

# **FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT**

**RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT  
CHURCH ROAD, OLD LEAKE**

**Mrs T Faratro  
January 2024**



## DOCUMENT ISSUE RECORD

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Flood Risk Assessment is compliant with the requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, and the associated online Planning Practice Guidance. It has been produced on behalf of Mrs T Faratro. This report demonstrates that the proposed development is not at significant flood risk, and will not increase flood risk to others, subject to the recommended flood mitigation strategies being implemented.

### Policy

Development Type	Flood Zone	Vulnerability
DWELLING HOUSES	3	MORE VULNERABLE

### Climate Change Allowance

#### Peak River Flow

WITHAM MANAGEMENT CATCHMENT	
Allowance Category	Percentage Increase
CENTRAL	21

#### Sea Level Rise

Area of England	Allowance	2000-2035 (mm/year)	2036-2065 (mm/year)	2066-2095 (mm)/year	2096-2125 (mm/year)
Anglian	Higher Central	5.8	8.7	11.6	13.0
	Upper End	7.0	11.3	15.8	18.1

### Flood Risk and Mitigation

Flood Risk Source	Level of Risk Without Mitigation	Proposed Mitigation
Tidal (Residual)	Medium	Ground floor level 3.20m AOD. Sleeping on 1 <sup>st</sup> floor. Flood proof doors to 3.80m AOD. Flood resilience to 3.80m AOD.
Fluvial Groundwater Sewers	Low	
Pluvial Reservoir Canal/Artificial	None	

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

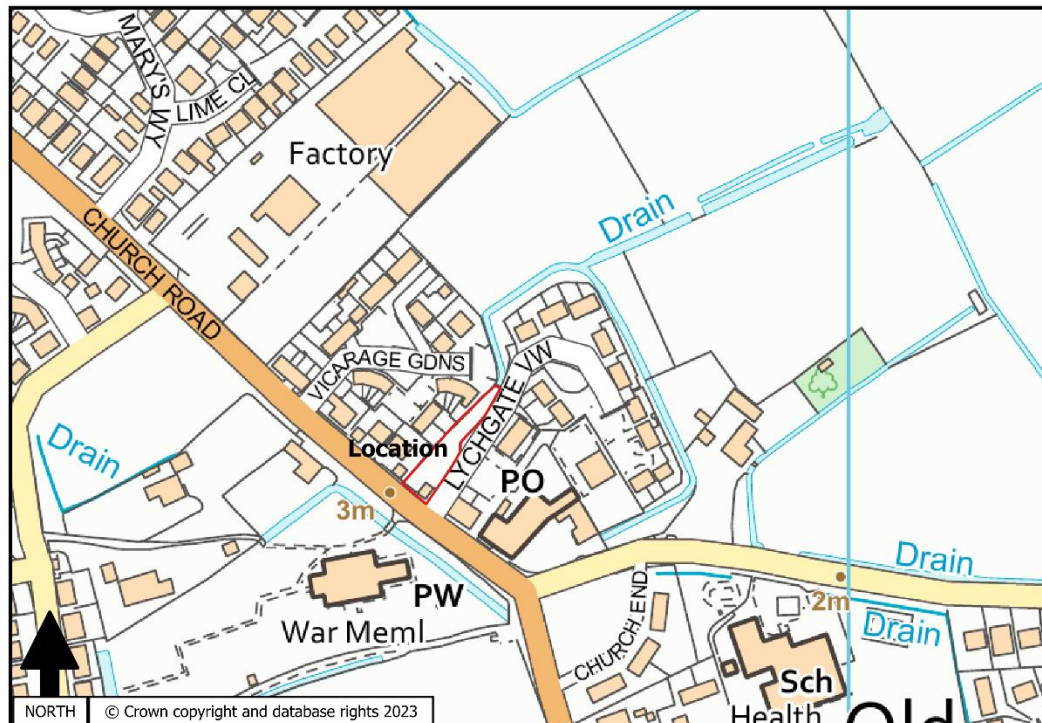
- 1.1 This Flood Risk Assessment, (FRA), is compliant with the requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF), and the associated online Planning Practice Guidance.
- 1.2 The FRA has been produced on behalf of Mrs T Faratro in respect of a planning application for a residential development at Church Road, Old Leake.

