# APPENDIX 8.1A FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT AND DRAINAGE STRATEGY





# The Beehive Redevelopment, Cambridge Railway Pensions Nominees Limited

Flood Risk Assessment & Drainage Strategy

October 2024

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Client Name: Railway Pension Nominees Limited

**Document Reference:** WIE17469-110-R-1-1-6-FRADS\_Project Otter

Project Number: WIE17469-110

# Quality Assurance – Approval Status

This document has been prepared and checked in accordance with Waterman Group's IMS (BS EN ISO 9001: 2015, BS EN ISO 14001: 2015 and BS EN ISO 45001:2018)

Issue P01	<b>Date</b> 02.08.24	Prepared by Daniel Hontanosas (Flood Risk Consultant)	Checked by Gurveer Jutte (Civil Engineer)	Approved by Cameron Paton (Technical Director)		
Comments		First draft for Client Team / Legal Review				
P02	16.08.24	Gurveer Jutte (Civil Engineer)	Gurveer Jutte (Civil Engineer)	Cameron Paton (Technical Director)		
Comments		Final report for Outline Applica	ation			
P03	24.10.24	Gurveer Jutte (Civil Engineer)	Gurveer Jutte (Civil Engineer)	Cameron Paton (Technical Director)		
Comments		Updated following comments	from LLFA response			



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# **Executive Summary**

Waterman was commissioned by Railway Pension Nominees Limited to prepare a Flood Risk Assessment incorporating a Surface Water Drainage Strategy to support the proposed redevelopment of the Beehive Centre, Coldham's Lane, Cambridge, for a new local centre, open space and employment (office and laboratory) floorspace.

Flood risk has been assessed in line with BS8533 and best practice. In accordance with NPPF and its associated PPG, all potential sources of flooding to the Site have been considered.

Review of published material indicates that the Site has not been subject to historical flooding.

The Site lies remote from Main Rivers and Ordinary Watercourses and is categorised within an area at very low probability of flooding (Flood Zone 1) from Main Rivers and the Sea.

No significant risk of flooding at the Site from emergent groundwater, surface water, sewers, or reservoir breach has been established based upon published documents and consideration of the local topography and setting.

Localised areas at risk of flooding from surface water and overland flow can be adequately managed by maintaining level differentials between finished ground floor levels and adjacent external levels, and by careful management of surface water runoff across the Proposed Development.

The Site would be expected to remain at low risk of flooding in the future throughout the lifetime of the Proposed Development taking into account anticipated climate change effects.

Safe routes of vehicular and pedestrian access and egress would also be available via Coldham's Lane and adjacent footpaths over the lifetime of the Proposed Development.

Surface water runoff from the Proposed Development will be managed sustainably at source, utilising a suite of SuDS measures and water quality enhancements integrated within the hard and soft landscape.

Post-development, there is a material overall reduction in flow rates and flow volumes to the receiving sewer networks providing a nett betterment to the receiving systems in line with national and local policy objectives.

The FRA demonstrates that the residual flood risks are manageable over the lifetime of the Proposed Development. The proposals are deemed to be 'safe' and sustainable in flood risk terms and in line with the requirements of local and national policies and guidance.



#### 1. Introduction

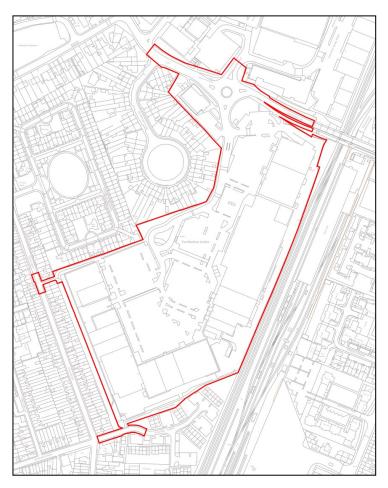
#### Context

- 1.1. Waterman was commissioned by Railway Pension Nominees Limited ("the Applicant") to prepare a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) incorporating a Drainage Strategy (DS) to support an outline planning application for the proposed redevelopment of the Beehive Centre, Coldham's Lane, Cambridge (hereafter referred to as "the Site").
- 1.2. This report assesses the potential effects of tidal, fluvial, pluvial, groundwater and artificial sources of flooding upon the Proposed Development, in line with national and local planning policy. In addition, the management of foul flows and surface water runoff is also assessed, so as not to have a detrimental effect to the Site or its surroundings.

