

Army Basing Programme – Briefing for Wiltshire Council Partners

Purpose

This briefing note explains the current status of the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s Army Basing Programme in respect of implications within Wiltshire.

The programme will bring 4,000 service personnel and their families to Wiltshire and will transform Salisbury Plain into the Army's largest training area in the UK with three high readiness Reaction Force Brigades based in Wiltshire by 2019.

The significant increase in Army personnel and their families to South Wiltshire could have implications for a range of Wiltshire Council partner organisations, which will need to consider what additional services may be required to meet increased demands. This briefing has been produced in conjunction with the MOD's Army Basing Team to provide all teams within Wiltshire Council, members of Wiltshire Council and its partners with common data in planning for the arrival of a significant population growth in the Salisbury Plain area by 2020. A number of assumptions have been made to arrive at the detailed figures provided, which are set out where appropriate.

Background

The Government's Army Basing announcement in March 2013 advised approximately 4,300 extra troops would be moving to Wiltshire over the next four years, accompanied by their families, bringing the total number of additional people to 7,600. Further evaluation of personnel numbers in late 2015, suggests the net addition of service personnel is now c. **4,000 plus c. 3,200 dependants**. A breakdown of these numbers by MOD site, with further details of the population are as follows:

Table 1 - Armed Forces Personnel and Service Family Accommodation (SFA) by location

Location	Service Personnel		Service Family Accommodation (SFA) Units to be provided
	Increase	New Totals	
Larkhill	1,995	3,472	444
Bulford	637	3,187	227
Tidworth	486	5,354	100*
Perham Down (Ludgershall)	637	1,872	246
Upavon	204	567	0
Salisbury Plain	3,959	14,452	1,017

*To be acquired from open market housing resulting in 917 new SFA build by MOD
(Source: MOD Army Basing Communications Team data - 29/02/2016 14:25)

N.B: 'New Totals' in table above is the Army 2020 UK Personnel Liability planning data for the Salisbury Plain Training Area. The current planning assumption for the number of Army personnel based in Army units located within all Wiltshire in 2020 is 17,700. It is estimated that 14,300 entitled family members will be associated with these Army personnel.

Table 2 - Net Additional Population and Planned Accommodation by Unit Location based on Army Basing Programme Planning Assumptions.

Location	Single Living Accommodation (SLA)	SFA Population			Total
		Military	Spouses	Children	
Larkhill	1,297	698	698	908	3,601
Bulford	414	223	223	290	1,150
Tidworth	317	169	169	219	873
Perham Down (Ludgershall)	414	223	223	290	1,150
Upavon	126	78	78	102	384
Total	2,568	1,391	1,391	1,809	7,159

(Source: MOD revision to Masterplan issued 27 Nov 2015)

Assumptions used:

1. 65% of the Service Personnel will be single, and therefore allocated Single Living Accommodation (SLA)
2. 35% of the Service Personnel will be married, and therefore allocated Service Family Accommodation (SFA)
3. Each household will accommodate an average of 1.3 children

Key Deliverables of the Army Basing Programme

The key deliverables of the Army Basing Programme in the Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) are:

- Extensive new build for Service Living Accommodation (SLA)
- Conversion of existing SLA blocks
- Additional mess facilities
- Extensive new build and some conversion of existing technical accommodation, including workshops, garages, armouries, stores and offices
- Approximately 1,000 new houses for Service Family Accommodation

MOD's estate management organisation, Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) has provided the outline programme for its infrastructure provision and in July 2014 produced a masterplan for the whole area which also details development at individual sites. This indicates where housing, camp facilities and training facilities will be sited and was supported by an Outline Transport Assessment and an Overarching Environmental Appraisal. Development proposals have been compiled in close cooperation with Wiltshire Council, which has engaged with local communities to inform them of progress and seek their feedback. MOD was advised of development policy set out in the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

Initially there was a slight reduction in the number of Army personnel and their families while internal UK unit moves are implemented as part of the Army Basing plans. However, from 2016 units from Germany start to relocate to Wiltshire, and by autumn 2018 there will be a net increase. Final relocations will occur during 2018/19. Further details of specific unit moves are attached at Appendix 1.

Planning applications for the SFA were submitted during March and June 2015. Any associated community infrastructure will be secured under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 2004 (as amended) or other planning conditions. Permission for these applications was granted in July 2016.

Implications for Wiltshire Communities

Additional facilities and services such as schools, housing, leisure activities, health, and social services is being provided by Wiltshire Council, with contributions from the MOD to meet this relocation. In addition, the MOD is implementing a number of minor highway improvements to mitigate the impact of additional vehicle movements as well as pedestrian and cycle infrastructure. Accordingly Wiltshire Council and the MOD are committed to collaborate in forming appropriate development proposals to enable a smooth transition of the additional military personnel and their families. It is therefore essential that good communication is developed between the council, its partners, and the MOD.

