

Digging Band of Brothers: Aldbourn 2019



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Archaeological Surveys
Specialist Geophysical Surveyors



**Breaking
Ground
Heritage**



Digging Band of Brothers: Aldbourne 2019

Site Code: ALD19

Non-Technical Summary

A week of excavation of the site of the hut camp of Easy Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division of the American Army of the Second World War took place in May 2019. This work was part of the Operation Nightingale programme, utilising archaeology to assist in the recovery of military personnel and facilitated by Breaking Ground Heritage (BGH). The work uncovered footings of the Sergeant's Hut, many artefacts associated with the American military presence in the field and their lives in the village, and also evidence for post-war occupation of the huts. The results were such that the team will aspire to return to carry out future excavations. The work was featured in Current Archaeology (Osgood, 2019) and on BBC Digging for Britain Series 8. This programme also included an examination of extant camp buildings, associated tree carvings, and a consideration of potential 'back-door' training sites.

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Introduction

In May 2019 a team undertook limited excavation on the village sports pitches in Aldbourne, Wiltshire (centred on SU 26569 17526). The aim of the project was to provide a suitable field project for participants on the Operation Nightingale programme and also to establish whether the presence of military units in the area during the Second World War had left any physical presence. The excavation work followed an extensive desktop and remote sensing survey and sought to uncover information, in particular about one of the most famous units of the War; Easy Company of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division of the American Army. Better known as the 'Band of Brothers' thanks to the publication of Stephen Ambrose and the acclaimed television series of the same name. This interim report presents the findings of the various components of this project.

Three main components in the 2019 season:

- 1) Excavation of the Sergeants' Hut of 506 PIR 101 Airborne
- 2) Examining surviving buildings from the wartime camp
- 3) Exploring the potential for wider training legacy components – from field firing zones to tree carvings (arborglyphs)

These components were drawn from the Research Objectives for the project which were discussed with the Local Authority Archaeology Team (Rachel Foster and Tom Sunley) prior to commencement of fieldwork.

Research Objectives

The Research aims were formulated by Richard Osgood and Dan Miles and were submitted to Rachel Foster at Wiltshire Council. Although the programme for 2019 worked towards these aspirations, it was considered that they would form part of a broad overall project over several years encompassing several seasons at Aldbourne and potentially with Ramsbury (another base of the 506th PIR) being examined too.

Project Aims for Exercise Band of Brothers

- 1 To understand the condition of the sub surface remains of the US and earlier British army camp at Aldbourne.
 - Ground Truthing of Geophysical anomalies
 - Establishing the levels of preservation of hut camp footings

- 2 To understand better the physical features and infrastructure of the camp
 - Identify and locate the camp rubbish pits
 - To determine the level of amenities – drainage, water and power supply
 - Examine the unidentified squares visible on aerial photography to establish their purpose
 - To identify the role and function of some of the hut bases identified through the geophysics and contrast this with the historical and oral testimonies of the camp.
 - Examine the surviving structures relating to the camp and consider their origins and usage.
- 3 To collect material culture in order to help our understanding of the camp and of its occupants
 - To consider all archaeological findings in illustrating the lives of those in the camp pre D-Day
 - Attempting to examine whether there is any historical palimpsest to demonstrate differences between British and American military detritus
- 4 To demonstrate the efficacy of the archaeological methodologies used
 - Contrast the geophysics readings with the reality of the ground and determine the factors that have an impact on this.
 - To see if gridded metal detection leads to a significant density of finds in fields not yet examined
- 5 Continue the assessment of the efficacy of cultural heritage for wellbeing and recovery (work by BGH)
- 6 To locate and record evidence of Second World War troop movements around the Aldbourne camp in order to consider whether their distribution has significance in terms of locating hitherto unknown/undocumented training elements
 - If particular to record tree carvings associated with the Second World War, and if possible with US troops including the 101st Airborne.
 - Record evidence of training activities – impact from live firing and temporary occupation (eg slit trenches)
 - To identify tree carvings relating to specific individuals
- 7 To provide some management recommendations to the local community for the site
- 8 To provide evidence and new understanding of the 101st occupation of Aldbourne for its interpretation and public display in the village
 - To enhance the archive of the Aldbourne History Society
 - To provide new stories for display in the Aldbourne Museum
 - To help further develop the story of the 101st in Aldbourne to broader audiences

Comments on the Organisation of the work

The project was designed to work as an Operation Nightingale and hence to provide different heritage opportunities to the volunteers engaged in the work. It was thus divided into a desktop survey phase with assistance from the Wiltshire and Swindon Heritage Centre, an aerial

photographic phase with Historic England, and then a geophysical survey phase with Archaeological Surveys.

