

Atkins Ref No: 5022510/doc/007  
AWE Ref No: EL/02/01/04/1000139

**AWE**  
**Core Punch Facility**  
**Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment**  
April 2004

# AWE Aldermaston: CPF

## Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

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| JOB NUMBER: 5004827 |                        |               | DOCUMENT |          |            |            |
|                     |                        |               |          |          |            |            |
|                     |                        |               |          |          |            |            |
|                     |                        |               |          |          |            |            |
|                     |                        | GJT           | ACB      | ACB      |            | April 2004 |
| 0                   | For Issue              | Originated    | Checked  | Reviewed | Authorised | Date       |
| Revision            | Purpose<br>Description | <b>ATKINS</b> |          |          |            |            |

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### **APPENDIX A – MAPS**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment has been undertaken to assess the impact of the proposed HRF site at AWE Aldermaston.
- 1.2 Cultural Heritage resources that may be affected by development might in general terms include both archaeology and built heritage. The resources therefore covered in the research for this report have included records of archaeological sites, as well as searches to identify if any Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Conservation Areas, Historic Parks/Gardens or other designations relating to the historic use of the landscape will be affected. For these particular sites within AWE Aldermaston, the key issue will be buried archaeology. However, the surrounding structures and infrastructure, as well as previous modern and historic use of the landscape on the site will also be considered.
- 1.3 The aims of the assessment are to:
- identify the known Cultural Heritage constraints;
  - determine the potential for disturbing previously unknown remains;
  - assess the impact of the proposed developments on existing and potential Cultural Heritage resources and to make recommendations for any further investigation which may be required to further assess the archaeological potential and impact of the proposed developments.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 This document is produced in accordance with the IFA Standards and Guidance for Desk-Based Assessments.

2.2 Information was obtained for a study area of 1km around each of the proposed new developments. The following sources have been consulted:

- The West Berkshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
- West Berkshire Archaeology Service records, for historic maps and excavation reports
- English Heritage Listed Buildings Register Scheduled Ancient Monument Information
- Maps and plans relating to 20<sup>th</sup> century use of the landscape for Aldermaston Airfield and AWE dating from 1939 to 1951
- A site walkover of the proposed development sites.

2.3 A gazetteer of known archaeological and built heritage resources in the study areas has been compiled (**Appendix A**). All sites have been given a specific number for the purposes of this report. The locations of these resources can be seen in **Appendix B**.

### 3. CULTURAL HERITAGE ISSUES AT ALDERMASTON

3.1 There are three key elements of the cultural heritage resource which might be affected by development at AWE Aldermaston:

- **Archaeology:** this will only survive in areas of currently undisturbed ground, but may relate to any period of the site's development.
- **'Generic' Built Heritage:** buildings or structures undistinguished in their own right, but representative of the character, culture and history of the site, and of the activities that have occurred there. These remains relate both to the Second World War use of the site, and to work carried out on the site from the 1950's until the present day.
- **'Specific' Buildings or Structures of Heritage Value:** buildings or structures which are unique, designed for specific important purpose and/or directly associated with historical events and processes.

#### *Buried Archaeology*

3.2 Buried Archaeology is identified on the County Sites and Monuments Record, if it has been discovered during previous development, or is known through the activities of amateur or research archaeological work. However, the majority of archaeology in rural areas of the UK is still unmapped, and is only identified during the planning process as part of desk-based and field research. These sites are identified by examining the character of areas surrounding a development site, the general history and archaeology of the region, and extrapolating the potential for finding remains of each period of history on the site itself from this wider information. These predictions are then confirmed through archaeological field work. Prior to Second World War use of the site, the rural area immediately surrounding Aldermaston was occupied and altered during the Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods, so remains of any of these periods might reasonably be expected within the boundaries of AWE Aldermaston.

#### *Built heritage – Second World War features*

3.3 The Second World War history of the site is overshadowed by more recent events and use, but the history of Britain's defence in the earlier part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the structures which represent that military heritage, are as important as later developments. Munitions and explosives work, together with the infrastructure developed to support it (airfields, test areas, buildings, stores, residential sites, transport infrastructure, services and communications) are also subject to careful consideration as part of the planning process (*English Heritage 1998 Monuments of War*). Appropriate assessment and recording of such remains is often a requirement of planning authorities (depending on the nature and significance of each site), and also a focus of recent English Heritage and Defence of Britain work.

#### *Built Heritage - Cold War and munitions from the 1950's onwards*

3.4 Sites of relatively modern defensive purpose possess historic character strikingly different from the conventional picture of 'heritage' sites in the perception of the public. However, despite the fact that they are of recent construction, and often of modern material and form, they play no lesser part in our cultural, political, economic, social and military history than Medieval castles or Roman forts. There is currently no overall detailed baseline assessment of the built heritage at Aldermaston. However, English Heritage research (*'Cold War Monuments: an assessment by the Monuments Protection Programme' 2001*) has recently recognised and published the importance of the site. Furthermore, rather than individual structures themselves, it is often the combination of different structures, and the ways in which areas outside and around the structures are treated and viewed by those inside and outside the fence, (the 'culture' of the site) which is considered to be important. For example, where Cold War sites comprise a number of key component parts, EH have recommended in their research that whole sites should be considered for preservation, in order to 'maintain the function and chronological relationship between structures and their setting'. It could therefore be the case that buildings which are of no particular interest in their own right, will need to be recorded in some way prior to demolition, to ensure that a record is kept of the original layout and appearance of the site as a whole. The subject has also been broached in several recent English Heritage publications which have highlighted the importance of considering Cold War remains as being an integral part of the historic landscape of England. These publications are:

