

LAND NORTH OF PRINCES ROAD, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

APRIL 1996

REPORT PREPARED BY

R. CLARKE



**Field Archaeology Group
Essex County Council
Planning Department**

CONTENTS

	SUMMARY
1.0	INTRODUCTION
2.0	THE SITE
2.1	Topography
2.2	Historical and Cartographic Evidence
3.0	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
4.0	METHOD
5.0	FIELDWORK RESULTS
5.1	Area A1 Trenches 1-3
5.2	Area A1 Trenches 4-9
5.3	Area A1 Trenches 18-21
5.4	Area B Trenches 12-14
5.5	Area B Trenches 10-11 and 15-17
5.6	Area A2 Trenches 22-29
5.7	Summary of Areas
6.0	THE FINDS
6.1	Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery, By H. Walker
6.2	Brick, By P. Ryan
6.3	Tile, By P. Ryan
6.4	Stone, By H. Major and D. Andrews
6.5	Metalwork, By H. Major
6.6	Tobacco Pipes, By H. Major
6.7	Animal Bone, By A. Wade
7.0	DISCUSSION
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
	BIBLIOGRAPHY
	APPENDICES
A1	FINDS CATALOGUES
A1.1	Medieval and Post - Medieval Pottery
A1.2	Brick
A1.3	Stone
A1.4	Metalwork
A1.5	Tobacco Pipes
A2	TABLE OF TRENCH DIMENSIONS
A3	SMR SUMMARY
A4	CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

FIGURES

- 1 Site location plan
- 2 Trench location plan showing principle features
- 3 Enhanced parchmark plot
- 4 Area A1 Trenches 1-3
- 5 Area A1 Trenches 4 and 9
- 6 Area A1 Trenches 5-8
- 7 Area A1 Trenches 18-20
- 8 Area B Trenches 12-14
- 9 Area B Trenches 10-11 and 15-17
- 10 Area A2 Trenches 24 and 26
- 11 Area A1 Trench 1 - Sample Section

PLATES

- 1 Plan and illustration of the Tudor phase of Moulsham Hall
- 2 Plan and illustration of the Georgian phase of Moulsham Hall
- 3 Comparison between the 1st edition and modern Ordnance Survey, showing Moulsham Street, main grounds and entrance to Moulsham Hall, the estate outline and field boundaries.
- 4 Moulsham Bridge, mill, street, hall and hospital in 1591, looking north.
(John Walker)

LAND NORTH OF PRINCES ROAD, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Report prepared by R. Clarke

Client: Barratt Eastern Counties
Planning Application Number: CHL/162/91
NGR: TL 71000555 (centred)
Dates of Fieldwork: 5th - 29th February 1996

SUMMARY

The site lies along the northern edge of Princes Road in Moulsham, to the south-east of Chelmsford, and is currently under grass or in use as allotments. Archaeologically the area is sensitive as both cartographic and documentary evidence indicate that Moulsham Hall, the seat of the Mildmay family, was located on or near the site. Parchmarks plotted from aerial photographs suggest the presence of at least two buildings as well as several linear features on the site. A total of twenty-nine trenches were excavated, of which seven contained no archaeological features. For the purposes of discussion the evaluation site has been divided into three areas (A1, B and A2, see attached plan), related to areas previously assigned by the client.

Medieval

Several ditches, including a field boundary, and a pit were found in Area A1 which contained 10th - 14th century pottery and probably date from the pre-Reformation, monastic period of the site.

Tudor

Features associated with the Tudor (16th century) phase of Moulsham Hall were concentrated in Area B, in the western half of the evaluation area. These comprise the fairly well-preserved remains of at least two walls and a layer of Tudor bricks which is either demolition debris or the base of a building platform. The walls were probably part of the extensive Tudor gardens. A ditch and a pit containing Tudor finds were also recorded in Area A1.

Georgian

The robbed-out foundations of a rectangular building dating from the Georgian (18th century) phase of Moulsham Hall were located on the area of the 'raised platform' in Area A1. This building would probably have been positioned to the north of the main entrance into the Georgian manor. Layers relating to phases of demolition and construction were also identified which are likely to date from the period of re-building in 1728-43. A large ditch running parallel to an earlier medieval field boundary ditch was investigated to the south of the building which was probably a road-side ditch for the entrance into the estate. Several other boundary- or drainage-related ditches and gullies of varying proportions and orientations were located in all three areas, including a large field boundary ditch in Area A2.

Most of the parchmarks plotted from the aerial photograph were identified as being the remains of buildings, walls, ditches and field boundaries which relate to the medieval, Tudor and Georgian phases of Moulsham Hall.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching undertaken by Essex County Council (ECC) Field Archaeology Group (FAG) for Barratt Eastern Counties on the site of a proposed residential housing development on land north of Princes Road, Chelmsford. The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by ECC Planning Department's Archaeological Advisory Group (AAG), who also monitored the work.

The site records and finds will be deposited at Chelmsford Museum.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Topography

The site is located at TL 71000555 (centred) on a strip of land which runs north of, and parallel to, Princes Road in Moulsham to the south-east of Chelmsford (see location plan on Fig. 1). The natural geology is variable, comprising brickearth with mixtures of clays, sands and gravels. The ground rises slightly towards the south-east from c. 28m OD in Area A2 to c. 38m OD in Area B. Most of the site is covered by rough pasture, with areas of more dense vegetation and allotment gardens.

2.2 Historical and Cartographic evidence

Historical, cartographic and aerial photographic evidence indicate that Moulsham Hall, the seat of the Mildmay family, was located on or near the evaluation site (Essex Sites and Monuments Record (ESMR) 5557).

The history of Moulsham Hall, and in particular the history of the Mildmay family, is inextricably linked with that of the development of the town of Chelmsford. Many documents such as court-rolls, diaries, account books, surveys and maps survive which attest to the prominent history of this highly influential family and their manorial seat. Some of the most useful evidence for the study of Moulsham Hall include the 1591 survey of Chelmsford by John Walker commissioned by Sir Thomas Mildmay (see Plates 1 and 4), and *The Account Books of Benjamin Mildmay, Earl of Fitzwalter* (Edwards, 1977). The latter are a meticulous record of the re-building of Moulsham Hall in the Georgian period. Other maps which are informative, in addition to the Walker survey, comprise the 1777 Chapman and Andre map (Plate 2), tithe maps and Ordnance Survey maps, especially the 1st edition (see Plate 3). These will be referred to in more detail in the Discussion.

Before the Reformation (1536) the hamlet of Moulsham, to the south-east of Chelmsford, had been manorial farmland belonging to the abbot of Westminster. In 1540, following the Dissolution, Thomas Mildmay (Master Auditor for Henry VIII) acquired the manor from the Crown and built "the greatest esquire's building within the said county of Essex" which was later "much bettered, augmented and beautified" by his son Sir Thomas Mildmay in the late 16th Century (Morant, 1769). In 1728 Benjamin Mildmay, upon acquiring the Moulsham and Chelmsford (Bishops Hall) estates from his late brother's widow, instigated the complete re-building of Moulsham Hall under the direction of the architect Giacomo Leoni. Due to the ensuing lack of surviving male heirs, the fine Georgian house was inhabited by the Mildmays for less than a century. In 1804, during the Napoleonic wars, Moulsham Hall was leased to the Government for military quarters and by the time the lease had expired in 1808

the hall had become a financial liability. It was demolished in 1809 and the contents and building materials sold at auction. All that remained was the garden house and the garden walls (Grieve, 1994).

From 1912 to 1950 the land was cultivated as market gardens by W. Teager. In 1950-52 the north wall was demolished and part of the gardens developed for housing, the rest remained until 1969, but by 1977 no visible remains of Moulsham Hall were left (ibid).

Parchmarks plotted from aerial photographs (refs TL 7005/2/30; TL7015/1/279; CPE/UK 2361/5003 and TL707054) suggest the presence of building remains and linear features on the site (see Fig. 3).

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the archaeological evaluation of Areas A and B was to establish the nature, extent and survival of archaeological deposits on the site, so that an informed decision can be made about their preservation *in situ* or any further work that may be required.

The particular objectives were:

- to investigate the parchmarks and raised platform area
- to record any features relating to the Tudor or Georgian phases of Moulsham Hall and its gardens or associated buildings
- to identify any medieval or earlier landscape features.

4.0 METHOD

A total of 29 trenches were excavated with an average width of 1.8m and with variable lengths of 50m, 40m, 25m and 15m dependant on their positioning in relation to the aerial photographic parchmark plot, and within the perimeters defined by existing boundaries and modern services.

Topsoil and overburden were removed under archaeological supervision by a mechanical excavator, using a toothless bucket. Topsoil was found to have an average thickness of 0.30m across the site. Natural subsoils were variable, ranging from a mottled orange-brown brickearth (loess) to mixed grey gravels and yellowish-brown clays.

The archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded in both plan and section at scales of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10. The stratigraphy was recorded using the standard Essex County Council FAG context recording system. Samples between 5% and 50% of features were excavated, and all finds were collected and removed for specialist analysis. A full photographic record, in both colour and monochrome, was maintained throughout.

All trenches were back-filled once the archaeological deposits had been recorded.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

For the purposes of discussion, the site has been divided into three areas; A1, A2 and B (see Fig. 2) which relate to the site divisions already assigned by the client. Details of trench dimensions and depths are contained in Appendix 2. Areas A1 and B are discussed first as they are geographically related, followed by Area A2, which is to the north of the allotments. An attempt has been made to phase the archaeological remains in respect to the known historical periods which relate to the site. These are: Medieval (10th to 14th century), Tudor (16th century), Georgian (18th century) and modern (19th century). Trenches 1 - 9 and 18 - 21 are in Area A1, Trenches 10 - 17 are in Area B, and Trenches 22 - 29 are in Area A2.

Note : Features or cuts are bracketed with [], and fills or layers with ().

5.1 Area A1 Trenches 1 - 3 (Fig. 4)

These trenches were placed on the raised platform area to specifically investigate the building(s) and other features indicated by the linear and rectilinear parchmarks on this part of the site (see Fig. 4).

Most of the features represented walls which had been robbed-out, most likely in the early 19th century when Moulsham Hall was demolished and the building materials re-sold at auction (Grieve 1994). Robber-trenches are the remains left when the re-usable stones or bricks from a wall have been removed and the foundation trench back-filled with unwanted rubble. The robber-trench cuts largely destroyed the evidence for the foundation cuts, making it very difficult to determine the original date of the walls. The only datable finds are bricks which were re-deposited during the final stages of the robbing process.

Very little pottery was retrieved from the features in these trenches and so phasing has been based on any surviving relationships between features or layers in conjunction with the dates from the fragments of brick and other building materials.

5.1.1 Tudor Phase (16th century)

Very little evidence for the Tudor phase of Moulsham Hall was identified in Trenches 1 - 3 except in residual contexts. Three layers comprising broken peg-tiles and cobbles were identified at the western end of Trench 1. Two of these (07) and (08), were found to contain pottery sherds which could be dated to the Tudor period. However, the layers appear to be associated with a wall (robber-trench [03]) which dates from the Georgian phase (see below) and they are sealing the fill of a ditch [10], which was found to contain 18th century brick fragments.

It is possible that the cobble and tile layers were laid to cover the relatively soft fill of ditch [10], although they did continue beyond the ditch in a less substantial form. A small section was excavated across part of this ditch which was found to be aligned roughly north-south at this point, about 0.60m deep and at least 2m wide (see Fig. 4). Although few finds were retrieved, the ceramic evidence suggests back-filling of this feature took place no earlier than the 16th century, although the brick evidence indicates a later date. It is possible that the ditch was originally cut in the Tudor or medieval period and had silted-up by, or been back-filled during, the Georgian period of re-building. The ditch was not fully excavated and finds are mostly from the upper part of the fill which could have been subject to contamination during

the construction of the cobble and tile layers or the wall foundation trench, which cut away the eastern edge of the ditch.

Ditch [10] may correspond with one of the parchmarks identified in this area (Fig. 3), which suggests that the feature turns from a north-south to an east-west direction to the south of Trench 1, and continues through Trenches 4 and 9. A ditch of similar proportions was encountered in these trenches, although the pottery retrieved from the fills was of an earlier date (13th-14th century). A layer of cobbles (120), however, was identified on the surface of the top fill of the ditch in Trench 9 which may correspond with (07) in Trench 1.

A shallow pit [310], to the east of a wall foundation (robber-trench [21]), was also partially investigated in Trench 3. The fill of this feature contained a fragment of 16th or 17th century brick, and its stratigraphic position below the layers of gravel and 'buried soils' (see below) suggests that it may be Tudor in date. Although no finds other than fragments of roofing tile were recovered from layers (248) and (235) in Trench 2, the stratigraphic position of these deposits below 18th century construction layers suggests that they may also belong to the Tudor phase of the Hall, and it is possible that they are the remains of garden or cultivation soils.

5.1.2 Georgian Phase (18th century)

Towards the central area investigated by Trenches 1-3 were several layers which probably relate to phases of construction and demolition of the building(s) on this part of the site. Some of the earliest deposits were two layers of greyish-brown sandy (well-sorted) gravels (248) and (235) which were partially excavated on either side of two robber trenches [176] and [322] in Trench 2. Although no intrinsically datable evidence was retrieved, the location of the layers below the 'buried soil' and re-deposited gravel layers (see below and Fig. 4) suggests that (248) and (235) were either laid down as part of the construction process, or were already *in situ* when the new phase of building commenced (see above).

Demolition layers

To the east of robber-trench [03] and [26] in Trenches 1 and 3 was a large area made up of various layers containing demolition debris in the form of bricks, tiles and mortar (see Fig. 11). Evidence of burning was also indicated by the presence of quantities of charcoal in many of the layers. Originally it was thought that this might be the remains of a back-filled Georgian ornamental garden feature such as a Ha-Ha. However this now seems unlikely as the feature appeared to be too large and had no definitive edges. The layers were also sealed beneath the 'buried soil' (18) and re-deposited gravel (19), which are likely to be construction or consolidation layers relating to the Georgian phase of re-building (see below). It is possible that there was a large man-made or natural depression, such as a quarry or pond, which was back-filled with building rubble, perhaps from the demolished Tudor Hall, to level the ground prior to the new phase of building on this part of the site. The full extent or depth (although it is at least 1.20m deep from the level of the topsoil) of these layers is not known as they were not fully excavated due to health and safety considerations. The layers do, however, continue as far as Trench 4 where they contained noticeably less building debris. No building-foundations were located in this trench, and the layers seemed to be contained within a wide gradually sloping cut [77] which in turn truncated a medieval ditch [70] (see below). The feature or layers may be partially responsible (with Ditch [10] ?) for the large curving parchmark in this area (see Fig. 3).

Construction layers

The cobble and tile layers (07) and (08) located at the western end of Trench 1 were probably surfaces or construction layers associated with a robbed-out wall [03] to the east beyond which they did not extend. The bricks recovered from the back-fill of the robber-trench suggest that the wall dates from the Georgian phase (18th century), which would indicate that the late 15th/16th century pottery (see above) recovered from (07) is residual. The layers were c.0.20m thick and covered an area of c.2.5m between robber-trench [03] and the edge of the remains of an *in-situ* wall foundation of Tudor or Georgian date which was noted in the section at the western end of the trench. It is probable that these layers were constructed to cover the soft fill of ditch [10] below.

Above the sandy gravel layers (248) and (235) located in Trench 2 (see above, 5.1.1) was a similarly-coloured silty clay layer (18) which was between 0.15m and 0.20m thick and appeared to be a fairly homogenous (although there was an increased amount of charcoal, indicative of burning, in the southern half of the trench). Layer (18) was evident across virtually all of Trench 2 and also extended east and west in Trenches 1 and 3 and south in Trench 5, although as different numbers were assigned, it is referred to as a 'buried soil' for purposes of discussion. A similar layer was noted in Area B to the west, where it may have been the base for the ornamental gardens which are a known feature of the Georgian phase of Moulsham Hall.

A sherd of pottery, datable to the 16th century or later, was recovered from 'buried soil' layer (18) suggesting a Tudor or Georgian date. The latter phase is more likely, especially as this layer was found to overlie a ditch [319] in Trench 5 which contained sherds of 16th century (Tudor) pottery.

Above the 'buried soil' was a layer of very compact reddish-orange, re-deposited natural gravel (19). This layer had an average thickness of 0.20m and covered most of the 'platform' or raised area in A1. No finds were retrieved. Other more patchy layers of gravel were also present around the edges of the 'platform'. A subsoil layer (20), which appeared to be a mixture between the topsoil above and the re-deposited gravel below was also identified towards centre of the trenches, close to the rectangular building foundations described below.

These layers, especially the re-deposited gravel, are probably construction or consolidation layers dating from the Georgian period of rebuilding in the early 18th century. The layers of demolition encountered in Trenches 1 and 2 would not have provided a good base for building foundations and it is probable that layer (18) was laid down to level the land with layer (19) on top to form a compact, solid surface. The 19th century robber-trenches were cut through the re-deposited gravel which was also physically below the topsoil. This suggests that the gravel was the ground-surface on this part of the site in the Georgian period, through which the quite substantial building foundations were excavated.

It is these layers, and the demolition layers which probably account for the appearance of the raised 'platform' on this part of the site. The orange gravel extended as far south as Trench 5, where it was cut by a post-medieval (Georgian?) ditch [317], the most southerly of the large parallel *in-situ* roadside ditches discussed below.

The Building

Several robber trenches orientated east-west and north-south were identified, which together with the additional information supplied by the parchmark plot, suggest that they were originally the foundations of one (or more) rectangular building(s) (see Fig. 4).