After these elements, the fieldwork was comprised of a single trench (and one test pit) of excavation, a region of metal detection work with associated DGPS plotting, and an assessment of local arborglyphs associated with the American presence at Aldbourne. The latter also enabled team members to locate field firing and training sites. Team members could choose which of the project works they wished to work with.

Team members were also encouraged to assist with a project open day and to help guide local schools and cub groups around the fieldwork.

Summary of the site archive

Replace with: The intention is that the artefactual assemblage will go to the Aldbourne Heritage Centre for display and research. The site is within the collecting area of the Wiltshire Museum and discussions are underway to organise the loaning of the assemblage to the local Heritage Centre. A report will be sent to the Wiltshire HER and disseminated through OASIS.

Legislation, policy, and plans

There were no designated heritage (or other) assets on the location and thus the main requirement for fieldwork was permission from the **Aldbourne Parish Council** for fieldwork. This was duly sought and very kindly given.

Desktop Strategy

Initial investigations into the history of the site comprised a site visit with Roger Day to examine the location of the sports pitches and to consider the likelihood of any deposits still remaining *in situ*. Further discussions with Neil Stevens and a visit to the museum of the 101st Airborne at Littlecote House followed.

The Historic England Archives were consulted to interrogate their holdings of historic air photographs – the results being presented in Annex 3 below. This showed an interesting sequence of events prior, during and after the presence of the military camp in Aldbourne – revealing the layout of buildings, attempts at the camouflaging of roofing, and phasing of development of the site from British to American usage.

Tom Sunley and Rachael Foster of Wiltshire Museum subsequently ran a training day at the Wiltshire and Swindon Heritage Centre in Chippenham for all project volunteers (including military veterans on the Operation Nightingale programme) to look at the digital and mapping holdings of the location. In actual fact, there were no notable entries for the area we intended to evaluate.

Site Survey

David Sabin of Archaeological Surveys Limited undertook a geophysical survey of the camp sites of both Ramsbury and Aldbourne in February 2019. The results of the latter are presented here. In spite of the site being level today, and with anecdotal evidence for the area having been not only fairly extensively metal detected but also much truncated following the insertion of floodlights and drains for sports usage, the results were positive. What looked as though they might be footing of the old huts could be seen in the northern half of the football pitch, and there were other suspicious anomalies that might represent the paths running between huts. These corresponded with some of

the aerial photographic results and thus there was certainly enough to warrant actual physical trenching work.



Fig 1: The location of the Easy Company camp site in Aldbourne, with the geophysical survey by Archaeological Surveys overlain

