



WXC605, WTO609 and WTO610, Land Warfare Centre, Warminster, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**WXC605, WT0609 AND WT0610,
LAND WARFARE CENTRE,
WARMINSTER,
WILTSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Prepared for:
Aspire Defence Capital Works
Aspire House
Princes Avenue
Aldershot
Hampshire
GU11 2LF

by:
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

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* I= Internal Draft E= External Draft F= Final

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Contents

	Summary	ii
	Acknowledgements.....	iii
1	INTRODUCTION	4
	1.1 Project Background	4
	1.2 Site location and geology	4
	1.3 Archaeological Background.....	5
2	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	5
3	METHODOLOGY	6
	3.1 Introduction.....	6
	3.2 Health and Safety.....	6
	3.3 Fieldwork.....	6
4	RESULTS	6
	4.1 WXC605	6
	4.2 WT0609 and WT0610	6
5	DISCUSSION.....	7
6	ARCHIVE.....	7
7	COPYRIGHT	7
8	REFERENCES	8
9	OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND.....	8
	9.1 OASIS ID: wessexar1-92170.....	8

List of Figures and Plates

Figure 1	Site location plan showing watching brief areas
Plate 1	Pipe trench in WXC605 looking south
Plate 2	Service trench in WTO609 and WTO610
Front Cover	Topsoil strip in WXC605 (car park)

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Aspire Defence Capital Works (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at WXC605, WT0609 and WT0610, Land Warfare Centre, Warminster, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference 388933 146378 (hereafter, the Site).

The development comprised the formation of a car park (WXC605) and the construction of two accommodation buildings (WT0609 and WT0610) within the northern half of the camp. A planning condition for an archaeological watching brief was attached to the planning permission granted by Wiltshire Council.

The watching brief at WXC605 consisted of the monitoring of the excavation of three service trenches, four test pits and the topsoil removal of the proposed car park. The fieldwork in WT0609 and WT0610 comprised the machine excavation of service trenches and an area strip.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed during the fieldwork.

The watching brief was undertaken on 13th May 2010 (WXC605) and 5th August 2010 (WT0609 and WT0610).

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

This watching brief work was commissioned by Aspire Defence Capital Works and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Peter Caddock in this regard. The help and assistance of Ian Eggleton (Site Manager) and Nick Ludlow (Site Engineer) is also appreciated.

The fieldwork was conducted by Steve Beach and Steve Thompson. The report was compiled by Julia Sulikowska. The figures were prepared by Elizabeth James. The fieldwork was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

**WXC605, WT0609 AND WT0610,
LAND WARFARE CENTRE,
WARMINSTER,
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 at WXC605, WT0609 and WT0610, Land Warfare Centre, Warminster, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 388933 146378 (hereafter, the Site) (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The fieldwork was required as a condition of planning consent given by Wiltshire Council (W/09/03750/FUL), in order to mitigate the impact on any archaeological remains that may be present on the Site. The new development is to comprise three areas where car parking (WXC605) and two accommodation buildings (WT0609 and WT0610) are proposed. This development is a part of the wider Project Allenby/Connaught proposals, which seeks to comprehensively redevelop the barrack accommodation and facilities within a number of military bases in the Salisbury Plain area.

1.1.3 A Desk-based Assessment was prepared (Entec 2002) and two phases of field evaluation were undertaken (Wessex Archaeology 2003a and 2003b) prior to the commencement of the fieldwork, following the recommendations from the Assistant County Archaeologist.

1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2010), which was approved in advance of the fieldwork by the Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council.

1.1.5 The fieldwork was undertaken on 13th May 2010 (WXC605) and 5th August 2010 (WT0609 and WT0610).

1.2 Site location and geology

1.2.1 The Land Warfare Centre, within which the watching brief areas were situated, is located to the north-east of Warminster, on the south-east facing slopes of Cradle Hill.

1.2.2 The car park area (WXC605) occupies a rectangular grassed plot of land, gently sloping to the south and measuring approximately 80m x 45m. It is located in the centre of the camp and is bounded to south and east by roads, to the north by a car park and to the west by a building. It is centred on NGR 389104 146535 (**Figure 1**).

