paul testa architecture

PT321 Park House Cottage Heritage Statement

Revision	**P01**	preliminary issue	22.07.20
	P02	Minor amendments following client clarification	06.08.20

Paul Testa Architecture Limited. 2nd Floor, Parkhead House, Carver Street, Sheffield S1 4FS
0114 4420123 | info@paultestaarchitecture.co.uk | www.paultestaarchitecture.co.uk

Registration No: 09670435

Contents:

1. Introduction 3
2. History 3
3. The Heritage Asset 6
4. Park House Cottage Dwelling 10
5. Proposed works 11
6. Impact 11
7. Conclusion 12

1. Introduction

This Heritage Statement aims to look at the history of Park House Cottage and relevant associated buildings, then describe the building and its relevant associated buildings. It will then set out the proposed alterations and assess their impact on the heritage asset.

2. History

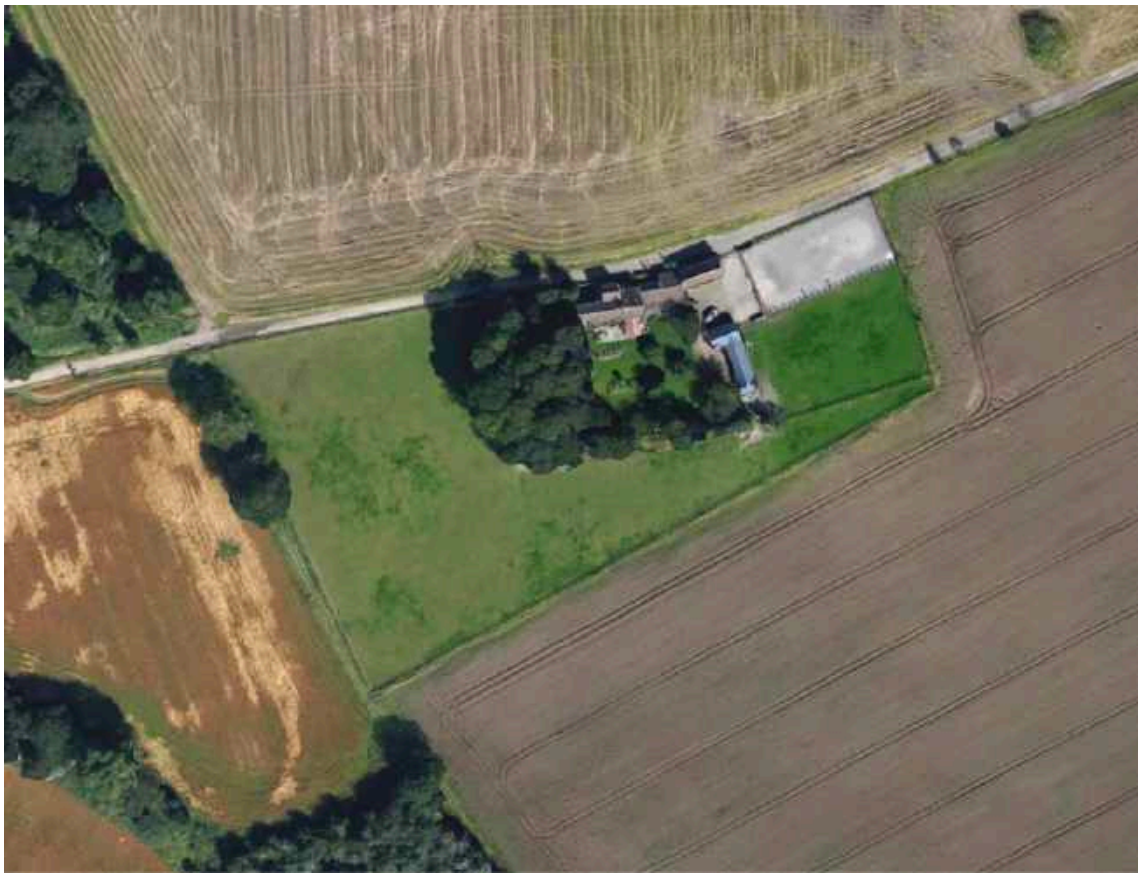
It is not clear when Park House and its associated outbuildings was built. This could have been prior to 1800 when the 19th Century Wortley hall Park began to be laid out; or it was part of this process and was completed in the early 19th Century.

Park House evident in mapping from the 1850s.

There appears to have been little significant change to the layout of the site since the 1850s. The southern range of agricultural buildings has been replaced with a more modern timber constructed stable block in the latter half of the 20th Century.

