

Little Waltham



Opus

Flood Risk Assessment

30th October 2023

FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

INTEGRATED RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

ON

LAND WEST OF BLASFORD HILL (B1008)
LITTLE WALTHAM
CHELMSFORD
CM3 3PA

Project No: SRL004

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SRL004



RECORD SCHEDULE

Revision	Date	By	Summary of Changes
1	14/09/2023	CMP	FIRST ISSUE
2	29/09/2023	CMP	SECOND ISSUE
3	30/10/2023	CMP	UPDATED TO SUIT DESIGN TEAM & CLIENT COMMENTS

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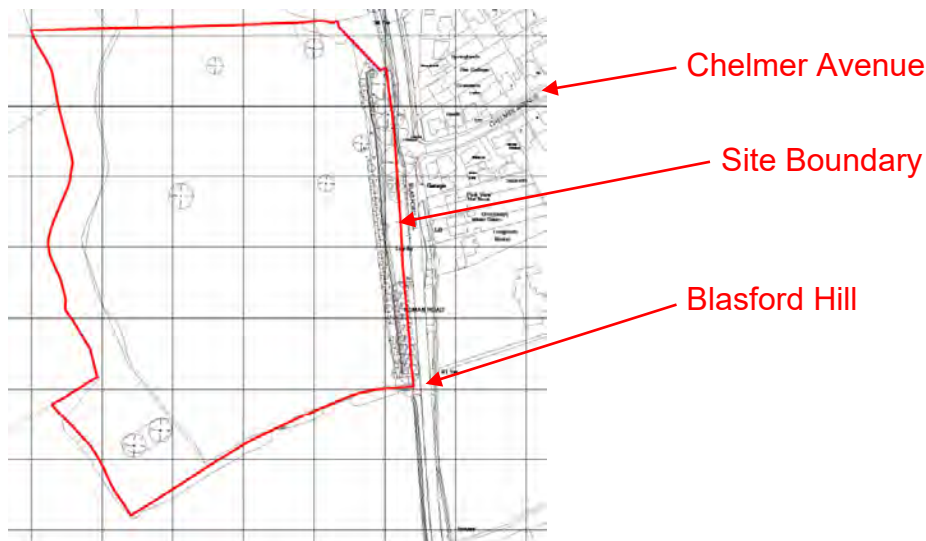
1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location

The site is located on greenfield land west of Blasford Hill (B1008), Little Waltham, Chelmsford, CM3 3PA (nearby postcode).

A woodland is present within the west of the site and a linear ditch is noted on the topographical survey running parallel to the eastern site boundary (south to north).

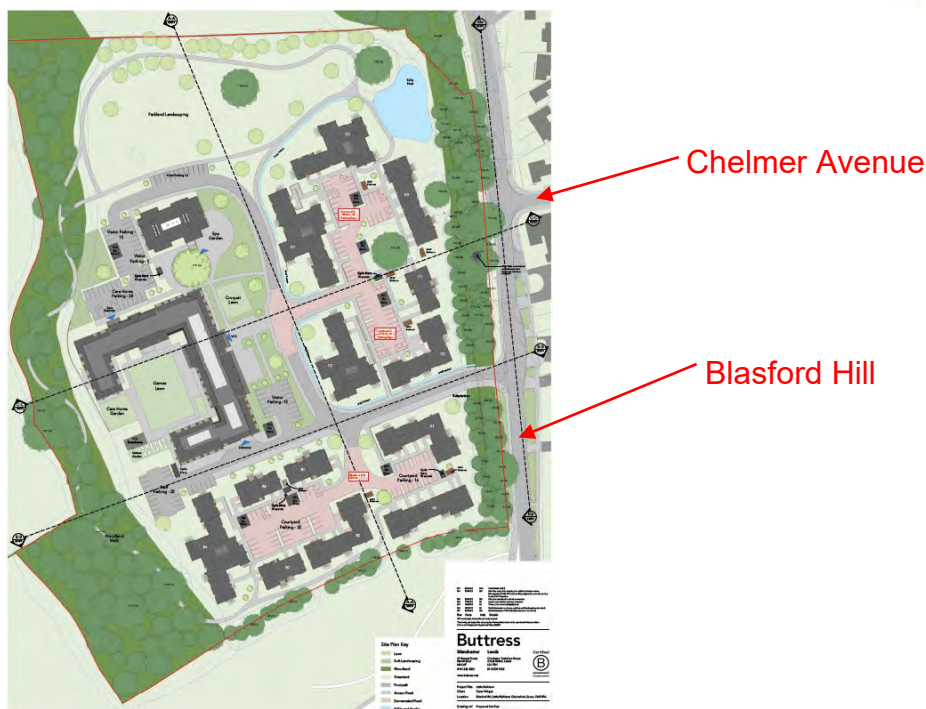
The site is approximately 6.9 hectares and the location with an approximate red line boundary is shown below. See Appendix A for the topographical survey.



