

Growth & Environment

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Contact: SuDS and Watercourses Team
FRMConsultations@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Your ref: 25/02571/OP
Date: 17 June 2026

Dear Justin Booij

RE: 25/02571/OP – Growing Baldock Development Site - BA1 (Land East of North Road and North of Railway Line); BA10 (Land between Railway Line and Royston Road); BA3 (Land West of A505); BA2 (Land South of Clothall Road); Walls Field; Urban Open Land West of A505, and Land West of North Road, Baldock

Thank you for your reconsultation on the above site, received on 28 May 2026. We have reviewed the application as submitted and wish to make the following comments.

We understand that this is an outline application with all matters reserved (except for means of highway access into the development from the A505/Royston Road, North Road and Clothall Road) for up to 3200 homes.

Since our previous response, the applicant has provided an updated drainage strategy. We understand that a CV value of 1 has now been used, as well as an urban creep allowance of 10%. With regards to the safety factors used for infiltration calculations, we note the risk-based assessment which has been carried out and expect that this is carried forward to future design stages. The applicant must apply a factor of safety of at least 5 to the basins, given there are hardstanding areas which drain to them. Although we note that any flooding around the basins should only affect soft landscaping areas, if the basins were to fail it is possible that the upstream network would not be able to drain appropriately if the downstream storage was not available.

We note that a sensitivity test using a factor of safety of 5 has been carried out, which shows any additional flooding would be contained within the surrounding soft landscaping areas – as a result, this value should be taken forward in the detailed design.

We would recommend the following conditions.

Condition 1

Prior to or in conjunction with the submission of each reserved matters application, in accordance with the submitted FRA (Revision F, AKT II Ltd, 23 September 2025) and Drainage Strategy (Revision D, AKT II Ltd, 24 September 2025), detailed designs of a surface water drainage scheme incorporating the following measures shall be submitted to and agreed with the Local Planning Authority. The approved scheme will be implemented prior to the first occupation of the development. The scheme shall address the following matters:

- I. Location specific infiltration testing in accordance with BRE Digest 365 (or equivalent) along the length and proposed depth of the proposed infiltration feature/s, in areas not tested within the outline application

or

If infiltration is proven to be unfavourable then Greenfield runoff rates for the site shall be agreed with the Lead Local Flood Authority. The post development runoff rates will be attenuated to the 50% AEP greenfield runoff rate for all rainfall events up to and including the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP). The discharge location for surface water runoff will be confirmed to connect with the wider watercourse network.

- II. Provision of surface water attenuation storage, sized and designed to accommodate the volume of water generated in all rainfall events up to and including the critical storm duration for the 3.33% AEP (1 in 30 year) and 1% AEP (1 in 100) rainfall events (both including allowances for climate change).

- III. Detailed designs, modelling calculations and plans of the of the drainage conveyance network in the:

- 3.33% AEP (1 in 30 year) critical rainfall event plus climate change to show no flooding outside the drainage features on any part of the site.
- 1% AEP (1 in 100 year) critical rainfall plus climate change event to show, if any, the depth, volume and storage location of any flooding outside the drainage features, ensuring that flooding does not occur in any part of a building or any utility plant susceptible to water (e.g. pumping station or electricity substation) within the development. It will also show that no runoff during this event will leave the site uncontrolled.

- IV. The design of any infiltration / attenuation / detention basin will incorporate an emergency spillway and any drainage structures include appropriate freeboard allowances. Plans to be submitted showing the routes for the management of exceedance surface water flow routes that minimise the risk to people and property during rainfall events in excess of 1% AEP (1 in 100) rainfall event plus climate change allowance.

- V. Finished ground floor levels of properties are a minimum of 300mm above expected flood levels of all sources of flooding (including the ordinary

watercourses, SuDS features and within any proposed drainage scheme) or 150mm above ground level, whichever is the more precautionary.

