

Archaeological Building Recording and watching brief at Grey Barn, Hoath Road, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent



NGR Site Centre: 549867 144585
Planning Application Number: 23/01586/HOUSE

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief and historic building recording was undertaken by Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) at Grey Barn, Hoath Road, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent .

Archaeological monitoring has not revealed any archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts.

Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank to the Client for commissioning the project. Peter Cichy supervised the archaeological fieldwork. Site survey and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. This report was written by Peter Cichy. On behalf of the client project was directed by Dr Paul Wilkinson, MCIFA.

Archaeological Building Recording and watching brief at Grey Barn, Hoath Road, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent

NGR Site Centre: 549867 144585

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 The Client is intending to develop land at Grey Barn, Hoath Road, Chiddingstone, Kent. The proposed groundworks comprises excavation of swimming pool and associated works, rear hayloft balcony, front porch, ancillary outbuilding home gym, three conservation roof lights and demolition of garden sheds. (Figures).

1.2 Scope of the Report

- 1.2.1 In accordance with the Specification (SWAT Archaeology 2023), this report comprises a summary of the project background (Section 1), the geological and archaeological background (Section 2) and the project aims (Section 3). Generic and specific methodologies are detailed in Section 4. It reports the results of undertaken watching brief and associated level 2 historic building recording.

1.3 Planning background

- 1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted by Sevenoaks District Council (23/01586/HOUSE) for a proposed swimming pool and associated works, rear hayloft balcony, front porch, ancillary outbuilding home gym, three conservation roof lights and demolition of garden sheds. (Figure 1). Condition (5) has been attached to the permission requiring that a programme of building recording be undertaken in advance of any site works.

(5) Prior to commencement of swimming pool hereby approved, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, will secure the implementation of a phased programme of archaeological building recording in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

To ensure that archaeological and historic building features are properly examined and recorded, in accordance with policy EN4 of the Sevenoaks Allocations and Development Management Plan.

- 1.3.2 The building recording was carried out in accordance with a Level 2 survey as detailed in the Historic England volume 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' (2017) and the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (2016) and the Kent Historic Building Recording Requirements.

1.4 Site Description Geology and Topography

- 1.4.1 The development site is located to the west of Wellers Town, south of Chiddingstone and east of Moor Wood and situated in the hamlet of Hill Hoath.
- 1.4.2 The development site is located in an Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB) and within the Chiddingstone Conservation Area. The barn is a Grade II Listed Building dating from 1400-1988 (TQ 44 SE 42). The OS location for the site is NGR 549867 144585.beyond.
- 1.4.3 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the Site overlays Wadhurst Clay Formation - Mudstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 139.4 and 133.9 million years ago during the Cretaceous period.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The development site is located to the west of Wellers Town, south of Chiddingstone and east of Moor Wood and situated in the hamlet of Hill Hoath and is located in an Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB) and within the Chiddingstone Conservation Area. The barn is a Grade II Listed Building dating from 1400-1988 (TQ 44 SE 42). The OS location for the site is NGR 549867 144585.

2.2 HER Records

- 2.2.1 HER database provides a record of archaeological sites, monuments and listed building within 1.5mile radius.
- 2.2.2 TQ 4942 4434. The A man made cave close to the former site of Highfield, Chiddingstone. An initial inspection suggested a possible subterranean chapel with gothic-style pointed arched sections, which might suggest a medieval (14th-15th century) date. The report mentions the possibility of a link to Lollards. The report also refers to a previous survey conducted in 2012, which suggested the possibility that the cave was originally a Mithraeum.
- 2.2.3 TQ 505 446. The well-preserved earthworks of a medieval moated site, with an adjoining complex of six fishponds. Possible traces of a building on the platform. On the basis of documentary evidence, the moat is thought to be the site of the Manor of Chiddingstone Burghersh, which was built before 1306 and was certainly demolished by 1591, probably by the mid-15th century. The document of 1591 states that the Manor was built by William de Burghershe, but there are reasons to believe that this assertion is unreliable. It may have been built by Robert de Burghersh, who died possessed of it in 1306, or by another, earlier member of the family.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Primary Aims

- 3.1.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were 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 was made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.

