



**Ismere Hall
Ismere, nr. Kidderminster
Worcestershire**

**Archaeological
Desk-Based Assessment**

Date: May 2023

By: Stephen Yeates and Grace Hewitt

Client: Mr. J. Shaw

Project Code: RR0810

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**Red River
Archaeology**

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1. SUMMARY

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (ADBA) undertaken by Red River Archaeology Ltd. on behalf of Mr. J. Shaw in advance of the proposed development at Ismere Hall, Stourbridge Road, Ismere, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY10 3NY. The site is situated in the parish of Ismere, near to the villages of Churchill and Blakedown, approximately 6km southwest of Stourbridge and 4.5km northeast of Kidderminster. This ADBA assesses the impact of the proposed development on any potential buried heritage assets (archaeological remains) within its footprint.
- 1.1.2 The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) holds 39 entries for the study area comprising 4 listed buildings and a further 35 records relating to findspots, monuments, and archaeological events. The Portable Antiquities Scheme provided no records within the search area. The site contained two designated assets; Ismere House and Barn, both Grade II listed buildings.
- 1.1.3 The ADBA has identified that there is a certainly a potential for undated archaeological remains to be present on site, due to the comments of the site manager Richard Hickman. The dates of the features so far identified are unknown. There is potential for the further groundworks involved in the proposals near the proposed garage to impact upon buried archaeology, therefore, further archaeological investigation of a watching brief level at least is recommended to determine the full extent and nature of any buried remains within the proposed development site.

2. INTRODUCTION

3.1 Project Background

3.1.1 Red River Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by PCPT Architects Ltd. on behalf of Mr. J. Shaw to undertake an ADBA in advance of the proposed development of Ismere Hall, Stourbridge Road, Ismere, Kidderminster Worcestershire, DY10 3NY. The proposed development comprises the change of use from hotel to dwellinghouse including a single storey extension to main building, conversion of a barn to create swimming pool and gym, and conversion of outbuildings to create a two storey annexed dwelling. This ADBA has been carried out to assess the impact of the proposed development on any heritage assets or buried archaeological remains within its footprint.

3.2 Site Location and Description

3.2.1 The proposed development site is located approximately 6km southwest of Stourbridge and 4.5km northeast of Kidderminster town centres. The site comprises an 18th century farmstead with a small Grade II Listed country house and unconverted farm buildings, including a Grade II listed barn. The site is situated directly north of the A451 Stourbridge Road and is centred at approximately National Grid Reference (NGR) SO86508 79644, and approximately 83mAOD.

3.2.2 The site likely has Anglo-Saxon roots, and an economy based on agriculture. The current land use is a mix of arable and pasture with a field system that evidences parliamentary enclosure and modern field amalgamation. There is good tree cover in the form of ancient semi-natural and recent woodland parcels, mainly alongside watercourses. The settlement pattern mainly comprises dispersed villages and hamlets.

3.2.3 The search area sits within an intermediate, undulating landscape with a local solid geology of Wildmoor Sandstone Member, and Chester Formation sandstone and conglomerate bedrock. There are superficial deposits of Holt Heath and Kidderminster Station sands and gravels, as well as glaciofluvial deposits and alluvium (British Geological Survey). Soils are recorded as freely draining slightly acid sandy soils (Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute).

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Aims and Objectives

4.1.1 Archaeology is a material consideration in the planning process and its value is recognised in national and local planning policy. The aims of this ADBA are to provide a detailed assessment of the archaeological and historic parameters of the proposed development area and to assess the potential impact of the proposed development, either directly, indirectly or on the setting of any cultural assets identified, and to provide a suitable strategy to mitigate any adverse effects, if required, as part of a planning application for the works. The aim is achieved through the following objectives:

- Identify the presence of any known or potential heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals
- Describe the significance of such assets, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), considering factors which may have compromised asset survival
- Assess the likely impacts upon the significance of the assets arising from the proposals
- Provide recommendations for further investigation and/or mitigation where required, aimed at reducing or removing completely any adverse effects

5. PLANNING FRAMEWORK

5.1.1 This Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment has been prepared to support a planning application for change of use from hotel to dwelling house including single storey extension to main building, conversion of a barn to create swimming pool and gym, and conversion of outbuildings to create a two storey annexed dwelling.

5.2 Relevant legislation, policy and guidance is set out below:

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

5.2.1 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended) protects the fabric of Scheduled Monuments but does not afford statutory protection to their settings.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance

5.2.2 Government policy in relation to the historic environment is outlined in section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), entitled Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. This provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets. Overall, the objectives of Section 16 of the NPPF can be summarised as seeking the:

- Delivery of sustainable development
- Understanding the wider social, cultural, economic, and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment.
- Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, and
- Recognition of the contribution that heritage assets make to our knowledge and understanding of the past

5.2.3 Section 16 of the NPPF recognises that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. Paragraph 189 states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset and that level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.

5.2.4 Archaeological Interest is defined as a heritage asset which holds or potentially could hold evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.

- 5.2.5 Designated Heritage Assets comprise: World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Park and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and Conservation Areas.
- 5.2.6 Setting is defined as: The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.
- 5.2.7 The NPPF is supported by the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG). In relation to the historic environment, paragraph 18a-001 states that: "Protecting and enhancing the historic environment is an important component of the National Planning Policy Framework's drive to achieve sustainable development (as defined in Paragraphs 7-14). The appropriate conservation of heritage assets forms one of the 'Core Planning Principles'."
- 5.2.8 In considering any planning application for development, the planning authority will be mindful of the framework set by government policy, in this instance the NPPF, by current Development Plan Policy, and by other material considerations.

Local Planning Policy

- 5.2.9 The Local Planning Policy of the governing county in relation to heritage assets is within the Wyre Forest District Local Plan (2016-2036). The plan was formally adopted by Wyre Forest District Council on 26th April 2022 and the following policies cover the historic environment including any heritage assets and archaeological remains.

Policy SP.21 – Historic Environment

- 5.2.10 Development proposals should protect, conserve and enhance all heritage assets and their settings, including assets of potential archaeological interest, subject to the provisions of Policy DM.23 (Safeguarding the Historic Environment). Their contribution to the character of the landscape or townscape should be safeguarded and protected in order to sustain the historic quality, sense of place, environmental quality and economic vibrancy of Wyre Forest District. This applies to:
- Designated heritage assets; i.e. listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens and registered battlefields; also non-designated heritage assets (including those identified on the District's Local Heritage List or for which a Historic Environment Record exists), and their settings.
 - The historic landscape, including locally distinctive settlement patterns, field systems, woodlands and commons and historic farmsteads, smallholdings and their settings.

- Designed landscapes, including parkland, gardens, cemeteries, churchyards, public parks, urban open spaces and industrial, military or institutional landscapes, and their settings.
- Archaeological remains of all periods.
- Historic transportation networks and infrastructure including roads and trackways, canals, river navigations, railways and their associated industries, and their settings.
- The market town of Bewdley with its historic street and plot patterns, buildings and open spaces along with their settings and views of the town.
- The historic inland port of Stourport-on-Severn with its late-18th century street pattern and buildings along with their settings and views of the town.
- The industrial urban landscape of the historic market town of Kidderminster with its surviving heritage assets and their settings.
- The rural villages within the District, including their associated Conservation Areas and buildings, along with their settings and historic views to and from the surrounding countryside.

Policy DM.23 – Safeguarding the Historic Environment

- 5.2.11 Proposals likely to affect the significance of a heritage asset (including the contribution made by its setting or any important vistas or views) should be accompanied by a description of its significance in sufficient detail to allow the potential impacts to be adequately assessed by a qualified and/or experienced heritage professional. This will usually be in the form of a Heritage Statement. Where there is potential for heritage assets with archaeological interest to be affected, this description should be informed by available evidence, desk-based assessment and, where appropriate, field evaluation to establish the significance of known or potential heritage assets.
- 5.2.12 Any development proposal causing harm or loss of significance to a heritage asset will be resisted unless clear and convincing justification is provided, to permit assessment against the NPPF criteria, relevant legislation and published local and national guidance.
- 5.2.13 Development proposals should avoid harm to or loss of heritage assets wherever possible. The highest level of harm should require very robust justification, including the demonstrable consideration of alternatives. Substantial harm to a designated heritage asset should only be allowed in exceptional circumstances.
- 5.2.14 The sympathetic and creative reuse and adaptation of historic buildings will be encouraged. Such proposals that provide a sustainable future for heritage assets identified as at risk, will be considered in accordance with Policy DM.24.

5.2.15 Repairs, alterations, extensions and conversions of heritage assets must be sympathetically designed to respect the significance of the form, character and materials of the original heritage asset and its setting. Fixtures and fittings should be inconspicuously sited and proportioned and be designed sympathetically to reflect the significance of the asset.

5.2.16 Where a material change to a heritage asset has been agreed, recording and interpretation should be undertaken to document and understand the asset's archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic significance. The scope of the recording should be proportionate to the asset's significance and the impact of the development on the asset. The information and understanding gained should be made publicly available, as a minimum through the relevant Historic Environment Record and where appropriate at the asset itself through on-site interpretation.

5.2.17 Consideration must also be given to the Churchill and Blakedown Neighbourhood Plan (2016-2026). The following policies cover local heritage assets and archaeology:

Policy CB3 – Protecting Heritage Assets

5.2.18 New development within the conservation area and/or within the settings of listed buildings will be expected to meet the requirements of Policy SAL.UP6: Safeguarding the Historic Environment, of the Wyre Forest Site Allocations and Policy Local Plan. Development will not be permitted where it has a detrimental impact on the significance of any heritage asset in the parish which is not outweighed by the benefits of the scheme as a whole. All new development will be expected to:

- Respect the historic pattern of development taking into account density and layout in the local context.
- Complement the human scale, height and massing of historic development in the immediate streetscape.
- Respect the design and character of neighbouring properties.
- Reinforce local identity by the use of the traditional materials used in the immediate surrounding area.
- Re-use traditional buildings which contribute to townscape quality (Heritage Assets) where it is appropriate and possible to do so.

