

30, School Lane Welwyn Hertfordshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



November 2015

Client: Netherdown Ltd.

OA East Report No: 1868

OASIS No: oxfordar3-230029

NGR: TL 2282 1588

30 School Lane, Welwyn, Hertfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

By Pat Moan BA ACIfA


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Report Date: November 2015

Report Number: 1868
Site Name: 30 School Lane, Welwyn, Hertfordshire
HER Event No:
Date of Works: November 2015
Client Name: Netherdown Ltd.
Client Ref:
Planning Ref: N6/2015/0951
Grid Ref: TL 228 158
Site Code: XHTWSL15
Finance Code: XHTWSL15
Receiving Body: Herts Museum

Accession No:

Prepared by: Pat Moan
Position: Project Officer
Date: 12/11/15

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Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 12/11/15
Signed: 

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Summary

On 11th November 2015, Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) conducted an archaeological evaluation at 30 School Lane, Welwyn, Hertfordshire (TL 2282 1588). A total of 13.5m of trench was excavated prior to the redevelopment of the land for two new houses. No archaeological features or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at 30 School Lane, Welwyn, Hertfordshire (TL 228 158). A total of 15m of trenching was to be excavated prior to demolition of the current bungalow and the construction of two new houses on site. The site proved to have insufficient space and the trench was consequently shortened to 13.5m.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Specification prepared by OA East (Morgan 2015) and approved by Andy Instone of Hertfordshire County Council (HCC: Planning App. No. N6/2015/1951).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by HCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores (Mill Green Museum) in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The development site is situated on Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation, which are overlain by Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup Sand and Gravels immediately to the north of the site (BGS: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, accessed 11/11/15). The land is located towards the base of a slope at approximately 80mOD, with the land to the south-west of the development area rising fairly steeply to over 120mOD. The subject site is bounded to the east and west by residential developments, the north by School Lane and the south by a copse of woodland.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 An archaeological background was written for the works specification (Morgan 2015) and is referenced below, along with referral to The Heritage Gateway (Heritage Gateway <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>, accessed 11/11/15).

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 The earliest find within the vicinity of the subject site is a Palaeolithic handaxe, found approximately 100m to the north-east. Iron Age activity is attested to in the form of an enclosure and postholes, found at the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital (HER9267), approximately 230m west of the site. Similarly, a Late Iron Age or Roman cremation cemetery was uncovered at the eastern end of School Lane.

Romano-British

- 1.3.3 A substantial settlement was located at Welwyn during the Romano-British period and significant Romano-British activity has been recorded during archaeological investigations throughout Welwyn. Investigations at 17-19 School lane, 200m north-east of the subject site, uncovered features and pottery dating to the second century AD (HER1693) and excavations at 20-23 School lane recorded a Romano-British timber framed building and well (HER16245). Similarly, Roman burials have been found

between School Lane and the west end of Elmoor Avenue (HER2303 & 12073). Approximately 150m north of the development area the Historic Environment record also notes that a Roman corn drier (HER6181) and a well (HER6418) were uncovered at 7 Elmoor Avenue. The rear of properties on the north side of School Lane, 75m to the north of the development area, is also likely to be the line of a Roman road (HER7311).

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 1.3.4 Known Anglo-Saxon activity is limited within the vicinity of the development area, with one findspot of an Anglo-Saxon coin of Edward the Confessor being recorded at the eastern end of School Lane.
- 1.3.5 Welwyn is located on the Great North Road and had a total of five manors during the medieval period. The historic core of the town is located approximately 400m to the north-east of the development area and contained numerous listed buildings such as the medieval parish church of St Mary, that may have Saxon origins and The Rose and Crown public house which dates to at least the 17th century.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The work was funded by the developer Netherdown and was monitored by Andy Instone of Hertfordshire County Council. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray and site work was undertaken by the author.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Job Specification required that archaeological trenching of the site was undertaken, machining to the depth of the geological horizons or the upper interface of archaeological features or deposits. A total of 13.5m of trench was opened within the footprint of the new house, where a driveway to the current house is situated.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 14 tonne tracked 360-type excavator using a 1.9m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GS08 Smartnet GPRS
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. Any metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 The trench was recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench location, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of the trench.
- 2.2.6 No environmental samples were taken due to no archaeological features being present.
- 2.2.7 Site conditions were dry and overcast.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Trench 1 (Plates 1 & 2)

- 3.1.1 An L-shaped trench measured 13.5m was excavated consisting of a 10m long, 1.9m wide north-west to south-east segment and a 3.5m long, 1.9m wide north-east to south-west segment (Fig. 2).
- 3.1.2 The natural geology of chalk with patches of superficial sands and gravels was overlain by re-worked natural sands and gravels (average of 0.27m), in turn overlain by modern hardcore and tarmac (an average of 0.2m). No archaeological features were present within the trench and no residual artefacts were found within the modern deposits.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation at 30 School Lane has uncovered no features of archaeological interest. The topography of the site has clearly been modified and it is likely that a large segment of originally sloping land was removed to form a level terrace on which the current bungalow was constructed. This would have destroyed any archaeological features that may have been within the area. However, since no finds were recorded it is also possible that the boundary to the Romano-British settlement is located to the north of the development area, as to date few archaeological features have been found on the southern side of School Lane.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1		
General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of a chalk geology overlain by re-worked natural sands and gravels, in turn overlain by modern hardcore and tarmac.	Avg. depth (m)	0.44
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	13.5

