

Design and Access Statement

Manchester Central
Installation of Solar renewables
Prepared by Taylor Design Architects Ltd – April 2026

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Manchester Central North-East (front) gable view



Exchange Roof

Manchester Central South-West (rear) gable view

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Preface

This Design and Access Statement has been prepared by Taylor Design Architects Ltd on behalf of Manchester Central to support an application for planning consent.

As part of the venue's ongoing building management, Manchester Central has been exploring opportunities to improve its energy efficiency and overall sustainability. Through this assessment process, the Exchange Hall roof has been identified as a suitable location for the installation of photovoltaic (PV) panels.

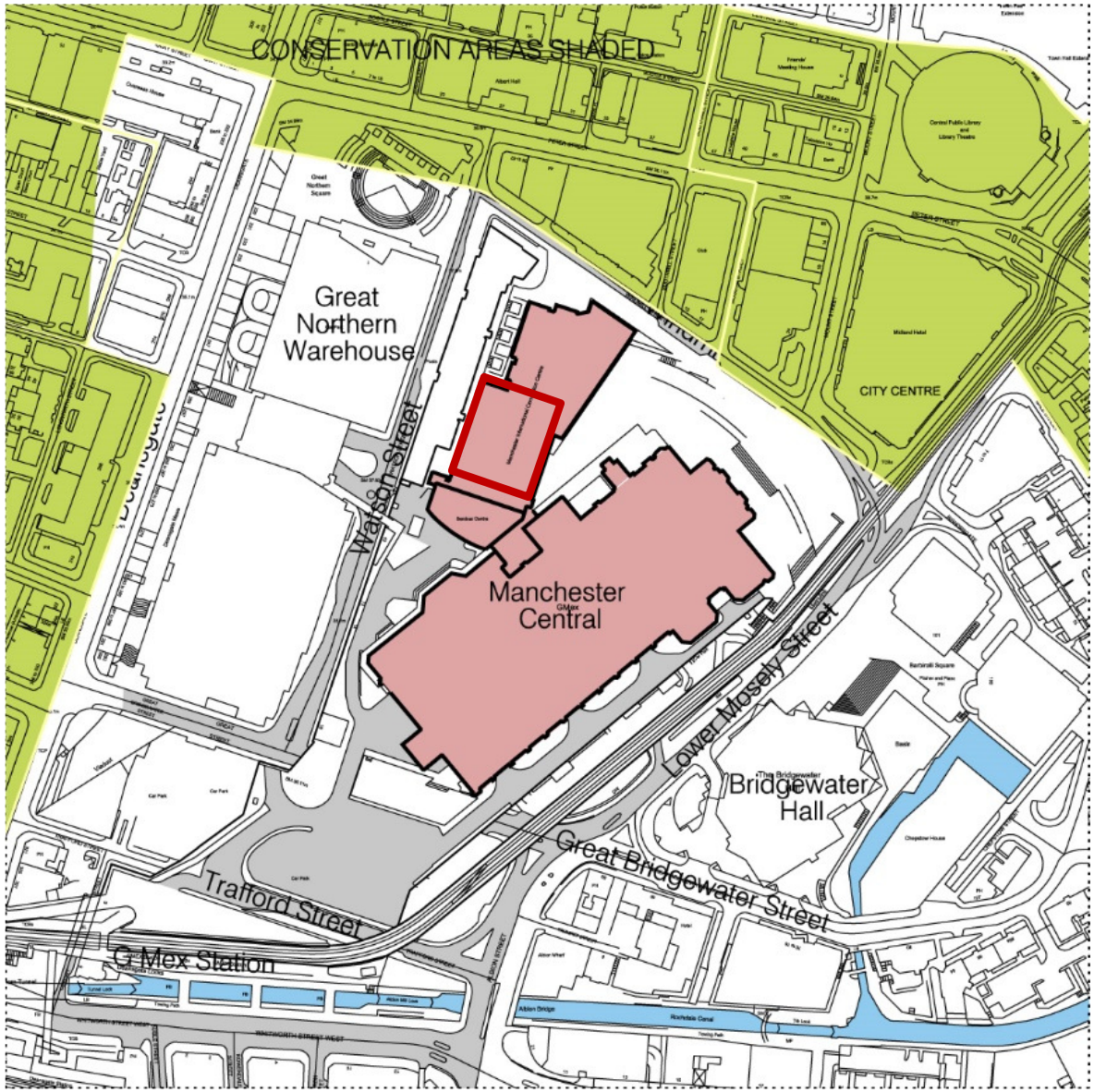
Energy-saving and payback studies have been carried out, confirming that the proposed installation would provide a credible and effective source of renewable energy for the venue.

