

**1 & 2 WOODPECKERS & 76-78 MILL LANE  
DANBURY  
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL TRENCHING**



**Essex County Council  
Field Archaeology Unit**

**JANUARY 2009**

## ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name/Address:</b> 1 & 2 Woodpeckers & 76-78 Mill Lane, Danbury, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Danbury	<b>District:</b> Chelmsford
<b>NGR:</b> TL 7883 0502	<b>Site Code:</b> DYML 09
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
<b>Dates of Work:</b> 12th-14th January 2009	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 52 sq m
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Chelmsford	<b>Funding source:</b> E. J. Taylor and Sons Ltd
<b>Further Work Anticipated?:</b> No	<b>Related HER Nos.:</b> 5723, 30351
<b>Final Report:</b> EAH summary	<b>Oasis No.:</b> essexcou1- 26361
<b>Periods Represented:</b> none	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>	
<p>An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken at 1 &amp; 2 Woodpeckers and 76-78 Mill Lane, Danbury in advance of a proposed housing development. The development comprises the demolition of existing buildings and the construction of a complex of 14 retirement apartments in a crescent shape across the two properties. The development area lies close to the site of a post-medieval windmill (Farries 1985), now demolished, and to the possible route of a Roman road.</p> <p>Four trenches were excavated across the proposed new building footprint (Fig. 1). The trenches were positioned to avoid existing buildings, large trees/shrubs and areas of hard standing currently needed for access. Trench 4 was located slightly west of its planned position to avoid a pad of steel reinforced concrete. Trench 1 measured 12m by 1.5m, Trenches 3 and 4 measured 8m by 1.5m and Trench 4 measured 8m by 1.2m. The topsoil consisted of dark brown clay-silt that varied in depth from 0.38 to 0.43m and overlay natural deposits of orangey brown gravel and clay. Trench 2 was located within a driveway and here the topsoil was slightly truncated (0.3m deep) and was overlain by 0.18m of brick rubble and gravel.</p> <p>Three features filled with dark brown sandy silt were investigated in Trench 1. No finds were recovered and all appeared to be of natural origin, either the result of root disturbance or glacial activity. The southernmost feature was 0.52m deep and clearly undercut the natural gravel to the north. In Trench 2, a 0.15m deep patch of greyish brown silty gravel was probably also of natural origin. No archaeological features were observed in Trench 3, although small fragments and flecks of brick/tile were noted in the base of the topsoil at the</p>	

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north end of the trench. The topsoil throughout this trench was heavily root-disturbed from an adjacent tree stump. One feature in Trench 4 contained pieces of concrete and was of modern date.

No archaeological remains were identified in any of the trenches nor any evidence pertaining to the post-medieval mill or Roman road. It is therefore unlikely that the proposed development will have any impact on the archaeological record.

A copy of this summary (OASIS No.: essexcou1- 26361) will be submitted to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>).

Trench co-ordinates

Trench 1 N - 578858.07, 205009.08. S - 578858.99, 204997.22

Trench 2 E - 578858.94, 205018.03. W - 578851.05, 205014.40

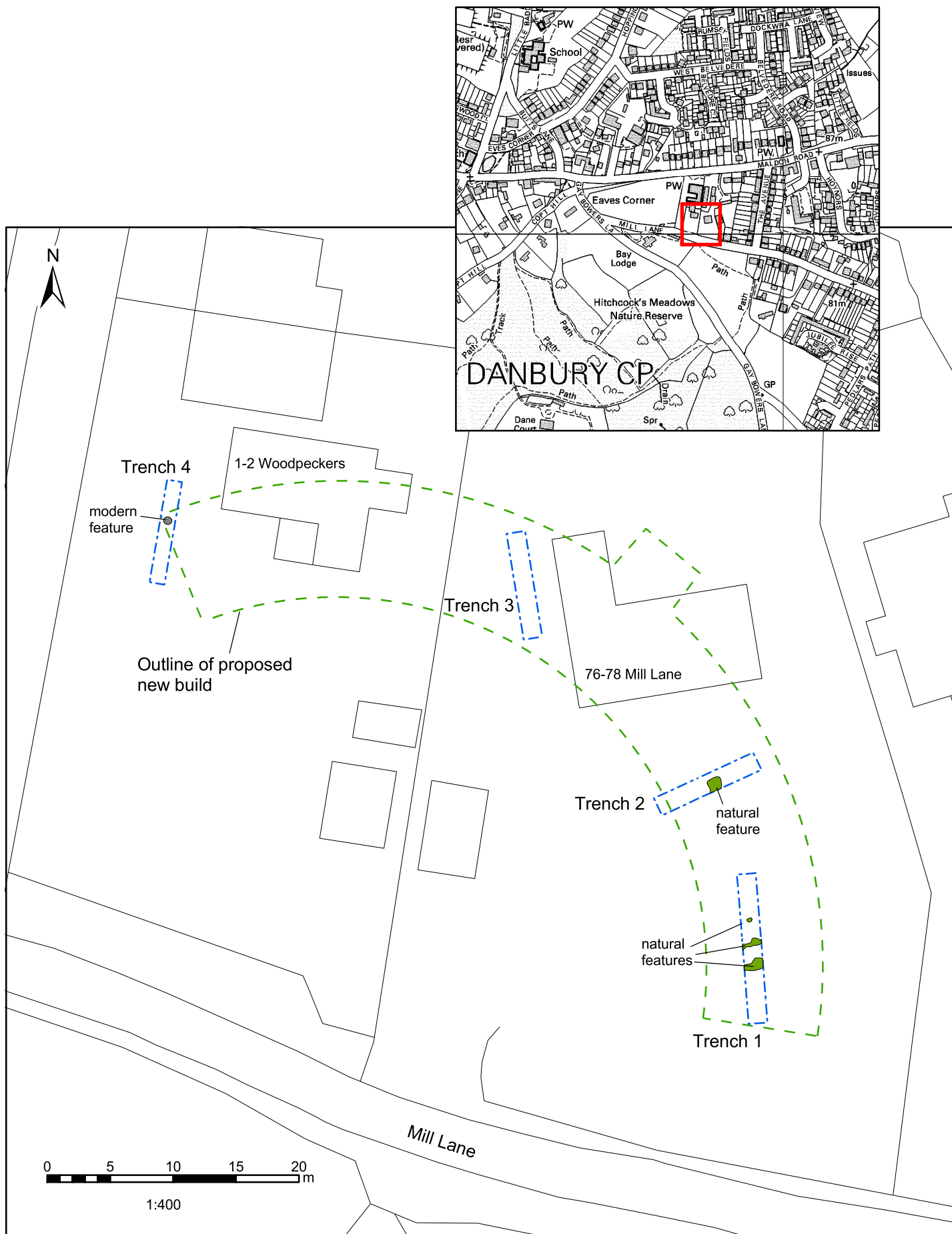
Trench 3 N - 578839.77, 205036.18. S - 578841.13, 205027.79

Trench 4 N - 578812.68, 205040.26. S - 578811.28, 205032.13

**Previous Summaries/Reports:** Farries, K. G. 1985 *Essex Windmills, Millers and Millwrights*, Vol. 3. Charles Skilton, Edinburgh

**Author of Summary:** T. Ennis

**Date of Summary:** January 2009



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Fig.1. Location of archaeological evaluation trenches