

THE PRIORY AND MANOR OF HOUNSLOW: EXCAVATIONS AT HOUNSLOW POLICE STATION, MONTAGUE ROAD, HOUNSLOW

Robert Cowie

SUMMARY

Excavations during 1995 at Hounslow Police Station uncovered archaeological evidence for Hounslow Priory, which historical sources suggest was in existence by c.1200, and for the post-Dissolution manor. Remains relating to the religious house included strata dated to the 14th or 15th centuries, and a ditch backfilled in the late 15th century. A clay hearth also appeared to be contemporaneous with the priory, as did an overlying pitched tile hearth, although the latter could have been of post-Dissolution date. Evidence for the manor included deposits and cut features dating to the 17th and 18th centuries, and a brick wall, which was identified as part of the east wing of the manor house (added to the original Tudor mansion in 1711). Most of the wall had been removed by a robber pit, presumably dug when the manor house was demolished in the early 19th century.

INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the results of excavations undertaken by the Museum of London Archaeology Service at Hounslow Police Station (site code HPO94), which is on the site of the priory and subsequent manor of Hounslow (in this paper the term 'manor' denotes the manor house and its grounds and adjacent buildings). The excavation area was located in the car park behind the main building of the police station in Montague Road, and was bounded to the north by York Road (TQ 1373 7573; Fig 1).

In March 1994 an evaluation was carried out prior to the submission by the Metropolitan Police Service of a planning application to the local planning authority for permission to build an extension to the existing police station. The two trial trenches dug during the evaluation revealed post-medieval strata associated with the manor (Cowie 1994).

An excavation was subsequently undertaken from 3rd April to 3rd May 1995 as a condition of planning consent for the proposed extension (Fig 2). Archaeological work was strictly limited to those areas that would be affected by the foundations of the new extension. Ten trenches (designated 1–10) were proposed, but due to practical constraints the excavation of Trench 7 was abandoned. Archaeological strata were found in the nine remaining trenches, which were generally buried beneath 0.50m to 0.70m of modern material.

The police station car park was crossed by numerous underground services, especially in the northern half of the site where archaeological strata were divided into small isolated blocks by trenches for modern drains and cables.

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Hounslow Police Station is situated about 60m north of the High Street, which is on the conjectured line of the London to Silchester Roman road, and was an important route from

