

QUARRENDON

Aylesbury's lost medieval village



A GUIDE to the remains
of a once-flourishing
but long-abandoned
Buckinghamshire
village and manor



BY
**MICHAEL
FARLEY**



The Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society

has members throughout the historic county of Buckinghamshire, whose interests range across the spectrum of history, archaeology, natural history and historic buildings.

The society supports the research, understanding and preservation of the county's historic assets, publishes the annual journal *Records of Buckinghamshire*, books and papers, and runs a variety of lectures and outings on historic subjects.

To learn more about the society's activities, see our website at www.bucksas.org.uk or visit our Library in the County Museum in Aylesbury.



was set up in 2008 to protect the scheduled ancient monument of Quarrendon Leas for the benefit of the public, to enhance its biodiversity as a green space within the expanding town of Aylesbury, and to use the site to increase public understanding of the county's heritage.

The Trust's board includes representatives from Buckinghamshire County Council, the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society and Aylesbury Vale District Council.

For more information see the Trust's website at: www.buckinghamshireconservationtrust.co.uk or contact the Trust by phone on 07928 123076.

Quarrendon

AYLESBURY'S LOST MEDIEVAL VILLAGE

A guide to the remains of a once-flourishing but long abandoned Buckinghamshire village and manor

by Michael Farley



COVER ILLUSTRATIONS show a section of the chapel in the early 19th century and the memorial to Lady Lee in St Mary's Church, Aylesbury.

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“ *I passyd a little northe northe weste from
Tame churche and then by some hilly
and aftar great pasture ground, and
groundes fruitfull of benes a 10 miles
to Querendune in the vale of Ailesbyry,
where Mastar Anthony Legh dwellith.* ”

– John Leland, writing in 1535-43 in his *Itinerary in England and Wales*.

WHEN JOHN LELAND VISITED QUARRENDON in the reign of Henry VIII, the two most obvious features he would have seen were most likely ‘Mastar Legh’s’ house, its gardens and outbuildings, and the nearby chapel.

There would have been much open land around and a good view of the nearby town of Aylesbury, which Leland describes as ‘metly wellbuyldyd with tymbar, and in it is a celebrate market’. But he would probably have seen little evidence of the busy village which formerly existed at Quarrendon.

If you visit the same location today you will find yourself in an oasis of green, now nearly surrounded by roads and housing estates built mainly in the past twenty years. You will also note the scant remains of the chapel and many irregularities in the ground, the only visible remains of several hundred years of occupation.

The whole site is scheduled as an ancient monument and legally protected from disturbance. It is among the most significant ‘deserted’ medieval and later settlement sites in England.



FIGURE 1: Quarrendon in the 1830s from an Ordnance Survey one-inch map. The moated site is shown containing farm buildings and the cross to the west marks the chapel.

The main road to the south is the present A41. The track leading from Quarrendon to join it would probably have been carried on a bridge across the River Thames. To the south of the river this track now lies beneath the Quarrendon housing estate. Note the 'TG' which indicates a toll gate on the turnpiked main road.

PART ONE:

1: The early history of Quarrendon

In 1086, shortly before he died, King William the Conqueror arranged for a massive survey of landholding in his realm, the Domesday Book. This fascinating document lists pretty well every settlement in Buckinghamshire at the time, giving their values and ownership.

Domesday Book also noted who held the land when the Anglo-Saxon Edward the Confessor was king between 1042 and 1066. From this we learn that the manor of Quarrendon was held by Swein and the land was valued for tax purposes at £6. Following the Conquest William mostly ignored Anglo-Saxon landowners, simply replacing them with his own people. The new landholder at Quarrendon was Geoffrey de Mandeville, and this was one of several estates he held in Buckinghamshire. Its value since 1066 had gone up to £8.

We learn that on the estate there were twenty villagers – probably heads of households, with plenty of ploughable land and as much meadow, which would have been in the low-lying ground near the River Thames or its tributary stream. Perhaps surprisingly there was also quite a large area of woodland, useful both for timber and where pigs could forage. Beside the River Thames one might also have suspected the presence of a watermill – but none was recorded.