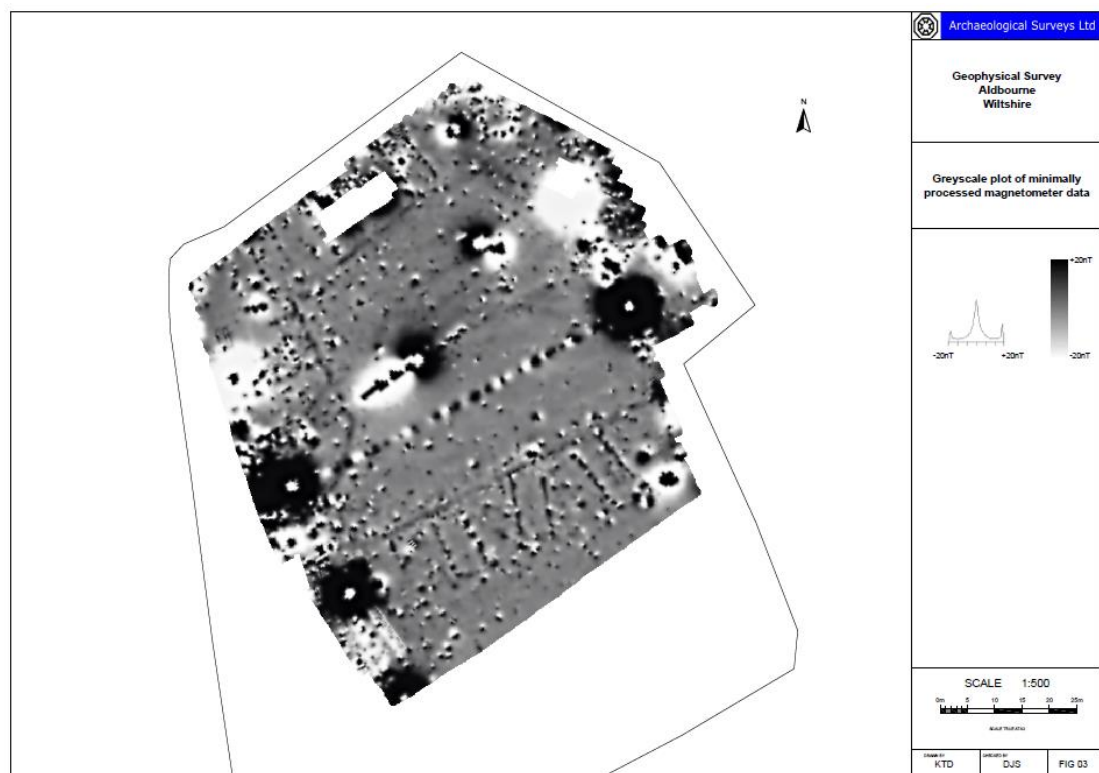
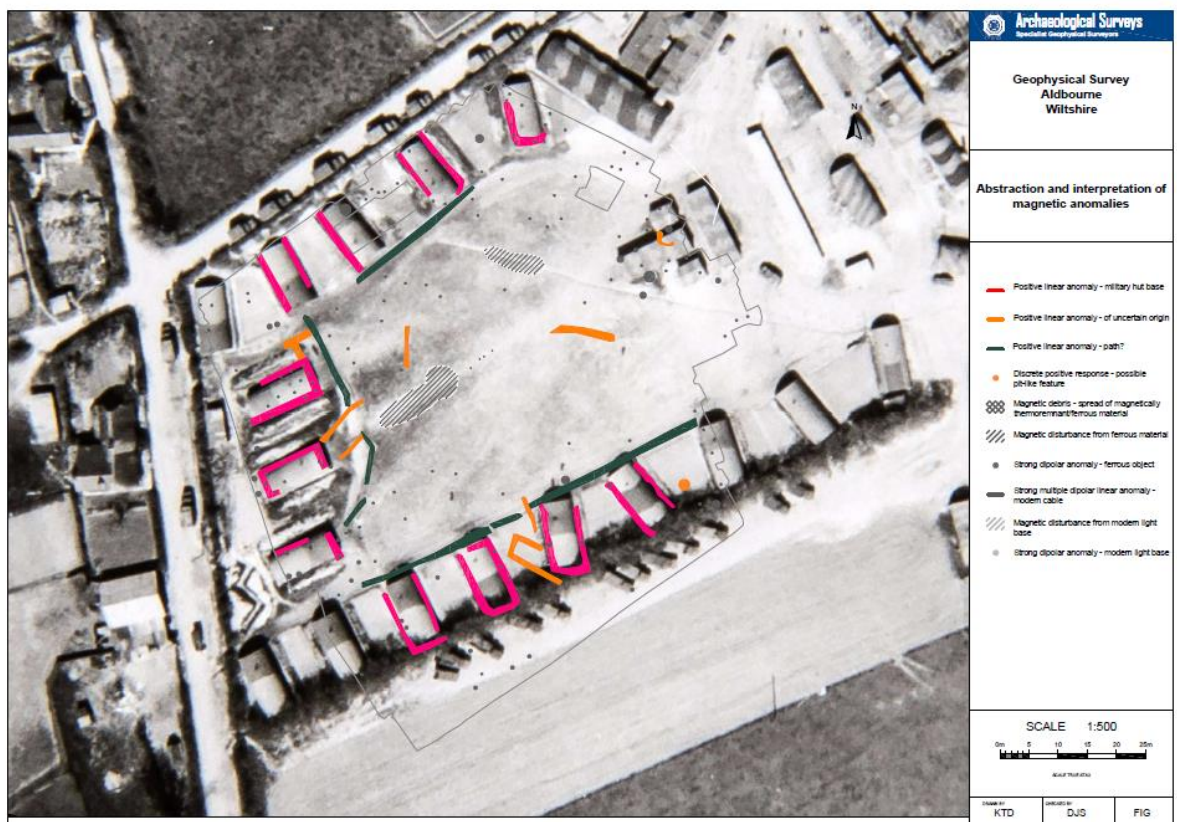