#### **Site Location**

1.3. The Site address is The Beehive Centre, Coldham's Lane, Cambridge CB1 3ET (approx.), centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) 546625, 258550. Refer to Site Location Plan in Figure 1. The Site falls under the jurisdiction of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service, encompassing Cambridge City Council (CCC).

Figure 1: Site Location





#### **Existing Site Features**

- 1.4. The Site Area covers 7.85 hectares (ha) and comprises a mid-sized retail park with mixed uses and associated ground level at-grade car parking. Refer to Existing Site Plans in Appendix A.
- 1.5. The Site is accessed via Coldham's Lane which forms its northern boundary. The Site is bounded by the railway line to the east, by York Street and Sleaford Street to the south, and by existing residential areas to the west.

#### **Topography**

- 1.6. Topographical information for the Site and locale indicates that ground levels are circa 14.0m AOD along the southern boundary, sloping to circa 12.2m AOD along the southern edge of the retail park. Ground levels fall in a north easterly direction across the car park to circa 9.5m AOD at the Coldham's Lane junction. The lowest point of the Site lies at circa 9.0m AOD at the north eastern corner before levels rise to Coldham's Lane along the north eastern boundary.
- 1.7. Adjacent off-site levels to the south along York Street and Sleaford Street are elevated above the Site with levels of circa 14.0m AOD. Adjacent off-site levels to the north along Coldham's Lane are elevated above the Site with levels of circa 9.5m 13.6m AOD along the footpath between the northern and north eastern site extents. Topographical information is included as Appendix B.
- 1.8. Off-site levels generally continue to fall in a north easterly direction away from the Site.

#### **Local Hydrology**

1.9. The Site falls within the natural surface water drainage catchment of a tributary of Coldham's Brook and River Cam, which flows in a northerly direction circa 250m to the north east of the Site, via Barnwell Lake, into the River Cam which flows circa 500m to the north west of the Site.

#### **Existing Flood Defences**

1.10. The Site does not benefit from, nor rely upon, the presence of formal fluvial flood defences.

#### **Geology & Hydrogeology**

- 1.11. Historical mapping records the Site as undeveloped or in use as allotments up until the 1960's, whereby various warehouses, a dairy, builders' yards, and a bakery were developed. The northern half of the Site was redeveloped in the 1980's into the existing Beehive Retail Centre layout, with the remainder of the Site being developed by 1994.
- 1.12. The Site's geology comprises tarmac / concrete hardstanding overlying Made Ground (up to 2.5m thick). The weathered base of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation lies beneath the Made Ground across the majority of the Site, up to 6.6m thick) whilst River Terrace Gravels (4.6m thick) are anticipated beneath the south western areas of the Site only. Both are underlain by Gault Clay Formation (>35.8 thick) and Lower Greensand Formation.
- 1.13. Gault Clay is unproductive strata, whilst the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation and Lower Greensand Formation are designated Principal Aquifer.
- 1.14. Surface water abstractions are not recorded on the Site or immediate locale. Environment Agency (EA) mapping indicates that the Site is not located within a Groundwater Source Protection Zone (SPZ).



# 2. Planning Policy and Guidance

#### **National Planning Policy Framework**

- 2.1. The National Planning Policy Framework<sup>i</sup> (NPPF) states that inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future). Where development is necessary in such areas, the development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.
- 2.2. The NPPF states that when determining planning applications, Local Planning Authorities (LPA) should ensure that flood risk is not increased elsewhere. Where appropriate, applications should be supported by a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment. Development should only be allowed in areas at risk of flooding where it can be demonstrated that:
  - Within the site, the most vulnerable development is located in areas of lowest flood risk, unless there are overriding reasons to prefer a different location;
  - The development is appropriately flood resistant and resilient;
  - It incorporates Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate;
  - · Any residual risk can be safely managed; and
  - Safe access and escape routes are included where appropriate.

