

**PASSMORES HOUSE
THIRD AVENUE, HARLOW
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
BY TRIAL PITS (PHASE 1)**



Essex County Council

Field Archaeology Unit

November 2007

**PASSMORES HOUSE
THIRD AVENUE
HARLOW
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BY TRIAL PITS (PHASE 1)**

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Doc. Ref.	1733Rep.doc
Report Issue Date	7 November 2007
Circulation	Hazle McCormack Young Architects
	Vale House Stabilisation Services (via HMY)
	Harlow DC Planning Dept (via HMY)
	English Heritage
	Essex CC HEM
	Essex Historic Environment Record
	Harlow Museum

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**PASSMORES HOUSE
THIRD AVENUE, HARLOW, ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
BY TRIAL PITS (PHASE 1)**

Client: Hazle McCormack Young Architects for Vale House Stabilisation Services

Planning Reference: HLW/0397/06

NGR: TL 4438 0908

Site Code: HAPH07

Scheduled Monument No. 29468

ECC FAU Project Number: 1733

OASIS Index Number: essexcou1-32581

Dates of Fieldwork: 8 October 2007

SUMMARY

An archaeological assessment was carried out at Passmores House, Harlow to enable informed decisions to be made on archaeological mitigation measures before its proposed conversion into a residential rehabilitation home. The assessment comprised recording of geotechnical trial pits and research into the site's historical and archaeological background, in particular the results of an excavation carried out in one of the rooms of the house in 1999.

Passmores House is an early 18th-century country house with a 19th-century stable block, built on the site of a medieval moated manor house. Parts of the moat are still visible and stone footings of a probable medieval hall show as parch marks on the grass to the south of the present house. All below-ground archaeological remains within the limits of the medieval moated enclosure are protected as a scheduled monument; the house itself is Grade II listed but is not included in the scheduled monument designation.

The assessment has established the potential survival of medieval and post-medieval remains both around and beneath the existing house, with only limited areas of modern disturbance.

The trial pits identified an extensive gravelly clay levelling layer, undated, but probably related to construction of the present house in the early 18th century. The eastern arm of the moated enclosure was also located, c. 6m further east than its current projected line, with waterlogged fills towards its base. The general levelling layer overlay the moat but did not extend to the east of the main house into the area of the modern caretaker's house.

Background research identified a summary report on the 1999 excavation inside the south-western room of the house, which was probably originally built in the late 16th century and incorporated into the existing house during the extensive rebuilding in the early 18th century. The excavation recorded a sequence of medieval and post-medieval structural remains almost immediately beneath the suspended floor of the existing house, dating from the 13th/14th to the 15th and 16th centuries. These remains are interpreted as a series of additions to the north end of the medieval hall visible as parch marks in the grass to the south of the house. They included a 15th/16th-century brick-lined garderobe pit (cess pit for a privy), over 2.4m deep, which contained wooden and leather artefacts in its waterlogged lower fill.

Survival and preservation of below-ground medieval and post-medieval remains is considered to be very good. For this reason all groundworks related to the proposed conversion of the existing house and the car park to its north have the potential to impact upon archaeological remains. The presence of remains in the area of the proposed new accommodation block to the east of the house is less certain, but there may also be a potential archaeological impact in this area.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents an assessment of the potential for surviving archaeological remains at Passmores House, Harlow (formerly Harlow Museum) before groundworks for its conversion to a residential rehabilitation home. Passmores House is an 18th-century country house built on the site of a medieval moated manor house (Fig. 1). All below-ground archaeological remains within the limits of the medieval moated enclosure are protected as a scheduled monument (SM 29468). The house itself is Grade II listed but is not included in the scheduled monument designation. The archaeological assessment consisted of recording geotechnical trial pits dug around the outside of the house, supported by research into the site's historical and archaeological background, in particular the results of an archaeological excavation carried out inside the house in 1999. The aim of the assessment report is to provide information to assess the survival of archaeological remains and the likely impact on them from groundworks for the house conversion, car park and other areas of new construction.

The archaeological assessment was undertaken by the Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of Hazle McCormack Young architects, acting for the developer, Vale House Stabilisation Services. It was carried out under the terms of a condition placed on planning consent by Harlow District Council (HLW/0397/06), following advice from the Essex CC Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM) in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (DoE 1990). Since the geotechnical trial pits impacted upon the scheduled monument, English Heritage's Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Essex was consulted and scheduled monument consent was obtained from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. The work followed the Brief issued by ECC HEM (2006) and the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by ECC FAU (2007).

Copies of this report have been supplied to Hazle McCormack Young (including copies for Vale House Stabilisation Services and Harlow District Council Planning Department), the Essex CC Historic Environment Management team, the Essex Historic Environment Record and Harlow Museum. A digital copy of this report has been uploaded onto the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>). The site archive will be stored at Harlow Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Site Description

Passmores House (TL 4438 0908) is situated off Third Avenue and Abercrombie Way, to the south of Harlow's modern town centre (Fig. 1) and 4km south-west of Harlow Old Town. It is an early 18th-century country house overlooking the Todd Brook, which runs 20-30m to its north. A timber-clad 19th-century stable block extends eastwards from the house, with an east wing flanking a courtyard (Plates 1 and 2). The surface geology of the Harlow area is clay till of the Anglian glacial period.

The house is located on the site of a medieval moated enclosure measuring 60 x 80m (Fig. 1). The southern arm of the moat survives as an ornamental pond to the south of the house, while the western and eastern arms are visible as slight depressions in the grass between the pond and the house. The eastern arm of the moat was shown as open for part of its length on the OS 25" map of 1896, although it has since been infilled. The Todd Brook presumably formed the northern arm of the moat. The moat appears to have been fed from a tributary stream of the Todd Brook that rises to the south of the site. The presumed limits of the moated enclosure form the boundary of the area that has been designated a scheduled monument.

The proposed works mainly comprise renovation and conversion of the existing house (Fig. 2). The plans include the addition of a conservatory at the south-west corner of the house, a glazed covered gallery joining the house to the east wing of the stable block, and re-laying of the car park in front of the house. All of these works fall within the scheduled monument area.

Works outside the scheduled area involve demolition of the modern-built south-east corner of the stable block and rebuilding for a kitchen, and demolition of the modern caretaker's house to the east of the main house and construction of a new two-storey accommodation block on piled foundations (Fig. 2).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

This archaeological and historical background summarises information contained in the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER), based on the known documentary and cartographic

sources (Appendix 3) and collated in the scheduled monument description (Appendix 4). A summary report on the excavation carried out in the south-western room of the house in 1999 has also been consulted (Andrews 1999 and Appendix 5).

Passmores House is a Grade II listed building (LBS No. 119576) dating to 1727, representing a modernisation of an earlier, probably late 16th-century, brick-fronted timber-framed structure, part of which survives as the southernmost rooms of the present house (EHER 31765). The house was accompanied by outbuildings and a walled garden, and the current stable blocks were added to its east in the late 19th century (EHER 31766-8). The house is set within a medieval moated enclosure (EHER 3718), which has been designated a scheduled monument (SM 29468; Appendix 4). Although the moat has not been dated by fieldwork, moated manor houses were a notable feature of the Essex landscape in the medieval period.

