FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT
FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AT
CHOPDIKE DROVE, GOSBERTON CLOUGH, SPALDING

FINAL REPORT

ECL1888/GR MERCHANT LTD

DATE AUGUST 2026

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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 a cow shed at Orchard House, Chopdike Drove, Gosberton Clough, Spalding.

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

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

2.1 Site Location

The site is located at Orchard House, Chopdike Drove, Gosberton Clough, Spalding, PE11 4JS. The National Grid Reference of the site is 51955/32894.

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 Chopdike Drove. The site consists of an area of agricultural land and the access between the site and Chopdike. The site is surrounded by agricultural land. The area of development is 0.16 hectares.

Environment Agency LiDAR shows that the site is flat with typical ground levels between +3.0m OD and +3.2m OD. The carriageway level of Chopdike Drove and the site access is at a level of +3.2m OD.

The site is in the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board's (IDB) district. Surface water at the site drains through the network of local drains and hence to the IDB drain system. There is a riparian watercourse 100m east of the site and an IDB Main Drain 750m east of the site.

The online British Geological Survey maps indicate that the site is likely to be underlain by Oxford Clay Formation mudstone. The bedrock is shown to be overlain with superficial deposits of clay and silt.

2.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development consists of a cow barn. Details of the proposed development are shown 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 Available Flood Risk Information

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

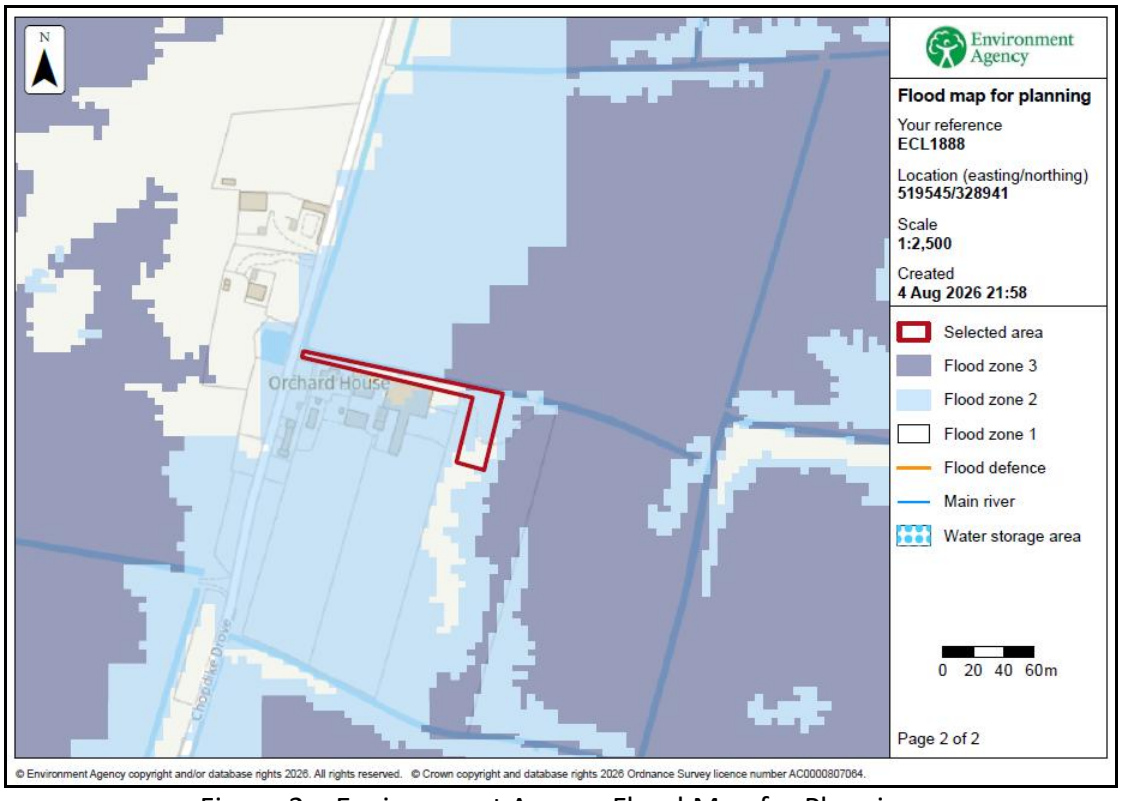


Figure 2 – Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning

The Flood Map for Planning shows that during the event with a 1 in 100 annual likelihood the site is not at risk of surface water flooding. The site is not at risk during this event when climate change is considered.

