

Biodiversity Statement

**Air Source Heat Pump System for St Marys CoE School,
Clymping, Brookpits Lane, Littlehampton BN17 5QU**

March 2026

The Project

St Mary's C of E Primary School located in Clymping, West Sussex, is part of the Diocese of Chichester. In line with Church of England net zero targets, the Diocese of Chichester are undertaking a heat decarbonisation project across two schools. A heat decarbonisation plan was prepared by Mantis Energy, which analysed energy use at St Mary's Primary School and assessed heat decarbonisation opportunities. Subsequently, ReEnergise supported the Diocese of Chichester in making a grant application to Salix for funding via the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS). This grant will help fund the installation of an air source heat pump (ASHP) system, along with improvements to roof insulation.

The initiative will reduce the school's reliance on fossil fuels for all its estate power and heat needs, thus eliminating greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) being emitted in the running of their estate. The decarbonisation plan includes the introduction of an air source heat pump system. This current proposal comes out of the implementation of that recommendation.

The Site and Context

The school was built in 1871 and was extended in 1992 and 2009. There is a playground and playing fields to the west of the school. A residential building is located to the east of the school; the remainder of the school is surrounded by fields. Access to the school is via Brookpit Lane.

The Proposed Works

The development proposes the installation of an ASHP system. The outdoor heat pump units will be located to the east of the school building in a small courtyard, where one of the school's plant room is located, along with the oil tank.

The ASHP system is designed to have a capacity of 32 kW and will be made up of 2 x 16 kW Viessmann Vitocal 150-A units. The system will be plumbed directly into the existing distribution system, some of which will be upgraded. The school's existing oil boilers are to be removed as part of the project.

The proposals will also include the installation of an acoustic timber fence along the eastern boundary wall of the courtyard where the heat pumps will be located.

Photographs of the site can be seen in the Design and Access Statement.

It is considered that this type of small scale development, which will reduce reliance on fossil fuels, falls below the de minimis threshold, and will not impact on a priority habitat. Therefore, a Biodiversity Report is not required.