The small manor that represented the origins of Passmores House can be traced to a Saxon settlement granted to Baron Ranulf after the Norman Conquest, but in the 12th century the manor was transferred to Southwark Priory. The name *Passemer* (retained as Passmores) first appears in a document of 1199 and the Passemer family held the manor as tenants until at least 1475, after which the Bevis family succeeded as tenants, acquiring full title to the manor after the Dissolution. A 15th-century document describes a two-storey timber-framed hall, and it is thought that a parlour and other rooms (later incorporated in the 18th-century house) were added to the hall in the later 16th century. In 1622 the property was divided into two, and the indenture lists a great barn, hayhouse, stable, milkhouse, malthouse and tanhouse in addition to the main house. Passmores was sold to Jonathan Nunn in the early 18th century, and he was responsible for the extensive rebuilding which resulted in the present house. The house is shown on Chapman and André's map of 1777, but it unfortunately lies just outside the area of the highly detailed Altham estate map of 1616. The house was acquired by Harlow District Council in 1972 and became the town's museum.

Parch marks denoting the presence of stone foundations have been observed in the grass to the south of the house, between it and the pond. They are interpreted as the remains of the documented 15th-century hall, aligned north-south, with additional chambers at its southern end. There is unfortunately no record of the parch marks having been mapped.

An excavation was carried out in 1999 by the Harlow Archaeological Group in the western room of the older southern part of the house, thought to have been built in the later 16th century, when the suspended wooden floor was replaced (Fig. 2). The excavation results (Andrews 1999 and Appendix 5) suggest the survival of a sequence of buildings dating to the 15th to 16th centuries, and possibly from as early as the 13th or 14th century. These are assessed in detail below (see 5.0 and 7.0).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the archaeological work is to provide an assessment of the likely survival of medieval and post-medieval remains pre-dating the existing house and related to the moated manorial site that is protected as a scheduled monument. Improved understanding of medieval moated sites is a major research topic in the research agenda for archaeology in East Anglia (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, 24). Despite the small scale of the archaeological work an attempt will be made to assess the preservation and potential significance of any surviving archaeological remains to provide information for future curation of the scheduled monument and adjacent areas.

The specific objectives of the archaeological work were as follows:

1. To monitor trial pits to assess the character, depth/extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits and artefacts.
2. To record remains of all periods, both in relation to the existing 18th-century house and any remains of the medieval and post-medieval moated manorial site.
3. To carry out background research, to locate the 1999 excavation trench, assess the character and significance of what was recorded within it, and to assess any relevant information about the site from historical sources.

4.0 METHOD

After consultation with English Heritage, ECC HEM and Hazle McCormack Young architects, it was decided that archaeological monitoring of geotechnical trial pits, supplemented by background research, would provide sufficient assessment of the site's archaeological potential. In total eight trial pits were machine-dug around the outside of the house and its outbuildings to establish the depth of the foundations, and of the topsoil/overburden, buried soil layers and natural clay through which they were cut. This allows assessment of the survival of any below-ground archaeological remains and the potential impact on them of the groundworks for the house conversion before the detailed design of the new works is finalised. Four boreholes were also sunk to provide geological information.

Trial pits 1, 4, 5, 7, and 8 were located within the limits of the scheduled monument, while trial pits 2, 3 and 6 were dug outside the scheduled area around the east side of the house (Fig. 2). The stratigraphic sequences exposed in the trial pits were recorded on proforma Trench Recording Sheets. On a reconnaissance visit colour digital photographs were taken of the exterior of the house and stable block. The background research on the site is based on material held in the Essex Record Office, the Essex Historic Environment Record and Harlow Museum.

The investigation was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IFA 1999), and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers' *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). The ECC FAU is a registered archaeological organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

5.0 THE 1999 EXCAVATION RESULTS

The 1999 excavation was located in the south-western room of the 18th-century house, in its southern range that is thought to have been of later 16th-century origin (Fig. 2). The excavation covered an area of c. 6 x 4m, and a sequence of medieval and post-medieval deposits was

exposed almost immediately beneath the suspended wooden floor (Plates 3-6). Excavation was limited and most of the archaeological deposits were left in place. The general depth of surviving deposits was between 0.6m and 0.9m, although mid-way along the south wall a brick-lined feature, probably a garderobe, was excavated to a depth of over 2.4m, c. 0.6m below the water table. The excavation trench was backfilled with red ballast.

The main excavation results (Andrews 1999 and Appendix 5) are summarised as follows:

Phase I (13th-14th century?). A layered mortared gravel foundation 0.75m deep, unfortunately undated, ran beneath the south wall of the present house. The foundation type was common in the 12th and 13th centuries, but the use of mortar in the foundation suggests a later date, in the 14th century. The foundation would most likely have supported a timber-framed superstructure. It is interpreted as the north wall of the medieval hall which lay beneath the grass to the south of the present house, and whose foundations are occasionally visible as parch marks.

Phase II (15th century). A brick foundation dated to the 15th century abutted the phase I wall and crossed the room north-south (Plates 3 and 4). Brick foundations of the same type were recorded beneath the west and north walls of the room, forming a small chamber measuring 3 x 4m to the north of the medieval hall. The internal floor was formed of silty sandy clay to a depth of 2-3ft (0.6-0.9m) below contemporary ground level.

Phase III (15th century). A brick-lined garderobe pit (cess pit for a privy), measuring c. 2.0 x 2.5m and over 2.4m deep (Plates 5 and 6) was constructed to the east of the phase II room, abutting the phase 1 wall. It was built of the same bricks as the phase II walls so was presumably contemporary with them although the stratigraphic relationship between the two indicates that the garderobe was a later addition. The pit was not bottomed, but penetrated at least 0.6m into the water table. Its waterlogged lower fill contained a leather shoe and two wooden bowls.

Phase IV (16th century). The garderobe pit was infilled with soil and building rubble, containing quite a large amount of late medieval and post-medieval pottery dated to the 15th-16th century, although residual sherds of a 13th-century vessel were also found. The pit was sealed by a

cobbled external surface, above which a brick drain with a peg-tile base ran north-south across the room (Plates 5 and 6).

Phase V (later 16th or later). A further clay floor surface was laid in the west of the room and the base of a brick hearth was recorded beneath the west wall (Plates 3 and 4). The brickwork is dated to the later 16th century or later and would have formed the base of a brick chimney stack, although the upper part of the chimney has since been rebuilt. It is thought that the room, and by extension the entire south range, was built at this date. The hearth and chimney stack suggests the room was a parlour.

Phase VI (early 18th century). The room, and the south range as a whole, was incorporated within the remodelled brick-fronted house completed in 1727. The sole plates at the base of the timber-framed walls were renewed, but some of the wall fabric may be original earlier work. The medieval hall had been demolished by this stage, although precisely when is not known.

