

To:	Adrian Smith	From:	Drainage Team (Arun Govind T)
------------	--------------	--------------	-------------------------------

Planning App Ref:	PL/2026/01492
Service Ref:	Drainage
Date:	13/04/2026

PROPOSAL

Full planning permission

Change of use from Class C2 (boarding school) to Class C3 dwelling house

SITE LOCATION

Riverside House, 4 Bishopstrow Road, Warminster, BA12 9HQ

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
- CIL Form 1
- Coveting Letter
- Existing Elevations and Floor Plans
- Location Plan
- Proposed Elevations and Floor Plans
- REVISED Proposed Block Plan

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 applicant seeks permission for change of use of Rivermead House, 4 Bishopstrow Road, Warminster, from a Class C2 boarding house, to a Class C3 residential dwellinghouse without any external alterations.

The applicant has not provided a drainage strategy at this stage. However, as there will be no significant increase in impermeable areas, no re-grading or groundworks on site, and no alterations to any ordinary watercourses, the proposed change of use is not expected to pose any additional flood risk and therefore does not require a drainage strategy. Should any of these conditions change, the need for a drainage strategy would need to be reassessed.

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.

INFORMATIVES

- The EA's standing advice for minor extensions will apply.

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.