



Ashurst C of E Primary School Design & Access Statement – Solar Photovoltaic System		
Site Address	School Lane, Ashurst, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3AY	
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Introduction

Ashurst C of E Primary School, part of the Diocese of Chichester group of schools, aspires to achieve net zero by 2030. The school wish to install two rooftop solar photovoltaic systems 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

Ashurst C of E Primary School is located in a rural village setting in Ashurst, near Steyning, West Sussex. The main school building was built in 1870 and extended in 2000. The Former School Master's House is Grade II Listed.

Error: Reference source not found below shows the site boundary. See [Appendix A](#) for site photos and [Appendix B](#) for site plans.



Figure 1: Ashurst C of E Primary site boundary, taken from Google Earth

Proposed Development

The proposed development is for the installation of a 6 kWp solar PV system. The PV array will be mounted on a rail system and positioned on the south facing slate roof of the school building that adjoins the listed School Master's House. The solar PV system will have a single 5 kWp inverter, connected to the existing local distribution board (DB).

The proposed development is sympathetic to the design of the school building and its location. It does not include any solar PV installation on the listed part of the school building, and the arrays have been designed and panels selected to minimise local impact whilst also meeting 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 rooftops.

The 14 all-black solar PV panels will be south facing, providing the best orientation for maximising generation. Panel layout allows for load bearing which has been confirmed by a structural engineering survey.

Solarskirt® is proposed around the perimeter of the arrays to prevent birds from gaining access beneath the panels, where they may nest, creating hotspots, or damaging wiring.

A structural survey has been completed of the building rooftop which revealed that it is suitable for solar PV.

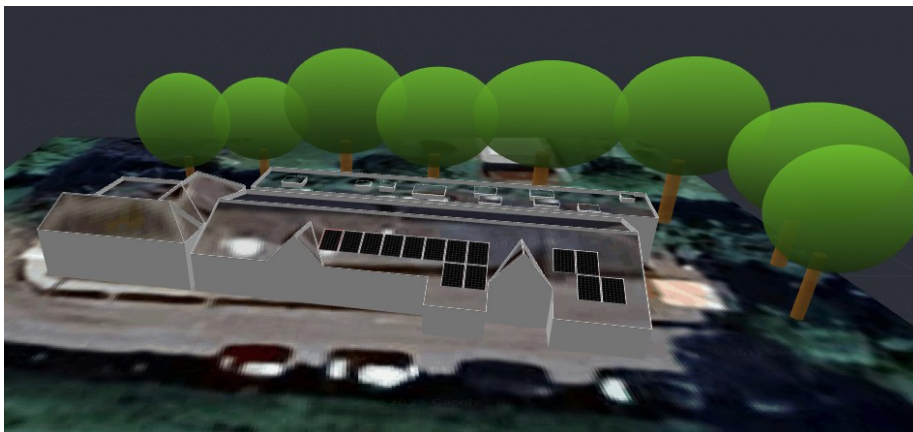


Figure 2: Ashurst C of E Primary School black panel solar PV model output representation, looking north.



Figure 3: Ashurst C of E Primary School solar PV model irradiance representation, looking north.

Impact on School Operating Costs and Carbon Emissions

The solar PV project is part of a wider scheme to decarbonise Ashurst C of E Primary School. In 2025, a 16 kW air source heat pump system was installed to supply heating and hot water to the school, replacing oil-fired boilers and multiple point of use water heaters. Loft insulation was installed in early 2026 in the School Master's House to improve the energy efficiency of the building.

As a result of the heating upgrades, improved insulation and installation of solar PV panels, Ashurst C of E Primary School will be more energy efficient, and operating costs resulting from energy use will decrease. The combined effect of these measures will make the school more resilient to the closures seen elsewhere in the region due to its lower running costs. Lower operating costs will also allow the school to place more financial resources back into education and general maintenance.

The proposed solar panels are expected to reduce the school's grid purchased power by 5,850 kWh per annum based on historic energy consumption, as shown in Figure 4.

