



Hayley Clark
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge, Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Our Ref: P10003773
09 September 2026

Dear Hayley Clark

**T&CP (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 & Planning
(Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990**

**St John The Baptist Church, Church Lane, Bishopstone, Salisbury, SP5 4AS
Application No. PL/2026/04826**

Thank you for your letter of 20 August 2026 regarding the above application for planning permission. On the basis of the information available to date, we offer the following advice.

Historic England Advice

Proposals

The proposals are to resurface and widen an existing gravel path on the south side of St John the Baptist Church with a resin bound product to improve access to the church. The current gravelled path extends approximately 50 metres from the Lych Gate to the Priest's Entrance into the Chancel. The proposed resin-bound path would follow the same route as the existing path except at the Priest's Entrance where the route would be amended to avoid a drain sump cover.

The proposed path would be widened, removing overgrown grass, to a 1m width up to the South Transept and 0.8m width between the South Transept and Priest's Entrance. A wheelchair turning area would be incorporated at the front door and the new path would extend into the areas between the buttresses of the South Transept.

Significance

St John the Baptist Church is listed Grade I and is therefore considered to be of exceptional historic and architectural interest. The church predominantly dates from the



14th century but incorporates 13th and 15th century fabric and was restored by notable 19th century architects with work by Pugin in 1836 and T.H. Wyatt in 1858. As noted in the submitted Heritage Statement, it is described as an important and large village church in the listing description.

Impact

While we support the proposal to provide a more accessible surface to the path, which currently has an uneven gravel surface, the proposed resin-bound gravel is not considered appropriate in the setting of the Grade I listed church. The resin bound gravel has a less natural, smooth appearance compared to unbound gravel that is not in keeping with the character of the church or its setting. It would therefore result in some harm to the setting of the church.

Position

We support the proposal to improve the accessibility and appearance of the path but for the reason outlined above we recommend that the proposed surface material is amended. An unbound surface such as self-binding gravel is preferred in heritage terms as it provides a more natural finish. It also provides a compact, stable, and accessible surface.

However, we understand that a bonded surface provides greater longevity and lower maintenance and if this is required we would support the use of a tar spray and chip surface. A tar spray and chip surface has a more traditional texture and rustic appearance than resin-bound gravel, is easier to repair than resin-bound or resin-bonded gravel as it does not require specialist contractors. It is also preferable from a sustainability perspective as it does not contain plastic/resin.

Recommendation

Historic England advises that your Council should seek an amendment to the proposed path surface material, for the reasons explained above, in order to remove potential harm to the setting of the Grade I listed church.

Should the proposals remain unchanged, it will be for your Council to assess whether the harm to the significance of St John the Baptist Church would be outweighed by public benefits secured by the development. In doing so, it should give substantial weight to the conservation of this designated heritage asset.

If there are any material changes to the proposals beyond those we have suggested, please contact us. If you propose to determine the application in its current form, please



inform us of the date of the committee and send us a copy of your report at the earliest opportunity. Please also advise us of the decision in due course.

Yours sincerely

Joanne Fisher

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