Policy CB4 – Local Heritage and Archaeology

5.2.19 New development must take account of known surface and sub-surface archaeology and, where there is a reasonable and identifiable potential for unknown and potentially significant deposits, ensure they are identified and appropriately considered during development. Lack of evidence of sub-surface archaeology must not be taken as proof of absence.

- 5.2.20 Proposals requiring consent which affect a building or structure on the Local Heritage List must demonstrate how they protect or enhance the significance of such heritage assets.
- 5.2.21 The renovation, or alteration, of a building or part thereof, or structures, identified on the Local Heritage List should be designed sensitively, and with careful regard to the heritage asset's historical and architectural interest and setting.
- 5.2.22 Loss of Locally listed buildings will be resisted.

6. SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY OF WORKS

6.1 Desk-Based Assessment

6.1.1 This Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment was undertaken in accordance with current best practice, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (CIfA, 2020a), and *Standards and Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire* (Worcestershire County Council, 2019). The study area for Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, World Heritage Sites and Registered Historic Landscapes and non-designated heritage assets was defined as a zone 500m from the proposed development site.

6.1.2 The designated heritage assets identified within the study area (4 listed buildings) are presented on (Figure 2) and catalogued in Appendix 1: Table 1. The non-designated heritage assets are presented on (Figure 2) and catalogued in Appendix 1: Table 2. Previous archaeological events are presented on Figure 4 and catalogued in Appendix 1: Table 3. The historic landscape characterisation is presented on Figure 3.

6.1.3 The principal sources of information which were consulted to provide information about heritage assets within the study area are the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER), the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) and the Historic England and National Archives. Further relevant information was researched from a variety of sources including:

- Geological maps
- Ordnance Survey maps
- Tithe, Apportionment and Parish maps (where available)
- Estate maps of the area (where available)
- Other historical maps and documents held in the County Records Office, local museum, libraries or other archives (where relevant)
- British History Online
- Portable Antiquities Scheme
- Google maps and satellite images
- Aerial photographs
- LiDAR data
- County Reference Library for publications in the Local Studies Collection
- Where identified, local archaeologists/historians and other archaeological organisations for unpublished information and/or specialist local knowledge

- Any other relevant sources identified

6.2 Field Visit

6.2.1 A field visit to assess the archaeological and historical significance of the site and to assess the setting of any identified assets was undertaken on 13th April 2023, and a written record produced. This identified historic buildings and landscape features, current land use, areas of disturbance, areas of potential colluvial or alluvial deposits etc. The setting of the site within the surrounding landscape was also noted regarding any archaeological assets identified in the desk-based assessment.

6.3 Assessment of Significance

6.3.1 'Significance' lies in the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest, which may be historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic. Known and potential heritage assets within the site and its vicinity have been identified from national and local designations, HER data and expert opinion. The determination of the significance of these assets follows Historic England guidance (2017) and is based on statutory designation and/or professional judgement against the following values:

- **Historic Interest:** the ways in which the asset can illustrate the story of past events, people and aspects of life (illustrative value or interest). This can hold communal value when associated with the identity of the current community. Historical interest considers whether the asset is the first, only, or best surviving example of an innovation of consequence, whether related to design, artistry, technology or social organisation. It also considers an asset's integrity (completeness), current use/original purpose, significance in place making, associative value with a notable person, event, or movement.
- **Archaeological Interest:** the potential of the physical remains to yield evidence of past human activity and the interest in carrying out an expert investigation at some point in the future, and may apply to standing buildings or structures as well as buried remains. This includes aboveground structures and landscapes, earthworks and buried or submerged remains, paleoenvironmental deposits, and takes into account date; rarity; state of preservation; diversity/complexity; contribution to published priorities (research value); supporting documentation; collective value and comparative potential, and sensitivity to change.
- **Architectural and Artistic Interest:** derive from a contemporary appreciation of an asset's aesthetics. The former is associated with the art or science of design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures. The latter is derived from creative expression which might use, represent or influence historic places or buildings through art (contributing to their significance through their association with art), as well

as the meaning, skill and emotional impact of works of art that are either part of heritage assets or assets in their own right.

- 6.3.2 The likelihood of the presence of unknown archaeological assets within the area of the proposed development site was also considered. This was based on a review of the character and distribution of known archaeological assets, including designated assets, in the surrounding area and the characteristics of the study area.

6.4 Potential Impact of Proposed Works

- 6.4.1 The potential impact of the proposed works was considered in relation to the proposed development with reference to the known archaeological assets and their setting within the study area. If deemed necessary, mitigation of these impacts was suggested along with recommendations for possible further archaeological work if required.

6.5 Reporting and Archiving

- 6.5.1 The ADBA will form the basis of a full archive compiled to professional standards, in accordance with current Historic England guidelines (English Heritage, 2008; Historic England, 2015), those of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2020b), and the ADS digital records (archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/advice).
- 6.5.2 A copy of the final report will be submitted to the Worcestershire HER in accordance with the guidelines set out in the *Standard for historic environment desk-based assessment* prepared by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2020a).
- 6.5.3 Digital archives will be submitted to the ADS. The project archive, which will include photographs, plans, elevations and site notes, will be deposited with the relevant Museum or other agreed body. It will be integrated into the archive of any subsequent fieldwork.

7. RESULTS

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The bracketed reference codes used in the following sections are the 'HER Number' as supplied by the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record.
- 7.1.2 The Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment has identified 4 designated heritage assets within the study area comprising 4 Grade II listed Buildings (Figure 2, Appendix 1: Table 1). A further 21 non-designated heritage assets were also recorded comprising buildings, landscape components, monuments, general parish info, a place name, a historic park/garden, and geology (Figure 2, Appendix 1: Table 2) and 14 previous archaeological events (Figure 4, Appendix 1: Table 3). Worcestershire HER returned two records for the proposed development site, which comprises the Grade II listed Ismere House (WSM1515135), and Barn (WSM58133) approximately 20 metres west of Ismere House.
- 7.1.3 The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) data for the local area was obtained from the Worcestershire HER. No records are currently identified within the search area and previous archaeological investigations have only recovered a small amount of Prehistoric lithic material and Roman and Post-medieval pottery.
- 7.1.4 The proposed development site is situated in the parish of Ismere, near to the villages of Churchill and Blakedown, and between Stourbridge and Kidderminster. Ismere likely has Anglo-Saxon origins as it is first recorded in the Ismere Diploma, a charter of 736 AD, in which Aethelbald of Mercia granted ten hides of land near Ismere to Cyneberht for the foundation of a minster; the charter is the earliest mention of the Husmerae tribe, from whose name Ismere likely derives (Hooke, 1990). The minster was likely founded at Kidderminster which is first documented in the Domesday Book of 1086 (Open Domesday), where it appears as Chideminstre, meaning 'Cydda or Cydela's minster or monastery' (Mills, 2011).

7.2 Historic Baseline Data

Prehistoric Period (prior to 43 AD)

- 7.2.1 The Worcestershire HER holds 5 records of prehistoric date within the study area. Four records represent the results of an Historic England funded project to identify areas with the potential for Palaeolithic Archaeology in Worcestershire (WSM56935, WSM56936, WSM56937 and WSM68340). These recorded environmental deposits with archaeological potential dating back 475,000 years. The Neolithic Period (4000 – 2351 BC) is represented by an unstratified find (WSM12223) from field Rickyard Piece at Whitehouse Farm, Wolverley, comprising 4 flint objects, 7 flakes and 2 cores.

Roman Period (43 – 410AD)

- 7.2.2 The Roman period is represented by an unstratified find of Romano-British pottery (WSM02381) southwest of Ismere House, Wolverley: an unknown quantity of Roman pottery was recovered in a field adjacent to place name Four Dwellings and field name Stone Croft.

Early Medieval Period (410 – 1066 AD)

- 7.2.3 Ismere is one of the suggested sites for the location of the Anglo-Saxon monastery supposed to exist from documentary sources (WSM09557), however the minster was likely founded elsewhere (see above). A Dowsing Survey in 1980 (WSM41850) claims to have located the monastery site at Ismere, however a later evaluation in 1992 (WSM29959) related to the Kidderminster, Blakedown and Hagley Bypass, and A449 Link revealed no archaeologically relevant material. The entry of Kidderminster in the Domesday Book 1086 AD suggests that the monastery/minster is more likely elsewhere, probably occupying the site of St. Mary and All Saints' Parish Church, Kidderminster. There are no other records for Early Medieval activity in the study area.
- 7.2.4 The name Ismere is recorded as *Husmeræ* in 736, and *Provincia Usmerorum* in c. 760, *Usmerum* in 781, and *Usmere* in 964 (Mawer and Stenton 1927, 278-9). The name is considered to describe a series of lakes in the river valley to the west from this point to Kidderminster. The first part of the name is considered to be an old river-name *Use*. Mawer and Stenton suggested that the house name must be derived from the province due to its distance from the lakes. However, this suggestion does not appear to take into account the view down across the valley from the bluff on which the house stands. The site was located in medieval Churchill parish. In the text of Mawer and Stenton the parish is located in Clent Hundred, but on the map is located in Cresselau Hundred. Churchill was differentiated from another village of that name as being in the Forest of Kinver.

