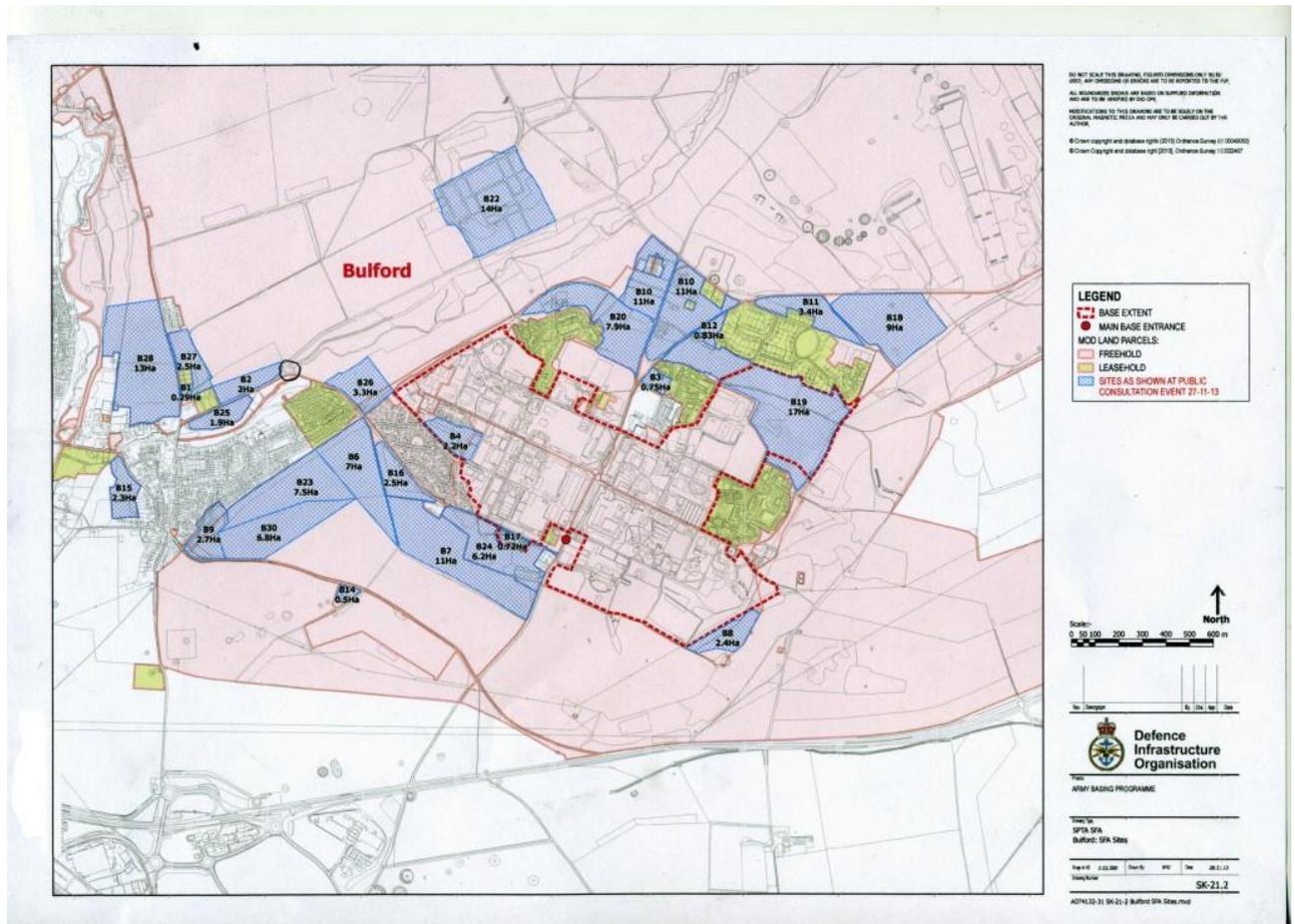


ARMY RE-BASING



Defence Infra-Structure (DIO) Map Published for Consultation Purposes

(Larger scale hard copy of this map may be obtained from the Parish Clerk or Planning Officer on application)

