

FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT MARSH ROAD, OUTWELL, NORFOLK

FINAL REPORT

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GCB/NPS

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A full planning application is to be submitted by NPS Group on behalf of Norfolk County Council for proposed residential development at South Barn, Moor Lodge Farm, Marsh Road, Outwell, Norfolk.
- 1.2 Planning approval requires a Flood Risk Assessment to be submitted to the Environment Agency to meet the requirements and general principles contained in the Planning Practice Guidance to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The site is located within Flood Zone 3 of the Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning and is situated approximately 8.00kms from the River Great Ouse defences. It is also located 7.00kms from the River Nene tidal defences.

The latest Agency Maps have been created to raise awareness of flood risk with the public and partner organisations such as Local Authorities, Emergency Services and Drainage Authorities. The Maps do not take into account any existing flood defences.

The site is within the Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board's area and shown outside the boundary of Flood Zone 3 of the Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council's Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Map KL-65 (2018).

1.3 Geoff Beel Consultancy was appointed on 22nd February 2019 to undertake a Flood Risk Assessment.

2.0 LOCATION

- 2.1 The development site is located at Moor Lodge Farm, Marsh Road, Outwell. The National Grid Reference of the central point of the site is TF 51910561.
- 2.2 The position and extent of the site are shown on Fig 1 Location Plan at the end of the document.
- 2.3 The site, located within the Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board district is shown within Flood Zone 3 as detailed on the Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning and outside the boundary of Flood Zone 3 of the Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Maps (2018).

3.0 THE SITE AND SEQUENTIAL TEST

- 3.1 The site is currently a redundant agricultural holding.
- 3.2 The area of development is approximately 0.10 hectare with existing vehicular access to Marsh Road.
- 3.3 The proposed site layout consists the conversion of the redundant agricultural building to a single storey dwelling.

3.4 The site is within the agricultural area of Outwell as designated by the Borough Council of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk and as such is exempt from the Sequential Test and Exception Test. However, due consideration has been given to the Sequential Test as follows:

3.5 Sequential Test.

Initially it is required that other sites for development must be considered in the area that may offer a reduced flood risk, however, it is noted that no sites within a 5.0km radius of the River Great Ouse defences were outside the Zone 3 category and the Sequential Test was therefore passed.

However to ensure compliance these further consideration has been applied as under the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework. From the Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning it shows that the site is within Flood Zone 3 and Flood Zone 1 as detailed on the BCKLWN Level 1 SFRA maps and an area protected to 1 in 100 years for fluvial events and 1 in 200 years for tidal event; the area as it is protected to this degree can be considered to be a passive flood plain. The development therefore complies with the Appropriate Uses required in the National Planning Policy Framework but is required to pass the Exception Test.

Exception Test.

Therefore applying the Exception Test shows that:

- the development provides wider sustainable economic benefits by utilising an existing redundant agricultural building
- the FRA demonstrates that the development will be safe and will not increase flood risk elsewhere nor detrimentally affect any other property

The site is compliant with a) and b).

4.0 EXISTING FLOOD ALLEVIATION MEASURES

- 4.1 The site is within a defended floodplain, as defined in Appendix 1 of the Environment Agency's 'Policy and Practice for the Protection of Floodplains' and is considered to be passive until such time as a flood greater than that for which the defences were designed occurs. The likelihood of flooding due to overtopping or failure of a flood defence embankments is considered to be small.
- 4.2 The site is located within the Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board district which is protected by the Great Ouse Tidal and Sea Defences against a minimum flood return period of up to 1 in 200 years. The nearest 'main drain' is located immediately on the northern boundary of the development site with existing land levels at the site generally at 1.50m aOD.

4.3 The Kings Lynn IDB drainage system at present achieves a target standard of protection to residential properties of 1 in 100 years return period with a minimum freeboard of 900mm elsewhere in the district to lowest agricultural land levels.