Medieval Period (1066 – 1540AD)

- 7.2.5 Ismere is not recorded within the Domesday Book despite the existence of the earlier Ismere Diploma. It is highly likely that any activity at this time is recorded under the entry for Kidderminster. No heritage assets dating to the Medieval period are recorded within the HER.

Post-Medieval Period (1540 – 1900 AD)

- 7.2.6 There are 4 designated Grade II Listed Buildings (Figure. Appendix 1: Table 1) dating to the post-medieval period in the study area comprising:
- Ismere House (WSM15135) – dated to the mid-18th century with some mid-19th century and late 20th century alterations.

- Barn, Ismere House (WSM58133) – dated to the mid-18th century with some mid-19th century alterations.
- Farmhouse, Parr’s Farm (WSM40261) -dated to the early 18th century with some mid-20th century alterations
- Barn, Parr’s Farm (WSM15136) – dated to the mid-18th century.

7.2.7 There are a further 6 undesignated post-medieval buildings comprising:

- Farm Building, Whitehouse Farm (WSM23964)
- Farm and Dwelling, Whitehouse Farm (WSM32821)
- Coaching Inn and Detached house, Three Crowns Cottage (WSM45628)
- Farmstead, Whitehouse Farm (WSM53931)
- Barn associated with Ismere House (WSM54035)
- Farm Buildings at Parr’s Farm (WSM54036)

7.2.8 Along with the Worcestershire HER, an Historic England funded project to identify the Historic Farmsteads of Worcestershire recorded 3 farmsteads within the search area dating to the 18th – 19th century:

- Whitehouse Farm
- Ismere House
- Parr’s Farm

7.2.9 In addition to the built environment, the HER holds three more post-medieval records. This includes 19th century historic parkland at Ismere House (WSM28941) which is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-Inch map and evidenced by planting between the house and the road and at the North-East corner of the park.

7.2.10 A pond west of Ismere House (WSM68031) is located within the search area. The feature was recorded during LiDAR analysis for the HER Woodland Project in 2015 and is also visible on the 1st edition OS map.

7.2.11 There has been some conjecture that the field name ‘Stone Croft’ is evidence for a possible 19th century deserted settlement (WSM00136).

Modern Period (1901 AD – present)

7.2.12 The Worcestershire HER holds 2 oblique aerial photographs of the Cookley area (WSM35722), dating to 1949 and 1978. The HER also notes the presence of a farmhouse dating to about 1910, and large modern sheds on the site of Whitehouse Farm. There is one record (WSM69557) associated with the ridge and furrow earthworks survey in Worcestershire, an

ongoing project started in 1977, which states no such earthworks were recorded in the parish of Wolverley.

Undated

- 7.2.13 The Worcestershire HER holds an undated record for a possible fishpond south of Whitehouse Farm, Wolverley (WSM08210), recorded as having earthwork and cartographic evidence. The HER also holds 3 undated oblique aerial photographs of Wolverley Village (WSM35722), likely from the 20th century.

7.3 Historic Landscape Characterisation

- 7.3.1 Three distinct types of landscape are recorded within the HER: Settlement; Ornamental, Parkland and Recreational; and Fields and Enclosures (Figure 3).
- 7.3.2 Settlements include the site, Ismere House (HWR12820) a medieval country house with the medieval Ornamental, Parkland and Recreational land (HWR12821) to its north and southwest. The isolated farmstead of Whitehouse Farm (HWR12811) is located to the northwest. Ismere (HWR12814) to the northeast of site is a Post-Medieval to 18th century interrupted row, with the early 20th century modern expansion of Ismere Grange (HWR12831) between Ismere and site. To the south of site are another interrupted row of Four Dwellings (HWR12822) dated to the 18th to early 20th century, and the early 20th century modern expansion of Oaklands to its east.
- 7.3.3 The remaining fields surrounding the settlement and parkland areas are predominantly modern, with one 18th to early 20th century parliamentary enclosure (HWR12812) to the west. The remaining fields are all late 20th to early 21st century, consisting of: the modern subdivision (HWR12810) to the northwest of site; the field amalgamations of Adjacent Ismere Grange Farm (HWR6089) and (HWR14599) to the northeast and east of site respectively; and modern subdivision (HWR12823) to the south of the site.

7.4 Previous Archaeological Events

- 7.4.1 The 500m search area has seen very little archaeological investigation, with the Worcestershire HER holding only 14 records for previous archaeological events (Figure 4). These are catalogued in Appendix 1: Table 3. Many of the events are not pertinent to the current report and are not fully reported, they therefore will not be discussed further. These comprise:
- Unstratified finds (WSM02381 and WSM12223)
 - Dowsing survey (WSM41850)
 - Photographic records (WSM32820 and WSM32822)

- Desk-Based Assessments (WSM58090, WSM58091, WSM58092, WSM67761 and WSM45813).

Kidderminster, Blakedown and Hagley Bypass, and A449 Link

- 7.4.2 The Worcestershire HER returned three results for the development of the Kidderminster, Blakedown and Hagley Bypass, and A449 Link, two Desk-Based Assessments (WSM29782 and WSM29961), and an evaluation in 1992 (WSM29959). Test pits were excavated in evaluation Area 5 (Ismere) on the Kidderminster, Blakedown and Hagley Bypass route to investigate possible Roman, Saxon, or medieval settlements in this area. Finds included <10 sherds 17th century – Victorian pottery and unidentified post-medieval – early 20th century object. No archaeologically significant deposits or features were found (Brown, 1992).

Norton to Blakeshall Pipeline, Sector 15

- 7.4.3 The Norton to Blakeshall Pipeline project included an archaeological watching brief (WSM31010) conducted within the study area. Finds included 1 sherd 18th century pottery, 2 sherds Victorian to early 20th century pottery, 2 post-medieval to early 20th century ceramic tile, and 2 glass vessels. Despite the archaeological background of the area, no features or deposits were encountered dating prior to the post-medieval to modern periods (Miller and Griffin, 2002).

7.5 Cartographic Regression

- 7.5.1 The earliest map consulted is the 1840 Tithe Map of Churchill Parish, Land at Ismere House (Figure 5). Land and features associated with Ismere House encompass field numbers 74-82, with Ismere House Pleasure-grounds central within the grounds. It is bounded by pasture named Garden Field to the north and Stable Yard Field to the southwest, and a Garden to the west. North of Garden Field is a what appears to be a walled Garden and Hothouse, enclosed by wood plantation. This extends to the east corner of Garden Field and southwest following the road. A small structure appears next to a pond, on Dog Kennel Road, to the west of Ismere House. The surrounding land is a mixture of wood plantations and fields used as pasture or arable land. Structures 49-51 to the northeast appear to be a small unnamed farm comprising cottages, gardens, a barn and yard. The Parish of Wolverley borders the land at Ismere House to the north and west.
- 7.5.2 It is worth noting that the west and north bounds of the Ismere House estate follow the parish boundary. The parish boundary itself extends south from the western boundary of the Ismere House estate along a hedgeline which would be continuous with it, but is crossed by the Stourbridge Road. This could imply the boundary existed before the road was in place and could therefore be of some antiquity.

- 7.5.3 The 1st Edition OS map Worcestershire Sheet VIII.NE surveyed in 1882 and published in 1887 shows the site in a similar setting (Figure 6). The structure next to the pond west of Ismere House is missing and the area recorded as Dog Kennel Road appears to have been incorporated into Garden Field, which is shown as park/ornamental ground. The buildings northeast of Ismere House are named as Three Crowns Farm, while Whitehouse Farm and a second pond are shown to the northwest. The boundaries of the surrounding fields are mostly unchanged although there is some field amalgamation in the southeast and an area of uncultivated land beyond the plantation that encloses Garden Field. There is also the depiction of trees on field boundaries, which suggests they were bounded by hedgerows.
- 7.5.4 The Second Edition OS map Worcestershire VIII.8 which was revised in 1901 and published in 1902 (Figure 7), and The Second Edition OS map Staffordshire LXXIV.NE, revised in 1901 and published in 1903, shows the site remains unchanged in outline. There appears to be a small Westerly extension to Whitehouse Farm including the construction of an additional farm building, and Three Crowns Farm is now named Parr's Farm. The surrounding fields have minimal additional field divisions/amalgamation, there is less uncultivated land, and depiction of trees on field boundaries is absent.
- 7.5.5 The Third Edition OS map Staffordshire LXXIV.8, revised 1921 and published 1924 (Figure 8), and the Third Edition OS map Staffordshire, revised 1921 and published 1925, shows minimal field divisions/amalgamation. The walled Garden is still visible, however, the associated Hothouse is absent. A new building has been constructed in the field that previously included uncultivated land.
- 7.5.6 The OS map Worcestershire Sheet SO87NE-A, revised pre-1930 to 1954 and published 1955, shows the site as unchanged.

7.6 Aerial Photograph Consultation

- 7.6.1 The earliest aerial photographic image consulted was from 1945 and the latest from 2021.
- 7.6.2 Google Earth historical imagery from 1945 and OS Air Photographs taken by the RAF in 1948 show the site, bounded by fields with hedgerows and mature trees. There appears to be no change in comparison to the OS map Worcestershire Sheet SO87NE-A which was published in 1955.
- 7.6.3 Google Earth Historical imagery from 1999 shows a tennis court on the site immediately west of Ismere Hall, which must have been built prior to this date. In the wider area, there appears to have been some field amalgamation in the East, near Parr's Farm, as well as the construction of modern farm buildings and electricity pylons.

7.6.4 Google Earth Historical imagery between 2001 and 2021, and modern satellite imagery, shows the site unchanged.

7.7 LiDAR Consultation

7.7.1 LiDAR imaging is available for some of the study area; however, Parr's Farm (Three Crowns Farm) and the possible fishpond South of Whitehouse Farm are not captured in the data.