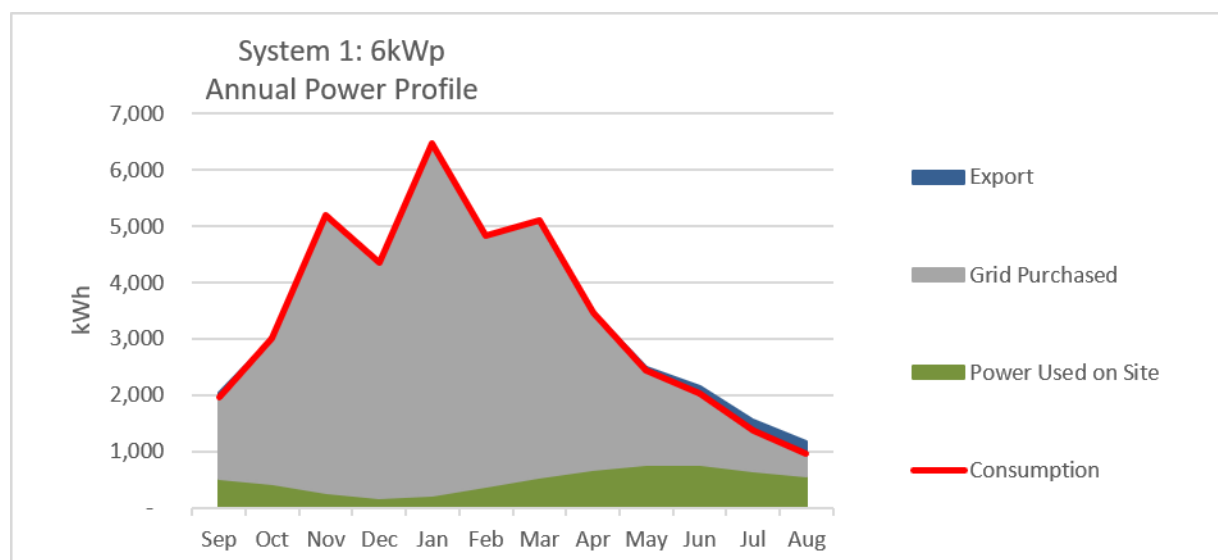


Figure 4: Annual power profile for Ashurst C of E Primary School.

Monthly consumption, shown in red, is met by grid purchased power, shown in grey, and offset by the self-generated electricity used on site, in green. Any generation that is not used on site at the time of generation is exported back to the grid (shown in blue), which may generate revenue from the utility supplier if a smart export guarantee (SEG) tariff is in place.

The annual reduction in energy consumption from the above measures is shown in Figure 5 below.

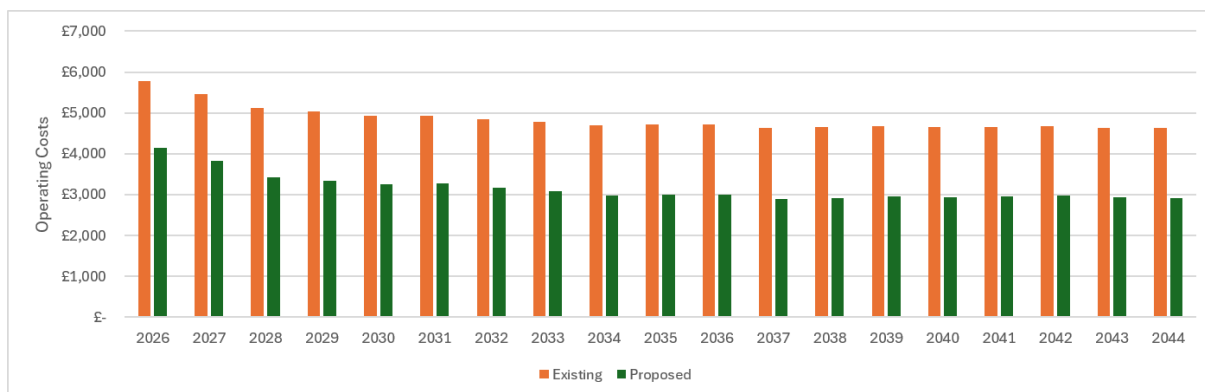


Figure 5: Prediction of OPEX from energy consumption for Ashurst C of E Primary School.

Using DESNZ prices, the total savings over a 20-year period (the expected lifetime) for the combined heat pump and solar PV system is circa £34,000.

The carbon emissions reduction resulting from the implementation of these measures is shown in Figure 6.

