

PROPOSED BUNGALOW AT 9 SPALDING COMMON SPALDING PE11 3AS

FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT



View from Road

S M Hemmings B Sc C Eng MICE MIWEM,
13 Lea Gardens,
Peterborough,
PE3 6BY

Revision A 6th January 2020 Report amended to include recent flood mapping and recommendations

This flood risk assessment has been prepared solely to support the planning application for the proposed dwelling alongside 9 Spalding Common Spalding. The author has made every effort to provide an accurate assessment of the flood risk but accepts no liability should the information be found to be incorrect or incomplete.

Introduction

An application is due to be submitted to South Holland District Council for Planning Permission to construct a bungalow on land north of the existing bungalow at 9 Spalding Common, Spalding, PE11 3AS.

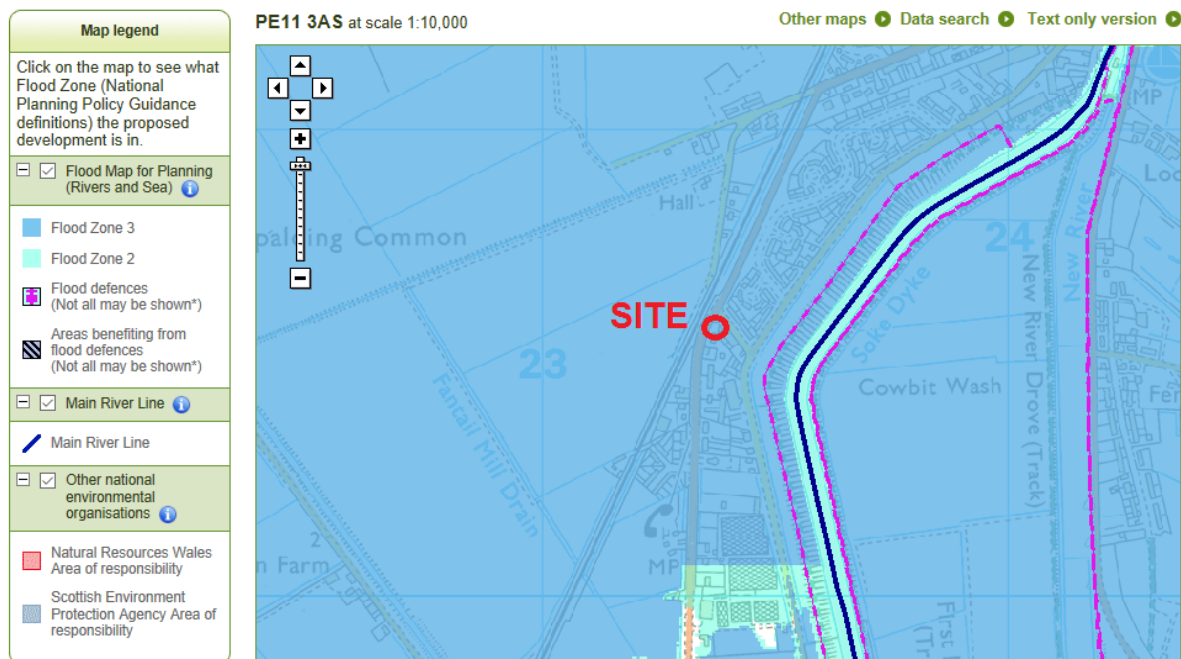
The site is within Flood Zone 3 as shown on the Environment Agency's Flood Zone Map. These maps do not take into account existing flood defences.

The Technical Guidance to the National Planning Policy Framework Development and Flood Risk states that if a development lies within Flood Zone 3 a Flood Risk Assessment should be carried out to accompany any Planning Application.

The site is shown within the defended area of the South Holland District Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SHDC SFRA) map and is located in the Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board district.

Environment Agency (EA) Flood Zones

The map below is taken from the Environment Agency website and shows the flood zones in the area.



It can be seen that a greater part of this area south of Spalding is in Flood Zone 3.

Application Site

The development is located on the western side of the River Welland. The National Grid Reference of the site is 523370 320580.

The location of the site is shown on the plan at the end of this document.

As the site is within a defended area the proposed development can be designated to be within Flood Zone 3(a) "High Probability" as detailed on the Environment Agency's flood zone maps without defences, as defined in Table 1 of the Technical Guidance.

Applying the flood risk vulnerability classification in Table 2 of the Guidance, the development of a dwelling house is classified as “more vulnerable” and Table 3 of the Guidance states that residential use is only permitted after the sequential and exception test is followed.

Sequential Test

The aim of the Sequential Test, as set out in the Planning Practice Guidance, is to ensure that a sequential approach is followed to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding. The flood zones as defined in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the area provide the basis for applying the Test. The aim is to steer new development to Flood Zone 1 (areas with a low probability of river or sea flooding). Where there are no reasonably available sites in Flood Zone 1, local planning authorities in their decision making should take into account the flood risk vulnerability of land uses and consider reasonably available sites in Flood Zone 2 (areas with a medium probability of river or sea flooding), applying the Exception Test if required. Only where there are no reasonably available sites in Flood Zones 1 or 2 should the suitability of sites in Flood Zone 3 (areas with a high probability of river or sea flooding) be considered, taking into account the flood risk vulnerability of land uses and applying the Exception Test if required.

As can be seen from the map on page 2 of this report the whole of the area of central Spalding is in Flood Zone 3. Therefore it would be difficult to find a similar site for development that is in a lower flood zone.

