

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

ON

WORMSLEY PARK,

STOKENCHURCH, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

NGR SU 73935 94300

On behalf of

Angus Boyd-Heron and Garsington Opera

MAY 2010

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SUMMARY

This document represents an investigation of the potential for archaeological remains in the area of Wormsley Park, Stokenchurch, to accompany an application for the installation of a temporary auditorium, car parking facilities and service trenches. A number of archaeological sites were recorded on the Historic Environment Record for Buckinghamshire, but further sites have also been recognised. Occupation in the vicinity of Wormsley has been noted archaeologically dating from the 16th century onwards, but can be presumed from historical sources to be older. A hunting regime has existed at Wormsley since the late 11th century, while gardens were planned around the house from the 17th century, of which 4 phases are evident. Some of these garden features may still exist in the areas of the proposed development. The earlier garden features, however, are believed to be greatly disturbed during the renovation of the house and gardens in 1987-90, which saw the rebuilding of the flint haha and the insertion of service trenches. Strip and record or a watching brief is suggested as a possible solution to recording any potential archaeology that may have survived the events of the 1980s.

1 INTRODUCTION

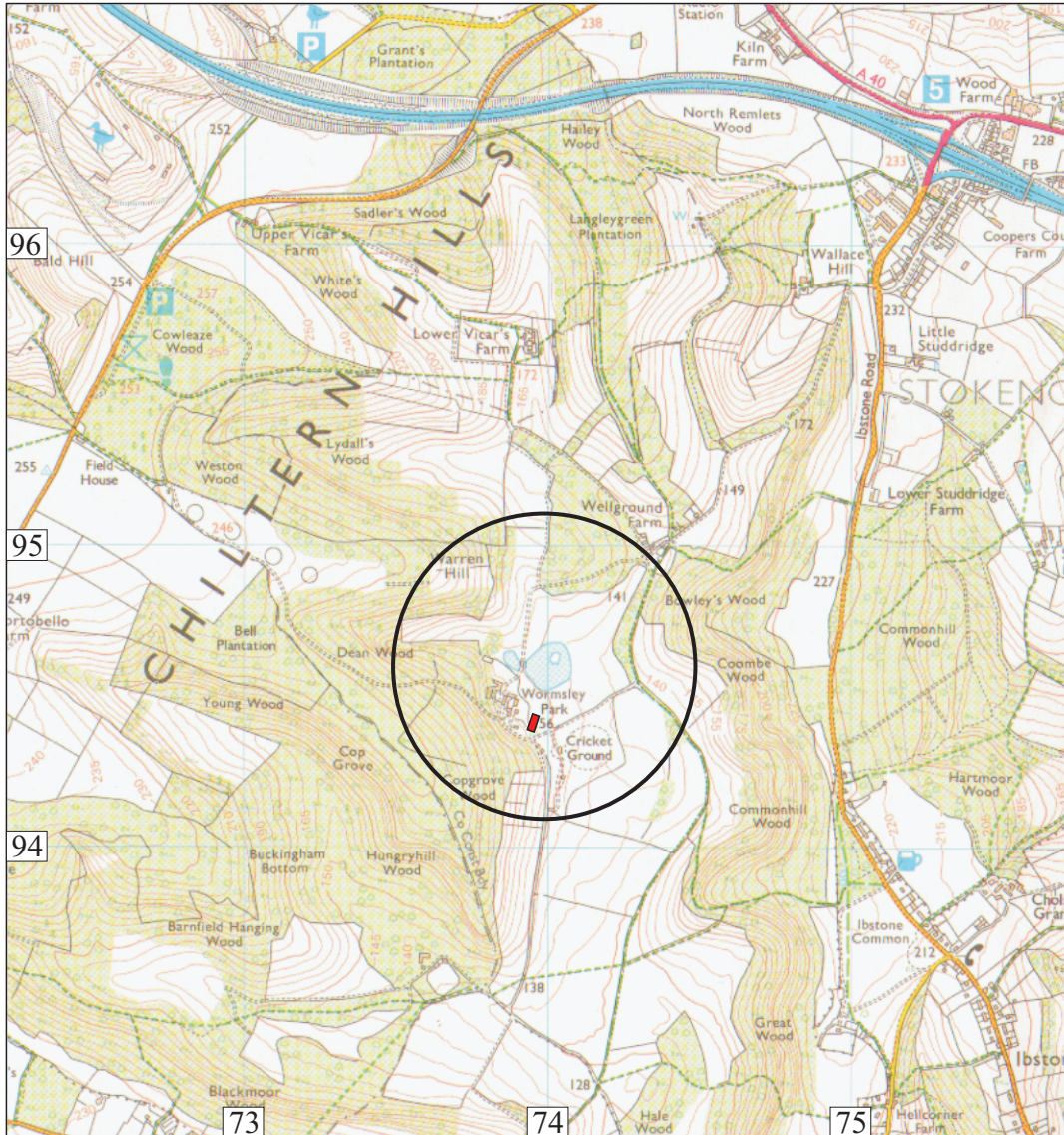
1.1 Origins of the Report

Angus Boyd-Heron, on behalf of Garsington Opera and the Wormsley Estate, has commissioned this archaeological desk-based assessment on Wormsley Park. The report has been prepared and is intended to inform any proposal under consideration within the defined area.

1.2 Planning Guidelines and Policies

This report has been prepared in accordance with *Planning Policy Statement 5. Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS 5 2010)* provides guidance related to archaeology within the planning process. The following Policy points are key to this development:

HE6.1 Local planning authorities should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected and the contribution of their setting to that significance. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the heritage asset. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets themselves should have been assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary given the application's impact. Where an application site includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation.



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0 m 1000 m

Figure 1. Location

HE6.2 This information together with an assessment of the impact of the proposal should be set out in the application (within the design and access statement when this is required) as part of the explanation of the design concept. It should detail the sources that have been considered and the expertise that has been consulted.

HE6.3 Local planning authorities should not validate applications where the extent of the impact of the proposal on the significance of any heritage assets affected cannot adequately be understood from the application and supporting documents.

In format and contents this report conforms to the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (IFA 2008).

1.3 Desk-Based Assessment Aims and Objectives

The primary aim of the desk-based assessment is to provide a professional appraisal of the archaeological potential of the site. This follows the Government guidance in *PPS 5* by presenting a synthetic account of the available archaeological and historical data and its significance at an early stage in the planning process.

In accordance with *PPS 5*, the report presents a desk-based evaluation of existing information. It additionally follows the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard* definition of a desk-based assessment (IFA 2008). In brief, it seeks to identify and assess the known and potential archaeological resource within a specified area ('the site'), collating existing written and graphic information and taking full account of the likely character, extent, quantity and worth of that resource in a local, regional and national context. It also aims to define and comment on the likely impact of the proposed development scheme on the surviving archaeological resource.

The Institute for Archaeologists *Standard* states that the purpose of a desk-based assessment is to inform appropriate responses, which may consist of one or more of the following:

- The formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised.
- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- The formulation of a project design for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research

In accordance with *PPS 5*, the desk-based assessment forms the first stage in the planning process as regards archaeology as a material consideration and also an assessment of the impact on the historical character of the area. It is intended to contribute to the formulation of an informed and appropriate mitigation strategy.

1.4 Desk-Based Assessment Methodology

The format and contents of this section of the report are an adaptation of the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (IFA 2008). The work has involved the consultation of the available documentary evidence, including records of previous discoveries and historical maps, and has been supplemented with a site walkover. The format of the report is adapted from an Institute for Archaeologists *Standard Guidance* paper (IFA 2008).

