

## Flood Risk Assessment – Backwater creation at Grindle Farm

### Background

A new backwater habitat will be created at Grindle Farm as part of a habitat restoration project, funded by the Environment Agency.

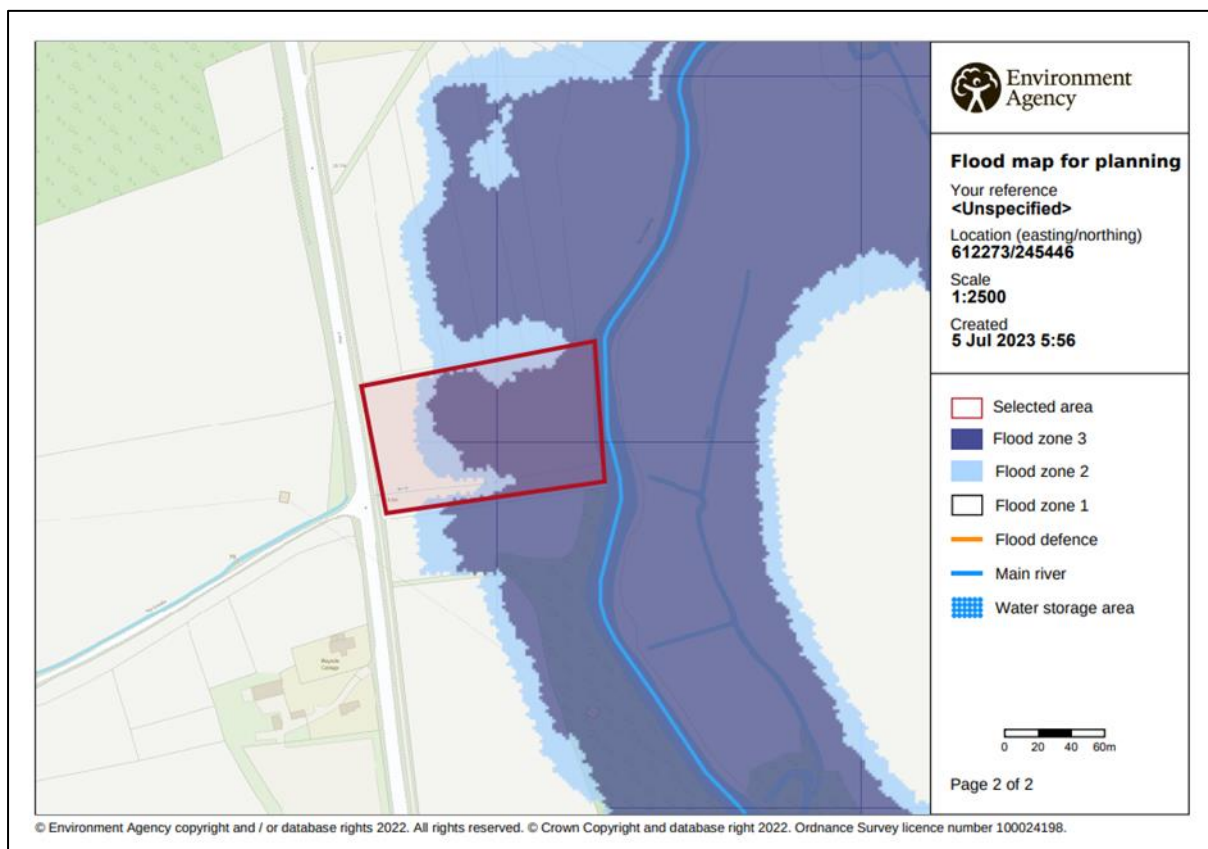
A small backwater will be created at TM 12333 45465, which will cover an area of approximately 0.02ha. The backwater will be connected to the River Gipping at approximately TM 12341 45458 via a channel. However, the exact position of the connection may need to change slightly subject to a water vole survey prior to works.

The ground levels at the point where the channel will join the river will be lowered by a maximum of 50cm. The backwater will be created in an already existing depression. The backwater will be dug to be a maximum of 1m deep with varying depths and a gentle gradient. The resulting spoil will be spread thinly in the surrounding area.

Sheep fencing will be installed around the perimeter of the backwater, which will protect the habitat from grazing livestock. One section of the backwater will be left clear of fencing to provide an access point.

### Flood Risk Assessment

Information provided from the Environment Agency webpages indicates that most of the project site, including the proposed area for the new backwater, is within Flood Zone 3 (see map below).



**Map 1.** A map showing the project area and the flood plain extent.

The proposed works by their nature need to be in the floodplain and fall under the Water Compatible Development category “nature conservation and biodiversity”. The new backwater will enhance the floodplain and improve the habitat for wildlife.

The spoil generated from digging the scrapes will be spoil will be spread thinly in the area surrounding the backwater. The amount of spoil will be minimal, resulting in no increase in flood risk.

A bespoke flood risk activity permit has already been granted from the Environment Agency to undertake this work, which has considered the flood risk impacts of this project. Permit number EPR/NB3051XD.