As a result of the Strategic Drainage Study recently carried out by the Boards Consulting Engineers with hydraulic modelling of the Islington Pump and West Lynn outfall catchments to include allowances for future development and climate change, the following conclusions have been reached:-

- the freeboard criteria of 900mm is not achieved for all studied return periods with overtopping at isolated locations along the lengths of the Islington Pump, Smeeth Lode and West Lynn main drains and tributary drains, giving rise to reducing standards of service over the next 50 years.
- the Board has resolved to continue its policy regarding the connection
 of future developments to the arterial system which enables a flexible
 approach to be adopted and meet the criteria for "sustainable urban
 drainage". The Board has adopted a target level of service for all
 urban properties of 1 in 100 years plus freeboard.
- the Board has resolved to carry out improvements to the Islington Pump and West Lynn Outfall Sluice districts by way of seeking developers contribution to provide a level of protection of a future 1 in 100 years return period event with 900mm freeboard.
- 4.4 The site and surrounding land drains by gravity in a generally easterly direction to outfall into the tidal River Great Ouse at the Islington Pumping Station operated and maintained by the Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board.
- 4.5 The site is also protected by the Middle Level Main Drain, a highland water embanked channel located 2.00kms south east which flows to St. Germans Pumping Station to discharge into the tidal River Great Ouse.

The Middle Level Commissioners have completed a Strategic Drainage Study in recent years to safeguard against the 1 in 100 year fluvial return period event and the St. German's Pumping Station has been replaced in the last 8 years with a new construction to meet the required standards.

4.6 Current maintenance standards within the Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board and of the Environment Agency tidal defences are generally good.

During the operation and maintenance of its pumping stations, associated structures and channel systems, particularly those that could affect property, the Board seeks to maintain a general standard capable of providing flood protection to its district. A routine maintenance programme is in place to ensure that the Boards assets are commensurate with the standard of protection that is sought. However, bank slips, blocked culverts etc. may occur from time to time and these matters are usually dealt with promptly.

5.0 POTENTIAL SOURCES OF FLOODING

- 5.1 Five potential sources of flooding have been identified as a result of this assessment:
 - a) local blockages to existing IDB main drain system
 - b) storm return period of 1 in 100 years being exceeded
 - c) failure of the Islington Pumping Station
 - d) overtopping and breaching of the River Great Ouse tidal defences
 - e) overtopping and breaching of the Middle Level Main Drain
- 5.2 The probability of flooding from source a) is low due to the maintenance standards already achieved and managed by the IDB.

The probability of flooding from b) is also low due to the Kings Lynn IDB main drain design standard incorporating a minimum 900mm freeboard to the lowest land level which provides adequate storage in events greater than 1 in 100 years. Flooding of some agricultural land would occur but no properties.

- 5.3 Failure of the Islington Pumping Station may occur due to long term mechanical breakdown or power supply being disrupted. However, in these circumstances, if conditions were such to put properties and land at risk of flooding, the Kings Lynn IDB would take emergency action to maintain the drainage level of service by utilising temporary pumping equipment. The probability of such an occurrence is also considered to be low.
- The site is shown to be within Flood Zone 3 of the River Great Ouse as detailed on the Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning. However the maps have been prepared irrespective of existing defences which in this location are the tidal defences to the west embankment of the River Great Ouse improved after the 1978 tidal surge event.
- 5.5 The recorded tide level at Kings Lynn was 5.92m aOD in 1978 since which improvements to 6.30m aOD for hard defences and 7.00m aOD for soft defences have been carried out. The Kings Lynn defences were designed to a 1 in 100 year return period plus freeboard of 1.1 metres. The more recent tidal surge of December 2013 reached a level of 6.17m aOD and the town and surrounding areas were protected by the improved defences.

A more recent report prepared by Consulting Engineers for the Environment Agency has confirmed that the defences would withstand a 1 in 200 year return period still water level of 6.14m aOD (estimated). NPPF states that development should be safe from flooding for its lifetime of 100 years; after taking into account sea level rise due to climate change the predicted 1 in 200 year tide level at Kings Lynn would be 7.16m aOD. This would overtop existing hard defences by 0.86 metre and 0.16 metre above soft defence level.

Any overtopping of existing defences between Kings Lynn and Downham Market would not affect the development site.

