Submission ID: S3237E1D3

Dear Examining Authority,
Growing up in Conisbrough Parks
1. I am writing to express my strong objection to Whitestone 1 and to request that the Examining Authority visits my family home, [redacted], and the surrounding countryside before making its recommendations.
2. I am the daughter of [redacted] and have lived in Firsby, within Conisbrough Parks, for most of my life. This landscape is far more than simply land surrounding our home. It is where I was raised and where I have made many of the memories that have shaped who I am today.
3. I have grown up walking through the countryside, exercising outdoors and spending time with my family and friends. The fields, footpaths, bridleways and open views have always been part of my everyday surroundings.
4. When you grow up somewhere like Firsby, you become accustomed to the countryside being there. The peaceful surroundings, open spaces and views across the fields become part of what home means to you.
5. As I have grown older, I have come to appreciate even more how fortunate I have been to spend so much of my life in this environment.
6. Conisbrough Parks has a character that I believe is increasingly difficult to find. It is peaceful, open and surrounded by countryside, yet it remains connected to nearby communities.
7. I find it upsetting to think that the landscape I have known throughout my childhood and into adulthood could be changed so substantially by Whitestone 1.
[redacted] — the potential effects on our family home
8. [redacted] has been my family home for most of my life. It is somewhere I associate with my childhood, my family and the countryside that surrounds us.
9. One of the things that makes our home special is the openness of the surrounding landscape. From the property, we can look out across the fields and towards the horizon.
10. I am deeply concerned about the scale of Whitestone 1 and the possibility that extensive solar panels, fencing, tracks and associated infrastructure could dominate large parts of the landscape around our home.
11. My father has identified that the proposed development extends around approximately 240 degrees of the outlook from [redacted] I would like the Examining Authority to see the property for itself and understand the potential extent of these changes.
12. For me, this is not simply about losing an attractive view. It is about changing the surroundings of a home that has been part of my life for as long as I can remember.
13. The open countryside contributes to the atmosphere and character of [redacted]. I am concerned that introducing development across such a wide area could fundamentally alter how the property and its surroundings feel.
14. I respectfully request an accompanied residential site inspection at [redacted], by prior arrangement with my parents, so the Inspectors can experience the views from our home and garden and appreciate the existing rural setting.
15. I ask the Examining Authority to consider whether the Applicant's landscape and visual assessment adequately represents the effects on [redacted], including the potential combined effects of development visible in several directions.
16. I would also like the Inspectors to consider whether proposed planting and screening could realistically preserve the existing sense of openness, particularly where views extend across the wider landscape.
The countryside that has shaped my life
17. The countryside around Firsby has always been somewhere I can walk, exercise, spend time with my family and enjoy being outdoors.
18. Some of my happiest memories are connected with the ordinary things that make living here special: spending time outside, walking through the countryside and enjoying the peace and quiet.
19. These are experiences that might seem small individually, but together they form an important part of growing up and feeling connected to a place.
20. The public footpaths and bridleways connecting Firsby, Conisbrough Parks and Ravenfield are an important part of the local countryside.
21. They allow people to experience the landscape rather than simply look at it from a distance. The changing views, open fields and peaceful surroundings are part of what makes using these routes enjoyable.
22. I am concerned that even where the routes remain open, their character could be substantially changed if people are walking alongside security fencing, solar panels or construction infrastructure.
23. I do not believe the effects on recreational users can be fully understood by looking only at whether a path remains accessible.
24. I ask the Examining Authority to consider what people would actually experience when walking through the landscape and how this could change during construction and throughout the operational life of Whitestone 1.
The historic landscape and environment
25. Having grown up in Conisbrough Parks, I have always appreciated the beauty and peaceful character of this area.
26. I also recognise that the surrounding countryside has a history extending far beyond my own lifetime, including its association with the former medieval deer park, historic farmsteads and the wider landscape around Conisbrough Castle.
27. I believe this history is part of what makes the area special and why it deserves careful consideration before development of this scale is permitted.
28. I am concerned that Whitestone 1 could change the appearance and character of extensive areas of countryside for decades.
29. I also care about the wildlife and natural environment that form part of this landscape. I ask the Examining Authority to consider whether the Applicant has adequately assessed the potential effects on existing habitats and the wider countryside.
30. I understand that renewable energy is important, but I do not believe that this removes the need to examine carefully where developments are located and what environmental and community consequences they may have.
31. I would like the Examining Authority to consider whether the proposed location and scale of Whitestone 1 are justified, particularly given the sensitivity of the surrounding historic landscape and the proximity of residential properties.

