

Archaeological Investigation on land at Court Lodge Farm, The Street, Upper Stoke, Rochester, Kent

Site Code CLF/WB/17



Date of report 22/05/2017

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Investigation on land at Court Lodge Farm, Upper Stoke, Kent

Site Code CLF/WB/17
NGR 582274 175272

Date of report: 22/05/2017



Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red target) showing the site prior to development.

(Google Earth 20/4/2015: Eye altitude 324m).

1.0 Abstract

1.1. On the 16th, 17th January 2017 Paul Wilkinson MCIfA of Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a single storey extension to the side of the property at Court Lodge Farm, The Street, Upper Stoke, Rochester, Kent (Fig. 1 & Plates 1-9).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the land owner.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the cutting of foundation and drainage trenches.

The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase (Plates 2-9).

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of archaeological activity. In particular, any evidence of archaeological remains associated with flint implements dated to the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic periods that have been recovered from the area to the south-west of the proposed development area (PDA; HER Nos. TQ 87 NW 6 and TR 87 NW 87) and, near Middle Stoke (HER No. TQ 87 NW 85).

1.5 There is extensive evidence of later prehistoric activity in the locality. A Neolithic polished flint axe is recorded from the area around Malmaynes Hall (HER No. TQ 87 NW 7) and cropmarks of probable Bronze Age ring-ditches have been identified within the surrounding area (HER Nos. TQ 87 NW 96, TQ 87 NW 97 and TQ 87 NW 106). Features of prehistoric date have been recorded to the east, near Middle Stoke, many of which have been dated to the late Bronze Age / early Iron Age (HER Nos. TQ 87 NW 37, TQ 87 NW 38, TQ 87 NW 39 and TQ 87 NW 91).

1.6 Approximately 700m west and north-west of the PDA further features of similar date have been identified (HER Nos. TQ 87 NW 90 and TQ 87 NW 93).

1.7 Evidence for activity during the Roman period has been recorded to the west and north-west of the PDA. These discoveries include the cropmark of a rectangular enclosure which may date to this period (HER No. TQ 87 NW 23).

1.8 Archaeological excavations nearby revealed evidence of a Roman cremation cemetery (HER No. TQ 87 NW 100) and, a later Roman field system and a timber-framed workshop (HER No. TQ 87 NW 101).

1.9 Features of Anglo-Saxon date and finds of medieval pottery area also recorded in this area (HER Nos. TQ 87 NW 19 and TQ 87 NW 102). Stoke, including Lower and Middle Stoke,

has two entries in Domesday. The twelfth-century church of St Peter and St Paul lies to the south of the PDA and is Grade I listed (HER No. TQ 87 NW 1046).

1.10 To the west of the church, a possible medieval or post-medieval hollow was discovered (HER No. TQ 87 NW 54). Malmaynes Hall Farm, situated 600m north-west of the PDA is the site of a post-medieval farmstead (HER No. MKE83362) and it is thought that the farm may be the site of a chapel for which permission was granted in 1303. However, to date, no evidence of the chapel has been found (HER No. TQ 87 NW 4).

1.11 Court Lodge Farm, also known as Parsonage Farm, is a post-medieval farmstead (HER No. MKE83363). Court Lodge Farmhouse and the granary, which is the subject of this development, are Grade II listed buildings which date to the eighteenth century: HER No. TQ 87 NW 1049 and TQ 87 NW 1055.

1.12. The Planning Application Number for the development is MC/14/3353.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by Canterbury Archaeological Trust and KCC Heritage Conservation the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 The application site lies within the historic core of Stoke which may be of early medieval origins but certainly flourished in the medieval period with the establishment of farms, chapel and church dating back to the medieval period.

2.2 Planning Background

Planning application MC/14/3353 was submitted to Medway Council the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of the LPA requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition (5) was attached to the planning consent:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To safeguard the archaeological interest in the site in accordance with Policy BNE21 of the Medway Local Plan 2003.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works from 16th, 17th January 2017:

16th Jan- work on site was the cutting of one trench. Plates 2-5

17th Jan- work on site was completion of the foundation trenches and drainage run (Plates 6-9 & Figure 1)

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording, were to:

“The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through recording of the archaeological remains which may be disturbed as a result of the development.

4.2. The ground works were for some ground reduction and to cut the foundation trenches for the proposed extension (Plates 2-9).

4.3. A full programme of proposed works by the contractor were made available to SWAT Archaeology before the on-site monitoring took place.

4.4. Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background

5.1. The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey website is Bedrock geology of Second River Terrace Deposits of Sands and Gravels overlaying London Clay Formation.

The Superficial Deposits are not recorded. The soil revealed on site was made up ground of brick crush, tarmac pieces and flint nodules about 60-65cm thick overlaying yellow brown sandy silty clay at about 65cm to 70cm BGL (Plate 9).

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by KCC and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA: Dec 2014).

6.2. The works comprised the observation of all ground works, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. The Watching Brief was carried out according to the needs of the building contractors from 16th, 17th January 2017.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by the contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed and ditching bucket necessary to trench the soil down to formation level (Plates 2-9).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Paul Wilkinson MCifA).

6.6. Where possible the areas of excavation were subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section.

6.7. If found archaeological features under threat were to be excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary.

6.8. The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (CifA: 2014), and methodology discussed on a number of occasions with the Senior Archaeological Officer KCC.