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Moragn, S. 2015 *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation: 30 School Lane, Welwyn, Hertfordshire*
OA East Specification (unpublished)

Electronic Resources

British Geological Survey (BGS) Geology of Britain Viewer,
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, accessed 11/11/15

Heritage Gateway <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>, accessed 11/11/15

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-230029		
Project Name	Evaluation at 30 School Lane, Welwyn, Hertfordshire		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	11-11-2015	Finish	12-11-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XHTWSL15	Planning App. No.	N6/2015/0951
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Urban Residential

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
none	Select period...	none	Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Hertfordshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Welwyn Hatfield	30 School Lane Welwyn Hertfordshire AL6 9PH
Parish	Welwyn	
HER	Hertfordshire HER	
Study Area	0.06ha	National Grid Reference
		TL 228 158

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Instone
Project Design Originator	Stephen Morgan
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Pat Moan

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Mill Green Museum	OA East Offices	Mill Green Museum
XHTWSL15	XHTWSL15	XHTWSL15

Archive Contents/Media

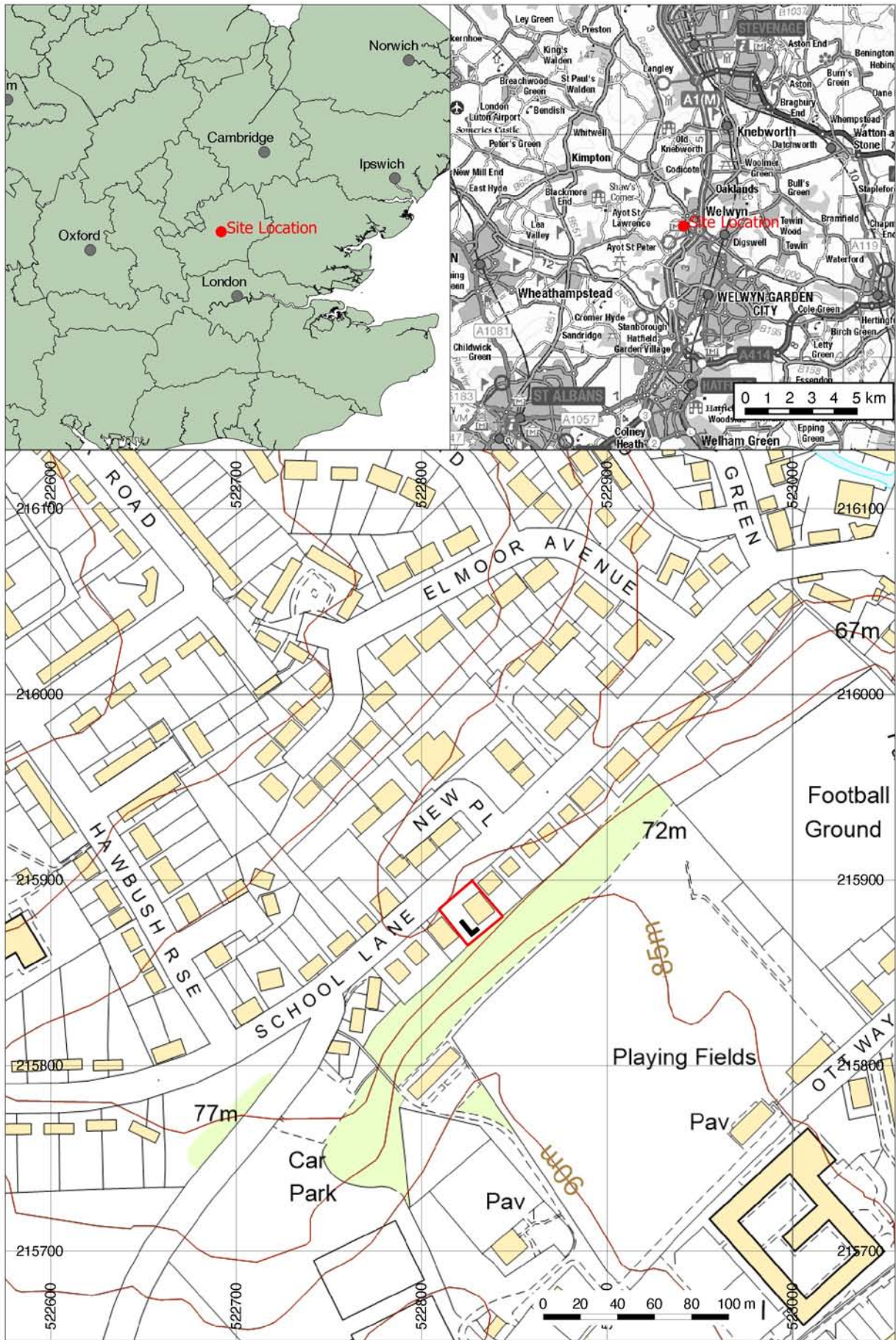
	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:

