

**FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT
FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT
FROSTLEY GATE, HOLBEACH**

FINAL REPORT

ECL1791/GR MERCHANT

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Flood Risk Assessment has been prepared in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and supporting planning practice guidance (PPG) on Flood Risk and Coastal Change.

In areas at risk of flooding or for sites of 1 hectare or more, developers are required to undertake a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment to accompany an application for planning permission. This Flood Risk Assessment has been produced on behalf of GR Merchant Ltd in respect of a development that consists of one residential dwelling on Frostley Gate, Holbeach.

A planning application for the proposed development is to be submitted by GR Merchant.

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

2.1 Site Location

The site is located on land at Gentyne Farm, Frostley Gate, Holbeach, Spalding, Lincs, PE12 8SR. The National Grid Reference of the site is 53650/32076.

The location of the site is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1 – Location Plan (© OpenStreetMap contributors)

2.2 Existing Site

The site is on the eastern side of Frostley Gate. The site consists of an area of agricultural land. The site is surrounded by agricultural land. The area of development is 0.18ha.

Environment Agency LiDAR shows that the site is flat with ground levels typically between +1.9m OD and +2.1m OD. The carriageway level of Frostley Gate adjacent to the site is +2.2m OD.

The site is in the South Holland Internal Drainage Board (IDB) District. Surface water at the site would naturally drain through soakaway and hence to the IDB drain system. There is a riparian drain on the northern boundary of the site and an IDB Ordinary Watercourse 250m east of the site.

The online British Geological Survey maps indicate that the site is likely to be underlain by West Walton Formation – Mudstone and Siltstone. The bedrock is shown to be overlain with superficial deposits of clay and silt.

2.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development consists of one residential dwelling. Details of the proposed development are provided in Attachment 1.

2.4 Local Development Documents

The South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011 – 2036, adopted in March 2019, is the Local Plan for the district. Policy 4: Approach to Flood Risk states the requirements for flood risk reduction.

The South East Lincolnshire Level 1 and Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was prepared in June 2017.

The Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy has been prepared by Lincolnshire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority. The purpose of the Strategy is to increase the safety of people across Lincolnshire by reducing the number of people at risk of flooding, increasing the resilience of local communities, and reducing the impact of flooding.

2.5 Flood Zones

An extract from the Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning is shown in Figure 2. The site is located within Flood Zone 3, an area with a high probability of flooding.