Key to this approach is to continue to engage and inform a variety of council partners and local stakeholders. This is essential to enable the council to respond to the increased demands in its facilities and services, as well as realising the benefits of additional skills and sites that will be available to aid economic growth in the wider community.

Wiltshire Council continues to assess the level of services required using the latest data on Army personnel and their families.

School Implications

As a consequence of the Army Basing Programme, Wiltshire Council is planning to provide additional school and early years places as set out in Appendix 3.

Further Data

More data on the Army Basing Programme is provided at Appendix 2.

Who to Contact for Further Information:

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Army Unit Moves Announced in the Army 2020 Review

Unit	To / From	Approximate Date
1 R Anglian leaves Bulford	To Woolwich	04/2014
47 Regiment to Larkhill	From Thorney Island	06/2014
1 Mercian Battalion to Bulford	From Catterick	06/2014
HQ1 Intelligence & Surveillance	Upavon	04/2015
Military Stabilisation Group leaves Larkhill	To Newbury	04/2015
4 Rifles leave Bulford	To Aldershot	04/2015
HQ Artillery Bde amalgamated at Tidworth	From Upavon and Honington	04/2015
HQ Eng Bde leaves Upavon / 1 Bde Sig Sqdrn	To Minley (Aldershot)	04/2015
LIF Cntr (MI)	To Hermitage	04/2016
5 Armd CS REME leaves Tidworth	Recipient site under review	04/2019
5 Btln Rifles to Bulford	From Paderborn	04/2016
1 Royal Horse Artillery to Larkhill	From Tidworth	04/2019
19 Reg Royal Artillery to Larkhill	From Tidworth	04/2019
26 Reg Royal Artillery to Larkhill	From Gutersloh	04/2019
HQ 20 Armd Inf Bde to Bulford	From Sennelager	04/2019
1st Battln PWRR to Bulford	From Paderborn	04/2019
QRH to Tidworth	From Sennelager	04/2019
1 Med Reg to Tidworth	From Hohne/Sennelager	04/2019
5 Med Reg to Tidworth	From Catterick	04/2019
3 Armd CS REME to Tidworth	From Paderborn	04/2019
35 Eng Reg to Perham Down	From Paderborn	04/2019

Army Basing Programme Data

- The final relocation of units from Germany is planned for 2019, a year ahead of target. All involve relocations to Wiltshire.
- Planned investment by the MOD in Wiltshire exceeds £1bn of the overall £1.2bn programme.
- DIO will deliver 917 new Service Family Accommodation with a further 100 bought from the open market
- Army Basing will create significant enhancement of military facilities in Tidworth, Larkhill, Bulford, Perham Down and Upavon camps.
- Public engagement during the masterplan process is widely regarded as an example of best practice and achieved a highly commended award from the Royal Town Planning Institute in 2015 for planning.
- The Army Basing programme development will be granted by some 20 separate planning applications. Applications submitted to date include those in the following table.

No.	Location	Date Submitted	Web link	Description
<u>Priority Works</u>				
1	Perham Down	17/11/2014	14/10940/FUL	4 x JRSLA blocks @ Perham
2	Larkhill	12/12/2015	14/11548/FUL	2 x office buildings @ Larkhill
3	Perham Down	12/01/2015	15/00195/FUL	'Paired' Mess at Perham Down
4	Larkhill	09/01/2015	15/00891/FUL	Officers SLA @ Larkhill
5	Perham Down	12/01/2015	15/00921/FUL	Officers SLA @ Perham
6	Larkhill	09/01/2015	15/01188/FUL	SNCO mess and SLA block @ Larkhill
7	Tidworth	06/02/2015	15/02629/FUL	SR Mess and SLA, Tidworth
8	Bulford	06/02/2015	15/02916/FUL	7x JRSLA blocks at Bulford
9	Bulford	22/05/2015	15/04376/FUL	SR mess and SLA at Bulford
<u>SFA Applications</u>				
1	Ludgershall	27/03/2015	15/02770/FUL	Ludgershall 246 SFA units etc.
2	Bulford	13/05/2015	15/04006/FUL	Bulford 227 SFA units etc.
3	Larkhill	23/06/2015	15/05540/FUL	Larkhill SFA
<u>Main Camp Development Applications</u>				
1	Perham Down	07/04/2015	15/03313/FUL	Perham Down Main Camp Works
2	Bulford	17/06/2015	15/05950/FUL	Bulford Main Camp Works
3	Larkhill	30/06/2015	15/06682/FUL	Larkhill Main Works
4	Tidworth	30/07/2015	15/08644/FUL	Tidworth Main Works
5	Upavon	<i>Due April 2016</i>		Upavon Main Works
6	Bulford	03/08/2015	15/03456/FUL	Vehicle wash-down facility

Wider Military Data

Regular Armed Forces in Wiltshire

On completion of the Army Basing programme, approximately 21% of the Regular Army will be resident in Wiltshire - with nearly 16,000 in the Salisbury Plain area.