#### **Planning Practice Guidance**

- 2.3. The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)<sup>ii</sup> provides additional guidance to LPAs to ensure effective implementation of the planning policies set out within the NPPF regarding development in areas at risk of flooding.
- 2.4. PPG states that developers and LPAs should seek opportunities to reduce the overall level of flood risk in the area and beyond through the layout and form of the development, and the appropriate application of SuDS. Referencing EA guidance, the PPG provides recommended contingency allowances for climate change over the anticipated lifetime of development. It also advises on flood resilience and resistance measures when dealing with the residual risks remaining after applying the sequential approach and mitigating actions.
- 2.5. The PPG also includes advice on flood risk vulnerability and flood zone compatibility. The following flood zones refer to the probability of river and sea flooding, without the presence of defences:
  - Zone 1 low probability: less than 1 in 1000 annual probability of river or sea flooding (<0.1%) in any year;
  - Zone 2 medium probability: between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river flooding (1% to 0.1%) or between a 1 in 200 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of sea flooding (0.5% to 0.1%) in any year;
  - Zone 3a high probability: 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding (>1%) or a 1 in 200 or greater annual probability flooding from the sea (>0.5%) in any year; and
  - Zone 3b the functional floodplain: where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood; identification should take account of local circumstances but would typically flood with an annual probability of 1 in 30 (3.3%) or greater in any year or is designed to flood in an extreme 1 in 1,000 (0.1%) flood.



- 2.6. Flood risk vulnerability is split into five classifications in Table 2 of the PPG, as follows, and the compatibility of these within each Flood Zone is set out in Table 3 of the PPG:
  - Essential Infrastructure, e.g. essential transport and utility infrastructure, wind turbines;
  - Highly Vulnerable, e.g. emergency services (those required to be operational during flooding), basement dwellings;
  - More Vulnerable, e.g. residential dwellings, hospitals, schools, hotels, drinking establishments;
  - Less Vulnerable, e.g. retail, offices, storage and distribution, leisure, restaurants; and
  - Water-Compatible Development, e.g. docks, marinas, wharves.

#### **Water Industry Act**

- 2.7. Anglian Water is the local Sewerage Undertaker and provides sewerage services under the guidance of the Water Industry Act 1991.
- 2.8. Under Section 106 of the Water Industry Act, the developer currently maintains the automatic right to 'communicate' with the public foul water sewer system.

#### Non-statutory Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems

- 2.9. The Non-statutory Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems<sup>iii</sup> was published in March 2015 and is the current guidance for the design, maintenance and operation of SuDS.
- 2.10. For previously developed land, the Standards set out that the peak runoff rates should be as close as is reasonably practicable to the greenfield rate but should never exceed the pre-development runoff rate.
- 2.11. The standards also set out that the drainage system should be designed so that flooding does not occur on any part of the Site for a 1 in 30 year rainfall event, and that no flooding of a building (including basement) would occur during a 1 in 100 year rainfall event.
- 2.12. It is also noted within the standards that pumping should only be used when it is not reasonably practicable to discharge by gravity.

#### Cambridge Local Plan

- 2.13. Cambridge Local Plan 2018 Policy 31: Integrated Water Management and the Water Cycle

  Development will be permitted provided that:
  - a. surface water is managed close to its source and on the surface where reasonably practicable to do so;
  - b. priority is given to the use of nature services;
  - c. water is seen as a resource and is re-used where practicable, offsetting potable water demand, and that a water sensitive approach is taken to the design of the development;
  - d. the features that manage surface water are commensurate with the design of the development in terms of size, form and materials and make an active contribution to making places for people;
  - e. surface water management features are multi-functional wherever possible in their land use;



