

Crodons Barn, Post Office Road, Woodham
Mortimer, Essex CM9 6SY

Level 3 Building Recording

By Touchstone Archaeology



Archaeological Recording of Buildings

For historic building applications, archaeological surveys are often required by the local planning authority (LPA) in order to:

Inform decisions about proposed repairs and alterations through a documented understanding of the historic character and appearance, sufficient to take the implications fully into account

Record historic fabric (often previously hidden) during repairs and alterations, to add to the understanding of the building and to inform the works in progress

Make a formal record of the whole building for archive purposes, prior to permitting demolition or major alterations to the existing historic fabric.

The level of archaeological survey will also vary according to the complexity and significance of the building, as well as the extent of proposed works and/or alteration. The requirement for work section in the brief created by Maria Medlycott HEA of Essex County Council is for a Level 3 Building recording:

The full description of these levels can be found in 'Recording Historic Buildings - a descriptive specification' by RCHM England. Second Edition published in 1991.

CONTENTS

<i>List of Plates</i>	<i>iii</i>
<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>iii</i>
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	PAGE 5
2.0 PARAMETERS.....	PAGE 6
3.0 PROJECTS OBJECTIVES.....	PAGE 6
4.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION.....	PAGE 7
5.0 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.....	PAGE 9
6.0 MAP REGRESSION AND CENSUS RECORDS.....	PAGE 10
7.0 CENSUS RECORDS.....	PAGE 21
8.0 EHER RECORDS.....	PAGE 22
9.0 HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	PAGE 25
10.0 DESCRIPTION OF STANDING BUILDINGS.....	PAGE 34
11.0 DISCUSSION.....	PAGE 48
12.0 CONCLUSION.....	PAGE 50
13.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	PAGE 52
14.0 REFERENCES.....	PAGE 52
15.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION.....	PAGE 54

List of Plates

Plate 1. John Oxley Parker 1743 - 1826

Plate 2. The Barn (Area 1), north elevation, 1st floor, internal (facing north)

Plate 3. Example of empty slot for nogging still visible in vertical timber

Plate 4. The Barn (Area 1), first floor, internal view, facing northwest - Corner joint, combining jowled post, wall plate, tie beam and diagonal brace to northwest corner

Plate 5. The Barn (Area 1), ground floor, north elevation - Feeder still in situ behind the modern workbench and beyond the north elevation framework (facing north).

Plate 6. The Barn (Area 1), ground floor, north elevation - The manger still in situ under the modern workbench (facing north)

Plate 7. The Barn (Area 1) Vertical supports to front of Manger

Plate 8. The Barn (Area 1), ground floor, east elevation, external - Window/pitching hatch - probably a later addition (facing west)

Plate 9. The Barn (Area 1), ground floor, facing south - Southeast room

Plate 10. The Barn (Area 1), ground floor, facing east - East wall of southeast room

Plate 11. The Barn (Area 1), ground floor, facing south – Southeast room entrance

Plate 12. The Barn (Area 1), ground floor, facing south - Brick floor to southeast room

Plate 13. The Barn (Area 1), ground floor, southeast room, facing north - Threshold

Plate 14. The Barn (Area 1), ground floor, southeast room, internal, facing east - Window pitching hatch

Plate 15. The Barn (Area 1), 1st floor, South elevation, internal - modern partition to Strelley barn behind.

Plate 16. The Barn (Area 1), west elevation facing east

Plate 17. The Barn (Area 1), West Elevation, 1st Floor, Internal, Small Window (facing west)

Plate 18. The Barn (Area 1), 1st floor, east section of the central bay division, facing north

Plate 19. The Barn (Area 1), 1st floor, central section of bay division, facing north

Plate 20. The Ancillary Building (Area 2), South Elevation, External (facing north)

Plate 21. Ancillary Building (Area 2) - Brick floor, facing west

Plate 22. The Ancillary Building (Area 2), West Elevation, Internal (facing west)

List of Figures

Figure 1. Site Location

Figure 2. Chapman & Andre Map of Essex, 1777

Figure 3. Tithe Award Map of 1838 & Robert Baker Surveyor, Writtle, 1838

Figure 4. 1st Edition OS Map, 1874

Figure 5. 2nd Edition OS Map, 1897

Figure 6. County Series OS Map, 1922

Figure 7. County Series OS Map, 1962

Figure 8. County Series OS Map, 1989-1993

Figure 9. Drawing 1 – North elevation

Figure. 10 Plan of site

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission (FUL/MAL/14/00931 & LBC/MAL/14/00932) was granted in February 2015 with Archaeological Conditions L1 (Archaeological Assessment) & L3 (Archaeological Building Recording Programme), for the conversion of the existing 17th Century Barn to provide a live/work unit and the reconstruction of the Ancillary structure to provide workshop/storage and the erection of a single storey timber framed house at the site of Crodons Barn, Post Office Road, Woodham Mortimer, Essex.

1.2 A Brief was prepared on 6th May 2015 by Maria Medlycott HEA at Essex County Council with a requirement for work of a Level 3 Building Recording in advance of any site works.

1.3 Touchstone Archaeology were commissioned by Annabel Brown Architects on behalf of Murray Carden in August 2015 to undertake the programme of Level 3 Archaeological Building Recording at the site of Crodons Barn.

1.4 The building recording was conducted in October 2015 in accordance with a Level 3 survey as detailed in the English Heritage publication 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' (2006) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (2008).

1.5 In summary the work consists of a fully analytical record which includes detailed photographs of decorative and structural elements, a detailed written description and account of the building's origins, development, use and the evidence on which this has been based and the examination of historic documentation and measured drawings of relevant sections, elevations and key architectural features.

2.0 PARAMETERS

2.1 The recording was restricted to the structures on site to be renovated or demolished; however some consideration was given to other surviving buildings, their place on the estate and general historical context.

2.2 The photographic survey was conducted using digital photography.

2.3 This work did not include any investigation of below ground archaeology.

2.4 The buildings had undergone much alteration throughout the period of their life and so the drawings produced focused on surviving sections of their original construction or elements that played a part in the historical life and use of the structure.

3.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

3.1 A Level 3 recording has been requested in line with English Heritage published guidance, 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' (English Heritage -2006).