6.0 TRIAL PIT RESULTS

Detailed logs of the stratigraphy recorded in the trial pits are set out in Appendix 1, and the comparative depths of modern and archaeological deposits between individual trial pits are summarised in Table 1 (below).

6.1 Within the Scheduled Area

Five trial pits were excavated within the limits of the scheduled monument (Fig. 2, TP1, 4, 5, 7 and 8). Yellow-brown natural clay was found in the trial pits, generally between 0.60 and 0.75m below modern ground level, indicating a gentle slope down towards the north-east and the Todd Brook. Overlying the natural clay in all of the trial pits was a 0.30-0.45m thick layer of mixed gravelly clay that contained small chalk, tile and brick fragments. This undoubtedly formed a general levelling layer, and archaeological features might be expected to survive both at its surface and sealed below it, at the top of the natural clay. The date of the levelling layer is uncertain as no pottery or other closely datable material was recovered from it, although it is most likely related to the remodelling of Passmores House in the early 18th century. The results

from Borehole 1 confirmed those from Trial Pits 4, 7 and 8 and demonstrated the existence of a high water table on site.

Table 1. Comparative depths of sequences between trial pits (see Fig. 2 for locations)

Trial Pit	Existing foundations depth (m)	Modern build-up depth (m)	Archaeological strat, top/bottom depth (m)	Natural clay, top depth (m)
S of House				
TP1	0.50	0.40	0.40-0.73	0.73
TP5	0.50	0.50	0.50-0.70+	below 0.70
N of House				
TP4	0.60	0.15	0.30-0.45	0.45
TP7	0.60	0.15	0.15-0.60	0.60
TP8	0.75	0.20	0.20-0.75	0.75
E of House				
TP3	0.70	0.78+	Modern strat only	below 0.78
TP6	1.07	0.36	0.36-1.31	below 1.31
Caretaker's Hse				
TP2	0.90	0.90	Topsoil only	0.90

In Trial Pits 1 and 8 the brick foundations of the 18th-century house consisted of five and seven courses respectively, to depths of 0.50 and 0.75m. In Trial Pits 4 and 7 the brick foundations of the stable block to the east of the courtyard were also relatively substantial, consisting of six courses, to a depth of 0.60m. All these foundations either overlay or cut into the natural clay. By contrast, the foundations of the south wall of the range connecting the house to the stables were recorded in Trial Pit 5 as shallow and insubstantial, and not resting on natural clay at all. They consisted of only three brick courses, 0.21m deep, laid over a 0.18m-thick layer of white lime mortar on a 0.11m-thick bed of tile and brick rubble. These might represent rubble footings for the existing foundation of the south range of the 19th-century stables, but are equally likely to be an earlier phase of foundations. The latter conclusion is suggested by a large hand-formed peg-tile fragment recovered from the rubble footings, of late medieval or early post-medieval date. All phases of foundation in Trial Pit 5 overlay the general clay levelling.

In Trial Pit 1 a 0.40m-deep brick foundation consisting of four courses extended south from the existing house and relates to a conservatory that once occupied the south-west corner of the

house. A further brick foundation was encountered in Trial Pit 7 that was six courses deep and extended westwards from the northern wall of the stable block. It represents the foundations for a former boundary wall, and presumably a gateway, on the north side of the courtyard.

6.2 Outside the Scheduled Area

Three trial pits were excavated outside the scheduled area, around the eastern side of the stable block and the modern caretaker's house (Fig. 2, TP2, 3 and 6).

The natural clay was recorded only in Trial Pit 2, excavated against the wall of the caretaker's house, at a depth of 0.90m, beneath the concrete foundations of the house and the garden soil that abutted it. Trial Pit 3, excavated against the north-east corner of the stable block, revealed modern disturbance down to a depth of 0.78m, without exposing the natural clay. A 0.5m-deep trench for an electricity cable that ran east-west alongside the north wall of the stable block had undermined the more recent shallow brick foundations and loosened the 0.40m-thick crushed chalk, gravel, and rubble that lay beneath.

In Trial Pit 6 the concrete foundations of the modern south-eastern corner of the stable block were recorded to a depth of 1.07m. However, below a 0.30m-thick layer of tarmac and gravel surfacing, the foundations cut through a sequence interpreted as the fills of the eastern arm of the moated enclosure. The natural clay was not encountered, despite the trial pit being excavated to a depth of 1.31m.

The earliest deposit recorded in Trial Pit 6, at a depth of 1.18m, was blue waterlogged organic soft silty clay, possibly cassy, almost certainly the fill of the moat. Mottled brown-grey soft silty clay, 0.52m thick, above this appears to represent the upper fill of the moat, most likely its deliberate infilling. A large fragment of hand-formed tile from this fill could date to either the late medieval or early post-medieval period. The surface of these fills, at 0.66m below modern ground level, is comparable to the top of the natural clay elsewhere around the southern side of the house. The postulated moat fills were sealed by yellow-brown gravelly clay, 0.30m thick, representing a further area of the general clay levelling recorded in Trial Pits 1, 4, 5, 7 and 8 around the house. It is likely that this sequence represents infilling and levelling over of the eastern arm of the moat when the existing house was built in the early 18th century.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

The results of the recent trial pits and the 1999 excavation suggest that significant medieval and post-medieval deposits survive within the area of the scheduled monument, both around and beneath the existing 18th-century house and the 19th-century stable block to its east (Fig. 2). Archaeological deposits can be expected to survive at a depth of between c. 0.3m and 0.9m in most areas, with some deeper features penetrating the water table and containing waterlogged fills. For the most part, archaeological deposits appear to have escaped major truncation from modern ground disturbances.

The trial pit recording established that a gravelly clay levelling layer, probably related to the remodelling of the house and grounds in the early 18th century, survives above the natural clay around all sides of the existing house and stables. With the exception of Trial Pit 6, no archaeological features were recorded in the trial pits, but could survive both at the surface of the levelling, and sealed beneath it, at the top of the natural clay. Trial Pit 6 located the eastern arm of the medieval moated enclosure, c. 6m further east than is projected in the scheduled monument designation. The moat had waterlogged fills sealed at a depth of below 1.2m. No artefacts were recovered to date either the clay levelling layer or the sequence of moat fills, but the most likely interpretation is that the moat was deliberately infilled and levelled as part of the early 18th-century remodelling of the house and its grounds.

Trial Pit 1 showed evidence of a former conservatory at the south-west of the existing house, while Trial Pits 3 and 5 possibly suggest more than one phase of foundations for the stable block. There was considerable disturbance around the east side of the stables, but further east, in the area of the caretaker's house, garden soil survived above the natural clay without any evidence of modern disturbance.

