



# Flood Risk Assessment for Planning

**Prepared for:**

Miss Debra Low

**December 2022**

**Our reference:**

92501-ABDS-TheElms

**Location:**

The Elms  
Lower Somersham  
Ipswich  
Suffolk  
IP8 4QH



## Document Issue Record

<b>Project:</b>	Flood Risk Assessment for Planning
<b>Client:</b>	Miss Debra Low
<b>Application:</b>	Erection of two-storey side extension, two-storey front extension, single-storey front extension, and single storey rear extension and decking (following demolition of existing conservatory and outbuilding)
<b>Location:</b>	The Elms, Lower Somersham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 4QH
<b>Our reference:</b>	92501-ABDS-TheElms
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<b>Lead Consultant:</b>	Ms Jackie Stone
<b>Authorisation:</b>	Mrs Emma Jeffery

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# 1. Key Facts

## 1.1 Flood Risk Posed:

- Site is situated within Flood Zones 1, 2 and 3 (Low, Medium and High Risk).
- The risk would appear to be fluvial and originate from The Channel/Somersham Watercourse 2.6m to the south of the site.
- Product 4 modelled flood levels and extents have been requested from the Environment Agency for use within this report.
- No Flood Storage Areas located in close proximity to the site.
- No evidence has been presented to suggest that the site is protected by a formal flood defence
- No historical flooding reported at the site or the surrounding area.
- The EA Risk of Flooding from Surface Water Map suggests that the site lies in an area at "Very Low" to "High" risk from surface water. The "High" risk is from surface water is predominately contained within The Channel.
- Additionally, the risk of flooding posed to the site by sewer surcharge and reservoir flooding would appear to be low.
- Risk of sewer flooding and reservoir flooding would appear to be very low.

## 1.2 Flood Risk Mitigation:

- The proposed residential extension is >8m from the main river. In addition, no building materials or machinery will be stored within 8m of the main river. Therefore, a Flood Risk Activity permit is not required.
- The proposed development fits within EA standing advice for domestic extensions.
- No new bedrooms are proposed on the ground floor or new basements.
- No additional residential units will be created as part of the development.
- The additional footprint created by the development will not exceed 250m<sup>2</sup>.
- Floor levels within the extension will be set no lower than existing floor levels.
- Internal access will be maintained from ground floor to the first-floor level.
- Flood proofing of the development will be incorporated as appropriate.
- The applicant will register with the Environment Agency Floodline Alert/Warnings Direct service.

**Assuming accordance with these flood risk management measures, Unda Consulting Limited consider the proposed application to be suitable in flood risk terms.**

## 2. Introduction

Unda Consulting Limited have been appointed by Miss Debra Low (hereinafter referred to as “the applicant”) to undertake a Flood Risk Assessment for the proposed development The Elms, Lower Somersham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 4QH (hereinafter referred to as “the site”). The FRA has been undertaken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the associated technical guidance.

The site appears to be located within Flood Zones 1, 2 and 3 as defined by the Environment Agency (EA) on their Flood Map for Planning. Under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), a FRA is required if a proposed development:

- includes building or engineering works in Flood Zone 2 or 3;
- includes building or engineering works on land classified by the Environment Agency as having critical drainage problem;
- changes the use of land or buildings in a location at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea, or with critical drainage problems;
- changes the use of land or buildings in a way that increases the flood vulnerability of the development where it may be subject to other sources of flooding;
- is larger than 1 hectare.

The assessment should demonstrate to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and EA how flood risk will be managed now and over the development’s lifetime, taking climate change into account, and with regard to the vulnerability of its potential users.

- whether the proposed development is likely to be affected by current or future flooding from any source;
- whether it will increase flood risk elsewhere;
- whether the measures proposed to deal with these effects and risks are appropriate.

### 3. Existing Situation

#### 3.1 Site Usage:

The site consists of an existing residential dwelling. The site is understood to have lawful planning permission for residential use.

A site location plan and existing plans are provided in the report Appendix.



Figure 1: Aerial photograph of site and surrounding area (Source: Google Earth)



Figure 2: Site location plan (Source: ABDS)

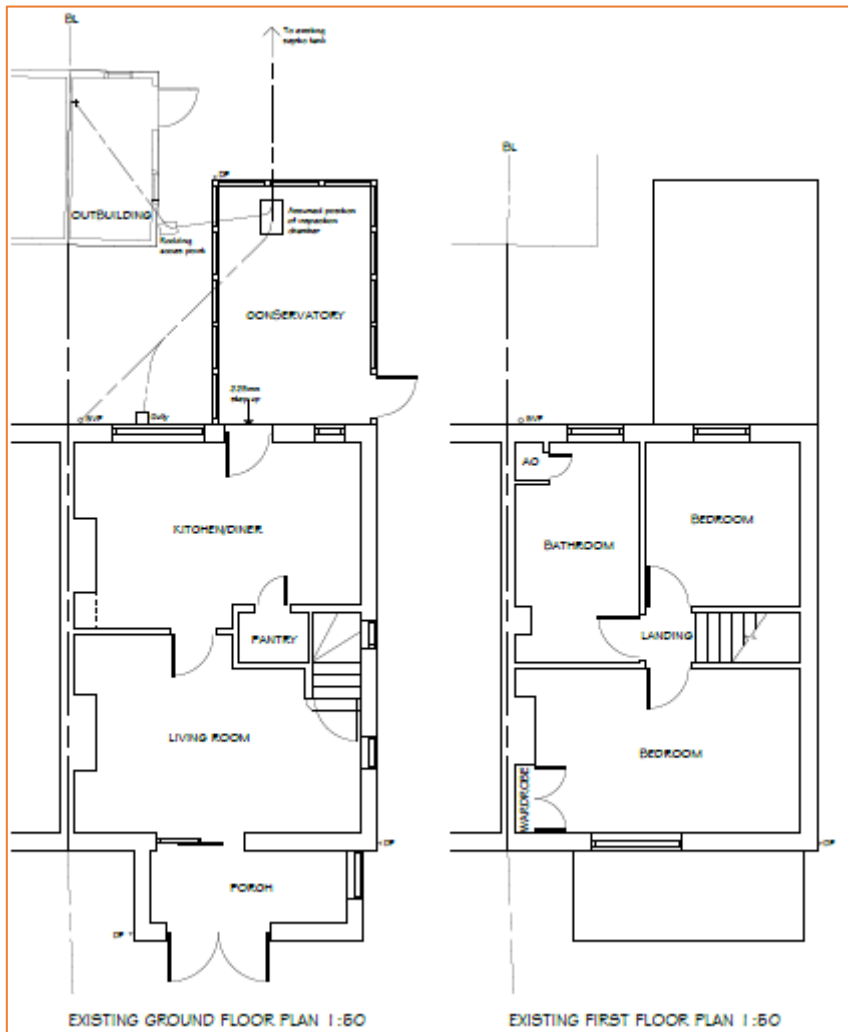


Figure 3: Existing ground and first floor plans (Source: ABDS)

### 3.2 Topography:

Environment Agency LiDAR has been used to assess the topography across the site and wider area. Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) is an airborne mapping technique, which uses a laser to measure the distance between the aircraft and the ground surface. Up to 100,000 measurements per second are made of the ground, allowing highly detailed terrain models to be generated at high spatial resolutions. The EA's LIDAR data archive contains digital elevation data derived from surveys carried out by the EA's specialist remote sensing team. Accurate elevation data is available for over 70% of England. The LiDAR technique records an elevation accurate to +0.15m every 1m. This dataset is derived from a combination of our full dataset which has been merged and re-sampled to give the best possible coverage. The dataset can be supplied as a Digital Surface Model (DSM) produced from the signal returned to the LIDAR (which includes heights of objects, such as vehicles, buildings and vegetation, as well as the terrain surface) or as a Digital Terrain Model (DTM) produced by removing objects from the Digital Surface Model. 1.0m horizontal resolution DTM LiDAR data has been used for the purposes of this study.

LiDAR remotely sensed digital elevation data suggests that the ground topography on the site ranges between approximately 24.5m AOD at the front of the site to 26.4m AOD at the rear garden boundary.

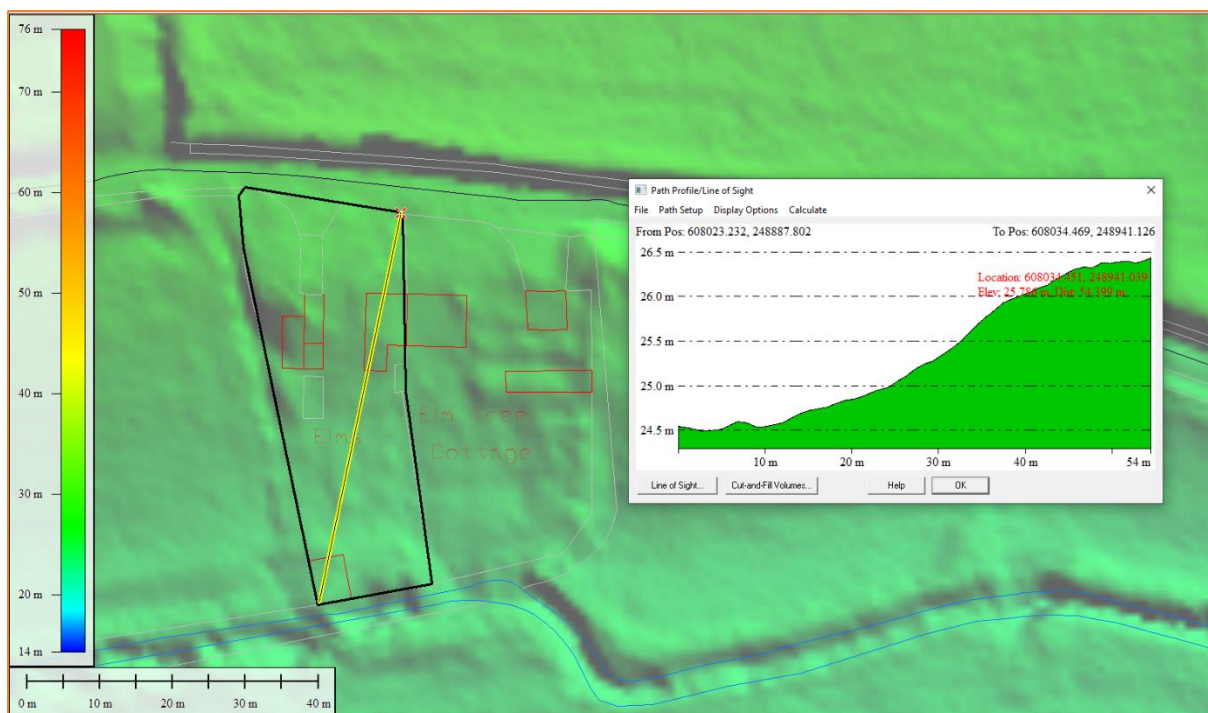


Figure 4: LiDAR DTM showing topographic levels across the site (transect runs south-north) (Source: EA 1m LiDAR)



### 3.3 Geology and Soil:

The British Geological Survey (BGS) Map indicates that the bedrock underlying the site is Newhaven Chalk Formation – Chalk.

The British Geological Survey (BGS) Map indicates that the superficial deposits underlying the site is River Terrace Deposits – Sands and Gravel.

The soil type taken from the UK Soil Observatory website shows deep soils from River Terrace Sand/Gravel soil parent material. The soil texture is sandy loam.