The foundations are probably of a single building, approximately 28m x 18m, with internal divisions in the northern side, and a ?passageway with a tile-lined foundation running east to west along the centre. The wall-foundation cuts were occasionally still visible in section ([173]) and were on the whole quite substantial, being about 1m wide and at least 0.70m deep. The longest stretch of wall [271] in Trench 1 formed a corner at its western end which is likely to have joined with the wall (robber trench [33]) to the north in Trench 3. Two square cuts were evident along the eastern extent of [33]. Excavation of one of these features [275] showed it to be quite shallow (0.30m deep) with a flat base and almost vertical sides. The wall/robber-trench [271] was also found to be the same depth as [275] which suggests that the wall-foundations at this point were far less substantial than those to the west which were in excess of 0.70m deep. It is probable that the square features were the cuts for buttresses constructed to provide additional structural support for the wall. The layers containing demolition debris did not continue into the eastern half of Trench 1 which may explain why the foundations were not as deep as those in the western half of the trench. The eastern 'wall' of the building was not as clearly defined as the other walls, and on the surface only appeared as a linear feature with a silty clay fill.

Several ?internal tile features were also located within the area of the building. It is probable that the line of re-used roofing tiles (184) located between the parallel robber trenches [176] and [322] in Trench 2 was contemporary with the building. It is likely that (184) formed the foundation for a tiled passageway or similar feature. The demolition cut removed whatever was on top of the tiles, leaving the tiles *in situ* approximately 0.15m below the ground level (re-deposited gravel). Two similar tile features, (29) and (30), were also noted in plan or section in Trenches 1 and 3 and could potentially also have been surfaces related to the building. The latter was a line of roofing-tiles laid north-south on top of the re-deposited gravel layer (19) in Trench 2. Tile feature (29) was noted in the south-facing section of Trench 1 and comprised a single layer of tiles of which approximately 4m was exposed, lying below a back-fill of demolition debris. The partial remains of a brick wall was also present at the eastern extent of the tiles. The tiles, which were laid in the base of a wide cut, were at a similar depth to (184) and may also be the foundation of a robbed-out feature associated with the building.

The original date of this building is very difficult to determine as the majority of the stratigraphic relationships were destroyed by the final robbing phase and no *in-situ* foundations were remaining. Dating is further hampered by the fact that, according to the account books of Benjamin Mildmay (Edwards, 1977) who instigated the rebuilding of Moulsham Hall in 1728, the Tudor foundations were re-used for the Georgian Hall. The bricks from the back-fill of the robber-trenches, however, have all been dated to the 18th century, suggesting that this building was part of the Georgian phase of Moulsham Hall.

A parallel pair of robbed-out walls ([03]=[26] and [24]=[28]) orientated approximately north-south were also identified in the sections of Trenches 1 and 2. It is not certain whether these walls are part of the rectangular building to the east, or a separate structure, if indeed they are related at all. The bricks from robber-trench [03] were similar to those from the robbed out building foundation and date from the Georgian period. Robber-trench [24] contained a similar type of brick although no samples were taken. The stratigraphic relationships of these

foundations (to the layers of demolition and construction) are also similar to those for the building to the east.

Finds recovered during the machine-excavation of Trenches 1-3, although unstratified, provide further information about the archaeological features located in these trenches. Several blocks of 18th century building stone were found during the machine-excavation of the central and eastern parts of Trench 1, in the vicinity of the building. Most significant of these was a large fragment of fine-textured limestone which was probably part of a window of a Georgian building. A fragment of Tudor brick was also recovered from Trench 2, which is a tenuous indication of a pre-Georgian building in the vicinity of this part of the site. A single flint scraper was retrieved from the eastern end of Trench 1, perhaps originating from the brickearth layer partially excavated at this point. This find, in addition to a similar flint tool from Trench 29 and a small sherd of pottery in the fill of a medieval ditch [163] in Trench 7, is suggestive of (residual) prehistoric activity on the site.

5.1.3 Modern/19th century Phase

The re-deposited reddish-orange gravel (19) was cut by a series of robber trenches (detailed above), which probably date from 1809 when Moulsham Hall and its associated buildings were destroyed and the building materials and household goods sold at auction. The ground was probably levelled and a layer of topsoil introduced prior to the land being re-instated for cultivation.

5.2 Area A1 Trenches 4-9 (Figs. 5 and 6)

Trenches 4 - 9 were positioned to investigate the linear and curvi-linear parchmarks plotted for this part of the site.

5.2.1 Medieval Phase (10th - 14th centuries)

Evidence of activity from the medieval period, in the form of a linear ditch [70], orientated east-west, was uncovered in Trench 4 (see Fig. 5) below the layers of demolition debris similar to those identified in Trenches 1 and 2. The pottery found in its fill dates from the late 13th to 14th centuries. The ditch may continue to the west, in Trench 9, although it is deeper and the pottery has an earlier date-range (10th to 13th century). This ditch may be partially responsible for producing one of the curving parchmarks identified on the aerial photograph, and if the shape indicated by the parchmark is also taken into account, may also be part of the same feature as ditch [10] located below the cobble and tile layers in Trench 1. However the pottery suggests that there are in fact two separate ditches.

A small, shallow gully [62] in Trench 4, apparently on a similar alignment as ditch [70], also produced medieval pottery (12th to 14th century). This gully did not appear in Trench 9 to the west. Another shallow gully [195] orientated east-west and an irregular small pit-like feature [197] were also excavated in Trench 9; neither produced any datable finds.

Two long parallel ditches ([92] and [309]) were identified in Trenches 5 - 7 (see Fig. 6), running north-west to south-east across the site. Both ditches were found to be *c.* 2m wide and *c.* 0.80m deep, although [309] was not fully excavated. Although these ditches appear related, the pottery retrieved from the fills suggests a medieval date (13th to 14th century) for the most southerly ditch [309], and a Georgian date for the most northerly ditch [92]=[163]. It is likely that the southerly ditch [309] was originally a field boundary of medieval origin, and was contemporary with ditch [70] in Trench 9. Ditch [309] was only excavated in Trench 7 as it was permanently under water in Trench 6 to the south.

A small pit-like feature [170] to the north of ditch [163] was also excavated in Trench 7. This was found to contain pottery dating from the mid 13th to mid 14th century, and is therefore likely to be contemporary with ditches [309] and [70].

It is probable that these ditches and gullies are the remains of earlier field-boundaries or drainage-related features, perhaps dating from the pre-Reformation period when the area was monastic farmland belonging to Westminster Abbey (Morant, 1769, Grieve, 1988). The majority of the larger ditches appear to correspond with the features indicated by the parchmarks plotted from the aerial photograph for this part of the site (see Figs. 2 and 3).

5.2.2 Tudor phase (16th century)

A ditch [319], orientated north-south and containing 16th century pottery was located in Trench 5. This ditch was sealed below the 'buried soil' (315) and re-deposited gravel (313) layers similar to those encountered in Trenches 1-3.

A small ?gully [164] containing a fragment of glass but no other datable finds was also found to be cut by ditch [92] (= [163] and [317]) in Trench 7. Its stratigraphic relationship suggests that this feature could be Tudor in date.

5.2.3 Georgian Phase (18th century)

It is likely that ditch [92] (= [163] and [317]) and its medieval parallel counterpart [309] acted as roadside ditches for the main entrance into the Georgian manorial estate (see Fig. 6 and Plate 3). Although no identifiable road surfaces remained, a layer (257) of re-deposited clay containing spreads of burnt clay was identified between the two ditches in Trench 7.

Ditch [92] (= [163] and [317]), the northern-most of the parallel ditches, was found to contain evidence of burning in the form of several dumps of charcoal, as well as a quantity of building material in the top fills, including brick, tile and glass fragments. This suggests that this ditch was back-filled with debris probably from the demolition of the Georgian hall in the 19th century. The pottery from the fills of this ditch is not closely datable as it is of a type (post-medieval red earthenware) which has a very broad date-range encompassing the 16th to 19th centuries. The ditch was probably excavated during the Georgian phase of re-building as in Trench 5 it cut through the re-deposited reddish-orange gravel layer which was likely to have been a construction surface dating from that phase.

Trench 4 located several layers containing building debris similar to those encountered in Trenches 1 and 2, although far less debris was apparent in this trench. The layers were contained in what appeared to be a wide, shallow cut [77] which truncated an earlier ditch [70] containing medieval pottery. These layers probably relate to the demolition of the Tudor

buildings in the Georgian phase, although there were no building remains located in this trench. The layers may have produced one of the parchmarks, which shows either a single large ditch, or two parallel smaller ditches curving around from a north-south to an east-west alignment. This feature did not appear to continue as far as Trench 9, although several mixed gravely layers were identified.

Other features excavated in these trenches which did not show up as parchmarks include several cuts with a drainage-related function (see Fig. 6). The finds from these features suggest that they relate to the Georgian (18th century) phase of the hall and were probably part of the extensive ornamental gardens associated with the hall.