The 1999 excavation showed that a sequence of later medieval and post-medieval structures lies beneath the south-western room of the present house, presumably as an extension to the medieval hall beneath the grass to the south. The present room is the result of a later 16th-century reconstruction that was incorporated in the early 18th-century house. Foundations and floor levels survive only a short distance beneath the present floor level, to an overall depth of

0.6-0.9m. More than one phase of foundations and clay levelling was recorded in the 1999 investigation, and it is possible that multiple clay levelling and floor layers were not recognised in the sections of the trial pits. The 15th/16th-century garderobe pit was over 2.4m deep and penetrated the water table, having a waterlogged lower fill containing organic artefacts, as well as relatively large quantities of pottery and building materials through all its fills. The south-west of the house and the adjacent open area is the logical location of the main manorial buildings, in the centre of the moated enclosure.

The assessment has demonstrated potentially very good below-ground survival of important medieval and post-medieval remains, both within and outside the area of the scheduled monument. These remains are significant for understanding the development of the manorial site, and the status and lifestyles of its inhabitants. All groundworks related to conversion of the house are likely to have an impact on archaeological remains (Fig. 2). Two particularly sensitive areas are the new conservatory at the south-west of the house, in the probable location of medieval and post-medieval buildings, and the kitchen extension in the east, which crosses the line of the eastern arm of the moated enclosure. Construction of the gallery along the front of the house and relaying the car park are also likely to have an impact on archaeological remains. Archaeological impact is less easy to assess in the area of the new accommodation block. This area lies outside the moated enclosure, but while Trial Pit 2 did not identify any stratigraphic build-up, any features cutting the natural clay would be well preserved beneath garden soil.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Essex CC FAU thanks Vale House Consolidation Services and their architects, Hazle McCormack Young (HMY), for commissioning the archaeological assessment, especially Belinda Tonelli of HMY for her help during the setting-up of the work.

The archaeological fieldwork was carried out by Matt Pocock. The report was prepared by Matt Pocock and Patrick Allen, and the plans were drawn by Andrew Lewsey. Thanks are due to Chris Lydamore of Harlow Museum Service and Teresa O'Connor of the Essex Historic Environment Record for providing information on the 1999 excavation. The project was managed by Patrick Allen, and was monitored by Vanessa Clarke and Richard Havis of the Essex CC Historic Environment Management team and Debbie Priddy, English Heritage's Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Essex.

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APPENDIX 1: TRIAL PIT LOGS

Trial Pit	Depth (m)	Description
1		Main house foundation: 5 brick courses, 0.50m deep
	0.00-0.08	Cobbled surface
	0.08-0.40	Service trench parallel with the S wall of the house Brick foundation, 4 courses, of former conservatory extending S from SW corner of house, resting on top of mixed clay (below)
	0.40-0.73	Mixed mid brown clay, containing gravel, chalk and small tile frags, 0.33m thick
	0.73-0.84	Natural yellow-brown clay, 0.11m depth recorded
	0.84	Bottom of trial pit
2		Caretaker's house foundation: concrete, 0.90m deep, cut garden soil (below)
	0.00-0.90	Garden soil
	0.90-1.40	Natural yellow-brown clay, 0.50m depth recorded
	1.40	Bottom of trial pit
3		Stable block foundation: 3 brick courses, 0.30m deep, on bed of mixed mortar and brick, 0.40m thick, cut mixed soil (below)
	0.00-0.78	Mixed dark brown soil, with gravel, chalk and brick frags, much disturbed by service trenches. Not bottomed. Natural clay not exposed
	0.78	Bottom of trial pit.
4		Stable block foundation: 6 brick courses, 0.60m deep
	0.00-0.15	Concrete surface
	0.15-0.45	Yellow-brown clay mixed with chalk, tile and brick frags, 0.30m thick
	0.45-0.90	Natural yellow-brown clay, 0.45m depth recorded
	0.90	Bottom of trial pit
5	0.00-0.21	Stable block foundation: 3 brick courses, 0.21m deep
	0.21-0.39	White mixed gravelly lime mortar, 0.18m thick
	0.39-0.50	Tile and ?brick rubble, 0.11m thick. Contained 1 large frag. peg-tile, circular hole in corner, sandy fabric, hand-formed, wt. 118g, late medieval or 16th-17th century.
	0.50-0.70	Mixed brown clay with gravel and tile, 0.20m + thick, not bottomed. Natural clay not exposed
	0.70	Bottom of trial pit

Trial Pit	Depth (m)	Description
6		Stable block foundation, modern addition: concrete 1.07m deep
	0.00-0.36	Tarmac and gravel surfaces, 0.36m thick
	0.36-0.66	Yellow-brown gravelly clay, 0.30m thick
	0.66-1.18	Mottled brown-grey soft silty clay, 0.52m thick. Contained 1 frag. Tile, sandy fabric, hand-formed, wt. 134g, late medieval or 16th-17th century
	1.18-1.31	Blue organic soft silty waterlain clay, possibly cassy, 0.13m + thick, not bottomed. Natural clay not exposed
	1.31	Bottom of trial pit
7		Stable block foundation: 6 brick courses, 0.60m deep
	0.00-0.15	Concrete surface
	0.15-0.60	Yellow-brown clay mixed with chalk, tile and brick frags, 0.45m thick
	0.60-0.70	Natural yellow-brown clay, 0.10m depth recorded
	0.70	Bottom of trial pit
8		Main house foundation, 7 brick courses, 0.75m deep
	0.00-0.20	Concrete surface
	0.20-0.75	Yellow-brown clay mixed with chalk, tile and brick frags, 0.55m thick
	0.75-0.90	Natural yellow-brown clay, 0.15m depth recorded
	0.90	Bottom of trial pit

APPENDIX 2: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

SITE NAME: PASSMORES HOUSE, HARLOW: INDEX TO ARCHIVE

File containing:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Brief for the archaeological investigation
- 1.2 Written scheme of investigation
- 1.3 Scheduled Monument description

2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 Copy of 1999 excavation summary report and phased plan

3. Site Archive

- 3.1 Trench Recording Sheets 1 to 8
- 3.2 Original Field Notes
- 3.3 Plans of Trial Pit Locations
- 3.4 Photographic Register
 - 3.4.1 Digital Images (CDR)

The finds (two tile fragments) have been discarded.

APPENDIX 3: DOCUMENTARY AND CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Primary Sources were not consulted

Secondary Sources

Morant, P., 1768	History of the Antiquities of Essex
Wright, T., 1835	History of Essex
RCHME, 1921	An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Essex, Vol. 2, 103
Reaney 1935	The Place Names of Essex, 49
Rumble, A., 1983	Domesday Book: Essex, 37
Jones, J., 1994	Passmores, the Story of a House (Friends of Harlow Museum)
Andrews, D.D., 1999	Passmores Museum, Harlow, Excavation Summary Report

Maps

1616	Mark Hall and Latton Hall, Harlow, Estate of Sir Edward Altham (ERO D/DQ92)
1777	Chapman and Andre
1896	Ordnance Survey 25"

APPENDIX 4: SCHEDULED MONUMENT DESIGNATION

Passmores House moated site, immediately S of Todd Brook (SM 29468)

The monument includes a medieval moated site surrounding Passmores House, located alongside the Todd Brook to the south of Third Avenue on the southern outskirts of Harlow.

