Light Valley Solar (LVS)– 07/08/26 – Case ref F43266805 Planning Inspector objection following, NSIP.

1. **Introduction** - My Name is Ian Curran, I am a resident in South Milford and I wish to raise the following concerns, questions and objection regarding the applicant and process.
2. **My skills and experience to support my objection -** I qualified as an Electrical, Telecoms & Telemetry engineer. For the last 12 years I have led Internet of things global telemetry programs across the world, working on projects including smart grid/smart metering in Iceland, Finland, Middle East & Kenya etc.
3. My experience confirms that the technology being proposed is old and not very efficient, BES storage can only support around 2 hours of grid feed in energy at a time, when Grid control make a call to meet grid demand.

4. **Objection summary –** At the NSIP Planning Inspector Preliminary Hearing and open floor session, questions put to Mr Fox, he vague or unable to answer many questions that were put to the planning Inspectorate and to LVS as the applicant. In fact he did not know what information was contained within their many documents, only referring to reference numbers. Many of the documents he referred to are not in plain English or designed to make it easy for residents and members of the community to read and understand, leading one to believe that LVS cannot be trusted as an ethical investor, developer who will minimise environmental and community impacts of their application.

5. The impacts on our village and surrounding area will be,

    a. highway safety – North Yorkshire Council, our MP, and haighways have serious concern during constructions phase, due to the current high volumes of traffic on the A162, A63 and local village roads/farm tracks tht are unsuitable for HGV/Construction traffic.

    b. the design of the project – will result in blight on the local landscape similar to the impact of a 20KM slag heap (eg as [er coal mining days), but with greater environmental impact cause by light pollution from reflection of panel light, effecting bird migration to/from nearby Fairburn Ings RSPB nature reserve. There will be significant impact on pilots and navigation for air traffic to Sherburn aero club, and Church Fenton East Leeds airport, for training flights and landing/take offs. There have been many emergency crash landings in farmer fields around Sherburn/South Milford and Monk Fryson, this can be verified by CAA records.

    c. Noise nuisance, during construction phase due to contractors pile driving of supports for sighting/suspension of solar panels, which are over 3 m in hight above ground level, and movement of materials on unsuitable single carriage way roads. North Yorkshire council highways already considers the A63/A621 to be congested, we already have a high accident and death rate of mortorcyclists in the area (source North Yorkshire police records), along with 24/7 freight movements in/out of Sherburn Industrial estate, plus

the planned construction of a motorway service station on the A1/A63 interchange, and proposed stone quarry, extraction and HGV/Plant movements from Lumby/Hillam A63.

d. The project will affect the enjoyment of my own property in terms of value loss due to large scale of fields and country side covered in panels, significantly reducing our dog walking on common lane, maltings and local paths and tacks nr South Milford.

e, We will see long term destruction of crop growing farm land and green belt space that is already under threat from significant housebuilding in South Milford and adjacent to A162 Sherburn/Milford Road, which the project will have on our community and family day-to-day life, cycling, walking, dog walking, observing birds and wild life recreational activities impacting deer roaming from local woods, and fields.

6. My objection is based on the following facts,

a. The motivation of LVS is solely for their financial benefit, and returns on investment, at the expense of environmental, wild life and residents quality of life.

b. A statement made by LVS is that after 40years of operation the land will be returned to farming. However that commitment was also given to residents at the planning stage of the 185 acre Gascoyne Wood Drift mine complex, instead it was sold on to Howorth Group, turning it into an industrial estate, currently 115 acers in size, which continues to expand and be developed.

c. The UK Government Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) is not being open and honest with local business and residents impacted by the proposed 2,500 acers LVS solar farm proposal. Questions that requires answers are, what is the purpose and use of the energy that it would be used for? This was not discussed at the preliminary hearing. It became clear at the hearing that LVS only interest is their financial gain, what alternative sites they considered eg brown field which they are many in the area, along with warehouse roof tops, canal banks, railway embankments etc. There was no mention of government financial grants they would receive over the term of the operation, or revenues they would generate. Or the emissions impact of the scales of the proposal or where materials would be supplied from, eg country of origin, and thus financial import costs and considerations.

