

**AIRLIE
RIFFHAMS LANE
DANBURY
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING



Essex County Council

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

January 2009

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

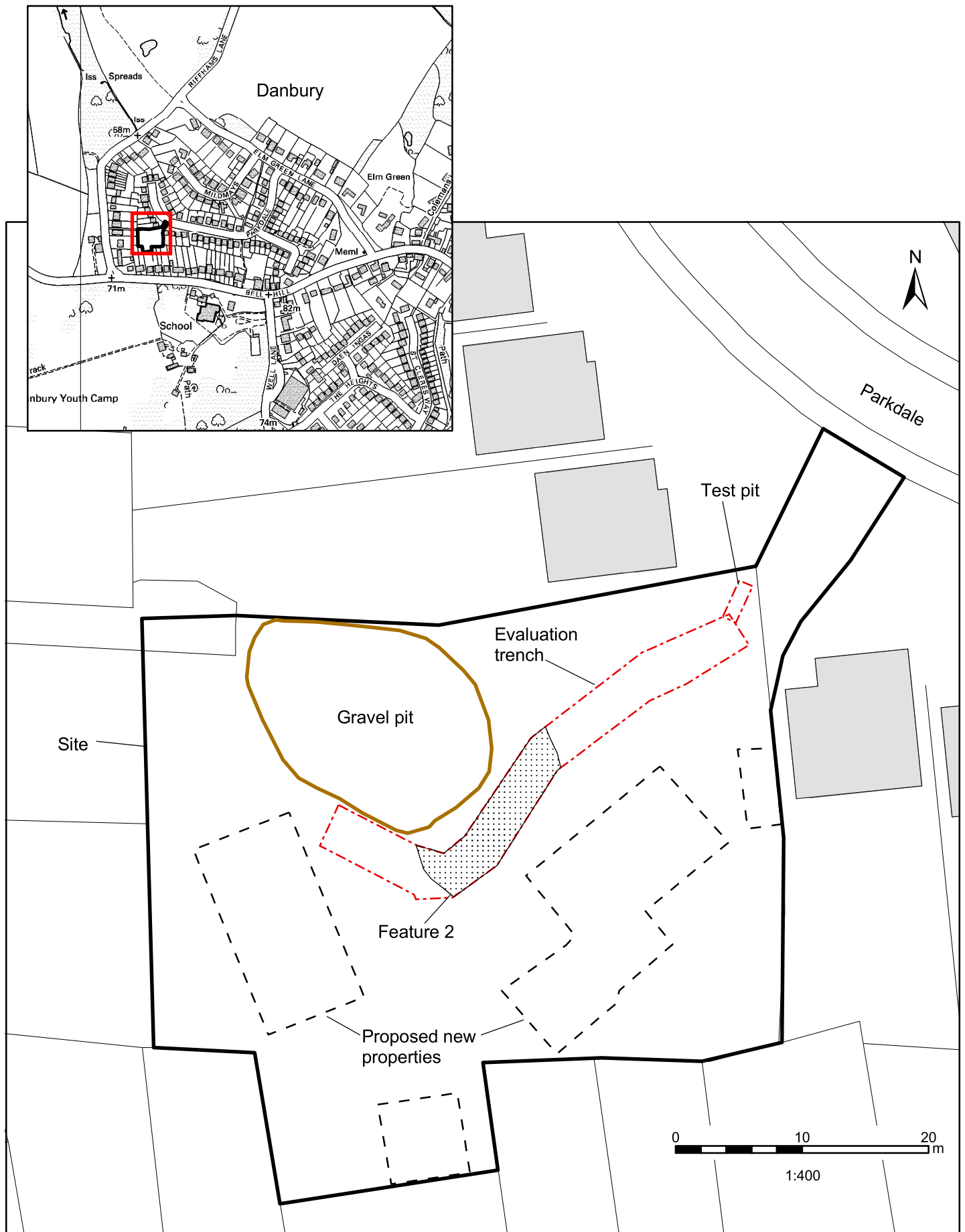
Site name/Address: Airlie, Riffhams Lane, Danbury	
Parish: Danbury	District: Chelmsford
NGR: TL 77142 05407	Site Code: DYRL 08
Type of Work: Archaeological monitoring	Site Director/Group: Mark Germany, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 12/1/09	Size of Area Investigated: 1 trench, totalling 140m ²
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Chelmsford	Client: Jenny Moody Properties Ltd
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related EHR Nos.: 5701
Final Report: Essex Archaeology and History (summary)	
Periods represented: Post-medieval Modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>The construction site for two new houses within an area of unused ground behind 'Airlie' on Riffhams Lane was trial-trenched for archaeological deposits, features and finds (Fig. 1). The archaeological work was recommended by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team and was carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit on behalf of Jenny Moody Properties Ltd. The north-western corner of the site contained a large pond surrounded by trees. The pond – a former quarry – is recorded on the 1867 to 1895 25" Ordnance Survey map and is at least 100 years old. A Roman coin was found near the site in 1954 (EHER 5701).</p> <p>The construction site was sampled by a single trench, measuring c. 3.5m wide and 40m long. The trench followed the course of an intended driveway and was stripped of its topsoil under archaeological supervision by a tracked excavator with a broad toothless bucket. The machine was also used to dig a small test-pit in the north-eastern corner.</p> <p>The trench revealed a large cut-feature (2) and natural deposits of brownish yellow clay and brownish yellow silt sand and gravel. Modern artefacts and dumps of ash and cinders lay within the dark greyish brown fill of the feature. The earliest find present was a large rim sherd of post-medieval red earthenware dating to the 17th to 19th centuries. The feature was left unexcavated and the sherd was not retained. The natural deposit of brownish yellow clay was confined to the northern end of the trench and was revealed by the test pit to be at least 1.2m thick.</p> <p>The cut-feature is likely to be part of the existing pond / gravel pit and suggests that the gravel pit originally extended further to the south-east and that at some point within the last 100 years it was partially backfilled.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:- None	
Author of Summary: Mark Germany	Date of Summary: January 2009



Plate 1: Looking south-west



Plate 2: Looking north-east



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Fig.1. Location of evaluation trench and test pit