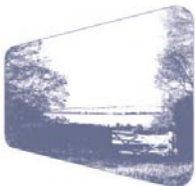


Unlocking
Buckinghamshire's Past



Quarrendon...

a deserted parish



How to get to Quarrendon

By road:

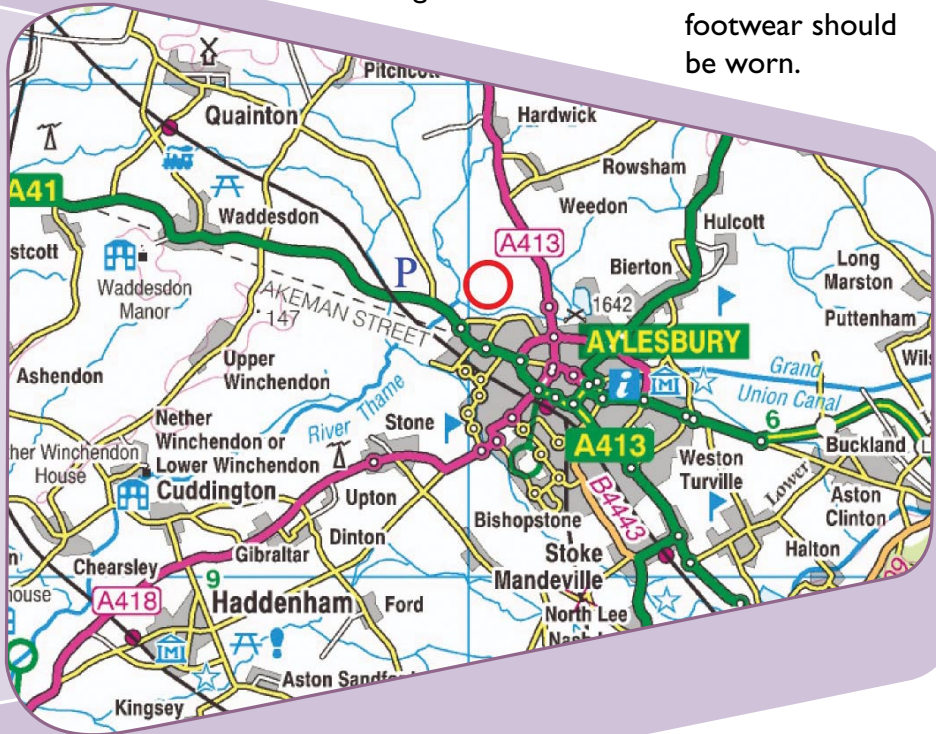
A41 between Aylesbury and Bicester – park in the layby just outside Aylesbury.

By bus:

16/17/18 on A41 from Aylesbury Buckingham. Get off at Raban's Lane. 66 on A413 from Aylesbury and Buckingham.

Walk level:

Stiles have been removed to make this route more accessible. The bridges over the streams are a little narrow. The ground is uneven. Suitable footwear should be worn.