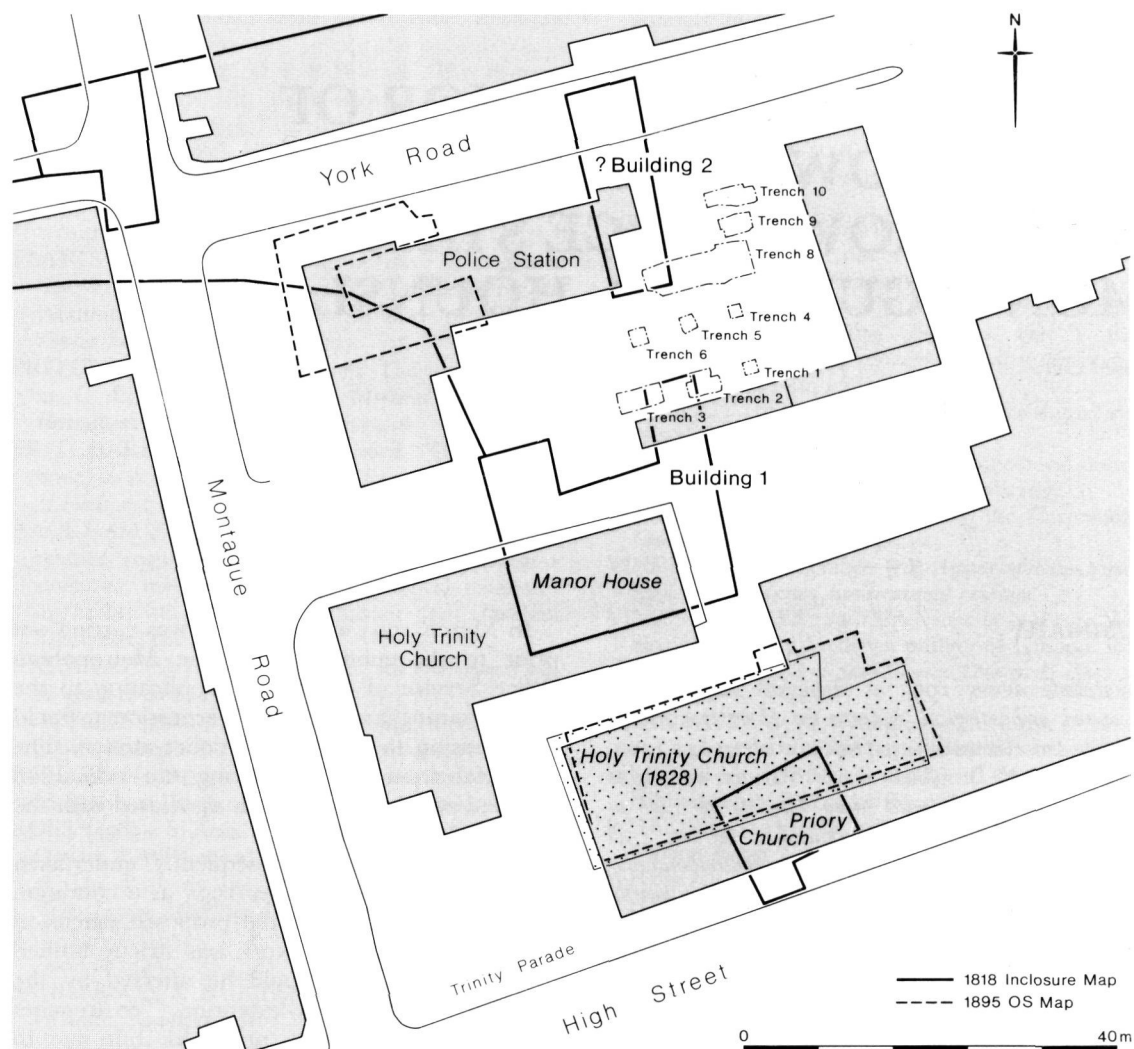


Fig 1. Hounslow Police Station: site location plan, also showing details from the Heston Inclosure Award map of the 1818 (shown as a continuous line), and the Ordnance Survey map of 1895 (dotted line)

London to Windsor and the west in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The site lies just above the 20m contour in an area of fairly flat land; the surface of the car park was at c.20.90m OD.

According to the 1:50,000 geological map (British Geological Survey, 1981) the site lies on sands and gravels of the Taplow River Terrace. A borehole survey of the site indicates that the terrace deposits are between 5.5m and 5.9m thick, and that they overlie London Clay.

In the excavation area, terrace gravel comprised compact fine to coarse flint pebbles and cobbles, with some orange-brown sand. Its

surface was generally fairly level, and was located between 19.96m and 19.78m OD. However, on the north side of the site, in Trenches 9 and 10, the surface of the gravel was slightly lower, mostly between 19.78m and 19.66m OD.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Priory

In the medieval period the site lay within the precinct of Hounslow Priory, which was built on



Fig 2. Hounslow Police Station: the site under excavation in 1995

heathland on the western edge of the medieval settlement of Hounslow. The first reference to a religious house at Hounslow occurs in 1200, but it gives no indication of the order to which the house belonged (VCH 1969, 191). Later sources indicate that Hounslow Priory (also known as the Friary, the Hospital or House of Hounslow) belonged to the Trinitarian Order. Hounslow may have been a Trinitarian house from the very beginning, although it is more likely that it was given to the Trinitarians sometime during the early to mid 13th century. According to Bate (1948, 11–12; see also Aungier 1840, 484) the priory was established in 1211 by the friars of the Trinitarian Order, who received letters of protection from King John in 1214. However, it is also suggested that Hounslow may have been given to the Trinitarians in the mid 13th century by Richard, King of the Romans, brother of Henry III (VCH 1969, 191). Nevertheless, despite the priory's uncertain early history, there can be little doubt that Hounslow was among the earliest of the 10 Trinitarian houses founded in England.

The Trinitarian movement, 'The Order of the Most Holy Trinity for the Redemption of Captives', was founded in France by John de Matha of Provence and Felix de Valois in 1198.

Its purpose was to collect alms to be devoted in equal parts to the release of Christians held prisoner by the infidels, the sick and poor, and the Order's own maintenance (see Gray 1993, 10–15). Trinitarians, otherwise known as Maturines or colloquially as the 'Donkey Brothers', have often been incorrectly classed with mendicant friars (probably because they travelled a great deal to collect funds), whereas in fact they followed the Rule of St Augustine, making them more akin to Augustinian Canons. Moreover, unlike the friars, they could receive endowments and own property.

By the Dissolution Hounslow Priory was the richest Trinitarian house in England. Much of its income came from its estates (see *Valor Ecclesiasticus* 1810, 402). It owned and farmed local lands, which became known as the manor of Hounslow by the end of the 13th century, and at the Dissolution comprised 73.5 acres of arable and 33 acres of meadow (Aungier 1840, 490). During the 14th century the priory was also given land or properties in the parish of St Botolph without Bishopsgate (London), Bedfont, Staines, Stanwell, Uxbridge, Heston and Harlington, as well as a mill and two fisheries at Kingston (Aungier 1840, 491; Bate 1948, 20; Bate *nd*, 44; VCH 1969, 191). Among its benefactors were members of the royal family, including Edward III, who granted Hatton Grange in 1376. Support was sometimes acknowledged by the issue of 'letters of confraternity' (certificates giving benefactors honorary membership of the religious community). In all there are 13 surviving Trinitarian letters, including four from Hounslow, which were issued in 1446, 1466, 1479 and 1508 (Clark-Maxwell 1926, 56). Ironically, the latter was issued to Henry Prince of Wales (later Henry VIII).

