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CONSULTING LIMITED



**Client: Folkestone & Hythe  
District Council**

Flood Warning and Evacuation Strategy  
for Land adjacent to 'The Retreat',  
Lydd Road, Old Romney

**August 2019**

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## **Client: Folkestone & Hythe District Council**

Flood Warning and Evacuation Strategy for the Proposed Development at Land adjacent to 'The Retreat', Lydd Road, Old Romney

### **Contents Amendment Record**

This report has been issued and amended as follows:

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# Contents Page

<b>1</b>	<b>Background and Objectives</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>What is the Risk of Flooding?</b>	<b>3</b>
	2.1 <i>How often is the site expected to flood?</i>	3
	2.2 <i>How much could it flood by?</i>	3
	2.3 <i>How long will floodwater take to reach the site?</i>	3
<b>3</b>	<b>Prepare for a Flood Event</b>	<b>4</b>
	3.1 <i>Stay Aware of Flood Risk in Your Local Area</i>	4
	3.2 <i>Sign Up to Receive Flood Warnings</i>	4
	3.3 <i>Responsibilities and Dissemination</i>	6
	3.4 <i>Prepare a Flood Plan</i>	7
<b>4</b>	<b>During A Flood Event</b>	<b>8</b>
	4.1 <i>Flood Warning Procedure</i>	8
	4.2 <i>Evacuation Procedure</i>	9
	4.3 <i>The Dangers of Flood Water</i>	11
<b>5</b>	<b>After A Flood Event</b>	<b>12</b>
	5.1 <i>Returning to the Site</i>	12
	5.2 <i>Actions Following a Flood</i>	12
<b>6</b>	<b>Periodic Updates and Concluding Remarks</b>	<b>13</b>

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# Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan

Land adjacent to 'The Retreat', Lydd Road, Old Romney, TN29 9SY

## 1 Background and Objectives

This Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan has been prepared to aid the owner/manager and occupants of the proposed gypsy and traveller site at land adjacent to 'The Retreat', Lydd Road, Old Romney, to safely evacuate before the onset of a flood event, as a direct result of the tidal defences being breached.

The main purpose of this emergency plan is to; reduce the risk to life, mitigate the risk of damage caused through flooding, and enable a safe and well organised evacuation of the occupants of the premises (before the onset of a flood event).

The objectives of this Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan are therefore to:

- Raise awareness of the risk of flooding at the development.
- Detail the flood warnings and estimated lead time available.
- Detail how the plan is triggered, by who and when.
- Define any areas of responsibility for those participating in the plan.
- Describe what actions are required.
- Establish a safe route to a safe location (above the flood level).
- Outline the evacuation procedure to enable the occupants of the buildings to reach a safe place of refuge.
- Establish procedures for implementing the plan and updating the plan.

The plan should be adopted by the residents and owners of the site, as it includes references to the practical access/egress routes to/from the site during times of flooding. The plan also refers to the Environment Agency's Flood Warning System and identifies how regular updates can be obtained on both a local and regional scale, through the use of media such as radio, television and the internet.

It is recommended that the content of this strategy is reviewed and updated on a regular basis.



## 2 What is the Risk of Flooding?

### 2.1 How often is the site expected to flood?

The site benefits from the protection of existing coastal defences which currently provide a 1 in 200 year standard of protection. Even in 100 years' time, when sea levels are expected to have risen due to climate change, these defences have been designed to protect the site from a flood event with a 1 in 200 year return period. Therefore, the site is only at risk of flooding in the unlikely event that the defences were to fail (i.e. a breach scenario), which would need to be coincident with an extreme storm event.

### 2.2 How much could it flood by?

In the unlikely event of a breach of the Broomhill Sands defences during an extreme coastal event, the higher ground in the northern half of the site, along the Rhee Wall, is expected to remain dry. However, the remainder of the site could be flooded. During an extreme event, with a return period of 1 in 200 years, including an allowance for climate change over the next 100 years, the depth of flooding across the southern half of the site is predicted to reach a maximum depth of 0.88m towards the southern boundary of the site.