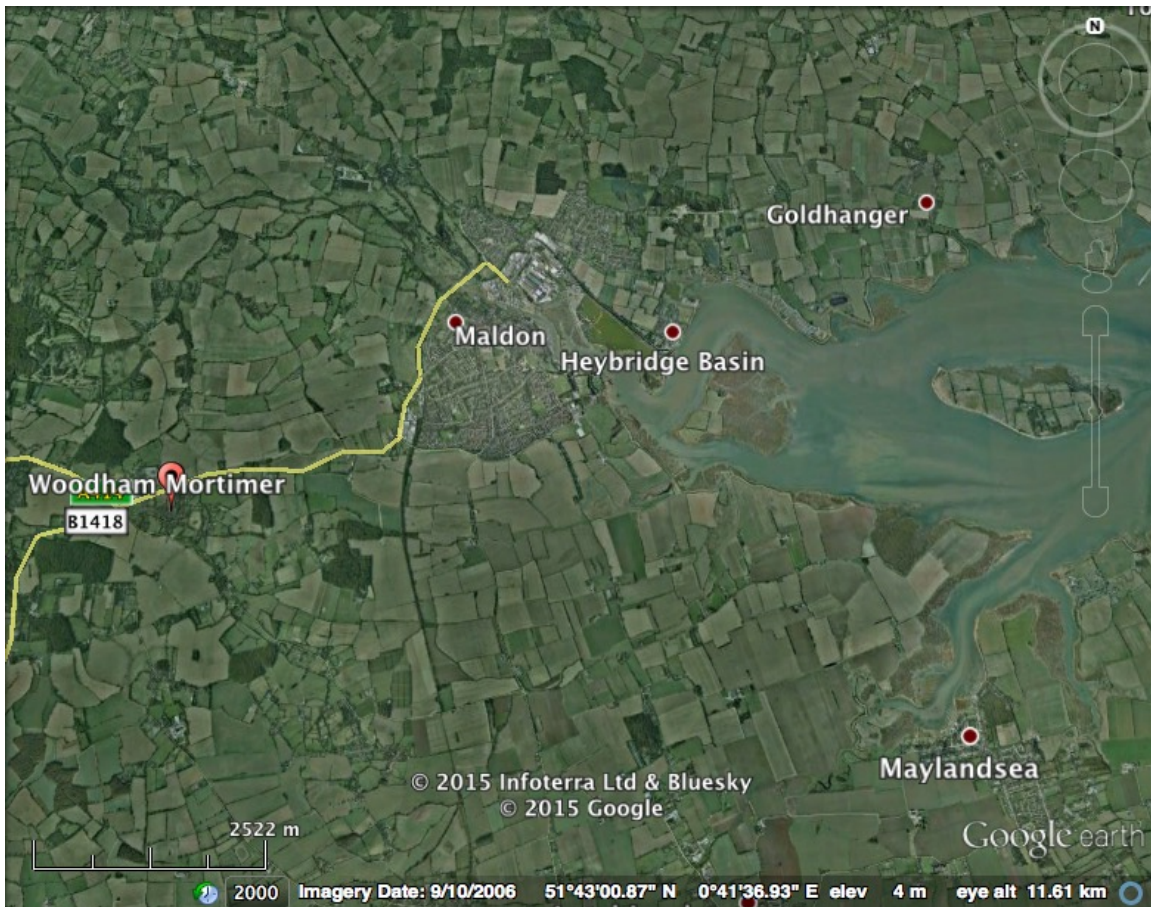
3.2 A Level 3 recording is described as a 'fully analytical record' which will include detailed photographs of decorative and structural elements, measured drawings of relevant sections, elevations and key archaeological features and a detailed written description and account of the building's origins, development and use.

3.3 The report should establish:

- Plan form of the site
- Materials and methods of construction
- Date of the structure
- Function and internal layout
- Fixtures and fittings
- Original and later phasing, additions and their effect on the internal/external fabric and the level of survival of original fabric
- Context of farm buildings within their immediate contemporary landscape
- Comment on the significance of the site in a regional context

4.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

4.1 Fig.1. Site Location



The site is located on the Dengie Peninsular, situated in the village and parish of Woodham Mortimer, in the district of Maldon and the County of Essex. The Landscape in which the site sits is largely rural with low-density housing, characterised by detached dwellings set in spacious gardens. The proposed development area is a large plot on the south side and north end of Post Office Road, Woodham Mortimer (TL8150404907) close to the junction with Maldon Road (A414) and once formed part of the farmyard of the Manorial Estate of Woodham Mortimer Place.

4.2 Site Description

A secluded entrance, screened with trees and hedgerows opens onto a long gravel driveway surrounded on either side by lawns and mature gardens. The distance from the entrance at Post Office Road, the nature of the approach, the garden development and the arrangement of the existing buildings shield the primary residence from immediate view. On site, at present, are four distinct elements of development, all of which made up part of the original 'loose courtyard –multiyard' farmyard that belonged to Woodham Mortimer Place.

Crodons Barn, at the south of the PDA, is a two-storey barn conversion currently functioning as a domestic dwelling. On the north boundary and parallel to Crodons Barn is a single-storey Tudor-style brick-built structure with decorative brick windows and doorframes. To the west, adjacent and set at a right angle to Crodons Barn is a second Barn (Area 1); the Barn is designated for a two-storey live/work unit and forms Area 1 of this Building Recording. To the north boundary just West of the brick building is a dilapidated single-storey Ancillary building (Area 2), which forms Area 2 of this Building Recording.

4.3 Planning permission was sought for the conversion of the two-storey timber-framed barn (Area 1) into a live/work unit providing domestic accommodation and workshop area and to reconstruct the timber-framed Ancillary building (Area 2) as storage/workspace adjacent to the new single-storey timber-framed domestic dwelling.

4.4 The existing buildings are four of at least twenty historic buildings that once made up the loose 'courtyard-multiyard' style farmyard belonging to Woodham Mortimer Place. The estate was parceled and sold in the 19th Century resulting in the break up of the historic layout. The surviving buildings are Grade II Listed Buildings or are protected by association.

The Barn (Area 1) is Grade II Listed and association protects the Ancillary building (Area 2), which is due for reconstruction. Both are historically relevant to the Woodham Mortimer Estate.

5.0 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

5.1 Barn (Area1)

Grid Reference: TL 81488 04887/TL 814048

X (Easting): 581488

Y (Northing): 204887

Latitude: 51.713350

Longitude: 0.62564135

Height 180.45ft/55m– Village average 167ft/51m

5.2 Cattle-shed (Area2)

Grid Reference: TL 8148604906/TL 814049

X (Easting): 581486

Y (Northing): 204906

Latitude: 51.713526

Longitude: 0.62562525

Height 180.5ft/55m– Village average 167ft/51m

(<http://www.gridreferencefinder.com>)

5.3 Address (near): Post Office Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 6SY

5.4 GEOLOGY

The site lies just south of the Danbury-Tiptree ridge that marks the furthest extent of the Anglian ice sheet during the last Ice Age approximately 450,000 years ago.

The geology of the area is rock, sand and gravels that were deposited by the retreating ice. Gravel has been historically extracted from the Royal Oak Quarry.

The National Soil Resources Institute at Cranfield University describes the main soil type as 'slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils.' (<http://www.essexwt.org.uk/living-landscapes>) (*Cranfield University, Land Information System. Cranfield University, National Soil Resources Institute*)

1:50 000 Scale Bedrock Geology description: London Clay Formation - Clay, Silt and Sand. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period when deep seas dominated the local environment. The rocks were formed from infrequent slurries of shallow water sediments, which were then redeposited as graded beds. ([http: www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk))

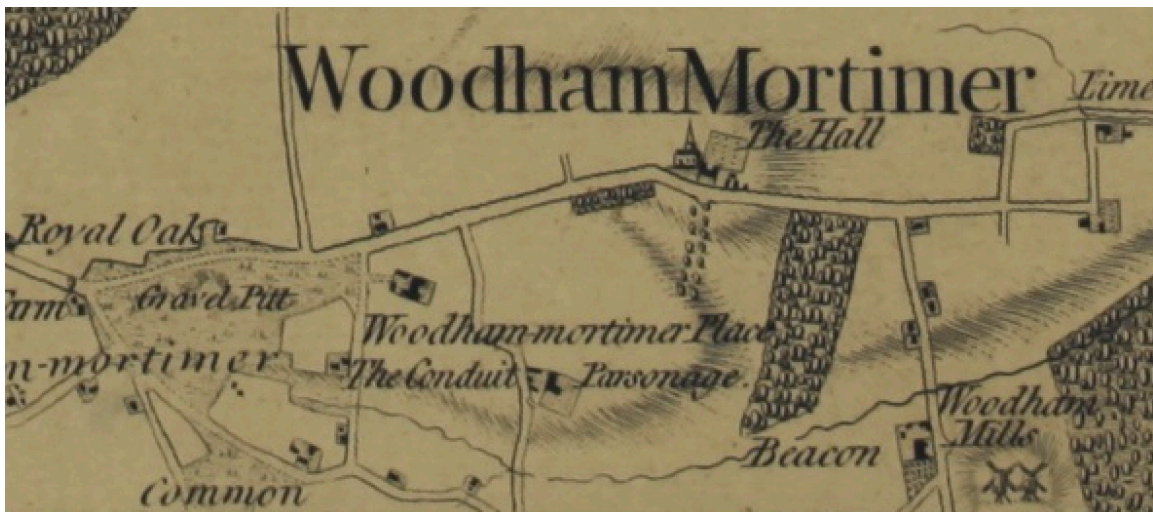
1:50 000 Scale Superficial Deposits description: Glaciofluvial Deposits, Mid Pleistocene - Sand and Gravel. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was dominated by Ice Age conditions.