Taking into account the guidance, it can be seen that it is extremely unlikely that an alternative site with a lower flood risk could be found in Spalding. The safety of the development will be delivered by ensuring the floor level of the proposed new dwelling is above predicted residual flood levels for this area.

The South Holland District Council Core Strategy states that there is a limited number of sites in the South Holland DC area available for residential development. Some further land will need to be identified to enable the Council to meet the RSS and Structure Plan requirement for 2021. Therefore there is a requirement for further land to be brought forward and used for residential development.

Therefore I consider that the sequential test has been passed.

Exception Test

The Sequential Test has demonstrated that it is not possible, consistent with wider sustainability objectives, for the development to be located in zones with a lower probability of flooding. Therefore the Exception Test must be applied and for this to be passed:

- It must be demonstrated that the development provides wider sustainability benefits to the community that outweigh flood risks, informed by the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment; and

- A site-specific flood risk assessment must demonstrate that the development will be safe for its lifetime taking into account of the vulnerability of its users, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and where possible will reduce flood risk overall.

Both parts of this test must be satisfied in order for the development to be considered appropriate in terms of flood risk. There must be robust evidence in support of every part of the test.

The first section will be demonstrated by the Supporting Planning Statement and compliance with South Holland District Council's planning policies.

This flood risk assessment will demonstrate that the development will be safe for its lifetime and it will not increase flood risk elsewhere.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was produced for the South Holland District Council (SHDC) in 2010. This document provides details of the flood risk in the Council's area.

The maps in this document illustrate the actual flood hazard which is as follows:

For the present day	Depth of flooding ... zero
	Extent of flooding .. zero
	Hazard Nil
	Velocity ... Nil
For year 2115	Depth of flooding ... zero
	Extent of flooding .. Low or medium flood probability
	Hazard ... Low
	Velocity .. Nil

Map 16 in the 2010 SFRA indicates the site is within the rapid inundation zone for both the present day and 2115.

The maps showing the residual flood hazard were revised in the 2016 update of the South Holland District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment which can be found on the website of the South East Lincolnshire Joint Planning Committee. The hazards for the 1% fluvial or 0.5% tidal event probability are as follows:

For the present day	Depth of flooding0 – 250mm (east side of site)
	Extent of floodingHigh
	Hazard Low hazard (less than 0.75)
	Velocity 0 – 0.3m/sec

For the year 2115 Depth of flooding ... 0 – 250mm
 Extent of flooding .. High
 Hazard Low hazard (less than 0.75)
 Velocity 0 – 0.3m/sec

The hazards for the 0.1% fluvial and tidal event probability are as follows:

For the year 2115 Depth of flooding0 – 250mm
 Extent of flooding ...High
 Hazard Low hazard (less than 0.75)
 Velocity 0 – 0.3 m/sec

Figure 16 of the general maps show that the site is not within the rapid inundation zone for the present day and in 2115.

1. The maximum flood levels in the fluvial section of the Spalding Welland is shown in the reports as follows:

	Peak 1 in 100 year		Peak 1 in 1000 year	
Year	2007	2115	2007	2115
Level	4.49	4.67	4.50	4.68

The chainage of the River Welland directly east of the development site is 2.0km. All of the bank levels between chainage 0.2km at Little London and 2.1km are above 6.0m OD. Further upstream top of bank levels vary between 5.80m OD and 6.00m OD.

2. The extreme tide levels in the section of the River Welland north of Fulney Lock is shown in the report as follows:

	2007	2055	2115
1 in 100 year	5.98	6.31	7.12
1 in 1,000 year	6.32	6.65	7.46

The lowest bank level occurs 200 metres north of Fulney Lock, where a section 300 metres long has a minimum level of 6.98m OD.

Information from the Environment Agency

The Environment Agency has provided predicted flood levels for the River Welland approximately 1 km north of the site, which are taken from the Welland Catchment Model. The levels will be very similar in the river immediately east of the site.

	Present Day	Present day with 20% increase of flow for climate change
Peak 1 in 100 year flood level	4.39m OD	4.68m OD
Peak 1 in 1,000 year flood level	4.40m OD	4.68m OD

Site Levels

The site of the proposed development slopes from the front of the site adjacent to the road where the average level is 3.40m OD to an average level of 2.95m OD at the rear of the site. The floor level of the existing bungalow (No 9 Spalding Common) is 3.14m OD.

The level of the road west of the bungalow slopes up to a maximum level of 3.94m OD, which is higher than the railway west of the road which is at an approximate level of 3.65m OD.

A section west to east is shown on page 9 of this report and a plan with levels of the site is shown on page 13 of this report.

Existing Flood Alleviation Measures

The site is within a defended flood plain, as defined in Appendix 1 of the Environment Agency's "Policy and Practice for the Protection of Flood Plains" and is considered to be passive until such time that a flood greater than the defences can withstand occurs. The likelihood of flooding due to overtopping or failures of the defences is considered to be very low.

The site is approximately 375 metres from the River Welland, which is main river and maintained by the Environment Agency.

This area south of the centre of Spalding is drained by watercourses maintained by Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board. The water levels in the IDB channels are controlled by the water level in South Drove Drain which also is operated by Welland and Deepings IDB.

