

Lackham College Bus Turning Planning Statement

1. Introduction

This Planning Statement has been prepared in support of a minor planning application submitted to Wiltshire Council. The statement explains the background to the proposal, describes the site and development, and demonstrates that the application accords with the relevant Development Plan and material planning considerations.

2. The Project

This project is being brought forward to deliver a new drop off point for students accessing Wiltshire College's Lackham site.

Both Wiltshire College and Wiltshire Council recognize that the current provision is not fit for purpose and should be improved. Currently students accessing the Lackham site by bus are dropped off at the current bus stop on the Northbound A350. Students and staff then need to cross the A350 to access the Lackham college campus. There is no formal crossing in place currently and the bus stop has poor visibility.



Figure 1 - Existing Lackham pedestrian access from A350



Figure 2 - Current Bus Stop (A350 Northbound)

This planning application is seeking to install a new dedicated bus drop off point at the access to Lackham College. The new drop off point will allow a dedicated area for services which will access straight into to College and remove the need to cross the A350.

3. Site Description and Surroundings

This proposal is looking to install a new bus turning provision within the Wiltshire Council grounds of Lackham College off the A350 in Chippenham. This arrangement would remove the need for students and staff having to cross the A350 to access bus provisions.

The siting of the new bus provision is in an area of primarily grassland and cropland with areas of scrub. A single lane tarmac road branches from Lackham Roundabout and extends through the south-west of the Application Site where this is the existing road entrance to Lackham College.

The nearby land is used by Lackham college as part of its educational setting and as part of its farming operations with fields being used for grazing animals and growing crop.



Figure 3 – Existing site view of proposed bus turning facility

3. The Proposed Development

The proposed development will see the introduction of a new bus turning facility at the entrance to the Lackham College grounds. The new development will be 1.31 hectares. The bus turning facility will be installed adjacent to the existing driveway and provide a seamless link from the A350 for bus operators.

The construction and materials will utilise standard highway specifications and will be in keeping with the surrounding highway network. The site has been designed for use by local bus operators and students and staff accessing the Lackham College grounds.

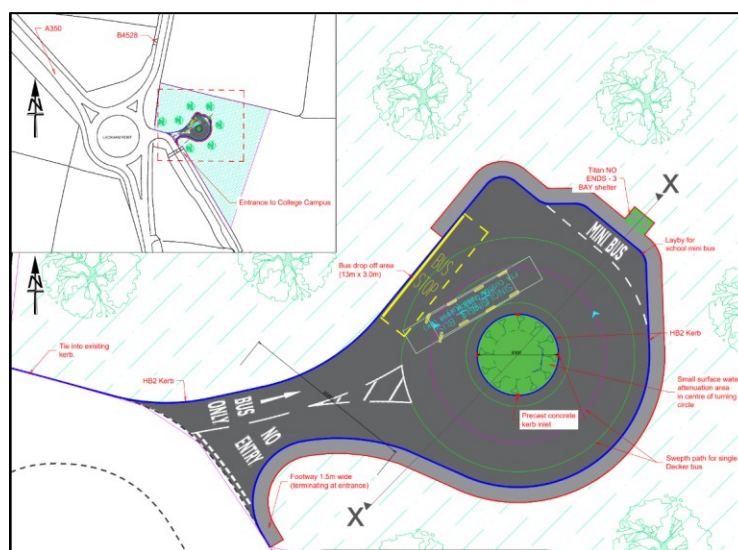


Figure 4 - General Arrangement of Proposed Bus Turning Facility

4. Planning Policy Context

4.1 National Planning Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (revised December 2024 and amended February 2025) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and is a material consideration in decision-making. At its heart is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Of particular relevance to this proposal are the sections relating to achieving sustainable development, decision-making, making effective use of land, achieving well-designed places, promoting sustainable transport, and conserving and enhancing the historic and natural environment (where applicable).

4.2 Development Plan – Wiltshire Council

The statutory Development Plan for the site comprises the adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy (January 2015), saved policies from former district local plans, the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan, the Chippenham Site Allocations Plan (where relevant), Minerals and Waste Plans, and any made Neighbourhood Plan. The Wiltshire Core Strategy provides the overarching strategic planning framework for development in Wiltshire up to 2026 and includes policies relating to settlement strategy, sustainable development, design, transport, and the historic and natural environment.

4.3 Wiltshire Core Strategy

This planning application aligns with the following Wiltshire Core strategy policy numbers

- CP1 – Settlement Strategy
- CP10 – Spatial Strategy for the Chippenham Community Area
- CP49 – Protection of rural services and community facilities
- CP57 – Ensuring High Quality Design and Place Shaping
- CP60 – Sustainable Transport
- CP62 – Development Impacts on the Transport Network

6. Sustainable Development

The proposal represents sustainable development by making efficient use of land, respecting local character, and avoiding unacceptable impacts on neighbouring uses. The development accords with the economic, social, and environmental objectives of sustainable development as set out in the NPPF.

The design has ensured that sustainable drainage is incorporated to drain not only the new impermeable areas of construction but also further surface water issues that are currently experienced on the entrance to Wiltshire College – Lackham.

The landscaping has been designed to fit in with the local area and also ensure that the physical landscape blends into the local environment.

The design also accounts for current surface water flooding issues experienced at the junction of the A350 and Lackham college as part of the drainage strategy.

7. Consultation and Engagement

Pre Application advice was sought from Wiltshire Council planning team in March 2026. Following discussions with the planning team, further advice was sought from drainage, ecology and heritage teams to further understand the requirements associated with this site and the forthcoming planning application.

The development of this proposal has been brought forward with key stakeholders including Wiltshire College, Wiltshire Council Passenger Transport team and bus service providers.

8. Conclusion

This planning application is being sought to help resolve a longstanding highway issue with students and staff accessing Wiltshire College – Lackham by public transport. The planning application has been developed alongside key stakeholders to address concerns and ensure that the proposals work for all parties.

The proposal accords with the adopted Development Plan for Wiltshire and with the relevant policies of the National Planning Policy Framework. No material considerations have been identified that would indicate planning permission should be withheld, and approval of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Supporting Information

The following documents have been submitted to support this application

- Application Form – Lackham Bus Turning
- Archaeology Report – Lackham Bus Turning
- BNG Design Stage Assessment
- Cross Section – Lackham Bus Turning
- Drainage Strategy – Lackham Bus Turning
- Ecological Impact Assessment – Lackham Bus Turning
- General Arrangement – Lackham Bus Turning
- Landscape Plan – Lackham Bus Turning
- Preliminary Ecology Assessment – Lackham Bus Turning
- Red Line Boundary – Lackham Bus Turning
- Statutory Metric BNG Condition Assessment Sheets – Lackham Bus Turning
- The Statutory BNG Metric – Lackham Bus Turning