- f. any flat roof is a green or brown roof, providing that it is acceptable in terms of its context in the historic environment of Cambridge (see Policy 61: Conservation and Enhancement of Cambridge's Historic Environment) and the structural capacity of the roof if it is a refurbishment. Green or brown roofs should be widely used in large scale new communities;
- g. there is no discharge from the developed site for rainfall depths up to 5 mm of any rainfall event;
- h. the run-off from all hard surfaces shall receive an appropriate level of treatment in accordance with Sustainable Drainage Systems guidelines, SUDS Manual (CIRIA C753), to minimise the risk of pollution;
- i. development adjacent to a water body actively seeks to enhance the water body in terms of its hydromorphology, biodiversity potential and setting;
- j. watercourses are not culverted and any opportunity to remove culverts is taken; and
- k. all hard surfaces are permeable surfaces where reasonably practicable, and having regard to groundwater protection.
- 2.14. Cambridge Local Plan 2018 Policy 32: Flood Risk

#### Potential flood risk from the development

Development will be permitted providing it is demonstrated that:

- a. the peak rate of run-off over the lifetime of the development, allowing for climate change, is no greater for the developed site than it was for the undeveloped site;
- b. the post-development volume of run-off, allowing for climate change over the development lifetime, is no greater than it would have been for the undeveloped site. If this cannot be achieved then the limiting discharge is 2 litre/s/ha for all events up to the 100-year return period event;
- c. the development is designed so that the flooding of property in and adjacent to the development would not occur for a 1 in 100 year event, plus an allowance for climate change and in the event of local drainage system failure;
- d. the discharge locations have the capacity to receive all foul and surface water flows from the development, including discharge by infiltration, into water bodies and into sewers;
- e. there is a management and maintenance plan for the lifetime of the development, which shall include the arrangements for adoption by any public authority or statutory undertaker and any other arrangements to secure the operation of the scheme throughout its lifetime; and
- f. the destination of the discharge obeys the following priority order:
- firstly, to ground via infiltration;
- then, to a water body;
- then, to a surface water sewer.

Discharge to a foul water or combined sewer is unacceptable.



#### Potential flood risk to the development

Development will be permitted if an assessment of the flood risk is undertaken following the principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and additionally:

For a previously developed site:

Opportunities should be taken to reduce the existing flood risk by the positioning of any development so that it does not increase flood risk elsewhere by either displacement of flood water or interruption of flood flow routes, and it employs flood resilient and resistant construction including appropriate boundary treatment and has a safe means of evacuation.

#### Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD

2.15. The Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) supplements policy found in the Local Plan and provides guidance on the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) within new developments. It was endorsed by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCoC) in its capacity as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). The SPD is supported by further LLFA guidance on surface water management.

#### Cambridgeshire Sustainable Design & Construction SPD

2.16. Consideration has also been given in preparing this planning application to the Sustainable Design and Construction SPD issued by CCoC in June 2007.

#### Sustainable Drainage: Cambridge Design and Adoption Guide

2.17. Sustainable Drainage: Cambridge Design and Adoption Guide provided by CCoC, sets out the design and adoption requirements that CCoC will be looking for, in order to ensure a smooth and satisfactory adoption process.

#### **Surface Water Planning Guidance**

2.18. CCoC published their Surface Water Planning Guidance in April 2024 helping to steer SuDS provision and policy requirements for major developments.

#### **Greater Cambridge Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)**

2.19. Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service's Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)<sup>iv</sup> was published in July 2021 and aims to provide a robust assessment of flood risk across the region from all potential sources of flooding.

#### Cambridgeshire Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA)

2.20. The Cambridgeshire PFRA<sup>v</sup> was adopted in March 2011. This document has been prepared to help CCoC meet their duties to manage local flood risk and deliver the requirements of the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 in their role as a LLFA.



# 3. Development Proposals and Planning Context

#### **Development Proposals**

3.1. The Applicant is seeking outline planning permission for the redevelopment of the Beehive Centre. The Proposed Development consists of:

'the demolition and redevelopment of the Beehive Centre, including in Outline Application form for the demolition and redevelopment for a new local centre (E (a-f), F1(b-f), F2(b,d)), open space and employment (office and laboratory) floorspace (E(g)(i)(ii) to the ground floor and employment floorspace (office and laboratory) (E(g)(i)(ii) to the upper floors; along with supporting infrastructure, including pedestrian and cycle routes, vehicular access, car and cycle parking, servicing areas, landscaping and utilities.'