Manchester City Council has set an ambitious target for the city to become zero-carbon by 2038.

In line with these policies and ambitions, the Manchester Central Convention Complex is committed to supporting and progressing renewable energy initiatives.

1.2 Project Directory

Client	**Architects**
Manchester Central	Taylor Design Architects Ltd
Windmill Street	30 Manchester Road
Manchester	Wilmslow
M2 3GX	SK9 1BG



2.0 The Site

2.1 Site Context

The Manchester Central Conference and exhibition Complex is situated on the south side of Manchester City centre. The site is bounded by Windmill Street, Lower Mosley Street, Watson Street and Great Bridgewater Street.

The Convention Centre is grade II* Listed and is situated outwith the Peter Square and Deansgate Conservation area.

The Manchester Central buildings are distinguished by 2 main section the more contemporary Exchange building and the main convention hall which historically was built as a train station.

The train hall is set above two levels of undercroft, formed by brick arches, which are used for NCP parking. This sets the entrance level of the building above the surrounding street level. There are stairs from the Windmill Street public plaza to an upper podium and this provides pedestrian circulation around the main entrance foyer, the Watson Street elevation is approximately 10m above street level.

The metrolink provides an urban boundary condition to the rear of the Manchester site.

KEY

- Extent of Conservation Areas
- Manchester Central Convention Complex
- Location of proposed PV installation

2.2 Site Analysis

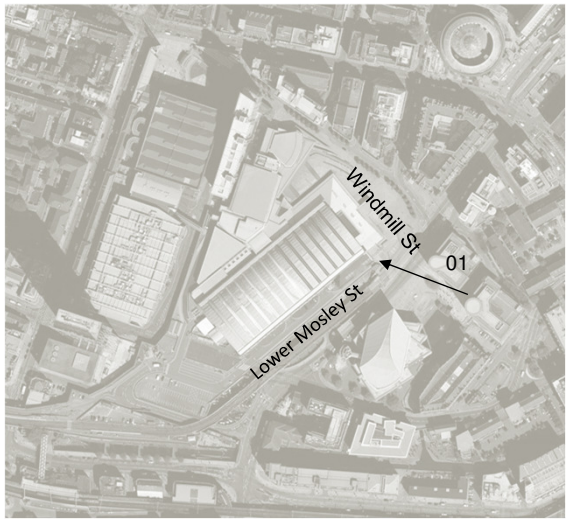
In terms of installation the proposal is for the PV installation to be in line with the roof and therefore having no visual impact from ground level. Public view is not affected and the listed building view unaffected.

We have identified the Great Northern Tower apartments as having main views down on to the roof. Aesthetically we do not believe the installation is significant .

With many tower developments proposed around this area we consider the impact of this installation to be negligible.



Image 01 – View from Windmill St





Manchester Central Convention Centre – Roof view indicating proximity of Great Northern Tower apartments

3.0 Design Influence

3.1 Requirements

Manchester Central is a successful business located within a central city location that hosts numerous types of social, business and political events and these proposed works are a necessary part of the building's ongoing improvements .

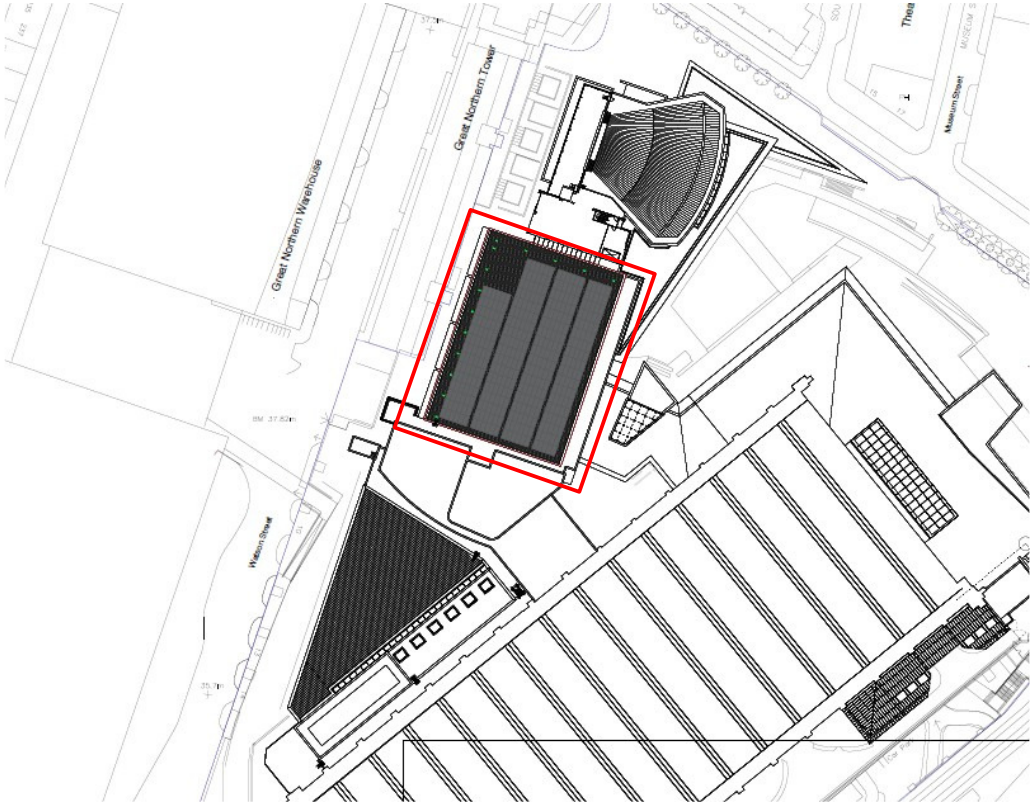
It is recognised that the main train hall building is the predominant historical asset of the convention centre and it is intended that the works to be undertaken will not alter its appearance. As such, the installation will be completely reversible.