1.2.3 The two proposed buildings (WT0609 and WT0610) are situated in the northern part of the camp, on a relatively flat parcel of land, bounded to the south and west by roads, to the east by a grassed area and to the north by tennis courts. They are centred on NGR 389171 146825 (**Figure 1**).

- 1.2.4 The Site lies at approximately 130m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology for the Site comprises Cretaceous Lower Chalk (Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales) 1:63,360 Sheet 281: Frome).

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 An Archaeological Desk-based Study was prepared in advance of the works (Entec 2002) and provided a comprehensive synthesis of the known archaeological and historical resource within the Site.
- 1.3.2 The Site is situated on the western boundary of the extensive and highly significant prehistoric funeral and monumental landscape of the Salisbury Plain, featuring many important sites and find spots of a predominantly Neolithic and Bronze Age date.
- 1.3.3 A rapid search for archaeological sites within a 1km radius of the Site was undertaken via the Wiltshire and Swindon Sites and Monuments Record (<http://history.wiltshire.gov.uk/smr/>) and the Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (<http://www.magic.gov.uk>). The local landscape is dominated by the Iron Age hillfort of Battlesbury Camp, c. 900m to the south-east of the Site. Excavations undertaken by Wessex Archaeology to the north of the hillfort recorded extensive Late Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement evidence comprising post built structures, pits, ditches, burials and structured ritual deposits. The Iron Age earthwork enclosure on Mancombe Down is situated approximately 400m to the north-east of the Site. Additionally, an extensive combe lynchet system, representing medieval or earlier farming, was recorded on Oxendean Down, c. 700m to the east of the Site.
- 1.3.4 The archaeological evaluation works, undertaken at the Land Warfare Centre by Wessex Archaeology in 2003, comprised the mechanical excavation of seven trenches (Wessex Archaeology 2003a and 2003b). A single undated linear feature was identified approximately 450m to the west of WXC605. In addition, a buried soil horizon was recorded at a depth of between 1.2m and 1.4m below the current ground level, in a trench located immediately to the east of WT0609 and WT0610. The buried soil overlay a deposit of soft chalky clay observed to a maximum depth of 2.1m below the current ground level. The natural chalk bedrock was not encountered.
- 1.3.5 The Land Warfare Centre was first recorded on the Ordnance Survey map of 1960/1961, where a number of the present buildings are shown.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1.1 The objective of the watching brief was to establish within the constraints of the agreed strategy the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains which may be affected by the proposed development.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The following methodology was proposed in order to meet the aims of the watching brief. All works were carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2010) and with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (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 at WXC605 comprised the monitoring of the excavation of three service trenches, four test pits and the topsoil strip of the proposed car park. The fieldwork in WT0609 and WT0610 comprised the excavation of service trenches and an area strip (**Figure 1**).

3.3.2 The groundworks were carried out using a JCB or a tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. The excavated spoil heap was also inspected for finds.

3.3.3 Recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology *pro-forma* record sheets. Representative soil profile sections of the trial trenches were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A digital photographic record, which included high resolution digital images, was maintained.

4 RESULTS

4.1 WXC605

4.1.1 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed during this phase of fieldwork.

4.1.2 The natural chalk bedrock was recorded in the test pits and the service trenches (**Figure 2, Plate 1**). It was overlain by c. 0.2m of topsoil and c. 0.3m of modern made ground. The topsoil strip in the south-east corner of the area was insufficient to reveal any archaeological features or natural deposits.

4.2 WT0609 and WT0610

4.2.1 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed during this phase of fieldwork.

4.2.2 Mechanical excavation of the service trenches revealed topsoil and a thick layer of modern made ground (**Figure 2, Plate 1**) which overlay the natural chalk. Severe disturbance within the area was also recorded.