The priory's market and fair was another source of revenue. In 1296 Edward I issued a charter entitling the friars of Hounslow to hold a weekly market on Tuesday and an annual fair 'on the vigil, the feast, and the morrow of Holy Trinity and for the five days following'. In addition the priory raised funds from the collection of alms. It seems that brethren from Hounslow travelled far and wide in their search for funds, for a seal matrix from the priory was found at Oare, near Faversham, in Kent, while another was recovered from the River Peterill, 'about a mile from Carlisle' (Aungier 1840, 493–4). A particularly successful fund-raiser of the House was Robert de Hounslow, who was

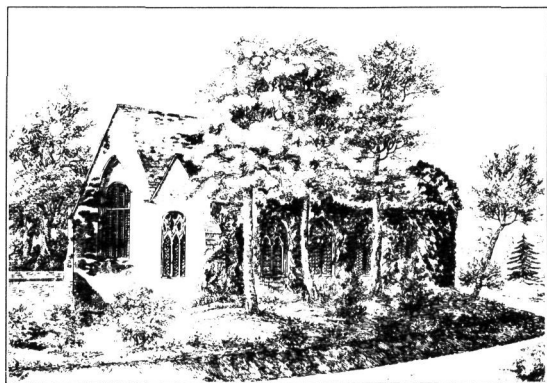


Fig 3. Hounslow Police Station: an engraving of the medieval church of the Holy Trinity, as it appeared in the late 18th century (from Lysons 1795, Plate X). It shows that the 'south' aisle was in fact on the north side of the building

Grand Provincial of the Order of the Holy Trinity for England, Scotland and Ireland (Bate 1948, 15; Lysons 1795, 36).

Little is known about the appearance and layout of the priory, for by the late 16th century only its church, which had become the manor house chapel, survived. In the late 18th century Lysons described the building thus:

The only remaining part of the priory is the chapel, which exhibits evident traces of the architecture which prevailed in the early part of the 13th century, ... particularly in the stone-stalls, three of which are to be seen in the south wall of the chancel, and a double piscina, with narrow-pointed arches divided by a column. The chapel consists of a chancel, nave, and south aisle.

(Lysons 1795, 38–9)

An 18th-century engraving (Fig 3) and a watercolour of 1805 (framed photograph in Hounslow Library) show that the chapel consisted of a nave and a lower, separately roofed, north aisle, both apparently of 14th-century date (VCH 1962, 127). To the south-west the nave was adjoined by a low tower with a pyramidal roof. A door in the south wall of the tower served as the entrance to the chapel.

The Dissolution of the Priory

At Henry VIII's instigation the smaller religious houses (those with an income of less than £200 a year) were dissolved by statute in 1536. Although the annual income of Hounslow Priory amounted to £74 8s 1½d the friars apparently did not hand over their property until the end of 1538. In that year Robert Cheeseman, the King's

Escheator for the County of Middlesex, drew up a lease in which he would receive the priory's farm buildings and lands, while the friars were to keep their living quarters, ancillary buildings and chapel (Aungier 1840, 489). In the lease were included:

all the barnes, stables, garnars, orchards, dove-house, gardens, and all other housez and edyficyons, whyche they have in or aboute the seyd monastery, or house of the Trynity of Hounslowe aforesayde, except and recervyd unto the seyd mynystre and covent, and ther successors, the churche, and the only mancyon place, with the chambers wher the seyd mynystre and covent do lye, the kechyn, breuhouse, and bakehouse, within the seyd monastery and house.

This transaction was never fulfilled, for the matter was reported to Cromwell, the Vicar-General, who confiscated the property (Bate 1948, 16–18).

The Manor of Hounslow

In 1539 Richard Awnsham, groom-porter to the king, was the first layman to lease the confiscated estate from the Crown.

In 1552 the lease was granted to the Marquess of Northampton, and six years later the freehold reversion was granted by Queen Mary to William, Lord Windsor (VCH 1962, 107). William's son, Edward, Lord Windsor, sold the property in 1571 to Anthony Roan, auditor to Elizabeth I, who demolished the remaining priory buildings (with the exception of the chapel), and built a manor house. The manor briefly returned to the Windsor family in 1596, when it was bought by Henry, Lord Windsor, but was sold later that year to Thomas Crompton, and over the next hundred years it passed through the hands of several owners.

In February 1704 the Manor of Hounslow was advertised in the *London Gazette*, where it was described as:

The House, Gardens and Fish Ponds, consisting of 8 acres Walled in with Pigeon House, Barns, Stables, Coach houses and Out-houses with 16 acres of Arable and pasture land adjoining to it

In 1705 the manor was bought by Whitelocke Bulstrode, and was to remain in the ownership of the Bulstrode family for over a hundred years (Bate 1948, 28–30; Morris 1980). In 1710 Whitelocke restored the chapel, which had been seriously damaged by fire in 1705, and in the following year he added two new wings to the house. Lysons described the manor house thus:

The manor-house, which stands at the western extremity of the town, and adjoins the Heath, is an ancient brick structure; the north and east wings were rebuilt by Whitelocke Bulstrode Esq in 1711

(Lysons 1795, 38)

The building is also incidentally mentioned by Grantley Berkeley (1865, 216) in his memoirs, who noted that in 1774, when Whitelocke Bulstrode's grandson, Richard, lived there it was 'an old house surrounded by a brick wall, about where the new [19th-century] church in Hounslow stands'. In fact, as the Heston Inclosure Award map of 1818 shows, it actually stood a little further north on the site now occupied by the east end of the present church.

In the early 19th century the manor of Hounslow was owned by George Gardner Bulstrode, who unlike his predecessors was not interested in the property as a home, and allowed the house to lapse into a bad state of repair (Morris 1980, 34). Finally, in August 1816, he put the manor up for auction. The original bill of sale (in Hounslow Reference Library) describes the manor lands as including:

a meadow and pleasure grounds together with the fishponds, adjoining Lampton Hills, being airy pleasant and healthy, having several sheets of ornamental water and a beautiful plantation.'