- 5.6 The Middle Level Main Drain and St. Germans Pumping Station offer protection against the 1 in 100 year fluvial return period flood with allowance for climate change during the next 100 years. The likelihood of overtopping and/or breaching of the Middle Level Main Drain embankments is considered remote.
- 5.7 More recent Hazard Mapping produced by the Environment Agency shows the site to be unaffected by any floodwaters as a result of a breach to the River Great Ouse tidal defences.

6.0 EXTENT OF KNOWN FLOODING

6.1 During the preparation of this assessment, no evidence was discovered of the site being flooded or of any adjoining properties within the last 100 years.

7.0 PROBABILITIES AND TRENDS OF FLOODING

- 7.1 The probability of this development flooding from localised drainage systems is very low. The nearby main drain provides adequate standard of protection for up to 1 in 50 years return period plus freeboard to lowest land levels.
- 7.2 The probability of the site flooding with water from the tidal River Great Ouse main river is between 0.5% and 1%. If the trend of climate change anticipated to occur continues over the next 100 years, without any further improvements to the main river tidal defences, there is a small risk of overtopping at the 1 in 200 year return period event.
- 7.3 If under very extreme events, levels of floodwater from main river or arterial systems rose to such an extent that the site was affected, the situation would not be sudden. It is very probable that sufficient time would be available to take precautionary actions to limit the extent and potential impact of flooding.
- 7.4 The water levels in the drainage channels will also tend to rise as a result of the impacts of climate change. However the existing systems and defences together with the proposed development of the site with floor level 300mm above adjoining existing land level will be appropriate for the design life of the development (i.e. 100 years).

8.0 <u>IMPACTS OF FLOODING</u>

- 8.1 No significant impacts of flooding are anticipated due to the existing standards of tidal defence, however a precautionary approach has been adopted to protect against the possibility of overtopping or a tidal breach occurring to the tidal defences.
- 8.2 The developer should ensure that the occupiers of the barn conversion are sufficiently aware of the risk of flooding, and the standard of the existing defences. The Environment Agency provides a Flood Warning Service which includes Flood Warning Codes and uses direct warning methods where the risks and impacts of flooding are high. Indirect warnings are provided to all flood risk areas, even those at low risk of flooding. The main method is media broadcasts via local radio and also by television.

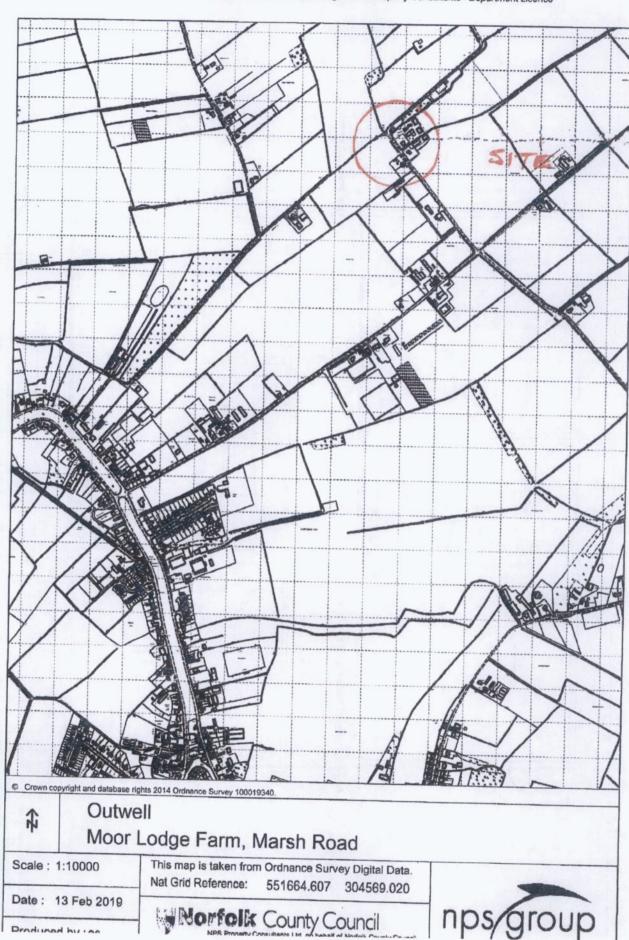
In addition to direct and indirect flood warnings, the Environment Agency operates a 24 hour a day Floodline Service providing advice and information on flooding, contact tel no: 0345 988 1188 and the occupiers of the barn conversion should register with the Floodline Direct Warnings Service to receive any future flood warnings.