The Environment Agency Long Term Flood Risk maps provide an indication of the risk from the primary sources of flooding. The map shows that the site is outside of the area at risk of reservoir flooding.

Table 1 shows the level of residual risk at the site as identified 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 outside the 'Low Hazard' area
Residual Peak Depth Map for the 1% fluvial and 0.5% tidal	The site is outside the area at risk during a breach	The site is outside the area at risk during a breach

Table 1 – 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

Annex 3 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 agriculture and is classified as 'Less Vulnerable'.

Table 2 of the PPG Flood Risk and Coastal Change sets out Flood Risk Vulnerability and flood zone 'compatibility'. The site is in Flood Zone 2 and the development is 'Less Vulnerable' therefore it is not 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 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.

The site is protected by the tidal defences on the Wash that were not considered during the preparation of the Environment Agency Flood Maps. The site is not at risk during the 1% annual probability (1 in 100 chance each year) fluvial event and the 0.5% annual probability (1 in 200 chance each year) tidal even including an allowance for climate change.

When the benefit provided by the flood defences is considered the development is considered to pass the Sequential Test.

4.0 SITE SPECIFIC FLOOD RISK

4.1 Local Flood Assets

The site is approximately 3.3km east of the South Forty Foot Drain. The South Forty Foot Drain is an embanked high-level carrier conveying run off from south Lincolnshire to the River Witham. The risk of flooding at the site is reduced by an embankment on the right bank of the South Forty Foot Drain.

The South Forty Foot Drain is a main river and 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 Black Sluice IDB. There is an IDB maintained watercourses 750m east of the site. The site is within the Gosberton catchment and drains in a westerly direction to the Gosberton Pumping Station to discharge to the South Forty Foot Drain.

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.

The maintenance standards of the Black Sluice IDB and the Environment Agency are generally good.

4.2 Sources of Flooding

A summary of the sources of flooding is provided in Table 2.

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 Section 4.5.
Tidal Flooding	The site is 10km from the tidal River Welland and therefore not at risk.
Reservoir Flooding	The residual risk of a breach of defences is assessed in section 4.6.
Groundwater Flooding	There is no evidence to suggest the site is at risk of groundwater flooding.

Table 2 – Sources of Flooding

4.3 Probability of Flooding

The probability of flooding associated with blockages in the Black Sluice IDB drainage system is low due to the maintenance standards achieved and managed by the IDB. Failure of Gosberton Pumping Station could lead to an increased level of risk in the IDB 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 Black Sluice IDB main drains incorporating freeboard. This freeboard provides storage during the exceedance events.

The defences on the South Forty Foot Drain provide protection against the 1% annual probability (1 in 100 chance each year) 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 tide levels.

The defences on the South Forty Foot Drain protect the site during the 1% annual probability (1 in 100 chance each year) event including 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 to land close to the South Forty Foot Drain should a breach occur in the defences. The South East Lincolnshire SFRA includes maps demonstrating the impact of a breach in 2116. The Residual Peak Depth maps within the SFRA indicate the maximum flood depths associated with a breach and overtopping of defences. An extract from the maps which shows that the site is not at risk is shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3 – SFRA 2116 Residual Peak Depth Map during the 1% fluvial and 0.5% tidal Annual Probability Event

5.0 FLOOD RISK MITIGATION

5.1 Summary of Risks

The probability of this development flooding from localised drainage systems is low. Failure of Gosberton Pumping Station could lead to an increase 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.

The SFRA considers the residual risk associated with overtopping or a breach in the defences in 2116. The site is not at risk.

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

5.2 Mitigation Measures

The site has a low 'actual risk' of flooding. Considering the development is an agricultural building there are no specific mitigation measures proposed associated with the design.

The developer should ensure that the user of the building 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 user of the building should register to receive flood warnings.