The stable, cow sheds, coach houses and brewhouse were to be demolished, and sold as building materials. A large part of the manor house site was purchased by Richard Goatley and Thomas Cane in 1817. However, several substantial buildings, including the manor house itself, apparently survived long enough to appear on the Inclosure map. Some appear again on a map of 1865, by which time most of the grounds, including the site of the manor house, had become orchards.

The 19th-century Holy Trinity Church

The chapel had also been neglected, and by 1816 was in sufficiently poor condition for the curate, Joseph Benson, to decide that a new church should be built (VCH 1962, 127). Following the break up of the manor estate the chapel was bought by the Rev H. S. Trimmer, vicar of Heston, and was subsequently demolished in the spring of 1828 to make way for the proposed church. As the foundations of the new building would cut through the vaults of Whitelocke Bulstrode and the Blathwayt family

the burials within these vaults were moved (Aungier 1840, 502-3). Construction of the new Holy Trinity Church began in June 1828, and it was opened the following year. It was enlarged in 1855 with the addition of a chancel.

The church was badly damaged by arsonists in June 1943, and was demolished in 1959/1960 so that the site could be redeveloped. The new development included a row of shops (Nos 1-10 Trinity Parade) on the site of the 19th-century church and earlier chapel, while the old graveyard immediately to the north-west was chosen as the site for a new parish church. Before the new church was built the graveyard was cleared of burials. During this work walls were uncovered, which were probably part of the manor house:

Two walls of old red bricks were discovered about six feet below the surface. These walls, some four feet high, began about half way across the site and ran in a northerly direction, apparently continuing below the police station yard. Lt Col W. E. Cross, who is architect for the proposed new church, says he thinks it likely that the walls were in some way connected with the old Manor House ...

(*Middlesex Chronicle* 18.3.60)

The Police Station

In 1882 a police station was built in the newly laid out Montague Road. It was demolished in 1963, and replaced by the present police station, which was officially opened in April 1965.

THE EXCAVATION

Undated features (not illustrated)

The earliest features on the site were 16 shallow hollows and/or pits cut into the natural gravel, and filled with brickearth. The fills were generally sterile, although occasionally they contained flecks of ceramic building material, most probably introduced by root or worm action.

Some features were almost certainly of natural origin, but others were possibly anthropogenic. They appeared to antedate the medieval occupation of the site, and may have been much earlier judging from their stratigraphic position and apparent lack of artefacts and other occupation debris.

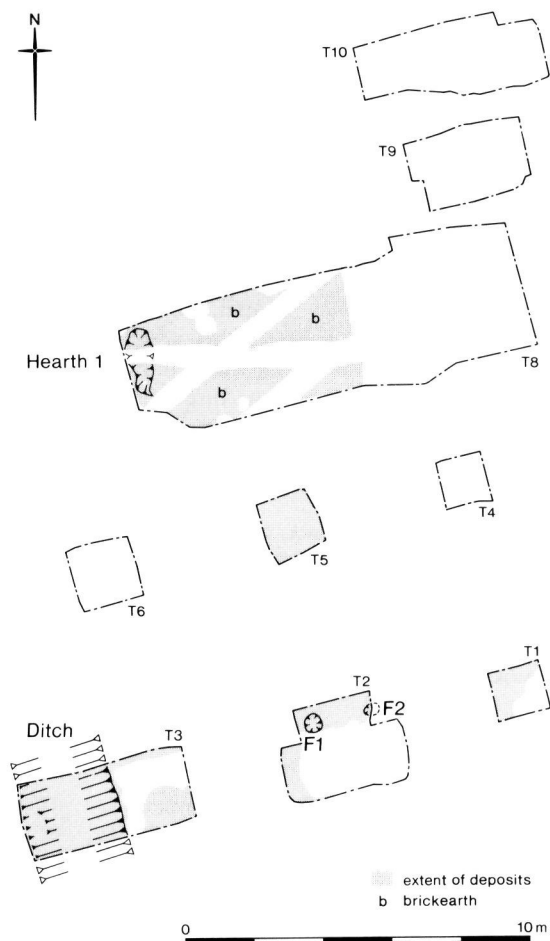


Fig 4. Hounslow Police Station: Medieval and ? early post-medieval features

Medieval and ?early post-medieval strata (Fig 4)

Disturbed or redeposited brickearth

The natural gravel and undated features in Trench 8 were covered by light brown clayey silt (brickearth), which was up to 0.40m thick and contained occasional fragments of peg tile and pottery. Apart from a residual sherd of possible prehistoric date, the earliest sherd was from an apparently handmade cooking pot with everted rim in a coarse gritty fabric of mid to late 11th-century date (Fig 5, No. 1). Also present were sherds of South Hertfordshire greyware, dated to 1150–1300, and Kingston-type whiteware, dated to 1270–1350. Their presence suggests that the brickearth was either redeposited or that it was

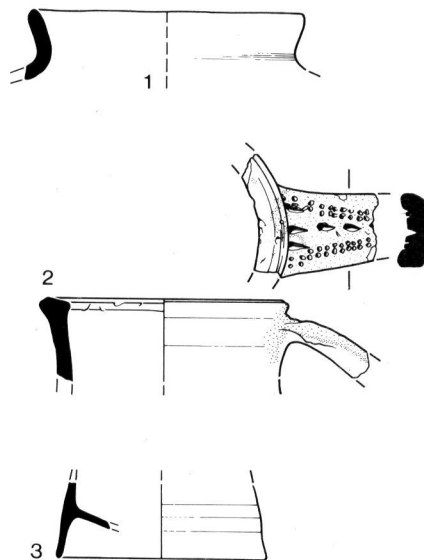


Fig 5. Hounslow Police Station: Late Saxon and medieval pottery: early medieval flint-tempered ware (1), Surrey whiteware (?Kingston ware) (2), Andalusian lustreware (3), scale 1:4

natural subsoil which had been disturbed in the medieval period.

