



## Area 13 and Area 5, Larkhill Camp, Larkhill, Wiltshire

### Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**AREA 13 AND AREA 5,  
LARKHILL CAMP, LARKHILL, WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

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## QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	<b>74401</b>	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.		NGR		<b>413400 144900</b>	

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

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## **AREA 13 AND AREA 5, LARKHILL CAMP, LARKHILL, WILTSHIRE**

### **Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

#### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Aspire Defence Capital Works (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development works at Area 13 (LACG13) and Area 5 (LADG05), Larkhill Camp, Larkhill, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference 413400 144900 (hereafter, the Site).

The fieldwork comprised the topsoil and subsoil strip of a car park and an access road in Area 13 and the excavation of a trench within the footprint of building LA064 in Area 5.

Only features of demonstrable modern date were identified during the watching brief. Severe modern disturbance was observed truncating the natural deposits in the southernmost part of the car park and along part of the access road.

An assemblage of residual worked flint, of possibly Bronze Age date, was identified within both the topsoil and modern features and is indicative of the known background level of prehistoric activity in the area.

The fieldwork was undertaken in Area 13 during July 2010.



## **AREA 13 AND AREA 5, LARKHILL CAMP, LARKHILL, WILTSHIRE**

### **Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

#### **Acknowledgements**

This watching brief work was commissioned by Aspire Defence Capital Works and Wessex Archaeology would like Mike Lockwood in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank the construction team of Dean and Dyball Civil Engineering for their assistance during the fieldwork.

The fieldwork was conducted by Chris Ellis and Phil Harding. The report was compiled by Julia Sulikowska and the finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram. The figures were prepared by Elizabeth James. The fieldwork was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

## AREA 13 AND AREA 5 LARKHILL CAMP, LARKHILL, 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 development works at Area 13 (LACG13) and Area 5 (LADG05), Larkhill Camp, Larkhill, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 413400 144900 (hereafter, the Site) (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The watching brief at Area 13 was undertaken during groundworks prior to the construction of a car park and an access road to the north of building LA0555.

1.1.3 The archaeological works at Area 5 were required as a condition of planning consent granted by Wiltshire Council (S/2009/1575), in order to mitigate the impact on any archaeological remains that may be present on the Site. The new development is to comprise three buildings: a single storey senior ranks mess (LA0633) and two three storey senior ranks living accommodation (LA0603 and LA0604), with associated landscaping and access.

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 during July 2010.

##### 1.2 Site location and geology

1.2.1 The Site is located within the north-east corner of Larkhill Camp. Area 13 is situated to the north of building LA0555 and to the east of building LA0025. It is bounded to the east by a playing field and to the north by a line of trees. Prior to the development, the area occupied a flat, grassed plot of land. The car park and the access route were located in the east part of Area 13 (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 Area 5 is rectangular in plan and is located along the easternmost edge of the camp. It is bounded to the north by playing fields, to the west by buildings LA0555 and LA0556 and to the south by Brackenbury Road. The watching brief was undertaken during groundworks prior to the construction of building LA0604, measuring approximately 16m x 31m, located in the north-west corner of Area 5 (**Figure 1**).

1.2.3 The Site lies at approximately 135m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology for the Site comprises Upper Chalk (Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales) 1:63,360 Sheet 282: Devizes).

