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PREFACE

Customer: Hampshire County Council

Customer Address: Property, Business and Regulatory Services
Three Minsters House
76 High Street
Winchester
Hampshire, SO23 8UL

Customer Contact: Martin De Wied

Telephone: 01962 846284

Site: Riverside Community Special School
Scratchface Lane
Waterlooville
Hampshire PO7 5QD

Site Contact: Catherine Marsh

Site Telephone: 02392 250138

Freeston Water Treatment Address:
Unit 1
Lulworth Business Centre
Nutwood Way
Calmore Industrial Estate
Totton
Southampton SO40 3WW
Telephone: 02380 669713
Fax: 02380 663825

Risk Assessment Consultant: Mr Chris Wilson MWM Society

Date of Assessment: 9th November 2010

Date Review Due: November 2012

INTRODUCTION

This report relates to a water source Risk Assessment carried out by Mr Chris Wilson of Freston Water Treatment Ltd on the 9th November 2010 on behalf of Hampshire County Council. The Survey was carried out at Riverside Community School, Scratchface Lane, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 5QD. During the course of the Survey water systems within the properties were risk assessed. These sources were chosen as being fully representative of the overall domestic water systems and outlets within the buildings.

The Survey and Risk Assessment were undertaken in order to comply with the Health and Safety Executive requirements on the control and prevention of Legionellosis. The Risk Assessment has been carried out in accordance with ACoP L8 - The control of Legionella bacteria in water systems (Approved Code of Practice and Guidance).

The Survey has been limited to the terms of reference agreed between Hampshire County Council and Freston Water Treatment Ltd. Observations relating to system conditions and other factors applicable to the requirements of L8 have been recorded during the Survey and specific references are made to compliance with these documents in the Observations section of the report.

A Summary of Recommendations concludes the report. ACoP L8 places responsibility on employers and others to prepare a scheme for preventing or controlling the risk from Legionellosis. Adoption of a monitoring scheme in conjunction with a regime of preventative maintenance and associated record keeping will meet these requirements.

BACKGROUND TO LEGIONELLA

Legionella is the bacterium that causes Legionnaires disease. Of this bacterium, Legionella pneumophila is the species most commonly associated with disease outbreaks. Legionnaire's disease is identified as a pneumonia type of infection of the lower respiratory tract. The infection is most commonly acquired by the inhalation of airborne droplets or particles containing viable Legionella. Exposure to Legionella can also cause a short feverish illness without pneumonia known as Pontiac Fever.

Research indicates that Legionella can occur in hot and cold water services.

Sediment, scale, and organic materials present in water systems, can provide nutrients and give protection for Legionella. Legionella has been shown to colonise certain types of water fittings, pipe work and materials used in the construction of water systems.

The formation of bio films within water systems is undesirable and may also provide harbourage and favourable conditions for Legionella growth. Legionella is most likely to proliferate in water systems that have a temperature between 20°C and 50°C. Human blood temperature of approximately 37°C is the most ideal temperature for proliferation. Stagnant water within the above temperature range appears to provide the ideal conditions for proliferation of Legionella.

Once a risk has been identified and assessed, a scheme should be prepared for preventing or controlling it. The risk is heightened when conditions are not monitored and control of the system is lost, thereby allowing Legionella to proliferate.

Legionella will survive at temperatures below 20°C but is considered to be in a dormant state with no growth activity. The bacterium does not survive temperatures maintained consistently at 60°C or above.

ASSESSMENT OF RISK

The Legionella risk

Legionnaire's disease is most commonly caused by the inhalation of water droplets contaminated with the Legionella bacteria. It is therefore important that systems susceptible to colonisation by Legionella and which incorporate a potential means for creating and disseminating water droplets should be identified and the risk they present assessed.

The assessment must be completed for routine system operation and also for circumstances such as breakdown, abnormal operation, commissioning or other unusual circumstances.

Risk assessment categories:-

- A) The potential for the formation of droplets.
- B) The condition of the water.
- C) Water temperature.
- D) The water turnover rate.
- E) The susceptibility of persons exposed to droplets.
- F) The population density exposed to droplets.

In undertaking the Risk Assessment and drawing up precautions, particular attention must be paid to situations where the population exposed contains a relatively high number of people susceptible to Legionella, due to their age and in many cases poor health.