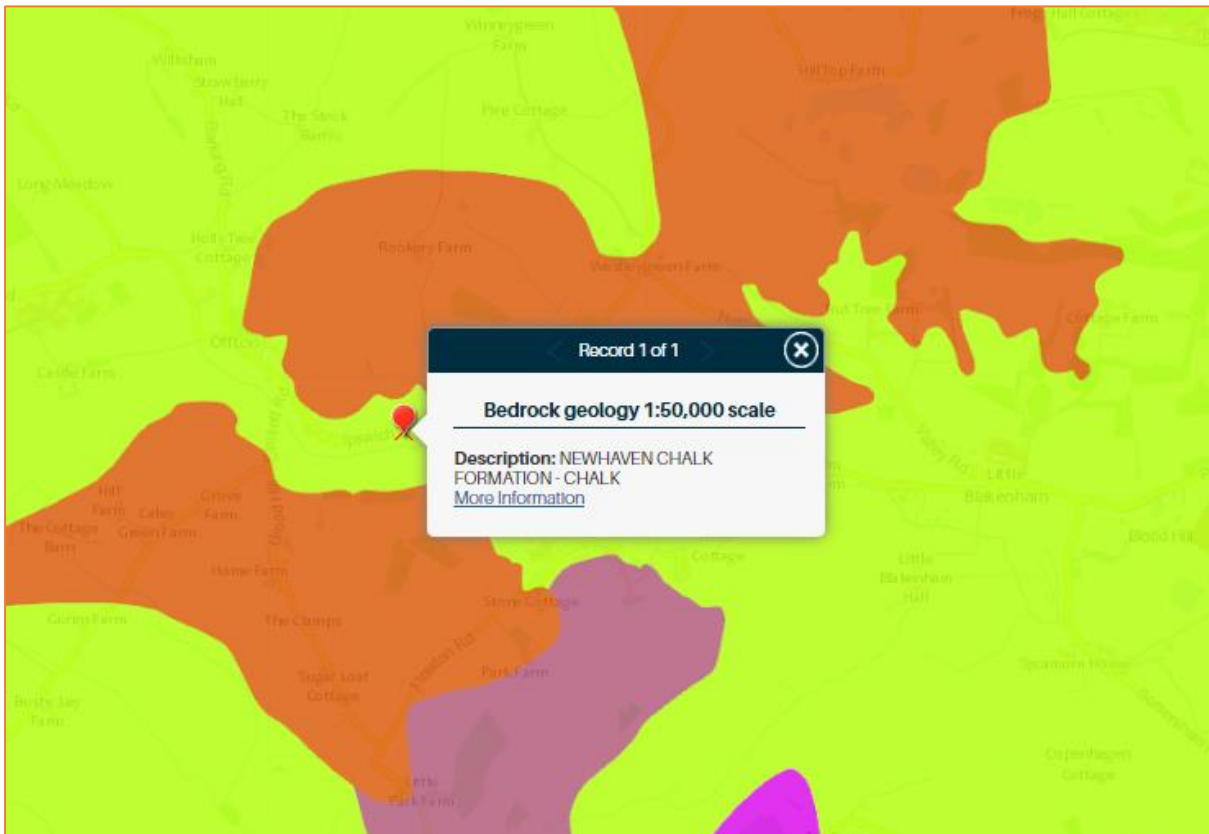


Figure 5: Local bedrock geology (Source: BGS)

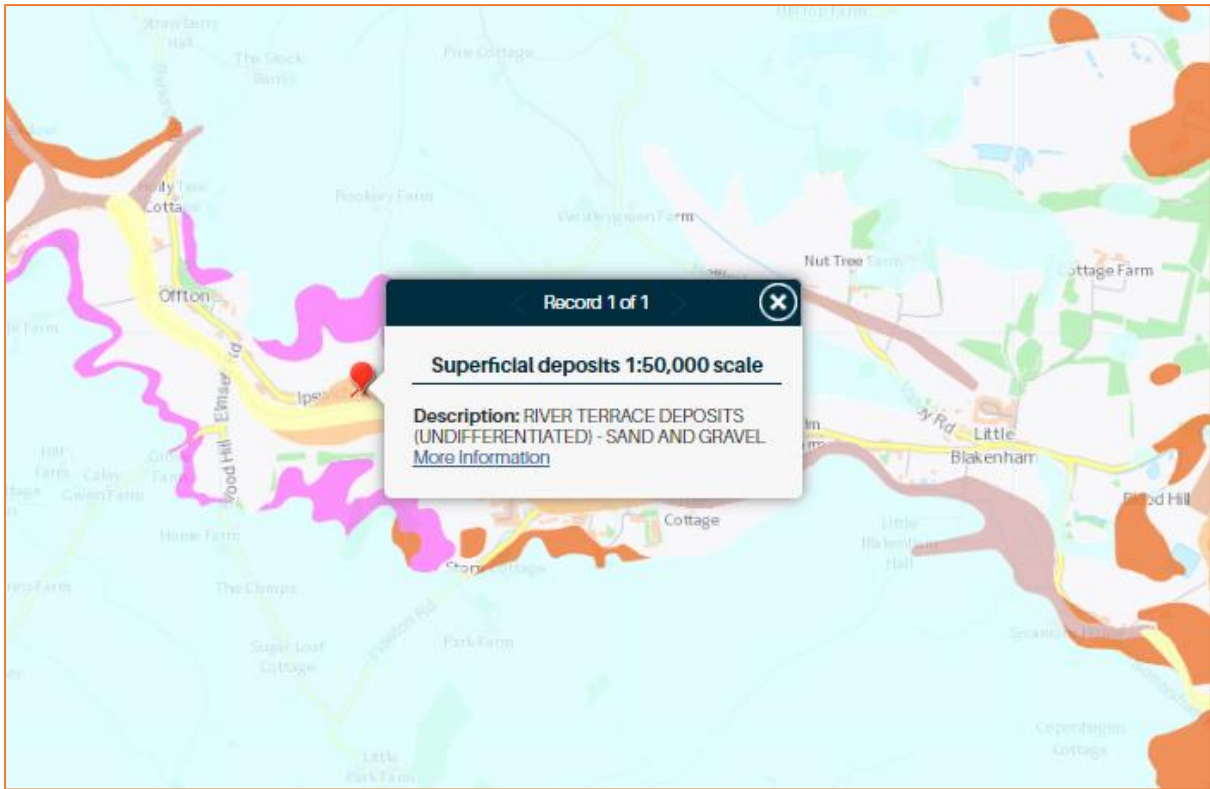


Figure 6: Local superficial geology (Source: BGS)



Figure 7: Local soil types (Source: UKSO)

### 3.4. Riparian Ownership:

A riparian owner is someone who owns land or property alongside a river or other watercourses. A watercourse is any natural or artificial channel through which water flows including flow through a culvert, ditch, drain, cut, dyke, sluice or private sewer.

Riparian owners have statutory responsibilities, including:

- Maintaining river beds and banks;
- Allowing the flow of water to pass without obstruction;
- Controlling invasive alien species

Further guidance for riverside property owners can be found in the Environment Agency's helpful booklet 'Living on the Edge, 5th Edition' published in June 2014.

The applicant has confirmed they do not own any land or property alongside a river or other watercourse.

### 3.5. Environmental Permit for Flood Risk Activity:

Under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 any activity within 8m of the bank of a main river, or 16m if it is a tidal main river, or any activity within 8m of any flood defence structure or culvert on a main river, or 16m on a tidal river or any activity within 16m of a sea defence structure may require a permit. Some activities may be excluded or exempt. Further details and guidance are available on the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits>.

For more information and to apply please contact the Partnerships and Strategic Overview team at:

- National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506 or
- [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Please be aware that Environment Agency permits, consents and licences are separate from the planning process and are not guaranteed.

The applicant has confirmed that no activity will take place within 8m of the bank of a main river or any activity within 8m of any flood defence structure or culvert on a main river. An Environmental Permit for Flood Risk Activity will therefore not be required.

The proposed residential extension is >8m from the main river. In addition, no building materials or machinery will be stored within 8m of the main river. Therefore a Flood Risk Activity permit is not required.

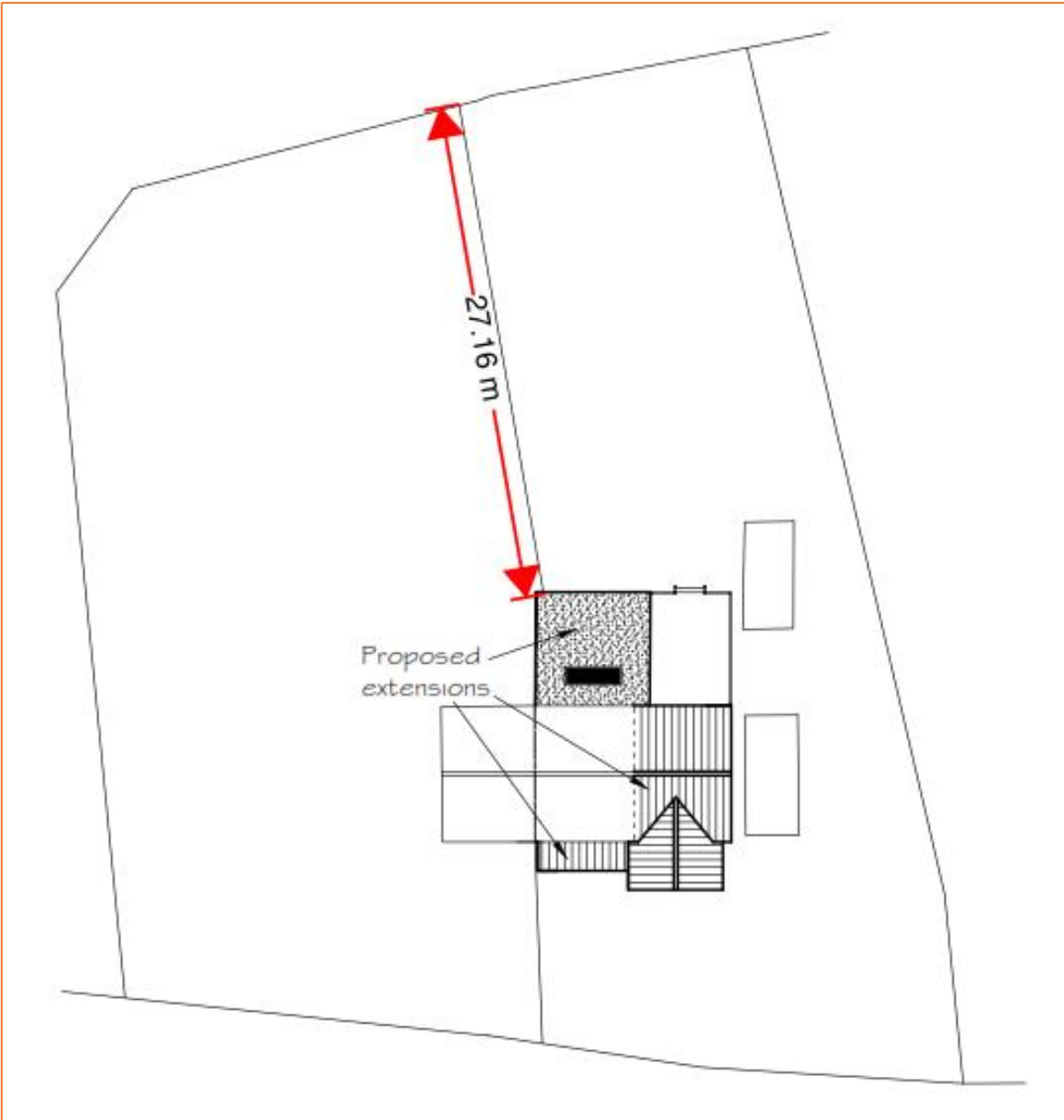


Figure 8: Distance of the proposed residential extension in relation to the Main River (Source: ABDS)

## 4. Development Proposal

The proposed application is for the erection of two-storey side extension, two-storey front extension, single-storey front extension, and single storey rear extension and decking (following demolition of existing conservatory and outbuilding).

No bedrooms are proposed on the groundfloor or new basements.

The increase in built footprint is approximately 131.38m<sup>2</sup>.

Proposed plans are provided in the report Appendix.

