ARCHEVOLVE

CHARTERED ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGISTS

SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE STATEMENT

Replacement of Existing Driveway

4 Aldwick Crescent, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 0AR

CLIENT	Stefan Dichello
SITE ADDRESS	4 Aldwick Crescent, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 0AR
PROJECT REFERENCE	ARC/244/26
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Sustainable Drainage Statement has been prepared by Archevolve (Southern) Limited on behalf of Mr Stefan Dichello in support of proposals at 4 Aldwick Crescent, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 0AR. It addresses the management of surface water arising from the replacement of the existing vehicular driveway within the curtilage of the dwelling.

1.2 The statement has been prepared in response to a request from Worthing Borough Council for information demonstrating that surface water arising from the works will be managed sustainably, and that the proposals will not give rise to any increase in surface water run-off from the site.

1.3 The works are limited in scope. They comprise the replacement of an existing hard surface on its existing footprint. There is no increase in the area of hardstanding, no increase in built footprint, no alteration to site levels, and no new or altered connection to the public sewer or the highway drainage network. The existing drainage arrangements serving the dwelling and its curtilage are retained unaltered.

1.4 This statement should be read in conjunction with the application drawings listed at Appendix A.

Purpose of this statement

This statement sets out:

- a description of the site, its setting and its existing surface water drainage regime;
- the nature and extent of the proposed works;
- the legislative and policy framework against which the proposals fall to be assessed;
- the surface water drainage strategy, tested against the national runoff destination hierarchy;
- the proposed construction, and the arrangements for long term management and maintenance.

2 THE SITE

2.1 The site comprises a detached, single storey dwelling of traditional construction, set within a regular rectangular plot on the eastern side of Aldwick Crescent. The dwelling is finished in white render over a red brick plinth, beneath a hipped roof of brown plain tiles, with a canted bay to the principal (west) elevation. The surrounding street comprises detached bungalows of similar age and character.

2.2 Vehicular access is taken directly from Aldwick Crescent to the west of the dwelling. The existing driveway occupies the front curtilage and continues along the northern flank of the property to serve the garage and parking area to the rear of the plot.

2.3 The existing driveway is not of a single construction. It comprises a mixture of random flagstone paving to the frontage, areas of concrete block paving to the side access, and patches of in situ concrete, laid at different times and now of varied age and condition. A narrow margin of slate chippings runs alongside the side path. The surface as a whole is at the end of its serviceable life and is to be replaced. The area of driveway and vehicular hardstanding is approximately 66 square metres.

2.4 The front curtilage is largely hard surfaced, with a planted border retained behind a low brick wall to the southern side of the drive and further planting to the northern side. The rear curtilage is laid to lawn with a paved terrace. All of these soft landscaped and permeable areas are retained in full and are unaffected by the proposals.

2.5 The site and the wider street are broadly level, with only a very gentle fall across the plot. There is no watercourse within or immediately adjoining the site.

2.6 An existing inspection chamber is located within the front hardstanding. This serves the foul drainage of the property and is unaffected in function by the proposals.

2.7 The underlying geology is anticipated to comprise superficial head deposits over Chalk of the White Chalk Subgroup, which is characteristic of this part of Worthing. Chalk is a generally free draining stratum, and infiltration within the curtilage is therefore expected to be viable. As no new below ground drainage is proposed, infiltration testing in accordance with BRE Digest 365 has not been undertaken and is not considered necessary for works of this nature.

3 THE PROPOSED WORKS

3.1 The proposals comprise the removal of the existing driveway surface and its replacement on a like for like footprint. The extent, alignment, levels and falls of the driveway remain as existing.

3.2 The replacement surface will be formed either in permeable concrete block paving with enlarged, aggregate filled joints, or in porous resin bound surfacing. In both cases the surface will be laid over a free draining, open graded sub-base as described at Section 8, so that surface water passes vertically through the pavement construction rather than running off it.

3.3 No alteration is proposed to the existing surface water drainage regime. There is no new gully, channel, pipework or soakaway, and no new or altered connection to the public surface water sewer, the public combined sewer or the highway drainage system. Rainwater goods serving the dwelling and garage are unaffected and continue to discharge as existing.

3.4 No alteration is proposed to the existing vehicular crossover, to the highway boundary, or to levels at the site frontage.

3.5 The works do not increase the area of hardstanding within the curtilage and do not reduce the area of soft landscaping available to receive run-off.

3.6 The existing inspection chamber within the front hardstanding will be retained. Its cover and frame will be reset to suit the finished surface, and a recessed tray cover will be used where necessary so that the new surfacing reads continuously across it.

