

Sheffield Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Update - Site S03034

Final

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Sheffield City Council



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1 Background

This is a Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) site screening report for the Sheffield City Council (SCC) Local Plan Site S03034. The content of this Level 2 SFRA site screening report assumes the reader has already consulted the 'SCC Level 1 SFRA' (2022) and read the 'SCC Level 2 SFRA Main Report' (2024) and is therefore familiar with the terminology used in this report.

1.1 Site S03034

- Location: Land south of Wheel Lane between Creswick Avenue and Wheel Lane, S35
- Existing site use: Agriculture
- Existing site use vulnerability: Less vulnerable
- Proposed site use: Housing
- Proposed site use vulnerability: More vulnerable
- Site area: 16.9 hectares
- Proposed development impermeable area: 11.2 hectares
- Watercourse: Unnamed ordinary watercourses (unmodelled)
- EA model: N/A
- Summary of requirements from scoping stage:
 - Assessment of the potential risk from unmodelled watercourse
 - Assessment of surface water flood depths and hazards based on the EA's national Risk of Flooding from Surface Water dataset
 - Assessment of all other sources of flood risk

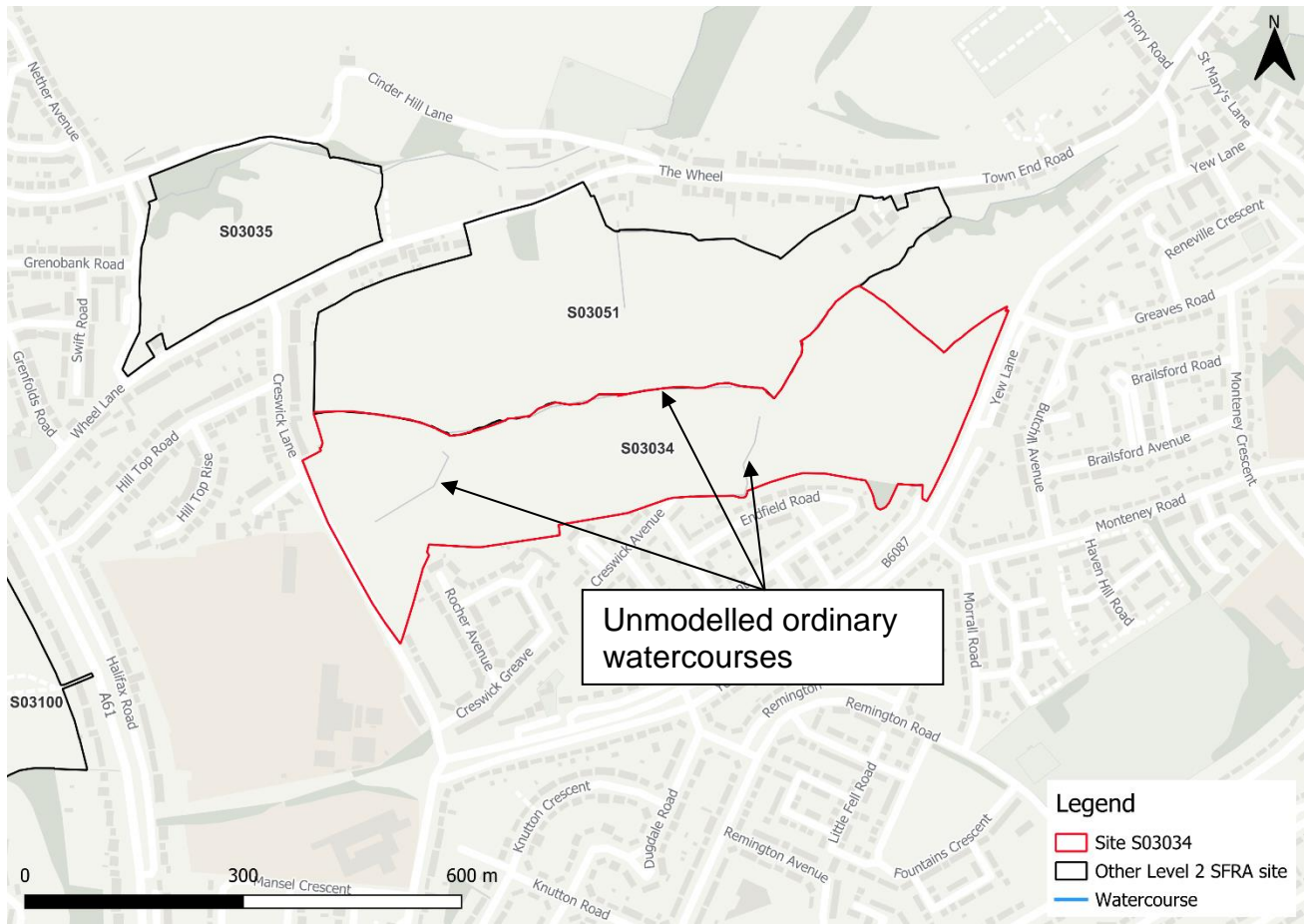


Figure 1-1: Existing site location boundary

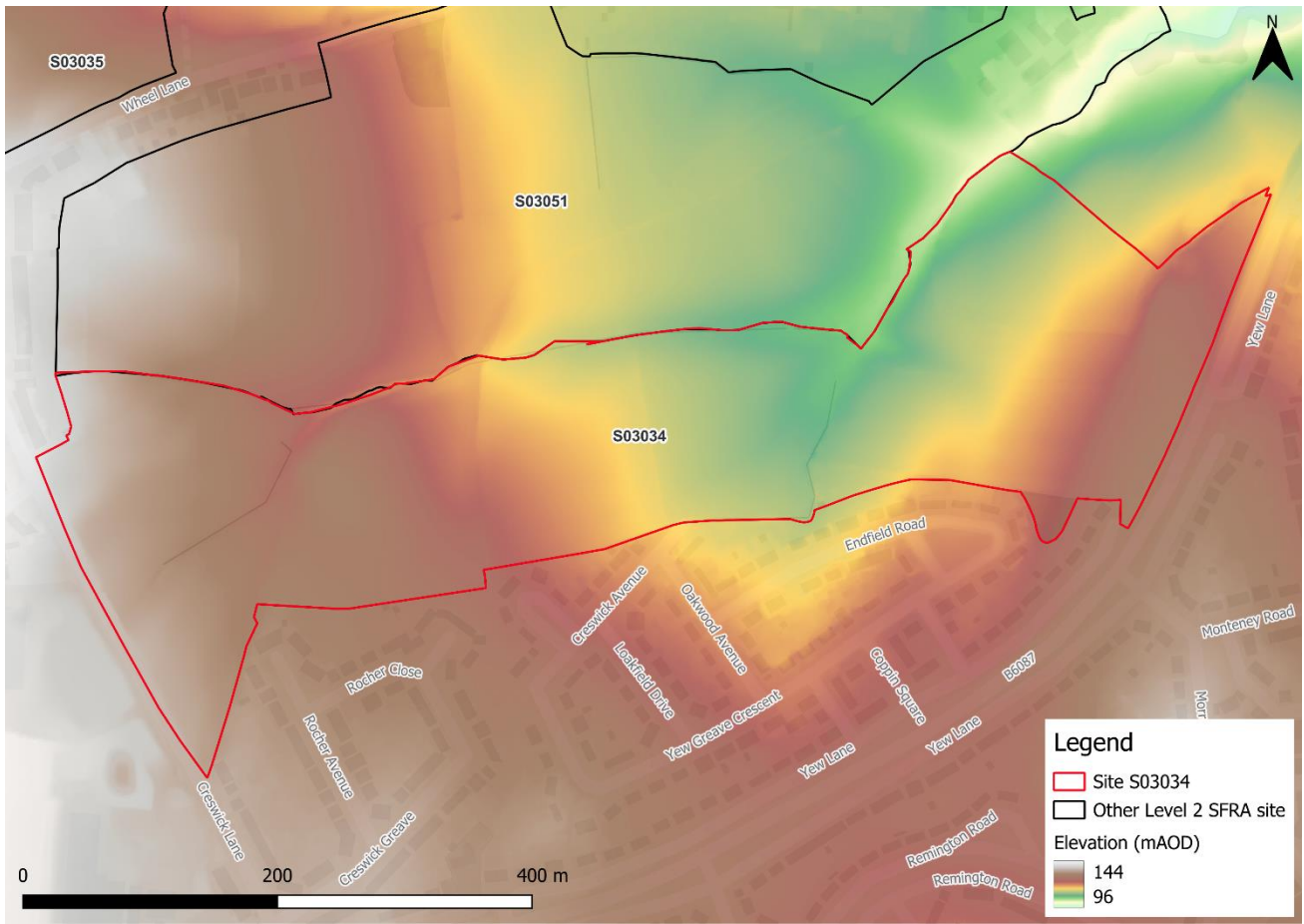


Figure 1-2: Topography

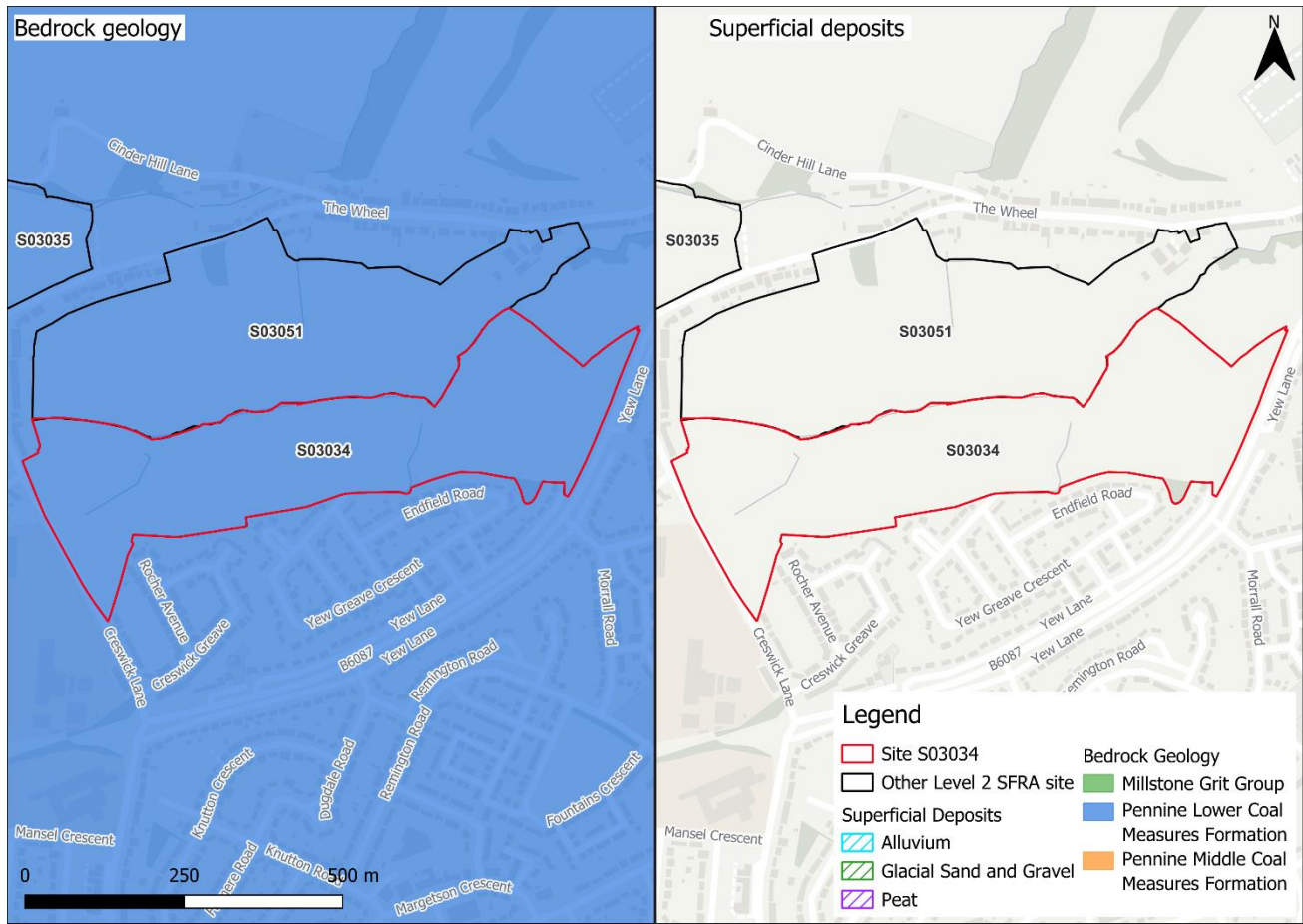


Figure 1-3: Soils and geology

2 Flood risk from rivers

2.1 Existing risk

2.1.1 Flood Map for Planning and functional floodplain

Based on the EA's Flood Map for Planning (February 2025) and Flood Zone 3b (functional floodplain), as updated in the Level 2 SFRA finalised in 2024, the percentage areas of the site within each fluvial flood zone are stated in Table 2-1 and can be viewed on Figure 2-1. This version of the Flood Map for Planning does not consider flood defence infrastructure (Section 2.3) or the impacts of climate change (Section 2.2).

The whole site is within Flood Zone 1 indicating it is at low risk of flooding from rivers. However, OS mapping and topography data indicate an unmodelled unnamed ordinary watercourse along the northern site boundary, which is shared with Site S03051, with two other adjoining drains from the south. The ordinary watercourse flowing eastwards along the northern site boundary appears to be a tributary of Blackburn Brook. There should be no development within 8 metres of the channel banks.