Potential Sources of Flooding

The following sources of flooding have been identified:

1. Failure or overtopping of the tidal defences.
2. Overtopping of the River Welland.
3. Flooding from IDB drainage channels
4. Blockages in local surface water sewers (highway or Anglian Water)

1. Failure or overtopping of tidal defences.

The River Welland is tidal north of Fulney Lock, which is more than 5.0km north of the site. The SFRA states that the defences are adequate to withstand a 1 in 200 year (0.5%) probability event for present day. In the future in 2115 some of the banks could be overtopped with a 0.5% probability event. However one would expect that during the next one hundred years defences will be raised to maintain a 1 in 200 year standard of defence.

If overtopping or a breach allowed water to flow south westwards from the tidal Welland lower land to the west of the River Welland would be flooded and the central area of Spalding would remain unaffected. Therefore if flood water from this source were to affect the development site it would have to flow south westwards towards

Pode Hole then south eastwards towards Spalding Common. The railway line to the west of Spalding Common would be a final barrier to any substantial amount of flood water reaching the site.

Therefore flooding from this source can be discounted for all foreseeable events.

2. Overtopping of the River Welland.

The west bank of the River Welland is at a level of above 6.00m O.D. directly west of the development site. If a breach were to occur in the west bank of the River Welland when the river is at the maximum predicted level in 2115 in a 1 in 200 year event of 4.68m OD then water would flood into the area between the river and the road called Spalding Common. The maps in the SFRA predict that the flood depth could be as high as between 1.0 meter to 1.5 meters. In practice flood water would flow into the area between the river and Spalding Common and the level would rise until the flood water started to flow over the road. The flow over the road would be between 100mm and 200mm deep and from this the maximum level of the flood water can be estimated to be 3.50m OD. This would give a depth of water on the site of between 1.1 meters and 1.3 metres.

Most breaching of river banks is caused by overtopping eroding the back of the bank and causing failure. In this case the west bank of the River Welland has a freeboard of more than 1.0 meter and the likelihood of overtopping is remote. If the river level approached 5.00m OD two large syphons which discharge water into the Cowbit and Crowland Washes would be activated and this would immediately reduce water levels in the river.

Therefore it can be summarised that although the consequences of a breach are severe the risk of this occurring is extremely low.

3. Flooding from IDB watercourses

This area of Spalding Common is drained by Cradge Bank Drain which is on the eastern side of Cradge Bank. Cradge Bank Drain is maintained by Welland and Deepings IDB (W & D IDB) and flows into South Drove Drain.

The water level in North and South Drove Drain, which is maintained by W & D IDB is controlled by Pode Hole Pumping Station. There are both electrically operated and diesel powered pumps which are operated at this location to control water levels. W & D IDB have stated that the normal pumping level is -1.20m OD and the maximum design water level in a 1 in 100 year event would be 0.18m OD. With climate change this could increase to around 0.7m OD.

However you would expect the IDB to increase capacity to keep pace with climate change over the next one hundred years.

Although the likelihood of water levels rising to 2.00m OD in North Drove Drain is remote, if this happened low land around Deeping St Nicholas would start to flood and so the level in the Drain would be unlikely to increase further.

Therefore this source of flooding can be considered to be adequately mitigated.

4. Blockages in local surface water drainage systems

Highway drainage systems along Spalding Common could become blocked and water could flow onto the development site. However as it is proposed that the finished ground floor level should be at least 300mm above ground level this will ensure that flooding will not occur from this source to the proposed building.

Therefore this source of flooding can be considered to be adequately mitigated.

Extent of known Flooding

During the preparation of this assessment, no evidence was discovered of the site or any of the adjoining properties being flooded.

Probabilities and Trends of Flooding

The probability of this development flooding from Environment Agency main river is very low. However in an extreme event at this location water levels could rise quickly and residents would need to take refuge in the upper floors of the building.

Residual Risk – Extreme Events

The residual risk from extreme events is very low on this site.

There are no records of the Spalding Common area having been flooded in the last 60 years.

Climate Change

The recommendations for flood depths for this flood risk assessment use information mostly taken from the South Holland DC SFRA which was last updated in 2010. The EA have issued new guidance on recommended contingency allowances for predicted sea rises, fluvial flows and rainfall intensities which from 19th February 2016 needs to be considered in this FRA. The effects of these new recommendations are considered in Appendix A of this report (pages 14 to 17). It is concluded that no extra mitigation measures are necessary to comply with the new guidance on climate change.

South East Lincs Advice Matrix

Advice can be found on the recommended mitigation required by referring to a spreadsheet on the South East Lincolnshire website. As the development is in flood zone 3 and the flood hazard is 0 – 0.75 (Low Hazard) reference should be made to Category F8 which states that the following standing advice is:

The NPPF requires that the proposal is accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment which contains evidence that appropriate mitigation measures/flood resilience techniques have been incorporated into the development.