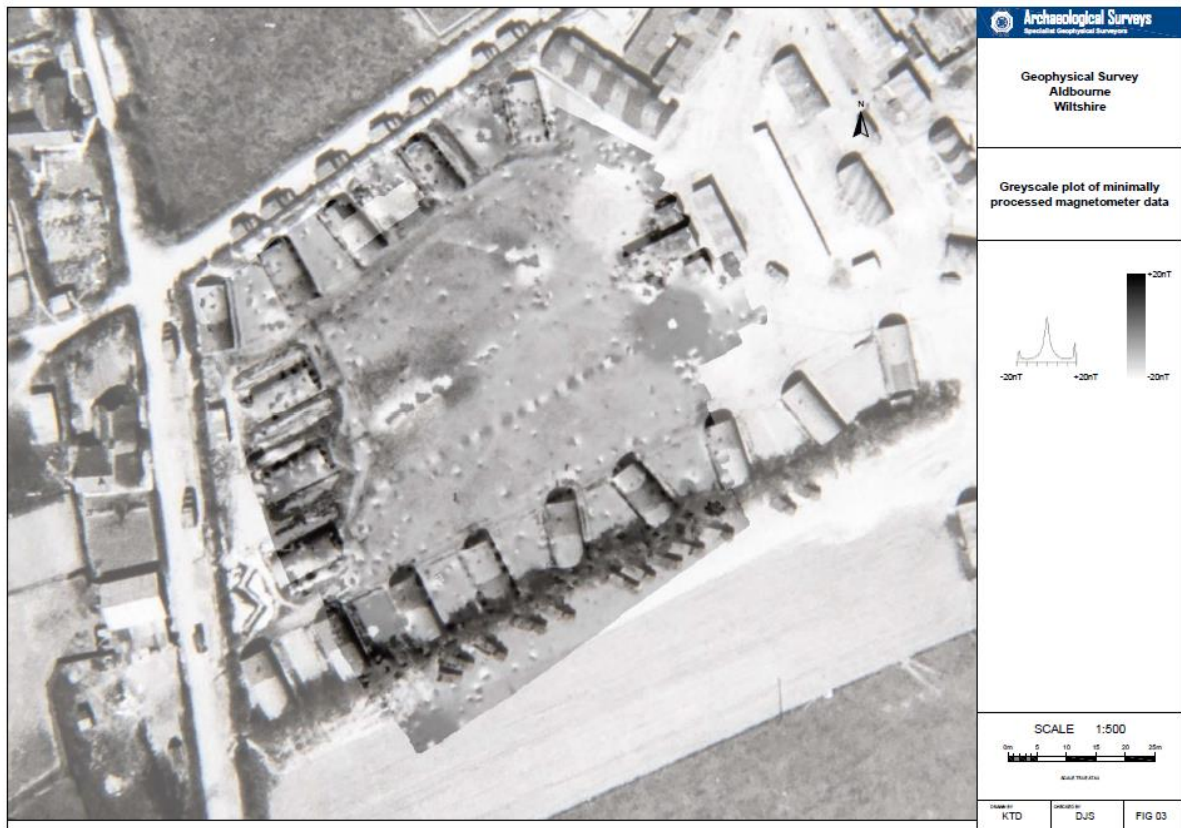