Risk Assessment Review

The Risk Assessment should be reviewed every 2 years as stated in the HSE's ACoP L8 or otherwise for any of the reasons below:-

- 1) Changes are made to plant or water systems or its use.
- 2) Changes are made to building use in which the water system is installed.
- 3) New information about risks or control measures becomes available.
- 4) Results of checks indicate that control measures are no longer effective.

OBSERVATIONS

General and specific observations on the systems made during the course of the Survey are recorded and the more general requirements of L8 are commented where applicable, although references are made to compliance with the requirements of L8.

Compliance with ACoP L8 may be classified into two distinct categories:

- a) Management Procedures - The management procedures, which have been implemented, to ensure that all control measures, record keeping and monitoring are adequate and effective.
- b) Systems Conditions - The physical conditions of the water systems in the building must be considered when assessing the risk from Legionellosis.

This report therefore addresses the above categories. A general overview of existing Management Procedures is included and followed by comprehensive observations of the Systems Conditions as seen during the course of the Survey.

General Management Compliance

ACoP L8 para 23 - Identify Sources of Risk

Observations

The assessments are detailed in the relevant section of this report.

General Management Compliance

ACoP L8 para's 39, 53 and 66 - Prepare a Scheme for Preventing or Controlling the Risk - Implement and Manage Precautions - Maintain Records

Observations

A regime of repair and breakdown maintenance should be implemented for the buildings at Riverside Community Special School for all of the water services and systems. Procedures and records for the various maintenance activities must be documented and the Written Scheme recommendations be implemented in order to control Legionellosis. The precautions taken must be documented within an operational logbook.

Further Action Required

A Logbook should be prepared and records kept within it, as outlined in our recommendations. The logbook, documentation and operation should be audited on a periodic basis in order to ensure that the system conditions and precautionary procedures are being carried out satisfactorily.

The precise procedures relating to the precautionary measures, i.e. cleaning of water cistern systems and calorifiers together with start up and shut down procedures for calorifiers, should be maintained within the logbook system and updated as required. The details of persons who are trained and competent to undertake the works should also be recorded in the logbook along with details of the training undertaken. This also applies to specialist contractors who may undertake part of these duties.

The Risk Assessment report relates to observations made and information supplied at the time of the Survey. Every effort has been made to examine as much of the water system as possible although some areas, such as pipe work beneath floors or behind walls would not have been inspected due to restricted access.

SITE SURVEY

A responsible person should be appointed to take day-to-day responsibility for the Written Scheme.

If the assessment shows that there is a reasonably foreseeable risk and it is reasonably practicable to prevent exposure or control the risk from exposure, the person on whom the statutory duty falls (see paragraph 23) should appoint a person or persons to take managerial responsibility and to provide supervision for the implementation of precautions. (Paragraph 39 HSE's ACoP L8)

There is a dedicated water systems logbook in place and monthly temperature monitoring of the hot and cold outlets and calorifier are being carried out.

System Reference	Riverside Community Special School
Location	Site Buildings
Method	Visual Assessment and Temperature Profiling

HOT WATER STORAGE

Hot water storage at Riverside Community Special School is by one calorifier located within the Plant Room. The calorifier is manufactured by Andrews Water Heaters. It is a gas fired unit and is fed by the mains cold water supply. The calorifier has insulation under the metal outer casing. There is a return system fitted to the calorifier that had a circulating pump which at the time of the Survey appeared to be working correctly. I would recommend that the calorifier be purged to drain to check the water quality on at least a six monthly period and recorded within a water systems logbook when carried out.

L8 recommends that calorifiers are checked internally for scale and sludge on an annual basis. A sticker on the unit states that it was last serviced on 27th May 2010 but it is unknown if an internal inspection and descale was carried out.

There are no temperature gauges on either the hot or return pipework. I would recommend that temperature gauges are fitted for monthly temperature monitoring to be carried out.

At the time of the Survey the stored water temperature of the water was below the recommended 60°C. The calorifier is on the same timer switch as the heating boilers and only runs from 7am to 4pm. **I would recommend that the calorifier is adjusted to achieve a minimum of 60°C and that it achieves this temperature for at least 1 hour before first use.**

L8 recommends hot water storage to be a minimum of 60°C and the return to be maintained at a minimum of 50°C at all times.

