Job No. 3056

December 2023

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

PROPOSED
SOLAR PANEL ARRAY.
AWLISCOMBE HOUSE
Awliscombe
Nr Honiton.
EX14 3NP

INTRODUCTION

Ejw Architects were instructed by Miss Christine Kirk in conjunction with Mole Energy, to consider installing a stand-alone ground mounted solar array, located to the north west of the house, on the southern side of the mature hedging. See Figs 1 – 3.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The field falls slightly to the south, with a mature hedge line to the south of the array, with the existing main site buildings to the north west of the array. Ivedon House to the north of the site is listed, grade 2, screened from the array by mature trees and hedging, thus the array is not detrimental to the setting of the listed building.

Fig 1. Aerial view.

Fig 2. View looking north west toward the site.

Fig 3. View looking northwest towards site.

ACCESS

Access will be via the existing drive and track network.

PROPOSED

The proposed mounted PV array is to take the form of Solar PV panels, of ground mounted Vertex S back sheet monocrystalline modules, in 4 rows, panels in portrait format, totalling 72 panels, on a Park Tegra Ground galvanised Anchor system, see fig 7. With the electric inverters positioned to the underside of the panels, see fig 5 below, avoiding the need of a separate hut. A total of approximately 31 kWp is to be generated at peak times.

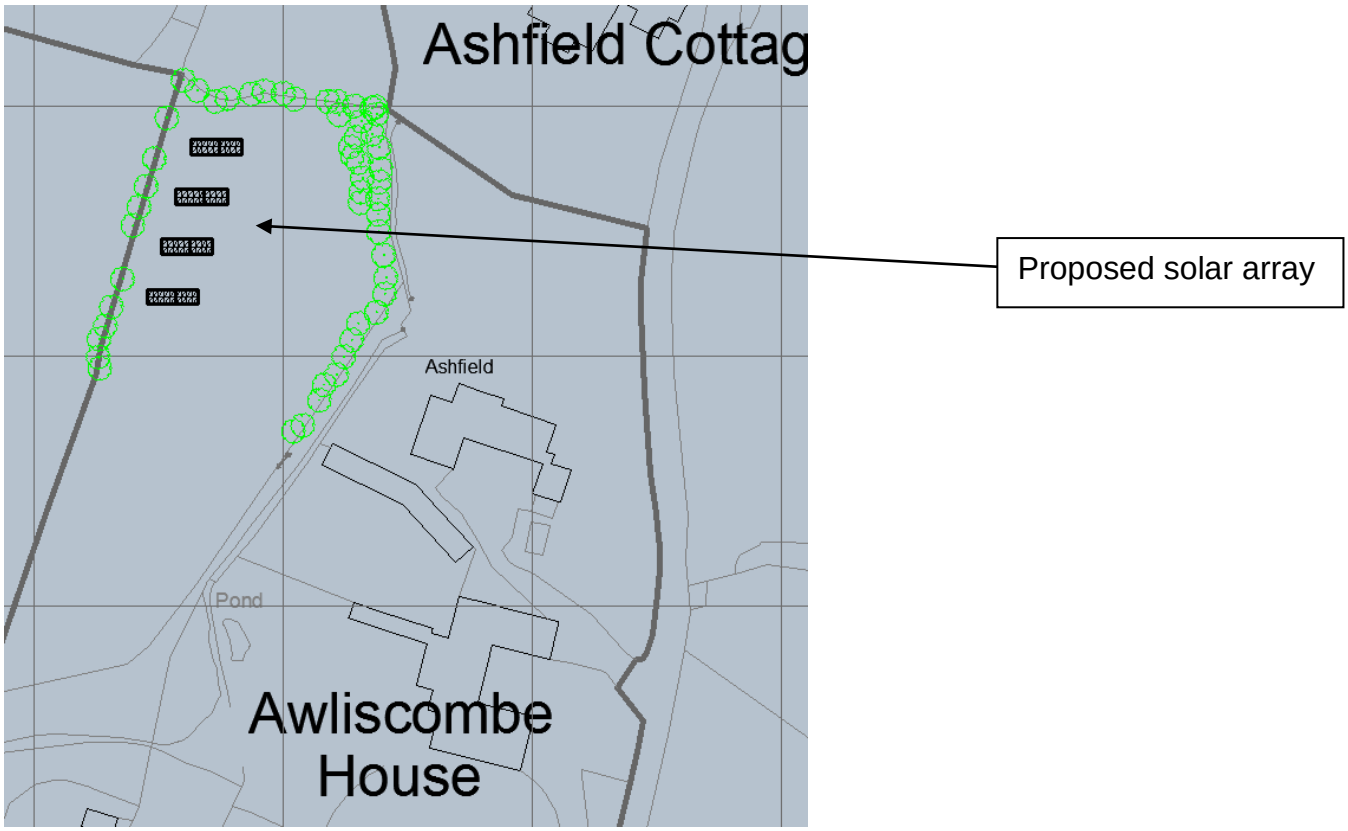
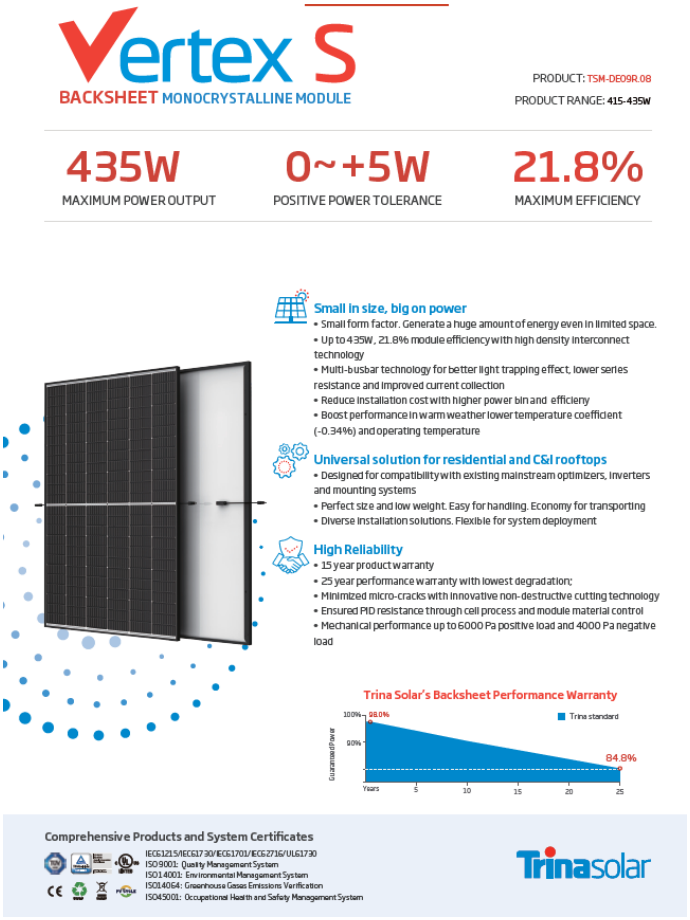


