

Archaeological monitoring on land southeast of Telecommunications Mast 4170, Main Road, Danbury, Essex, CM3 4NG

April 2019



by Adam Tuffey

figures by Adam Tuffey & Sarah Carter
fieldwork by Adam Tuffey

commissioned by Inaki Beguiristain

NGR: TL 7793 0500 (centred)
Planning ref.: CHL 16/01741/FUL
CAT project ref.: 17/11a
ECC code: DYTEM17
Chelmsford Museum accession code CHMER: 2017.129
OASIS ref.: colchest3-300851



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

CAT Report 1403

April 2019

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aim	2
5	Results	2
6	Finds	2
7	Conclusion	2
8	Acknowledgements	3
9	References	3
10	Abbreviations and glossary	3
11	Contents of archive	3
12	Archive deposition	4

Figures after p4

List of photographs and figures

Cover: general site shot

Photograph 1 Working shot, looking northeast 2

Fig 1 Site location
Fig 2 Results
Fig 3 Representative sections

1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on land southeast of telecommunications mast 4170, Main Road, Danbury, in advance of the construction of a new outbuilding and associated groundworks. The development site lies on land with high potential for archaeological remains with Danbury camp (an iron age hillfort), medieval occupation remains and a 13th-century church located close by. Although in an area of high archaeological interest, no significant remains were uncovered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This archive report presents the results of archaeological monitoring on land southeast of telecommunications mast 4170, Main Road, Danbury which was undertaken on the 15th April 2019. The work was commissioned by Inaki Beguiristain, in advance of the construction of a new outbuilding and associated groundworks, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT)

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Essex County Historic Environment Advisor Alison Bennett advised that to establish the scope of the archaeological impact of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological monitoring and recording*, detailing the requisite archaeological work, written by Alison Bennett (ECCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2017).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report implements standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (CifA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CifA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

Immediately to the north of the site lie the preserved earthwork remains of Danbury Camp hillfort, a scheduled monument (SM 1005571; EHER 5607-10). Prehistoric, Iron Age, Roman and Saxon remains and finds have been located within the defences and close by, and the proposed development site lies close to the possible line of the outer boundary of the hillfort. The line of a Roman road also runs east-west past the northern boundary of the fort.

In medieval times, the 13th-century church of St John the Baptist was built within the fort defences (EHER 30315). This provides evidence for continued medieval occupation of the site and indicates that there may be further evidence of medieval settlement and activity nearby. To the northeast (c 500m) are the remains of a medieval tile kiln (scheduled monuments SM 188; EHER 5628), representing an organised industry which is thought to have operated from c 1275 to 1335.

Identified to the immediate south of the development site are a number of undated linear cropmarks (EHER 18193).

4 Aims

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on the site.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

A concrete hard standing was removed across the development site, revealing a layer of crush (L1). Owing to the type of foundation, it was not necessary to strip the entirety of the building footprint, as the centre needed to be left high and in some places it would need to be built up even further. Two areas were subsequently excavated: 16m of trenching measuring 0.6m wide by 0.5m deep, and a small area where the reduction of the concrete slab resulted in over-stripping of the underlying crush (L1) measured 8m².

Excavations occurred through the layer of crush (L1, c 0.35-0.5m thick, friable, dry grey silty-sand with common brick, concrete and demolition waste) into subsoil (L2, firm, dry, mid brown sandy-silt with occasional stones).

No archaeological features were uncovered.



Photograph 1 Working shot, looking northeast

6 Finds

There were no archaeological finds.

7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an area with high potential for archaeological remains, no such remains were uncovered.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Inaki Beguiristain for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by A Tuffey. Figures were prepared by A Tuffey and S Carter. The project was monitored for the ECCPS by Alison Bennett.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown and Glazenbrook	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 – Research Agenda and Strategy</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8 (EAA 8).
CAT	2019	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Land south east of telecommunications mast 4170, main road, Danbury, CM3 4NG</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECC/ Chelmsford Borough Council ECCPS	2008	<i>Chelmsford Borough Historic Environment Characterisation Project</i>
	2017	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Land south east of telecommunications mast 4170, main road, Danbury</i> , by Alison Bennett
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: N/A
Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 1403)
ECCPS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)
Site digital photographic thumbnails and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1403)
ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log
Graphic files
Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Chelmsford Museum under accession code CHMER: 2017.129.