7.0 Results

7.1 General

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was deposits of silty clay overlaid by made up ground. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the subsoil which was swept with a Fisher CZ 3D metal detector.

7.2 The site is rectangular in shape and about 7m x 7m, the proposed extension is to be located to the sides of the barns. The area was surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 The site reduction was about 65cm-70cm deep with a ground level about 17.00m AOD. The site produced no archaeological features or deposits or finds and no environmental potential was recognised on site.

8.0 Finds

No finds were retrieved.

9.0 Discussion

The development site is in an area of archaeological potential. However, no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification. As far as it is known no buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

11.0 Acknowledgments

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Mr J. Collis for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

References

HER data (Historic England 2016)

CIfA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

CAT Archaeological Watching Brief (2015)

Appendix 1
Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at Court Lodge Farm, The Street, Upper Stoke, Rochester, Kent

SWAT Site Code: CLF/WB/17

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Monitoring on the development site above. The site has planning permission for a new extension whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of site visits which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: Medway Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 582274 175272

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: January 2017

Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)

Geology: Bedrock geology is London Clay Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2017) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Court Lodge Farm, The Street, Upper Stoke, Rochester, Kent

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

See above

Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 22/05/2017



Plate 2. General view of site (looking NW)



Plate 3. Cutting of first trench (Day 1)



Plate 4. View of trenching and stone stylobate of previous open fronted barn (Day 1)



Plate 5. Close up of trenching (Day 1)



Plate 6. View of trenching (Day 2)



Plate 7. Completed trenching (Day 2)



Plate 8. Section of drainage trench (Day 2)

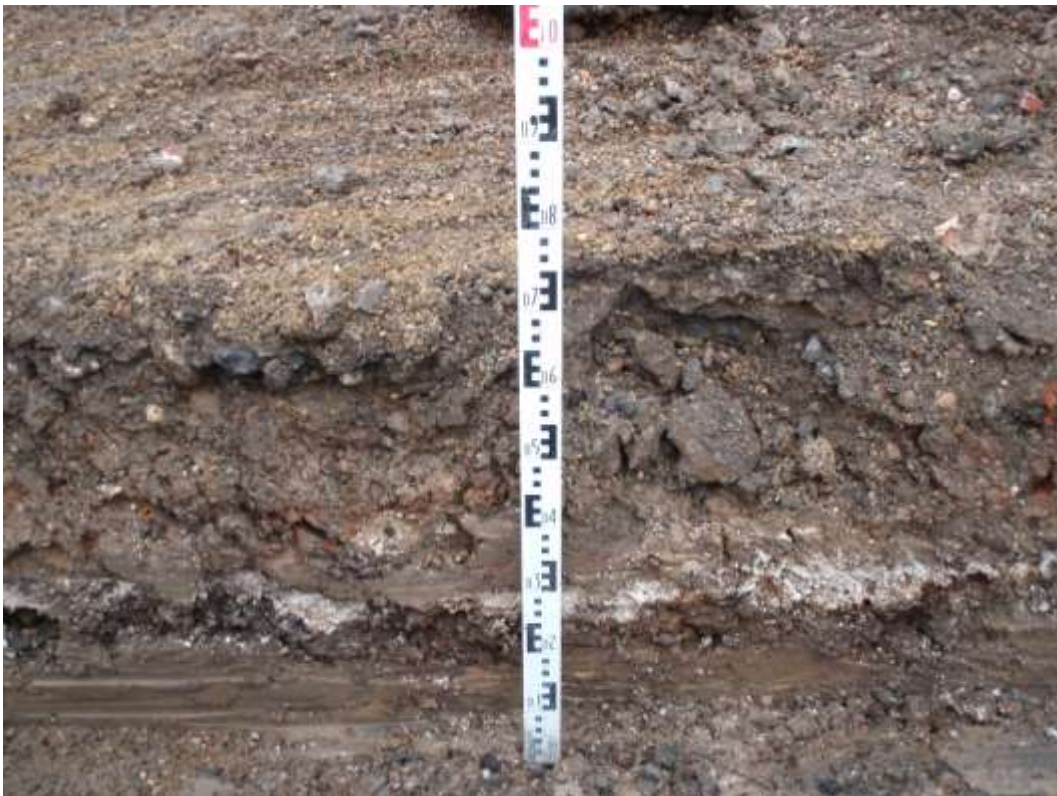
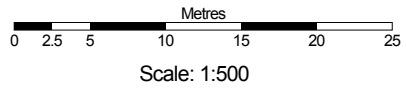
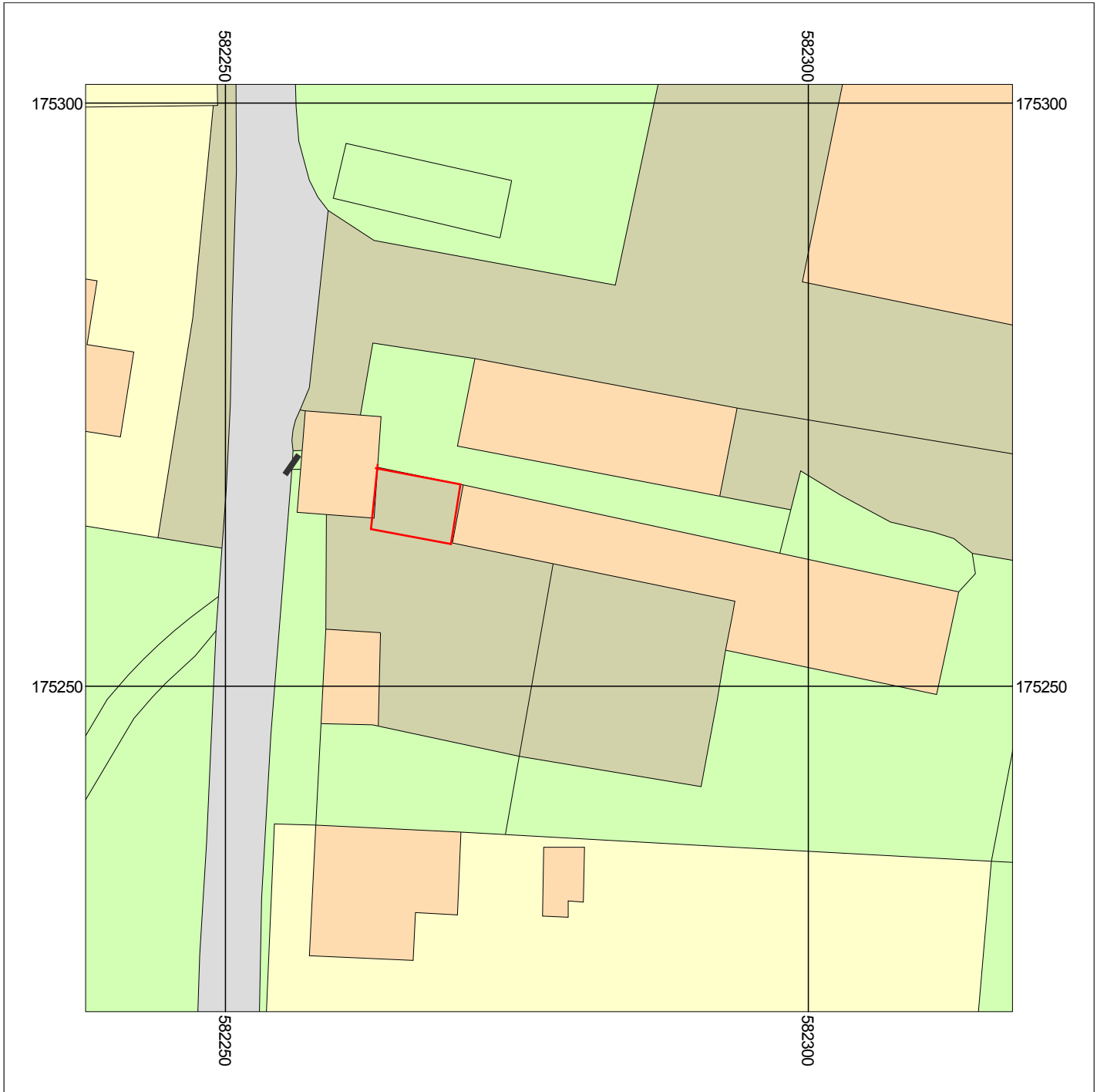