- Conservation Bulletin: A Bulletin of the Historic Environment, 2003. ***The Archaeology of Conflict***. Issue 44, English Heritage
- Cocroft, W D & Thomas R J C, 2003. ***Cold War: Building for Nuclear Confrontation 1946-1989***. English Heritage, London: ISBN 1873592698

## 4. DETAILED HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The following historical background will identify further the character of the general area surrounding the development site, in relation to each of the types of Cultural Heritage described above. This will determine the likely nature and significance of any remains likely to be affected by the development proposals.
- 4.2 The local geology has dictated the kind of settlement and land use in the area since the prehistoric period. Aldermaston is located on a large plateau overlooking the Kennett Valley and Berkshire river gravels of the Thames Valley to the north. The area south of the Kennett rises gradually merging into woodland and heathland. The site is directly underlain by well draining Silchester Gravel of Pleistocene Age and Bagshot Formation sandy clays. The London Clay below comprises firm and stiff dark bluish and grey sandy clay, with layers of sand and silt. The London Clay is, in turn, underlain by the Lambeth Group and the Upper Chalk. (*British Geological Survey 1996, British Regional Geology, London and the Thames Valley, 4th edition*).
- 4.3 The archaeological record for the Lower Kennet Valley is largely made up of chance finds made during mineral extraction or construction work and is consequently biased towards the lower gravel terraces and, to a lesser extent, the plateau gravels and the urban centres (*Lobb & Rose, 1996*). However, the better drained higher areas around the plateau with its commanding views over the valley would have been attractive for settlement and other occupation throughout history, as the Medieval village of Aldermaston and surrounding modern defence establishments testify.

### 4.4 Prehistoric

#### 4.4.1 Palaeolithic (500,000BC – 10,000BC)

Palaeolithic activity is well documented in the Thames and Kennett Valleys and is generally represented by hand axes and a large number of other tools and waste pieces from working and gathering sites. In contrast, the Downs and other parts of Berkshire have yielded only a few scattered finds, and these predominantly related to hunting activity, suggesting that these areas

may have only been used seasonally for hunting, and certainly not as intensively as the valley gravels.

#### 4.4.2 *Mesolithic (10,000BC – 4000BC)*

From the start of the Mesolithic period there has been almost continuous settlement in West Berkshire, also predominantly in the river valleys. The river valleys were used as route-ways as well as providing ideal settlement sites on gravel islands and river terraces with abundant fish and waterfowl for food. West Berkshire, and the Kennet Valley in particular, is nationally famous for the quality and quantity of Mesolithic remains.

#### 4.4.3 *Neolithic (4000BC – 2300BC)*

Trees were cleared during this period, and crop cultivation developed. However, it is not the farms or settlements of the period that are most well known in West Berkshire but burial mounds. There are three Neolithic long barrows in West Berkshire: one near Lambourn; one near East Ilsley and a third on Inkpen Hill between Inkpen and Combe.

#### 4.4.4 *Bronze Age (2300BC – 700BC)*

Burial mounds (round barrows) are also the most prevalent monument type of this period in West Berkshire. Perhaps the best known site is that of Lambourn Seven Barrows on the downs, north of the M4. Settlement evidence in the Late Bronze Age in the middle and lower Thames Valley suggests a considerable density of population. In the tributary valley of the Kennet, there is a particularly high concentration of sites, such as Aldermaston Wharf. These were unenclosed clusters of round houses and pits, showing evidence for a mixed agricultural economy and craft activity such as textile production, but little metalwork or other wealth. Gravel working also uncovered a much larger Late Bronze Age settlement at Knight's Farm, Burghfield. This yielded evidence of occupation over a period of about 1,000 years up to c.400BC (*Bradley et al, 1980*).

In the late 1980s development alongside the M4 resulted in the discovery of several more Bronze Age settlements on the site of Reading Business Park, to the south of the town. Here, the pattern suggested several groups of round timber huts and granaries perched on stilts on islands of dry ground. The most prolific source of bronze artefacts has proved to be the bed of the river Thames, from which dredging operations over the years have retrieved numerous axes, swords, daggers, spearheads and knives (*Bradley et al, 1980*).

Taken altogether, the evidence points to dense and prosperous settlement in the Middle Thames valley during the Late Bronze Age, but little is known of activity to the south on the plateau occupied by the current site.

#### **4.5 Iron Age (700BC – AD43)**

Evidence of Iron Age settlement or activity in West Berkshire is demonstrated by the presence of numerous hillforts. The best known example is probably Walbury Camp on Inkpen Hill. This site lies on high ground overlooking the Kennet Valley and was a considerable feat of construction having massive encircling banks and ditches. It is also possible that the earthwork known as Grim's Bank also dates from the Late Iron Age – although much of Silchester and its surrounds are now covered in pine, and have been since the Roman period, there was a distinct absence of pine or evidence of cereal cultivation in environmental samples taken from the bank. The bank may therefore have been constructed for demarcation or fortification purposes prior to the Roman period.

In recent decades evidence has been found of many hitherto unsuspected Iron Age settlements, particularly in river valleys and their surrounds. Aerial photography has recorded cropmarks of complex patterns of circles, parallel lines and sub-rectangular enclosures, indicating ditched enclosures containing huts, granaries and storage pits, trackways and animal compounds. Evidence of this kind has been found in the Kennet Valley near Aldermaston Wharf (*Phillips, D 1993*) (*Bradley et al, 1980*).