One of these features, located in Trench 6, was a narrow curvi-linear cut [110] which was lined with, mostly complete, roofing-tiles, with a rubble packing along its sides of (18th century) brick and stone fragments. A fragment of medieval building stone which had been re-used as a crude weight was retrieved, amongst other finds, from the fill of this gully. This feature is probably contemporary with another similar cut [114] which also contained an 18th century brick-rubble 'lining' but no tiles in the base. To the southwest of these features in the same trench was a small, vertically-sided cut [129] containing four bricks (131), dated to the Georgian period) laid in four courses forming a square shape in plan with a central void. It is possible that this feature acted as a miniature sump or soakaway, or perhaps even the foundation for a pedestal. A curvilinear line of tiles (253) laid on a cinder bedding in a shallow gully-like feature [259] was found in Trench 8. This may have served an ornamental garden- or drainage-related purpose. It appeared to cut the top of layers (279) and (280). Although these layers were only partially investigated, they were found to contain quantities of building debris including 18th century brick and tile possibly relating to a later phase demolition, or perhaps a dump of excess building materials from the building of the Georgian hall.

5.3 Area A1 Trenches 18 - 21 (Fig. 7)

These trenches were placed in the area to the north and east of the main concentration of parchmarks and raised 'platform' investigated by Trenches 1 - 3 (see Figs 2 and 7). No archaeology attributable to the medieval or Tudor period was found in these trenches and most features appear to be of 18th century or later date.

5.3.1 Georgian Phase (18th century)

Two sets of parallel ditches ([180], [190] and [273], [298]) orientated approximately north-south were recorded in Trenches 18 and 19. The largest of these cuts, ditch [273], was c. 2.5m wide and 0.45m deep, whilst the other three were on average 1.5m wide and generally quite shallow. The fills of ditches [273] and [298] produced finds including pottery, brick and glass which date from the mid-18th to early 19th century. These ditches could be the remains of small field-boundaries, or perhaps road/track-side ditches. If the two ditches in Trench 18 are the remains of a trackway then it appears to lead straight towards the building(s) located in Trenches 1 - 3 in Area A1, although on a different alignment to that of the main entrance-way (see Fig. 2).

A pair of roughly north-south running curvilinear wheel-ruts back-filled with broken bricks also dating from the 18th century were recorded in Trench 20. Trench 21 revealed no archaeological features.

It appears that there were no features associated with Moulsham Hall beyond the most easterly set of parallel ditches, other than the main field boundary (and trackway?) which is traceable to the east of Area A1 where it marks the boundary for the allotment area.

5.4 Area B Trenches 12 - 14 (Fig 8)

These trenches were located in the western-most part of the evaluation site, in the area of some isolated parchmarks (see Fig. 3).

5.4.1 Tudor Phase (16th century)

Trenches 12 - 14 located the remains of partially robbed-out walls which date from the Tudor period.

The remains of a wall, context [103], was found to run along the entire length of Trench 14, and may correspond to the westernmost wall of the rectangular building indicated by the aerial photography plot for this area. However it is more likely that this wall is represented by the linear feature on the plot, which is orientated at a slightly different angle to the rectangular building, and appears (like the excavated wall) to extend further north and south than the building.

A section was excavated across the wall which appeared to have several courses of mortared bricks laid at an angle of about 45° with a course (106) of bricks laid flat along the eastern edge. It seems likely that these bricks are the remains of (the base?) part of an upright wall which has collapsed to the west, leaving a single course still *in situ* on the eastern side. This demolished wall was probably subject to truncation during subsequent levelling or cultivation of the land, thus giving it its rather odd profile. Although the cut [104] through the rubble-packed foundation suggests that this wall was robbed-out, the robbing does not have the same characteristics as that encountered in Area A. A spread of demolition material (122) from this wall was also found in Trench 15 to the south of Trench 14, although no actual brick foundations remained at this point.

The bricks from this wall have been identified as Tudor Place bricks, which are orange or sienna in colour, with irregular forms. A Tudor 'special' brick (with a rubbed or cut chamfered face of the type often used for the topmost course of a plinth) was also collected from Trench 14 which, although unstratified, is likely to have originated from the same wall as the Tudor Place bricks (see brick report).

Trench 12 uncovered the remains of a substantial brick-wall foundation [223] which cut almost diagonally (north-west to south-east) across the trench. This wall was not evident as a parchmark on the aerial photograph, although its preservation is similar to that of the wall in Trench 14. A section was excavated across this wall, of which on average four mortared courses remained. The wall had a regular face on the southern edge, an irregular central core, and a damaged face on its northern edge. The lower two courses were below ground level, and were laid on a cobble/stone and mortar base (255) in a shallow foundation cut [268]. The remains of a buttress, or perhaps another wall, were also noted in the west-facing section of the trench. Beyond an area of brick rubble (222) to the north of the wall was another feature [220] comprising two lines of parallel bricks laid irregularly end to end. This structure was on the same alignment as [223] and may have acted as a shallow drainage gully rather than a wall

foundation. The bricks from these features were very similar (Tudor place bricks) to those noted in brick features also found in Trenches 13 and 14.

Trench 13 contained layers ((209) and (215)), of Tudor bricks and mortar extending eastwards for about 8m at a thickness of 0.20m. These may be the remains of the demolished wall located in Trench 14 to the west. However, another explanation is that the bricks, which were quite solid in places, formed the base of a building platform. These bricks were very similar to those also found in Trench 14, and they may have produced the rectangular parchmark located by the aerial photograph on this part of the site (see Fig. 3).

Very few finds other than bricks were retrieved from these trenches, although a fairly well-preserved clay-pipe bowl was recovered from the 'buried soil' layer (101) in Trench 14, which is datable to a period from *c.* 1660-80 perhaps suggesting that this layer is later than the wall. However, a similar layer (219) in Trench 12 is clearly seen in section to be cut by the foundation trench for the wall. If this layer is a 'buried soil', (i.e. a cultivation soil associated with the Tudor gardens) then finds of a later date are likely to have accumulated as a result of cultivation during subsequent periods. A similar layer (206) was also identified below the brick layers in Trench 13, although in this trench it appeared to end about 4m from the eastern end of the trench, beyond which was a natural brickearth layer (see Fig. 8).

5.5 Area B Trenches 10 - 11 and 15 - 17 (Fig. 9)

5.5.1 Georgian Phase (18th century)

Trench 10 was placed in a north-south position in the south-western part of the site at right angles to Princes Road. A shallow linear feature [230], which ran roughly parallel to the road was found to contain post-medieval pottery and 18th century brick fragments. This feature could be the remains of a ditch or drain, or perhaps as indicated by its vertical sides and flat base, a robbed-out wall foundation trench.

Several small, shallow, ?sub-circular or irregular depressions (239, 241, 243, 245) were recorded in Trench 11. Three of these were located running north-south along the north-eastern edge of the trench. The only fragment of pottery recovered was from the fill (238) of [239] which has been dated to the 17th century. These features could be the hollows left by the roots of small bushes or shrubs, indicating that this was once a garden area.

A small ditch [108], probably of post-medieval date, orientated north-south was located in Trenches 15 and 16. Several small ceramic drainage pipes were also found; the cuts for which often truncated earlier features, including the post-medieval ditch [108] and a curvilinear line of peg-tiles (127) in Trench 16. The tiles in this feature are similar to those found in some of the trenches in Area A1 and probably served a drainage or ornamental-related purpose.

Trench 17 revealed a very mixed subsoil which was found to be cut by a single, quite large ?post-hole [234]. This produced no datable finds and does not appear have any associated features.

5.6 Area A2 Trenches 22 - 29 (Fig. 10)

Most of the trenches (Trenches 22, 23, 25, 27, 28 and 29) in Area A2, which is the area furthest away from the site of Moulsham Hall, revealed no evidence of archaeology. However Trench 24 located a large (c. 4m wide) ditch [154] which appears to correspond with a linear parchmark on the aerial photograph (see Fig. 3). This parchmark appears as one single (or two parallel) linear feature(s) which runs north-south across the site on the alignment of an earlier field boundary shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey in 1885 (see Plate 3). No datable finds were retrieved from the fills of this ditch. It is feasible that the ditch could be a boundary of Tudor or earlier date, although it only appears as an intermittent line of trees or hedges on the 1591 Walker map (see Plate 4).

A much smaller ditch [139], apparently on the same alignment as the larger ditch, was also partially investigated in Trench 26. This feature was severely contaminated by a modern ?drain and waterlogging prevented detailed excavation. No datable finds were retrieved from this feature, or another, shallow linear feature [326] to the east of [139], although there were flecks of baked clay noted within the fill.

Residual prehistoric activity is suggested by the presence of a flint scraper which was a surface find from the brickearth in Trench 29, which was very similar to one recovered from a similar subsoil in Trench 1.

5.7 Summary of Areas

5.7.1 Summary of Area A1

Medieval Phase

Several features, including a boundary ditch, containing medieval (including early medieval (10th century)) pottery were located. These features date from the pre-Reformation (1536) period when the area was monastic farmland.