### Data Used

- 1.3 This FRA is based on the following information:
- LiDAR 2m DTM
  - Proposed Plans
  - British Geological Survey Drift & Geology Maps
  - Environment Agency Consultation
  - Environment Agency Data
  - British Geological Survey Hydrogeology Data

### Existing Site

- 1.4 The site is located at grid reference TF4079250343 as shown in **Figure 1.1** below.

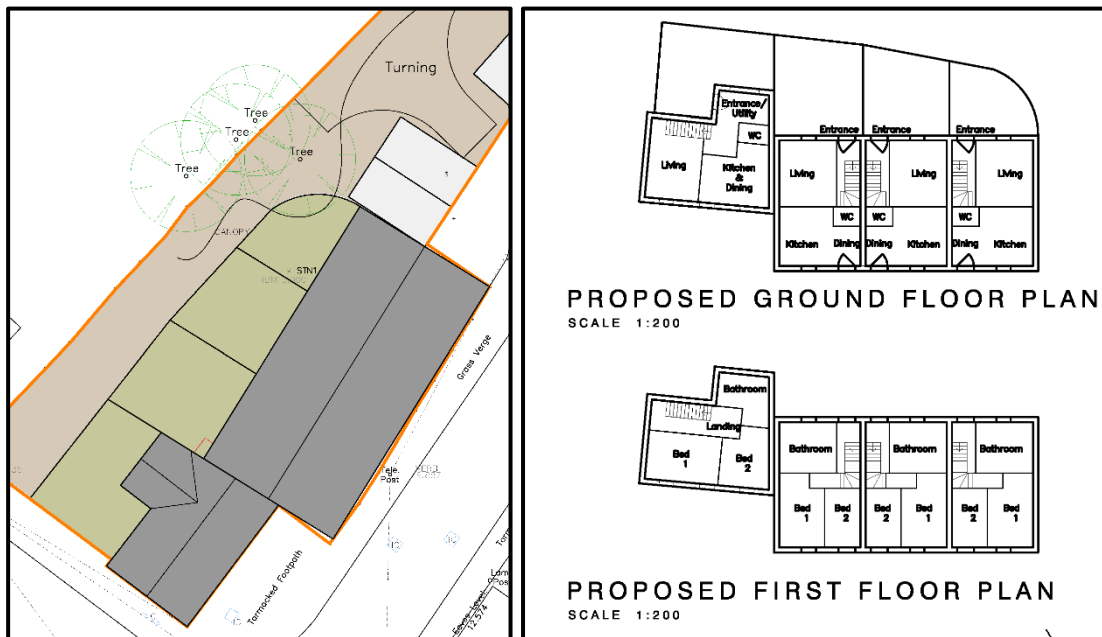


**Figure 1.1 Site Location**

- 1.5 LiDAR 2m DTM shows that the existing land level is approximately 3.00m AOD.
- 1.6 The online British Geological Survey maps indicates that the site is located on superficial deposits of clay and silt over a bedrock of mudstone.

### Proposed Development

- 1.7 The proposed development consists of a residential development as shown on the extract of the proposed plan below in **Figure 1.2**



**Figure 1.2 Proposed Plan**



## 2.0 FLOOD RISK PLANNING POLICY

### National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.1 The NPPF sets out the Government's national policies on different aspects of land use planning in England in relation to flood risk. A supporting web-based Planning Practice Guidance is also available.
- 2.2 The guidance uses four Flood Zones to characterise flood risk which refer to the probability of river and sea flooding, ignoring the presence of defences.

### Sequential Test

- 2.3 The NPPF requires the application of a Sequential Test to ensure that new development is in areas with the lowest probability of flooding and the Flood Zones provide the basis for applying the Test.

### Flood Zone Definition

<b>Flood Zone 1</b>	Low probability (1 in 1000 annual probability of river or sea flooding (<0.1%)).
<b>Flood Zone 2</b>	Medium probability (between 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 annual probability of river flooding (1.0%-.0.1%) or between 1 in 200 and 1 in 1000 annual probability of sea flooding (0.5%-.0.1%) in any given year).
<b>Flood Zone 3a</b>	High probability (1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding (>1.0%) or 1 in 200 or greater annual probability of sea flooding (>0.5%) in any given year).
<b>Flood Zone 3b</b>	This zone comprises land where water must flow or be stored in times of flood. Land which would flood with an annual probability of 1 in 30 (3.3%), or is designed to flood in an extreme flood (0.1%) should provide a starting point for discussions to identify functional floodplain.