3.2 Project Specific Objectives

- 3.2.1 The project specific objectives comprises building recording in accordance with approved specification and in accordance with a Level 2 survey as detailed in the Historic England volume 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' (2017) and the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (2016) and the Kent Historic Building Recording Requirements.
- 3.2.2 The South East Research Framework (SERF) sets out a draft research agenda for improving the understanding of the Prehistoric period in the region (Booth 2013).

4 MONITORED GROUNDWORKS

- 4.1.1 Monitored groundworks comprised excavation of large garden swimming pool and its associated drainage, water supply and demolition of garden shed.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Specification (SWAT Archaeology 2023), and in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2014a) Standard and Guidance.

5.2 Fieldwork

- 5.2.1 A 8 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket was used to remove overlying topsoil and subsoil deposits to expose the underlying natural geology. Overlying deposits were removed in spits of c.100mm thickness under constant archaeological supervision.

6 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 This section of the report will include a descriptive stratigraphic assessment of the archaeological records, detailing physical relationships between all contexts recorded during the watching brief. The descriptive text and plans are supplemented by selected photographs provided within the Appendices.

6.2 Stratigraphic Sequence

- 6.2.1 A relatively consistent soil sequence was recorded across the Site. The underlying natural geology comprised mid yellowish grey to mid reddish-brown silty-clay. The overlying topsoil consisted of a dark greyish brown clay-silt and sand-silt deposits (0.2–0.3 m deep).
- 6.2.2 A revealed natural geology was heavily truncated in its upper part by a series of modern cuts accommodating drain and old sewage pipes. The most recent overburden contains crushed modern bricks and concrete, spread across the area presumably to level-off uneven surface.

6.3 The results

- 6.3.1 No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefact were revealed during the course of monitored groundworks.

Building Recording

- 6.3.2 Demolished southern shed comprised light wooden structure measuring 2.1metres by 3.2metres in plan and 2.4metres in height. Its construction comprised light wooden frame with 10mm-thick cladding. The exterior of the building was dark-brown bit worn-out in places.
- 6.3.3 The shed seems to be moved from its original location and was placed on fairly recent wooden platform.
- 6.3.4 Subsequently carried out historic map regression and historic aerial footage research could not confirm shed being present in this location before 1990's.

7 FINDS

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 No finds were retrieved during the course of archaeological watching brief.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 No bulk samples for off-site screening were collected during the course of archaeological watching brief.

9 GENERAL

- 9.1.1 Following approval of the final Full Report, a final site archive will be ordered in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990). SWAT Archaeology will retain the site archive until designated museum is capable of receipt and deposition in a suitable archive facility.

10 REFERENCES

ADS 2013. Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

Brown, D.H., 2011. Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)

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English Heritage 2002. Environmental Archaeology; a guide to theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, Swindon, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines

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SMA 1993. Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections, Society of Museum Archaeologists. SMA 1995. Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, Society of Museum Archaeologists

SPECIFICATION FOR AN PHASED PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS TO INCLUDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING FOLLOWED BY A PROGRAMME OF MONITORING AND RECORDING OF ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS REVEALED FROM ALL WORKS AT GREY BARN, HOATH ROAD, CHIDDINGSTONE, EDENBRIDGE, KENT (SWAT Archaeology 2023)

APPENDIX 1

Core Personnel Structure

Project Management - Fieldwork	Role
Dr Paul Wilkinson, MCIfA, FSA	Director
Peter Cichy	Project Manager
Django Rayner	Site Supervisor
Bartek Cichy	Project Officer/ Surveyor
Finds	Specialist
Flint	Paul Hart
Early Prehistoric Pottery	Paul Hart/ Barbara Mcknee
Later prehistoric and Roman pottery	Dave Applegate
Saxon, Medieval and Post Medieval pottery	Luke Barber/ Dave Applegate
Metal finds, glass and oyster	Ges Moody
Conservation support and x-ray photography	Dana Goodburn-Brown, MSc
Samples and human remains	Specialist
Environmental soil processing	Lisa Grey
Faunal, floral micro and macro remains	Dr Mike Allen
Animal Remains (Bones)	Carol White
Palaeomagnetism	Peter Cichy
Human Remains (Roman)	Dr Chris Dieter
Micro-excavation (BA cremation burials)	Archaeological Research Services (ARS)
Post-Excavation and publication	Role
Peter Cichy	Author
Bartek Cichy	Illustrations