Should there be a failure of Gosberton 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 site 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 a cow shed at Orchard House, Chopdike Drove, Gosberton Clough, Spalding,

- 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 2. The site benefits from defences on the South Forty Foot Drain that provide protection during the 1% annual probability (1 in 100 chance each year) fluvial event including climate change. During the design life of the development, including an allowance for climate change, it is not anticipated that there would be flooding at the site.

- The site is not at risk during a breach of the defences.

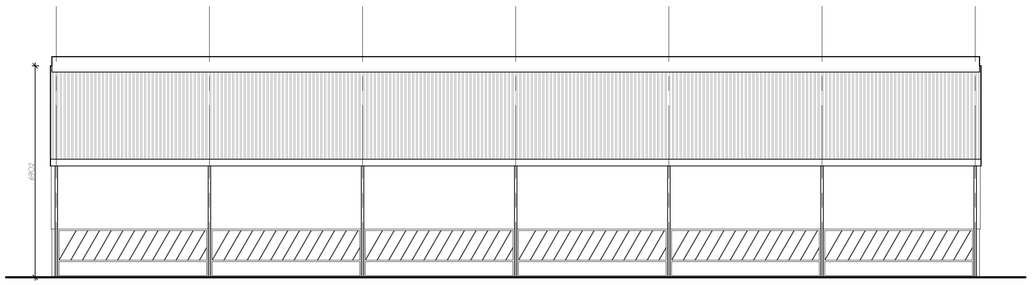
- There are no specific recommendations associated with the agricultural building to reduce the risk of flooding to the development.

- The development passes the Sequential Test and is therefore suitable for the proposed location.

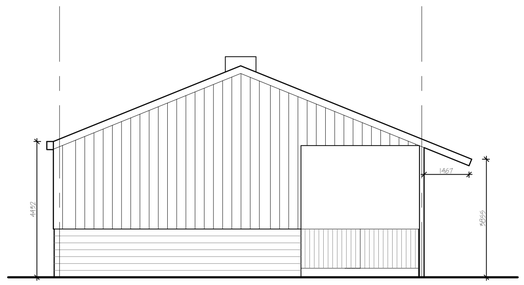
ATTACHMENT 1

PROPOSED FLOOR PLANS AND ELEVATIONS (DWG 4498-26 01)

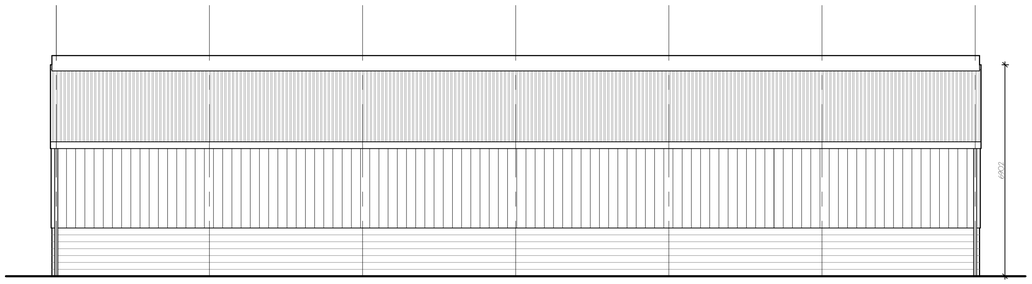
SITE PLAN PROPOSED AND LOCATION PLAN (DWG 4498 26-02B)