The rocks were formed in cold periods with Ice Age glaciers scouring the landscape and depositing moraines of till with outwash sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and post glacial meltwaters. ([http: www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk))

6.0 MAP REGRESSION

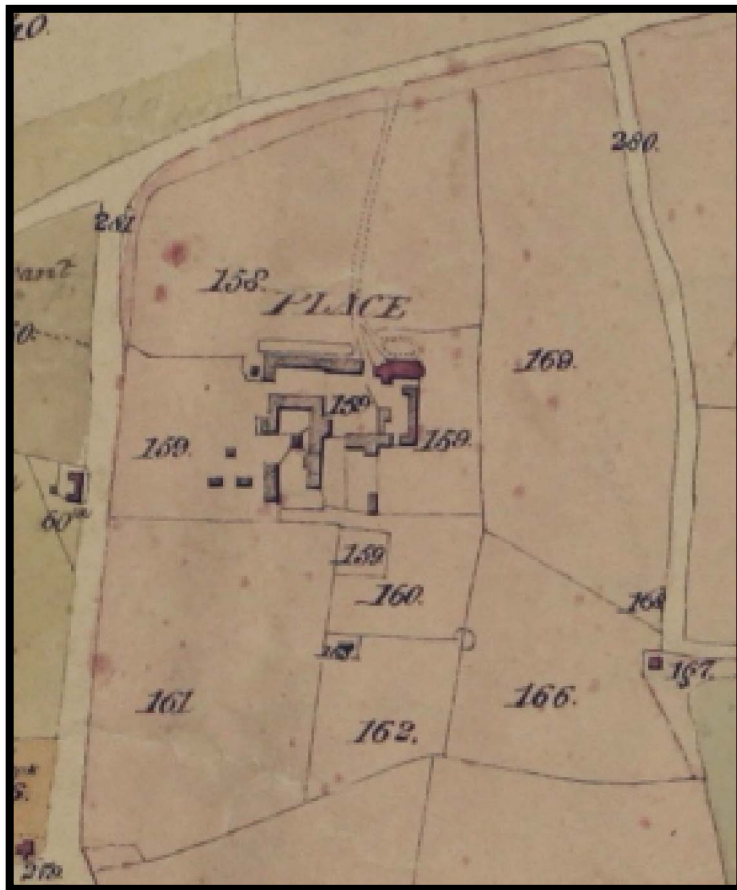
6.1 The archive and documentary research was carried out using resources offered by the Internet and Ordnance Survey Historical mapping, and historical maps retained by The Essex Record Office (ERO).

6.2 Fig.2 Chapman and Andre Map of Essex 1777



In 1777 the land east of Woodham Mortimer Place is mostly Gravel Pitt seemingly related to the Royal Oak and Cocoa Farm. The Hall can be seen to the north, Woodham Mills and the Beacon to the west and the Common to the south. Adjacent and south are the Conduit and the Parsonage and just north is a building that is unnamed but does not appear on later maps. Woodham Mortimer Place is entered from the east and appears to be one large building made up of two large sections connected by a narrow central section in a dog-leg fashion. There are two outbuildings. The portrayal of the layout is fairly rudimentary and probably not entirely accurate but does relate in some way to what we see in later maps.

6.3 Fig.3. Tithe Award map of 1838 & Robert Baker Surveyor, Writtle 1838



In 1838 Woodham Mortimer was a small village of open farmland dotted with small clusters of cottages, Nursery Farm to the south and the ancient Thrift Wood to the north. There are two main residences within close proximity, Woodham Mortimer Place and Woodham Mortimer Hall of which the Place is the largest of these estates. Further afield are Woodham Mortimer Lodge, Woodham Mortimer Grange and Tyndales Farm.

At this time the house is the only brick building denoted on the estate, the others indicated as being constructed of wood and iron, and is now entered from a long driveway leading from the Maldon Road (A414) that bears left into a loop at the front of the house and right to the side of the house accessing both farmyard and stables. Both the house and farmyard are located in area 159. The water that feeds the farm and the house is sited on the other side of the road southwest of the farmyard. The farmyard itself seems to have four areas of operation. The stable yard is located immediately behind the house in a 'courtyard 'U' style'. Set at right angles to the house, are one long block, with a return at each end and one short block, which has a single return to the north and abuts the barn to the south.

A boundary, possibly a fence, wall or hedge, with an opening, lies between into the main farmyard and the stable yard.

The barn sits astride the boundary and opens to the south onto an area that houses a small building in the southeast corner and is divided along its west boundary from the adjacent piece of land. It is flanked to the east by a paddock area (the Tithe Map shows this as an orchard) and to the west by an open area that flanks the buildings of the western yard. The position of the midstrey of the barn suggests that the southern yard is the barnyard and the close proximity to the stables, that it is connected to the care of the horses. The south opening would be to catch the winter sun for light and warmth. To the west boundary of the barn and returning west and south to form a 'U' shaped yard is a building with three divisions and a small enclosure to the west of the southern return. One of the divisions is between Strelley Barn and Area 1 Barn. Strelley Barn opens west into the yard; Area 1 Barn opens east. In the centre of the yard is a small square structure and to the southwest corner is a rectangular structure, parallel to the east side of the yard; the yard itself is divided into several areas.

Southwest of the yard, in a paddock, is one small square structure and two small rectangular structures (although the Tithe Map shows that these two structures are joined) in an organised group. It is probable that this area is used for livestock as a narrow strip of land to the south provides access to the adjacent fields for grazing. An 'open courtyard style yard' to the north utilizes the barn and the buildings from the western yard as a yard boundary. A long rectangular building is located along its northern boundary with a return at the western end, where a small square structure is visible. The building has two divisions. The Ancillary Building (Area 2) is located here and probably formed part of this building/structure. A narrow enclosed strip of land to the north of the building may be another yard area and there is an entrance into the fields from the west.

In the centre of the field to the south is a pond, just west of the pond and in the eastern field on the bend in the road is a small square structure.

6.4 Fig.4. 1st Edition OS Map 1874



While retaining its rural character the area has undergone significant development. West of the estate the small clusters of cottages and buildings have now grown to become farmsteads at Nursery Farm, Hill Farm, Little Smiths, Tyndales and The Grange Industrial areas have emerged, such as the gravel pit at the Manor Oak and Oak Industrial area, the 'Brick and Tile works' at Kiln Fields and the Smithy is now firmly installed opposite the western entrance to the farmyard of the Estate. The village has a Post Office at 'Brook House' adjacent to the Conduit Well and The Rectory to the east is now a large residence with gardens, pond and outbuildings. Houses such as Conduit Hill

House and small isolated cottages such as Rock Cottage have sprung up. The fields are enclosed and mostly tree-lined and small sporadic areas of woodland are encroaching on the open farmland.

Woodham Mortimer Place has undergone some significant development. A gate has been installed at the entrance and an area around the house has been separated from the fields and turned into parkland with walkways, a pond and ornamental gardens. The house has been extended, presumably the entrance, library, dining room and additional storey added by John Oxley-Parker in 1847.

There is now a small square building attached to the main house by a narrow corridor. This may be the Brewery, said to be at the back of the house, from which beer was dispensed at 8am to the labourers.

