HERITAGE STATEMENT

Installation of Solar Panels to Rear Roof Slope
Listed Building Consent Application

1. Site and Designation

The application relates to a designated heritage asset recorded on the National Heritage List for England as **List Entry No. SU 7405 HAVANT SOUTH STREET Emsworth (East Side) 11/32 No. 6 GV II**, identified as **6 South Street, Emsworth**, listed at Grade II for its special architectural and historic interest.

The list description confirms the building's significance derives from its historic fabric, architectural composition, and contribution to its setting. As is standard, the designation covers the entirety of the structure; however, the level of significance varies across different elements of the building.

2. Significance of the Heritage Asset

Features identified for special architectural or historic interest are listed by Historic England as follows:

House and shop. Early C19. Stucco, with a slate roof. Symmetrical east elevation of 2 storeys, 2 windows. Sashes in reveals, ground floor openings are round-head, with low cills. Cambered head to shop entrance, with ½-glazed door. Gables to the street, with 1 window above a wood doorcase, of cornice above ½-round columns.

(Source: https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1092111?section=official-list-entry)

It should be noted that only the western part of the building, the section nearest South Street, was formed before 1st July 1948. Therefore, the rear section (the eastern part) of the building, which was built in the 1960s, was an extension to the historic part of the building and is constructed of more modern materials, including a roof of concrete tiles.

3. Proposed Development

The proposal seeks consent for:

- Installation of **[12] solar photovoltaic panels**
- Positioned exclusively on the **eastern (non-principal, non-historic) roof slope**
- Panels to be **flush-mounted**, aligned with the roof plane
- Use of **dark, matt-finish panels** to minimise reflectivity and visual prominence

The works are **fully reversible**, with no permanent loss of historic fabric.

4. Impact on Significance

4.1 Physical Impact

The installation requires only **minor and localised fixings**, avoiding:

- Structural alteration
- Removal of significant historic fabric

This represents a **low-level and reversible intervention**, consistent with best practice for listed buildings.

4.2 Visual Impact

The visual impact is **negligible** because:

- Panels are located on a **rear roof slope**
- They are **not visible, or only barely visible**, from public viewpoints
- Their design ensures they sit **flush and subservient** to the existing roof

As a result, the proposal **does not affect the character or appearance of the principal elevations or wider setting**.

4.3 Degree of Harm

Under the framework of the **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**:

- The proposal results in **no harm**, or at worst **negligible / less-than-substantial harm at the very lowest end of the scale**
- Any minor impact is clearly outweighed by public benefits

5. Positive Justification and Public Benefits

This proposal should be viewed in the context of **national objectives to address climate change and improve energy sustainability**, including those supported by **Historic England guidance.

Key benefits include:

5.1 Climate Change Mitigation

- Reduction in operational carbon emissions

- Contribution to national and local net-zero targets

5.2 Sustainable Use of Heritage Assets

- Supports the **long-term viable use** of the listed building
- Reduces energy costs, helping ensure continued maintenance and occupation

5.3 Alignment with Historic England Guidance

Historic England explicitly supports **well-designed renewable energy measures** where:

- Impacts are minimised
- Installations are reversible
- Proposals avoid principal elevations

This scheme aligns fully with that guidance.

6. Design Approach and Mitigation

The proposal has been carefully designed to minimise impact:

- Panels confined to **least sensitive location (rear roof slope)**
- **Flush mounting** to preserve roof profile
- **Non-reflective finish** to reduce visual intrusion
- Minimal intervention and **fully reversible installation**

This represents a **best-practice approach** to integrating renewable technology within a historic building.

7. Planning Balance

When weighed in the planning balance:

- Harm to significance: **None or negligible**
- Public benefits: **Clear, measurable, and long-term**

The proposal therefore meets the requirements of the NPPF, which supports sustainable development while conserving heritage assets.

8. Conclusion

The proposed solar installation has been:

- Carefully located on a **secondary, non-prominent roof slope**
- Designed to be **visually discreet and reversible**
- Developed in line with **national heritage and sustainability guidance**

It will result in **no meaningful harm to the significance** of the listed building while delivering **substantial environmental and sustainability benefits**.

Accordingly, the proposal represents a **sensitive and appropriate enhancement** that supports both the **conservation and future resilience** of the heritage asset.

Listed Building Consent should therefore be granted.