d. The UK Government has made statements of supporting and backing AI (artificial intelligence), and data centres locations which consume large amounts of electricity (power) for IT/Server equipment, and cooling systems, such as the Microsoft data centre planned for Stourton/Leeds on the old CEGB power station site adjacent to the river Aire, is this not the real reason DESNZ wants to build a massive solar site east of Leeds in North Yorkshire.

e. My belief is that the energy produced will not benefit local business, and residents households or provided them with reduced energy (electricity) costs. This is born out from another solar farms, selling their total energy to large business such as Tesco, so it can be stated on their reporting account's

that they are buying green energy but at what environmental cost to communities impacted.

f. The other failure of Government, NSIP, DESNZ policy is to consider alternative less environmental impactful energy sources, eg wind, tidal/wave, and nuclear such as the Rolls Royce small modular reactors, which create engineering, manufacturing and services jobs in our community. Hornsea 1 & 2 are now completed and will provide a significant source of electricity for the region and grid feed in, with a third offshore wind farm in planning, plus the large site off the Norfolk/Suffolk coast. Within our village location we also have the National Grid main pipeline, Gas interconnection from Easington which supplies many on demand Gas Turbine electricity generators, feeding electricity into the grid on peak demand.
g. The LVS will have massive impact during construction, it will not create any long term skilled jobs/employment, in fact it creates a net loss in employment in the local community, as farmers, farm contractors and Farm to Fork supply chain jobs will be lost, eg a lot of potatoes are grown and are used by McCains for chips and other potato products, other produces provide super markets with Carrots, Corn on the cob and other vegetables.
h. This raises the question of a failed connected government policy between Farming and energy production, DENZ, MAF/DoA etc for UK food sustainability and framing for UK, against a increasing 70m population food demands, and reduced wheat/cereal crop production across Europe, also impacted by Ukraine/Russia conflict effect.
   Mass importation of food into the UK has a massive environmental and CO2 emissions impact from Sea, Air, road transportation. The local Drax Power station is another example of enormous Government subsidy being paid to DRAX with vast environmental and CO2 impacts from transporting wood product for burning/energy production. Another questionable governmental energy policy decision.
i. The impact and outcomes to the local communities of this this scheme covers 2,500 acers of green belt and farm land are significant for businesses and residents, and we are being denied consultation at local level with parish and North Yorkshire County Council, which is a failure of local democracy.

   It appears from the meeting that the NSIP Inspectorate, has not take into account all of the other Yorkshire regional energy planning applications, and NSIP's that are at pre/post planning submission phase, and their overall impact on the region, business, householders, environment, and economy etc. **Examples are** PS Renewables, Danish Orsted 2,250 Acres, 500Mw Clean Air solar Farm in north/east Yorkshire, RWE 3,200 Acres Peartree farm solar development, Boom Power 400MW solar farm Wressle/Howden, 500Mw Mylen Leah solar farm at Latham. So we have over 30+NSIP applications in our area along consuming vast amount of high quality farm land impacting food sustainability and resilience. We now witness the eviction of Tennant

farmers, and their loss of income from framing. Last Saturday's Yorkshire Post Country, outlined the lack of a proper Government food production policy upon the farming sector.

j. Other countries such as Germany have shown how to deploy solar, eg on railway tracks/embankments, side of motor way's, LVS could deploy along the Canal and river banks.

7. **In summary,** the propose development has zero, to a negative benefit for local business, community and households, it removes access to the countryside and farm land, and significantly impacts food/crop production UK food sustainability, with serious environmental impacts.
8. **NSIP need to consider alternatives -** There is a new alternative solar technology called Photovoltaic (PV) cell screen printing process. It uses a similar production process to newspaper printing machines. These are cheap to manufacture flexible (plastic) sheets that can be applied to virtually any surface and significantly reduce deployment costs, these should be considered for manufacture in the UK, and for deployment on homes, offices factory roofs, sides of roads, rail tracks, canals, car parks etc, thus reducing the environment impact of using good quality farm land, which should be used for crop production, as sustainability for regional/national citizens of the UK.