Section 2.1.2 discusses the potential risk to the site from these ordinary watercourses, using the third generation Risk of Flooding from Surface Water (RoFSW) dataset as a proxy to inform this in the absence of fluvial models.

Table 2-1: Existing fluvial flood risk based on percentage area of site at risk

Flood Zone 1 (% area)	Flood Zone 2 (% area)	Flood Zone 3a (% area)	Flood Zone 3b (% area)
100	0	0	0

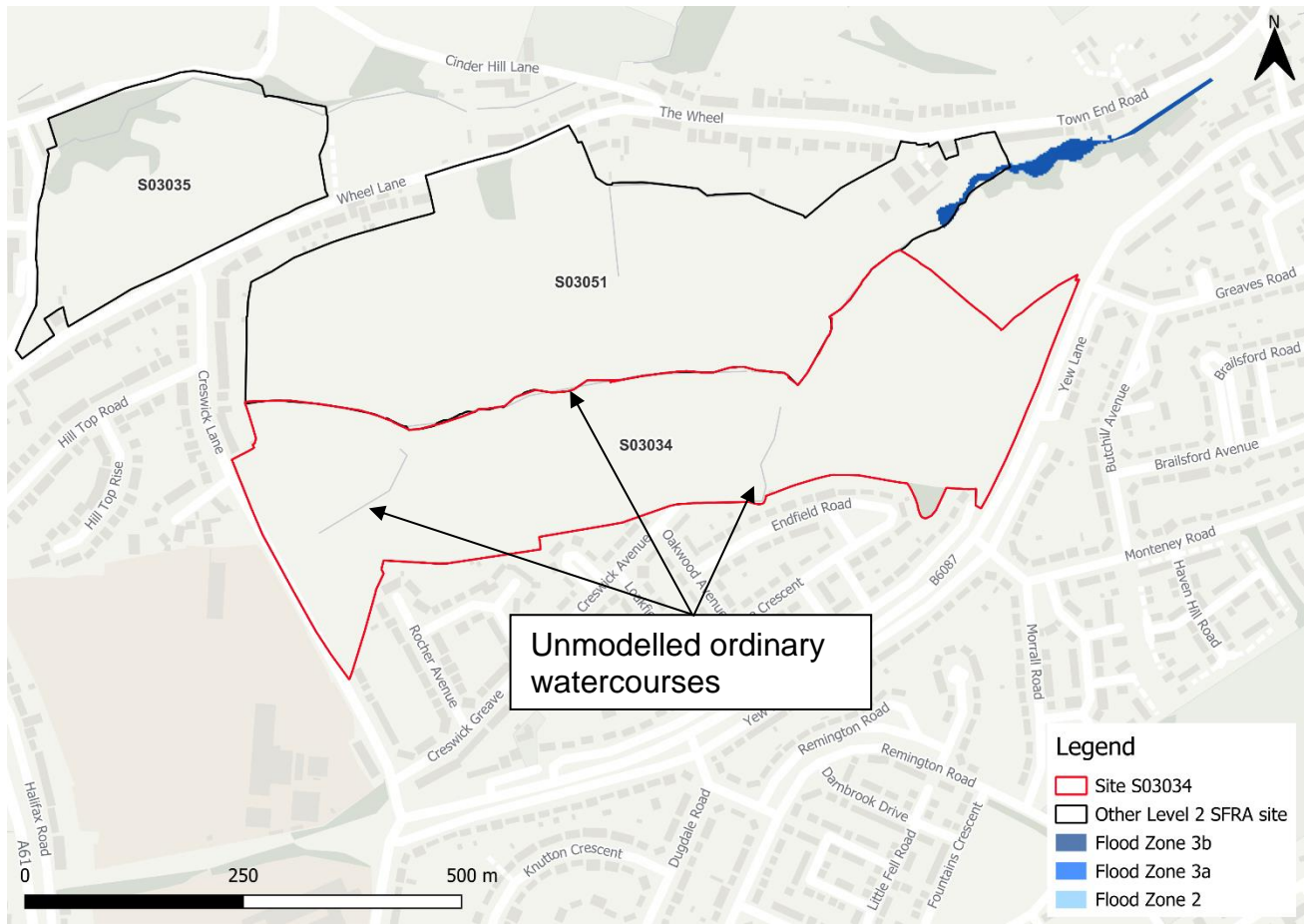


Figure 2-1: Existing risk from rivers to the site

2.1.2 Unmodelled ordinary watercourse risk

As documented in Section 2.1.1, an unmodelled watercourse is present along the northern boundary of the site, with two small tributaries flowing from the south through the site. There is no existing flood model for these watercourses, therefore potential fluvial risk to the site is unknown. Given the timescales for the local plan, new modelling for these watercourses to inform this SFRA is not feasible. Therefore, the 0.1% AEP event of the third generation RoFSW dataset is used as a proxy to inform this risk, as shown in Figure 2-2. Risk is shown to not extend far from the channels and therefore should be included within site design as blue green corridors. A site-specific FRA should model these watercourses to fully understand the onsite fluvial risk.

