

Army Basing Briefing Note for Town and Parish Councils - Updated June 2016

Purpose:

To advise Town and Parish Councils to be affected by the British Army Basing programme of further progress on the MOD's Army Basing plans.

Background:

The Army Basing Review¹ announced by the Secretary of State for Defence on 5 March 2013, takes its lead from the new Army 2020 Plan outlined in July 2012². It comprises two key elements:

1. Reaction Forces – at readiness, capable of war-fighting
2. Adaptable Forces – capable of persistent engagement at home and overseas

In addition, Force Troops Brigades will provide a range of capabilities (engineer, artillery and medical support) from a centralised pool of resources to support the above, as well as a coordination and control function for key tasks, e.g. overseas capacity building. The Basing Plan, which commenced implementation in 2014, relocates a number of army units throughout the UK as well as relocating all units from Germany by 2020. On completion of the programme the Regular Army will consist of 82,000 personnel.

Army Basing In Wiltshire:

Following the Army Basing Review, undertaken by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and released in March 2013, the MOD has announced that the Reaction Force Brigade Headquarters will be centred on the *Salisbury Plain Training Area*, with three Armoured Infantry Brigades. The Salisbury Plain Training Area is the only place in the country where the Army can carry out complex and demanding training exercises. It is envisaged, however, that there will only be a marginal increase in training activity on the Salisbury Plain due to the training area's finite capacity and the MOD's undertaking not to compromise the environmental sustainability of habitats and archaeology. As the Reaction Forces are at "Very High Readiness", they will comprise predominantly of Regular Forces.

An additional 4,000 military personnel plus their families will be relocated to Tidworth, Ludgershall (Perham Down), Bulford, Upavon and Larkhill. They will relocate between 2014 and 2019, the bulk of which will enable the withdrawal of units from Germany. The relocation represents a real opportunity for the county's economy, and Wiltshire Council continues to work in partnership with the MOD to ensure the benefits are realised for Wiltshire's communities.

The Government committed in excess of £1.8 billion to the new Army Basing Plan, of which £1.2 billion will be spent on new service accommodation with the remainder spent on technical infrastructure. Of this budget, in excess of £1 billion will be spent at the Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA).

The key deliverables of the Army Basing Programme in the SPTA are:

- extensive new build for single living accommodation (SLA)
- conversion of existing SLA blocks
- additional messing facilities
- extensive new build and some conversion of existing technical accommodation, including workshops, garages, armouries, stores and offices; and

¹ Ministry of Defence. Regular Army Basing Plan. 2013. Available at <http://bit.ly/18YKhrh>

² British Army. Transforming the British Army. 2012. Available at <http://bit.ly/12QK1Dd>

- up to 1,000 new houses for service family accommodation (SFA)

Detail of Planned Changes - Chronologically:

The following British Regular Army Unit transfers are planned. Dates are generally “not before”. **Reduction of personnel from Salisbury Plain Area in red bold italics.** Local moves in blue (not in bold) text.

2014	BULFORD BULFORD LARKHILL	1 unit transfers from Catterick (1 Mercian) 1 unit transfer to Woolwich (1 Royal Anglian) 1 unit transfers from Thorney Island (47 RA)
2015	BULFORD BULFORD LARKHILL TIDWORTH UPAVON	1 unit transfers from Catterick (1 Mercian) 1 unit transfers to Aldershot (4 Rifles) 1 unit transfers to Newbury (Military Stabilisation Group) Additional nos. from Honington (consolidation of Royal Tank Reg and Upavon (consolidation of HQ 1 Royal Artillery Bde) Loses nos. to Tidworth (HQ 1 Artillery Bde) 1 unit transfers to Minley - Aldershot (HQ Eng Bde)
2016	BULFORD TIDWORTH BULFORD	1 unit transfers to Hermitage (Land Intelligence Fusion Centre) 1 unit transfers to Cottesmore (5 Arm'd CS REME) 1 unit transfers from Germany (5 Btln Rifles)
2019	BULFORD LARKHILL PERHAM DOWN TIDWORTH TIDWORTH	2 units transfer from Paderborn & Sennelager (1 Btln PWRR & HQ 20 Arm'd Inf Bde) 2 units transfer from Tidworth (1 RHA and 19 RA) and 1 from Gutersloh (26 Reg RA) 1 unit transfers from Germany (26 Reg RA) 1 unit transfers from Germany (35 Eng Reg) 2 units transfer to Larkhill (see above) 4 units transfer from Germany / Catterick (Queens Ryl Hussars / 1 and 5 Med Reg / 3 Arm'd CS REME)