1990s map.

At some point in the late 20th Century the Eastern most barn attached to the main house was converted into a separate, self contained, dwelling "Park House Cottage". More recently, in 2008, the house itself was extended to the south with an oak-framed single storey extension/ conservatory. Application number 2008/1242.



The 2020 aerial photo from Google maps shows the current site arrangement.

The northern buildings on the site, Park House and Park Cottage are original. Whilst the front onto the private track from Carr lane, day to day access is via the old farmyard. The lane is now only used as vehicular access to reach the House and Cottage and for farming access. It is also the route of the trans pennine trail.

3. The Heritage Asset

The following is the listing text for Wortley Hall Park and Gardens in which Park House and Park Cottage sit.

WORTLEY HALL

Heritage Category: Park and Garden

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1000418

Date first listed: 01-Mar-1990

Details

Mid C19 gardens and pleasure grounds set in an early C19 park, possibly laid out with advice from W S Gilpin.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Wortley Hall has been the seat of the Wortley family since the time of King Stephen. During the early C16 Sir Thomas Wortley created a park around the old hall, which was rebuilt in 1686 on the same site by Sir Richard Wortley. In the 1670s Anne, daughter of the last Baronet Wortley, married Sidney Montagu at which time the family name became Wortley-Montagu. In 1727 Edward Wortley-Montagu, first Baron Wharncliffe, inherited the property and began to remodel the house again, in three stages. The first, between 1731 and 1734, was mainly at his own hand, possibly with advice from Ralph Tunnicliffe the architect. During the second, between 1742 and 1746, Edward commissioned Giancomo Leoni to remodel the south front, adding a terrace with retaining wall and central steps flanked by urns, while during the third stage, carried out between 1757 and 1761, Matthew Brettingham added a new east wing. Edward died in 1761 and left the estate to his daughter, Lady Bute who commissioned John Platt to carry out further work on the house between 1784 and 1788. When Lady Bute died in 1784 the property passed to her second son, James Archibald Stuart-Wortley, the third Earl of Bute. Although he never took up residence, James made further alterations to the Hall, under the direction of John Carr of York who was also responsible for the stable block and

outbuildings. In 1800 the third Earl made the property over to his son, also James Archibald, who finished the works on the Hall and laid out a park. During the first half of the C19 the south front garden terraces were completed. W S Gilpin (1762-1843) is said to have worked `in a Pricean spirit' at Wortley (Gardener's Magazine 1840) though the extent of his work is not clear. Joseph Harrison, head gardener at Wortley Hall in the early to mid C19, was responsible for the launch of several periodicals and was probably partly responsible for laying out the gardens. During the mid C19 William Burn was employed to alter the house internally, also adding a lantern to the Hall and cupola to the stables. The Hall was used by the army during the Second World War then fell into disrepair. After the war the park was divided and sold, the Hall and grounds being purchased by the Trade Union and Labour Movement in 1950 for use as an educational holiday centre. The site remains (2000) in divided corporate and private ownership.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING Wortley Hall is situated c 15km north of Sheffield, to the east of the A629, Sheffield to Huddersfield road. The park covers c 240ha bounded to the south-west by Wortley village and Howbrook Lane, to the north-west by Hermit Hill Lane, and to the north-east and south by farmland. High Wood Dike runs south-west to north-east through the park at the base of a valley. The Hall is situated on higher ground close to the western boundary, near the village, and has fine views over the park to the east.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES The main approach to Wortley Hall is from Wortley village on the western boundary, via early C19 gate piers and attached railings (listed grade II). The drive runs north-east along The Avenue, passing a second set of piers and railings which mark the north-east end of The Avenue, before sweeping south to arrive at the east front. The drives from Rotherham Gate Lodge on Howbrook Lane to the south, and from Westwood Lodge to the east, are no longer in use.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING Wortley Hall (listed grade II*) stands a little to the east of the village of

Wortley, towards the top of a gently east-facing slope, overlooking the park. It is a large country house built of ashlar sandstone and slate, in an irregular, mainly two-storey plan. The seven-bay south front looks onto a terrace with retaining wall and central steps flanked by urns and was built in 1742-6 by Giacomo Leoni (c 1686-1746) for Edward Wortley-Montagu. The east wing, by Matthew Brettingham (1699-1769) with George and John Platt as masons/ executive architects, was added in 1757-61. Further additions were carried out 1784-8 by John Platt for Lady Bute and completed for James Archibald Stuart-Wortley II (1776-1845) under John Carr of York (1723-1807). The lantern was added by William Burn, c 1867-73, who was also responsible for some remodelling.

