

Blakenham Estate, Cottage Farm House, Somersham Road, Little Blakenham, Ipswich, Suffolk. IP8 4LZ -
Ground Mount Solar PV System – Design and Access Statement

Design and Access Statement

Blakenham Farms
Cottage Farm
Somersham Road
Little Blakenham
Ipswich
IP8 4LZ

Ground Mounted Solar PV System

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Job Reference	Blakenham Estate		
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Initial			
Revision			

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1. Design



1.1 Introduction

This design and access statement accompanies a planning application by East Green Energy Ltd to East Suffolk Council for full planning permission to install a Ground Mounted Solar PV system within the land owned Blakenham Farms, Cottage Farm House, Somersham Road, Little Blakenham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 4LZ. The application site grid reference is PP1046956810469568.

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The ground mount solar system will be located to the North of the main properties. There are no main roads adjacent to the proposed Solar PV array, the closest main road and public walkway is approximately 865m away from the ground mount with minimal visual impact on the surrounding area due to the surrounding high hedges.

Figure 1.1 – Site Location



The yellow line donates the location of the proposed ground mount Solar PV System

1.2 Use

The proposal is for a Ground Mount Solar PV system with the capacity to generate up to 100kW. The Solar PV system will generate electricity and reduce the reliance on fossil fuels whilst also lowering carbon emissions. The estimated annual electricity generation from the ground mounted solar PV system is approximately 95,344.700kWh which equates to a carbon savings of up to 28.6 tCO₂e/year. The proposal will therefore contribute towards the regional targets for renewable energy generation.

1.3 Layout of Development

Appraising the context of the proposal has involved a site visit by an East Green Energy representative during which the site was walked over to evaluate the landscape character and to identify any on site constraints.

The selection of the site has been guided by the need to meet the manufacturer's requirements for available sun and shading etc. The appraisal completed has indicated that the site is appropriate for the siting of a solar PV system by virtue of its topography, location, and technical performance of the proposed installation. The visibility of the site from the surrounding area was assessed in terms of its potential implications for the surrounding landscape which in this case is considered as low.

Appraising the context of the site has involved an evaluation process that has sought to balance the various aspects of the proposal. It is considered that the site chosen by the applicant and the design selected satisfies the requirements of relevant local and national planning policies and in particular those relating to; built and cultural heritage, public safety and security, ecology, hydrology, landscape and visual and access.

1.4 Scale

The proposed – Ground Mount Solar PV System comprises:

308 solar panels, up to 340Wp each, ground mounted at 30 degrees angle, consisting of 1 array covering 160M wide x 3m deep total area of 480 sqm. See plan attached

1.5 Landscaping

A Visual inspection was carried out using methodology consistent with current national and regional guidelines. The assessment process has sought to establish the full extent of the likely landscape and visual effects arising from the proposed Ground Mount PV System, at all stages of the project.

1.6 Appearance

The chosen panels are all black 0.996m wide, 1.689m high and 35mm deep installed 2 high in portrait at an angle of 30 degrees to the horizontal.

1.7 PV System Details

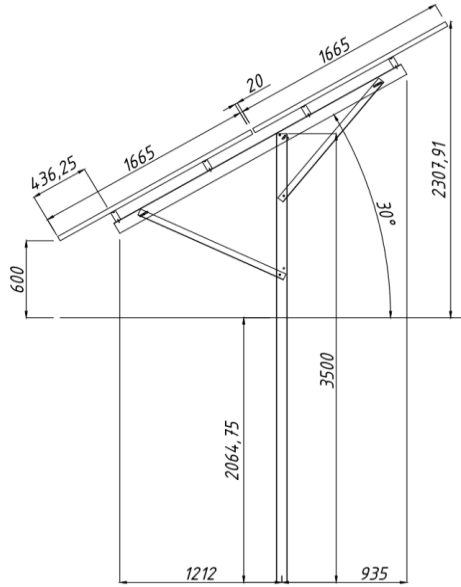
Panel Manufacturer:	JA Solar
Panel Model:	JAM60S17
PV system generation capacity:	320-340kWh
Number of panels:	308
Colour:	All Black
Type of mounting:	<i>Ground Mounted Solar</i>
Panel dimensions:	1689mm x 996mm x 35mm
Panel weight :	approx. 19 kg