4 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

National planning policy

4.1 The National Planning Policy Framework requires that development should give priority to the use of sustainable drainage systems, that inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided, and that development should not increase flood risk elsewhere. Planning Practice Guidance on flood risk and coastal change amplifies these requirements and sets out the expectation that surface water is managed as close to source as practicable.

National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems

4.2 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs published the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems on 19 June 2025, superseding the 2015 non-statutory technical standards. The standards are non-statutory but are a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. They comprise seven standards covering runoff destinations, the management of everyday rainfall, the management of extreme rainfall, water quality, amenity, biodiversity, and the design of drainage for construction, operation, maintenance, decommissioning and structural integrity.

4.3 Standard 1 establishes a fixed order of priority for the destination of surface water run-off. That hierarchy is applied to the present proposals at Section 6 below.

Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010

4.4 Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, which would establish a statutory SuDS Approving Body regime in England, has not been commenced. Sustainable drainage in England therefore continues to be delivered through the planning system. No separate approval by a SuDS Approving Body is required in respect of these works.

Development plan policy

4.5 The development plan for the area comprises the Worthing Local Plan 2020 to 2036, adopted 28 March 2023. The following policies are of particular relevance:

Table 1: Relevant development plan policies

Policy	Subject matter and relevance
DM20	Flood risk and sustainable drainage. Requires development to incorporate sustainable drainage and to avoid increasing flood risk elsewhere.
DM21	Water quality and sustainable water use. Worthing overlies significant groundwater resources protected for public water supply, and development must not adversely affect groundwater quality.
DM16	Sustainable design. Requires development to respond to climate change, including through water management.

Source: Worthing Local Plan 2020 to 2036, adopted 28 March 2023.

4.6 West Sussex County Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority for the area. The County Council is a statutory consultee on major development only; nevertheless, its published guidance on surface water management has been taken into account as good practice in the preparation of this statement.

Permitted development

4.7 The replacement of a hard surface within the curtilage of a dwellinghouse falls within Class F of Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. Where the hard surface is situated on land between a wall forming the principal elevation of the dwellinghouse and a highway, and the area of hard surface replaced would exceed 5 square metres, Class F is subject to the condition that either the hard surface is made of porous materials, or provision is made to direct run-off water from the hard surface to a permeable or porous area or surface within the curtilage of the dwellinghouse.

4.8 The proposals satisfy that condition directly. The replacement surface is of porous construction, and any incidental run-off is directed to permeable areas within the curtilage. The proposals accord with Class F and with the underlying policy objective that the condition exists to secure.

4.9 For completeness, were a non-porous surface to be adopted in place of that described above, Class F would still be satisfied only where provision were made to direct run-off to a permeable or porous area or surface within the curtilage. Given the limited extent of soft landscaping to the frontage, the porous construction described at Section 8 is the more robust and more readily demonstrable route to compliance, and is the approach proposed.

Building Regulations

4.10 Requirement H3 of Schedule 1 to the Building Regulations 2010, and the associated guidance in Approved Document H, sets out a hierarchy for the disposal of rainwater in which discharge to an adequate soakaway or other infiltration system is preferred, followed by discharge to a watercourse, and only then discharge to a sewer. The approach adopted here accords with that hierarchy.

5 FLOOD RISK AND EXISTING DRAINAGE

Fluvial and tidal flood risk

5.1 The Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning confirms that the site lies within Flood Zone 1, being land assessed as having a low probability of flooding from rivers or the sea. The site is not within Flood Zone 2 or Flood Zone 3, and is not within an area benefiting from flood defences.

5.2 The site area is substantially below one hectare and the proposals do not constitute development for the purposes of which a site specific Flood Risk Assessment would be required. The proposed works do not increase the vulnerability classification of the use, do not raise or alter site levels, and do not impede any flow route.

Surface water and groundwater

5.3 Worthing is recognised as a priority location for surface water flood risk within West Sussex, with a substantial number of properties identified as being at risk. The management of surface water at source is accordingly given particular weight locally. The proposals respond directly to that concern by replacing an existing hard surface with a porous construction, thereby reducing rather than increasing the rate and volume of run-off leaving the curtilage.

5.4 The Chalk aquifer beneath Worthing is a principal aquifer protected for public drinking water supply, and parts of the borough fall within Groundwater Source Protection Zones. No deep bore infiltration is proposed, and no activity giving rise to a risk of groundwater contamination will be carried out on the surface. The proposals therefore raise no issue under Policy DM21.

Existing drainage regime

5.5 Rainwater from the roof of the dwelling and garage is collected in existing rainwater goods and discharges to the existing below ground drainage serving the property. That arrangement is unaltered by these proposals.