The early C19 sandstone and slate stable block (listed grade II) stands c 60m to the west of the Hall and was probably built to designs by John Carr with a cupola added later in the century by William Burn. Beyond the north wall of the stable block are further early C19 outbuildings and cottages (listed grade II).

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS To the east of the Hall is a walk and balustraded retaining wall (listed grade II) across which there are fine views over the park and countryside beyond.

The main gardens lie beneath the south front, where the west to east slope was graded in the mid C19 to form a series of grass terraces set with steps (listed grade II) and a level lawn decorated with clipped golden yews and focused on a circular pool (listed grade II) and statue. A walk along the west side of the flower garden leads to a stone seat alcove (listed grade II) which originally (mid C19) formed the base of a conservatory. From here, the path leads down to the `Hollow Gardens', a small sunken area bounded by rockwork with beds laid out round a circular fountain, now (2000) filled in.

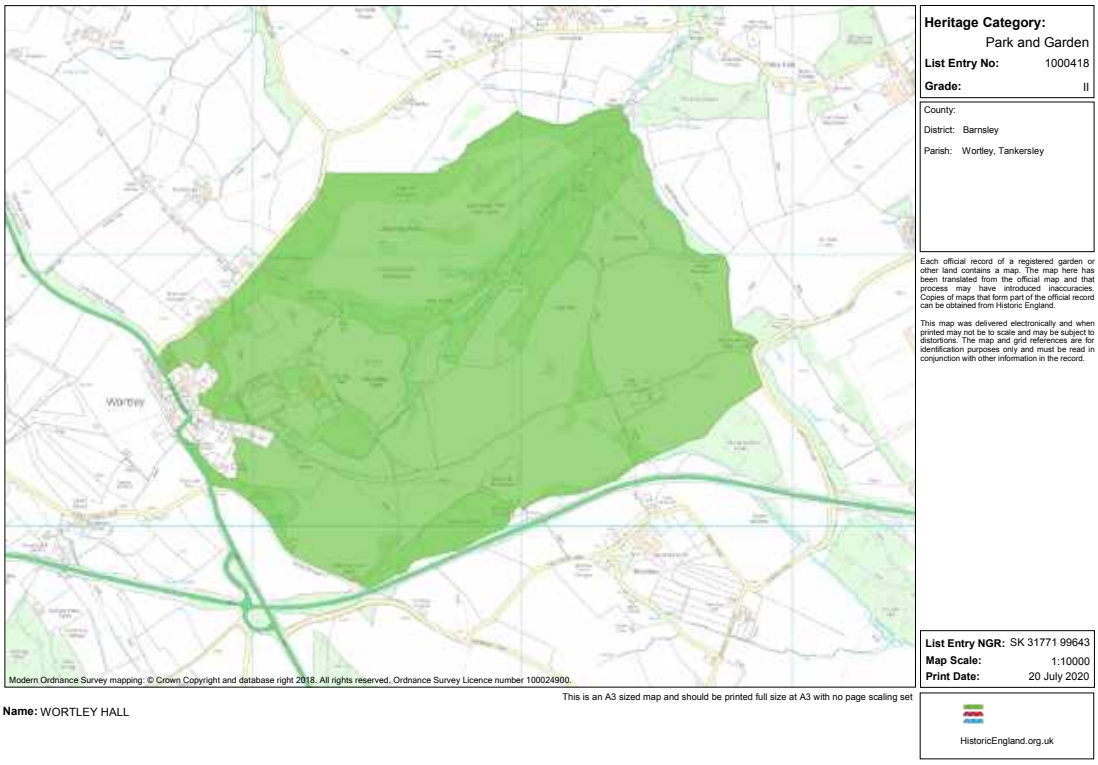
The 15ha of lightly wooded, informal pleasure grounds lie beyond the garden terraces, mainly to the south and west of the Hall, divided from the park by a ditch or ha-ha. Within them is a large rectangular fishpond and an icehouse (listed grade II), the two being linked via a stone channel from the north-east bank of the fishpond. An ancient oak stands at the northern end of the pond from which point a broad walk connects the pleasure grounds to the kitchen

garden.