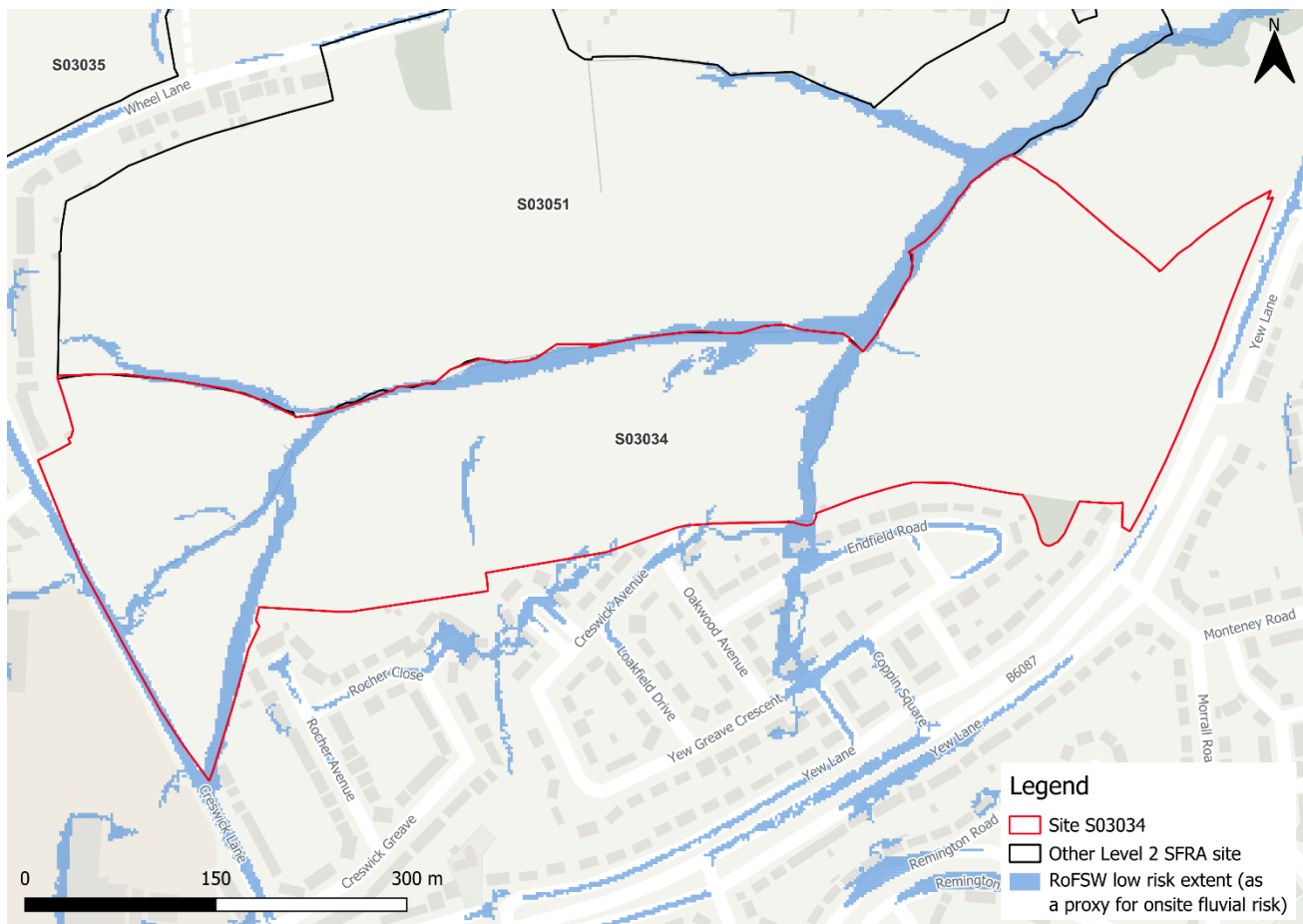


Figure 2-2: Low risk event surface water flood extent (Risk of Flooding from Surface Water map) as a proxy for onsite fluvial risk

2.2 Impacts from climate change

The impacts of climate change on flood risk from the ordinary watercourses have not been modelled for this SFRA, as a model covering these watercourses is not available. The impacts of climate change must be modelled using the EA's latest allowances for peak river flows to inform whether the site can be safe for its lifetime. Any site-specific FRA should produce a detailed model of the watercourses and include for the most up to date climate change allowances.

2.3 Flood risk management

2.3.1 Flood defences

The site does not benefit from any formal engineered flood defences, according to the EA's spatial flood defences dataset.

2.3.2 Working with Natural Processes

The EA's Working with Natural Processes (WwNP) dataset has been interrogated to identify opportunities for Natural Flood Management (NFM) that may help to reduce flood risk to the

site and surrounding areas. Both upstream and within the site, there are opportunities for riparian woodland planting to attenuate flooding. Within the site, there is also potential for runoff attenuation features which indicate areas where enhanced storage may be achievable. These areas are shown in Figure 2-3. The WwNP mapping is broadscale and indicative. Further investigation is required for any land shown to have potential for WwNP.

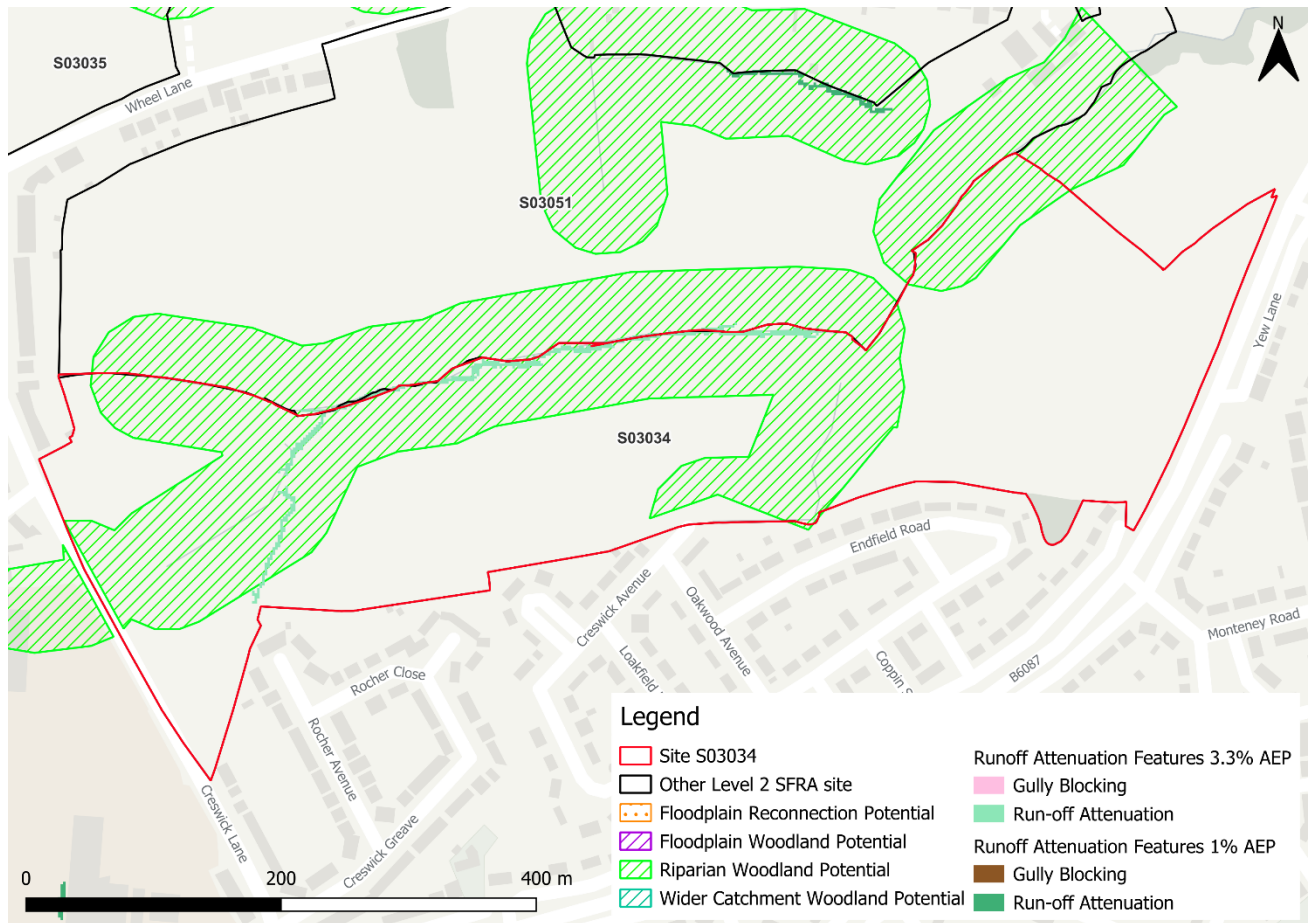


Figure 2-3: Natural Flood Management (NFM) potential mapping

2.4 Historic flood incidents

The EA's Historic Flood Map (HFM) and Recorded Flood Outlines (RFO) datasets have been considered. There are no recorded historic flood events at the site.

