

# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at The Potting Shed, Sutton Road, Langley, Kent

Site Code LANG/WB/19



Date of report 01/07/2019

## **SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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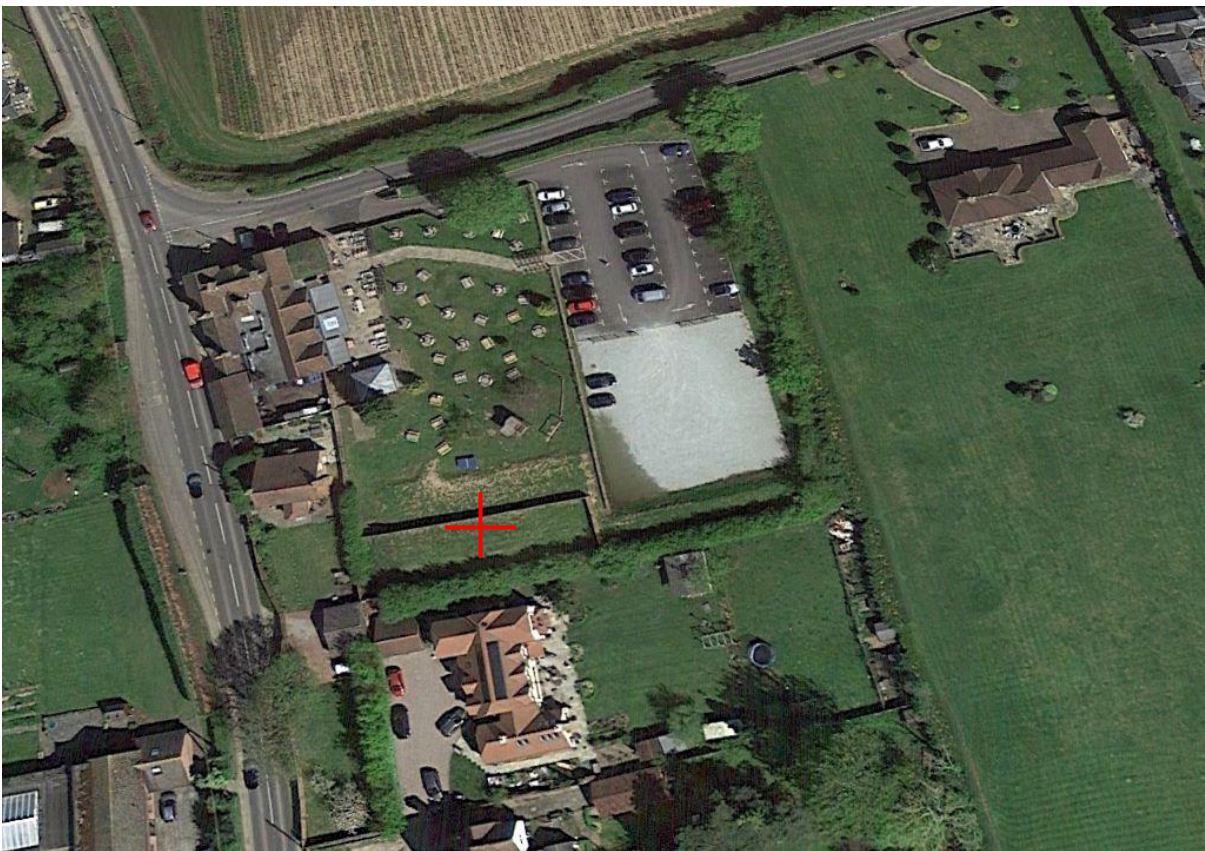
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# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at The Potting Shed, Sutton Road, Langley, Kent

Site Code LANG/WB/19  
NGR 580563 151711

Date of report: 01/07/2019



AP 1. Aerial view of site (red target) showing the site before development.

(Google Earth 2018: Eye altitude 287m).

## **1.0 Abstract**

1.1. In February and March 2019 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCI(A) of Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of six bed and breakfast rooms associated with the adjacent Potting Shed public house, Sutton Road, Langley in Kent. (Figures 1 & 2 and Plates 1-6).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the developer.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the ground reduction excavation of the site. (Plates 1-6).

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Ground reduction of topsoil/subsoil on 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 (Plates 2-4).

Phase 2: The digging out of the foundation footprint of the bed and breakfast huts to about 1.30-1.35m below present ground level of about 96.00m AOD (4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 & Plates 5-8).

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of archaeological activity. In particular, any evidence of archaeological activity associated with the known archaeological sites in the area included on the KCCHER data.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is Maidstone Borough Council (18/501594/FULL).