Tudor Phase

Very few features can be clearly demonstrated as being part of the Tudor phase of the hall due to the lack of closely datable pottery, and the large-scale demolition of the buildings which took place in the 18th and 19th centuries. Most of the Tudor pottery recovered from features in this area appears to be residual, occurring in 18th century demolition- or construction-related contexts. A ditch in Trench 5 and a small feature in Trench 3 both contained exclusively Tudor finds.

Georgian Phase

The majority of features and layers in this area date from the 18th century period of demolition and construction. A rectangular building was identified in Trenches 1 - 3, the foundations of which were robbed-out in the 19th century and back-filled with 18th century bricks and mortar from the demolished walls. Several ditches, including a track-side ditch, probably for the main entrance, were recorded in this area. These features appear to correspond to the parchmarks plotted from the aerial photograph for this part of the site (See Figs. 2 and 3).

Four (three gullies and a brick feature) probably garden- or drainage-related features were also excavated.

Modern Phase (19th century)

Features and contexts relating to the final demolition of Moulsham Hall in 1809 include the robber-trenches which destroyed the rectangular building and the back-fill with demolition debris of some of the larger ditches.

5.7.2 Summary of Area B

Tudor phase

The remains of at least two Tudor walls were located, and a layer of bricks which may be demolition debris from one of the walls, or perhaps a building platform

Georgian phase

Two small post-medieval ditches and several garden-related features were excavated, as well as a single, undated post-hole.

5.7.3 Summary of Area A2

A field boundary ditch, and two smaller ditches were recorded which produced no datable evidence, but which appear to correspond with the north-south linear parchmark plotted for this part of the site.

6.0 THE FINDS

6.1 Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery, by H. Walker

See Appendix A1.1 for Catalogue

A total of 102 sherds of medieval and later pottery weighing 1.6kg was excavated from 22 contexts. The majority of these contexts were the fills of ditches, probably field boundaries, and layers associated with the gardens and outbuildings related to Moulsham Hall.

Early Medieval

The earliest pottery is a tiny sherd of St Neots-type ware from ditch 162 (fill 160) in Trench 9. This is a Saxo-Norman fabric made from clay naturally containing fossil shell, which was made in Cambridgeshire from about AD 900 to the 12th century. A sherd of early medieval ware was also recovered from the upper fill (158) of the same ditch, which dates from the 10th to earlier 13th centuries.

Medieval

The bulk of the pottery belongs to the mid-13th to 14th centuries. The upper fill of pit 170 (context 171) in Trench 7 produced part of a Mill Green ware conical jug dating from this period, which was decorated with cream slip-painting under a partial clear glaze flecked with green. Mill Green pottery was a major industry which was centred at Mill Green near Ingatestone, and it is a common find in Chelmsford. The pottery from ditch 309 (fill 307), in the same trench was of a similar nature, including part of a sandy orange ware conical jug decorated with vertical slip-painting under a partial clear lead glaze. Sandy orange wares were produced at several sites throughout the county and their forms often imitated Mill Green ware. Fragments from the rim of a large Mill Green coarse ware cooking pot were also found in the same context. The upper fill (63) of ditch 70 in Trench 4, also produced sherds from a small coarse ware cooking pot. Both vessels have developed rim-types which are datable to the late 13th to 14th centuries, and are probably contemporary with the conical-shaped jugs.

Post-medieval/Tudor

There appears to be no pottery dating to the late 14th to 15th centuries, although examples of post-medieval red earthenware are quite common. This is a very long-lived ware, produced from the late 15th/16th century until the 19th century. Some of the sherds recovered are residual, occurring in 18th century contexts such as cobble/tile layer 07 in Trench 1, which produced part of a slip-painted jug or cistern handle. Sherds from a large flanged bowl rim were, however, recovered from a stratified context; ditch 319 (fill 318) in Trench 5.

Post-medieval/Georgian

Post-medieval pottery includes a sherd of Frechen stoneware from the German Rhineland from the overburden 15 in Trench 1, dating from the mid 16th to 17th century, although a 17th century date is more likely as trade expanded at this time. This context also contained a sherd of plain English tin-glazed earthenware which most likely belongs to the 18th century. A sherd of Anglo/Netherlands blue painted tin-glazed earthenware datable to the 17th century was recovered from the fill of a small (possibly garden-related?) feature 239 (fill 238) in Trench 11.

Modern/19th century

Modern pottery comprises sherds of creamware from ditch 298 (fill 296) in Trench 19, which are datable to the mid 18th to early 19th century, and several sherds of modern stoneware from a dump of debris material on the surface of ditch 326 in Trench 26. These contexts may relate to the rebuilding of Moulsham Hall which began in 1728.

6.2 Brick, by P. Ryan

See Appendix A1.2 for Catalogue

Very large quantities of brick were present in the north-east of Area A1 (Trenches 1-3), the location of an outbuilding related to Moulsham Hall. This building had been comprehensively robbed and sealed by demolition debris, and no *in situ* remains survived. Other brick features recorded on site included brick-lined drains in the west of Area A1 (Trench 6), and brick boundary walls in Area B (Trenches 12-14). Elsewhere, very small quantities of brick were found incidentally in ditch fills.

Bulk samples were taken from several of the robber trenches of the building in Trenches 1-3. All whole and part-bricks (i.e. those which could be measured and identified) were recovered from segments cut into the robber trenches, to provide a reasonably large sample of all brick types present in the robber trench fills, and to test the range and consistency of the overall assemblage. This was backed by selective sampling of other features in Trenches 1-3. More selective samples were taken of the features in Trenches 6 and 12-14, with sampling both of *in situ* brickwork and related demolition deposits.

The brick was weighed and, where complete dimensions survived, measurements were recorded. (The weight figures should not be used for comparison purposes as some bricks were still very damp from washing.) Distinctive features, including colour, regularity of general appearance and regularity of arrises were also noted. The upper surfaces were examined for striations, sunken margins and rain-pocks, and the faces or sides for creases, 'kiss' marks, pressure marks and 'squodge' marks, that is thickening along the edges. The degree of roughness of bases was also recorded, as well as straw, grass and other impressions. A detailed record of individual bricks is held in archive.

Five main types of brick were identified.

Tudor Place

These bricks are orange or sienna in colour, and often contain occasional pebble inclusions. They are irregular in general form and have irregular rounded arrises. The upper surfaces are sometimes rain-pocked and straw-marked. The faces are creased and 'squodge' marks are quite common. Bases vary from rough to very rough. This characteristic is the result of the 'green' bricks being placed on the surface of the ground to dry. In length they vary from 235 to 250mm, in width from 110 to 120mm, and in thickness from 50 to 65mm. However, the average Tudor brick generally measures about 240 x 120 x 60-65mm. One 'special' with a rubbed or cut chamfered face of the type often used for the topmost course of a plinth was found as a surface find in Trench 14 (context 206).

Tudor or Seventeenth Century Place

A number of place bricks with similar characteristics, but with widths varying between 110 and 115mm, and thickness' between 50 and 55mm, are probably slightly later in date than the Tudor Place type.

Eighteenth Century

The 18th century bricks vary in colour from orange to sienna, brown and purple, but all have roundish patches which are lighter or darker than the main fabric of the brick. The clay from which the bricks were made was variable in content and relatively poorly mixed. Many of the bricks bear 'kiss' marks and a number have blue/grey glazed header faces. Most are regular

in general form, but have slightly irregular rounded or sharp arrises. Faces are either slightly creased or smooth. Some have a diagonal pressure mark on one stretcher face. Bases are either smooth or very slightly rough or creased. The majority of this type of brick measure either 230 x 110 x 65-70mm or 220 x 105 x 60-65mm. Information from the Mildmay account books indicate that these bricks were made by Thomas Spite between 1729 and 1743 (ERO D/DM A5 and 7).

Eighteenth Century Rubbing Brick

Rubbing bricks are relatively soft sandy bricks suitable for making architectural features by cutting and rubbing the brick to the required shape. The Rubbing bricks amongst the assemblages from site are orange in colour with slightly lighter patches and streaks; are fairly regular in general form; have regular rounded arrises; striated upper surfaces; smooth and slightly creased faces and smooth bases. This type of brick was found in the base of drains 110 (packing 112) and 114 (packing 126) in Trench 6, and in ditch 230 (fill 229) in Trench 10. Rubbing bricks were purchased from Blackmore in 1733 according to information contained in the Mildmay account books.

Eighteenth Century Cream

This type of brick has a cream, lime-rich fabric. Those found in the assemblage are small bricks measuring 170 x 85-90 x 50mm. They are slightly irregular in general appearance. Arrises are usually slightly irregular and rounded; faces are creased or smooth with the occasional diagonal pressure mark, and bases are smooth or slightly rough. The exterior is very sandy although the fabric contains very little sand. Whilst these bricks are similar in size and colour to Dutch clinkers, favoured for flooring stables from the 17th to the 19th century, they do not resemble them in either appearance or hardness, and none show any sign of wear. They occur in Trench 2, in robber trench 198 (context 199).

