

# **CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL**

## **XVIII CASTLE GORING**

### **Location and Topography**

Castle Goring is on the west side of Worthing Borough about one mile north of Highdown Hill. The house occupies a secluded site immediately south of the A27 Trunk road to Arundel from which it is well screened by trees. An old section of Arundel Road immediately to the south of the new dual-carriageway affords access to Castle Goring and the other associated buildings in the group.

### **Origins and Development of Area**

Castle Goring is one of only two buildings in Worthing Borough which are listed Grade I. Built by the poet Shelley's grandfather, Sir Bysse Shelley, at the end of the eighteenth century, the south front is in a Palladian style and the north front, a baronial gothic. The collision of these two styles at the flanking pavilions is astonishing. Along Arundel Road are a number of buildings historically associated with Castle Goring estate. These include a keepers cottage, lodge, stable block and coach house (now converted to residential) and sawmill. Some 400 metres to the south of Castle Goring is a walled garden associated with the house but which may pre-date the present building.

### **Architectural and Landscape Qualities**

Although built in a variety of architectural styles and materials, this group of buildings has considerable historic interest and an important architectural group value. Despite the absence of an overall unifying architectural style there is a strong impression of estate buildings associated with the grand house which is nearby, yet subtly removed by siting and screening.

The buildings most closely related by original use to the main house - the Keepers Cottage, East Lodge, stable block and coach house - are clearly in estate styles, but not uniform except for the stable block and coach house which form a defined courtyard, and are both constructed of a curious concrete block with exposed aggregate. Erected in about 1875 these are interesting examples of an early use of this material.

### **Roads and Surfaces**

The old section of Arundel Road is worn tarmac which has an appropriately rural character. A soft, informal surface is also appropriate for the driveway to Castle Goring itself and the drives into Castle Goring Mews. The lane to the east of the Hermitage is an unmade farmtrack.

## **Greenery and Open Spaces**

Castle Goring itself is heavily screened by trees. Directly in front of the north front is a large turning circle in the driveway, and grassed space enclosed by trees. A lone Oak of great antiquity (400 years perhaps) dominates this space. Immediately to the south of the house is a large semicircular lawn bounded by a hedge which has been allowed to grow out, although it seems likely that the original intention would have been for the lawn to afford expansive views across the parkland to the south.

