



## Bulford All-Weather Football Pitch, Bulford Camp, Wiltshire

### Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**BULFORD ALL-WEATHER FOOTBALL PITCH,  
BULFORD CAMP,  
WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

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## QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	<b>84520</b>	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	<b>S/2011/1690</b>	NGR	<b>418670 143992</b>		

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
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\* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

**BULFORD ALL-WEATHER FOOTBALL PITCH,  
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**Contents**

Summary .....	iv
Acknowledgements.....	v
<b>1 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Project Background .....	1
1.2 Site location and geology .....	1
1.3 Archaeological Background.....	2
<b>2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3 METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>2</b>
3.1 Introduction.....	2
3.2 Health and Safety .....	2
3.3 Fieldwork .....	3
<b>4 RESULTS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
4.1 Introduction.....	3
4.2 Stratigraphic sequence.....	3
4.3 Archaeological features.....	3
<b>5 DISCUSSION.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>6 ARCHIVE.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7 COPYRIGHT .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>8 REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT .....</b>	<b>6</b>

**List of Figures**

- Figure 1** Site location showing watching brief area  
**Front Cover** General view of the Site showing made ground, view from south

**BULFORD ALL-WEATHER FOOTBALL PITCH,  
BULFORD CAMP,  
WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Aspire Defence Capital Works to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the proposed all-weather sports pitch, centred on National Grid Reference 418670 143992.

The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of groundworks associated with the ground levelling for the all-weather sports pitch, services and landscaping.

Although the site lies within the archaeologically rich Salisbury Plain Training Area, no archaeological features, finds or deposits were observed during the fieldwork.

Across the site, the excavation depth was insufficient to expose the underlying geology, which was only revealed in a test pit excavated in order to investigate the depth of the modern made ground. It can therefore be assumed that archaeological features or deposits could remain preserved under the made ground deposit within the footprint of the all-weather pitch.

The fieldwork was undertaken between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

**BULFORD ALL-WEATHER FOOTBALL PITCH,  
BULFORD CAMP,  
WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**Acknowledgements**

This watching brief work was commissioned by Aspire Defence Capital Works and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Amy Longworth in this regard.

The fieldwork was conducted by Neil Fitzpatrick and this report was compiled by Julia Sulikowska. The figures were prepared by Elizabeth James. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

**BULFORD ALL-WEATHER FOOTBALL PITCH,  
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WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Aspire Defence Capital Works (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the proposed all-weather sports pitch (hereafter, 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 418670 143992 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 Planning permission (S/2011/1690) has been granted for the all-weather sports pitch on condition that an archaeological watching brief is maintained during the groundworks. Although the pitch itself will be raised to link this facility to the existing sports pavilion within the Site, excavations may be necessary initially to provide a firm base and in any event, service trenches associated with the flood lighting and other minor landscaping within the Site will be undertaken.

1.1.3 Consequently, the Assistant County Archaeology at Wiltshire Council recommended that an archaeological watching brief was maintained during excavations where appropriate during the initial stages of construction.

1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), setting out the methodologies and standards implemented during the watching brief, was prepared by Wessex Archaeology in advance of the fieldwork (Wessex Archaeology 2012). The WSI was submitted to and approved by the Assistant County Archaeology at Wiltshire Council prior to any works commencing.

1.1.5 The fieldwork was undertaken between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

### **1.2 Site location and geology**

1.2.1 The Site is located along the north-western edge of Bulford Camp, to the west of the Sling Road. It is bounded to the south by Kashmir Road, to the north by established woodland and to the east and west by existing sport pitches (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 Bulford Camp is located on gently sloping ground, at the foot of, and overlooked by Beacon Hill. Within the Camp the ground slopes evenly from east-west, dropping from c. 130m above Ordnance Datum to c. 95m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The current sports pitch within the Site lies at approximately 97m aOD.

1.2.3 The underlying geology is Cretaceous Upper Chalk (British Geological Survey).

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

- 1.3.1 Bulford Camp lies within the archaeologically rich and nationally significant Salisbury Plain Training Area, which is noted for its highly preserved prehistoric landscapes. The known archaeology within the camp itself is dominated by the Scheduled barrows to the east of the Site at Rawlinson Road. Although previously damaged, an extant bell and disc barrow are recorded. A further five bowl barrows are recorded to the south of the Site and further ring ditches are recorded to the north of the Camp. These barrows form part of a network of prehistoric monuments on the plain, comprising some 470 barrows and funerary monuments, of which many, such as the barrows immediately to the north of Bulford Camp at Sheepbridge Road and a further 16 on Bulford Down, are grouped together as cemeteries.
- 1.3.2 The Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environmental Record indicates that a number of finds and features have been recorded in close proximity to the Site. Bronze Age pottery was discovered immediately to the west of the Site by workmen in 1939. In addition worked flints and a possible Bronze Age ditch are all recorded within the camp.
- 1.3.3 Evidence of modern military activity in the form of military trenches has been recorded by the RCHME and from aerial photography within the camp and immediately surrounding the Site itself.