In summary, the work has involved:

- Identifying the client's objectives
- Identifying the cartographic and documentary sources available for consultation
- Assembling, consulting and examining those sources
- Identifying and collating the results of recent fieldwork
- Site walkover

The principal sources consulted in assessing this site were:

- The Buckinghamshire County Historic Environment Record
- The National Monuments Record, Swindon
- The Buckinghamshire County Archives
- The Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies

The National Monuments Record, Swindon and Buckinghamshire County Historic Environment Record, hold details of known archaeological and historical sites in the vicinity of the proposal site.

There has been no archaeological work carried out at the proposal site, though construction work is known to have occurred 1987-90. The assessment of its potential has, therefore, relied on predictive modelling based on the known distribution of remains within 500 metres of the centre of the site (from a central grid reference of SP 73950 94420, shown on figure 1). The information about standing historical and listed buildings within the same radius of the proposal area has also been collated.

The available evidence is derived from casual finds, archaeological investigations, standing buildings and historical records. It should be stressed that the distribution represents the extent of current knowledge and is the product of chance and investigation. For this reason, apparently blank zones should not be automatically regarded as being devoid of remains.

The assessment of the likely condition of any potential archaeological remains has relied upon a study of the available historical maps and observations made during the site walkover, which provide evidence for the impact of previous land-use on the site.

There have been no restrictions on reporting or access to the relevant records. The copyright to the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record belongs to Buckinghamshire County Council (Figures 1).

2 THE SITE

2.1 Location (Figure 1)

The proposal site lies in Stokenchurch Civil Parish, Wycombe District, 2.85km southwest of the centre of Stokenchurch village. The site also lies about 1km from the Stokenchurch to Ibstone Road in the secluded grounds of Wormsley Park and is an area of landscape conservation. Wormsley Park Estate did not originate as a large early medieval manor (see historical background below), but historically is known to have been located in an area of detached parochial and estate holdings. These were primarily bought in the post-medieval period to construct the present estate. Previously the parish boundary of Lewknor and Stokenchurch ran through the south-east corner of Wormsley House, this was altered in 1885 when the detached parish lands were placed in the parish of Stokenchurch.

2.2 Description (Figure 1)

The estate of Wormsley Park has many access roads that run down to the secluded valley in which Wormsley Park is located. The valley is essentially a dry valley except for ornamental ponds at Wormsley Park, although further up the dry valley is Wellground Farm, a name suggesting that water once rose higher up the valley. Wormsley Park lies on the northwest-facing slope, essentially on the boundary of the open landscape and the wooded western slopes of the valley. Home Farm lies to the southeast side of Wormsley Park, and it is to the east of this Farm and its gardens that the footings for the temporary auditorium are to be located.

2.3 Geology and Topography

The geology is Middle Chalk of the Turonian period, with the surrounding valley slopes containing Chalk Rock and Upper Chalk. The hills are capped with Clay with Flints. The chalk and flints are incorporated into many of the structures past and present that are found on the Wormsley Estate.

The use of the land as parkland has developed from the earlier landscape of waste and woodland in this area. This characteristic of the landscape is accounted in some of the surviving place-names including Wormsley, of which the earliest recorded form is *Wdemundesleia* in 1106 (VCH 1962, 254, Stevenson 1858, II.67-70), which has been interpreted as Wudemund's-leah, of which the first part of the name is treated as an Old English personal name and the etymology of the later part a woodland clearing (Mawer and Stenton 1925, 195).

3 PROPOSED SCHEME (Figure 1)

The proposed scheme is for the construction of a temporary auditorium in the Park land of Wormsley House. This proposal is located in an area of landscape conservation known as the Chiltern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (ANOB). For more information on ANOBs and their legislation see <http://www.aonb.org.uk/wba/naaonb/naaonbpreviewnsf/WebDefaultFrameset?OpenFrameset&Frame=Main&Src=%2Fwba%2Fnaaonb%2Fnaaonbpre>.

4 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Figures 2 to 5)

4.1 The Historical Development of Wormsley Park and Home Farm

A comprehensive history and architectural assessment has been provided for Wormsley called *The Chronicle of Wormsley* (Leggatt 1996). Prior to this the history as recorded in the *Victoria County History* was only piecemeal incorporated into the Buckinghamshire (VCH 1925) and Oxfordshire (VCH 1962) volumes of the series. The estate was not an old established manor but was constructed over a number of centuries as stated above.

Wormsley is not directly mentioned in the *Domesday Book* (Morris 1978), but it is considered that the reference to the estate of 1 hide in 1106 implies that it already existed (Stevenson 1858, II 67-70, Leggatt 1996, 6). Even at this date there may have been some complication in the land-holdings around Wormsley, as Drogo (Drew d'Andeley) was a sub-tenant of Robert d'Oilly of the South Weston Manor, while with this grant the estate became part of the Lewknor Estate held by Abingdon Abbey. This would explain why the house (until the later extension of a library) lay within the detached part of Lewknor Uphill, and was tenanted out to the de Lewknor family.

Home Farm (adjacent to the proposal site (6)) at this time lay in the detached part of Stokenchurch parish, which was evidently held by the de Lewknors from the time of John de Lewknor as indicated in the *Hundred Rolls Survey* (Leggatt 1996, 6). The de Lewknor family then held these two core parts of the manor until the 14th century. At the end of the 14th and early part of the 15th centuries there was a dispute between the de Lewknor and Brundenell families, the latter of which was a tenant of the manor. In 1384 the manor was burnt down (Wake 1953, 6), which might explain some of the dark occupation layers noted under the manor house during the renovation (Leggatt 1996).

In 1456 the manor was left to Alice Brundenell and her husband Richard Waller (Leggatt 1996, 6). The house remained with the Waller family until it was sold to the Scrope family of Hambleden in 1574. The estate was still owned by this family when the Civil War started in 1642, with the family being staunch supporters of the Protestant cause. Adrian Scrope as a judge of Charles I was tried and executed when Charles II was reinstated as monarch in 1660, with the estate of Wormsley being confiscated (Leggatt 1996, 7-8). It was restored to the family in 1662, by then the family had relocated to Bristol,

where Thomas the head of the family was a merchant. The manor was partly leased at this time to the Toovey family, a yeoman farmer. At the end of the 17th century Anne Scrope married Henry Fane, while the two families were based in Bristol. The house came to Anne in 1714 and remained in the Fane family throughout the 18th century. It was during this time that the first landscape garden was created (27), which Woods allegedly finished in 1771 (Leggatt 1996, 8).

The Fanes continued to occupy the estate into the early 19th century when John Fane was recognised as a successful landowner and farmer, with developments in sheep breeding and farming equipment (Young 1813). At the end of the 18th century he was responsible for purchasing woodlands and estates, and in the mid 19th century tournaments and jousts were held on the estate (Leggatt 1996, 9). The second garden phase is not dated precisely but was in place for the great tournament in 1840. The house was left unoccupied between 1887-1907 and at this time was described as a farmhouse, as the Fanes lived in London (Leggatt 1996, 10). Wormsley Park remained in the hands of the Fane family, through the Second World War, until 1984 the date it was purchased by the Getty family (Leggatt 1996, 11).

4.2 Known Archaeological Sites (Figure 2)

The earliest recognised archaeological sites in the Wormsley area include three medieval earthworks, classed as farmsteads, listed in the *Historic Environment Record* as: Highfield Shaw Wood (HER 05543 SU 7435 9535 (2)), Pomfrey Castle (HER 05544 SU 73550 94950 (1)), and Wellground (HER 06264 SU 7405 9519 (4)). Pomfrey Castle lies in the area of the Warren, which was located on the hill to the northwest of Wormsley (Leggatt 1996, 43-4). This site contains the remains of enclosures and the mortared remains of building footings. The finds are of 13th and 14th century pottery and tile (1). Some chalk pits cut through the boundary banks. The possible small medieval site at Wellground (4) is noted by Leggatt (1996, 49), as a banked enclosure, wood-bank and hollow-way. However, this site may simply have been enclosed fields which occur on a map of 1662, and may not be a farmstead. The other recognised medieval farmstead at Highshaw Wood (2) (Leggatt 1996, 62). There is a further medieval site identified in Sadler's Wood (3) (Chambers 1973, 146-167). None of these features are impacted by the proposal, but the distribution of these sites, and their possible relationship to later settlements in the valley, may enable us to understand the early development under Wormsley House, which is poorly understood, see below.