Fig 2: The magnetometry survey of the Easy Company camp site at Aldbourne by David Sabin, Archaeological Surveys Ltd



Figs 3 & 4: Aerial photographs of the Easy Company camp site at Aldbourne, with both geophysical survey and interpretations overlain. Note the fine correlation of survey responses to aerial photographic presence of huts indicating potential for surviving deposits.



Fig 5: Trench (and test pit) location in relation to the geophysical survey

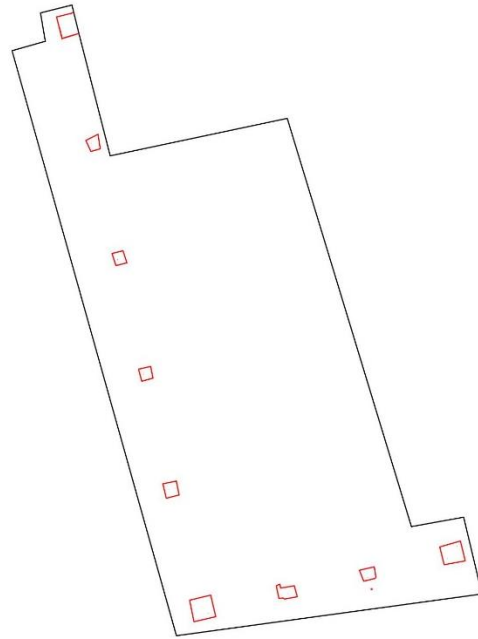


Fig 6: Trench 1 and Test pit at Aldbourne – note the post pads in the main excavation area. These pads are 4.9m (16ft) from corner to corner on the southern face.

Location and Topography

The geology of the study area is mainly chalk with clay and flint and, by its nature as a sporting pitch, the area is relatively flat with an embanked area to the SW corner and surrounded by housing – largely post-war in date. The site is at c 132m OD.

Documented History

Two British army camps were established in Aldbourne in the early years of the War. The first, known later as “Searchlight Camp” was located on Castle Street at SU 26252 75439, and the second

was established on the village playing field, south of Farm Lane at SU 26559 75228. This camp, which became known as “Farm Lane Camp”, was extended to the north of Farm Lane, which later became known as “Rectory Camp” (SU 26532 75310). The Farm Lane camp became the home for Easy Company of the US 101st Airborne Division.

The “Searchlight Camp”, identified on 1946 aerial photographs (RAF/106G/UK/1946 V 4315 14-Apr-1946. Historic England RAF Photography), was part of a network of early warning systems set up all over the country to warn of German bombing raids. By January 1941 there were over 4,000 searchlights nationally (Dobinson, 2001) and it is likely that the searchlight battery in Aldbourne was established in this period.

There are other early references to military activity in Aldbourne in the early years of the Second World War. Jonathan Raban, in his book about his father’s experience in Dunkirk describes part of the 67th Field Regiment of the Royal Artillery being based at Aldbourne in the summer of 1939 before they set sail as part of the British Expeditionary Force (Raban, 2017). The presence of the 265 Worcester Battery of the 67th Field Regiment is also recorded in a 1983 Aldbourne Parish news article describing the memories of one of the troops stay in Aldbourne. Roger Day also includes references to the 265 Battery arriving in Aldbourne in mid-September 1939 and leaving on 7th January 1940 (Day, 2004). The minutes of the Aldbourne Parish Council meeting on October 16th 1939 thanked a Mr A Liddiard for hosting the meeting in his house, due to the military taking over the kitchen at the memorial hall where the council meetings were usually held. It appears from the council minutes that various buildings had been requisitioned and troops were billeted in the village in late 1939 and early 1940. Though no details on what units these were are given, this would have been the 265 Worcester Battery.

The first reference to the army camp, located on the village playing field, is in the Aldbourne Council minutes of 18th April 1940. This describes a letter received by the War Department Estate Office Durrington with a claim form (for damages) for the playing field which had been requisitioned. There are further mentions of OC troops (a sub-unit or minor unit) and issues with lorries parked on the village green belonging to military tank transporters between 1941 and 1943, but very few details are provided. The dating of the establishment of the camp is narrowed to before April 1942 as the camp is clearly seen on the series of aerial photographs taken on 29th April 1942 (RAF/AC47/N13 V 53 29-APR-1942 Historic England RAF Photography). This shows the well-established camp south of Farm Lane. The only reference we have to who used the army camp is from a hand drawn map of the camp that was given to the Aldbourne Heritage Centre by an unknown person. On the plan is written the 34th Armoured Tank Brigade Company Royal Army Service Corps (RASC). The plan indicates an area used to store fuel, which can also be seen on the 1942 aerial photograph. This RASC unit was responsible for supporting the 34th armoured tank brigade (with supplies including fuel) which was based nearby.

