



100954 Top Wighay Farm, Hucknall

Drainage & Flood Risk Review

Top Wighay Farm, Hucknall Drainage & Flood Risk Review

February 2024

REPORT REF: TWFH-DCE-XX-XX-RP-C-0001

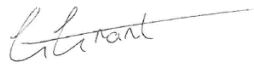
Date: March 2024
Report ref: TWFH-DCE-XX-XX-RP-C-0001
Report revision: REV -P01

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1.0 Introduction

1.1. Scope of Works

Dice Consulting Engineers Ltd (Dice) has been commissioned by Linby Parish Council to undertake a review of the drainage strategy and flood risk information submitted for the proposed development at Top Wighay Farm, Hucknall (Outline Ref. 2020/0050). The development proposes the erection of up to 763 residential dwellings, including public open space, community hub/multi use games area and allotments, and associated infrastructure. The supporting information submitted as part of the subsequent planning applications references 2023/0872 and Planning Variation 2024/0063 have also been reviewed.

1.2 Site Location

The site is located in North Nottingham, approximately 11.8km from Nottingham City Centre, covering a total area of approximately 40ha, including development areas that are not to be served by the proposed infrastructure. Site postcode: NG15 8JN.

The wider site can be seen in **Appendix A**, with the red areas not being included in the strategy that is being reviewed.

1.2 Site Description

The site is classified as entirely greenfield, comprising grassland and farmland.

1.3 Site Proposals

The site proposals that are being reviewed show the development of approximately 28.4ha, including the school, which is to have independent attenuation to the wider site, with the school development covering an area of 2.15ha.

1.4 Topography

The site has reasonable sloping topography, with a central low point within the middle of the site, and low points along the eastern boundaries.

1.5 Existing Drainage Assets

There are no known public or private sewers within the site. There are, however, several watercourses, generally running from North West to South East.

2.0 Pre-development Flood Risk

2.1. Existing Discharges

The site is classified as greenfield, as such the existing greenfield runoff can be calculated for the 28.4ha development area at 83.36l/s. Therefore, this quantifies 83.36l/s following the existing flood route path.

2.2. Pluvial Flooding

Pluvial flooding occurs when natural and engineered systems have insufficient capacity to deal with the volume of rainfall. This flood water would then be conveyed via overland flow routes dictated by the local topography.

The Environment Agency Risk of Flooding from Surface Water mapping for the site area is shown in **Figure 1** below. The map indicates several hot spots of low to high flood risk throughout the site, predominantly where the watercourses are present, which is not uncommon. There is however a centralised spot of high flood risk in the middle of the site. From reviewing the topography and pre-development flood route path, this area looks to collect a large amount of existing runoff, with no positive outfall. This means that this hotspot likely stores and infiltrates a large portion of the site's existing runoff.

