

THE RURAL PLANNING PRACTICE



Supporting Statement

In Support of an Application for the installation of a Ground Mounted Domestic Solar Array at Lady's Walk House, Great Somerford, Wiltshire, SN15 5EH

ADDRESS Lady's Walk House, Great Somerford, Wiltshire, SN15 5EHP

ON BEHALF OF Mr and Mrs J Harper

PREPARED BY The Rural Planning Practice

DATE December 2025 **ISSUE** PLANNING

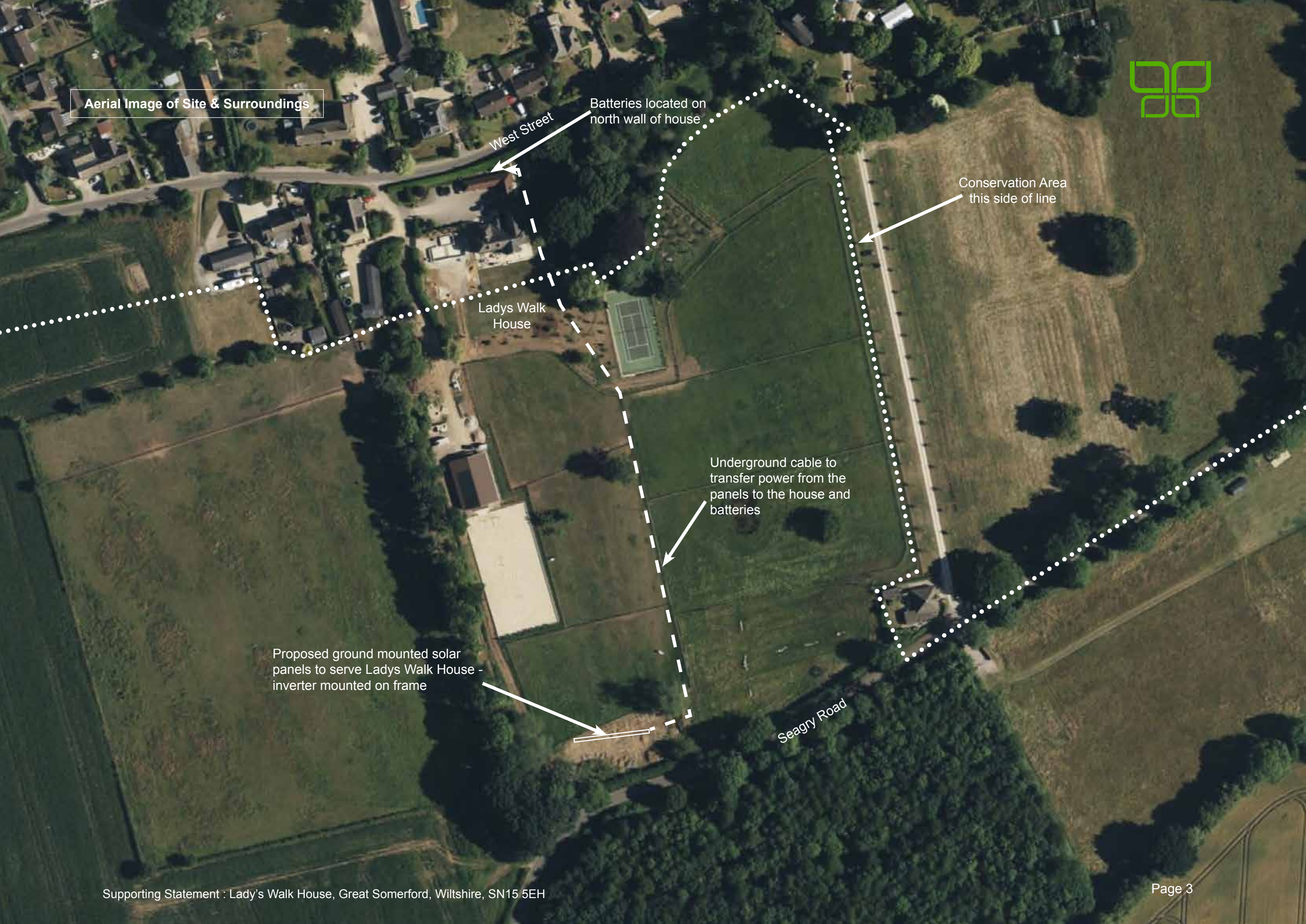


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Aerial Image of Site & Surroundings



West Street

Batteries located on north wall of house

Ladys Walk House

Conservation Area this side of line

Underground cable to transfer power from the panels to the house and batteries

Proposed ground mounted solar panels to serve Ladys Walk House - inverter mounted on frame