7.7.2 Ismere House is situated in an area with ephemeral linear depressions on all sides, while these may represent earthworks, they are more likely natural undulations in the landscape (Fig 10). To the west of Ismere House, the post-medieval fishpond identified in the Worcestershire HER appears as a small, rounded depression on the LiDAR data. Finally, the field 'Stone Croft' which is suggested as the location of a deserted post-medieval settlement displays no visible earthworks. The field is flat, and it is likely any archaeological remains have been ploughed away.

7.8 Field Visit

7.8.1 The site visit was carried out on 13th April 2023, it was noted at the time that some ground work had already commenced at the site both internally and externally, prior to the completion of the ADBA.

7.8.2 The Georgian mansion or farmhouse (Plate 1) appeared to be located in extensive park land that extended all around. Between the house and the main road there was an area of woodland. To the rear of the building there was an expansive open grass land area that extended to a large brick structure, possibly a kitchen garden in the valley adjacent to the spring in that valley, that fed a tributary of the Stour. Attached to the Georgian house was an enclosed courtyard with a barn on the north (Plate 2) and south sides (Plate 3).

7.8.3 Internally the Georgian three storey listed building had been stripped and part of the roofing removed. Work had also commenced on the south barn and the north barn. In the north barn a test pit was evident that showed the depth of the walls. A garden wall had collapsed, which was also rebuilt.

7.8.4 Three key areas are noted where the ground will be disturbed by building work. This will include the construction of a new garage (Plate 4) if allowed, a rear extension for a new kitchen (Plate 5), and also the insertion of a swimming pool in the listed barn (Plate 6) in addition to any necessary service trenches.

7.8.5 In the front of the house, there were two driveways, to the east and the west. Each of these driveways had a series of cobbles set in a red sand matrix. It was apparent that with the east drive (drive one) that two trenches had already been excavated along either side of the drive

and a service trench already backfilled (Plate 7). In one place it appeared that the deposits dipped away and that there may have been a broad negative feature (Plate 8). This had weathered and elsewhere under the cobbles it was apparent that there was much bioturbation. On the east side of the house the excavation of electricity cable uncovered a square area with animal thigh bones set on end (Richard Hickman pers com). This area was disturbed and the bones removed by the digger (Plate 9). There were three to four bones remaining on the surface. The feature is unusual and could fall into a ritual context with date unknown.

- 7.8.6 To the rear of the house where the new kitchen extension was to be located the area appeared to be a flattened lawn. To the north of this was a raised area on the bluff which contained a depression that represented the location of a former pond in the lawn, the contents of which had been removed and the sand lining revealed (Plate 10). There is no way of knowing if this mound was natural or manmade.
- 7.8.7 The floor of the north barn contained areas of laid stone, the centre of the barn appeared to be an area of dirt floor, although this could be in a depression associated with a sunken area.

7.9 Setting of Heritage Assets

- 7.9.1 The Georgian listed building, listed barn and non-designated heritage barn, and sun house are all connected by garden walling so that they form a cohesive unit. Part of the walling had collapsed and was in the process of being rebuilt. The 18th century setting of this structure is its own park or grounds. There is a large brick structure in the valley, which must also be part of the park land and setting.
- 7.9.2 The unusual features uncovered on the east side of the house (Richard Hickman pers. comm.) underneath the cobbles indicate that there may have been earlier activity on the site of an unknown date. As the name turns up in an early medieval charter it could be of that date, but this cannot be demonstrated on present knowledge. The site is located on a bluff above a river valley. In Mawer and Stenton it is suggested that Ismere House took its name from the Province as it is not close to the series of lakes in the valley. There is a possibility that the site could be located on an earlier site sitting on a spur on the south side of a tributary valley.

7.10 Significance of Heritage Assets

- 7.10.1 It is evident that the 18th century complex contains two buildings that are listed buildings and that they are nationally important and have a high heritage value. It is also apparent that this forms part of a larger complex. There is a further associated brick structure in the valley to the north.

7.10.2 The significance of the feature reported by the ground workers is not understood at present, it could be a feature associated with the 18th century complex, but it could also be something of another date entirely. It could indicate that the name Usemere was here for a specific reason, which as yet is not known (see 7.2.4 for further variations and possible etymology on the name). The bone deposits on the site appear to have been unusual and are undated, while a possible negative feature in the trenches dug in the drive may indicate that the house sits in an earlier ditch system, possibly assessed in the LiDAR evidence.

8. POTENTIAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

8.1 Designated Heritage Asset Impact

8.1.1 The construction work will impact on the historic fabric, curtilage and setting of two listed buildings. This will see proposed alterations to the rear of the house and also proposed addition to the east of the building and conversion of the barn. The garage addition has been flagged up as being more problematic by the district.

8.2 Non-Designated Heritage Asset Impact

8.2.1 The site manager Richard Hickman stated that they had uncovered an unusual arrangement of animal thigh bones when an electric cable link was inserted to the house. All of this deposit was stated as being destroyed by the ground workers investigation. A possible negative feature was identified as being located in the trenches in the drive to the south of the current house. These features are not fully explained and were not properly investigated in this visit. Ground works appear to have commenced before the completion of the ADBA.

8.3 Potential Mitigation

8.3.1 The impact on the historic fabric of the listed buildings and associated historic structures could be mitigated with a programme of targeted historic building recording prior to the works.

8.3.2 A watching brief can be carried out to observe any possible further archaeology associated with the site. Though archaeological features have been observed it is not apparent that the density of these was intensively spread. This would also be associated with dating of the features.

9. CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1.1 The proposal site is located in the grounds of a listed building, a Georgian Mansion or large farmhouse, which has significant surviving detail. It has a courtyard on the west side with two barns surviving. The proposed development would have an impact on the historic fabric of the listed Ismere Hall and Barn and their associated structures.
- 9.1.2 It is evident that the search area has produced low level archaeology of the Neolithic and Roman period. The name of the house is recorded in an 8th century text. It is thought that the name refers to a series of lakes in the valley to the west, and that because it is located on a bluff away from the sites that the name was derived from its location in the province and not the features themselves. This assumption by place-name experts would also have led to the belief that there was a low potential for archaeological remains. In the high medieval period the parish of Churchill was located in Kinver Forest, so in this period it is also considered the case that archaeological remains may be low. It is only from the Post-medieval period that it can be recognised that there is archaeology on the site in the form of the listed buildings.
- 9.1.3 The site visit and the statement from the site manager (Richard Hickman) of deposits of bones, and an apparent or possible negative feature in the trenches in the drive, may indicate that the initial LiDAR interpretation that the surrounding features are natural may not necessarily be the case. It is possible that the house was built on an earlier feature, which at present it would not be useful to speculate on. The LiDAR evidence may indicate that the site is in an enclosure, which would be the case for a medieval or even earlier settlement located in a forest landscape.
- 9.1.4 Due to these features or possible features and the impact of the proposed development on the historic building fabric it is suggested that a programme of targeted historic building recording and archaeological mitigation be carried out on the proposal site so that any further features can be identified, confirmed and or dated.

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Cartographic sources

Tithe Map of Churchill Parish Land at Ismere House (1840)

Worcestershire Sheet VIII.NE, 6-inch Ordnance Survey map (Surveyed 1882, published 1887)

Worcestershire Sheet VIII.8 25-inch Ordnance Survey map (Revised 1901, published 1902)

Staffordshire LXXIV.9 25-inch Ordnance Survey map (Revised 1921, published 1924)

APPENDIX 1

Table 1: Designated heritage assets within the 500m study area

HER ref.	Name	Description	Grade	Date
WSM15135	Ismere House	Ismere House GV II Small country house. Mid-C18 with some mid-C19 and late C20 alterations. Brick with tile roof. Three storeys, stone coped verges, painted stone modillioned cornice; brick pilasters to corners, centre slightly advanced with pediment. Three windows, 16-pane sashes within moulded eared architraves, the central one with moulded cornice; consoles to sills. Second floor: 12-pane sashes in eared architraves. Ground floor with central entrance; pedimented doorcase with engaged Doric columns and entablature.	Grade II	Post-medieval 1540 - 1900 AD
WSM15136	Barn, Parr's Farm	Barn about 15 metres South of Parr's Farmhouse GV II Barn. Mid-18th century with some mid-19th century alterations. Brick with tile roof. L-plan. West front: gabled range projecting forwards to left has a brick coped verge, to right range has a dogtooth brick cornice, semi-elliptical head to entrance to threshing floor; low entrance to right-hand corner under segmental head. Hit-and-miss ventilation.	Grade II	18 th to 21 st century AD
WSM40261	Farmhouse, Parr's Farm	Parr's Farmhouse GV II Farmhouse. Early 18th century with some mid-20th century alterations. Brick with tile roof, gable-end stacks. Two storeys, stepped brick cornice, band to ground floor, two windows: 2-light casements. Ground floor: entrance to left of centre has a wooden architrave and half-glazed door.	Grade II	18 th to 21 st century AD
WSM58133	Barn, Ismere House	Barn about 20 metres west of Ismere House GV II Barn. Mid-18th century. Brick with tile roof. Six roof bays aligned east/west with two threshing floors; each is one bay in from gable end. Brick coped verges, dentilled brick cornice, hit-and-miss ventilation, full-height doors to threshing floors. Included for group value.	Grade II	Post-medieval 1540 to 1900 AD

Table 2: Non-designated heritage assets within the 500m study area

HER ref.	Type	Site Name / Description	Date
WSM23964	Building	Whitehouse Farm, Wolverley. Church property, proposed for demolition (1996). Late 18th century group of farm buildings in reasonable state in 1992. Nothing unique about them, but group value of different structures as a 'typical' group of farm buildings quite high.	18 th century AD
WSM32821	Building	Whitehouse Farm, Wolverley and Cookley. The Wolverley Enclosure Act of 1778 allotted the land in this part of the parish to the vicar. It is now held by the Church.	Farm Post-medieval -