BULFORD PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO DIO ARMY RE-BASING QUESTIONNAIRE

(Questions in underlined Bold font : Council Responses in Italic)

1. **What do you feel we should be considering as part of the community engagement process?**

- Protection of the quality of rural life.*
- Sensible social and recreational integration between military and civilian populations.*

- c. *Facilitation of Army administration of their military communities.*
- d. *Opportunities for good, regular liaison between MOD local authorities and Town & Parish Councils.*
- e. *Provision of good infra-structure facilities, sufficient to meet the enlarged communities.*

2. Are there any issues that make the Salisbury Plain Area special to you?

- a. *Open rural countryside, including plentiful farming activity and unrivalled opportunities for walking, riding and generally taking healthy exercise.*
- b. *Rural Village atmosphere.*
- c. *Flora & fauna and opportunities for Conservation.*
- d. *Archaeological history and artefacts.*

3. Are there any special issues that we need to consider on the Plain itself?

As unrestricted as possible public access to the Training Area for recreational purposes (when not in use for its primary purpose) in accordance with the Nugent Report 1972. Although the military difficulties in this respect are well understood and respected, there can be no gainsaying the fact that this access has been significantly degraded since 1992. At the same time the military authority governing the Training Area has almost completely removed the structure that used to exist for liaison with local civil authorities and, in Council's view, at the very least, there is a great deal of room for improvement of this aspect.

4. Are there any issues that may affect you when we make changes on the existing bases to accommodate future needs?

- a. *Over-development of parochial land.*
- b. *Overloading of infra-structure (particularly road networks & access, medical facilities, education facilities both Primary and Secondary).*

5. Do you have views on where you think the Service Families Accommodation dwellings should or should not be sited? Please provide your reasons.

- a. *Bulford Parish Council understands on good authority that the number of SFA dwellings required in this Parish is 250 – with, perhaps, an eventual small amount of adjustment resulting from circumstances in neighbouring Parishes.*
- b. *On this basis, Council considers that this number of dwellings should be accommodated in one estate without mixing its composition with civilian content.*

Reasons :

- (1) *Ease of administration including the resolution of neighbour disputes.*
- (2) *A mixed estate would result in unnecessarily large increases in the green land area required (outside established Development Boundaries).*
- c. *Council considers that the 250 dwelling estate in this Parish should be established as one estate within the following designated areas :-*
 - (1) *B6 – northern portion.*
 - (2) *B16 – northern portion.*
 - (3) *B23*

(4) B30

Reasons :

(1) Ease of administration – this general area lies opposite to the established SFA Canadian Estate and alongside (for part of its length) the military Married Quarters lying to the north east of the Parish Housing Estate (marked in green on the Consultation Map); a solid military administrative framework already exists in this area.

(2) Road Access – this area would allow for exit & entry on to two roads, the Bulford Road and Double Hedges, thereby easing vehicular congestion.

(3) This area would allow for a sensible and logical extension of the Parish Development Boundary.

(4) SFA dwellings in this area would facilitate social inter-action between the military families and those in the Parish civilian housing estate; it could also provide direct (largely internal) road access to the Parish Village Hall and recreational facilities.

(5) SFA households in this area would readily connect with the combined footpath and cycleway (that is in the last stages of planning) over Aerial Hill, Folly Bottom, and Amesbury; moreover, entry to an established Bridleway, leading directly to Amesbury, lies adjacent to this route.

(6) Electrical, water, and sewage infra-structure have already been enlarged and improved to the recently re-built Canadian Estate and it is thought that an extension would be comparatively easy.

6. What new or improved local services are needed to provide for the expansion of the number of military personnel and their families in the area?