The proposal site lies on the edge of the Wormsley House (SU 73839 94527 (5)) and adjacent Home Farm (6) complex. The earliest recognised activity within the area is under Wormsley House (5) where builders noticed dark occupation layers during the renovation of the house in 1987 (Leggatt 1996, 43). The standing structure of the house has subsequently been assessed on a number of occasions including by the *Department of the Environment*, where the house was described as mid 18th century with alterations of c. 1800 (DOE 1985, 73 no.5/162); also, *The Buildings of England Series* which describes the main house as looking 19th century, but within the subsequent second edition

the text has been updated and conforms to Leggatt's detailed interpretation (Pevsner and Williamson 1994, 761-763). The most comprehensive assessment and phasing was carried out during and after the renovation of the building in 1987 (Leggatt 1996, 13-33). Phase I was assigned to the Tudor period of the 16th century. Phase II is of the late 16th and early 17th century. Phase III is classed as being of the first half of the 18th century. Phase IV is of the late 18th and early 19th century, given as c. 1780-1800 and attributed to the time of John Fane I. Phase V is attributed to the later 19th century, while Phase VI represent the 20th century alterations to 1987. A further Phase VII has now been added to account for the New Library building on the southwest side of the older house (Pevsner and Williamson 1994, 761-763). The building is a Grade II listed (DOE 1985, 73 no.5/162). All of the subsequent development in the area to the southeast is as a result of the ownership of the estate by those resident at Wormsley House.

There were a series of gardens (Phase 1 gardens (27)) constructed around the house, which was referred to in 1662 and 1696, and this boundary is believed to be that marked onto a map of 1759 (Leggatt 1996, 36). The boundary wall has been recognised to the north, northwest and northeast of the house. The remains of an undated culvert run from the rear of the house across the south side of the main house. Both the east boundary wall and the culvert converge on the Home Farm complex, but no records survive of the location of these features or the internal gardens or agricultural plots inside. The projected line to the south would not seem to reach out as far as the proposed auditorium. The location of the roadway to the house is not known at this point. The remains of an icehouse (10) were located in the 1987 renovations to the south of the house (Leggatt 1996, Fig.36). A date for the structure is unknown but the building is located in the 1881 OS map (see below).

The buildings in the Home Farm (6) complex, like the house have had a number of assessments, including that in *The Buildings of England Series* (Pevsner and Williamson 1994, 761-763) and the *Department of the Environment* (DOE 1985, 73-5 nos. 5/163-6). Leggatt (1996, 38-9) has provided a more in-depth account than those previously published. Features in Home Farm (9) have been dated to the early 1700s and it is thought that it is one of the buildings marked on a map of 1759. The accompanying barns date from the 18th and 19th centuries of which the earliest is the Garden Barn (7) dated to 1761 (implied by Leggatt as being carved into a beam). This building, like the house is a Grade II listed building. The other barns are in certain places described as later (28, 30); all the barns have flint sills and timber frames. The three barns lie around a courtyard to the west or rear of Home Farm. To the east and southeast of Home Farm are the remains of vegetable gardens and other buildings of a similar style to the barns, which include a granary and garage (33). A building constructed before 1844 has subsequently been removed from alongside the garage.

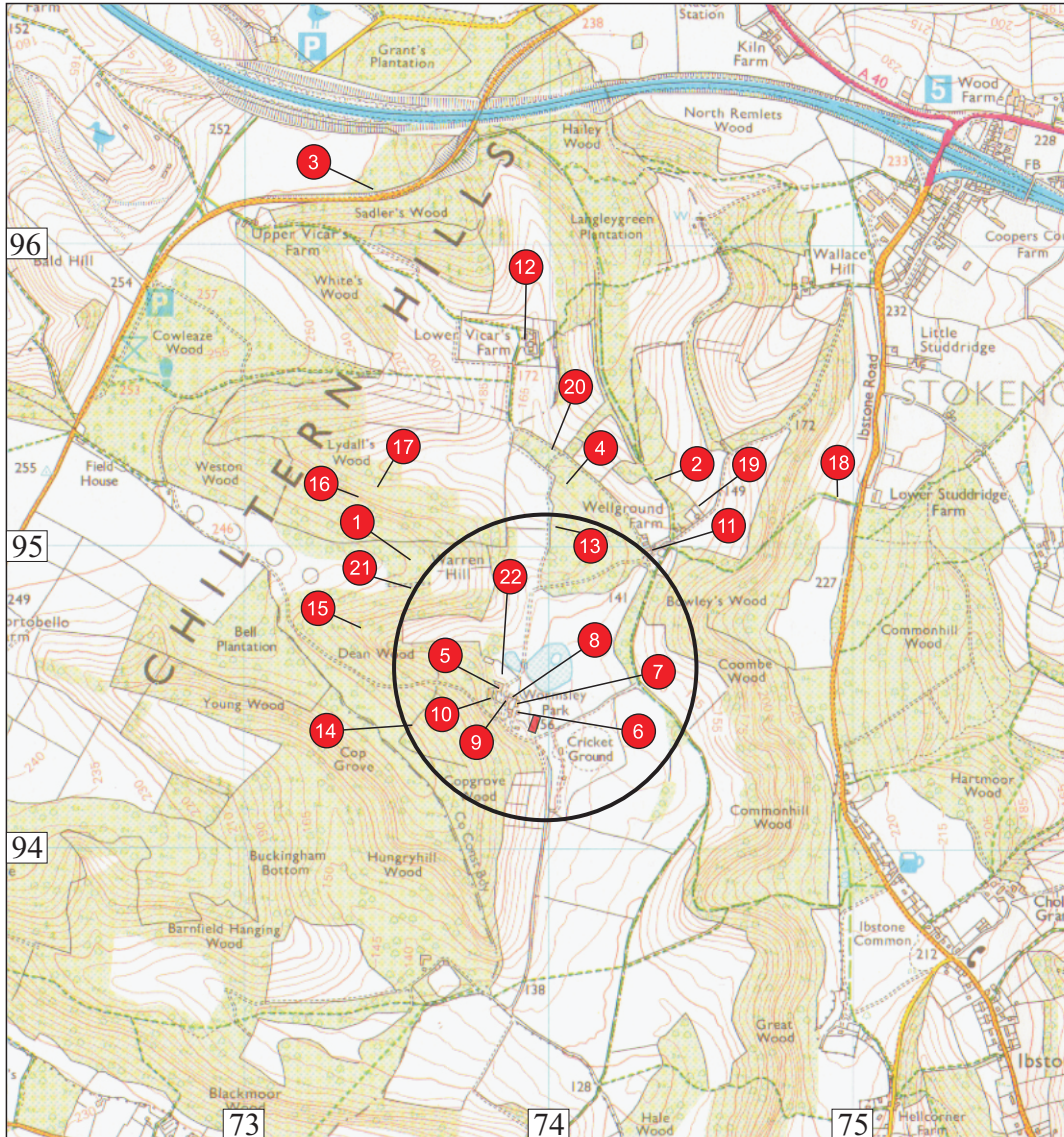
The Pleasure Garden of Richard Woods (29) were designed and constructed in or after 1771 (see above, Leggatt 1996, 37) and replaced the gardens of 1662. Woods' garden was meant to consist of a series of curving path and trackways (Serpentine Paths), which run out from the house and then curved back in on

themselves; the intended plan has been reproduced by Leggatt (1996, Fig.39). This shows the gardens extending some 1,600m to the southeast and east, running into the proposed area of the auditorium. However, Leggatt considers there to be a conflict here between dated plans and recognised construction dates of buildings. The dated plans of the Pleasure Garden of 1771 (29) and the date of the map of the house in 1759 place the Home Farm buildings in different locations. The correct location is on the 1759 plan suggesting that Home Farm and the thatched barn pre-date the Pleasure Garden. Leggatt suggested that the Pleasure Garden was never completed around the Home Farm due to the buildings not being demolished. It is feasible that the plan may represent only one of a number of possible proposals, and others may have had Home Farm (6) in a different location. To the east of the later ha-ha, see below, the ground was uneven or disturbed.


