

Army Basing Programme (ABP) Larkhill Camp ABJGEN Archaeological Watching Brief Summary Report

Report Reference 109516.18

Prepared August 2019, written by Jamie McCarthy and edited by Ruth Panes.

ABJGEN (Archaeological Reference Area 2003)



Watching brief area within Trench 191,
view from south.

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Aspire Defence Capital Works (ADCW) to undertake an archaeological watching brief within development tile ABJGEN (Archaeological Reference Area 2003) during the excavation of a soakaway tank (**Figure 1**). The archaeological works relate to Condition 11 of planning application 15/06682/FUL and are centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 413048 145101. 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). The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of a 20 m by 2.3 m mechanically excavated trench (Trench 191) down to the natural geology, using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. The watching brief was undertaken on 27 August 2019.

The watching brief was the final stage in a programme of archaeological works within ABJGEN, which had included an archaeological evaluation, excavation (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and a subsequent watching brief (Wessex Archaeology 2019). The

archaeological evaluation and excavation identified significant prehistoric archaeology including Beaker (2400 – 1800 B.C.) pits, an adjacent pair of Middle Bronze Age (1600 – 1100 B.C.) adult inhumation graves and an undated ditch which contained a juvenile inhumation grave of likely prehistoric date. Activity relating to the First World War era at Larkhill Camp was identified in the form of a series of practice “zig-zag” military trenches and concrete footings dating to the end of the Second World War were also uncovered. The

previous archaeological watching brief monitored the excavation of two test pits for drainage works within the tile, no archaeological features or deposits were identified (**Figure 1**).



South facing section of post hole **18566**, 0.2 m scale.

The stratigraphic sequence recorded within the trench consisted of 0.25 m of dark brown silty loam topsoil overlaying the natural chalk geology. The natural geology demonstrated a gradual slope from north to south recorded at 138.02 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) sloping down to 137.49 m aOD. A single post hole **18566** was recorded at the southern end of the trench. It measured 0.19 m by 0.21 m and was 0.08 m deep. It was circular in plan and had moderate

concave sides with a concave base forming a “v-shaped” profile. It contained a single deposit of dark greyish-brown silty loam with chalk inclusions. No dating was recovered from the post hole however the profile suggests that it was likely of a modern date. Additional modern post holes and further modern disturbance was recorded throughout the rest of the trench (**Figure 1**).

References

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

Wessex Archaeology 2018 *Army Basing Programme (ABP) Larkhill Areas 2002 (ABHGEN) and 2003 (ABJGEN): Post-excavation Assessment*. Unpublished Report Ref: 109516.11

Wessex Archaeology 2019 *Army Basing Programme (ABP) Larkhill Camp ABHGEN and ABJGEN Archaeological Monitoring Summary Report*. Unpublished Report Ref: 109516.17



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Site plan of Area 2003 (ABJGEN) showing 2019 watching brief areas, previous archaeological works and phasing

Figure 1