In the last century or so before the Roman conquest a number of large nucleated settlements, or *oppida*, developed, quite often at points commanding major route crossings, Some of them were defended. In broad terms it is possible to recognize two generalized types: *enclosed oppida* in which a single defensive circuit defines much of the settlement area; and *territorial oppida* comprising substantial linear ditch systems defining many square kilometres of territory. The *oppidum* at Silchester serves as a model for the type. The Late Iron Age settlement was defended by two systems of banks and ditches (*Cunliffe, B 1993*)

#### **4.6 Roman (AD43 – AD450)**

The most significant Roman site in the area, the Roman town of Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*), lies just outside the modern Berkshire border in Hampshire but had a great influence on the surrounding area. The town developed from an Iron Age settlement and is generally considered to bear relation to the ditch and bank systems in the area of which Grims Bank is one. All major roads across Berkshire led to Calleva, and formed part of the Roman network across Britain to provide a rapid means of communication between all

military and civil centres. The Roman road, Ermin Street, ran from Cirencester to Silchester, and its projected route runs directly through the area to be occupied by the HEFF. The south western terminal of Grim's Bank within the AWE site was described in 1943 as lying 80 yards from this road.

#### **4.7 Anglo-Saxon (AD450 – 1066)**

Evidence of activity in West Berkshire during the Anglo-Saxon period is quite varied. In Burghfield a cemetery with over 50 burials was found with many graves including weapons, pottery and jewellery. We know more about Saxon burial rituals in West Berkshire than their houses, but one sunken-floored hut of a typically Saxon type was discovered and excavated at Ufton Nervet. Places such as Lambourn began to emerge as important settlements at this time. Lambourn is believed to have been a royal manor and centre of a large estate in the Saxon period, as was Thatcham. Aldermaston, Bucklebury and Kintbury also have their origins at this time. The Danes (Vikings) arrived in Berkshire in AD 870. They seem to have established a base at Reading but there is little in the archaeological record as yet to indicate much activity in West Berkshire.

The best known item from this period in the area comes from Silchester in the form of an *ogham* (*a form of writing thought to originate in Ireland*) inscription, carved on a Roman baluster pillar, recording the burial of one *Ebicatus*, who was probably of Irish origin. Various dates have been proposed, the most likely being about AD 500 or soon after. These few scraps hint at the survival of some kind of 'Sub Roman' community using the old defensive circuit throughout the period of Saxon penetration when Germanic enclaves were building up around Dorchester-on-Thames to the north and Winchester to the south. It is possible that in this period Grims Bank was constructed to the north west between the old town and the river Kennet, perhaps in an attempt to stem the southern advance of the Thames-based Saxon armies. The very existence of such a major construction suggest that a substantial community still used Silchester as a base (*Cunliffe, B 1993*).

#### **4.8 Medieval (1066 – 1547)**

The Norman Conquest is represented in West Berkshire by sites such as Hamstead Marshall where three motte and bailey castles survive. Many of West Berkshire's churches also have their origins at this time as well as the majority of Berkshire's towns and villages. Newbury, for example, is believed to have been established as a town soon after the Norman Conquest and possibly as early as the 1080s. Hungerford was recognised as a town by the 1170s. Aldermaston is recorded in the Domesday Book as '*Eldermanstone*' with 2 fisheries and a church, with the first reference as it being town being in 1298 (*Betty, 1986, p59*).

West Berkshire was the most widely inhabited and cultivated area of the county, and contained the majority of villages and farmsteads. Aldermaston was a large manor owned by King Edward, contained ploughland for 30 teams, 124 acres of meadow, a mill, fisheries and woodland. (*Phillips, D 1993, p36*).

In the medieval period there is a large amount of archaeological evidence for the region, particularly in relation to the expanding towns and villages, most of which are still in existence today. A medieval deer park belonging to Aldermaston Manor is recorded in early 13<sup>th</sup> century documents and depicted as an enclosed park on historic maps dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Medieval deer parks were typically enclosed wooded hunting grounds and were often succeeded by ornamental landscaped parks in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This transition can be traced in the history of Aldermaston's Park and Court and is on historic maps spanning the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century. Decoy pond is related to this parkland, and is of medieval or post medieval date. The avenue which ran up to Aldermaston Court also extends through the AWE site.

#### **4.9 Post-medieval (1547 – 1901)**

During the English Civil War two battles were fought around Newbury. The first took place to the south and west of the town in September 1643. The second, which was a smaller engagement, took place to the north of the town in the Shaw area. No Civil War archaeology is known within the study area.

It is possible that the existence of the parkland around Aldermaston since the Medieval period has restricted the amount of archaeological evidence known for the area, but this evidence may still survive below ground.

#### **4.10 Second World War**

The most important archaeological sites in West Berkshire from the modern period are twentieth century military structures. During the Second World War a major anti-invasion defensive line was built across West Berkshire along the Kennet and Avon Canal. This "stop line" was intended to prevent an invading Germany army from advancing further north. The canal was fortified with large numbers of pillboxes and other defensive features such as road blocks. Many of these monuments are still visible today. Originally part of the Aldermaston Court Estate, the current AWE site was chosen for development as a bomber Operational Training Unit. Three runways were provided with extensive, dispersed enclaves and a large bomb dump. Opened on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1942, the airfield was never used as originally intended but instead was earmarked for use by the United States Army Air Force. As soon as it was habitable, the 60<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group (TCG) occupied the base with the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

Troop Carrier Squadrons equipped with C47 (DC-3) transports. Initially used for moving cargo, the transports soon became used for paratroop training.