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

- 1.3.1 The Site is situated c. 770m to the north of the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site and within the extensive and highly significant prehistoric funeral and monumental landscape of Salisbury Plain, featuring many important sites and find spots of a predominantly Neolithic and Bronze Age date.
- 1.3.2 A number of military features have been identified from aerial photographs in close proximity to the Site by the Royal Commission of Historical Monuments and an earlier watching brief on a new football pitch to the north of the Site confirmed additional military features in the vicinity.
- 1.3.3 Knighton Barrow, a Neolithic long barrow, is recorded approximately 800m to the north-west of the Site and a cemetery of six Bronze Age bowl barrows is located c. 1km to the south of the Site. Bronze Age tools were also recovered from an area located approximately 500m to the north of the Site. In addition, an archaeological evaluation within Larkhill Barracks to the east of the Site identified two adjacent pits and a post hole. Although some truncation by later military activity had occurred, both pits produced worked and burnt flint, animal bone and Bronze Age pottery.
- 1.3.4 An archaeological watching brief undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2009 during the formation of a car park within Alanbrooke Barracks, located to the south and west of the Site, revealed evidence of probable prehistoric settlement in the form of approximately twenty-five post holes. Eight of the post holes formed what may be the remains of a sub-circular post-built structure. A north-south aligned fence line, formed by five post holes, was situated immediately to the east of the post-built structure. A small assemblage of worked and burnt flint, pottery and animal bone was recovered from the prehistoric post holes (Wessex Archaeology 2009).

## **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 fieldwork was 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 in Area 13 comprised the monitoring of the excavation of the topsoil and subsoil strip of the proposed car park and access route. The car park area measured approximately 33m x 33m, and the access route, measured c. 8m x 37m. The works in Area 5 comprised the excavation of a battered trench, measuring c. 20m<sup>2</sup> and 2m in depth (**Figure 1**).
- 3.3.2 Topsoil and subsoil were stripped using a 7 tonne mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. The excavated spoil heap was also inspected for finds.
- 3.3.3 The archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system, without causing unreasonable delay to the groundworks programme. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the fieldwork.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This section includes information on the natural deposits encountered and any archaeological features and deposits recorded. A detailed summary of the deposits encountered is included in **Appendix 1**.

### 4.2 Area 13 (LACG13)

- 4.2.1 The Site wide stratigraphic sequence comprised topsoil, made ground layers and natural chalk bedrock.
- 4.2.2 Topsoil **100** was characterised by light greyish brown silty clay with moderate chalk and flint inclusions. In the car park area, topsoil overlay layer **101**, comprising redeposited pale greyish brown silt, which contained finds of modern date. Natural chalk bedrock **102** was observed in the north part of the car park (**Figure 2, Plate 1**). To the south, an area of modern disturbance (layer **101**) was observed.
- 4.2.3 In the area of the proposed access road, topsoil overlay a thick layer of made ground **105**, comprising chalk rubble. Layer **105** overlay a tarmac surface **106** (in the central segment of the road, **Figure 2, Plate 2**) or the natural chalk bedrock **102**.
- 4.2.4 No features were observed (other than those of modern date) during the fieldwork. Modern features comprised three east-west aligned gullies of unknown function, located to the north of the car park, three rubbish pits, situated within the disturbed ground in the south-east corner of the car park and a number of post holes observed in the access road.
- 4.2.5 Modern finds were noted, but not retained. Residual worked and burnt flint of possibly Bronze Age date was recovered from spoil heaps and from gully **103** (see **Section 5**).

#### **4.3 Area 5 (LADG05)**

4.3.1 The work in this area comprised the machine excavation of a single trench. No archaeological features were observed to be cutting the natural chalk bedrock.

### **5 FINDS**

5.1.1 The only finds recovered during the watching brief at LACG013 comprised worked flint, and burnt, unworked flint. Most of this material represents unstratified finds recovered from the car park area (43 pieces of worked flint; eight pieces of burnt flint), with a further two pieces of worked flint and three pieces of burnt flint from context **104**.

5.1.2 The worked flint is all of a very similar character. It comprises waste flakes, one retouched, and three scrapers. Nearly all the pieces are heavily patinated, and most have suffered a high level of edge damage, consistent with the characteristics of a ploughzone assemblage. In the absence of chronologically distinctive tool types this small assemblage cannot be closely dated, but on technological and morphological grounds (broad squat flakes struck using hard hammer technique) a Bronze Age date is probable.

5.1.3 The burnt, unworked flint is of unknown date and origin, but a prehistoric date is likely.

### **6 DISCUSSION**

6.1.1 Although the Site is situated within an area of high archaeological potential and archaeological features were identified in the vicinity, no archaeological features or deposits were observed during the fieldwork.