PARK Wortley Park covers c 220ha, much of which is under the plough with few remains of the parkland plantings although boundary plantations including Coal Pit Plantation to the north, Hollins Plantation to the east, and Copley Wood to the south survive to enclose the park. The park is divided through the centre by High Wood which runs south-west to north-east along the valley of High Wood Dike and still displays some ornamental plantings. The northern park, known as Lane Royd's Park, is used as a golf course. The park appears to have been laid out c 1800 when James Archibald Stuart Wortley II, first Baron Wharncliffe, married and settled at Wortley.

W S Gilpin is said to have worked `in a Pricean spirit' at Wortley (Piebenga 1994) thought the extent of his work is not clear. Joseph Harrison, head gardener at Wortley Hall in the early to mid C19, was responsible for the launch of several periodicals: Gardener's and Forester's Record (1833-6), and Floricultural Cabinet (1833-59), continued as Gardener's Weekly Magazine (1860-5) and then as Gardener's Magazine (1865-1916). It seems likely that he was to some extent responsible for laying out the grounds.

KITCHEN GARDEN The 3ha walled kitchen garden lies to the west of the Hall on the west side of the stable block wall. The brick walls were heated and parts of this system remain, as do some of the sheds and bothies against the north face of the north wall. The whole complex is currently (2000) disused. The head gardener's cottage, dated 1882, stands in the north-west corner of the garden.



Map from Historic England showing the extent of the listed park.

4. Park House Cottage Dwelling

Farm building attached to Park House. Mixture of single and two storey. Converted to a dwelling in approx 2000. The construction is as follows:

- Roof: Dual pitch with central ridge line. Grit stone slates. Stone gable ends. Timber truss, purlin and rafter roof structure.
- RWGs: Black PVC square gutter fixed to painted timber facia fixed directly to wall. Black PVC round down-pipe.
- Walls: Rubble filled, sandstone faced walls with stone lintels and cills to openings.
- Fenestration: Typically roughly square proportion with stone lintel and cill. Stained timber casement windows. Mixture of vertically boarded and glazed doors.

Neither the house or cottage are noted in the listing text and whilst the adjacent track was once an access to the hall, this is no longer the case. The Park land adjacent to the site is now all given over to agriculture.

5. Proposed works

2-storey extension to the south, into the enclosed courtyard to accommodate a new entrance, stair, storage and first floor bathroom. Internal reorganisation to move the kitchen downstairs and to achieve a ground floor shower room.

6. Impact

Item	Impact
External	
Build new 2-storey rear extension to south of the cottage.	The new extension will not be visible from any distant views across the park. The extension is designed to be subservient to the original building and narrower width makes the ridge line lower than the main roof. The strip of fenestration between the extension and the existing cottage clearly expresses the addition, whilst allowing the extension to be constructed of a similar palette of materials to its host. The extension will have a negligible impact on the heritage asset.
Enlargement of north facing ground floor window	The enlarged window, whilst being visible from the track, will be proportionally similar to the existing first floor window above. The window will use a stone lintel and cill to match the existing openings. This minor change will have a negligible impact on the heritage asset.
Enlargement of South facing ground floor window.	The enlarged window will be proportionally similar to the existing first floor window above. The window will use a stone lintel and cill to match the existing openings. It is also courtyard facing and not visible from outside the site. This minor change will have no impact on the heritage asset.

Item	Impact
Enlargement of East facing ground and first floor gable windows.	The enlarged windows will be visible from the track. The windows will use a stone lintel and cill to match the existing openings. They will adopt a similar proportion to the windows on the north and south elevations of the building. This minor change will have a negligible impact on the heritage asset.
Replacement of windows throughout with new, high performance timber casement windows.	These will ensure the sustainable life of the building into the future and will make very little change to the external appearance of the building. This minor change will have a negligible impact on the heritage asset.
Internal	
Internal layout changes to the existing building	None of the internal walls form part of the original building and were inserted for the conversion into a dwelling. The new layout aims to simplify the spatial arrangements so that the building is read as a simpler set of spaces more appropriate to a barn conversion. The changes will have a positive impact on the heritage asset.
Forming new openings through to the new extension.	These openings are being formed in the zone of two existing openings in the south elevation. These will be wider than the existing openings but this work will ensure the house is more accessible than currently and that occupants can live there when their mobility becomes reduced. The works will have a minor negative impact on the heritage asset and any harm is outweighed by the benefit provided by the new access and circulation.

7. Conclusion

The proposed works will have minimal impact on the outlook of the building into the Park and on its perception from the heritage asset and from the adjacent right of way. The works will make the internal spaces more legible as a barn conversion and will deliver a more sustainable dwelling for the future.