A large aircraft shed was taken over by Vickers in July 1943 for the assembly of Spitfires, using parts manufactured by sub-contractors mainly in Reading and Newbury. The aircraft were flight-tested from Aldermaston. Production of Spitfires continued until the Spring of 1945, with the site finally being closed in 1946.

The airfield remained in limbo until May 1946 when BOAC opened its Training HQ at Aldermaston. Dakota, Oxford, York, Halifax, Halton and Viking aircraft could all be seen using the airfield at that time. In January 1947, Aldermaston was temporarily loaned to the Ministry of Civil Aviation as a temporary civil airport and British European Airways joined BOAC to form Airways Training Ltd. However, the school closed in November 1948. At the end of 1947, the number of movements was nearly 10,000 a month, but with the closure of the school, the number dwindled rapidly. There was a brief revival from August 1949 when Eagle Airways set up its HQ at Aldermaston. However, with the decisions to site the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment on the airfield, Eagle Airways departed and MCA relinquished the airfield in April 1950.

#### **4.11 Cold War**

AWE Aldermaston was developed in the early 1950s as the principal centre for Britain's nuclear weapons programme. Within its perimeter are many unique structures associated with Britain's nuclear weapons projects.

#### **4.10 Post-Cold War**

Since the end of the Cold War AWE Aldermaston has been in use as a weapons assembly and research centre.

## **5. HISTORIC MAPS**

5.1 Several historic maps were looked at to identify the presence of remains with the site of AWE Aldermaston which are no longer extant.

### **5.2 Roque Map 1761**

The site is wooded and within the old Aldermaston Court Estate.

### **5.3 Snare Map 1846**

The site is wooded and within the old Aldermaston Court Estate.

### **5.4 1877 OS Berkshire Sheet**

The HRF site is located within a wooded area within the old Aldermaston Court estate, north of an old Cricket Ground.

### **5.5 1900 OS Berkshire Sheet**

No change

### **5.6 1911 OS Berkshire Sheet XLIV.10.**

The map shows that the area now occupied by AWE Aldermaston was wooded and part of Aldermaston Park in 1911. The area where the HRF is to be constructed lies at the intersection of four tree-lined avenues where an open area was created to form a crucifix shape. A cricket ground and pavilion lies to the south-west of the HRF site.

### **5.7 1913 - 1991 OS Berkshire Sheet**

No change.

## **5.8 1945 Air Ministry Drawings**

The drawing shows that the central part of the HRF proposed site is east of the old airfield roadway, which leads to a series of aircraft standing points around the northern part of the site.

## **5.9 AWE Drawing 1975**

No particular features are present on the HRF site.

## 6. SITE CONDITIONS

6.1 A site visit was made on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2003, in order to establish the likely relevance of the Cultural Heritage issues outlined above in respect of each site. In addition, the following criteria are believed generally to provide a good indication of the likely existence and importance of sites of cultural heritage or archaeological interest.

- The topographic nature of the site, including modern or past modification of the landscape, proximity of water sources, aspect of slopes, or extent of flat areas.
- The ground conditions – whether the ground is wetland, stony, agricultural land or heathland, for example.
- Nature of vegetation and age of trees/woodland – any features which might suggest that the site has remained unaltered for a long period of time, or which might suggest the function of the site in the past (e.g. managed woodland, agricultural, pasture).
- The location of the site in relation to surrounding landscape or built environment – whether the site provides a focus for surrounding features, or what part it currently plays in the landscape which will be altered by development.
- The existence of standing structures on the site – structures of any date or type may be of Cultural Heritage value, depending on factors such as previous function, historic associations, rarity, its value as part of an unusual group, or nature of design.
- Likelihood of previous buildings having existed on the site of which remains may survive below ground – even if buildings are no longer visible, the layout of previous structures should be recorded if this information can be recovered, particularly if these are believed to have been structures of heritage value (defined above).

6.2 Based on these criteria, and on the SMR information, the following assessment has been made of each of the HRF site:

The site contains four existing structures – 1950's office buildings, of no particular architectural merit. The land is open, flat land at the top of a natural rise, which falls away to the south. There are no nearby natural water sources, but the site does lie in a position of prominence in relation to the rest of the Aldermaston site and the immediately surrounding area, which suggests that it may be of archaeological potential. It is possible that some modification of the landscape has occurred, certainly for construction of the process buildings north of the site, but also possibly to level the site at the top of the rise. However, the land to the back of the site near the boundary with Aldermaston Manor appears undisturbed. It is not known or obvious if any areas have been disturbed on the site. The site is currently grassland, and shows no signs of having been cultivated in the recent past. In fact, nearby woodland may have covered this area until clearance at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century for the airfield. To the north of the site, immediately outside the fence lies Aldermaston Manor, and the nearby village of Aldermaston.