HER ref.	Type	Site Name / Description	Date
		Commissioners. The farm buildings are shown on Greenwoods map of 1822 and these no doubt included a farm house. A variety of farm buildings still stand to the east of the track leading to the farm and a number of bricklayers have been involved over a period of time. The present farmhouse is to the west of the track and is about 1910.	21 st century AD Dwelling Modern
WSM45628	Building	The building started life as a coaching inn from about 1753, it may have been built before at the same time as the turnpike road. It was originally called the Three Crowns Inn and the nearby Parrs Farm, originally known as Three Crowns Farm, probably grew up as a secondary business to the Inn. Probably stopped being an inn to become a house by the late 18th century. The name of the farm was changed to its current one in the late 19th century.	Coaching Inn 18 th century AD Detached House 18 th - 21 st century AD
WSM53931	Building	Whitehouse Farm, Wolverley and Cookley. Partially extant 19th century (?) unlisted farmstead with unconverted buildings. Regular courtyard with L-plan range plus detached buildings to the fourth side of the yard. Prominent L-plan loose courtyard in association, with four sides of the courtyard formed by working agricultural buildings. The farmhouse is detached and set away from the yard. There has been a partial loss (less than 50%) of traditional buildings. Located within a loose farmstead cluster. Large modern sheds are located on the site.	19 th - 21 st century AD
WSM54035	Building	Barn associated with Ismere House, a partially extant 18th century listed farmstead with unconverted buildings. Regular courtyard with L-plan range plus detached buildings to the fourth side of the yard. Prominent L-plan loose courtyard in association, with four sides of the courtyard formed by working agricultural buildings. The farmhouse is detached with gable on to the yard. There has been a partial loss (less than 50%) of traditional buildings. Isolated location.	18 th - 21 st century AD
WSM54036	Building	Farm buildings associated with Parrs Farm (Threecrowns Farm), Churchill and Blakedown. Extant 18th century listed farmstead with converted buildings. Regular courtyard of L-plan. The farmhouse is detached with gable on to the yard. Isolated location.	18 th - 21 st century AD
WSM61581	Landscape Component	Whitehouse Farm, Wolverley and Cookley. Partially extant 19th century (?) unlisted farmstead with unconverted buildings. Regular courtyard with L-plan range plus detached buildings to the fourth side of the yard. Prominent L-plan loose courtyard in association, with four sides of the courtyard formed by working agricultural buildings. The farmhouse is detached and set away from the yard. There has been a partial loss (less than 50%) of traditional buildings. Located within a loose farmstead cluster. Large modern sheds are located on the site.	19 th - 21 st century AD
WSM61685	Landscape Component	Ismere House, Churchill and Blakedown. Partially extant 18th century listed farmstead with	18 th - 21 st century

HER ref.	Type	Site Name / Description	Date
		unconverted buildings. Regular courtyard with L-plan range plus detached buildings to the fourth side of the yard. Prominent L-plan loose courtyard in association, with four sides of the courtyard formed by working agricultural buildings. The farmhouse is detached with gable on to the yard. There has been a partial loss (less than 50%) of traditional buildings. Isolated location.	AD
WSM61686	Landscape Component	Parrs Farm (Threecrowns Farm), Churchill and Blakedown. Extant 18th century listed farmstead with converted buildings. Regular courtyard of L-plan. The farmhouse is detached with gable on to the yard. Isolated location.	18 th - 21 st century AD
WSM08210	Monument	Possible fishpond, South of Whitehouse Farm, Wolverley	Unknown date
WSM09557	Monument	Alternative site, Saxon Monastery, Ismere. Ismere is one of the suggested sites of the location of the Saxon monastery, supposed to exist from documentary references. Taken from article in 1971 Kidderminster Times.	Post Roman - Pre Conquest
WSM68031	Monument	Pond, West of Ismere House, Churchill and Blakedown. Pond recorded during LiDAR analysis for the HER Woodland LiDAR Project performed in 2015. The feature is also visible on the 1st Edition OS map. No field validation has been performed within this project.	Post-medieval - 21 st century AD
WSM35722	General Parish Info	Oblique Aerial Photographs of the Parish of Wolverley and Cookley	
WSM41681	General Parish Info	General information for the Parish of Churchill and Blakedown. Material in Mick Aston Archive. This material has yet to be studied in detail. Women's Institute Hedgerow Survey.	Medieval - Post-medieval
WSM69557	General Parish Info	General information for the parish of Wolverley and Cookley. Ridge and furrow earthwork survey for the parish of Wolverley, no ridge and furrow earthworks were recorded in the parish.	
WSM00136	Place Name	Stone Croft, Ismere, Churchill. Field name 'stone croft' suggested site of deserted settlement.	19 th century AD
WSM28941	Historic Park or Garden	Park at Ismere House, Churchill with Blakedown. The House is shown with grounds on 19th c. printed maps and as having a small park on the 1st edition of the OS 6 inch. There is some planting between the house and the road and at the N.E. corner of the park.	19 th century AD
WSM56935	Geology	Area of Palaeolithic Potential, Glaciofluvial Deposits. Potential presence of deposits with geological significance (i.e., proves presence/extent of Anglian, Saalian and Devensian glaciation). These deposits could be suitable for radiometric and/or luminescence dating. They may also contain paleoenvironmental remains associated with glacial environments, particularly during deglaciation/glacial retreat. There is additionally limited potential for unstratified/reworked artefactual remains. The deposits are dated to Marine Isotope Stage 6 to Stage 2. In 2013 research was performed by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology service for the National Heritage Protection Plan Project "Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire's HER". The project identified a number of areas of palaeolithic potential.	Marine Isotope Stage 06 - Marine Isotope Stage 02

HER ref.	Type	Site Name / Description	Date
WSM56936	Geology	Area of Palaeolithic Potential, Head Deposits. Head deposits which may conceal and preserve earlier land surfaces and may also contain unstratified/reworked artefactual remains. The deposits are dated to Marine Isotope Stage 12 to Stage 1. In 2013 research was performed by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology service for the National Heritage Protection Plan Project "Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire's HER". The project identified a number of areas of palaeolithic potential.	Marine Isotope Stage 12 - 21 st century AD
WSM56937	Geology	Area of Palaeolithic Potential, Holt Heath Sand and Gravel Member. Stourbridge beds containing Ipswichian (Marine Isotope Stage 5e) fauna including Hippopotamus at base of Holt Heath in Stour Valley. It is unknown whether this presence occurs elsewhere in the Severn system. Interbedded organic beds occur within the Holt Heath gravels elsewhere, particularly noteworthy being Upton Warren where Devensian faunal and paleoenvironmental remains were recovered. Chronology of deposition of the Holt Heath Member is poorly understood but Luminescence Dating has been successful, therefore refining the chronology of this member is a priority. The deposits are dated to Marine Isotope Stage 5d to Stage 2. In 2013 research was performed by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology service for the National Heritage Protection Plan Project "Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire's HER". The project identified a number of areas of palaeolithic potential.	Marine Isotope Stage 05d -Marine Isotope Stage 02
WSM68340	Geology	Area of Palaeolithic Potential, Kidderminster Station Member. Area of Palaeolithic potential based on the Kidderminster Station Member, which is composed of Triassic derived quartzites with flint, Welsh erratics and locally derived material. The member can be traced along the whole length of the Lower Severn and up the Stour Valley beyond Stourbridge. The sediments contain a suite of lithologies not seen before in the higher Severn Valley members including the permian Clent Breccias and large Welsh volcanic boulders. Rock exposure age estimates using 36CL dating methods from several of these boulders suggest an Marine Isotope Stage 6 date. Given that the Kidderminster Station is equivalent to the Crophorne Member of the Avon Valley Formation which is Marine Isotope Stage 7 - 6 in age, it is likely that the Kidderminster Station Member is closely associated with Stage 6 (Saalian glaciation). The new lithologies may be the result of glacial erosion in the Clent Hills area. No Oxygen Isotope Stage 7 deposits have been identified within the main Severn Valley. In 2013 research was performed by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology service for the National Heritage Protection Plan Project "Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire's HER". The project identified a number of areas of palaeolithic potential.	Marine Isotope Stage 06

Table 3: Previous archaeological events within the 500m study area

HER ref.	Description
WSM02381	Unstratified Find of Romano-British pottery, South-West of Ismere House, Wolverley Roman pottery recovered in field adjacent to place name Four Dwellings and field name Stone Croft
WSM12223	Unstratified Finds from Field Rickyard Piece at Whitehouse Farm, Wolverley Finds reported by Mr Fisher for identification, including 4 flint objects, 7 flakes and 2 cores
WSM29782	Desk-based Assessment on Kidderminster, Hagley and Blakedown Bypass, 1990 Desk-based Assessment
WSM29959	Kidderminster, Blakedown and Hagley Bypass, and A449 Link, 1992 Evaluation by Hereford and Worcester County Council
WSM29961	Desk-Based Assessment on Kidderminster, Blakedown and Hagley Bypass, and A449 Link Desk-based Assessment by Hereford and Worcester County Council
WSM31010	Norton to Blakeshall Pipeline, Sector 15, 2002 Watching Brief
WSM32820	Ismere House, Churchill and Blakedown, 1992 Photographs
WSM32822	Whitehouse Farm, Wolverley and Cookley, 1992 Photographs
WSM41850	South-West of Ismere House, Wolverley and Cookley, 1980 Dowsing Survey
WSM45813	Desk-based Assessment on Land North-West of Churchill and Blakedown, Worcestershire, 2011 Desk-based Assessment by Wessex Archaeology
WSM58090	Ongoing work: Desk-based Assessment on various areas in North Worcestershire – Section 2e, 2014 Desk-based Assessment by Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd
WSM58091	Ongoing work: Desk-based Assessment on various areas in North Worcestershire – Section 2f Desk-based Assessment by Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd
WSM58092	Ongoing work: Desk-based Assessment on various areas in North Worcestershire – Section 2f Desk-based Assessment by Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd
WSM67761	Ongoing work: Desk-based Assessment on Land at Former Lea Castle Hospital, Wolverley, 2016 Desk-based Assessment by AMEC Environment & Infrastructure Limited



Figure 1 - Ismere Hall: Site location.