Provenance and Dating

All the Tudor Place bricks (with a single exception) were recovered from Trenches 12-14, from the foundations of boundary walls 103 and 220/223, and their associated demolition deposits. Several potentially later bricks, with a date range of Tudor-17th century, were also present in these demolition deposits. There is no pottery dating evidence. However, the dates of the bricks suggest that the boundary walls were related to the Tudor Moulsham Hall, begun in 1540, or the subsequent alterations in 1591.

All the bricks recovered from the robber trenches and demolition deposits of the building in Trenches 1-3 were consistently of the 18th century type (robber trenches 03 (fill 02), 176 (fill 177), 198 (fill 199), 267 (fill 265), 271 (fill 278) and 322 (fill 175)), and demolition deposit 321). In addition, ditch 10 (fill 09), which was cut by one of the robbed walls, contained an 18th century brick. Although no brickwork survived *in situ* to provide a control, it is clear that the building was originally constructed in the 18th century, as part of the rebuilding of Moulsham Hall from 1728, although from documentary sources the actual date of demolition and robbing was probably early 19th century. The pottery dating in Trenches 1-3 is imprecise, and neither confirms nor contradicts the brick dating. Some 'specials' and a few 18th century Cream bricks were recovered from the robber trenches, but it is not clear how these relate to the original building.

Other 18th century type bricks, including Rubbing bricks, were recovered from Trench 6, where they formed the base of two shallow drains (110/112 and 114/126) and a small brick footing (130/131). They were also found incidentally in ditch 230 (fill 229) in Trench 10, in two layers in Trench 8 (279/280), and in ditches 273 (fill 260) and 298 (fill 296) in Trench

19. In Trenches 6 and 10 the brick dates provide a more accurate date than the very broad pottery date ranges.

6.3 Tile, by P. Ryan

Tile was recovered in small amounts from most features excavated, and in greater quantities in the area of the 18th century building in Trenches 1-3. The identifiable fragments were all standard post-medieval pegged roofing tile.

The tile was mainly fragmented and residual, coming from contexts such as ditch fills. However, the tile from demolition deposits in Trenches 1-3 (e.g. context 321) is likely to have come from the roof of the 18th century building. Also, complete pegged roofing tiles were laid on the ground within the building to form linear surfaces flanked by brick footings (e.g. context 184). The purpose of these features is not fully understood, although it would appear that an existing stock of roofing tiles was used in place of floor tiles.

6.4 Stone, by H. Major and D. Andrews

See Appendix A1.3 for Catalogue

Fragments of stone were recovered from demolition debris in Trench 1 (context 15) and Trench 12 (context 222), and from drain 110 in Trench 6 (fill 113). The stone recovered is largely building stone, with flat surfaces and traces of mouldings, although a position may be suggested for only one fragment.

The stone fragment from Trench 6 is in an 18th century context, but may originally have been a piece of medieval building stone. It was later reused as a crude weight.

The stone from Trench 12 is stratified within the demolition debris of a 16th century garden or boundary wall. The demolition occurred in the 18th or 19th century, but the stone could have been a detail of the original wall.

The stone from Trench 1, which included a large limestone window moulding, was recovered during machine clearance of brick rubble overburden in the area of an outbuilding of the 18th century house. Where this debris was sampled in detail it contained only 18th century bricks, although the actual demolition occurred in the 19th century. The stone from Trench 2 in the same area is most likely a worn cobble.

6.5 Metalwork, by H. Major

See Appendix A1.4 for Catalogue

Copper Alloy

Two objects were recovered from surface cleaning in Trench 12 (context 185), and must be considered to be unstratified. One is dated broadly to the post-medieval period; the other is 19th-20th century in date.

Lead

A waste sheet was recovered from topsoil in Trench 14.

Iron

The iron is generally badly corroded, and would have to be X-rayed to identify many of the objects. Iron objects were recovered from almost all of the trenches where detailed excavation took place. Most were nails, but a range of other objects were tentatively identified, including horseshoes, and knife and other blades. None is intrinsically closely datable, although almost all come from post-medieval contexts.

6.6 Tobacco Pipes, by H. Major

See Appendix A1.5 for Catalogue

Only one pipe is closely datable, a bowl recovered from buried soil in Trench 14, identified as Oswald type 6 (1975, 37) and dated to c. 1660-80. Two other bowls recovered from demolition debris and topsoil in Trench 14 are dated to the 18th and 18th-19th century. Stems were recovered from several trenches; the general impression is that these are more likely to have been 17th-18th century in date rather than later.

6.7 Animal Bone

The assemblage was sparse and fragmentary, and detailed assessment is not worthwhile.

7.0 DISCUSSION

The archaeological evaluation of the Princes Road site revealed features which date from the medieval, Tudor and Georgian periods. These features are all the more significant as they can be related to the documentary and cartographic evidence for the history of Moulsham Hall.

According to the 1591 survey (commissioned by Sir Thomas Mildmay and referred to in Morant, 1769), the hamlet of Moulsham had been in the possession of the Abbot of Westminster and “..had no proprietary dwelling but was used by fermers and under-fermers, by reason whereof it was grown into great ruin and decay”. The ditches and other features in Area A1 which have been dated to the medieval/monastic phase (10th - 14th century) are probably all that remains of the period before Moulsham Hall was built. The largest of the ditches [309], in Area A1, corresponds well with the southernmost of a pair of parallel field boundaries shown clearly on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of Moulsham (see Plate 3). It may also be a roadside-ditch for the entrance into the Tudor Manor (see Plate 1), which appears to follow existing field-boundaries (one of which is traceable as the western boundary for the allotments) after branching off from Moulsham Street to the north. The same entrance seems to have continued in use for the Georgian manor, when the northernmost of the parallel ditches was excavated. These parallel ditches are clearly shown on the aerial photographic plot.

The detailed account books kept by Benjamin Mildmay (Edwards, 1977) indicate that all of the Tudor buildings of Moulsham Hall were demolished and the foundations re-used for the Georgian hall. However, the remains of at least two Tudor brick walls were discovered in Area B, where the parchmark plot indicates the presence of a possible building. These walls, were unexpectedly well-preserved, especially wall [223] in Trench 12. This wall, although largely destroyed on its northern face, still retained its four lower brick courses as well as a cobble/stone bedding and foundation cut. The remains of an *in situ* brick-built ?drip-gully was also located which was probably associated with [223]. The long wall [106] identified in Trench 14 to the south was also relatively well-preserved, with one *in situ* course and three mortared, but collapsed, courses surviving. The layers of Tudor bricks recorded in Trench 13 to the east may be the spread of demolition debris from [106], or perhaps the remains of a building platform. The latter may account for the rectangular parchmark, indicative of a building, on this part of the site. A preliminary study of the 1591 John Walker map indicates that there may have been buildings associated with the Tudor Hall on this part of the site. However it is likely that these walls are the remains of retaining walls associated with the Tudor gardens. The ?foundation cuts for the walls appear to be cut through (or ‘butted’ by) a subsoil or ‘buried soil’ layer. This stratigraphic relationship is not clearly defined, although it is quite likely that this cultivation/garden soil accumulated or was introduced after the construction of the wall, especially if the walls surrounded kitchen or ornamental gardens. Very few features dating to the Tudor phase were identified in the other two areas.

Substantial robbed-out foundations for a rectangular building dating from the Georgian period were located in Area A1. It is not possible to say what type of building this originally was, as no finds or features identifiable as being indicative of its function were present. The accounts kept by Benjamin Mildmay (Edwards, 1977) record the construction of many different buildings, including stables, a dairy, a brewhouse, laundry and kitchens in addition to the main house and gardens. No detailed plans for the Georgian Hall appear to have survived, although some information can be gleaned from the 1777 Chapman and Andre map (see Plate 2) which shows the outline of the estate, the road and main entrance to the east-

facing house. The location of the building identified in A1 suggests that it was positioned to the north of the main entrance, and probably to the east of Moulsham Hall. The 1591 Walker map suggests the presence of a small group of buildings on approximately this part of the site, although no Tudor foundations were located.

The robber-trenches which destroyed the building are likely to date from 1809 when Moulsham Hall was demolished.

A large ditch which corresponds with the field boundary in the top north-east corner of the estate is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (see Plate 3), as well as one of the parchmarks was recorded in Area A2. This part of the site, although within the estate, was well away from the Moulsham Hall, and few archaeological features were encountered. No features were identified in the six trenches which were beyond the field boundary.

The evaluation identified most of the parchmarks as being walls, ditches and gullies dating from all phases of Moulsham Hall. Many other features were also located which did not appear on the parchmark plot, including several drainage- or garden-related ditches, gullies and pits. Two flint tools and a single sherd of pottery recovered during the evaluation are suggestive of residual prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

The features were on the whole well-preserved with a good depth of stratigraphy, especially in the area of the building. The finds were also in a good state of preservation. Brick and tile were the most common finds, although the pottery assemblage was also significant in terms of dating the medieval features, and the building stone, and clay-pipes provided further dating evidence. Very little animal bone was present.