The deposit may have extended to Trench 5, where brickearth overlying the natural gravel produced fragments of peg tile, a schist honestone of either medieval or post-medieval date, and part of a rim and decorated strap handle in Surrey whiteware, probably from a baluster jug dated to about the 14th century (Fig 5, No. 2). A similar, but apparently later, deposit in Trench 4 yielded a clay pipe stem.

Hearth 1

At the west end of Trench 8 a subrectangular pit, 0.23m deep, had been cut into the brickearth to make a hearth (Fig 4). The highest point of the cut was at 20.14m OD. The sides and base of the pit had been scorched and reddened by fire. The primary fill consisted of ash and charcoal, up to 0.18m thick. The entire fill was processed in a Siraf flotation tank for the recovery of plant and animal remains. It produced a large number of fruits belonging to heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), and a small quantity of very fragmented burnt bone derived from cattle (a metatarsal), 'sheep-sized mammal' (three rib and long-bone fragments), and unidentified bird (four long-bone fragments). The heather was probably collected

from the nearby heath, and although its final use was apparently for kindling or fuel (Giorgi 1995), it may represent residues of heather used for other purposes such as animal fodder, bedding, brooms, or building material (see Greig 1988, 125). The bones included joints of relatively high meat-bearing value, and most probably represent leavings from the table (Pipe 1995).

The fill was overlaid by burnt clayey silt and a mixed deposit of brickearth, burnt clay and white mortar, both containing fragments of peg tile.

Hearth 2 (Fig 6)

Hearth 1 was sealed by a sequence of layers, mainly comprising brickearth, which contained Coarse Border ware of 14th or 15th-century date, and fragments of peg tile. This material had been laid down to form a level base for another hearth. The surface of the hearth,

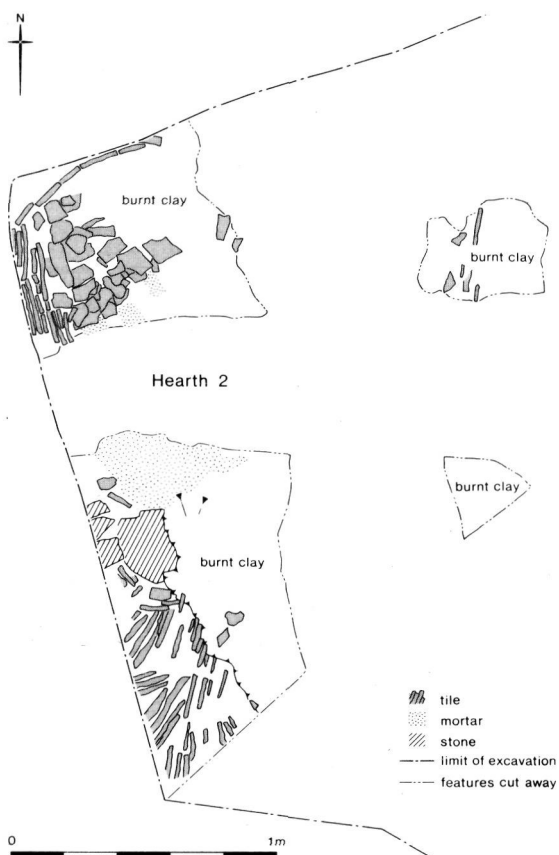


Fig 6. Hounslow Police Station: Hearth 2

located at c.20.30m OD, was mainly made of peg tiles laid on end and bonded with clay. The tiles were of a type not usually found in London before the 15th century. The hearth also incorporated a number of stone fragments, including what appeared to be part of a window sill and jamb in Reigate stone dated to c.1175–1275, and two bricks dated to between the late 15th and early 17th centuries. The hearth was large, for although it extended beyond the excavation area and had been badly damaged by later features, the exposed remains measured 2.40m north-south by 1.94m east-west. Its size suggests that the hearth belonged to a service building such as a kitchen. This hypothesis could not be confirmed, however, because no associated structural features or floor levels survived within the excavation area.

Unfortunately, there was little associated dating evidence for either hearth, and as both were badly damaged by modern power/telecommunication cables they were not considered suitable for archaeomagnetic dating. Nevertheless, it seems likely that the hearths were contemporaneous with the priory, although a post-Dissolution date cannot be ruled out. This is particularly the case with Hearth 2, which included tiles and bricks that could possibly have been made after 1538. Furthermore, while the moulded stone in Hearth 2 may have come from a structure demolished during the lifetime of the religious house, it could just as easily have come from one of the buildings pulled down following the Dissolution.

The ditch and other strata

The natural gravel in Trench 3 was cut by a north-south ditch with shallow sloping sides and a flat base. The ditch was up to 0.40m deep and 2.50m wide, and was filled with fine sandy, silty clay. It was apparently backfilled in the late 15th century, since it contained sherds from a number of vessels in Coarse Border ware (one represented by 29 fragments), and an unusual base from a 15th-century jug in late Andalusian lustreware (Fig 5, No. 3) for which no parallels have been found. The ditch also contained a small fragment of floor tile of Westminster type dating to c.1225–1250+, pieces of peg tile and curved ridge tile, occasional oyster and mussel shells, and a few bone fragments of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (including sheep *Ovis aries*), and pig (*Sus scrofa*).