The temperature of the water at the time of the Survey was:-

Calorifier	Storage	53.6°C	Not Satisfactory
Calorifier	Return	51.7°C	Not Satisfactory

Hot water on site is also provided by a combi boiler and an electric local water heater.

Plant Room
Calorifier.



COLD WATER STORAGE

There is no domestic cold water storage at either Riverside Community Special School or Riverside Community Special School.

DOMESTIC WATER DISTRIBUTION

Domestic water services should operate at temperatures that prevent the proliferation of Legionella. L8 specifies that hot water should be stored at no less than 60°C and distributed at no less than 50°C, obtainable at user outlets within one minute of opening. Cold water should be stored and distributed at no more than 20°C.

Domestic hot water within the Riverside Community Special School site distributes from one calorifier located within the Plant Room, a combi boiler and an electric local water heater. The electric local water heater is located within the Foundation Class Nurture Room and supplies this room and the other Foundation Classroom only.

The combi boiler is gas fired and located within the Laundry. It supplies this room, the Foundation Area toilets and care room.

The calorifier supplies all other areas on site.

There is no domestic cold water within Riverside Community Special School. Mains cold water within Riverside Community Special School supplies all the cold water on site.

In all areas of distribution and use, inspection, test and measurement was undertaken at representative positions in order to evaluate conditions and areas of potential risk.

At the time of the Survey (within one minute) these hot water outlets within the buildings were recorded as follows:-

Riverside Community Special School Hot Water Outlet Temperatures	
Staff Room Sink	42.1°C Not Satisfactory
KS2 Male Toilets Wash Basin	47.7°C Inlet to TMV Not Satisfactory 41.3°C TMV Outlet Satisfactory
Caretakers Room Sink	53.6°C Satisfactory
Foundation Classroom Sink	53.8°C Inlet to TMV Satisfactory 42.4°C TMV Outlet Satisfactory
Laundry Sink	55.8°C Satisfactory
Foundation Area Care Room Wash Basin	No Access to TMV 39.7°C TMV Outlet Satisfactory

L8 recommends that the hot water should achieve 50°C, obtainable at user outlets within one minute of opening.

TMV's (Thermostatic Mixing Valves) are fitted to ensure that the water temperature at hot water outlets does not exceed 43°C and scald users.

The hot water supplying the TMV's should be 50°C at the TMV inlet as recommended in L8.

At the time of the Survey (within two minutes) the cold water outlets within the buildings were as follows:

Riverside Community Special School	
Cold Water Outlet Temperatures	
Staff Room Sink	17.3°C Satisfactory
Caretakers Room Sink	13.6°C Satisfactory
Foundation Classroom Sink	13.5°C Satisfactory
Laundry Sink	15.0°C Satisfactory
Foundation Area Care Room Wash Basin	14.2°C Satisfactory

L8 recommends cold water should be stored and distributed at no more than 20°C.

GENERAL

- Thermostatic Mixing Valves (TMV's) are fitted in many areas of Riverside Community Special School; these valves should be serviced and maintained to the manufacturers recommendations. I was informed that this is carried out twice annually by an outside contractor.
- Infrequently used outlets are ideal areas for the proliferation of bacteria. Areas where the outlets are not used at least on a weekly basis should be removed or put on a weekly flushing regime (without creating an aerosol) and recorded. This is currently being carried out monthly but I was informed that it will now be done weekly.
- Dead leg pipework are ideal areas for the proliferation of bacteria and should be removed or put on a twice weekly flushing regime (without creating an aerosol) and recorded.

Dead legs were found in the following areas:-

- Plant Room - There is a dead leg on the mains cold water pipe near the door.
- Kitchen - There is a dead leg to the left of the gas fired sink.
- The shower heads and hoses must be cleaned and disinfected quarterly and recorded when carried out as recommended in L8. I was informed that this was last carried out on the 8th October 2010 and is carried out quarterly, but no records were found within the logbook.

