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PROPOSED CAR PARK, OAKLANDS SCHOOL, LAND ADJACENT TO WARREN HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Authors: Thomas Muir (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TQ 41469 95479	Report No: 5340
District: Epping Forest	Site Code: LUOS17
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 7053
	Date: March 2017

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		Oaklands School, Loughton, Essex	
<p><i>In March 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to Warren Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RA (NGR TQ 41469 95479). The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission (on appeal) for a proposed new 34-space car park for Oaklands School (Appeal Ref. APP/J1535/W/16/3152795; Epping Forest Council Planning Ref. EPF/2774/15). The evaluation was required based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA)</i></p> <p><i>The site had a potential for evidence of medieval and post-medieval pottery production (including kilns).</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed an undated ditch which contained no finds. No residual finds, in particular medieval or post-medieval pottery, were present within the topsoil.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		March 2017	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		N	Future work (Y/N/?) TBC
P. number		7032	Site code LUOS17
Type of project		Archaeological Evaluation	
Site status		-	
Current land use		School grounds	
Planned development		Car park	
Main features (+dates)		Undated ditch	
Significant finds (+dates)		None	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		Essex	Epping Forest Loughton
HER/ SMR for area		Essex Historic Environment Record	
Post code (if known)		-	
Area of site		0.3ha	
NGR		TQ 41469 95479	
Height AOD (min/max)		c.38m AOD	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		Essex County Council	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		Archaeological Solutions Ltd	
Funded by		The Oak-tree Group of Schools	
Full title		Land adjacent to Warren Hill, Oaklands School, Loughton, Essex. An archaeological evaluation	
Authors		Muir, T.	
Report no.		5340	
Date (of report)		March 2017	

**PROPOSED CAR PARK, OAKLANDS SCHOOL,
LAND ADJACENT TO WARREN HILL, LOUGHTON,
ESSEX IG10 4RA**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In March 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to Warren Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RA (NGR TQ 41469 95479). The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission (on appeal) for a proposed new 34-space car park for Oaklands School (Appeal Ref. APP/J1535/W/16/3152795; Epping Forest Council Planning Ref. EPF/2774/15). The evaluation was required based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA)

The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes the site lies within an area of known medieval and post-medieval pottery production sites with an archaeological potential for remains associated with the medieval and post-medieval slipware pottery production area (EHER 18370). Albion Hill was a post-medieval encroachment into the western edge of Epping Forest, shown as being lined by a number of larger properties on the 1875 Ordnance Survey map. The earlier 1777 Chapman and Andre map does not show these – the area then appears on the boundary between an area of enclosure and a Forest Plain called Fairmaid Bottom. Bucket Green is shown on Loughton Street, later the eastern end of Albion Hill.

The site therefore had a potential for evidence of medieval and post-medieval pottery production (including kilns).

The evaluation revealed an undated ditch which contained no finds. No residual finds, in particular medieval or post-medieval pottery, were present within the topsoil.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to Warren Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RA (NGR TQ 41469 95479; Figs. 1 – 2). The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission (on appeal) for a proposed new 34-space car park for Oaklands School (Appeal Ref. APP/J1535/W/16/3152795; Epping Forest Council Planning Ref. EPF/2774/15). The evaluation was required based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA)

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance to a brief prepared by the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA), *Brief for Land Adjacent Warren Hill, Loughton*, Maria Medlycott, dated 23rd January 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 26th January 2017), and approved by ECC HEA. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation* (2014), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition significance and quality of any archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

Planning policy context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

21 The site lies on the northern side of Warren Hill in the southern part of Loughton, to the rear of the Oaklands Preparatory School playing fields and is currently occupied by trees and grassland. It is proposed to create a new car park and drop-off area for the school.