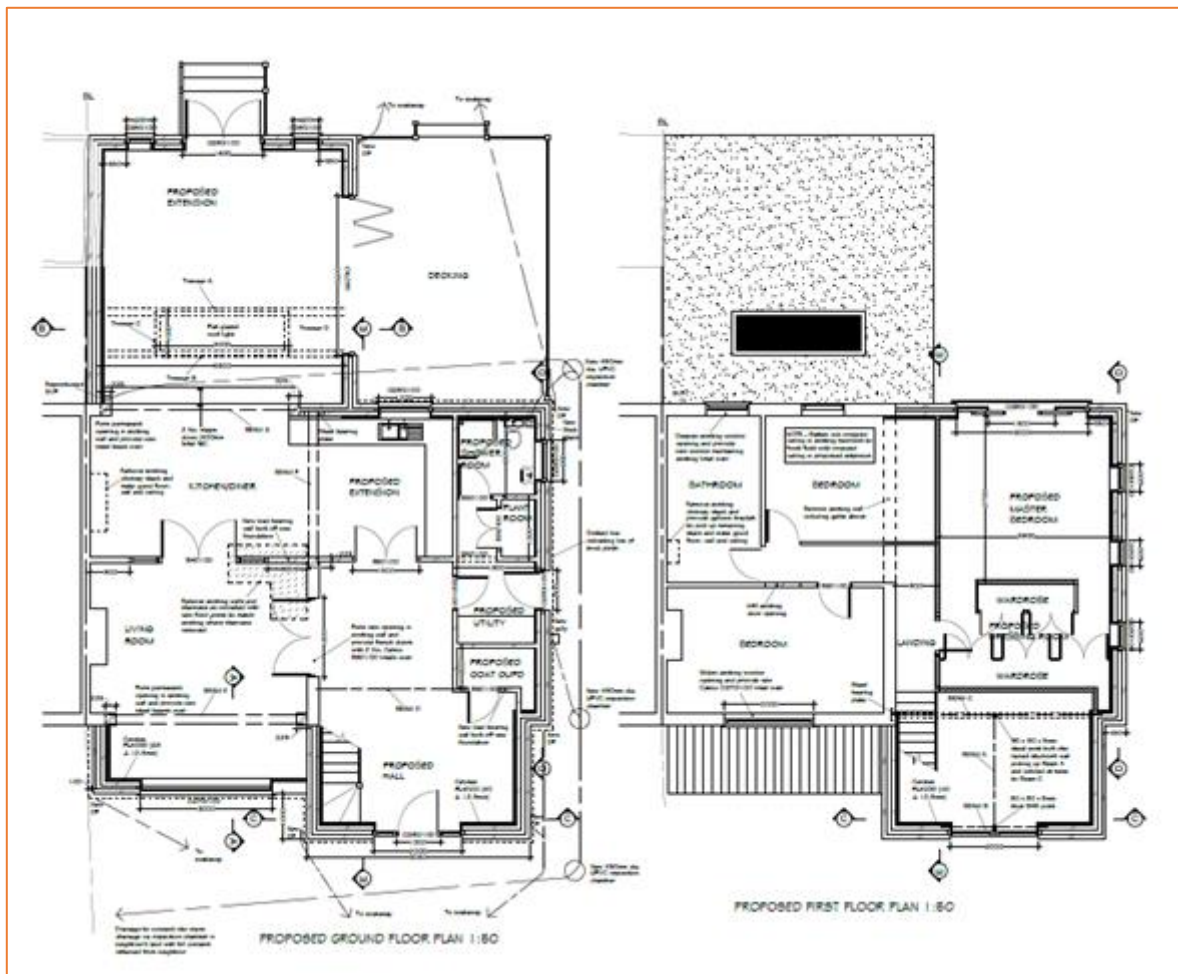


Figure 9: Proposed ground and first floor plan (Source: ABDS)

## 5. Assessment of Flood Risk

### 5.1 Flood Zones:

Within planning, Flood Zones refer to the probability of river and sea flooding, ignoring the presence of defences. They are shown on the Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea), available on the Environment Agency's website.

Flood Zone	Definition
Zone 1 <b>Low Probability</b>	Land having a less than 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river or sea flooding. (Shown as 'clear' on the Flood Map – all land outside Zones 2 and 3)
Zone 2 <b>Medium Probability</b>	Land having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river flooding; or Land having between a 1 in 200 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of sea flooding. (Land shown in light blue on the Flood Map)
Zone 3a <b>High Probability</b>	Land having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding; or Land having a 1 in 200 or greater annual probability of sea flooding. (Land shown in dark blue on the Flood Map)
Zone 3b <b>The Functional Floodplain</b>	This zone comprises land where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood. Local planning authorities should identify in their Strategic Flood Risk Assessments areas of functional floodplain and its boundaries accordingly, in agreement with the Environment Agency. (Not separately distinguished from Zone 3a on the Flood Map)

Table 1: Flood Zones

The Flood Zones shown on the Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) do not take account of the possible impacts of climate change and consequent changes in the future probability of flooding.

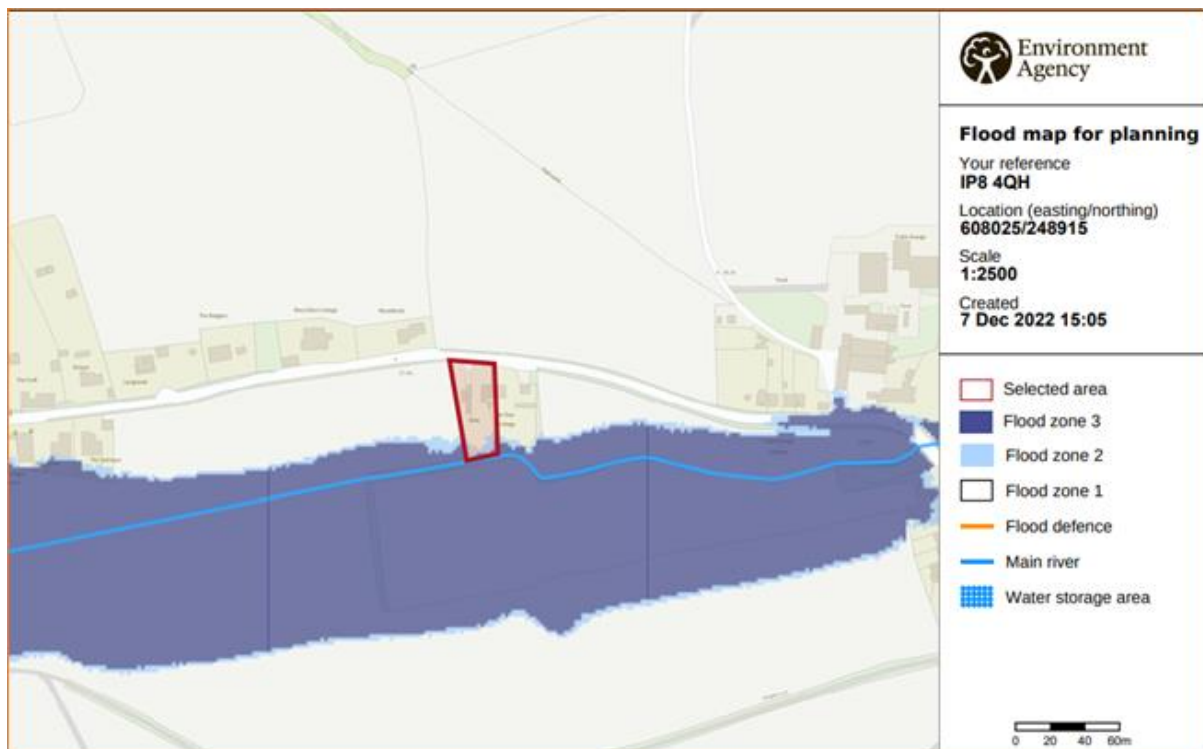


Figure 10: Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) (Source: EA)

The site is located partially within Flood Zone 1 (Low Probability), which means it is defined as land having a less than 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river and sea flooding, Flood Zone 2 (Medium Probability), which means it is defined as land having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river and sea flooding and Flood Zone 3 (High Probability), which means it is defined as land having at least a 1:100 annual probability of fluvial flooding.

The risk would appear to be fluvial and originate from The Channel /Somersham Watercourse 2.6m to the south of the site.

## **5.2 Fluvial (The Channel/ Somersham Watercourse):**

The Channel/ Somersham Watercourse is classified as a “Main River” by the Environment Agency and flows in a west to east direction at this location. The Channel/ Somersham Watercourse is heavily modified along its 10.23km length and covers a catchment area of 25.269km<sup>2</sup>.

### **5.2.1 Modelled flood levels and extents:**

Product 4 modelled flood levels and extents have been requested from the Environment Agency for use within this report. At the time of writing no logged enquiry number was available.

### **5.2.2 Flood Storage Areas:**

Flood Storage Areas are areas that act as a balancing reservoir, storage basin or balancing pond. Their purpose is to attenuate an incoming flood peak to a flow level that can be accepted by the downstream channel. It may also delay the timing of a flood peak so that its volume is discharged over a longer time interval. Flood storage areas do not completely remove the chance of flooding and can be overtopped or fail in extreme weather conditions.

According to Environment Agency data, there no Flood Storage Areas located in close proximity to the site.

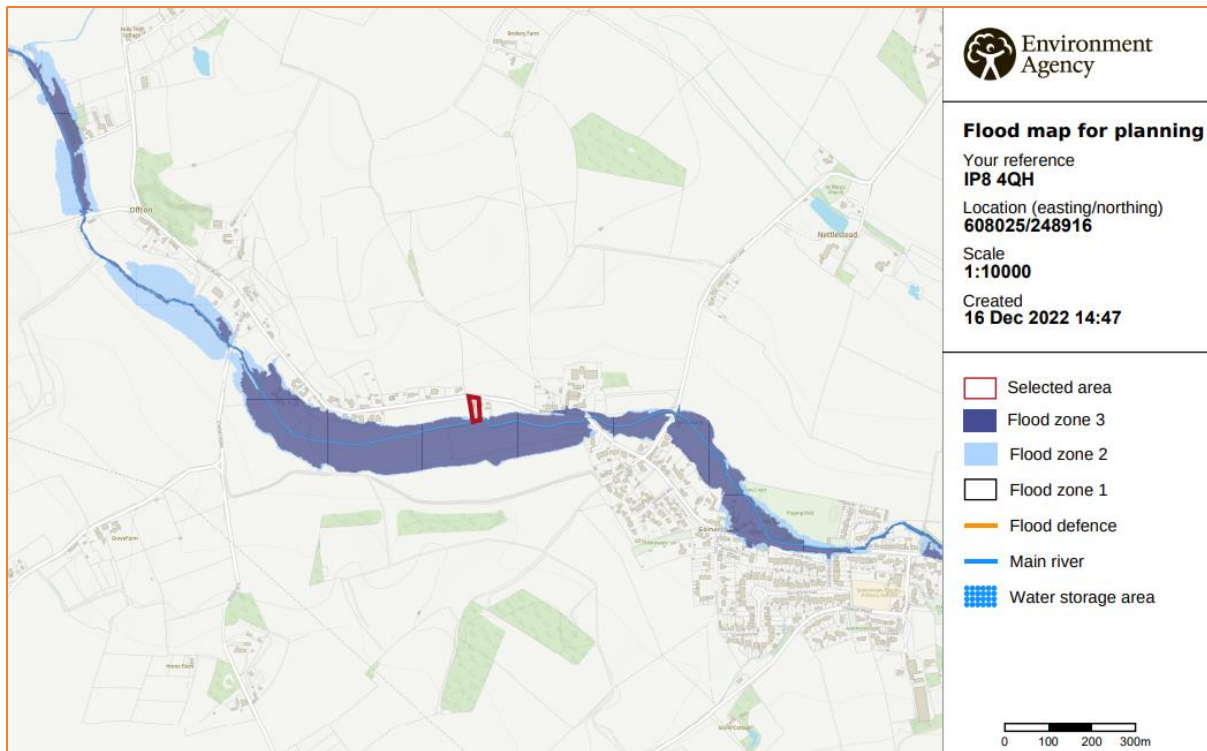


Figure 11: Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning (water storage area) (Source: EA)

### 5.2.3 Flood Defences:

Flood defences are structures which affect flow in times of flooding in order to reduce the risk water entering property. They generally fall into one of two categories; 'formal' or 'informal'.

A 'formal' flood defence is a structure which has been specifically built to control floodwater. It is maintained by its owner or statutory undertaker so that it remains in the necessary condition to function. In accordance with the Flood and Water Management Act, the Environment Agency has powers to construct and maintain defences to help against flooding.

An 'informal' defence is a structure that has not necessarily been built to control floodwater and is not maintained for this purpose. This includes road and rail embankments and other linear infrastructure (buildings and boundary walls) which may act as water retaining structures or create enclosures to form flood storage areas in addition to their primary function.

The Environment Agency releases a range of flood asset information as Open Data through their AIMS Defence (Spatial Flood Defences) GIS mapping. They are the only comprehensive and up-to-date group of datasets in England that show formal flood defences currently owned, managed or inspected by the EA.

No evidence has been presented to suggest that the site is protected by a formal flood defence.