The stables have been rebuilt so that they are attached to the rear of the house and fan out to the southeast at an angle that would probably have afforded the stables more sunlight. The east wing of the barn has been extended and a glass house has been added directly behind and adjoined to it, facing what appears to be a 'Kitchen Garden'. The new configuration has widened the yard and the track way that leads from the yard, between the stables and to the garden and fields beyond. The small structure that abutted the barn is still in situ but has lost its return and is now a rectangular building. The midstrey of the barn has been moved so that it sits centrally and appears to be wider. It is possible that the whole barn was rebuilt at this time. The small building in the southeast corner has also been repositioned off of the boundary and extended to become a long rectangular building.

The western yard has also been reconfigured so that it forms two yards. Strelley Barn has had some modifications; the midstrey has been absorbed and a new narrow corridor between that and the adjacent south barn has been created. On the north side, the barn (Area 1) is now set at an angle to the northwest so that it is in almost parallel alignment with the stables; it is possible that it was rebuilt at this time. The building adjoining the west elevation now fans out to the southwest and it is clear from the division that the two buildings are no longer a continuation of each other. The small square building in the centre of the yard is now a larger rectangular building providing a boundary line between the two yards; the north yard has become contained but the south yard remains open.

There is a circular feature, with a central dot, in the contained yard adjacent to the Barn (Area 1). The building to the west is still in situ but the three buildings close by seem to have been demolished and in their place are two medium-sized rectangular buildings and two loosely shaped features; it is possible these outlying buildings are for pigs, as they seem more free range in nature. The open entrance to the field is now a track way that joins the road at The Lodge.

The main north yard is divided into an east and west yard. The main barn and the barn (Area 1) provide the south and east boundary of the east yard and the long rectangular building to the north boundary is still in situ; a pump is sited outside this building. The change in articulation of barn (Area 1) has changed the relationship between the barn and the surrounding buildings and it is now a feature of both two yards; the main north (east) yard and the west yard directly behind it.

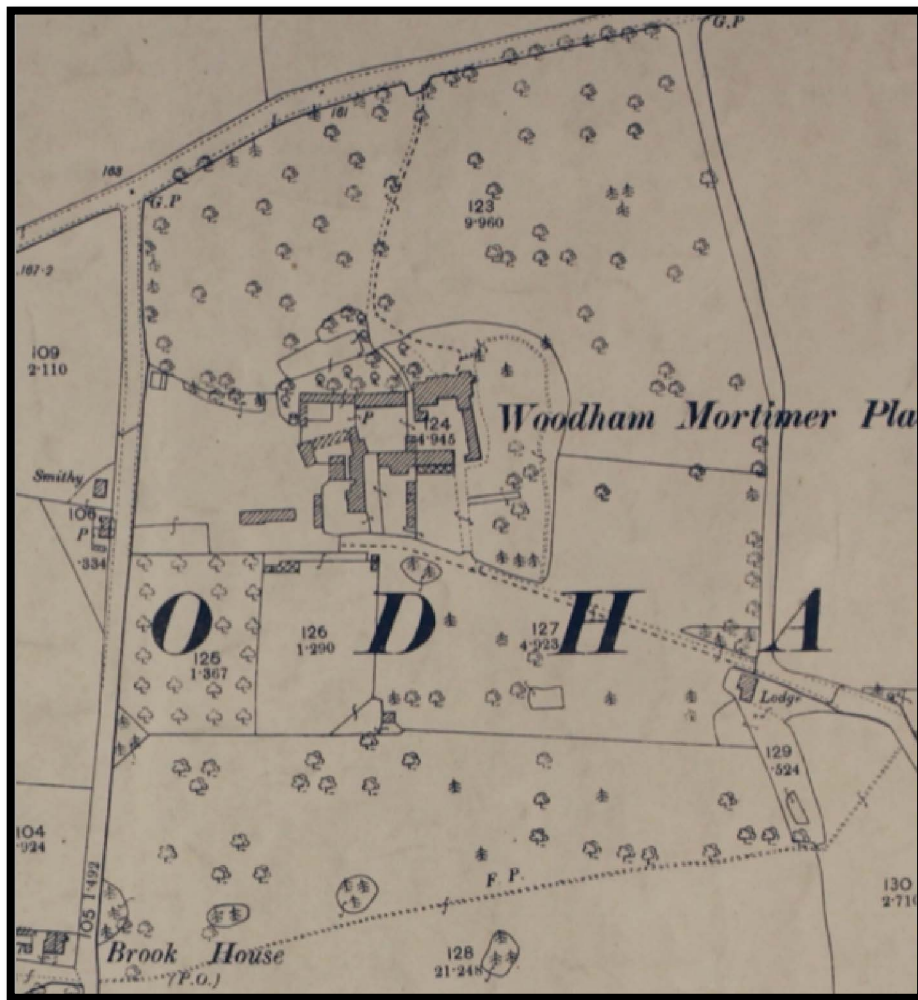
The building from the west yard provides the south boundary and the western building on the north boundary is still in situ, along with the small square building adjacent to it. There is an enclosed rectangular area to its south face and the overall size of the yard has increased.

A square enclosure has developed in the northwest corner of the farmyard, the pond can still be seen in the field south of the property and the small square structure at the corner of the road has now become The Lodge; the building has been greatly extended and now boasts an outbuilding, a pond and an enclosed area; possibly the drying area for the laundry.

To the south of the estate and on the opposite side of the track way to the field, a new area has been developed into an orchard and a garden of nine rectangles, that houses two glasshouses and two small square structures. The gardens appear ornamental in nature but may also be kitchen gardens. The small square structure to the southeast corner is the building remnant from the field in 1838. Most of the farm buildings are coloured red, denoting brick or stone; thus presumably the brick plinths have been added since the map of 1838. The Ancillary Building (Area 2) is grey, denoting wood or iron.