APPENDIX 2 HER FORM

HER FORM

Site Name: Archaeological Building Recording and watching brief at Grey Barn, Hoath Road, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent

SWAT Site Code: GBC-WB-24

Site Address: As above

Summary: *An archaeological watching brief and historic building recording was undertaken by Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) at Grey Barn, Hoath Road, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent*

Archaeological monitoring has not revealed any archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts.

No further work is proposed

District/Unitary: Sevenoaks District Council

Period(s): modern

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 549867 144585

Type of Archaeological work: Watching Brief and Building Recording

Date of recording: February 2024

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

Geology: Wadhurst Clay Formation - Mudstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 139.4 and 133.9 million years ago during the Cretaceous period.

Title and author of accompanying report: SWAT Archaeology (P Cichy 2024) Archaeological Building Recording and watching brief at Grey Barn, Hoath Road, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Plates



Plate 1: The site viewing from the south prior to the commencement of groundworks



Plate 2: Northern garden shed prior to its demolition



Plate 3: Southern garden shed prior to its demolition.



Plate 4: Showing partially demolished southern shed.



Plate 5: Swimming pool excavation viewed from the south with two metre scale.



Plate 6: Swimming pool excavation viewed from the north. Two-metre scale bar.

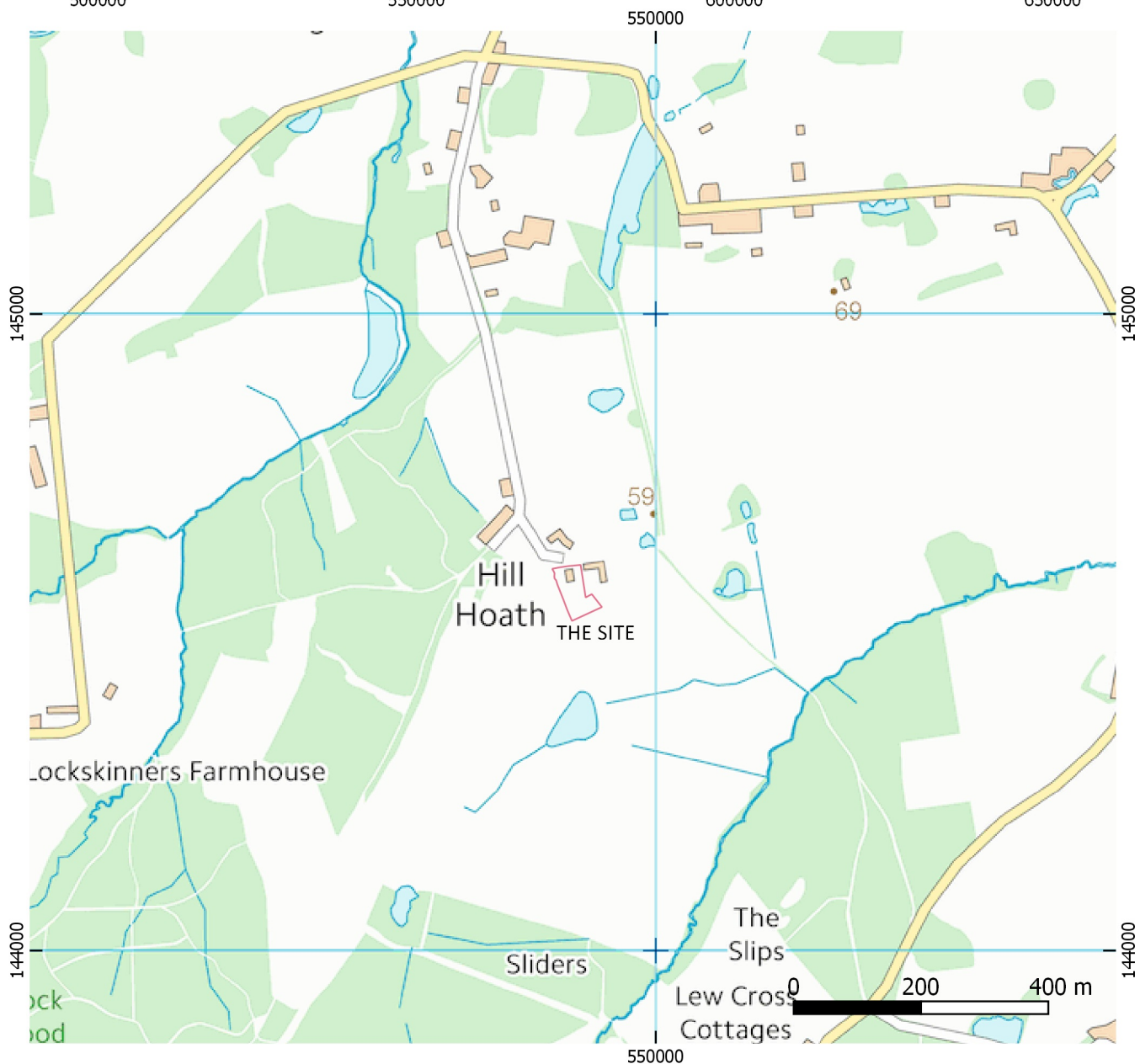
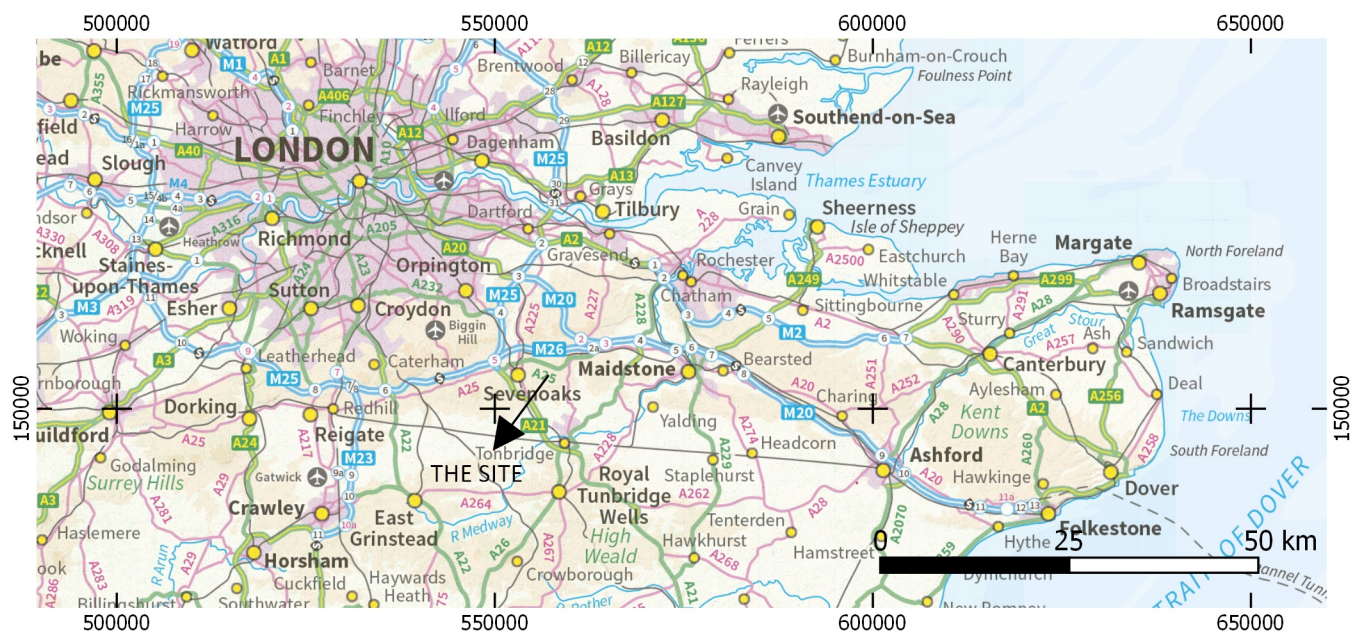