Plate 9, Section of typical trench

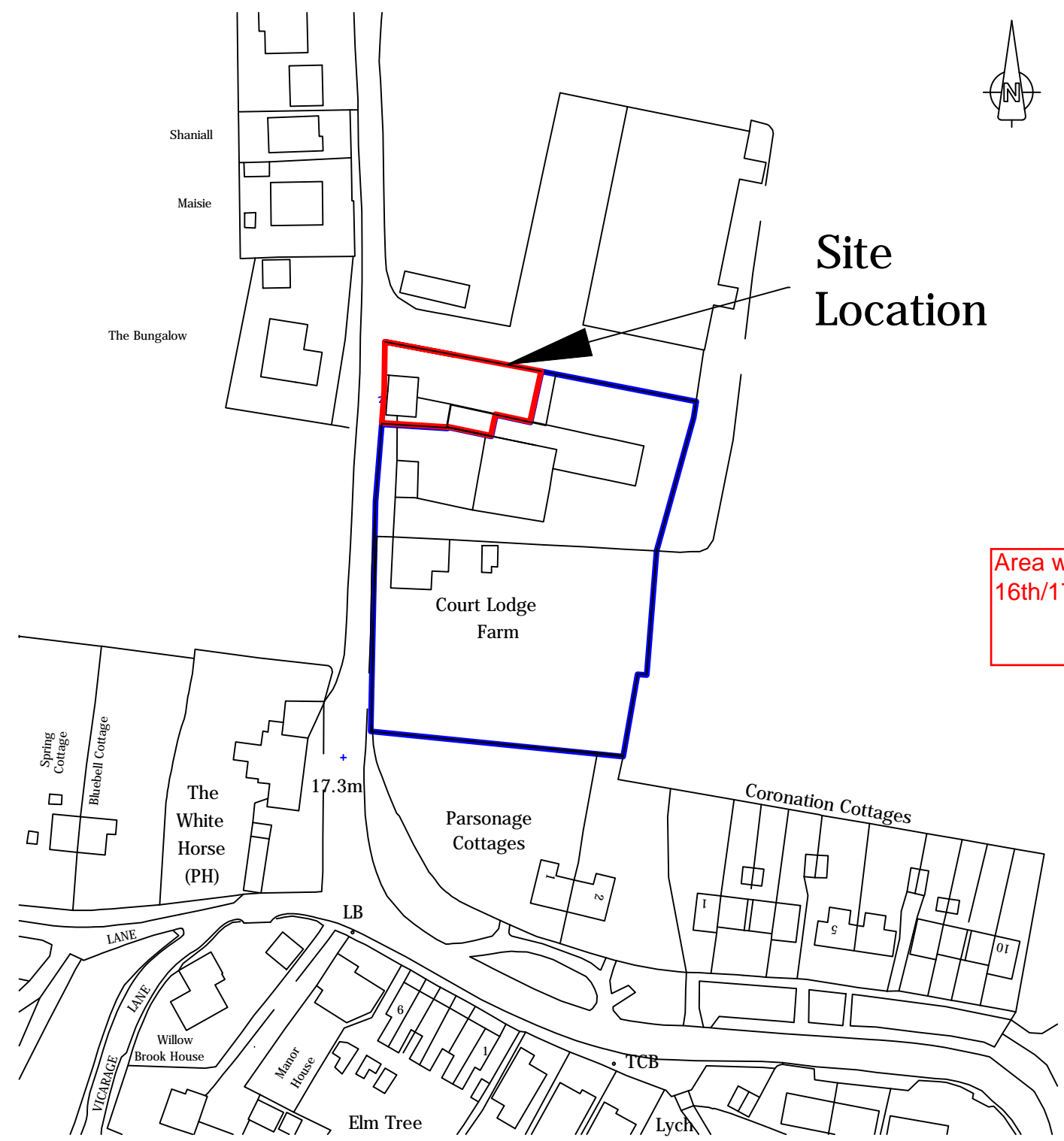
Figure 1.
Area watched
16/17/01/17



Court Lodge Farm
The Street
Upper Stoke
ME3 9RT

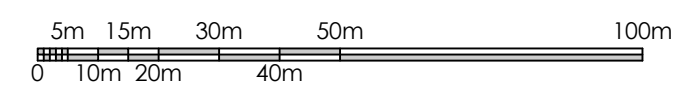
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Project name: swat



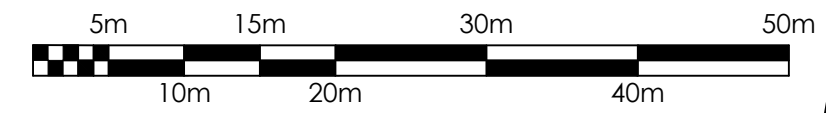
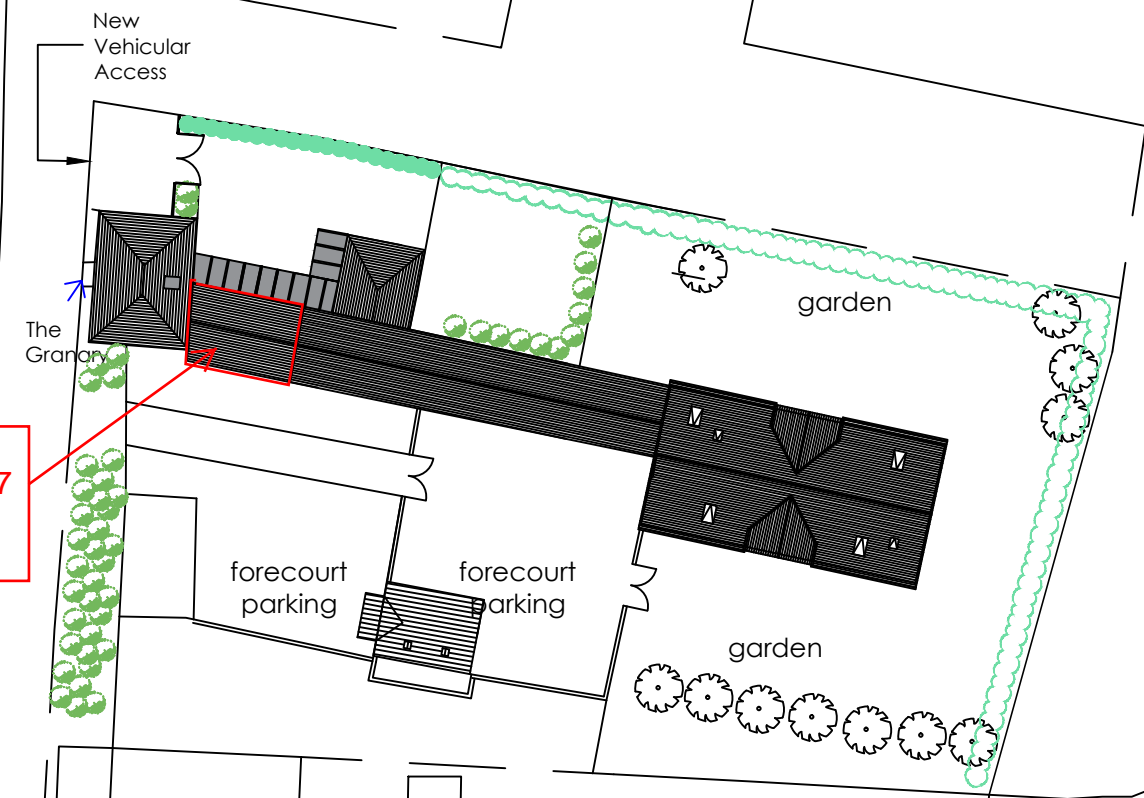
Site Location

