

Update from REME re Defence College of Technical Training

You will have noticed that the Contractor (Hercules JV) have put up their signs. They have official control of the site and are restricting access to all but essential personnel. They have started to 'break ground' on the most complex of the buildings and are aiming to finish all buildings on site by summer 2015. MoD personnel gain access to the site via the new gate on the Calne Road.

It is anticipated that personnel will begin to arrive on the MQ patch in Sep 14. Numbers will be small to start and build up until the major 'bulk' move, which remains on track for Oct/Nov 15. The REME/Army move personnel every two years and as their replacements arrive they will be given the option to live in Lyneham and commute to Arborfield. It is anticipated that many will take up the option to save moving at a later date. The MQ estate is getting considerable investment in order to upgrade the houses prior to occupation. Up to £25k per house is being expended. Expect to see lots of workers on the site.

I understand (although have not been involved) that the Mod Programme team have been engaging with the schools in order to give an estimate of the likely increases in numbers. The numbers almost certainly will increase, but it is difficult to gauge the exact numbers due to the complexities of the military population.

The programme remains on track for the bulk move of personnel in Oct/Nov 15. It is anticipated that a small advance party will arrive a few weeks prior to ensure the site is ready. Equipment will start arriving in the summer of 2015, ready for installation and testing prior to school lessons commencing on the 9 Nov 15. Some equipment will arrive on site at the end of this year. We are in the process of removing Stained Glass windows from our REME church in Arborfield and the font from the Church in Bordon. Bronze statues, bell towers, and many other historical artefacts will be heading down the M4 to Lyneham over the summer months.

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