The moat which defines and surrounds the island has been partially infilled leaving only the southern arm clearly visible and water-filled. This arm measures approximately 60m in length and 12m in width and is orientated north east to south west. The adjoining arms, which continued at right angles to the east and west, can still be detected as slight depressions of similar width crossing the grounds to the south of the present house. That to the east is still shown open and continuous with the southern arm on the Ordnance Survey 25 inch map of 1896, although it was infilled by the time of the 1947 edition. A slight undulation marks the course of the western arm to the north west of the present house, although the full extent of both the eastern and western arms is uncertain. In the absence of any evidence for a northern arm completing the circuit around the former island, it is thought probable that Todd Brook provided the boundary on this side.

Passmores, an elegant Georgian country house, is a Listed Building Grade II and situated in the centre of the island. The house has retained much of its original appearance, with only minor modifications and the addition of an eastern stable block in the latter part of the 19th century. Its construction represents the modernisation of an earlier brick-fronted and timber-framed building, one range of which was encapsulated and retained within the southern half of the present structure. Parchmarks caused by stone foundations beneath the adjacent lawn indicate that an earlier structure also extended some 20m to the south, incorporating a long hall (running parallel with the east and west arm of the moat) with additional chambers at either side of the southern end. Excavations within the western room of the older part of Passmores House in 1999 provided further evidence for the sequence of buildings. This room contained an early fireplace and was interpreted as a later 16th century parlour. The parlour was the successor to a chamber, 3m by 4m with brick foundations, probably constructed in the 15th century at the northern end of the range identified from the parchmarks. To the east of this small chamber, also attached to the northern end of the long range, was a small brick-lined subterranean

chamber which was excavated to a depth of 2.4m without reaching the base. This feature is considered to be a garderobe, or cess pit, also of 15th century date. The absence of fragments of Metropolitan ware (a local product widely found in the Harlow area) suggests that the pit was infilled prior to the introduction of this pottery in the 1580s - presumably in preparation for the construction of the 16th century parlour. The pit did, however, contain a wide variety of other artifacts, including a leather shoe preserved in the waterlogged soil. Both the small chamber and the garderobe were attached to a pre-existing foundation of mortared flint running beneath the southern wall of the 16th century parlour. This is considered to date from the 13th century and to form the north wall of a cross wing, either contemporary with the structure indicated by the parchmarks, or attached to it.

The small manor which provided the origin of Passmores can be traced to a Saxon settlement granted to baron Ranulf after the Norman Conquest. In the 12th century the manor was transferred to Southwark Priory, and in 1199 the name 'Passemer' (retained as Passmores) first appears in a document relating to land in the parish. The Passemer family held the manor as tenants of the priory for nearly three centuries, ending their line of succession with Richard Passemer who is mentioned in a document of 1475. The manor passed to the Bevis family, presumably as a tenancy, although the will of George Bevis (dated 1543) suggests that the family acquired full title after the Dissolution. The 16th century parlour, and the two story timber-framed hall to which it belonged (now encased within the Georgian house), was probably built during their occupancy to reflect the family's growing prosperity and influence. John Bevis served as Constable of the Harlow Hundred in 1562 and his grandson attained the same office. In 1622 the estate was divided equally between the second constable's sons, and the Indenture regarding this inheritance provides some details of the appearance of Passmores at this time.

The farm buildings, some of which which may have stood upon the island, included a Great Barn, hayhouse, stable, milkhouse, malthouse and tanhouse. The house itself was divided into two separate residences, one brother taking the western half, together with the parlour, painted chamber above, kitchen and larder; the other acquiring the hall to the east and various chambers, lofts and garrets. It is not clear whether this structure included any part of the earlier range to the south, but if it had not been demolished by this time it certainly disappeared soon after the reunited property was sold to Jonathan Nunn in the early 18th century. Nunn was responsible for the radical transformation of Passmores into the fashionable brick-built house

which was completed three years before his death in 1730. In 1778 the property belonged to Champain Collins, passing shortly after to his relative Francis Bailey. By 1820 the Bailey family had reorientated Nunn's house by building a new entrance on the north side of the block and creating a miniature parkland landscape to flank the new northern driveway. The house and immediate grounds, altered only to a limited degree in the later 19th and early 20th centuries, was acquired by Harlow Urban District Council in 1972, and opened as the town's principal museum in 1973.

The following items are excluded from the scheduling: Passmores House and all other standing buildings, garden walls, the surfaces of all modern paths, drives and yards; all benches, litter bins, external exhibition cases, bollards, lampposts and signposts. The ground beneath these items is however included.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

Around 6,000 moated sites are known in England. They consist of wide ditches, often or seasonally water-filled, partly or completely enclosing one or more islands of dry ground on which stood domestic or religious buildings. In some cases the islands were used for horticulture. The majority of moated sites served as prestigious aristocratic and seigneurial residences with the provision of a moat intended as a status symbol rather than a practical military defence. The peak period during which moated sites were built was between about 1250 and 1350 and by far the greatest concentration lies in central and eastern parts of England. However, moated sites were built throughout the medieval period, are widely scattered throughout England and exhibit a high level of diversity in their forms and sizes. They form a significant class of medieval monument and are important for the understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside. Many examples provide conditions favourable to the survival of organic remains.

Passmores House moated site is known to retain significant archaeological information relating to the structures which stood upon the island in the medieval period, and during the long period of occupation preceding the redesign of the central house in the early 18th century. The history of the site is also comparatively well documented, providing further valuable insights into the status of the medieval tenants and early post-medieval owners.

Artefacts such as those already found in association with buried features on the island are also expected to survive within the lower silts of the buried moat arms, and will provide additional evidence of the moat's construction and the lifestyles of its inhabitants. Waterlogging has been shown to be a feature of the archaeological remains at Passmores, promoting conditions suitable not only for the survival of organic artefacts, but also environmental evidence for the appearance of the landscape in which the moated site was set.

MONUMENT INCLUDED IN THE SCHEDULE ON 03rd July 2000

APPENDIX 5: THE 1999 EXCAVATION SUMMARY REPORT

D.D. Andrews

Essex CC Historic Environment Branch for the Harlow Archaeological Group and
Harlow Museum Service

PASSMORES MUSEUM, HARLOW

INTRODUCTION

Passmores is a modest country house and once the centre of a small farm occupying a formerly moated site in the parish of Great Parndon, but now in Harlow New Town which it serves as the town museum. Its history has been ably related by Joyce Jones (1994). The house is double pile, an elegant brick block dated to 1727 on the north side representing a modernisation of an older brick-fronted timber-framed building to the south. The age of this older part is uncertain. That it belonged to a larger building is indicated by parchmarks which appear in the turf to the south of it in dry summers.