Further buildings were constructed between Wormsley House (5) and Home Farm (6) in the 19th century (Leggatt 1996, 38-39); this included the stable block (9) and coach-house (14). Both of these buildings are Grade II Listed Buildings (DOE 1985, 73-5 nos. 5/163-6). They are located around the edge of a garden with a central pond. The group of buildings at Home Farm has a rustic character which are considered nationally and locally to be important.

The next recognised phase of the gardens (Phase 3) was probably completed by 1840 (see above, Leggatt 1996, 35-9), which would coincide with the holding of the Grand Tournament at Wormsley. This saw the development of the deer park and also the addition of the flint ha-ha to surround part of it (32). The ha-ha runs around Wormsley House, running down the slope from the northwest before curving around the northeast side of the house about 100m away from it and then heading towards the Garden Barn (7). The ha-ha then swings to the east before heading south, around the Home Farm, and ending to the south-west of the farm in or adjacent to the proposal site (difficult to be certain due to the accuracy of early maps). The ha-ha was the principal archaeological feature of the Park. Leggatt (1996, 36) described the flint wall as rising 1.06m (3 ½ ft), we are not told the depth of the foundations of the wall, a build up of soil behind the wall is described. In examining maps of Wormsley Park (1844, 1st series OS, and pre-1987 OS, with post-1990 OS) it is apparent that the site of the ha-ha has been moved (see cartographic evidence below). The service trench plan of the estate states that the ha-ha was to be relocated to an appropriate place.

Around the valley and scattered through the woodlands a number of chalk pits have been identified (HER 08859 SU 74008 95054 (13), HER 08849 SU 73546 94400 (14), HER 08848 SU 73301 94596 (15), HER 08847 SU 73313 94874 (16), HER 08846 SU 73331 94938 (17), HER 08843 SU 74749 94932 (18), HER 08842 SU 74382 94901 (19), HER 08864 SU 74009 95267 (20), HER 08845 SU 73542 94885 (21)). These features do not lie on the proposal site, but lie in 500m-diameter search area (see figure 2). These features are essentially undated and may date from the medieval, post-medieval or at any point before or after. The proximity to Wormsley vary, but as the proposal site is on chalk they could be found anywhere along the valley.



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	Site
1-22	HER Data

0 m  1000 m

Figure 2. Historic Environmental Records Data

Most of the recognised features mentioned above were probably in place by the mid 19th century, though a few later additions can be noted. The thatched cricket pavilion (34) lies to the south of the proposal site and is dated to 1900-1 (Pevsner and Williamson 1994, 763). The gate-piers are of an 18th century date by Richard Morgan were brought from Castle Gar, Co. Galway, Ireland.

Very recently, from the late 1980s, a fourth garden phase can be recognised in the grounds (22). This included the construction of the lakes. Leggatt (1996, 36) mentioned the mass earthmoving as uncovering and presumably truncating earlier garden features. On a site visit it appeared that a large grass covered dam had been constructed on the east side of the larger lower lake. The cricket pitch in front of the pavilion is also terraced into the hill, and it is above this terrace that the pavilion stands. The ha-ha of 1840 was replaced by a re-routed version in 1987-90; the rebuild was in flint and capped with stone (unknown if the material was reused from the old wall). To what extent the old features survive is not known. Further buildings were erected in the 1990s (Pevsner and Williamson 1994, 763) including a wooden church, a ruined tower, and a tumbling stream and grottoes, all follies.

4.3 Cartographic Research (Figures 3-5)

The earliest recognised plan of the house at Wormsley is on an estate map of 1759, which was produced for Francis Fane (Leggatt 1996, Fig.45). This shows Wormsley House (5) in a rectangular walled garden with six plots (27). The features around the house are not that well defined. There are further features to the south and three enclosures in the vicinity of Home Farm (6) with buildings. One of these is considered to be Home Farm (6) and a further building may be the large thatched barn to the west of the farm (28). The map of 1759 has a group of fields or enclosures to the south of Wormsley House, which produce an oval shape (25). Earlier features are often known to be reproduced in later relic boundaries. An avenue of trees is drawn to the north of the garden, but this occurs in two sections, possibly indicating an earlier ride on the estate. The section missing from this ride aligns with the enclosed rectangular garden.

Wormsley before 1885 was located in the detached parts of Lewknor Uphill and Stokenchurch. The Tithe Award of 1844 (figure 4) shows the main house (5), Home Farm (6) and barns (7, 28, 30) and the remains of a building or series of buildings possibly with their own attached plot (31) (Leggatt 1996, Fig.30) in the area of the proposal site. This plot can be identified as one of the fields of 1759, but it is not apparent or detailed enough to show this building on the earlier map. This shows that there was a building on or extremely close to the proposal site at the start of the 19th century; with the plot of land that accompanied it was defined in the map of 1759.

The first series OS map of 1881 (figure 5) shows most of the buildings (Wormsley House (5) and the Home Farm (6) complex) where they are today; the noted exceptions are the Cricket Pavilion (1900-1) (34), the Greenhouse (unknown) and the New Library (1987). The Icehouse (10) and two other buildings are marked in the woodland to the west and south of the Wormsley

House complex. One of the other buildings dated from at least 1759 as it is on the earlier map. A wall is marked between the stable and Wormsley House cutting the house's front gardens off (this is also on the 1844 Tithe Award Map mention above).

A building once stood to the east of the garage (which lay under or adjacent to the proposal site as on the 1844 map (31)). It is difficult to ascertain the exact relationship of this building with the proposal site as the dimensions of building on the 1844 map (see figure 4) and 1881 OS vary in length; furthermore, the distance which the building extends past the end of the 1840 ha-ha is different. The gardens of Home Farm are not laid out in the manner recognisable today, and a paddock or garden is drawn attached to the demolished building. The course of the ha-ha is marked on the map and is described by Leggatt (as discussed above), but later maps show the line of the ha-ha in a different place (see below), this adds to the problem of ascertaining the exact relationship of the building to the proposal site. The hahha may be buried to the west of the new one, and off the proposal site, but it is impossible with the potential of poor mapping to be certain. Within the proposal area a road once ran along the line of the earlier ha-ha (32). The ha-ha wall curves into the space between the Carriage House and the Garden Barn, which is where the track below the ha-ha wall ran. Part of the proposal site extends into one of two paddocks, which once lay along the edge of the deer park.

The OS map of 1978 (1:2500, not illustrated) when overlain by the proposed location of the auditorium indicates that the building (on the 1844 and 1881 maps) probably lies outside the area (though as stated above it is difficult to be precise), the caveat as stated above is that this building is shown in two slightly different locations to the earlier ha-ha. The map also confirms that the line of the ha-ha (32) has been moved all the way along its line around Home Farm. The older wall may be buried to the west of the new wall, and could possibly be associated with the gully or linear feature noticed running behind the new wall.