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1.1 Although the Site is situated within an area of high archaeological potential, no archaeological features, finds or deposits were observed during the fieldwork.
- 5.1.2 The observations recorded the natural chalk bedrock across the Site at a depth of c. 0.5m below current ground level. The presence of modern make up layers underlying the topsoil are indicative of a high degree of ground disturbance across the Site and suggest some form of levelling event took place, presumably during the construction of the camp in the mid 20th century

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* (UKIC 1990). The excavated material and archive, including plans, photographs and written records, are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 74402. It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum.
- 6.1.2 The archive comprises a single A4 file of paper records

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

- ENTEC 2002: *Defence Estates: Project Allenby. Archaeological Desk-top Assessment* (2 vols.). Unpublished client report
- IfA 2008: *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Institute for Archaeologists
- Wessex Archaeology 2003a: *Project Allenby/Connaught: Archaeological Evaluation: The Salisbury Plain Camps: Warminster Training Centre and Battlesbury Barracks*. Report reference: 52279.3
- Wessex Archaeology 2003b: *Aspire Warminster/Bulford, Wiltshire. Archaeological Evaluation Report*. Report reference: 54257.01
- Wessex Archaeology 2010: *WXC605, WT0609 and WT0610, Land Warfare Centre, Warminster, Wiltshire. Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, Reference: 74402.01

9 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

9.1 OASIS ID: wessexar1-92170

Project details

Project name Land Warfare Centre, Warminster

Short description of the project Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Aspire of Defence Capital Works (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at WXC605, WT0609 and WT0610, Land Warfare Centre, Warminster, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference 388933 146378 (hereafter, the Site). The development comprised the formation of a car park (WXC605) and the construction of two accommodation buildings (WT0609 and WT0610) within the northern half of the camp. A planning condition for an archaeological watching brief was attached to the planning permission granted by Wiltshire Council. The watching brief at WXC605 consisted of the monitoring of the excavation of three service trenches, four test pits and the topsoil removal of the proposed car park. The fieldwork in WT0609 and WT0610 comprised the machine excavation of service trenches and an area strip. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed during the fieldwork. The watching brief was undertaken on 13th May 2010 (WXC605) and 5th August 2010 (WT0609 and WT0610).

Project dates Start: 13-05-2010 End: 28-01-2011

Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE WEST WILTSHIRE WARMINSTER Land Warfare Centre
Postcode	BA12 0DY
Study area	0.50 Hectares
Site coordinates	ST 89171 46825 51.2200031635 -2.155075461390 51 13 12 N 002 09 18 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 130.00m Max: 130.00m

Project creators

Name of Wessex Archaeology
Organisation

Project brief Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District)

originator Archaeologist)

Project design Wessex Archaeology
originator

Project Sue Farr
director/manager

Project supervisor Steve Beach, Steve Thompson and Julia Sulikowska

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Aspire Defence Capital Works
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Wiltshire Heritage Museum
recipient

Digital Media 'Survey','Text'
available

Paper Archive Wiltshire Heritage Museum
recipient

Paper Media 'Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '
available

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title WXC605, WT0609 and WT0610