1.2 Development Proposals

The development proposals are for the erection of an Integrated Retirement Community (Use Class C2) comprising; a Village Care Centre, care home, one and two bedroom care suites, and one and two bedroom care apartments, wellness spa, open space and associated works including car parking, access, hard and soft landscaping and associated engineering works.

An extract of the development proposal is included below and the full plan is included in Appendix B.



1.3 Geology

The site is partly underlain by Glaciofluvial Deposits comprising sand and gravel and partly underlain by Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel. The bedrock geology is made up of the London Clay Formation, the depth of which is to be confirmed by on-site testing and is not expected to affect the drainage strategy.

NSRI Soilscales define the ground conditions as “Neutral and acid pastures and deciduous woodlands; acid communities such as bracken and gorse in the uplands”. Drainage is characterised as “freely draining”.

Based on the geology, infiltration is likely to be a viable outfall solution only in the Glaciofluvial Deposits at the top of the site. The Head Deposits, due to the clay and silt content are unlikely to provide a sufficiently high infiltration rate to accommodate soakaways. However, on-site tests will be carried out to determine the actual infiltration rates prior to detailed design.

1.4 Existing Drainage Infrastructure

The existing site is greenfield, with linear woodlands along the west, south and east and a few trees dotted across the site. The wider topography falls from west to east and so the woodland on the west of the site intercepts overland runoff from the adjacent upstream agricultural land.

Surface water mapping shows the site is predominantly at Very Low risk of flooding, which adds to the likelihood of infiltration being a viable outfall solution. There is an area of Low risk in the northwest corner of the site, where a possible channel has formed through the woodland within a contour valley.

There is no record of existing on-site drainage infrastructure (such as pipes etc) shown on the services survey (see Appendix A) however a ditch is present running south to north along the eastern site boundary. No outfall is shown from this ditch so it is assumed that overland flows (that do not drain immediately to ground) flow in an easterly direction before collecting within the ditch and infiltrating to ground, this is defined in the geo-environmental report carried out by Applied Geology as being 0.5m wide by 0.8m deep and it is noted that at the time of inspection there was no water present.

2.0 Flood Risk

2.1 Flood Risk Aims

The key aims of this flood risk assessment are to:

- Assess the flood risk to the development and to demonstrate the feasibility of designing the development so that the risk of flooding is acceptable.
- Assess the potential impact of the development on flood risk elsewhere and demonstrate that this can be mitigated by using sustainable drainage systems to drain the site.
- Satisfy the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework.

This assessment has been carried out in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The aim of the NPPF is to ensure that flood risk is considered at all stages in the planning process and to direct development run-off away from the areas at highest risk. Where new development is necessary in such areas, policy aims to make it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere and where possible to reduce flood risk overall.

The NPPF require that all sources of flooding are considered including: flood risk from rivers (fluvial), flood risk from the sea or tidally influenced rivers, surface water flood risk (pluvial), groundwater flood risk and flood risk from sewers, drains or artificial sources. Each source will be assessed in turn.

Further regional and local planning policies which apply to this area include:

- Chelmsford Level 1 and Level 2 Strategy Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), October 2017
- Essex SuDS Design Guide, 2020
- Chelmsford Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP), March 2014

These documents have been referred to and their guidance incorporated into the development proposals where appropriate.

The site is within Flood Zone 1 however, this FRA is required because the site is greater than 1 hectare.

2.2 Flood Risk from Rivers (Fluvial)

Watercourses flood when the amount of water in them exceeds the flow capacity of the river channel. Flooding can either develop gradually or rapidly, depending on the characteristics of the catchment.

Land use, topography and the development can have a strong influence on flooding from rivers. The site is located within Flood Zone 1 which is defined as land that has less than 1 in 1000 (<0.1%) annual probability of fluvial flooding and is categorised as 'low risk'.

As a residential development, the development type is classed as "more vulnerable", and in accordance with the NPPF, this is appropriate for Flood Zone 1. The sequential test is passed, and the exception test is not required.

Overall, Flood Risk from Fluvial Sources is **low** and **acceptable**.

2.3 Flood Risk from the Sea (Tidal)

Flooding to low-lying land from the sea and tidal estuaries is caused by storm surges and high tides. Where tidal defences exist, they can be overtopped or breached during a severe storm, which may be more likely with climate change.

The site is not near the sea or a tidally influenced river therefore Flood Risk from Tidal sources is considered to be **low** and **acceptable**.