- 2.4 The Flood Zones do not consider the projected effects of climate change and may not represent potential flooding from smaller watercourses.
- 2.5 The aim is to steer new development to Flood Zone 1 and where there are no reasonably available sites in Flood Zone 1, local planning authorities in their decision making should consider the flood risk vulnerability of land uses and consider reasonably available sites in Flood Zone 2, applying the Exception Test if required.
- 2.6 Only where there are no reasonably available sites in Flood Zones 1 or 2 should the suitability of sites in Flood Zone 3 be considered, considering the flood risk vulnerability of land uses and applying the Exception Test if required.
- 2.7 The guidance also sets out the vulnerability to flooding of different land uses and this land use is highlighted below.

## Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification

### Essential Infrastructure

- Essential transport infrastructure (including mass evacuation routes) which has to cross the area at risk.
- Essential utility infrastructure which has to be located in a flood risk area for operational reasons, including infrastructure for electricity supply including generation, storage and distribution systems; including electricity generating power stations, grid and primary substations storage; and water treatment works that need to remain operational in times of flood.
- Wind turbines.
- Solar farms

### Highly Vulnerable

- Police and ambulance stations; fire stations and command centres; telecommunications installations required to be operational during flooding.
- Emergency dispersal points.
- Basement dwellings.
- Caravans, mobile homes and park homes intended for permanent residential use.
- Installations requiring hazardous substances consent. (Where there is a demonstrable need to locate such installations for bulk storage of materials with port or other similar facilities, or such installations with energy infrastructure or carbon capture and storage installations, that require coastal or water-side locations, or need to be located in other high flood risk areas, in these instances the facilities should be classified as 'Essential Infrastructure'.)

### More Vulnerable

- Hospitals
- Residential institutions such as residential care homes, children's homes, social services homes, prisons and hostels.
- **Buildings used for dwelling houses**, student halls of residence, drinking establishments, nightclubs and hotels.
- Non-residential uses for health services, nurseries and educational establishments.
- Landfill and sites used for waste management facilities for hazardous waste.
- Sites used for holiday or short-let caravans and camping, subject to a specific warning and evacuation plan.

### Less Vulnerable

- Police, ambulance and fire stations which are not required to be operational during flooding.
- Buildings used for shops; financial, professional and other services; restaurants, cafes and hot food takeaways; offices; general industry, storage and distribution; non-residential institutions not included in the 'more vulnerable' class; and assembly and leisure.
- Land and buildings used for agriculture and forestry.
- Waste treatment (except landfill and hazardous waste facilities).
- Minerals working and processing (except for sand and gravel working).
- Water treatment works which do not need to remain operational during times of flood.
- Sewage treatment works, if adequate measures to control pollution and manage sewage during flooding events are in place.
- Car parks.

### Water Compatible

- Flood control infrastructure.
- Water transmission infrastructure and pumping stations.
- Sewage transmission infrastructure and pumping stations.
- Sand and gravel working.
- Docks, marinas and wharves.
- Navigation facilities.
- Ministry of Defence installations.
- Ship building, repairing and dismantling, dockside fish processing and refrigeration and compatible activities requiring a waterside location. Water-based recreation (excluding sleeping accommodation).
- Lifeguard and coastguard stations.
- Amenity open space, nature conservation and biodiversity, outdoor sports and recreation and essential facilities such as changing rooms.
- Essential ancillary sleeping or residential accommodation for staff required by uses in this category, subject to a specific warning and evacuation plan

### Appropriate Development

- 2.8 Based on the vulnerability of a development the guidance states what Flood Zone(s) the development is appropriate within. The flood risk compatibility is summarised below.

<b>Flood Zone 1</b>	Appropriate Development – All.
<b>Flood Zone 2</b>	Exception Test - Highly vulnerable. Appropriate Development - Essential Infrastructure; More vulnerable; Less vulnerable and Water Compatible.
<b>Flood Zone 3a</b>	Should not be permitted – Highly vulnerable. Exception Test – Essential Infrastructure, More vulnerable. Appropriate Development – Less vulnerable; Water compatible.
<b>Flood Zone 3b</b>	Should not be permitted – Highly vulnerable; More vulnerable; Less vulnerable. Exception Test – Essential Infrastructure. Appropriate Development – Water compatible.