The village that was here in 1066 may have been in existence for a century or so previously, but apart from the Domesday reference there is no conclusive documentary evidence. However Quarrendon is referred to on one earlier occasion. Aylesbury's

church, the earliest and most important in the region, was associated with a legend that St Osyth, whose father was a sub-king within the larger Midlands kingdom of Mercia, had been born at Quarrendon in the late 7th century. If correct, this implies the existence of a significant royal estate here, but at present we lack firm evidence for this.

Recent archaeology, however, does offer slight evidence for occupation at Quarrendon in the 10th century. In 1993 the local farmer dug a large hole to build a new bridge across the adjacent stream, which is subject to flooding. A large quantity of medieval pottery was recovered. This included pieces of jugs made in Brill – exactly what would be expected from a village after 1066. But among these broken pots were just two pieces of Late Saxon pottery from the 10th century. Not much, but a start!

In the centuries following Geoffrey de Mandeville's ownership of the manor, the land passed through several hands, sometimes by gift, by marriage, or through descendants. On occasion it was 'sub-let' by one lord to another. The manor was commonly only one element of a group of holdings not all of which were in Buckinghamshire. Within the county, during the 13th century for instance, Quarrendon was linked with Amersham and in the 14th century with Whaddon and Hanslope.

In 1499 the Crown, which retained overall control of all land, granted a lease to Richard Lee, who was later buried in the chapel here. The Lee family were to play a significant part in Quarrendon's history and a succession of Lees retained some form of control until the 18th century.

The Anthony Lee whom Leland refers to in our introductory quotation had succeeded his father Sir Robert Lee, who was sheriff for the county in 1534 and died in 1539. Sir Anthony himself died in 1549 and was in turn succeeded by his son Henry, then still a minor, who had been living at Quarrendon since 1541.

During and after the medieval period, most obviously in central

and northern Buckinghamshire, cultivation of the land around villages was commonly carried out in large, so-called ‘open’ fields unenclosed by hedges, where villagers individually cultivated strips of land which were dispersed across each field. By agreement each year these open fields would have different crops or lie fallow, in a rotating system.

Ploughing of the strips using oxen led to mounding up of the soil in the centre of each strip and evidence for this feature – which we call today ‘ridge and furrow’ – is still frequently visible on the ground and can be particularly clear from the air. Quarrendon certainly once had an open-field system as can be seen from air photographs showing these mounded strips. Quarrendon had four fields: Billingsfield, Berryfield, Whitesfield and Uppings Field.

Over the centuries there was a gradual move towards the enclosure of parts of these open fields with hedges, producing the smaller defined areas of land that we would recognise as ‘fields’ today. These could be controlled by one individual rather than the community. The process of enclosure led to the gradual demise of open fields. This was sometimes accompanied by a switch from arable farming to pasture, and not far from Quarrendon the conversion of large parts of Bernwood Forest into enclosed fields.

Manorial records suggest that enclosure at Quarrendon may have already been quite advanced by the mid-15th century. One driving force of this process was the increasing importance of wool products for England’s exports, of which lords of manors were well aware.

To put Quarrendon’s wool in a local context, it is recorded that in 1388 one William Crook of Wendover was fined for using illegal weights in a transaction involving two sacks of wool that he had purchased from William Yongman of Quarrendon.

This process of enclosure enriched the Lees at Quarrendon. By 1540 Sir Robert Lee held 960 acres of pasture, an enormous holding, and in 1572 his grandson Sir Henry received a licence to

buy in England and export 500,000 ‘wool fells’, meaning fleeces.

Enclosure caused controversy over several centuries, particularly as on occasion it might enable powerful landowners to remove whole villages. In 1489 there was an Act of Parliament ‘Agaynst pulling down of townes’. When an extensive survey of the enclosure process was commissioned in 1517, enclosure was held to be responsible for the destruction of some villages. Most dramatic in Buckinghamshire was the situation at Doddershall where the survey recorded that the lord of the manor ‘made ruin of’ 24 houses ‘and willingly allowed them to be in ruin and desolation ... 120 persons were taken away ... ending their lives in extreme poverty’.

