

Chapter 1

Introduction

PROJECT BACKGROUND

This volume reports on extensive fieldwork carried out by Oxford Archaeology at Berryfields, a site just outside Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire (Fig. 1.1). The site is steeped in the remains of the past. Akeman Street, the Roman road that links London and Cirencester (Gloucestershire) via St Albans (Verulamium; Hertfordshire) and Alchester (Oxfordshire), runs along the southern edge of the site, while a putative Roman roadside settlement or 'small town' is located south-west of the site at Fleet Marston. Extensive earthworks of a deserted medieval settlement lie to the north-east of the development area at Quarrendon. Any intervention within the site had the potential to uncover significant archaeology that would shed a welcome light on the use and development of the Roman rural landscape in the hinterland of an important settlement on a major routeway. There was potential, too, for evidence of prehistoric activity, some of it perhaps related to the Iron Age hillfort at Aylesbury. How the post-Roman landscape connected with the medieval settlement at Quarrendon was also a key question.

Archaeological investigations of the Berryfields Major Development Area (MDA) commenced in 1996 with a desk-based assessment by Waterman CPM (then CPM Consulting) as the first stage of a pre-planning determination relating to the mixed residential, retail and community development of the site (CPM 1996). The work drew attention to the high potential of archaeological remains across the site and was followed by a programme of fieldwalking in the fields between Quarrendon House Farm, Berryfields House and Berryfields Farm in 1998 and 1999 (Foundations Archaeology 1999). This in turn led to two geophysical surveys, one north of Quarrendon House Farm to determine the extent of the deserted medieval village known to exist there (GSB Prospection 1999a), and a second across the MDA (GSB Prospection 1999b). The results demonstrated that parts of the MDA contained significant areas of archaeology. In the north-east part of the site, an area of anomalies coincided with an area of high ground, with ditches, enclosures, trackways and individual features such as pits pointing to occupation. A regular series of anomalies to the south was indicative of a so-called ladder settlement of conjoined enclosures extending along a road. Further west, areas of anomalies suggestive of linear features and pits were plotted

(Fig. 1.2). Fieldwalking and evaluation trenching had been carried out in an area of land known as Billingsfield to the south of Billingsfield Cottages and the A41 by AC Archaeology in 1997 in connection with an earlier planning proposal (Fig. 1.2; Cox 1997). This area was subsequently encompassed by the MDA.

Oxford Archaeology's involvement at the MDA began in 2002 with an evaluation of 81 machine-excavated trenches (AYBF02), which targeted locations of interest highlighted by the magnetometry survey (OA 2002; Fig. 1.3). Trenches targeting the complex of geophysical magnetic anomalies identified at the far north of the development area (Fig. 1.3A) and subsequently preserved *in situ* were restricted to the fringes of the anomalies and very few features and deposits were encountered. None of the features investigated produced secure dating evidence and the few gullies are probably remnants of field systems of limited interest. The presence on the brow of the hill of a large, low mound and the relatively irregular nature of the geophysical anomalies may indicate a later prehistoric or indeed multi-period date for the complex. The fieldwork revealed the remains of a late prehistoric settlement in the south-western part of the site (Fig. 1.3B), and uncovered ditches associated with the Roman-period roadside ladder settlement (Fig. 1.3C). A further area of the site was intensively trenched following the mapping of unrecorded earthworks identified during the fieldwalking survey just south of Berryfields House (Fig. 1.2). This area of earthworks, comprising ditched hollows and raised platforms, lay to the east of the development site, and proved to be of late post-medieval date, probably associated with a farm building in this period. An undated enclosure close to Quarrendon House Farm was also investigated. A notable aspect of the evaluation was the damage caused to underlying features by medieval and later ploughing; plough furrows were evident in the majority of the trenches.

Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC), acting as archaeological advisor to Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC), required further archaeological work to be carried out before the planning condition could be discharged, and following a brief prepared by BCC (2007), a generic archaeological mitigation strategy (AMS) was produced by Waterman CPM (2008). Oxford Archaeology (OA) subsequently carried out a series of investigations