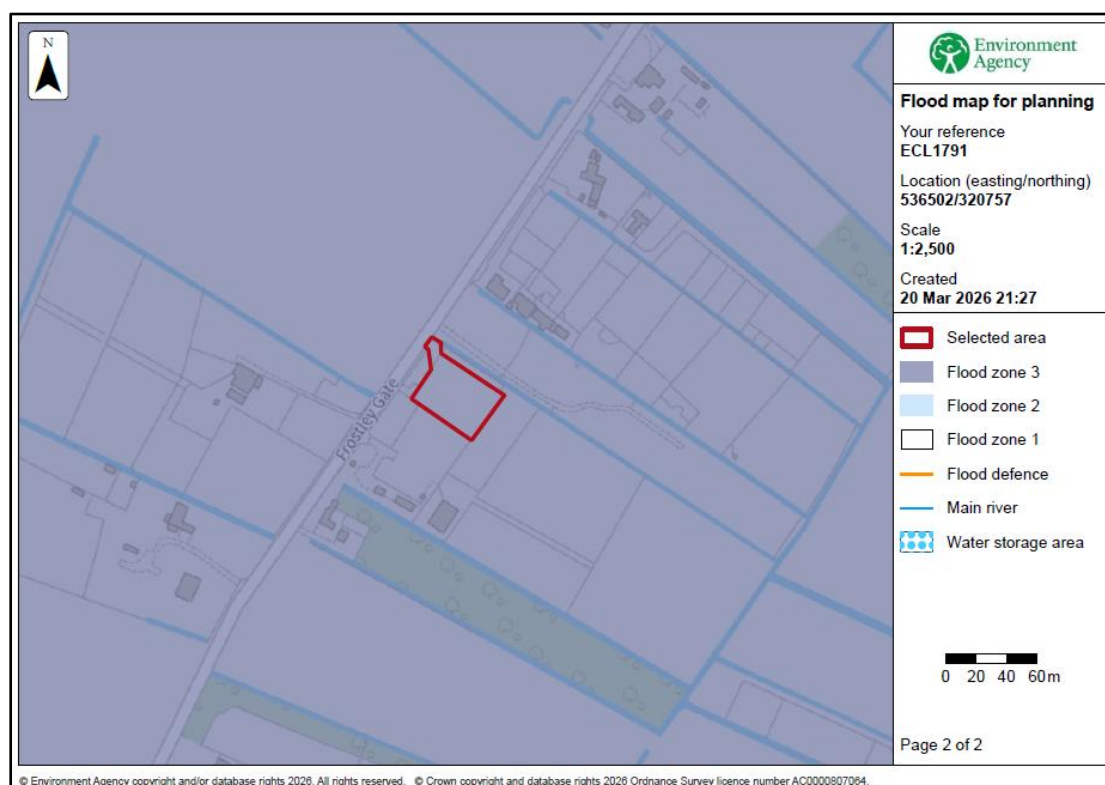


Figure 2 – Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning

The Environment Agency Long Term Flood Risk maps provide an indication of the risk from the primary sources of flooding. The details provided with these maps are summarised in Table 1. The depth of flooding identified is the maximum depth that occurs during a low chance (between 0.1% and 1% chance each year) event.

	Present Day		2050 Epoch	
	Chance of Flooding	Depth (Low chance)	Chance of Flooding	Depth (Low chance)
Rivers and the Sea	The site has a low chance (between 0.1% and 1% chance each year)	No data available	No data available	No data available
Surface Water	The site is outside the area with a low chance (between 0.1% and 1% chance each year)	Not at risk	The site is outside the area with a low chance (between 0.1% and 1% chance each year)	Not at risk
Reservoir	Outside of the area at risk.			

Table 1 – Environment Agency Long Term Flood Risk Maps

Table 2 shows the level of risk at the site within the South East Lincolnshire SFRA.

SFRA Map	Present Day	2116
Residual Flood Hazard Map for the 1% fluvial and 0.5% tidal event	The site is outside the 'Low Hazard' area	The site is in the 'Low Hazard' area
Residual Peak Depth Map for the 1% fluvial and 0.5% tidal	The site is outside the area at risk	The site is at risk with depths between 0.0m and 0.25m.

Table 2 – Flood Risk within SFRA Maps

3.0 FLOOD RISK VULNERABILITY

3.1 The Sequential and Exception Test

The NPPF requires the application of a Sequential Test to ensure that new development is in areas with the lowest probability of flooding.

The Exception Test is a method to demonstrate and help ensure that flood risk to people and property will be managed, while allowing necessary development to go ahead in situations where suitable sites at lower risk of flooding are not available.

3.2 Vulnerability Classification

Table 2 of the PPG Flood Risk and Coastal Change categorises different types of uses and development according to their vulnerability to flood risk. The proposed development is covered by the description of buildings used for dwellings and is classified as 'More Vulnerable'.

Table 3 of the PPG Flood Risk and Coastal Change sets out Flood Risk Vulnerability and flood zone 'compatibility'. The site is in Flood Zone 3 and the development is 'More Vulnerable' therefore it is necessary to complete the Exception Test.

PPG Flood Risk and Coastal Change defines that the lifetime of the development in terms of flood risk and coastal change is 100 years.

3.3 Application of the Sequential and Exception Test

It is for the Local Planning Authority, using the evidence provided and taking advice from the Environment Agency as appropriate, to consider whether an application passes the Sequential Test.

Large parts of the South Holland district between the River Welland and River Nene lie within Flood Zone 3. As such, opportunities to undertake the development at an alternative site with a lower flood risk are limited. In this context it is noted that SE Lincolnshire Local Plan residential allocations are within flood risk areas due to the lack of availability of sites within areas of lower flood risk.

The SFRA states that as it is necessary to use the refined flood risk information (hazard and depth maps) to assist with the application of the sequential test. The refined flood risk information contained within the SFRA demonstrates the site will not be at risk during the 1% annual probability fluvial and 0.5% annual probability tidal event. The site therefore has a low probability of flooding and is considered to pass the Sequential Test.

The Exception Test requires consideration of the wider sustainability benefits of a development and that the development would be safe and residual risks managed.

The Local Plan has a target of a net increase of at least 11,681 dwellings in South Holland over the 25-year local plan period. The Plan considers this new housing is required to ensure the sustainability of the Local Plan area. The proposed development will contribute to this target.

Section 5 of this Flood Risk Assessment describes the flood mitigation measures and the management of the residual risks, demonstrating that this development will be safe and not increase flood risk elsewhere. The development is considered to pass the Exception Test.

