

# TJ SIMMONS & CO. LIMITED THE WAREHOUSE, 1A ST LEONARD'S ROAD, EAST SHEEN, LONDON, SW14 7LY

#### **FLOOD RISK REPORT**

**FOR** 

## **TIM SIMMONS**













August 2016

Our Ref: HLEF45348/001R

RPS Health, Safety & Environment 35 New Bridge Street London EC4V 6BW

Tel: 020 7280 3240 **Email:** rpslon@rpsgroup.com



Report Status:	Final		
Project Reference:	HLEF45348		
	Name:	Signature:	
Report Author:	James Dunn	J.Dunn	
Technical Reviewer:	Alison Cadge	A. Codge	
Date:	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2016		

This report has been prepared in the RPS Group Quality Management System to British Standard EN ISO 9001:2008

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RPS Health, Safety & Environment (London office) is certified to Environmental Management Standard ISO 14001.





# **CONTENTS**

		PAGE
EXEC	CUTIVE SUMMARY	4
1	INTRODUCTION	5
2	SITE DESCRIPTION AND SETTING	6
3	PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	7
4	CONSULTATIONS & REGULATORY INFORMATION	8
5	ASSESSMENT OF FLOOD RISK	10
6	CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS	13

APPENDIX A Figures

**APPENDIX B** 

**Development Plans** 

**APPENDIX C** 

**General Notes** 



# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### Report Summary:

This Flood Risk Report has been prepared in relation to the Permitted Development application for the subject site. The site currently comprises a two storey commercial building. The proposed works comprise the conversion of both floors of the building to residential use.

The assessment considers the risk to the site from key sources of flooding, including fluvial and tidal sources, surface water, sewer surcharging, groundwater and man-made features such as canals and reservoirs. The level of flood risk has been assessed based on available data provided by the Environment Agency, the Local Authority and the Water Authority.

Overall the site is considered to be at a low risk of flooding from all sources assessed. The development is therefore considered to be safe from a flood risk perspective.

In addition, given the nature of the proposed works (comprising conversion of an existing building only) there will be no increase in flood risk as a result of the development proposal.

No further assessment or mitigation is considered necessary in relation to flood risk issues.



## 1 INTRODUCTION

RPS was commissioned to prepare a Flood Risk report in relation to the proposed conversion of all floors of *The Warehouse, 1A St. Leonard's Road, East Sheen, London, SW14 7LY* to residential use.

The aim of this report is to provide an assessment of flood risk to the property, identify any impacts on flood risk resulting from the proposed works, and to provide recommendations for reducing this risk (where applicable). The report has been produced with reference to the guidance detailed in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The following has been undertaken as part of the assessment:

- Assessment of the topographical, hydrological and hydrogeological setting through review of information sourced from the British Geological Survey, the Environment Agency (EA) and the Ordnance Survey:
- Review of readily available (online) flood risk mapping provided by the EA;
- Review of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) produced by the Local Authority outlining flood risk from various sources within the borough; and
- Consultation with the Water Authority regarding known records of sewer flooding at the property.

Given that the proposal is for a change of use of the existing property, there is no requirement under the NPPF to apply the Sequential Test or Exception Test in relation to this application.



## 2 SITE DESCRIPTION AND SETTING

#### 2.1 Site Description

The site is located in East Sheen at national grid reference TQ 20388 75594. It is within a predominantly residential setting. A site location plan is provided in Figure 1.

The site occupies an area of approximately 0.02 hectares. It is currently occupied by a warehouse (B8) with ancillary office space on the first floor. There are hardstanding concrete and pavement areas around the building.

Pedestrian and vehicular access is through a passageway off St. Leonard's Road to the north of the site.

#### 2.2 Hydrological Setting

The nearest main watercourse is the River Thames, approximately 540m north of the site.

There is a culverted watercourse approximately 250m northwest of the site.

#### 2.3 Hydrogeological Setting

According to BGS mapping, the site is underlain by the Kempton Park Gravel Formation of sand and gravel. This is underlain by London Clay.