- It is unknown when Legionella or bacteriological samples were last taken and I would recommend that this is carried out if temperatures fall outside of the limits as detailed in L8.
- Monthly temperature monitoring of the calorifier flow and return pipework is being carried out and recorded.
- There is an in-line water filter on the electric water boiler within the Staff Room. This should be cleaned and replaced in-line with the manufacturer's recommendations. I was informed that this is being carried out and the filter is due to be changed in May 2011.
- Monthly temperature monitoring of the hot and cold outlets is being carried out on the nearest and further cold outlet but only the nearest hot outlet. The water temperatures of every sentinel outlet must be taken monthly and recorded. Other representative basis should have temperatures taken on a monthly rotational basis so that over a period of 12 months all outlets will have been covered. I was informed that this will be carried out in the future and all results be recorded within the logbook.

RECORDS

It is recommended that a water quality log book be produced for the site to include records of weekly, monthly, quarterly, six monthly and annual procedures. These should be carried out as recommended in this Risk Assessment.

Details of the responsibilities they hold should be included together with items listed as follows:

Maintenance carried out on water systems

Monthly temperature monitoring

Flushing of infrequently used outlets

Annual inspections of calorifiers

Purging of calorifiers

Faults and defects to be recorded

Audit sheet for inspections of the logbook and dated when completed

All of the above should be included in the water systems logbook and signed for when completed.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

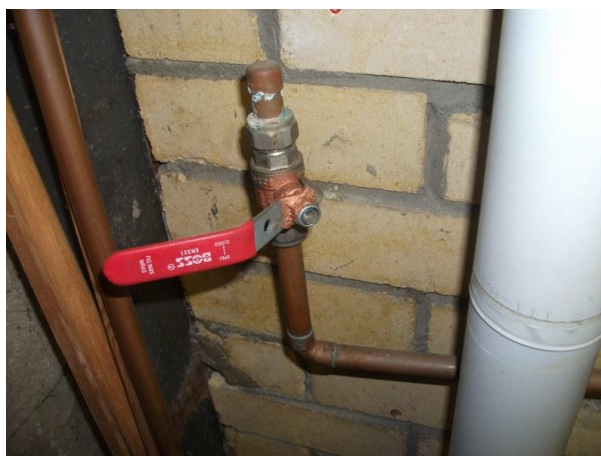
Staff Room

In-line water filter.



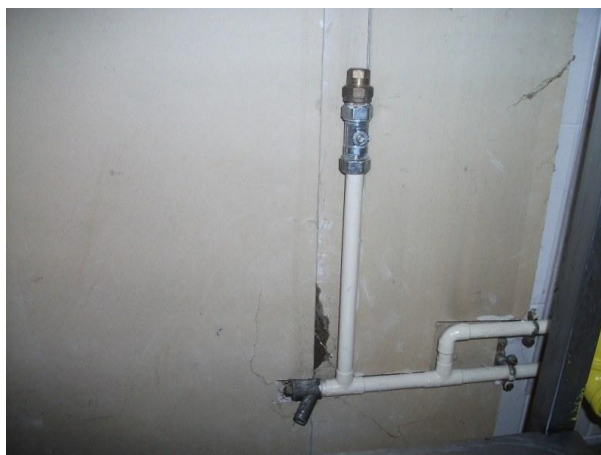
Plant Room

Dead leg on the mains cold water pipe.