Area watched
16th/17 Jan 2017



Scale 1:1250

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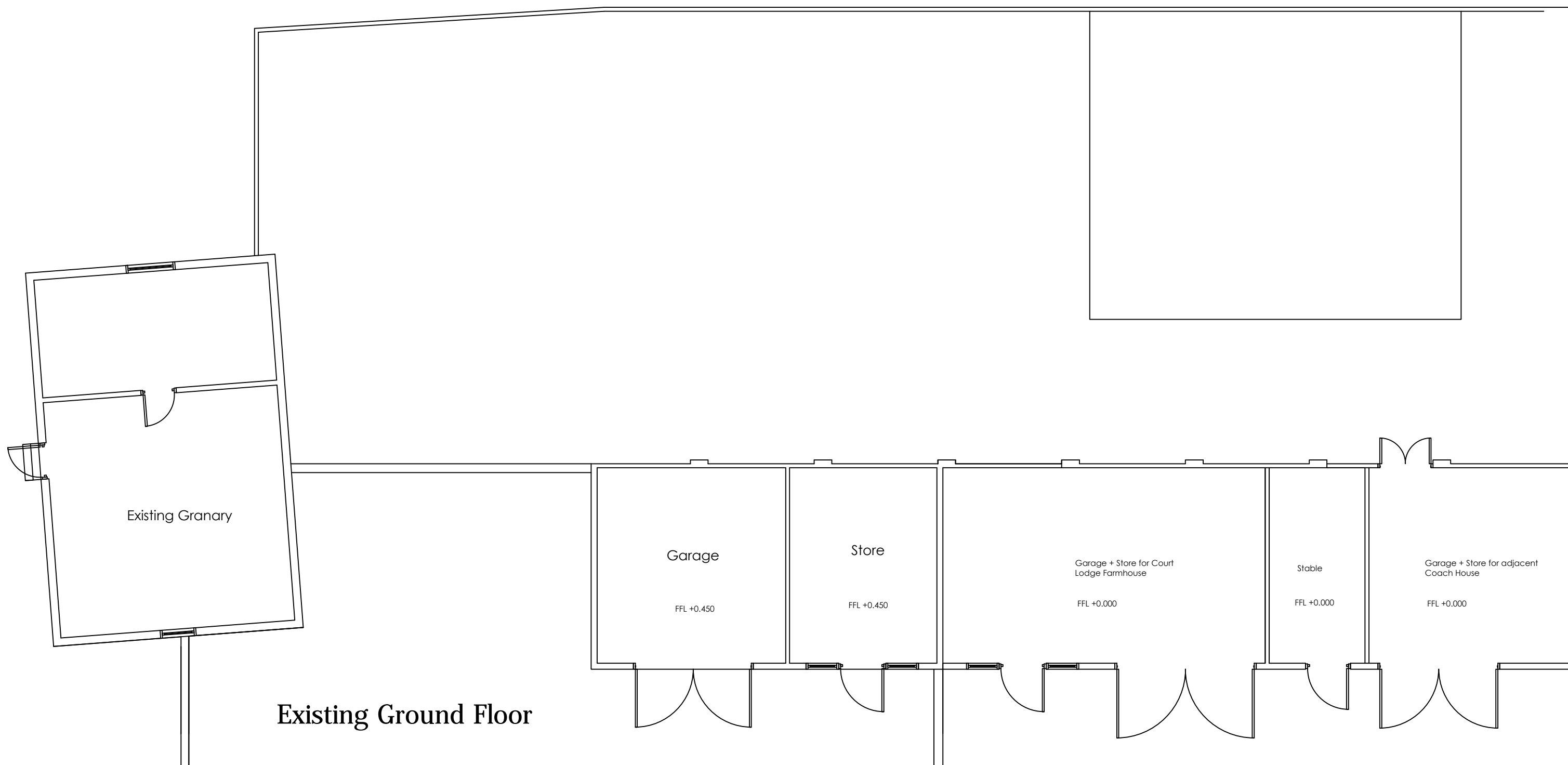
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project
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Mr & Mrs J Collis
project title
Granary, Court Lodge Farm
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Rochester, Kent, ME3 9RT

drawing
drawing title
Site Location and Proposed Block Plan
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Existing Ground Floor