1.8 Mounting System

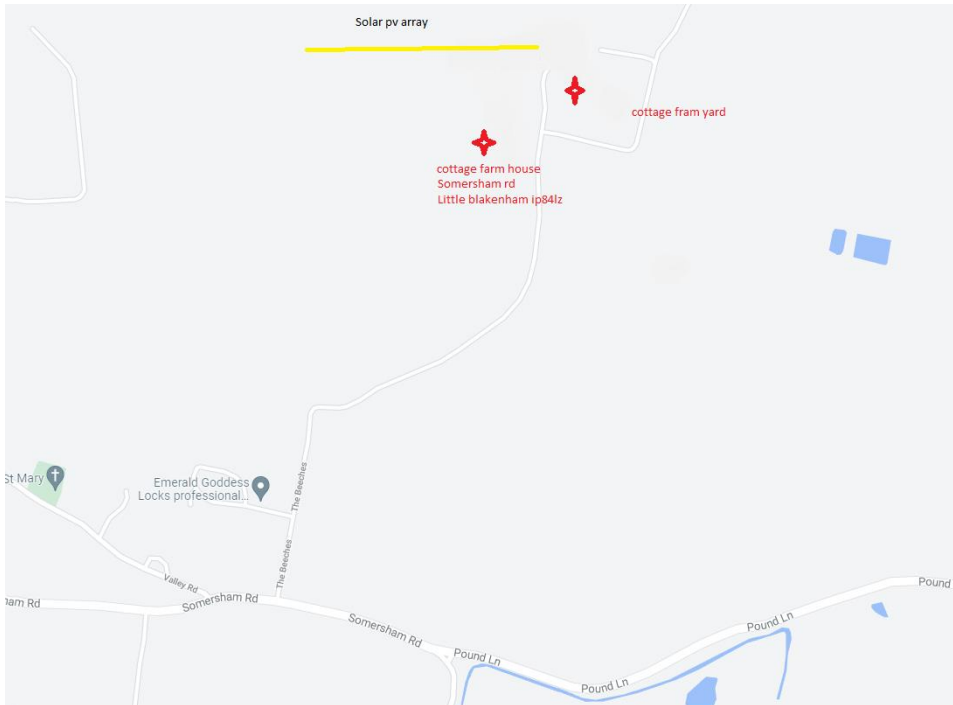
308 photovoltaic (solar) panels will be installed on ground mounted frame. The panels sit approximately 600mm from the front and 2367mm from the back. Each panel is approximately 1m in width and 1.60m in length, the panels are mounted in 1 row of 154 x 2 = 308 modules.

The solar panels will be 5 meters away from the hedge and the hedge kept to below 2 meters in height.

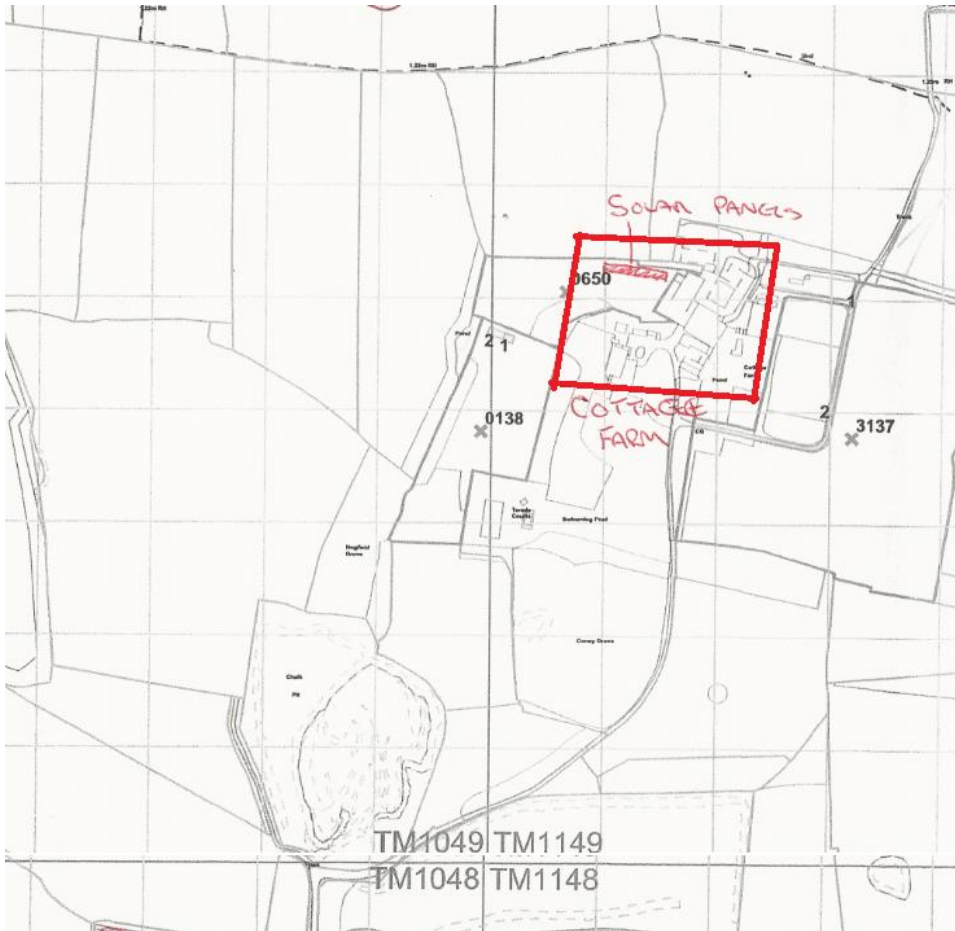
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Examples from previous ground mount installation

1.9 Cabling

The PV system is connected to the incoming supply in Stone Barns and will require a cable run of approximately 96m from the Main House to the array.

2 Access

2.1 Proposed Route and Site Access

Access will be via the applicant's own land. No permanent roads will need to be constructed for the works and there will be only the occasional heavy vehicles accessing the site, there will be no abnormal loads.

2.2 Public Use of the Site

The Solar PV system will be situated on private land.

There will be no impact on routes or open spaces and the panels are not visible from roads or footpaths, so as not to cause any unnecessary impact on the surrounding area. There are no footpaths immediately adjacent to the area.