The Army Basing Team has collated details of identified units/force elements at a number of Wiltshire locations based on Army 2020 liabilities. However, each location will also host a number of smaller lodger units or detached units and they may be subject to location change dependant on availability of real estate, or operation/exercises activities. Some locations also provide training which would have short term impacts on their military population numbers.

REGULAR ARMY PERSONNEL THROUGHOUT WILTSHIRE by 2020

Wiltshire Location (Major Locations)	Total A2020
Bulford	3,187
Larkhill	3,472
Tidworth & Perham Down	7,226
Upavon	567
Warminster & Westdown	1,230
Hullavington	1,115
Lyneham	209
Colerne	519
Corsham	385
Total	17,910

The precise numbers of RN and RAF personnel vary, particularly as there are no longer any RAF or Naval Stations in the county. A relatively small number serve at Tri-Service establishments, such as Corsham the HQ of MOD's Information Services and Support Organisation and MOD Lyneham. Additionally some are located at Boscombe Down and Porton Down near Salisbury. They are thought to number 1,000, which is in addition to the above table.

Armed Forces Reserves in Wiltshire

There are 295 Reservists in Wiltshire and 120 members of the Army Cadet Force . The Reserves are serving with the following units:

- “B” & “Y” Squadrons of the Royal Wessex Yeomanry (Old Sarum House in Salisbury and Swindon)
- 162 Regt Royal Logistics Corps (Swindon)
- 104 Battalion Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (Swindon)
- “A” Company 7 RIFLES (Swindon)

Veteran Numbers

It is very difficult to accurately assess the number of veterans in Wiltshire or indeed in the UK. The Royal British Legion has undertaken national estimates based on Office of National Statistics and other data sources, such as pension and compensation payments. In 2014 Wiltshire Council undertook its own local research and produced a report titled: “*Veterans population in Wiltshire.*” This states :

*“This report, can with confidence account for approximately 70% of veterans in Wiltshire, based on an estimated population of **53, 603.** (This is equal to 11.6% of the population of Wiltshire).”*

Significant data source used	Number in Wiltshire	% of estimated veteran population
Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) recipients	11,615	22%
Male Wiltshire population aged 72 and over (adjusted) (<i>who will have completed National Service</i>)	23,000	43%
RBL beneficiaries	2,495	5%
Total	37,109	70%

Army Basing - Wiltshire Council School Programme

The following additional school infrastructure is to be provided by the summer 2019:

- An additional **150 places** at **Bulford, Kiwi** which was completed in June 2016, in readiness for the new academic year in September 2016 to accommodate children from the incoming 5 RIFLES unit. It should be noted that the extension to Bulford St Leonard's, completed at Easter 2016, will also be available for these and other children, but does not require funding from the Army Basing Programme.
- The transfer and expansion of **St Michael's Primary School** from **Figheidean** to **Larkhill**, adjacent to the proposed new 444 SFA development will be available by the summer of 2018. The new school will have a capacity of 420 pupils for which the MOD is providing the majority of funding to accommodate the extra children to be housed at Larkhill.
- The provision of **60 Early Years** places to be incorporated into the above school will also be available by the summer of 2018.
- The extension of **Avon Valley College** to provide some **270** additional places.
- The extension of **Wellington Academy** to provide some **105** additional places. The MOD is also providing two hectares of land to extend Wellington Academy.
- The provision of a **new primary** school at **Ludgershall** alongside the MOD's proposed 246 SFA development. This will provide **210** places and be available by the summer of 2019. A further 210 places which are not connected with the Army Basing Programme, may also be built there.
- The provision of **30 Early Years** places to be incorporated into the above school will also be available by the summer of 2019.

Total Places to be provided as a direct result of the Army Basing Programme

Early Years	90	60 at Larkhill (St Michael's) and 30 at Ludgershall (new).
Primary	750	390 at Larkhill (St Michael's), 150 at Bulford (Kiwi) and 210 at Ludgershall (new).
Secondary	375	270 at Durrington (AVC) and 105 at Tidworth (Wellington Academy).