

BLAKENHAM FARMS

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15th December 2021

Mid Suffolk District Council

Planning Department

54 Ipswich Street

Stowmarket

IP14 1AD

Dear Planning Department,

Solar Panel Installation at Blakenham Estate, Cottage Farm House

Thank you for taking the time to engage with my letter, which is written to provide context to application being put forward on our behalf by East Green Energy to install solar panels at Blakenham Farm, Cottage Farm House, Little Blakenham, Ipswich IP8 4LZ for some 100kWp, this supplies various farm cottages, the main farm house and various farm buildings. As part of our application for planning consent, we would like to provide some additional information which shares with you details of the landscape and environmental aspects of our proposed scheme.

Landscape integration

After consultation with East Green Energy, we are proposing to locate the panels in a grazing field near our property which is owned by us. This position ensures that they will not be visible from the road or public rights of way. Located at the south-west of the main property, the array will also be surrounded by a substantial mixed hedge of native plants. This will prevent any visual intrusion and blend into the adjacent large hedge and bramble area actively maintained for nesting birds.

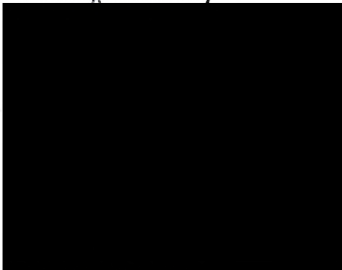
Environmental strategy

Introducing these solar panels as a form of green energy is central to our desire to minimise our carbon use and maximise renewable energy at the property. More widely, our environmental strategy includes: maintaining all grassland as organic; and enhancing wildlife habitats within the garden and surrounding woodland.

At this time of huge challenge and positive action towards addressing climate change, we believe that the installation of solar panels at Blakenham Estate is a logical and responsible step that accords with the Council's own strategic commitments towards energy generating homes.

We are keen to make progress with this green infrastructure and so would be very glad to meet you on site if this would be helpful. Please also do not hesitate to be in touch with myself or East Green Energy if further assistance or information is needed at any stage.

Yours sincerely



John Latham

Farm Manager