Over several centuries this process of enclosure – and other factors such as the Black Death, cattle plague, climate, and changes in economic circumstance – brought huge changes in our landscape. In Buckinghamshire, apart from the creation of multiple small fields, new outlying farm buildings, and deforestation, this resulted in a number of so-called ‘deserted medieval villages’ of which Quarrendon is perhaps the finest example (see Figure 2).

Major landowners on occasion took the opportunity to expand the setting of their own houses, one of the reasons why so many of today’s great houses are set in parkland: locally for instance at Hartwell. Further research would be necessary to establish exactly when and why the process took place at Quarrendon but it is likely that the Lee family played a significant part.

2: Sir Henry Lee

We know a good deal about Sir Henry Lee, the son of the Sir Anthony mentioned by Leland and the best-known of the Lee family. Sir Henry (1533-1611) gained royal patronage during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and lived to the age of 78. His royal appointments would have made him a wealthy man.

As a young man Sir Henry was engaged in several military expeditions. He became Queen's Champion, arranging the jousting tournaments to mark the annual commemoration of the accession of Elizabeth I to the throne. As Queen's Champion he jousting on her behalf and he held the post for 31 years. Elizabeth appointed him Master of the Armoury, Steward of the royal manor and park at Woodstock, and Ranger of Wychwood Forest – and he was twice Member of Parliament for Buckinghamshire. Apart from Quarrendon he also owned Ditchley and other properties.

The Queens' patronage did come at a price. Among New Year's gifts from grateful courtiers to the Queen in 1579 was a one from Sir Henry of '*A juell of golde, beinge a fair meraude [emerald], cut lozanged hartwise*'. Whatever major alterations were made at Quarrendon, Sir Henry would certainly have had the resources to carry them out.



FIGURE 2: An aerial photograph of the Quarrendon earthworks, taken in 2005 looking west. On the left the meanders of the River Thames separate the site from Aylesbury's housing estates. Today the Berryfields estate fills the fields at the top of the picture.

3: The formal gardens

During the medieval period, manorial houses – and sometimes those of lesser folk – were often surrounded by water in the form of a moat, generally rectangular in plan. A considerable number of these survive in Buckinghamshire, including one at Quarrendon.

In later centuries these constricted moated sites might be abandoned by ambitious landowners who needed more space to build themselves larger and grander houses elsewhere on their estates – or the moat might be partially filled in to allow the medieval house to be extended.

But there is no firm evidence that this happened at Quarrendon. Sir Henry Lee's house, however grand – and we know nothing of its appearance – was within the moat. (This is the small embanked area at the centre of Figure 2.)

The moat may not have contained all of the ancillary buildings necessary for running an estate, but a landowner's activities beyond the confines of a moat would not have been constrained, and if village houses remained nearby their removal would not have been an issue.

The reign of Elizabeth was a time when surplus wealth was poured into the creation of great houses and large formal gardens. A common feature was the extensive use of water. Quarrendon had a ready supply of water from the River Thame and a feeder stream. In fact the land here was, and still can be, subject to flooding. It is recorded that there was:

‘...a dismal flood here about 1570, when three thousand sheep and other cattle belonging to Sir Henry Lee were drowned and the Chapel, which was afterwards rebuilt, was also destroyed’.

At Quarrendon today we can see three substantial banks



FIGURE 3: An aerial photograph of the 16th-century water gardens, looking north. The chapel ruins are just visible north of the earthworks.

(prominently visible in Figure 2 to left of centre and in Figure 3 in more detail). These walkways, accompanied by dykes or canals, enclose a rectangular area.

Detailed surface mapping of this feature and its interior some years ago by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, together with the whole of the surrounding landscape, has demonstrated that these banks were the major feature of a substantial Tudor garden which had made good use of local water sources. A leat had been constructed to ensure an adequate supply of water from some distance to the north.

On top of the banks there may have been buildings and it is likely that bridges would have led across the lower channels to

formal areas of flower and herb beds, also characteristic of Tudor gardens.

Adjoining the main embanked area to the south is a second garden. Difficult to interpret, this may have been used for some specialist purpose such as an orchard. A third rectangular water feature (top centre in Figure 3 and overgrown) contained three square islands with an accompanying walkway. This is aligned with the main earthwork complex and is clearly part of an overall design which displays a complex symmetry.

