

Knook Camp Phases 1, 2 & 3, Warminster, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for:
Landmarc Support Services Limited

CA Project: AN0235
CA Report: AN0235_1

April 2021



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Accession Number: DZSWS:41-2020

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SUMMARY

Project name: Knook Camp Phases 1, 2 & 3

Location: Knook, Wiltshire

NGR: 394098 142539

Type: Watching brief

Date: 2nd February 2021

Location of Archive: To be deposited with Wiltshire Museum, Devizes, and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)

Planning Application: 20/11383/FUL

Accession Number: DZSWS:41-2020

Site Code: KNKN20

In February 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the demolition of a small number of existing military barrack blocks and their replacement with modernised one-story blocks, at Knook Camp, Knook, Wiltshire.

Despite the archaeological potential of the site, no finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were uncovered. There was evidence of extensive modern terracing, structural foundations and asbestos contamination within the site, so it is likely that the archaeological potential within the site is low due to these issues.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In February 2021, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Knook Camp, Knook, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 394098 142539; Fig. 1). This watching brief was undertaken for Landmarc Support Services Limited.
- 1.2. Wiltshire Council (WC) has granted planning permission (ref. 20/11383/FUL) for the demolition of a small number of existing military barrack blocks and their replacement with modernised one-story blocks, with a condition of a watching brief and Level 2 recording of military structures. These will be constructed out of metal cladding and will be built in three phases.
- 1.3. The scope of this watching brief was defined by Neil Adam, Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service, the archaeological advisor to WC. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2019) and approved by Neil Adam.
- 1.4. The watching brief was also in line with October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.5. Presently in use as a transit training camp, Knook Camp is comprised of an enclosed, nucleated settlement nestled between the A36 and the B390, c. 500m north of the village of Knook.
- 1.6. The Site is located on a bedrock of West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation, a bedrock of chalk which was formed within the Cretaceous Period between 94 and 101 million years ago. The western part of the Site has a superficial deposit of clay, silt, sand, and gravel which was formed up to 3 million years ago within the Quaternary Period. No superficial geological deposits are recorded within the eastern part of the Site (BGS 2021).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The archaeological background given below is a succinct summary of a Historic Environment Desk based Assessment of the site by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2020)

Prehistoric

- 2.2. No prehistoric features or artefacts are recorded within the Site, or its immediate vicinity. However, there are several prehistoric features recorded in the wider area.
- 2.3. In 2010, a prehistoric ditch and the base of a prehistoric lynchet were identified approximately 670m southwest of the Site. A findspot, containing various associated Bronze Age finds including pottery and a pit feature, was identified approximately 570m southwest of the Site, alongside a cluster of Neolithic Pits.
- 2.4. The Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) is character by prehistoric monuments including 30 long barrows and 700 round barrows. Within proximity to the Site this includes prehistoric features such as the Bronze Age field system of Codford Down (1017303) located c. 2.1 km east of the Site. This field system covers an area of c. 35ha comprises lynchets up to 1.5m high and has survived as unploughed land during and since WWII. Aerial photographs indicate this field system was once part of a larger field system which covered or expanded over the entirety of Codford Down, although subsequent agricultural activities and conditions from WWII have damaged or destroyed the larger system.
- 2.5. The wider area has a high prehistoric archaeological potential; however, the Site comprises a military camp, which would likely have damaged any prehistoric remains which are located at shallow depth. However, as the foundations of the barrack building would likely have been shallow, any archaeological remains at greater depths would likely survive intact. The proposed footprint is largely concentrated on the layout of the previous barracks and as a result there will be limited construction in areas which have not been subject to prior development.

Romano-British

- 2.6. There are no Romano-British archaeological features or artefacts within the Site. A findspot of four Romano-British pottery fragments was uncovered during archaeological excavation work in 1993. This findspot was located approximately 570m southwest of the Site. Finds such as these are often found within the

agricultural hinterland of medieval settlements, often having been dispersed by medieval and later ploughing activity.

- 2.7. The nearest known Romano-British settlement is located c.2.2km to the northeast of the Site and is incorporated within the scheduled Knook Castle hillfort and associated prehistoric and Romano-British landscape (NHLE ref 1010207). This scheduled monument includes two Romano-British settlements, and associated field systems, one to the north of 'Knook Castle' and one to the northeast of 'Knook Castle'. Romano-British settlements which survive as earthworks also include Knook Down West and Knook Down East, indicating settled activity within the period. The lack of archaeological finds may be due to the limited footprint of the previous archaeological investigations within the study area rather than the lack of surviving Romano-British features and artefacts.
- 2.8. Due to the extensive development within the Site during the 19th century, and the limited known Romano-British archaeological features and artefacts within the Study Area, there is a low potential to recover previously unknown archaeology. The Site is likely located within the hinterland of settlement at Knook Castle and therefore, any archaeological remains that do survive would likely be representative of agricultural activity.

