

**FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT
FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT
LUTTON MARSH METHODIST CHURCH, LUTTON MARSH**

FINAL REPORT

ECL1545/G R MERCHANT LTD

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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 change of use of a church to form a dwelling at Lutton Marsh Methodist, Lutton Marsh.

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

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

2.1 Site Location

The site is located at Lutton Marsh Methodist Church, Lutton Marsh, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE12 9NP. The National Grid Reference of the site is 54765/32687.

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 northern side of Guy's Head Road. The site is to the north east of the junction between Guy's Head Road and Marsh Road. The site consists of a church and the surrounding land. The site is surrounded by agricultural land. The area of development is 0.10 hectares.

A topographic survey of the site has been undertaken and spot levels are shown in Attachment 1. Ground levels at the site are typically between +3.3m OD and +3.7m OD. The floor level of the church is +3.67m 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 drainage system. There is an IDB Ordinary Watercourse on the western side of Marsh Road.

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

2.3 Development

The development consists of a change of use and extension of the church to form a dwelling. The dwelling will have two storeys. Details of the 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 fluvial design flood to be considered within a Flood Risk Assessment is the 1% annual probability event. As such the depths 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	
	Risk of Flooding	Depth (Low chance)	Risk 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 risk (between 0.1% and 1% chance each year)	Not at risk	The site is outside the area with a low risk (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 1 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 in the 'Danger for Most' area	The site is in the 'Danger for All' area
Residual Peak Depth Map for the 1% fluvial and 0.5% tidal	The site has a peak flood depth between 0.5m and 1.0m	The site has a peak flood depth between 1.0m and 2.0m

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

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.

Paragraph 033 of planning practice guidance (PPG) on Flood Risk and Coastal Change states that 'The Sequential Test does not need to be applied for applications for Change of Use (except for a change of use to a caravan, camping or chalet site, or to a mobile home or park home site)'.

Paragraph 048 of the PPG states that 'A Change of Use may involve an increase in flood risk if the vulnerability classification of the development is changed. In such cases, the applicant will need to show in their flood risk assessment that future users of the development will not be placed in danger from flood hazards throughout its lifetime.' The mitigation measures proposed in Section 5.2 of this flood risk assessment are such that risks to future users are mitigated.

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 South Holland IDB district is protected by the Wash tidal defences along the Lutton Marsh frontage with embankment levels at a minimum of +7.0m OD. The Wash tidal defences are approximately 1.2km from the site. The River Nene tidal defences are approximately 1.6km to the east of the site. Both defences 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 on the western side of Marsh Road. The site and the surrounding land are within the Lutton Leam catchment and drains in an easterly direction to discharge to the tidal River Nene at the Lutton Leam 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 South Holland 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 site is not at risk of fluvial flooding.
Tidal Flooding	The risk is assessed in Section 4.3 and 4.5.
Reservoir Flooding	The risk of a breach is assessed in Section 4.6.
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 South Holland IDB drainage system is low due to the maintenance standards achieved and managed by the IDB. Failure of Lutton Leam Tidal Sluice could 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 is within an area that benefits from defences. The flood embankments to the Wash and the River Nene tidal defences provide protection during a 0.5% annual probability (1 in 200 chance each year) tidal event. The flood risk from the Wash is lowered further by second line defences (Old Sea Bank) and various informal banks constructed during the reclamation of Lutton Marsh.

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 tidal flood level during the 0.5% annual probability (1 in 200 chance each year) event inclusive of climate change to 2115 is estimated to be 7.2m AOD. The minimum defence level of the Wash and River Nene embankments is 7.0m AOD. During such an event wave and wind action is likely to cause overtopping. However, the second line defences with embankment levels of 6.0m AOD would further reduce the probability of flood water reaching the development site.

4.6 Residual Risk

The South East Lincolnshire SFRA includes maps demonstrating the impact of climate change in 2116. The Residual Peak Depth maps within the SFRA indicate the maximum flood depths associated with a breach of the tidal defences. These 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 1.0m and 2.0m. An extract from this map is shown in Figure 3.