APPENDIX D. HERTFORDSHIRE HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: 30 School Lane, Welwyn, AL6 9PH		
County: Hertfordshire		District: Welwyn Hatfield
Village/Town: Welwyn		Parish: Welwyn
Planning application reference: N6/2015/0951		
HER Enquiry reference:		
Funding source: Developer		
Nature of application: Housing		
Present land use: Housing (Bungalow)		
Size of application area: 0.06ha		Size of area investigated: 27m ²
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 2282 1588		
Site code (if applicable): XHTWSL15		
Site director/Organization: Oxford Archaeology East		
Type of work: Archaeological Evaluation		
Date of work:	Start: 11/11/15	Finish: 11/11/15
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Mill Green Museum		
Related HER Nos:		Periods represented: N/A
Relevant previous summaries/reports N/A		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>A single trench was excavated on the footprint of a new build, adjacent to a derelict bungalow. No archaeological features were recorded within the trench</p>		
Author of summary: Pat Moan		Date of summary: 11/11/15



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trench (black) in development area (red)

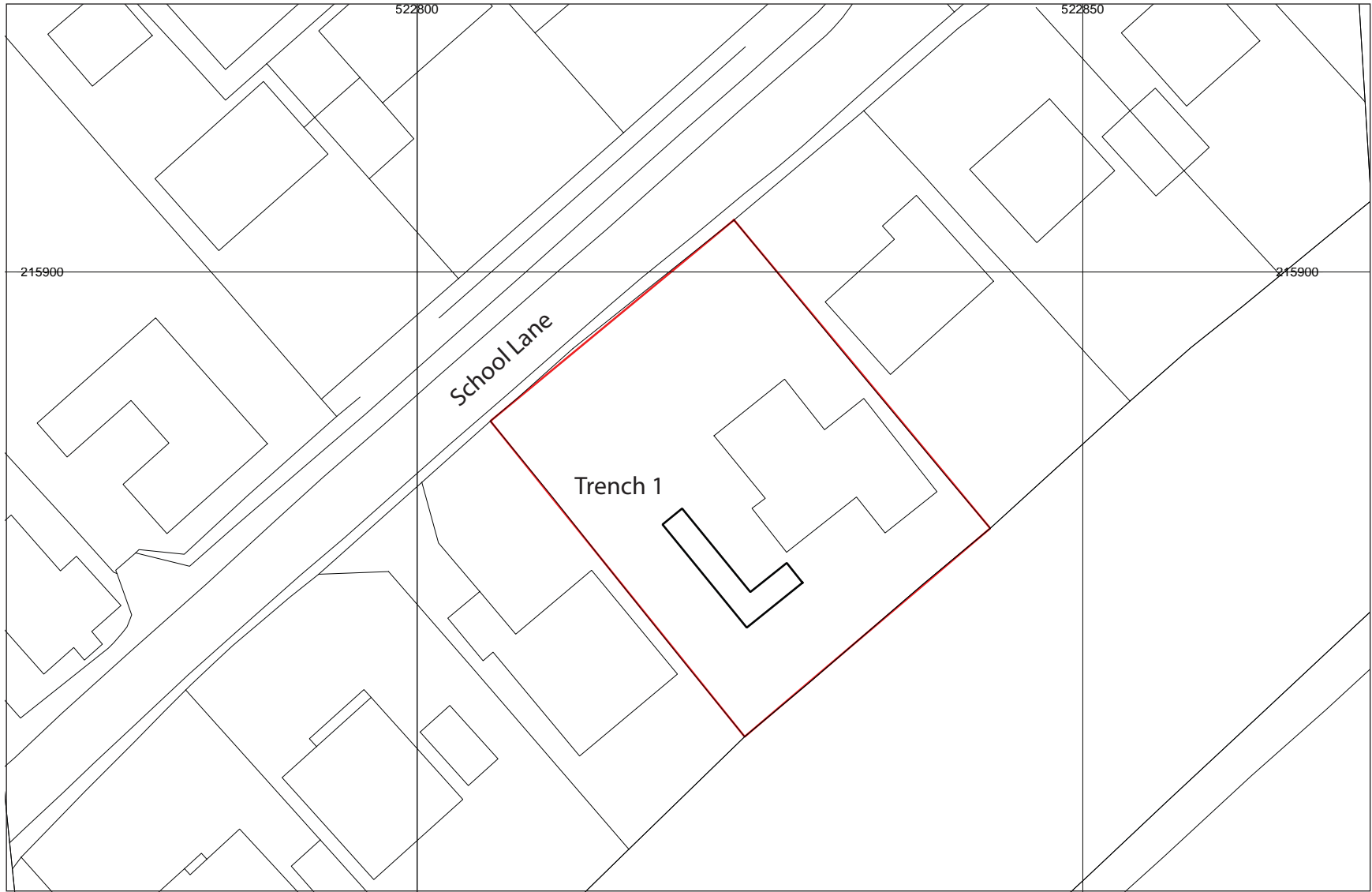


Figure 2: Trench Plan



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north-west



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking north-north-east



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