9.0 RESIDUAL RISK – EXTREME EVENTS

- 9.1 The residual risk from extreme fluvial events is low on this site, because of the existing standard of drainage provided by the Kings Lynn IDB. The discharge of surface water from the development will be to soakaway designed to BRE365 requirements and approved as part of Building Regulations.
- 9.2 The site is within Flood Zone 1 of the Council's Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment with a low risk of flooding due to the current standards of drainage and flood defence and land levels. The site is not located within a Functional Flood Plain of any 'main river' or 'main drain'. The Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning has been produced irrespective of existing flood defences and standards of protection.

10.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 As a result of the assessment, the following conclusions have been reached:-
 - The proposed development is not in a Functional Floodplain, it is in a Passive Floodplain of the tidal River Great Ouse and the Kings Lynn IDB.
 - The site is in Flood Zone 1 the actual risk of the site flooding from main river is very low at less than 0.5%.
 - Although the site is located within Kings Lynn Internal Drainage
 District with a minimum standard of drainage of 1 in 50 years, this
 accords with Defra guidelines for rural development. Freeboard to
 design water level of 900mm to lowest land level is available for
 events greater than 1 in 50 years.
 - Land level at the site is at 1.50m aOD and safeguards against the risk
 of defences being overtopped or breached. Finished floor level of the
 barn conversion will be a minimum of 300mm above existing land
 level.
 - All surface water drainage from the development will be to soakaway to BRE365 design requirements and Building Control Regulations approval.
 - Any works within 9.00m of the IDB main drain on the northern boundary of the site will require Land Drainage Byelaw Consent from the Kings Lynn Internal drainage Board.



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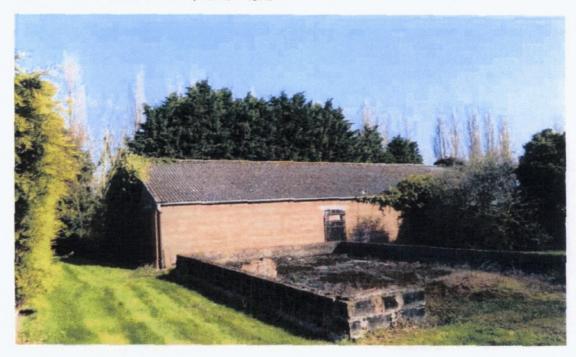


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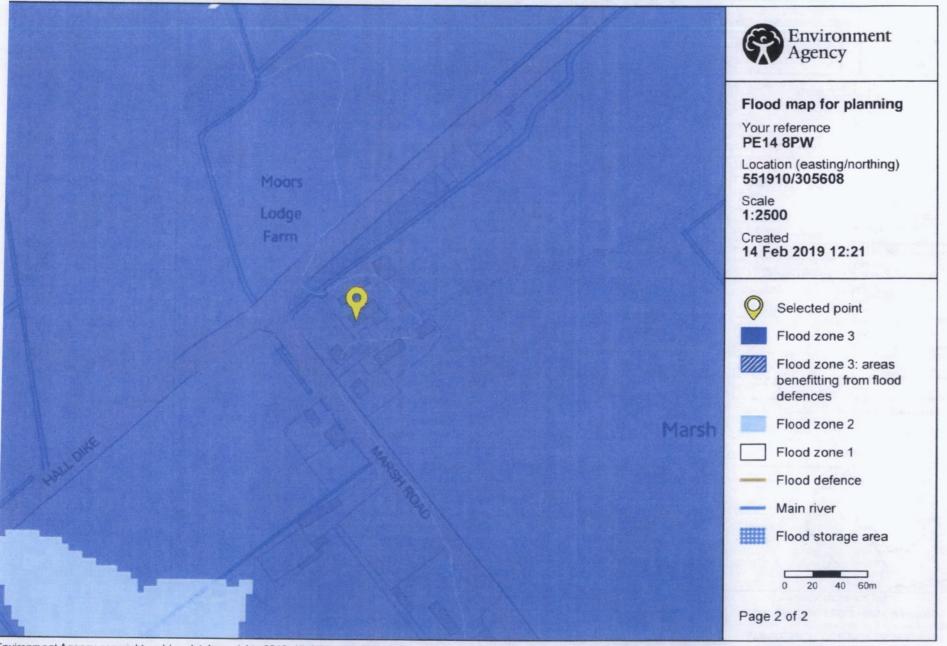
OUTWELL - MOOR LODGE FARM, MARSH ROAD