### 5.2.4 Residual risk (breach or overtopping of flood defences):

Breaching of flood defences can cause rapid inundation of areas behind flood defences as flow in the river channel discharges through the breach. A breach can occur with little or no warning, although they are much more likely to concur with extreme river levels or tides when the stresses on flood defences are highest. Flood water flowing through a breach will normally discharge at a high velocity, rapidly filling up the areas behind the defences, resulting in significant damage to



buildings and a high risk of loss of life. Breaches are most likely to occur in soft defences such as earth embankments although poorly maintained hard defences can also be a potential source of breach.

Overtopping of flood defences occurs when water levels exceed the protection level of raised flood defences. The worst case occurs when the fluvial or tidal levels exceed the defence level as this can lead to prolonged flooding. Less severe overtopping can occur when flood levels are below defence levels, but wave action causes cyclic overtopping, with intermittent discharge over the crest level of the defence. Flood defences are commonly designed with a freeboard to provide protection against overtopping from waves. The risk from overtopping due to exceedance of the flood defence level is much more significant than the risk posed by wave overtopping. Exceedance of the flood defence level can lead to prolonged and rapid flooding with properties immediately behind the defences at highest risk.

The site is not shown to benefit to any significant degree from the presence of flood defences.

### **5.2.5 Historical flood events:**

The EA have no records of historical flooding having affected the site or surrounding area. The current owners of the property have never been flooded.

## **5.3 Pluvial (Surface Water):**

Pluvial (surface water) flooding happens when rainwater does not drain away through the normal drainage systems or soak into the ground, but lies on or flows over the ground instead.

In 2013 the EA, working with Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs), produced an updated Flood Map for Surface Water. It is considered to represent a significant improvement on the previous surface water flood maps available, both in terms of method and representation of the risk of flooding. The modelling techniques and data used are considerably improved, and also incorporated locally produced mapping where this is available to represent features best modelled at a local scale.

The Flood Map for Surface Water assesses flooding scenarios as a result of rainfall with the following chance of occurring in any given year (annual probability of flooding is shown in brackets):

- High: Greater than or equal to 3.3% (1 in 30) chance in any given year (3.3%)
- Medium: Less than 3.3% (1 in 30) but greater than or equal to 1% (1 in 100) chance in any given year
- Low: Less than 1% (1 in 100) but greater than or equal to 0.1% (1 in 1,000) chance in any given year
- Very Low: Less than 0.1% (1 in 1,000) chance in any given year

The mapping below shows the Risk of Flooding from Surface Water centred on the site. Please note that the EA do not consider this information suitable to be used to identify the risk to individual properties or sites. It is useful to raise awareness in areas which may be at risk and may require additional investigation.

The EA Risk of Flooding from Surface Water Map suggests that the site lies in an area at “Very Low” to “High” risk from surface water. The “High” risk is from surface water is predominately contained within The Channel.



Figure 12: Extract from Environment Agency Surface Water Flood Map (Source: EA)

## 5.4 Groundwater:

Groundwater flooding occurs as a result of water rising up from the underlying rocks or from water flowing from abnormal springs. This tends to occur after much longer periods of sustained high rainfall. Higher rainfall means more water will infiltrate into the ground and cause the water table to rise above normal levels. Groundwater tends to flow from areas where the ground level is high, to areas where the ground level is low. In low-lying areas, the water table is usually at shallower depths anyway, but during very wet periods, with all the additional groundwater flowing towards these areas, the water table can rise up to the surface causing groundwater flooding.

Groundwater flooding is most likely to occur in low-lying areas underlain by permeable rocks (aquifers). These may be extensive, regional aquifers, such as chalk or sandstone, or may be localised sands or river gravels in valley bottoms underlain by less permeable rocks. Groundwater flooding takes longer to dissipate because groundwater moves much more slowly than surface water and will take time to flow away underground.

No information has been provided to suggest the site has been previously affected from groundwater flooding.

## 5.5 Sewer Surcharge:

Sewer flooding occurs when the sewer network cannot cope with the volume of water that is entering it. It is often experienced during times of heavy rainfall when large amounts of surface water overwhelm the sewer network causing flooding. Temporary problems such as blockages, siltation, collapses and equipment or operational failures can also result in sewer flooding.

All Water Companies have a statutory obligation to maintain a register of properties/areas which have reported records of flooding from the public sewerage system, and this is shown on the DG5 Flood Register. This includes records of flooding from foul sewers, combined sewers and surface water sewers which are deemed to be public and therefore maintained by the Water Company. The DG5 register records of flood incidents resulting in both internal property flooding and external flooding incidents. Once a property is identified on the DG5 register, water companies can typically put funding in place to address the issues and hence enable the property to be removed from the register. It should be noted that flooding from land drainage, highway drainage, rivers/watercourses and private sewers is not recorded within the register.

No information has been provided to suggest that the site itself has flooded as a result of sewer surcharge.

## 5.6 Other Sources:

Reservoirs with an impounded volume in excess of 25,000 cubic metres (measured above natural ground level) are governed by the Reservoirs Act and are listed on a register held by the Environment Agency. The site is outside the maximum inundation extent on the EA Reservoir Inundation Map. The EA also advise on their website that reservoir flooding is extremely unlikely. There has been no loss of life in the UK from reservoir flooding since 1925. All major reservoirs have to be inspected by specialist dam and reservoir Engineers. In accordance with the Reservoirs Act 1975 in England, these inspections are monitored and enforced by the EA themselves. The risk to the site from reservoir flooding is therefore minimal and is far lower than that relating to the potential for fluvial / tidal flooding to occur. The Environment Agency Reservoir Flood Map illustrated below, illustrates the largest area that might be flooded if the storage area were to fail and release the water it is designed to hold during a flood event.

Records of flooding from reservoirs and canals are erratic as there is no requirement for the Environment Agency to provide information on historic flooding from canals and raised reservoirs on plans. In particular, the NPPF does not require flood risk from canals and raised reservoirs to be shown on the Environment Agency flood zones.

Overflows from canals can be common as they are often fed by land drainage, and often do not have controlled overflow spillways. Occasionally, major bank breaches also occur, leading to rapid and deep flooding of adjacent land.

## 6. Flood Risk Management

### 6.1 Vulnerability to flooding:

The NPPF classifies property usage by vulnerability to flooding.

The existing site usage is classified as "more vulnerable" throughout, as it is a residential property.

Post development, the site will remain "more vulnerable", as the application is for a residential extension.

Accordingly, it is considered that the vulnerability of the site as a whole has not increased post development.

### 6.2 EA Standing Advice:

The EA Standing Advice guidance is for domestic extensions and non-domestic extensions where the additional footprint created by the development does not exceed 250m<sup>2</sup>. It should not be applied if an additional dwelling is being created, e.g. a self-contained annexe or additional commercial unit.

The proposed planning application is for the construction of a residential extension which does not exceed 250m<sup>2</sup>.

As per the EA Standing Advice, floor levels in the extension will be set no lower than existing adjacent floor levels, no new bedrooms will be created on the ground floor and flood proofing of the development will be incorporated as appropriate.

No additional residential units will be created as part of the development.

The proposed development is considered to fit within the EA's standing advice for domestic extensions.

### 6.3 Physical Design Measures:

The NPPF requires new residential floor levels be set at least 300mm above suitable modelled 1:100 year plus allowance for climate change flood levels. The proposed application is for an extension to the existing property (and will not introduce any additional or separate residential units), finished floor levels will be set no lower than existing floor levels, and internal access will be maintained from the ground floor to the first floor of the property. In addition, no additional bedrooms are proposed on the ground floor or new basements proposed.

To help protect against flooding during extreme events, the applicant has agreed to implement flood resistant design measures into the proposal, in consultation with the Local Authority building control department. These measures can include the following:

- Electrical main ring run from ceiling level;

- Electrical incomer and meter situated at a high level;
- Boilers, control and water storage / immersion installed at a high level;
- Plumbing insulation of closed-cell design;
- Non-return valves fitted to all drain and sewer outlets;
- Manhole covers secured;
- Anti-syphon fitted to all toilets.
- Ground floor electrical main ring run from first floor level; and on separately switched circuit from first floor;
- Electrical incomer and meter situated at first floor level or above;
- Boilers, control and water storage / immersion installed at first floor level or above;
- Gas meter installed at first floor level or above;
- Plumbing insulation of closed-cell design;
- Non-return valves fitted to all drain and sewer outlets;
- Manhole covers secured;
- Anti-syphon fitted to all toilets;
- Kitchen units of solid, water resistant material;
- Use of MDF carpentry (i.e. skirting, architrave, built-in storage) avoided at ground floor level;
- Stairs of solid hardwood construction with wood faces treated to resist water penetration.
- The external ground floor doors and windows will be flood proof.

The applicant should also consider the use of demountable flood defence barriers to defend ground level doorways and low windows.

#### **6.4 Safe Escape and Flood Action Plan:**

The NPPF requires a route of safe escape for all residents and users to be provided from new residential properties in Flood Zone 3. Safe escape is usually defined as being through slow moving flood water no deeper than 25cm.

However, it should be noted that the proposed application is for the construction of a residential extension. No additional or new units or dwellings will be created as part of the development. Safe escape is not a requirement under the EA Standing Advice guidance is for domestic extensions.

Residents and users should follow the warning and evacuation procedure detailed in the following section.

## 6.5 Flood Warning:

The EA is responsible for issuing flood warnings. Flood warnings are issued to the emergency services and local authorities. Both private individuals and organisations can sign-up to receive warnings via phone, text or email. This system of receiving warnings is currently voluntary.

Advice regarding severe flood warnings will generally be given during weather forecasts on local radio and TV. In the case of extreme events, warnings can also be disseminated via door to door visits by the police or locally appointed flood wardens.

The site lies within an Environment Agency Flood Alert/Warning Area. The EA issue flood warnings/alerts to specific areas when flooding is expected. It is recommended that the applicant registers online with the free Environment Agency Floodline Warnings/Alert Direct service at [www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings](http://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings) to receive flood warnings by phone, text or email.

The flood warning service has three types of warnings that will help you prepare for flooding and take action:




Flood Warning	Flood Alert	Flood Warning	Severe Flood Warning
			
<b>What it means?</b>	Flooding is possible. Be prepared.	Flooding is expected. Immediate action required.	Severe flooding. Danger to life.
<b>When it's used?</b>	Two hours to two days in advance of flooding.	Half an hour to one day in advance of flooding.	When flooding poses a significant threat to life.
<b>What to do?</b>	Be prepared to act on your flood plan.  Prepare a flood kit of essential items.  Monitor local water levels and the flood forecast on our website.	Move family, pets and valuables to a safe place.  Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies if safe to do so.  Put flood protection equipment in place.	Stay in a safe place with a means of escape.  Be ready should you need to evacuate from your home.  Co-operate with the emergency services.  Call 999 if you are in immediate danger.

Table 2: EA Flood Warning Service

## 6.6 Flood Plan:

It is recommended that the applicant and future owners, occupiers and Landlords of the property prepare a flood plan to protect life and property during a flood event:

### Before a flood:

- Prepare and keep a list of all your important contacts to hand or save them on your mobile phone.
- Think about what items you can move now and what you would want to move to safety during a flood.
- Know how to turn off electricity and water supplies to the site.
- Prepare a flood kit of essential items and keep it handy. It can include copies of important documents, a torch, a battery-powered or wind-up radio, blankets and warm clothing, waterproofs, rubber gloves and a first aid kit including all essential medication.

**During a flood:**

- Activate the evacuation plan and evacuate the site.
- Remove cars from the site if there is sufficient warning and the water levels are not rising rapidly.
- Switch off water and electricity for the site.
- Tune into your local radio station on a battery or wind-up radio.
- Listen to the advice of the emergency service and evacuate if told to do so.
- Avoid walking or driving through flood water. Six inches of fast-flowing water can knock over an adult and two feet of water can move a car.

**After a flood:**

- If you have flooded, contact your insurance company as soon as possible.
- Take photographs and videos of your damaged property as a record for your insurance company.
- If you don't have insurance, contact your local authority for information on grants and charities that may help you.
- Flood water can contain sewage, chemicals and animal waste. Always wear waterproof outerwear, including gloves, wellington boots and a face mask.
- Have your electrics and water checked by qualified engineers before switching them back on.