4.4 **Air Photographs**

Air photographs held by the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record were also consulted. The photograph (RC8-HJ 181) was of 1985, and therefore, before the major alterations at Home Farm. Due to the wooded slopes and the pastoral nature of the landscape no features were visible to the south and west of Wormsley House (5). In a field to the north of Wormsley House a possible oval enclosure and semi-circular feature are visible and a possible trackway that divides in two (SU 7390 9470). These are probably part of Woods' garden (29), but they lie further away from the house than the 1780-1800 plan shows. This may indicate that the gardens were finished but that they were not laid out to the surviving plan; hence the Home Farm (6) remained in the location it occupied in 1759. Part of the ha-ha (26) can also be discerned as a green band running to the east of the Home Farm (SU 7410 9454), this suggests that the bank may be part of an earlier undated park boundary, and runs into the area of the proposed car-parking. A number of

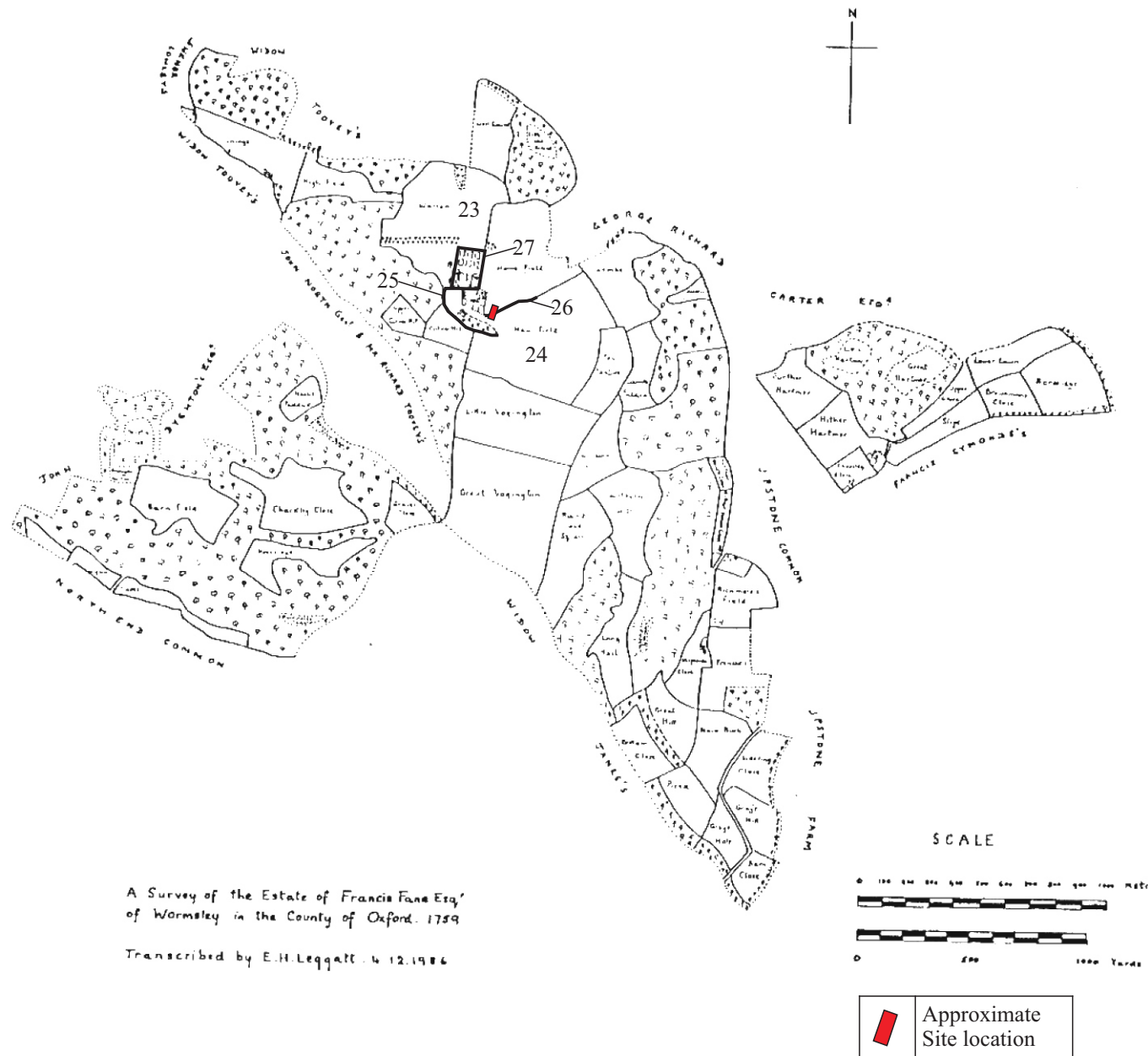
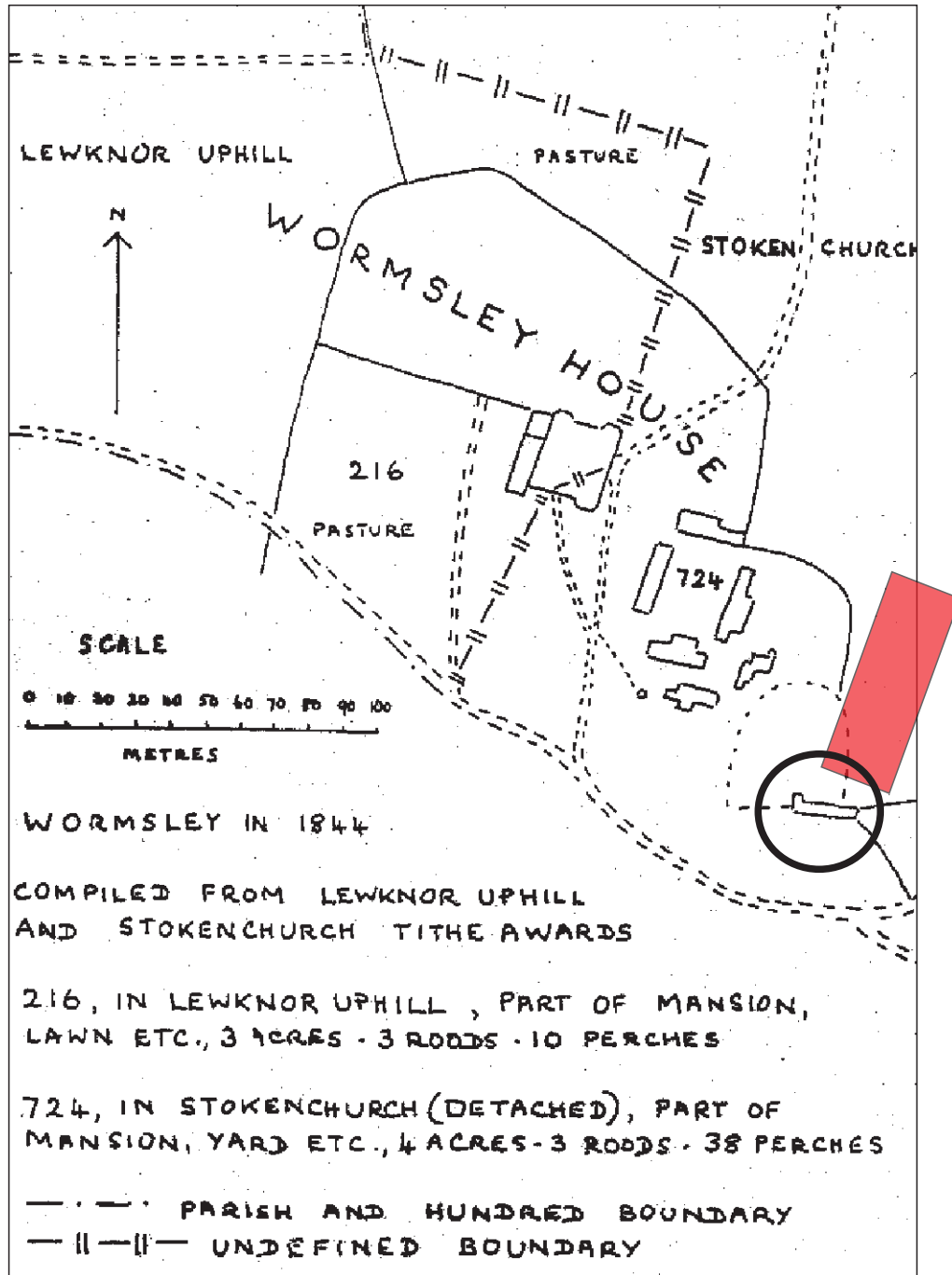


Figure 3. Leggett's Reproduction of Estate Map of 1759



 Approximate Site location

Figure 4. Leggatt's reproduction of the Tithe Awards of 1844. The building circled also occurs on the 1881 OS Map, the exact relationship to the proposed auditorium is unknown, it is illustrated here as not coincided but they could.