5.6 Surface water falling on the existing driveway currently drains by way of surface falls to the planted borders and to the gravel margin alongside the side path, where it infiltrates into the ground within the curtilage. The open jointing of the existing flagstone paving also permits a degree of infiltration through the surface itself. There is no gully or piped surface water connection serving the driveway, and no discharge from the driveway to the public sewer or to the adopted highway. This regime is retained unaltered, and is improved upon by the porous construction now proposed.

6 SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE STRATEGY

6.1 The proposed strategy is to manage surface water at source, within the curtilage, by infiltration through a porous surface and free draining sub-base. This is the highest practicable position on the national runoff destination hierarchy for a site of this nature.

Table 2: Assessment against the runoff destination hierarchy (National Standard 1)

	Destination	Assessment
1	Collection for reuse	Not practicable for a driveway surface. Rainwater harvesting from roof areas is unaffected by these proposals and remains available to the householder.
2	Infiltration to the ground	ADOPTED. Surface water infiltrates through the porous surface and open graded sub-base into the underlying free draining strata, and to adjacent soft landscaping within the curtilage.

	Destination	Assessment
3	Discharge to an above ground water body	Not applicable. There is no watercourse or water body within or adjoining the site.
4	Discharge to a surface water sewer	Not required. No connection is proposed and none exists in respect of the driveway.
5	Discharge to a combined sewer	Not required. No connection is proposed and none exists in respect of the driveway.

Hierarchy as set out in the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems, Defra, 19 June 2025.

Change in impermeable area

6.2 The proposals result in no increase in impermeable area. Indeed, the replacement of a sealed surface with a porous construction produces a measurable reduction in the effectively impermeable area of the curtilage, and a corresponding reduction in the rate and volume of run-off generated by the site.

Table 3: Surface water areas, existing and proposed

Area	Existing	Proposed
Driveway and vehicular hardstanding	66 m²	66 m²
Of which sealed or effectively impermeable	66 m²	0 m²
Of which porous / permeable	0 m²	66 m²
Soft landscaping within curtilage	Unchanged	Unchanged
Roof area draining to existing system	Unchanged	Unchanged
Net change in impermeable area		Reduction of 66 m²

Areas scaled from drawing ARC/244/26/08 at 1:500 (front curtilage).

Management of everyday and extreme rainfall

6.3 The open graded sub-base beneath a permeable pavement provides attenuation storage within the void space of the aggregate, typically in the order of 30 per cent of the sub-base volume. For a driveway of the area proposed, this provides ample interception storage for the first 5 millimetres of any rainfall event, satisfying National Standard 2, and provides attenuation well in excess of that required for a like for like replacement.

6.4 In an extreme rainfall event exceeding the capacity of the pavement, surface water will pond briefly and then flow over the surface to adjacent soft landscaping within the curtilage, following the existing falls. Falls are arranged so that exceedance flows are directed away from the dwelling and away from the highway. No new flow route towards neighbouring land is created.

7 WATER QUALITY

7.1 The land use is residential and the anticipated pollution hazard level is low, consistent with the classification of residential car parking and low traffic roads in the simple index approach set out in the CIRIA SuDS Manual, C753.

7.2 Permeable paving provides a treatment stage in its own right. Sediment, hydrocarbons and particulate pollutants are intercepted at the surface and within the upper layers of the pavement construction and are broken down by biological action within the sub-base. A single treatment stage is sufficient for a hazard of this level, and the proposals therefore accord with National Standard 4 and with Policy DM21.

7.3 The replacement of a sealed surface, from which run-off would otherwise be conveyed across the site, with a treating porous surface represents a net improvement in water quality outcomes over the existing situation.

8 CONSTRUCTION AND SPECIFICATION

8.1 The permeable pavement will be designed and constructed in accordance with BS 7533-13 and the guidance contained in the CIRIA SuDS Manual, C753. An indicative construction build up is set out below and will be confirmed against the manufacturer's recommendations and the loading requirements of the driveway prior to commencement.

Table 4: Indicative construction build up

Layer	Depth	Description
Surface course, option A	60 to 80 mm	Permeable concrete block paving with enlarged, aggregate filled joints.
Surface course, option B	18 to 24 mm	Porous resin bound aggregate, laid over a permeable binder course on the sub-base.
Laying course, option A only	50 mm	Clean, angular, single sized grit, 2 to 6.3 mm, free of fines.
Sub-base	250 to 350 mm	Open graded, clean, angular crushed rock to a Type 3 or equivalent specification, providing storage within the void space.
Geotextile	—	Non-woven geotextile to the sides of the formation. No impermeable membrane to the base, so that infiltration to the subgrade is maintained.
Formation	—	Subgrade left uncompacted so far as is consistent with the required bearing capacity, to preserve infiltration.