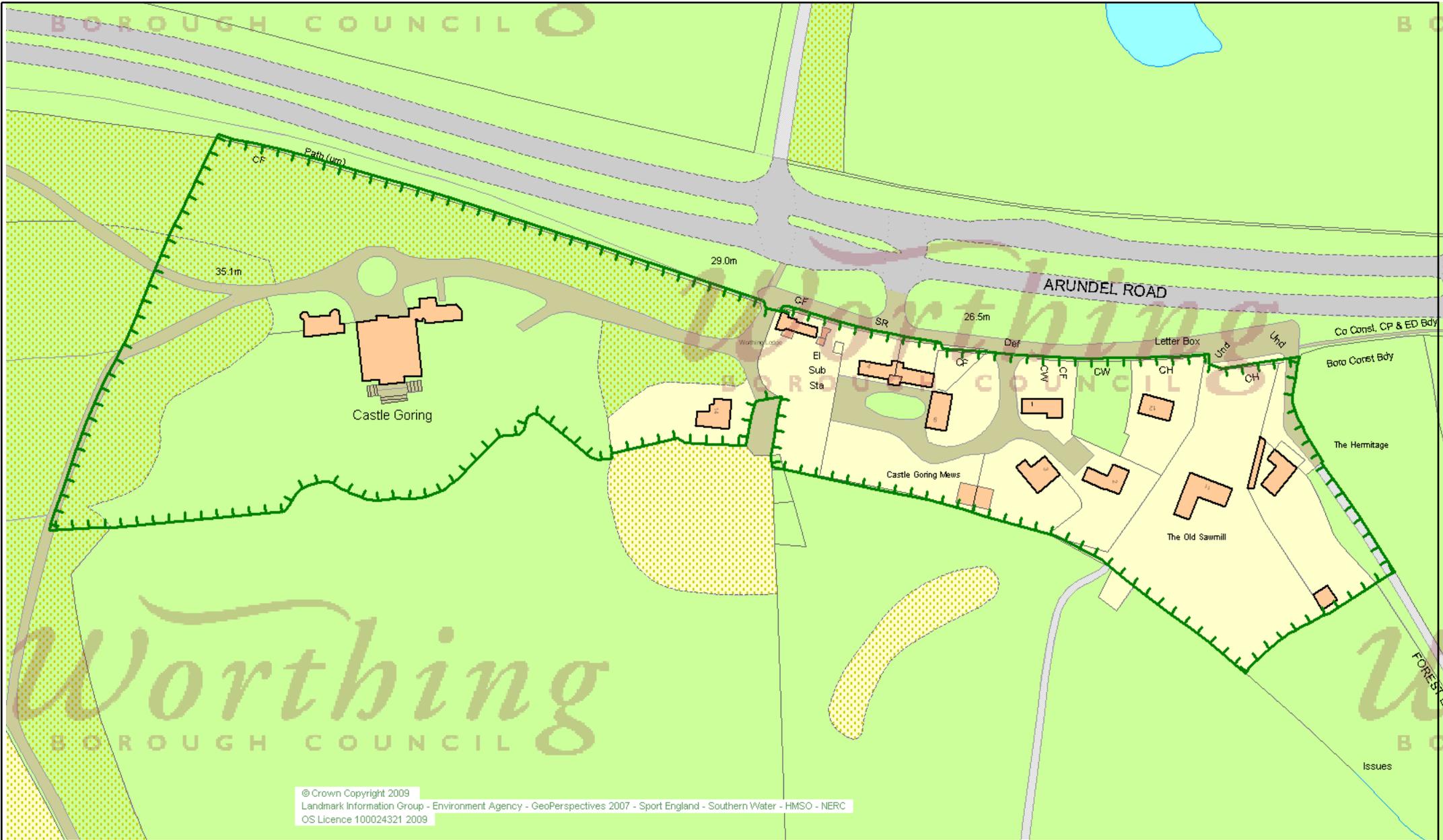
A landscape feature known as the Roundel partly screens the walled garden from the house, but less effectively since suffering storm damage. It is thought that these features may have been intended as the infrastructure of a landscape design for the estate which was never completed or fully implemented. To the west, an attractive stream flows along the edge of the open parkland and beyond that the boundary is heavily wooded, framing views of and from Castle Goring.

The group of estate buildings now known as Castle Goring Mews has a very open character and appearance, except where this is being eroded by unsympathetic planting, especially of hedges, by occupiers or owners. Again, there are expansive views across the parkland to the south, and the relationship of the estate buildings with the house, the walled garden, and Forest Farm is clear to see.

## **Enhancement Opportunities**

- Retain the rough-track appearance of the worn tarmac road, resurfacing it, when necessary, with gravel, rather than tarmac.
- Remove the leylandii hedge at the east end of the stable block and prohibit the erection of any structure that would screen or interfere with views of this important building.
- Retain the uninterrupted views from the start of the Castle drive and from Castle Goring Mews to the walled garden and woodland beyond the fields.
- Retain the wooded zones in the west and the east of the conservation area. The mature trees are especially important in the landscape and should be carefully maintained. The woodland to the east plays a vital role in screening the corrugated asbestos roof of the sawmill. Clear the debris from the undergrowth, especially the wrecked cars; discourage dumping. Retain the trees which flank the track running south-east from The Hermitage (many are mature and there are blossoming species). Plant more trees along the eastern edge of the area to screen proposed development.
- Retain the post-box which currently stands on a pole near the sawmill entrance.
- Demolition of the flat-roofed garage to the east of East Lodge.
- Demolition and redevelopment of the weatherboarded shed to the north west of The Hermitage.

- Screen plant/incorporate into East Lodge's new garage, the electricity substation.
- Reduce the impact of traffic noise from the main road by increasing tree planting to the north of the conservation area, especially along the stretch near East Lodge.
- Remove the satellite dish from the stable block. Ensure television aerials and satellite dishes are located out of sight.
- Resurface, with tarmac/paving/gravel the concrete path opposite East Lodge, which leads from the Arundel Road toward the conservation area. Repair the roof of Est Lodge (listed Grade II). Remove the overhead wires and poles.
- Use creepers or render to screen the rear of No. 1 Castle Goring Mews.
- Maintain the uncluttered appearance of the area by restricting further development (and permitting demolition of No. 2 Castle Goring Mews perhaps).
- Provide comprehensive garaging for the residents in an appropriately designed scheme of suitable development carefully sited.
- Ensure full use and good repair of Castle Goring.



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