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2019

Distribution list

Inaki Berguiristain
Historic Environment Advisor, Essex County Council Place Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

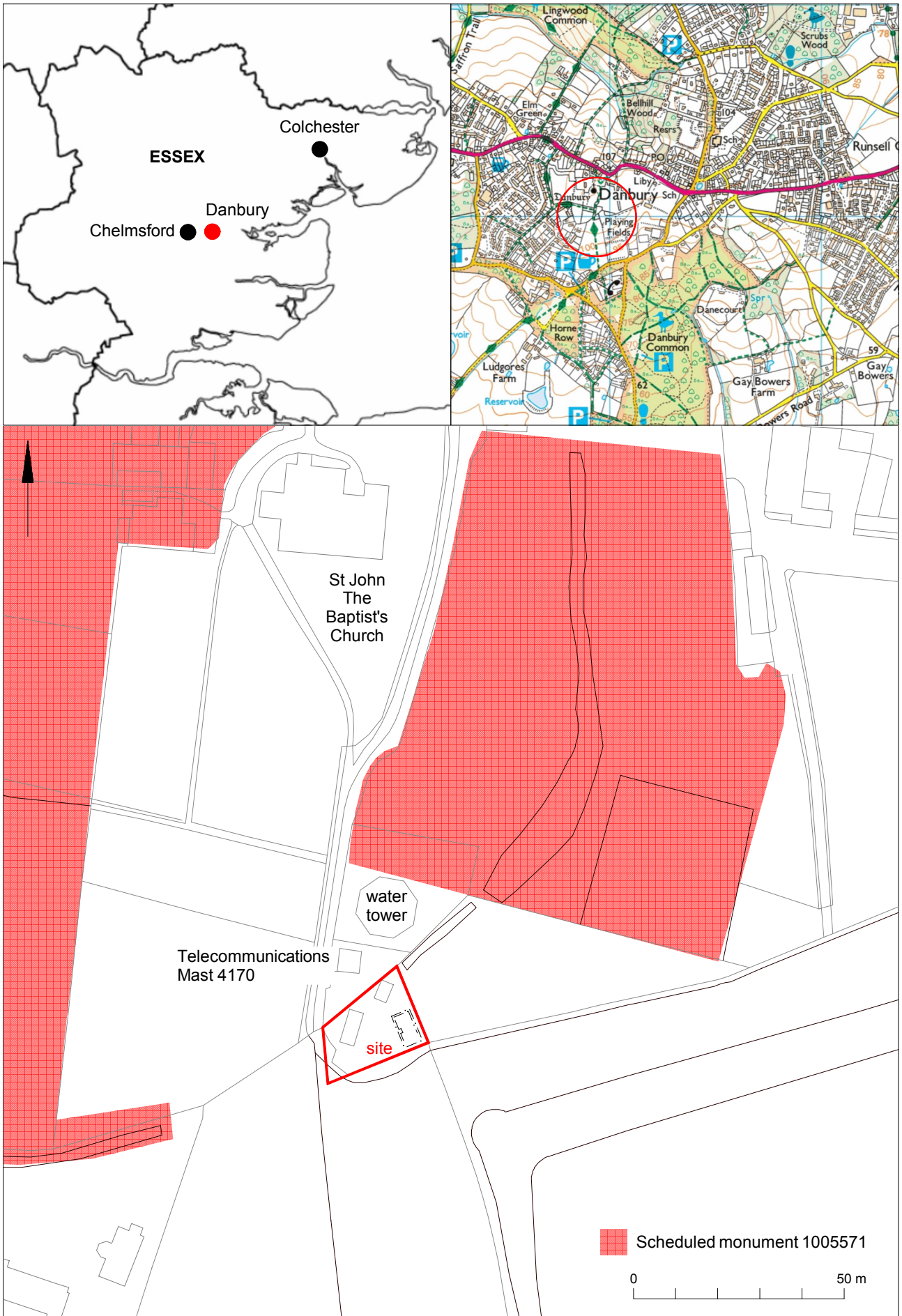
Roman Circus House
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 26.4.2019



