

Flood Risk Assessment for Planning

June 2025

Prepared for:

Peter Reid

Location:

Sunte House

Birchen Lane

Haywards Heath

RH16 1RZ

Our reference:

95326-RichardParr-SunteHse_b



Document Issue Record

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Location:	Sunte House, Birchen Lane, Haywards Heath, RH16 1RZ
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1. Key Facts

Flood Risk Posed:

- The site is located within Flood Zone 1 (Low Probability), which means it is defined as land having a less than 1:1000 annual probability of river or sea flooding. The nearest drainage feature is a ditch located approximately 90m north of the site. The nearest EA Main River is the West Common Stream Extension located approximately 218m north.
- No Flood Storage Areas located in close proximity to the site.
- The EA Risk of Flooding from Surface Water Map suggests that the site is located within an area at "Very Low" to "Medium" chance of flooding from surface water at the present day and "Very Low" to "High" chance of flooding from surface water between 2040 and 2060. It should be noted that the buildings are entirely outside of the surface water flood extent both at the present day and between 2040 and 2060.
- According to the 2024 Mid Sussex District Council SFRA, partially located within Future Flood Zone 3 but outside of Flood Zone 3b. The buildings remain entirely outside of Future Flood Zone 3.
- Risk to the site from groundwater, sewer surcharge and reservoir flooding would appear to be very low.
- No EA records of historic flooding having affected the site or surrounding area.

Flood Risk Mitigation:

- The proposed application is for the renovation of cottage, stables, cowshed and byre (farmyard) and renovation and extension of barn.
- No lowering of floor levels or basement accommodation is proposed.
- The applicant has agreed to implement flood resistant design measures into the development where practical and feasible, in consultation with the Local Authority building control department.
- Post development, the site will be classified as "more vulnerable" (residential) throughout.
- There will be no loss of fluvial floodplain storage.
- SuDS features will be incorporated into the development where practically possible or will utilise the existing arrangement on site.
- The applicant will register with the National Severe Weather Warning Service.

Assuming accordance with these flood risk management measures, Unda Consulting Limited consider the proposed application to be suitable in flood risk terms.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. Unda Consulting Limited have been appointed by Peter Reid (hereinafter referred to as “the applicant”) to undertake a Flood Risk Assessment for the proposed development at Sunte House, Birchen Lane, Haywards Heath, RH16 1RZ (hereinafter referred to as “the site”). The purpose of the study is to support a planning application for the proposed development.
- 2.2. This report presents our findings based on the readily available information and data relating to the site and surrounding drainage area.
- 2.3. The site appears to be located within Flood Zone 1 as defined by the Environment Agency (EA) on their Flood Map for Planning. Under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), a FRA is required if a proposed development:
 - Includes building or engineering works in Flood Zone 2 or 3;
 - Includes building or engineering works on land classified by the Environment Agency as having critical drainage problem;
 - Changes the use of land or buildings in a location at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea, or with critical drainage problems;
 - Changes the use of land or buildings in a way that increases the flood vulnerability of the development where it may be subject to other sources of flooding;
 - Is larger than 1 hectare.
- 2.4. Given that the proposed development is located within Flood Zone 1 (Low Risk of flooding from rivers or the sea) and the site is under 1ha in area, a FRA would not normally be required under the NPPF. However, it is understood that the site falls within an area at potential risk of surface water flooding.
- 2.5. The assessment should demonstrate to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and EA how flood risk will be managed now and over the development’s lifetime, taking climate change into account, and with regard to the vulnerability of its potential users.
 - Whether the proposed development is likely to be affected by current or future flooding from any source;
 - Whether it will increase flood risk elsewhere;
 - Whether the measures proposed to deal with these effects and risks are appropriate.

3. Existing Site

- 3.1. The site is currently occupied by a cottage, stables, cowshed, byre and barn.
- 3.2. The site is understood to have lawful planning permission for residential use.
- 3.3. The surrounding area is characterised by residential properties.
- 3.4. Existing plans are provided in the report Appendix.



Figure 1: Aerial imagery of site and surrounding area (Source: Google Earth)

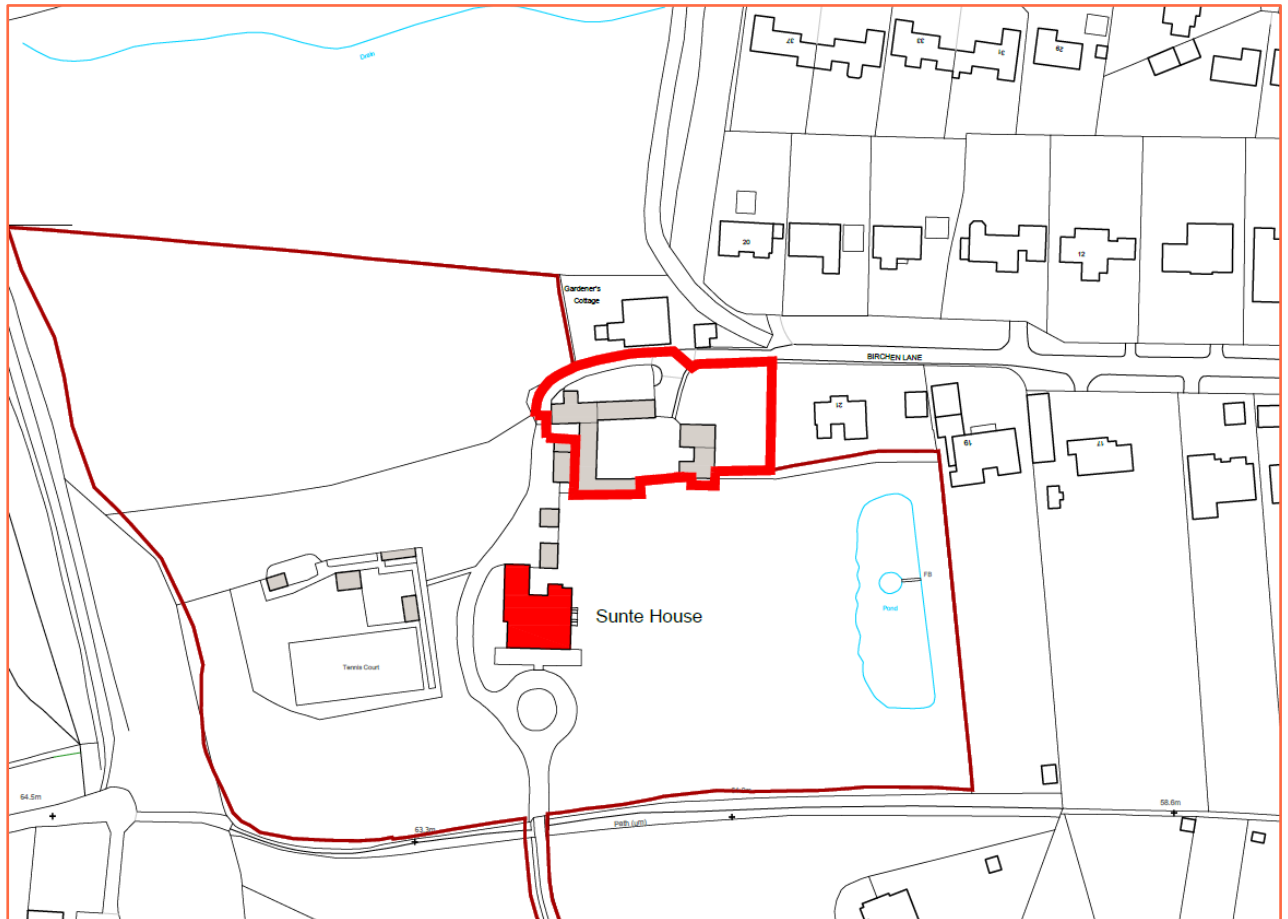


Figure 2: Site location plan (Source: Richard Parr Associates)

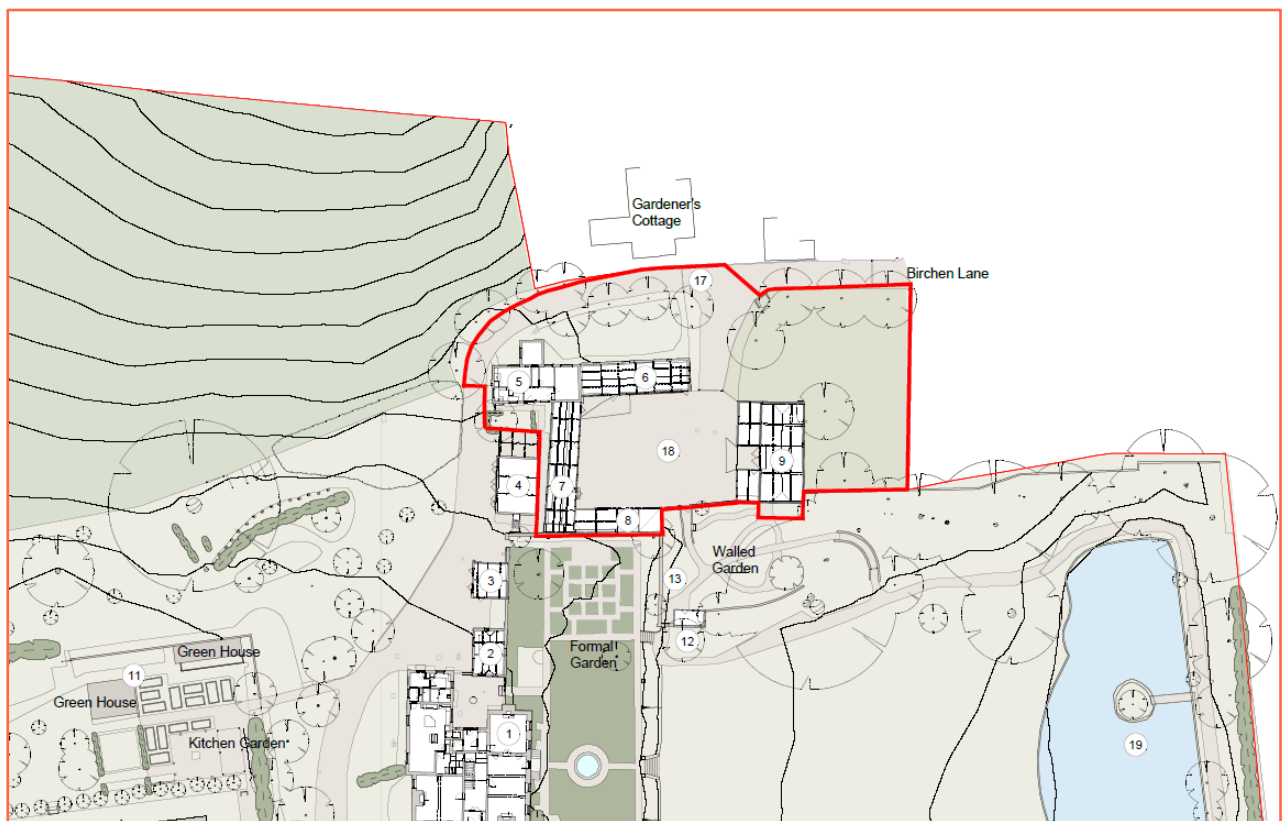


Figure 3: Existing site plan (Source: Richard Parr Associates)



Figure 4: Existing farmyard ground floor plan (Source: Richard Parr Associates)

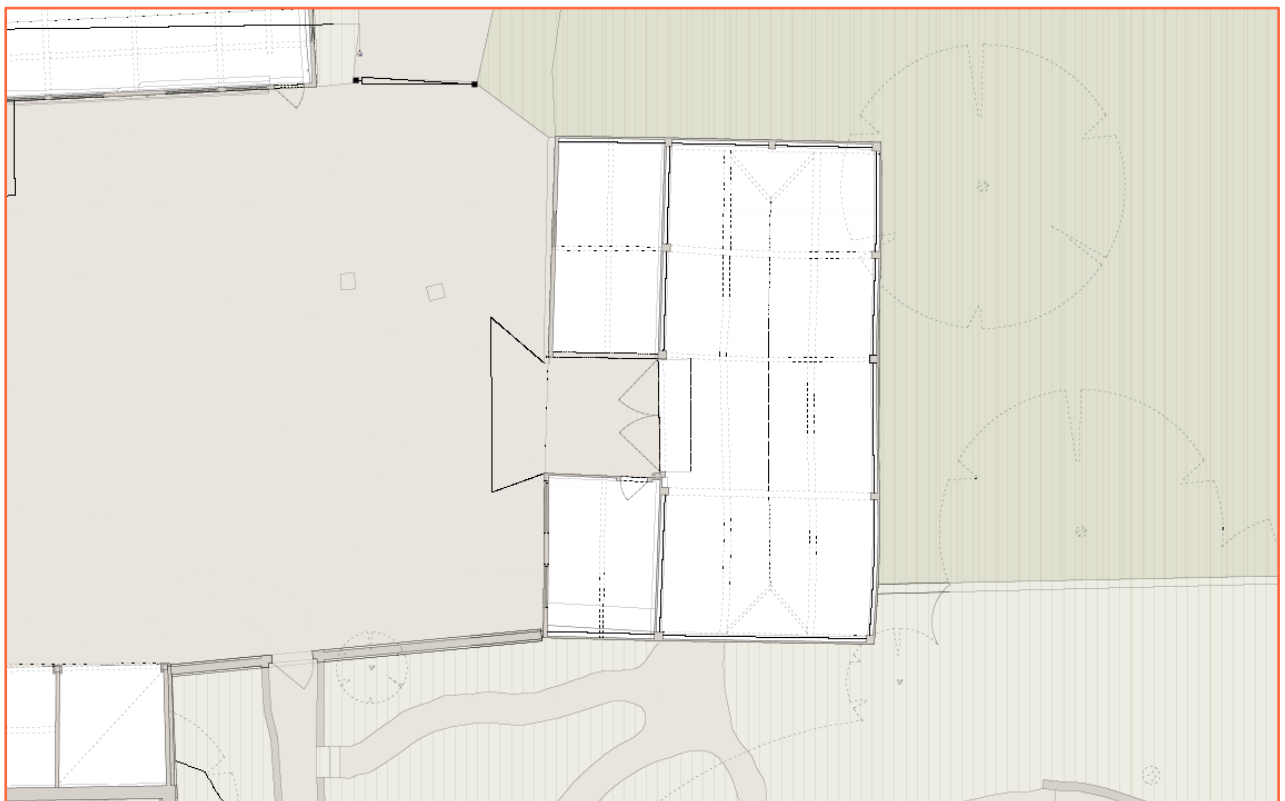


Figure 5: Existing barn ground floor plan (Source: Richard Parr Associates)

Site Topography:

- 3.5. A topographic survey of the site undertaken in February 2024 by Midland Survey Ltd shows ground topography on site ranges between 61.21mAOD to 62.70mAOD. The low point of the site is shown to be the central courtyard area at 61.21mAOD. Refer to Appendix.

Existing Ground Conditions:

- 3.6. The 1:50,000 BGS map shows that the bedrock underlying the site is Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand – sandstone and siltstone.
- 3.7. The BGS mapping shows there are no recorded superficial deposits underlying the site.
- 3.8. The soil type taken from the UKSO Soil Map Viewer, shows the site to be located upon deep-intermediate depth soils of sandstone and mudstone parent material with a soil texture of sandy loam to silty loam.