Figure 1: Site location (red)

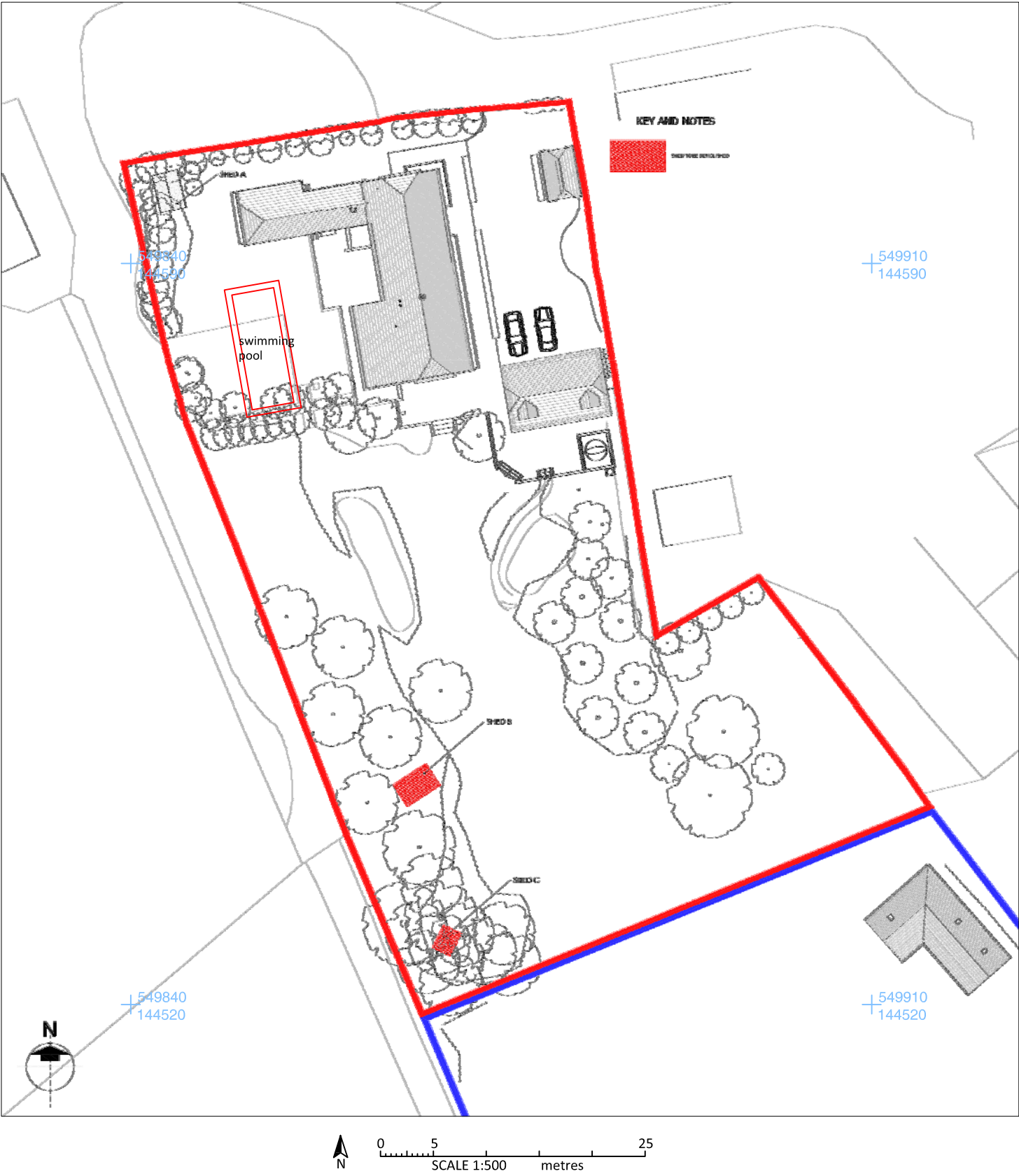


Figure 2: Site plan - location of the demolished sheds and proposed swimming pool.

