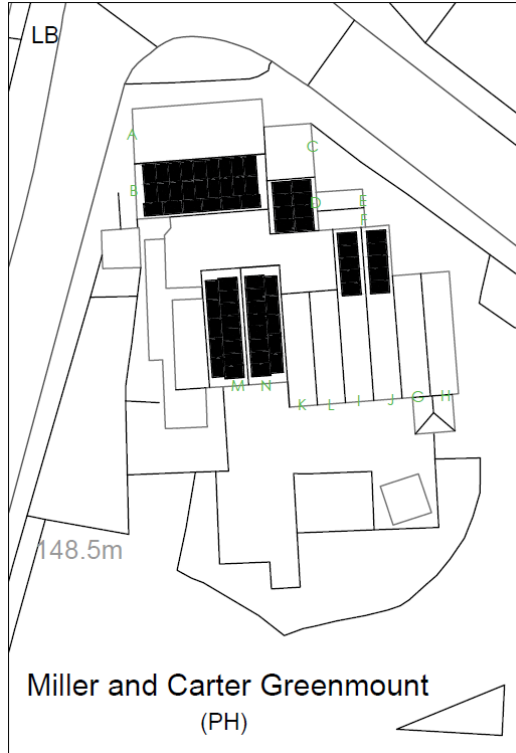


Visual Harm Assessment

The proposed solar panel scheme will be visible from certain heritage assets.

Figure 1: Proposed solar panel layout



Only the northern facing roof slopes, A and C, are visible from the Grade II Listed property 'Congregational Chapel'. As such, roof slopes A and C have been specifically left unadorned with no solar panels to be installed on these roof slopes. Roof slopes containing the solar panels (B, D, M, N, K, L, I, J, G, H) will not be visible from the Grade II listed property 'Congregational Chapel'.

Figure 2: Holcombe Road (viewpoint adjacent to 'Congregational Chapel')



Figure 2b: Holcombe Road (viewpoint outside of 'Congregational Chapel')



The solar panels located on roof slopes D, J and N would be partially visible from Brandlesholme Road, and subsequently the Non-Designated Heritage Asset 'Old School Hall'. Only the side elevation of the solar panels located on roof slope D would be visible from Brandlesholme Road. As the panels are only 30mm (3cm) thick visibility of the panels would be minimal on this roof slope.

The solar panels located on roof slope J and the tops of the panels located on roof slope N would be visible to the Non-Designated Heritage Asset, 'Old School Hall'.

Figure 3: Brandlesholme Road (adjacent to Non-Designated Heritage Asset 'Old School Hall')



Figure 3b: Brandlesholme Road (adjacent to Non-Designated Heritage Asset 'Old School Hall')



The visual impact would be mitigated by the utilisation of 'all black' panels. This would reduce the contrast between the panels and the existing roof tiles and create a more visually pleasing result. Additionally, the solar panels have a 2mm heat strengthened glass front cover with anti-reflective

coating to ensure that there are no undesirable side effects related to light reflecting glare. Solar panels are specifically designed to absorb, not reflect, light so glare is kept to a minimum.

It should be noted that, although all heritage assets should be afforded weight to conserve their significance, the 'Old School Hall' is a Non-Designated Heritage Asset and, although important, according to the Heritage Asset Hierarchy, is afforded the lowest grade of importance (in comparison to World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments and Listed Properties). The panels would present no physical harm to the Listed properties or Heritage Assets; only minor visual harm would arise.

We would draw attention to the fact that air pollution has been cited as causing a 'Public Health Crisis'; very real physical harm is currently being caused by pollution. A recent report by the Royal College of Physicians revealed that 99% of the UK population was now breathing in "toxic air" and that air pollution was killing 500 people a week and costing £27bn a year in ill health, NHS care and productivity losses. The installation of the solar PV system would significantly reduce carbon emissions of the business and contribute to the reduction of air pollution on the surrounding area. This significant physical benefit to the public far outweighs the comparatively minor visual harm resulting from the solar PV installation.

As such, the proposal would result in less than substantial harm to the significance of the designated heritage asset 'Congregational Chapel' and non-designated heritage asset 'Old School Hall'; the public benefit far outweighs the minor visual harm arising from the scheme.