Bulford Parish is not endowed with plentiful local facilities, but the following improvements to local services would be required to service a large estate as is contemplated (500 adults, 500 children, 500 motor vehicles, by rule of thumb):-

a. Bus services.

b. Roads and Highways (already under substantial stress arising from rat-running resulting from bottlenecks on the A303 and the closure of the A344).

c. Family medical facilities (already under stress as a result of Archer's Gate developments).

d. Child Care facilities.

e. Infant, Primary, & Secondary School facilities (without resorting to classes of 30 or more).

7. How can the proposed Service Family Accommodation be integrated into the existing communities?

Council considers that integration between civilian and military personnel, including families, can only be achieved by a gradual osmotic process of social and recreational inter-action and that attempts to force this by artificial means (such as mixed estates) has proved unsuccessful in the past (as well as being an administrative nightmare) and is certain to continue to be so if the same mistakes are repeated; nevertheless, proximity of military and civilian estates is desirable to allow for inter-action to occur. For this reason, shared recreational facilities are desirable and the well established Army custom, of providing separate recreational facilities for its own people, is to be discouraged wherever this is possible and sensible. Where the re-build of the Canadian Estate was concerned, it transpired

after the event that Section 106 contributions had been waived (without any consultation with this Council) on the grounds that internal, segregated facilities would be provided by the military; this was a thoroughly retrograde step that, in Council's view, must not be repeated, if integration of service families with their civilian counterparts is to be encouraged.

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The following Notice was placed upon the Parish Notice Boards on Monday 3rd February 2014 :-

ARMY RE-BASING AND MARRIED QUARTER (SFA) ALLOCATION AND LOCATION

A Stakeholders' Briefing by representatives from MOD and County was held on Wednesday 29th January, 2014. The Council Chairman, Jackie Clark, and Cllr John Clee attended on behalf of Bulford Parish Council.

Following an Introduction by the Commander 43 Brigade and the Wiltshire Council Service Director (Planning), the Briefing concentrated mainly on the methods employed to date to narrow down the possible sites for the locations of the SFA. It became clear during this presentation that MOD (DIO) has franchised this work to a large civilian firm specialising in Town & Country Planning (Messrs White, Young, & Green). Moreover, it was stated that this refining process would continue with further more detailed criteria being applied and with further Briefings/Consultations programmed for the near future.

A map was displayed on-screen showing that the "Preferred Sites" to date for the Bulford Parish SFA allocation (apparently still unchanged from the original 250 dwellings), are B6, B23, B30, B9 (these are the sites preferred by the Parish Council), and B17, B24, B7, B16 (which Council would prefer to avoid if possible). These site numbers are as already published on the map on the Parish Website (on the Army Re-Basing tab) . So far, Council has been unable to obtain a hard copy of this new map.

Informal discussions with uniformed senior Army Officers after the Briefing have revealed that the Army would wish for the SFA to be not only within the same Parish but to be within 10 minutes' walk of the soldiers' places of work. If this criteria is accepted, it would place emphasis upon sites B17, B24, B7, B16 as these are closer to the Camp than the Council's preferred sites.

The Parish Council will publish information, wherever possible, as it becomes available.

XXXXX
Parish Clerk

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Army Rebasing Newsletter – February 2014

This is a monthly publication designed to update you on the British Army Basing Plan which will see approximately 4,000 additional service personnel plus their families relocate to Wiltshire over the next five years.

Ministry of Defence Public Engagement:

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) is committed to keeping local community groups informed of emerging plans in respect of the development needed to rebase numerous Regular Army units following the Army 2020 announcement made by the Secretary of State for Defence in March 2013. It held two stakeholder briefings in November 2013 and January 2014 at Wellington Academy, Tidworth.

Public Consultation of the MOD's Salisbury Plain Training Area Master Plan:

MOD will formally consult the public on the proposed development within the Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA). The consultation commences on February 19, ending on April 1.