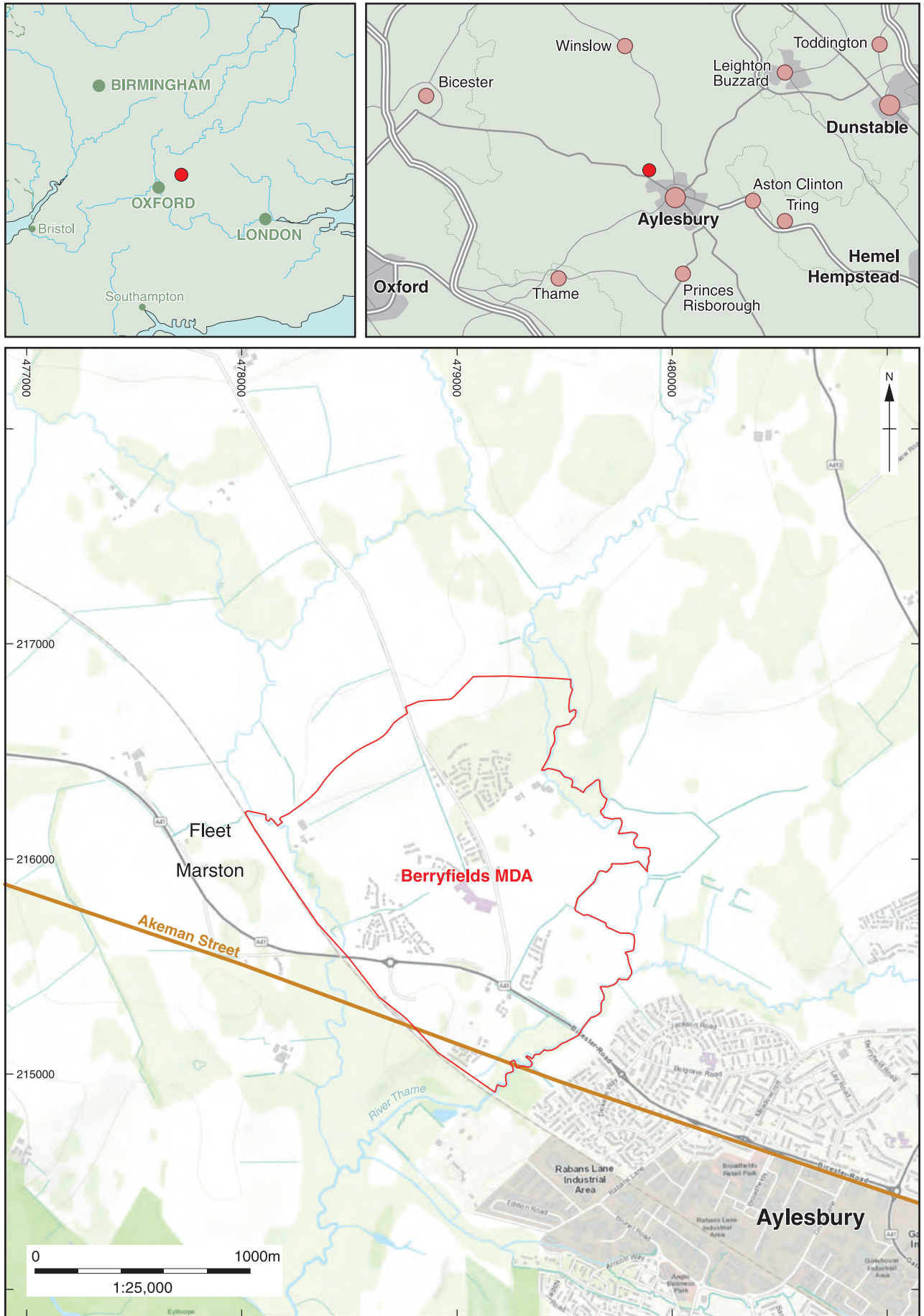


Fig. 1.1 Site location



Fig. 1.2 Plan showing results of geophysical survey (GSB 1999) and location of evaluation trenches