A sample of the ditch fill, processed in a Siraf flotation tank, yielded a small assemblage of poorly preserved charred cereal grains, including grains of possible rye (*Secale cereale*), wheat (*Triticum sp.*) and oat (*Avena sp.*), but most could not be identified. Weed seeds included corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*), a characteristic weed of cultivated fields, and possible brome (*Bromus sp.*), two species which are often found in charred cereal assemblages (Giorgi 1995). The sample also produced two skull bones of whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*), a fragment of cattle mandible, a 'cattle-sized' long-bone, and a pig mandible fragment. 'Sheep-sized' mammals were represented by 45 mandible fragments, a skull fragment and a tooth (Pipe 1995).

The plant remains represent accidentally burnt crop residues from the advanced stages of crop-cleaning, while the faunal remains appear to be a mixture of refuse from primary carcass processing (head bones) and domestic consumption (long bones), which suggests that the ditch may have been located near the kitchens. This fits well with the ditch's proximity to the tile hearth, which probably belonged to a service building.

The back-filled ditch was sealed by a layer of silty clay, up to 0.37m thick, containing occasional fragments of ridge tile and peg tile.

In Trench 2 the natural gravel was cut by two possible postholes (F1 and F2), which were 0.16m and 0.11m deep respectively. Both were filled with material from a layer of silty clay which covered the natural gravel to a depth of 0.35m, and contained fragments of peg tile and 14th-century pottery, including sherds of Kingston ware.

17th and 18th-century strata (Fig 7)

In Trench 2 the late medieval strata were covered by deposits of silty and sandy clay, up to 0.55m thick, which produced Border ware, a small amount of Tudor Brown and Guys ware, and a single sherd of tin-glazed ware. While a few sherds could have been of 18th-century date, most were typical of the mid 17th century. The deposits were cut by a brick structure (Building 1).

Building 1

The remains of the north end of a rectangular brick building were found in Trenches 2 and 3.

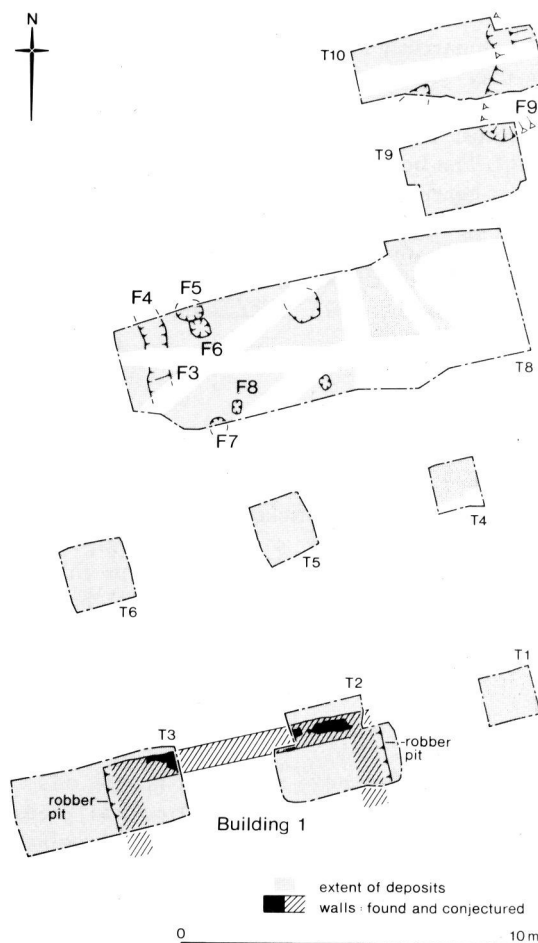


Fig 7. Hounslow Police Station: 17th and 18th-century features

Only short stretches of the north wall of the building survived; these stood to a height of up to 0.21m (three courses), and were c.0.60m wide. The wall was made of soft friable red brick bonded with buff sandy mortar. One brick was apparently of 16th-century date, but others were dated to the late 17th century or very early 18th century (Keily 1995).

The building was almost certainly part of the manor house, for its position coincided with that of the east wing of the manor house as shown on the Heston Inclosure Award map of 1818 (Fig 1). Moreover, the date of the brickwork fits well with the documented construction of this wing in 1711.

Most of the building had been destroyed by a large robber pit. This was up to 0.60m deep, and had steep to vertical sides and a fairly flat

base, which was cut slightly deeper near the sides, presumably to remove the external walls of the building. It was partly filled with demolition rubble comprising buff sandy mortar and fragments of red brick (materials similar to those in the north wall). In Trench 2 the upper part of the pit had been backfilled with sandy clay containing fragments of brick, tile and mortar. The pit presumably dates to the early 19th century when the manor house was pulled down.

?Building 2

A timber structure (or structures) was indicated at the west end of Trench 8 by several postholes and slots (F3–F8), most of which were filled with silty clay. These features might be associated with the south-east corner of a building, which, according to the Inclosure map, stood there in the 19th century. Two, F3 and F4, had cut through Hearth 2 (see above). On the west side of F3, which was 0.36m deep, a small slot appeared to be a timber setting. The feature contained frequent fragments of burnt clay and peg tile, which had probably tumbled in from Hearth 2. A linear cut, F4, was c.0.20m deep, and was possibly associated with or part of F3.