The renewal of the suspended floor in the south-western room of this older part of the house provided the opportunity for excavation by the Harlow Archaeological Group to see if any light could be shed on the history of the development of the building. The results were surprising, for a complex sequence of walls and a deep brick-lined feature were uncovered. An interpretation is proposed below for these discoveries, although being based on only a cursory examination of the site it should be regarded as speculative:

PROPOSED INTERPRETATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

I. a mortared flint foundation about 750mm deep was found beneath the south wall of the room. It could be traced east-west for about 6-7m. At both ends it simply terminated, perhaps because it turned to the north. No floor surfaces were found associated with it. Whilst it is true that the deposits inside the room were disturbed, this tends to imply that the wall belonged to a structure lying to the south. The foundation has been built up in layers, a feature characteristic of 12th-13th century work, though often such foundations are not mortared, something which probably indicates a rather later date. A foundation as big as this may have been for a stone wall, though without being able to assess its thickness it is impossible to be entirely confident about this. On balance, it would be prudent to regard this foundation as a stone plinth for a timber building.

II. a brick wall 350mm thick and surviving to a height of 600mm was built on a north west alignment, butting up against the flint foundation and running across the middle of the room. This had an offset course at its base above a foundation made of brick and tile rubble. The wall was made of small rather roughly made Tudor bricks which look 15th century in date. Similar walls were also present on the west and north sides of the room underlying the walls of the existing building. That on the north side may have been bonded with that running across the room but definitely butted that on the west side. These walls imply the existence of a structure measuring about 3m by 4m attached to the north of the earlier building. A yellow-brown silty sandy brickearth-type layer probably represented a floor inside this structure about 2-3 feet below external ground level.

III. a brick-lined subterranean feature, with sides measuring about 8 feet and about 8 feet deep, was constructed in the angle between the flint foundation and the brick extension to

it. It was built of similar bricks to the walls described above and can be considered 15th century in date. An examination of the relationship between the cut made for it and the foundation trench for the north-south brick wall suggested that this feature was the more recent in date. On its south side, the brickwork had been laid up against the flint foundation and was slightly battered. The best explanation for this structure is that it was a garderobe, though it is unclear how it functioned in relation to the other buildings. It is relatively large for a garderobe, and also deep. The bottom of it was not reached, though this does mean that the absence of typical cesspit deposits does not argue against this interpretation. It extended below the water table, there being about 2 feet of water in it at the time that it was examined. It is improbable, but not impossible, that it was a well or cistern. It is possible that the feature was vaulted: this might explain why the side walls had been robbed out to a greater depth than the other structures found in the excavation.

IV. The garderobe was filled predominantly with earth and building debris, sealed by a layer of flints and stones which looked as if they represented external cobbling.

IVa. A row of pegtiles was found running north-south from the flint foundation, over the cobbles and the infilled garderobe. Mortar at the edges of these tiles indicates that they formed the base of a drain made with brick sides and capping, a standard pattern of construction in the Tudor period. This implies that the ground level had been raised by at least one foot. If it was linked to a downpipe, then it tends to confirm the idea that the flint foundation returned to the south near where it abutted it. It is possible that this drain belongs to a later phase and ran beneath the building subsequently erected to the north.

V. a layer of clay was laid down and a fireplace was built at the west end of the room. Only its foundations survived, the stack having been rebuilt probably in the 18th century. It was made of Tudor bricks, of perhaps later 16th century date. At the time that the site was inspected, the deposit of clay, a levelling layer for the building, only extended as far as the north-south brick wall, but it is assumed that it covered the entire area of the existing room. This phase seems to represent a rebuild, and extension, of the structure represented by the phase II brick walls. It was this building, timber-framed with a brick stack, which became incorporated into the existing house and which was identified by Jones as the 'medieval core'. The shape of the hearth, relatively small with a curved back, implies that it was located in a parlour or high status room. As indicated above, it is possible that the phase IVa drain may have run beneath this building.

VI. remodelling of this part of the house in the 18th century. The sole plates at the base of the walls had been renewed, but the opportunity was not taken to examine the small amount of studwork that was exposed.

DISCUSSION

Insufficient was seen of the structures uncovered to make their reconstruction an easy task. They do not readily fit into the medieval pattern of hall, chambers and cross-wings,

nor into the interpretation along those lines proposed by Jones for the parchmarks evident in the grass to the south of Passmores. However, the following observations can be made:

1. Basic site alignments were established at an early date.
2. At an estimated length of 6-7m, the flint foundation is more likely to be the long flank wall of a rectangular building than the shorter end wall. As such, it could be the side of a cross-wing added to the hall identified by Jones in the parchmarks on the turf. Without knowing its width, this foundation could be for a stone or timber wall; the latter seems more probable. A 14th century date could be proposed for it.
3. The brick addition to the flint foundation is of uncertain function. The walls are rather narrow for a two-storey brick structure, and it is possible that its upper storey (assuming it had one) was timber-framed. It probably dates from the 15th century.
4. The subterranean feature was probably a garderobe.
5. The hearth seems to belong to a major 16th or 17th century reconstruction which saw a rectangular building of presumed cross-wing form added to that represented by the flint foundation. This building is incorporated into the existing house.

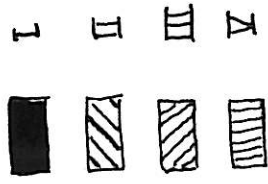
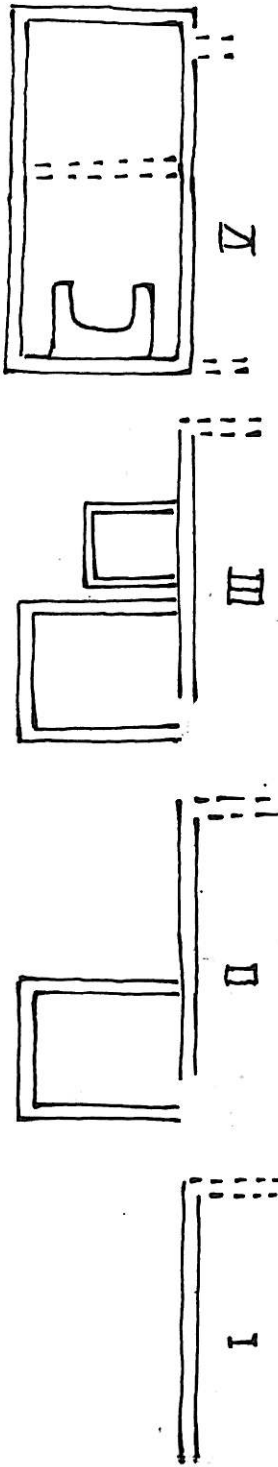
These discoveries raise many questions about the character, plan and extent of Passmores and its site in the Middle Ages and subsequent periods. It would be interesting to know more about the parchmarks. A programme of geophysical surveying might produce useful information about these. It could also clarify the history of the moat, which has been partially filled in and its surviving arms turned into an ornamental lake.

