

Planning Statement – Proposed Ground-Mounted Solar Array

1. Current Use of Site

The proposed development is located immediately adjacent to the residential curtilage, within a privately owned field used for personal equestrian purposes. The land contains existing equestrian facilities, including stables, a barn, and an exercise arena, and is maintained for grazing and training of horses. There are no commercial operations on the site, and the proposed area for the solar array is otherwise open land within the applicant's ownership.

2. Details of Proposed Development

The application seeks permission for the installation of a domestic ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) array within the equestrian field. The system comprises 34 × 515 W solar panels arranged in a single row on a low-profile mounting frame, set on a Type 1 MOT sub-base. The maximum height at the rear of the array is approximately 350 mm, sloping slightly down towards the front.

The array includes panel optimisers and a battery storage system to maximise on-site electricity use. The installation has been carefully sited to minimise visual impact, preserve neighbour amenity, and maintain the character of the surrounding area. No alterations to the existing equestrian facilities are required, and all works will be contained within the applicant's land.

The development is intended to generate renewable energy for domestic consumption, reducing reliance on grid electricity and contributing to the household's sustainability objectives.

3. Materials and Appearance

The proposed development will involve the following external materials:

- Solar Panels: Tempered glass photovoltaic panels with dark aluminium frames, non-reflective to minimise visual impact.
- Mounting Frame: Galvanised steel or aluminium low-profile frame finished in a muted, non-reflective colour.
- Type 1 MOT Base: Compacted crushed stone sub-base providing a stable, durable, and permeable surface, following natural ground levels and requiring no concrete foundations.
- Battery Storage Unit: Weatherproof enclosure in a neutral colour, positioned adjacent to the array.
- Cabling and Panel Optimisers: All electrical cabling will be routed within protective conduit or integrated into the rear of the panels, with optimisers mounted discretely.

All materials have been selected to be durable, low-maintenance, and visually unobtrusive, ensuring the development integrates with the equestrian setting.

4. Site Layout and Dimensions

- Location: Within the equestrian field, immediately outside the residential curtilage, positioned away from stables, barn, and exercise arena.
- Orientation: Single north–south aligned row, tilted to optimise solar capture.
 - Dimensions:
Maximum height at rear: 350 mm
 - Width and depth: designed to suit site constraints while maintaining safe spacing from existing structures
- Spacing & Access: Array set off from field boundaries and existing buildings to maintain full equestrian use and allow for ongoing maintenance

The layout ensures minimal visual intrusion, continued functionality of equestrian facilities, and proportionate scale relative to the site

5. Planning Justification / Sustainability Statement

The proposal represents a modest, well-considered addition to the property that delivers environmental benefits without causing harm to the character of the area or neighbouring amenity.

- The development supports renewable energy generation, reducing reliance on grid electricity and associated carbon emissions.
- The low-profile design, siting, and use of muted, non-reflective materials ensure the array integrates into the surrounding landscape.
- The system is proportionate to the applicant's domestic energy needs, particularly in light of planned high electricity use (e.g., EV charging, equestrian facilities).
- No adverse impacts on highways, ecology, drainage, or heritage assets are anticipated

In summary, the development aligns with national and local planning policies promoting sustainable energy and is appropriate in scale and design for its setting. Approval is therefore respectfully requested.