**6.7 Off-Site Impacts:****6.7.1 Fluvial floodplain storage:**

The NPPF requires that where development is proposed in undefended areas of floodplain, which lie outside of the functional floodplain, the implications of ground raising operations for flood risk elsewhere needs to be considered. Raising existing ground levels may reduce the capacity of the floodplain to accommodate floodwater and increase the risk of flooding by either increasing the depth of flooding to existing properties at risk or by extending the floodplain to cover properties normally outside of the floodplain. Flood storage capacity can be maintained by lowering ground levels either within the curtilage of the development or elsewhere in the floodplain, in order to maintain at least the same volume of flood storage capacity within the floodplain.

In undefended tidal areas, raising ground levels is unlikely to impact on maximum tidal levels so the provision of compensatory storage should not be necessary.

For development in a defended flood risk area, the impact on residual flood risk to other properties needs to be considered. New development behind flood defences can increase the residual risk of flooding if the flood defences are breached or overtopped by changing the conveyance of the flow paths or by displacing flood water elsewhere. If the potential impact on residual risk is unacceptable then mitigation should be provided.

The site is situated in Flood Zones 1, 2 and 3 when using the Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea). The application is for a residential extension of less than 250m<sup>2</sup>, and therefore there will be no unacceptable loss of floodplain storage.

### 6.7.2 Surface Water Drainage:

The development will utilise Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) design in accordance with the NPPF for Planning Applications and the drainage hierarchy as follows:

1. Store rainwater for later use;
2. Infiltration techniques;
3. Attenuate rainwater by storing in tanks for gradual release;
4. Discharge rainwater direct into watercourse;
5. Discharge rainwater into surface water sewer;
6. Discharge rainwater into a combined sewer;

Due to the small scale of the development, a full Surface Water Drainage Strategy is not required at this stage of planning. According to the Soilscape (England) map the site is located within an area where there is freely draining slightly acid loamy soils. Therefore, soakaway SuDS features will be incorporated into the development where practically possible and the existing arrangement will be utilised on site.

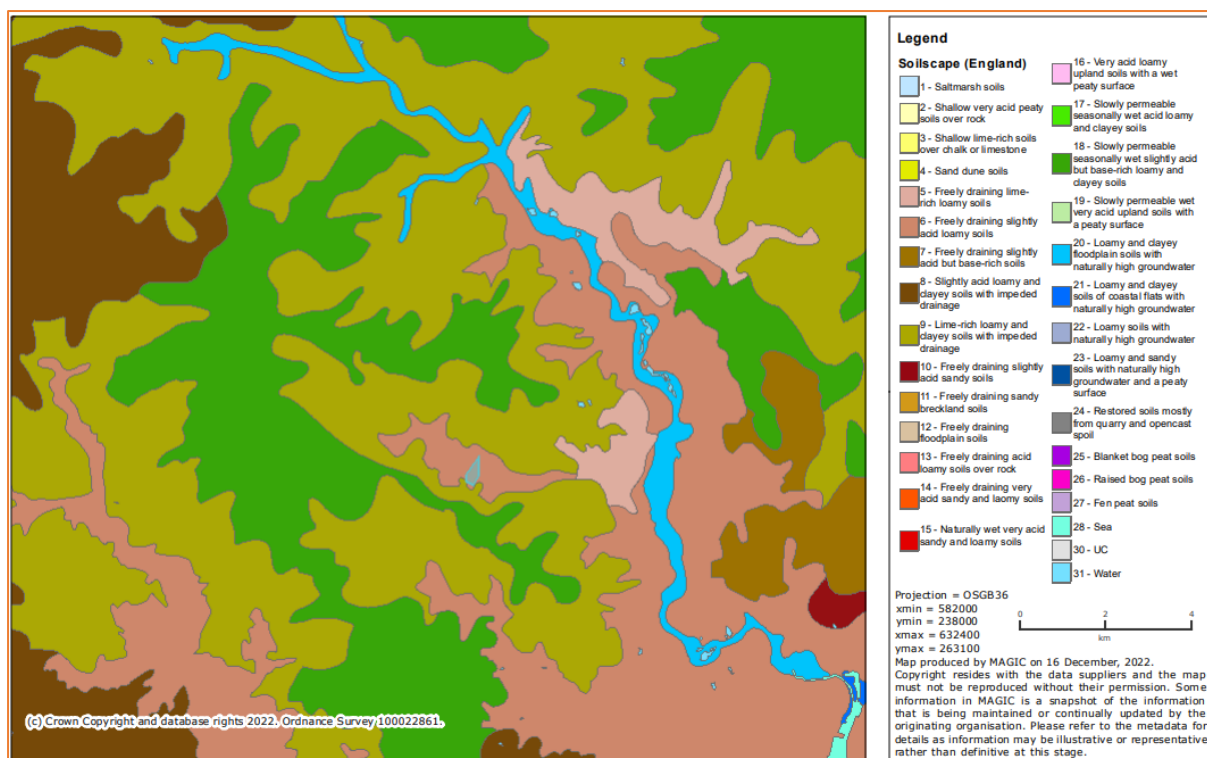


Figure 13: Extract from the Soilscape (England) map (Source: Magic)



## 7. Sequential and Exception Test

The Sequential Test aims to ensure that development does not take place in areas at high risk of flooding when appropriate areas of lower risk are reasonably available.

The Sequential Test is applied to developments in areas identified as being at risk of any source of flooding now or in the future. The Sequential Test ensures that a sequential, risk-based approach is followed to steer new development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding, taking all sources of flood risk and climate change into account.

The sequential approach is designed to ensure that areas at little or no risk of flooding from any source are developed in preference to areas at higher risk. This means avoiding, so far as possible, development in current and future medium and high flood risk areas considering all sources of flooding including areas at risk of surface water flooding. Other forms of flooding need to be treated consistently with river and tidal flooding in mapping probability and assessing vulnerability, so that the sequential approach can be applied across all areas of flood risk.

The site is situated partially within Flood Zones 1, 2, and 3 when using the Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea). The EA Risk of Flooding from Surface Water Map suggests that the site lies within an area of “Very Low” to “High” risk of flooding from surface water.

Post development, the site will remain “more vulnerable”, as the application is for the construction of a residential extension.

Flood Zones	Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification				
	Essential infrastructure	Highly vulnerable	More vulnerable	Less vulnerable	Water compatible
<b>Zone 1</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Zone 2</b>	✓	Exception Test required	✓	✓	✓
<b>Zone 3a</b>	Exception Test required	X	Exception Test required	✓	✓
<b>Zone 3b</b>	Exception Test required	X	X	X	✓

Table 3: Flood risk vulnerability and flood zone ‘compatibility’

Using the table above, the proposed application is considered to be suitable within Flood Zones 1, 2 and 3.

The Sequential and Exception Tests do not need to be applied to minor developments and changes of use (this application is for ‘minor development’ – a residential extension).

## 8. Discussion and Conclusions

Unda Consulting Limited have been appointed by Miss Debra Low to undertake a Flood Risk Assessment for the proposed development at The Elms, Lower Somersham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 4QH. The FRA has been undertaken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the associated technical guidance.

The proposed application is for the erection of two-storey side extension, two-storey front extension, single-storey front extension, and single storey rear extension and decking (following demolition of existing conservatory and outbuilding). No bedrooms are proposed on the groundfloor or new basements. The increase in built footprint is approximately 131.38m<sup>2</sup>.

Post development, the site will remain "more vulnerable", as the application is for the construction of a residential extension. Accordingly, it is considered that the vulnerability of the site as a whole will not increase post development. There will be no introduction of additional units or dwellings.

The site is located partially within Flood Zone 1 (Low Probability), which means it is defined as land having a less than 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river and sea flooding, Flood Zone 2 (Medium Probability), which means it is defined as land having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river and sea flooding and Flood Zone 3 (High Probability), which means it is defined as land having at least a 1:100 annual probability of fluvial flooding.

The risk would appear to be fluvial and originate from The Channel /Somersham Watercourse 2.6m to the south of the site.

Product 4 modelled flood levels and extents have been requested from the Environment Agency for use within this report. At the time of writing no logged enquiry number was available.

There are no Flood Storage Areas located in close proximity to the site.

No evidence has been presented to suggest that the site is protected by a formal flood defence.

The EA have no records of historical flooding having affected the site or surrounding area. The current owners of the property have never been flooded.

The EA Risk of Flooding from Surface Water Map suggests that the site lies in an area at "Very Low" to "High" risk from surface water. The "High" risk is from surface water is predominately contained within The Channel.

Additionally, the risk of flooding posed to the site by sewer surcharge and reservoir flooding would appear to be low.

The proposed application is for an extension to the existing property (and will not introduce any additional or separate residential units), finished floor levels will be set no lower than existing floor levels, and internal access will be maintained from the ground floor to the first floor of the property.

Safe escape is not a requirement under the EA Standing Advice guidance is for domestic extensions.

Due to the small scale of the development, a full Surface Water Drainage Strategy is not required at this stage of planning. According to the Soilscape (England) map the site is located within an

area where there is freely draining slightly acid loamy soils. Therefore, soakaway SuDS features will be incorporated into the development where practically possible and the existing arrangement will be utilised on site.

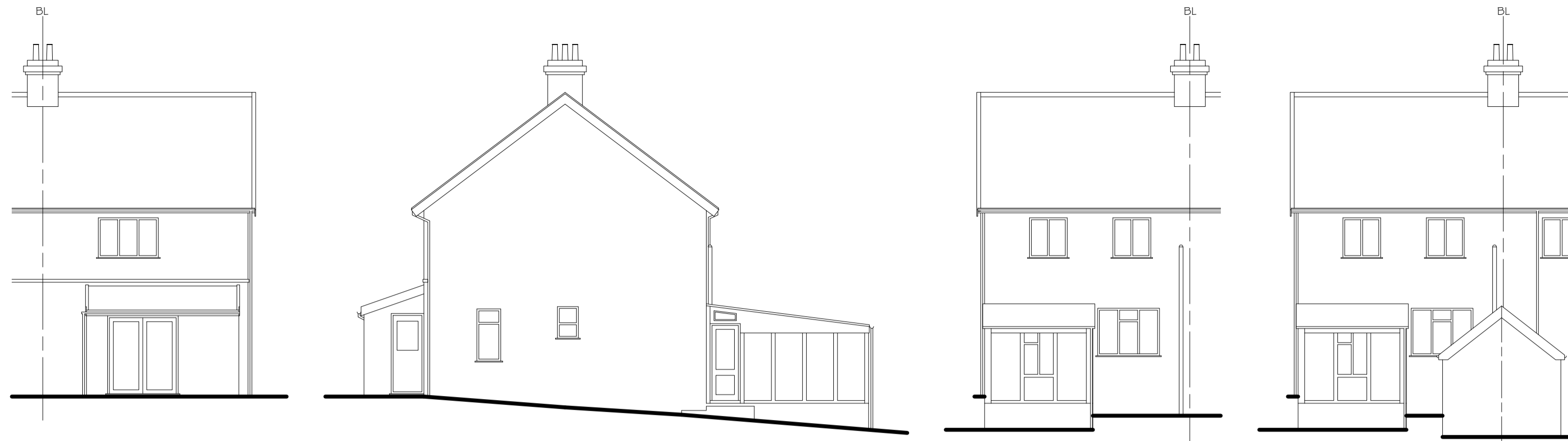
**The applicant has confirmed that:**

- The proposed residential extension is >8m from the main river. In addition, no building materials or machinery will be stored within 8m of the main river. Therefore a Flood Risk Activity permit is not required.
- The proposed development fits within EA standing advice for domestic extensions.
- No new bedrooms are proposed on the groundfloor or new basements.
- No additional residential units will be created as part of the development.
- The additional footprint created by the development will not exceed 250m<sup>2</sup>.
- Floor levels within the extension will be set no lower than existing floor levels.
- Internal access will be maintained from ground floor to the first floor level.
- Flood proofing of the development will be incorporated as appropriate.
- The applicant will register with the Environment Agency Floodline Alert/Warnings Direct service.