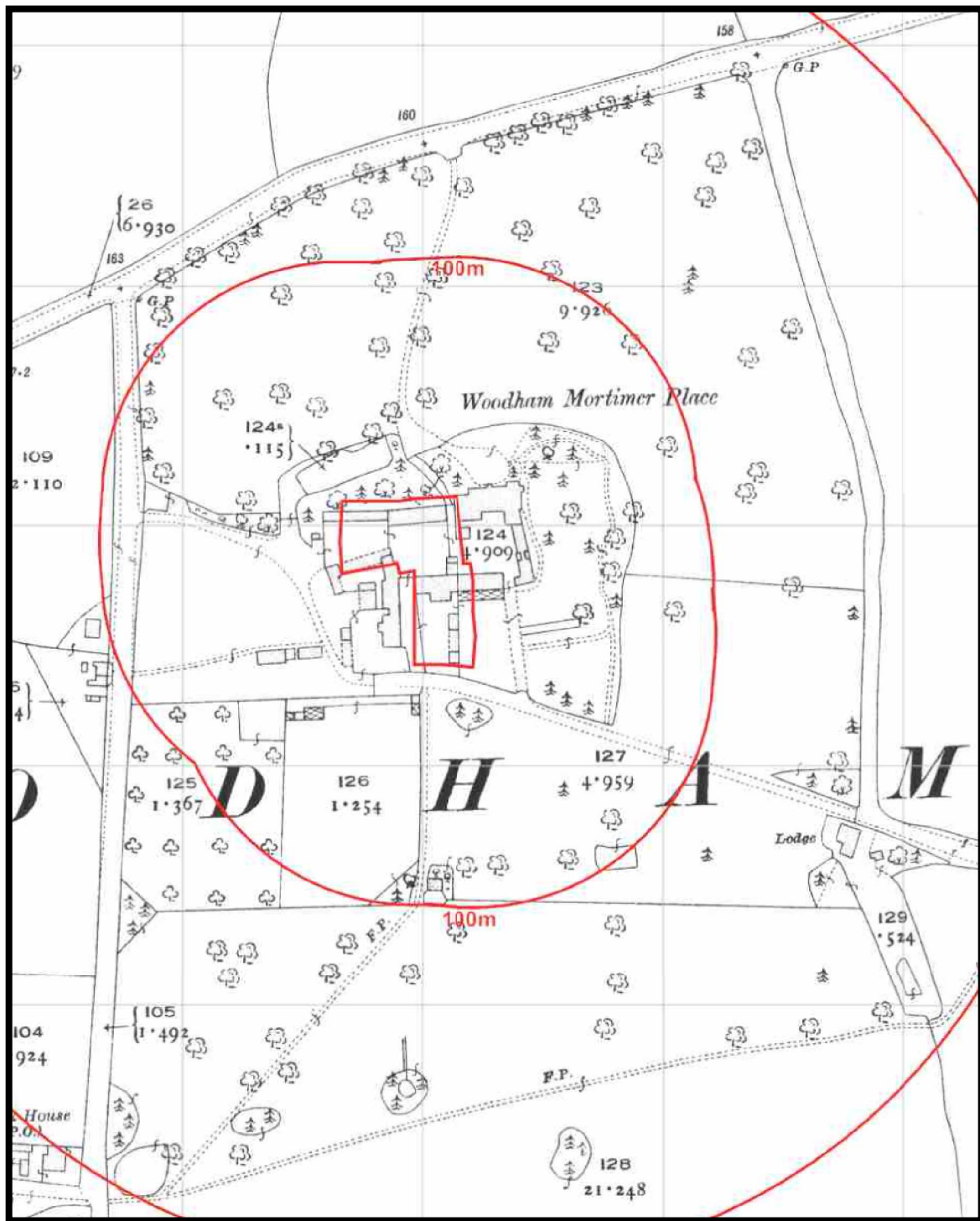
The estate has undergone a lot of change in 40 years and now appears much more organised and in line with new farming methods. The Stabling Area was probably refurbished to suit John's (Oxley-Parker) passion for horses and the farmyard area seems to have been reorganized to suit the breeding and rearing of livestock. The house has become a home with glasshouses and gardens; both ornamental and kitchen. Roads and trackways have been developed to ease access to grazing and to transport crops and manure to and from the fields.

6.5 Fig.5. 2nd Edition OS Map 1897



Very little has changed over the past 20 years with the exception of the division of buildings, which may have already been in place but not detailed in previous maps. The small building that abuts the main barn is divided in two, probably a tack room, and the rectangular building south of the main barn is divided in four. The rectangular building in the small-contained yard is also divided in two, as is the long rectangular building southwest of it. The structure that joined Area One Barn and the return on the northern boundary structure are now outlined with a dash line suggesting that they are little more than roof areas to provide shelter.

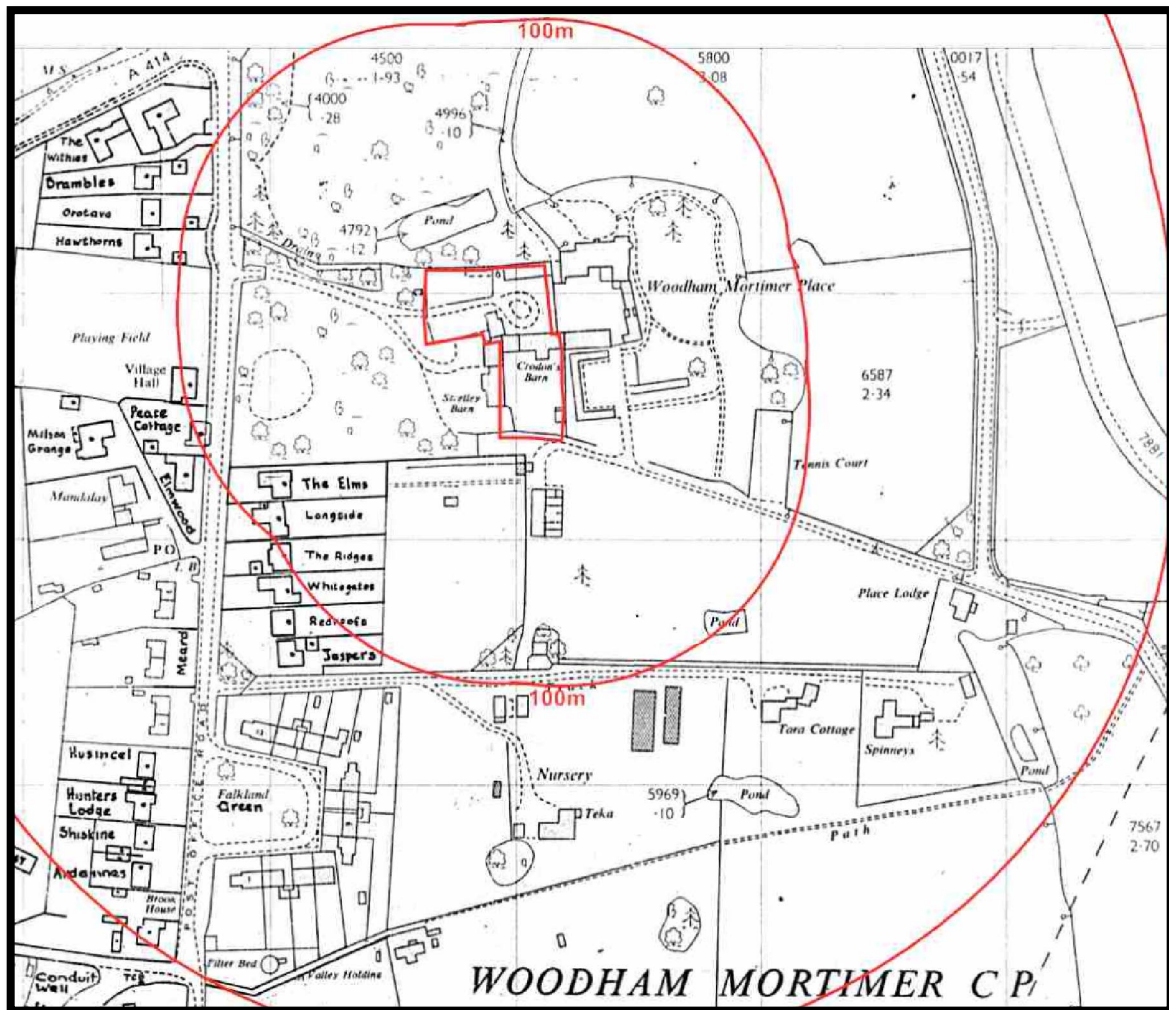
6.6 Fig.6. County Series OS Map 1922



Twenty-five years have seen few changes on the estate. A trackway now leads to what was the 'Smithy', another to Brookhouse Post Office and one from the Post Office to the Rectory.

The return on the structure on the northern boundary has been removed. The nine-rectangle garden to the south is no longer detailed, although the structures and glasshouses are still in place; this may be connected to the level of detail shown on the map.

6.7 Fig.7. County Series OS Map 1962



By 1962 Post office Lane has been developed on both the east and west side with low-density residential housing and the Maldon Road has become the A414. The estate has been divided and sold and a brick wall separates the farmyard and stables. Crodon's Barn and Strelley Barn are now under new ownership. The 'Smithy' and its footpath are no longer in situ and the small outbuildings to the southwest of the farmyard have been removed and reclaimed as garden. There is a drain on the north boundary.