### 2.3 How long will floodwater take to reach the site?

Given the site is located over 8.5km from the breach location, there would be a significant delay before floodwater would reach the site following a breach, estimated to be in excess of 20 hours from the peak of the tide. Once water has reached the site, it will take more than 6 hours before the maximum predicted depth on site is reached.

## 3 Prepare for a Flood Event

### 3.1 Stay Aware of Flood Risk in Your Local Area

Regular updates on local and regional flooding can be received through the following media services:

<b>Local Radio</b>	BBC Radio Kent KMFM Heart Kent Radio
<b>Local TV</b>	BBC – South East ITV – South East
<b>Social Media</b>	Keep in touch with the Environment Agency using their social media sites: <b>Twitter</b> – <a href="https://twitter.com/envagency">https://twitter.com/envagency</a> <b>Facebook</b> – <a href="https://www.facebook.com/environmentagency">https://www.facebook.com/environmentagency</a>
<b>Online</b>	Environment Agency’s website - <a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk">www.environment-agency.gov.uk</a>

#### ***Weather Warnings***

Monitoring of Met Office “Weather Warnings” may also provide an indication of when flooding might be expected. The weather warnings issued by the Met Office are separated into the following classifications: ‘no severe weather’; ‘be aware’; ‘be prepared’; and ‘take action’. As previously advised, local media should be consulted for updates on severe weather warnings and they can also be found online at:

[http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/uk\\_forecast\\_warnings.html](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/uk_forecast_warnings.html)

Met Office weather warnings for south-east England are also available from the Met Office Twitter severe weather feeds: [@metofficeSEEng](https://twitter.com/metofficeSEEng)

### 3.2 Sign Up to Receive Flood Warnings

The Environment Agency operate a flood forecasting and warning service in areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea, which relies on;

- Direct measurements of rainfall, river levels, tide levels,
- In-house predictive models,
- Rainfall radar data and information from the Met Office.

This service operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The risk of flooding to the development is from a breach in the tidal defences, which is difficult to predict and can result in rapid inundation of the flood compartment. However, a breach of the defences is more likely to occur as a result of an extreme coastal storm or tidal surge event. Such events are related to conditions offshore and can often be predicted over 12 hours in advance. Furthermore, if a breach was to occur, it is expected that floodwater would take more than 20 hours to reach the site. As such, the Environment Agency can provide warnings for extreme coastal/tidal conditions, to enable this Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan to be implemented.

**It is therefore recommended that the occupants of the residential properties, and the owners of the remaining site sign up to the Environment Agency's free Flood Warning Service either by calling **0345 988 1188**, or by visiting; <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>**

The Environment Agency also provide a **Five Day Flood Risk Forecast** on their website - <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/5-day-flood-risk>

In addition, a regional **Flood Warnings in Force** service is updated every 15 mins and can be found at – <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/map>

The Environment Agency flood warning service has three types of warnings that will help residents and owners prepare for flooding and take action. The Environment Agency's Flood Symbols are as follows;

- Flood Alert
- Flood Warning
- Severe Flood Warning

	<b>What it means</b>
 <p><b>FLOOD ALERT</b></p>	<p>Flooding is possible.</p> <p>Be prepared.</p>
 <p><b>FLOOD WARNING</b></p>	<p>Flooding is expected.</p> <p><b>Immediate</b> action required.</p>
 <p><b>SEVERE FLOOD WARNING</b></p>	<p>Severe flooding.</p> <p><b>Danger to life.</b></p>
<p><b>Warnings no longer in force</b></p>	<p>No further flooding is currently expected in your area.</p>

Table 3.1 - Environment Agency Flood Symbol Guidance.

