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Storage Sheds at Corunna Barracks, Ludgershall, Wiltshire

Level 1 Building Record



Ref: 110120.01
December 2015



**Storage Sheds
Corunna Barracks
Ludgershall, Wiltshire**

Historic Building Record

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Storage Sheds Corunna Barracks Ludgershall, Wiltshire

Historic Building Record

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Storage Sheds Corunna Barracks Ludgershall, Wiltshire

Historic Building Record

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Merryhill Envirotec Ltd, on behalf of Aspire Defence Services Ltd, to undertake a programme of Historic Building Recording of four WWII buildings at Corunna Barracks, Ludgershall, Wiltshire in advance of demolition works. The works are taking place as part of the Army Basing Programme, which will involve the construction of numerous new facilities including service families' accommodation and a primary school, for the redeployment of British forces from Germany.

Corunna Barracks was developed as a Central Vehicle Depot by the War Office during WWII for the manufacture and repair of vehicles. In 1943 it was used by the United States Army units in readiness for the invasion of occupied Europe in June 1944. The site includes a mixture of buildings across a range of ages. It contains several large WWII storage buildings, workshops, ancillary buildings, more recent modular buildings, garages, a fuel filling station and a rail-served storage depot.

At Corunna Barracks, there are 28 buildings to be demolished ahead of the proposed development of which four were recommended for a Level 1 basic visual record. The recording exercise involved photography as well as a brief written description which has created a record of the structures for posterity. Wessex Archaeology carried out the recording in July 2015.



Storage Sheds Corunna Barracks Ludgershall, Wiltshire

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Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Merryhill Envirotec, on behalf of Aspire Defence Services Limited, and is grateful to Andrew Dart in this regard. Thanks are also due to Steve Webb at Aspire Defence Services Limited for facilitating the site visit.

The site survey was undertaken by Vijaya Pieteron who also carried out research and wrote this report. Figures and plates were prepared by Vijaya Pieteron and Will Foster. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Matt Rous.



Storage Sheds Corunna Barracks Ludgershall, Wiltshire

Historic Building Record

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Merryhill Envirotec on behalf of Aspire Defence Services Limited (hereafter 'the Client'), to undertake a programme of Historic Building Recording (HBR) of four WWII storage sheds at Corunna Barracks, Ludgershall, Wiltshire, SP11 9RW, (hereafter 'the Site'), ahead of proposed development works.
- 1.1.2 Corunna Barracks is an Army depot comprising a mixture of military accommodation and warehouse/technical buildings. The proposed development involves the demolition of all these buildings on the site and erection of 246 service families' accommodation (SFA) as part of the Army Basing Programme (ABP) which involves the wider redeployment of British forces from Germany.
- 1.1.3 Four large undesignated military buildings proposed for demolition were identified as of potential heritage significance in the Heritage Appraisal (WYG Planning & Environment 2015), and were recommended for a Level 1 basic visual record. Levels of record are detailed in the document: *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006).

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 Corunna Barracks (**Figure 1**) lies to the south of the historic core of Ludgershall on the eastern edge of Salisbury Plain. The Site is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) 425910 150365, and located approximately 24 km north-east of Salisbury and c.10 km north-east of Andover.
- 1.2.2 The military facility is self-contained and dominated by large storage buildings and hard standing areas of amenity grassland, scattered trees and two areas of standing water. The Site is set amidst a residential development to the east, a military vehicle training track to the south.
- 1.2.3 The Site was developed as a Central Vehicle Depot (CVD) by the War Office during WWII for the manufacture and repair of vehicles. In 1943 it was used in by United States Army units in readiness for the invasion of occupied Europe in 1944, as part of Operation Bolero.
- 1.2.4 The Site includes a mixture of buildings across a range of ages. It contains several large storage buildings, workshops, ancillary buildings, more recent modular buildings, garages, a fuel filling station and a rail-served storage depot most recently used for storage of vehicles and the maintenance and deployment of vehicles as part of major exercises on the Salisbury Plain Training Area.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims and objectives

- 2.1.1 The aims of the Historic Building Recording (HBR) were to make a permanent record of the four WWII Storage Sheds at Corunna Barracks prior to the redevelopment works, and that the results are made available to interested parties.
- 2.1.2 This is a basic visual record of the subject in accordance with the guidelines for Level 1 recording as detailed in the document: *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006).

