

Bluebell Railway

Solar Panel Planning Application

Ref: DM/26/0794

Planning Statement



Site address

Horsted Keynes Station, Station Approach, Horsted Keynes, RH17 3BB

Site Location

Horsted Keynes Station is to the north of Station Approach between Hammingden Lane to the west and Cinder Hill to the east. Drawings uploaded with the application documents, show :-

- The overall Horsted Keynes Station site location 1:2500
- Block Plan 1:1250
- Block Plan 1:500
- Existing Carriage Shed Roof 1:200
- Carriage Shed Roof with proposed solar panels 1:200

Listed Status

List Entry 1257917

Please see Heritage Statement

The Proposal

This Planning Application seeks permission to fix 250 Solar Panels to the roof of the Carriage Storage Shed. The area of the roof is calculated as 1,591 sqm. This is the figure used to calculate the planning fee.

The fitting of solar panels will not materially affect the site nor its function. The placement of the panels on the chosen two roof slopes has been considered along with other options. A ground mounted array is not likely to be feasible. Solar panel specialists have been consulted.

As can be seen from the drawings and photographs provided the Shed is a two-storey structure with two adjacent apex roofs forming a valley between them. The proposal is to locate the panels in the valley at least 1 metre from the edge of the roof such that they cannot be seen from the ground or by persons on the platforms.

The panels will at peak power generate 115Kw. A specification for the panels to be supplied by JoJu Solar has been provided with this application

Access.

Access for construction will be via the existing entrance and driveway or road. The works here involve the fitting of solar panels to two roof slopes and will not require either heavy traffic or prolonged timescales.

Effect of the proposal

This installation cannot be seen from ground level and will therefore not spoil any view. The installation will require limited scaffolding for access and safety purpose. It will be completed in approximately 3-4 weeks depending on the weather. It is 80 metres from the nearest residential dwelling (the Station House) and will not cause any disturbance to the residents.

All the power generated is expected to be consumed by the Bluebell Railway. It will therefore save on the Railway's energy costs, helping to sustain the existence of the Railway and its contribution to the local economy.

Planning Policy

The proposal is in line with and will contribute to the MSDC policy to achieve Net Zero.

Conservation Area

The proposal does not affect a conservation area

1 April 2026