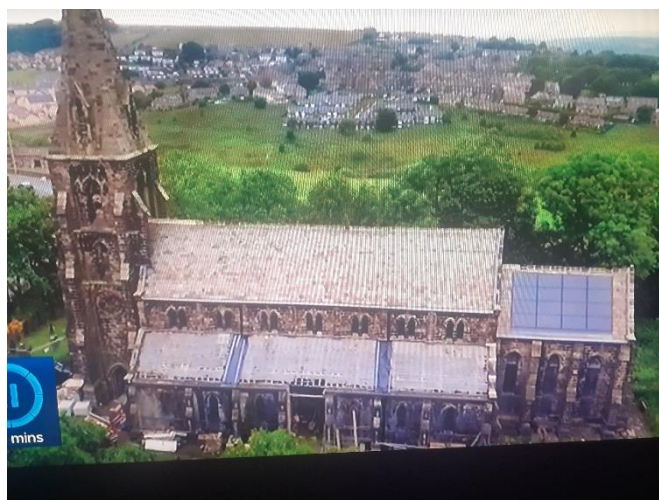


**JUSTIFICATION STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO PROPOSED
INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS AT CALFORD GREEN COTTAGE,
CALFORD GREEN, KEDINGTON, HAVERHILL CB9 7UN**

- 1. Global warming has reached crisis point according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's statement of the 9th August 2021. It states that urgent action must start NOW to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.**
- 2. In a letter from the Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change (attached) she states that a Government White Paper recently published the importance of climate change to planning policy will change.**
- 3. There is plenty of precedence. Historic England's website shows solar panels have been installed on many notable listed buildings. While many of these are not visible the Grade II Listed St. Paul's Church at Denholme, West Yorkshire has solar panels which are clearly visible from the public highway (see aerial photo)**



- 4. Calford Green Cottage is within a small hamlet of five properties to the west of Coupals Road. The cottage does not face the road but is at an acute angle. It is situated some 60 metres back from Coupals Road and has only a 30m range of visibility to those passing, due to surrounding trees, shrubs and hedges. This means it is not a prominent feature in the street scene.**
- 5. The solar panels are not to be attached to the original thatched cottage but to the modern slate roofed extension granted planning permission in 2009. The installation of the panels will not have any physical impact on the 550 year old structure whatsoever. Also the panels will sit on top of the existing slates which will remain in situ. Should the panels be subsequently removed there would be minimal impact even on this modern structure.**

6. The visual impact of the solid black panels, set within the existing dark grey slate elevation of the roof scape, will be barely noticeable, especially given the cottages location and lack of visual prominence (see photograph below).



7. Under the current reduction of CO2 emissions political climate they could be seen as improving the appearance of the cottage rather than detracting from it.

Additionally, the history of the building adapting to change over the centuries will be easily read, as is the case with a vast majority of listed buildings, whatever their size or impact.

8. Sitting the panels anywhere else within the curtilage of the cottage would reduce their efficiency as well as detracting from the beautiful cottage garden setting of the building.
9. While the reduction in CO2 emissions of around 750kg per annum is relatively modest it is another step towards West Suffolk's, our National Government's and most Government's worldwide determination to halt global warming.

In balancing any perceived detriment to the appearance of the cottage against the very real reduction in carbon emissions the installation of solar panels must win.



**Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy**

The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
Minister of State for Business, Energy and
Clean Growth

**Department for Business, Energy &
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Our ref: MCSL2021/14858
Your ref: MH25117

25 June 2021

Dear Matt,

Thank you for your email dated 27 May to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs enclosing correspondence from your constituent Mr Ian Evans, regarding his application for Solar Panels.

Solar PV has been a UK success story, with rapid deployment over the last 10 years. Over 99% of the UK's solar PV capacity has been deployed since May 2010, and over a million homes with solar PV installed. Solar is a key part of the Government's strategy for low-cost decarbonisation of the energy sector. Achieving our ambitious 2050 Net Zero target will require significant increases in renewable electricity generation, and we will need to increase deployment across a range of technologies, including solar PV.

One of the key benefits of solar PV is its flexibility and that it can be deployed on rooftops as well as on the ground. Your constituent is right to highlight the importance of rooftop solar in tackling climate change and we are glad to hear that Mr Evans is looking into options for installing solar. I would also like to thank your constituent for sharing his views on solar panels and listed buildings. As you can appreciate, there is a difficult balance to be found between deploying renewable energy and preserving our Nation's heritage buildings.

The majority of solar installations will not require the owner to apply for planning permission. Permitted development rights allow the installation of solar panels up to 1 MW on domestic properties, schools, businesses, and farm buildings without any need for planning permission. For information on solar and planning permission, see the planning portal website-
www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200130/common_projects/51/solar_panels/2.

Listed building consent is required for any works to demolish any part of a listed building or to alter or extend it in a way that affects its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest. This is clearly a matter of judgement and will depend on the particular circumstances of each case. That is why there is a right of appeal – so the applicant has the opportunity to test the merits of the local authority's decision.

The Government is fully committed to encouraging homeowners to incorporate energy efficiency measures in their properties in order to tackle climate change. As part of this, we recognise the need to ensure that more historic buildings have the right energy efficiency measures to support our zero carbon objectives.

In the recently published White Paper, Planning for the Future, we have therefore, committed to reviewing and updating the planning framework for listed buildings and conservation areas, to ensure their significance is conserved while allowing, where appropriate, sympathetic changes to support their continued use and address climate change.

I hope you will find this reply helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anne Marie Trevelyan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

THE RT HON ANNE-MARIE TREVELYAN MP
Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change