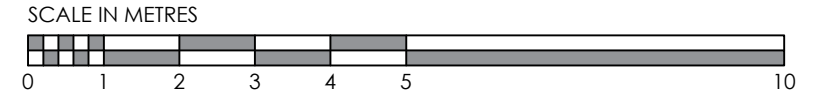
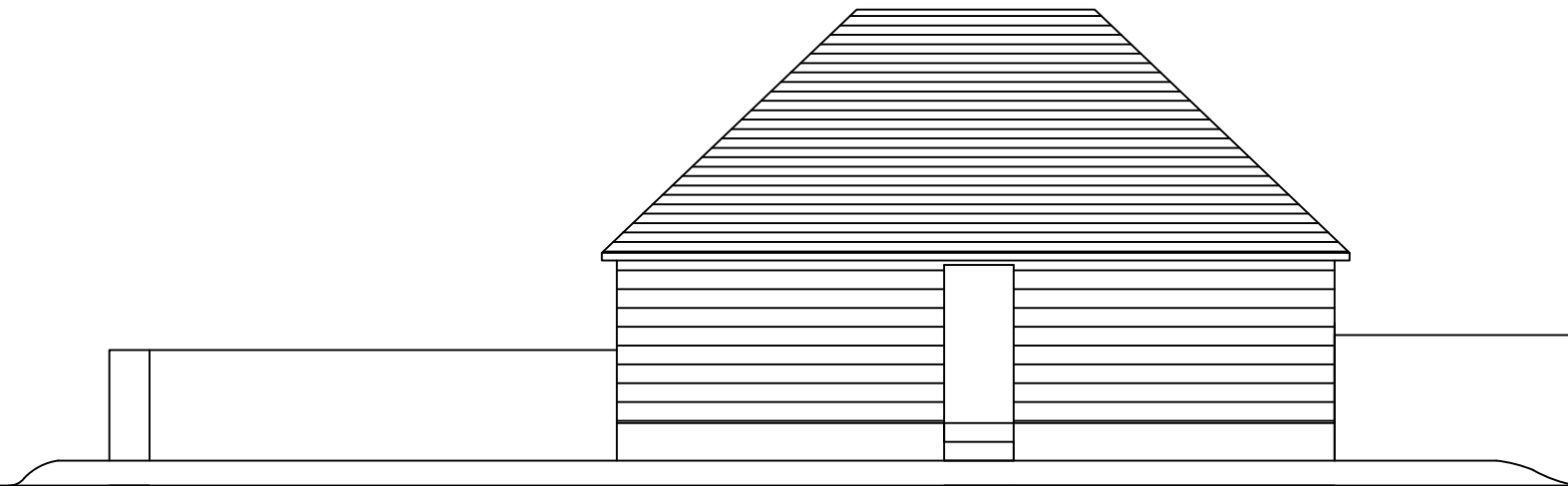
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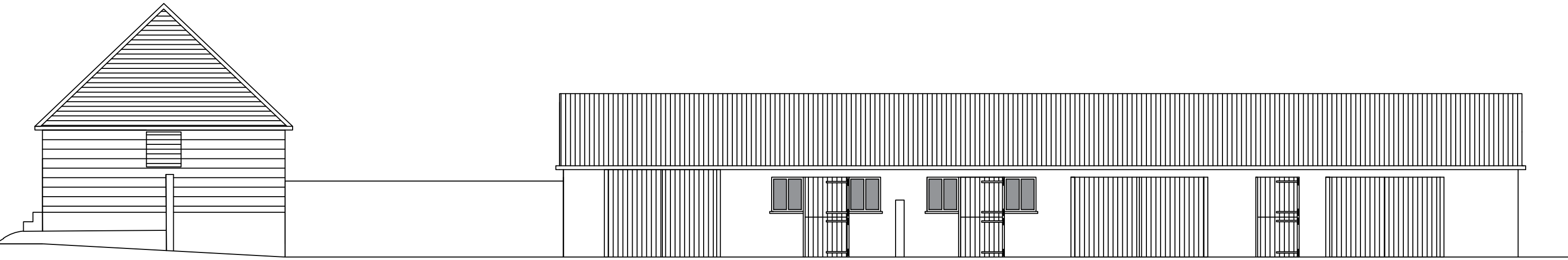
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West