Before the Royal Commission's detailed mapping of the site, the shape and size of the main earthwork had led people to believe the earthworks dated from the English Civil War in the 17th century. But the study of surviving Tudor garden earthworks elsewhere has shown that this is certainly not the case.

4: The manor house

When Sir Henry Lee died in 1611 and was buried at Quarrendon, his estates passed to a cousin. With properties elsewhere, the manor house at Quarrendon surrounded by its gardens became less important to the family. We do not know whether the cousin and his heirs used the house at Quarrendon, but unlike Sir Henry they chose to be buried at Spelsbury, another Lee property.

There are reports that the house at Quarrendon was partly pulled down before 1666. Its description in documents indicates the decline, from 'the Mansion House of Quarendon' in 1680 to the 'mesuage called Quarrendon House' in 1708. Then in 1712 Benjamin How, a grazier, was given permission to:

'remove part of Quarendon great house where the great kitchen is, and build with the materials a new house in Marstone store ground adjoining to the shepherd's house.'

After these partial demolitions, what was left of Sir Henry

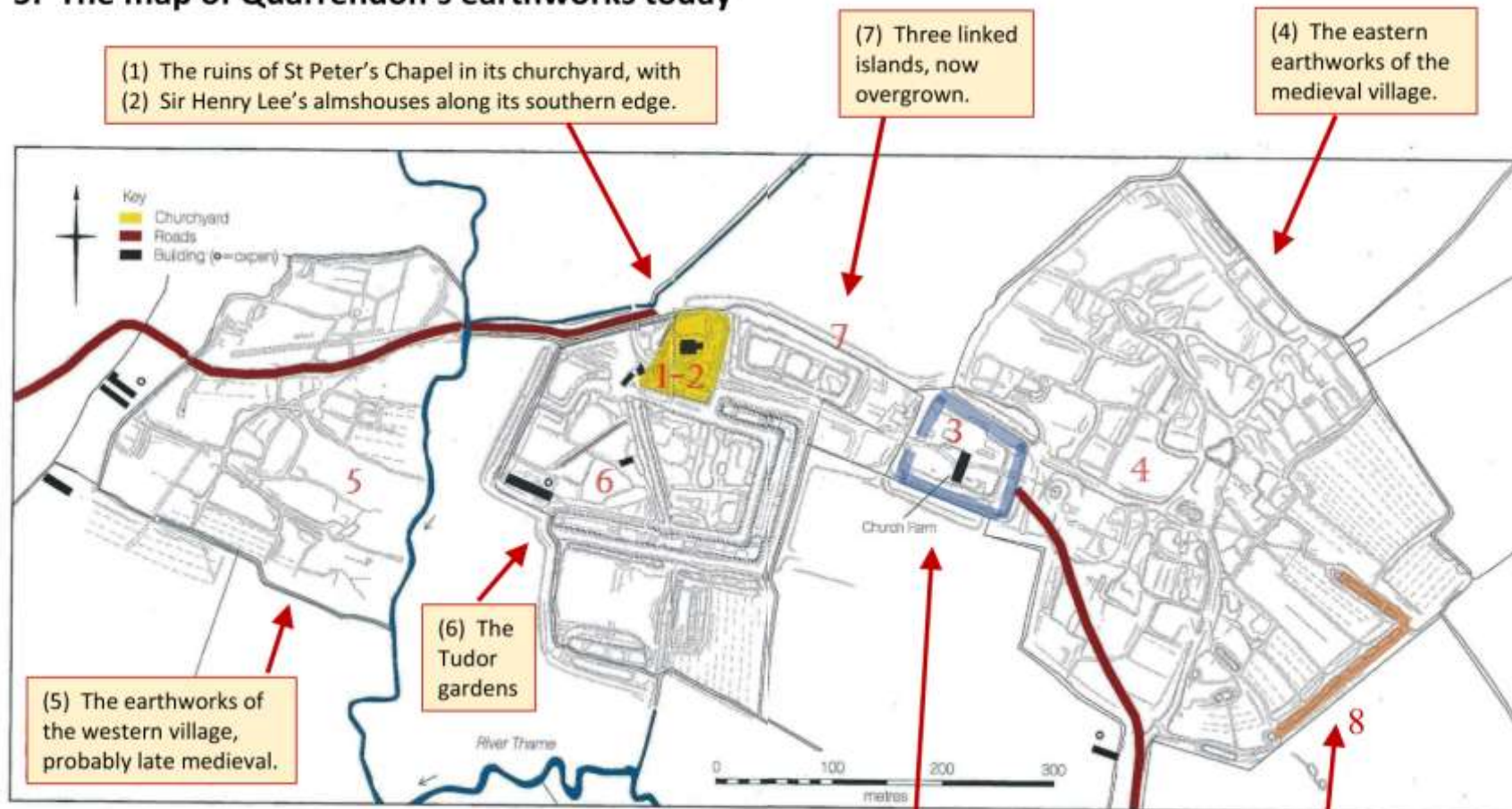
Lee's house became a tenanted farmhouse, later named Church Farm. This is recorded as a mixture of timber-framing and brick, with a tiled roof and 'old' chimney assessed as dating from the early 17th century.