NB: There are no Regular Army Rebasing changes affecting Warminster, Knook Camp or Netheravon.

In summary - Bulford gains 1 unit (net). Larkhill gains 4 units (net), but as 2 units transfer from Tidworth, which is within 11 miles, there may be fewer changes needed in terms of housing, secondary school locations, medical facilities etc. Tidworth gains 1 unit (net), plus additional numbers arrive from Upavon and Honington. Perham Down gains 1 unit (net). Following further refinement of Upavon units, it will see a slight increase in personnel, but no new SFA is required. A more comprehensive position of relocations affecting the Salisbury Plain area by location is enclosed in Appendix 1.

Implication for Wiltshire Communities:

Additional facilities and services (such as schools, housing, leisure facilities, health, emergency and social services) will need to be provided to meet this relocation. Accordingly Wiltshire Council and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) have been working together as MOD plans are formulated to enable a smooth transition of the additional military personnel and their families. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) is the authority within the MOD responsible for all estate development, and management matter.

Key to this approach is engaging council partners and local stakeholders. This is essential to enable the council to respond to the increased demand for facilities and services, as well as

realising the benefits of additional jobs, skills and sites that will be available to aid economic growth in the wider community. The council must continue to ensure good communication is maintained between its partners, and this briefing note describes how plans are progressing by informing town and parish councils of developments to date. A log of stakeholder consultation conducted or facilitated by Wiltshire Council can be found at Appendix 2.

MOD Latest Proposals:

The MOD has revised (November 2015) the net change in its troop levels in the SPTA to:

Table 1 - ADDITIONAL (NET) ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL and 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 <i>Note 1</i>
Perham Down (Ludgershall)	637	1,872	246 <i>Note 2</i>
Upavon	204	567	0
Salisbury Plain	3,959	14,452	1,017

Note 1: The 100 SFA at Tidworth will be procured from the open market to ensure sufficient SFA are available for the early relocations under the Army Basing Programme.

Note 2: MOD is demolishing and re-providing 36 SFA units within the perimeter fence at Bulford. Accordingly it will be providing a net additional 191 SFA units.

Note 3: DIO is also looking to free up an additional 200 local SFA units across the above four settlements, by shortening the turn-around time between the change of occupants. Accordingly the Army Basing Programme requires some 1.200 additional SFA units.

Table 2 - NET ADDITIONAL POPULATION and PLANNED ACCOMMODATION by LOCATION

Location	SLA Pop	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:

- 65% of the Service Personnel will be single, and therefore allocated SLA
- 35% of the Service Personnel will be married, and therefore allocated SFA
- Some military personnel (and their families) relocating to Wiltshire as part of the programme, will be accommodated in SFA NOT provided by the Army Basing Programme. In all some 1,400 SFA will be occupied.
- Each household will accommodate an average of 1.3 children
- It is unlikely that units will reach or maintain 100% level of manning and could in some circumstances be exceeded; dependant on Training; Operations; Welfare and Recruitment.

Table 3 – REGULAR ARMY PERSONNEL THROUGHOUT WILTSHIRE by 2020

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 location also provide training which would have short term impacts on location military population numbers. The table below excludes RN and RAF personnel, who are located at predominantly at Corsham, Lyneham, Porton Down, Boscombe Down and Winterbourne Gunner. Their numbers vary due to national postings but are thought to total c. 1,000.