2.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 2.2.1 The historic building record comprised a photographic survey and brief written description of the building.
- 2.2.2 The site was recorded on the 20th July 2015. The weather was overcast at the time, offering sufficient light and few shadows. At the time of the survey, internal access was not permitted for Buildings 1 and 2 due to the presence of asbestos. These buildings were also completely surrounded by Heras fencing interrupting views of the exterior elevations.
- 2.2.3 High-quality digital images were taken with a Canon EOS 5D MkII digital SLR camera. A photographic scale of appropriate size was included in all general and specific detailed views, except where considered inappropriate or prevented by on-site conditions or health and safety concerns.

3 BUILDING DESCRIPTION

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The descriptions of the four buildings recorded at Corunna Barracks are complimentary to, and should be seen in conjunction with, the photographs and plans of the buildings that appear later in this report.

3.2 Building 1: Storage Shed

History

- 3.2.1 Mapping of the Site itself is absent for the period of development (1942-1961) as it was a restricted area; therefore, the building appears for the first time on the 1971 Ordnance Survey map of the area.

Description

- 3.2.2 Building 1 is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR) 426067 150370. **Plates 1-4** provide a basic visual record of the building.
- 3.2.3 Building 1 is a storage shed of WWII origin, comprising a single-storey rectangular structure. The building is oriented approximately north-east - south-west along its long axis and measures roughly 45 m in width by 130 m in length. Construction is modular and of concrete blocks. Six hipped roofs run parallel along the length of the building and were formerly covered with corrugated asbestos sheets with glazed roof lights on every valley. The roof structure is formed by light-weight steel-frame Howe trusses supported internally on steel pillars and externally on block pilasters.



3.2.4 Fenestration is regular with metal-framed casement windows at head height and above. Pedestrian access into the building is via two doors on the north-east elevation, one door on the south-west elevation, four doors on the south-east elevation and three doors on the north-west elevation. The north-west and south-east elevations feature six opposing entrances fitted with modern garage roller doors to enable vehicles to drive through the building after servicing/loading.

3.2.5 No inspection was made of the interior

3.3 Building 2: Storage Shed

History

3.3.1 Mapping of the Site itself is absent for the period of development (1942-1961) as it was a restricted area; therefore, the building appears for the first time on the 1971 Ordnance Survey map of the area.

Description

3.3.2 Building 2 is centred on OS NGR 425960 150257. **Plates 5-7** provide a basic visual record of the building.

3.3.3 Building 2 is a storage shed of WWII origin, comprising a single-storey rectangular structure. The building is oriented approximately north-east - south-west along its long axis and measures roughly 45 m in width by 130 m in length. Construction is modular and of concrete blocks. Six hipped roofs run parallel along the length of the building and were formerly covered with corrugated asbestos sheets with glazed roof lights on every valley. The roof structure is formed by light-weight steel-frame Howe trusses supported internally on steel pillars and externally on block pilasters.

3.3.4 Fenestration is regular with metal-framed casement windows at head height and above head height. Pedestrian access into the building is via one door on the north-east elevation, two doors on the south-west elevation, one door on the south-east elevation and four doors on the north-west elevation. The north-west and south-east elevations feature six opposing entrances fitted with modern garage roller doors to enable vehicles to drive through the building after servicing/loading.

3.3.5 No inspection was made of the interior

3.4 Building 111: Stores and Repairs Building

History

3.4.1 Mapping of the Site itself is absent for the period of development (1942-1961) as it was a restricted area; therefore, the building appears for the first time on the 1971 Ordnance Survey map of the area.