2.5 Flood warning and access and escape routes

The EA operates a Flood Warning Service for properties located within a Flood Warning Area (FWA) for when a flood event is expected to occur. The site is not located within a FWA.

Flood alerts may be issued before a flood warning for properties located within a Flood Alert Area (FAA) to provide advance notice of the possibility of flooding. A flood alert may be issued when there is less confidence that flooding will occur in a FWA. The site is not located within a FAA.

Based on available information, safe access and escape routes would likely be achievable via multiple points surrounding the site during a fluvial flood event.

2.6 Observations, mitigation options and site suitability - fluvial

- The proposed development of the site would see a change in the risk classification from less vulnerable to more vulnerable, according to the NPPF.
- Given the change in use and therefore vulnerability of the site, the FRA must show that the development can be designed to be safe and that there is adequate emergency planning provision (para 014 FRCC-PPG).
- The site is located wholly within Flood Zone 1 indicating it is at low risk of flooding from rivers. However, there is potential fluvial risk from the unmodelled ordinary watercourses onsite.
- The extent of fluvial risk from the unmodelled watercourses is currently unknown. Using the 0.1% AEP surface water event as a proxy, risk is modelled to remain largely confined to the areas immediately surrounding the channels. Any site-specific FRA should develop a model of the unnamed watercourses to fully understand the onsite fluvial risk.
- The channels should be included in site layout and design as blue green corridors. There should also be an 8 metre non-development buffer from the channel banks.
- Were development of this site to proceed, given the proximity of this site to neighbouring site S03051 it would be prudent to formulate a strategy to develop these sites in tandem and for consultation between each developer to take place to ensure a joined-up approach for sustainable development is in place.

3 Flood risk from surface water

3.1 Existing risk

Based on the EA's national scale third generation Risk of Flooding from Surface Water (RoFSW) map (November 2023), surface water risk to the site is predominantly very low. Approximately 2% of the site is at high surface water risk. A further 3% of the site is at medium risk and a further 5% is at low surface water risk, as shown in Table 3-1.

In the high and medium risk events, surface water risk is largely confined to the channel of the unmodelled watercourses extending along the northern boundary and through the centre of the site. In the low risk event, there is some modelled out of bank risk adjacent to the unmodelled watercourses, however this is shallow. There are also some additional short, shallow flow paths within the centre of the site.

Greatest flood depths within the site in the medium risk event are between 0.9 and 1.2 m (Figure 3-1), however these depths are located within the channel along the northern boundary of the site. Maximum depths outside of the channel are < 0.15 m. Modelled flood hazard outside of the channel on site is largely categorised as 'low' (Figure 3-2).

Safe access and escape routes are likely to be achievable via the B6087 in all events.

Table 3-1: Existing surface water flood risk based on percentage area at risk using the RoFSW map

Very low risk (% area)	Low risk (% area)	Medium risk (% area)	High risk (% area)
90	5	3	2

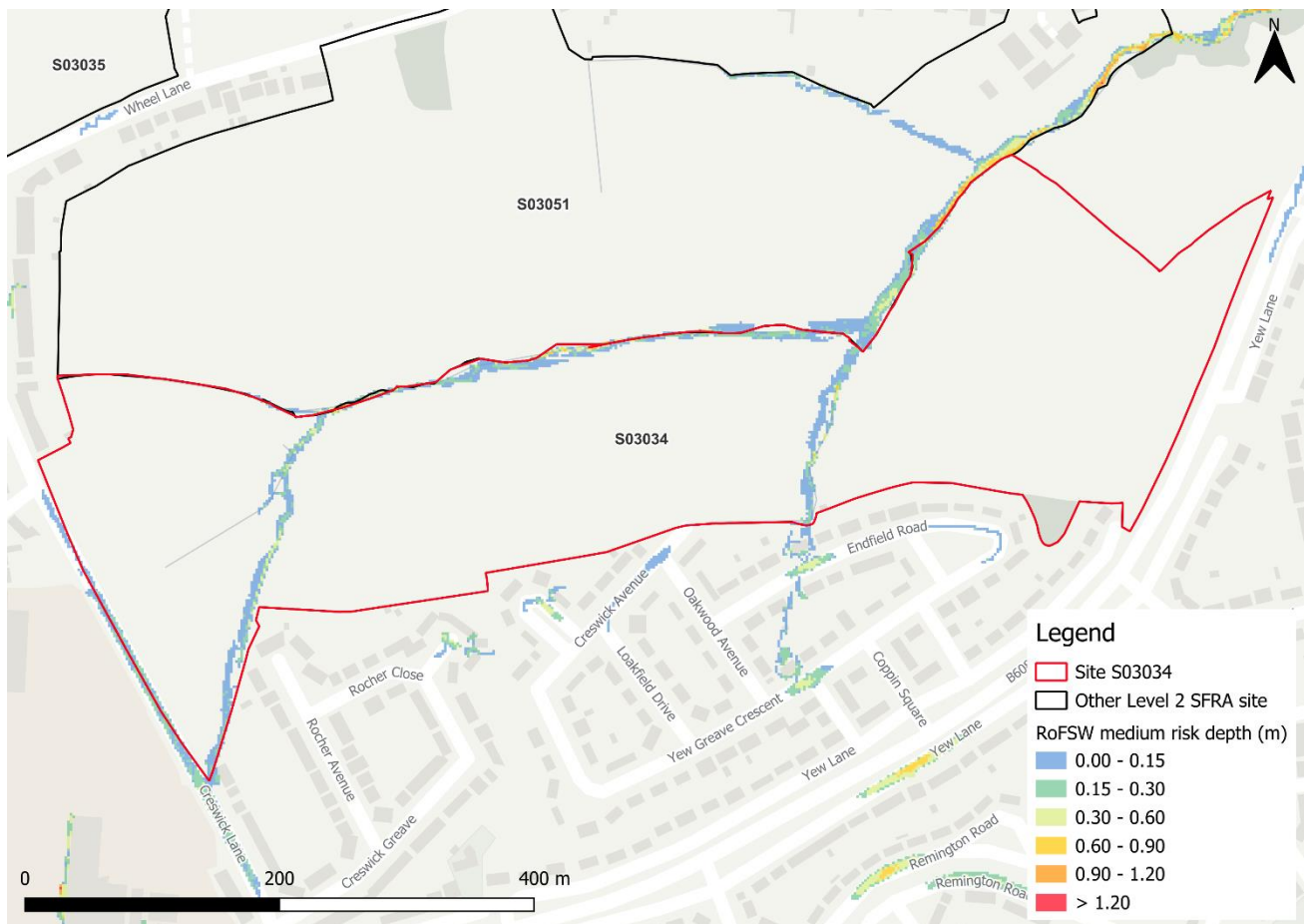


Figure 3-1: Medium risk event surface water flood depths (Risk of Flooding from Surface Water map)