Bibliography

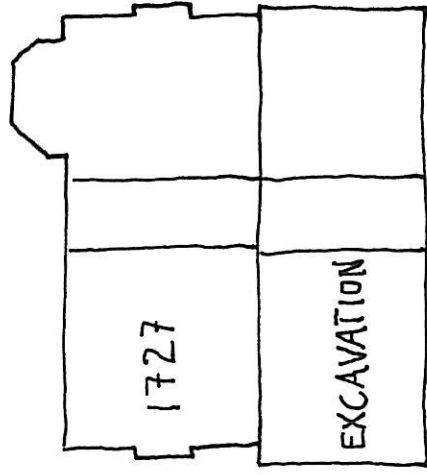
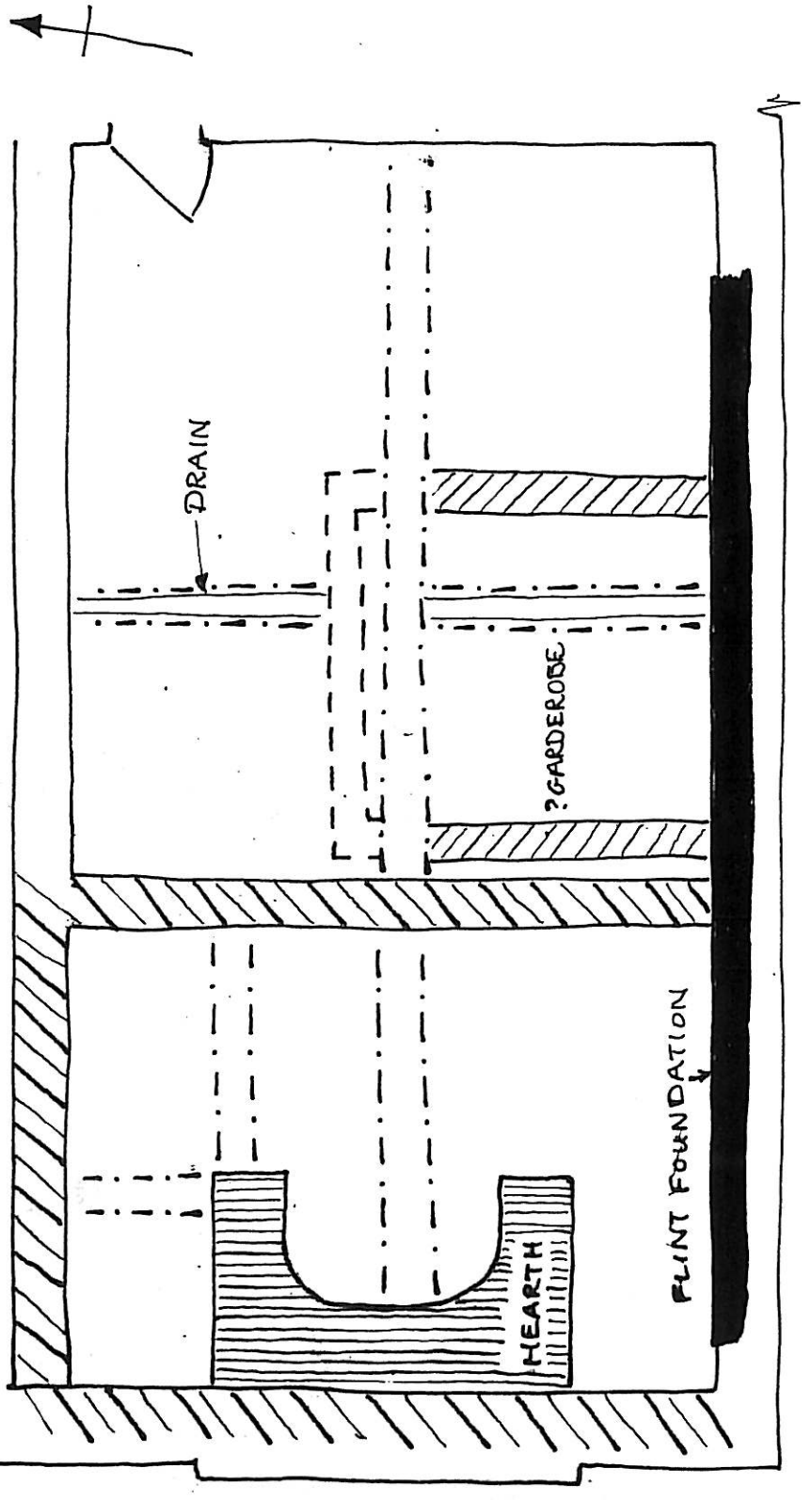
Jones, J. 1994 *Passmores. The story of a house*, Harlow: Friends of Harlow Museum
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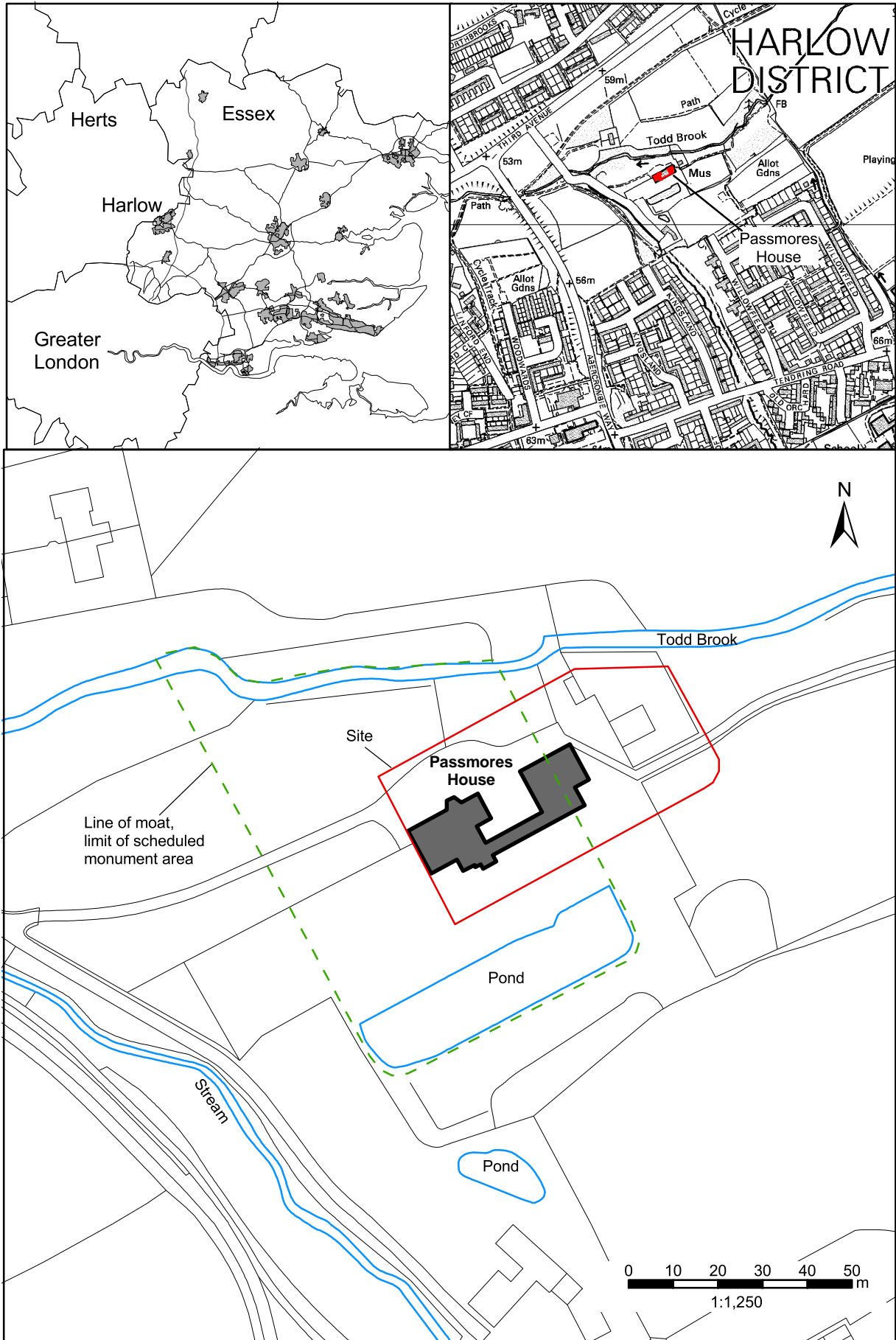
D.D. Andrews
June 1999

