Mrs Sarah Whitaker

Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Ulley Parish Council

C/o Ulley Village Hall

Main Street

Ulley

S26 3YD

Whitestone Solar Farm

Freepost

SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL

22nd January 2025

**Re: Whitestone Solar Farm**

We write to make clear our total opposition to the scale and size of the proposed Whitestone 2 Solar farm which will engulf this small village.

Ulley is a small rural village (80 households), much of which is a conservation area and with five listed buildings. Listed in the Doomsday book, the village is surrounded by fields, all of which are farmed for food crops. It is a popular recreation area for walking, horse-riding and cyclists, being positioned between the mining towns of Treeton, Thurcroft and Dinnington. It is therefore an important green space not only for residents but for a significant wider population.

The current proposal is unacceptable to residents. We seek reassurances on the following:

The size of the proposed site is reduced to maintain the rural nature of the village. We would expect the boundaries of the site to be well removed from the village boundary and set back substantially from the roads leading into the village.

We seek reassurances that there will be no battery storage within the Parish boundaries, and no cable runs that will impact on the conservation area.

We object strongly to the use of agricultural land for this project. Whilst landowners might profit, the majority of our fields are farmed by tenant farmers who will not. Food security is a developing concern in this country, we cannot understand why agricultural land should be used to provide solar energy when there are so many other options.

We enjoy a wide wildlife and bird population and have a significant number of nesting Buzzards, Falcons, Owls etc that need large hunting grounds to thrive, as well as deer that need space to roam. It is of vital importance that that the proposed project takes account of these needs and is reduced in size to provide wide hunting/roaming spaces.

We have a good network of well used public footpaths, bridal ways and Green lanes, all of which are within the boundaries of the proposed solar farm. These rights of way must be protected and boundaries of the site moved away from them sufficiently to allow users to be able to still enjoy the wide views across to Rotherham, Sheffield and Derbyshire.

The size and scale of this proposal needs to be considered and planned alongside any other solar developments that are already in place or going through the planning process, the Piper Farm development and Common Farm Solar Park being the closest to the Village.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Whitaker

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