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 1 Site location

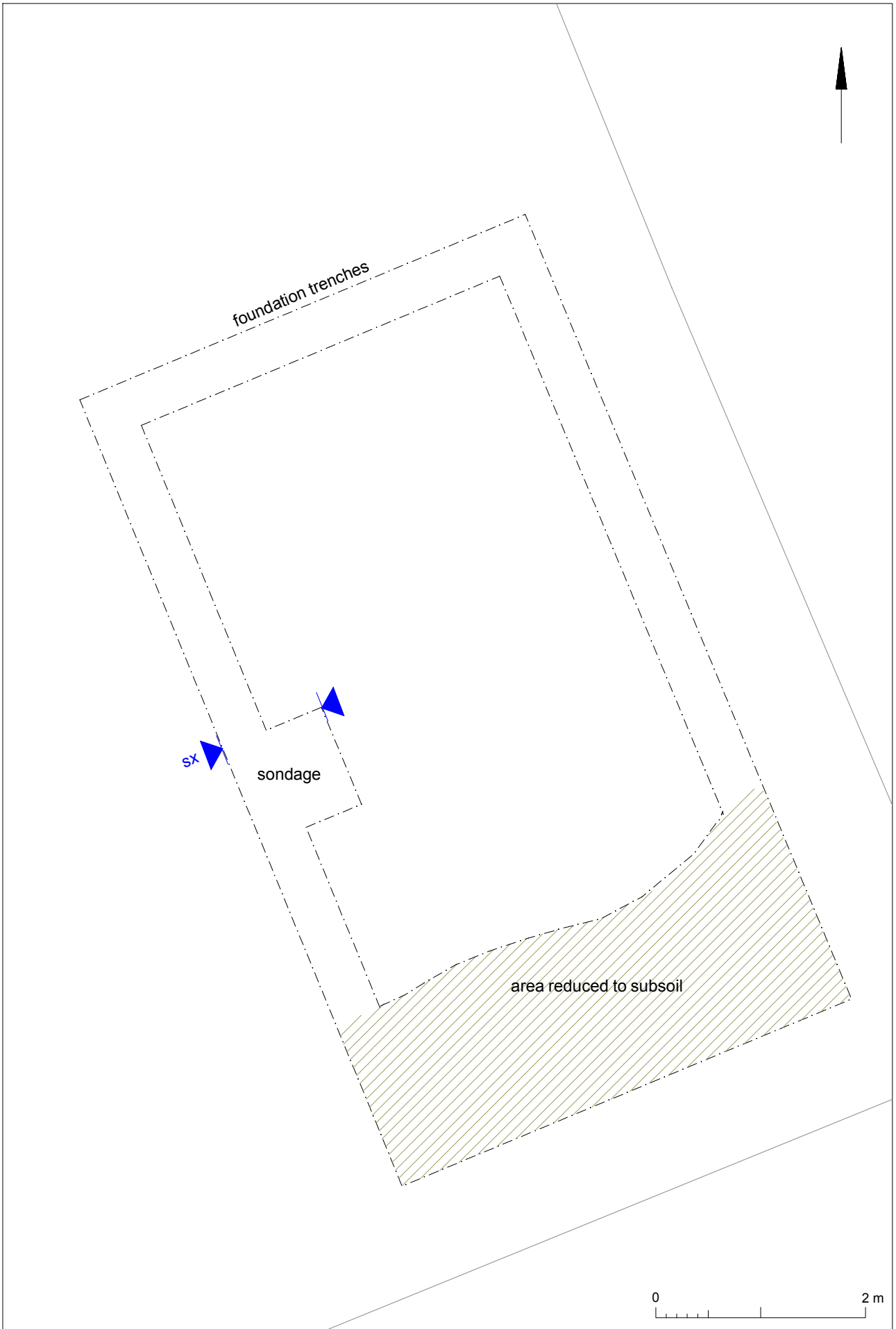


Fig 2 Results

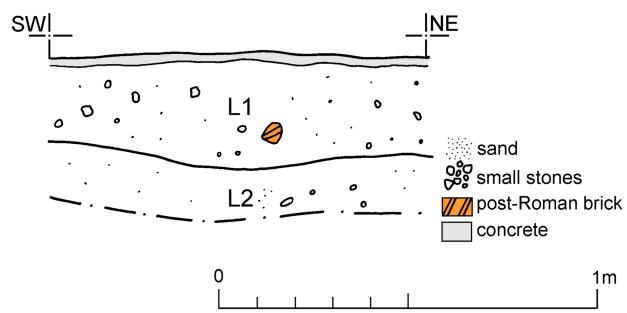


Fig 3 Representative section.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

[Printable version](#)

OASIS ID: colchest3-300851

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring on land SE of Telecommunications Mast 4170, Main Road, Danbury, Essex, CM3 4NG
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on land southeast of telecommunications mast 4170, Main Road, Danbury, in advance of the construction of a new outbuilding and associated groundworks. The development site lies on land with high potential for archaeological remains with Danbury camp (an iron age hillfort), medieval occupation remains and a 13th-century church located close by. Although in an area of high archaeological interest, no significant remains were uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 15-04-2019 End: 15-04-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/11a - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CHL 16/01741/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	CHMER: 2017.129 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	DYTM17 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX CHELMSFORD DANBURY land southeast of Telecommunications Mast 4170
Postcode	CM3 4NG
Study area	0.04 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 7793 0500 51.71495397634 0.575948871228 51 42 53 N 000 34 33 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Adam Tuffey
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Digital Archive ID	CHMER: 2017.129
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum

Paper Archive ID CHMER: 2017.129
Paper Contents "other"
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Archaeological monitoring on land southeast of Telecommunications Mast 4170, Main Road, Danbury, Essex, CM3 4NG: April 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s) Tuffey, A.
Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1403
Date 2019
Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication Colchester
Description A4 ring-bound loose leaf
URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>

Entered by Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on 26 April 2019

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice
© ADS 1996-2012 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012
cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm?id=349939> for this page

[Cookies](#) [Privacy Policy](#)