

# Archaeological evaluation at the former Danbury Medical Centre, 7 Eves Corner, Danbury, Essex, CM3 4QA

November 2016



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**commissioned by Steve Wheelhouse  
on behalf of Jenny Moody Properties Ltd**

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**CAT Report 1035**  
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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at the former Danbury Medical Centre, 7 Eves Corner, Danbury, Essex in advance of the construction of seven new dwellings. Despite being located close to the Iron Age remains of Danbury Camp, only two pits dating from the late 18th – early 20th century and two modern postholes were exposed within the trench.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at the former Danbury Medical Centre, 7 Eves Corner, Danbury, Essex carried out 1st-2nd November 2016. The work was commissioned by Steve Wheelhouse, on behalf of Jenny Moody Properties Ltd, in advance of the construction of seven new dwellings, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

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

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Alison Bennett (ECCPS 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2016).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

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

Approximately 350m to the southwest of the site lies the partial earthwork remains of the scheduled Iron Age fort of Danbury Camp (SM 79; EHER 5608). Excavations have revealed that the site was used as a defended enclosure and settlement from the Early Iron Age. Occupation may have continued through to Roman times (EHER 5609). The line of a Roman road runs east-west past the northern boundary of the fort. The development site lies to the north of this Roman road which ran from Chelmsford past Danbury.

In medieval times, a church was built on the site of the defended enclosure and a medieval settlement would have been located close by. The church of St John the Baptist dates from the 13th century (EHER 30315). To the north of the church and approximately 200m to the northwest of the site, the remains of a medieval tile kiln have been excavated (scheduled monuments SM 188; EHER 5628) representing an organised industry which is thought to have operated from c 1275 to 1335.

*The historic environment characterisation report for Chelmsford Borough* (Chelmsford Borough Council 2006) includes the proposed site within the former extent of Danbury Common (HECRBC, 5.7). The cartographic evidence shows a group of buildings on the site in 1875, which appear to have been built on common land that has been

encroached upon. Due to the historic land use of the proposed site, there is a high potential for the survival of well-preserved archaeological deposits of prehistoric to post-medieval date.

In 2009 and 2016 evaluations were carried out 300m to the southeast of the site in advance of the construction of the new Danbury Medical Centre and Care Home (CAT Report 503 and 1026). The sixteen evaluation trenches revealed a post-medieval or modern field boundary, two pits and a post-hole which probably related to the site's previous use as a paddock for horses, and a modern tree-throw. No significant archaeological horizons were identified.

#### 4 Results (Figs 2-3)

One trial-trench totalling 34m long by 1.8m wide was located within the footprint of the new dwellings. It was machine excavated under archaeological supervision.

Three layers were identified. Modern layers of tarmac, concrete and hoggin (L1, c 310-370mm thick) sealed a modern make-up spread of dark grey/brown sandy loam (L2, c 60-180mm thick). Beneath L2 were natural sands and silty-clays (L3).

Two pits dating to the late 18th – early 20th century (F1) and the 19th century (F2), and two modern postholes were excavated. The postholes appeared to have been packed with a small quantity of peg-tile and still contained the rotting remains of the *insitu* modern timber posts (F3-F4). Three service trenches were also recorded.



Photograph 1 Trial-trench, looking E

#### 5 Finds

All of the finds from the evaluation are listed in the table below.