Figure 3-2: Medium risk event surface water flood hazard¹ (Risk of Flooding from Surface Water map)

3.2 Impacts from climate change

The impact of climate change on surface water flood risk has been modelled. This allows for direct comparison with the RoFSW map. With consideration of the EA's SFRA guidance, the latest climate change allowances have been modelled as shown in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2: Modelled climate change allowances for rainfall for the Don and Rother management catchment

Return period	Central allowance 2070s (% increase)	Upper end allowance 2070s (% increase)
3.3% (high risk)	25%	35%
1% (medium risk)	25%	40%

¹ Based on Section 7.5 Hazard rating. What is the Risk of Flooding from Surface Water map? Report version 2.0. April 2019. Environment Agency

Figure 3-3 shows the modelled surface water flood depths for the medium risk event plus 40% climate change. Risk is modelled to be greater than for present day conditions, with the medium risk climate change event showing a greater level of risk than the present day low risk event. Maximum flood depths outside of the channel onsite are modelled to increase to between 0.3 and 0.6 m, with some areas of hazard categorised as 'moderate' (Figure 3-4).

Surface water risk should be dealt with in the same way as potential fluvial risk, through blue green corridors along the channels. Safe access and escape routes should remain possible via the B6087 to the east of the site.

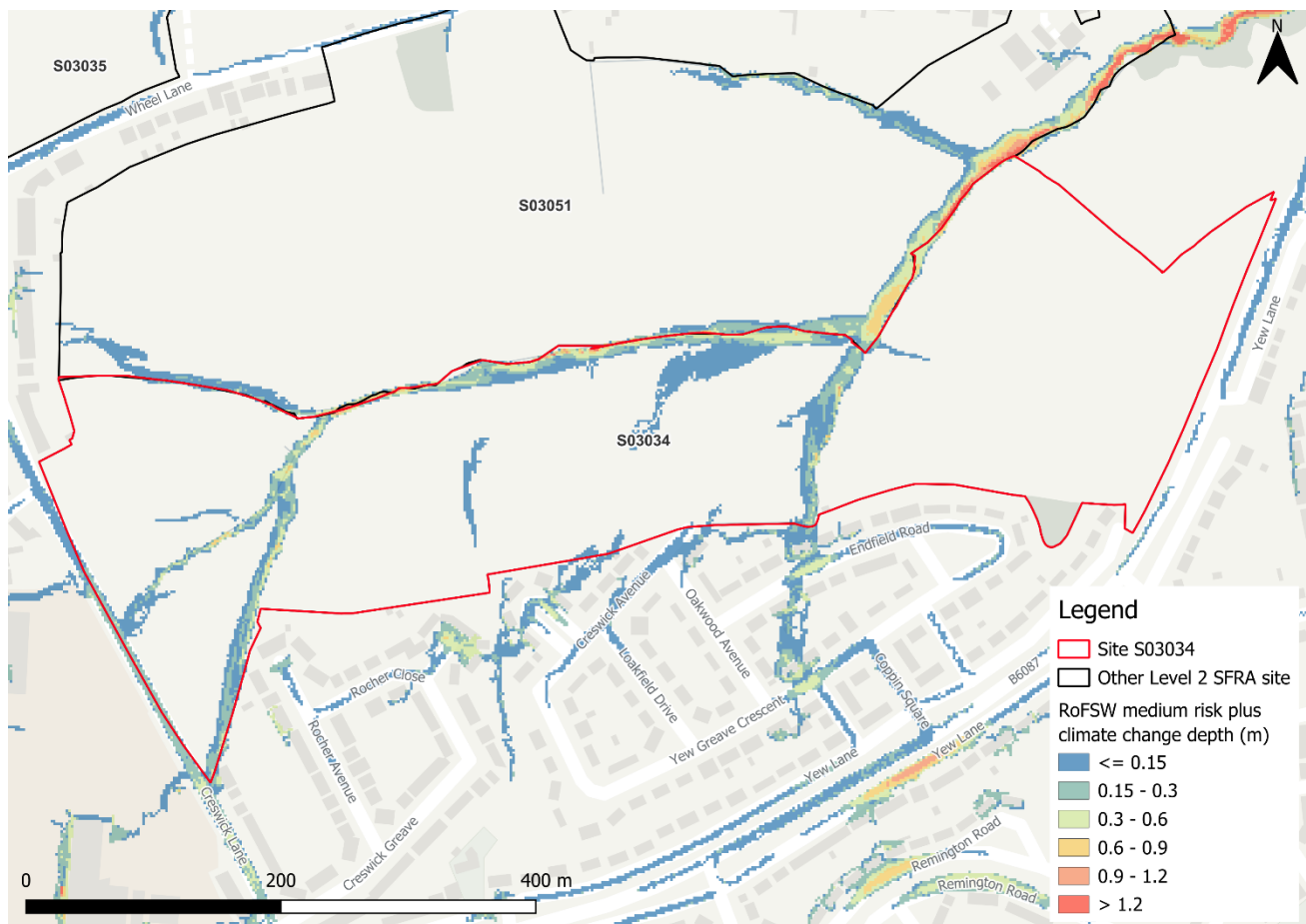


Figure 3-3: Medium risk event surface water flood depths plus 40% climate change (based on Risk of Flooding from Surface Water map)

