



Local History & Character

The history of Caversfield dates back to the time of the Roman occupation. It is thought that the name was derived from 'Cafer' (signifying an enclosure or a protected place) and 'feld' (the origin of the modern word 'field').

At the time of the Norman survey, Cafer-feld was included as 'Rovelai' in the 'Buckinghamshire Hundreds' (geographical areas calculated for taxation). Thus, the parish of Caversfield - although entirely surrounded by Oxfordshire - was included in the county of Buckinghamshire until the 19th century, when it was transferred to Oxfordshire by the Acts of 1832 and 1844.

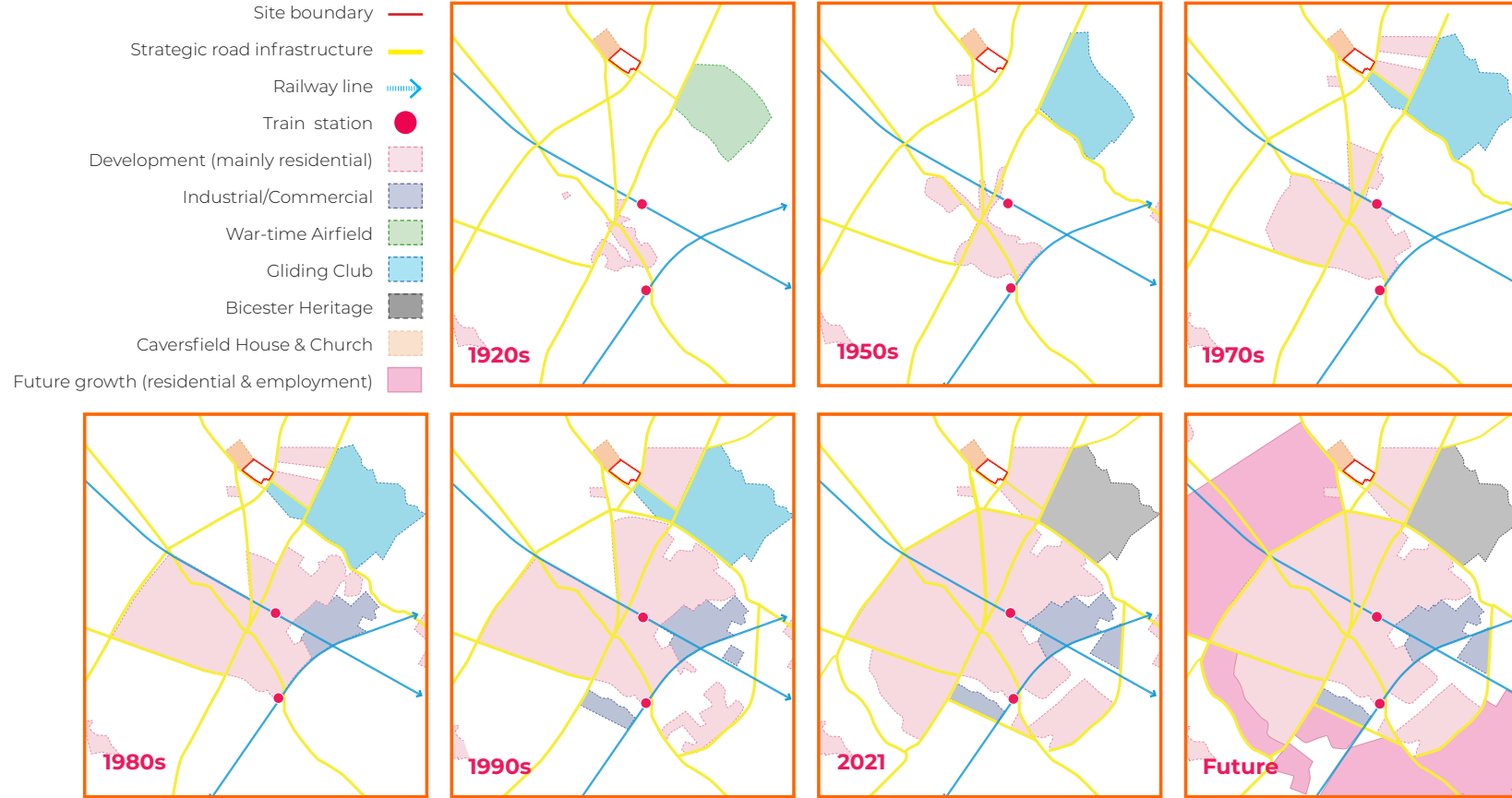
Saint Laurence Church in Caversfield was originally built in the Saxon times, however, over time it fell into decay and has had to be rebuilt and restructured numerous times over the centuries. The Church was granted Grade II* Listed status in 1996, and forms a significant local landmark which can be seen when travelling along the B4100.

The architect C.R. Cockerell designed Caversfield House, which was built in the 1840's on the site of the former manor house and upon the grounds of the Church. It is now divided into apartments and is partly available to be hired for events and functions.

Caversfield itself is a fairly contemporary settlement, which grew alongside the former RAF base to the east of the A4421. This base was originally Bicester Airfield, which was constructed in 1916 to train Royal Flying Corps. The Airfield has since experienced numerous uses and ownerships such as the RAF Bomber Training in World War II, and the formation of 'The Windrushers Soaring and Gliding Club' in 1956 which still exists today.



The Garden Quarter



During the Cold War in the 1960s, RAF Bicester transformed into a busy maintenance unit dealing with both aeroplanes and motor transport. Expansion of the base led to the rapid development of new residential estates around Bicester, which continued to infill towards the upgraded 'ring road' (including the A4095 and A4421) right into the 21st century.

Most of the Airfield is now in use as 'Bicester Heritage', accommodating 40+ specialist businesses, with the community being famous for its 'historic motoring excellence'. The remainder of the original RAF base across the A4421 has now been transformed into the 'Garden Quarter'. This sought-after community integrates the redeveloped military buildings with sensitively-designed new homes, united by landscape enhancements.

The remainder of Caversfield today is comprised of mid and late 20th century housing estates. The industrial and commercial growth of Bicester such as the development of Bicester Village, Bicester Avenue and Bicester Heritage have strengthened the desirability of the district - particularly with such convenient national rail and road connectivity.

Bicester was awarded Garden Town status in 2014, receiving central government funding to provide a range of 'desirable and innovative new homes, located in well planned, healthy communities' (Cherwell District Council). All of these factors make the Site a highly attractive, sustainable, and logical extension of Caversfield.



Saint Laurence Church