Fig 4. Plan View of array.

Fig 5. Invertors installed below / behind the solar panels- no freestanding hut required

APPEARANCE

The general appearance of the panels and installation can be seen from the photographs, in Figs. 6, 8-9 below, which represent panels installed in similar circumstances elsewhere.



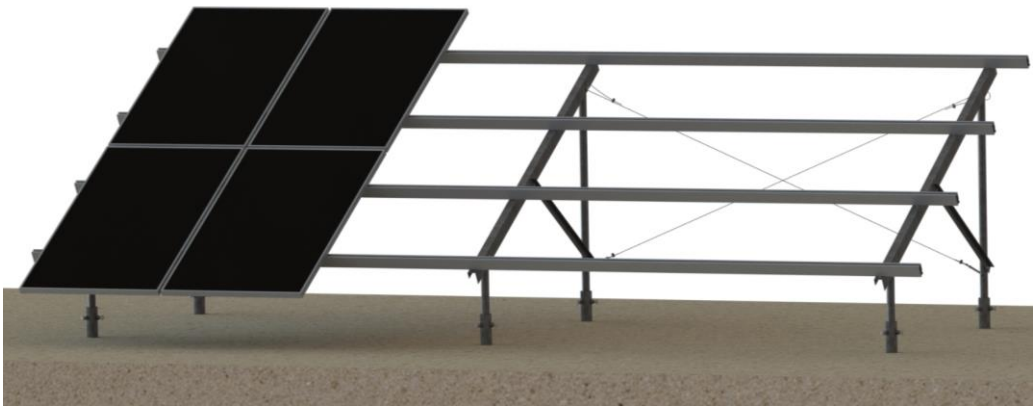


Fig 6. Solar panel system details.

Fig 7 Park Tegra galvanised support system

Fig 8. Photos of the previously installed similar solar array.

Fig 9. Image of panel installed similar solar arrays.

FLOOD RISK

The application site sits outside of the Environment Agency flood zones 2 & 3, with low risk of flooding, see Fig 10, EA map below. The array is away from any nearby buildings and, less than 130 sqm and not likely to be a flood risk, see Fig 11. below for definition of minor developments.