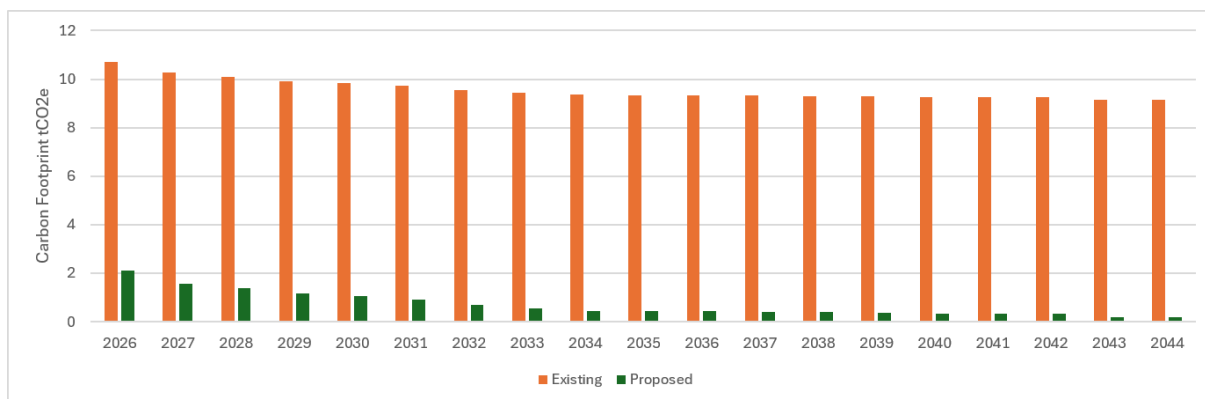


Figure 6: Predicted reduction in carbon emissions (tCO₂e) for Ashurst C of E Primary School

Total carbon emissions are reduced from 191 to 13 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) over a 20-year period (the expected lifetime) for the combined heat pump and solar PV system.

