

## CLOATLEY MANOR, MALMESBURY

### Justification / Design & Access Statement

#### INTRODUCTION

This application is separate to three further applications; one to the conservatory and one to the byre, and one to a partition wall inside the house.

I acquired Cloatley Manor in March 2015. I seek to install an 8Kw ground mounted solar array system to compliment the installation of a ground source heat pump and thus considerably increase the energy efficiency heating of the manor house replacing an old oil burning boiler which is about to fail. The ground source heat pump requires extra electricity to run it and therefore to secure as much reduction in the carbon footprint as possible, I wish to augment the electrical supply with this solar energy.

The house is listed Grade 2\* and has been subjected to many alterations over a period of more than 500 years. I understand my duty of care not only to the architectural richness of the house but to the surrounding land and this application is presented not to detract from the above.

The proposed siting of the panels is in an adjacent field approximately 55 metres from the house and is hidden behind four separate hedges and a ditch and several trees and will not be visible from the house.

#### THE PROPOSAL

Cloatley Manor is approached by a driveway from Cloatley Road and lies in an unspoilt rural location surrounded by its own fields, grounds, ponds and meadows.

The proposed site for the 8Kw ground mounted solar array system is situated in the corner of an adjacent field on the south west aspect of the house, as per the enclosed plans 1, 2 & 3. It will be partially visible from the driveway but mostly hidden by what is called the plantation which consists of mature fir trees (see second plan). It will not be visible from the house or gardens being well screened by beech hedges and mature trees. My intention is to transplant a mature beech hedge to disguise any visibility from the drive.

The field does not lie within a designated flood zone so a flood risk assessment is not considered necessary.

The 8KW (33 panels) solar array system will consist of 33 panels each of which measure 1 metre in width and 1.6 metres high. They will be set in three rows so covering an area 11 metres wide and 7 1/2 metres in depth. The panels are set off the ground on a frame and at an angle of 30° and in total will stand just under 2 metres high (enc. 4).

#### LANDSCAPE AND ACCESS

The existing layout of fields, gardens and hedges will not be affected. The existing driveways, access and ditch drainage will not be affected.

There will be no impact on emergency services access.

No trees will be affected by the proposed works.

#### JUSTIFICATION

The government is keen to introduce green energy sources to reduce the carbon footprint. I am installing a ground source heat pump to heat the house as part of this.

Ground source heat pumps do consume more electricity and to mitigate against this I wish to install a small ground mounted solar array system in the corner of an adjacent field to the house.