   I currently support and advise a University of Leeds Technology Spin out company called Ultracell Networks Ltd, which has had support from government DSIT and DENZ, our technology can deliver a 50% energy saving for current Data Centre, and 5G network infrastructure both as retro fit and on new builds, thus reducing energy demand on the electricity grid, this technology should be a government priority for implementation in all UK energy hungry data centres, thus reducing the demand on Grid supply significantly.

9. **Why is this important?** A recent report produced in the Republic of Ireland (computer weekly) outlined that they do not produce sufficient electricity to service the existing Data Centre demands, let alone service new ones, such as Microsoft one to be built in Leeds.
   The report states that in 2025 their existing data centre energy demands increased by 10% alone, while the total energy usage is now equal to the total domestic demands for households. Is this not a lesson for NSIP/UK Government regarding it's current NET Zero strategy. It also raises the question, why are we not utilising all the energy from our off shore wind farms, while paying £billions in subsidy for it, as appear to not be able to rout the energy through the Grid network.

   In my Non exec role at Yorkshire Forward, we supported the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre at Rotheram, and advanced materials manufacturing including Sheffield Forgemasters who can build the pressure vessels for reactors. The Rolls Royce small modular nuclear reactors may provide part of the energy solution

we need without the environmental impact of large scale solar farms such as Light Valley Solar application. As a democratic country how can all the recent 30+ NSIP applications in our region be deemed critical infrastructure when we need to consider energy risk and mitigation generation and transmission that has been ignored for many years by Governments. see article in Yorkshire Post 18th April 2026. LVS application appears to be assessed independently and not as a collective impact along with other energy production plants in our area, **or is this a tactic to bypass the local planning process, and local planning development plan that has been suspended.** We deserve to be heard and our concerns to be addressed and positive outcomes for our communities must be achieved not squandered by off shore Venture Capital companies.

South Milford area has seen significant development of housing and energy, the following are an example

i. The South Milford Malting Organic Treatment and energy bio Digester plant (Common Lane) that was recently expanded significantly, and has significant amount of HGV loads for treatment arriving every day.
ii. Engie Renewable gasses UK, currently under construction om A162 South Milford ByPass, a very large site on farm land, covering many acres.
iii. Existing, Low Farm Energy plant, production on A 162 South Milford.
iv. Sherburn Industrial estate, four unit electrical generation units providing on demand generation.
v. Eninium, FerryBridge 285mw electricity, Energy recovery from waste.
vi. Add to this the proposed and planning applications to build over 2000 new homes in Sherburn in Elmet & South Milford, because North Yorkshire County Council no longer a Local Development plan, creating a free for all.

10. Other supporting impacts and considerations

a) These sites Solar sites (reviewed the Coldstream – borders site) have no physical employees employed on site beyond construction. Internet of things technologies support remote telemetry and CCTV for 24/7 operations**. So where are the jobs for our area/region?** The proposal will result in a significant loss in local farming industry related jobs, and within the farming and food supply chain.

b) How will LVS and the inspectorate/Govt address the countries requirement for domestic food production, and food sustainability eg Farm to fork environmental impact if we are reliant upon imports, remember the impact of covid on goods movements, war in Ukraine, port blockaids, EU paperwork/food standards legislation

impact costs of imports and exports globally. – against a back drop of increased population rising to 70m+ in the UK.

c) How will the large abundance of wild life and birds be sustained and impacted by the erection of fences and solar panels stopping their free movement and roaming, feeding on the land. The sites I have viewed have high fences prohibiting access.

d) Where will the materials for the site be sourced from, China? Are they any financial benefits to UK economy or jobs for UK manufactures, and the local communities/villages impacted?

e) As we saw from the large solar farm in South of England, companies such as Tesco buy the solar energy so it looks good on their ESG reporting accounts statements.

f) NSIP, Is it correct that the Australian Infrastructure and asset management company Macquarie are the funders, but not necessarily the operators of the proposed solar farm, so what regional controls are in place to monitor them during the lifespan. Macquarie's business sustainability strategy is not clear as an example they are currently looking to off load their investment from KCOM in Hull.