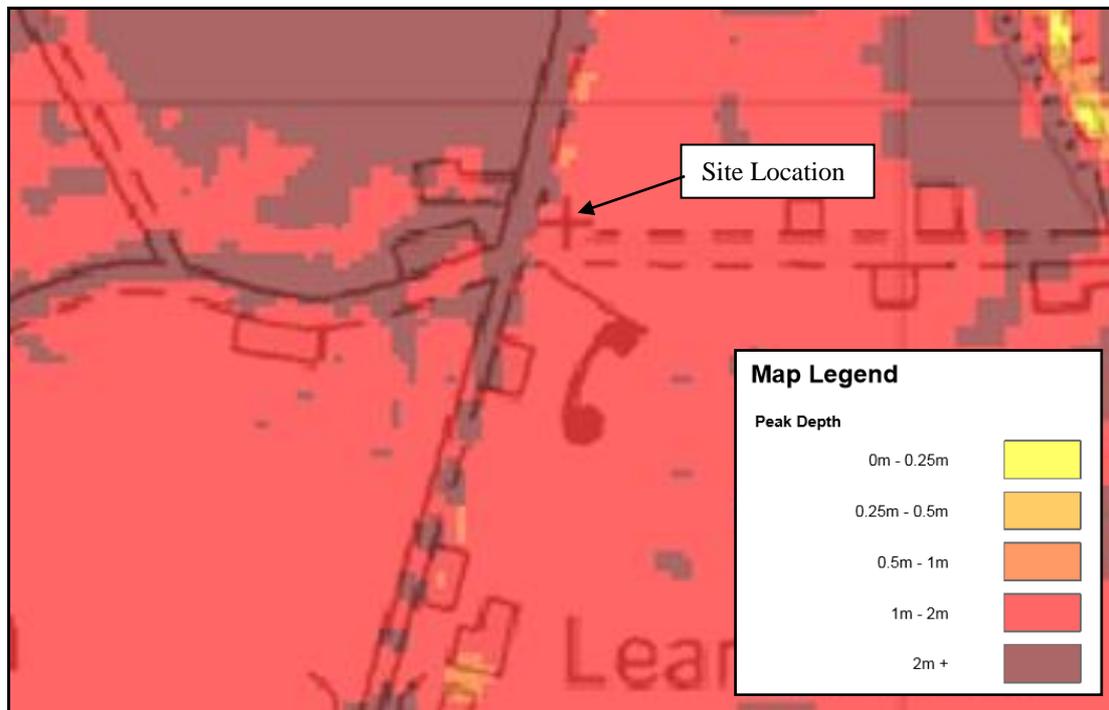


Figure 3 – SFRA 2116 Residual Peak Depth Map

The Environment Agency LIDAR data shows that the agricultural land to the south west of the site is flat and at a level of +2.9m OD. With a maximum flood depth of 2m in this area a maximum flood level of +4.9m OD has been estimated. The depth of flooding at the site where ground levels are typically +3.4m OD is therefore estimated to be up to 1.5m.

5.0 FLOOD RISK MITIGATION

5.1 Summary of Risks

The probability of this development flooding from localised drainage systems is low. Failure of Lutton Leam Tidal Sluice could lead to an increased level of risk at the site.

The probability of the site flooding from any Environment Agency system is less than 0.5% annual probability (1 in 200 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 the risk to the site from overtopping of the defences is low.

The SFRA considers the residual risk associated with a breach in the defences in 2116. The maps show that the peak flood depth at the site is between 1.0m and 2.0m and based upon Environment Agency LiDAR data is estimated to be 1.5m.

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 proposed mitigation measures have considered the South East Lincolnshire Standing Advice Matrix.