4.0 SITE SPECIFIC FLOOD RISK

4.1 Local Flood Assets

The site is 10.7km west of the tidal River Nene. The site is protected by the River Nene tidal defences between Wisbech and Sutton Bridge. The site is 11km east of the tidal River Welland. The River Nene and River Welland are the responsibility of the Environment Agency.

There is a long-term strategy for the maintenance of the Environment Agency defences which is reviewed and updated periodically.

There is an extensive local drainage network managed by South Holland IDB. There is an IDB Ordinary Watercourse 250m east of the site. The site and surrounding land are within the Little Holland catchment and drains to the Little South Holland Drain which discharges to the South Holland Main Drain at the Little Holland Pumping Station. The South Holland Main Drain discharges to the tidal River Nene at the Sutton Bridge Tidal Sluice.

During the operation and maintenance of its pumping stations, associated structures and channel systems, the IDB seeks to maintain a general standard capable of providing flood protection to its district. A routine maintenance programme is in place to ensure that the Boards assets are commensurate with the standard of protection that is sought.

Current maintenance standards of the North Level Internal Drainage Board and the Environment Agency are generally good.

4.2 Sources of Flooding

A summary of the sources of flooding is provided in Table 3.

Source of Flooding	Level of Risk
Drainage Network Flooding	The risk is assessed in Section 4.3.
Surface Water Flooding	Based upon the EA maps the risk is very low.
Fluvial Flooding	The risk is assessed in Section 4.3 and 4.5.
Tidal Flooding	The risk is assessed in Section 4.3 and 4.5.
Reservoir Flooding	Based upon the EA maps the site is not at risk of flooding from reservoirs.
Groundwater Flooding	There is no evidence to suggest the site is at risk of groundwater flooding.

Table 3 – Sources of Flooding

4.3 Probability of Flooding

The probability of flooding associated with blockages in the North Level IDB drainage system is low due to the maintenance standards achieved and managed by the IDB. Failure of Little Holland Pumping Station would lead to an increased level of risk in the catchment.

Through the operation and maintenance of the pumping stations and the channel system the Board seek to maintain a general standard capable to providing flood protection to agricultural land and developed areas of 1 in 20 years and 1 in 100 years, respectively. The risk associated with flood events that exceed the standard of protection provided is lowered due to the South Holland IDB main drains incorporating freeboard. This freeboard provides storage during the exceedance events.

The site benefits from defences on the River Nene and River Welland that provide protection during a 0.5% annual probability (1 in 200 chance each year) tidal event and a 1% annual probability (1 in 100 chance each year) fluvial event.

4.4 Historic Flooding

During the preparation of this assessment, no evidence was discovered of the site being flooded.

4.5 Climate Change

Climate change is likely to impact the site through increased rainfall intensity and duration affecting the local drainage network and increased flood levels in the River Nene.

The River Nene tidal defences and River Welland tidal defences have been designed to include an allowance for climate change.

In summary the existing systems and defences are appropriate for the design life of the development (i.e., 100 years).

4.6 Residual Risk

There is a residual risk of flooding in the vicinity of the site should a breach of the tidal defences occur. The South East Lincolnshire SFRA includes maps demonstrating the residual peak depth in 2116.

The Residual Peak Depth maps show that when the climate change allowances are applied to the combination of a 1% annual probability (1 in 100 chance each year) fluvial event and a 0.5% annual probability (1 in 200 chance each year) tidal event the peak depth at the site would be between 0.0m and 0.25m. As shown in Figure 3 the site is on the edge of the area at risk during a breach and therefore flood depths are likely to be at the lower end of the range.

