

Biodiversity Statement

**Proposed Roof Mounted Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Panels
St. Mary's CoE Primary School, Link Lane Pulborough
RH20 2AN**

June 2026

Introduction

St Mary's CoE Primary School, Pulborough, as part of the Diocese of Chichester group of schools, aspires to achieve net zero by 2030. The school wish to install a rooftop solar photovoltaic and battery energy storage system (BESS) to:

- Reduce its dependency on grid purchased power
- Improve resilience
- Support its net zero aspirations.

The design has been prepared by ReEnergise following analysis of the school's energy use and assessment of the potential for self-generation via rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays.

The Site and Context

St Marys CoE Primary School is located in a village setting in Pulborough, West Sussex. The main school main building was built in 1972 with later extensions. The school has an existing rooftop solar PV array on a building at the east of the site.

The Proposed Works

The proposed development is for the installation of two rooftop solar PV systems made up of four arrays totalling 20 kWp. Three arrays are on flat roofs facing a southerly direction, and the fourth array is on a pitched standing seam roof facing east. The new systems comprise 66 panels and will have two 10 kWp inverters (one per system), each connected to a local distribution board (DB). The development is in addition to the existing solar array.

Arrays are mounted across the roof in rows with a southerly or easterly aspect. The proposed panel layout allows for load bearing, which has been confirmed by a structural engineering survey.

The proposed development is sympathetic to the design of the school building and its location. The arrays have been designed and panels selected to minimise local impact whilst also meeting and matching the needs of the school in terms of electricity generation. The proposed development is therefore not overbearing and does not cover the full extent of the school rooftops.

This is subject to final design by the approved contractor prior to installation.

Further information can be found in the Design and Access Statement and the Management Plan.

It is considered that this type of small-scale development, which will reduce its grid purchased power reliance falls below the de minimis threshold. The PV panels will be located on the school's flat and single pitch roofes, which have no biodiversity value. As such, the scheme will not impact on a priority habitat. Therefore, a Biodiversity Report is not required.