### 3.3 Responsibilities and Dissemination

It is proposed that the site is developed for 4 permanent residential pitches for gypsy and traveller accommodation and therefore, the site owner/manager should sign up to the Floodline service and disseminate any flood warnings to the occupants of the site. It is essential that they are aware which caravans are occupied and whether any are vacant at any particular time. If such a system is not already in place, it is recommended that one should be developed. This will enable all occupants to be accounted for and 'checked off site' as they are evacuated from the site.

In accordance with the procedures outlined in Section 4 of this report, the site owner/manager is encouraged to inform all occupants as soon as possible when flood warnings are issued, so as to alert them to possible flooding in the area and provide sufficient time for occupants to relocate to an area outside the flood extents (if deemed necessary). All residents should regularly check Flood Alerts online and inform any fellow residents/neighbours.

Should any temporary residential pitches be proposed in the future over and above the permanent pitches planned for in Policy RM15, then a permanent Flood Alert Notice should be displayed. This will show the current flood alert status issued by the Environment Agency and will need to be updated by the owner/manager of the site as and when warnings are received.

### **3.4 Prepare a Flood Plan**

The manger/owner of the site and permanent residents should be briefed on the Flood Warning and Evacuation Process, as well as having access to this document, and access to the Flood Warnings.

If any temporary residential pitches are proposed in the future, visitors to the site should be informed about the actions required in the event of a flood. This could be disseminated through a flyer handed to each visitor on arrival. The leaflet can advise residents on the flood evacuation procedures and how they will be initiated. This should include a plan showing the evacuation route and assembly locations within the site.

Access to the site is via Lydd Road, and therefore managers and residents should ensure that safe access/egress to/from the site can be achieved safely via this route at all times (e.g. no obstructions). This is to ensure that visitors can leave the site unhindered and quickly in the event of a flood. Signage within the site should be erected highlighting the direction of travel away from the flood risk areas.