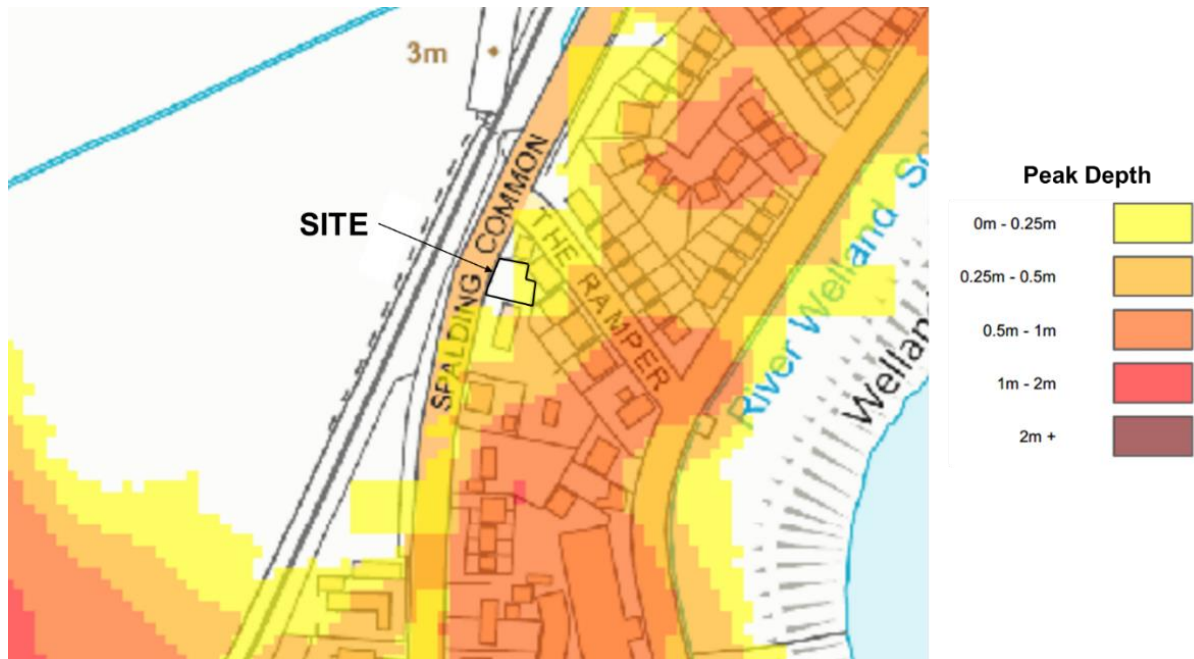
The applicant is advised to refer to the document “Improving Flood Performance of New Buildings Flood Resilient Construction (DCLG2007).

Finished floor levels (FFL) must be set 300mm above ground level for two storey proposals. Single storey proposals must set FFL’s above the 0.1% event breach depth in the 2115 scenario.

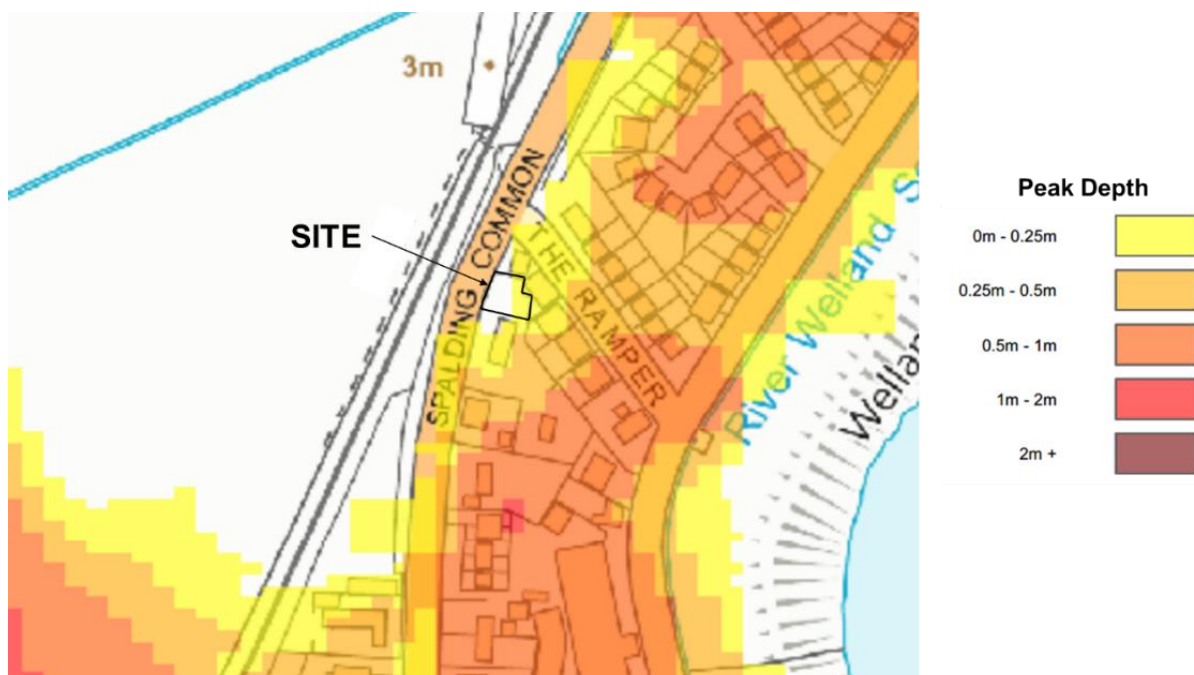
Summary of Risk of Flooding to the Site

The main risk to the site is if a breach were to occur in the west bank of the River Welland. The risk of this happening along this section of bank can be considered to be very low. The bank has a wide top and bank slopes are not steep.