- 2.9 The Planning Practice Guidance also states that all sources of flooding should be considered when preparing a FRA.

### Exception Test

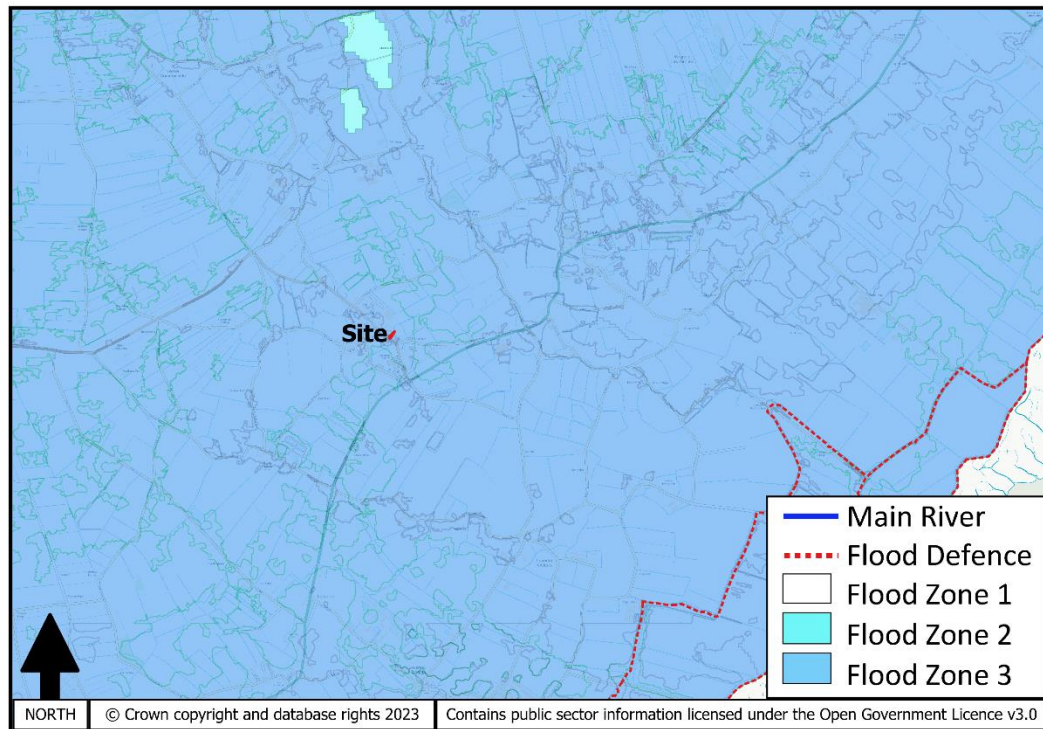
- 2.10 The Exception Test is a method to demonstrate and help ensure that flood risk to people and property will be managed satisfactorily, while allowing necessary development to go ahead in situations where suitable sites at lower risk of flooding are not available.
- 2.11 The first part of the Exception Test is to show that the proposed development will provide wider sustainability benefits to the community that outweigh flood risk. The second part is the requirement for a FRA to demonstrate that it will be safe for its lifetime, without increasing flood risk elsewhere and where possible reduce flood risk overall.

## Development Proposals

- 2.12 The proposed development consists of dwelling houses.

### Flood Zones

- 2.13 The Flood Zones are shown on **Figure 2.1** below which shows the site to be in Flood Zone 3.



**Figure 2.1 Flood Zones**

### Development Vulnerability

- 2.14 Dwelling houses are more vulnerable.
- 2.15 A FRA is required to ensure the development will remain safe over its lifetime from all sources of flooding and not increase flood risk elsewhere.

## 3.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 3.1 The NPPF sets out how the planning system should help minimise vulnerability and provide resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- 3.2 As the Government's expert on flood risk on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016 the Environment Agency, (EA), published revised climate change allowances to support the NPPF. The sea level rise allowances were revised on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019, the peak river flows revised on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and the peak rainfall allowances were revised on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022.
- 3.3 The climate change allowances are based on projections and different scenarios of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions to the atmosphere and provide predictions of anticipated change for:
- peak river flow and peak rainfall intensity by river Management Catchment;
  - sea level rise;
  - offshore wind speed and extreme wave height.