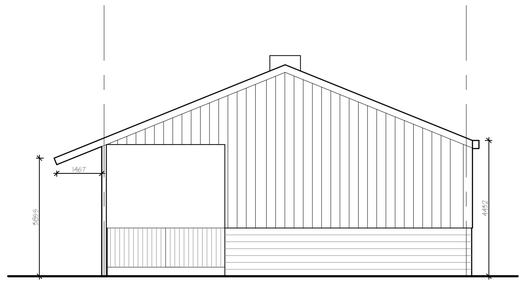
WEST ELEVATION 1:100



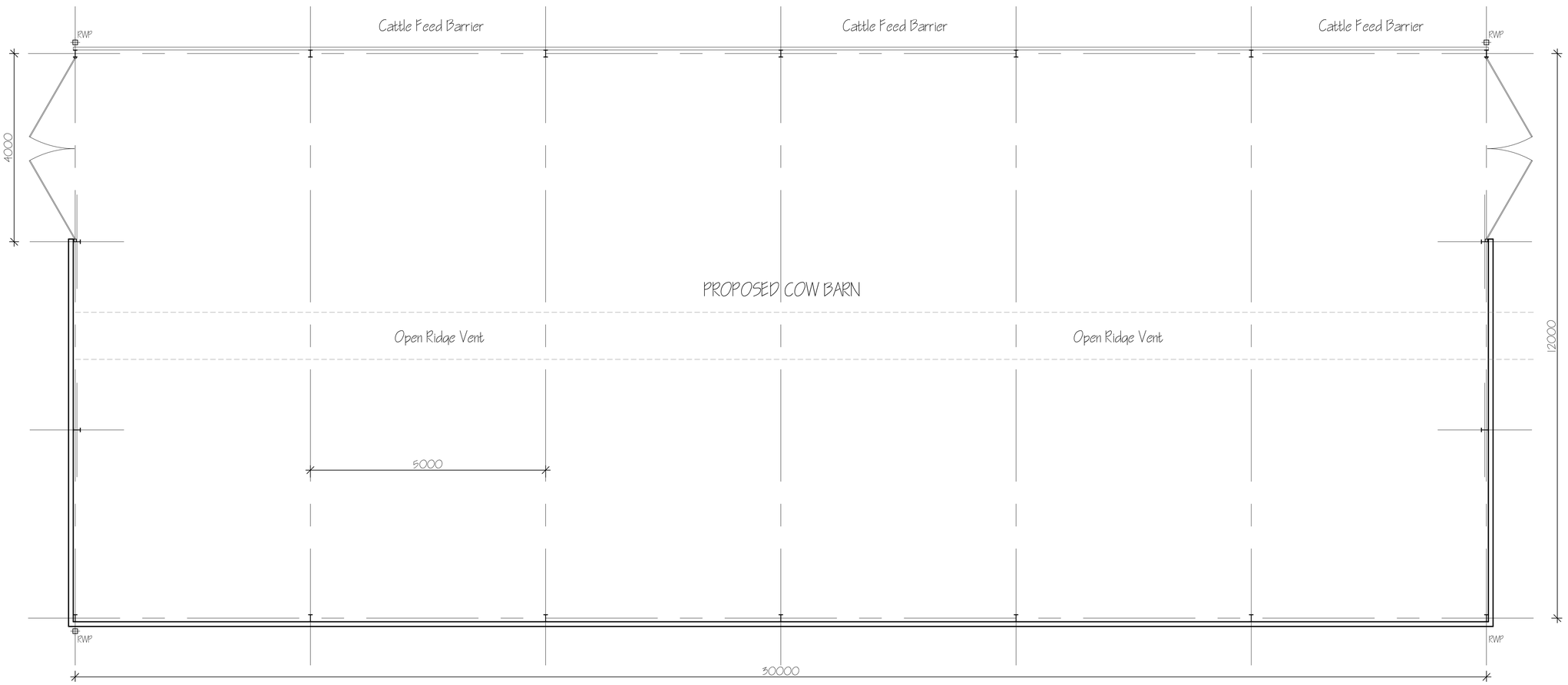
NORTH ELEVATION 1:100



EAST ELEVATION 1:100



SOUTH ELEVATION 1:100



GROUND FLOOR PLAN 1:50

ref:	revision	date

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Project
PROPOSED COW SHED
'ORCHARD HOUSE', CHAPDYKE ROAD
GOSBERTON CLOUGH
SPALDING, LINCS. PE11 4JP