Berryfields

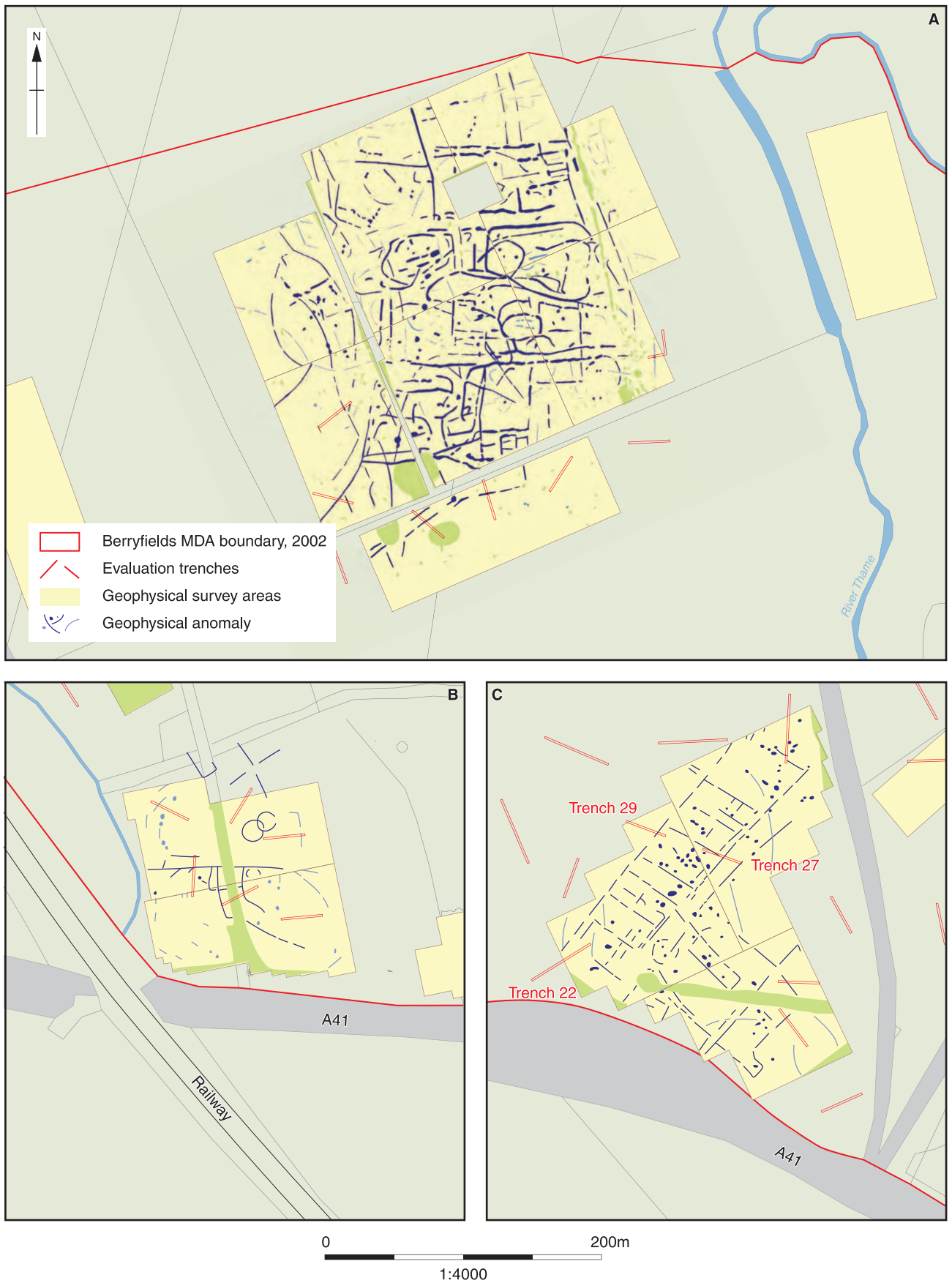
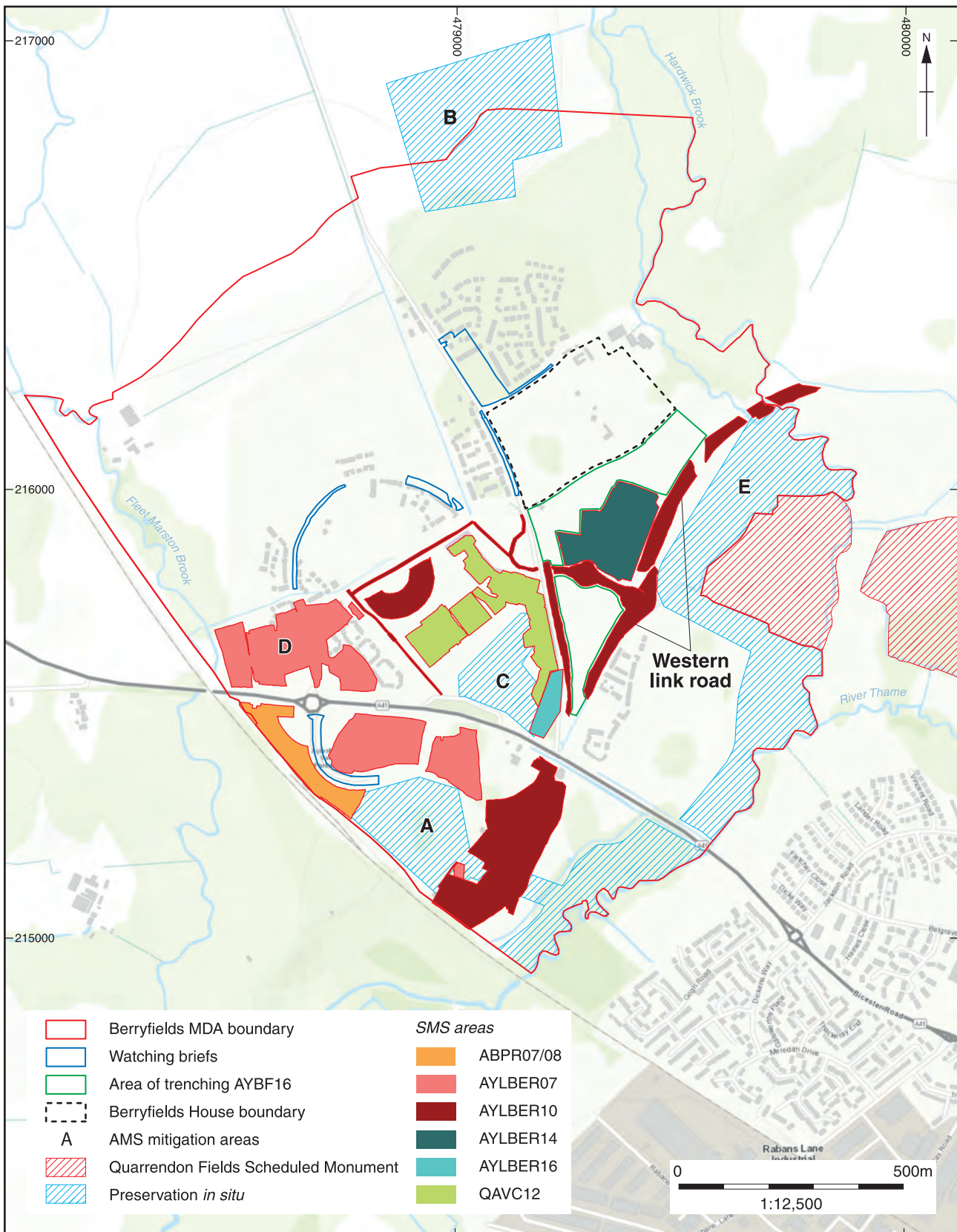


Fig. 1.3 Detailed view of three areas of settlement revealed by the geophysical survey (GSB 1999)



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Fig. 1.4 Plan showing investigation areas