Preliminary studies of the available maps and plans for Moulsham Hall indicate that its remains lie just to the north-west of the evaluation site, beneath the relatively modern houses on Moulsham Drive.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation was funded by Barratt Eastern Counties. Excavation and recording was undertaken by E. Heppell, I. Mcgregor, B. Floe-Jenson, G. Bailey, M. Ingram and the author. The finds were processed by P. McMichael. The pottery was identified by H. Walker, the brick and Tile by P. Ryan, the building stone by D. Andrews, and the miscellaneous finds by H. Major. The illustrations were prepared by A. Garwood and the author.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Edwards, A.C. *The Account Books of Benjamin Mildmay, Earl Fitzwalter*
London , 1977
- Edwards, A.C. and Newton K.C. *The Walkers of Hanningfield.* 1984
- Grieve, H. *The Sleepers and the Shadows. Chelmsford: A town, a people and*
its past. Volume 1 1988
- Ibid *Volume 2* 1994
- Morant, P. *The History and Antiquities of the County of Essex*
1769 (Reprinted 1978)

ILLUSTRATION SOURCES

- Plate 1 Map of manor and hamlet of Moulsham by John Walker (1591)
Extract from Edwards, A.C. and Newton K.C. *The Walkers of*
Hanningfield. 1984
- Charles I meeting his mother in law, Marie de Medici at Moulsham
Hall in 1638.
From Grieve, H. *The Sleepers and the Shadows. Vol. 2* 1994
- Plate 2 Moulsham Hall and estate, an extract from a map of Essex by
Chapman and Andre (1777)
- Moulsham Hall rebuilt 1728-43, looking south west.
From Grieve, H. *The Sleepers and the Shadows. Vol. 2* 1994
- Plate 3 Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1885).
Extract from the Modern Ordnance Survey.
- Plate 4 Map of the area around Moulsham Hall by John Walker (1591)
Extract from Edwards, A.C. and Newton K.C. *The Walkers of*
Hanningfield. 1984

APPENDIX 1: FINDS CATALOGUES

A1.1 Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery

Early Medieval

Trench	Feature	Context	Comments	Date Range
9	Ditch 162	158	1 sherd early medieval ware	10th to 13th C
9	Ditch 162	160	1 sherd St Neots ware	c.900 to 12th C

Medieval

Trench	Feature	Context	Comments	Date Range
7	?Pit 170	171	Joining sherds from a Mill Green ware conical jug showing cream slip-painting and a partial plain lead glaze with green flecks; joining sherds plain sandy orange ware	Mid 13th to mid 14th C
7	Ditch 309	307	Joining sherds from sandy orange ware conical jug with vertical slip-painted stripes and a partial plain lead glaze, mid 13th to mid 14thC; Mill Green coarse ware E5A type large cooking pot rim, late 13th to 14thC type; body sherds of medieval coarse ware and 1 sherd of early medieval ware	Late 13th to mid 14th C
9	Gully 62	61	1 sherd medieval coarse ware	12th to 14th C
9	Ditch 70	63	Joining sherds from small Mill Green coarseware cooking pot with E5A rim	Late 13th to 14th C

Post-medieval/Tudor

Trench	Feature	Context	Comments	Date Range
1	Layer	07	Sherds of thick-walled unglazed PMRE including slip-painted strap handle	Late 15th/16th C Residual
1	Layer	08	Sherds of PMRE, 2 with internal glaze	16th C or later Residual
1	Layer	18	Unglazed PMRE jug handle (oval in section)	16th C or later Residual
10	Ditch 319	318	Sherds of unglazed PMRE + large flanged rim bowl	16th C

Note: PMRE = Post-Medieval Red Earthenware

Post-medieval/Georgian

Trench	Feature	Fill or Layer	Comments	Date Range
1	Ditch 10	09	Sherds of PMRE, 1 with internal glaze	16th C or later
1	R.T. 271	278	1 sherd English salt-glazed stoneware	Later 17th to early 20th C
1	Layer	15	1 sherd Frechen stoneware, mid 16th to end of 17thC, but most common in 17thC; 1 sherd plain English tin-glazed earthenware, 17th to 18thC	17th to 18th C
4	Layer	64	Base of small PMRE ?jug + internal glaze	16th C or later
6	Layer	91	Sherd from modern stoneware cylindrical bottle	19th to earlier 20th C
6	Ditch 92	93	1 sherd abraded PMRE + very dark green glaze	Later 16th C or later
6	Ditch 92	95	1 sherd PMRE + very dark brown glaze	Later 16th C or later
10	Ditch 230	229	2 sherds of very abraded tin-glazed earthenware	16th to 18th C
11	239	238	1 sherd Anglo/Netherlands tin-glazed earthenware	17th C
19	Ditch 298	296	Sherds of internally-glazed PMRE from large chunky vessels; 2 joining sherds of creamware, mid 18th to early 19thC; 1 sherd ?modern flowerpot	Mid 18th to early 19th C or later
26	Layer	132	Sherds of modern stoneware	19th to earlier 20th C

Note: PMRE = Post-Medieval Red Earthenware

Residual Prehistoric Pottery

Trench	Feature	Fill or Layer	Comments	Date Range
7	Ditch 163	168	1 sherd ?prehistoric pot	Prehistoric

A1.2 Brick

Trench	Feature	Context	Comments	Date Range
1	Surface finds	15	1 part brick, 17th or early 18th C type; 1 part brick, 18th century	17th-18th C
1	R.T. 03	02	7 part bricks & 11 frags., 18th C type, including 2 specials & 1 with very white lime mortar	18th C
1	Ditch 10	09	1 frag., 18th C type	18th C
1	R.T. 267	265	4 frags., 18th C type	18th C
1	R.T. 271	278	1 whole and 3 part bricks, 18th C type, 2 with blue/grey glaze	18th C
2	Surface finds	22	1 part brick, Tudor Place; 1 whole brick, 18th C type	18th C
2	Layer	321	1 part brick & 1 frag. 18th C type, 1 with blue/grey glaze	18th C
2	R.T. 176	177	1 part brick & 24 frags., 18th C type	18th C
2	198	199	1 whole & 4 part bricks, 18th C Cream	18th C
2	R.T. 322	175	10 part bricks & 5 frags., 18th C type, including 4 wasters & 1 special similar to trench 8, 279/280	18th C
3	?Pit 310	311	1 frag., Tudor or 17th C type, with blue/grey glaze	16th-17th C
6	Ditch 110	112	2 part bricks & 1 frag., 18th C type, including 1 Rubbing brick	18th C
6	Gully 114	126	1 part brick and at least 20 frags., 18th C type, including 1 Rubbing brick	18th C
6	?Sump 129	130	2 frags., 18th C type, 1 blue/grey glazing	18th C
6	?Sump 129	131	16 whole bricks in 4 courses, 18th C, 1 blue/grey glazing, several overfired	18th C
8	Layer	279	1 frag., 17th or 18th C type; 1 frag. 18th C type; 1 frag. moulded special (= 280)	18th C
8	Layer	280	1 frag., 18th C type; 1 frag. moulded special	18th C
8	Gully 259	253	4 frags. 18th C type	18th C
10	Ditch 230	229	2 frags. 18th C Rubbing brick	18th C
12	Layer	219	1 part brick & 1 frag., Tudor or 17th C, including 1 waster	16th-17th C
12	Wall	220	1 whole & 1 part brick, Tudor Place	16th C
12	Layer	222	4 part bricks, Tudor Place, sandy mortar	16th C
12	Wall	223	3 whole bricks, Tudor Place	16th C
12	Layer	225	1 whole & 1 part brick, Tudor Place	16th C
13	Layer	209	1 part brick, Tudor Place, blue/grey glazed header	16th C
13	Layer	215	1 part brick & 1 frag., Tudor Place; 3 part bricks & 1 frag. Tudor or 17th C type	16th-17th C

A1.2 Brick (continued)

Trench	Feature	Context	Comments	Date Range
14	Wall	103	2 whole and 6 part bricks, Tudor Place, with sandy mortar	16th C
14	Surface find	206	1 whole brick, Tudor Place special, with champfer for upper course of plinth	16th C
19	Ditch 273	260	1 frag., 18th C type	18th C
19	Ditch 298	296	1 part brick & 5 frags., 18th C type	18th C
20	Layer	252	1 part brick, 18th C type	18th C

