Submission ID: S8DD589B4

Dear Examining Authority,

Growing up in Firsby

1. I am writing to express my strong objection to Whitestone 1 and to request that the Examining Authority visits my family home, [redacted], Firsby, and the surrounding countryside before making its recommendations.
2. I have grown up in Firsby, within Conisbrough Parks. The countryside around our home has been part of my everyday life for as long as I can remember.
3. For me, these fields, footpaths, bridleways and open views are not somewhere I occasionally visit. They are the surroundings I have grown up with, where I have walked, exercised, enjoyed being outdoors and spent time with my family and friends.
4. I feel fortunate to have grown up somewhere like this. Having open countryside so close to home has given me opportunities to enjoy nature, fresh air and peaceful surroundings throughout my childhood.
5. I know that not everyone has the opportunity to grow up in a place like Firsby, and that makes me appreciate it even more.
6. The countryside is part of what makes Firsby feel like home. I find it upsetting to think that so much of the landscape I have always known could be changed by Whitestone 1.

What Whitestone 1 could mean for my family home

7. My parents have worked hard to make [redacted] our family home. It is where I have grown up and where so many of my memories have been made.
8. One of the things that makes our home special is the open countryside surrounding it. We can look out across fields and towards the horizon without the landscape being dominated by large-scale infrastructure.
9. I am concerned that Whitestone 1 would introduce extensive solar panels, security fencing, access tracks and electrical infrastructure into the countryside surrounding our home.
10. My father has raised concerns that the proposed development extends around approximately 240 degrees of the outlook from [redacted]. I would like the Inspectors to see the views from our home and garden for themselves and understand how different our surroundings could become.
11. I appreciate that some people might see this as a change to a view, but to me it is much more personal. It would mean changing the place where I have grown up and the countryside that I have always associated with home.
12. I therefore respectfully request an accompanied residential site inspection at [redacted], by prior arrangement with my parents, so the Examining Authority can understand the existing surroundings and the potential effects of Whitestone 1.

A younger person's perspective

13. As someone from the younger generation, I understand the importance of protecting the environment and addressing climate change.
14. I recognise that renewable energy has an important role to play in our future. However, I do not believe that protecting the environment should mean disregarding the value of existing countryside, wildlife habitats and historic landscapes.
15. I find it particularly frustrating that a landscape which has been enjoyed by generations of people could be changed so extensively, potentially for much of my adult life.
16. Decisions being made now will affect people of my generation for decades. We are the people who will grow older with the consequences of developments such as Whitestone 1.
17. I worry that future generations could grow up knowing Conisbrough Parks as an area dominated by solar infrastructure rather than the open countryside that I have been fortunate enough to experience.
18. I do not think we should have to choose between renewable energy and protecting our most valued green spaces without properly examining whether there are less harmful alternatives.
19. I would like the Examining Authority to consider whether the location and scale of Whitestone 1 are justified, particularly given the effects it could have on the historic countryside and the people who live here.

The countryside, wildlife and spending time outdoors

20. The countryside surrounding Firsby has always been somewhere I can spend time outdoors, exercise and enjoy being with my family and friends.
21. Being able to walk through open fields and enjoy the natural surroundings is something I have grown up taking for granted, but I now realise how valuable it is.
22. The footpaths and bridleways connecting Firsby, Conisbrough Parks and Ravenfield are part of this experience. They allow people to enjoy the countryside away from busy roads.
23. I am concerned that even if these routes remain open, walking along them could feel completely different if they are surrounded by fencing, solar panels or construction activity.
24. I also care about the wildlife that depends on the surrounding countryside. I would like to understand how Whitestone 1 could affect existing habitats and whether the Applicant has properly assessed the combined effects of the development across this landscape.
25. I believe the Examining Authority should experience these routes on foot, rather than relying entirely on photographs and selected viewpoints.
26. A photograph cannot always show what it feels like to walk through a peaceful landscape, see the changing views and appreciate how the countryside connects together.

