



National Highways Planning Response (NHPR 25-01) Formal Recommendation to an Application for Planning Permission

From: Head of Planning & Development, Operations Directorate, SWRegion,
National Highways
Planningsw@nationalhighways.co.uk

To: Wiltshire Council (FAO Gen Collins)
developmentmanagement@wiltshire.gov.uk

CC: transportplanning@dft.gov.uk
spatialplanning@nationalhighways.co.uk

Council's Reference: PL/2026/00195

Location: Land west of Westbury Road, Warminster

Proposal: Outline planning permission with some matters reserved except for access for the erection of up to 205 no. dwellings, community hub, public open space, access, infrastructure and associated works, with all other matters reserved

National Highways Ref: NH/26/14674

Referring to the consultation on a planning application referenced above, in the vicinity of the A36 that form part of the Strategic Road Network, notice is hereby given that National Highways' formal recommendation is that we:

- a) offer no objection with advice (see reasons at Annex A);**
- ~~b) recommend that conditions should be attached to any planning permission that may be granted (see Annex A – National Highways recommended Planning Conditions & reasons);~~
- ~~c) recommend that planning permission not be granted for a specified period (see reasons at Annex A);~~
- ~~d) recommend that the application be refused (see reasons at Annex A)~~

Highways Act 1980 Section 175B is not relevant to this application.¹

¹ Where relevant, further information will be provided within Annex A.

This represents National Highways' formal recommendation and is copied to the Department for Transport as per the terms of our Licence.

Should the Local Planning Authority propose not to determine the application in accordance with this recommendation they are required to consult the Secretary of State for Transport, as set out in the [Town and Country Planning \(Development Affecting Trunk Roads\) Direction 2018](#), via transportplanning@dft.gov.uk and may not determine the application until the consultation process is complete.

The Local Planning Authority must also copy any consultation under the 2018 Direction to Planningsw@nationalhighways.co.uk.

This response and all comments outlined herein are made in respect of planning matters only in National Highways' position as a statutory planning consultee, and does not confer any proprietary rights nor amount to the giving or refusal of consent, assent, approval, or awareness of or by National Highways in or of any other aspects or matters (including, but not limited to, the use of property belonging to National Highways). If anyone wishes for National Highways to consider any aspects which do not relate to planning submissions, they should call our contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Signature: *G Gallacher*

Date: 11 February 2026

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Position: Assistant Spatial Planner

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Annex A **National Highways' assessment of the proposed development**

National Highways has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as a strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such we work to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

We have undertaken a review of the relevant documents supporting the planning application to ensure compliance with the current policies of the Secretary of State as set out in DfT Circular 01/2022 "The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development" and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This response represents our formal recommendations with regards to planning application reference PL/2026/00195.

Reasons

The application is seeking approval in outline for a residential-led development comprising up to 205 dwellings on a site to the west of Westbury Road, north of Warminster. The site is proposed to be served by two accesses from Westbury Road which links with the A350 to the north and Warminster to the south. The A350 provides an onward connection to the A36 trunk road at the A36/A350/Bath Road roundabout junction. We note that the development site does not form an allocation in the adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy, and is not identified as a preferred site in the emerging Local Plan which is currently at Examination.

National Highways principal interest in the development proposal is the potential impact on the safe and efficient operation of the SRN, which in this case comprises the A36 only (and not the A350 as suggested within the submitted documents).

The application represents a resubmission of proposals previously considered under application PL/2021/09013 to which National Highways offered no objections. We understand the previous application was refused by the planning authority and a subsequent appeal dismissed, but not on highway grounds.

The current application is supported by a transport assessment (TA) prepared by Pegasus Group and dated November 2025, which updates the earlier July 2021 TA previously accepted by National Highways.

National Highways remains of the view that the impact of the development on any one A36 junction or link is unlikely to be either unacceptable or severe, in safety or capacity terms, in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF and DfT Circular 01/2022. We would however advise the planning authority to secure robust travel planning measures to support and encourage the take up of sustainable travel modes.

Recommendation

National Highways has no objection to the proposed development but offers the local planning authority advice with regards to securing robust travel plan measures to support and encourage the take up of sustainable travel modes.

Standing advice to the local planning authority

The Climate Change Committee's [2022 Report to Parliament](#) notes that for the UK to achieve net zero carbon status by 2050, action is needed to support a modal shift away from car travel. The NPPF supports this position, with paragraphs 77 and 110 prescribing that significant development should offer a genuine choice of transport modes, while paragraphs 109 and 115 advise that appropriate opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport should be taken up as part of a vision-led approach.

Moreover, the carbon reduction hierarchy (avoid-switch-improve) as set out in clause 4.3 of PAS2080:2023 promotes approaches and measures to minimise resource consumption and thereby reduce carbon emissions.

These considerations should be weighed alongside any relevant Local Plan policies to ensure that planning decisions are in line with the necessary transition to net zero carbon.