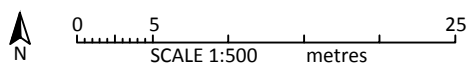
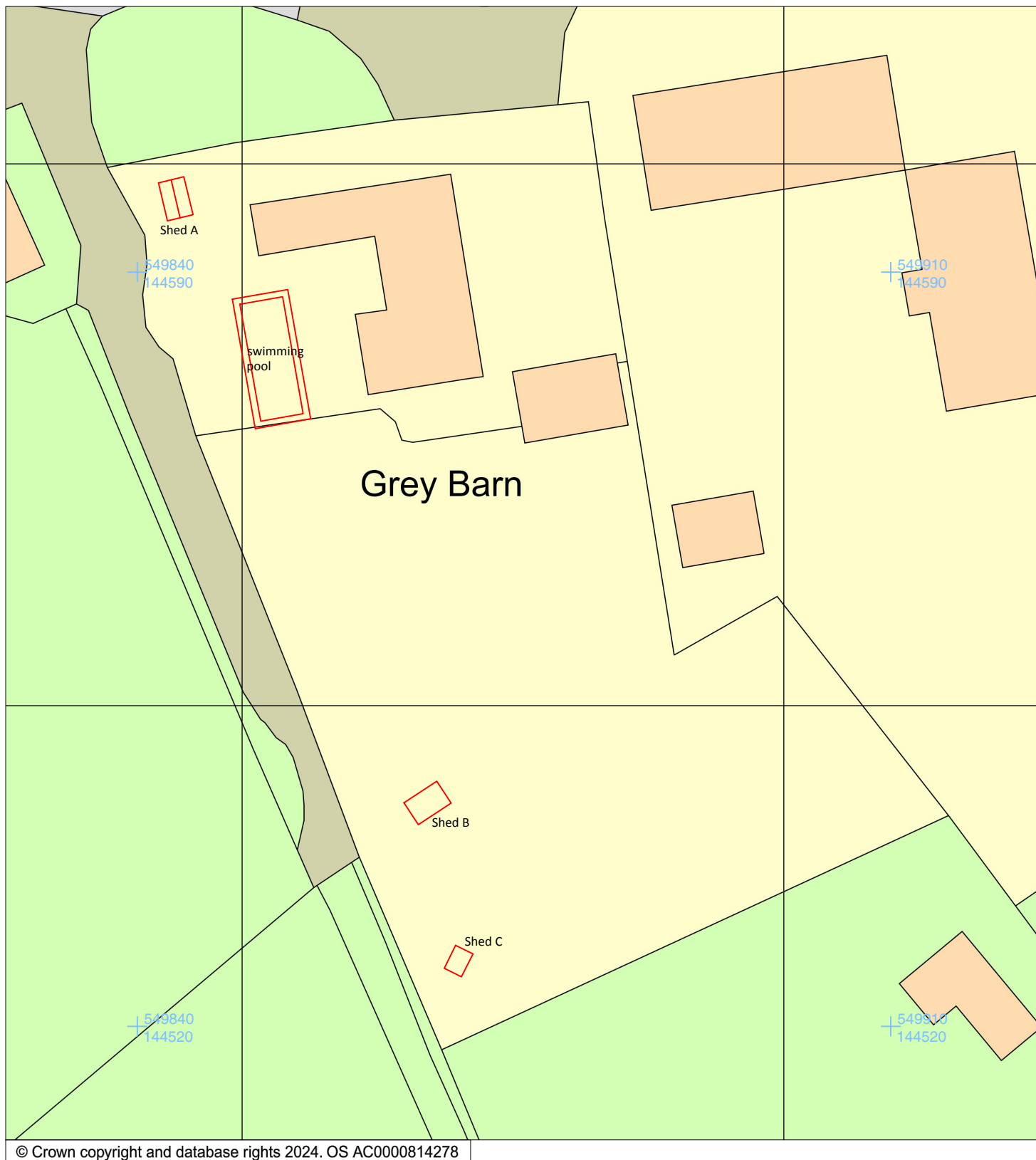


Figure 3: Location of the demolished sheds and proposed swimming pool in relation to OS map.