- 3.2. An Illustrative Masterplan and Development Proposals are presented in Appendix C. Lower ground floors are proposed beneath selected buildings to provide car parking, cycle storage plant rooms, servicing, and general storage. In flood risk planning terms these are categorised as lower ground floors rather than basements owing to being accessible via internal stair cores or lifts.
- 3.3. Target date for commencement of construction is Spring 2026.

#### Flood Zone Classification

3.4. Based on the Flood Map for Planning (reproduced at Figure 2), the Site lies within Flood Zone 1 (low probability of flooding).

Red Line Boundary
Statutory Main River

E A Spatial Flood Defence
Flood Map for Planning
Flood Zone 2

Flood Zone 2

Flood Zone 2

Flood Zone 3

Flood Zone 2

Flood Zone 2

Flood Zone 3

Flood Zone 2

Flood Zone 3

Flood Zone 2

Flood Zone 3

Flood Zone

Figure 2: Flood Map for Planning

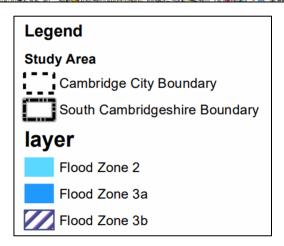


## **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Classification**

3.5. Appendix D1 of the Level 1 SFRA confirms that the Site lies in Flood Zone 1. Refer to mapping extract in Figure 3.

Common Co

Figure 3: SFRA Flood Risk Constraints Map Extract



### **Functional Floodplain Appraisal**

3.6. Appendix D1 and Appendix D6 of the Level 1 SFRA clearly confirms that the Site is located outside the functional floodplain (i.e. Flood Zone 3b) associated with Main Rivers.



#### Flood Risk Vulnerability

3.7. NPPF *Table 2: Flood risk vulnerability classification* identifies that offices, laboratory and local centre uses would be considered a *'Less Vulnerable'* use, which represents no uplift from the *'Less Vulnerable'* classification that applies to the currently consented retail use and car parking.

#### Flood Risk Compatibility

3.8. NPPF *Table 3: Flood risk vulnerability and flood zone 'compatibility'* (replicated below) confirms that the proposed development is appropriate for *'Less Vulnerable'* uses in Flood Zone 1 without the need to satisfy the Exception Test. Refer to green highlighted cells.

Flood Risk	Vulnerability	and Flood	7one	Compatibility
FIUUU NISK	v un lei abiliti	/ allu Floou	ZUITE	Companionic

Vul	ood Risk nerability ssification PF Table 2)	Essential Infrastructure	Water Compatible	Highly Vulnerable	More Vulnerable	Less Vulnerable	
Table 1)	Zone 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Flood Zone (NPPF Tak	Zone 2	✓	✓	Exception Test Required	✓	✓	
	Zone 3a	Exception Test Required	✓	x	Exception Test Required	✓	
	Zone 3b (functional floodplain)	Exception Test Required	✓	x	Х	х	
Key:	✓ D	evelopment is app	ropriate	c Developn	Development should not be permitted		

#### **Sequential Test and Exception Test**

- 3.9. PPG paragraph 027 provides an overview on the application of the Sequential Test to individual planning applications.
- 3.10. NPPF requires an applicant, where appropriate, to apply the Sequential Test in order to demonstrate that there are no reasonably available sites in areas with a lower probability of flooding that would be appropriate to the type of development or land use proposed.
- 3.11. NPPF paragraph 162 states:

"The aim of the Sequential Test is to steer new development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding from any source. Development should not be allocated or permitted if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower risk of flooding. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will provide the basis for applying this test. A sequential approach should be used in areas known to be at risk now or in the future from any form of flooding."

3.12. The Site lies in Flood Zone 1, and built development is proposed in areas of lowest surface water flood risk, and it is not possible for development to be located in zones with a lower risk of flooding. The Site, therefore, satisfies the Sequential Test and does not require the Exception Test to be applied.