Context and Finds No.	Description	Finds spot date
L2, 1	<b>Post-medieval/modern pottery:</b> (4: 40g) Staffordshire/factory-type wares, late 18th-early 20th century <b>CBM fragments:</b> peg-tile (2: 256g), 13mm thick, corner piece with one partial peg-hole, hole made from the front but does not penetrate all the way to the back; tile (2: 20g), 12mm thick; brick/tile fragments (2: 28g). <b>Glass:</b> (3: 36g), bottle glass, one green, two light blue. <b>Iron nail:</b> (1: 2g), incomplete, 23mm long <b>Others:</b> two fragments of slate (32g) and two fragments of sandstone (50g)	Late 18th – early 20th century
F1, 2	<b>Post-medieval pottery:</b> (19: 178g) Stock-type black glazed ware (Fabric 40B*), sherds from one vessel, 17th-18th century. <b>CBM fragments:</b> peg-tile (4: 346g), 12-13mm thick; tile (1: 222g), 17mm thick; curved roof tiles (4: 438g), 12-16mm thick; unfrosted brick (1: 488g), 59mm thick; frosted brick (1: 418g), 65mm thick, 'B' or '8' visible, probably 19th century; brick with vitrified glass on surface (1: 232g). <b>Glass:</b> (1: 2g) bottle glass, olive green. <b>Iron:</b> fragment (1: 14g), part of rod/fixing	19th century
F1, 3	<b>CBM fragments:</b> peg-tile (3:270g), 15-16mm thick, medieval/post-medieval <b>Iron nail:</b> (1: 8g) complete, 66mm long <b>Timber post:</b> remains of a modern timber post (identified on site but not retained)	Modern
F2, 4	<b>CBM fragments:</b> peg-tile (2:122g), 12mm thick, medieval/post-medieval <b>Timber post:</b> remains of a modern timber post (identified on site but not retained)	Modern

**Table 1** All finds by context (\*CAR7)

## 6 Discussion

Archaeological evaluation revealed two post-medieval/modern pits and two modern post-holes. The pits are probably associated with buildings that existed on the development site in the post-medieval/modern periods, as shown on early OS maps.



**Map 1** 1895 six-inch OS map (Essex LIII.SE) showing buildings on the development site (as indicated by the blue arrow)

## 7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Steve Wheelhouse and Jenny Moody Properties Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway, N Rayner and J Roberts. Figures are by BH and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Alison Bennett.

## 8 References

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

CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by John Cotter
CAT	2014	<i>Health and Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation at the former Danbury Medical Centre, 7 Eves Corner, Danbury, Essex, CM3 4QA</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</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> . Dept of Communities and Local Government.
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, <b>14</b> . Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> , by Maria Medlycott
ECCPS	2015	<i>Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at Danbury Medical Centre, 7 Eves Corner, Danbury</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)

## 9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
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 of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## 10 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1035)

ECC Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

## 11 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 CHMRE: 2016.122

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### Distribution list:

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Jenny Moody Properties Ltd

Historic Environment Advisor, Essex County Council Place Services

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



### Colchester Archaeological Trust

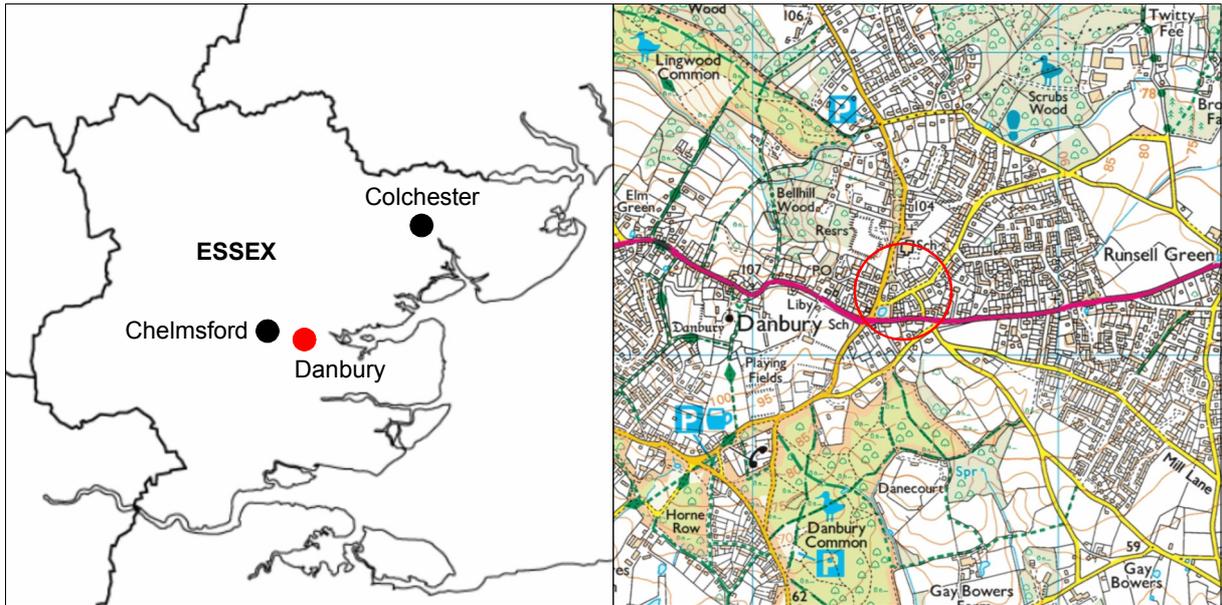
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Fig 1 Site location and trench plan in relation to proposed development (dashed blue).