2.4 Surface Water Flood Risk (Pluvial)

Intense rainfall, often of short duration, that is unable to soak into the ground or enter drainage systems can run quickly off land and result in local flooding. In developed areas, this flood water can be polluted with domestic sewage where foul sewers surcharge and overflow. Local topography and built form can have a strong influence on the direction and depth of flow. The design of a development down to a micro-level can influence or exacerbate this.

Overland flow paths should be taken into account in spatial planning for urban developments. Flooding can be exacerbated if development increases the percentage of impervious area.

The site has been planned taking account of exceedance flow routes and detailed design of the drainage facilities. Consequently the flood risk from surface water is considered to be **low** and **acceptable**.

2.5 Groundwater Flood Risk

The site is comprised of superficial deposits characterized as “freely draining” with the underlying formation (The London Clay Formation) classified as an unproductive aquifer. A review of the Site Investigation (Applied Geology) indicates that the risk from groundwater flooding is noted to be “low or moderate”.

Groundwater flood risk would likely be due to perched groundwater infiltrating from surface layers and percolating at a slower rate into the underlying clay. As there is minimal upstream catchment (upstream flow is impeded/diverted by the woodland present on the western site boundary), so long as infiltration features are designed to be shallow and exceedance flow routes are available, flood risk from groundwater sources is considered to be **low** and **acceptable**.

2.6 Flood Risk from Sewers

In urban areas, rainwater is frequently drained into sewers. Flooding can occur when sewers are overwhelmed by heavy rainfall or become blocked. Sewer flooding continues until the water drains away.

Sewer records have been requested and received. A copy is included in Appendix C. There is no public storm sewer in Blasford Hill, Little Waltham. A public foul sewer exists in the gardens behind the houses on the east side of Blasford Hill and manhole 6402 exists close to the north east corner of the site.

New proposed drainage infrastructure will be built in accordance with Building Regulations and will be maintained by a site wide maintenance contractor. The benefit of sustainable drainage systems (over traditional piped networks) is that features are typically shallow, easier to maintain and the need for maintenance is easier to identify (i.e., litter on a permeable pavement can be swept up and removed, however, litter in a gully tends to accumulate until a drainage failure occurs and a specialist contractor is required to fix the issue).

The site manager is encouraged to start and support a resident’s association (such as a “friends of” group, FoG) so that maintenance is continued in perpetuity for the appropriate sustainable drainage (and wider landscaping) features. As the drainage system is proposed to outfall via infiltration, it is important to make all site users aware of this so that accidental pollution incidents are avoided (for example to deter paint or chemical disposal into drainage infrastructure).

An outline maintenance guide is included in Appendix F it is recommended that more user-friendly guides are created following construction which can be circulated to both residents and maintenance contractors. There are no public (or private) sewers noted on the existing greenfield site, therefore flood risk from sewers is considered to be **low** and **acceptable**.

2.7 Flood Risk from Artificial Sources

Non-natural or artificial sources of flooding can include reservoirs, canals, and lakes. Reservoir or canal flooding may occur as a result of the facility being overwhelmed and/or as a result of dam or bank failure.

The site is not within a reservoir flood zone, therefore Flood Risk from Artificial Sources is considered to be **low** and **acceptable**.

2.8 Climate Change

The NPPF makes it a planning requirement to account for climate change in the proposed design. Current climate change maps indicate that the site lies within the 'Combined Essex Management Catchment' and so peak rainfall allowances for climate change are as follows: for a development with a "more vulnerable" classification and predicted lifetime of 100 years, the upper end allowance and 2070s Epoch is used.

For the 3.3% Annual Exceedance Risk (AER) event (1 in 30-year event) an allowance of 35% will be used when calculating storage volumes. For the 1% AER event (1 in 100-year event) an allowance of 40% climate change will be used.

2.9 Residual Risk & Exceedance

Flood Risk can be mitigated but never removed entirely. There will always be residual risk, e.g., from storm events that cannot be practicably accounted for, that far exceed the design event.

Exceedance flows will outfall east as per the existing scenario in line with the topography of the area. The destination of exceedance volumes (the highway) is classed as low risk. Exceedance Flow Paths should not be impeded by the development proposals. The plan in Appendix D shows the anticipated exceedance flow paths. External levels are recommended to be minimum 150mm below Finished Floor Levels (FFLs) in accordance with Building Regulations Part M. The Architect's plan, in Appendix D, shows the proposed site levels.

2.10 Access & Egress

The site is within Flood Zone 1 and therefore safe access and egress is provided via the main access route from Blasford Hill (B1008) which forms the eastern site boundary.

2.11 Loss of Floodplain Storage

The site is within Flood Zone 1 and therefore at low risk of both fluvial and pluvial flooding. A review of floodplain storage is not appropriate.

