

Biodiversity Statement

**Proposed Roof Mounted Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Panels
Ashurst CoE Primary School, School Lane, Ashurst,
Steyning BN44 3AY**

July 2026

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 and Context

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.

The Proposed Works

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.

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 roof, which has no biodiversity value. As such, the scheme will not impact on a priority habitat. Therefore, a Biodiversity Report is not required.