South



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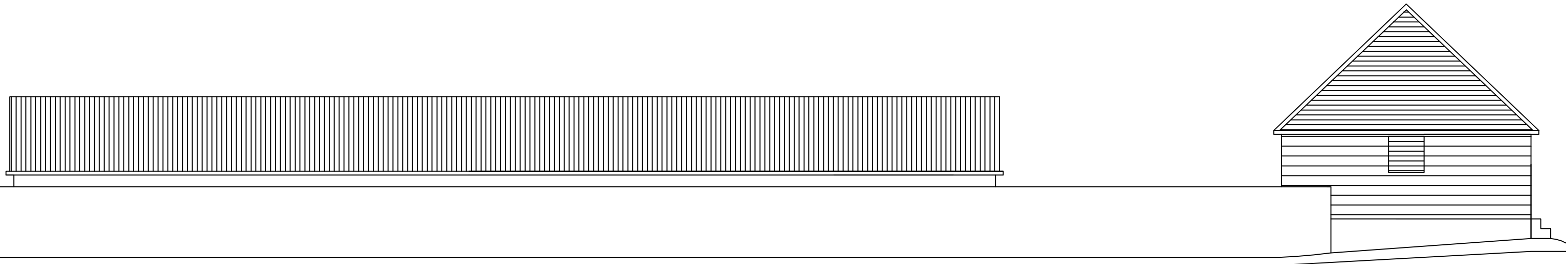
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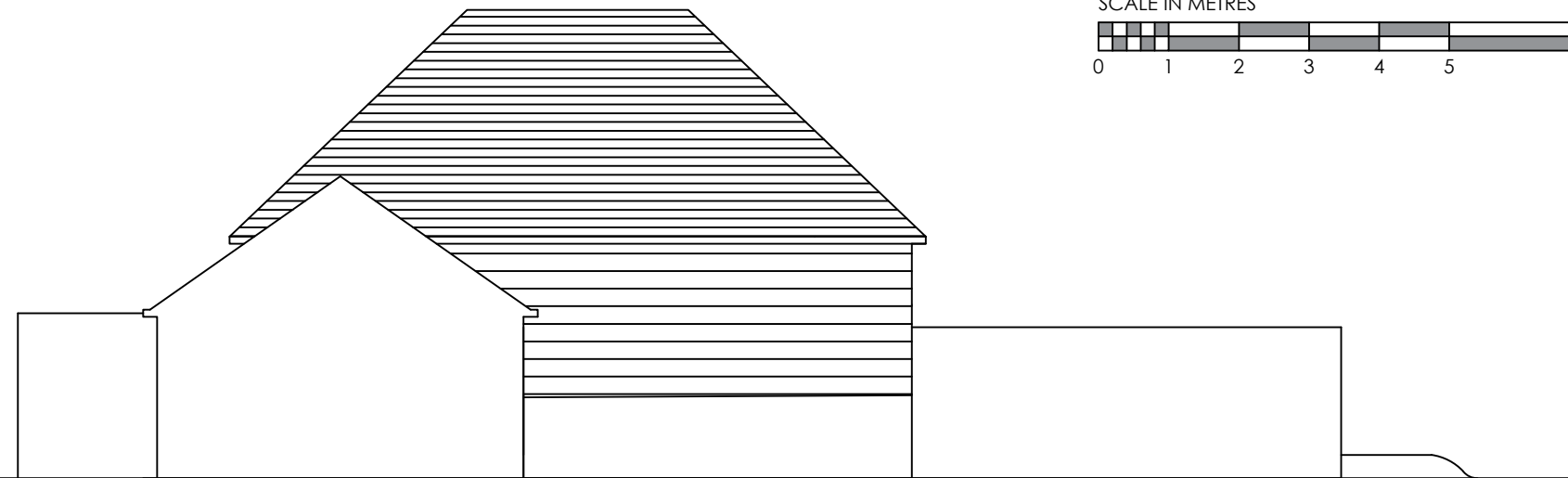
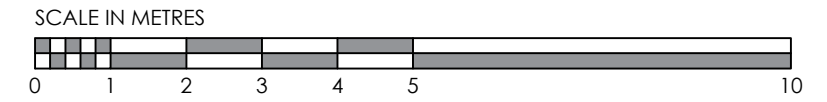
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North



East



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 Existing Elevations

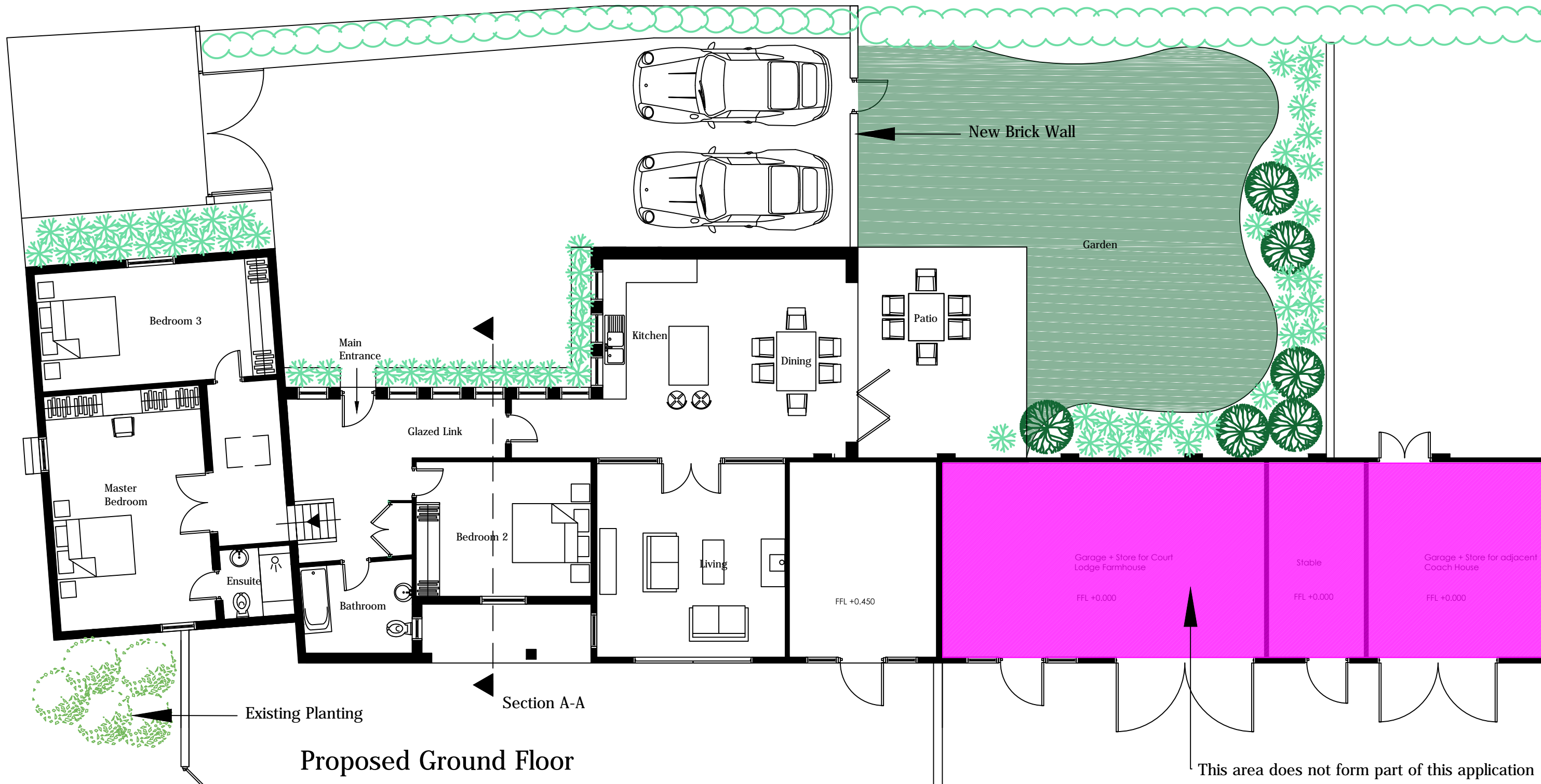
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Proposed Ground Floor