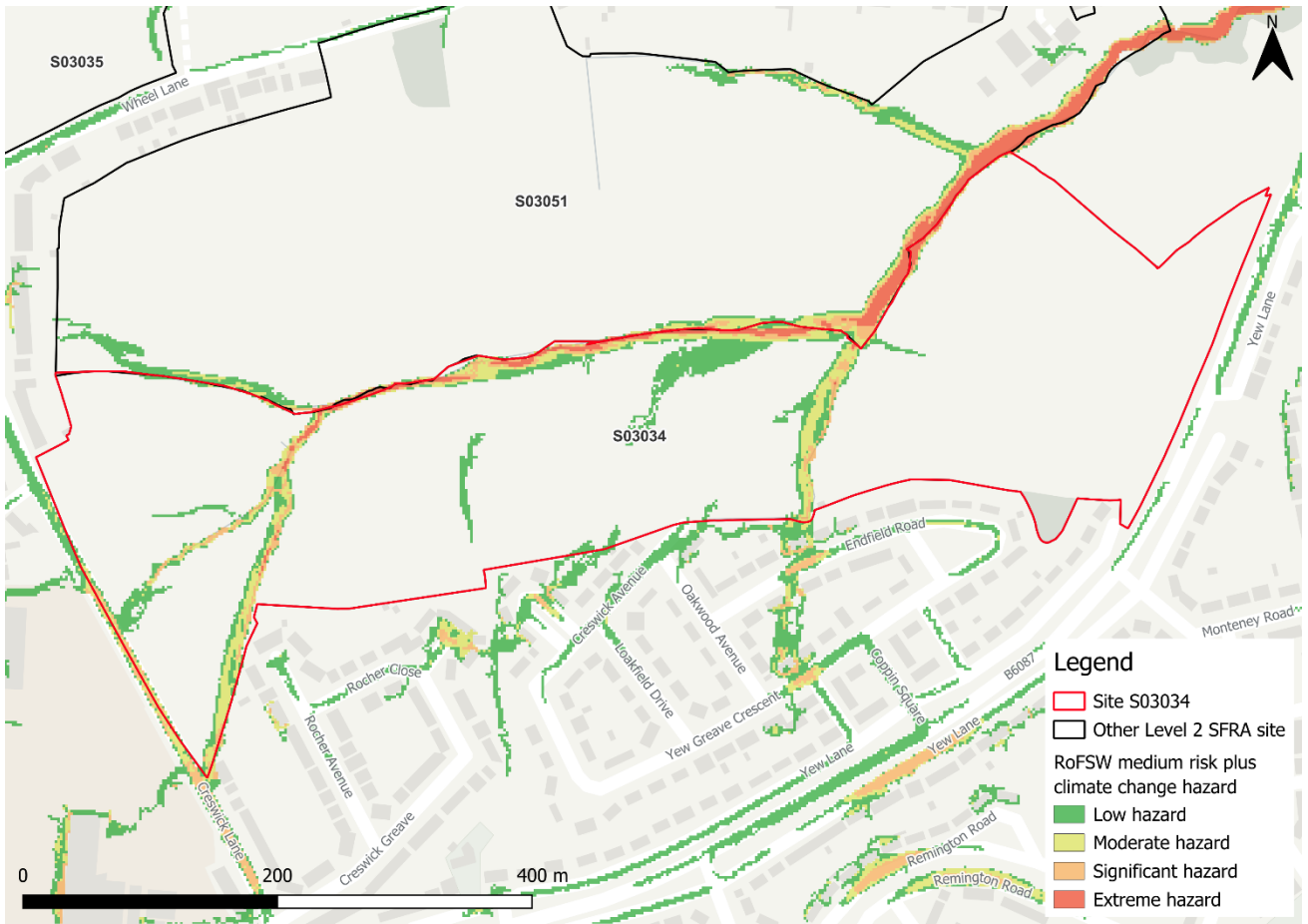


Figure 3-4: Medium risk event surface water flood hazards plus 40% climate change (based on Risk of Flooding from Surface Water map)

3.3 Risk of runoff from site post development

Runoff rates should not exceed current rates and if possible, betterment of existing rates should be aimed for. For the purposes of this assessment, the required volumes of attenuation have been calculated below based on the estimated impermeable area (assumed 85% of site area where this information was not available) and limiting greenfield runoff rate of Qbar (l/s).

Table 3-3: Surface water flood risk from proposed development

Design flood event (incl climate change)	Critical storm duration Hrs	Inflow volume m ³	Outflow volume m ³	Attenuation required m ³	Time to empty (assuming no infiltration) Hrs	Total storage required: Area (Ha) and % of site area
30yr Rainfall+25%	12	13091	1083	12007	132.6	0.80 Ha 4.7%
30yr Rainfall+35%	12*	14229	1174	13055	144.2	0.87 Ha 5.1%
100yr Rainfall+25%	12*	25785	4876	20909 (8902 exceedance storage)	230.9	1.39 Ha 8.2%
100yr Rainfall+40%	12*	29476	5417	24059 (11003 exceedance storage)	265.7	1.60 Ha 9.5%
Surface water flood risk impacts from development site, mitigation & SuDS options	As part of this Level 2 SFRA we have included calculations to provide an estimated land take if a pond with an assumed depth of 1.5m was included as part of the development. Attenuation volumes are presented for the critical storm duration for the 3.33% AEP event with exceedance flows quantified up to the 1% event. To prevent development worsening flood risk elsewhere, surface water runoff must be managed on site.					
*critical storm duration limited to 12 hours						

Note: Proposed development limiting runoff rate: (l/sec). Qbar (FEH Statistical) – 35.83, Q30 – 62.7, Q100 – 74.52.

3.4 Observations, mitigation options and site suitability - surface water

- Current risk is predominantly very low and confined to existing channels. Safe access and escape routes would likely be achievable via the B6087 in all events.
- The channels onsite should be kept in place and remain unobstructed. They should be maintained and included within the landscaping design of the residential development as blue green corridors.
- Topographic flow paths should be considered and included in site design and ideally left in place to flood naturally when required. Any regrading of land must include for like for like volumes to ensure risk is contained safely onsite for the lifetime of development.
- For the 1% AEP event plus 40% climate change, approximately 9.5% of the total area of the site would be required for flood storage based on a 1.5m deep pond to ensure runoff volumes do not exceed existing rates.

- A full drainage strategy would be required to ensure there is no increase in surface water flood risk elsewhere as a result of new development. This may require surface water modelling based on layout plans and detailed design and consultation with the LLFA.
- The NaFRA2 release of the RoFSW should be considered at the FRA stage.
- Note, the RoFSW map is not suitable for identifying whether an individual property will flood and is therefore indicative. The RoFSW map is not appropriate to act as the sole evidence for any specific planning or regulatory decision or assessment of risk in relation to flooding at any scale without further supporting studies or evidence.

4 Risk from groundwater

Risk of groundwater emergence is assessed in this SFRA using JBA's 5m Groundwater Emergence Map. This dataset is recommended for use by the EA in the SFRA Good Practice Guide². Figure 4-1 shows the map covering this site and the surrounding areas and Table 4-1 explains the risk classifications.

The risk of groundwater emergence varies within the site. Across the majority of the site, there is no risk of groundwater emergence. Groundwater conditions may therefore be suited to infiltration SuDS within these areas. Across the remaining areas of the site, there is a risk of groundwater emergence to surface and subsurface assets. Ground survey, including percolation testing, may be required to fully ascertain groundwater conditions within these areas.

