

To:	Andrew Thomas	From:	Rahul Dixit
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Planning App Ref:	PL/2026/00272
Service Ref:	Drainage
Date:	27/02/2026

PROPOSAL

Full application for the retention of an outbuilding and the use of the outbuilding as a small-scale home business providing beautician services in addition to its use for purposed ancillary to the dwellinghouse.

SITE LOCATION

3 High Street, Semington, Trowbridge, BA14 6JR

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 Form
- Planning Statement, Heritage Statement and Flood Risk Assessment
- Proposed Plans and Elevations

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 will not increase 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 has been supported with a Site-Specific Flood Risk statement. It should be noted that our comments below are reliant on the accuracy and completeness of the statement and we do not take any responsibility for incorrect data or interpretation made by the authors.

As per the flood risk statement, the proposed site falls on the edge of Flood Zone 2 and has a medium risk of fluvial flooding. There is a low risk of pluvial flooding, and the site is outside of area susceptible to groundwater flooding.

The applicant seeks permission for the retention of an existing outbuilding and for its use as a small-scale home business. According to the submitted details, there will be no increase in the total gross impermeable area on the site. The outbuilding, which has a floor area of 19 sq. m, is not proposed to undergo any external alterations.

RECOMMENDATION

No Objection for the following reasons:

The proposed works are minor in nature and will not result in a significant increase in impermeable area or corresponding flood risk when compared to the existing baseline scenario. As such, we have no objections to this application.

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.

