

Response to PL/2026/01374 The Weighbridge, Old Road, Chippenham, SN15 1JA

Proposal: Change of Use, repair works and upgrades to the existing building to provide a Class E use (Commercial, Business and Service) for a future tenant.

Cycle Chippenham response

In principle, we welcome the of bringing a derelict site back into use, particularly given it forms a gateway to the town for those arriving by rail.

Given the site's central location, and excellent public transport and walking links, it is disappointing to see so much of the land given over to private car parking, and no cycle parking provided for those visiting or working at the site.

We are also concerned about possible safety implications of additional motorised traffic resulting from the proposed new use of the site, which is located on a busy and complicated junction at the entrance/ exit to the railway station, its carpark, the footbridge and land to the side of the station.

We would welcome additional landscaping and planting to improve the public realm and increase the amenity value of the area.

We offer no objection subject to the following items being conditioned as part of any planning permission:

1. Cycle parking is required, in line with Wiltshire Council adopted LTP3 Cycling Strategy

Class E use was introduced in 2020, meaning it is not covered in LTP3 Cycling Strategy. However, it amalgamates various of the classes defined in Appendix 4, including B Business.

Requirement: As it is difficult to estimate how many employees and visitor numbers will come to the site, due to the nature of future occupants being unconfirmed, LTP3 requires 4 covered cycle spaces + 2 covered spaces for each 400m² above 1000m² gross floor area.

This could easily be accommodated in a sensitively designed shelter within the red line boundary, including as part of any additional landscaping provided.

2. Shower and changing facilities should be provided

In line with modern best practices, and as set out in LTP3 Cycling Strategy Policy 4a, showers and changing facilities are required for staff at a premises such as this. This requirement has been made of many other employment sites around the town.

Showers and changing facilities do not appear to be shown in the floorplans.

Requirements: In line with LTP3 Cycling Strategy, showers and changing facilities need to be provided internally as part of the refit.

3. Road safety needs to be a priority and mitigation measures put in place where necessary

The site is located on a busy and complicated junction at the entrance/ exit to the railway station, its carpark, the footbridge and land to the side of the station (which has various uses including a bakery).

Given how many pedestrians and cyclists the footbridge to cross the railway line, and/or access the station, and the existing volume of cars entering and exiting the station carpark, we would like to see any adverse impacts of additional motorised traffic and associated carparking arrangements, kept to a minimum and mitigated as necessary.

Requirements: Ensure additional traffic and parking arrangements have minimal impact on those walking, wheeling and cycling into the station and accessing the footbridge.

ENDS