Description

3.4.2 Building 111 is centred on OS NGR 425808 150264. **Plates 8-13** provide a basic visual record of the building.

3.4.3 In brief, Building 111 is a double-height stores and repairs building comprising a single-storey rectangular structure and includes a modern extension on its southern end. Building 111 is oriented approximately north-west – south-east along its long axis and measures roughly 85 m in length and 56 m in width. Construction is of corrugated metal sheeting with pebble-dash rendered low walls supporting steel columns above. The roof

consists of a series of parallel gables, running along the width of the building, and is clad with corrugated asbestos sheeting with glazed roof lights on every valley. The roof structure is formed by lightweight steel-frame Howe trusses supported internally on steel pillars forming a series of bays.

- 3.4.4 Fenestration is regular with a horizontal row of metal framed windows broken up by corrugated sheeting at ground floor height, and a long horizontal band of metal framed windows at first floor height, forming a clerestory. Pedestrian access into the building is via two doors on the north-east and north-west elevations and three doors on the south-west elevation. Two large openings with modern roller doors on the north-west and north-east elevations afford vehicular access to the interior.
- 3.4.5 Internally the building has been subdivided to create storage, work and administration spaces. The building has a modern fire resistant wall separating the northern workshops from the southern workshops. The workshops are both open plan but further storage cages have been inserted and fixed to the concrete floors of the southern workshop. The south-western end of the entire building houses the administration spaces, and is only single storey in height. Additionally, a carport of Fletton brick in English bond construction, labelled as a 'ballast weight area,' is adjoined to the on its north-west elevation.

3.5 Building 105: Vehicle Storage Shed

History

- 3.5.1 As with the other buildings, mapping of the Site itself is absent for the period of development (1942-1961) as it was a restricted area; therefore, the building appears for the first time on the 1971 Ordnance Survey map.

Description

- 3.5.2 Building 105 is centred on OS NGR 425734 150359. **Plates 14-16** provide a basic visual record of the building.
- 3.5.3 Building 105 is a large vehicle storage shed of WWII origin comprising a single-storey rectangular structure. The building is oriented approximately north-west - south-east along its long axis and measures roughly 60 m in width by 80 m in length. Construction is of corrugated metal sheeting with concrete block foundations walls on the north-east and south-west elevations. The roof consists of a series four parallel gables, running along the length of the building, and is covered with asbestos sheeting with glazed roof lights on every valley.
- 3.5.4 Pedestrian access into the building is via two doors on the north-east and south-west elevations. Large sliding doors on the north-west and south-east elevations afford vehicular access to the interior. Internally the building is open plan with concrete floors. The roof structure is formed by light-weight steel-frame fan trusses supported internally on steel pillars forming a series of bays.

4 STORAGE AND CURATION

4.1 Archive Preparation and Deposition

- 4.1.1 A copy of the final report will be supplied to the Wiltshire Records Office and Wiltshire Historic Environment Record



4.1.2 The complete site archive includes paper records and digital photographic records. No other depositable archives were generated during the project.

4.1.3 Details of the Site will be submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database.

4.2 Security Copy

4.2.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

4.2.2 For small projects we may retain only digital copy of the records. The digital records will be submitted to the HER, with a copy retained in the Wessex Archaeology security-copied and backed-up digital archive storage facility, under its designated Wessex Archaeology project code 110120.

4.3 Copyright

4.3.1 Wessex Archaeology shall retain full copyright of this report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the Client for the use of the report by the Client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the specification. Any document produced to meet planning requirements may be copied for development control, planning and educational purposes without recourse to the Copyright owner, the copyright owner to be given full acknowledgment in any reproduction of material.