**Assuming accordance with these flood risk management measures, Unda Consulting Limited consider the proposed application to be suitable in flood risk terms.**

## Appendix

- Site location and existing plans
- Proposed plans
- EA Flood Map for Planning

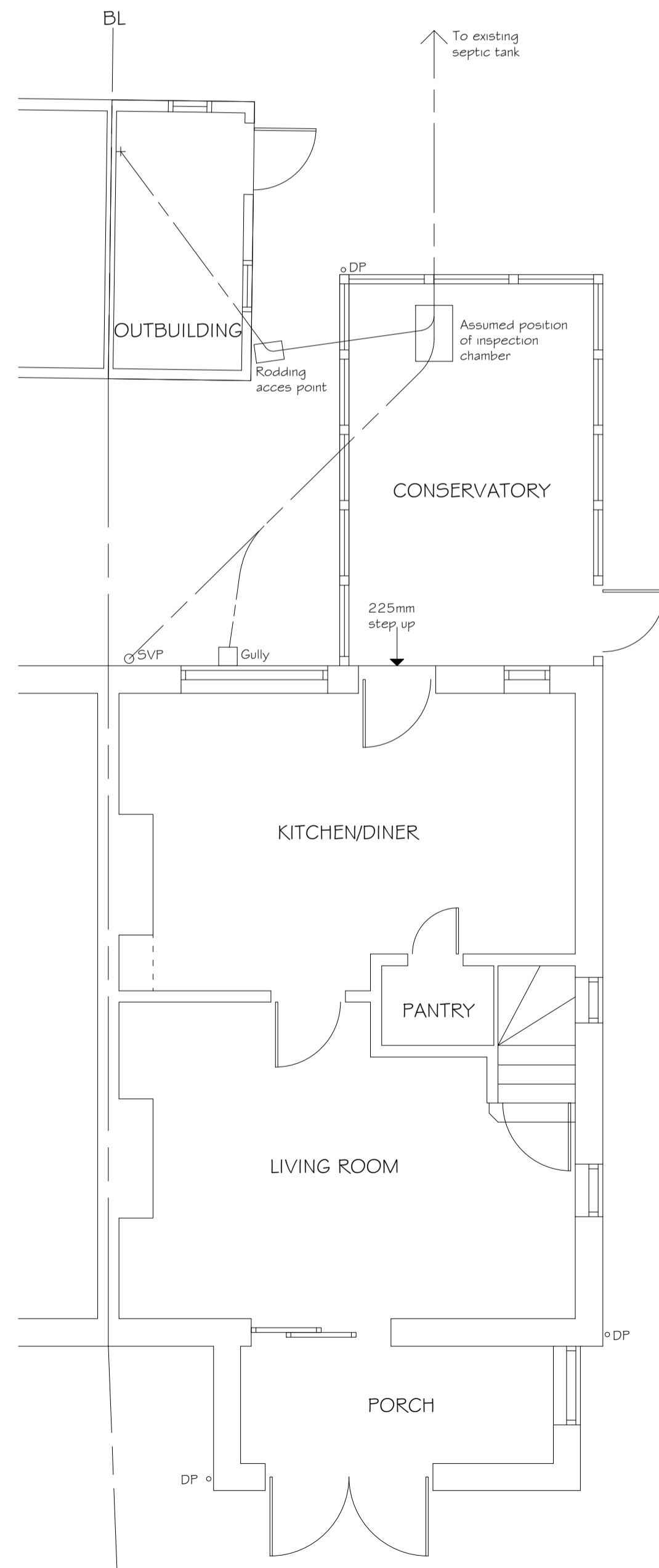


EXISTING FRONT ELEVATION 1:100

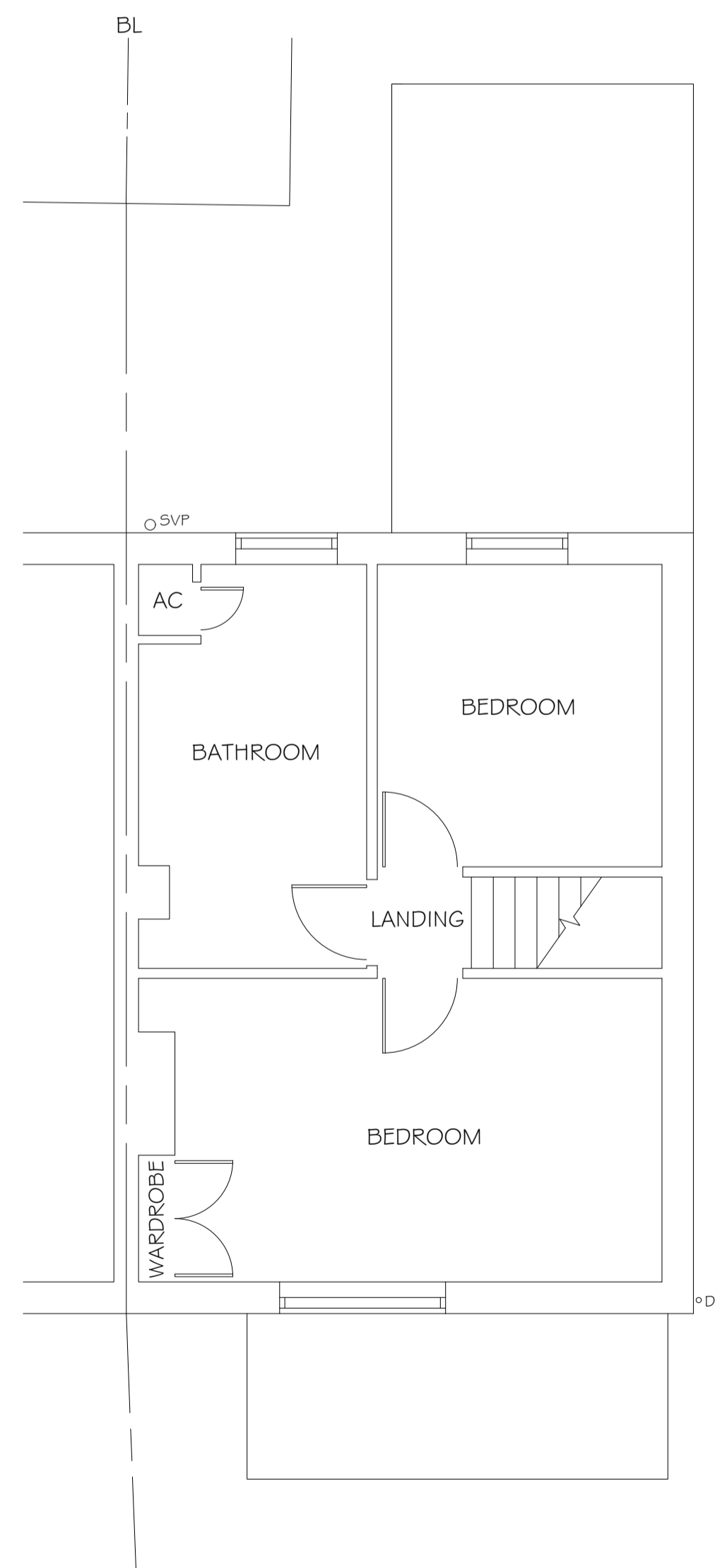
EXISTING SIDE ELEVATION 1:100

EXISTING REAR ELEVATION 1:100

EXISTING REAR ELEVATION 1:100  
(INCLUDING OUTBUILDING)



EXISTING GROUND FLOOR PLAN 1:50



EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN 1:50



LOCATION PLAN 1:1250

**ARCHITECTURAL  
BUILDING  
DESIGN  
SERVICES**



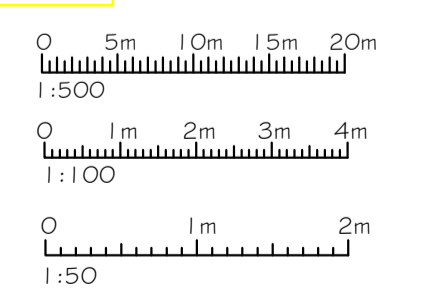
DAVID HART ABEng

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Tel: 01473 276147  
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Client Name and Site Address

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Scale Bars



Project Existing

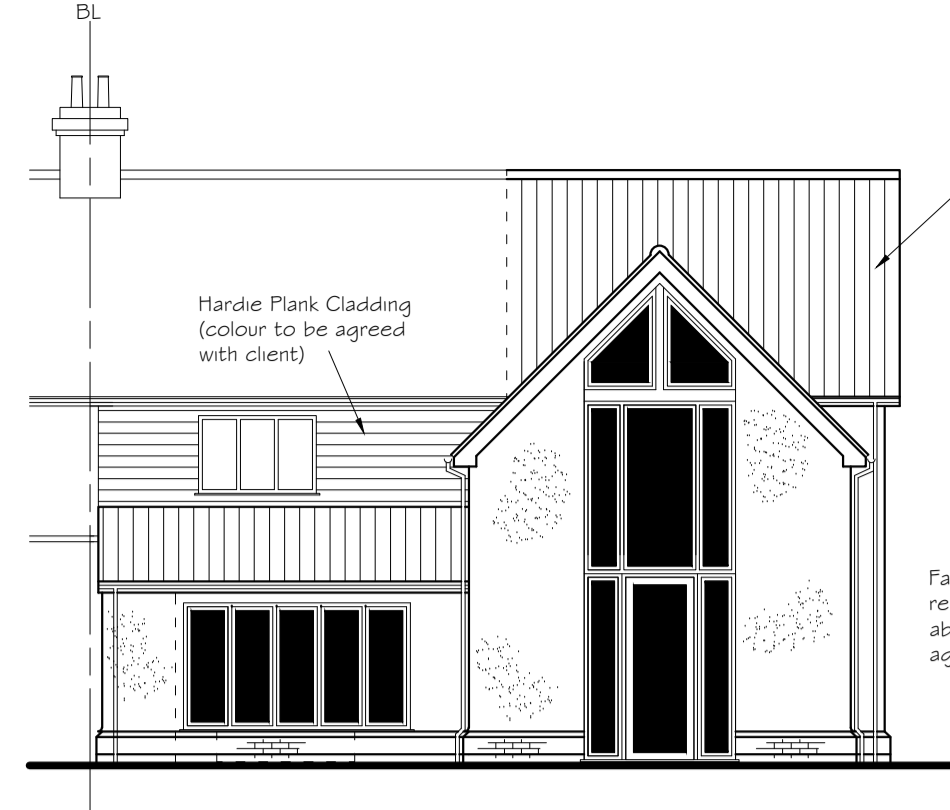
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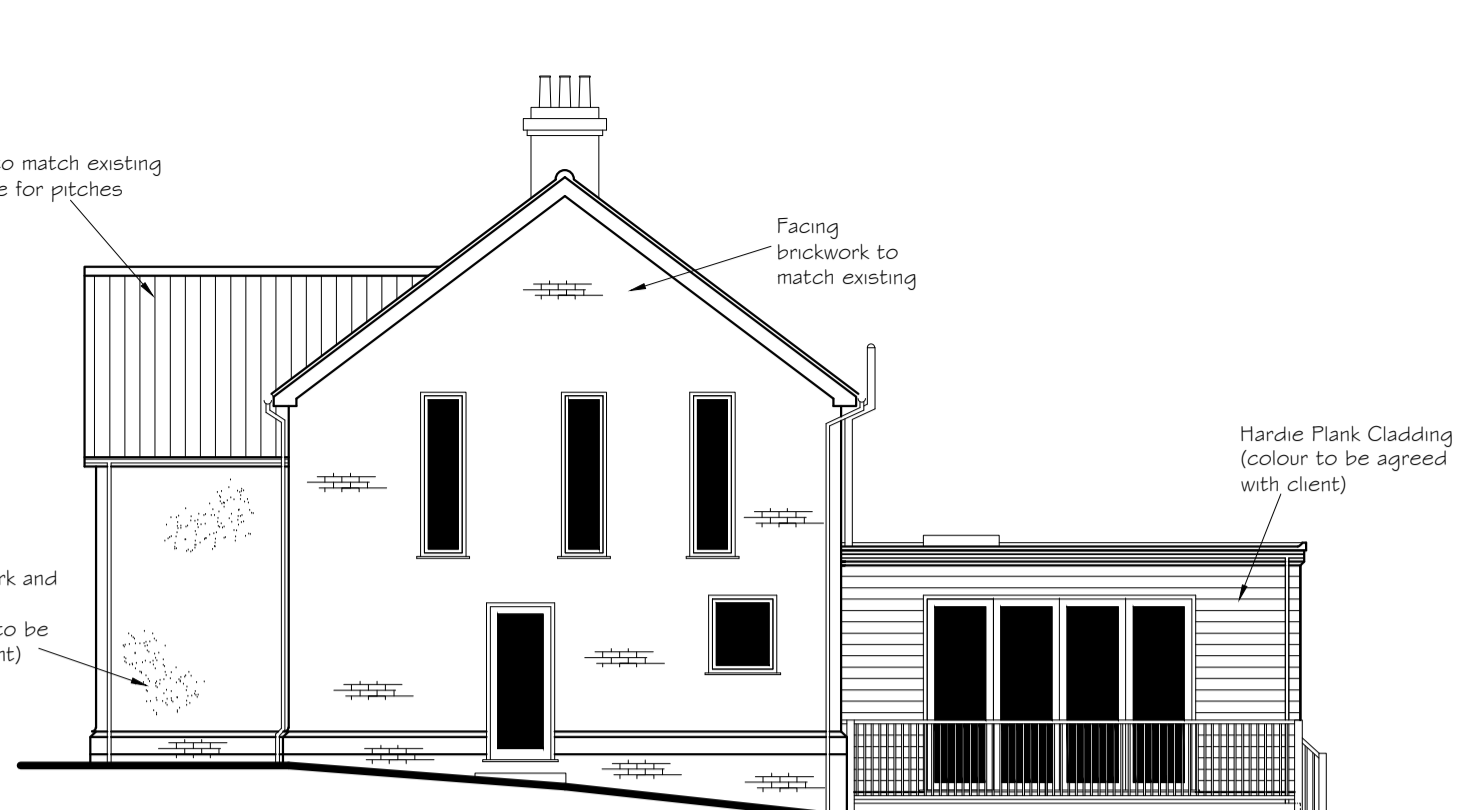
Paper Size A1

