ALDERWASLEY PARISH COUNCIL
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Ms K Graham
Amber Valley Borough Council
Town Hall
Market Place
Ripley

5 May 2026

Dear Ms Graham

AVA/2026/0184 – Installation of 24 ground mounted solar photovoltic array and installation of 3 x wall mounted battery storage units at Oakhill Farm, Wirksworth Road, Whatstandwell, Matlock

Alderwasley Parish Council have considered this application and have made the following comments

The Council would question some of the points in the above application's design and access statement

2) LAYOUT - 24 panel ground mounted display (14M x 6.25M)

3) SCALE - The physical scale of the array has been deliberately constrained to ensure a low profile installation - ensuring that the scale of the display does not dominate or overshadow the neighbouring amenity space

4) APPEARANCE - The aesthetic impact has been carefully mitigated through material selection set against the backdrop of a commercial working farm which features large scale agricultural barns and an industrial cow shed. The array will blend discretely

The Council would point out that the site lies just inside the W.H.S. buffer zone and that the importance of the designation speaks for itself. The ground mounting/low level siting means that the array can be seen more easily from the adjacent well used footpath as well as the neighbouring property. Since some foliage clearance has taken place, there is also visibility from across the valley at Coddington

The description of large scale agricultural buildings and an industrial cowshed suggest a somewhat inverted comparison with reality. The present old farm buildings have blended with their surroundings for many years, unlike the proposal

Yours sincerely

Rosemary Bridges
Clerk