Even this surviving fragment is now gone, demolished to leave the moated platform clear apart from a few signs of rubble in the grass. The moat itself is largely dry except after heavy rain.



Figure 4: Church Farm before its demolition, the last fragment of Quarrendon's 'great house'. Concrete structures were later built in the farmyard, obscuring any earlier foundations.

5: The map of Quarrendon's earthworks today



This detailed map of the earthworks that are visible at Quarrendon today is based on the survey carried out in 1989-90 by the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments in England.



FIGURE 5: The chapel at Quarrendon in about 1815.

5: St Peter's Chapel

The church was important in any medieval village. That at Quarrendon was a 'Chapel', meaning that it was subsidiary to a 'mother' church, first at Aylesbury, then later Bierton. The chapel's foundation date is not known, but it was dedicated to St Peter and is recorded in documents in the early 12th century.

Surviving illustrations and records of its structure and architecture indicate a date in the later 13th century, but this may be due to substantial re-building over the years.

Only the lower courses of a few walls of the chapel survive today, on the north side of the main garden earthworks. At some point the chapel acquired burial rites, so there would once have been an extensive cemetery. Its boundary wall has disappeared today but ground survey has suggested its location.



FIGURE 6: The chapel interior in the 1820s. Note the hole in the roof...

With the eventual demise of the manor house and the abandonment of the village the chapel's structure decayed quite rapidly, and there are many (often indignant) accounts of this process. For example in 1650 it was recorded that the chapel 'has had no service for many years, and is in ruins, and has no glass left, or bell in it' – although another authority notes that a marriage took place here in 1746 and burials continued into the early nineteenth century.

Fortunately, despite the chapel's decay, visitors took some trouble to record in some detail the monuments and tombstones inside, none of which survive today. A number of notable individuals were buried here including Sir Anthony Lee and his son Sir Henry, at whose funeral in 1611:

'Eighty poor men in gowns and a number of servants headed a large procession of knights and gentry from Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. Some of Lees own men led his great horses...'



FIGURE 7 ABOVE: The chancel of the chapel in 1828. The tomb with a recumbent figure may be Sir Henry Lee's memorial.

FIGURE 8 RIGHT: Lady Lee's memorial in St Mary's Church, Aylesbury.



The tomb of Sir Henry's wife is not here in Quarrendon but at St Mary's Parish Church in Aylesbury. Her fine memorial shows Lady Lee, her daughter, and two children who died in infancy. Part of her inscription is frequently ignored by well-wishers:

*'Good frei[n]d stike not to strwe with crimso[n] flowers
this marble stone... for svre her ghost lyve with the heave[n]ly
powers.'*

After his wife's death Sir Henry did not, however, spend the remainder of his life alone. He had a companion, Anne Vavasour, who had been a Maid of Honour to Queen Elizabeth. She was described by one writer as 'a very beautiful woman ... but the subject of much mirth and scandal among the courtiers on account of her attachment to the old gallant Sir Henry Lee'.