Client
MR A KERFOOT

Drawing
FLOOR PLAN - PROPOSED
ELEVATIONS - PROPOSED

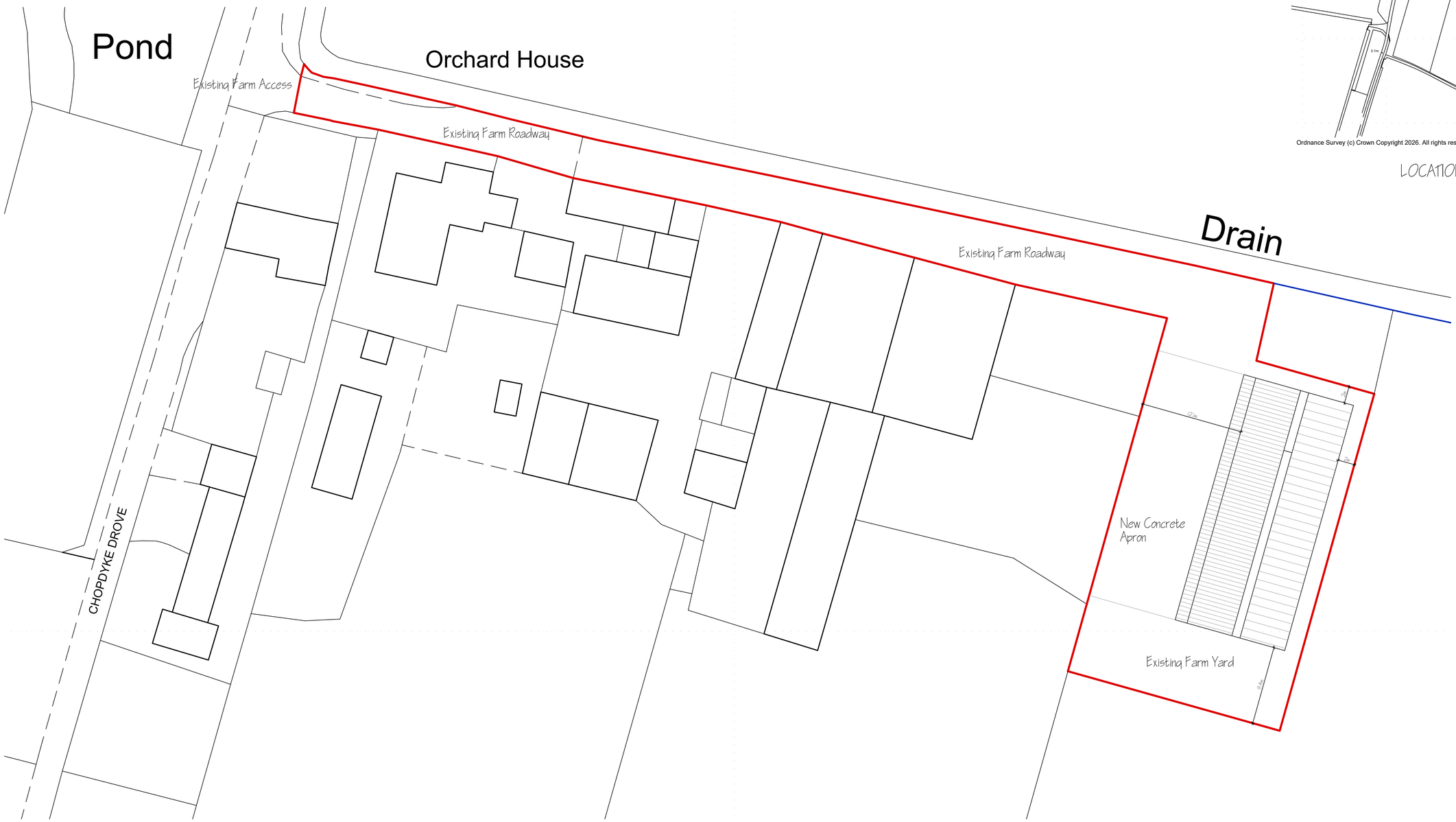
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4498-26	01

Date	Drawn
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SITE PLAN 1:250



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LOCATION PLAN 1:250

ref.	revision	date
B	CLIENT AMENDMENTS	AUG 2026
A	CLIENT AMENDMENTS	JUL 2026

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Project
PROPOSED COW SHED
'ORCHARD HOUSE', CHOPDYKE DROVE
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SPALDING, LINCS. PE11 4JP

Client
MR A KERFOOT

Drawing
SITE PLAN - PROPOSED
LOCATION PLAN

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