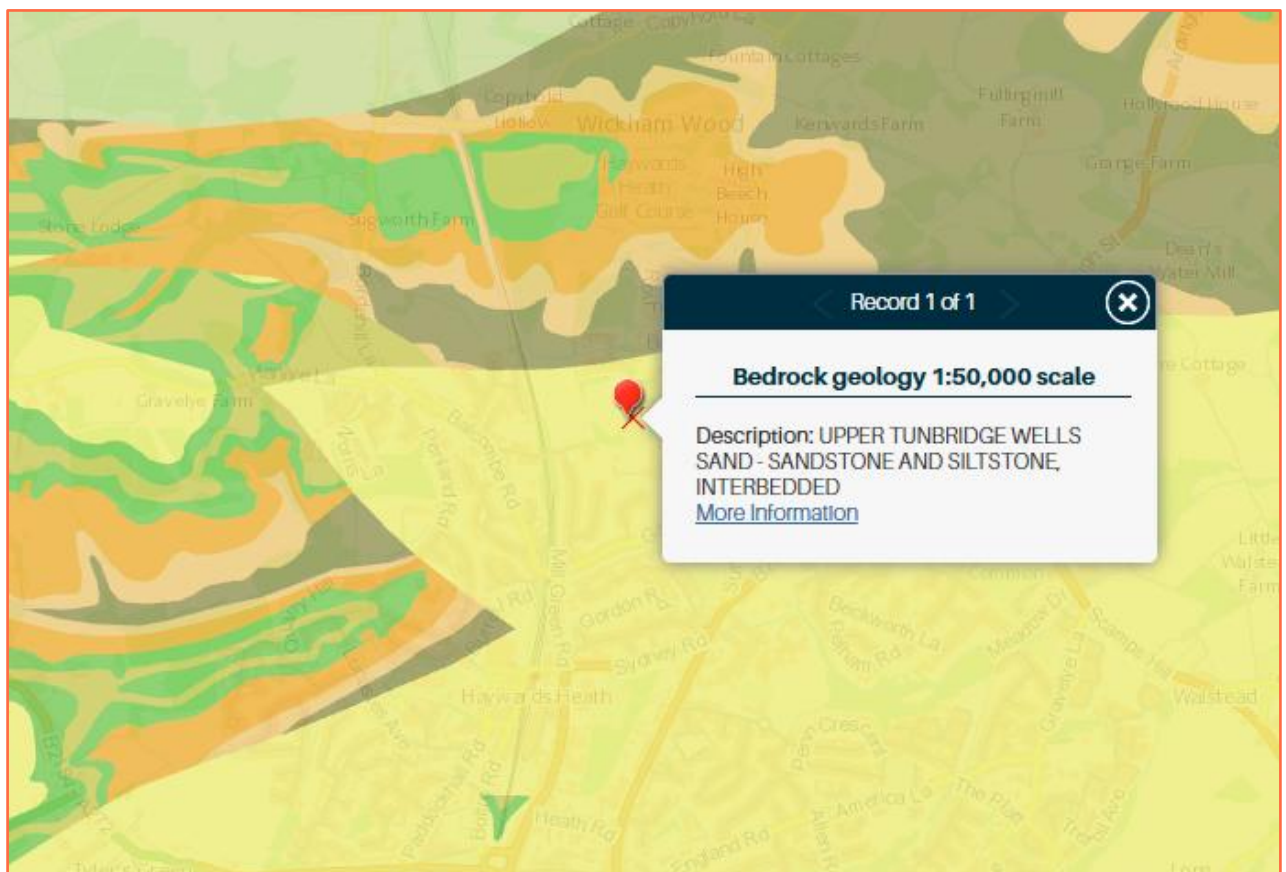


Figure 6: BGS Bedrock Geology (Source: BGS)

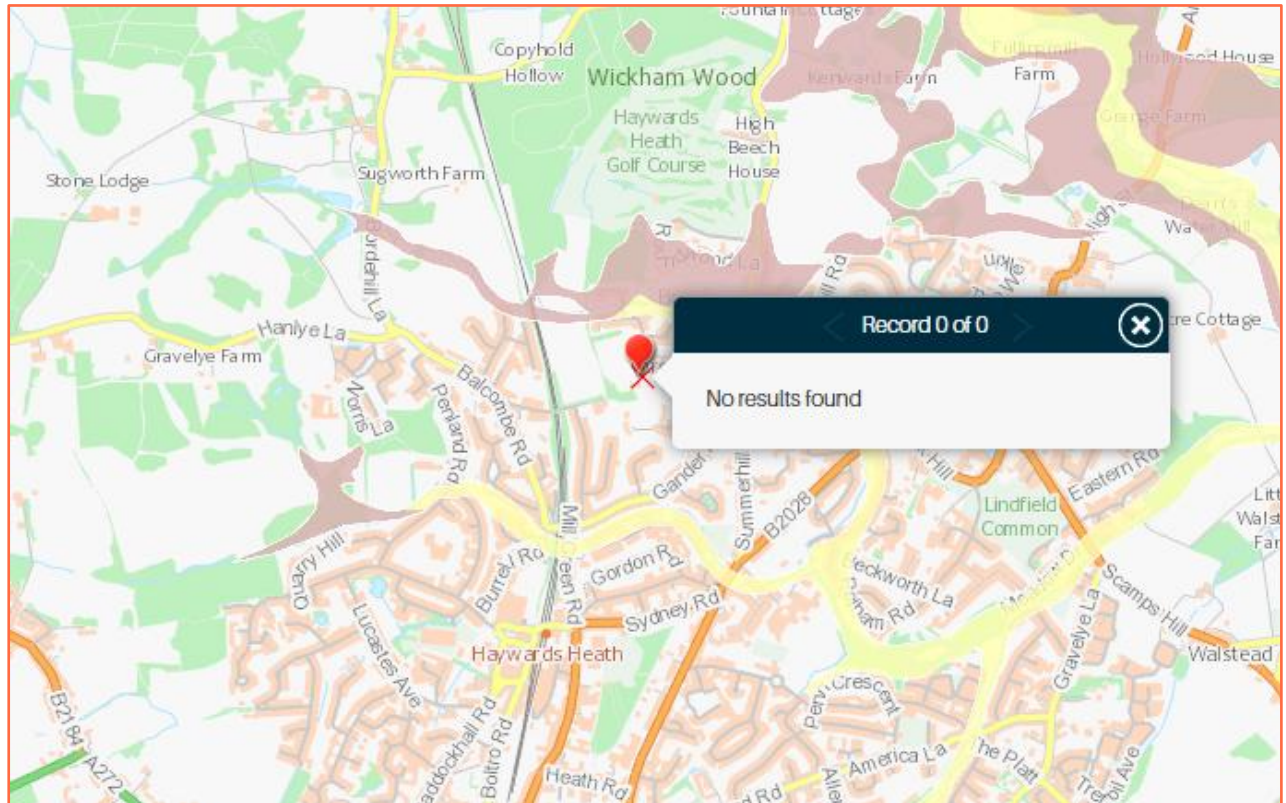


Figure 7: BGS superficial deposits (Source: BGS)



Figure 8: Soil map (Source: UK Soils, BGS)

Nearby Watercourses / Drainage Features:

- 3.9. The nearest drainage feature is a ditch located approximately 90m north of the site. The nearest EA Main River is the West Common Stream Extension located approximately 218m north.

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4. Development Proposal

- 4.1. The proposed application is for the *renovation of cottage, stables, cowshed and byre (farmyard) and renovation and extension of barn.*
- 4.2. No lowering of floor levels or basement accommodation is proposed.
- 4.3. Proposed plans are provided in the report Appendix.

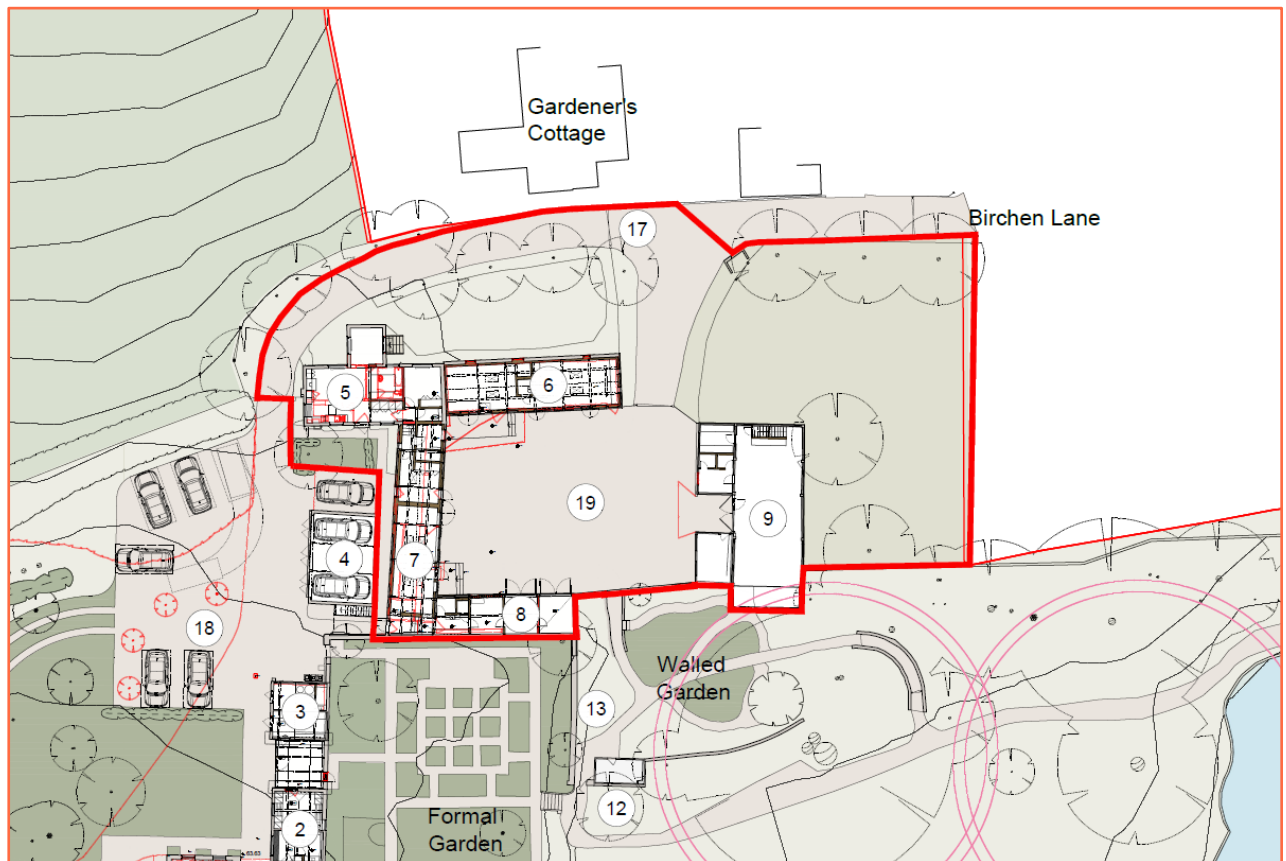


Figure 9: Proposed site plan (Source: Richard Parr Associates)

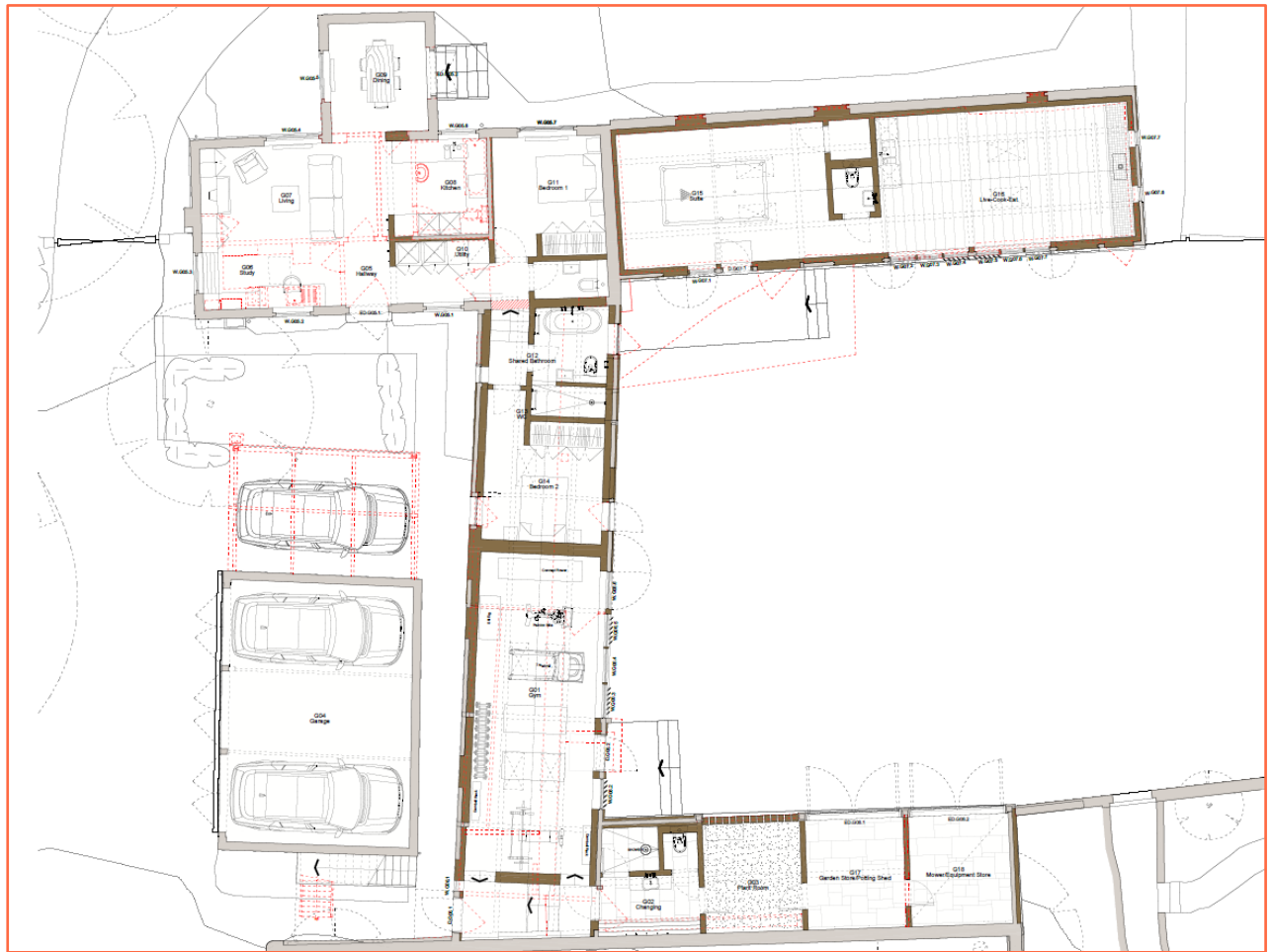


Figure 4: Proposed farmyard ground floor plan (Source: Richard Parr Associates)