3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.1 The site lies at 37-40m AOD on London Clay deposits, on higher ground above the valley of the Rover Roding to the east, on the edge of Epping Forest.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes the site lies within an area of known medieval and post-medieval pottery production sites with an archaeological potential for remains associated with the medieval and post-medieval slipware pottery production area (EHER 18370). Albion Hill was a post-medieval encroachment into the western edge of Epping Forest, shown as being lined by a number of larger properties on the 1875 Ordnance Survey map. The earlier 1777 Chapman and Andre map does not show these – the area then appears on the boundary between an area of enclosure and a Forest Plain called Fairmaid Bottom. Bucket Green is shown on Loughton Street, later the eastern end of Albion Hill.

3.3 The historic development of Loughton is discussed in the historic town assessment report (O Connor 2005).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The brief required a sample of the proposed development site to be investigated by trial trenching. Two trenches, one of 45m x 1.6m, and one of 25m x 1.6m were excavated (Fig.2).

5.2 The topsoil and subsoil was mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 4)

<i>Sample section 1A</i> <i>0.00 = 40.30m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.47m	L1003	Re-deposited natural. Light yellow orange, compact, silty clay.
0.47 - 0.65m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark brown grey, firm, clay silt with occasional small sub-rounded flint stones
0.65 - 0.76m	L1001	Subsoil. Light grey brown, firm, clay silt with occasional small sub-rounded flint stones.
0.76m +	L1002	Natural clay. Light yellow orange, compact, silty clay.

<i>Sample section 1B</i> <i>0.00 = 37.29m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34 - 0.43m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.43m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds. In the centre of the trench, and also present in Trench 2, was a large hollow. It contained L1004, a friable, dark grey brown clayish silt with frequent wood chip (0.33m thick).

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 - 4)

<i>Sample section 2A</i> <i>0.00 = 38.23m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1003	Re-deposited natural. As above
0.09 - 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.32 - 0.43m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.43m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above

<i>Sample section 2B</i> <i>0.00 = 39.13m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.22 - 0.38m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.38m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above

<i>Sample section 2C</i> <i>0.00 = 38.78.60m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1003	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1
0.20 - 0.53m	L1004	Made ground. Dark grey brown, friable, clayish silt with frequent wood chip inclusions.
0.53m +	L1005	Silt Layer. Dark yellowish grey, firm, silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flint stones

Description: Trench 2 contained undated Ditch F1006. In the centre of the trench, and also present in Trench 1, was a large hollow. It contained L1004, a friable, dark grey brown clayish silt with frequent wood chip (0.33m thick).

Ditch F1006 was linear in plan (1.60 x 0.66 x 0.04m), orientated north-west/south-east. It had shallow, moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1007, was a firm, dark grey brown, silt clay with occasional small sub-rounded flint stones. It contained no finds.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was overlain by Topsoil L1000, a firm, dark brown grey, clayish silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones (0.18 - 0.34m thick). Below L1000 was Subsoil L1001, a firm, light grey brown clay silt with occasional small sub-rounded flint stones (0.09 - 0.16m thick). Below subsoil L1001 was natural clay L1002, a compact, light yellow orange silt clay.

8.2 Overlying Topsoil L1000, was re-deposited natural, L1003. It was present in patches to the north-eastern sector and centre of the site, and was a compact, light yellow orange silty clay (0.20 - 0.47m thick).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site lies within an area of known medieval and post-medieval pottery production. It therefore had the potential for evidence of medieval and post-medieval pottery production (including kilns).

9.2 Near the centre of the site was a large hollow, possibly a tree hollow, which contained wood chip.

9.3 The only archaeological feature revealed was a shallow undated ditch, F1006, located in the northern sector of the site.

9.4 No residual finds, in particular medieval or post-medieval pottery, were present within the topsoil.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with inventory, will be deposited at Epping Museum in accordance with their requirements. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank The Oak-tree Group of Schools for funding the evaluation and for their assistance, in particular Mr Matthew Hagger.