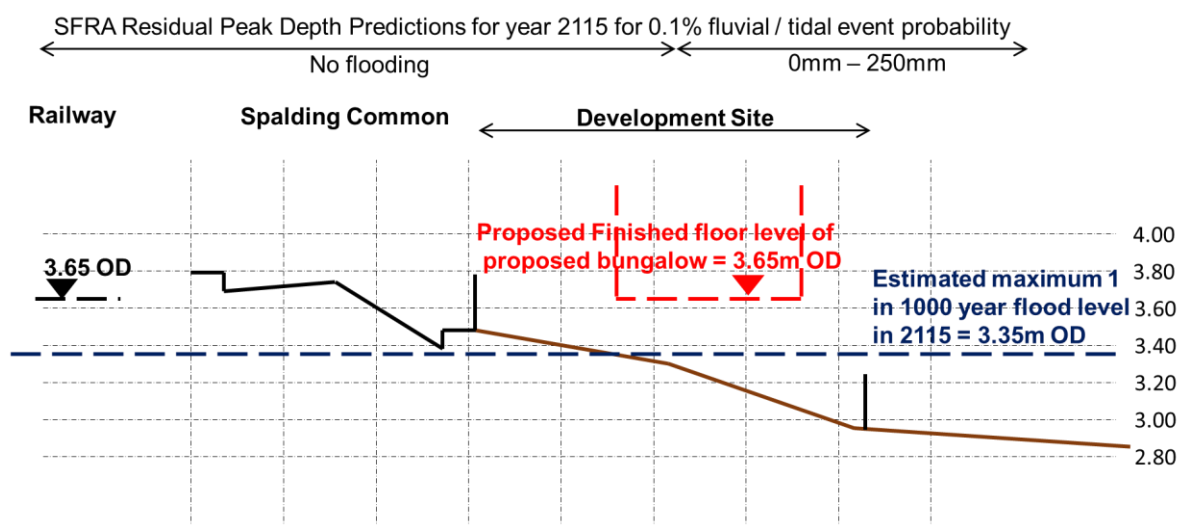
Part of the map in the SFRA of the residual peak depth in 2115 for the 0.5% (1 in 200 year) tidal and the 1% (1 in 100 year) fluvial event probability in 2115 is shown below and this predicts up to 250mm of flooding to the lower eastern part of the site.



Part of the map in the SFRA of the residual peak depth in 2115 for the 0.1% (1 in 1000 year) tidal fluvial event probability in 2115 is shown below and this also predicts up to 250mm of flooding to the lower eastern part of the site.



These flood depths are shown on the cross section through the site below:



If a breach occurred in the west bank of the River Welland when the water level was at its maximum 1 in 1000 year level of 4.68m OD in 2115, flood water would quickly flow westwards towards the site of the proposed bungalow. It would flow across the road called Cradge Bank which is parallel to the bank of the river which is at an approximate level of 2.70m OD. The water depth will flow northwards and southwards and will rise to a depth of 600mm in Cradge Bank and between 0 and 250mm on the east side of the site of the proposed development.

With the finished floor level raised to a level of 3.65m OD the risk of flooding from IDB drains can be discounted.

Conclusions

The following conclusions can be made:

The proposed development is not in a functional flood plain as defined by the Technical Guidance.

Although the site is in flood zone 3, the actual risk of the site flooding from any Environment Agency watercourse is very low.

There is a residual risk of flooding to the site, which is the risk caused by a breach in the west bank of the River Welland, and the maps in the SFRA predict that if this occurs the depth of flooding could be up to 250mm.

The risk of the site becoming flooded from any other source is extremely low.

In a flood risk area there is always a risk of an event occurring of greater magnitude than has been considered in this flood risk assessment.

Recommendations

In any area at risk of flooding it is recommended that new dwellings should be of two story construction with all bedrooms at first floor level. This will provide a refuge for residents if the building becomes flooded after a major breach of the tidal bank, and

ensure there is no danger to residents when they are asleep. However in this case the developer has stated that because of other planning requirements the building needs to be a bungalow. Therefore the finished ground floor level should be raised 300mm above the existing ground level to a minimum level of 3.65m OD.

If any flooding started to occur residents should escape along Spalding Common before flood water rose to the level of the road, or in an extreme event shelter on the first floor of the building.

Occupiers of the property should register with the Environment Agency's Floodline Warnings Direct Service.

On site surface water drainage should be discharged into soakaways and these should be designed to BRE Digest 365 and approved under Building regulations.