HARLOW, PASSMORES



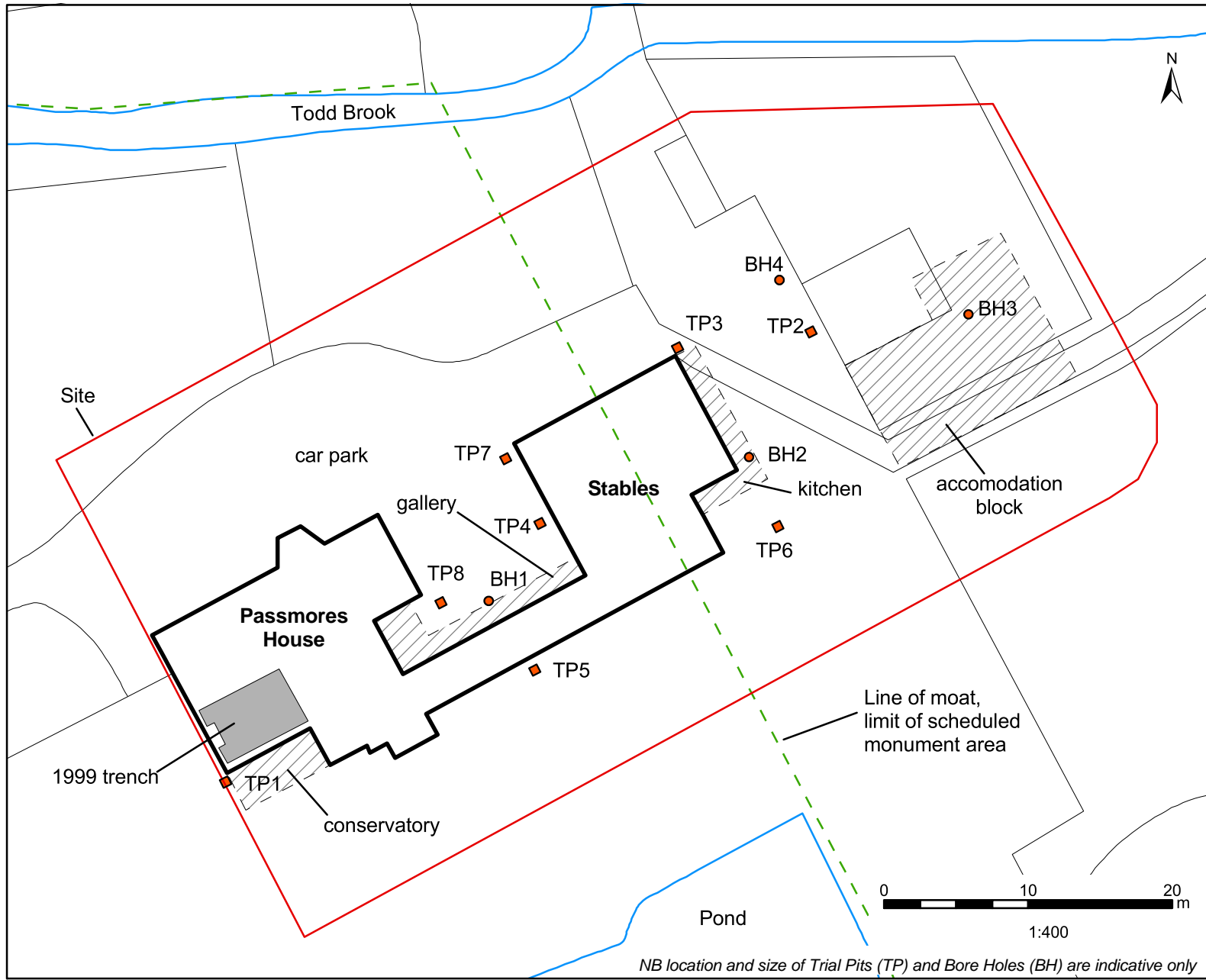
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Fig.1. Location plan



NB location and size of Trial Pits (TP) and Bore Holes (BH) are indicative only

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Fig.2. Passmores House; proposed extensions and testpit / bore hole locations



Plate 1. The front of the 18th-century house, looking south-west. The griffin emblem on the end wall was added later when the house became Harlow Museum.



Plate 2. The rear of the house, looking west. In the background is the 18th-century brick house, incorporating elements of an earlier building probably dating to the later 16th century. In the foreground is the timber-clad 19th-century stable block. In very dry weather parchmarks show in the grass behind the 18th-century house, indicating the stone foundations of an earlier, medieval, hall house. The line of the western arm of the medieval moated enclosure is indicated by the trees in the background; the eastern arm of the moat crosses the foreground in line with the end of the stable block.



Plate 3. The 1999 excavation, south-west corner. The brick foundation running at an angle across the foreground is a 15th-century addition to a medieval hall house whose foundations survive beneath the grass to the rear of the existing house. The later brick footing on the right supported the floor joists. (Photo: Harlow Museum)



Plate 4. The 1999 excavation, north-west corner (immediately to the north of Plate 3). The 15th-century brick foundation is in the foreground, with the base of a later 16th-century brick fireplace in the background, behind the scale. (Photo: Harlow Museum)



Plate 5. The 1999 excavation, looking east. The area of deep excavation in the right foreground is through the fills of a 15th-century garderobe pit (cess pit for a privy), above which was a 16th-century brick drain running north-south across the area. The later brick footing running up the centre supported the floor-joists. (Photo: Harlow Museum)



Plate 6. The 1999 excavation, detail of the garderobe shown in Plate 5. (Photo: Harlow Museum)