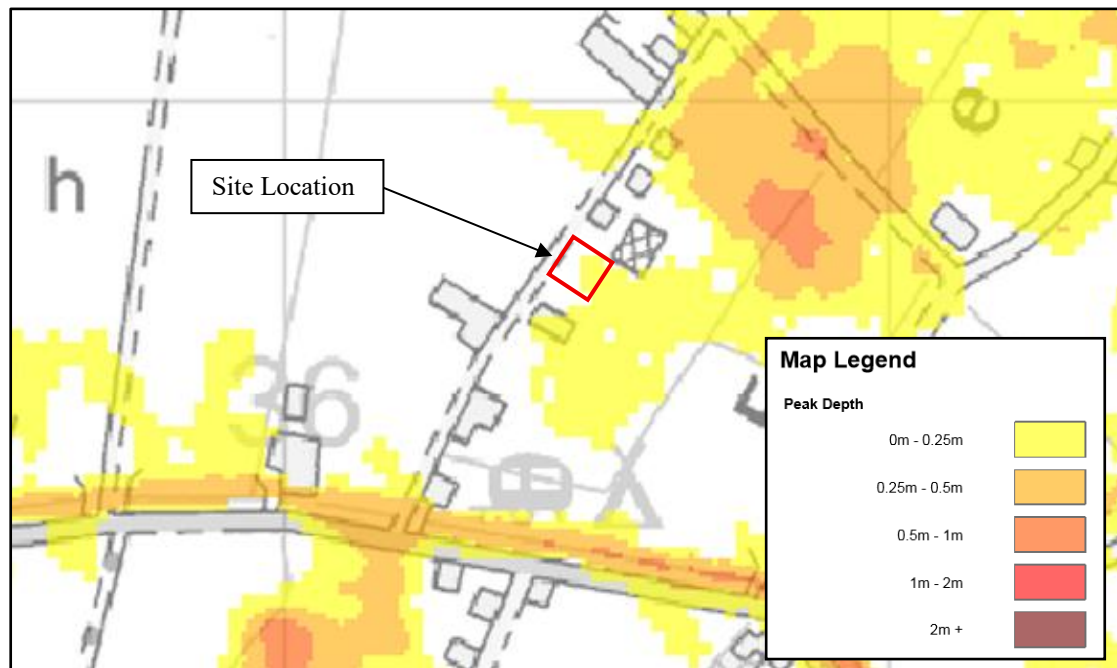


Figure 3 – SFRA 2116 Residual Peak Depth Map

5.0 FLOOD RISK MITIGATION

5.1 Summary of Risks

The probability of this development flooding from localised drainage systems is low. Failure of Little Holland Pumping Station could lead to an increased level of risk within the IDB catchment.

The probability of the site flooding from any Environment Agency system is less than 1% annual probability (1 in 100 chance each year) because of the standards of the existing flood defences. Over time there will be a gradual increase in risk to the site due to climate change. During the design life of the development, it is not anticipated that the site would flood from overtopping of the defences.

The SFRA considers the residual risk associated with a breach in the defences in 2116. During the 0.5% annual probability (1 in 200 chance each year) tidal event the peak depth at the site is between 0.0m and 0.25m.

The proposed development increases the impermeable area and therefore has the potential to increase the rate of surface water runoff from the site.

These risks will be addressed through the mitigation measures set out below.

5.2 Mitigation Measures

Based upon the information available during the preparation of this flood risk assessment, it is recommended that the finished floor level of dwelling is 0.3m above surrounding ground levels and there is 0.3m of flood resilient construction above finished floor level.

The developer should ensure that the occupier of the dwelling is sufficiently aware of the risk of flooding, and the standard of the existing defences. The Environment Agency operates a flood warning system for properties at risk of flooding to enable householders to protect life or take actions to manage the effect of flooding on property. Floodline Warnings Service is a national system run by the Environment Agency for broadcasting flooding warnings. The occupier of the dwelling should register to receive flood warnings.

Should there be a failure of Little Holland Pumping Station and conditions were such to put properties and land at risk of flooding, the Internal Drainage Board would take emergency action to maintain the drainage level of service by using temporary pumping equipment.

It is recommended that surface water run-off is managed so that stormwater from the development will not affect any adjoining properties or increase the flood risk elsewhere.