A1.3 Stone

Trench	Feature	Context	Comments	Date
1	Overburden	15	2 frags, 1 limestone, 1?greensand, with shallow mouldings, probably from the 18th C house	18th C?
1	Overburden	15	2 joining pieces of building stone, most likely from the 18th century house. c. 250 x 190 x 140mm	18th C
1	Overburden	15	Large fragment, probably part of a window, in fine textured limestone. c. 420 x 280 x 140mm	18th C?
2	Layer	231	Bunter pebble fragment with a worn surface. Possibly a cobble	18th C context
6	110	113	Shelly limestone. A roughly rectangular lump with eroded surfaces, with a hole (diameter 20mm) near one edge. Probably a piece of building stone reused as a crude weight. c. 190 x 145 x 50mm. 2700g	? Medieval in 18th C context
12	Layer	222	Limestone. Shaped building stone fragment with mortar adhering. c. 190 x 145 x 50mm	Stratified with 16th C brick debris
12	Layer	222	Slabby fragment of building stone with tooling marks on the edge. Max. thickness 45mm, c. 90 x 86 mm	Stratified with 16th C brick debris

A1.4 Metalwork

Copper Alloy

Trench	Feature	Context	Comments	Date
12	Clean- ing	185	Cylindrical, screw on terminal, with moulded pattern. Internal diameter 5mm (5/16"), L 41 mm.	19th-20th C
12	Clean- ing	185	Fitting, probably the housing for the end of a small drop handle. The surface is decorated with filigree cross-hatching. The closed end has a spike, which is bent under, and parallel to, the fitting. L 32mm.	Post-medieval

Iron

Trench	Feature	Context	Comments	Date
1	Layer	7	SF3. Small horseshoe fragment, possibly a donkey shoe. No nail holes visible.	18th C context
1	Layer	7	20 nails	18th C context
1	Layer	8	12 nails including 1 horseshoe nail	18th C context
1	Layer	17	SF4. Horseshoe fragment?	Pre-18th C context
1	Ditch 10	9	Nail shaft fragment, or part of a U-shaped staple	18th C context
2	Layer	235	Nail	18th C context
2	Cut 173	175	Concreted lump	19th C context
4	Layer	64	Nail	18th C context
6	Ditch 92	93	SF1. 7 fragments from a sheet object. Plate fragment Nail shaft	Later 16th C or later context
7	Ditch 309	307	Tanged blade?	Late 13th-14th C context
14	Layer	102	Nail Tanged knife blade fragment?	17th/18th C or later context
14	Layer	105	SF2. Nail shaft	18th-19th C context
15	Land drain 108	107	Nail?	Post-medieval context
19	Ditch 273	261	Nail	18th C context
19	Ditch 298	297	Blade?	Mid 18th-early 19th C context

A1.5 Tobacco Pipe

Trench	Feature	Context	Comments	Date
2	R.T. 176	246	1 stem	17th-18th C? 19th C context
6	Gully 114	126	1 stem, weathered; 1 stem with mouthpiece	17th-18th C? 18th C context
7	Gully 164	237	1 stem	17th-18th C?
8	Layer	279	1 stem	17th-18th C?
14	Layer	101	Bowl, rouletted rim. Oswald type 6	c. 1660-80
14	Topsoil	102	3 stems	17th-18th C?
14	Wall	103	1 stem (presumed intrusive from 106)	17th-18th C? 16th C context
14	Layer	105	Bowl fragment, plain, thin-walled	18th-19th C
14	Layer	106	Bowl base, round foot, flat-based bowl	Mid 18th C

APPENDIX 3 TABLE OF TRENCH DIMENSIONS

Area A1 Trenches 1 - 9

TRENCH		LEVELS (m) (taken from BM on school wall on Princes Road = 35.55m OD)			MAXIMUM DEPTH / LEVEL EXCAVATED TO
No.	Length		TOP of trench	BOTTOM of trench	
1	50m	E	36.34	35.68	35.00
		W	36.46	35.54	
2	43m	N	36.30	35.71	35.27
		S	37.04	36.53	
3	30m	E	36.11	35.80	35.20
		W	36.09	35.39	
4	26m	N	36.25	35.44	35.16
		S	36.34	35.88	
5	15m	N	36.74	35.96	35.83
		S	36.91	36.51	
6	25m	NE	36.24	35.78	35.46
		SW	36.43	36.16	
7	25m	N	36.27	35.79	35.38
		S	36.33	35.96	
8	25m	E	36.33	35.98	35.66
		W	36.31	35.80	
9	20m	N	36.27	35.88	35.05
		S	36.26	35.82	

Area A1 Trenches 18 - 21

TRENCH		LEVELS (m) (taken from BM on school wall on Princes Road = 35.55m OD)			MAXIMUM DEPTH / LEVEL EXCAVATED TO
No.	Length		TOP of trench	BOTTOM of trench	
18	15m	E	35.25	34.61	33.62
		W	34.93	34.19	
19	16m	E	35.53	35.13	34.53
		W	35.86	35.32	
20	25m	N	34.85	34.27	34.27
		S	35.32	34.85	
21	16m	E	34.50	34.05	33.98
		W	34.68	33.98	

Area B Trenches 10 - 17

TRENCH		LEVELS (m) (taken from BM on school wall on Princes Road = 35.55m OD)			MAXIMUM DEPTH / LEVEL EXCAVATED TO
No.	Length		TOP of trench	BOTTOM of trench	
10	15m	N	38.31	37.98	37.75
		S	38.39	38.07	
11	25m	N	36.85	36.51	36.46
		S	37.20	36.48	
12	15m	N	36.81	36.26	35.83
		S	36.75	35.83	
13	25m	E	36.93	35.79	35.79
		W	36.94	36.46	
14	28m	N	36.95	36.57	36.50
		S	37.16	36.51	
15	35m	E	37.50	37.14	36.97
		W	37.82	37.24	
16	25m	E	37.00	36.27	36.27
		W	37.19	36.80	
17	25m	E	38.30	38.00	37.37
		W	37.95	37.59	

Area A2 Trenches 22 - 29

TRENCH		LEVELS (m) (taken from BM on school wall on Princes Road = 35.55m OD)			MAXIMUM DEPTH / LEVEL EXCAVATED TO
No.	Length		TOP of trench	BOTTOM of trench	
22	15m	N	30.70	30.29	30.29
		S	31.02	30.53	
23	25m	E	30.26	29.91	29.91
		W	30.54	30.24	
24	25m	E	30.44	30.04	29.84
		W	30.69	30.35	
25	25m	E	29.81	29.45	29.45
		W	30.03	29.67	
26	25m	E	29.13	28.65	28.49
		W	29.12	28.49	
27	25m	N	28.66	28.26	28.26
		S	29.51	29.01	
<i>Continued</i>					

Area A2 Trenches 22 - 29 Continued

TRENCH		LEVELS (m) (taken from BM on school wall on Princes Road = 35.55m OD)			MAXIMUM DEPTH / LEVEL EXCAVATED TO
No.	Length		TOP of trench	BOTTOM of trench	
28	25m	E	28.72	28.22	28.22
		W	28.99	28.50	
29	25m	E	28.30	27.59	27.54
		W	28.32	27.54	

APPENDIX 3: SMR SUMMARY

Site name/Address: Land off Princes Road, Chelmsford	
Parish: Chelmsford Borough	District: Chelmsford
NGR: TL 71000555	Site Code: CF31
Type of Work: Evaluation - trenching	Site Director/Group: R. Clarke (Essex C C Field Archaeology Group)
Date of Work: 5.2.96 - 29.2.96	Size of Area Investigated: 4.16 ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Chelmsford	Funding source: Barratt Eastern Counties
Further Work? Yes	Related SMR Nos: 5557, 5707, 5708
Final Report:	
Periods Represented: Medieval, Post-Medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<i>Medieval</i> Several ditches, including a field boundary, and a ?pit were found in Area A1 which contained 10th - 14th century pottery and probably date from the pre-Reformation, monastic period of the site.	
<i>Tudor</i> Features associated with the Tudor (16th century) phase of Moulsham Hall were concentrated in Area B, in the western half of the evaluation area. These comprise the fairly well-preserved remains of at least two walls and a layer of Tudor bricks which is either demolition debris or the base of a building platform. The walls were probably part of the extensive Tudor gardens. A ditch and a ?pit containing Tudor finds were also recorded in Area A1.	
<i>Georgian</i> The robbed-out foundations of a rectangular building dating from the Georgian (18th century) phase of Moulsham Hall were located on the area of the 'raised platform' in Area A1. This building would probably have been positioned to the north of the main entrance into the Georgian manor. Layers relating to phases of demolition and construction were also identified which are likely to date from the period of re-building in 1728-43. A large ditch running parallel to an earlier medieval field boundary ditch was investigated to the south of the building which was probably a road-side ditch for the entrance into the estate. Several other boundary- or drainage-related ditches and gullies of varying proportions and orientations were located in all three areas, including a large field boundary ditch in Area A2. Most of the parchmarks plotted from the aerial photograph were identified as being the remains of buildings, walls, ditches and field boundaries which relate to the medieval, Tudor and Georgian phases of Moulsham Hall.	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
Author of Summary: R. Clarke	Date of Summary: 4 April 1996