AS would like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Maria Medlycott of Essex County Council

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WEB SITES

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Unlocking Essex's Past

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
View of trenches being excavated



2
Trench 1 looking north-west



3
Trench 1 looking south-east



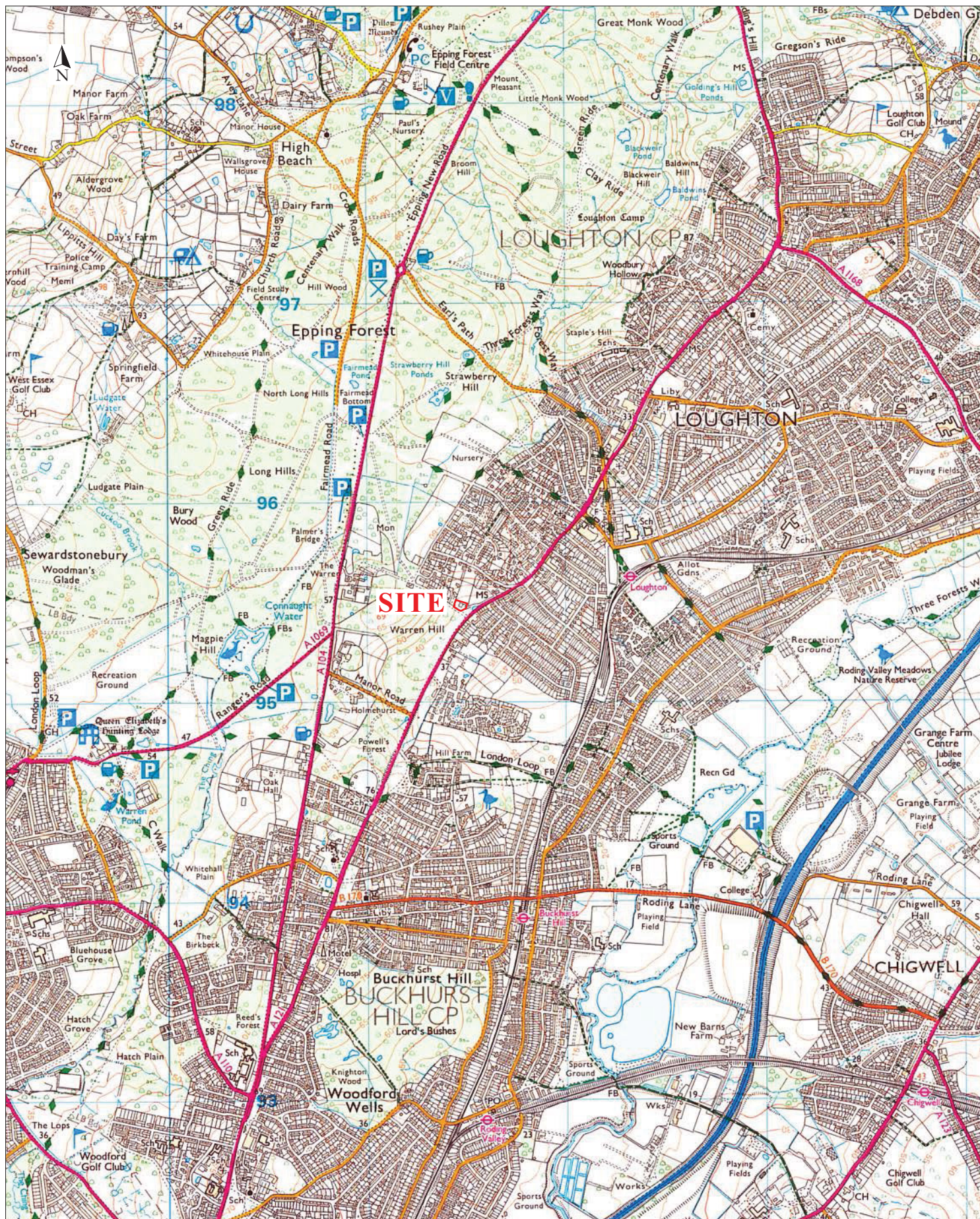
4
Trench 2 looking north-east



5
Trench 2 looking south-west



6
Ditch 1006 in Trench 2 looking south-east



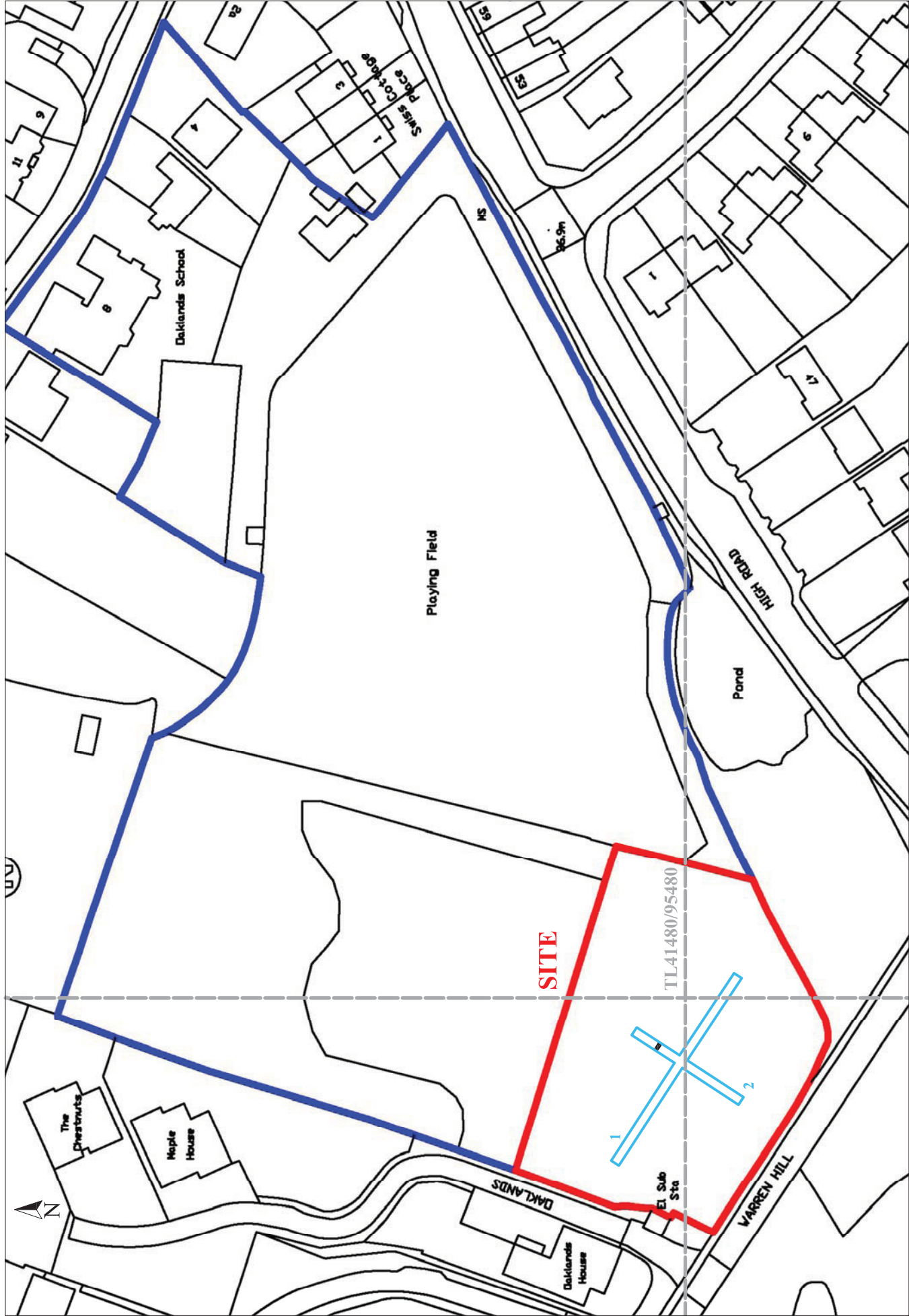
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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Oaklands School, Loughton, Essex (P7053)