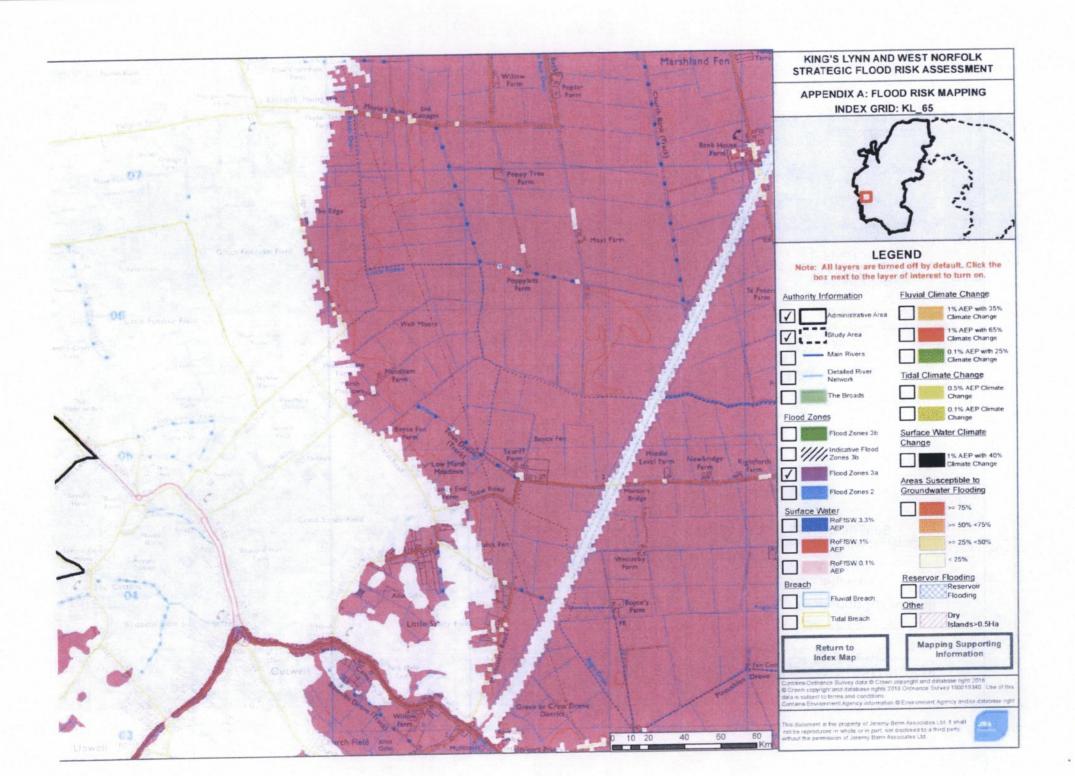
Barn 2003 (Moors Lodge Farm North)