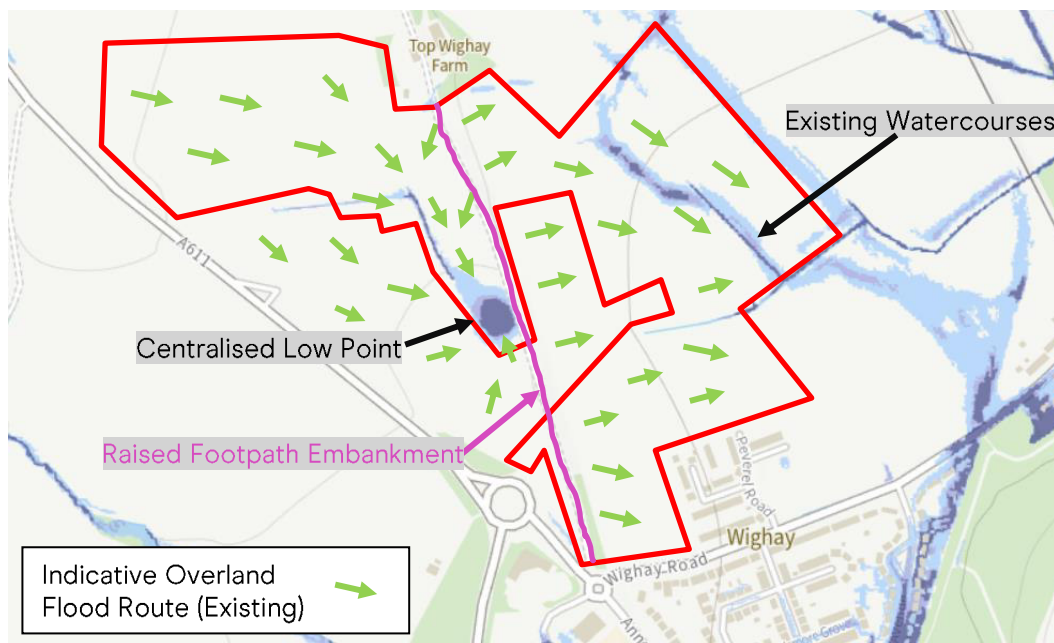


Figure 3 - Environment Agency Flood Mapping – Risk of Flooding from Surface Water, Edited

2.3. Groundwater Flooding

The site is identified as being within an area at high risk from groundwater flooding, with the Geo-environmental assessment (Ref. 19-1149.01) confirming groundwater to be present within a few hotspots across the site. Though groundwater risk is high in some areas, a considerate earthworks design and implementation of SuDS can likely mitigate any risk this poses.

2.3. Other Flooding Sources

All other flooding sources including reservoirs, fluvial, sewer and tidal are considered low risk.

3.0 Drainage Proposal Review

The below review has been undertaken for the below documents and drawings:

1. Geo-Environmental Assessment – Ref. 19-1149.01 (DeltaSimons 2019) (Outline Ref. 2020/0050)
2. Flood Risk Assessment & Drainage Strategy – Ref. TWFH-BSP-ZZ-XX-RP-C-001-P02_Flood_Risk_Assessment (BSP Consulting 2019) (Outline Ref. 2020/0050)
3. Drainage Proposals Strategy – Ref. 22095-126 (Mucklow & Harris 2023) (Planning Ref. 2023/0872)
4. Addendum to the Flood Risk Assessment – Ref 22095 (Mucklow & Harris 2024) (Planning Ref. 2023/0872)

3.1. Proposed Discharge Rates

The Drainage Proposals Strategy (3.), shown in **Appendix B**, proposes a total of 4 no. outfalls totalling an overall discharge rate of 115.44l/s. The proposals show to drain a development area of approximately 28.4ha, which will be made up of hardstanding and greenspace. In line with the LLFA requirements and best practices, the development should restrict overall runoff to greenfield runoff rates. Dice have independently undertaken a greenfield calculation, which can be seen in **Appendix C**.

The calculated greenfield runoff rate assumes a corrected soil value of 3 (ranges 1-5, higher values = greater runoff), with the default recommendation for this area being 1. However, a soil value of 1 for this site has been considered unfeasible, as this assumes granular free-draining soil, when in fact much of the site is underlain by cohesive clay. It is also considered that soil values higher than 3 are unrealistic for the site due to a reasonable topography and hot spots of underlying granular sand. The soil values themselves are taken from broad geological information so they cannot be considered accurate for each site.

The result of this calculation was 83.36l/s (QBAR) runoff for the 28.4ha site. This newly calculated rate is lower than the proposed rate submitted at planning, as such it is recommended that the greenfield runoff be reviewed before site development.

3.2. Proposed Discharge Locations

The Drainage Proposals Strategy (3.) proposes 4no. outfalls, that are independently controlled and attenuated. All these outfalls show discharges into watercourses. However, due to the topography directing water away from the proposed discharge points, the existing runoff from the pre-developed site does not enter these locations entirely. The areas that are experiencing catchment transfer have been identified in **Figure 2**.



Figure 2 – Dice Catchment Sketch

Area A covers a significant portion of the site at 11.23ha, therefore having a calculated existing greenfield runoff rate of 33.3l/s. This runoff is directed along the existing overland flood route, indicated in **Figure 1**, towards a centralised low point with no confirmed positive outfall. The BSP FRA (2.) states this low point is currently served by a drainage ditch with a positively drained pipe, however, there remains insufficient evidence to confirm if this is the case or where the pipe ultimately discharges to. This means that the directed rainfall runoff collects within this centralised low point, as shown on the Environment Agency's surface water flood maps. Once at the low point, surface water is most likely stored and infiltrated over time, unless the outfall pipe mentioned can be traced to confirm connection to one of the watercourses within or surrounding the site.