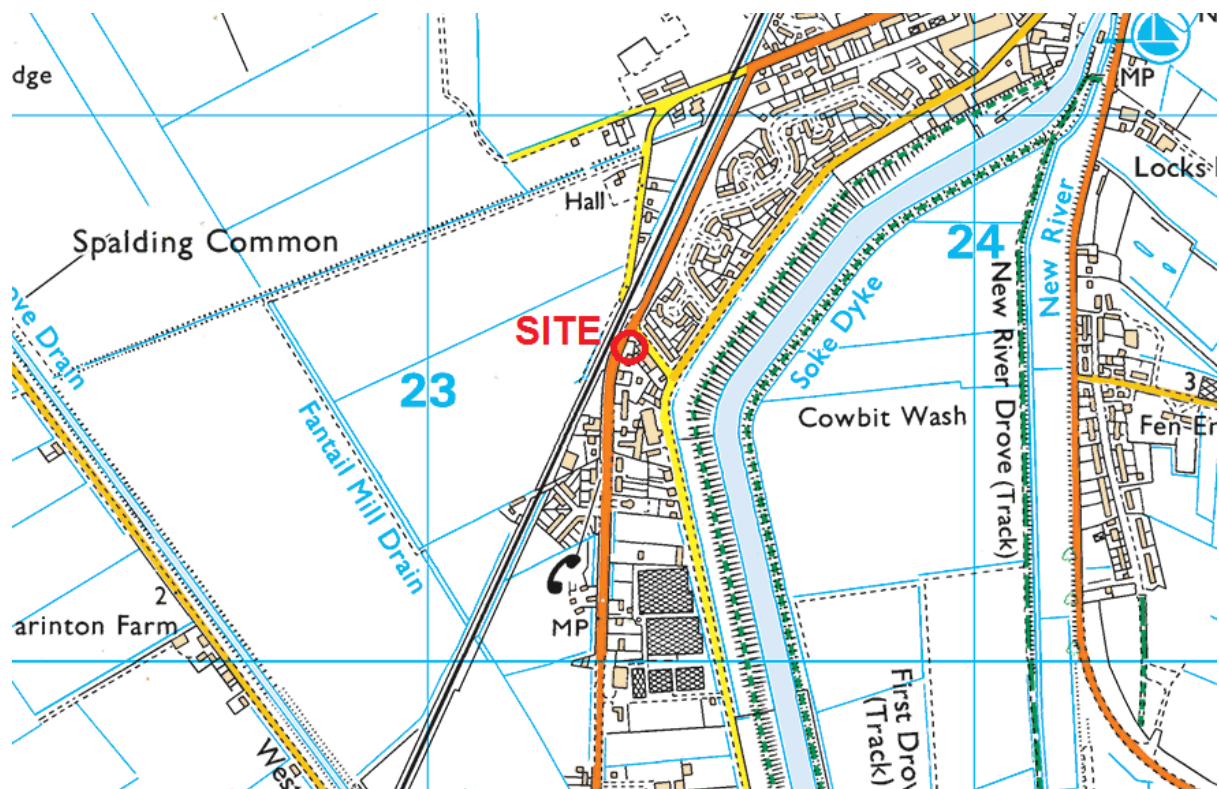
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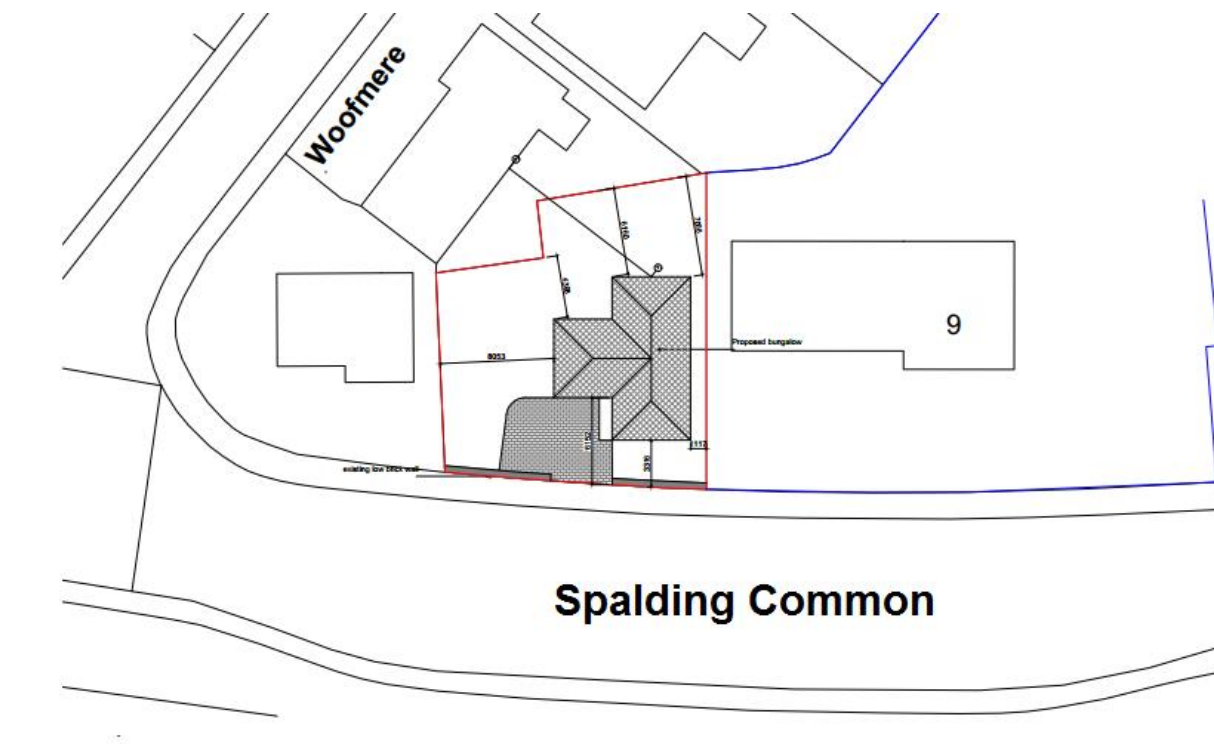
Original FRA 28th October 2016

Revision A 6th January 2020 Report amended to include recent flood mapping and recommendations