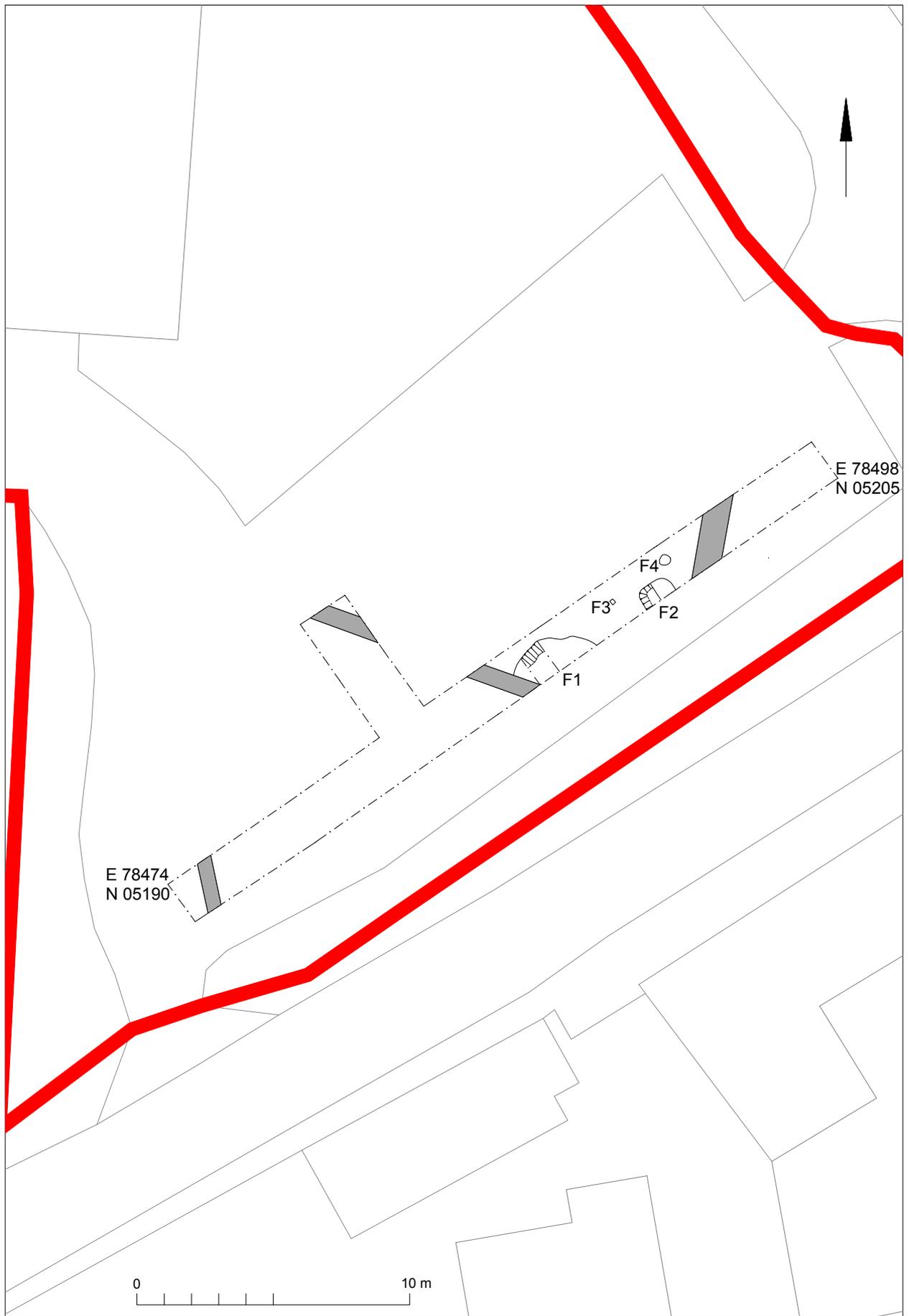


Fig 2 Trench plan

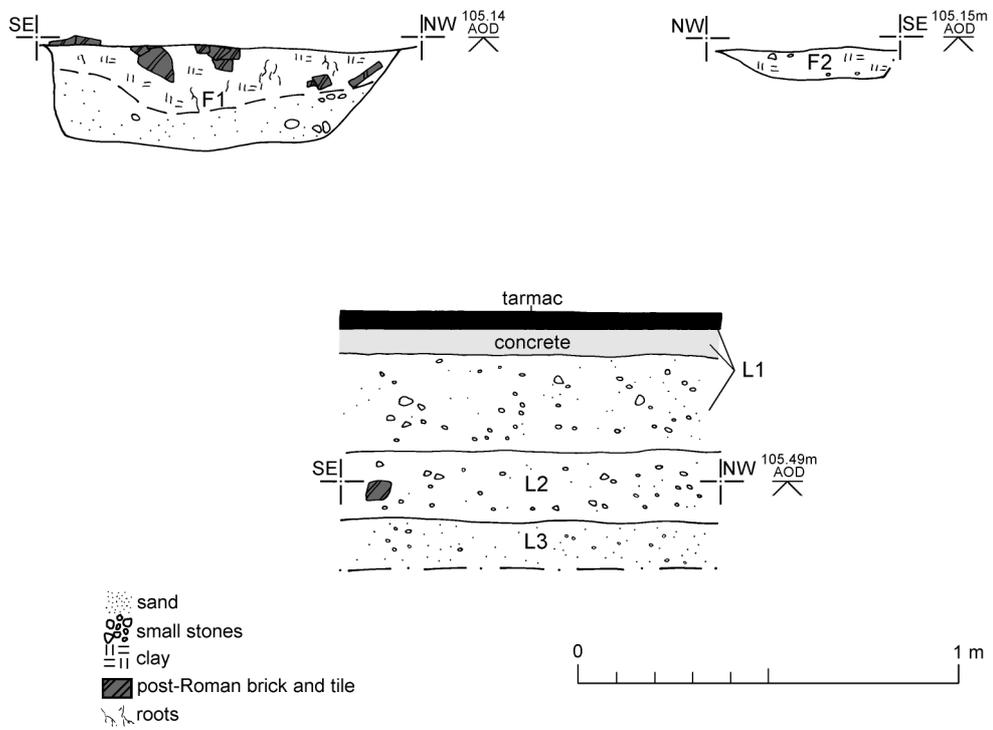


Fig 3 Feature and representative trench sections.

## Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

### Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> former Danbury Medical Centre, 7 Eves Corner, Danbury, Essex, CM3 4QA	
<b>Parish:</b> Danbury	<b>District:</b> Chelmsford
<b>NGR:</b> TL 78467 05220 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project code: 16/10d ECC project code: DYEC16 OASIS project ID: colchest3-265374
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 1st-2nd November 2016	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> One trial-trench, 34m linear by 1.8m wide (61.2m <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Chelmsford Museum accession code CHMRE: 2016.122	<b>Funding source:</b> developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER number:</b> EHER 5608-9, 5628, 30315
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1035	
<b>Periods represented:</b> post-medieval, modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at the former Danbury Medical Centre, 7 Eves Corner, Danbury, Essex in advance of the construction of seven new dwellings. Despite being located close to the Iron Age remains of Danbury Camp, only two pits dating from the late 18th – early 20th century and two modern postholes were exposed within the trench.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	
<b>Keywords:</b> –	<b>Significance:</b> –
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> November 2016