Seagry Road

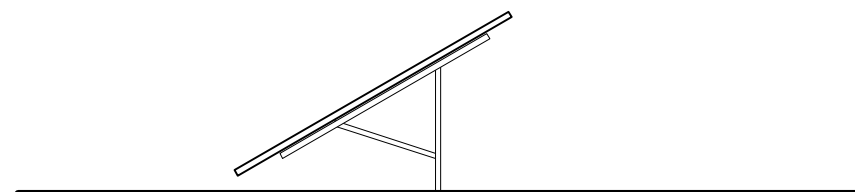


1. Introduction

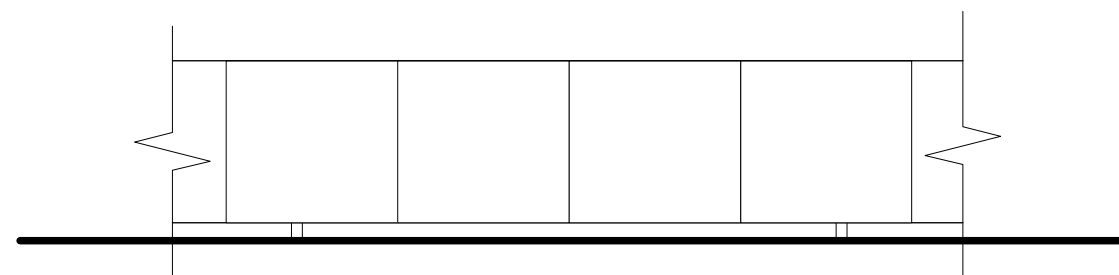
- 1.1. This planning statement supports a full planning application for the installation of a small-scale, ground mounted, domestic solar array to serve Lady's Walk House, Great Somerford. The proposal seeks to provide a sustainable source of electricity for the property in line with national and local renewable energy objectives. The power generated by the panels will be sufficient to supply the house with electricity.

2. Site and Proposal Description

- 2.1. The site is located outside, but adjacent to, the settlement of Great Somerford and lies outside the conservation area. The proposed solar array will be located on land belonging to the dwelling outside the area used for grazing horses and will be accessed from Seagry Road.
- 2.2. The installation will comprise a single row of thirty, black panels, each one measuring 2094mm long x 1134mm wide x 35mm deep and mounted portrait-wise, angled at 30 degrees and oriented to the south. The panels will be ground-mounted on a frame, in a single row measuring approximately 34 metres in length and 1.2 metres in height, set 12 metres from the roadside hedge. The substantial, established hedge is three metres in height and two metres wide for much of its length.
- 2.3. The array will be screwed into the ground (not concreted), ensuring minimal disturbance and full reversibility. The inverter will be screwed to one of the panel frames. The land in question is not used for grazing or agriculture, and the proposed installation will not impact existing land uses or ecological value. The panels are not in the direct view of neighbouring properties.
- 2.4. A cable from the array is already installed. The batteries are to be located on the north wall of the house and will be out of public view, behind the substantial roadside hedge on West Street.



Typical section through panels



Typical elevation



3. Visual and Residential Amenity

- 3.1. Due to the set-back from the roadside and tall and thick existing mature hedging, the array will not be visible from Seagry Road or from neighbouring properties. The visual impact is therefore negligible. The modest scale and discreet siting of the panels ensure the proposal preserves the character and appearance of the surrounding rural area and landscape.

4. Access and Construction

- 4.1. Access to the site will be via the existing entrance from Seagry Road. Installation will be carried out over a short period, using small-scale equipment. No permanent alterations to access or hard surfacing are required.

5. Planning Policy Context

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024)

- 5.1. The proposal aligns with the key principles of the NPPF, including:
- Paragraph 161 – Supporting the transition to a low carbon future, encouraging renewable energy generation, and ensuring that development contributes to energy efficiency.
 - Paragraph 167 – Local planning authorities should approve renewable and low carbon energy development if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable.
 - Paragraph 187 – The development protects and enhances valued landscapes and recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.
- 5.2. This small-scale, low-impact renewable energy proposal directly supports the NPPF's objective to promote sustainability and resilience to climate change and does not impact visually on the countryside.

Wiltshire Core Strategy (Wiltshire Local Plan 2015, saved policies)

- 5.3. The proposal accords with the following local planning policies:
- Core Policy 41 – Sustainable Construction and Low Carbon Energy: Encourages the use of renewable and low-carbon energy generation within new and existing developments.
 - Core Policy 51 – Landscape: Development should protect, conserve, and where possible enhance landscape character. The siting, scale, and design of the solar array ensure no adverse effect on local landscape quality.
 - Core Policy 57 – Ensuring High Quality Design and Place Shaping: The proposal respects the local character and distinctiveness of the area, integrating sensitively with its rural surroundings.