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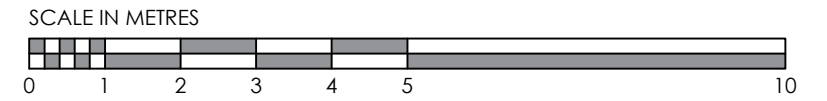
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West



South



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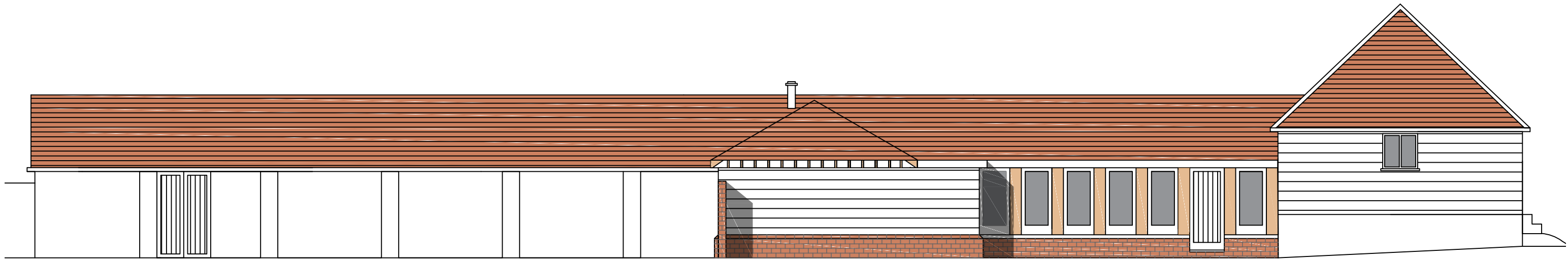
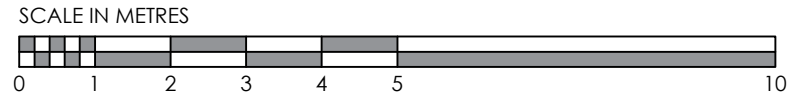
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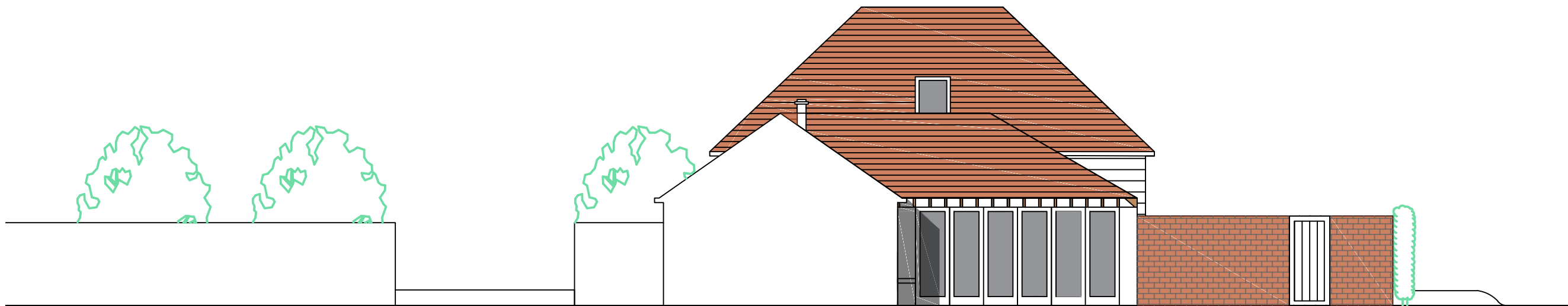
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North



East

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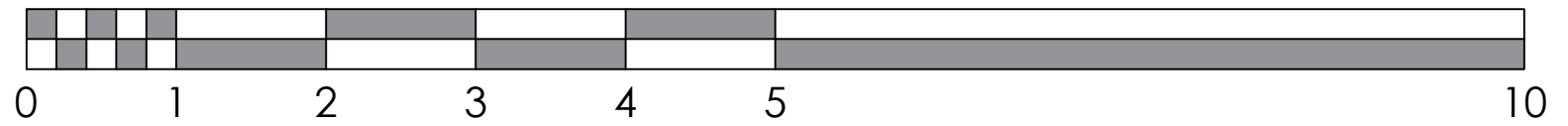
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