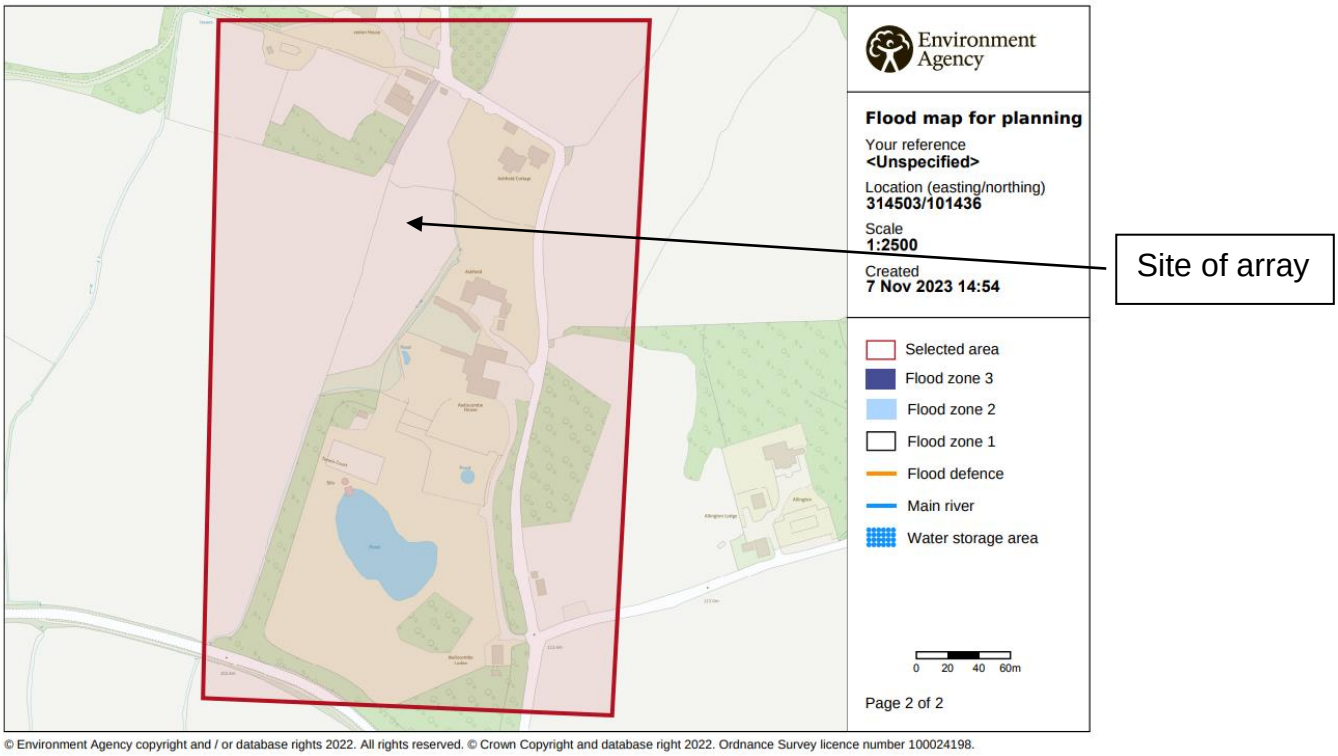


Fig 10. EA Flood map

[10] Minor development means:
- Minor non-residential extensions: industrial/commercial/leisure etc. extensions with a footprint less than 250sqm.
- Alterations: development that does not increase the size of buildings e.g. alterations to external appearance.
- Householder development: e.g. sheds, garages, games rooms etc. within the curtilage of the existing dwelling in addition to physical extensions to the existing dwelling itself. This definition excludes any proposed development that would create a separate dwelling within the curtilage of the existing dwelling e.g. subdivision of houses into flats.

Fig 11. EA definition of minor development.

SUMMARY

The array is modest in width and area (under 130 sqm) but arranged in 4 rows to fit the site, and avoid over shading, they are screw rotated into the ground, with no concrete used, but easily removed, if required in the future, without detriment to the immediate setting. No increased risk of flooding is created, nor is it within a flood risk zone. It is reasonably screened and would be difficult to be seen from public highways due to landscaping, earth banks and topography.

The applicant is keen to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels, in line with HM Government policies, whilst also reducing energy running costs during peak summer months and, with this carefully selected location for the array, we believe this to be a positive renewable development.

Producing electricity with PV emits no pollution, produces no greenhouse gases and uses no finite fossil-fuel resources. Where, as has been generally recognised, the current consumption of and reliance on fossil fuels is unsustainable, there is a very real need to find a viable long-term alternative solution, this makes a meaningful contribution.