Appendix A – Site Photos



Ashurst C of E Primary School: view looking northeast

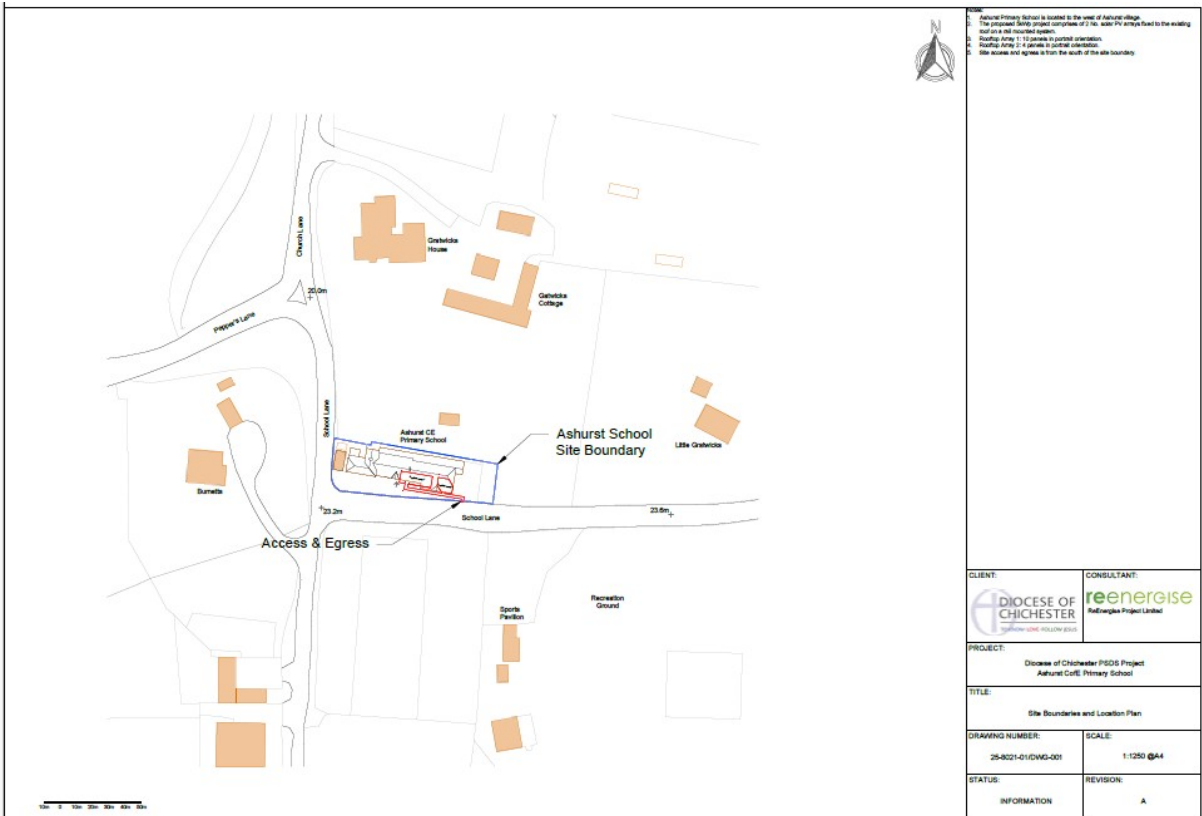


Ashurst C of E Primary School: view looking northwest

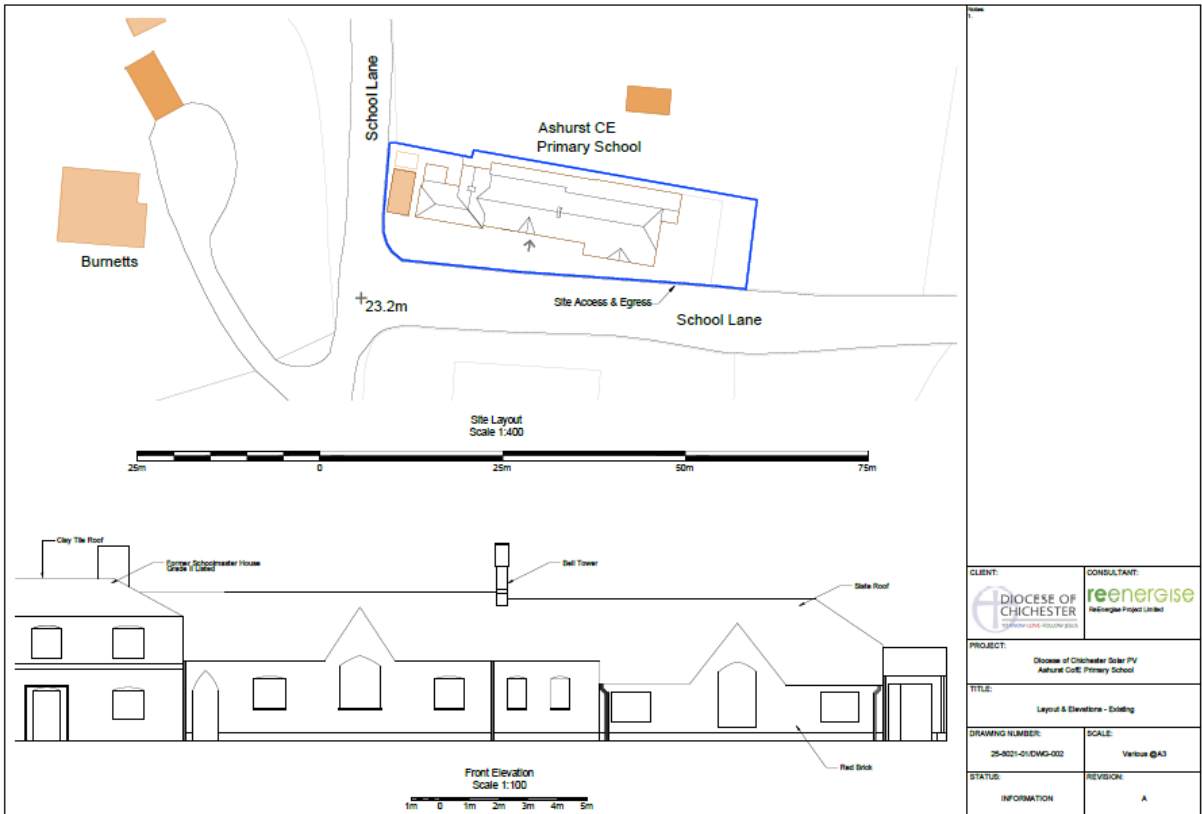


Ashurst C of E Primary School: elevated view from the south

Appendix B – Site Drawings



Site boundary and location plan



Existing plan and elevations



Proposed plan and elevations