The superficial deposits are classified as a 'Secondary A' aquifer on BGS groundwater maps. These aquifers are typically capable of supporting water supplies at a local scale rather than a strategic scale, and in some cases form an important source of base flow to rivers. The London Clay Formation which underlies this is an unproductive stratum that has a low permeability and negligible significance for water supply or river base flow.



# **3 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

#### 3.1 Description of Development

The Permitted Development application is for the conversion of both floors of the development to form a total of six residential units.

Main pedestrian access to the site will remain to the north through a passageway off St. Leonards Road. There will be three access points on the ground floor of the building for each residential unit as well as an access point leading to the units on the upper floor.

Development plans are provided in Appendix B.



## 4 CONSULTATIONS & REGULATORY INFORMATION

#### 4.1 Environment Agency

The EA flood map (available online) indicates that the site is located within Flood Zone 1. The annual probability of flooding from fluvial / tidal sources is classified as less than 1 in 1000. The site is approximately 80m south of the floodplain associated with the River Thames.

The EA Flood Map is provided in Figure 2.

The EA Risk of Flooding from Surface Water map (available online) indicates that the site itself is at 'very low' risk from surface water flooding which means the site has an annual probability of flooding of less than 1 in 1000. The hardstanding areas surrounding the site are at 'low' risk from surface water flooding. This corresponds with an annual probability of flooding that is between 1 in 1000 and 1 in 100.

EA mapping also indicates that the site is not located within an area potentially at risk from reservoir flooding.

#### 4.2 Local Authority

The London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames SFRA was published in March 2016. It provides an overview of flood risk from various sources within the Borough. A Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) was also produced for the Borough in 2011, providing an outline of the preferred surface water management strategy for the Borough. Information of relevance to these assessments is summarised below:

- A considerable portion of the urban area of the Borough comprises low lying ground adjacent to the river systems, which could potentially be affected by flooding.
- The likelihood of a rapid river level rise within the River Thames, resulting in the rapid inundation of urban areas within the Borough posing a risk to life, is considered to be negligible.
- There are no recorded instances of fluvial flooding within proximity of the site.
- There have been 5 or less recorded instances of sewer flooding in the 'SW14 7' postcode area.
- There is a culverted watercourse approximately 250m northwest of the site.
- The site is in an area where there is potential for groundwater flooding to occur at the surface.
- There have been no recorded instances of groundwater flooding within the vicinity of the site.



- The nearest recorded groundwater flooding event occurred approximately 380m southwest of the site.
- Modelling suggests that the site would not experience surface water flooding for a 1 in 100 year flood.
- The nearest recorded surface water flooding incident is approximately 300m to the south of the site.

#### 4.3 Water Authority

Thames Water have confirmed that there have been no incidents of flooding in vicinity of the site as a result of surcharging public sewers.



## 5 ASSESSMENT OF FLOOD RISK

#### 5.1 Background

The following assessment is based on the data presented in the preceding sections of this report. It should be noted that flooding can occur at any location and cannot always be predicted. However, this report aims to identify any specific or known risks relating to the subject property, based on available information sources.

#### 5.2 Fluvial / Tidal Flooding

Fluvial and tidal flooding refers to flooding from surface watercourses and their tributaries, estuaries and the sea. EA mapping indicates that the site is located within Flood Zone 1, whereby the annual probability of fluvial or tidal flooding is classified as less than 1 in 1000.

According to the London Borough of Richmond SWMP, a culverted watercourse is located approximately 250m northwest of the site. However given its culverted nature and distance from the site, this watercourse is not considered to represent a risk of flooding to the subject site.

No historical flood events from fluvial or tidal sources have been recorded by the EA in close proximity to the site.

The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) details the suitability of different land uses within each flood zone. The proposed land use is classified as 'more vulnerable' and such uses are generally considered compatible with Flood Zone 1.

Overall, the risk associated with flooding from fluvial or tidal sources is considered to be low.

#### 5.3 Flooding from sewers

Sewer flooding can occur during periods of heavy rainfall when a sewer becomes blocked or is of inadequate capacity.