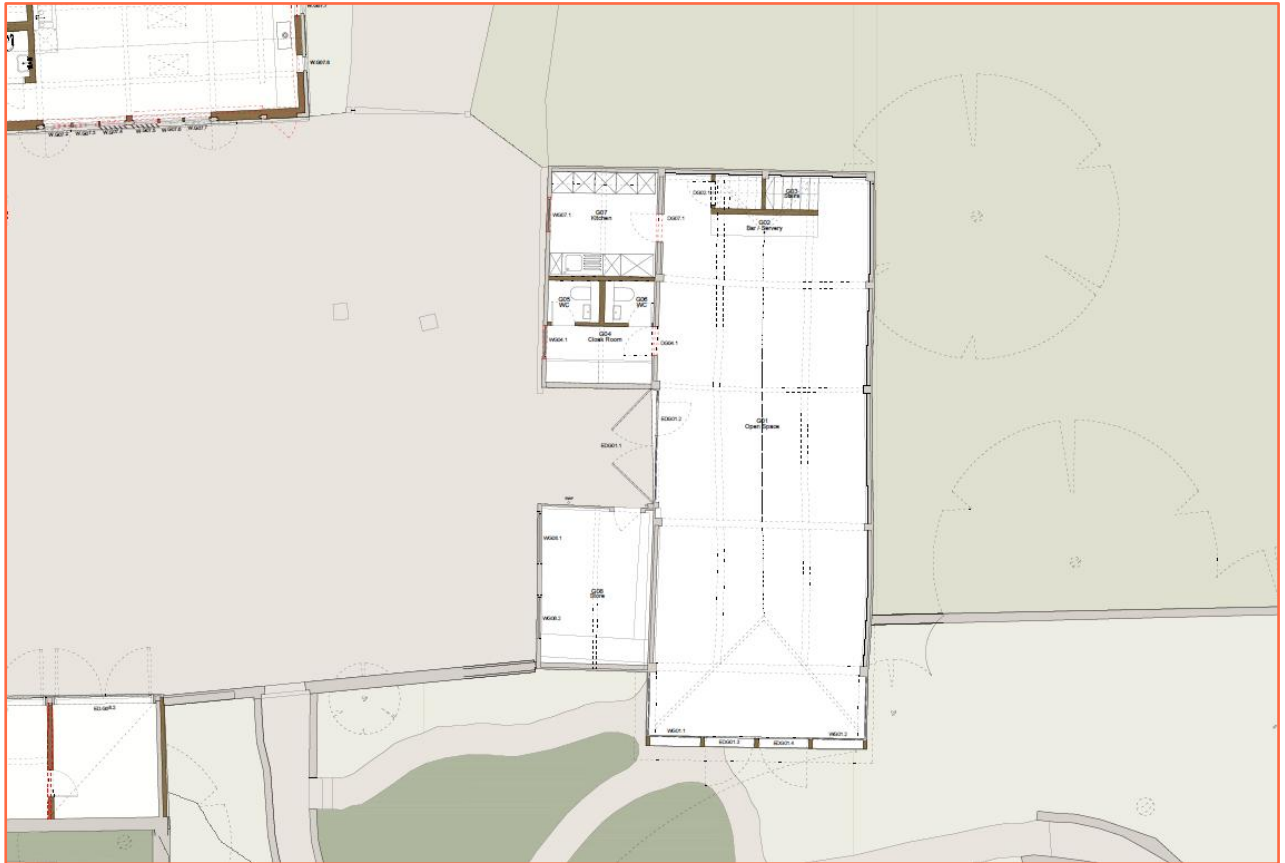


Figure 10: Proposed barn ground floor plan (Source: Richard Parr Associates)

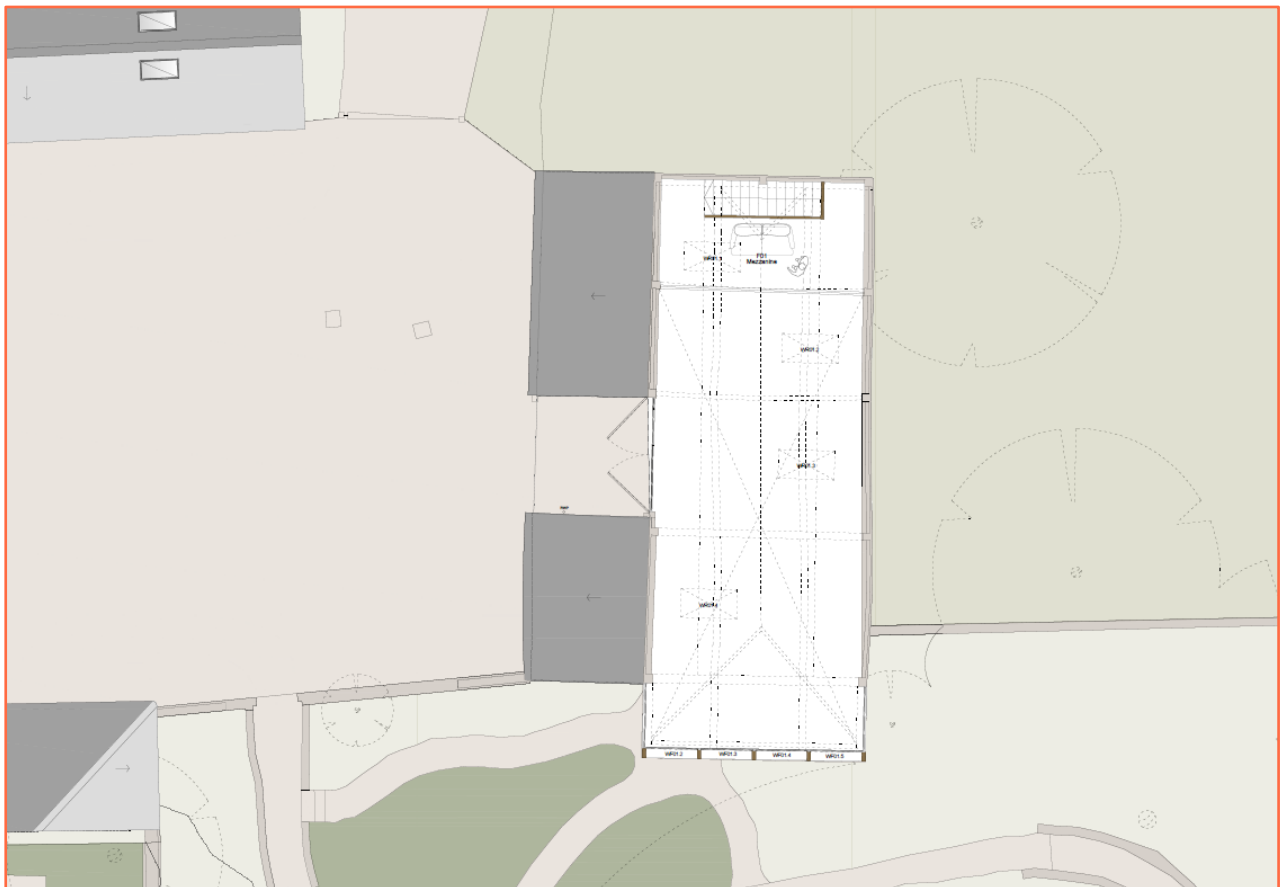


Figure 11: Proposed barn first floor plan (Source: Richard Parr Associates)

5. Flood Risk Assessment

EA Flood Zones:

- 5.1. Within planning, Flood Zones refer to the probability of river and sea flooding, ignoring the presence of defences. They are shown on the Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea), available on the Environment Agency's website.

Flood Zone	Definition
Zone 1 Low Probability	Land having a less than 0.1% annual probability of river or sea flooding. (Shown as 'clear' on the Flood Map for Planning – all land outside Zones 2, 3a and 3b)
Zone 2 Medium Probability	Land having between a 1% and 0.1% annual probability of river flooding; or land having between a 0.5% and 0.1% annual probability of sea flooding. (Land shown in light blue on the Flood Map)
Zone 3a High Probability	Land having a 1% or greater annual probability of river flooding; or Land having a 0.5% or greater annual probability of sea flooding. (Land shown in dark blue on the Flood Map)
Zone 3b The Functional Floodplain	This zone comprises land where water from rivers or the sea has to flow or be stored in times of flood. The identification of functional floodplain should take account of local circumstances and not be defined solely on rigid probability parameters. Functional floodplain will normally comprise: - land having a 3.3% or greater annual probability of flooding, with any existing flood risk management infrastructure operating effectively; or - land that is designed to flood (such as a flood attenuation scheme), even if it would only flood in more extreme events (such as 0.1% annual probability of flooding). Local planning authorities should identify in their Strategic Flood Risk Assessments areas of functional floodplain and its boundaries accordingly, in agreement with the Environment Agency. (Not separately distinguished from Zone 3a on the Flood Map)

Table 1: Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) (Source: EA)

- 5.2. The Flood Zones shown on the Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) do not take account of the possible impacts of climate change and consequent changes in the future probability of flooding.

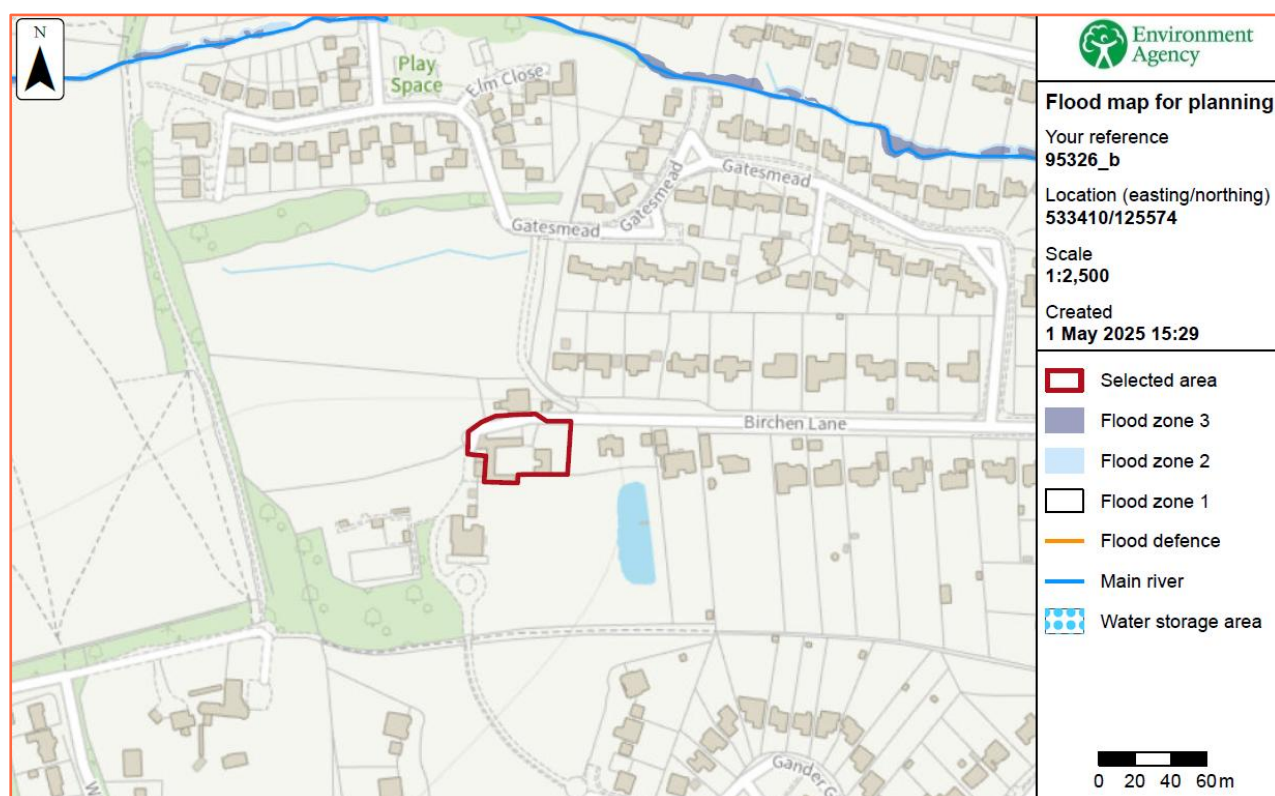


Figure 12: Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) (Source: EA)

- 5.3. The site is located within Flood Zone 1 (Low Probability), which means it is defined as land having a less than 1:1000 annual probability of river or sea flooding.

Fluvial:

- 5.4. The site is situated entirely in Flood Zone 1 (Low Probability), defined as land having a less than 1:1000 year probability of river or sea flooding.
- 5.5. The nearest drainage feature is a ditch located approximately 90m north of the site. The nearest EA Main River is the West Common Stream Extension located approximately 218m north.

Detailed Flood Modelling:

- 5.6. Product 4 modelled flood levels and extents have been requested from the Environment Agency for use within this report.

Flood Storage Areas:

- 5.7. Flood Storage Areas are areas that act as a balancing reservoir, storage basin or balancing pond. Their purpose is to attenuate an incoming flood peak to a flow level that can be accepted by the downstream channel. It may also delay the timing of a flood peak so that its volume is discharged over a longer time interval. Flood storage areas do not completely remove the chance of flooding and can be overtopped or fail in extreme weather conditions.
- 5.8. According to EA data, there are no Flood Storage Areas located in close proximity to the site.

Flood Defences:

- 5.9. Flood defences are typically raised structures that alter natural flow patterns and prevent floodwater from entering property in times of flooding. They are generally categorised as either 'formal' or 'informal' defences. A 'formal' flood defence is a structure that was built specifically for the purpose of flood defence, and is maintained by its respective owner, which could be the EA, Local Authority, or an individual. An 'informal' flood defence is a structure that has not been specifically built to retain floodwater, and is not maintained for this specific purpose, but may afford some protection against flooding.
- 5.10. Asset inspections are undertaken on average every six months, although some critical assets are assessed on a more regular basis. It is possible that adjacent assets are inspected on different dates, which may result in two assets of a similar state of repair having different condition ratings. It is unclear when both assets were last inspected.
- 5.11. Condition ratings of assets may also be affected by the time of year the surveys are conducted, as vegetation may obscure the asset in the summer months, or accessibility may be an issue during winter months. These factors would not usually affect the recorded condition rating of an asset unless the asset is on a borderline between two ratings.
- 5.12. According to the EA, there are no formal raised flood defences owned or operated by the EA protecting the site. The West Common Stream Extension approximately 218m north of the site is, however, flanked by natural high ground with a 1:25 year design standard of protection.

Residual Risk (breach or overtopping of flood defences):

- 5.13. Breaching of flood defences can cause rapid inundation of areas behind flood defences as flow in the river channel discharges through the breach. A breach can occur with little or no warning, although they are much more likely to concur with extreme river levels or tides when the stresses on flood defences are highest. Flood water flowing through a breach will normally discharge at a high velocity, rapidly filling up the areas behind the defences, resulting

in significant damage to buildings and a high risk of loss of life. Breaches are most likely to occur in soft defences such as earth embankments although poorly maintained hard defences can also be a potential source of breach.

- 5.14. Overtopping of flood defences occurs when water levels exceed the protection level of raised flood defences. The worst case occurs when the fluvial or tidal levels exceed the defence level as this can lead to prolonged flooding. Less severe overtopping can occur when flood levels are below defence levels, but wave action causes cyclic overtopping, with intermittent discharge over the crest level of the defence. Flood defences are commonly designed with a freeboard to provide protection against overtopping from waves. The risk from overtopping due to exceedance of the flood defence level is much more significant than the risk posed by wave overtopping. Exceedance of the flood defence level can lead to prolonged and rapid flooding with properties immediately behind the defences at highest risk.
- 5.15. The site is not shown to benefit from formal flood defences.

Tidal Flooding:

- 5.16. Due to the site topography and distance to the nearest coast/tidal watercourse, the risk of tidal flooding is considered to be very low.