The panels will be located behind the hedge along Seagry Road which is 3 meters high and 2 meters wide



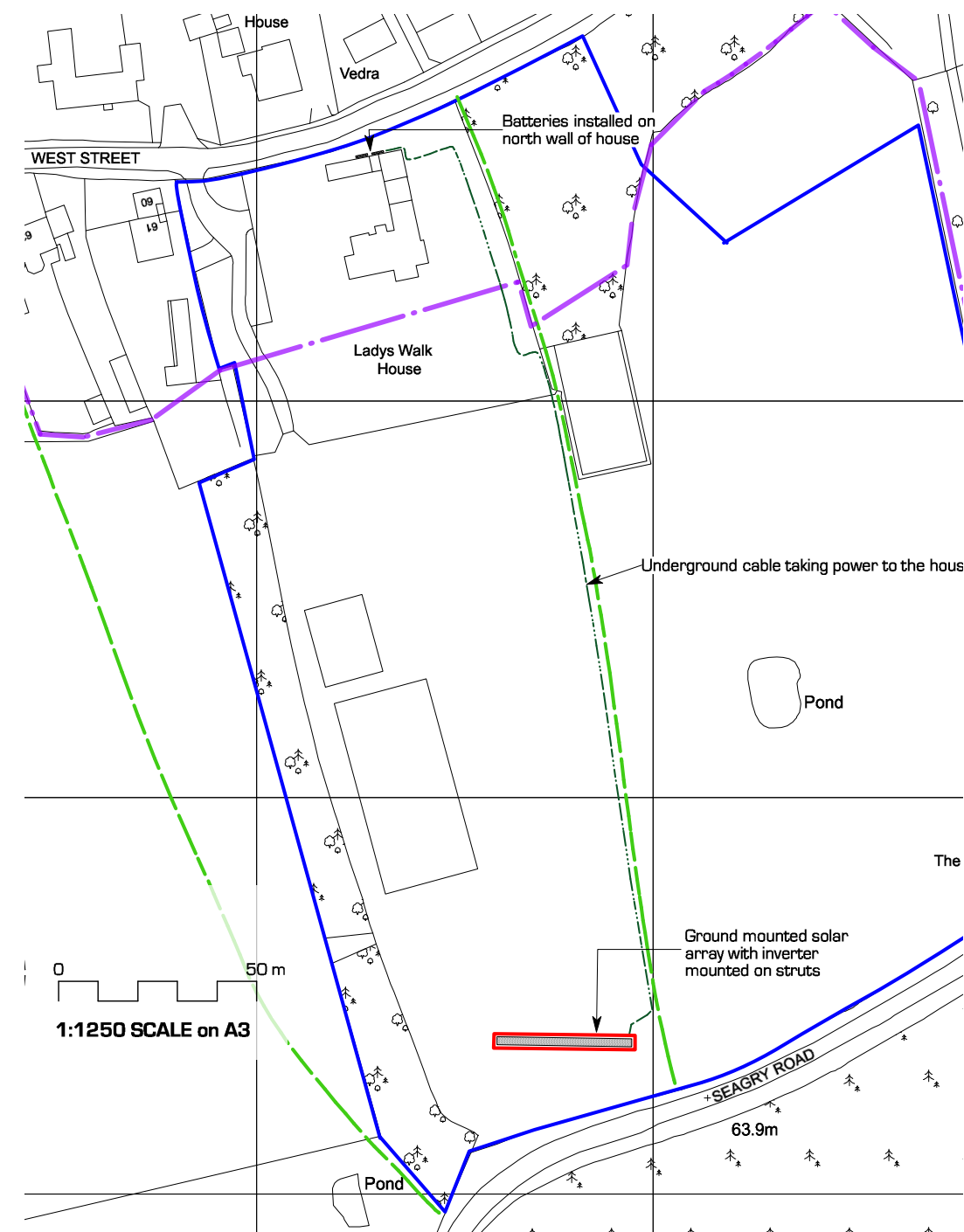
- Core Policy 60 – Sustainable Transport: The proposal has no transport implications and will not generate additional vehicle movements beyond the short construction phase.

6. Ecology and Environment

- 6.1. The ground beneath the array will remain permeable, allowing grass and natural vegetation to continue to grow. There will be no significant loss of habitat or adverse impact on any established vegetation.
- 6.2. The panels are designed to serve the house and its domestic use but are sensibly located in a sheltered location that falls outside of the residential curtilage. For this reason it will fall under a Full Planning Application even though the domestic use would meet the requirements of a Householder Application.
- 6.3. Therefore due to the entirely domestic use it should not be a requirement to provide a Biodiversity Net Gain calculation.
- 6.4. The development contributes positively to the reduction of carbon emissions and supports Wiltshire Council's climate change objectives.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1. The proposed domestic solar array is a modest, well-sited installation that will deliver renewable energy to Lady's Walk House without adverse visual, environmental, or amenity impacts. The proposal accords fully with the objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework and the Wiltshire Core Strategy, particularly in relation to promoting renewable energy and sustainable development. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that planning permission is granted.



Extract from Location Plan showing the siting of the panels on the clients land with an underground cable taking power to the house and batteries installed on the house