## 7. KNOWN CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES

### The Study Area

- 7.1 There is one Scheduled Ancient Monument within the area (Grim's Bank). Furthermore, English Heritage (*'Cold War Monuments: an assessment by the Monuments Protection Programme' 2001*) has recently recognised and published the importance of the site, and has identified that the layout and some structures on the site are of international significance.
- 7.2 There are no Listed Structures within the AWE site, but buildings at Aldermaston Court (stable block, house and lodges) are Listed Grade II, as are 3 buildings in The Street, Aldermaston and St Mary's Church.
- 7.3 Aldermaston Court Park is registered as a Grade II listed Registered Park and Garden by English Heritage.
- 7.4 Archaeological features in the Study Area around the sites include at least 10 prehistoric findspots (locations of sporadic finds such as flint flakes from Neolithic tool working sites or Neolithic/Bronze Age pottery scatters), in Aldermaston Village, which lies in a similar topographic position to the AWE site. Two sites yielded 70+ flint artefacts each, and lie approximately 1km from the HRF site.
- 7.5 Roman sites in the study area include the Roman road Ermine Street, and isolated Roman finds west of Aldermaston village (two bronze brooches). A 4<sup>th</sup>-century AD Roman coin was found in the vicinity of Burnham's Copse at the south-western corner of the site. Ermine Street ran from Cirencester (*Corinium*) to Silchester (*Calleva*). Part of the projected route of the road runs through the AWE Aldermaston site. The projected line runs c220 metres to the southwest of the HRF site (see Figure 2 in Appendix B). Remains associated with the road could have the potential to be present including dispersed dwellings, milestones, *mansios* (an official hotel where military or civilian officials could stay overnight on long journeys) and burials.
- 7.6 There is believed to have been Saxon settlement at Aldermaston, and at Silchester, and Medieval pottery is also commonly found in the study area.

Aldermaston was of course a medieval settlement of good size from the early medieval period onwards, with church and manor, less than 1km from the HRF site. There may have been significant levels of activity in the area of the site before it became parkland.

- 7.7 Features relating to the medieval park layout may survive, e.g. Decoy Pond and the Avenue. The Avenue can still be traced to the west side of the HRF site in a line of Oak trees, continuing across the boundary of the site towards Aldermaston Court (see Figure 2 in Appendix B).
- 7.8 A cricket ground and pavilion are marked on the 1911 OS map, and lie c50 metres to the southwest of the HRF site (see Figure 2 in Appendix B).
- 7.9 Analysis of maps produced of this part of the Aldermaston site during the Second World War has shown areas of 'frying-pan' shaped dispersal areas or standing points, which were used to position planes throughout the site with easy access to the runways..

### **Development Site**

- 7.10 There are no known Cultural Heritage Sites in the HRF development area dating to before the 20<sup>th</sup> century, other than elements of the later medieval park layout.
- 7.11 Grade II listed Aldermaston Court Park lies immediately adjacent to the site, outside the fence.
- 7.12 Second World War airfield remains (areas of hard standing) and 4 1950's office buildings which are of limited heritage value in their own right (generic built heritage as at 3.4 above), but do warrant some consideration are located within the development site.
- 7.13 There are no other known sites on the development site.

## 8. FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF THE DEVELOPMENT SITE

- 8.1 The HRF site lies within very close proximity to a large concentration of prehistoric find scatters. Due to the proximity and density of nearby prehistoric sites, the potential exists for the presence of small scale prehistoric settlement or areas of activity within the development area. There is a conspicuous absence of similar finds recorded within the boundaries of the AWE site. This is due to the fact that very little archaeological work has been undertaken within the area, and any previous construction work has not been subject to archaeological monitoring. The absence of recorded sites does not mean that there is no potential for them existing within the AWE site.
- 8.2 AWE Aldermaston was probably wooded from the late prehistoric period until the construction of the airfield in 1939. It is unlikely that either site will therefore yield evidence of *settlement* dating to the Roman, Saxon or medieval periods, but there may be evidence of temporary occupation or rural activity. The HRF site lies too far away from the Roman road to suggest that there is the potential for features associated with it to be present.
- 8.3 Features relating to the medieval park layout may be visible, such as former boundaries, ditches, pathways and tree-lined avenues.
- 8.4 Features associated with the airfield are to be expected within the development, namely the hard-standing 'frying-pan' shaped areas where planes were positioned throughout the airfield.

## 9. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

9.1 The development will not have a direct impact on Aldermaston Court, but construction work, including temporary compounds and additional traffic noise will affect the setting of the park for visitors. The development will directly affect 2<sup>nd</sup> world war and mid 20<sup>th</sup> century remains including areas of hard standing (if they survive) and 4 office buildings (generic built heritage as at 3.4 above). There may also be an impact on potential buried archaeology relating to activity dating from the prehistoric period to the present day. These remains would be dispersed in nature, comprising buried archaeological features such as pits or ditches, and ceramic and other finds.

9.1.1 Based on the above conclusions, the following recommendations for further work will mitigate the impact of the proposed developments on the HRF site on archaeological remains. Archaeological best practise (as set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994) and normal planning requirements (as set out in PPG16 paragraph 21) would favour **Option 1**, as this would enable an informed decision to be made with regard to the nature of the final design of the development (position of services, landscaping etc to prevent unnecessary damage to any archaeology), the proper treatment of archaeological remains and the efficient progress of the development once on site. In this case, in the context of a regular planning application, an evaluation would almost certainly be needed due to:

- The proximity and density of nearby prehistoric sites which indicate the presence of small scale settlement activity in the vicinity (this would take the form of dispersed pits, ditches or post holes)
- The potential for Saxon and medieval features associated with nearby Aldermaston (possibly boundary features or evidence of other peripheral/agricultural) activity
- The potential for features associated with the early development of the site as an airfield

### 9.2 Options 1 and 2

9.2.1 Office buildings/current site layout: basic photographic recording and description to RCHME Level 1.

9.2.2 Aldermaston Court Park: no work, but may need to consider temporary impacts on setting.

### **9.3 Option 1: Archaeological Investigation Prior to Development**

9.3.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief on geotechnical works which should confirm the nature and survival of archaeological levels on the site. If archaeological levels have been significantly damaged in any areas of the site, no further work will be required in these areas.

