inspection (orange line) near Firsby Hall Farm.

Base map and data from OpenStreetMap and OpenStreetMap Foundation (CC-BY-SA). © https://www.openstreetmap.org and contributors.

W2 – Viewpoints along the Public Right of Way from W2 VP39 at Ulley

2.4 The charity suggests that the PRoW from VP39 is followed by the ExA members downhill through a hedgerow field boundary, to the watercourse below and to the west of Spring Wood. Then walk up along the edge of the woods towards the path junction (SK 4736 8654) near a trig point by a spot height of 128m AOD. This should give exposure to the relative tranquility between Ulley and the climb up away from Spring Wood and also provide views from this area of countryside. It will also allow an appreciation of the cumulative impact should the planning application for a solar farm to the south east of Spring Wood be granted permission. It provides views and a perceptual experience not available from the VP's already visited by the ExA members. The suggested route is shown as an orange line on the map below.

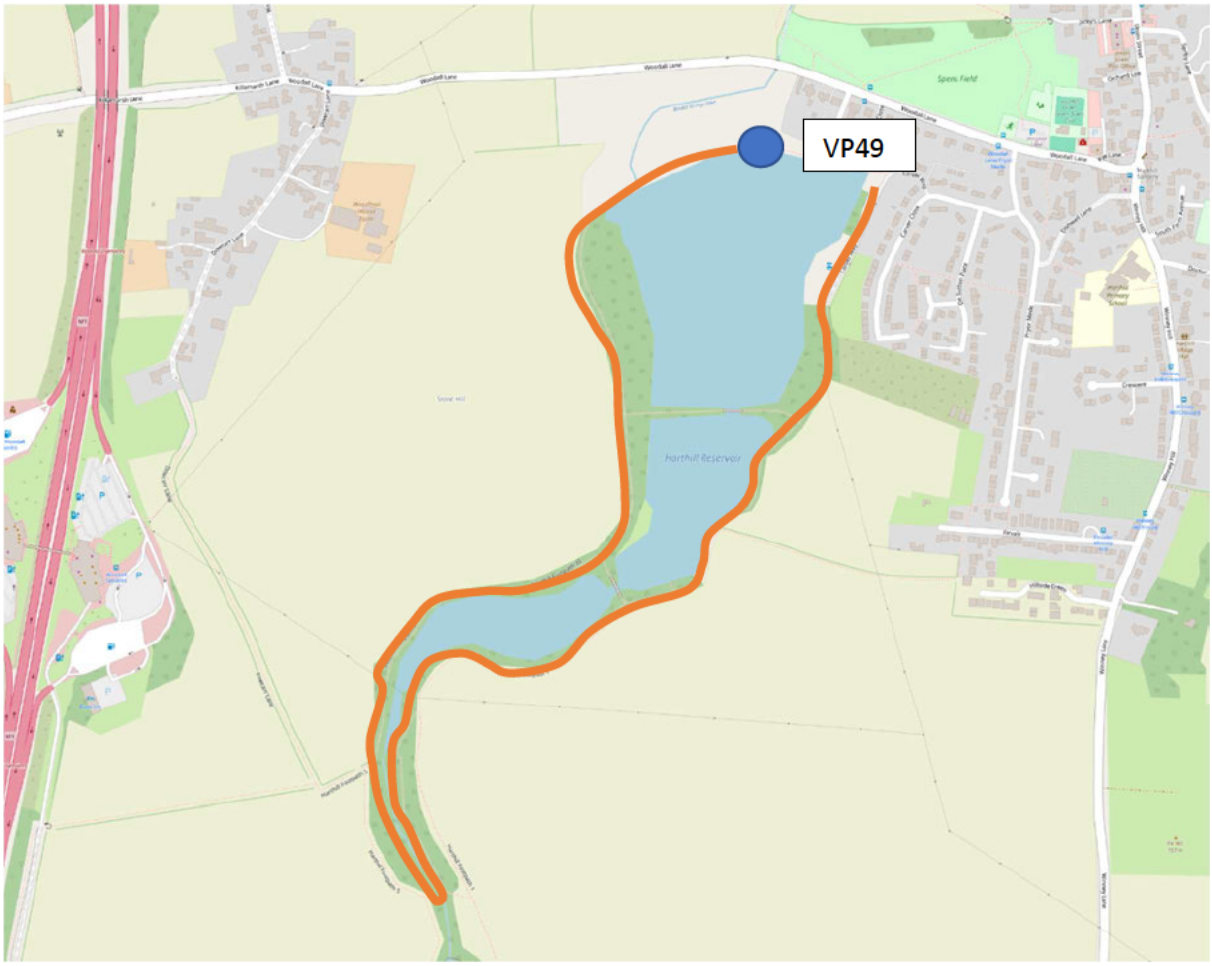


Map 2: Suggested public right of way for unaccompanied site inspection (orange line) near Ulley.

Base map and data from OpenStreetMap and OpenStreetMap Foundation (CC-BY-SA). © https://www.openstreetmap.org and contributors.

W3 – Viewpoints along the Public Right of Way from W3 VP49 around Harthill Reservoir

2.5 The charity suggests that the PRoW (Harthill Footpath No. 30) from VP49 is followed by the ExA members along the western edge of the reservoir in order to complete a circular journey around the reservoir. A small section of this is informal path to link between the west and east sides of the stream feeding into the reservoir. This should give exposure to the landscape and visual experience of those recreational users whom frequent the reservoir. From the charities understanding of the ExA note on its recent unaccompanied sites visits, the suggested route should provide views and a perceptual experience not available from the VP's already visited by the ExA members. It should in particular give a better understanding of the effect of proposed screening vegetation. It should also give an impression of the use of the route by the public for exercise, mindfulness, reconnection with nature and ultimately health and wellbeing. The suggested route is shown as an orange line on the map below.



Map 3: Suggested public right of way for unaccompanied site inspection (orange line) around Harthill reservoir.
Base map and data from OpenStreetMap and OpenStreetMap Foundation (CC-BY-SA). © https://www.openstreetmap.org and contributors.

3 Suggested topics to be discussed

3.1 The charity wish do not wish to submit specific suggestions at this stage as it is likely to rely on written representations only and also has an understanding that topics of concern such as soil conservation and restoration, local nature recovery networks, landscape character, visual amenity and heritage are to be raised by other parties for discussion.