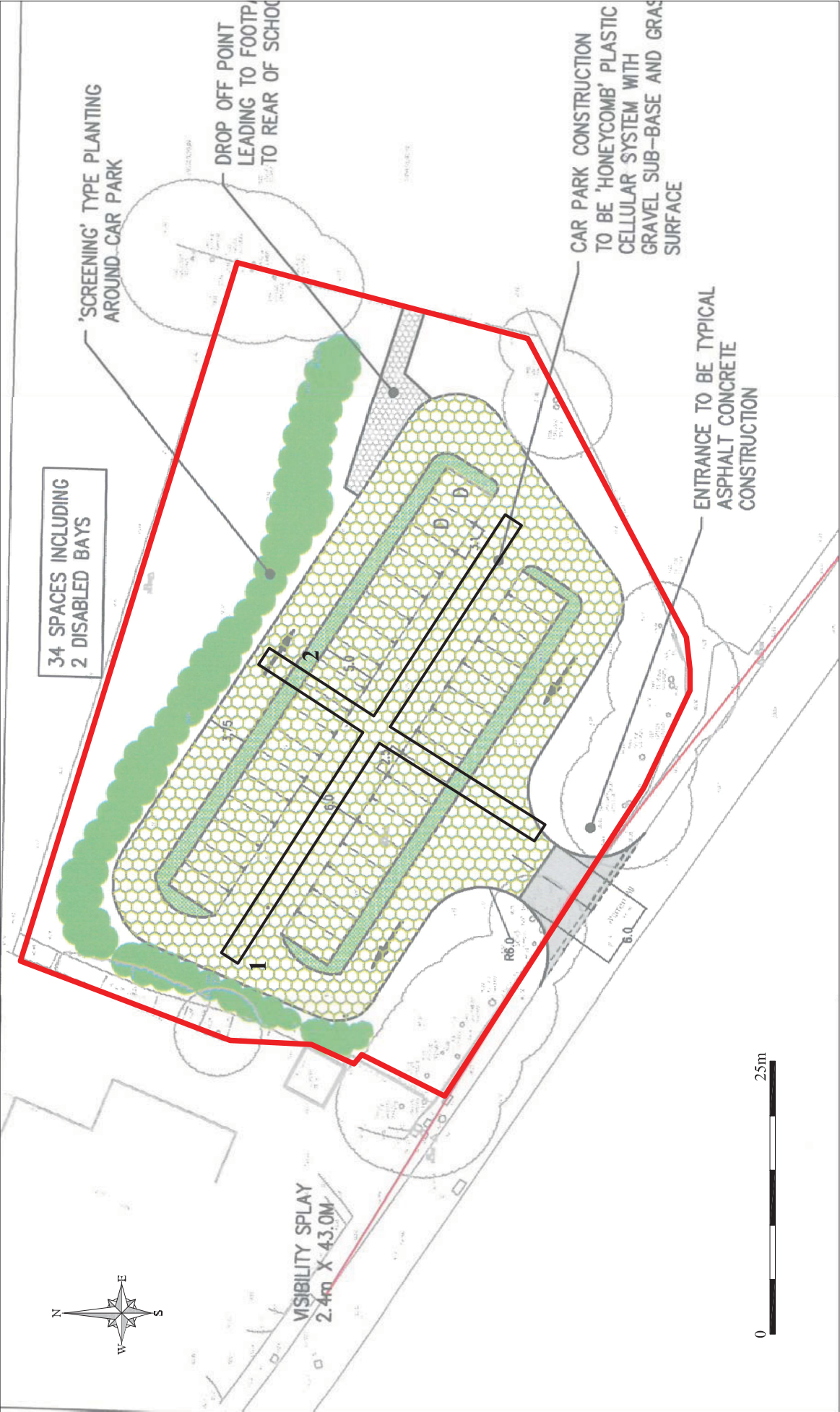


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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:1000 at A4

Oaklands School, Loughton, Essex (P7053)



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Fig. 3 Proposed development

Scale 1:500 at A4

Oaklands School, Loughton, Essex (P7053)