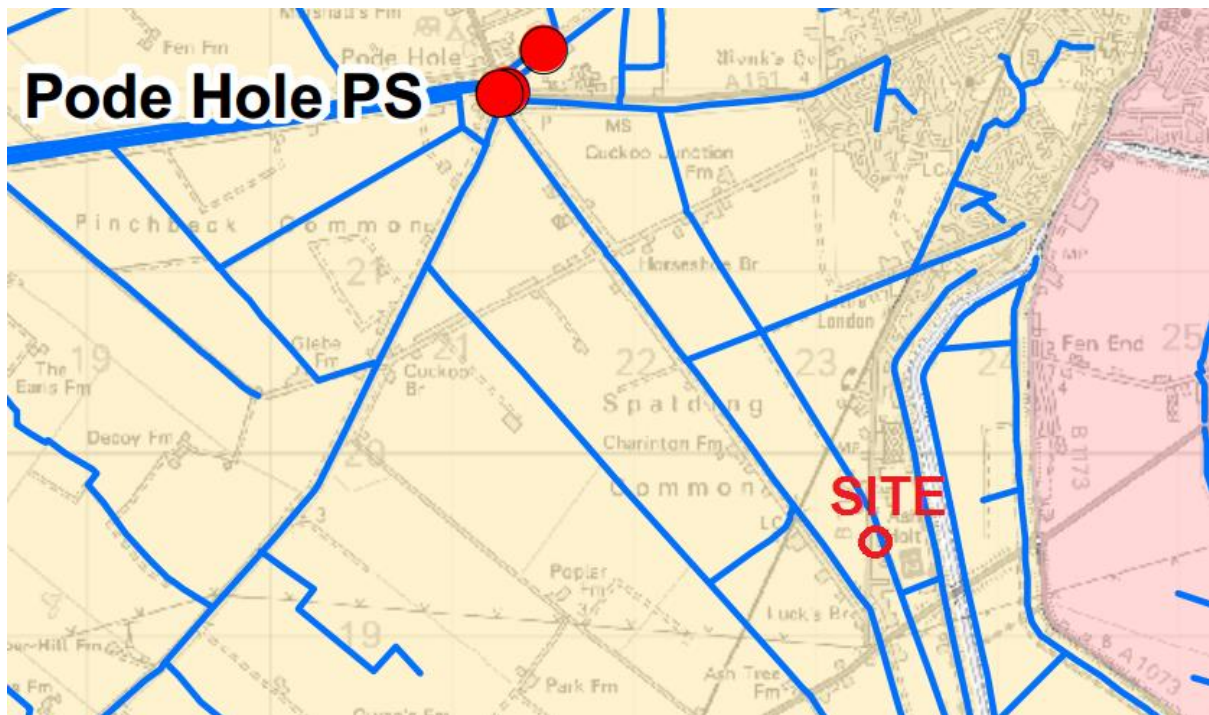
LOCATION PLAN



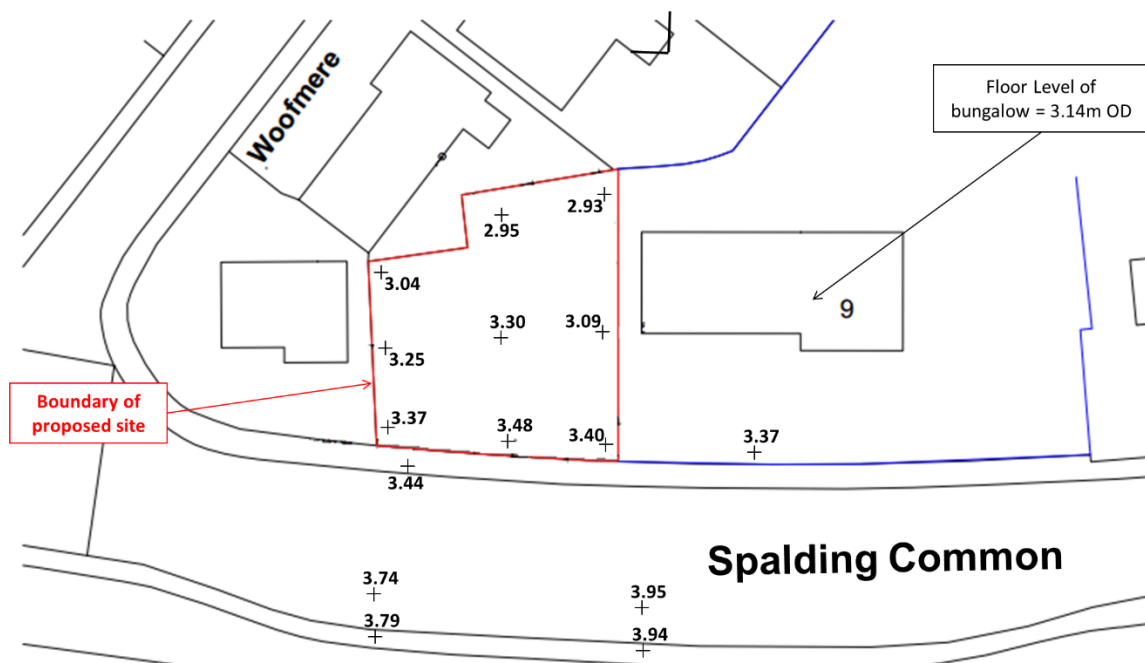
PLAN OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



PLAN OF IDB DRAINS



PLAN OF SITE LEVELS



APPENDIX A CLIMATE CHANGE

The Environment Agency has issued revised guidance on climate change and have now stated that the new predictions should be considered and incorporated into all flood risk assessments produced after 19th February 2016.

Listed below are the climate change allowances in three documents:

- South Holland SFRA
- EA guidance (2013)
- Revised EA guidance

The recommendations in each document are shown below.