Scale 6" to 1 mile


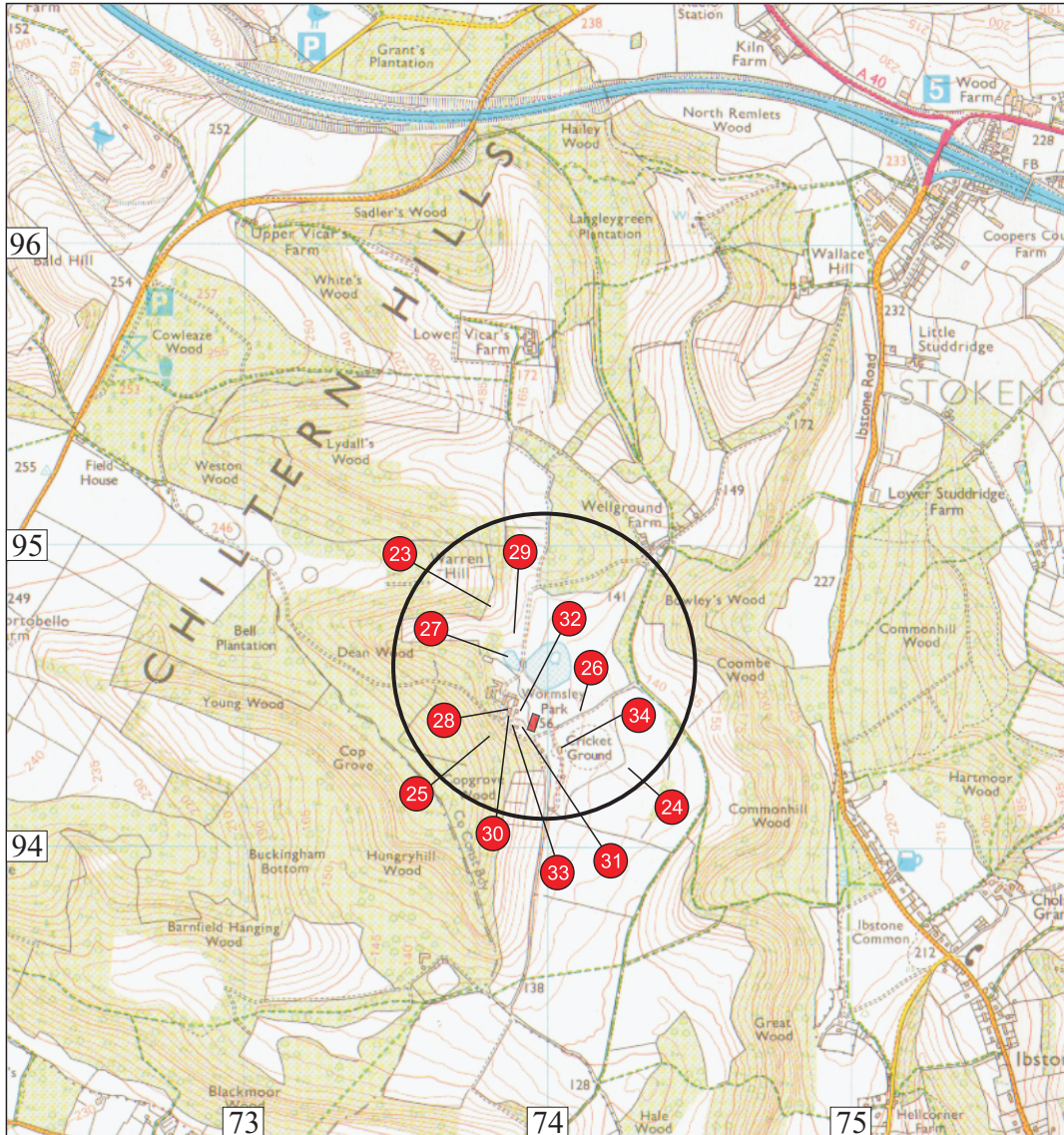
	Approximate Site location
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Figure 5. OS Map 1881 first series



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	Site
23-34	Observed Data



Figure 6. Observed Archaeological Features

lines are also noted in this field but may only be animal pathways.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 The Archaeological Potential of the Site (Figure 6)

A discussion of the known archaeology has identified three certain medieval farmsteads or crofts: Pomfrey Castle (1) on Warren Hill, Sadler's Wood (3), and Highshaw Wood (see above (2)) located in the vicinity of Wormsley Park. The site at Wellground (4) has been suggested as a further potential medieval farmstead but may equally be only early-enclosed fields. Earlier dark layers were identified under Wormsley Manor (5) but it has not been confirmed exactly what these deposits were. The three main settlements in the valley at Pomfrey Castle (1), Highshaw Wood (2), and Sadler's Wood (3) all seem to have a spatial relationship with one of the major farms (Wormsley House (5), Wellground Farm (11), and Lower Vicar's Farm (12)) and they could occur in pairs an older medieval farmstead and a newer relocated farm. In the case of

Wormsley the site on the hill above the present settlement is Pomfrey Castle (1). There are two possible models for settlement in the valley. These sites were all occupied simultaneously, or that due to the spatial relationship that the earlier sites were abandoned on the high chalk lands and new settlements were located below. If the former is the case (which is what Leggatt implies) then one may expect some type of occupation in the medieval period (11th-14th centuries) around Wormsley Park (5) and potentially under Home Farm (6) even if only field boundaries. If the latter hypothesis is correct, and a relocation of settlement is correct, then there is no reason why there would be any activity under the proposal site until the 14th century or after. The place-name Wormsley may have applied to the open land (the Ley) of the Warren and Home Farm and the name may have been passed from one settlement to the other.

One would have expected the medieval parish boundary to be demarcated, but as yet no evidence of this has been found (bank, ditch, or both, a wall, fence line or hollow-way), depending on what environs Wormsley occupied. If Leggatt (1996) is correct with her inference, that this part of the wooded Chilterns was organised around hunting, it is recognised that this type of land regime would probably have a bank. Home Field is alleged to have become a part of the Wormsley Estate at an early date and connected to the area of the Warren. If such a boundary existed this would have potentially been removed at this date, with the subsequent spread may leave little to identify it.

The name Warren is a Middle English word '*wareine*', derived from an Old Norman French word '*wareinne*' (Smith 1956, 246). The earliest etymology of the name is 'a game preserve' and it is only later that it's meaning refers to 'a piece of ground for breeding rabbits' (23). Many minor field names are considered to have come from the latter derivation; in this case we do not know. The site may have been an early game preserve used for hunting, as suggested with the early Tudor mansion (Leggatt 1996, 26). If the latter use of the name developed then one would expect the presence of pillow mounds

(artificial mounds constructed for rabbit breeding), of which none have so far been recorded either in *The Warren* or *Home Field*, which was formerly part of *The Warren*. Such features could account for surviving undulations anywhere in the Park Area.

There is certainly a house on the Wormsley Estate from the 16th century (Leggatt 1996, 25-6), but there may have been one from the 15th century due to the occupation deposits and the lack of finds dated to after the 14th century at Pomfrey Castle (1). The full extent of the garden features mentioned in 1662 and 1759 are not known (27). The line of the wall of this garden if continued would imply that the proposal site lay to the south of this garden. A culvert that has been identified as an earlier garden feature (pre-1759), has no recognised course or place of termination except that it heads in the direction of the coach-house (8). A continuation of this feature could be identified, but may be disturbed due to the location of service trenches (see below).