Crodons Barn has been extended to the west to meet Barn (Area 1). The farm buildings that joined the west elevation of the barn (Area 1) have been removed and only one of the buildings to the south of Crodons Barn remains.

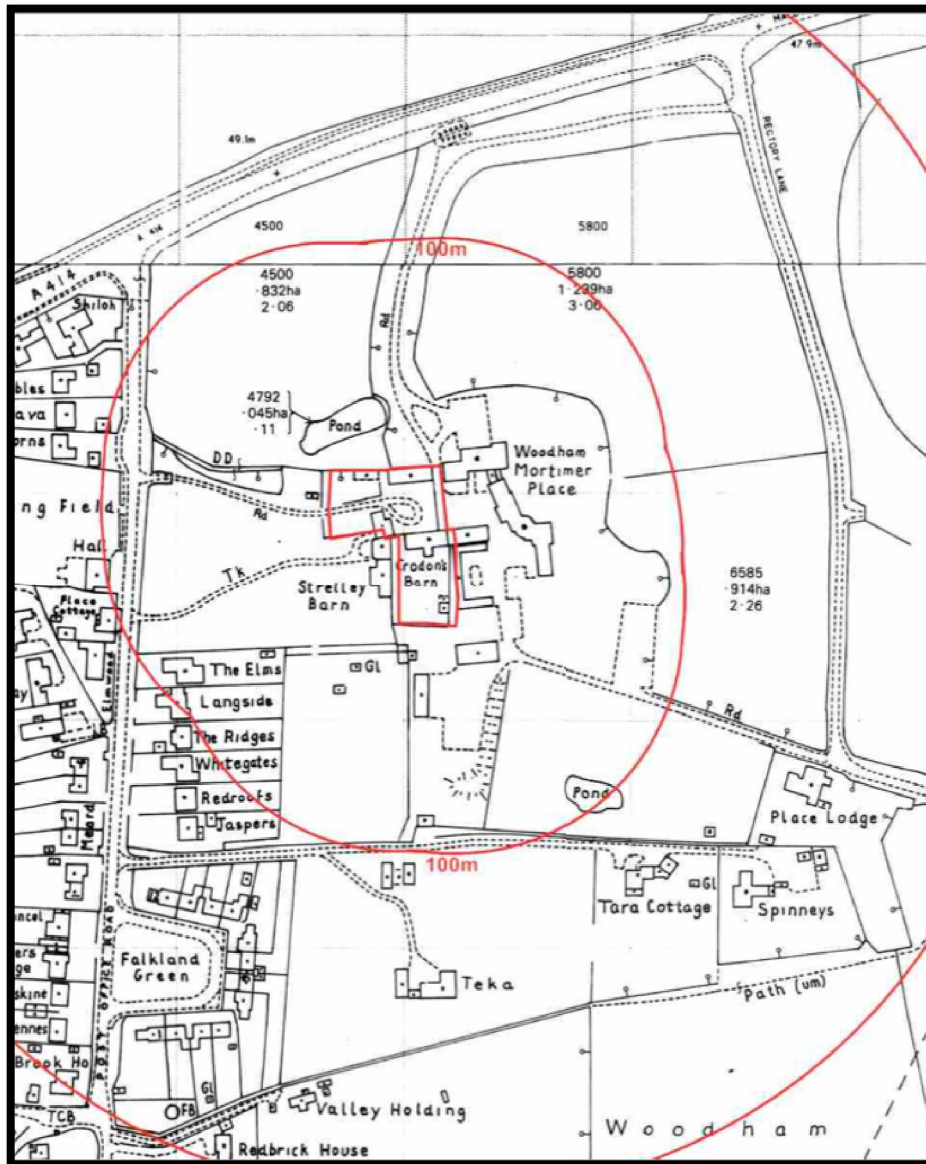
The structure to the north boundary has been greatly reduced; the building to the east is smaller on its west side and the building to the west is more than halved and is marked with a dashed line suggesting that it is an open building (Area 2 Ancillary Building).

The removal of the buildings has allowed two driveways to be created so that the property can be split in two – ‘Crodons Barn’ and ‘Strelley Barn’.

6.8 County Series OS Map 1968

The property remains unchanged.

6.9 Fig.8. County Series OS Map 1989 – 1993



By 1993 the property has been divided in two and Strelley Barn has its own access. The extension to the west of Crodon's Barn has been removed. The adjoining Woodham Mortimer Place has undergone a complete refurbishment of the stables along with the creation of a ménage.

7.0 CENSUS RECORDS

7.1 1841

Christopher (66) Farmer

Wife: Francis

Son: John (29) Farmer

Thomas Ward (33) - Farmer, 3 Female servants, 3 Male Servants

Oliver Hoving (72) 2 Male Servants

John Ward (64) Wife and Daughter, 1 Female Servant

(Christopher dies in 1842 and his son John inherits the property)

7.2 1851

John Oxley-Parker (39) Magistrate, Land Owner, farming 2500 acres, employing 50 Labourers.

Wife: Louisa

Children: John (3) Maria Louisa (2) Emily Francis (8 months)

Ann Parker (cousin)

Staff: Footman, Coachman, Ladies Maid, House Maid, Nurse, Nurse Maid

John's widowed mother Francis Parker is head of her own house and a fund-owner. Her nephew Thomas Lay Ward (43) lives with her and is farming 836 acres employing 33 labourers. They have three House servants and one groom

7.3 1861

John Oxley-Parker (49) Magistrate & Banker, Farming 1000 acres, 50 men and 25 boys.

Wife: Louisa

Children: Maria Louisa (11), Emily Francis (10), Elizabeth Alice (9), Christopher William (8), Oxley Durant (6), Eva Caroline (4), Charles Alfred (2).

Staff: Butler, Governess, Nurse, Cook, 3 Housemaids

(Son John is away at school)

7.4 1871

John Oxley-Parker (59) Magistrate, Banker, Land Owner, occupying about 1250 acres, employing 72 men and 22 boys

Wife: Louisa

Children: Elizabeth Alice (19), Eva Caroline (14)

Staff: Governess, Butler, Groom, Cook, Housemaid, Ladies Maid, Kitchen Maid

(John, Christopher, Oxley and Charles are away at school – Oxley is at St Thomas, Winchester)

7.5 1881

John Oxley-Parker (69) J.P., Banker, Farmer of 800 acres, employing 48 men and 12 boys
Wife: Visiting her family (the Durants) at High Canons with her son Christopher.
Children: Maria (31), Emily (30), Elizabeth (29), Eva (24)
Attendant on Invalid, Cook, Housemaid, Kitchen Maid, Groom.

7.6 1891

Christopher William Parker (38) J.P. for Essex & Banker (Sick)
Wife: Helen (43)
Mother: Louisa is widowed and is now head of the house.
Eva Hales (34) (daughter of Louisa and sister to Christopher) and her two children are visiting
Staff: Nurse Professional (for Christopher), Nurse, 2 Housemaids, Cook, Groom, House Key

7.7 1901

Maria Parker (50) Living on own means
Francis Parker(49) (Sister) Living on own means
Staff: Footman, Cook, Kitchen Maid, Housemaid.
Christopher Willam Parker is now living at Falkbourne Hall with his wife Helen, daughters Cecilia (13), Flora (11) and William (6), son John (14) is at Eton.
Oxley Durant is a Stockbroker, married and living at 8 Montague St, Marleybone
Charles Alfred is a Land Agent, Surveyor and Tea Planter, married and living at 26 Seymour Street, St Marleybone

7.8 1911

Maria Parker (61) Private means
Francis (60) Private Means
Staff: Cook, Footman, Housemaid, Kitchen Maid.
21 rooms
(<http://www.ancestry.com>)

8.0 EHER RECORDS

8.1 The landscape in which the site sits is ancient and has been occupied since at least the Iron Age. At Oak Farm there are cropmarks of tracks and a rectilinear enclosure (13404) measuring 100m x 70m. Close to Lodge Farm is a circular enclosure and south of Nursery Farm are former field boundaries (16091). A barbed and tanged arrowhead (7993/7987); three Bronze Age gold torc segments (18043) and Roman brick, tile and pot have also been found.

