

Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response

19 January 2018

Helen Garside
Principal Conservation Officer
Wiltshire Council Conservation (Central)

Officer's Name: Morgan Jones
Officer's Title: Senior Planning Officer
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Application No: 18/00397/FUL
Erection of 160 no. dwellings to provide Service Families Accommodation (SFA), land for public open space, landscaping, internal roads and all infrastructure works, including drainage improvements.
Land North of The Packway and East of Larkhill, Larkhill, Wiltshire, SP4 8PY
412491 Northings: 144232
Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Please note the particulars in connection with the above planning application are available to view on the planning website <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment.htm>

I would welcome any comments that you have about this particular application by **22 February 2018**. If I do not receive your observations and comments by this date I will assume you have none. If you require an extension of time please contact the Planning Officer above who will do their best to accommodate this.

Recommendations:

<input type="checkbox"/>	No Comment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Support
<input type="checkbox"/>	Support subject to conditions (please set out below)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Object (for reasons set out below)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No objections

Matters Considered:

The following comments relate to the conservation of the built historic environment. Other issues, such as those relating to the impact on the wider landscape in general and to below ground archaeological deposits (including those relating to C20 military activity), will be subject to consideration by other colleagues within the Council whose specific disciplines relate more closely to these issues.

The Site: The site subject of the current application lies to the east of the main Larkhill camp which is one of the main military facilities contained within the Defence Training Estates on Salisbury Plain. The Camp is currently home to the Royal School of Artillery. The military facility contains a considerable number of structures, and several large parcels of open ground particularly to the west and north and to the west of Stirling Barracks.

In 1892 the Secretary of State was granted power to purchase land for military purposes under the Military Lands Act of that year. The acquisition of land for the army on Salisbury Plain began in August 1897. Initially Larkhill was the site of a series of temporary practice camps and no permanent structures were built at the camp until 1914, when the replacement of the temporary barracks with hatted accommodation commenced. In 1915 the School of Gunnery for Horse and Field Artillery were relocated to Salisbury Plain. The outbreak of the First World War led to a rapid acceleration in the development of the camp, facilitated by the construction of the Larkhill Military Railway. Larkhill was also home to one of Britain's first military

airfields, established in 1909. The establishment of the Central Flying School at Upavon in 1912 diminished the importance of the airfield at Larkhill, which was eventually closed in 1914. From 1920 Larkhill Camp became the headquarters of the School of Artillery, replacing the School of Gunnery for Horse and Field Artillery, and the camp underwent a series of modifications. The 1925-26 edition Ordnance Survey map shows an extensive series of buildings within the camp, laid out over a grid system. A period of new construction took place during the 1930's. Some of the buildings constructed during this period survive today, and though not subject to statutory protection, may be considered to be of historic interest in their own right.

The 1948 edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 11) records that the camp had undergone extensive changes, largely resulting from the outbreak of the Second World War, when the artillery school became the focus of intense activity as one of the army's main training facilities. Many of the former barrack blocks appear to have been replaced by more substantial buildings arranged around the gridded street pattern in the centre of the Site, while an extensive complex of smaller buildings occupied the northern part. To the east, many of the earlier structures also appear to have been replaced by larger buildings. Much of Larkhill Camp was rebuilt during the 1960s and many of the earlier structures were demolished.

Policy:

The Council's Core Strategy – Core Policy 58: Ensuring the conservation of the historic environment requires that designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings will be conserved.

The NPPF sets out the Government's high-level policies concerning heritage and sustainable development.

Proposals:

The application proposes the erection of 160 new dwellings to provide Service Families Accommodation (SFA). Permission in principle has been granted for the development of the wider site and the current proposals represent the next phase of development.

Assessment:

The site has remained undeveloped in terms of built structures throughout the modern period, being situated to the east of the main camp. Although investigation has led to the identification of many below ground remains associated with C20 military activity within the wider site (and I am aware that the Council's Archaeology Service has been heavily involved and am happy to defer to their comment in this respect), no built heritage assets will be directly affected.

Designated built assets within the wider vicinity include listed buildings within Durrington itself and the Conservation Area which covers the historic core of the village. However, it is not considered that there will be any additional impact on the settings of these assets due to the separating distance and intervening development and landscape features.

Conclusion:

The proposals will have a neutral impact on the built historic environment and it is therefore considered that the scheme is compliant with legislation and policy applicable to the historic environment and no objection is raised.