Table 1.1 Investigation areas, with context number ranges

Site code	Site name	Context numbers
ABPR07/08	Aylesbury Vale Parkway	100-660
AYLBER07	Berryfields MDA	1000-1600
AYLBER10	Berryfields MDA	1700-3600
AYLBER10	Western Link Road	5000-6000
AYLBER14	District Centre	7000-7500
AYLBER16	Paradise Orchard	9000-9500
AYBF16	Berryfields MDA additional trenches	Trenches 83-93
QAVC12	Aylesbury Vale Academy	3700-4200, 10000

between 2007 and 2016 (Fig. 1.4; Table 1.1). This comprised an excavation undertaken in 2007 and 2010-12 across the main areas of the MDA (AYLBER07 and AYLBER10; Figs 1.5 and 1.6), a watching brief in 2012/13, which monitored development work in the same area (also under code AYLBER10), an excavation in 2013 along the Western Link Road (again AYLBER10), an excavation at the District Centre site in 2014 (AYLBER14), and, most recently, excavation in 2016 west of Paradise Orchard strip, map and sample (SMS) excavation area (AYLBER16). Further evaluation trenching was undertaken in the eastern part of the MDA (AYBF16). All fieldwork, including the 2002 evaluation, was commissioned by the Berryfields Consortium (Taylor Wimpey South Midlands Ltd, Martin Grant Homes and Kier Living Ltd).

In addition, an excavation and geophysical survey were undertaken by OA on the site of Aylesbury Vale Academy for BAM Construction in 2012 (QAVC12), and an archaeological investigation was carried out, also by OA, in advance of construction of Aylesbury Vale Parkway, a railway station and park-and-ride facility, which forms part of the MDA. This latter investigation comprised an SMS excavation undertaken in two phases in 2007 (ABPR07) and 2008 (ABPR08), encompassing a combined area of *c* 1ha (Fig. 1.7). A watching brief was also carried out during groundworks associated with construction of an associated access road. The work was commissioned by Aylesbury Vale Parkway Ltd in accordance with a condition attached to the planning permission requested by Buckinghamshire County Council. A full report was prepared following stages of post-excitation assessment and analysis (Simmonds and Biddulph 2010), and the data or text deriving from this work has been incorporated into this current publication.

Finally, it is worth noting that two 'Weekend Wanderers' metal detecting rallies were held in Billingsfield in 2009, during which some 220 coins were collected (R Tyrell, pers. comm.). Casual metal detecting activity in the area over a number of years has yielded more coins and other objects (PAS 2019).

The AMS (Waterman CPM 2008) states that the results of the fieldwork outlined above 'will be subject to suitable post-investigation analysis and assessment, leading to appropriate publication of the results.' This has been reiterated in successive



Fig. 1.5 The AYLBER07 area after initial soil stripping, looking east



Fig. 1.6 View across the AYLBER10 area of excavation



Fig. 1.7 General view of the ABPR08 area of excavation

written schemes of investigation produced by OA and approved by BCC, which state that the results of the various investigations 'will be included within an overall post-excavation analysis and reporting programme for the Berryfields MDA as a whole on completion of substantive field investigations' (OA 2012). In July 2016, a proposal prepared by OA for the post-excavation assessment, analysis and publication of the archaeology of the MDA was approved by the Berryfields Consortium, and the first stage of that programme, the post-excavation assessment and project design, which summarised the preliminary findings of the fieldwork, assessed the significance of the results, and presented recommendations and a programme for further analysis leading to final publication and archive deposition, was submitted and approved in July 2017 (OA 2017).

All fieldwork carried out by OA is the subject of the current monograph.

LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The Berryfields MDA is located in the parish of Berryfields within the Vale of Aylesbury. The vale, a modern administrative area that extends north from the foot of the Chiltern Hills across the northern part of the modern county of Buckinghamshire, is generally characterised as a low-lying landscape of gentle rolling hills and a patchwork of fields and hedgerows set within a prevailing NE-SW alignment. The vale is noted for its extensive arable landscape and grassland, but other land-uses, including woodland, historic parkland, orchards and water meadows, contribute to the region's diverse topography (Mullins *et al.* 2008, 4-6). The Chiltern Scarp defines the north-western edge of the Chiltern Hills and similarly runs approximately NE-SW.

The MDA covers an area of some 195ha (centred on NGR 479350, 215900) and is situated along the north and south sides of the A41 *c* 3km north-west of the historic centre of Aylesbury. Prior to development, the site comprised fields used for both arable and pasture between Berryfields Farm to the west and Quarrendon House Farm to the east. During the post-medieval period, the neighbouring parish of Quarrendon was known for its grazing lands, 'ranking as the finest in the country' (Page 1927). Berryfields was recorded in the middle of the 17th century as pasture, which, as the Victoria County History notes, was let 'for £800 yearly, the tenant not complaining of his bargain' (*ibid.*). Celebrated writer Daniel Defoe commented that the Vale of Aylesbury was home to 'perhaps the richest graziers in England' (Chaplin 2007, 19).

The site is generally low-lying, sitting at a general level of *c* 72-88m above Ordnance Datum. The ground rises between the Aylesbury Vale Parkway site and Billingsfield. The British Geological Survey records the underlying sedimentary bedrock largely as Kimmeridge Clay Formation (Mudstone), with