To the east were two intercutting postholes, F5 and F6, which were 0.30m and 0.22m deep respectively, and contained occasional fragments of tile and coal. A residual sherd of late 11th/12th-century pot was recovered from Posthole F6.

Posthole F7 was 0.36m deep, and produced a rim sherd from a large 17th or 18th-century storage jar. A large cobble near the base of the feature had probably been used for post-packing.

Posthole F8 was 0.18m deep and filled with clayey silt containing occasional fragments of peg tile and mortar.

Postholes F3–F8 were truncated from above by a large shallow pit (not illustrated) which extended across the west half of Trench 8. The pit was filled with silty clay and demolition debris, which produced part of a possible cooking vessel in Border ware, dated to 1550–1750, and two pieces of window glass of late medieval date. The feature may have extended south to Trench 5, where a similar deposit was observed.

Other strata

An irregular pit (F9) cut the natural gravel in Trenches 9 and 10. It was 0.60m deep and

contained fragments of peg tile, late 17th-century brick, and the bones of cattle (11 fragments, some with butchery marks), 'cattle-sized' mammal (six fragments), and pig (two fragments). The cattle were at least four years old, which suggests that they were kept primarily for dairying or for use as draught animals, rather than for beef production. The assemblage included post-consumption refuse (*eg* pig tibia), and possibly some primary carcass processing waste (cattle mandibles) (Pipe 1995).

Pit F9 was sealed by a sequence of layers of late 17th and/or 18th-century date. Most comprised brown to grey-brown silty clay and clayey silt, and appeared to be garden soil. Many produced fragments of peg tile, and a few yielded small amounts of pottery including sherds of Metropolitan slipware, and post-medieval redware and Border ware.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Prehistoric and Roman

No definite evidence for prehistoric activity was found, although one residual sherd of possible prehistoric date was recovered from the disturbed/redeposited brickearth.

Similarly, no evidence for Roman activity was found with the exception of an unstratified Roman potsherd from Trench 8. This lends weight to the current view that the line of the London-Silchester Roman road most probably runs along the course now taken by the High Street.

Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman

No evidence for Saxon activity was found apart from a single rim sherd of a handmade cooking pot from the disturbed/redeposited brickearth, which would appear to be of late 10th or 11th-century date. A sherd dated to 1050–1150 was found in posthole F6. This suggests that there may have been some activity in the area prior to the foundation of the priory, although this may have amounted to no more than manuring of fields (Blackmore 1995).

Medieval

The archaeological data, together with documentary, pictorial and cartographic evidence, allow some speculation about the appearance and layout of the priory. It was built on the north side of the road now known as Hounslow High Street, which has been an important route since at least the 13th century, and possibly the Roman period. The priory church was located on the site now occupied by the shops along Trinity Parade. It appears to have been small, an attribute typical of Trinitarian churches (see Gray 1993, 12). There can be little doubt that the claustral buildings would have been located immediately to the north, roughly where Holy Trinity Church stands today. Various ancillary buildings such as the kitchen, brewhouse and bakehouse would probably have been sited further north still, and archaeological evidence suggests that some may have stood on the site of the present police station, for it is suggested that the hearths in Trench 8 were probably contemporaneous with the priory and may have belonged to its kitchens, while animal bones and shells from the 15th-century ditch in Trench 3 probably represent rubbish from a nearby kitchen or refectory. Beyond these would have stood the agricultural buildings.

The excavations provided limited evidence for the Trinitarian priory, and few structural remains could be attributed to the pre-Dissolution period. Of particular interest were two fragments of moulded Reigate stone dated to c.1175–1275. One unstratified piece probably came from a small unglazed window. The other fragment appeared to be the junction of a window sill and jamb (Mark Samuel pers comm), which was later incorporated in Hearth 2. Two pieces of late medieval window glass, recovered from a post-medieval feature, derive from a building of some quality (Geoff Egan pers comm).

As was to be expected from the location of the site, most of the medieval wares were of Surrey origin, although a few South Hertfordshire types were also present, together with a sherd of Andalusian lustreware. Most of the earlier medieval sherds were cooking pots, while in the 14th to 15th-century jugs predominated. The South Hertfordshire greyware fits well with the foundation of the priory in the early 13th century, while the Surrey whitewares relate to its use during the 14th and 15th centuries. The Andalusian lustreware jug bears witness to the

wealth of the priory in the 15th century, being probably for display as much as for use (Blackmore 1995).

The post-medieval manor

Cartographic and documentary evidence still provides the most useful information about the layout and nature of Hounslow manor. The Heston Inclosure Award map of 1818 is of particular importance, since it clearly shows the individual buildings that comprise the manorial complex. The former priory church, which after the Dissolution served as the chapel for the manor is depicted as a small building next to the London Road (now the High Street). The manor house stood immediately behind the chapel on the site of the present Holy Trinity Church, and is shown on the map as a square building with two wings projecting from its north side, a configuration roughly consistent with Lysons's description of the manor house in the late 18th century. Both wings apparently extended north on to the site of the police station car park, and during the excavation the north end of the east wing was revealed by Trenches 2 and 3 (Building 1). Although most of the masonry had been robbed the outline of the building was clearly marked by the limits of a large early 19th-century robber pit. It is likely that the two walls discovered during the clearance of the 19th-century graveyard in 1960 also belonged to this building, and were correctly identified at the time as part of the manor house (see p00). Ancillary buildings were located to the north and north-west of the manor house. Evidence for one such building may have been found at the west end of Trench 8, where a group of postholes were located (?Building 2). Other archaeological evidence relating to Hounslow manor included a large pit (F9) and strata which apparently mainly consisted of garden soil.