The map of 1759 shows an oval enclosure to the south of Wormsley House (5). It is not known if this is a relict field arrangement from an earlier feature (see above). If this is the case then the boundary may run through the proposal site. The boundary of the Home Field and Haw Field (to the south (24)) ran through the proposal site. It is probable, but unproven without older recorded names, that Haw Field may derive its name from Old English '*haga*', 'a hedged enclosure' (Smith 1956, ii.221-2). The form haw is possible as it is used in hawthorn, the tree that marks the enclosure. The possible oval relict feature may be a '*haga*', an enclosure on a hunting estate for keeping horses. If this was the case then an earth bank surmounted by a hawthorn hedge may have been the feature showing up in relic form. Such soil features are normally difficult to detect. Alternatively the '*haga*' may be the surviving bank (26), which runs near to the old boundary of Home Field and Haw Field.

The Pleasure Garden designed by Richard Woods, dated 1771 (29), may survive in the proposal area. The plans show that it extended into this area, but it is not known if it was completed, due to the recognition that Home Farm was already in existence at this time and not demolished. It is feasible that the surviving plan may represent only one of a number of possible proposals, and others may have had Home Farm (6) in a different location. To the east of the later ha-ha it was noticed on a site visit that the ground was uneven or disturbed. These documented gardens may still survive as buried features if the garden was constructed around Home Farm, and the proposed plan not carried out to its initial design.

Features of the Phase 3 garden (32) could remain in the area of the proposed auditorium. The OS map of 1881 shows the line of the ha-ha in a different location to today. Leggatt described the pre-1987 ha-ha. A building has been demolished in or adjacent to the proposal site (difficult to be precise with the potential of poor mapping on the maps available), which lay to the east of the garage extending down to the corner of the 1840 ha-ha. The driveway in front of the garage extended past this building and swept around to the T-junction that survives to the southeast of the Home Farm (6) complex, making this an earlier crossroads. The present ha-ha bank follows the course of this earlier

road. Field boundaries are marked as running through the proposal site, the nature of which is unknown, and it could be that the line of the original ha-ha goes through the proposed auditorium, if at all. Alternatively these may have been removed from the park only to be reinserted, hence the line of a visible bank running below the present flint wall.

5.2 The Impact of Previous Development on Potential Archaeological Remains

The demolition of a building and alterations to the south end of the flint wall of the ha-ha are apparent from earlier maps (1844 Tithe Award). A site visit noted the nature of the flint wall and its associated features as it ran to the southeast of the Home Farm complex. The present flint wall was over 1m high. The build up of soil behind this wall was deliberate dumping (indicated by the different width capping stones of the flint wall) and there was a possible fence line or drainage line behind the wall. The older ha-ha wall was located behind this (the extent of its survival is uncertain without investigation). There was a bank in front of the wall, which continues as part of the ha-ha around part of the deer park (part of which appears to be on an aerial photograph of 1985 (26)). This could be on the line of an earlier ha-ha, or part of a partly reconstructed ha-ha. The original location of the road, which accompanied the pre-1840 ha-ha, may also be buried. The bank below the present ha-ha may have more than one phase. The area of the proposal site was considerably disturbed and redesigned between 1987-90 (22), with the digging of the service trenches and the re-construction of the ha-ha. This disturbance may, however, only occur as narrow bands running through the proposal site. There is, therefore, the potential for some earlier archaeology to survive in the area, between these bands truncated by the digging of the service trench and the new ha-ha.

In the 1980s there were a number of other activities that have impacted directly on the archaeology of the proposal area, and there are other events which have occurred for which the locations are at present unknown.

The first of these events that is known to have directly impacted on the archaeology is the excavation of service trenches. The line of sewerage pipes is noted on a plan of Wormsley House (5) and Home Farm (6) supplied by the estate office. This has two runs across the area of the proposed auditorium, above the ha-ha; one is marked as running under the Home Farm Garden, and the other from the Home Farm Yard, both run under the Paddock B (surrounded by a Garage, Granary, and Greenhouse (as well as the destroyed building of before 1844) to a sewage treatment plant. The area of the proposed auditorium has also been disturbed by the course of a trench dug to take other services, and also on this map the mains water pipe has been laid in a further pipe. These features (the service trench) might account for some of the unevenness of the ground below the ha-ha (besides other possibilities: Woods 1771 pleasure garden, a relic circular boundary, the earth ha-ha, etc.). The plan of the service trenches also has a comment about the course of the ha-ha, which is 'route of future ha-ha to be defined'. This implies that the line of this monument may have been altered (which is evident on the maps).

Leggatt (1996) mentions earth moving on the estate during 1987-90. This uncovered and may well have destroyed earlier garden features, which could be dated to 1662 and 1771 at least (Leggatt 1996, 36). The grass-clad dam to retain the Lower Lake must have been constructed during the rebuild of 1987-90. Terracing has taken place to level the Cricket Pitch, presumably at this time to the south. Leggatt (1996) also recorded the stripping of a hillside and the laying of a hardcore layer to support cabins for the workers renovating Wormsley House, but the location of this is not recorded. Stripping of this nature has the potential to truncate archaeological features or destroy them if shallow (like most garden features).

5.3 The Impact of the Proposal Area on Potential Archaeological Remains

It is possible that part of a medieval *haga* runs through the proposed auditorium and along the edge of the new vehicle access area for construction, if the oval feature is a relict feature and the name Haw interpreted correctly. It is also possible in the case of the 1771 garden (29) that some features may be detected, and the ha-ha of the garden c. 1840 undoubtedly runs into the proposal site if not through it. A building has been identified on the maps of 1844 and 1881, which formed part of the original Home Farm (6) complex. There would probably, therefore, be an impact on the surviving archaeology on the proposal area. Features were undoubtedly constructed on or around the area of the proposal site. However, the insertion of the service trenches and the alterations to the line of the ha-ha may have caused much damage with features being tactfully restored or totally rebuilt.

The proposal structure is a temporary building with concrete anchor points, the stage uses the step of the ha-ha wall, while the orchestra pit would presumably sit within the cut of the ha-ha below the wall, and some of the lower ha-ha bank would have to be removed. The ground is shown as being levelled under the auditorium.

The section through the pavilion portrays a structure of some 13m in height and will be approximately 4m taller than Home Farmhouse at its tallest point. The pavilion is a temporary structure (the opera season runs for 6 weeks of the year and the pavilion will be removed at the end of each season) and with this in mind, the proposals will not have a permanent impact on the landscape or on the landscape or on the setting of the adjacent listed buildings. The ha-ha is designed to operate as the front of a terrace on which the collection of Home Farm buildings (some of which are listed) sit. It is an important feature of the landscape at the Wormsley Park Estate and as such, the proposals have been designed to ensure that the ha-ha will be retained and revealed in its entirety when the pavilion is removed. The only ground works will involve the installation of piles for the columns that support the pavilion frame and some localised regarding works at the upper level of the ha-ha. The proposals will therefore have minimal impact on the visual character of the area, as stressed in *PPS 5*.

Further alterations are marked as vehicle access for construction, which would cut through a bank evident on 1985 aerial photographs. This is the long

straight bank on the southern edge of the park, suspected here of being part of an earlier ha-ha. This feature peters out along the length of the south boundary of the park, so access for vehicles could be located east of the surviving earthwork.

6 CONCLUSIONS

There is the potential for archaeological remains, identified from the desk-based assessment, to be present on site, and for these to be disturbed. However, it is feasible that earlier features may also be present on the proposed auditorium and vehicle access for construction areas, which may be identified only during groundworks, and consequently risk damage or destruction.