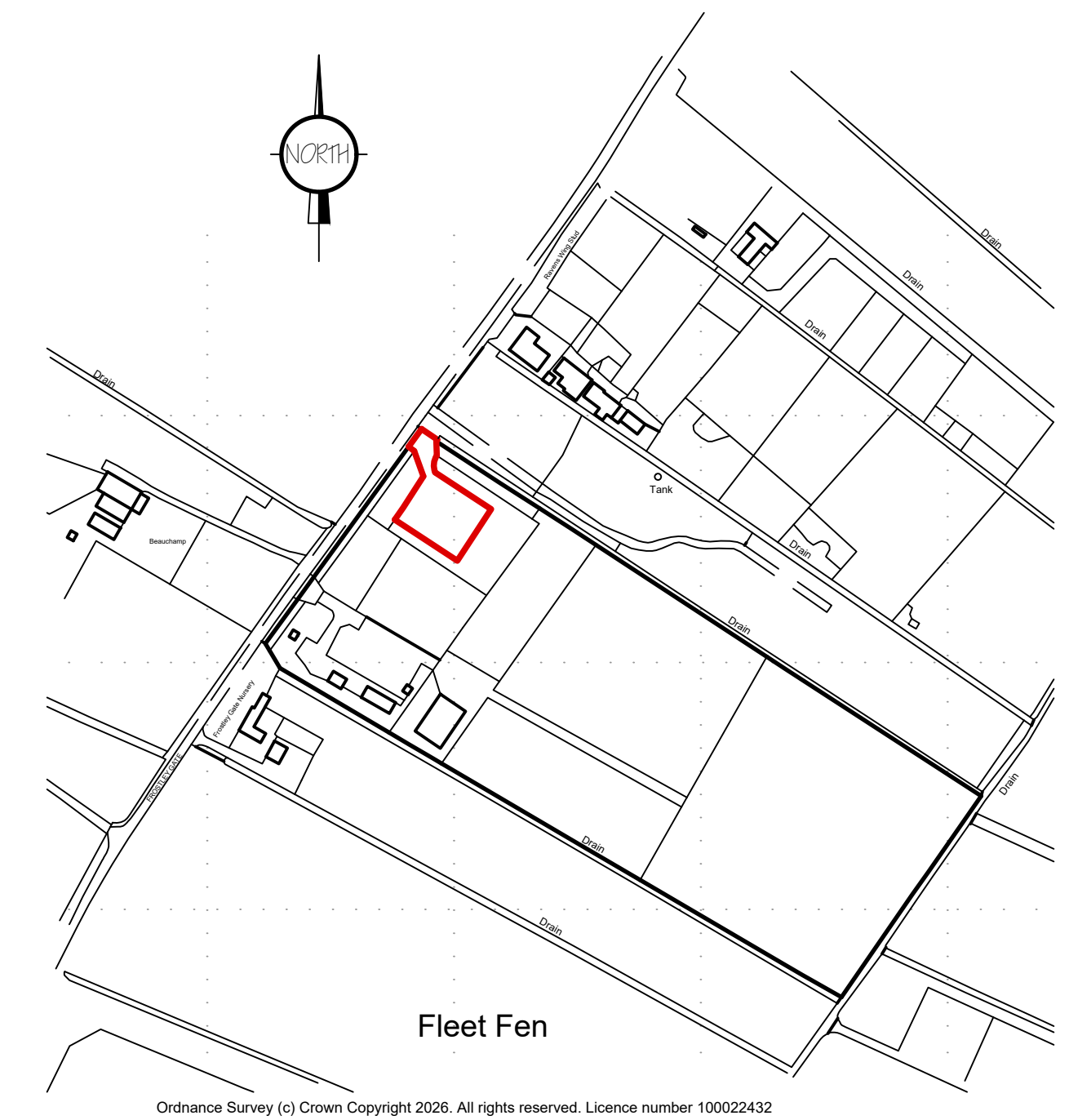
6.0 CONCLUSIONS

As a result of the assessment, the following conclusions have been reached.

- The proposed development consists of one 2 storey residential dwelling at Gentyne Farm, Frostley Gate, Holbeach.
- The site is located within an Internal Drainage Board catchment and through the operation and maintenance of the pumping stations and the channel system the Board seek to maintain a general standard capable to providing flood protection to agricultural land and developed areas of 1 in 20 and 1 in 100 years, respectively.
- The proposed development is in Flood Zone 3. The site benefits from defences that provide protection during the 0.5% annual probability (1 in 200 chance each year) tidal event including an allowance for climate change.
- During a breach of the tidal defences the maximum flood depth at the site is between 0.0m and 0.25m.
- It is recommended that the finished floor level of the dwelling is 0.3m above surrounding ground level and that there is 0.3m of flood resilient construction above finished floor level.
- The development passes the Sequential Test and Exception Test and is therefore suitable for the proposed location.

ATTACHMENT 1

SITE & LOCATION PLANS (DWG 4375-25 01)



PROPOSED SITE PLAN 1:200

ref:	revision	date
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G. R. MERCHANT LTD.

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Project	PROPOSED SELF-BUILD DWELLING GENTYNE FARM, PROSLEY GATE HOLBEACH LINGS, PE12 8SR		
Client	MR & MRS M SAUNDERS		
Drawing	SITE & LOCATION PLANS		
Job Ref.	4375-25	01.	
Date	FEBRUARY 2026.	SLD	
Scales	(AS STATED).		

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