Anne was buried at Quarrendon alongside Sir Henry. However 'the pious inhabitants of the neighbourhood of Quarrendon ... thought it a scandalous profanation that the remains of so frail a mortal should repose within the sacred precincts of the chapel, and are reported to have dug them up, and totally destroyed them.'

In addition to the graves of dignitaries within the church there would also have been those of numerous unnamed villagers in the surrounding churchyard. It is recorded that Sir Henry also built almshouses at Quarrendon, whose location may be indicated by earthworks close to the chapel.



FIGURE 9: The derelict chapel in the 1850s.

6: The village earthworks

One of the more moving aspects of the site today is the location of former village streets, building plots and closes. We don't know exactly when or by what process the community ceased to exist here but its presence might not have been tolerated so close to the house of a major Elizabethan courtier such as Sir Henry Lee.

The main village site is on land rising gently from the east side of the moat where it would have been safe from flooding. There has been no excavation here but it is fairly certain that, with no immediately convenient sources of stone, the buildings would have been of timber like so many Buckinghamshire houses in the medieval period.



FIGURE 10: An aerial photograph of the earthworks of the eastern medieval village site taken in 2015. The prominent banks in the foreground are part of Sir Henry Lee's rabbit warren.

The aerial photograph (Figure 10) shows three principal streets, with individual plots defined by ditches and divided by minor trackways. These plots would have contained small farmsteads, made up of several buildings and closes (small fields). Tracks would have been largely unmetalled and over time would have become deeper with the passage of wagons, people and livestock as the ensuing mud and dung was washed downhill.

It has been suggested that this was not a typical medieval village, but a cluster of small farmsteads around small village greens. Analysis of the detailed survey made in 1989-90 suggests that this was no longer an inhabited village by the 16th century and the area became part of the park and gardens of Sir Henry Lee's great house.

On the top of the hill overlooking Aylesbury are two lines of low segmented mounds laid out roughly at right-angles to each other. Like the garden earthworks these were once attributed to the Civil War but they are now recognised as artificial rabbit warrens, commonly called 'pillow mounds'. A large circular mound, centrally placed where it would have been visible from the great house, has been interpreted as a dovecote.

A second area of village earthworks on the western side of the settlement, beyond the bridge across a tributary stream, is more difficult to interpret. Some buildings and closes were shown here on an Ordnance Survey map in 1848, but all have since gone and some of the earthworks have been ploughed out.

7: Archaeology around Quarrendon

There has been no archaeological excavation at Quarrendon apart from a watching brief when a path was replaced. However signs of Romano-British settlement have been found close by which may extend into the main site.

Akeman Street, the Roman road from Verulamium (St Albans) to Alchester near Bicester passes through Aylesbury. It then passes little more than half a mile from Quarrendon, at first close to today's A41 Bicester Road, then exactly following its line beyond Waddesdon. A Romano-British settlement near Fleet Marston would have provided a stopping place for travellers. Fleet Marston is another abandoned medieval village whose church now stands in the middle of fields as Quarrendon's chapel once did.

(The planned construction of the HS2 high-speed rail line will have an impact on the remains of the Romano-British settlement near Fleet Marston. Excavations are expected there.)

Several archaeological investigations have been conducted during the development of the housing estates which now surround Quarrendon, including at Berryfields and Buckingham Park. These have produced evidence for small Romano-British farmsteads, and a possible small settlement in Aylesbury close to the course of the road. These presumably served the needs of the small Roman town. Most seem to have been abandoned by the 5th century.

Early medieval settlements at Fleet Marston and Quarrendon may have been successors to these farmsteads. As we have seen, the legend of the birth of St Osyth at Quarrendon dates from just 200 years after the departure of the Romans from Britain.

Other abandoned but quite well-preserved medieval villages are not far from Quarrendon, near Aston Abbotts for instance, and the earthworks of another Tudor garden survive at Ascott, near Wing, which was the home of the Dormer family.

PART TWO:



WHO OWNS QUARRENDON TODAY?

Today Quarrendon's earthworks, chapel ruins and surrounding fields are owned by the Buckinghamshire Conservation Trust. The site as a whole is known as Quarrendon Leas.