Revisions -

Drawn B,B



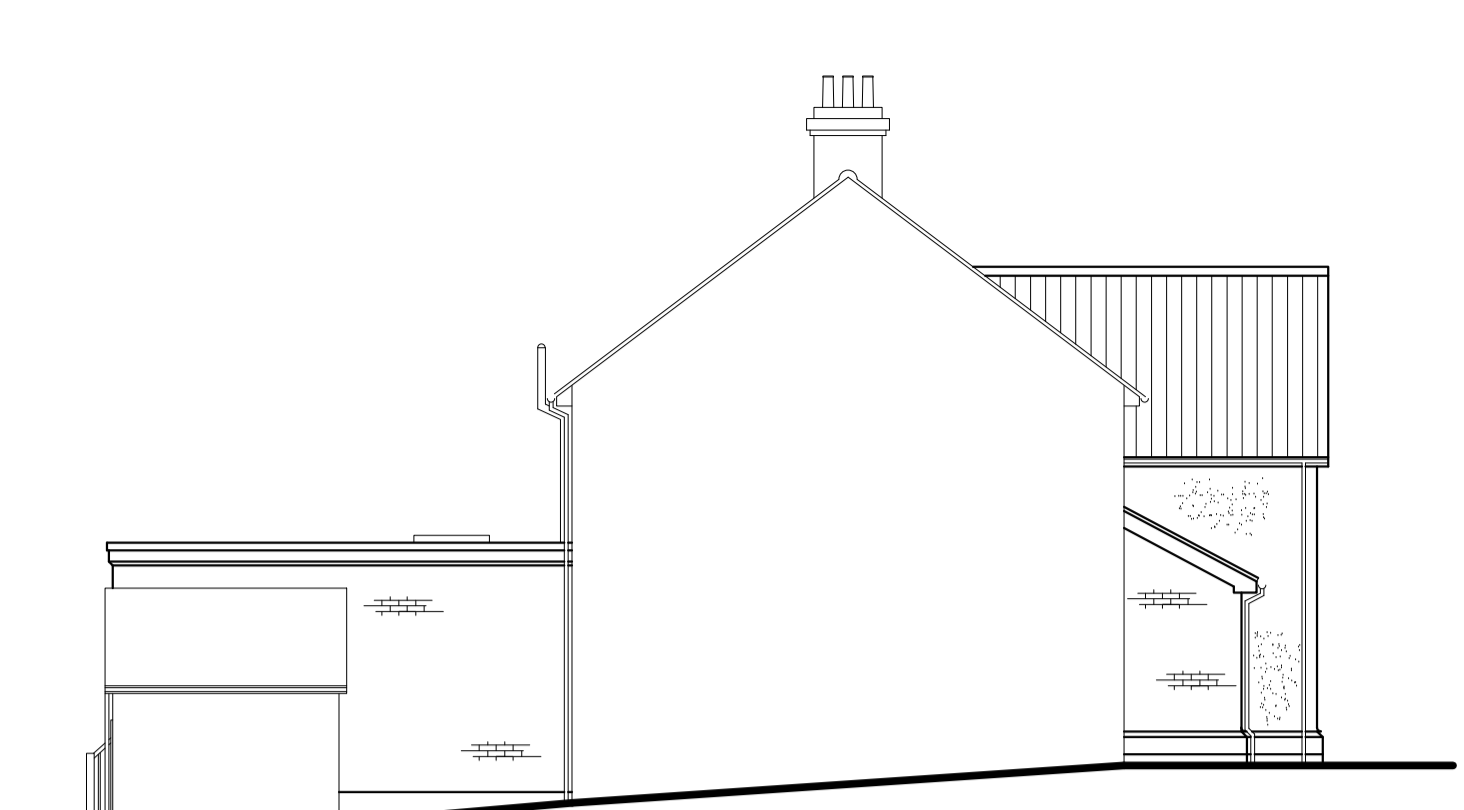
PROPOSED FRONT ELEVATION 1:100



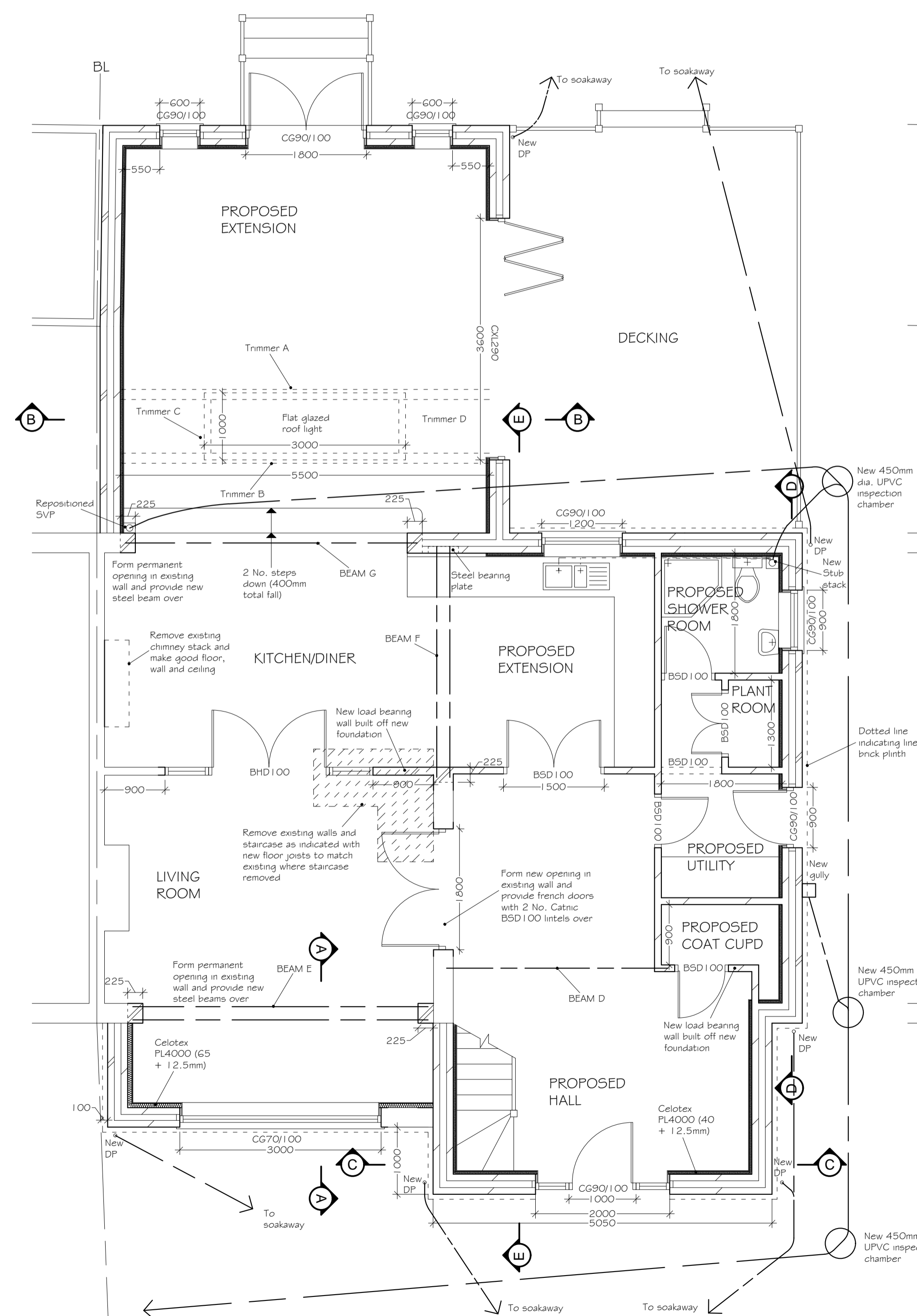
PROPOSED SIDE ELEVATION 1:100



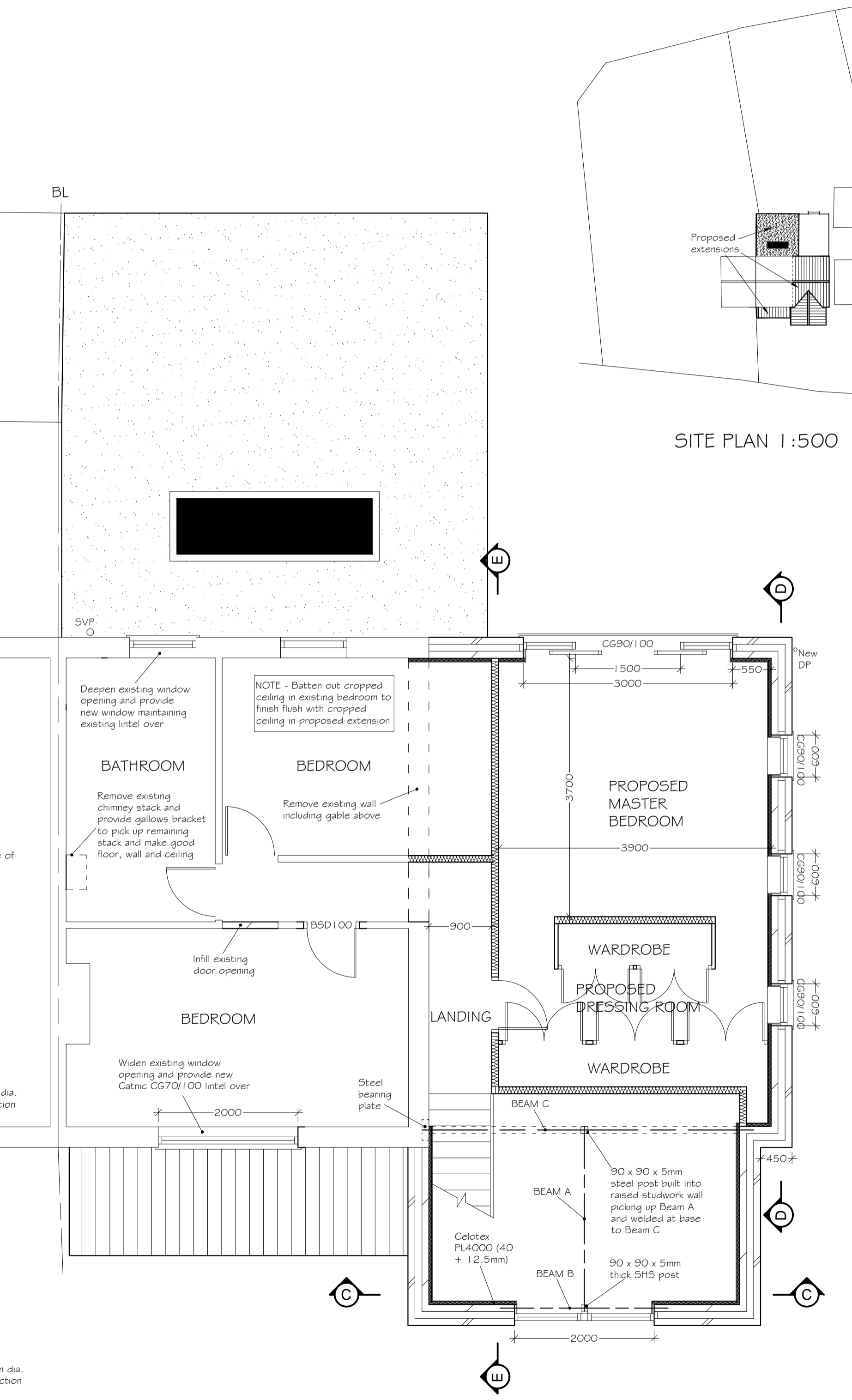
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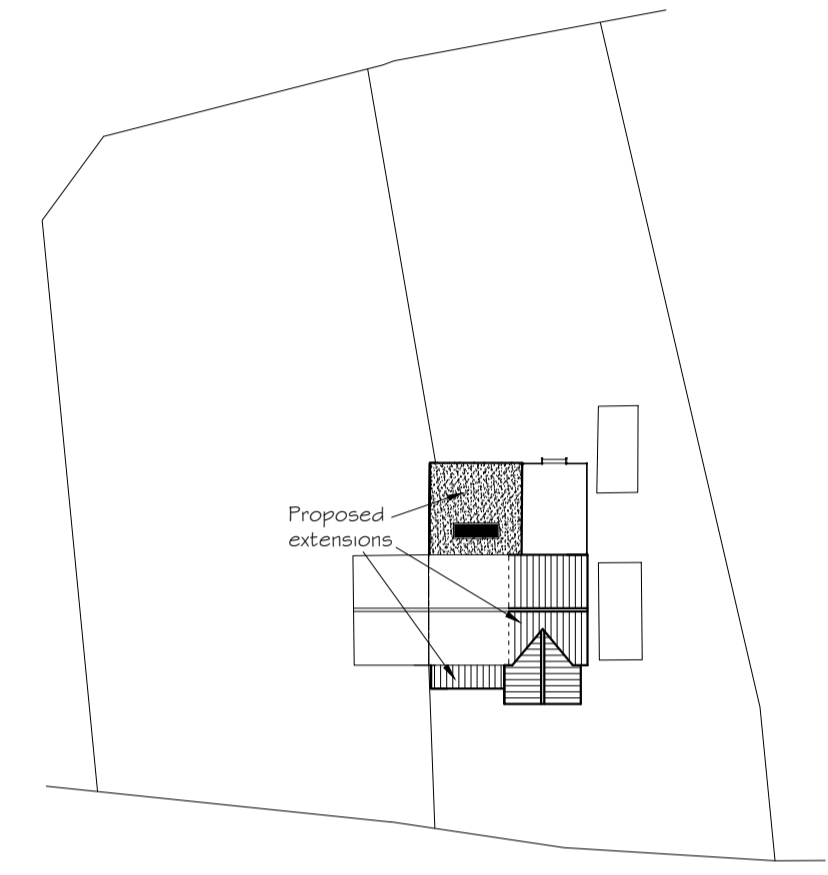
PROPOSED SIDE ELEVATION 1:100