Author(s)/Editor(s) Sulikowska, J

Other bibliographic 74402.03
details

Date 2011

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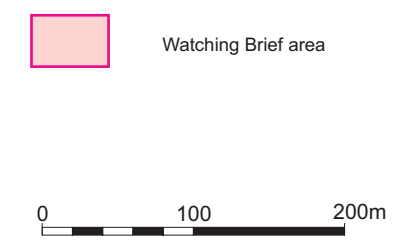
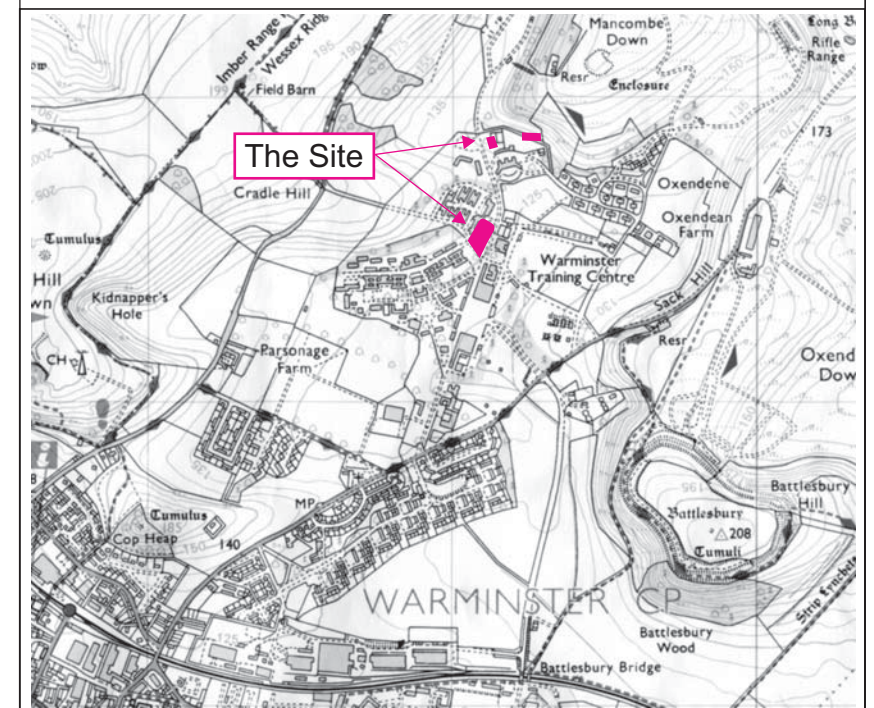
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Site location plan showing Watching Brief areas

Figure 1



Plate 1: Pipe trench in WXC605, looking south

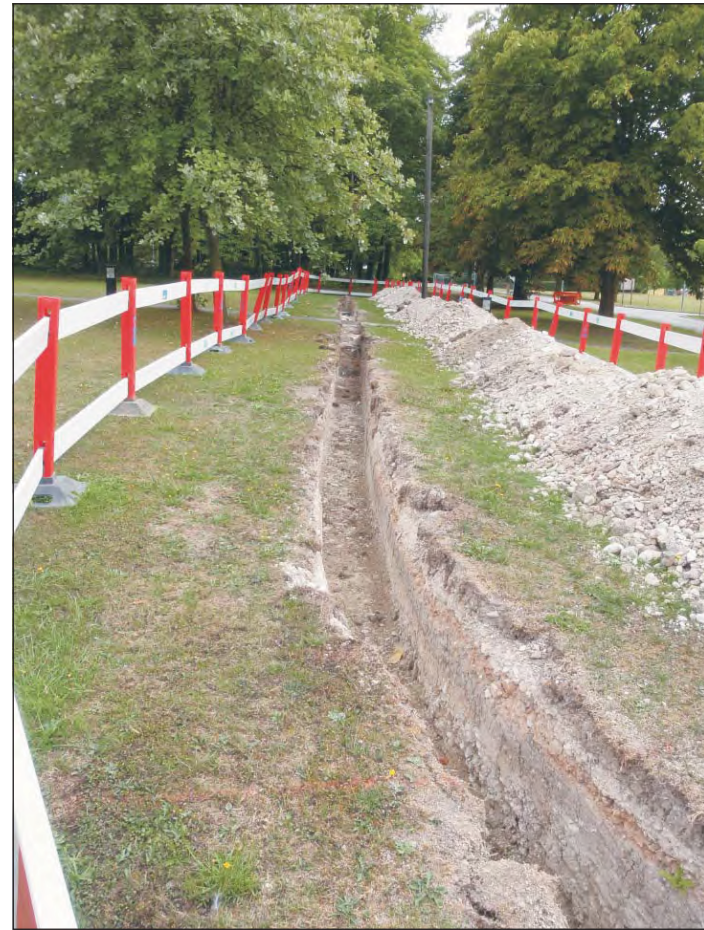


Plate 2: Service trench in WTO609 and WTO610, looking south



WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk

Regional offices in **Edinburgh, Rochester and Sheffield**

For more information visit www.wessexarch.co.uk