Amphill Clay Formation (Mudstone) recorded in the western part of the site (Fig. 1.8; BGS, nd). These are sealed beneath clay soils and fine loam. Alluvial deposits are recorded on the floodplain of the River Thames and in two stream valleys, Fleet Marston Brook to the west and Hardwick Brook to the east, with sand and gravel forming superficial river terrace deposits. Historic mapping records various unnamed water channels within and around the MDA, with one still extant channel located between the River Thames and the south-eastern area of excavation in Billingsfield. Post-medieval ponds attached to this channel were noted in the Billingsfield evaluation (Cox 1997). The River Thames runs from north-east to south-west, marking the south-eastern limit of the development. Historically, the area has suffered from periodic flooding. A great storm and flood in 1570, which had a devastating impact on the Quarrendon estate of Sir Henry Lee, rapidly became the stuff of local legend (Chaplin 2007, 29).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Berryfields MDA is situated within a complex landscape of prehistoric and Roman activity. Earlier prehistoric activity in the area is scarce and largely attested by small quantities of flint objects that suggest sporadic visits. Late Neolithic or early Iron Age pottery has been collected north of Aylesbury at Site 14 of the Aylesbury and Steppingley gas pipeline (which runs between Westcott to the north-west of Aylesbury and Steppingley in Bedfordshire (Network Archaeology 2007)), and ditches and pits of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date have been recorded elsewhere along the route at Sites 12, 13 and 15. A late Bronze Age burial of a young adult was found on the east end (Plot 0.01) of the Hardwick to Marsh Gibbon pipeline (Thatcher *et al.* 2014, 4), some *c* 10km north-west of the MDA.

A number of Iron Age farmsteads and settlements are known in and around Aylesbury, though naturally they were not necessarily occupied at the same time. Aylesbury itself is the site of a hillfort, which was constructed during the middle Iron Age on an outcrop of Portland limestone in the area of the modern town that is now occupied by Aylesbury Church and the county museum (Farley and Jones 2012). A middle Iron Age site is attested at Coldharbour Farm in south-west Aylesbury, where ditches, pits and possible postholes were uncovered and pottery, animal bone, a quernstone and a possible loomweight were retrieved (Stewart 1990, 95 and 98). A boundary ditch and other linear features of middle Iron Age date are known at Stoke Mandeville (Thorpe 2014). Early to middle Iron Age pottery was recorded at Aylesbury High School on Walton Road (Babtie 2003), and middle to late Iron Age enclosures were uncovered in an excavation at Aston Clinton (Clarke 2013). A farmstead and field system at Plot 0.01 near Hardwick were dated to the middle Iron Age, and a trackway and a four-post