Pluvial (Surface Water):

- 5.17. Pluvial (surface water) flooding occurs when rainwater does not drain away through the normal drainage systems or soak into the ground, but lies on or flows over the ground instead.
- 5.18. The mapping below shows the Risk of Flooding from Surface Water (RoFSW). Please note that the EA do not consider this information suitable to be used to identify the risk to individual properties or sites. It is useful to raise awareness in areas which may be at risk and may require additional investigation. This information tells you the flood risk of the land around a building, not the building itself.
- 5.19. The RoFSW products are an assessment of where surface water flooding may occur.
- 5.20. The mapping shows the following likelihood categories, for the present day risk of flooding from surface water, and the climate change scenarios have been produced to indicate the predicted impacts of climate change on future flood risk.
- High - greater than or equal to 1 in 30 (3.3%) chance of flooding in any year.
 - Medium – Less than 1 in 30 (3.3%) but greater than or equal to 1 in 100 (1%) chance of flooding in any given year.
 - Low – Less than 1 in 100 (1%) but greater than or equal to 1 in 1000 (0.1%) chance of flooding in any given year.
- 5.21. The climate change allowances are based on the latest UK Climate Projections (UKCP18) from the Met Office, using the Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5. A near-term epoch (2040 – 2060 “2050s” epoch) and central allowances are being used initially, to support short and medium-term decisions informed by the highest flood likelihood projections.
- 5.22. The EA Risk of Flooding from Surface Water Map suggests that the site is located within an area at “Very Low” to “Medium” chance of flooding from surface water.
- 5.23. The EA Risk of Flooding from Surface Water mapping shows the site to be at “Very Low” to “High” chance of flooding between 2040 and 2060.

- 5.24. It should be noted that the buildings are entirely outside of the surface water flood extent both at the present day and between 2040 and 2060.

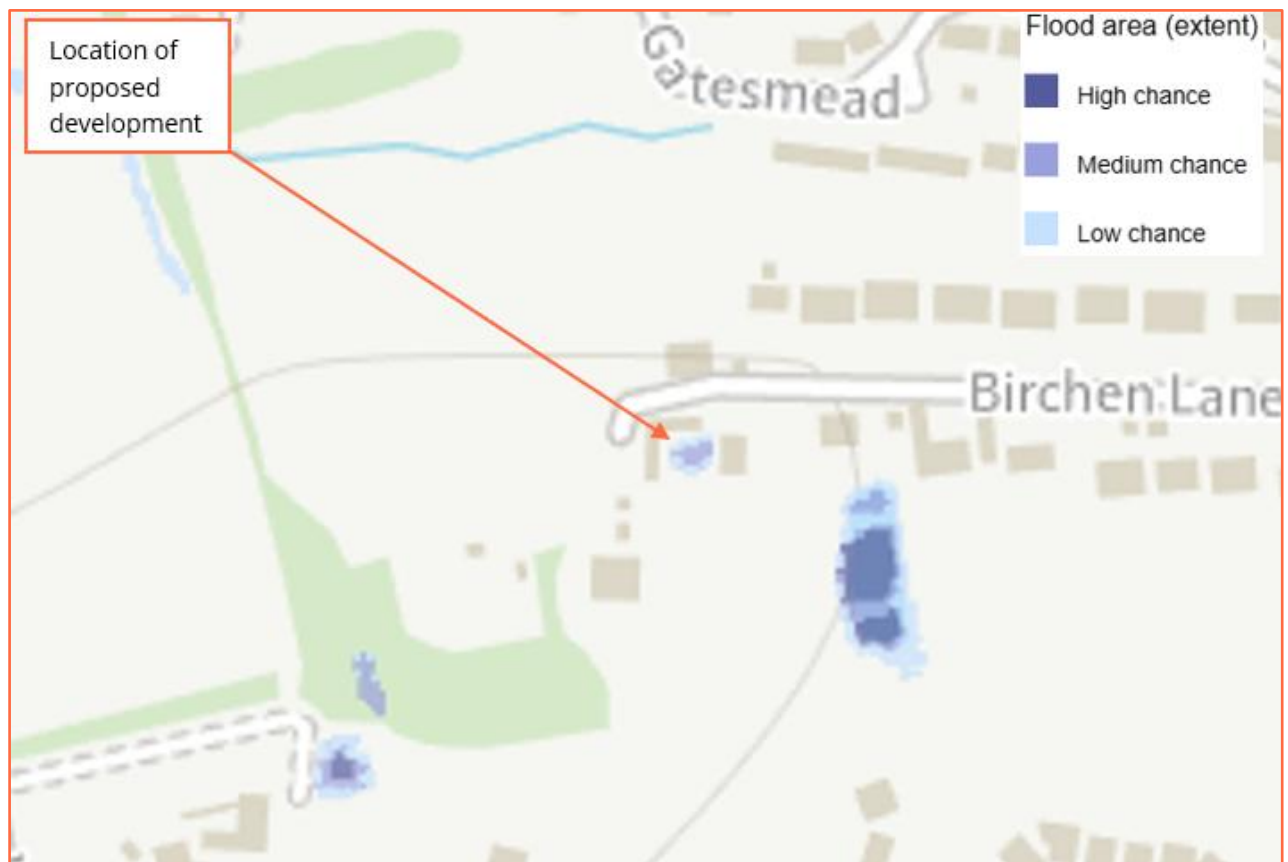


Figure 13: Extract from EA Risk of Flooding from Surface Water mapping – present day (Source: EA)

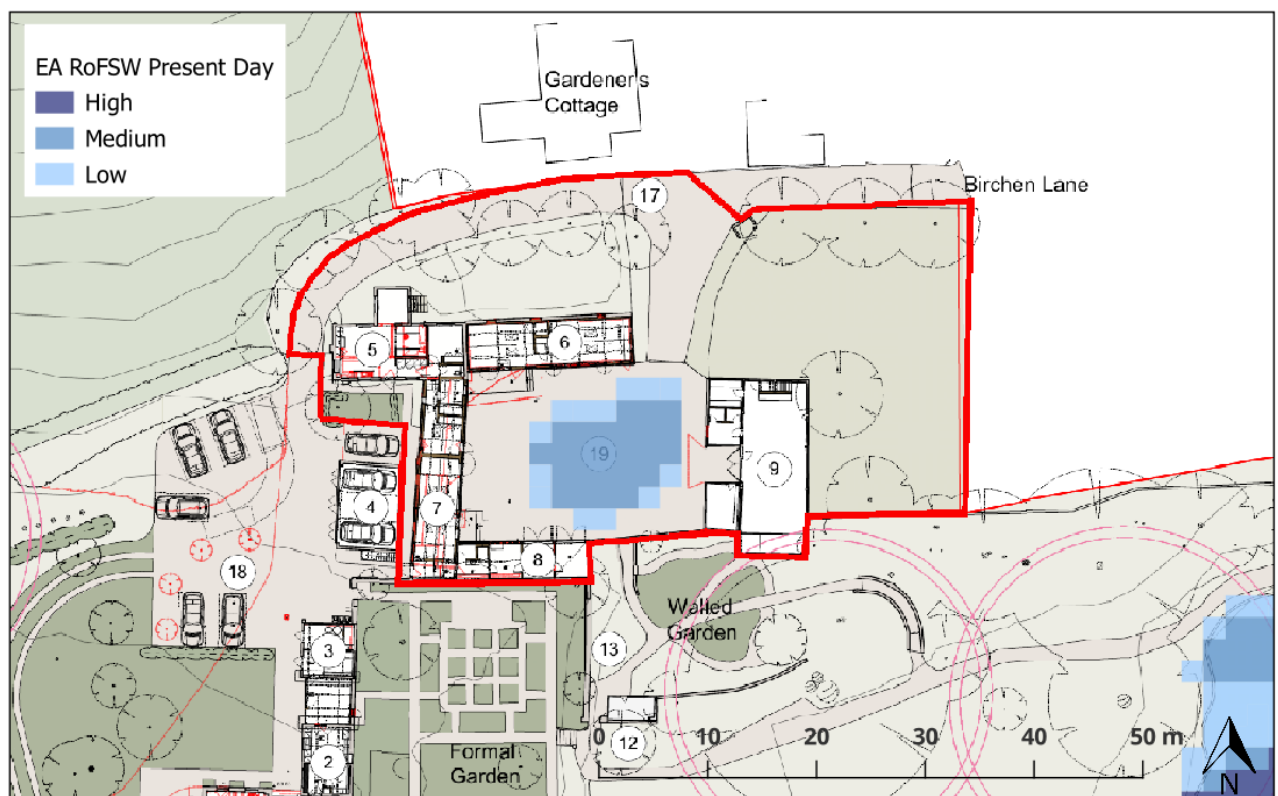


Figure 14: EA present day Risk of Flooding from Surface Water overlaid onto proposed site plan (Source: EA, Richard Parr Associates)



Figure 15: Extract from Environment Agency RoFSW map – between 2040 and 2060 (Source: EA)

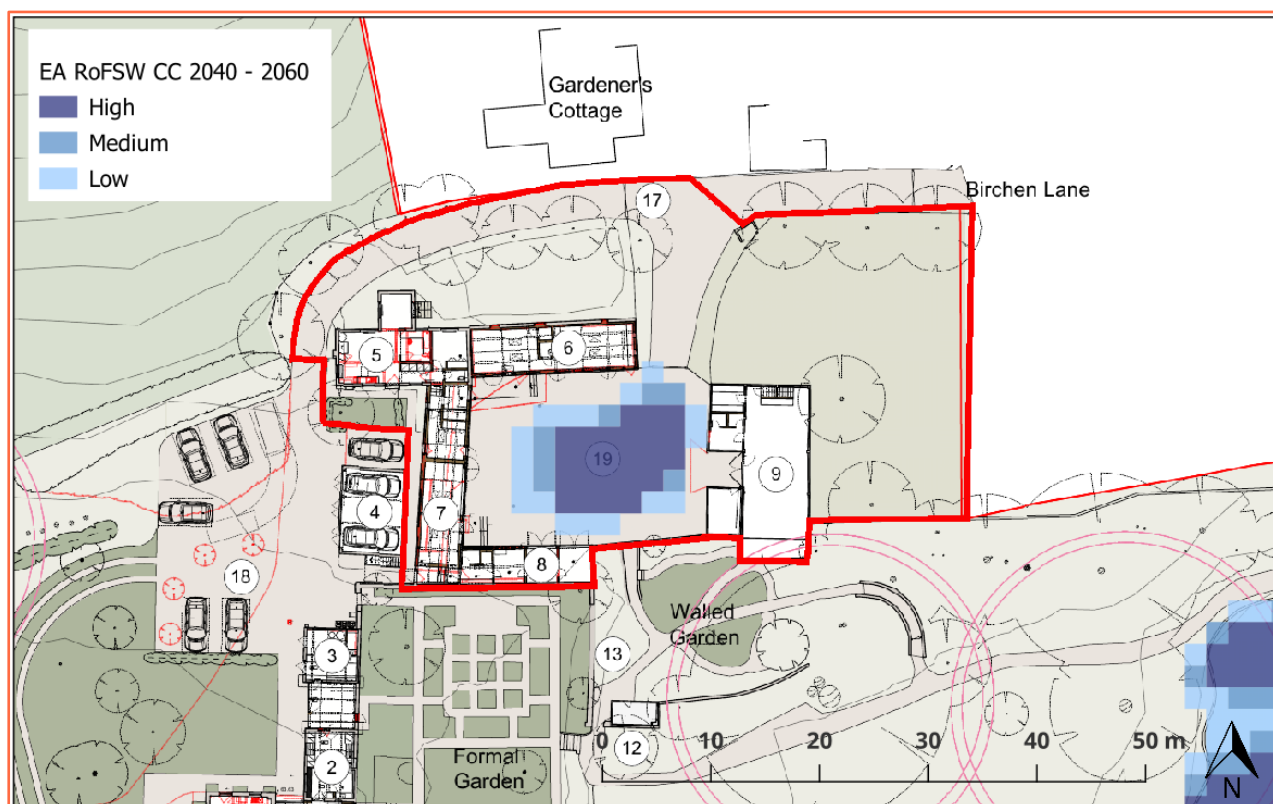


Figure 16: EA 2040 - 2060 Risk of Flooding from Surface Water overlaid onto proposed site plan (Source: EA, Richard Parr Associates)

- 5.25. The 2024 Mid Sussex District Council SFRA categorises areas of "Low" surface water flood risk as being the equivalent of Flood Zone 2, whilst areas of "Medium" and "High" risk are equivalent to Flood Zones 3a and 3b, respectively.

- 5.26. EA mapping shows the site to be partially within an area with a “Low” and “Medium” risk of surface water flooding at the present day, categorised as equivalent to Flood Zones 2 and 3a, respectively.
- 5.27. The 2024 Mid Sussex District Council SFRA also provides guidance on accommodating future climate change within assessments of surface water flood risk. Areas at “Low” risk at the present day are classed as Future Flood Zone 3, whilst areas of “Medium” and “High” risk are classed as Future Flood Zone 3b (functional floodplain).
- 5.28. However, the 2024 Mid Sussex District Council SFRA states that an area to be classified as Flood Zone 3b (functional floodplain) the flood extent should be associated with a watercourse or overland flow route. As demonstrated by the topographic survey which shows the low point of the site as the central courtyard area, the area at high risk is associated with an isolated low spot of flooding and there is no active flow path across the site. Therefore, the flood extent is not classified as Flood Zone 3b (functional floodplain).
- 5.29. Therefore, the site is partially located within Future Flood Zone 3 but outside of Flood Zone 3b. The buildings remain entirely outside of Future Flood Zone 3.

Groundwater:

- 5.30. Groundwater flooding occurs as a result of water rising up from the underlying rocks or from water flowing from abnormal springs. This tends to occur after much longer periods of sustained high rainfall. Higher rainfall means more water will infiltrate into the ground and cause the water table to rise above normal levels. Groundwater tends to flow from areas where the ground level is high, to areas where the ground level is low. In low-lying areas the water table is usually at shallower depths anyway, but during very wet periods, with all the additional groundwater flowing towards these areas, the water table can rise up to the surface causing groundwater flooding.
- 5.31. Groundwater flooding is most likely to occur in low-lying areas underlain by permeable rocks (aquifers). These may be extensive, regional aquifers, such as chalk or sandstone, or may be localised sands or river gravels in valley bottoms underlain by less permeable rocks. Groundwater flooding takes longer to dissipate because groundwater moves much more slowly than surface water and will take time to flow away underground.
- 5.32. The EA advise that flooding from groundwater is unlikely in this area.
- 5.33. No information has been provided to suggest that the site has flooded historically due to groundwater.

Sewer:

- 5.34. Sewer flooding occurs when the sewer network cannot cope with the volume of water that is entering it. It is often experienced during times of heavy rainfall when large amounts of surface water overwhelm the sewer network causing flooding. Temporary problems such as blockages, siltation, collapses and equipment or operational failures can also result in sewer flooding.
- 5.35. All Water Companies have a statutory obligation to maintain a register of properties/areas which have reported records of flooding from the public sewerage system, and this is shown on the DG5 Flood Register. This includes records of flooding from foul sewers, combined sewers and surface water sewers which are deemed to be public and therefore maintained by the Water Company. The DG5 register records of flood incidents resulting in both internal property flooding and external flooding incidents. Once a property is identified on the DG5 register, water companies can typically put funding in place to address the issues and hence enable the property to be removed from the register. It should be noted that flooding from land drainage, highway drainage, rivers/watercourses and private sewers is not recorded within the register.
- 5.36. According to the 2024 Mid Sussex District Council SFRA the site's postcode area (RH16 1) has had 5 internal and 27 external incidents of sewer flooding recorded by Southern Water.

