BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN – EXEMPTION STATEMENT

Proposal: **Installation of Solar Panel Array on South Aisle TCS Roof Covering**

At: **St Mary's Church, Kirkgate, Whaplode. PE12 6TA**

Planning Ref:

The Exemption Requirements

The BNG Regulations 2024 de-minimis exemption states that:

The de minimis exemption only applies to development if the following two conditions are met:

- *the development must not impact on any onsite priority habitat; and*
- *if there is an impact on other onsite habitat, that impact must be on less than 25 square metres (e.g. less than a 5m by 5m square) of onsite habitat with a biodiversity value greater than zero and on less than 5 metres of onsite linear habitat (such as a hedgerow)*

Exemption Rationale

Buildings are assigned a zero score in the statutory biodiversity metric and no on-site habitat will be impacted during the works.

As the proposed works are limited to an Installation of Solar Panels on the Roof Covering of the South Aisle of the Church, no additional floorspace nor any enlargement of the building footprint will take place, and there will be no works at Ground Level whatsoever, therefore no onsite priority habitats as listed under the Governments List (Section 41 habitats and species) will be affected, nor any other applicable onsite habitats.

The proposed Solar Panel Array will be fixed on the newly installed Terne Coated Stainless Steel Roof.

As a result, the proposal is considered to comply with the De minimis exemption, Section 4 of the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024 and therefore be exempt from any statutory BNG requirements.

Roger Wright – Architect

26 March, 2025