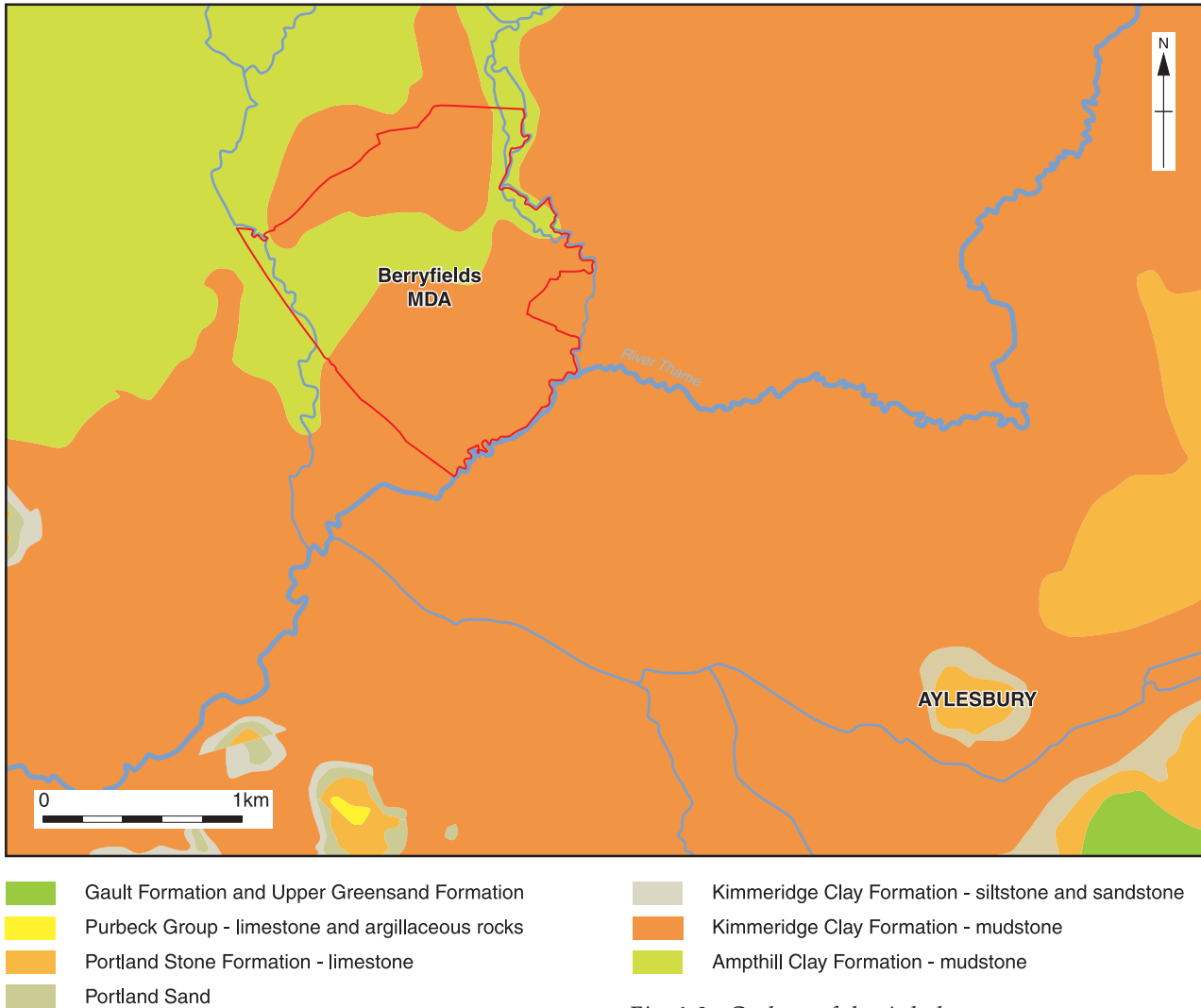


Fig. 1.8 Geology of the Aylesbury area

structure were also recorded. Activity here continued into the late Iron Age with the digging of boundary or drainage ditches (Thatcher *et al.* 2014, 7). Walton Court, on the southern edge of Aylesbury, saw settlement during the late Iron Age (Farley *et al.* 1981), and further evidence of late Iron Age settlement is known at Berton on the northern edge of Aylesbury (Allen 1986), Coldharbour Farm (Parkhouse and Bonner 1999) and at several locations within the area of Aston Clinton (Masefield 2008; Simmonds and Walker 2014; Simmonds 2016; Morris 2017).

The course of Roman Akeman Street, which connects the Roman urban centres of *Corinium* (Cirencester) and *Verulamium* (St Albans) via Alchester near Bicester, extends across the southwestern part of the site and to some extent follows the course of the A41. The centre of what is thought to be a Roman 'small town' or nucleated roadside settlement lies to the west of the Berryfields MDA at Fleet Marston (Radford and Zeepvat 2009). A Roman road (Viatores 1964, road no. 162) is known to extend from Fleet Marston to Thornborough, some 25km north of Aylesbury, where Roman-

period burial mounds, a cult centre, a cemetery and evidence of settlement are attested (Wilson 2017). Another Roman road (Viatores 1964, road no. 173), which connected the Roman towns of Dorchester-on-Thames in Oxfordshire and *Magiovinium* at Fenny Stratford near Milton Keynes is also thought to pass through Fleet Marston.

Fleet Marston itself is known mainly from chance finds, metal-detecting surveys and limited interventions. Pottery, metalwork, coin scatters, a coin hoard, ceramic building material, stone platforms, a lead coffin and a hoard of 4th-century pewter vessels are among the discoveries made over many years and hint at a long-lived settlement of reasonably high status (Parkhouse 1997; UBP, nd). The extent of the settlement has not been defined, but a geophysical survey carried out for High Speed 2 largely to the south of Akeman Street at Fleet Marston Spinney revealed enclosures alongside, and aligned with, the Roman road, and anomalies that might belong to structures and other settlement features (Alqassar and Kidd 2018, 10; HS2 2017). However, in a subsequent evaluation in that area, possible enclosures and settlement features of later

prehistoric date were encountered (Smith 2018). Geophysical survey and a trial-trench evaluation by Pre-Construct Archaeology to the north of Akeman street (Lythe 2009) uncovered evidence for Roman-period enclosures and a Roman road aligned north-south, but no hint of urban settlement, suggesting that the core of the ‘small town’ lay south of the road, around Putlowes and Fleet Marston Spinney and perhaps further to the south-east.

Further afield, a number of prehistoric, Roman and medieval sites were encountered during a watching brief by Network Archaeology along the Aylesbury to Steppingley pipeline (Network Archaeology 2007). Two sites (Sites 7 and 8) were located in the parish of Fleet Marston. Ditches and gullies were recorded in Site 7, with associated pottery suggesting deposition from the 1st century AD. Part of a metalled Roman road that extended north-west from Akeman Street was recorded in Site 8. Another site, *c* 2km north of Aylesbury (Site 9), contained quarry pits used, it is suggested, to extract clay for pottery production in the Roman period, and finds evidence hinted at high-status occupation nearby.

Other sites around Aylesbury of particular relevance to the understanding of the archaeology of Berryfields include Bierton, where evidence for a Roman villa is strongly suspected from finds of painted wall plaster, hypocaust tiles and other high-status finds (Allen 1986), and the Aston Clinton bypass, where Roman settlement and aspects of villa-like occupation have similarly been recorded (Masefield 2008). Excavations on the bypass also exposed part of Akeman Street. Further evidence of roadside settlement and field systems has been recorded immediately west of Aston Clinton (WA 2013; Simmonds 2016). Another Roman-period routeway, orientated SW-NE and corresponding to the projected route of the Lower Icknield Way, has been uncovered at Stablebridge Road, also in Aston Clinton (Morris 2017). Roman occupation, including evidence for ironworking and possibly a trading function, is attested at Walton Court, *c* 4km south-east of the MDA (Farley *et al.* 1981). Roman-period stock rearing north of the River Thame, possibly part of the Bierton estate, is suggested by an enclosure dated to the late 2nd or early 3rd century and interpreted as a compound on the site of Watermead Roundabout (Hawkins and Dalwood 1988, 161). Occupation at Weedon Hill, 2km east of the MDA, also served a specialist function, with evidence for a Roman-period malting house (Wakeham and Bradley 2013).

Activity in the Anglo-Saxon period in and around the MDA is of uncertain character. There is documentary evidence for a royal palace at Quarrendon, and according to 12th-century sources, St Osyth was born there in the 7th century (Hagerty 1987, 125). Early-middle Anglo-Saxon archaeological remains are, however, sparse and limited to chance finds, such as pottery at Quarrendon and a brooch found near Fleet Marston (although the latter may

point to the presence of a cemetery). Quarrendon is listed in the Domesday Book as Querendone, which may mean ‘Quern-place’ and refer to a mill there, though other derivations are possible (Everson 2001, 3). The medieval settlement of Quarrendon is a scheduled site, and associated ridge-and-furrow earthworks surround the settlement.

