

To:	Development Management	From:	AtkinsRéalis (Drainage Team)
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Planning App Ref:	PL/2026/00416
Service Ref:	Drainage
Date:	25/02/2026

PROPOSAL

Retention of a Staff Car Park (Retrospective).

SITE LOCATION

Conholt Park, Conholt Lane, Conholt, Andover, SP11 9HA.

SUMMARY OF THE CONSULTEE POSITION

Object	
Holding Objection: Further information required	
Support	
No comment	
No objection	X
No objection subject to conditions	
Consultation not required	

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

- Application for Planning Permission (dated 21/01/2026).
- Planning Statement, prepared by Whaleback (Ref. W2762, dated January 2026).
- Staff Parking - Existing Site Plan (Dwg no. 070 Rev. *, dated 30/10/2025).
- Staff Parking - Existing Site Location Plan (Dwg no. 080 Rev. B, dated 14/01/2026).
- Staff Parking - Site Location Plan (Dwg no. 069 Rev. D, dated 31/10/2025).
- Staff Parking – Proposed Site Plan (Landscaping) (Dwg no. 071 Rev. A, dated 30/10/2025).
- Staff Car Park Drainage, prepared by MJ Abbott (Dwg no. CON001-DRA-AS-001 Rev. UNK, dated 05/12/2025).

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSAL

Context

In planning terms, flood risk refers to the potential for development to increase the likelihood or severity of flooding on-site or elsewhere, while drainage considerations relate to the capacity of the site and surrounding infrastructure to manage surface water runoff in a sustainable and effective manner.

The local planning authority must be satisfied that the proposed development has not increased flood risk, either on-site or elsewhere, and that surface water will be managed in a sustainable and coordinated manner.

Where necessary, planning conditions or legal agreements may be used to secure the implementation, maintenance, and monitoring of SuDS and other drainage infrastructure.

Assessment

The application does not set out to drastically alter the existing scenario regarding flood risk. The existing and proposed contours for the site indicate that pre- and post-development over-land flows will remain largely unchanged. It is noted that any exceedance from the development will not result in adverse risk to people or property, likely resulting in local pooling as resembled in the existing scenario.

The applicant has demonstrated compliance with the National SuDS Standards by discharging surface water via infiltration, as captured by the proposed land drain discharging to the modular soakaway.

RECOMMENDATION

No Objection for the following reasons:

- The proposal is not believed to increase flood risk, and does not connect to any existing positive drainage system.

RELEVANT PLANNING POLICY & GUIDANCE

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) [NPPF December 2024 Link](#)
Planning and Flood Risk (Paras 170–182)

Wiltshire Core Strategy – Adopted January 2015 [Wiltshire Core Strategy Link](#)
Core Policy 67 requires that all new development must address flood risk from all sources and not increase flood risk elsewhere. It supports the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and requires that developments demonstrate how surface water will be managed sustainably.

Wiltshire Local Plan (emerging) [Local Plan Review Link](#)
Development must avoid high flood risk areas using the sequential approach. Proposals require a Flood Risk Assessment, Surface Water Drainage Strategy, and Groundwater Assessment where relevant. All schemes must include Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), with major developments achieving a 30% reduction in runoff compared to greenfield rates, following the surface water discharge hierarchy.

Culverting and building over watercourses is discouraged, and natural drainage features should be retained or restored. Drainage strategies must ensure safety during extreme flood events (1-in-100-year + climate change) and provide safe access/egress. SuDS should also deliver biodiversity, amenity, and water quality benefits.

Supplementary Planning Documents

Wiltshire Council Drainage Betterment Strategy (2024) [SPD Link](#)
This technical guidance outlines expectations for surface water discharge hierarchy, attenuation, exceedance routes, water quality, and post-development monitoring.

Wiltshire Design Guide (March 2024) [SPD Link](#)
Includes principles of good design, including integration of SuDS and flood resilience.

Other Relevant Policies and Guidance

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) – Flood Risk and Drainage [Guidance Link](#)
Covers detailed expectations for flood risk assessments, SuDS design, discharge hierarchy, sequential testing and climate change allowances.

Wiltshire SFRA (2024) [SFRA Link](#)
This document underpins the Sequential and Exception Test application and provides site screening evidence.

Section 19 Flood Investigation Reports [Section 19 Reports Link](#)
These documents summarise investigations into significant local flood incidents and establish what caused the flooding, how authorities responded, and actions needed to prevent future floods.

National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) June 2025 [Guidance Link](#)
Establishes mandatory criteria for runoff destination hierarchy, interception, flood resilience, water quality, amenity, biodiversity, and long-term maintenance for all new developments in England.

SuDS Manual (CIRIA C753)
This document sets out design principles, especially where attenuation, exceedance routing, and water quality are discussed.

Infiltration drainage design must be supported by ground investigations, including infiltration testing in accordance with *British Research Establishment (BRE) Digest 365 – Soakaway Design*, and groundwater level monitoring that accounts for seasonal variation.

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Paddy O'Neill (AtkinsRéalis on behalf of Wiltshire Drainage).