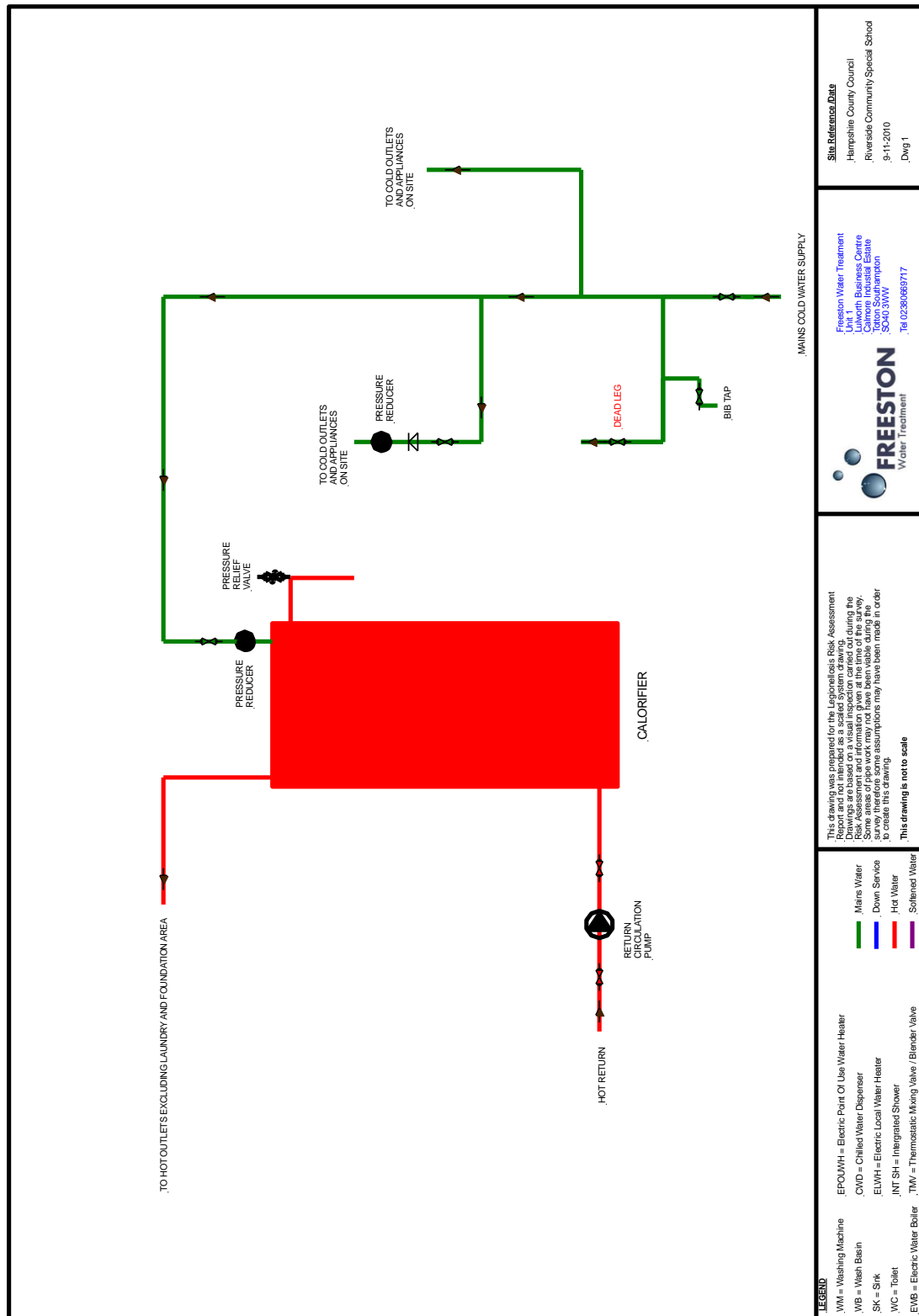


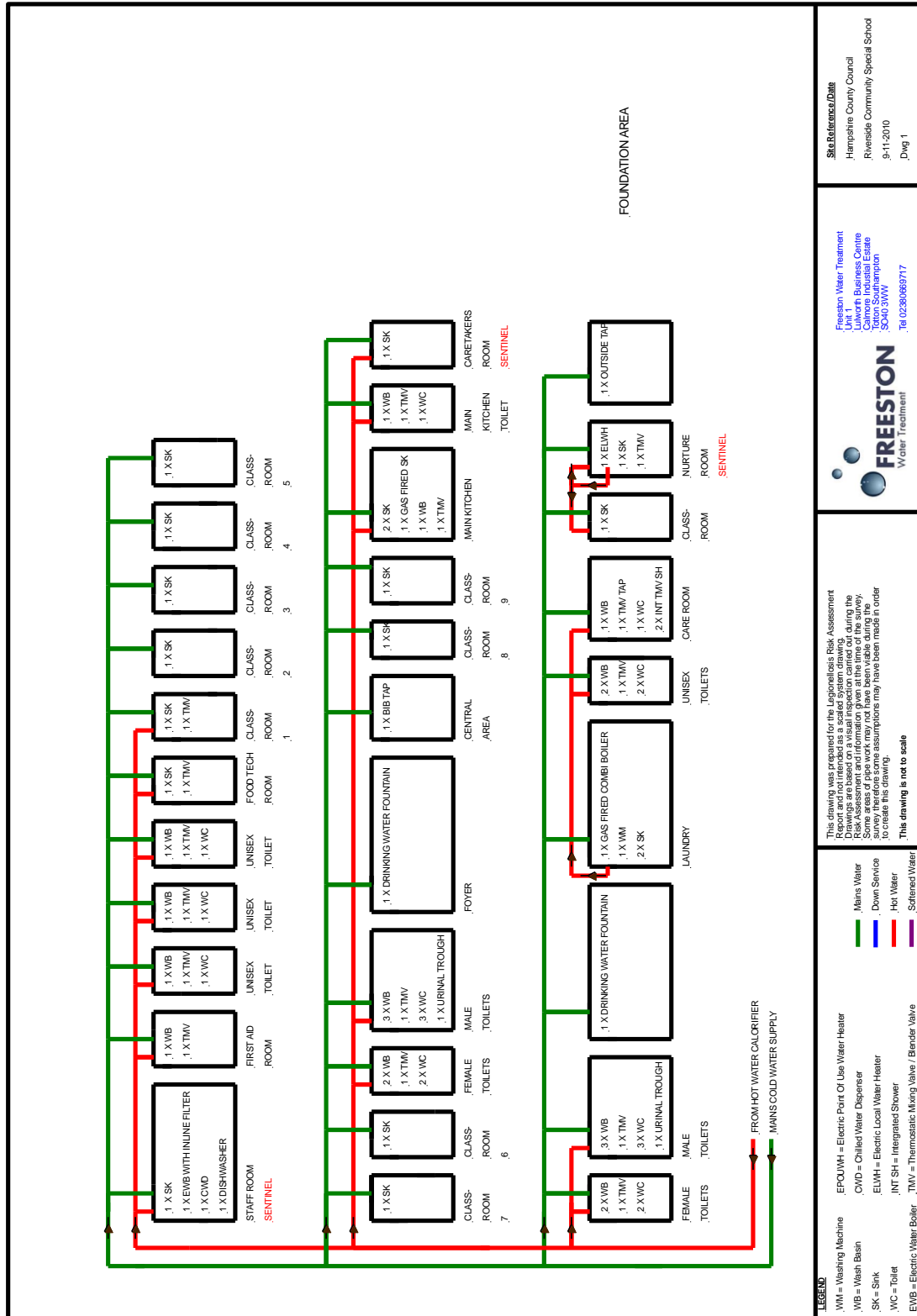
Kitchen

Dead leg by the gas fired sink.



DRAWINGS





WRITTEN SCHEME

	Task		Frequency
1	Prepare site logbook for the Site.		ASAP
2	Flush infrequently used outlets.		Weekly
3	Record hot water calorifiers flow and return temperatures.		Monthly
4	Record cold water outlet temperatures.		Monthly
5	Record hot water outlet temperatures.		Monthly
6	Clean and descale shower head and hoses.		Quarterly or as necessary
7	Purge hot water calorifier to drain and record.		Six Monthly
8	Internally inspect hot water calorifier annually and descale if required.		Annually

REMEDIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Legionella Risk Category Key

1 = Insignificant risk.

2 = Controlled risk monitoring is being carried out maintain this standard.

3 = Risk is controlled, but deteriorating conditions could increase risk.

4 = Potential hazards identified.

5 = Risk Uncontrolled.

Site Reference/ Address	Remedial/Recommendations	Priority	Date Actioned	Signature
<u>Hot Water Storage & System</u> HCC Riverside Community Special School	Commence monthly temperature monitoring of the domestic hot water systems; all sentinel outlets. Record within a logbook.	5		
	Purge the calorifier to drain on at least a six monthly basis and record when carried out.	3		
	If access allows, visually inspect the calorifier internally for scale and sludge on an annual basis.	3		
	Fit temperature gauges to flow and return pipes on the Calorifier	3		
	Ensure the calorifier is kept at a minimum of 60°C at all times or are kept at 60°C for at least one hour before first use after a period on standby.	5		
<u>Distribution</u> HCC Riverside Community Special School	Remove dead leg pipe work or put on a weekly flushing regime and record in the logbook when carried out	5		
	I would recommend Bacteriological and Legionella water samples be taken if the temperatures fall out of the recommended limits.	5		
	Commence weekly flushing of any low use outlets etc and record when carried out.	5		
	Clean and descale showerheads at least quarterly. Record when carried out.	2		