9.3.2 Additional archaeological evaluation trenches in the main area of development, where only boreholes are being carried out, as these cannot be monitored archaeologically.

9.3.3 Mitigation through excavation or by design (such as the realignment of services or changes to landscaping and topsoil reinstatement plans) of the impacts of the development on discovered remains prior to construction.

9.3.4 Archaeological Watching Brief during construction in the area where only geotechnical pits have been monitored (the need for this would be reconsidered based on the monitoring exercise). No further work in main area where archaeological trenches have been dug if trenches are negative.

### **9.4 Option 2: Archaeological Monitoring During Construction**

9.4.1 Provision could be made to undertake archaeological work during the construction phase of the development, rather than undertaking archaeological evaluation prior to construction. This would take the form of an Archaeological Watching Brief during topsoil stripping and excavation of foundations, with provision made for the excavation and recording of any finds or features should they be encountered. This would not be an unreasonable approach in this instance, given that features expected would be dispersed and could be dealt with properly within the construction programme without much delay.

9.4.2 However, due to the relatively unknown archaeological potential of the deposits on the Aldermaston site, the recommendation for not undertaking an archaeological evaluation before development would involve a certain amount of risk, and would prevent suitable design measures being devised to protect any archaeological remains. These might include the realignment of services or changes to landscaping and topsoil reinstatement plans. In the (however

unlikely) case that unexpected archaeology (such as structures or burials) is encountered during construction in areas which will definitely need to be fully excavated, problems could be encountered regarding the amount of time and money that would have to be expended to ensure that they are properly dealt with.

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## APPENDIX A – GAZETTER OF HISTORIC RESOURCE WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

See accompanying map in Appendix B

| A Number                          | Type     | Date                 | Description  | Site Name   | West Berks SMR Monument ID No. | Administrative Area | National Grid Ref. |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------------------|--|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>West Berkshire SMR entries</b> |          |                      |  |             |                                |                     |                    |
| 1                                 | FINDSPOT | Prehistoric          | Flint flake found during fieldwalking                      |             | WB10205                        | Aldermaston         | SU602649           |
| 2                                 | FINDSPOT | Prehistoric Medieval | Flint flake and medieval pottery found during fieldwalking | Aldermaston | WB11095                        | Aldermaston         | SU585645           |
| 3                                 | FINDSPOT | Prehistoric Medieval | Flint flake and medieval pottery found during fieldwalking | Aldermaston | WB11097                        | Aldermaston         | SU584643           |
| 4                                 | FINDSPOT | Prehistoric          | Flint flake found during fieldwalking                      |             | WB11102                        | Aldermaston         | SU596652           |
| 5                                 | FINDSPOT | Prehistoric          | Flint flake found during fieldwalking                      |             | WB11103                        | Aldermaston         | SU585650           |
| 6                                 | FINDSPOT | Prehistoric          | Roman pottery found during fieldwalking                    |             | WB11104                        | Aldermaston         | SU585650           |
| 7                                 | FINDSPOT | Prehistoric          | Flint flake found during fieldwalking                      |             | WB11437                        | Aldermaston         | SU606651           |

|           |  |                               |  |  |         |             |          |
|-----------|--|-------------------------------|--|--|---------|-------------|----------|
| <b>8</b>  | FINDSPOT                               | Prehistoric                   | Flint flake found during fieldwalking  | Fields west of Jacob's Spinney           | WB11465 | Aldermaston | SU602653 |
| <b>9</b>  | FINDSPOT                               | Medieval                      | Ten medieval pottery sherds found during fieldwalking                                  |  | WB11471 | Aldermaston | SU602653 |
| <b>10</b> | FINDSPOT                               | Bronze Age<br>Medieval        | One Bronze Age and one medieval pottery sherd found during fieldwalking                | Breaches Gully 1                         | WB14625 | Aldermaston | SU584647 |
| <b>11</b> | FINDSPOT                               | Roman                         | 2 Roman copper alloy brooches found  | Forster's Farm                           | WB14926 | Aldermaston | SU589649 |
| <b>12</b> | FLINT SCATTER                          | Early Neolithic<br>Bronze Age | 70 flint artefacts   | Brimpton-Aldermaston Pipeline            | WB15006 | Aldermaston | SU585647 |
| <b>13</b> | FINDSPOT                               | Prehistoric                   | One piece of pottery and two struck flints recovered from evaluation                   | Wasing Lane                              | WB15652 | Aldermaston | SU587653 |
| <b>14</b> | STABLE                                 | Post-medieval<br>Modern       | Rectangular stable block, c1800, altered mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century. GRADE II LISTED | Aldermaston Court stable block           | WB15767 | Aldermaston | SU597645 |
| <b>15</b> | MILITARY AIRFIELD<br>MUNITIONS FACTORY | Modern                        | Military airfield 1941-1945, in civilian use until 1949. Site of AWE since 1950        | Aldermaston Airfield                     | WB15864 | Aldermaston | SU594636 |
| <b>16</b> | CROPMARK                               | Unknown                       | Rectilinear cropmark visible on aerial photograph, on course of Roman road.            | Paices Hill, possible building/structure | WB16033 | Aldermaston | SU589643 |