The Trust was set up in 2008 through the joint initiative of Buckinghamshire County Council and the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society at a time when there was increasing housing development in the surrounding area. The Trust's board includes representatives of both the county council and the society, and Aylesbury Vale District Council.

Much of the Trust's land is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It is also now an important green space within the expanding town of Aylesbury. In brief, the Trust's objectives are to protect the ancient monument and its surrounding land for the benefit of the public, to enhance its biodiversity and to use the site to enhance public understanding of the county's heritage.

More information is on the Trust's website at:

www.buckinghamshireconservationtrust.co.uk

The Trust is grateful for the help given by volunteers. If you feel you might like to assist in any way please contact us at: conservationtrust@buckinghamshireconservationtrust.co.uk.

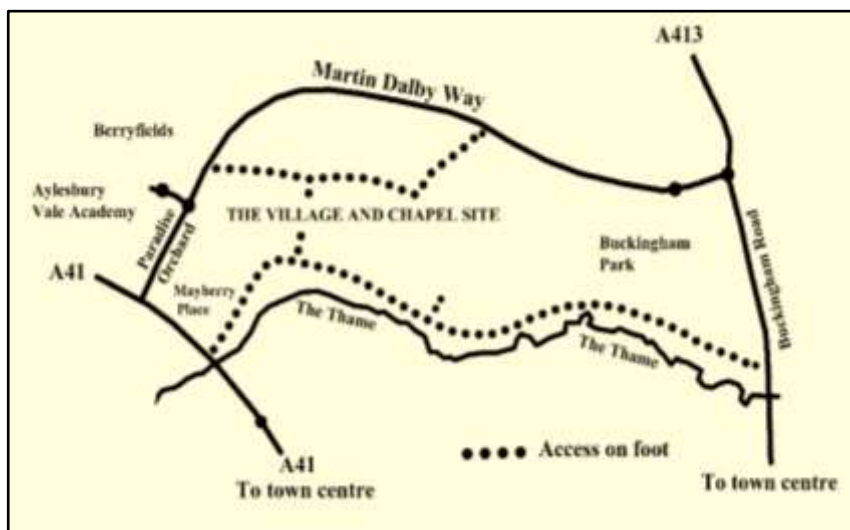


FIGURE 11: Roads and footpaths around Quarrendon Leas.

ACCESS TO QUARRENDON'S ANCIENT SITE

The Trust intends to make the site more accessible to visitors. At the moment there is limited but clearly-marked footpath access from three points:

- from the Buckingham Park housing estate to the east, following the River Thames;
- from Berryfields to the north and north-west, following two footpaths on the south side of the link road, Martin Dalby Way;
- and from the A41 to the west, following the footpath close to where the main road crosses the River Thames.

There is no parking immediately near the site so be prepared for at least a 20-minute walk – but it is well worth the effort!

AN EVOLVING NATURE RESERVE

The site of Quarrendon's manor house, gardens and village has been heavily farmed over the years but its long-standing low-lying grassland, together with its water features, provide a sound basis for future management of the site as a nature reserve.

In the past Water Voles and Great Crested Newts have been recorded here. There are Black Poplars on the site, a native tree of considerable significance for the Vale of Aylesbury, and the rare, tall, perennial plant known as Good King Henry. Kingfishers have been seen here, also skylarks, song thrushes, yellow hammers, green woodpeckers, and buzzards, as well as the now ubiquitous red kite. Fieldfares and redwings may be seen in the winter.

The Trust's long-term intention is to enhance Quarrendon's biodiversity.

WHEN YOU VISIT PLEASE DON'T...

The Trust's income – which is used to enhance and protect the historic site – comes mainly from farming the land, in particular from grazing animals, so it is obviously important that this can continue successfully.

So please avoid disturbing livestock. In particular, never let dogs off a lead. Because of their origins dogs feel it is their job to hunt anything on four legs that looks like food. Free-ranging dogs often chase and wound sheep and can be responsible for ewes miscarrying their lambs. It is an offence for dogs to worry livestock and farmers are legally permitted to destroy offending animals.