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

## **2.0 Introduction**

2.1 The site is located on a prominent plot with its west boundary Sutton Road which leads from east Maidstone. Langley Heath is located to the east, Langley to the north and Five Wents to the south. The site itself is level at about 96m AOD (Figure 1).

### **2.2 Planning Background**

The site has planning permission for the erection of a building of six bed and breakfast rooms associated with the adjacent Potting Shed public house. The Local Planning

Authority's (Maidstone Borough Council) planning reference for the proposal is 18/501594/FULL.

The following Condition (4) requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring 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 recorded. The Watching Brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification, which has been submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*REASON: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.*

### **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works 18<sup>th</sup> February to March 2019.

### **4.0 Aims and Objectives**

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

*"3.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks. Particular attention will be made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits."*

4.2. The ground works were to excavate the ground for the build of six bed and breakfast units (Plates 1-4).

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 is Bedrock Geology of Hythe Formation- Sandstone and Limestone whilst the Superficial Deposits are not recorded. The geology revealed on site was clayey silt (Plates 1-4).

5.2. KCCHER entries for the site include an important milestone just to the north of the PDA (TQ 95 SW 300). Just to the south a number of listed buildings including the Church of St Mary (TQ 85 SW 274) and the adjacent Langley School and Schoolmasters House.

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology (2019) and it also complied with the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA: Dec 2017).

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 in February and March 2019.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothless bucket necessary to remove the topsoil down to formation level (Plates 1-4).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Dr 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 ClfA Standards and Guidance, (ClfA: 2017), 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 brown yellow sandy clay overlaid by topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the site which was swept with a Fisher CZ 3D metal detector.

7.2 The proposed build is six bed and breakfast huts. The area watched were surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 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 SWAT 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 the developer for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

**Appendix 1**  
**Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development of land at The Potting Shed, Sutton Road, Langley, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** LANG/WB/19

**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 six bed and breakfast huts 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:** Maidstone Borough Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 589563 151711

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Watching Brief

**Date of recording:** From 18<sup>th</sup> Feb to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019

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

**Geology:** Bedrock geology is Hythe Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2019) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at The Potting Shed, Sutton Road, Langley, 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





Plate 1. View of Site (Google Earth)



Plate 2. Topsoil strip (looking east)



Plate 3. Topsoil/subsoil strip completed (looking west)



Plate 4. Topsoil/subsoil strip completed (looking SE)



Plate 5. Section of additional subsoil strip



Plate 6. Subsoil strip

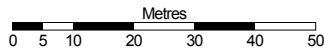
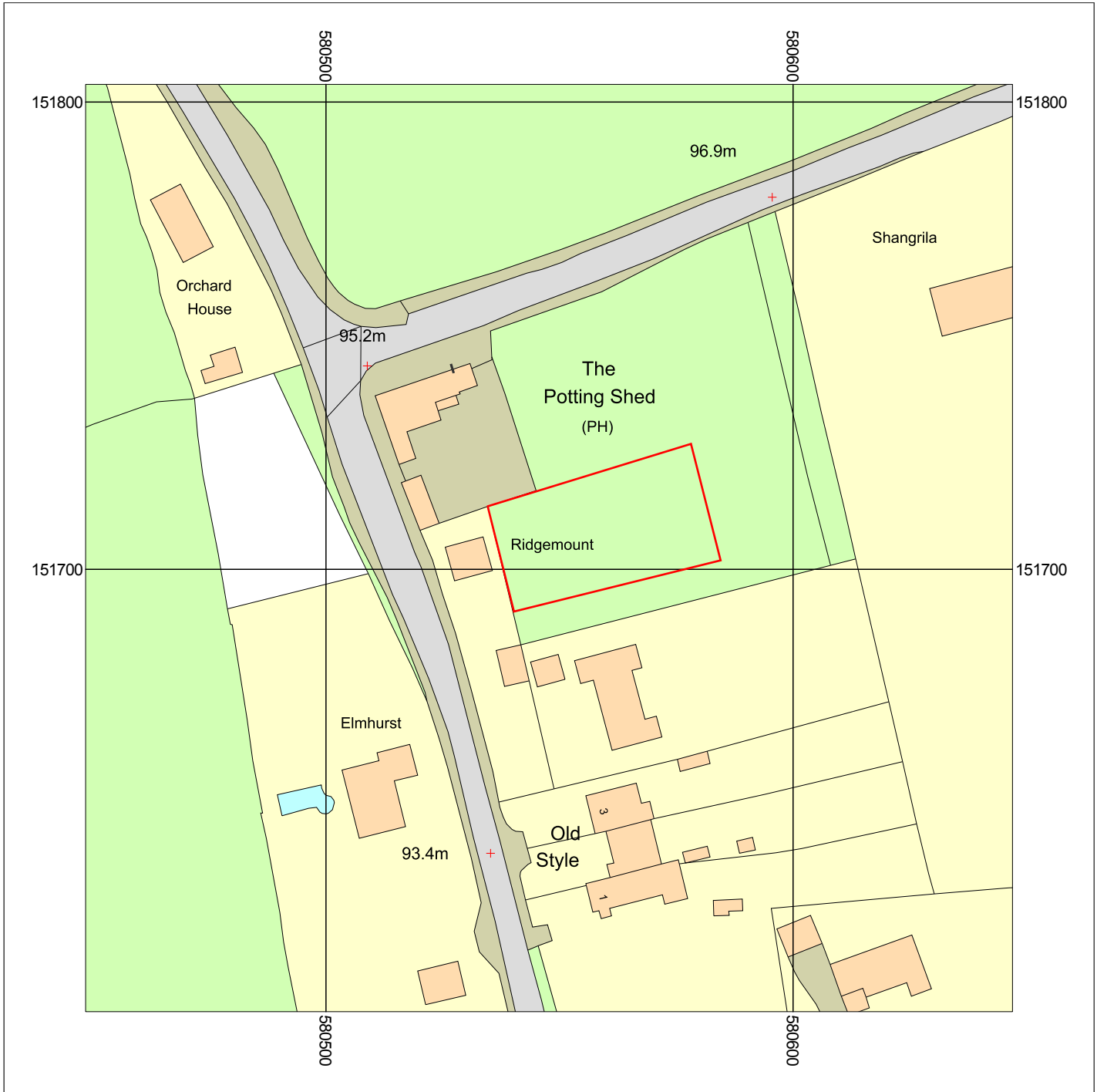