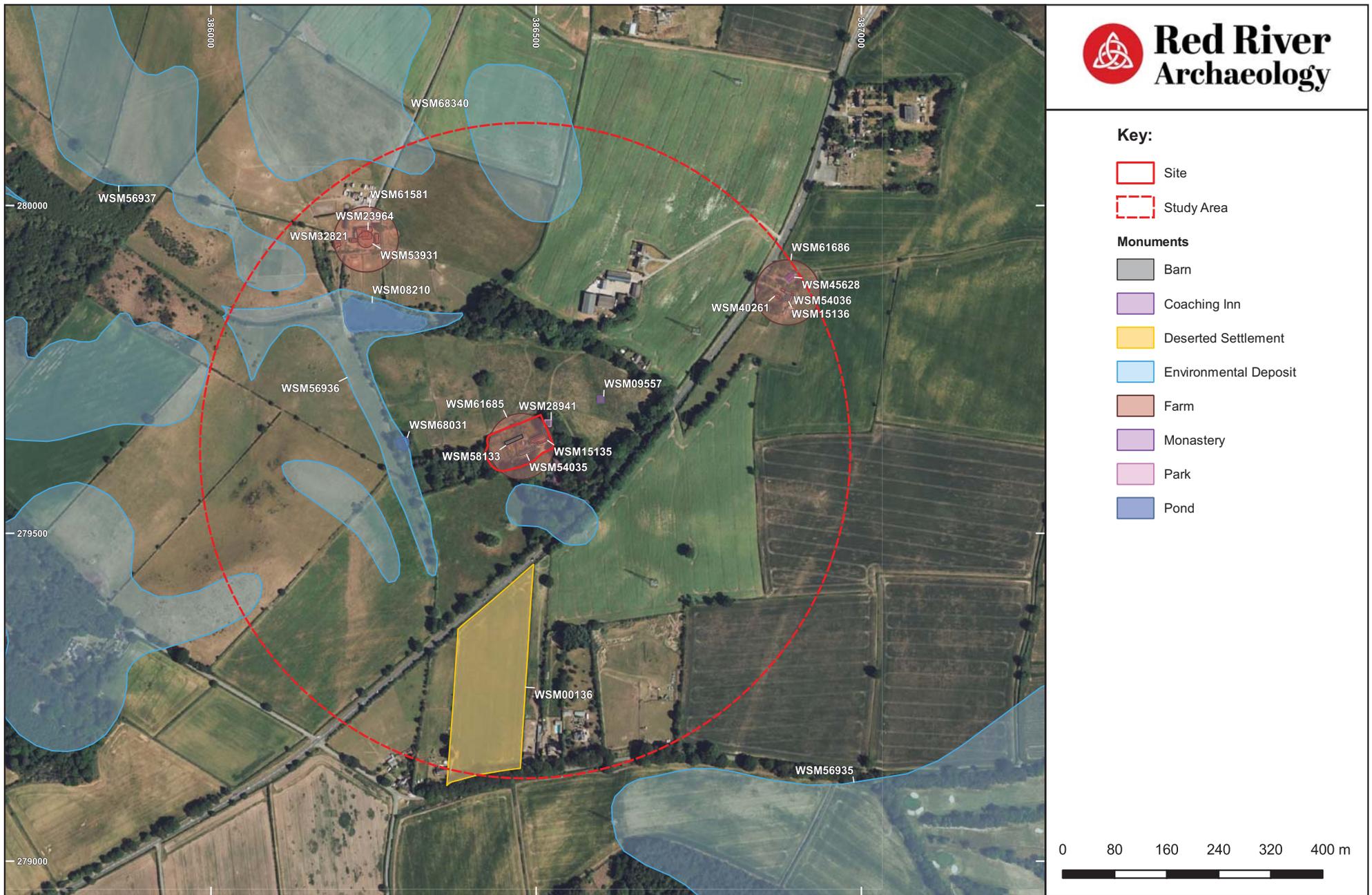


Figure 2 - Heritage assets within the study area.



Figure 3 - Historic landscape characterisation (HLC) within study area.

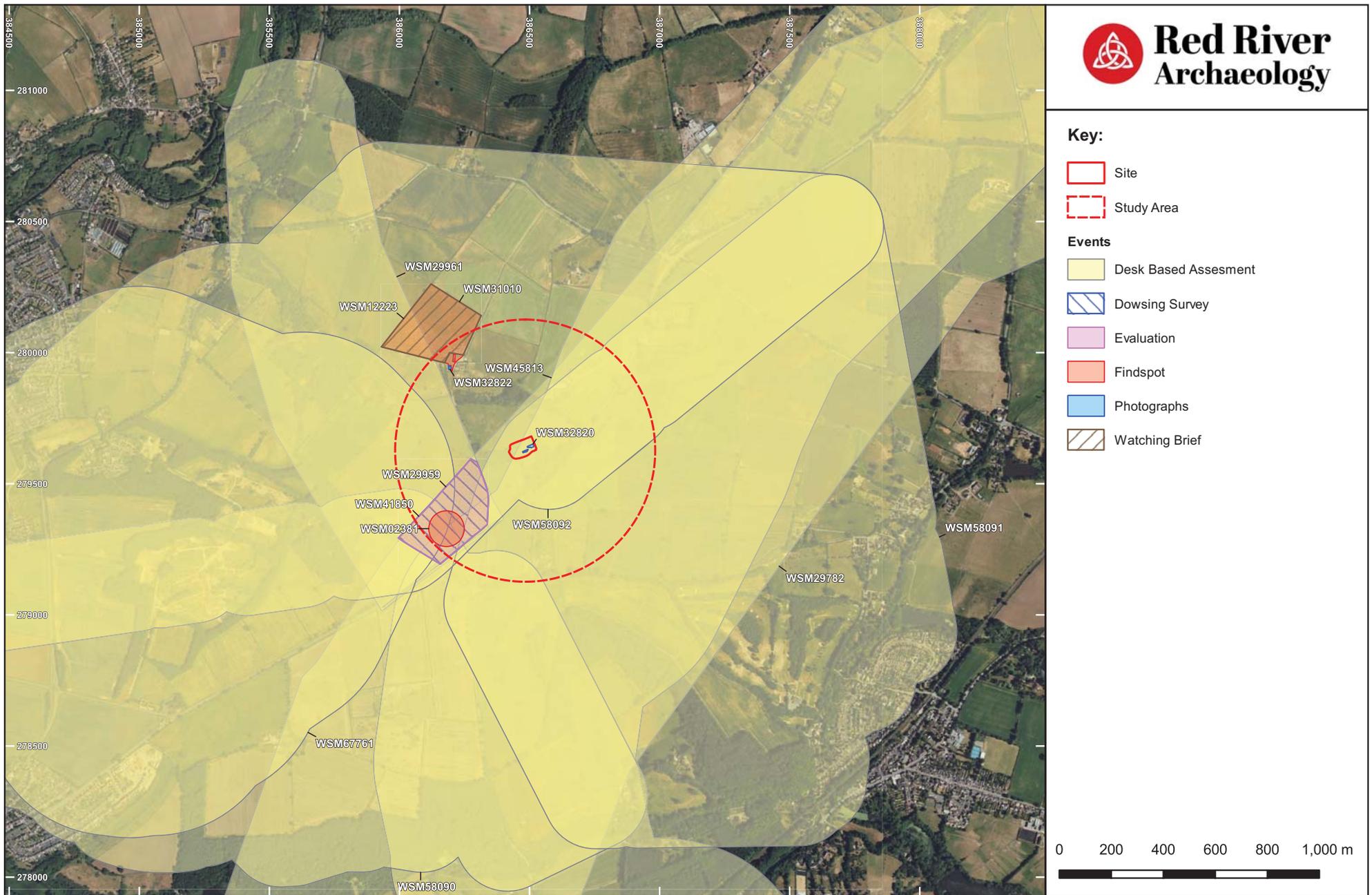


Figure 4 - Previous archaeological events within study area.