Early medieval and medieval

- 2.9. There are no early medieval or medieval archaeological features or artefacts within the Site. It is likely that a settlement existed at Knook by the 10th century. Grade I Church of St Margaret, approximately 720m southwest of the Site, has origins within the early medieval period with documentary evidence indicating the church was originally wooden and replaced with a stone structure at the end of the 11th century. The Domesday Survey of 1086 recorded a population of 19 households in Knook with 3 ploughlands and a meadow of 5 acres. Heytesbury is also recorded in the Domesday Book with a population of 8 households.
- 2.10. Excavations at Park Street Gates, Heytesbury in 1998 (Heaton, M. 1998), revealed gullies, ditches and post-setting. Pottery obtained from these features was dated to the 12th/13th centuries for the coarse fabric, and 14th/15th centuries for the finer fabric. These features are located c.860m west of the Site on the outskirts of Heytesbury and likely related to the medieval settlement at this location.

-
- 2.11. A medieval ditch and pit were uncovered in excavations to the south of West Farm, approximately 570m southwest of the Site. A number of strip lynchet features, identified to the north and northeast of the Site, that have been recorded within the HER whilst undated, it is possible that these may relate to medieval agricultural activity in the landscape.
- 2.12. The Site is located on raised ground between the known medieval settlements of Knook and Heytesbury and is likely to have been part of the medieval hinterland which was utilised for agricultural purposes. Any unknown early medieval and medieval archaeological features within the Site will likely be representative of agricultural land use.

Post-medieval

- 2.13. There are no post-medieval archaeological features or artefacts recorded within the Site or its immediate vicinity. Throughout the post-medieval period, historic mapping suggests the Site comprised of agricultural fields and was not subjected to development. The Site is first recorded on the 1861 tithe map, where the Site comprises two regular shape enclosed fields. The 1st Edition OS Map of 1844-88 and the 2nd Edition of 1894-1903, record the Site as comprising one large field, indicating the 1861 tithe map was published prior to the 1st edition OS Map. The wider study area experienced considerable development within the post-medieval period. The villages of Knook and Heytesbury saw considerable expansion, and the number of agricultural buildings increased, such as Bevin Barns outhouse, outhouse southeast of Heytesbury House, and outhouse southwest of Mill Farm, located c.650m north, c.750m west, and c.980m southwest of the Site respectively. Evidence of post-medieval enclosed fields, as a result of the 1789 parliamentary act, is still extant to the southwest of the Site. The Site was part of the landscape of enclosure created by the parliament act which created a post medieval enclosed landscape character. This landscape character still exists to the east of the Site but no to the Site itself, for which, the character has been fragmented by the development of Knook Camp.

Modern

- 2.14. In the early 20th century, the Site comprised an agricultural field within a wider landscape of enclosed farmland, the village of Knook to the south and Heytebury Plantation and village to the west, as shown on the 1901 OS Map. The Site has been occupied by a military artillery camp since WWI, the location of which has

been annotated on a copy of the 1901 OS Map as held by the Wiltshire and Swindon History Archives. This WWI camp has segmented and divided the post-medieval landscape character, so that it is no longer appreciated in its entirety.

- 2.15. The 1926 OS Map shows the likely layout of the WWI camp, and depicts two building features within the Site. This artillery camp was extended and developed for continued use during the Second World War. The 1940 camp layout map shows in detail the layout of the Site. The two building structures depicted in the 1926 map are no longer extant and 12 additional barrack buildings are located within the Site. By 1961 the northeast building within the Site, has been demolished, and an additional building has been constructed to the east, in an east/west orientation. No further changes are shown on the historic maps.
- 2.16. There are a number of depressions in the ground located to the north and south of barrack blocks 43 and 44, which are rectangular in shape and are likely areas of previous barrack building structures. These features can also be identified as earthworks on aerial photographs from 1946; however, no indication of the nature and date can be precisely inferred. It is likely that these depressions are from previous building structures which were constructed and demolished during the gap in the cartographic record. The southernmost earthwork may represent the demolished building depicted in the 1926 OS Map edition.
- 2.17. Additional modern developments within the wider study area consist of additional building development and road infrastructure. This is of little archaeological value.

