

HERITAGE STATEMENT

Proposed Solar Panels

40 Wentworth Road, Hassocks, BN6 9SQ

1. The need for planning permission

1.1. This application seeks householder planning permission for the installation of solar panels at the above-mentioned address, which is located within the Hurstpierpoint Conservation Area. While certain domestic installations can often proceed under permitted development rights, specific limitations apply within Conservation Areas, particularly when installations are visible from a public highway.

1.2. For the solar panels, permitted development rights under Part 14, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 are superseded by Class A.1(c). This states that solar PV or thermal equipment installed on a wall (or roof) which fronts a highway in a Conservation Area does not benefit from permitted development rights. Given the visibility of the proposed solar panels, a householder planning application is necessary to assess their impact on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

2. Siting (Solar Panels & EV Charger)

2.1. The solar panels will be located on the pitched roof space on the south elevation of the property. This location has been carefully selected to achieve optimal energy generation while respecting the design constraints of the property. The panels have been positioned to capture maximum available sunlight throughout the day, thereby ensuring peak system efficiency and the greatest reduction in carbon emissions.

3. Heritage Impact

3.1 The **Hurstpierpoint Conservation Area** is a designated area of special architectural and historic interest. It preserves the character of a traditional Sussex ridge-top settlement, with its layout still based on a medieval street plan. This long history is evident in the diverse range of buildings, from medieval timber-framed houses to Georgian and Victorian properties, which collectively create a rich and varied streetscape.

The conservation area's historic significance is deeply tied to its geography on a fertile greensand ridge, which made it a desirable location for settlement. Over centuries, the village grew along this ancient east-west route, now the High Street. The area's heritage is

further reflected in its traditional street patterns, including narrow lanes and "twittens," and its close relationship with the surrounding rural landscape, including views of the South Downs.

New development within the conservation area must be sensitive to this established character and its historical evolution. This means respecting the scale, form, and materials of the existing built environment to ensure that new interventions complement, rather than detract from, the area's unique heritage and visual amenity

3.3 The property is situated within the Hurstpierpoint Conservation Area. This Conservation Area is designated by the local planning authority to protect and enhance its special architectural and historic interest, which the local authority aims to preserve. The proposed installations will be sensitively integrated, preserving and enhancing the distinctive character, appearance, and setting of this designated heritage asset, in line with the objectives of the Conservation Area.

3.4. Neither the property nor the neighbouring properties are listed buildings.

3.5. The solar panels will aid the applicant in becoming less reliant on the power grid, in turn using less fossil fuel which helps to preserve the environment by reducing carbon emissions.

4. Access

4.1. There are no access implications with the installation.

5. Location