[redacted] and access to our homes
32. I am also concerned about the proposed construction crossing affecting Firsby Lane.
33. Firsby Lane is the only lawful vehicular access to all residential properties at Firsby, including [redacted].
34. It is the road residents depend upon for everyday journeys, visiting family and friends, work, deliveries and emergency access.
35. I ask the Examining Authority to inspect the proposed crossing location and consider whether the Applicant has demonstrated that safe and reliable residential access can be maintained throughout construction.
36. I would particularly like the Applicant to explain what arrangements would apply if construction vehicles or equipment obstructed the lane, given that residents have no alternative lawful vehicular access.

The long-term consequences for my generation

37. One of my greatest concerns is the length of time that Whitestone 1 could affect this landscape.
38. I have already spent most of my life in Firsby. I have experienced the countryside as a child and now as an adult, and I know how much it contributes to the character of the area.
39. I find it difficult to accept that a landscape which has been enjoyed by generations could be substantially changed for decades.
40. Even if the development were eventually removed, that would not give back the years during which people would have experienced a different landscape.
41. I also think about future generations. I would like children growing up in this area to have the same opportunities to enjoy the countryside that I have had.
42. My objection is therefore not simply about the views from our home. It is about protecting the countryside, its history, its recreational value and the sense of place that it provides.
43. I ask the Examining Authority to consider whether the long-term effects of Whitestone 1 have been adequately assessed and whether less harmful alternatives have been properly examined.

Locations I ask the Examining Authority to inspect

44. I respectfully request that the Examining Authority considers the following locations for site inspections, particularly to understand the effects of Whitestone 1 on my family home, the countryside in which I have grown up and the wider historic landscape.
45. My requested inspection locations are:

- [redacted], Firsby — accompanied residential site inspection (highest priority). My family home, where I have spent most of my life. I ask the Inspectors to visit by prior arrangement with my parents to experience the views from our home and garden and understand the potential extent of Whitestone 1 around the property.
- Firsby Lane — proposed construction crossing. To understand the importance of the only lawful vehicular access to the residential properties at Firsby and the potential effects of construction traffic arrangements.
- Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 13 — towards Hooton Woods and land parcel 29. To appreciate the elevated countryside, open views, topography and historic landscape, including the area associated with the previously omitted landscape viewpoint.
- Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 2 — Firsby Lane towards Hilltop Farm and Arbour Lane. To understand the connections between Firsby and the surrounding countryside.
- Conisbrough Parks Footpath 3 — Arbour Lane towards Park Lane. To appreciate the peaceful rural surroundings and the experience of walking through the landscape.
- Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 4 — Park Lane. To consider the potential effects of proposed infrastructure and construction activity on the historic countryside.
- Conisbrough Parks Route 14 — Arbour Lane towards Park Lane. To appreciate the historic landscape and views towards Conisbrough Castle, with the precise footpath and bridleway classifications confirmed against the definitive map.
- Ravenfield Footpath 10 — Braithwell Road towards Garden Lane. To appreciate the changing views towards Conisbrough Castle and the wider historic landscape.
- Ravenfield Footpath 2 — St James' Church towards Ravenfield Ponds and Arbour Lane. To consider the relationship between the historic church, surrounding countryside and recreational network.
- Ravenfield Bridleway 4 — St James' View towards Moor Lane. To appreciate the open countryside, topography and connected network of public rights of way.
- Ravenfield Footpath 6 — towards Hollings Lane. To consider the importance of this route and the surrounding countryside to local residents and recreational users.

46. I appreciate that the Examining Authority may not be able to visit every location. However, my highest priority is an accompanied residential site inspection at [redacted], followed by Firsby Lane, Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 13 and the surrounding countryside connecting Firsby with Ravenfield.

My request regarding Whitestone 1

47. I understand the importance of renewable energy and the need to protect the environment for the future.
48. However, I believe that protecting the environment also means recognising the value of existing countryside, wildlife, historic landscapes and the places that communities have enjoyed for generations.
49. I am deeply concerned that Whitestone 1 would substantially change the landscape surrounding [redacted] and the wider countryside of Conisbrough Parks.
50. I ask the Examining Authority to consider the combined effects on residential amenity, landscape character, historic setting, wildlife, recreational routes and the long-term experience of people living in this area.
51. I also ask whether the Applicant has demonstrated that Whitestone 1 needs to be located within this particular landscape and whether reasonable alternatives could avoid or reduce the harm.
52. 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.
53. This is the landscape in which I was raised. It is where I have spent time with my family, enjoyed the outdoors and made memories that will stay with me throughout my life.
54. I do not want future generations to lose the opportunity to experience the same peaceful, open countryside that I have been fortunate enough to enjoy.

55. I hope the Examining Authority will visit [redacted] and the surrounding countryside, see the landscape for itself and understand why I feel so strongly about protecting it.
Thank you for considering my request.
Georgia Ashworth
[redacted]