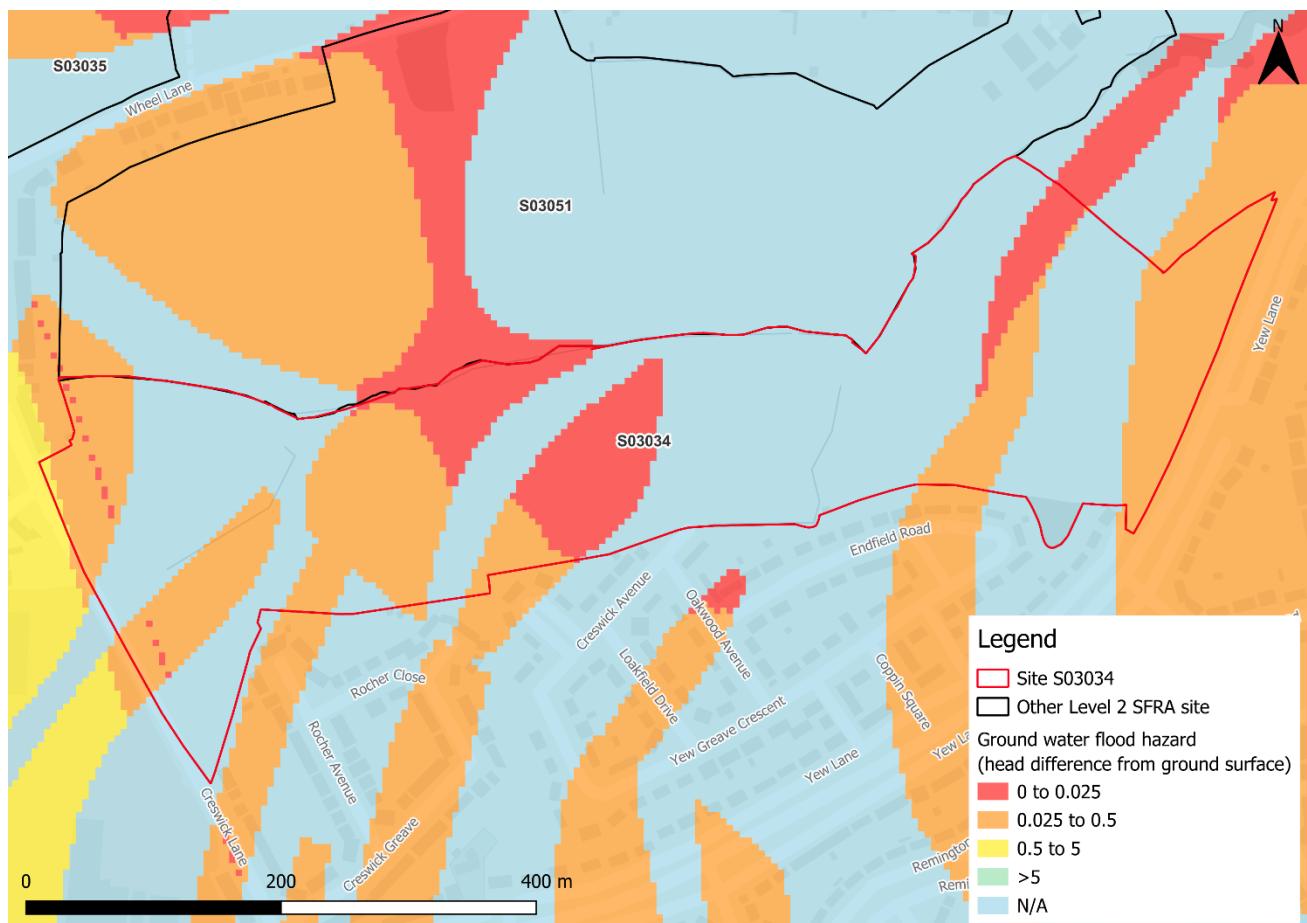


Figure 4-1: JBA 5m Groundwater Emergence Map

² [Strategic flood risk assessment good practice guide. ADEPT. December 2021.](#)

Table 4-1: Groundwater Hazard Classification

Groundwater head difference (m)*	Class label
0 to 0.025	Groundwater levels are either at very near (within 0.025m of) the ground surface in the 100-year return period flood event. Within this zone there is a risk of groundwater flooding to both surface and subsurface assets. Groundwater may emerge at significant rates and has the capacity to flow overland and/or pond within any topographic low spots.
0.025 to 0.5	Groundwater levels are between 0.025m and 0.5m below the ground surface in the 100-year return period flood event. Within this zone there is a risk of groundwater flooding to surface and subsurface assets. There is the possibility of groundwater emerging at the surface locally.
0.5 to 5	Groundwater levels are between 0.5m and 5m below the ground surface in the 100-year return period flood event. There is a risk of flooding to subsurface assets, but surface manifestation of groundwater is unlikely.
>5	Groundwater levels are at least 5m below the ground surface in the 100-year return period flood event. Flooding from groundwater is not likely.
N/A	No risk. This zone is deemed as having a negligible risk from groundwater flooding due to the nature of the local geological deposits.
*Difference is defined as ground surface in mAOD minus modelled groundwater table in mAOD.	

5 Residual risk

5.1 Flood risk from reservoirs

The EA's Reservoir Flood Maps (RFM) (2021) show where water may go in the unlikely event of a reservoir or dam failure. A 'dry day' scenario assumes that the water level in the reservoir is the same as the spillway level or the underside of the roof for a service reservoir and the watercourses upstream and downstream of the reservoir are at a normal level. A 'wet day' scenario assumes a worst-case scenario where a reservoir releases water held on a 'wet day' when local rivers have already overflowed their banks.

The site is not modelled to be at risk from reservoir flooding.

5.2 Observations, mitigation options and site suitability - residual risk

- The site is not likely to be at residual flood risk.

6 Overall site assessment

6.1 Can part b) of the exception test be passed?

This site is not required to pass part b) of the exception test³ as it is located within Flood Zone 1, however it must still be proven that the development can be safe for its lifetime, which is 100 years for residential development.

Were any future modelling of the unmodelled watercourses to indicate that the site at risk in the 1% AEP undefended event, the site may then be subject to the exception test, assuming the sequential test has been passed.

6.2 Recommendations, FRA requirements, and further work

Based on the evidence presented in the Level 1 SFRA (2022) and this Level 2 SFRA:

- It should be appropriate to develop this site for more vulnerable purposes given its location within Flood Zone 1. The ordinary watercourses present onsite should be modelled and the channels and any risk areas included with blue green corridors. There should also be an 8 metre no development buffer from the channel banks.
- Any FRA should model the unmodelled watercourse to inform on current and future flood risk.
- Groundwater conditions across some areas of the site should be investigated further as part of a site-specific FRA. This may need to include for ground survey, including percolation testing to fully ascertain groundwater conditions at the site.
- Any FRA should be carried out in line with the latest versions of the NPPF; FRCC-PPG; EA online guidance; the SCC Local Plan and national and local SuDS policy and guidelines.
- Throughout the FRA process, consultation should be carried out with the following, where applicable, the local planning authority; the lead local flood authority; emergency planning officers; the Environment Agency; Yorkshire Water; the highways authorities; and the emergency services.

³ Para 178 National Planning Policy Framework 2024

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