|    |                   |                        |   |                              |        |                    |          |
|----|-------------------|------------------------|---|------------------------------|--------|--------------------|----------|
| 17 | ROAD              | Roman                  | Course of the Silchester to Cirencester Roman road (ermin Street)   | Ermin Street                 | WB2074 | Aldermaston        | SU600639 |
| 18 | ROAD              | Roman                  | Section of Roman road believed to have created a pond by its line   | Ermin Street                 | WB2075 | Aldermaston        | SU593642 |
| 19 | ROAD              | Roman                  | Section of Roman road runs across Wasing Park   | Ermin Street                 | WB2076 | Aldermaston Wasing | SU585646 |
| 20 | DITCHED ENCLOSURE | Unknown                | Small enclosure/land parcel   |                              | WB2433 | Aldermaston        | SU593655 |
| 21 | PIT CLUSTER       | Unknown                | Small area of pits to west of main complex may suggest settlement, visible on aerial photographs  |                              | WB2434 | Aldermaston        | SU593655 |
| 22 | SITE              | Unknown                | Oval feature seen on aerial photos  |                              | WB3701 | Aldermaston        | SU598646 |
| 23 | VILLAGE           | Medieval Post-medieval |   | Aldermaston Village          | WB3727 | Aldermaston        | SU593651 |
| 24 | VILLAGE           | Early Medieval         | Royal Manor by Domesday, possibly Saxon settlement, <i>Speltae/dremanestone</i> meaning 'Farm'  | Aldermaston Saxon Settlement | WB3728 | Aldermaston        | SU596649 |
| 25 | CHURCH            | Medieval Post-medieval | 12 <sup>th</sup> Century Church, remodelled with additions in 13 <sup>th</sup> century. Restored 1896. Surviving Norman features and wall paintings inside. | St Mary's, Aldermaston       | WB3729 | Aldermaston        | SU596649 |

|           |                  |                        |  |  |        |             |          |
|-----------|------------------|------------------------|--|--|--------|-------------|----------|
| <b>26</b> | COUNTRY HOUSE    | Post-medieval          | GRADE I LISTED<br>GRADE II* LISTED house, largely built 1848-51, but incorporating staircase of 1636 predecessor   | Aldermaston Court (House)                | WB3730 | Aldermaston | SU596648 |
| <b>27</b> | LODGE            | Post-medieval          | LISTED GRADE II*. Once a single house, now 2 lodges.   | Aldermaston Court Lodges                 | WB3731 | Aldermaston | SU591650 |
| <b>28</b> | HALL HOUSE       | Medieval               | LISTED GRADE II. House and cottage of 16 <sup>th</sup> century, with 18 <sup>th</sup> century refacing and additions. Timber framed with grey brick facing | 22/22A The Street, Aldermaston           | WB3732 | Aldermaston | SU591651 |
| <b>29</b> | HOUSE            | Medieval Post-medieval | LISTED GRADE II. Now a house and shop, dated to around 1600. Partly refaced in 18 <sup>th</sup> century. Timber framed with brick and plaster              | Tile Cottage, 23 The Street, Aldermaston | WB3733 | Aldermaston | SU591651 |
| <b>30</b> | HOUSE            | Medieval               | LISTED GRADE II. Late 16 <sup>th</sup> century. Was a single dwelling, now 2 houses. Timber framed with brick nogging                                      | 42/43 The Street, Aldermaston            | WB3734 | Aldermaston | SU590650 |
| <b>31</b> | HOLLOW WAY       | Medieval               | Possible hollow way running along western edge of field  |  | WB3875 | Aldermaston | SU596652 |
| <b>32</b> | RIDGE AND FURROW | Medieval               | Ridge and furrow observed during   |  | WB3876 | Aldermaston | SU596652 |

|           |                       |                              |  |                                    |        |             |          |
|-----------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--------|-------------|----------|
| <b>33</b> | LYNCHET               | Medieval                     | fieldwalking<br>Possible negative lynchets observed during fieldwalking  |                                    | WB3877 | Aldermaston | SU596652 |
| <b>34</b> | FIND SCATTER          | Prehistoric                  | Worked flint and pottery suggesting low level prehistoric activity in the area   |                                    | WB4033 | Aldermaston | SU602653 |
| <b>35</b> | DECOY POND            | Medieval<br>Post-medieval    | A decoy pond inside AWE Aldermaston  | Decoy Pond, Aldermaston            | WB4886 | Aldermaston | SU607634 |
| <b>36</b> | TOLL ROAD             | Post-medieval<br>Modern      | From A4 south west on A340 through Aldermaston to Heath End. Then south west on unclassified roads to county boundary                            | Aldermaston to Baughurst Toll Road | WB6193 | Aldermaston | SU591635 |
| <b>37</b> | ORNAMENTAL GARDEN     | Post-medieval                | 19 <sup>th</sup> century gardens and park around a mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century house with earlier remains.<br>REGISTERED PARK & GARDEN GRADE II | Aldermaston Court (Park)           | WB6276 | Aldermaston | SU595648 |
| <b>38</b> | FLINT SCATTER FEATURE | Prehistoric<br>Post-medieval | Evaluation revealed a few post-medieval sub-surface features and a very small number of prehistoric finds  | Wasing Lane                        | WB6311 | Aldermaston | SU587653 |
| <b>39</b> | FIND SCATTER          | Medieval                     | Medieval pottery found during watching brief   | Forster's Farm                     | WB6337 | Aldermaston | SU586646 |
| <b>40</b> | FLINT                 | Early                        | 71 flint artefacts   |                                    | WB6348 | Aldermaston | SU585647 |