Apart from disturbing the tranquillity of the site, drones and model aircraft upset both farm animals and wildlife; so please don't operate them here.



FIGURE 12: Sheep and lambs on the causeway entrance to the moat.

As the site is a legally protected ancient monument, anything which causes ground surface disturbance (apart from pre-existing agricultural activity) is illegal without consent. So please don't bring in motorised vehicles, ride bicycles over the earthworks, light fires or use metal detectors.

We all need to protect the site for future generations so for the same reason please don't pick wild flowers, collect fungi or otherwise affect the natural environment.

Of course you are most welcome to walk and picnic here but please don't leave litter.

WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE

This booklet has made use of many published works. The most recent comprehensive account is an article by Paul Everson titled ‘Peasants, Graziers and Peers: the landscape of Quarrendon in Buckinghamshire interpreted’ which was published by the Bucks Archaeological Society in its journal *Records of Buckinghamshire* volume 41 in 2001.

The article, with maps, detailed survey plans, drawings, a detailed analysis of the moated site, formal garden and village earthworks, and full references may be downloaded from the society’s website at: http://www.bucksas.org.uk/rob/rob_41_0_1.pdf

Records of Buckinghamshire has been published almost every year since 1858 and includes earlier articles on Quarrendon, the chapel and its gradual decay. The Society’s website at www.bucksas.org.uk contains an index to all of these, some available on-line.

Other works with important material on Quarrendon are:

- Lipscomb, G, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham*, in four volumes, London 1847.
- RCHM(E), *Royal Commission on Historical Monuments: Buckinghamshire I (South)*, 1912.
- Sheahan, JJ, *History and Topography of Buckinghamshire*, 1862.
- VCH, *The Victoria County History of the Counties of England: A History of Buckinghamshire*, volume 4, 1927.
- Volumes of the Buckinghamshire Record Society, which publishes transcripts of original manuscripts, also contain occasional references to Quarrendon, for example in Volumes 5, 8, 24, and 29.

All of the above, and manuscript material relating to Quarrendon, are available at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies in Aylesbury.

Two other books provide useful background:

- Paula Henderson, *The Tudor House and Garden: Architecture and Landscape in the Sixteenth and Early Seventeenth Centuries*, Yale University Press, New Haven and London 2005.
- Sue Simpson, *Sir Henry Lee (1553-1611), Elizabethan Courtier*, Ashgate, Farnham, Surrey, 2014.

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The aerial photographs of Quarrendon's earthworks were taken by the author, Michael Farley. The image of Church Farm was kindly supplied by Tom Clark from the collection of Edward Roads. Other illustrations are from the archives of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society.

Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society



MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY

Members receive the annual *Records of Buckinghamshire* free every year, have the use of the society's Library and a range of activities including lectures, outings, project groups, day schools and research.

Single membership £18 a year, family £22, junior £12.

Contact the Membership Secretary at BAS, County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP

RECORDS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE



The Society's annual journal, *Records of Buckinghamshire*, publishes reports of archaeological excavations, historic buildings, local and industrial history, natural history and all aspects of times past in Bucks. It is published in May every year.

For the latest issue, send a cheque for £16 made out to 'Bucks Archaeological Society', to Records of Bucks, County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP

AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF EARLY BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

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Quarrendon

This illustrated guide presents the hidden history of Aylesbury's lost medieval village – and tells you where to find it.

- According to legend the Anglo-Saxon St Osyth was born at Quarrendon 1300 years ago.
- Before the Normans invaded in 1066 it was a manor and village of 20 families – and 300 pigs.
- When William the Conqueror gave the manor and village to Geoffrey de Mandeville, he valued it at £8.
- But 400 years later farming sheep for their wool was more profitable, so the villagers had to go.
- Then Sir Henry Lee, Queen's Champion to Elizabeth I, built himself a 'great house' and an amazing garden.
- But he died childless, and his heirs let it all fall to ruin.
- Today there are grassy mounds along what was the village street, a moat with no manor house, and the chapel is just a few broken stone walls.

But beneath the grass, history lies hidden...

A JOINT PUBLICATION BY:



**Buckinghamshire
Archaeological
Society**



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