### Peak River Flow Allowances

- 3.4 The peak river flow allowances show the anticipated changes to peak flow by Management Catchment with three allowances; central; higher central and upper end. This proposed development is in the Witham Management Catchment.
- 3.5 The appropriate allowance depends on the Flood Zone and vulnerability classification of the development and for this proposal it is appropriate to use the Central allowance.
- 3.6 The allowances change over three periods of time over the next century. The appropriate period should be chosen based on the expected lifetime of the development and for residential that is 100 years.
- 3.7 The following climate change allowances in peak river flows therefore need to be applied:

WITHAM	
Allowance Category	Percentage Increase
Central	21

**Table 3.1 Climate Change Allowances for Peak River Flow**

### Peak Rainfall Intensity Allowance

- 3.8 Increased rainfall affects river levels and land and urban drainage and should be applied to surface water drainage systems. The climate change allowances in peak rainfall intensity therefore need to be applied to subsequent studies.

### Sea Level Allowances

- 3.9 There is a range of allowances for each region and epoch or time frame for sea level rise as follows:

Area of England	Allowance	2000-2035 (mm/year)	2036-2065 (mm/year)	2066-2095 (mm)/year	2096-2125 (mm/year)
Anglian	Higher Central	5.8	8.7	11.6	13.0
	Upper End	7.0	11.3	15.8	18.1

**Table 3.2 Climate Change Allowances for Sea Level Rise**

## 4.0 FLOOD RISK SOURCES

- 4.1 The following flood risk sources have been identified and where mitigation is required to reduce the flood risk this is discussed in **Section 5**.

### Fluvial

#### Main River

- 4.2 The nearest EA Main River to the site is the Stone Bridge Drain approximately 6.60km to the west of the site.
- 4.3 Information provided by the EA confirms that the site is not at risk of flooding from Main Rivers.

#### Ordinary Watercourses

- 4.4 The site lies within the district of the Witham 4th Internal Drainage Board, (IDB), and the Boards maintained watercourse is located approximately 40m to the north of the site.
- 4.5 Flood risk from this watercourse is considered low.
- 4.6 The risk of flooding from fluvial sources is low.

### Tidal

- 4.7 The site is approximately 5.20km from the Wash Estuary to the east.
- 4.8 Information provided by the EA confirms that the existing tidal defences protecting this site consist of earth embankments. They are in fair condition and reduce the risk of flooding (at the defence) to a 0.67% (1 in 150) chance of occurring in any year. The EA inspect these defences routinely to ensure potential defects are identified.

### Residual Risk

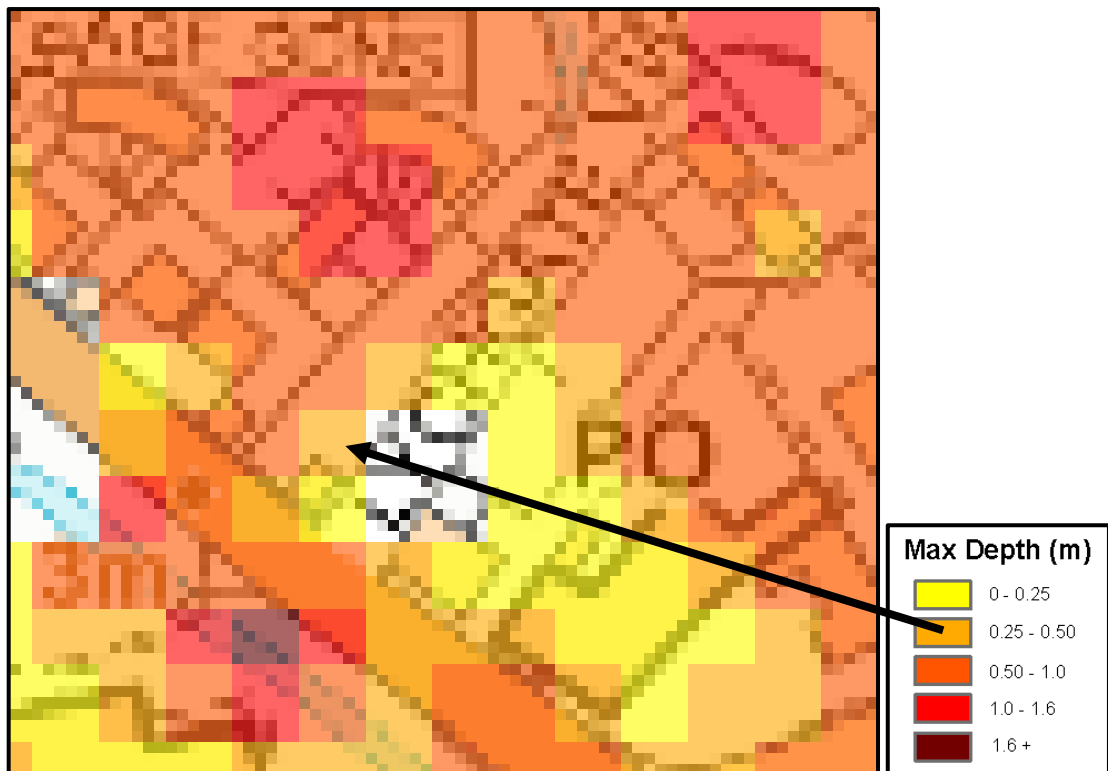
- 4.9 The site is protected from flooding by defences, including a raised defence. However, if that defence was to be breached or overtopped then flooding could occur.