The SFRA indicates, there have been 5 or less recorded instances of sewer flooding in the 'SW14 7' postcode area. Thames Water have confirmed that they hold no records of sewer flooding for the site itself.

Overall, the risk associated with flooding from sewers is considered to be low.



#### 5.4 Surface water (pluvial) flooding

This can occur during intense rainfall events, when water cannot soak into the ground or enter drainage systems. Overland flow is likely to follow the local topography, ponding in valleys or topographical depressions.

The SFRA flood map for surface water shows that the site would not experience any flooding as a result of surface water runoff for a 1 in 100 year flood.

Environment Agency mapping indicates that the property itself is at 'very low' risk from surface water flooding which means the site has an annual probability of flooding of less than 1 in 1000. The hardstanding areas surrounding the site are at 'low' risk from surface water flooding. This corresponds with an annual probability of flooding that is between 1 in 1000 and 1 in 100.

Overall, the risk associated with surface water flooding is considered to be low.

#### 5.5 Groundwater flooding

This can occur in low-lying areas when groundwater levels rise above surface levels, or within underground structures. BGS mapping indicates that the site is underlain by permeable superficial deposits of the Kempton Park Gravel Formation. This is underlain by London Clay.

There have been no recorded incidents of groundwater flooding occurring within proximity of the site. As the development does not include any basement levels, there is a reduced likelihood of groundwater flooding.

Overall, the risk associated with groundwater flooding is considered to be low.

#### 5.6 Other Sources

Other potential sources of flooding include man-made structures such as reservoirs and canals. No man-made water features are recorded within 1km of the subject site and EA mapping shows that the site is not within an area considered to be at risk from reservoir flooding.

As with any urban location, there is the risk of a break in a water main causing localised flooding at the site. However, the risk at this location is no greater than at any other location served by water mains.



Overall the risk associated with flooding from other sources (such as reservoirs and canals) is considered to be low.

#### 5.7 Impact of Development on Flood Risk

Given that the proposed works comprise the conversion of the existing property only, with no external alterations to the building footprint or drainage system, there will be no off-site increase in flood risk as a result of the proposed works. It is therefore considered neither practical nor sustainable to include SuDS in the proposed scheme.



# **6 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### 6.1 Conclusions

This assessment has considered the potential risks to the application site associated with flooding from fluvial and tidal sources, sewer surcharging, surface water (pluvial) flooding, groundwater flooding and flooding from other (man-made) sources. Overall, on the basis of information reviewed by RPS, the subject site is not considered to be at a significant risk of flooding from any of the sources assessed.

The development is considered to be safe from a flood risk perspective, and will not result in an increase in flood risk off-site.

#### 6.2 Recommendations

No further assessment or mitigation is considered necessary in relation to flood risk for the Permitted Development application.