8.2 The Church of St. Margaret's (7844) dates to the 12th Century, however, only the south wall and east end of the original church remain. In the chancel is a font from the 13th Century set on a 15th Century base and a brass dated 1584 is dedicated to Dorothy Alleine. The pulpit, altar and organ case have 17th Century carvings, some of the Corinthian order. The north transept, porch and perpendicular windows were added in 1842, when the church was renovated.

The nave is pewed, and has a west gallery and a small organ that was given to the church by Mr. James Boyer, of the Coopers' Company and probably played by Miss Parker, of Woodham Mortimer Place, who was a voluntary organist at the church.

One of the windows commemorates Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and the grave of Peter Chamberlen is found here. The Viscountess Faulkland of Woodham Mortimer Place left an annuity of £100 for a weekly distribution of bread for the parishioners, which was dispensed on Sundays by John Oxley-Parker. It has a wooden belfry containing three bells and is crowned by a small spire that was renovated in 2015. At least three generations of the Parker family were buried here, most notably John Oxley-Parker of Woodham Mortimer Place.

8.3 Woodham Mortimer Place (SMR39064) is a Grade II Listed Building (1337384) recorded as a 17/18th Century timber framed house, which is now offices and workshops. Crodons Barn (SMR39066) was also Grade II Listed on 14th November 1985 (1146825) along with the stable block that adjoins it to the west.

The Stable Blocks approximately 10m south (SMR39065/1110991) and 8m west (SMR39067/1110992) and to the rear of Woodham Mortimer Place are Listed, however, the stable block, set at a distance of some 10m south of Woodham Mortimer Place was rebuilt as a swimming pool in 1993 following storm and impact damage and is recommended for assessment for delisting.

8.4 A milestone (15734/119127) on the A414 was erected by the Epping and Ongar Turnpike Trust in the early 19th Century and a cast iron Boundary Marker was erected by Coopers Company (40386) and can be seen on the OS Map 1st edition 6”.

8.5 The Old Post Office (39076/110997) from which the road probably derives its name was run by William Barthrop, coachman at Woodham Mortimer Place, and is found at midpoint along the road; The Hurdlemakers Arms Public House (39077/1146910) can be found at the southern end. The Old Rectory (39079/1146915) is located on the east boundary of Woodham Mortimer Place and was home to Rev. J.T. Round who inherited the estate from Mrs. Wegg. Many of the small cottages that were once dotted about the landscape still survive; Hill Cottage (39078/110998), Old Little Smiths (39054), Keepers Cottage (39052), Holly Tree Cottage (39051), Forge Cottage (39055), Black Cottages (39053), The Thatched Cottage (39074), and Oak Corner Cottage (39086) all dating from the 16th to the 18th Century.

8.6 Salters Farmhouse formerly Nursery Farmhouse (39050) was one of the farms contemporary with Woodham Mortimer Place and the Brick and Tile (7937) works to the south west must have had some connection with Luckyn’s, who had a shop at the estate and no doubt provided the bricks for the farm buildings.

8.7 Close by is Woodham Mortimer Hall (39070/7847/7845), a mansion that was built by Sir Crammer Harris (owner of Woodham Mortimer Place) for one of his daughters. Peter Chamberlen M.D. purchased it from the family and he and his brother Hugh went on to become the pioneering obstetricians who invented forceps (*Hibbard, B.M. 2000*). Peter’s grandson continued his path as an eminent physician. Hope, the son of Peter Chamberlen sold the house in 1715 to William Alexander, a wine merchant of London, who then bequeathed it to the Worshipful Wine Cooper’s Company of London for the benefit of the poor. In 1813, when making some alterations, the new owners found a trap door concealing boxes. The contents described by R. Lee in observations on the discovery of the original obstetric instruments of the Chamberlen’s (1862) were “*two or three pairs of midwifery forceps, several coins, a medallion of Charles I, or II, a miniature of the Doctor damaged by time, a tooth wrapped in paper, written on, "My husband's last tooth"; some little antique plate; a pair of lady's long yellow kid gloves, in excellent preservation; a small testament date 1645.*” (*Christie, D 2004*). The forceps were given to the Medical and Chirurgical Society and later to The Royal Society of Medicine in 1818.

8.8 In 1825 the Cooper Company raised a memorial to Alexander and his gracious gift, in the form of an obelisk (39073). It stands opposite Woodham Mortimer Hall and is now Grade II Listed.

8.9 The modern period saw many local changes particularly with regards to the two Great Wars. A Road Barrier (20555), an Ammunition Shelter (20556) and a Pillbox (20554) no longer survive but a memorial commemorating nine people from village that died during WWI & WWII is still standing.

9.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

9.1 The parish of Woodham Mortimer first appears in records in c.975 as Odeham and later in the Domesday survey as Wudeham. From the old English 'wudu' meaning wood, and 'ham' meaning home or homestead (also Wudaham, Wdeham or Wodeham). It extended from Woodham Ferrers to Hazeleigh.

9.2 In the time of Edward the Confessor, the Lord of Little Wodeham was Si Ward Barn (Sigeweard Bearn), a 'Thegn' (landowner-warrior - someone in the King or Queens service), who was involved in the northern revolt against William the Conqueror. By the time of the Domesday Survey the manor had passed to Ralph Peverell and the village had a total of fourteen households.

Ralph de Mortimer came to England with William the Conqueror and consequently his grandson received the manor in 1210 as a wedding gift from King Henry II at which point the manor took the new name of Woodham Mortimer (also Wudeham de Mortimer, Wodeham Mortimer, Wodeham Roberti, Wodeham Rob'i, Wodeham Mortemer, Wodeham Mortymere, Wodham Mortimer). On his death it passed to his son and he held it for 'half a knight's fee'. When he died in 1216 it became the property of his son Hugh de Mortimer and of his son Robert in 1275. Robert's son, Hugh, continued the line and was summoned to parliament in 1297 and 1299. He had two daughters, Joanna and Margaret, and the manor was divided between them. Margaret died without issue but Joanna married Richard Talbot and the manor continued into the Talbot family through his son John. John's three surviving daughters were co-heiresses. The daughters married and had daughters of their own and so the manor was once again divided among the female cousins.

The following generation produced more daughters and few sons and most died without issue, until the manor finally passed to Elizabeth, Lady Stanley, who bequeathed it to her sole heir Robert Corbet. From here it passed to his son, Roger, in 1512 and to his grandson, Andrew, in 1538.

In 1561 Andrew sold the Manor to Leonard Sandel of Hatfield Peverel. It then changed hands several times as Leonard sold it to John Church of Little Sandford and John's son, Richard, sold it in 1592 to Henry Smith and Giles Green, until in 1593 it became the property of Arthur Harris of Southminster. Arthur died in 1597 and left the Manor to his son William, who passed it to his son, John, in 1616 and then to his son, Arthur Harris, Knt., and to his son Sir Cranmer Harris in 1632. Sir Cranmer's daughters, Martha and Mary, were co-heiresses and Martha gave the 'Manor of Woodham Mortimer Place' to her husband Charles Mildmay. While there must always have been a manor house on the site, this appears to be the first reference to 'Woodham Mortimer Place'. Their daughter, Martha, married Sir Charles Tyrell, whose descendants retained the possession until Sir John Tyrell sold it to the Right Hon. Lucius Carey, Lord Viscount Falkland. From here it passed to Samuel Wegg and to Mrs. E Wegg who bequeathed it to the Rev. J.T. Round (*Wright, T 1831-35*).