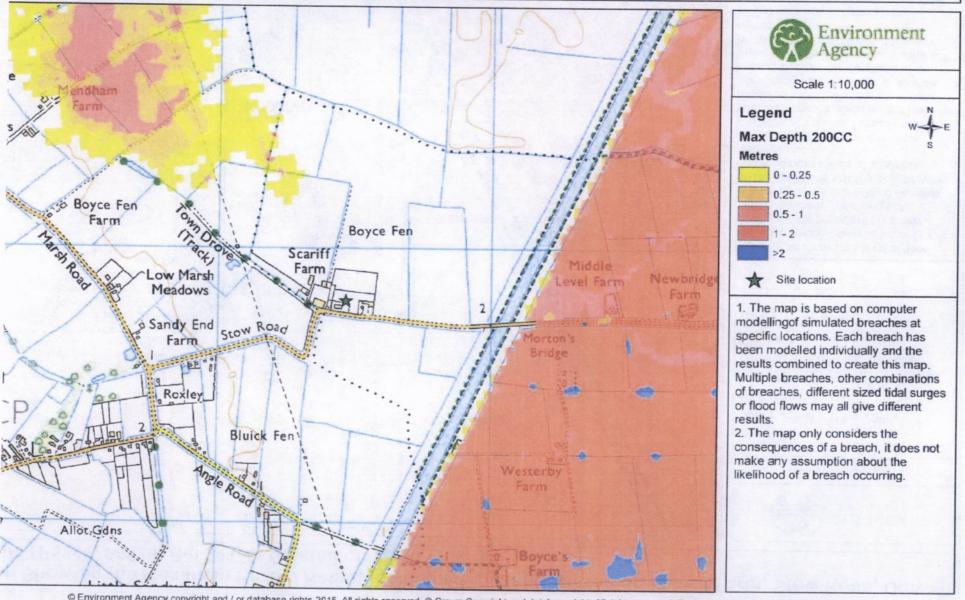
Barn 2001 (Moors Lodge Farm South)



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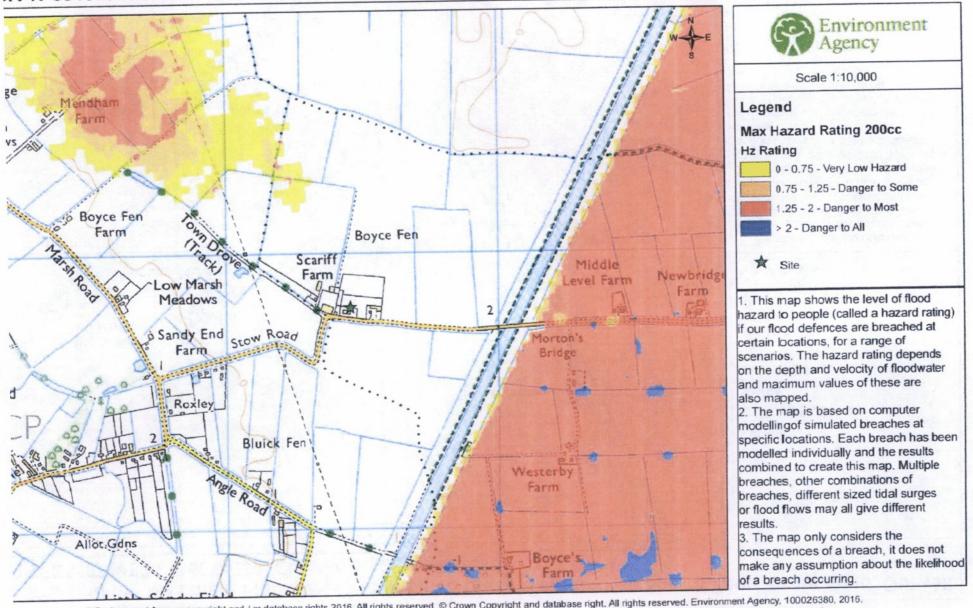


Showing the Maximum Flood Depth (combined breach) centred on Scarrif Farm, Stow Road, Outwell. R TF5346704820. Ref 14156. Created on 28 June 2016.



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p Showing the Maximum Hazard Rating (combined breach) centred on Scarrif Farm, Stow Road, Outwell. iR TF5346704820. Ref 14156. Created on 28 June 2016.



o Showing the Maximum Water Velocity (combined breach) centred on Scarrif Farm, Stow Road, Outwell. R TF5346704820. Ref 14156. Created on 28 June 2016.