|           |              |                                |  |                |        |             |          |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------------------|--|----------------|--------|-------------|----------|
|           | SCATTER      | Neolithic<br>Bronze Age        | assemblage of which 50 were valid struck flints on re-examination composed mainly of reused flakes |                |        |             |          |
| <b>41</b> | FIND SCATTER | Late Bronze Age to Medieval    | Spread of dark soil revealed with burnt flint and prehistoric pottery                              | Forster's Farm | WB6525 | Aldermaston | SU587647 |
| <b>42</b> | DITCH        | Lower Palaeolithic to Medieval | Ditch with U-Shaped profile containing prehistoric pot and flint                                   | Forster's Farm | WB6530 | Aldermaston | SU587647 |
| <b>43</b> | FINDSPOT     | Lower Palaeolithic to Medieval | Flint flake, Roman and medieval pottery found while fieldwalking                                   |                | WB9526 | Aldermaston | SU587654 |
| <b>44</b> | FINDSPOT     | Prehistoric                    | Flint flakes and fragment found during fieldwalking  | Wasing Lane    | WB9536 | Aldermaston | SU585651 |
| <b>45</b> | EARTHWORK    | Roman?                         | Linear earthwork   | Grim's Bank    |        |             |          |
| <b>46</b> | Kiln         | Post Med                       | Brick kiln?  |                | WB6915 |             |          |

## **APPENDIX B – MAPS**

Figure 1 – Map showing the location of finds included in the Gazetteer

Figure 2 – Map showing the known archaeological resource in the area  
of the proposed development site

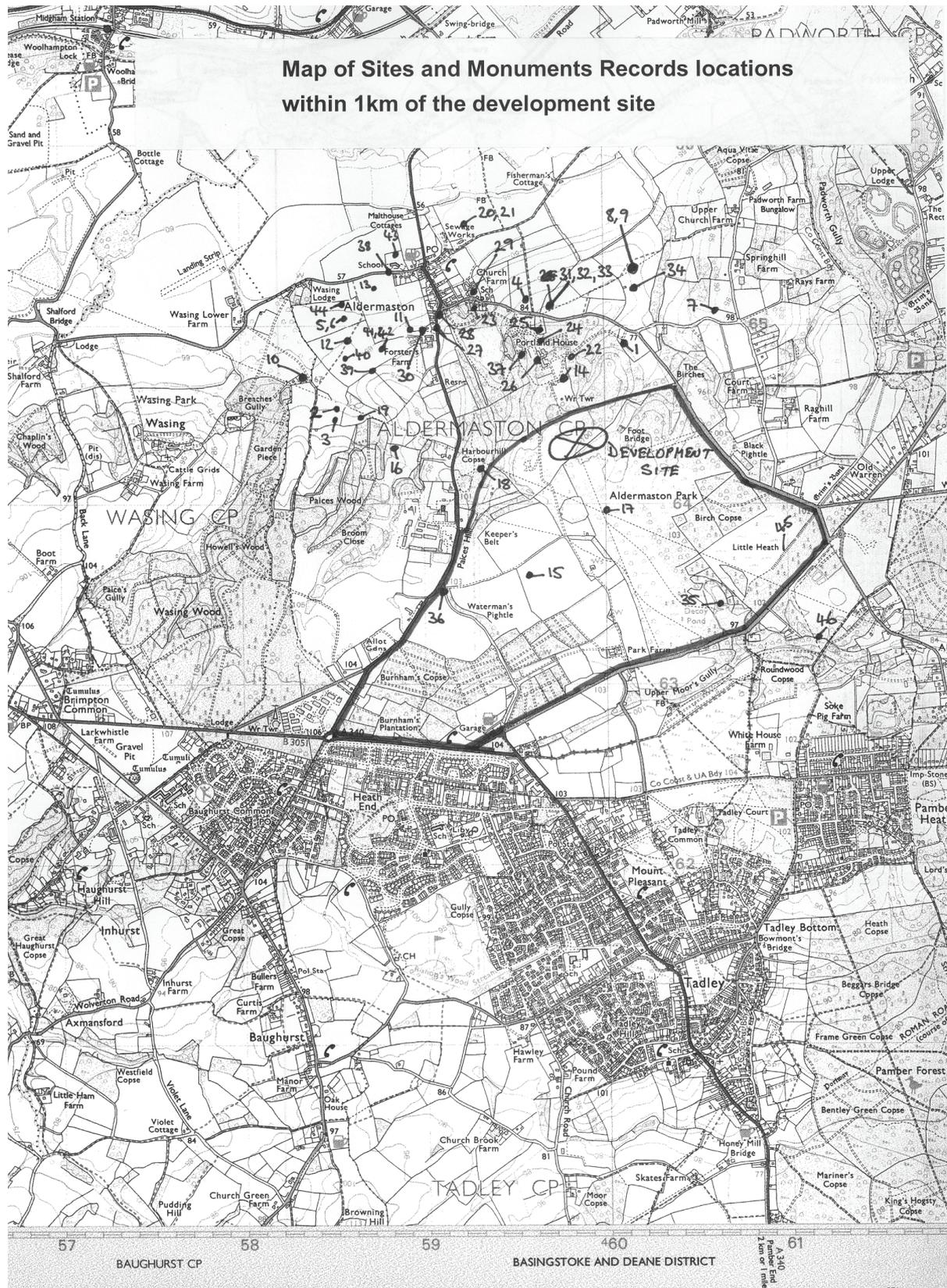




Figure 2 – Map showing the known archaeological resource in the area of the proposed development site

gcps/civ/a0/sc/ttt/zz032a01