

Army Basing Programme (ABP) Larkhill Camp ABHGEN and ABJGEN Archaeological Monitoring Summary Report

Report Reference 109516.17

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ABHGEN (Archaeological Reference Area 2002)



West facing section of Pit 20304 in ABHGEN, 1 m scale.

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Aspire Defence Capital Works to undertake an archaeological watching brief within development tile ABHGEN during the excavation of a service trench. The archaeological works relate to Condition 9 of planning application 16/00032/FUL and are centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 413203 145297. The works were undertaken in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of

Investigation (WSI) for the Army Basing Programme for the Salisbury Plain military camps (Wessex Archaeology 2015)¹. Previous archaeological investigations undertaken within ABHGEN in association with application 16/00032/FUL include geophysical survey and strip, map and sample excavation (Wessex Archaeology 2018)². The watching brief involved archaeological recording of a modern military pit revealed by the excavation of a 0.60 m deep service trench following previous archaeological investigations. The pit lay within an area previously monitored and had been surveyed as modern disturbance. As the partial excavation of the pit revealed bones the client requested archaeological attendance.

The stratigraphic sequence recorded within the service trench comprised a layer of concrete 0.10 m thick overlying a compacted layer of hardcore 0.10 m thick, there was a sharp horizon from previous stripping of the site from an earlier development. The chalk natural geology was recorded at 145.5 m above Ordnance datum (m aOD). No periglacial scarring or weathering was noted within the trench sections. The only archaeological remains identified during the monitoring was a single modern pit. Pit 20304 measured 3.10 m long, > 0.26 m wide and > 0.60 m deep and contained a single deliberate backfill.

¹ Wessex Archaeology 2015 *Army Basing Programme (ABP) Bulford, Larkhill, Perham Down and Tidworth Military Camps: Written Scheme of Investigation and Project Design for Archaeological Works*. Unpublished report ref. 106920.01

² Wessex Archaeology 2018 *Army Basing Programme (ABP) Larkhill Areas 2002 (ABHGEN) and 2003 (ABJGEN) Post-excavation Assessment*. Unpublished client report ref.109516.11

The deliberate backfill of a dark grey silty clay with sparse chalk cobble inclusions, contained a range of finds. The finds retrieved included animal bone, iron objects, glass jars and pottery all of which appeared to date to the early 20th century, a mortar shell was recovered and for health and safety reasons, not retained. The watching brief was undertaken on 11 April 2019.

ABJGEN (Archaeological Reference Area 2003)



South facing section of Test Pit 186. Scale is 1 m.

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology for Aspire Defence Capital Works on the excavation of two test pits for permeability testing for a proposed soakaway. Previous archaeological investigations within ABJGEN include evaluation trenching and strip map and sample excavation (Wessex Archaeology 2018). New sports pitches have been created on the site by building up the ground level within development tile ABJGEN, centred on NGR 413060

145090. The development is in association with Condition 11 of planning application 15/06682/FUL. The watching brief monitored and recorded the excavation of two test pits and was undertaken on the 16th May 2019. Test Pit 186 measured 2.18 m by 0.50 m by 1.20 m deep and was centred on NGR 413059 145089 at a height of 138.18m aOD at current ground level. Test Pit 187 measured between 0.50 m by 0.40 m by 0.40 m deep, and was located at NGR 413057 145088 at ground level 138.11m aOD. The stratigraphic sequence within the test pits comprised a thin layer of topsoil up to 0.17 m thick overlying the chalk natural, the natural had a broken and weathered horizon and appeared previously undisturbed from modern activity. No archaeological remains were observed. The results of the monitoring revealed that no significant levels of ground disturbance had occurred during previous developments on the site. Recent groundworks have raised the ground level by approximately 2m immediately north of the area monitored. Buried services were detected immediately to the south of the area monitored.