The Manchester Central Team have engaged Atlantic renewables to install the PV panels and ensured that a method and delivery statement has been produced well in advance of any works. This document is titled 'Manchester Central Convention Complex Solar Installer Planning Application Deliverables' and is included as part of this application.

The intent is to install the PV panels on proprietary S clips design for fitting to the existing standing seam roof. These are removable and non damaging the the existing roof..

On going maintenance has been considered and is included within the installer's method documentation.

3.2 Extent of works



Exchange PV installation

Overall Roof Plan

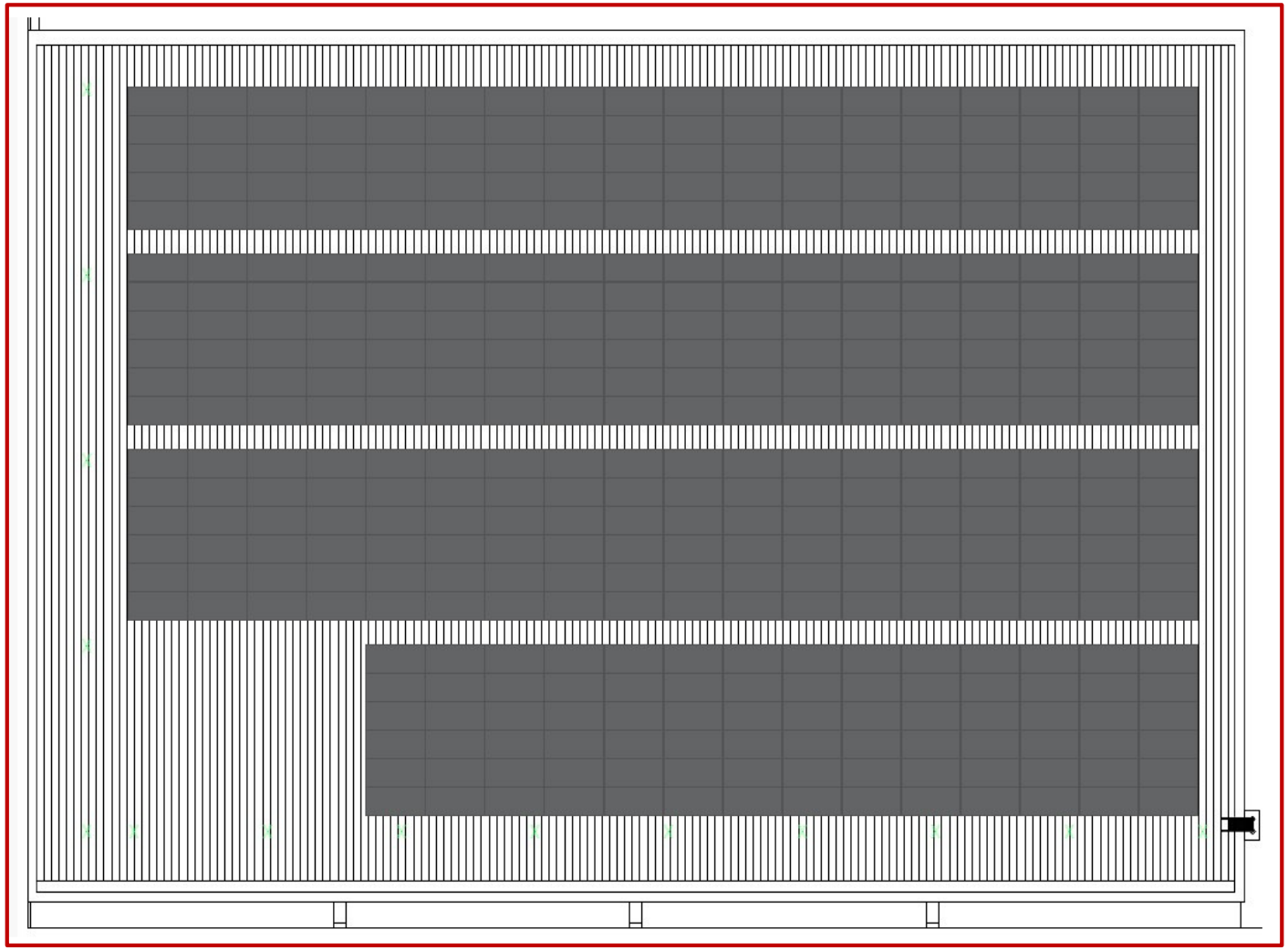


Manchester Central prior to installation



Manchester Central after PV installation

3.2 Extent of works



PV Panel layout – Exchange roof



Typical installation of S Clamp system



Proposed Longi Hi-MO X10 640W

Exchange PV installation

Manchester Central Convention Centre – Gable elevations

4.0 Planning Policy Context:

The proposed photovoltaic installation has been developed with regard to both national and local planning policy relating to climate change mitigation and sustainable development.

At a national level, the proposal aligns with the objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which requires the planning system to support the transition to a low-carbon future, encourage the reuse and retrofit of existing buildings, and promote renewable and low-carbon energy generation. In particular, the proposal responds positively to the NPPF requirement for development to mitigate and adapt to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and minimising future vulnerability.

At a local level, the development supports the strategic objectives of the Manchester Core Strategy and the Manchester Climate Ready Action Plan, which seek to reduce carbon emissions, increase decentralised renewable energy generation, and improve the environmental performance and resilience of existing non-residential buildings.

The proposal directly contributes to these objectives by delivering on-site renewable energy generation, reducing operational carbon emissions, and supporting the city's target to achieve net zero carbon by 2038.

The key driver of these proposals is to provide the Manchester Central management team with the delivery of measurable environmental benefit.

The Manchester Central management team is fully aligned with the Manchester Climate Ready Action Plan and recognises several key drivers within the strategy.

'The city has set a science-based target to reach net zero carbon by 2038. While direct emissions have reduced by 48% between 2005 and 2023, this reduction is not currently aligned with the level of ambition required.'