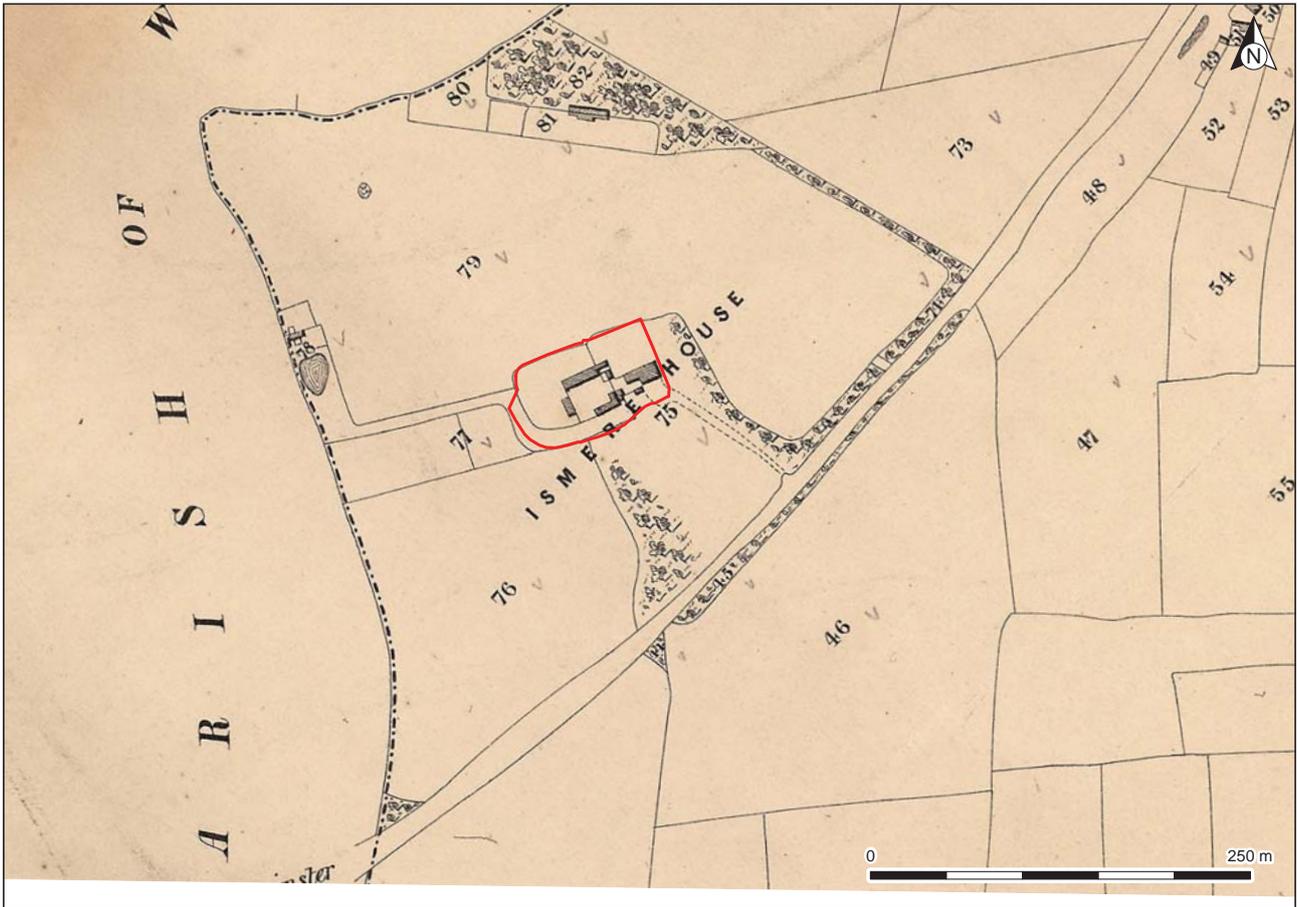


Figure 5 - Tithe Map of Churchill Parish Land at Ismere House (1840).

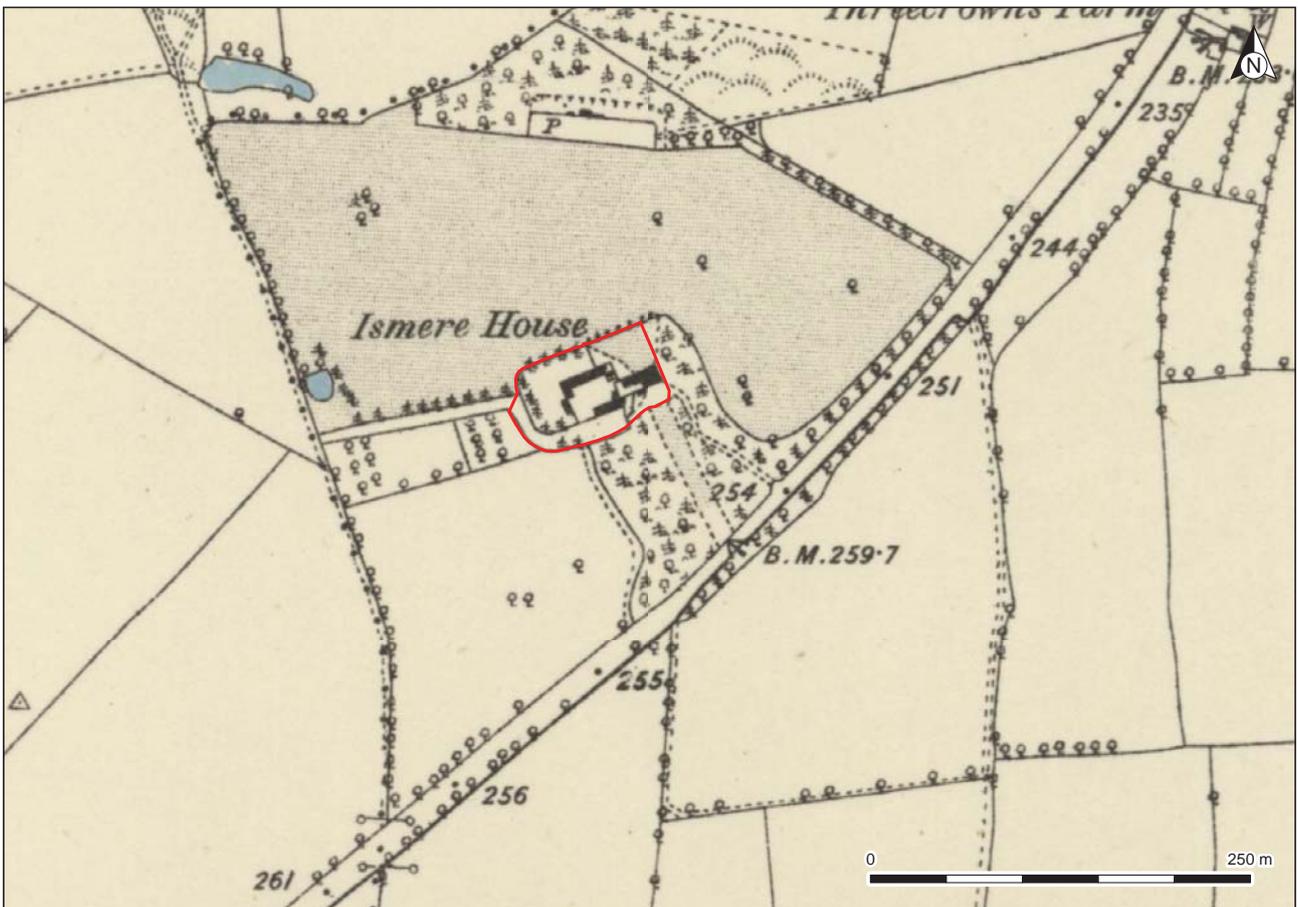


Figure 6 - Worcestershire Sheet VIII.NE, 6-inch OS Map (Surveyed 1882, Published 1887).

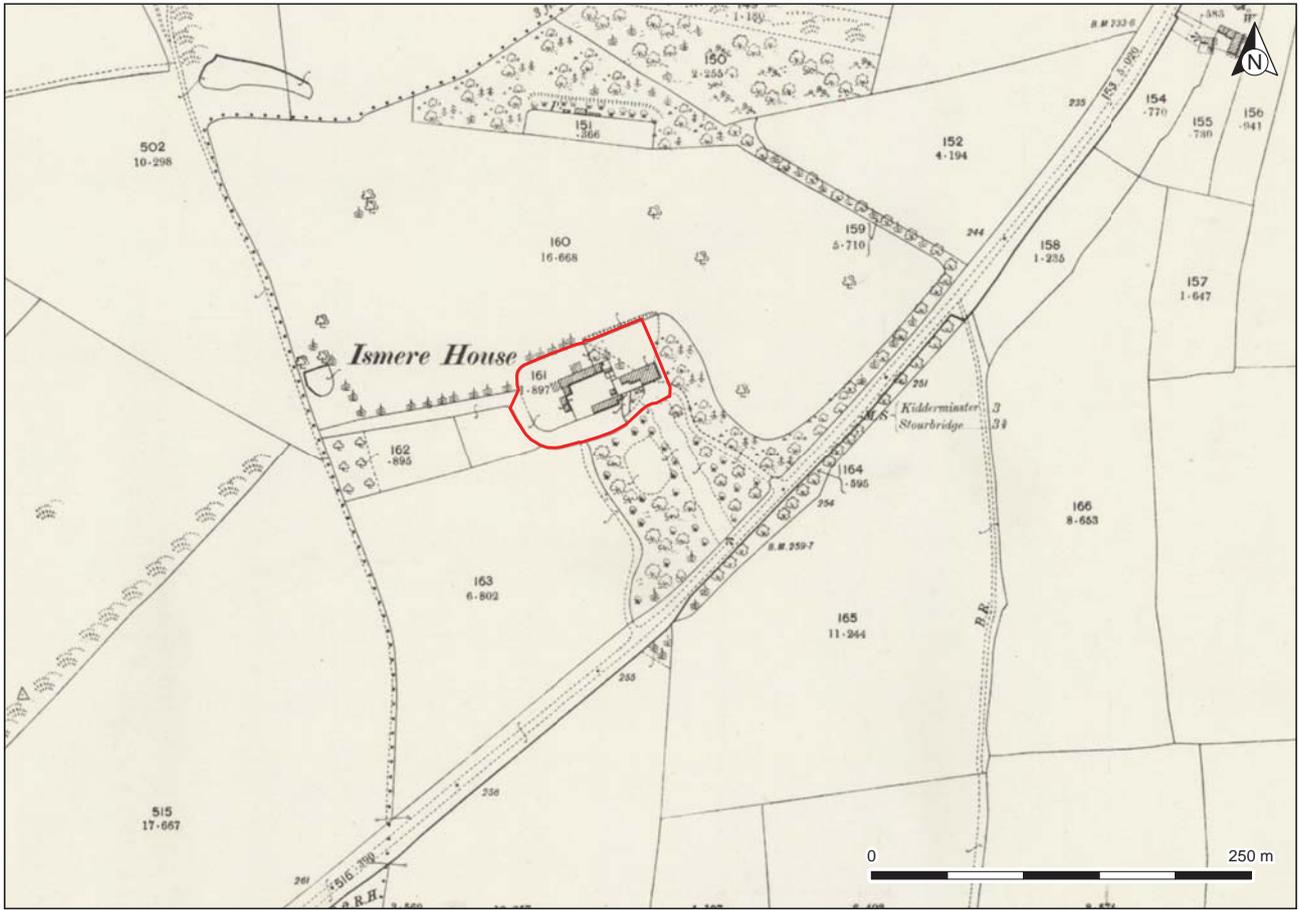


Figure 7 - Worcestershire VIII.8, 25-inch OS Map (Revised 1901, Published 1902).