Undated Features

- 2.18. Whilst some archaeological features recorded within the study area relate to a specific period, several features identified within the HER lack specific dating evidence. This includes a number of strip lynchets, field systems, and an enclosure which likely date to the prehistoric or medieval period and indicate the agricultural land use pattern during these periods. Additional undated features include ridge and furrow, pits, ditches, a linear feature, and a building feature possibly associated with Knook Camp.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objectives of the watching brief were:
- to monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the watching brief results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The watching brief comprised the observation by a competent archaeologist of the initially groundworks associated with the proposed development. These works comprised removal of the topsoil and building platforms (Fig. 2).
- 4.2. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3. CA will make arrangements with Wiltshire Museum Devizes (DZSWS:41-2020) for the deposition of the project archive. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.4. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIG 2-4)

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.
- 5.2. The natural geological substrate was not observed during the watching brief. Various deposits of made ground and topsoil were observed to a depth of 0.2m.
- 5.3. Across the area monitored, seven modern service cuts, a pavement (**102** and **103**), compacted chalk deposits belonging to the recently demolished structure (**104** and **105**) and a foundation trench (**106**) were recorded. Foundation deposits **104** and

105 were not excavated to the presence of asbestos; no other features of archaeological interest were uncovered.

5.4. Located to the northeast of the site, terracing was noted running northwest-southeast (**101**) with three spurs extending off towards the southwest (Figure 2-4). The ground was noticeably higher to the northwest with the evidence of made ground and terracing creating areas of flattened land to the southeast, with four such areas noted during the works. All areas of plateaued land were sub rectangular in shape with Locations A and B and deposit **104** on a northeast-southwest alignment, where as deposit **105** was aligned east-west.

5.5. Foundation cut **106** was located towards the northwest of Location B, measuring greater than 6m in length and 0.78m in width and aligned northeast-southwest. The feature was not excavated due to the presence of asbestos but is expected to belong to the north western limits of a previously demolished structure.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1. Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see *Archaeological background*, above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains. The watching brief did reveal the location of four modern structures and evidence of extensive modern landscaping, that included terracing of the site.

6.2. Locations A and B (figure 2) do not correspond with any cartographic sources; they do however have similarities in their alignment to the military structures constructed prior to World War One. Although no existing structural remains survive, foundation cut 106 would suggest that these flat areas of land were the location of military buildings, which were probably demolished during World War Two. Chalk deposits 104 and 105 represent the location of later structures, dating to World War Two, with cartographic sources from 1961 confirming their location.

6.3. Because the camp is located on a slope, it has undergone substantial terracing to create level building platforms; with the area monitored lower than the road to the west and substantially lower than the existing building to the north. Although there was a limited depth of impact from the machining during the watching brief, previous development in the area left very clear signs of ground reduction and although the natural substrata was not reached, the chance of any archaeological features surviving is extremely low.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Bush. This report was written by Adam Howard. The report illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The project archive has been compiled by Zoe Emery, and prepared for deposition by Richard Paxford. The project was managed for CA by Oliver Good.

8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2020 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/> Accessed 14 April 2021

Cotswold Archaeology 2020, Knook Camp, Warminster, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.

Cotswold Archaeology 2020b, Knook Camp, Warminster, Wiltshire, Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment, CA Report: CR0291_1