2010 South Holland DC SFRA

The SHDC SFRA states that the the following allowances have been made for climate change:

4.4 Climate Change

Scenarios for the years 2055 and 2115 include for climate change contingency allowances to the amount suggested by PPS25¹. These allowances are expressed in Table 2. Percentage increases are relative to the present-day.

Table 2 – Adopted Climate change contingency allowances

Parameter	Year 2055	Year 2115
Sea level rise (m)	+ 0.33	+ 1.14
Extreme wave height	+ 10%	+ 10%
Peak river flow and volume	+ 20%	+ 20%
Peak rainfall intensity	+ 20%	+30%

Where flows arise from pumping rather than natural run-off, notably in the Vernatt's Drain and for the Fenland subcatchments of the South Forty Foot Drain, peak flow rates for future eras have been taken as equal to current rates since this SFRA assumes all flood risk management measures will remain in their current state.

2013 Guidance to Planners

Guidance to planners was issued by EA in September 2013

Table 1: Recommended contingency allowances for net sea level rises (Net sea level rise (mm per year) relative to 1990)

	1990 to 2025	2025 to 2055	2055 to 2085	2085 to 2115
East of England, east midlands, London, south-east England (south of Flamborough Head)	4.0	8.5	12.0	15.0
South-west England	3.5	8.0	11.5	14.5
North-west England, north-east England (north of Flamborough Head)	2.5	7.0	10.0	13.0

Table 2: Recommended national precautionary sensitivity ranges for peak rainfall intensity, peak river flow, offshore wind speed and wave height

Parameter	1990 to 2025	2025 to 2055	2055 to 2085	2085 to 2115
Peak rainfall intensity	+5%	+10%	+20%	+30%
Peak river flow	+10%	+20%		
Offshore wind speed	+5%		+10%	
Extreme wave height	+5%		+10%	

Revised 2016 EA Guidance

Table 1 peak river flow allowances by river basin district (use 1961 to 1990 baseline)

River basin district	Allowance category	Total potential change anticipated for '2020s' (2015 to 39)	Total potential change anticipated for '2050s' (2040 to 2069)	Total potential change anticipated for '2080s' (2070 to 2115)
Anglian	Upper end	25%	35%	65%
	Higher central	15%	20%	35%
	Central	10%	15%	25%

For more vulnerable development in flood zone 3(a) the higher central and upper end should be used to assess the range of allowances.

Table 2 peak rainfall intensity allowance in small and urban catchments (use 1961 to 1990 baseline)

Applies across all of England	Total potential change anticipated for 2010 to 2039	Total potential change anticipated for 2040 to 2059	Total potential change anticipated for 2060 to 2115
Upper end	10%	20%	40%
Central	5%	10%	20%

Table 3 sea level allowance for each epoch in millimetres (mm) per year with cumulative sea level rise for each epoch in brackets (use 1990 baseline)

Area of England	1990 to 2025	2026 to 2050	2051 to 2080	2081 to 2115	Cumulative rise 1990 to 2115 / metres (m)
East, east midlands, London, south east	4 (140 mm)	8.5 (212.5 mm)	12 (360 mm)	15 (525 mm)	1.24 m

Table 4 offshore wind speed and extreme wave height allowance (use 1990 baseline)

Applies around all the English coast	1990 to 2050	2051 to 2115
Offshore wind speed allowance	+5%	+10%
Offshore wind speed sensitivity test	+10%	+10%
Extreme wave height allowance	+5%	+10%
Extreme wave height sensitivity test	+10%	+10%

Effects on Predictions of Flood Risk in FRA

Fluvial Flooding from River Welland.

As the development is in flood zone 3 and is classed as more vulnerable, the upper end climate change allowance, which is 35%, should first be considered. After considering the effects of this increase the upper end allowance, which is 65%, should be considered to assess the effect of this.

The EA have been using an allowance of 20% for climate change over the past few years in their assessments and modelling of their systems. The SHDC SFRA also has used this figure of 20%. The increase to 35% will not significantly change the conclusion in the SFRA of what might happen if a breach occurred in the bank of the River Welland. If there are additional flows along this part of the River Welland it will lead to the storage systems of the Cowbit and Crowland Washes operating and additional overtopping over lower banks rather than any significant increase in levels in the river.

The upper end allowance predicting a 65% increase in flows above the 1 in 100 year predicted flows now needs to be considered. The River Welland is an embanked

watercourse between Spalding and Market Deeping. There are flood reservoirs on the east side of the River called the Cowbit and the Crowland Washes. Excess water would flow into these Washes through two large syphons. In this scenario the Washes would fill up and also water would be flooding over lower banks of the River. The increases in rainfall leading to this would also lead to significant flooding in the upper part of the River Welland Catchment. It is unlikely that there will be any significant increase in the water level in the River. Therefore the consequence will not be significantly different to the maps produced in the SFRA.

Effect on IDB Systems

Welland and Deepings IDB, and all IDB's, are aware that climate change will affect the operations of pumping stations, sluices and drainage channels. Pumping stations and sluices only have a 30 year life and will need to be refurbished or rebuilt within this timespan. It is assumed that Welland and Deepings IDB will continue to review the modelling they have already carried out and when the Board consider these refurbishments adequate arrangements will be made to incorporate the latest climate change projections in order that Board continues to provide the same standard of service as the present day.

Therefore it is considered that the mitigation proposed for the development, with the recommendation that the floor level of the proposed bungalow should be a minimum level of 3.65m OD is satisfactory.