# **APPENDIX A**

Figures





Figure 1: Site Location Plan

Map Date: Current

Scale: Not to scale

RPS

35 New Bridge Street

London EC4V 6BW

**2** 020-7280-3240

# RPS

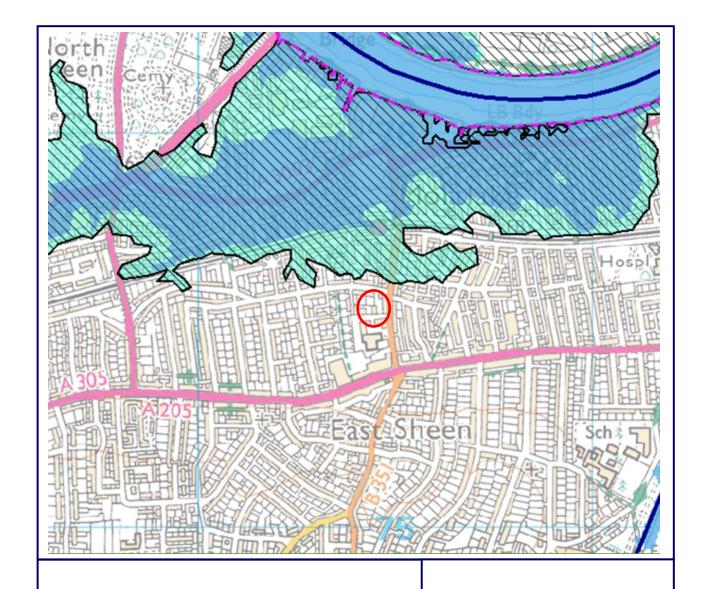


Figure 2: Environment Agency Flood Map

Map Date: Current

Scale: Not to scale

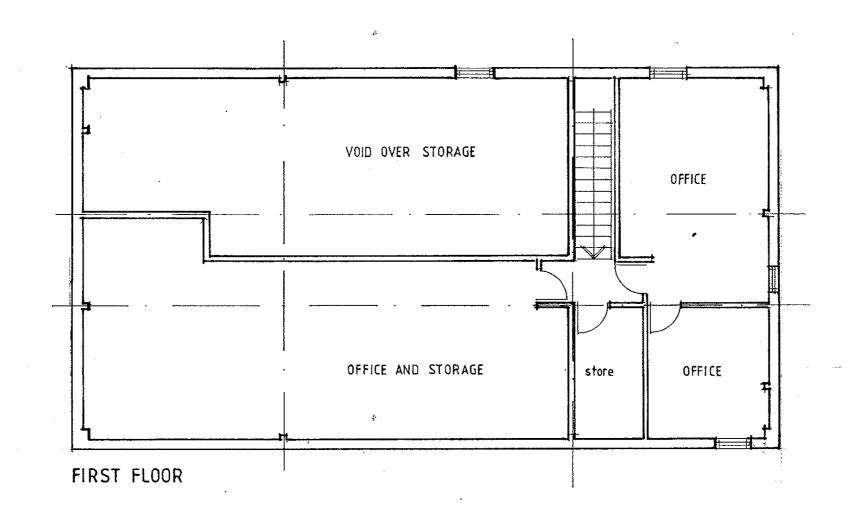
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# **APPENDIX B**

**Development Plans** 



NOTES





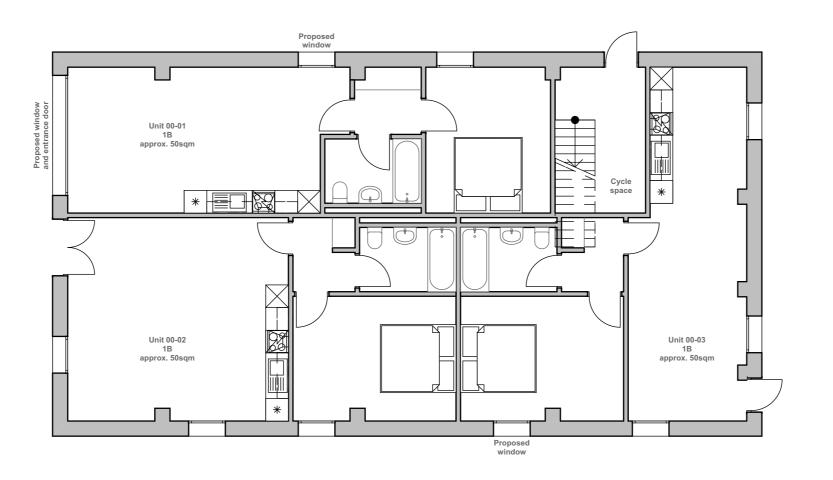
TJ SIMMONS & CO LTD.