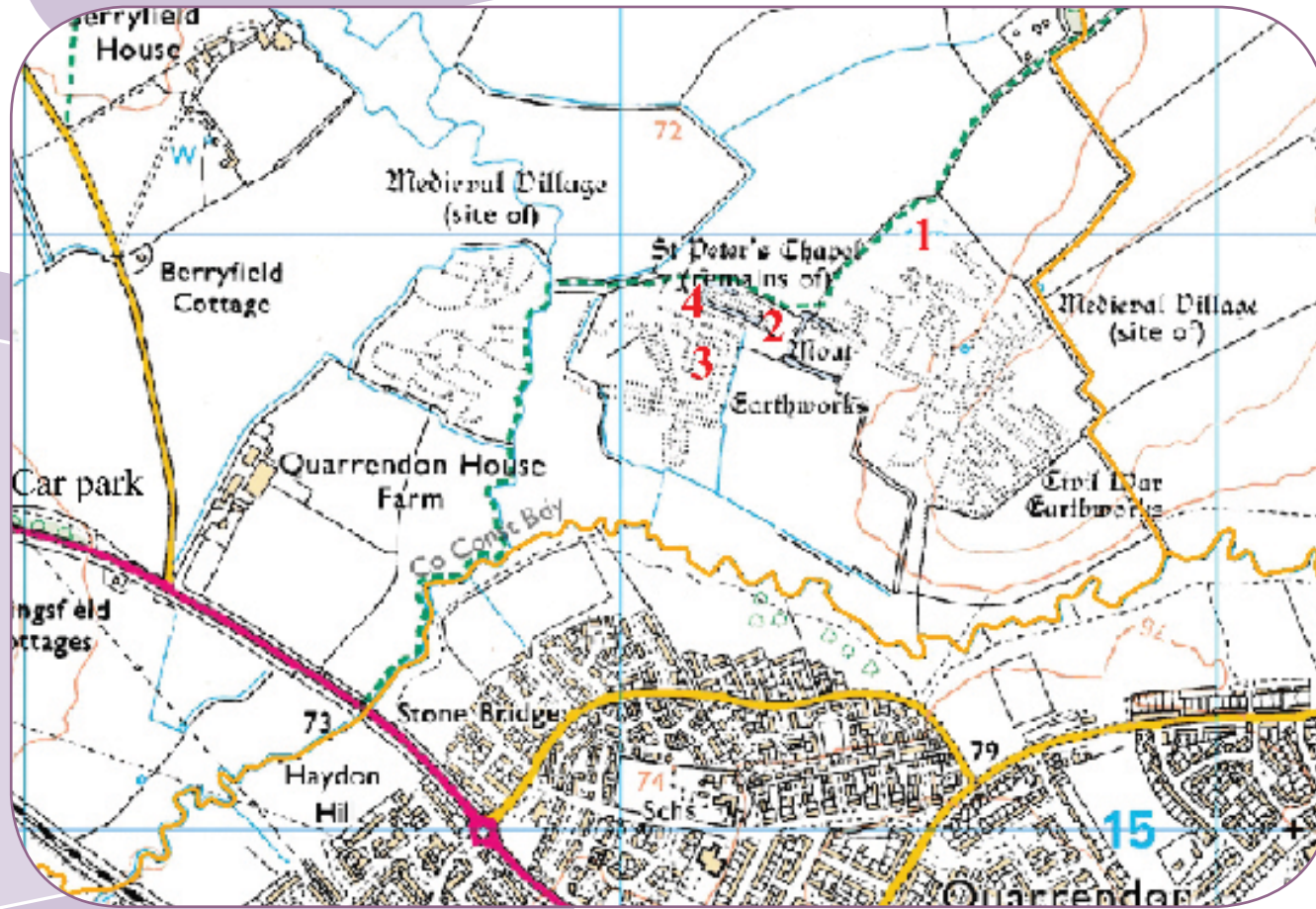




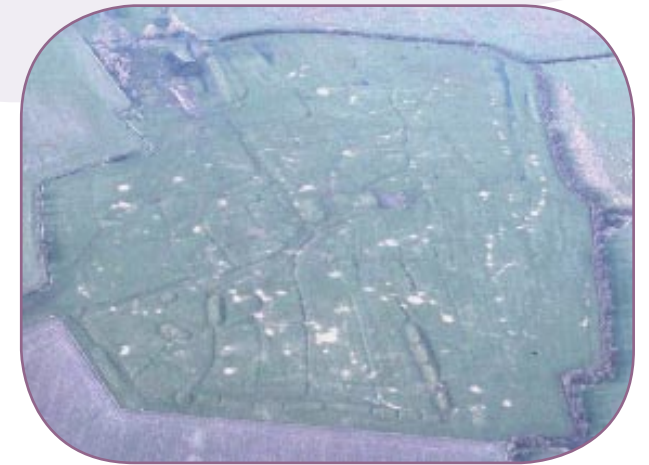
From A41. Walk back from layby towards Aylesbury, take care crossing the gated road, and take the footpath signposted on the left. The ground is uneven and often with long grass. Keep the river Thames on your right to the next bridge over a stream, then keep this stream on your left to the next bridge. The field on the left contains the remains of one deserted village. Turn right up a farm track to the viewing point (4) of the main set of remains.

From A413 at Weedon. Walk back towards Aylesbury along the road or take the footpath through the fields from the east end of Weedon. Cross the A413 carefully. There is a track with a public footpath sign on the west side of the A413, accessed by a stile. Take this track, past a Second World War pumping station, until you reach a gate. Go across the field to the far right-hand corner and to the viewing point (4).

Route Map of Quarrendon



Walking past the church to the moat, you can see the main road through the medieval village (1: see below) running up the field. There are house plots on either side of the road. It ends at a green where there may have been a dovecote. At the top of the field there are rabbit warrens built over the remains of the village



Coming back down from the village, the moat may have surrounded the late sixteenth century manor house (2) belonging to Sir Henry Lee, Queen Elizabeth I's champion. A farmhouse was built there in the eighteenth century that may have incorporated some of the Elizabethan house. It became dilapidated and was finally knocked down about twenty years ago.



Opposite the church are the most impressive earthworks on the site. They were a Tudor water garden (3). There is an L-shaped raised walkway with platforms for arbours and banqueting houses and it is surrounded by canals. A diagonal canal probably had an ornamental watermill halfway along (see reconstruction below and aerial view below left).





From 1294 St Peter's in Quarrendon was one of three chapels belonging to St. James' church in Bierton. A flood of 1570 destroyed much of the church and the lord of the manor, Sir Henry Lee, rebuilt it. The new church contained monuments to his parents Sir Anthony and Lady Margaret Lee and to his mistress, Anne Vavasour (though his wife is buried at St Mary's, Aylesbury)

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For more information visit: <http://ubp.buckscc.gov.uk>

Information from: Everson, P 2001. Peasants, Peers and Graziers: The Landscape of Quarrendon, Buckinghamshire, interpreted. Records of Buckinghamshire 41. 1-46.

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