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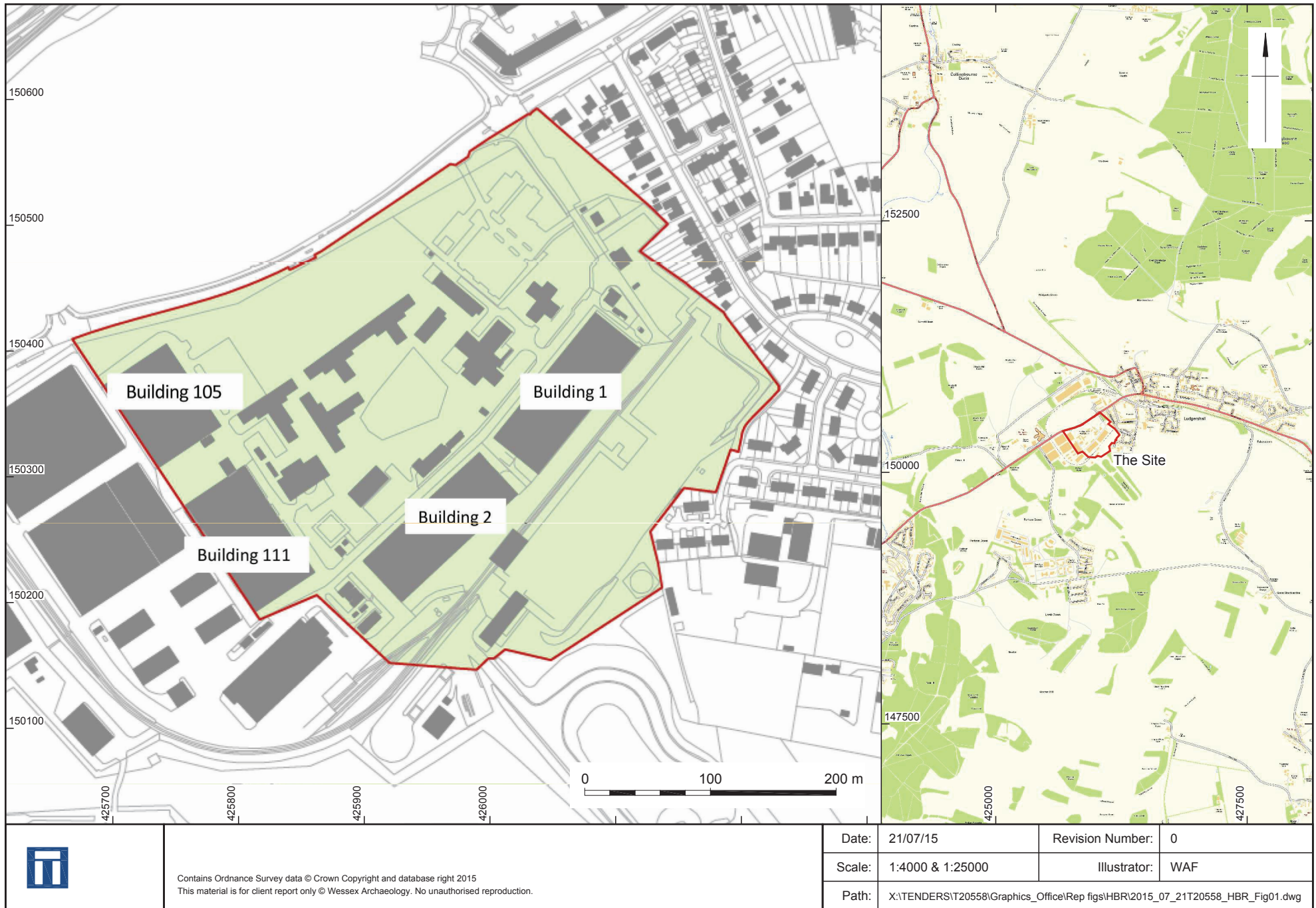
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WYG Planning & Environment, 2015: *Heritage Appraisal: Corunna Barracks*.
Document Ref. A089116-10



Site location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: North-east elevation of Building 1



Plate 2: South-east elevation of Building 1


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Plate 3: Oblique view of the south-west and south-east elevations of Building 1



Plate 4: North-west elevation of Building 1


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Plate 5: Oblique view of the north-east and south-east elevations of Building 2



Plate 6: South-west elevation of Building 2


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Plate 7: North-west elevation of Building 2



Plate 8: North-east elevation of Building 111


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Plate 9: North-west elevation of Building 111



Plate 10: Oblique view of the north-west and south-west elevations of Building 111


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Plate 11: South-west elevation of Building 111.



Plate 12: View from the east of the southern workshop of Building 111.


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Plate 13: View from the north-west of the northern workshop of Building 111.



Plate 14: Oblique view of the north-east and south-east elevations of Building 105



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Plate 15: Oblique view of the north-west and south-west elevations of Building 105



Plate 16: View from the south-east of the interior of Building 105

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