5.37. No further information has been presented to suggest that the site itself is susceptible to sewer flooding.

Other Sources:

- 5.38. Reservoirs with an impounded volume in excess of 25,000 cubic metres (measured above natural ground level) are governed by the Reservoirs Act and are listed on a register held by the Environment Agency. The site is located outside of the maximum inundation extent on the EA Reservoir Inundation Map. The EA also advise on their website that reservoir flooding is extremely unlikely. There has been no loss of life in the UK from reservoir flooding since 1925. All major reservoirs have to be inspected by specialist dam and reservoir Engineers. In accordance with the Reservoirs Act 1975 in England, these inspections are monitored and enforced by the EA themselves. The risk to the site from reservoir flooding is therefore minimal and is far lower than that relating to the potential for fluvial / tidal flooding to occur. The Environment Agency Reservoir Flood Map illustrated below, illustrates the largest area that might be flooded if the storage area were to fail and release the water it is designed to hold during a flood event.
- 5.39. Records of flooding from reservoirs and canals are erratic as there is no requirement for the Environment Agency to provide information on historic flooding from canals and raised reservoirs on plans. In particular, the NPPF does not require flood risk from canals and raised reservoirs to be shown on the Environment Agency flood zones.
- 5.40. Overflows from canals can be common as they are often fed by land drainage, and often do not have controlled overflow spillways. Occasionally, major bank breaches also occur, leading to rapid and deep flooding of adjacent land.
- 5.41. No information has been provided to suggest that the site is susceptible to flooding from other sources.

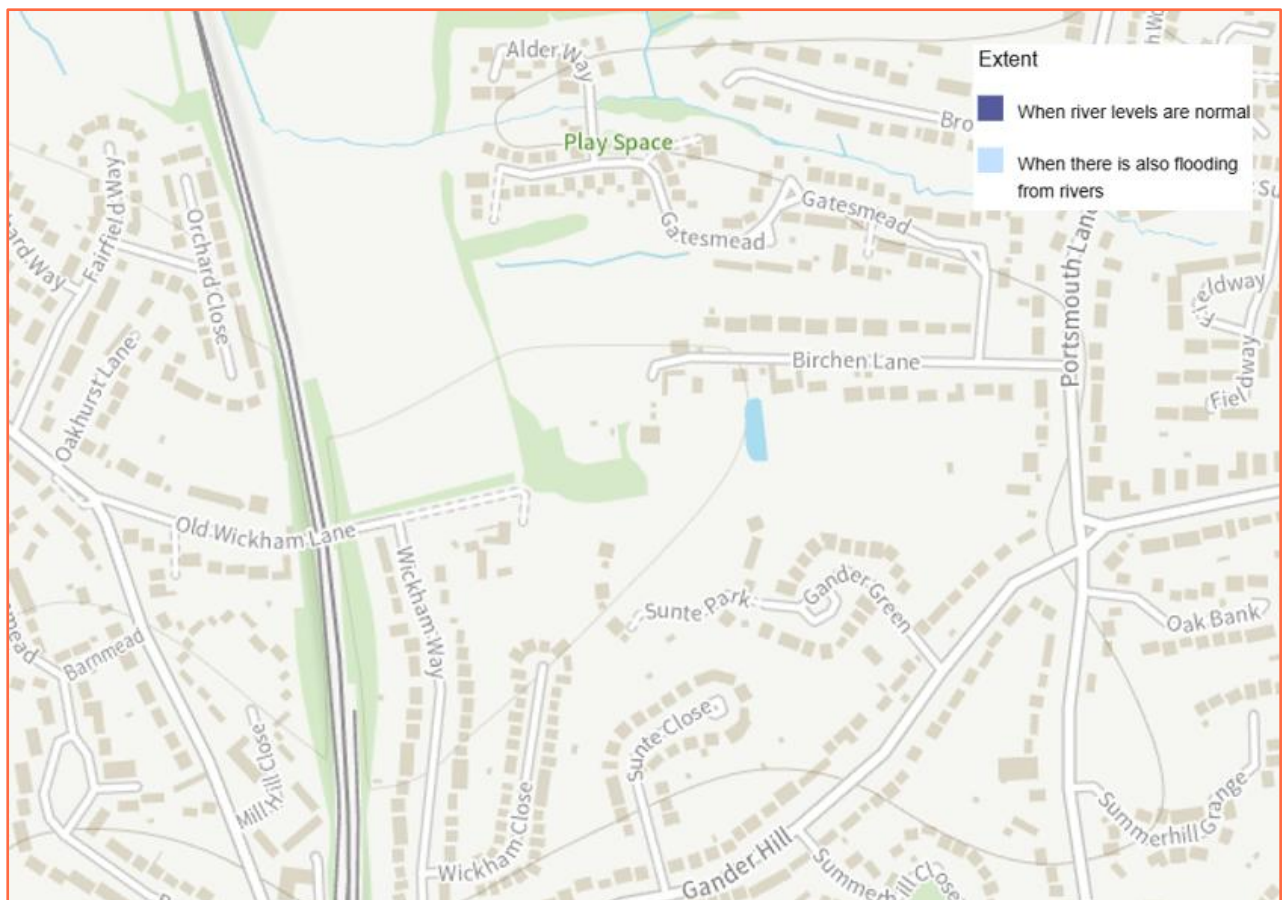


Figure 14: Extract from Environment Agency Reservoir Flood Map (Source: EA)

Historical Flood Events:

- 5.42. The EA hold records of historic flood events from rivers and the sea. The EA map flooding to land, not individual properties. Their historic flood event record outlines are an indication of the geographical extent of an observed flood event. Their historic flood event outlines do not give any indication of flood levels for individual properties. They also do not imply that any property within the outline has flooded internally.
- 5.43. The EA hold no records of historic flooding having affected the site or surrounding area.
- 5.44. The EA historical flood records are not comprehensive, and they advise that further enquiries locally are made with specific reference to flooding at the location.

6. Flood Risk Management

Vulnerability to Flooding:

- 6.1. The NPPF classifies property usage by vulnerability to flooding.
- 6.2. The existing site is of mixed use, with the cottage classified as “more vulnerable” (residential) and the remaining buildings as “less vulnerable” (agricultural buildings).
- 6.3. The proposed development is for the renovation of cottage, stables, cowshed and byre (farmyard) and renovation and extension of barn. Post development, the site will become “more vulnerable” (residential) throughout.
- 6.4. No lowering of floor levels or basement accommodation is proposed.
- 6.5. The Applicant has confirmed that the additional residential accommodation will remain part of the main property (an extension of existing site usage), and will not be sold as a separate dwelling for the lifetime of the development.
- 6.6. Accordingly, it is considered that the vulnerability of part of the site will increase post development, and there will be an intensification of existing site usage.

EA Standing Advice for Minor Extensions:

- 6.7. EA Standing Advice guidance is for domestic extensions and non-domestic extensions where the additional footprint created by the development does not exceed 250m². It should not be applied if an additional dwelling is being created, e.g. a self-contained annexe or additional commercial unit.
- 6.8. The proposed application is for the renovation of cottage, stables, cowshed and byre (farmyard) and renovation and extension of barn. The Applicant has confirmed that the additional residential accommodation will remain part of the main property (an extension of existing site usage), and will not be sold as a separate dwelling for the lifetime of the development.
- 6.9. The proposed development is therefore considered to fit within EA Standing Advice for domestic extensions.
- 6.10. The EA Standing Advice guidance also recommends floor levels are set at least 600 millimetres (mm) above the estimated flood level with flood resistant materials up to at least 600mm above the estimated flood level. This can be reduced to 300mm if there is a high level of certainty about the estimated flood level and conversely increased if there is a particularly high level of uncertainty.
- 6.11. Given the application is for the change of use and extension of existing buildings, floor levels will be set no lower than existing and therefore extra flood resistance and resilience measures will be incorporated into the proposed development 600mm above ground floor level.

Physical Design Measures:

- 6.12. The site lies entirely outside of Flood Zone 3 according to the EA Flood Map for planning (Rivers and the Sea).
- 6.13. The EA Risk of Flooding from Surface Water Map suggests that the site is located within an area at “Very Low” to “Medium” chance of flooding from surface water at the present day and “Very Low” to “High” chance of flooding from surface water between 2040 and 2060. It should be noted that the buildings are entirely outside of the surface water flood extent both at the present day and between 2040 and 2060.
- 6.14. The EA Standing Advice states that the design should be appropriately flood resistant and resilient by:

- Using flood resistant materials that have low permeability to at least 600mm above the estimated flood level;
- Making sure any doors, windows or other openings are flood resistant to at least 600mm above the estimated flood level;
- Using flood resilient materials (for example lime plaster) to at least 600mm above the estimated flood level;
- By raising all sensitive electrical equipment, wiring and sockets to at least 600mm above the estimated flood level;
- Making it easy for water to drain away after flooding such as installing a sump and a pump;
- Making sure there is access to all spaces to enable drying and cleaning;
- Ensuring that soil pipes are protected from back-flow such as by using non-return valves.

6.15. To help protect against flooding during extreme events, the applicant has agreed to implement flood resistant design measures into the development where practical and feasible, in consultation with the Local Authority building control department. These measures can include the following:

- Solid concrete ground floor slab, with waterproof membrane;
- Closed-cell foam used in wall cavities;
- Waterproof ground floor internal render;
- Waterproof screed used on ground floors;
- Damp proof membranes;
- External walls rendered resistant to flooding to at least 600mm above ground floor level;
- Exterior ventilation outlets, utility points and air bricks fitted with removable waterproof covers;
- Raised wiring and power outlets at least 600mm above ground floor level;
- Ground floor electrical main ring run from first floor level; and on separately switched circuit from first floor;
- Electrical incomer and meter situated at least 600mm above ground floor level;
- Boilers, control and water storage / immersion installed at least 600mm above ground floor level;
- Gas meter installed at least 600mm above ground floor level;
- Plumbing insulation of closed-cell design;
- Non-return valves fitted to all drain and sewer outlets;
- Manhole covers secured;
- Kitchen units of solid, water resistant material at ground floor level;
- Use of MDF carpentry (i.e. skirting, architrave, built-in storage) avoided at ground floor level;
- Stairs of solid hardwood construction with wood faces treated to resist water penetration at ground floor level.

6.16. It is recommended that flood proof doors and windows are installed for all ground floor external doors and windows.

Safe Escape:

6.17. The NPPF requires a route of safe escape for all residents and users to be provided from new residential properties in Flood Zone 3. Safe escape is usually defined as being through slow moving flood water no deeper than 25cm during the 1:100 year plus allowance for climate change flood event.

6.18. It should be noted that the site is entirely within Flood Zone 1.

6.19. Residents will follow the Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan detailed in the following section.

Flood Warning:

- 6.20. As the UK's official weather service, the Met Office is responsible for issuing weather warnings, which warn of impacts caused by severe weather. The Met Office provide warnings up to seven days ahead for rain, thunderstorms, wind, snow, lightning, ice and fog.
- 6.21. Met Office weather warnings are available in a number of ways, which make it easy to get the very latest information wherever you are. These include the Met Office app and website, social media, email alerts, TV, radio and RSS.
- 6.22. It is recommended that the site owner sign up to the National Severe Weather Warning Service. More information can be found here: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/guides/warnings>.
- 6.23. The Met Office issues weather warnings, through the National Severe Weather Warning Service, when severe weather has the potential to bring impacts to the UK. These warnings are given a colour (yellow, amber or red) depending on a combination of both the impact the weather may have and the likelihood of those impacts occurring.

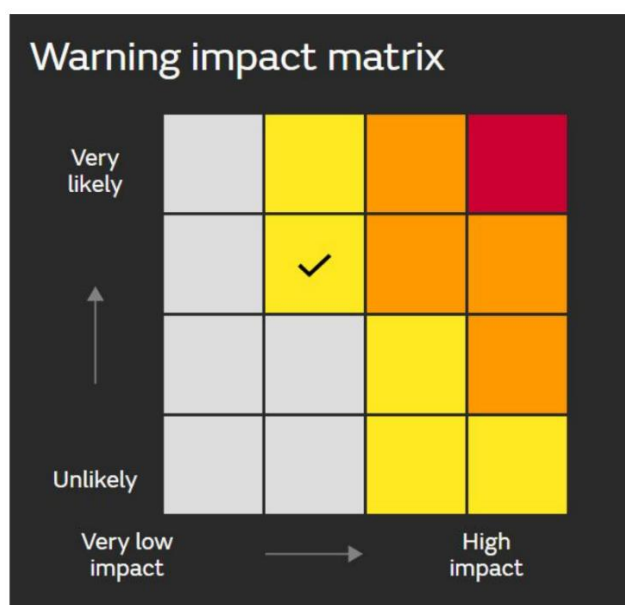


Figure 17: Met Office Weather Warning Impact Matrix (Source: Met Office)

- 6.24. **Yellow Warning:** Yellow warnings can be issued for a range of weather situations. Many are issued when it is likely that the weather will cause some low level impacts, including some disruption to travel in a few places. Many people may be able to continue with their daily routine, but there will be some that will be directly impacted and so it is important to assess if you could be affected. Other yellow warnings are issued when the weather could bring much more severe impacts to the majority of people but the certainty of those impacts occurring is much lower. It is important to read the content of yellow warnings to determine which weather situation is being covered by the yellow warning.
- 6.25. **Amber Warning:** There is an increased likelihood of impacts from severe weather, which could potentially disrupt your plans. This means there is the possibility of travel delays, road and rail closures, power cuts and the potential risk to life and property. You should think about changing your plans and taking action to protect yourself and your property. You may want to consider the impact of the weather on your family and your community and whether there is anything you need to do ahead of the severe weather to minimise the impact.
- 6.26. **Red Warning:** Dangerous weather is expected and, if you haven't already done so, you should take action now to keep yourself and others safe from the impact of the severe weather. It is very likely that there will be a risk to life, with substantial disruption to travel, energy supplies and possibly widespread damage to property and

infrastructure. You should avoid travelling, where possible, and follow the advice of the emergency services and local authorities.

Flood Plan:

- 6.27. It is recommended that the applicant and future owners, occupiers and Landlords of the properties prepare a flood plan to protect life and property during a flood event:

Action	
Before a flood	- Find out if you are at risk of flooding. - Find out if you can receive flood warnings. - Prepare and keep a list of all your important contacts to hand or save them on your mobile phone. - Think about what items you can move now and what you would want to move to safety during a flood such as pets, cars, furniture, and electrical equipment. - Know how to turn off gas, electricity and water supplies. - Prepare a flood kit of essential items and keep it handy. It can include copies of important documents, a torch, a battery-powered or wind-up radio, blankets and warm clothing, waterproofs, rubber gloves and a first aid kit including all essential medication. - Consider buying flood protection products such as flood boards and airbrick covers to help reduce flood water getting into your property.
During a flood	- Tune into your local radio station on a battery or wind-up radio. - Fill jugs and saucepans with water. - Grab your flood kit - if you have prepared one. - Collect blankets, torch, first aid kit, medication and food. - Move important documents, personal items, valuables, and lightweight belongings upstairs or to high shelves. - Raise large items of furniture, or put them in large bags if you have them. - Move people, outdoor belongings, cars and pets to higher ground. - Switch off water, gas and electricity at mains when water is about to enter your home. Do not touch sources of electricity when standing in water. - Fit flood protection products, if you have them, for example flood boards, airbrick covers, sandbags. - Put plugs in sinks and baths. Weigh them down with a pillowcase or plastic bag filled with soil. - If you do not have non-return valves fitted, plug water inlet pipes with towels or cloths. - Move your family and pets upstairs or to a high place with a means of escape. - Listen to the advice of the emergency service and evacuate if told to do so. - Avoid walking or driving through flood water. Six inches of fast-flowing water can knock over an adult and two feet of water can move a car.
After a flood	- If you have flooded, contact your insurance company as soon as possible. - Take photographs and videos of your damaged property as a record for your insurance company. - If you don't have insurance, contact your local authority for information on grants and charities that may help you. - Flood water can contain sewage, chemicals and animal waste. Always wear waterproof outerwear, including gloves, wellington boots and a face mask. - Have your electrics, central heating and water checked by qualified engineers before switching them back on.