Indicative only. Final build up to be confirmed by the appointed contractor and product manufacturer.

8.2 Either surface option performs the same hydraulic function. Permeable block paving is the more readily maintained and the more easily reinstated where access to buried services is required. Porous resin bound surfacing provides a seamless finish and accommodates the irregular plan shape of the frontage more easily. The final selection will be confirmed with the client, and the sub-base construction is common to both.

Construction management

- The pavement will be constructed at the latest practicable stage so as to avoid contamination of the sub-base by construction silt.
- No fine material, sand bedding or cement bound material will be introduced into the sub-base or the joints, as this would compromise permeability.

- Falls will be set to shed exceedance flows away from the dwelling and away from the adopted highway.
- Excavated material will be removed from site and disposed of in accordance with the relevant duty of care requirements.
- Adjoining soft landscaping will be protected during the works and reinstated on completion.

9 MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

9.1 The driveway lies wholly within the curtilage of the dwelling and is in private ownership. Responsibility for its maintenance rests with the owner of the property for the lifetime of the development. No adoption by a third party is sought or required, and no management company is involved.

9.2 Permeable paving requires only modest attention to retain its performance. The following regime is recommended.

Table 5: Maintenance schedule

Action	Frequency	Purpose
Visual inspection for ponding, rutting or surface damage	Twice yearly, and after heavy rainfall	Early identification of blockage or settlement.
Removal of leaf litter, moss and detritus by brushing	Twice yearly, typically autumn and spring	Prevents organic material blinding the joints.
Removal of weeds, by hand or by an approved non-residual treatment	As required	Prevents root damage and loss of permeability.
Vacuum sweeping of the surface	Every 5 to 10 years, or sooner if infiltration reduces	Restores joint permeability where silt has accumulated.
Replacement of jointing material	As required following vacuum sweeping	Maintains structural interlock and permeability.
Remedial works to settlement or localised failure	As required	Maintains the integrity of the pavement construction.

9.3 The owner will be advised in writing on completion that the surface must not be sealed, overlaid with an impermeable material, or topped with sand or fine material, and that any future alteration to the surface must maintain its permeable function.

10 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

10.1 The proposals comprise the replacement of an existing driveway surface within the curtilage of a single dwelling. They are modest in scope, and the following points are material to their assessment:

- there is no increase in the area of hardstanding, no increase in built footprint, and no alteration to site levels;
- the existing drainage regime serving the dwelling and its curtilage is retained wholly unaltered;
- no new or altered connection to the public sewer or to the highway drainage network is proposed or required;

- the replacement surface is of porous construction, so that surface water is managed by infiltration at source, which is the highest practicable position on the national runoff destination hierarchy;
- the effectively impermeable area of the curtilage is reduced, and the rate and volume of run-off leaving the site is correspondingly reduced;
- the permeable pavement provides a treatment stage appropriate to the low pollution hazard of the use;
- the site lies within Flood Zone 1 and the proposals do not increase flood risk on the site or elsewhere;
- maintenance responsibility rests clearly with the owner, and a proportionate maintenance regime is set out at Section 9.

10.2 The proposals accord with the National Planning Policy Framework, with the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems, with Policies DM16, DM20 and DM21 of the Worthing Local Plan 2020 to 2036, and with the condition attached to Class F of Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015.

10.3 The works represent a betterment over the existing situation in both surface water quantity and quality terms. No further drainage information is considered necessary for the determination of this application, and no drainage condition is considered necessary or reasonable in the circumstances. It is respectfully requested that the Council confirms the matter as satisfactorily addressed.

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A APPENDIX A — DRAWING SCHEDULE

The following drawings are to be read in conjunction with this statement.

Drawing number	Title	Revision
ARC/244/26/01	Existing Floor Plans	A
ARC/244/26/02	Existing Elevations	A
ARC/244/26/05	Proposed Floor Plans	A
ARC/244/26/06	Proposed Elevations	A
[insert]	Site Location Plan	**[insert]**
[insert]	Block Plan / Site Plan showing driveway extent	**[insert]**

LIMITATIONS

This statement has been prepared by Archevolve (Southern) Limited for the sole use of the named client and for the purpose of the planning application to which it relates. It should not be relied upon by any third party or used for any other purpose without the written consent of Archevolve (Southern) Limited. The statement is based on the information available at the date of issue and on a visual inspection of the site. No intrusive investigation, infiltration testing or drainage survey has been undertaken. Where matters are identified as requiring confirmation, they should be confirmed before the statement is relied upon.