Protecting Conisbrough Parks for future generations

27. I understand that Conisbrough Parks has a long history, including its association with the former medieval deer park and the wider historic landscape around Conisbrough Castle.
28. Growing up here has made me appreciate that the countryside is not just important to the people who currently live in it. It is something that has been passed down through generations.
29. I feel that we have a responsibility to look after places like this so that children growing up in the future can enjoy them too.
30. My concern is that the scale of Whitestone 1 could change the character of this countryside for decades, even if the development is eventually removed.

31. By that time, much of my generation will have spent a significant part of our lives living with the development.
32. I would like the Examining Authority to consider whether the benefits of Whitestone 1 outweigh the potential loss of the open landscape, historic character and recreational surroundings that make this area special.

Firsby Lane and access to our homes

33. I am also concerned about the proposed construction crossing affecting Firsby Lane.
34. Firsby Lane is the only lawful vehicular access to the residential properties at Firsby, including our family home.
35. It is the road that residents depend upon for everyday journeys, including travelling to work, education, seeing family and friends, and accessing services.
36. I ask the Examining Authority to inspect the proposed construction crossing and consider whether the Applicant has demonstrated that residents will continue to have safe and reliable access throughout construction.
37. I would also like to know what arrangements would be in place if construction vehicles obstructed the lane or emergency access was required.

Locations I ask the Examining Authority to inspect

38. I respectfully request that the Examining Authority considers the following locations, particularly to understand the effects of Whitestone 1 on my family home, the countryside in which I have grown up and the recreational network connecting Firsby and Ravenfield.
39. My requested inspection locations are:

- [redacted], Firsby — accompanied residential site inspection (highest priority). My family home, where I have grown up. 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 changes to the surrounding countryside.
- Firsby Lane — proposed construction crossing. To appreciate the importance of the only lawful vehicular access to Firsby residents and the potential effects of construction traffic arrangements.
- Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 13 — towards Hooton Woods and land parcel 29. To appreciate the open views, elevated countryside, historic landscape and experience of walking through the area.
- Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 2 — Firsby Lane towards Hilltop Farm and Arbour Lane. To understand the connection between Firsby and the surrounding recreational countryside.
- Conisbrough Parks Footpath 3 — Arbour Lane towards Park Lane. To experience the open landscape, tranquillity and countryside enjoyed by local residents.
- Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 4 — Park Lane. To consider the effects of proposed infrastructure and construction activity on the surrounding countryside.
- Conisbrough Parks Route 14 — Arbour Lane towards Park Lane. To appreciate the historic landscape and views towards Conisbrough Castle, with the route's legal classifications confirmed against the definitive map.
- Ravenfield Footpath 10 — Braithwell Road towards Garden Lane. To appreciate the changing views towards Conisbrough Castle and the importance of the wider historic landscape.
- Ravenfield Footpath 2 — St James' Church towards Ravenfield Ponds and Arbour Lane. To consider the relationship between the historic church, countryside and recreational routes.
- Ravenfield Bridleway 4 — St James' View towards Moor Lane. To appreciate the open countryside and connected network of paths between Ravenfield and Conisbrough Parks.
- Ravenfield Footpath 6 — towards Hollings Lane. To understand the importance of the local countryside and recreational network.

40. I appreciate that the Examining Authority may not be able to visit every location. 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

41. I understand the need for renewable energy and believe that protecting the environment is an important responsibility for my generation.
42. However, I do not believe that this automatically justifies placing development of this scale in a historic landscape where it could substantially affect homes, countryside, wildlife and public rights of way.
43. I ask the Examining Authority to consider whether the Applicant has properly assessed the effects on [redacted] the historic landscape, the connected recreational network and the people who have grown up and live in this area.
44. I also ask whether reasonable alternatives have been considered that could avoid such extensive changes to Conisbrough Parks.
45. 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.
46. This is the countryside I have grown up with. It is where I have made memories with my family and friends, and somewhere I have always imagined future generations being able to enjoy.
47. I do not want my generation to inherit a landscape that has been fundamentally changed without its value being properly recognised.
48. I hope the Examining Authority will visit [redacted] and the surrounding countryside, see what makes this place special and understand why I feel so strongly about protecting it.

Thank you for considering my request.

Louisa Ashworth

[redacted]