Plate 7. Subsoil strip completed and strip foundations completed



Plate 8. Completing east end subsoil strip

Figure 1.  
Area watched within red line



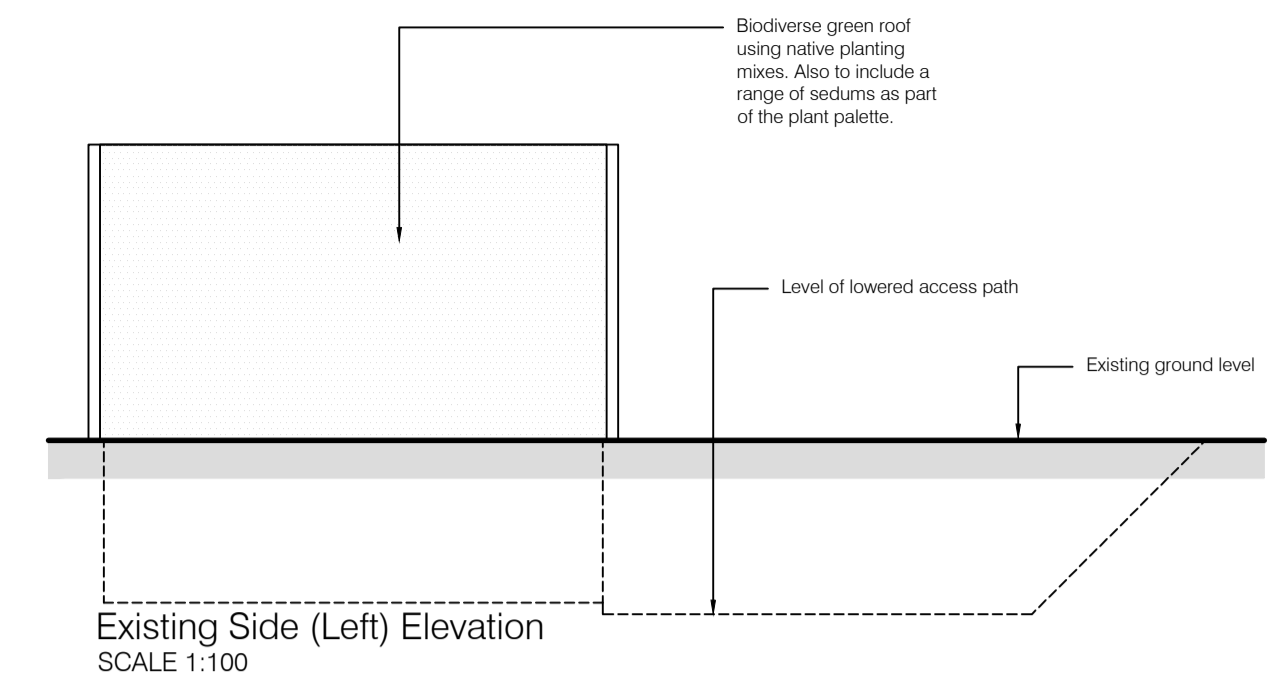
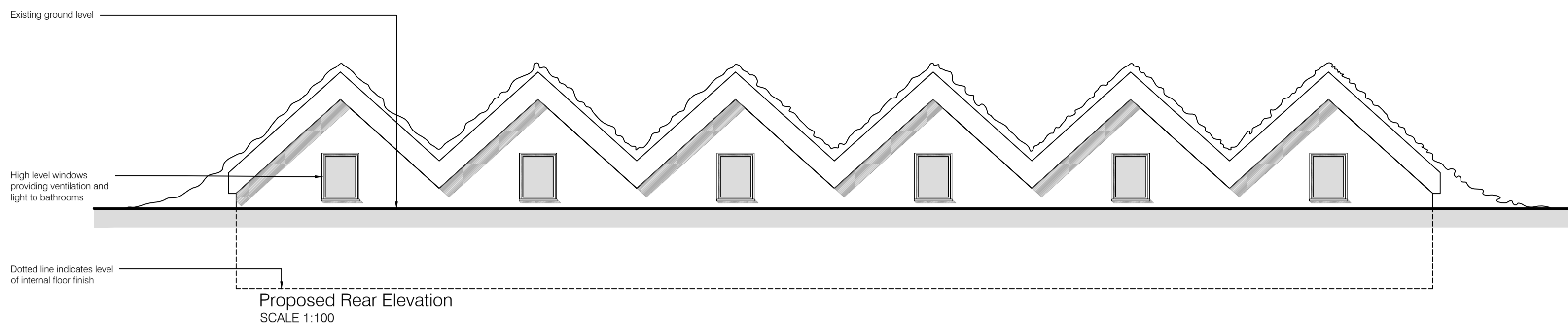
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**The Potting Shed**  
Sutton Road  
Langley  
Maidstone  
ME17 3LZ

Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 01/07/2019  
Serial number: 2130769

Plot centre co-ordinates: 580548, 151705  
Download file: SWAT\_PottingShed.zip  
Project name: SWAT\_PottingShed



**Figure 2**  
Proposed development

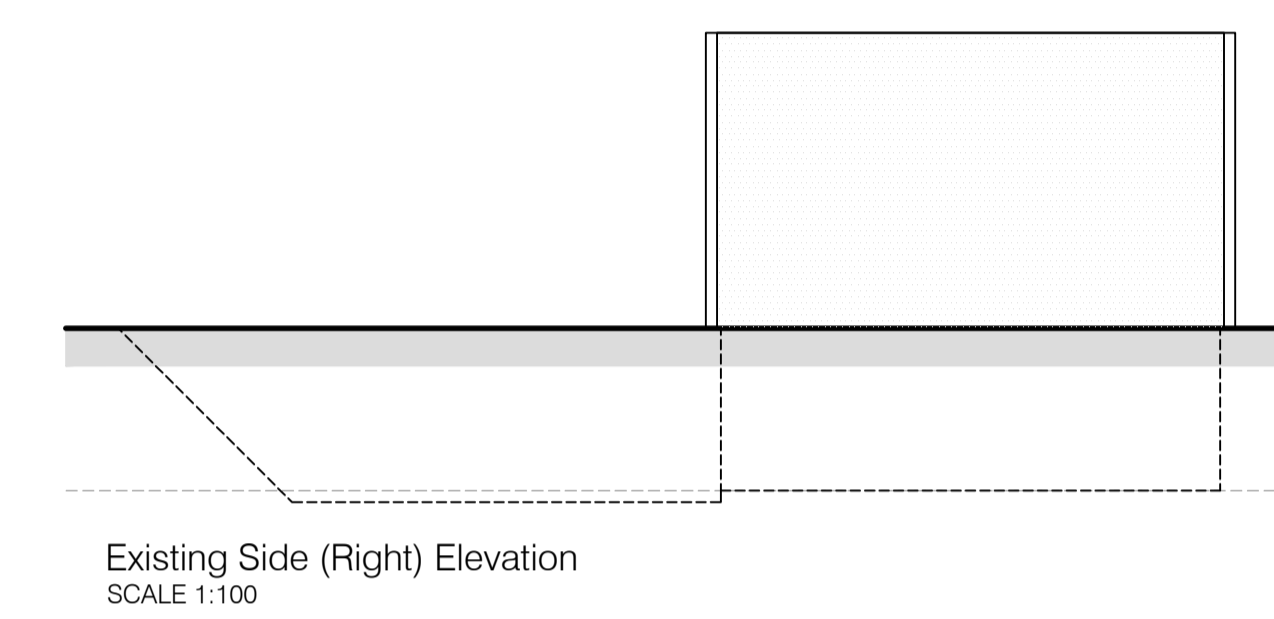


Image reference - indicative of proposal  
NOT TO SCALE