- VI. Details of how all surface water management features to be designed in accordance with The SuDS Manual (CIRIA C753, 2015), including appropriate treatment stages for water quality prior to discharge.
- VII. A maintenance and management plan detailing the activities required and details of who will adopt and maintain the all the surface water drainage features for the lifetime of the development.

Reason:

To prevent flooding in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework paragraphs 181,182 and 187 by ensuring the satisfactory management of local sources of flooding surface water flow paths, storage and disposal of surface water from the site in a range of rainfall events and ensuring the SuDS proposed operates as designed for the lifetime of the development.

Condition 2

Prior to or in conjunction with the submission of each Reserved Matters application a detailed Site SuDS Phase plan which aligns with the site phasing plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This SuDS Phasing plan shall ensure that each phase does not exceed the agreed discharge rates for that phase and that source control measures are installed within each phase to adequately address the phases own surface water runoff. The plan shall ensure that each SuDS component is adequately protected throughout the development of the scheme. The plan shall show all exceedance routes throughout the site clearance and construction of the scheme ensuring flood risk is not increased elsewhere or to the site itself and that the site remains safe for all exceedance event flow routes for the lifetime of the development during rainfall (i.e. greater than design events or during blockage) and how property on and off site will be protected.

Reason: To ensure that the development achieves a high standard of sustainability and ensure the flood risk is adequately addressed for each new dwelling and not increased in accordance with NPPF and Policies of North Herts District Council.

Condition 3

Development shall not commence until details and a method statement for interim and temporary drainage measures during the demolition and construction phases have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This information shall provide full details of who will be responsible for maintaining such temporary systems and demonstrate how the site will be drained to ensure there is no increase in the off-site flows, nor any pollution, debris and sediment to any receiving watercourse or sewer system. The site works and construction phase shall thereafter be carried out in accordance with approved method statement, unless alternative measures have been subsequently approved by the Local Planning Authority

Reason: To prevent flooding and pollution offsite in accordance with the NPPF.

Condition 4

The development hereby approved shall not be occupied until details of the maintenance and management of the sustainable drainage scheme have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The drainage scheme shall be implemented prior to the first occupation of the development hereby approved and thereafter managed and maintained in accordance with the approved details in perpetuity. The Local Planning Authority shall be granted access to inspect the sustainable drainage scheme for the lifetime of the development. The details of the scheme to be submitted for approval shall include:

- I. a timetable for its implementation.
- II. details of SuDS feature and connecting drainage structures and maintenance requirement for each aspect including a drawing showing where they are located.
- III. a management and maintenance plan for the lifetime of the development which shall include the arrangements for adoption by any public body or statutory undertaker, or any other arrangements to secure the operation of the sustainable drainage scheme throughout its lifetime. This will include the name and contact details of any appointed management company.

Reason: To ensure that the development achieves a high standard of sustainability and ensure the flood risk is adequately addressed for each new dwelling and not increased in accordance with NPPF and Policies of North Herts District Council.

Condition 5

Prior to first use of each phase of the development a detailed verification report, (appended with substantiating evidence demonstrating the approved construction details and specifications have been implemented in accordance with the surface water drainage scheme), has been submitted to and approved (in writing) by the Local Planning Authority. The verification report shall include a full set of “as built” drawings plus photographs of excavations (including soil profiles/horizons), any installation of any surface water drainage structures and control mechanisms.

Reason: To ensure that the development achieves a high standard of sustainability and ensure the flood risk is adequately addressed for each new dwelling and not increased in accordance with NPPF and Policies of North Herts District Council.

Informative

Please note if, you the Local Planning Authority review the application and decide to grant planning permission, notify the us (the Lead Local Flood Authority), by email at FRMConsultations@hertfordshire.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Jake

Jake Silverton
SuDS and Watercourses Support Officer
Growth and Environment

Annex

The following documents have been reviewed.

- Report: Drainage Strategy Report, AKT II Ltd, May 2026