## 4 During A Flood Event

### 4.1 Flood Warning Procedure

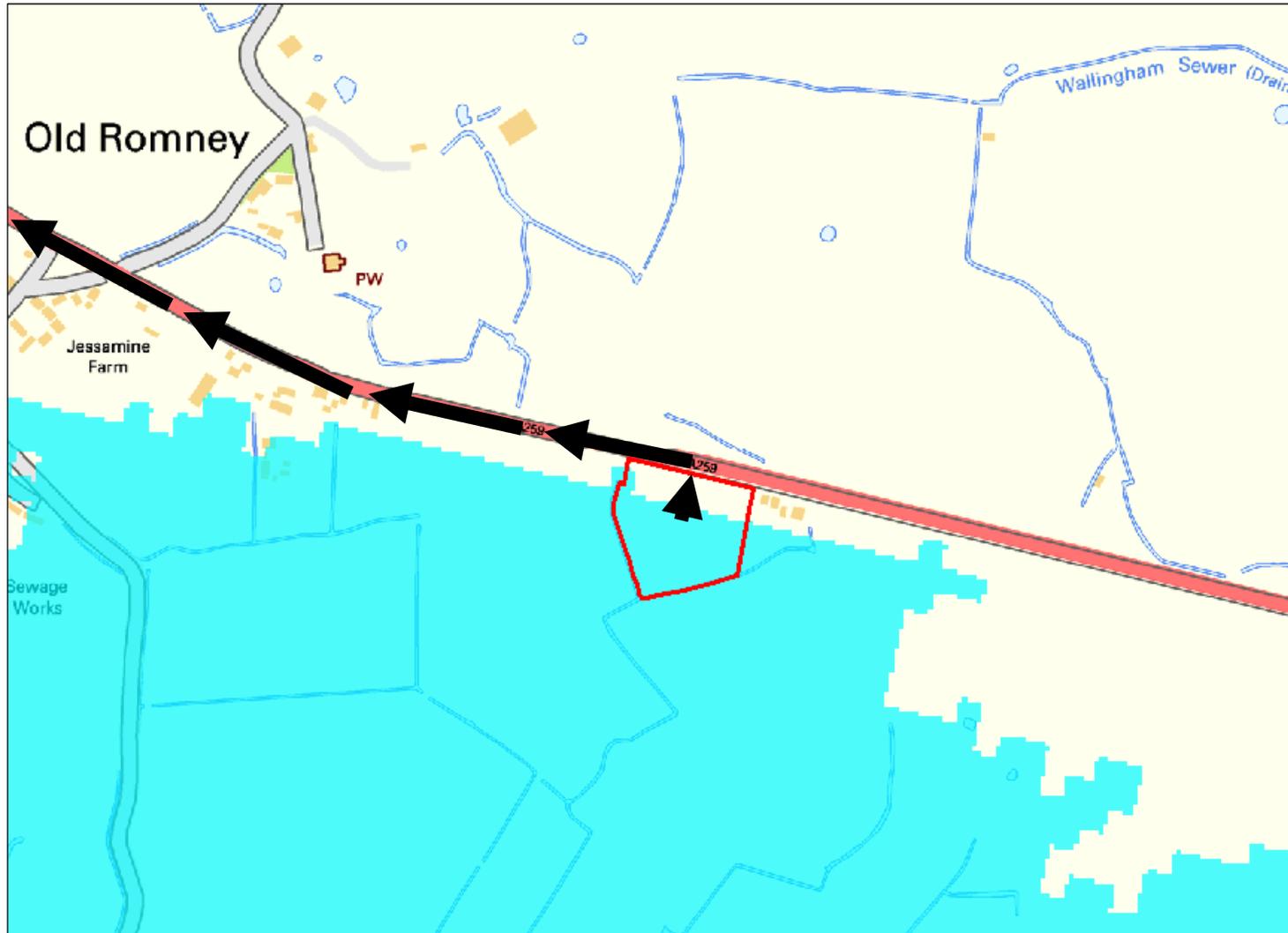
	<p>Upon receiving notification of a Flood Alert status, the site owner/manager and occupants should be encouraged to either watch local TV stations or listen to local radio for flood warning updates.</p> <p>Occupants should also be familiar with the evacuation procedures and prepare themselves for immediate evacuation if the flood warning reaches 'Severe Flood Warning'. The site owner/manager will be available should occupants require any advice or assistance regarding potential evacuation.</p> <p>The site owner/manager should ensure that all emergency evacuation routes within the site are clear and that any barriers or obstructions are raised/removed.</p>
	<p>If the Flood Alert status is elevated to Flood Warning, the site owner/manager should notify the occupants and begin evacuation procedures.</p> <p>Where applicable, occupants should be encouraged to leave the site immediately and relocate to an area outside the flood extent or, alternatively, convene at a designated rest centre.</p> <p>The site owner/manager should also ensure that the gas, electricity and water supplies are turned off. Do as much as possible in daylight as doing anything in the dark will be more difficult, especially if the electricity fails.</p> <p>Permanent residents should prepare their property for a flood event, and relocate belongings to an area outside of the flood risk area (i.e. higher ground). Any cars should be moved to the northern part of the site.</p> <p><b><u>DO NOT WAIT FOR A SEVERE FLOOD WARNING TO ACT</u></b></p>

	<p>All residents should <b>EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY</b> to an area of high ground, following the flood evacuation route identified in this plan.</p> <p>At this stage it is likely that the Local Authority, the Emergency Services and the Environment Agency should be co-ordinating an area wide evacuation and managing the situation, as flooding will potentially be widespread. Notwithstanding this, the non-residential occupants can assist in this process by keeping informed and understanding the correct evacuation procedures in place.</p> <p>The relevant bodies will endeavour to provide advice on safe evacuation routes, as well as providing shelter and assistance to evacuees, if necessary. The Local Authority has a legal obligation to provide assistance to evacuees under the Homelessness Act 2002, however, the site owner/manager and occupants must be aware that at times of widespread flooding the emergency services and Local Authority may have difficulty providing assistance to a large number of evacuees. In this instance, occupants of the site are likely to be advised to relocate to a different site by the relevant authorities.</p>
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#### 4.2 Evacuation Procedure

There is a single access/egress route to/from the site via Lydd Road. The evacuation route is marked on the map in Figure 4.1.