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

Evolution of Planning:

The DIO produced its Masterplan for redeveloping the Salisbury Plain Training Area. Together with supporting environmental reports and a Statement of Community Involvement (SoCI), which listed all comments from those who have been consulted since December 2013, and explained how these comments have been addressed. It was referred to Wiltshire Council's Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) on 30 July 2014. Following further clarification on three environmental

principles sought by the SPC, the Masterplan was finalised, as was noted by the SPC on 22 October 2014. The finalised Masterplan is regarded as an important and critical background document informing the assessment of the expected planning applications. The Masterplan was referenced within each of those planning applications and define the wider context and assess the cumulative impacts and thereby demonstrating, in the broadest terms, how and where development can, and cannot, take place. It follows that the Masterplan was a material consideration in the determination of those planning applications, providing contextual understanding and consistency for decision-making. This did not provide the MOD with permission to proceed with its development plans, as this could not go ahead until full planning permission has been obtained through the normal statutory processes.

DIO presented their initial SFA layouts at Larkhill, Ludgershall and Bulford to local town and parish councils in January 2015. And these were publically consulted for four weeks (ending on 20 February 2015).

Planning applications for SFA and camp redevelopment were submitted in mid-2015. The SFA applications were considered at a Strategic Planning Committee on 13th April 2016. These were “hybrid” applications in that they seek full permission for approximately 100 units at each housing site with outlie permission for the balance. Applications for the new development at the camps will be dealt with under delegated powers. A full list of applications submitted to date is detailed at Appendix 3.

The SPC resolved to grant planning permission, subject to c agreement of a Section 106 Agreement under the Town & Country Planning Act 2004, as amended, and to the discharge of conditions and resolution of reserved matters pertaining the outline planning permission. On 19th July 2016, the Section 106 Agreement was completed which enabled the planning permission for the 917 SFA units to be granted on 26 July 2016.

Community Infrastructure:

Like any other developer the MOD is required to make appropriate provision for wider infrastructure to ensure its SFA proposal are sustainable. The specific details of the community infrastructure to be provided are set out in the Section 106 agreement. This details all the facilities agreed with Wiltshire Council as local planning authority, and the funding mechanism for their delivery.

In summary the contributions from MOD include

- Schools
 - Primary
 - Funds to relocate and extend to a new two form entry (2FE) school at Larkhill (relocating St Michael’s school, currently at Figheldean)
 - A new 1FE school at Ludgershall
 - Extension of Bulford Kiwi - an additional 150 places which is in hand
 - Secondary
 - Extension of Avon Valley College at Durrington (270 places)
 - Extension of Wellington Academy at Tidworth (105 places)
 - Land
 - 1.8 hectares at Larkhill
 - 2.3 hectares at Ludgershall
 - 2 hectares at Tidworth
- Early Years
 - 60 places with new school at Larkhill

- 30 places with new school at Ludgershall
- Community Facilities
 - A building at Ludgershall
 - 0.3 hectares at Larkhill
 - 0.4 hectares at Ludgershall
 - Access to a wide range of MOD sports and community facilities both inside and outside the camps (these will be for registered groups)
- Highway Improvements at seven junctions
- Shared Use Paths (cycle and foot) from the SFA to the camps.
- Additional waste containers at the new SFA
- Improvements at bus stops
- Ecological mitigation

Engagement:

Wiltshire Council officers will regularly update local councillors and community groups through Area Boards and Community Area Partnerships (CAPs).

In addition, Wiltshire Council works to a Communications Plan, setting out the means of communication which includes:

- Local briefings
- Regular newsletters (normally monthly throughout the planning phases of the programme, but will reduce in frequency thereafter)
- Use of the council's MCIP Website
- Media engagement

Questions:

It is proposed that any requests for information or proposals from local communities be channelled through the Area Board members or CAPs.