Therefore, runoff from Area A does not currently enter any of the outfall watercourses. The Drainage Proposals Strategy (3.) shows proposed runoff to be directed out of Area A and into a watercourse that is not currently serving this catchment. The drainage proposals strategy (3.) shows positive drainage to direct runoff from impermeable areas north. The FRA addendum (4.) then shows a new culvert crossing to be installed to divert flooding from the low point eastwards. As such the proposed development within this area could pose increased flood risk to the wider area due to increasing the volume of water that is currently entering the watercourses on the eastern boundary.

Likewise, Area B does not currently enter a watercourse, with the existing rainfall runoff from this area collecting on the south-eastern boundary. Anecdotal evidence suggests there are existing flooding issues within this area and to the existing neighbouring property, which confirms the flood route path analysis undertaken. Similarly to Area A, the Drainage Proposals Strategy (3.) shows runoff from Area B to be directed away from the existing flood route and into a watercourse that does not currently service this area. Granted this diversion would assist the existing flooding issues experienced on this boundary, but would ultimately incur additional runoff entering the wider ditch network.

The combination of Area A & B presents an additional proposed flow of approximately 38.6l/s entering the eastern watercourses, on top of what is currently entering them. Should the existing watercourses already be close to or be at capacity, then this additional flow may cause flooding issues to the proposed site and the wider area. As such it is recommended that an analysis be undertaken to understand if the receiving watercourses can manage this additional flow before any site development. Alternatively, additional evidence can be provided to show that the existing site does in fact enter the receiving watercourses and that the proposed development runoff resembles that of the predevelopment runoff.

In addition to the surface water sewerage proposals, there are several proposals to clear ditches and remove existing culverts. These proposals should be backed up by calculations to evidence that these works will not increase flooding downstream. Currently, no assessment has been undertaken to identify current flooding issues downstream of this ditch network. Should anecdotal evidence of flooding issues in Linby be correct, then it is possible that these ditch works could exacerbate existing flooding issues further.

3.3. Discharge Hierarchy

Part H of the Building Regulations 2015 recommends that surface water run-off shall discharge to one of the following, listed in order of priority:

- An adequate soakaway or other adequate infiltration system, or where that is not reasonably practicable;
- A watercourse, or, where that is not reasonably practicable;
- A sewer.

As part of the Geo-environmental investigation report, intrusive testing was carried out on-site to monitor groundwater, contamination, and infiltration potential. The results from this report show groundwater to be present in some locations, which could render infiltration unviable in the areas if a 1m offset cannot be achieved between groundwater and the base of the infiltration component.

The report does however show acceptable infiltration rates in SA105, and no groundwater encounters. Therefore, it is suggested that infiltration be considered within this area, as well as any others that do not experience shallow groundwater or poor infiltration. In addition to this, it is advised that additional infiltration tests be carried out at the site's low points (identified in **Figure 2**) to better understand if there are other infiltration opportunities within the site.

3.3. **Drainage Areas & Attenuation**

Dice have estimated the impermeable areas to be circa 15.6ha, which is circa 0.9ha larger than the submitted information. The proposals and calculations should be reviewed to ensure the areas calculated are correct.