### Breaching

- 4.10 The EA have provided mapping which show the breach flood depths on and around the site.

### Climate Change

- 4.11 **Figure 4.1** below shows the breach depths for the 0.5% (1:200) + climate change event.



**Figure 4.1 Breach Depths for 0.5% (1:200) + Climate Change Event**

- 4.12 The flood depth where the new dwellings are to be sited is 0.25m – 0.50m on an existing land level of approximately 3.00m AOD.
- 4.13 The maximum 0.5% (1:200) + Climate Change Event flood level is therefore **3.50m AOD**.

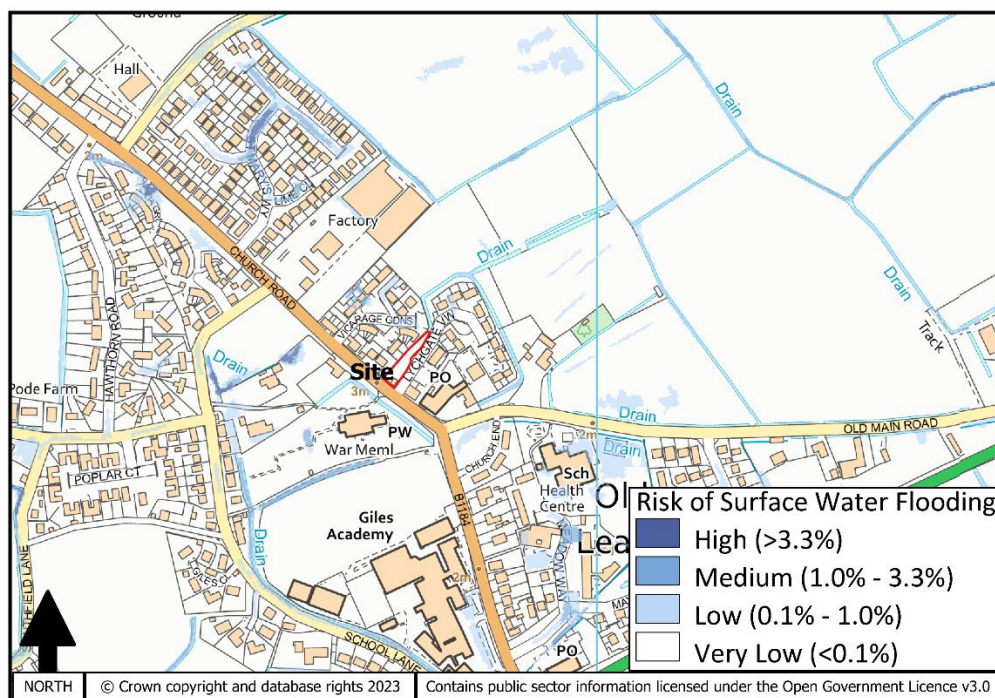


### Overtopping

- 4.14 The information provided by the EA confirms that the site is not at risk due to overtopping in the present day.
- 4.15 The information provided by the EA confirms that the site is at risk due to overtopping including the impact of climate change.
- 4.16 Whilst overtopping is shown due to the impact of climate change it has been assumed that as the EA and other organisations have a policy to take account of climate change then overtopping in the future has not been considered further.
- 4.17 The residual risk of flooding from tidal sources is medium.