'To meet the target, efforts must accelerate significantly'

Manchester Ready Climate Action Plan

Manchester Central proposed installation of photovoltaic (PV) will:

- Reduce carbon emissions by approximately 35 tonnes per annum
- Deliver a commercial payback period of 3.6 years
- Represent a sound investment that strengthens the long-term financial resilience of the business
- Align with Manchester Climate Ready (MCR) Ambitions

'To create an energy system that is clean, smart, and flexible, improving energy security.'

'Increase the number of non-residential buildings retrofitted'

'Increase local generation and storage of renewable energy'

'Improve the resilience of new and existing infrastructure to current and future climate change impacts'

'Contribute towards 99MW of solar energy generation'

'Meaningfully engage 5,000 businesses in tackling climate change'

Manchester Ready Climate Action Plan

While the proposed PV installation will not, in isolation, result in Manchester Central becoming a net zero facility, it represents a positive, proportionate, and policy-compliant intervention.

The proposals deliver measurable environmental benefits and demonstrates a clear commitment to decarbonisation, supporting the ongoing transition of one of Manchester's key strategic facilities in line with both local and national planning policy objectives.

5.0 Conclusion

The management team of Manchester Central Complex has carefully considered the importance of the Manchester Climate Ready Action Plan and recognises its role as a leading business within Manchester, with the capacity to demonstrate leadership and make a meaningful contribution towards the decarbonisation of its energy use.

Within the Manchester Climate Ready Action Plan, local authorities are identified as 'having influence over approximately one third of direct emissions within their local areas, through their statutory duties and powers relating to housing, transport, planning, and energy systems.'

Manchester Ready Climate Action Plan

Manchester Central submits this application in recognition of the need for the power of collective action in addressing decarbonisation, while also balancing the important heritage considerations associated with the site.

The roof selected for the installation of the photovoltaic panels represents the most appropriate and effective location available within the site.

Supported by Atlantic Renewables' calculations demonstrating both carbon savings and long-term financial viability, the proposal has been carefully considered and is considered appropriate for the site. It is therefore believed that the scheme merits the granting of planning consent.