The potential flood hazard along Lydd Road reduces with distance to the north of the site. Therefore, visitors should evacuate the site and head north-west along Lydd Road.



**CAUTION: It should be noted that if the access/egress route has been severed due to floodwater, occupants should NOT try to evacuate.**

**Instead occupants should seek dry refuge within their properties until the floodwater subsides.**

**Floodwater can be hazardous and where possible, occupants should avoid coming into contact with floodwater at all times.**

Figure 4.1 - Safe Evacuation Route for Lydd Road, Old Romney – Evacuation Route: Black arrows show route 1.

### 4.3 The Dangers of Flood Water

**REMEMBER!**

**Don't walk through flowing water** – currents can be deceptive, and shallow, fast flowing water can knock you off your feet!

**Don't swim through fast flowing water** – you may get swept away or struck by an object in the water!

If you have to walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that you do not step into deep water, open manholes or ditches!

**Don't drive through a flooded area** – you may not be able to see abrupt drop-offs and as cars become buoyant just half a meter of flood water can carry a car away!

**Avoid contact with flood water** – it may be contaminated with sewage, oil, chemicals or other substances!

## **5 After A Flood Event**

### **5.1 Returning to the Site**

Occupants that have been evacuated should not return to their residence until told that it is safe to do so by the relevant Authorities. Occupants must take care when returning to the site, as the floodwater may have caused damage to units and/or issues related to sanitation.

### **5.2 Actions Following a Flood**

The Environment Agency's document 'What to do before, during and after a flood' is a very useful report which can be accessed via the following weblink:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/292935/LIT\\_5216\\_d5fc0d.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/292935/LIT_5216_d5fc0d.pdf)

Occupants are encouraged to contact their insurance company as soon as possible - in almost all cases the insurance company will send a loss adjuster to assess the damage that floodwater has caused. They will confirm what repairs and replacements are needed and covered by their policy. Occupants should ask if they will help pay for repairs that will reduce potential flood damage and therefore reduce costs if it happens again. For occupants that do not have insurance, the local council should be able to provide information on hardship grants or charities that may be able to help.

## **6 Periodic Updates and Concluding Remarks**

This Flood Evacuation Strategy has been prepared in accordance with the most contemporary Environment Agency guidance. All of the details, including: warning symbols; telephone numbers and the modelled flood data on which the strategy has been produced, are up-to-date and in line with the date shown in the header of this document. However, this document should be periodically updated at least every 3 years, or following a flood event, to ensure that all of the information contained herein is relevant and up-to-date.

If the reader is unsure, the Environment Agency, or Emergency Planning Department of the Local Authority should be contacted to verify the contents.

The key actions from this plan are as follows;

- Managers/permanent residents should be trained in the flood evacuation procedures outlined in this report and should ensure that a system is in place to receive and monitor flood warnings.
- A system should be adopted that ensures that all new occupants of the site are provided with access to the Emergency Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan and know the procedures and routes during an evacuation.

## **A Appendices**

### **A.1 Appendix A.1 – Key Information and Procedures**

## Appendix A.1 – Key Information and Procedures

### Contacts List

	Company name	Contact name	Telephone	Mobile
Floodline	Floodline	--	0345 988 1188	--
Electricity provider				
Gas provider				
Water company	Southern Water		0845 278 0845	
Telephone provider				
Local public transport				
Local council and emergency services	Folkestone & Hythe District Council		Office hours: 01303 853000 Out of hours: 01303 221 888	
Insurance company and policy number				
Insurance agent				

### Key Locations

Service cut-off	Description of Location
Electricity	
Gas	
Water	

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*