## **2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were:
- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should remains be found to be present to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard.
  - To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
  - To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains.
  - To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains.
  - To prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Introduction**

- 3.1.1 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2012) and the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008).

### **3.2 Health and Safety**

- 3.2.1 The work was undertaken in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992. A health and safety Risk Assessment was produced by Wessex Archaeology prior to the commencement of the watching brief.



### 3.3 Fieldwork

3.3.1 The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of groundworks associated with the ground levelling for the all-weather sports pitch, services and landscaping. The machine excavation was undertaken using a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket or a bulldozer, if works were undertaken within established made ground. The excavation was undertaken under archaeological supervision until such time that it was apparent that the potential for archaeological remains to be exposed had been exhausted. The excavated material was also inspected for finds.

3.3.2 The archaeological recording was undertaken Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system, without causing unreasonable delay to the ground works programme. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the fieldwork, illustrating both the detail and the general context of the Site as a whole.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section includes information on the natural deposits encountered and any archaeological features and deposits recorded during the watching brief. Details of the excavated contexts and features are retained in the project archive.

### 4.2 Stratigraphic sequence

4.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence across the Site comprised topsoil overlying made ground and natural geology.

4.2.2 Topsoil **100**, characterised by a mid-greyish brown silty loam, was on average c. 0.15m deep. It was observed to overlie a made ground deposit **101** comprising a mixture of chalk, silt, gravels with modern ceramic building material (not retained, **Front Cover**).

4.2.3 The construction works comprised the removal of 0.4m of overburden. However, in order to investigate the thickness of made ground and the potential for natural geology to be exposed during the works, a test pit was machine excavated at the request of the supervising archaeologist. The test pit revealed that the made ground was approximately 0.55m deep and the natural geology **102**, comprising chalk with periglacial scarring, was exposed at c. 0.7m below ground level.

### 4.3 Archaeological features

4.3.1 No archaeological features, finds or deposits were observed during the watching brief. No finds, apart from modern material (not retained) were observed.

## 5 DISCUSSION

5.1.1 Although the Site lay within the archaeologically rich Salisbury Plain Training Area, no archaeological features, finds or deposits were observed during the fieldwork.

- 5.1.2 Across the Site, the excavation depth was insufficient to expose the underlying geology, which was only revealed in a test pit excavated in order to investigate the depth of the modern made ground. It can therefore be assumed that archaeological features or deposits could remain preserved under the made ground deposit within the footprint of the all-weather pitch.

## **6 ARCHIVE**

- 6.1.1 The project archive was prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (Walker 1990). The archive, including plans, photographs and written records, is currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 84520. It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum.
- 6.1.2 Details of the Site were submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database (**Appendix 1**).

## **7 COPYRIGHT**

- 7.1.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

## 8 REFERENCES

British Geological Survey:

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

IfA 2008: *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.  
Institute for Archaeologists

Wessex Archaeology 2011: *Bulford All-Weather Football Pitch, Bulford  
Camp, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an  
Archaeological Watching Brief*, client report ref. 84520.01

## APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT

**OASIS ID: wessexar1-128972**

### Project details

Project name	Bulford All-Weather Football Pitch, Bulford Camp
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Aspire Defence Capital Works to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the proposed all-weather sports pitch, centred on National Grid Reference 418670 143992. The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of ground works associated with the ground levelling for the all-weather sports pitch, services and landscaping. Although the site lies within the archaeologically rich Salisbury Plain Training Area, no archaeological features, finds or deposits were observed during the fieldwork. Across the site, the excavation depth was insufficient to expose the underlying geology, which was only revealed in a test pit excavated in order to investigate the depth of the modern made ground. It can therefore be assumed that archaeological features or deposits could remain preserved under the made ground deposit within the footprint of the all-weather pitch.
Project dates	Start: 21-02-2012 End: 26-02-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	84520 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	S/2011/1690 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	BRICK Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE SALISBURY BULFORD BULFORD ALL-WEATHER FOOTBALL PITCH
Postcode	SP4 9AA
Study area	1.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 186 439 51 -1 51 11 36 N 001 44 01 W Point

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Sue Farr
Project supervisor	Neil Fitzpatrick


**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Text","Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Bulford All-Weather Football Pitch, Bulford Camp, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief Report
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Entered on	25 June 2012



 Watching brief area

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Site location showing watching brief area

Figure 1



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