Appendix No. 1 to Army Basing Briefing

Army Unit Moves Announced in the Army 2020 Review

Unit	To / From	Approximate Date
1 R Anglian leaves Bulford	To Woolwich	04 / 2014
47 Reg to Larkhill	From Thorney Island	06 / 2014
1 Mercian Battalion to Bulford	From Catterick	06 / 2014
HQ1 Int & Srv	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 Sqdn	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 Bttln 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

Wiltshire Council Army Basing Programme - Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Initial Steps

- Under direction of the MCI Board set up Army Basing workstream (monitored through the MCI Delivery Group).
- Initial contact with Defence Infrastructure Organisation who would be implementing the programme within the MOD.
- A desk-based stakeholder mapping exercise with DIO and Senior Wiltshire Council staff was conducted
- A Steering Group (SG) with formal ToRs to direct the MOD and council activities to plan for the programme was inaugurated. This involved a range of council teams required to respond to the significant change programme. They included Education, Economic Development & Planning, Highways, Early Years, Housing, Communications, and Social Services. In addition other public sector bodies such as the MOD (DIO and the local brigade commander), NHS, Police, and Fire & Rescue Services.
- The SG reviewed and agreed the stakeholder mapping at one of its earliest meetings.
- It also considered how to communicate with and engage local Wiltshire Councillors, Town & Parish Councils around Salisbury Plain who would be affected by the development, the wider public, schools, other statutory authorities and local businesses.
- An Army Basing Communications Plan was drawn up. It listed stakeholders, summarised key messages, considered means of communications and looked at forthcoming events.
- A Councillor Reference Group to ensure the elected Wiltshire Councillors were briefed on plans prior to public engagement and sought local views / knowledge to help deliver timely and appropriate information and to anticipate the issues that would be of concern to them was formed.

Wider Engagement / Subsequent Steps

- Facilitated public meetings for MOD to explain proposals and how Wiltshire Council would respond to the increased level of facilities and services it need to provide. It sought to reassure existing communities that they would not be adversely affected by the significant Army Basing developments.
- The Army Basing Programme Manager produced a monthly newsletter (from October 2013) issued to all relevant local town and parish councils. The distribution of which was expanded to local schools, businesses and various other stakeholders who expressed an interest in the programme.
- The Army Basing Programme Manager also produced a bi-monthly briefing to the chairs of the local Area Boards (Amesbury, Pewsey, Tidworth and Warminster) to convey at the Area Board Meetings.
- Assisted MOD in its Masterplan Consultation events, by suggesting formats, participants and timing. As for the public meetings above these were held in large, welcoming, local venues at time that enabled public participation. On Wiltshire Council's advice a number of informal and informal consultations were arranged.
- MOD was persuaded to produce a Statement of Community Involvement to map all the issues briefed, bodies consulted and responses received etc.

- Formal consultation processes and procedures were followed on the Planning Applications for MOD development. This involves some 19 separate planning applications.

Army Basing Masterplan Stakeholder Consultation Process

- Local stakeholders meeting - 27 November 2013
- Local stakeholders meeting – 29 January 2014
- Public Consultation - 19 February to 1 April 2014
- Statutory consultees meeting - 25 February 2014
- Workshops with education and healthcare providers – 3 March 2014
- Public meeting (Special Area Board) – 3 March 2014
- Responses received from statutory consultees
- Responses received from the public – over 300 responses
- Public Comment Period – 20th May to June 17th 2014
- Visits by Wiltshire Council officers to 5 Rifles Paderborn - 12th July 2015 as a part of an official Army visit
- Hosted six wives from 5 Rifles to apprise them of living and working in Wiltshire at Bulford on 29th September 2015.
- Further visit by Wiltshire Council officers and Wiltshire schools to 5 Rifles Paderborn - 19th to 21st January 2016.

Appendix No. 3 to Army Basing Briefing

Wiltshire Council Army Basing Programme - Planning Application Summary

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	28/04/2016	16/04058/FUL	Upavon Main Works
6	Bulford	03/08/2015	15/03456/FUL	Vehicle wash-down facility