2.12 Flood Risk Mitigation Measures

The increase of impermeable area as a result of development will increase runoff rates and volumes unless appropriately mitigated. The recommended mitigation measures outlined as follows will reduce the impact of flood risk to the proposed development and downstream catchment:

- Wherever possible, permeable surfaces are to be chosen over impermeable surfaces. Examples include permeable paving, geogrids (filled with gravel or preferably low lying meadow species such as clover/vetch for a low maintenance temporary parking solution). The source control, interception and subbase attenuation benefits will improve drainage and reduce surface water flood risk.
- Implementation of a sustainable drainage design (covered in a separate report) will ensure that runoff rates are not increased, and where possible (i.e., where infiltration is viable) runoff volumes are not increased. This will be achieved using a variety of SuDS features such as

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rainwater harvesting, permeable paving, swales and infiltration/detention basins. Attenuation will be provided on-site for all storm events up to and including the extreme 1 in 100 year event plus a 40% allowance for climate change.

APPENDIX A
TOPOGRPAHICAL SURVEY

APPENDIX B

ARCHITECT'S PLANS



APPENDIX C
ANGLIA WATER ASSETS



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Date: 29/08/23

Scale: 1:1250

Map Centre: 570692,212307

Data updated: 31/07/23

Our Ref: 1260016 - 1

Wastewater Plan A3

This plan is provided by Anglian Water pursuant its obligations under the Water Industry Act 1991 sections 198 or 199. It must be used in conjunction with any search results attached. The information on this plan is based on data currently recorded but position must be regarded as approximate. Service pipes, private sewers and drains are generally not shown. Users of this map are strongly advised to commission their own survey of the area shown on the plan before carrying out any works. The actual position of all apparatus MUST be established by trial holes. No liability whatsoever, including liability for negligence, is accepted by Anglian Water for any error or inaccuracy or omission, including the failure to accurately record, or record at all, the location of any water main, discharge pipe, sewer or disposal main or any item of apparatus. This information is valid for the date printed. This plan is produced by Anglian Water Services Limited (c) Crown copyright and database rights 2023 Ordnance Survey 100022432. This map is to be used for the purposes of viewing the location of Anglian Water plant only. Any other uses of the map data or further copies is not permitted. This notice is not intended to exclude or restrict liability for death or personal injury resulting from negligence.

Foul Sewer					
Surface Sewer		Outfall*		Sewage Treatment Works	
Combined Sewer				Public Pumping Station	
Final Effluent		Inlet*		Decommissioned Pumping Station	
Rising Main*					
Private Sewer*		Manhole*			
Decommissioned Sewer*					

*(Colour denotes effluent type)

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APPENDIX D

DRAINAGE STRATEGY

APPENDIX E

NOT USED

APPENDIX F

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	
Generally	Frequency
Litter: collect all litter or other debris and remove from site at each visit.	Monthly
INLETS, OUTLETS, CONTROLS, GULLIES, CHANNEL DRAINS, ATTENUATION TANKS AND INSPECTION CHAMBERS	
Regular Maintenance	Frequency
Inspect surface structures removing obstructions, sediment, oil/grease and floating debris and silt as necessary. Check there is no physical damage.	Monthly
Trim vegetation 1m min. surround to structures and keep hard aprons free from silt and debris.	Monthly
Flow Control Devices (Hydrobrake): Inspect and remove blockages, hose down as required, check flow.	Six-monthly
Inspection chambers and below ground control chambers: Remove cover and inspect ensuring water is flowing freely and that the exit route for water is unobstructed. Remove debris and silt.	Annually
Undertake inspection after leaf fall in autumn and major storm events.	
Occasional Maintenance	
Cleaning of the system if necessary. They should be designed out of the system where possible.	As necessary
Remedial Work	
Inspect and remove baskets or similar silt-traps clean and replace.	As necessary
Repair physical damage if necessary.	
PERMEABLE AND POROUS SURFACES	
Regular Maintenance	
Cleaning Brush regularly and remove sweepings from all hard surfaces.	Monthly
Occasional Maintenance	
Permeable Pavements. Brush and vacuum surface once a year to prevent silt blockage and enhance design life.	Annually
Remedial work	
Monitor effectiveness of permeable pavement and when water does not infiltrate immediately advise Client of possible need for reinstatement of top layers or specialist cleaning. Recent experience suggests jet washing and suction cleaning will substantially reinstate pavement to 90% efficiency.	As required
OVERLAND FLOW AND DESIGNED FLOODABLE AREAS	
Regular Maintenance	
Ensure flood flow routes or areas that are design to temporarily store flood water are not obstructed. Remove obstructions from site.	Monthly