

Heritage Impact Assessment

Planning application P/2022/0870 at Trevalyn Wood.

Considering the impact of the proposed development on Trevalyn Hall historic park and garden and the Trevalyn House historic park and garden.

This statement has been prepared for Mr & Dr Horan of Trevalyn Wood with reference to their application for planning permission to erect freestanding solar panels in the field shown in the plan below (i). It is intended that this statement should be read in conjunction with the document already submitted by the Horans for this planning application.

The report has been undertaken by Kathryn JW Lench PhD in December 2022

Dr Lench's doctoral studies focussed on the evolution of the landed estate in North West Wales, using the Faenol Estate and Park, Bangor, as a case study. This included the evolution and significance of two Grade I listed Manor Houses and the surrounding pleasure gardens and parkland; the whole site evolving over a period of over four hundred years. She also co-authored the Conservation Management Plan for the buildings and historic environment of Faenol Park.

Objective

This application is for the installation of 7.2kW (DC peak) of solar panels to supply the property at Trevalyn Wood, Rosset. The solar panels will supply a battery system that will supply at least 80% of the property and its outbuildings' annual electricity consumption.

The proposed location takes into account the requirements of the solar panels for optimal functionality, rejecting the roofs of the buildings at Trevalyn Wood as being inappropriate either structurally or with a view to adequate light.



Location of the proposed solar panels shown by red dot

Source: CPAT Regional Historic Environment Record, <https://archwilio.org.uk/her/chi3/arch.php?county=WREXHAM&lang=eng>

Significance of the historic asset

Trevalyn Wood is located within the former historic grounds of the Grade I listed sixteenth century Trevalyn Hall, one of the most significant historic properties in the county.

The proposed site for the solar panels is located in a field outwith the Grade II listed pleasure gardens surrounding the Hall, in a meadow which the Wrexham Sites and Monuments Record asserts was formerly an old orchard.

This meadow is bounded by two historic landscape features, substantial banks and a ha-ha, intended to prevent deer or other grazing animals in the wider landscape of a deer park from straying into the orchard or pleasure gardens.

Currently the historic deer park is used for farmland and both that and the meadow in question are screened from both Trevalyn Hall and Trevalyn House by areas of mature woodland.

Eighteenth century Grade II listed Trevalyn House is located to the south east of Trevalyn Hall and its surrounding pleasure grounds are registered as parks and gardens Grade II. The mature woodland described in the CPAT Regional Historic Environment Record effectively create a privacy barrier around these grounds in the direction of Trevalyn Wood and Trevalyn Hall.

Proposed changes

Mr & Dr Horan intend to install a bank of solar panels at the location shown on the map below (i).

No changes are proposed to either of the two historic landscape features noted above.

These panels will be erected as shown in illustration (ii) below and the whole structure screwed into the ground, therefore requiring no footings. Should it ever be required, these panels could be removed leaving no trace.



(i)



(ii)

Assessment of the impact of the proposal

Impact on the view from Trevalyn Hall

The photograph on the right (iii) has been taken from the planned location of the solar panels. The woodland in the background forms a visual barrier between the curtilage of the pleasure gardens surrounding the Hall and the wider park/farmland. These trees are mostly deciduous but having already dropped most of their leaves at the time of taking the photograph, it is clear that the solar panels will not be visible from the hall or the garden while this woodland screening is in place.

Impact on the physical environs of Trevalyn Hall

Modern day Trevalyn Hall is deliberately curtailed from what was once the orchard and parkland by the copse of mature trees discussed above. The park is no longer maintained as a historic landscape with social and cultural links to the property and its pleasure gardens. Therefore the



(iii)

addition of the panels in the meadow takes nothing away from either the physical surroundings or their previous cultural significance.

Impact on the view of Trevalyn Hall

As discussed in the Horan's original application [document](#) the closest neighbour with a view over to Trevalyn Hall from this side of the property is some distance away, and as the photograph shows, has no real view of the Hall, but rather their horizon is dominated by the woodland surrounding the property. The woodland itself could perhaps be considered as part of the heritage environment, however from that distance the size of the solar panels will be substantially dwarfed by the treescape.

Impact on Trevalyn House and Grounds

From a field assessment it appears that this panel can have no impact on Trevalyn House, given the effective screening by the mature woodland.

Conclusion

Installing solar panels, an environmentally sound project, requires a precise location whereby maximum photovoltaic impact can be achieved. Finding such a suitable site within a historic landscape requires sensitivity to the impact the structure will have on the physical and cultural environment. This report concludes that both have been considered with sensitivity to the historic environment at Trevalyn Wood and finds no issues for concern.