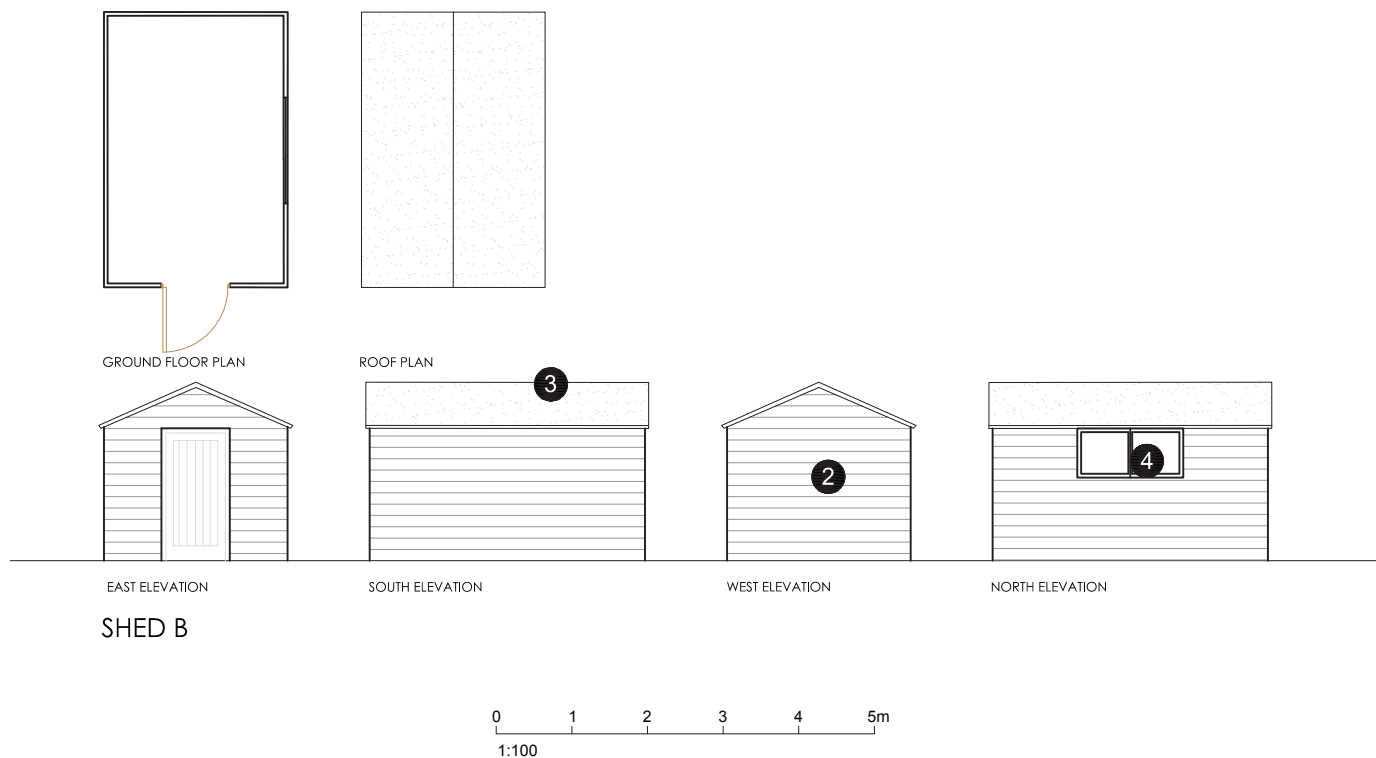
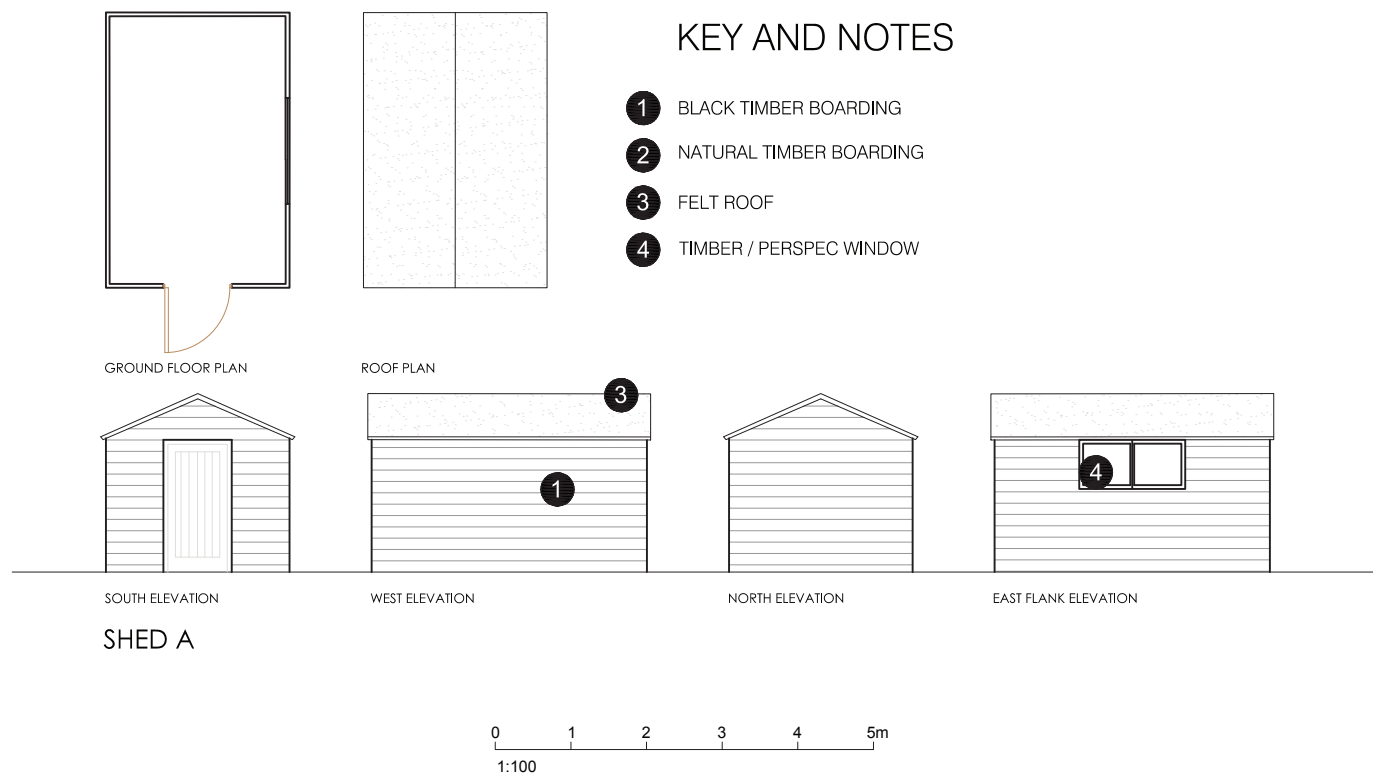


Figure 4: Demolished sheds

KEY AND NOTES

- 1 BLACK TIMBER BOARDING
- 2 NATURAL TIMBER BOARDING
- 3 FELT ROOF
- 4 TIMBER / PERSPEC WINDOW

The diagram shows the following views:

- GROUND FLOOR PLAN:** A rectangular layout with a small rectangular extension at the bottom center, representing the door.
- ROOF PLAN:** A simple rectangle representing the roof.
- EAST ELEVATION:** Shows the front facade with a gabled roof and a central door with vertical black timber boarding (1).
- SOUTH ELEVATION:** Shows the side facade with a gabled roof (3) and walls covered in black timber boarding (1).
- WEST ELEVATION:** Shows the side facade with a gabled roof and walls covered in black timber boarding (1).
- NORTH ELEVATION:** Shows the rear facade with a gabled roof (3) and walls covered in black timber boarding (1). It features a window (4) with a white frame and a small square section of natural timber boarding (2).