1A ST LEONARDS RD LONDON SW14 7LY

drawing EXISTING FIRST FLOOR

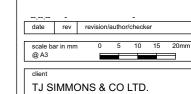
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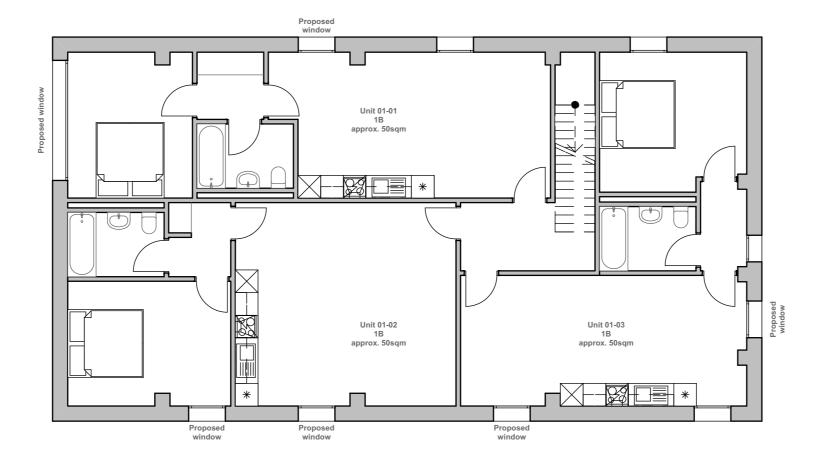


1A ST LEONARDS RD LONDON SW14 7LY

drawing PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR

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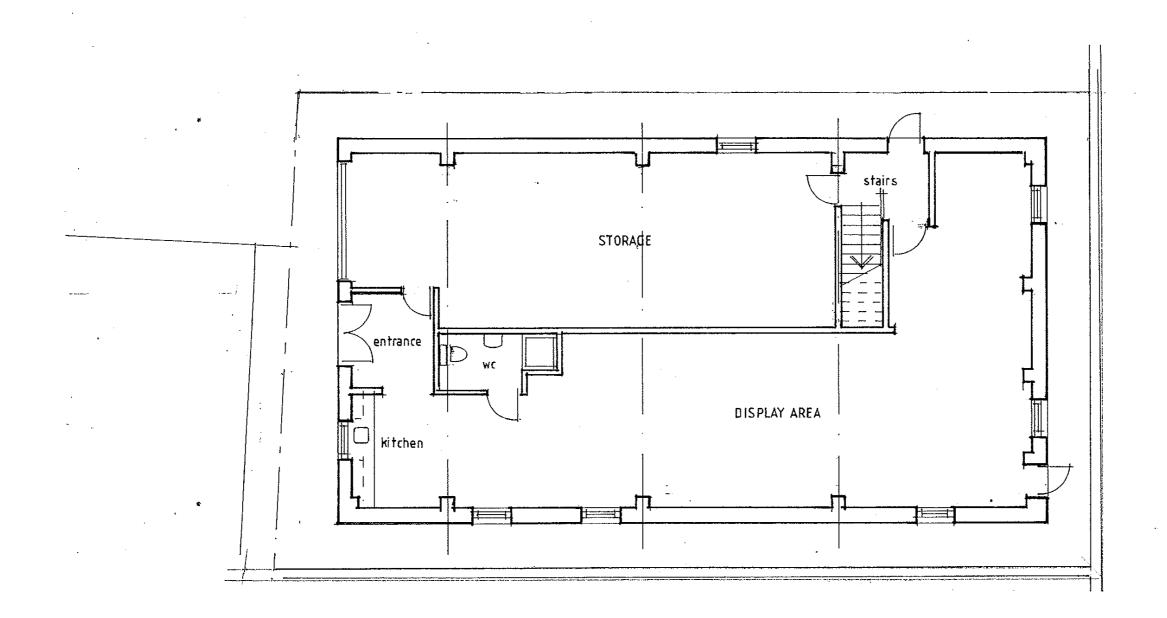
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project
1A ST LEONARDS RD
LONDON SW14 7LY

drawing EXISTING GROUND FLOOR

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# **APPENDIX C**

**General Notes** 



#### **RPS HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT**

Flood Risk Desk Study Report

#### **General Notes**

The following notes should be read in conjunction with the report:

- 1. This report contains only that available factual data for the site, which was obtained from the sources, described in the text. These data were related to the site on the basis of the location information made available to RPS by the client.
- 2. The assessment of the site is based on information supplied by the client. Relevant information was also obtained from other sources.
- 3. The desk study information is not necessarily exhaustive and further information relevant to the site may be available from other sources.
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