The landscape at Quarrendon was significantly altered in the 16th century with remodelling of the manor house by the landowner, the Lee family (Everson 2001, 3). Earthworks relating to the mansion and formal gardens that were established still survive. The scheduled medieval settlement of Quarrendon and a designed landscape and site of a mansion dating to the Tudor period are situated to the east of the site. Ridge-and-furrow earthworks and platforms survive adjacent to the scheduled site.

FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

General mitigation strategy

The site-wide mitigation strategy was outlined in the AMS (Waterman CPM 2008) and is summarised here. The mitigation of potential development impacts was based on advice provided by PPG16 (Archaeology and Planning), PPG15 (Planning and the Historic Environment) and local plan policies. Four areas were preserved *in situ* (Fig. 1.4):

- A large complex of features on the northern edge of the site (Area B)
- Two areas of Roman activity (Areas A and C) to the south and north of the A41
- Medieval activity bordering the existing scheduled site at Quarrendon (Area E). Related ridge-and-furrow earthworks to the west of the scheduled site and water management channels to its south were also retained in part

Areas for which preservation by record was deemed to be the appropriate mitigation included an area of prehistoric activity (Area D) and areas of Roman activity beyond the core elements of Areas B, A, C and E. Archaeological excavation was undertaken across Area D, while a ‘strip, map and sample’ (SMS) approach was employed in areas lying between A, D, C and E, with the sampling strategy being agreed once the plan of the archaeological features had been secured in each area. An intermittent watching brief was maintained across the wider site, and local metal-detectorists were employed to scan areas in advance of soil stripping. A small part of the area within the boundaries of the Roman-period ladder settlement, preserved *in situ*, was affected by the construction of the Aylesbury Vale Academy car park and was accordingly subject to excavation (QAVC12). The site of Aylesbury Vale Parkway (ABPR07/08) saw investigation by SMS, followed by a watching brief.

Site-specific mitigation

A full description of the investigation methods is provided in the written schemes of investigation (WSI) prepared for each phase of work, which are available for consultation in the site archive. The methods are summarised below.

Strip, map and sample (AYLBER07/10/14/16, ABPR07/08, QAVC12)

A two-stage methodology was implemented. Stage 1 comprised stripping and mapping: topsoil and track surfacing were machine-stripped under archaeological supervision. The stripped areas were visually inspected for the presence of archaeological features and were hand-cleaned where necessary. After systematic metal-detecting was carried out, the area was planned manually, based on a site grid related to the national grid. The appropriate sampling strategy to be implemented for the following stage of work was agreed by OA, Waterman CPM and BCC.

Stage 2 was detailed excavation. A team of archaeologists excavated and recorded archaeological features in line with the agreed strategy. Features were excavated by hand in accordance to the following extent: enclosure ditches (20%), ring gullies (25%), linear ditches (10%), postholes (usually half-sectioned), pits (usually half-sectioned), stone structures (sufficient excavation to establish the nature and sequence of construction and any significant stratigraphic relationships), floor/occupation layers (full excavation), kilns/furnaces (full excavation), animal and human burials (full excavation). A targeted programme of palaeoenvironmental sampling was implemented in accordance with OA's environmental sampling guidelines and in consultation with Waterman CPM, BCC and Historic England's regional scientific advisor. Originally, five auger holes were planned across the pond and waterlogged pit complex (landscape group G10; Fig. 2.23), but in the event, only one (BH04) was undertaken (Heistermann, Chapter 6).

All on-site recording was undertaken with reference to the OA Field Manual (Wilkinson 1992). Plans were normally drawn at 1:50. Detailed plans were drawn at an appropriate scale, and burials were drawn at 1:10. Sections were drawn at 1:50 or 1:20.

Evaluation trenching (AYBF16)

The trenching programme comprised 10 trenches, each measuring 50m x 2m. The trenches were numbered in a continuous sequence, continuing the trench sequence from the original MDA evaluation (OA 2002). Prior to excavation, each trench was located and marked by a surveyor using GPS equipment. Plough-disturbed soil horizons were removed by mechanical excavator. Once archaeological deposits were exposed, further excavation

proceeded by hand. All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers directly relating to the individual trench. The excavation and recording of archaeological features was undertaken as outlined within project WSIs and following established OA practices in line with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and BCC standards. Once the trenches had been excavated and recorded, approval was sought from BCC prior to backfilling of the trenches.

Watching brief

The watching brief comprised archaeological monitoring of groundworks related to access roads, services, general area strips, and temporary works. The MDA project manager informed OA's project manager in advance of all works and provided details of the proposed engineering works. The MDA project manager then informed groundworks and other sub-contractors of the requirement for archaeological monitoring and ensured that suitable arrangements had been made to accommodate the archaeological work. The monitoring of groundworks took place intermittently and involved initial visits by archaeologists to liaise with sub-contractors, check levels and monitor stripping, with subsequent visits as appropriate to check on progress. Any archaeological features that were noted were mapped and recorded. Sample excavation was carried out to characterise the features and retrieve dating evidence. Provision was made to record any significant remains to the appropriate level. The archaeological consultant to the MDA and BCC's archaeological advisor were kept informed of any monitoring that was carried out.