6.1.2 The level of modern disturbance, recorded widely across the Site, indicates that at least in some areas potential archaeological features could have been truncated/destroyed by previous works.

6.1.3 The recovery of residual worked flint of possible Bronze Age date from topsoil and modern features is indicative of the known background level of prehistoric activity in this area. However, no features that could relate to such activity were observed.

### **7 ARCHIVE**

7.1.1 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 74401. It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum.

7.1.2 The archive comprises:

- 1 A4 file of paper records

- 1 box of finds, ordered by context number

## **8 COPYRIGHT**

- 8.1.1 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.

**9 REFERENCES**

- IfA 2008: *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.  
Institute for Archaeologists
- Wessex Archaeology 2009: *Alanbrooke Barracks, Larkhill Camp, Larkhill,  
Wiltshire. Archaeological Watching Brief Report*, Reference:  
70411.05
- Wessex Archaeology 2010: *LA0633 & LA0603 and LA0604, Larkhill Camp,  
Larkhill, Wiltshire. Project Design for an Archaeological Watching  
Brief*, Reference: 74401.03

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE

Context	Description	Depth (m)
100	Topsoil – light greyish brown silty clay with moderate chalk and rare flint inclusions	0 – 0.22
101	Redeposited soil/made ground – pale greyish brown silt with moderate chalk and flint inclusions. Contained modern glass, iron objects, coal, clinker wood and ceramics	0.22 – 0.67
102	Natural chalk bedrock, containing rare sub-angular flint nodules	0.67 +
103	Modern ditch/gully. One of three observed similar features truncating a modern deposit. Aligned east-west with steep to vertical sides and concave base. Dimensions of the intervention: 1.30m long x 0.45m wide x 0.06m deep. Function uncertain	0.06 m deep
104	Single fill of a modern ditch/gully. Mid greyish brown silt with sparse chalk and flint incl. Contained worked and burnt flint	0.06 m deep
105	Redeposited chalk (made ground) in the access road area – comprises chalk rubble and modern brick.	0.22 – 0.67
106	Modern tarmac – 18m wide north-south aligned strip of 0.3m thick tarmac layers	0.67 – 0.90

## Appendix 2: Oasis Report

### 9.1 OASIS ID: wessexar1-92176

#### Project details

Project name            Area 13 and Area 5, Larkhill Camp, Larkhill, Wiltshire

Short description of the project    Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Aspire Defence Capital Works (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development works at Area 13 (LACG13) and Area 5 (LADG05), Larkhill Camp, Larkhill, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference 413400 144900 (hereafter, the Site). The fieldwork comprised the topsoil and subsoil strip of a car park and an access road in Area 13 and the excavation of a trench within the footprint of building LA064 in Area 5. Only features of demonstrable modern date were identified during the watching brief. Severe modern disturbance was observed truncating the natural deposits in the southernmost part of the car park and along part of the access road. An assemblage of residual worked flint, of possibly Bronze Age date, was identified within both the topsoil and modern features and is indicative of the known background level of prehistoric activity in the area.

Project dates            Start: 01-07-2010 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 WORKED FLINT Bronze Age

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Planning condition

### Project location

Country England

Site location WILTSHIRE SALISBURY DURRINGTON Area 13 and Area 5,  
Larkhill Camp, Larkhill, Wiltshire

Postcode SP4 8QR

Study area 0.50 Hectares

Site coordinates SU 13400 44900 51.2026372545 -1.808178962890 51 12 09 N 001  
48 29 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 135.00m Max: 135.00m

### Project creators

Name of Wessex Archaeology  
Organisation

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



Project design Wessex Archaeology  
originator

Project Sue Farr  
director/manager

Project supervisor Chris Ellis, Phil Harding 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 Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum  
recipient

Digital Contents 'Worked stone/lithics'

Digital Media 'Survey','Text'  
available

Paper Archive Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum  
recipient

Paper Contents 'Worked stone/lithics'

Paper Media 'Context sheet','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research','  
available General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Area 13 and Area 5, Larkhill Camp, Larkhill, Wiltshire