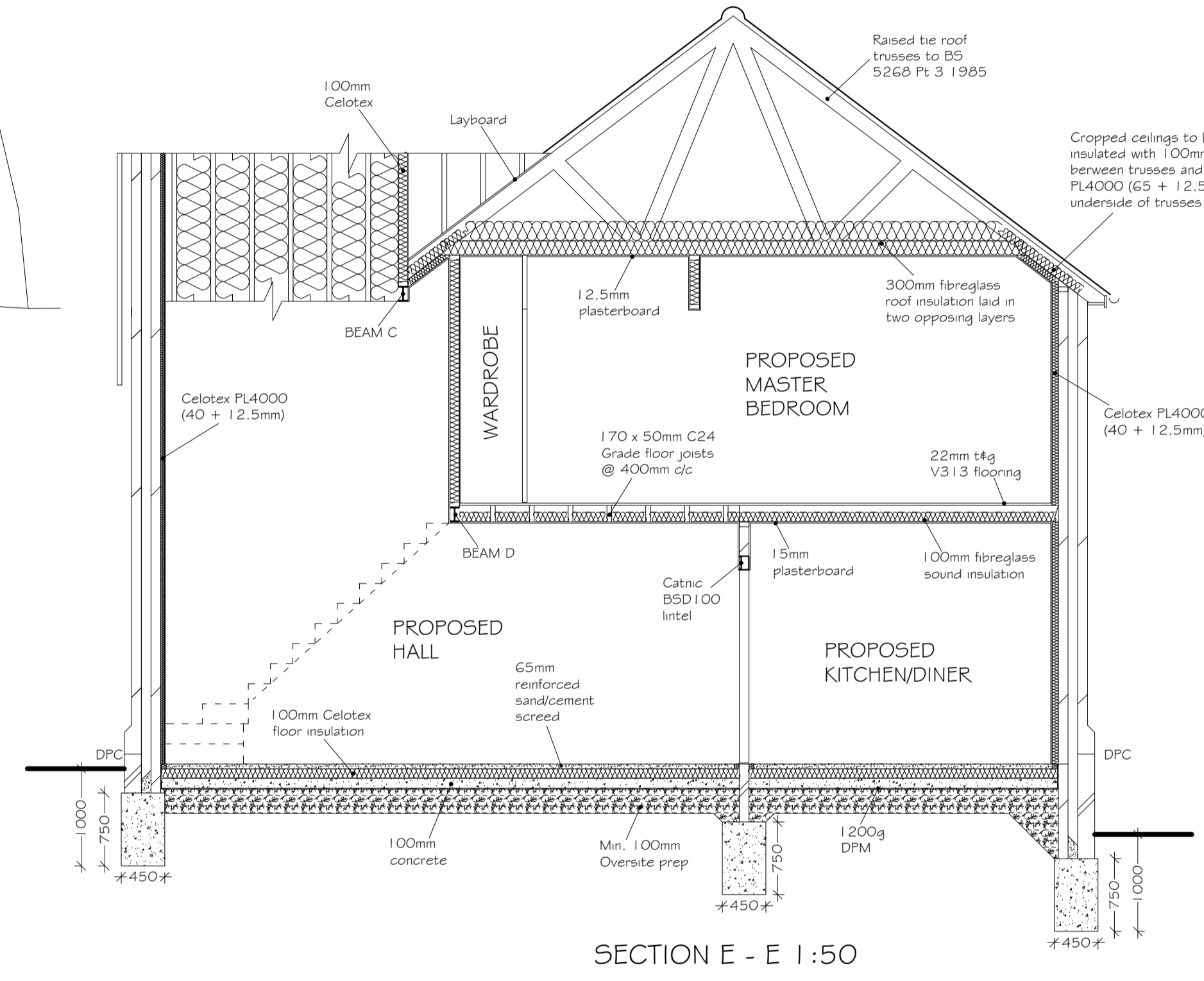
PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN 1:50



PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR PLAN 1:50



SITE PLAN 1:500



SECTION E - E 1:50

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The Elms  
Lower Somersham  
Ipswich  
Suffolk  
IP8 4QH

Scale Bars  
0 5m 10m 15m 20m  
1:500  
0 1m 2m 3m 4m  
1:100  
0 1m 2m  
1:50

Project Proposed extensions and alterations

Drawing Number	Scales	Paper Size	Revisions	Drawn
21/09/0061	1:50, 1:100, 1:1250	A1	J	L.S

# Flood map for planning

Your reference  
**IP84QH**

Location (easting/northing)  
**608025/248916**

Created  
**16 Dec 2022 15:40**

**Your selected location is in flood zone 3, an area with a high probability of flooding.**

## This means:

- you must complete a flood risk assessment for development in this area
- you should follow the Environment Agency's standing advice for carrying out a flood risk assessment (see [www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessment-standing-advice](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessment-standing-advice))

## Notes

The flood map for planning shows river and sea flooding data only. It doesn't include other sources of flooding. It is for use in development planning and flood risk assessments.

This information relates to the selected location and is not specific to any property within it. The map is updated regularly and is correct at the time of printing.

Flood risk data is covered by the Open Government Licence which sets out the terms and conditions for using government data. <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

Use of the address and mapping data is subject to Ordnance Survey public viewing terms under Crown copyright and database rights 2022 OS 100024198. <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/os-terms>

## Flood map for planning

Your reference

**IP84QH**

Location (easting/northing)

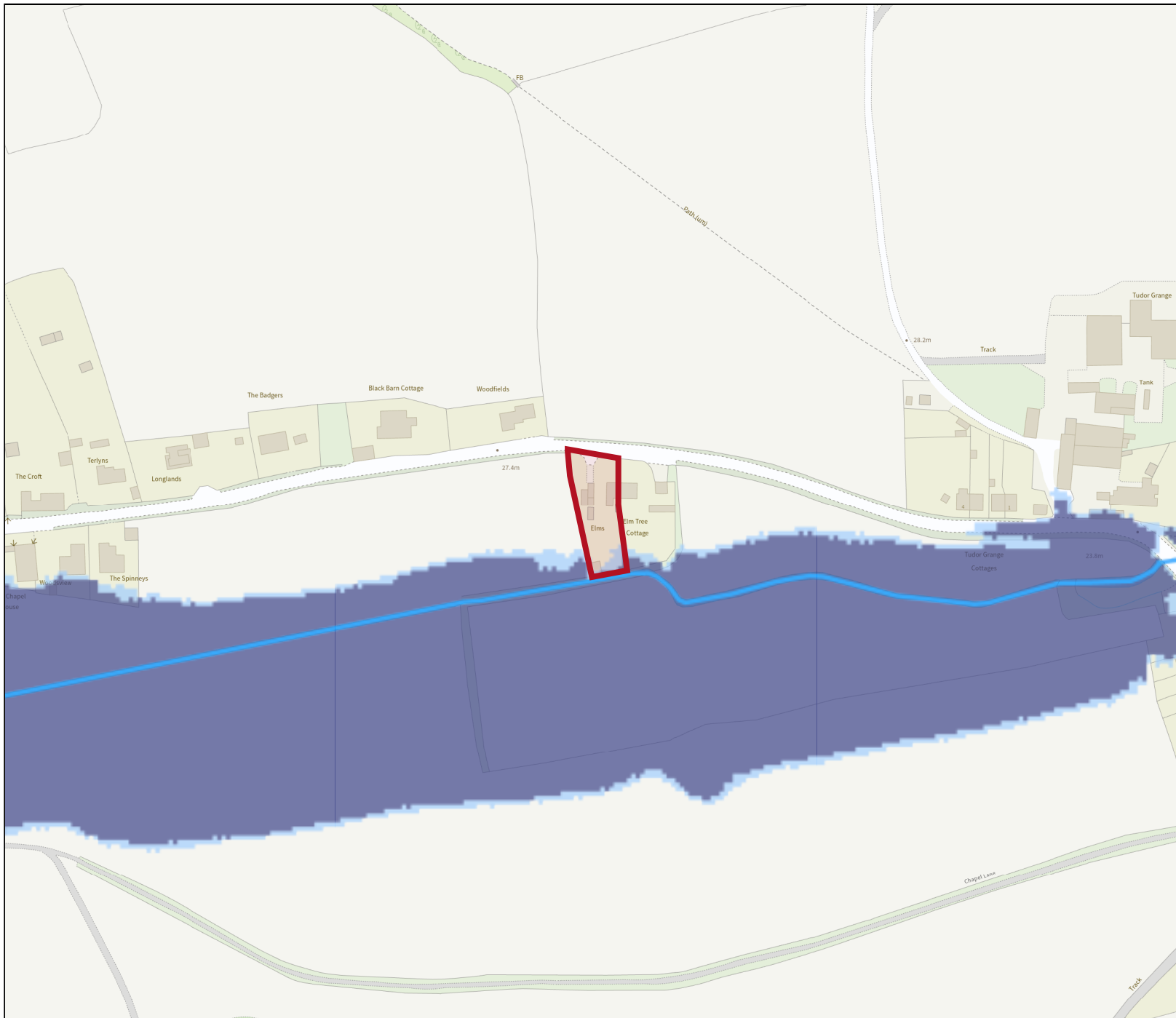
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


Scale

**1:2500**

Created

**16 Dec 2022 15:40**



-  Selected area
-  Flood zone 3
-  Flood zone 2
-  Flood zone 1
-  Flood defence
-  Main river
-  Water storage area

0 20 40 60m