DIO will be publishing a report (Salisbury Plain Training Area, Army Basing Programme, Planning Context Report, Phase 3 – Draft Context Plan) which sets out options for locating Service Family Accommodation (SFA), outline development within its bases at Larkhill, Upavon, Bulford, Tidworth, and Perham Down, and changes across the training areas. It will be hosted on its web-site:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/salisbury-plain-training-area-master-plan-army-basing-programme>. Within this site details of both a postal and e-mail address will be provided to which any comment should be sent.

To ensure that as many people as possible are able to comment, the DIO is also organising targeted meetings with Statutory Authorities as well as Education and Health providers. In addition Wiltshire Council is arranging a public meeting, through the Tidworth Area Board medium, focused on the Army Basing plans which will be held at Wellington Academy, Tidworth on March 3, commencing at 7 p.m. This is being advertised on Amesbury, Tidworth, Pewsey, Warminster and Salisbury community area websites. The MOD will introduce and outline the consultation process, to provide a focus for the discussion at this Board meeting. The meeting is open to members of the public and there will be an opportunity to ask questions. In addition, exhibitions of the plans will be setup at libraries in Tidworth, Amesbury, Durrington and Salisbury and Durrington Village Hall, with comment forms available for the public to complete and hand in. The MOD will be in attendance to answer questions at these locations on specific days, which will be advertised. There will also be articles in the local press.

Future Activity:

- All comments will be collated and considered in refining the final development plans.
- Environmental Studies will be conducted in parallel to help inform the Master plan.
- A Master plan will be produced in April, and as this will have more specific proposals (for example the proposed sites to be allocated for the SFA) it will be publically consulted for four weeks.
- Thereafter, DIO will be submitting a number of planning applications for its development requirements. The first of these is likely to be submitted in late summer, 2014 with further submissions during 2015, 2016 and 2017.
- Wiltshire Council continues to assess facilities and services it needs to provide as a result of the increased anticipated military population.

For more information visit:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/militarycivilianintegrationpartnership.htm

The following is a copy of an e-mail sent by Council to all relevant authorities following the Stakeholders' Meeting on 29 Jan 2014. The map, to which it refers in para 3 below, follows immediately after the text; the Response referred to in para 2 is not shown, since it already appears at the head of this web page :-

1. It is submitted that the entries in the green box on page 26 of the consultation paper "Composite Feedback and Assessment of Recommended Sites" to the effect that Bulford 6 & 16 are "Supported by Bulford Parish Council" are misleading as to the Council's true position in the matter.
2. The Council's position is as stated in its original Response (paras 5c(1)&(2)), specifically that the support is for only the northern portions of these two areas. The reasons given for this are explained fully in the same paragraph and a copy of this Council's Response is attached for ease of reference.
3. To further illustrate Council's position, a map is attached to this e-mail on which the approximate size of the new estate (based to scale upon the amount of land already occupied by the recently completed and similarly sized Canadian Estate) is shown lightly shaded in lime green. This does not attempt to show the proposed exact position and layout of the new estate (in fact the expectation would be for it to be set back from the Bulford Road towards Double Hedges), but it is included to show the preferred orientation and approximate preferred position of the development.
4. This amplification is considered important, since Council would support a location for the estate running alongside the Bulford Road in areas B16, B7, or B24 only as a fallback location should the preferred locations prove impossible for as yet unseen reasons; the prime considerations for this being :-
 - a. An estate in these areas, running parallel to the Bulford Road, would only allow for entry/exit points onto one Highway (Bulford Road), thereby adding to the additional vehicular traffic already generated by the newly completed Canadian Estate.
 - b. An estate in these areas would tend to perpetuate the present separation between Camp and Village, whereas to lay the new estate alongside the existing civilian development within the Parish would do much to encourage integration between the civilian and military populations. Since the civilian population of Bulford Parish is shortly to be substantially out-numbered by its military counterpart, any measure that fosters integration between the two communities is considered important.
5. Lastly, Appendices 1 to 15 appear to be missing from this document, as it is published on the website; may these be supplied ?

(JBB Clee)
Planning Officer,
Bulford Parish Council.
(Tel: 01980-632363)