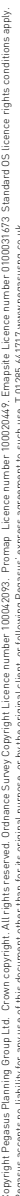
Dice cannot comment on the attenuation given the above findings and recommendations, but the volumes shown look reasonable for the discharge rates proposed. However, as discussed above Dice recommends the discharge rates are reconsidered to ensure the pre-development runoff rate remains equal to the post-development runoff rate.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Dice Consulting Engineers Ltd (Dice) has been commissioned by Linby Parish Council to undertake a review of the drainage strategy and flood risk information submitted for the proposed development at Top Wighay Farm, Hucknall (Outline Ref. 2020/0050).
- 4.2 The site is currently classified as greenfield with the proposal of up to 763 residential dwellings, including public open space, community hub/multi-use games area and allotments, and associated infrastructure.
- 4.3 The development area covers approximately 28.4ha, equating to a greenfield discharge rate of 83.36/s following the pre-development flood exceedance route.
- 4.4 The pre-development flood exceedance route shows existing surface water runoff to be directed in 3 different directions, splitting the site into 3 separate areas. One of these areas (A) shows runoff to be directed towards a centralised low point, where excess runoff collects and is likely stored and infiltrated over time. This is reinforced within the surface water flood risk maps, as this area is identified at high risk of surface water flooding. Another area (B) then directs runoff towards the existing highway, with anecdotal evidence suggesting historical flooding issues in this area. Finally, the last area (C), directs runoff to the watercourses that are located along the eastern boundary.
- 4.5 The proposed development shows to positively drain the impermeable development areas towards the eastern watercourses and control flows to a total of 115.44l/s. This is larger than what Dice have calculated as the greenfield runoff following the pre-development exceedance route. On top of this, as discussed above, not all of the greenfield runoff leaves the site, resulting in the proposals showing additional flow entering the watercourses beyond what is currently experienced.
- 4.6 The estimated runoff that is likely to leave the existing site, and enter the eastern watercourses, is approximately 55.71l/s. This is significantly lower than what is proposed in the submitted strategy.
- 4.7 Should a discharge rate greater than 55.71l/s be proposed to leave the site, then it is recommended that further investigation be undertaken to understand the available capacity of the receiving watercourses and downstream network. This is to ensure that an increased flow within these assets will not cause flooding issues for the proposed site or wider area.
- 4.8 In addition to the discharge rate proposals. Dice believe inadequate evidence has been submitted to discount infiltration as a viable means of surface water disposal, and suggests infiltration be considered in catchments rather than the sitewide approach currently adopted.
- 4.9 Dice cannot review the attenuation requirements given the above recommendations regarding discharge rates. However, the impermeable areas shown within the proposed strategy look to be circa 0.9ha lower than the Dice estimate. As such it is recommended an impermeable areas plan be submitted to confirm the calculated attenuation volumes.

Appendices

Appendix A



Appendix B

Appendix C

Calculated by:	George Grant
Site name:	Top Wighay Farm
Site location:	Hucknall

This is an estimation of the greenfield runoff rates that are used to meet normal best practice criteria in line with Environment Agency guidance "Rainfall runoff management for developments", SC030219 (2013), the SuDS Manual C753 (Ciria, 2015) and the non-statutory standards for SuDS (Defra, 2015). This information on greenfield runoff rates may be the basis for setting consents for the drainage of surface water runoff from sites.

Site Details

Latitude:	53.05182° N
Longitude:	1.21689° W
Reference:	3174509290
Date:	Mar 25 2024 13:52

Runoff estimation approach

IH124

Site characteristics

Total site area (ha):	28.4
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Methodology

Q_{BAR} estimation method:	Calculate from SPR and SAAR
SPR estimation method:	Calculate from SOIL type

Notes

(1) Is $Q_{BAR} < 2.0$ l/s/ha?

When Q_{BAR} is < 2.0 l/s/ha then limiting discharge rates are set at 2.0 l/s/ha.

Soil characteristics

	Default	Edited
SOIL type:	1	3
HOST class:	N/A	N/A
SPR/SPRHOST:	0.1	0.37

(2) Are flow rates < 5.0 l/s?

Where flow rates are less than 5.0 l/s consent for discharge is usually set at 5.0 l/s if blockage from vegetation and other materials is possible. Lower consent flow rates may be set where the blockage risk is addressed by using appropriate drainage elements.

Hydrological characteristics

	Default	Edited
SAAR (mm):	713	713
Hydrological region:	4	4
Growth curve factor 1 year:	0.83	0.83
Growth curve factor 30 years:	2	2
Growth curve factor 100 years:	2.57	2.57
Growth curve factor 200 years:	3.04	3.04

(3) Is $SPR/SPRHOST \leq 0.3$?

Where groundwater levels are low enough the use of soakaways to avoid discharge offsite would normally be preferred for disposal of surface water runoff.

Greenfield runoff rates

Default

Edited

Q_{BAR} (l/s):	4.87	83.36
1 in 1 year (l/s):	4.05	69.19
1 in 30 years (l/s):	9.75	166.72
1 in 100 year (l/s):	12.53	214.24
1 in 200 years (l/s):	14.82	253.42

This report was produced using the greenfield runoff tool developed by HR Wallingford and available at www.uksuds.com. The use of this tool is subject to the UK SuDS terms and conditions and licence agreement , which can both be found at www.uksuds.com/terms-and-conditions.htm. The outputs from this tool are estimates of greenfield runoff rates. The use of these results is the responsibility of the users of this tool. No liability will be accepted by HR Wallingford, the Environment Agency, CEH, Hydrosolutions or any other organisation for the use of this data in the design or operational characteristics of any drainage scheme.