On what is known or suspected of the survival conditions on the site, due to its location in a dry valley with a probable medieval hunting regime, it is considered that any survival of wet or damp deposits is unlikely. This would imply that environmental sampling is unlikely to recover any information. Targeted evaluation may obtain further information as to the location and function of the building on the 1844 and 1881 maps. Targeted evaluation may also be an option in respect to any disturbance of the earth bank by the flint ha-ha and also on the entrance road for the car parking. This may not be fully beneficial as on the current map data available, we know that these structures existed, but are uncertain of their exact location in the area proposed for the auditorium. It is possible that the entrance to the 'new vehicular access for construction' could be located so it avoids the remaining bank evident on the 1985 aerial photographs. The bank peters out as it runs east along the boundary of the Park, though buried features (a ditch) may exist, the upstanding bank at this point can be avoided. Certainly, observations should be made during the process of construction and it is suggested that a strip and record carried out during groundworks would be an effective means of mitigating any potential impact.

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7.2 Historic Maps

BGS 1980 *British Geological Survey: Henley-on-Thames map 254*

Leggatt, E 1996 *Plan of Wormsley from the 1844 Tithe Awards*, Fig. 30

Leggatt, E 1996 *Plan of Wormsley before the 1987-90 alterations*, Fig. 35

OS 1881 *First Series: six inches to one statute mile*

OS 1978 *Ordnance Survey map 1:2500 of Wormsley Park SU SE*

Tithe and Enclosure Awards 1805-1844 Reproduced in Leggatt 1996, Fig. 46

Richard Wood's plan c. 1780-1800 Reproduction in Leggatt 1996, Fig. 39

7.3 GAZETTEER: ON HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

PERIOD	JMHS ID	HER ID	NGR (SU)	DESCRIPTION
High/Late Medieval				
	1	0554400002 0554400001 0554400000 0554401000	SU 73550 94950	Pomfrey Castle: The site contains earthworks of a medieval date that consists of enclosure banks and also flint footings of a structure. The finds from the site include 13 th and 14 th century pottery.
	2	0554300001 0554300002 0554300000	SU 74350 95350	Highfield Shaw Wood (Highshaw Wood): The site contains earthwork of a medieval date that consists of enclosure banks and footings. Finds have been reported from the site. The site has been interpreted as a Farmstead.
	3	-	SU 734 962	Saddler's Wood: The site of medieval enclosures located at some distance, but still in its environs.
	4	0626400000	SU 7405 9519	Wellground: The earthwork remains of enclosures and a hollow-way believed to be of a medieval date. A farmstead is listed on the HER, but Leggatt is not sure if one existed.
Late/Post-Medieval				
	5	0454901000 0454900000	SU 73839 94527	Wormsley House: Manor house of 7 phases of which the earliest is 16 th century and the last 20 th century. This is a Grade II listed building.
Post-Medieval				
	6	0454905000	SU 73897 94442	Home Farm: Stone and brick farmhouse, dated to the 18 th century, and a Grade II listed building.
	7	0454904000	SU 73869 94451	Garden (north) Barn: Timber framed barn with flint footings. This building is a Grade II listed building of the 18 th century (with a date of 1761).
	8	0454902000	SU 73886 94493	Home Farm Coach House: The coach house and cart shed, brick building, known to be of the 19 th century. Drawn on the Tithe Award of 1844.
	9	0454903000	SU 73859 94479	Home Farm Stables: The stables are a brick building of the 19 th century. Drawn on the Tithe Award of 1844.
	10	0465800000	SU 7378 9448	Wormsley Park Icehouse: An icehouse.
	11	0445906000	SU 74384 94990	Thatched Cottage: Thatched cottage at Wellground Farm.
	12	-	SU 739 957	Lower Vicar's Farm: The remains of an L-shaped 17 th century building restored in the 1990s. A date of 1706 is recorded from a later phase. The building is surrounded by others of a later date.

PERIOD	JMHS ID	HER ID	NGR (SU)	DESCRIPTION
Undated				
	13	0885900000	SU 74008 95054	Wellground Wood: Chalk pit, undated.
	14	0884900000	SU 73546 94400	Dean Wood: Chalk pit, undated.
	15	0884800000	SU 73301 94596	Dean Wood: Chalk pit, undated.
	16	0884700000	SU 73313 94874	North Dean Wood: Chalk pit, undated.
	17	0884600000	SU 73331 94938	Warrenhill Wood: Chalk pit, undated.
	18	0884300000	SU 74749 94932	Gooseneck Wood: Chalk pit, undated.
	19	0884200000	SU 74382 94901	Wellground Farm: Chalk pit, undated.
	20	0886400000	SU 74009 95267	North Wellground Wood: Chalk pit, undated.
	21	0884500000	SU 73542 94885	Warren Wood: Chalk pit, undated.
Modern-Industrial				
	22	0454907000	SU 7386 9456	Wormsley Park: Post 1987 developments of the landscape park include a folly, maze, ornamental lakes, a tunnel, and tree house.

7.4 GAZETTEER: FEATURES NOT ON HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

PERIOD	JMHS ID	HER ID	NGR (SU)	DESCRIPTION
Possible Medieval				
	23	-	SU 738 948	'Warren' Place-Name: The name The Warren refers to a medieval hunting ground. This used to include Home Ground.
	24	-	SU 742 942	'Haw Field' Place-name: The name Haw Field refers to medieval hunting features in this case a <i>haga</i> .
	25	-	SU 7380 9435	Relic Boundary south of Wormsley House: The map of 1759 seems to show part of an oval boundary, which could be a relic feature associated with the house or earlier.
	26	-	SU 7410 9446	Park Bank: The remains of a linear bank, which looks to be on the 1985 aerial photograph (RC8-HJ 181), and is therefore older than the earth moving. The bank appears to follow the line of the new ha-ha, but this may be the other way around. This feature will or could be disrupted by the proposal site (auditorium and car parking and entrance).

PERIOD	JMHS ID	HER ID	NGR (SU)	DESCRIPTION
Late/Post-Medieval				
	27	-	SU 73839 94650	Wormsley House Garden (Phase 1): A map of 1759 shows a rectangular walled garden to the north of Wormsley House. The walls of this feature were picked up in some of the renovation work of 1987-90, in which part of it was destroyed to construct the ornamental lakes. The garden is shown with six internal plots, and is considered to be that described in 1662 and 1696.
Post-Medieval				
	28	-	SU 73862 94460	Thatched (west) Barn: Thatched Barn with timber frame and flint footings, which is probably on the map of 1759, indicating that it is likely to be early 18 th century.
	29		SU 7390 9470	Woods' Pleasure Garden (Phase 2): A garden dated to 1771 or slightly after. The garden may not have been completed or carried out to a different design to that on the plan. Part of this garden was destroyed 1987-90, when the ponds were constructed. Part of the garden features show up on aerial photograph (RC8-HJ 181) to the north of the present lakes.
	30		SU 73886 94440	South Barn: Timber barn with flint footings, located on the Tithe Award of 1844. This is either late 18 th century or early 19 th century.
	31		SU 73900 94380	Buildings attached to plot B: A range of buildings, now demolished, which is on the Tithe Award of 1844, and missing from Leggatt's pre 1987 estate plan. The buildings uses are unknown, but if more than one building attached to a smallholding, perhaps workers cottages or earlier stable.
	32		SU 73905 94446	Wormsley Park flint ha-ha of 1840: The remains of a flint ha-ha described by Leggatt, located to the east of the Home Farm buildings and to the northeast of Wormsley House.
	33		SU 739 944	Granary, Garage, Greenhouse: Structures on the Home Farm complex, dated to the late 18 th to 20 th century.
Modern-Industrial				
	34		SU 7405 9432	Cricket Pavilion: Thatched and timber building of 1900-1. The cricket pitch is terraced into the hill.