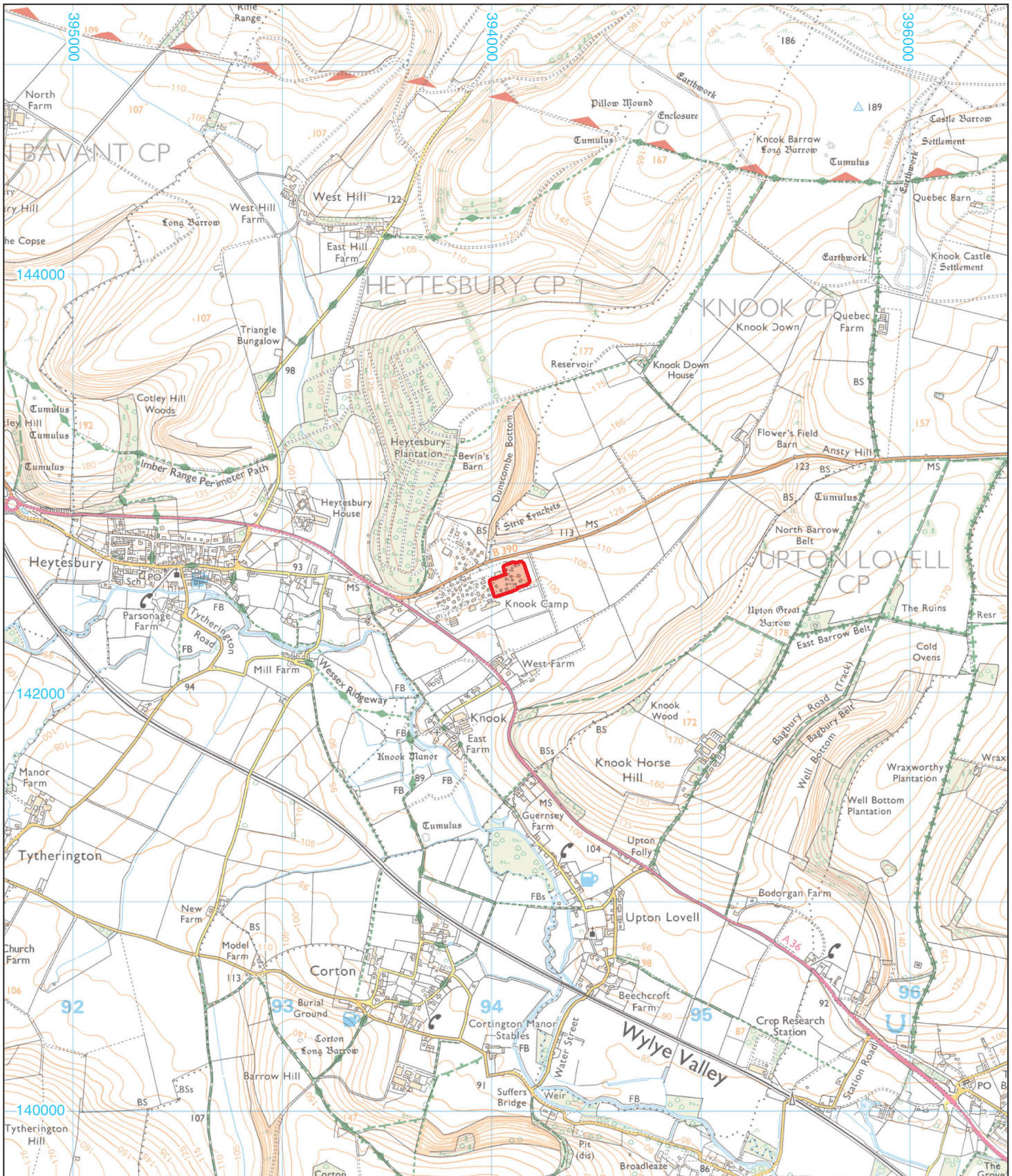
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2019 *National Planning Policy Framework*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark black brown clayey silt. CBM and modern waste present. Asbestos present.	-	-	0-0.1	Modern
1	101	Layer		Made ground	Mid brown silty clay. CBM and modern waste present. Asbestos present.	-	1.8	>0.1	Modern
1	102	Deposit		Concrete Path	Concrete Pavement	>1.8	0.8	0-0.1	Modern
1	103	Deposit		Foundations for path	Modern aggregates underlying 102	>1.8	0.8	>0.1	Modern
1	104	Layer		Made Ground	Mixed chalk, CBM and modern waste acting a foundation platform for military structure.	-	-	-	Modern
1	105	Layer		Made Ground	Mixed chalk, CBM and modern waste acting a foundation platform for military structure.	-	-	-	Modern
1	106	Cut		Foundation Cut	Linear foundation trench for form military building.	>6	0.78	-	Modern
1	107	Fill	106		Dark brown clayey silt. Abundant CBM and Asbestos present.	>6	0.78	-	Modern

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Knook Camp, Phase 1, 2 and 3, Knook, Wiltshire	
Short description	In February 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the demolition of a small number of existing military barrack blocks and their replacement with modernised one-story blocks, at Knook Camp, Knook, Wiltshire. Evidence of ground terracing and structural foundations was recorded with no other archaeological features present.	
Project dates	2 nd February 2021	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Desk Based Assessment(CA 2020)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Knook Camp, Knook, Wiltshire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	0.33 ha (3312m ²)	
Site co-ordinates	ST 94151 42561	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	NA	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Oliver Good	
Project Supervisor	Steven Bush	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Wiltshire Museum Devizes/ DZSWS:41-2020	NA
Paper	Wiltshire Museum Devizes/ DZSWS:41-2020	NA
Digital	Wiltshire Museum Devizes/ DZSWS:41-2020	Photos / Report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2021 <i>Knook Camp Phases 1, 2 and 3: Knook Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report AN0235_1		



 Site boundary

0  1km



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PROJECT TITLE
 Knook Camp, Knook, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	18/02/2021	
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- Area of observed groundworks
- Trench
- Layer/deposit
- Modern



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PROJECT TITLE
Knook Camp, Knook, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site plan

DRAWN BY AO CHECKED BY DJB APPROVED BY OG	PROJECT NO. AN0235 DATE 18/02/2021 SCALE@A3 1:750	FIGURE NO. 2
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Foundation cut 106, looking west (1m scale)



Site terracing looking north



Watching brief area looking north


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Photographs

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APPROVED BY	OG	SCALE@A3	NA	



Foundation deposit 104, looking east (1m scales)



Foundation deposit 105, looking south-east (1m scales)



Terracing relating to previous structure (Location A), 1m scales



Terracing relating to previous structure (Location B), 1m scales


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FIGURE TITLE
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