Figure 8 - Staffordshire LXXIV.8, 25-inch OS Map (Revised 1921, Published 1924).

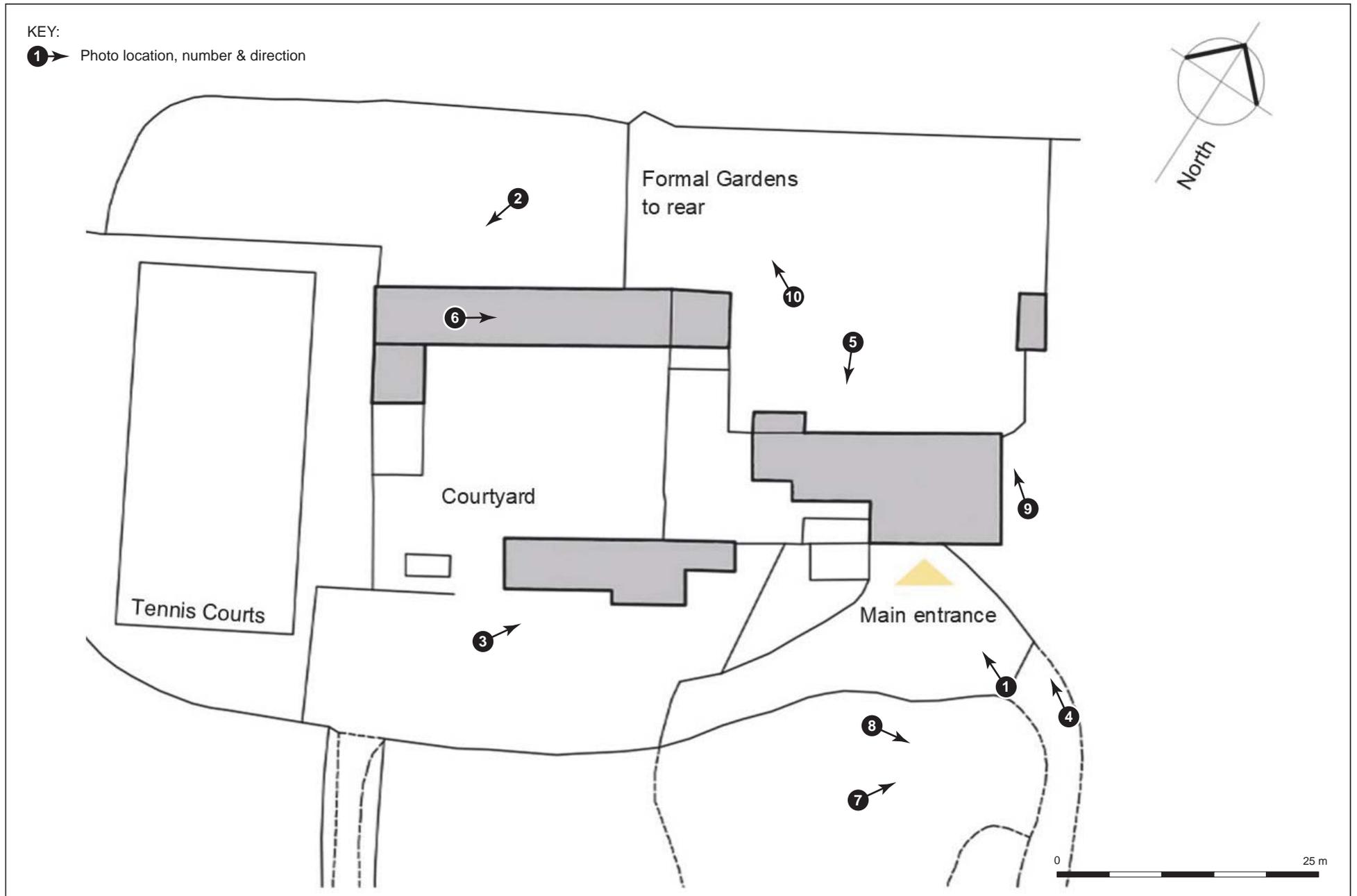


Figure 9 - Photo location plan.

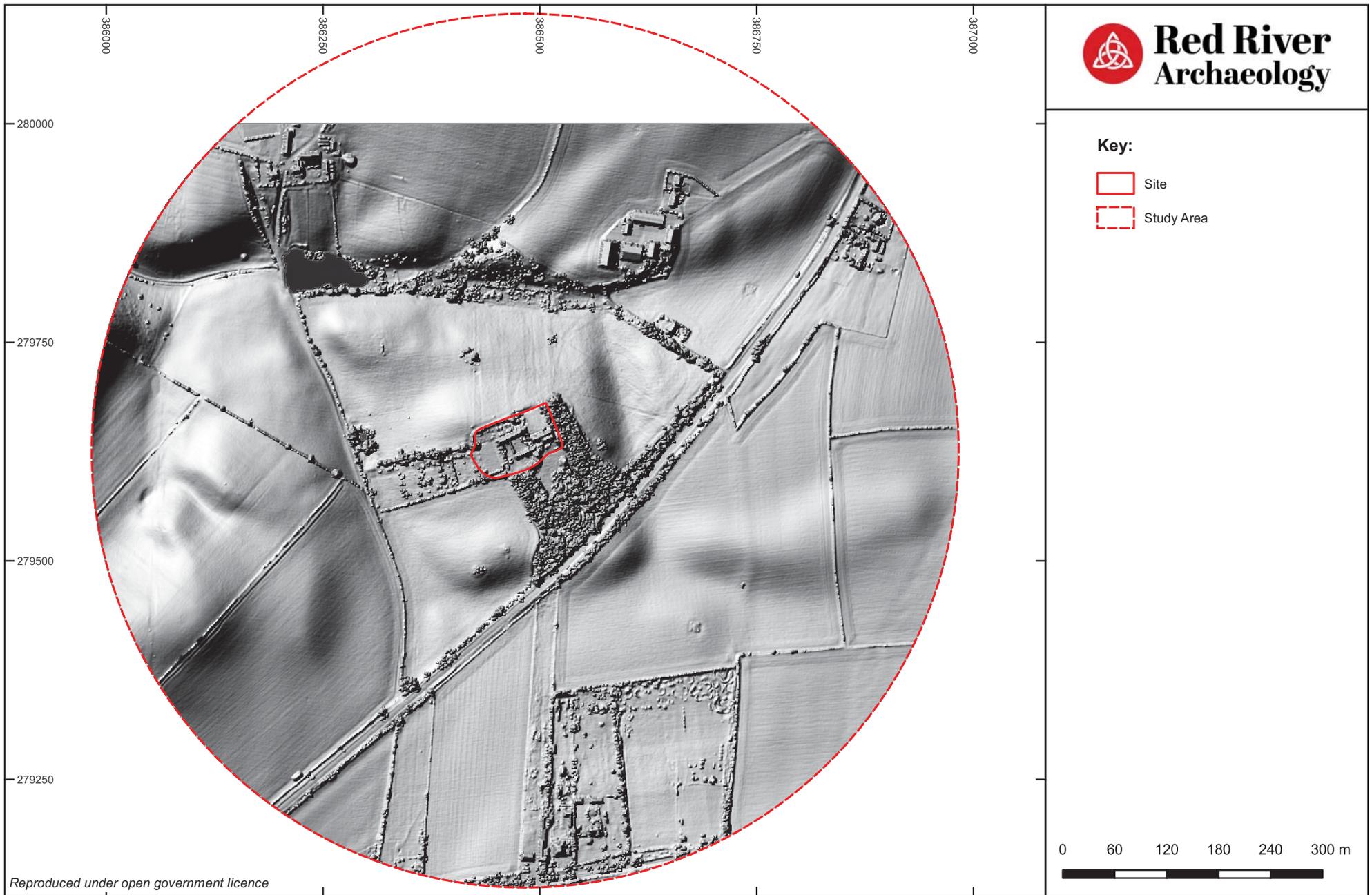


Figure 10 - LiDAR within study area.



Plate 1 - Grade II listed Ismere Hall front elevation



Plate 2 - Grade II listed barn to north of courtyard



Plate 3 - Barn to south of courtyard



Plate 4 - Proposed site of new garage



Plate 5 - Proposed site of new kitchen extension



Plate 6 - Proposed location of new swimming pool



Plate 7 - Service trenches in eastern driveway



Plate 8 - Possible archaeological feature noted in eastern driveway service trenches



Plate 9 - Area of disturbed faunal bones to east of house



Plate 10 - Area of former pond in lawn to north of house