Table 2: Flood plan

Off-Site Impacts:

Fluvial Floodplain Storage:

- 6.28. The NPPF requires that where development is proposed in undefended areas of floodplain, which lie outside of the functional floodplain, the implications of ground raising operations for flood risk elsewhere needs to be considered. Raising existing ground levels may reduce the capacity of the floodplain to accommodate floodwater and increase

the risk of flooding by either increasing the depth of flooding to existing properties at risk or by extending the floodplain to cover properties normally outside of the floodplain. Flood storage capacity can be maintained by lowering ground levels either within the curtilage of the development or elsewhere in the floodplain, in order to maintain at least the same volume of flood storage capacity within the floodplain.

- 6.29. In undefended tidal areas, raising ground levels is unlikely to impact on maximum tidal levels so the provision of compensatory storage should not be necessary.
- 6.30. For development in a defended flood risk area, the impact on residual flood risk to other properties needs to be considered. New development behind flood defences can increase the residual risk of flooding if the flood defences are breached or overtopped by changing the conveyance of the flow paths or by displacing flood water elsewhere. If the potential impact on residual risk is unacceptable then mitigation should be provided.
- 6.31. The site is located within Flood Zone 1 entirely outside of the functional floodplain. Therefore, no fluvial floodwater would be displaced by the proposed development. In addition, no increases to built footprint are proposed within the surface water flood extent.

Surface Water Drainage:

- 6.32. The development will utilise Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) design in accordance with the NPPF for Planning Applications and the drainage hierarchy as follows:
1. Store rainwater for later use;
 2. Infiltration techniques;
 3. Attenuate rainwater by storing in tanks for gradual release;
 4. Discharge rainwater direct into watercourse;
 5. Discharge rainwater into surface water sewer;
 6. Discharge rainwater into a combined sewer.
- 6.33. Due to the small scale of the development, a full Surface Water Drainage Strategy is not required at this stage of planning. However, SuDS features will be incorporated into the development where practically possible or will utilise the existing arrangement on site. As such, any change in surface water runoff from the site will likely be negligible.

7. Sequential and Exception Test

- 7.1. The Sequential Test aims to ensure that development does not take place in areas at high risk of flooding when appropriate areas of lower risk are reasonably available.
- 7.2. The Sequential Test is applied to developments in areas identified as being at risk of any source of flooding now or in the future. The Sequential Test ensures that a sequential, risk-based approach is followed to steer new development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding, taking all sources of flood risk and climate change into account.
- 7.3. The sequential approach is designed to ensure that areas at little or no risk of flooding from any source are developed in preference to areas at higher risk. This means avoiding, so far as possible, development in current and future medium and high flood risk areas considering all sources of flooding including areas at risk of surface water flooding. Other forms of flooding need to be treated consistently with river and tidal flooding in mapping probability and assessing vulnerability, so that the sequential approach can be applied across all areas of flood risk.
- 7.4. The site is situated within Flood Zone 1 when using the Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) and within an area of “Very Low” to “Medium” chance of flooding from surface water at the present day and “Very Low” to “High” chance of flooding from surface water between 2040 and 2060. Post development, the site will be classified as “more vulnerable”, as the application is for the renovation of cottage, stables, cowshed and byre (farmyard) and renovation and extension of barn.

Flood Zones	Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification				
	Essential Infrastructure	Highly Vulnerable	More Vulnerable	Less Vulnerable	Water Compatible
Zone 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Zone 2	✓	Exception Test required	✓	✓	✓
Zone 3a	Exception Test required	X	Exception Test required	✓	✓
Zone 3b	Exception Test required	X	X	X	✓

Table 3: Flood risk vulnerability and flood zone ‘compatibility’ (Source: NPPF Table 3 Technical Guidance)

- 7.5. Using the table above, the proposed application (“more vulnerable”) is considered to be suitable within Flood Zone 1. The sequential test does not need to be applied for minor developments and changes of use – this application is for the renovation of cottage, stables, cowshed and byre (farmyard) and renovation and extension of barn (minor development – change of use).

8. Discussion and Conclusion

- 8.1. Unda Consulting Limited have been appointed by Peter Reid to undertake a Flood Risk Assessment for the proposed development at Sunte House, Birchen Lane, Haywards Heath, RH16 1RZ. The purpose of the study is to support a planning application for the proposed development.
- 8.2. The site is currently occupied by a cottage, stables, cowshed, byre and barn.
- 8.3. A topographic survey of the site undertaken in February 2024 by Midland Survey Ltd shows ground topography on site ranges between 61.21mAOD to 62.70mAOD. The low point of the site is shown to be the central farmyard area at 61.21mAOD. Refer to Appendix.
- 8.4. The existing site is of mixed use, with the cottage classified as “more vulnerable” (residential) and the remaining buildings as “less vulnerable” (agricultural buildings).
- 8.5. The proposed application is for renovation of cottage, stables, cowshed and byre (farmyard) and renovation and extension of barn. Post development, the site will become “more vulnerable” (residential) throughout.
- 8.6. No lowering of floor levels or basement accommodation is proposed.
- 8.7. The Applicant has confirmed that the additional residential accommodation will remain part of the main property (an extension of existing site usage), and will not be sold as a separate dwelling for the lifetime of the development.
- 8.8. Accordingly, it is considered that the vulnerability of part of the site will increase post development, and there will be an intensification of existing site usage.
- 8.9. The site is located within Flood Zone 1 (Low Probability), which means it is defined as land having a less than 1:1000 annual probability of river or sea flooding. The nearest drainage feature is a ditch located approximately 90m north of the site. The nearest EA Main River is the West Common Stream Extension located approximately 218m north.
- 8.10. According to EA data, there are no Flood Storage Areas located in close proximity to the site.
- 8.11. According to the EA, there are no formal raised flood defences owned or operated by the EA protecting the site. The West Common Stream Extension approximately 218m north of the site is, however, flanked by natural high ground with a 1:25 year design standard of protection.
- 8.12. The EA Risk of Flooding from Surface Water Map suggests that the site is located within an area at “Very Low” to “Medium” chance of flooding from surface water.
- 8.13. The EA Risk of Flooding from Surface Water mapping shows the site to be at “Very Low” to “High” chance of flooding between 2040 and 2060.
- 8.14. It should be noted that the buildings are entirely outside of the surface water flood extent both at the present day and between 2040 and 2060.
- 8.15. The 2024 Mid Sussex District Council SFRA categorises areas of “Low” surface water flood risk as being the equivalent of Flood Zone 2, whilst areas of “Medium” and “High” risk are equivalent to Flood Zones 3a and 3b, respectively.
- 8.16. EA mapping shows the site to be partially within an area with a “Low” and “Medium” risk of surface water flooding, categorised as equivalent to Flood Zones 2 and 3a, respectively.

- 8.17. The 2024 Mid Sussex District Council SFRA also provides guidance on accommodating future climate change within assessments of surface water flood risk. Areas at “Low” risk at the present day are classed as Future Flood Zone 3, whilst areas of “Medium” and “High” risk are classed as Future Flood Zone 3b (functional floodplain).
- 8.18. However, the 2024 Mid Sussex District Council SFRA states that an area to be classified as Flood Zone 3b (functional floodplain) the flood extent should be associated with a watercourse or overland flow route. As demonstrated by the topographic survey which shows the low point of the site as the central courtyard area, the area at high risk is associated with an isolated low spot of flooding and there is no active flow path across the site. Therefore, the flood extent is not classified as Flood Zone 3b (functional floodplain).
- 8.19. Therefore, the site is partially located within Future Flood Zone 3 but outside of Flood Zone 3b. The buildings remain entirely outside of Future Flood Zone 3.
- 8.20. Risk to the site from groundwater, sewer surcharge and reservoir flooding would appear to be very low. No records have been provided to suggest that the site itself has experienced flooding from these sources.
- 8.21. The EA hold no records of historic flooding having affected the site or surrounding area.

In Summary:

- The proposed application is for the renovation of cottage, stables, cowshed and byre (farmyard) and renovation and extension of barn.
- No lowering of floor levels or basement accommodation is proposed.
- The applicant has agreed to implement flood resistant design measures into the development where practical and feasible, in consultation with the Local Authority building control department.
- Post development, the site will be classified as “more vulnerable” (residential) throughout.
- There will be no loss of fluvial floodplain storage.
- SuDS features will be incorporated into the development where practically possible or will utilise the existing arrangement on site.
- The applicant will register with the National Severe Weather Warning Service.

Assuming accordance with these flood risk management measures, Unda Consulting Limited consider the proposed application to be suitable in flood risk terms.

Unda Consulting Limited
June 2025

Appendix

A – Development Plans:

- Site location, existing and proposed plans – Richard Parr Associates.

B – Topographic Survey:

- Topographic Survey – Midland Survey Ltd.

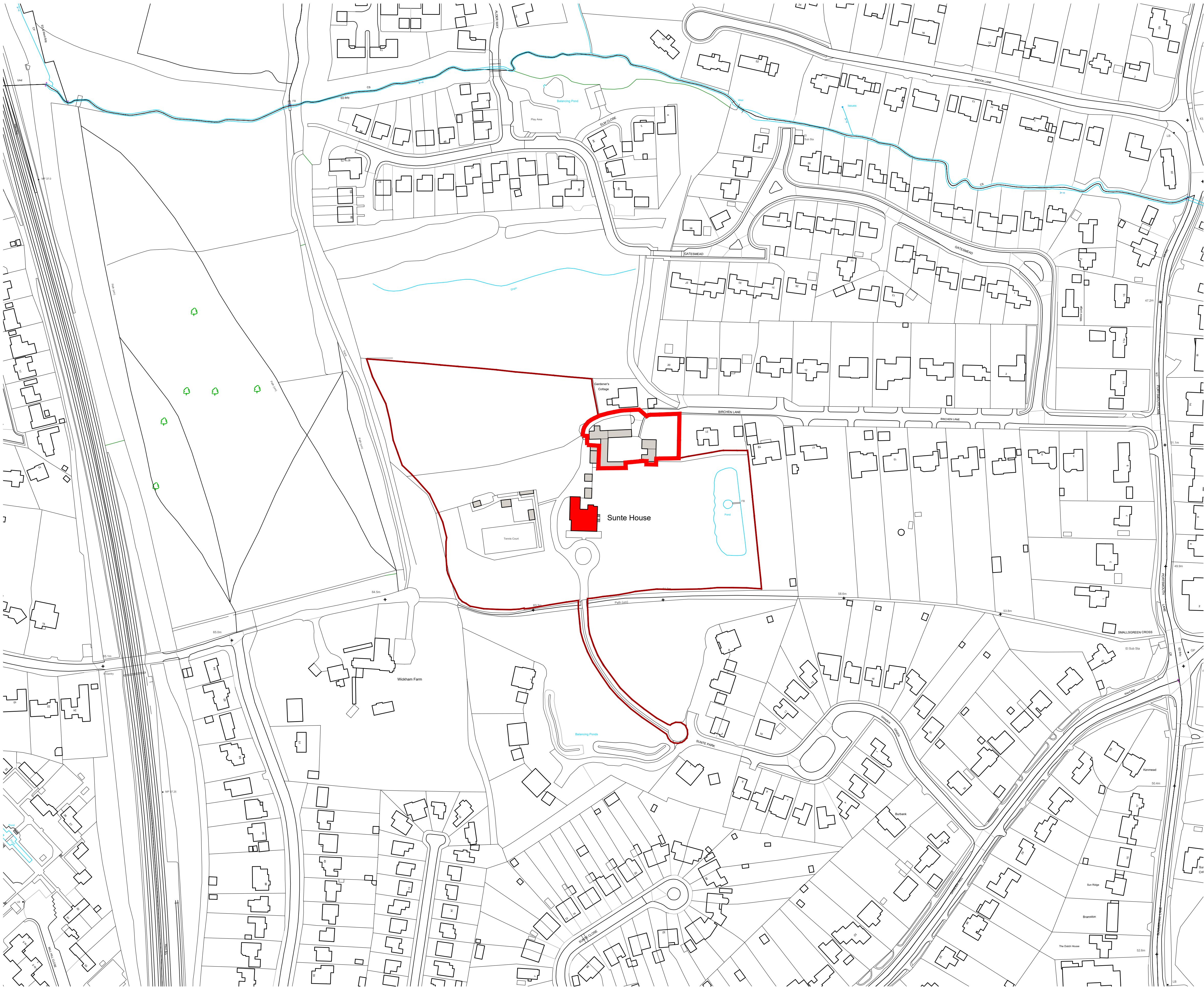
C – EA Flood Map for Planning:

- Flood Map for Planning – Environment Agency.

D – NPPF Annex 3:

- NPPF Annex 3: Flood risk vulnerability classification table.

Appendix A



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Job No
335

Project
Sunte House

Title
Existing Site Location Plan

Dwg No
335_XX_DR_01_101

Scale
1:1250 @ A1

Date of First Issue
-

Rev
P01

Status
Planning

- Key
- Sunte House
 - Outbuildings
 - Site Ownership Boundary
 - Application Boundary

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01 Existing Site Location Plan
1:1250 @ A1; 1:2500 @ A3