PRESENTATION OF THE SITE SEQUENCE AND PHASING

The stratigraphic sequence has been divided into broad phases of activity on the basis of stratigraphic relationships, ceramic dating, evidence from coins and other objects, and radiocarbon dating. Features investigated by more than one intervention (mostly ditches) have been given a subgroup number (SG) for ease of analysis and description. In all other cases, the intervention or cut number has been used as the principal feature reference. Summary descriptions of the archaeological remains are presented below by phase. Figures 2.1, 2.3, 2.7, 2.17, 2.23 and 2.32 show the areas of site where activity in each phase was concentrated, and multiple-phase plans are also used throughout the text to illustrate complex areas of activity. Selected section drawings are shown to aid the understanding and interpretation of the site sequence. In some cases, where there was clear stratigraphic justification, phases have been divided into sub-phases. The phase numbers were allocated during the assessment stage (OA 2017) and revised where possible in light of closer dating obtained during the subsequent analysis.

The phases used in the report are as follows:

- Phase 1 – Early prehistoric to Bronze Age
Phase 1a – Mesolithic to Neolithic (c 4000-2400 BC)
Phase 1b – Bronze Age (c 2400-700 BC)
- Phase 1/2 – Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age or middle Iron Age (c 1100-100/50 BC)
- Phase 2 – Later Iron Age (c 400-100/50 BC)
Phase 2a – Middle Iron Age
Phase 2b – Middle to late Iron Age
- Phase 3 – Late Iron Age or early Roman (c 50 BC-AD 100)
- Phase 4 – Early Roman (c AD 43-100/120)
Phase 4a – Field system alignment i
Phase 4b – Field system alignment ii
Phase 4c – Field system alignment iii
- Phase 5 – Middle Roman (c AD 120-250)
- Phase 6 – Late Roman (c AD 250-410)

- Phase 7 – Anglo-Saxon (c AD 410-1066). Not represented
- Phase 8 – Medieval (c AD 1066-1500)
- Phase 9 – Post-medieval (c 1500-1800)

In addition to the subgroups, features have been assigned to landscape groups where possible. These bring together related features and subgroups, each group forming a coherent unit of the site, for example, the Bronze Age settlement or early Roman trackway. A total of 26 ‘major landscape groups’ have been created and are labelled G1 to G26. The groups are described in Table 1.2.

THE ARCHIVE

The finds, paper record and digital archive are to be deposited with the Buckinghamshire County Museum, subject to the museum’s guidelines for accession and deposition. Phases of work under-

Table 1.2 Description of major landscape groups

Group	Name	Description	Phase
G1	Western trackway	Trackway extending E-W through the area of middle Iron Age settlement in north-west part of site	3
G2	Bronze Age settlement/ field system	Probable enclosure or field boundary in north-west part of the site	1b
G3	Middle Iron Age settlement	Boundary ditch, enclosure and roundhouses in north-west part of site	2a
G4	Middle Iron Age settlement	Enclosure and roundhouse replacing G3	2b
G5	Pit alignment	E-W aligned pit alignment in north-west part of the site	1b
G6	Early Roman field system	Western continuation of the roadside field system	4
G7	Trackway	Part of SW-NE-aligned trackway extending through ladder settlement	5
G8	Roman road (Akeman Street)	Flanking ditches of Roman road	4
G9	Roman road (Akeman Street)	Surfaces of Roman road	4
G10	Pond 3062/Pit 3067	Roadside pit and pond and associated features	5/6
G11	Trackway	Part of SW-NE-aligned trackway extending through ladder settlement	5
G12	Ladder settlement	Contiguous rectangular plots extending alongside trackway G11	5
G13	Rectangular enclosure	Medieval enclosure in eastern part of site	8
G14	Trackway and field system	Trackway extending NNE-SSW from Akeman Street with associated field system. Field system alignment i	4a
G15	Field system	Field system replacing G14 on north and south sides of Akeman Street. Field system alignment ii	4b
G16	Trackway and field system	Third phase of field system to north of Akeman Street. Field system alignment iii	4c
G17	Field system	Field system south of Akeman Street	5
G18	Ditches south of Akeman Street	Late Roman field ditches aligned NE-SW	6
G19	Field system	Early Roman field system and associated features. Subsumed into groups G15 and G16	4
G20	Ring ditch and other features in south-eastern part of site	Focus of Bronze Age activity concentrated in south-eastern part of site	1b
G21	Two ditch groups in south-eastern part of site	Ditches SG8034 and SG8047	-
G22	Medieval ditches	Ditches possibly relating to medieval settlement	8
G23	Enclosures and field system	Roman enclosures and fields to south-east of ladder settlement	6
G24	Early Roman enclosure and roundhouse	Square enclosure set within early Roman field system G6 in northern part of site	4
G25	Middle Iron Age features in far north-west of site	Features recorded to north-west of middle Iron Age settlement	2a
G26	Timber piles beside the River Thames	Timber probably forming part of Roman bridge crossing River Thames	5

Chapter 1

taken under codes prefixed AYLBER will be deposited under accession code AYBCM:2007.165. Aylesbury Vale Parkway (ABPR07/08) will be deposited under code AYBCM:2007.164. Aylesbury Vale Academy (QAVC12) has been assigned the code AYBCM:2012.44, and the additional trenching (AYBF16) has the code AYBCM:2002.33.

The basic digital archive will take the form of a pdfA scan of the hard copy records. These pdfA scans will be preserved on the OA South archive

server and a copy on disc will accompany the hard copy with the archive. Digital data such as jpeg digital images and databases or geomatics data, which are not suitable for hard copy, will also be stored in this way. In time it is hoped that these digital archives will be made publicly available through the internet, but in the interim anyone unable to access the hard copy or museum disc copy may approach OA South for access.

