AFP ANDREW FIREBRACE PARTNERSHIP
STRUCTURAL AND CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS
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Mr Paul Dadley
Development Manager
Wheatley plc
Wheatley House
Dunhams Lane
Letchworth Garden City
Hertfordshire SG6 1BE

By email:
pauldadley@wheatley.co.uk

Dear Paul

Garden Screen Walling, Harvester Way, Crowland PE6 0DP

As requested, we have reviewed the construction of the garden screen walls to this development.

We understand the houses are to have piled foundations.

We have reviewed the site investigation report prepared by BRD Environmental Ltd. The report states that 'based on the presence of deep very low strength soils and shallow water table, collapse of even relatively shallow excavations should be anticipated'. When the report was undertaken in July 2014 standing groundwater was encountered at 660mm below ground level. We understand that after the recent rainfall the water table has risen considerably above this level which further exacerbates the problem with the low strength soils and stability of foundation excavations for the walls.

We believe that the safe excavation of open foundation trenches for the proposed brickwork screen walls will not be possible. It is also our opinion that if the foundation excavations are fully trench sheeted that there will be a need for workmen to enter the trenches which raises serious concerns regarding the safety of this operation. We therefore believe that this too is not a viable form of construction.

It is our recommendation that the brickwork walls are replaced with substantial timber screen fences. These fences can be constructed using isolated augured fence post holes and more importantly without the need for workmen to enter any excavation.

We trust this report is adequate for your needs.

Yours sincerely

Peter Stuart

PETER STUART BSc (Hons), CEng, MICE
For and on behalf of Andrew Firebrace Partnership Limited