0 50 100 150 200 250 M

01

Existing Site Plan

1:500 @ A1; 1:1000 @ A3

0

20

40

60

80

100 M

KEY

1

Sunte House - Grade II*

2

Dairy

3

Tool-Shed

4

Garage

5

Cottage

6

Stables

7

Cow-shed

8

Byre

9

Barn

10

Tennis Court

11

Kitchen Garden / Green Houses

12

Garden Store - Grade II

13

Garden Wall - Grade II

14

Entrance Gate

15

Turning Circle

16

Driveway

17

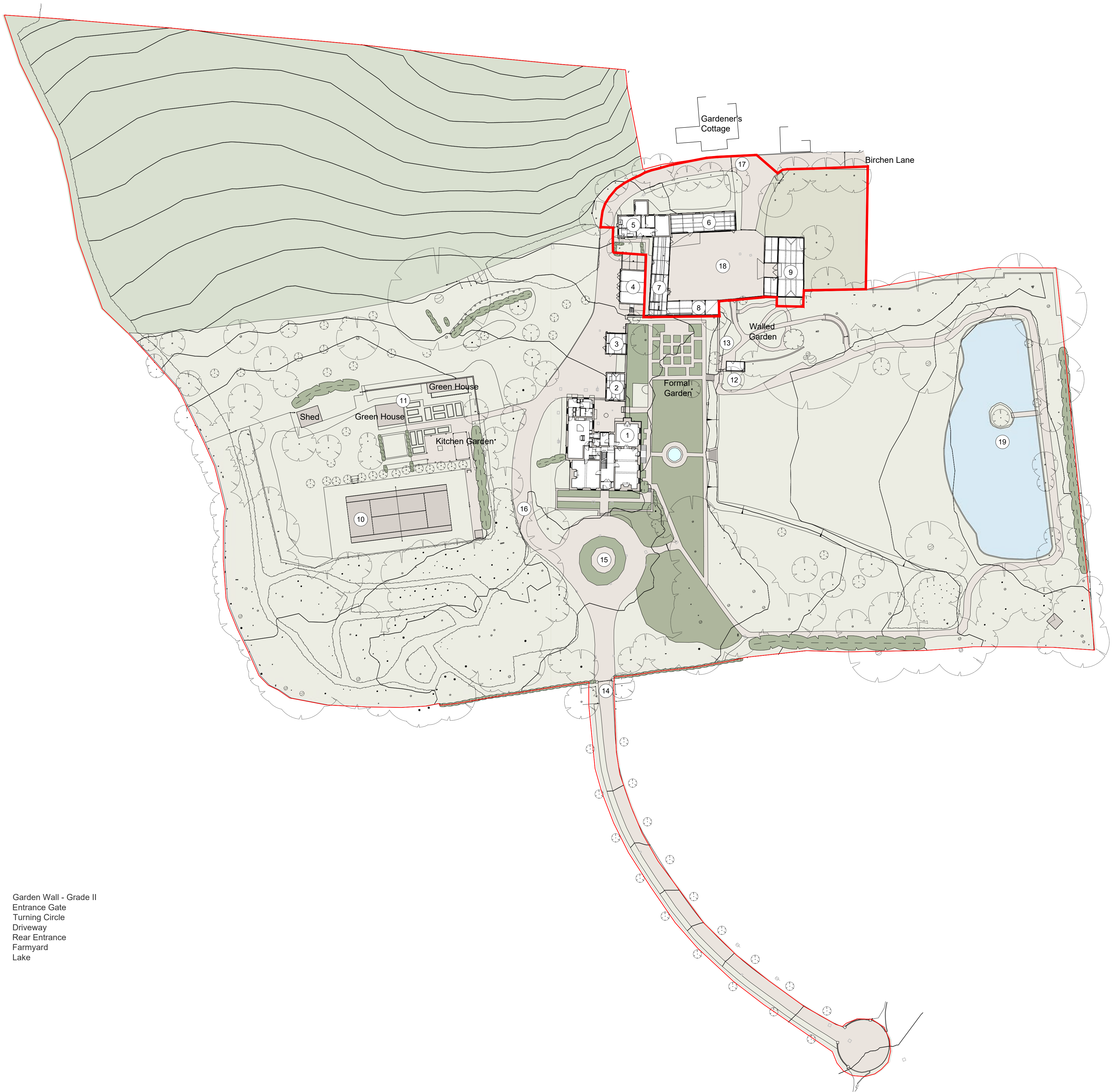
Rear Entrance

18

Farmyard

19

Lake



Key

Existing

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Site Ownership Boundary

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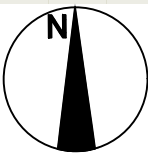


01 Farmyard Existing Ground Floor Plan
1:50 @ A1; 1:100 @ A3



BL Beam Level
CL Ceiling Level
FL Floor Level
FL Floor Pipe
DP Down Pipe
HWC Hot Water Cylinder
SVP Soil Vent Pipe
RWP Rain Water Pipe
RWO Rain Water Outlet

Proposed Walls
Existing Walls
Demolition



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Farmyard Existing Ground Floor Plan

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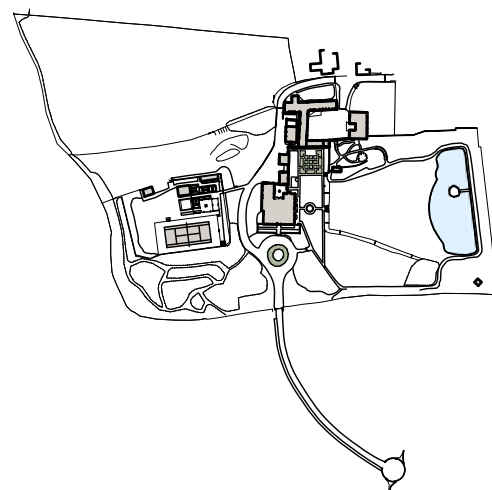
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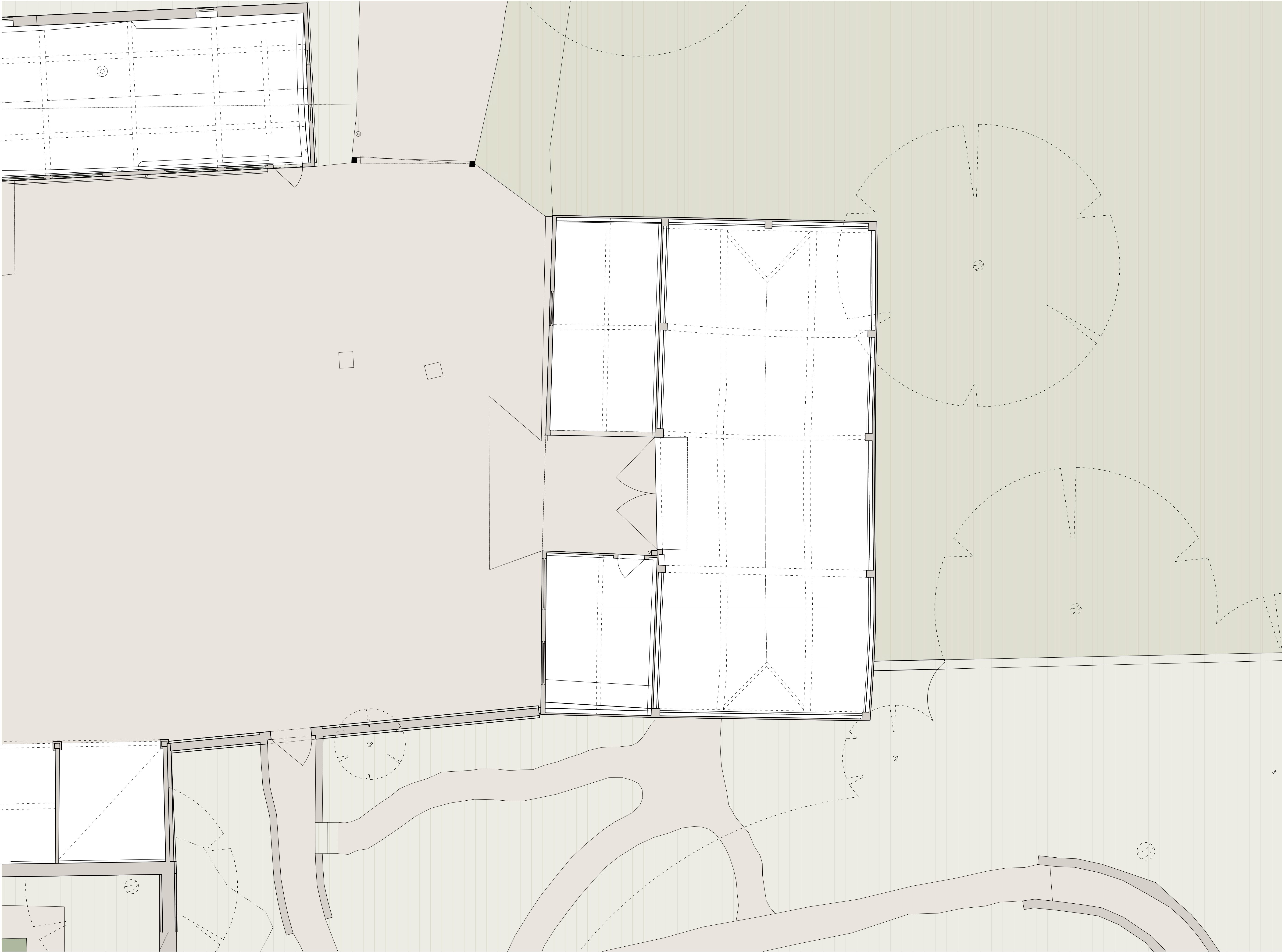


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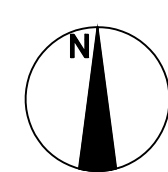


01 Barn Existing Ground Floor Plan
1:50 @ A1; 1:100 @ A3



BL Beam Level
CL Ceiling Level
FL Floor Level
DP Down Pipe
HWC Hot Water Cylinder
SVP Soil Vent Pipe
RWP Rain Water Pipe
RWO Rain Water Outlet

Proposed Walls
Existing Walls
Demolition



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Barn Existing Ground Floor Plan

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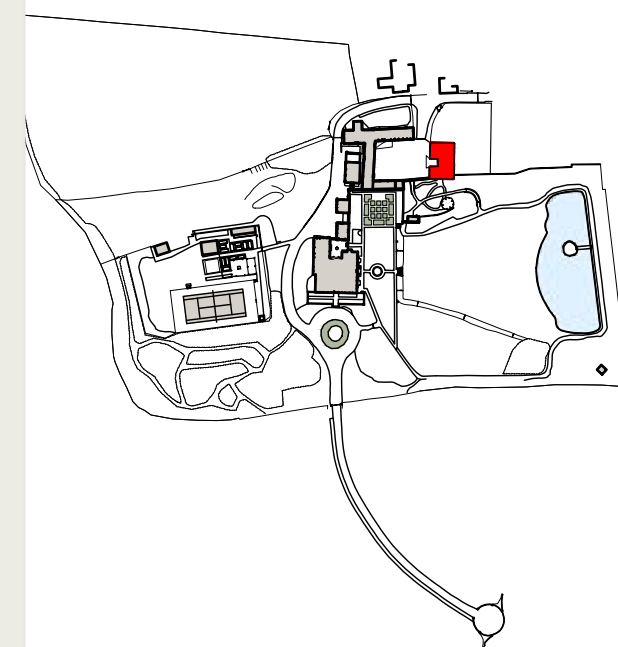
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London W11 4BE

01 Proposed Site Plan
1:500 @ A1; 1:1000 @ A3



KEY

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1 | Sunte House - Grade II* | 13 | Garden Wall - Grade II |
| 2 | Dairy | 14 | Entrance Gate |
| 3 | Tool-Shed | 15 | Turning Circle |
| 4 | Garage | 16 | Driveway |
| 5 | Cottage | 17 | Rear Entrance |
| 6 | Stables | 18 | Proposed Parking Area |
| 7 | Cow-shed | 19 | Farmyard Parking Area |
| 8 | Byre | 20 | Lake |
| 9 | Barn | | |
| 10 | Tennis Court | | |
| 11 | Proposed Pool-house | | |
| 12 | Garden Store - Grade II | | |

Key

- Proposed
- Existing
- Application Boundary
- Root Protection Area
- Site Ownership Boundary
- Demolition - External

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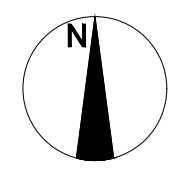
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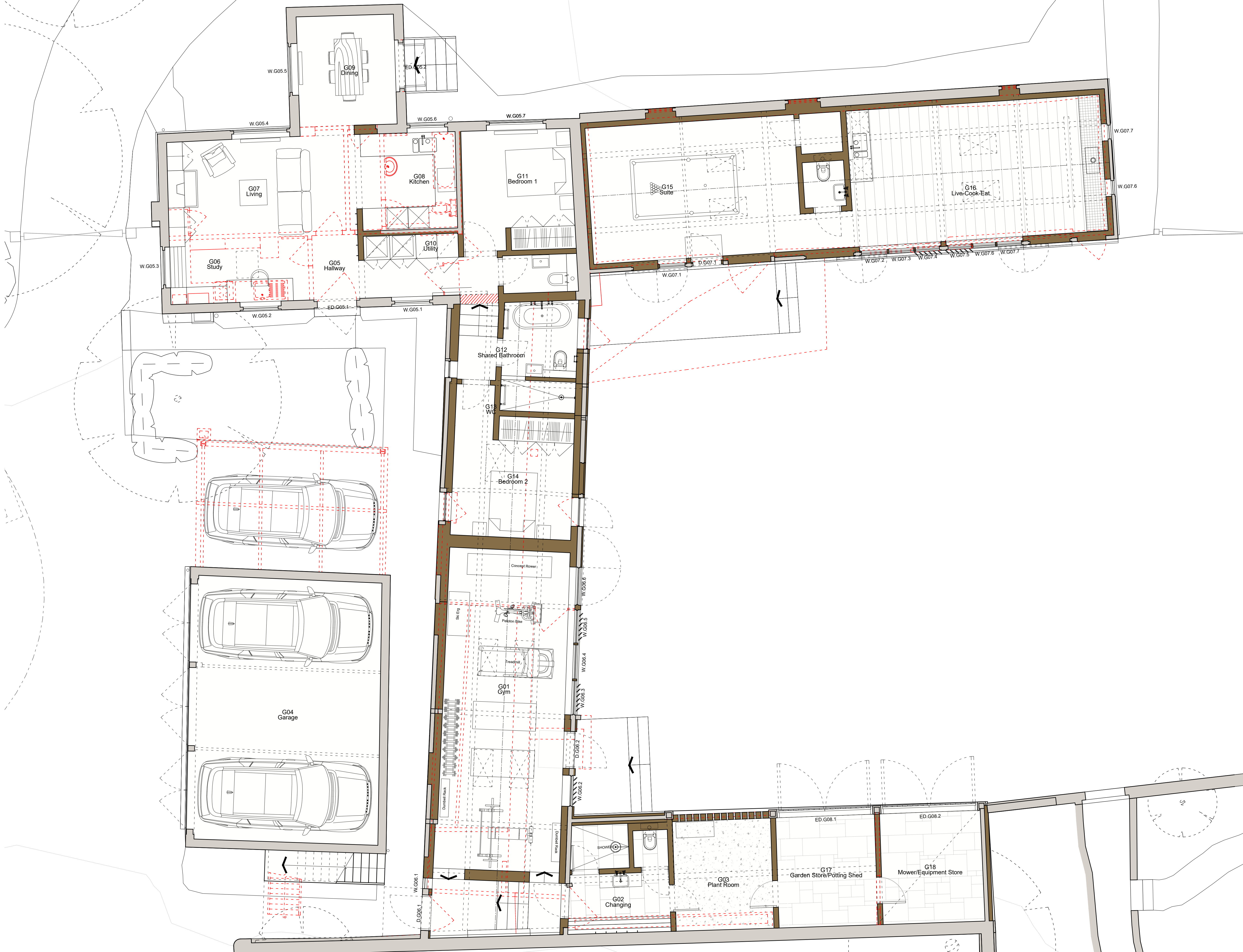
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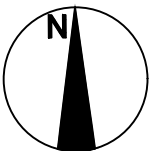
01 Farmyard Proposed Ground Floor Plan

1:50 @ A1; 1:100 @ A3



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- HWC Hot Water Cylinder
- SVP Soil Vent Pipe
- RWP Rain Water Pipe
- RWO Rain Water Outlet