Author(s)/Editor(s) Sulikowska

Other bibliographic details 74401.04

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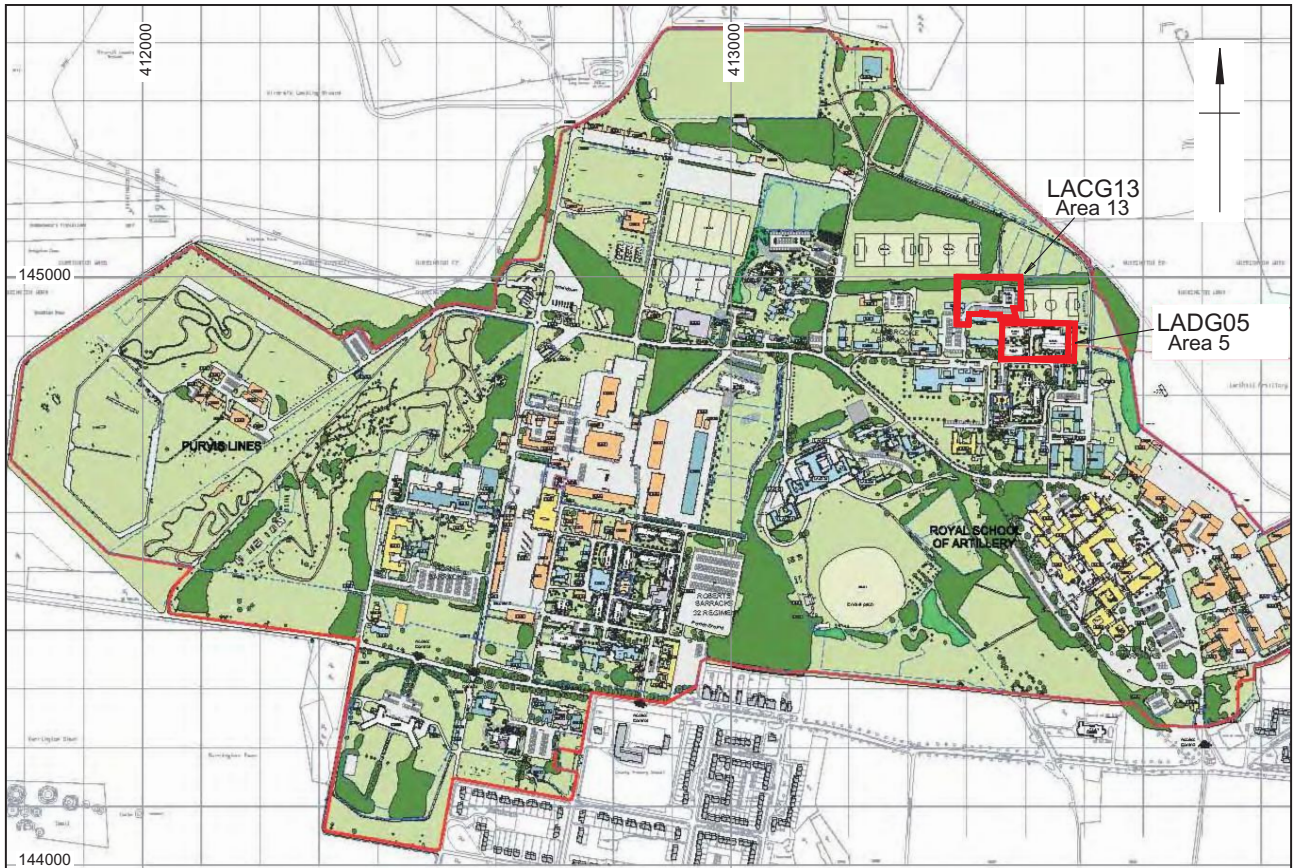
URL <http://www.oasis.ac.uk>



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Entered by S Farr (s.farr@wessex.co.uk)

Entered on 28 January 2011

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Site location plan showing areas of watching brief

Figure 1





Plate 1: View of car park area



Plate 2: View of access road showing made ground layers

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