Based upon the information available during the preparation of this flood risk assessment, to mitigate against the remote risk of flooding it is proposed that there is no ground floor habitable accommodation. The first floor accommodation will be above the predicted flood depth. It is recommended that there is 1.5m of flood resilient (recovery) construction above finished floor level.

The developer should ensure that the eventual 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 Lutton Leam Tidal Sluice 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 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 development consists of a change of use and extension of the church to form a dwelling at Lutton Marsh Methodist, Lutton Marsh.
- 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 tidal defences on the Wash frontage and River Nene that provide protection during the 0.5% annual probability (1 in 200) tidal event including climate change.
- There is a residual risk to the site associated with a breach of the tidal defences. To mitigate this risk, the habitable accommodation will be on the first floor of the dwelling which will be above the predicted flood level. It is recommended that there is 1.5m of flood resilient (recovery) construction above finished floor level.
- The development passes the Sequential Test and Exception Test and is therefore suitable for the proposed location.

ATTACHMENT 1

**EXISTING PLANS, SITE & LOCATION PLAN
(DWG 4347-24 01)**

**PROPOSED FLOOR PLANS, ELEVATIONS & SITE PLAN
(DWG 4347-24-02C)**



SOUTH ELEVATION 1:100



WEST ELEVATION 1:100

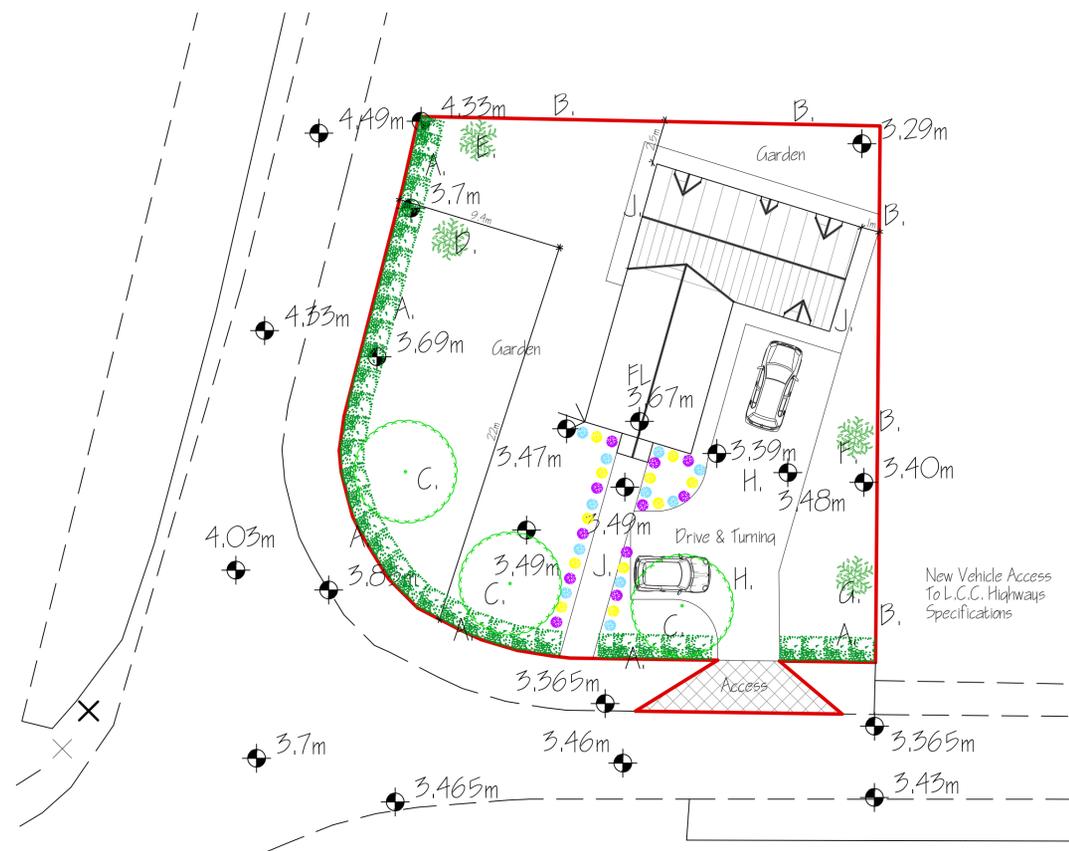


NORTH ELEVATION 1:100

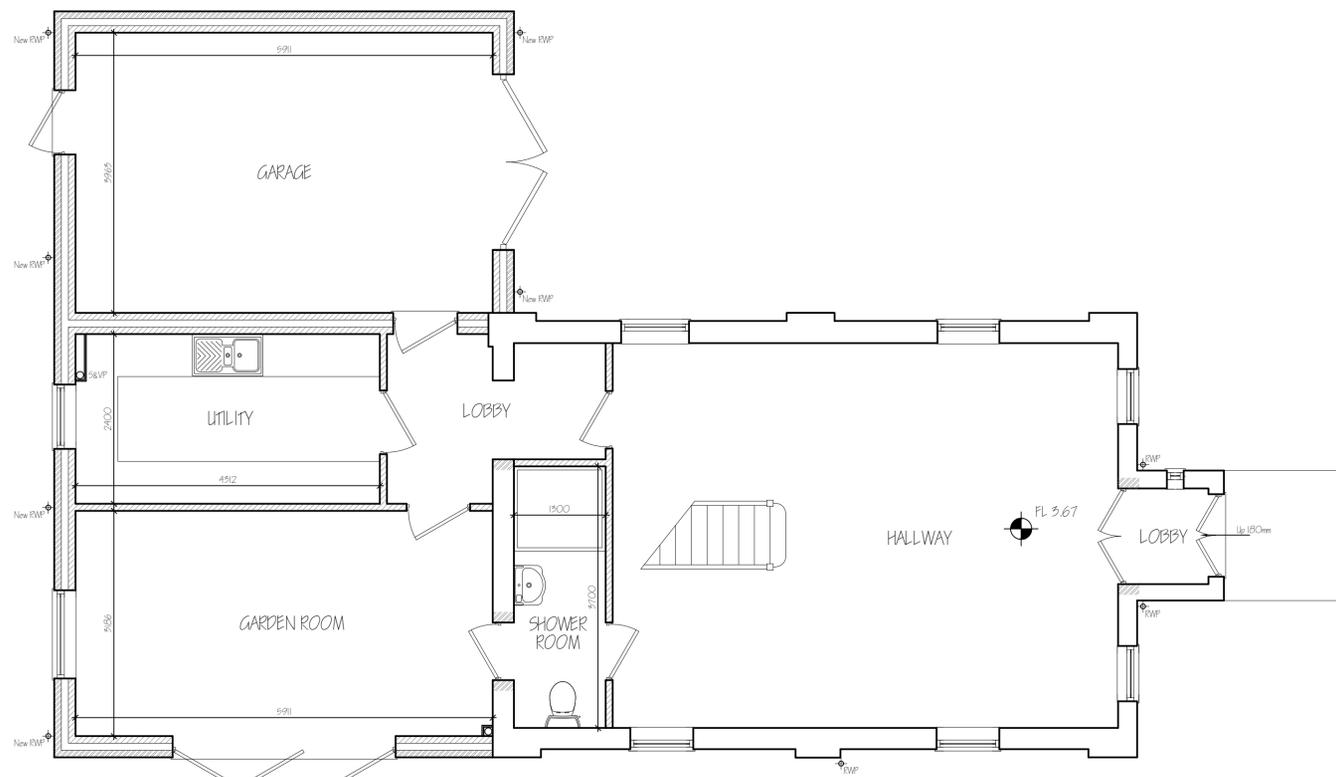


EAST ELEVATION 1:100

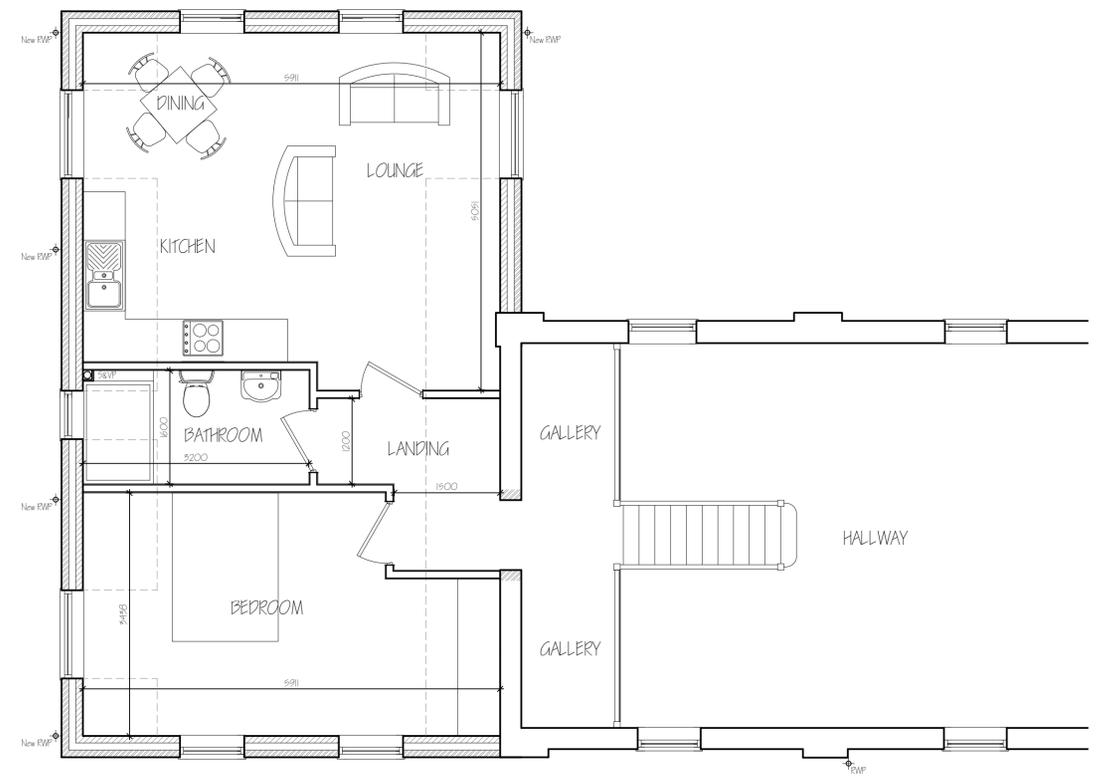
- LANDSCAPING SPECIFICATIONS & PLANTING SCHEDULE
- A - LANDSCAPE PLOT & PLANT PRICE & BEST PRACTICE
 - B - PLANTING SCHEDULE
 - C - PLANTING SCHEDULE
 - D - PLANTING SCHEDULE
 - E - PLANTING SCHEDULE
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 - 20 - PLANTING SCHEDULE



SITE PLAN 1:200



GROUND FLOOR PLAN 1:50



FIRST FLOOR PLAN 1:50

C	PLANNING OFFICER AMENDMENTS	SEPT 2025
B	SCHEME REDESIGN	SEPT 2025
A	PLANNING APPLICATION	JUNE 2025
ref:	revision	date

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Project
PROPOSED CHAPEL CONVERSION
LITTON MARSH METHODIST CHURCH
LITTON MARSH
SPALDING, Lincs. PE12 9NP

Client
SOUTH HOLLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT

Drawing
FLOOR PLANS - PROPOSED
ELEVATIONS - PROPOSED
SITE PLAN - PROPOSED

Job Ref.	4547-24	Drawing No.	02C
Date	APRIL 2025	Drawn	SLB

Scales
1:50 & 1:100 (Unless Otherwise Stated)

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