9.3 Plate 1. John Oxley Parker 1743 - 1826



The Oxley-Parkers originate from the Parkers of Erlington Hall in Suffolk. John Oxley-Parker (1743 – 1826) was 14 when his parents died and he left Suffolk to live with his aunt and uncle in Springfield, Chelmsford. He practiced law and was appointed Deputy

Registrar of the Arch Deaconries of Essex, Middlesex and Colchester. He was known as 'a genial and hospitable man' (*Ogborn, M.E. 1962 pg.249*) and in 1770 he married Sarah Griffenhoofe, the first step in his connection to Woodham Mortimer Place.

In agriculture, the alternative to a full- or part-time agent was a land agency firm and in 1756, John, who was by then an up and coming lawyer, became Steward for the Mildmays. In doing so, he became the first of a family dynasty that grew to become the land agents 'Strutt & Parker'. In 1798, Napoleon was threatening the borders. The Secretary of State directed that Corps of Volunteers be founded in each major town. Chelmsford had 25 volunteers and Lieutenant John Oxley-Parker was one.

John also started the Beef-Steak Club with the Bramstons and the Strutts in 1768. The club met once a month on a market day at The Saracens Head, in Chelmsford where they ate beefsteak and baked potatoes washed down with port, in celebration of the beef-steak as a symbol of the patriotic concept of liberty and prosperity (*Gilder, J.B. 2010*).

9.4 His third son, Christopher Cummings Parker (1774 -1843) did not wish to practice law and so, through his mother's connections with the Reverend J.T. Round at The Rectory, a farm was found for him at Woodham Mortimer Place. He rented the farm from the then Lord of the Manor, Mr. Samuel Wegg; a grand house, set in the Warren Enclosure and built on the remains of the 100 ft.² mansion that was the seat of Sir Cecil Mortimer and within sight of where "*the mound still stands*" and where "*some of the remains are still to be seen in the gardens and one can trace where the avenue ran from the high road to the mansion*" (*Parker Unknown 193?*). The family also owned the Chapel at Bradwell-on-Sea, which Christopher transferred to the Bishop of Chelmsford and Sub Dean Lake, but not before his father John found many Roman coins and relics there that are now in the Colchester Museum.

Christopher was a keen sportsman, enjoyed riding to hounds and shooting and keeping greyhounds. In 1796 wheat seemed to be the main crop of the farm's tenants, probably due to the wheat prices that had been pushed up by the Napoleonic War from 43s in 1792, to 113s in 1800 and 119s in 1801.

In 1806 the wheat dropped to 52s but Christopher believed economic burdens of farming should be shared between landlord and tenant and he supported this belief by making arrangements with his tenant farmers for a profit share in place of rent; the records show that in 1807 he received £1 per acre for the use of the land, while he paid

all the rates, tithes and taxes. In 1808 he records that one years rental income was £100.00.

Wheat rose again to 126s in 1812 and he began farming in 1816. He was a passionate agriculturist and a great defender of the farmer. He gave evidence to the Agricultural Commission regarding his concern for the duty on corn, which was at that time 50s a quarter. He suggested 20s a quarter to protect the farmer, advocating that in times of crisis all should be done to keep the farmer on his feet.

He prospered, owing to the great European War pushing up the prices of wheat, and bought more land and extended his operations, farming 2000 acres and managing a further 20,000 acres for others. By 1817 he had spent £1000 on the house and gardens, estimating that the wood was worth £3000 per year, the manor £26 15s, the tithes £400, the parsons house and glebe £70- £75 and commenting that the farm land was 'poor quality' and 'farmed at great expense'(Parker, O.D. 1925).

In 1821, the population of the parish was three-hundred and forty and by 1831 had reduced by one to 339 (www.visionofbritain.org.uk). The Bishops Visitations found that the vicar's reasons for preferring non-residence in Woodham-Mortimer at that time was given as "*productive of violent fevers*" (Dobson, M.J. 2003 p.299). At these population levels, Woodham Mortimer Place must have been a very important employer and the hub of the village. However, the depression came in 1832 and by the time Christopher died in 1843, the estate was heavily encumbered.

9.5 Elizabeth Parker, John's sister, had a spine injury from a horse accident in 1848 and became a keen botanist and beekeeper; keeping a garden close to the hives in which she grew all the flowers that attracted bees. The ordnance survey map of 1874 shows glasshouses and gardens to the south of the stable yard and in field 126 that may have been the result of Elizabeth's hobby. She was deeply committed to education, spending her days at Woodham Mortimer School and her winter evenings running a night school for young men at The Grange (Parker Unknown 193?).

9.6 At the time of Christopher's death, his son John Oxley-Parker (1812-1887) inherited the Oxley-Parker lands that at that time amounted to the Bermondsey Estate, 2500 acres in Woodham Mortimer, Great Grange, Little Grange, Hazeleigh Common (which he enclosed and reclaimed); Oak Farm, Woodham Walter; Potters Farm, Rettendon; Bovills Farm and Eastlands Farm at Bradwell-on-Sea; Steeple Plumbro Marshes, Southminster, Mayland and a farm at Laindon Hills Hall; The Slough Farm with Sloughs Wood, the

Hydes and Warren Farm etc. (*Parker, O.D. 1925*) and with his newfound fortunes bought out his cousins, the Charles Parkers, so that he owned what was once his grandfather's estate in its entirety.

The Oxley-Parkers were important figures in the agricultural community and large employers locally and in 'The life of John Oxley-Parker (1812 – 1893)' the writer describes a typical day at the farm, beginning at 6am when John Barker, the Head Stockman would wake everyone in the house with a large hand-bell. The coachman, William Barthrop, who also ran the Post Office and shop, would be in the stables preparing the cob, Topsy, for the Master to ride. William's house at The Conduit also supplied the estate with water.

Aylett, the Head Wheelwright, would ring a large bell above his workshop for the farm labourers. He was responsible for making all the wagons and tumbrels on the farm and his son George, George Jenkins, and James Falconer, his assistant, worked with him in the 'Carpenters Shop'. At the 'Blacksmiths' (presumably 'The Smithy' found just west of the estate), Brown and his two assistants would be heating the furnaces. Old Smee, the gardener and Parish Clerk, wearing his top hat and frock coat, would be on his way over to keep the lawns trimmed by hand with a scythe, with the help of his nephew, Edward, and assistant, Mayhew. Smee lived in The Lodge to the southeast corner of the estate, with his wife, who did laundry for the house and has a drying ground close by. Three gamekeepers took care of 4000 acres of shooting. The Butler, William Wright, was assisted by a Footman, Billy Barr, and shared a room in the house with the Head Coachman and John Jordan, the Head Groom. When not acting as Butler, William taught the young masters how to ride and play cricket.

The hackney stables were opposite the back door in the yard and the strappers (Grooms), Joe Read and Moses Ayres, would be busy with the 16 horses and ponies. When they were finished with them, there were two pairs of carriage horses for the Barouche and another pair for the light carts or Charabanc (railway carriage) and in the main stables, another six horses, possibly working animals. In the farmyard there was another three-stall stable for the hunters and opposite a two-stall loose box. Beyond this was a cowshed for a herd of 15 cattle and "*away in the 10 acres*" (*Parker Unknown 193?*) was a shed for ponies and hunters and a small yard for hunting horses. In the yard beyond the barn was 'Lucking's Bricklayers Shop' which was served, no doubt by the kiln to the southwest. A Brewer came once a week to brew beer at the Brew House and Mr. Dawson, the 'Clerk' that assisted John with the Land Agent work stayed at the house two days a week (*Parker Unknown 193?*)