The post-medieval wares were more varied than the medieval pottery, although fine whitewares from the Surrey Hampshire borders accounted for c.45% of the material, while assorted post-medieval redwares accounted for another 45%. No actual Dissolution groups were noted, although some wares could have been in use in the mid 16th century (Blackmore 1995).

Although the results of these investigations clearly show that elements of the priory and the manor survive beneath the police station car

park, it seems likely that most of the archaeological remains relating to the chapel and the manor house would have been destroyed when the 19th-century church and its graveyard were swept away during redevelopment in the 1960s. This would matter little if appropriate measures had been taken at the time to record any threatened archaeological remains. Unfortunately, until now, archaeological work in the Borough of Hounslow has concentrated almost exclusively on the Brentford area, while other historic centres such as Hounslow have been largely ignored (see Clegg 1991). Indeed, despite the largescale redevelopment of Hounslow since 1960 virtually no archaeological work has been carried out in the area, with the exception of one small trial trench excavated about 130m south-east of Hounslow Police Station at 1–3 Douglas Road in 1985, which revealed evidence of late medieval or early post-medieval gravel quarrying (site code DRH85; Richardson 1986, 162).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation and excavation were funded by the Metropolitan Police Service.

The Museum of London Archaeology Service is grateful to the Metropolitan Police Service, especially the officers at Hounslow Police Station, for their cooperation during the project. Particular thanks must go to Mr R. J. Cooper and John Edwards of the Metropolitan Police Service Property Services Department for their help.

The author is indebted to Neil Chippendale of Hounslow Local Studies Department for assistance with historical research. Thanks are also due to a number of colleagues in MoLAS including: Lyn Blackmore, Geoff Egan, John Giorgi, Jackie Keily, Alan Pipe, Mark Samuel and Roy Stephenson for information about artefacts and environmental evidence recovered from the site, and to Josephine Brown for the preparation of site plans. Particular thanks go to Barney Sloane who has been a valuable source of information and ideas, and Lyn Blackmore, Tony Dyson and John Schofield for commenting on drafts of the text. The photograph is by Maggie Cox, and the drawings are by Susan Banks.

The author was assisted in the evaluation by Helen Jones, and in the excavation by Alice Hodgins, Elizabeth Howe, Susan Hurman and John Minkin. The site was surveyed by Duncan Lees and Marek

Ziebart, and photographed by Maggie Cox. The project managers were Jonathan Nowell (the evaluation) and Gillian King (the excavation).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- AUNGIER (1840), G J Aungier *The history and antiquities of Syon Monastery the Parish of Isleworth and the Chapelry of Hounslow*
- BATE (1924), G E Bate *A history of the Priory and Church of the Holy Trinity, Hounslow*
- BATE (1948), G E Bate *And So Make a City Here: the story of a lost heathland*
- BATE (nd), G E Bate *A history of the urban district of Heston and Isleworth*
- BERKELEY (1865), G F Berkeley *My Life and Recollections* Vol 1
- BLACKMORE (1995), L Blackmore *The pottery from Hounslow Police Station* (HPO94) MoLAS unpublished report
- CLARK-MAXWELL (1926), W G Clark-Maxwell 'Some letters of confraternity' *Archaeologia* 75, 19–60
- CLEGG (1991), G Clegg *The Archaeology of Hounslow* West London Archaeological Field Group
- COWIE (1994), R Cowie *Hounslow Police Station, Montague Road, Hounslow: an archaeological evaluation* (HPO94) MoLAS unpublished evaluation report
- GIORGI (1995), J Giorgi *Hounslow Police Station: the environmental samples* MoLAS unpublished report
- GRAY (1993), M Gray *The Trinitarian Order in England: Excavations at Thelsford Priory* British Archaeol Rep British Series 226
- GREIG (1988), J Greig 'Plant resources' in G Astill and A Grant (eds) *The Countryside of Medieval England*, 108–127
- KEILY (1995), J Keily *Building material assessment* (HPO94) MoLAS unpublished report
- LYSONS (1795), D Lysons *The Environs of London 3: County of Middlesex*
- MORRIS (1980), G M Morris *The history of Hounslow Manor and the Bulstrode family*
- ORDNANCE SURVEY (1981), Ordnance Survey, Geological Survey of Great Britain: South London. Sheet 270, 1:50,000
- PIPE (1995), A Pipe *The animal bones from Hounslow Police Station* (HPO94) MoLAS unpublished report
- RICHARDSON (1986), B Richardson 'Excavation Round-up 1985' *the London Archaeologist* 5 (6), 157–164
- VALOR ECCLESIASTICUS (1810), *Valor Ecclesiasticus temp Henr. VIII, Auctoritate Regia Institutus* volume 1
- VCH (1962), *Victoria History of the Counties of England: Middlesex* volume 3
- VCH (1969), *Victoria History of the Counties of England: Middlesex* volume 1

The Society is grateful to the Metropolitan Police Service for a grant towards the publication of this paper.