### Pluvial

- 4.18 The EA have produced maps showing flooding when rainwater lies or flows over the ground. The surface water flooding extents are shown below in **Figure 4.2**. Unlike the fluvial mapping, which is based on a detailed hydraulic model, this mapping is based purely on applying rainfall to a digital terrain model. As such this mapping serves to represent a worst-case scenario which may well overstate the actual probability of flooding in this area.
- 4.19 There is a caveat, as to the use of these maps and that they are not to be used to identify that an individual property will flood. Because of the way they have been produced and the fact that they are indicative these maps are not appropriate to act as the sole evidence for any specific planning or regulatory decision or assessment of risk in relation to flooding at any scale without further supporting studies or evidence.



**Figure 4.2 Surface Water Flooding Extents**

- 4.20 The site is not at risk of flooding from pluvial sources.

### **Groundwater**

- 4.21 The site is located on rocks with essentially no groundwater and there are no known instances of groundwater flooding in the area.
- 4.22 The risk of flooding from groundwater is low.

### **Sewers**

- 4.23 Public maintained sewers run adjacent to the site but are unlikely to pose a significant flood risk as they are well maintained.
- 4.24 The risk of flooding from existing sewers is low.

### **Reservoirs**

- 4.25 The EA has prepared reservoir failure flood risk mapping to show the largest area that might be flooded if a reservoir were to fail and release the water it holds.
- 4.26 The site is not at risk of flooding from reservoirs.

### **Canals and Artificial Water Bodies**

- 4.27 The site is not at risk of flooding from canals.

## 5.0 MITIGATION

- 5.1 Section 4.0 has identified the sources of flooding which could potentially pose a risk to the site and the proposed development. This section of the FRA sets out the mitigation measures which are to be incorporated within the proposed development to address and reduce the risk of flooding to within acceptable levels.

### Site Layout

- 5.2 The proposed development is at a medium **residual** risk of flooding from tidal sources.
- 5.3 The existing land level is approximately 3.00m AOD.
- 5.4 The maximum 0.5% (1:200) + Climate Change Event flood level is **3.50m AOD**.
- 5.5 It is not possible to raise the floor levels by 0.50m due to the proximity of existing buildings and dwellings and therefore the floor level will be raised 0.20m above ground level to **3.20m AOD**
- 5.6 Passive flood proofing measures in the form of the ground floor external doors being water resistant to a depth of 0.60m will be incorporated. These will exclude water to a level of approximately **3.80m AOD**.
- 5.7 All sleeping accommodation will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor which will act as a safe refuge.
- 5.8 Additional flood resilience measures will be included, where required, as follows;
- Water resisting airbricks.
  - Backwater valves and non-return valves.
  - Electrical installation to be above **3.80m AOD**.
- 5.9 It is recommended that the future occupants sign up to the EA flood warning service and a flood evacuation plan be the subject of a condition which includes as a minimum;
- Potential sources of flooding and severity;
  - Flood warning trigger level;
  - Actions to be taken by staff on receipt of warning;
  - Identification of escape routes and potential flood depths, (see below);
  - Deploying flood protection and safe refuge;
  - Reoccupation of the Site;
  - Training and Exercising;
  - Emergency contact information.

## 6.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 This FRA is compliant with the requirements set out in the NPPF and the associated online Planning Practice Guidance.
- 6.2 The FRA has been produced on behalf of Mrs T Faratro.
- 6.3 This report demonstrates that the proposed development is not at significant flood risk, and will not increase flood risk to others, subject to the recommended flood mitigation strategies being implemented.
- 6.4 The identified risks and mitigation measures are summarised below;

Flood Risk Source	Level of Risk Without Mitigation	Proposed Mitigation
Tidal (Residual)	Medium	Ground floor level 3.20m AOD. Sleeping on 1 <sup>st</sup> floor. Flood proof doors to 3.80m AOD. Flood resilience to 3.80m AOD.
Fluvial Groundwater Sewers	Low	
Pluvial Reservoir Canal/Artificial	None	

**Table 6.1 Summary of Risk and Mitigation**



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