- Proposed Walls
- Existing Walls
- Demolition



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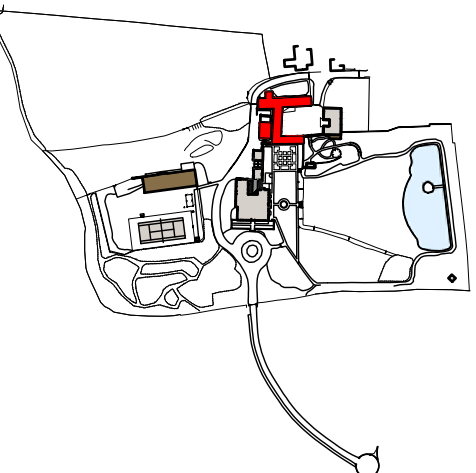
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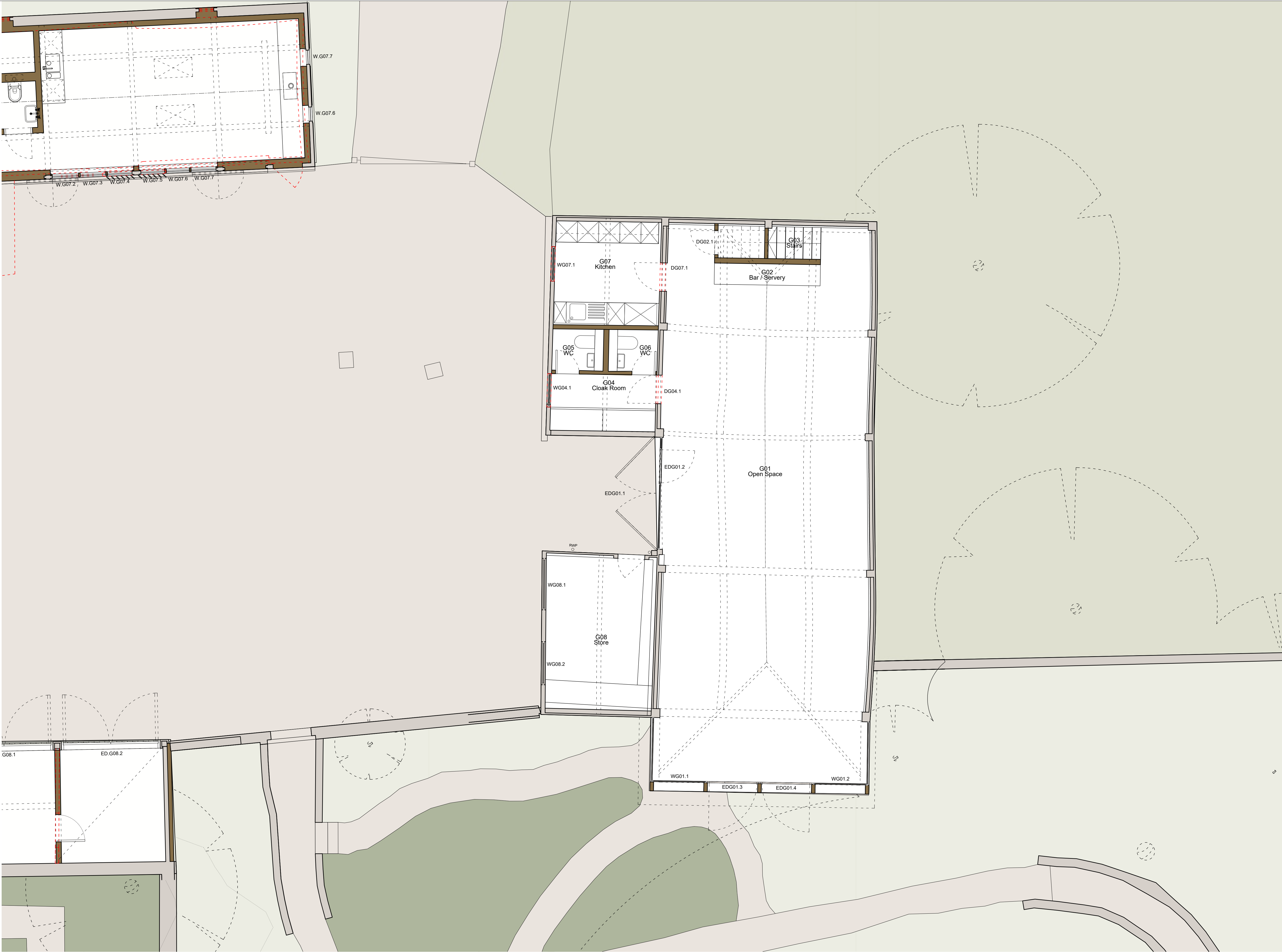


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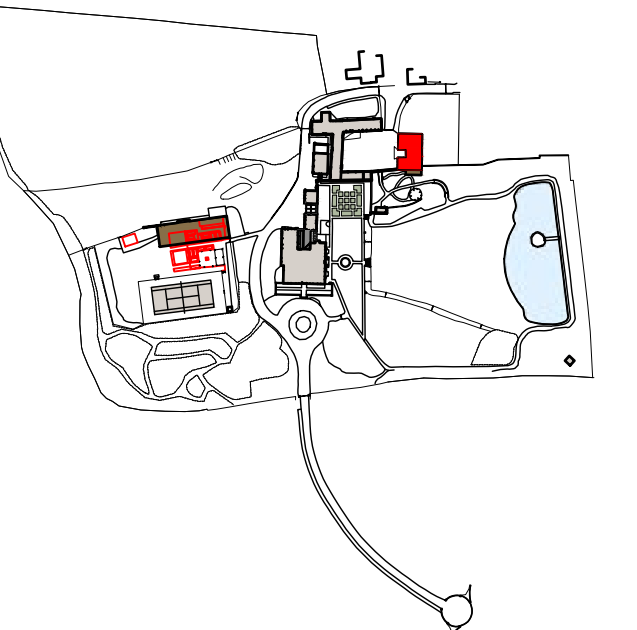
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Rev P01

Status Planning



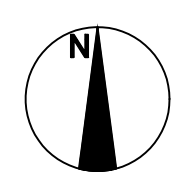
studio@richardparr.com
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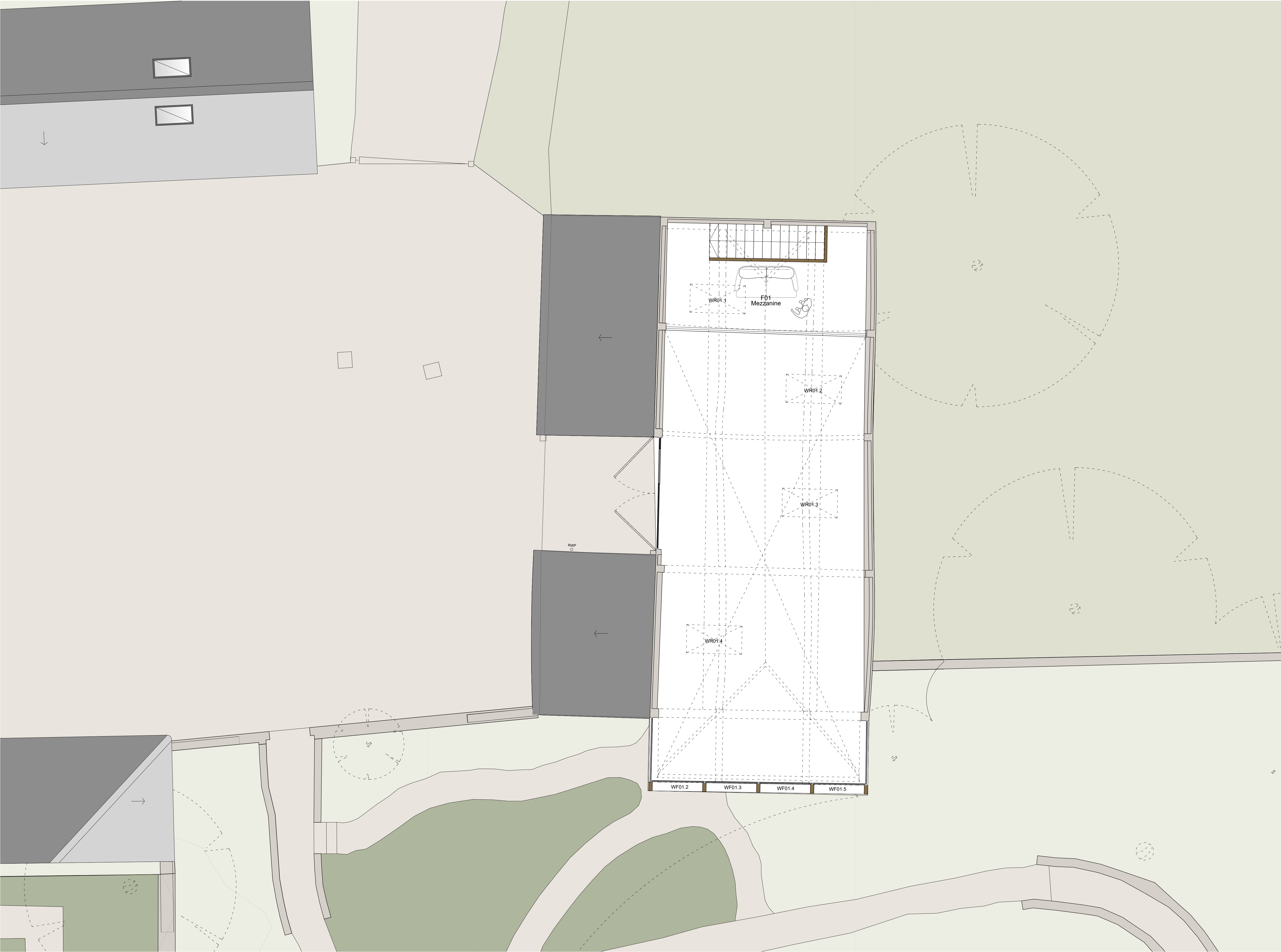
+ COUNTRY
Easter Park
Nympsfield, Stonehouse
Gloucestershire GL10 3UL

TOWN
The People's Hall
Studio 5, 2 Olaf Street
London W11 4BE

BL Beam Level
CL Ceiling Level
FL Floor Level
DP Down Pipe
HWC Hot Water Cylinder
SVP Soil Vent Pipe
RWP Rain Water Pipe
RWO Rain Water Outlet

Proposed Walls
Existing Walls
Demolition



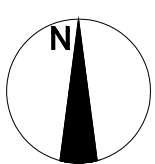


01 Barn Proposed First Floor Plan
1:50 @ A1; 1:100 @ A3



BL Beam Level
CL Ceiling Level
FL Floor Level
DP Down Pipe
HWC Hot Water Cylinder
SVP Soil Vent Pipe
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Proposed Walls
Existing Walls
Demolition



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Not for construction.

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Checked by

Drawn by
FL ---

Date

Description
Rev ---

DRAFT

Job No

335

Project

Sunte House

Title

Barn Proposed First Floor Plan

Drg No

335_BA_DR_00_101

Scale

1:50 @ A1 ; 1:100 @ A3

Date of First Issue

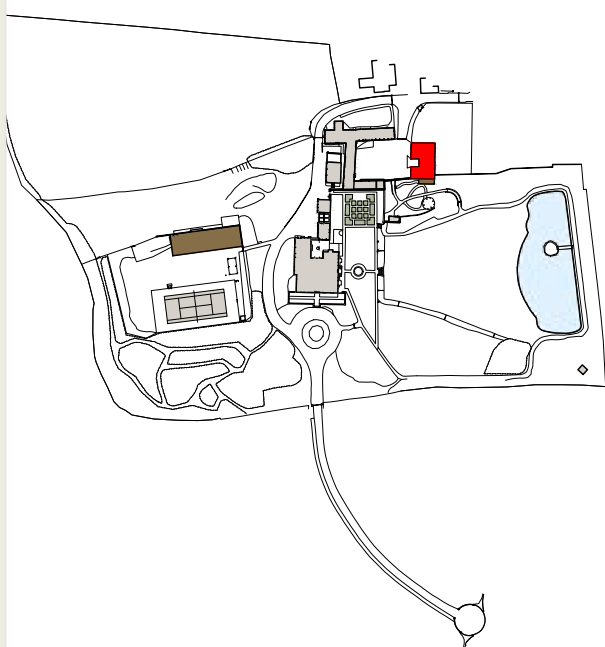
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Appendix B

Appendix C

Flood map for planning

Your reference
95326_b

Location (easting/northing)
533410/125574

Created
1 May 2025 15:29

Your selected location is in flood zone 1, an area with a low probability of flooding.

You will need to do a flood risk assessment if your site is **any of the following**:

- bigger than 1 hectare (ha)
- in an area with critical drainage problems as notified by the Environment Agency
- identified as being at increased flood risk in future by the local authority's strategic flood risk assessment
- at risk from other sources of flooding (such as surface water or reservoirs) and its development would increase the vulnerability of its use (such as constructing an office on an undeveloped site or converting a shop to a dwelling)

Notes

The flood map for planning shows river and sea flooding data only. It doesn't include other sources of flooding. It is for use in development planning and flood risk assessments.

This information relates to the selected location and is not specific to any property within it. The map is updated regularly and is correct at the time of printing.

Flood risk data is covered by the Open Government Licence which sets out the terms and conditions for using government data. <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3>

Use of the address and mapping data is subject to Ordnance Survey public viewing terms under Crown copyright and database rights 2025 AC0000807064. <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/os-terms>



Flood map for planning

Your reference

95326_b

Location (easting/northing)

533410/125574

Scale

1:2,500

Created

1 May 2025 15:29

-  Selected area
-  Flood zone 3
-  Flood zone 2
-  Flood zone 1
-  Flood defence
-  Main river
-  Water storage area



0 20 40 60m

Appendix D

Annex 3: Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification	
Essential Infrastructure:	• Essential transport infrastructure (including mass evacuation routes) which has to cross the area at risk. • Essential utility infrastructure which has to be located in a flood risk area for operational reasons, including infrastructure for electricity supply including generation, storage and distribution systems; including electricity generating power stations, grid and primary substations storage; and water treatment works that need to remain operational in times of flood. • Wind turbines. • Solar farms.
Highly Vulnerable:	• Police and ambulance stations; fire stations and command centres; telecommunications installations required to be operational during flooding. • Emergency dispersal points. • Basement dwellings. • Caravans, mobile homes and park homes intended for permanent residential use. • Installations requiring hazardous substances consent. (Where there is a demonstrable need to locate such installations for bulk storage of materials with port or other similar facilities, or such installations with energy infrastructure or carbon capture and storage installations, that require coastal or water-side locations, or need to be located in other high flood risk areas, in these instances the facilities should be classified as 'Essential Infrastructure'.)
More Vulnerable: * Landfill is as defined in Schedule 10 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010	• Hospitals. • Residential institutions such as residential care homes, children's homes, social services homes, prisons and hostels. • Buildings used for dwelling houses, student halls of residence, drinking establishments, nightclubs and hotels. • Non-residential uses for health services, nurseries and educational establishments. • Landfill* and sites used for waste management facilities for hazardous waste. • Sites used for holiday or short-let caravans and camping, subject to a specific warning and evacuation plan.
Less Vulnerable:	• Police, ambulance and fire stations which are not required to be operational during flooding. • Buildings used for shops; financial, professional and other services; restaurants, cafes and hot food takeaways; offices; general industry, storage and distribution; non-residential institutions not included in the 'more vulnerable' class; and assembly and leisure. • Land and buildings used for agriculture and forestry. • Waste treatment (except landfill* and hazardous waste facilities). • Minerals working and processing (except for sand and gravel working). • Water treatment works which do not need to remain operational during times of flood. • Sewage treatment works, if adequate measures to control pollution and manage sewage during flooding events are in place. • Car parks.
Water-Compatible Development:	• Flood control infrastructure. • Water transmission infrastructure and pumping stations. • Sewage transmission infrastructure and pumping stations. • Sand and gravel working. • Docks, marinas and wharves. • Navigation facilities. • Ministry of Defence installations. • Ship building, repairing and dismantling, dockside fish processing and refrigeration and compatible activities requiring a waterside location. • Water-based recreation (excluding sleeping accommodation). • Lifeguard and coastguard stations. • Amenity open space, nature conservation and biodiversity, outdoor sports and recreation and essential facilities such as changing rooms. • Essential ancillary sleeping or residential accommodation for staff required by uses in this category, subject to a specific warning and evacuation plan.

National Planning Policy Framework Annex 3: Flood risk vulnerability classification