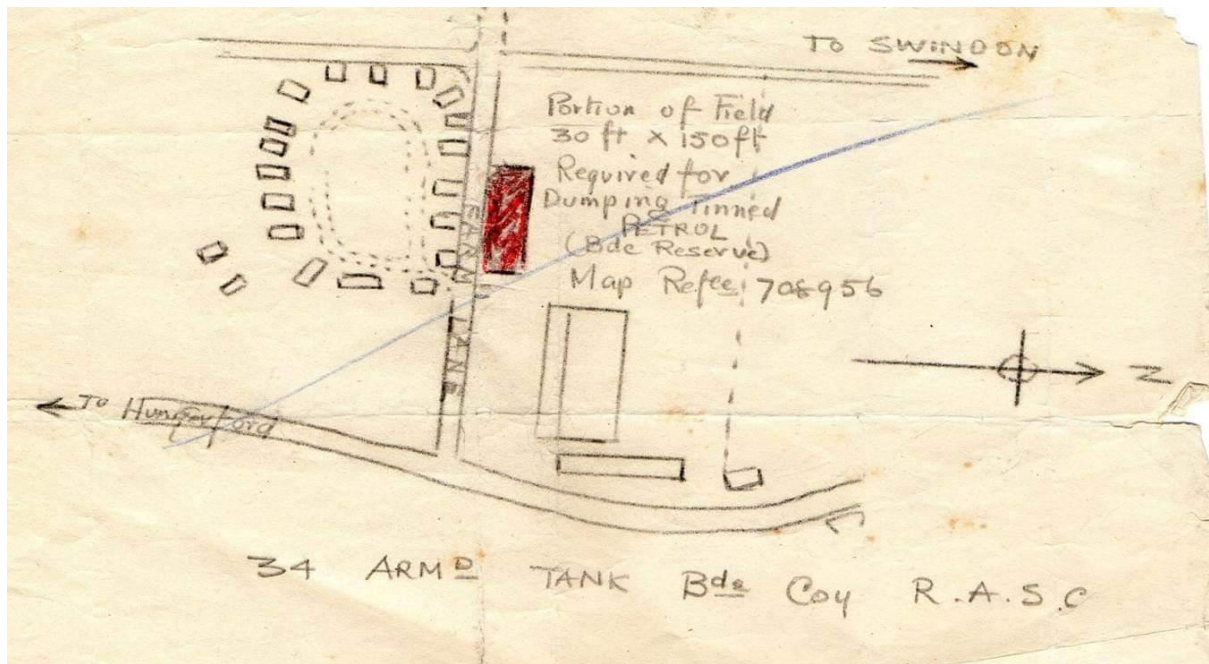


Fig 7: Royal Army Service Corps illustration of the Aldbourne Camp layout © Aldbourne Heritage Centre

The headquarters of the 34th armoured tank brigade was at Littlecote House from 19th January to 6th June 1942 which may give a clearer time line for their occupation of the camp at Aldbourne (Pers Comm Roger Day). It may have been the unit mentioned in the council minutes causing damage to the green with its tank transporter vehicles.

There is no information on when the RASC unit moved out of Aldbourne, but prior to the occupation of the camp in September 1943 by US troops the camp was enlarged. It was extended to the north of Farm Lane, where a number of large wooden huts were constructed. This part of the camp became known after the war as Rectory Camp. It was constructed sometime between April 1942 and the 29th June 1943 (before the arrival of the US troops) as the new hutted area can be clearly seen on a USAF aerial photograph (US/13PH/SQ/ROLL596 V 4069 29-JUN-1943. Historic England USAAF Photography).

In September 1943 members of the 2nd Battalion US 506th Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division moved into Aldbourne taking up residence in the camp located in the playing field and rectory area, as well as other areas of the village, including the famous stable blocks by the village green that were later moved to the Currahee Military Museum and Littlecote House to preserve them.

The US troops stayed here training and preparing for the invasion of France until the majority left in the last week in May 1944 to airfields to be flown over to their targets in Normandy. On 3rd June, part of the camp at Aldbourne was returned to the British. However, on 16th June the camp was reopened with an influx of new troops and those returning from hospitalisation. On 17th Sept 1944 the troops flew out again to participate in Operation Market Garden and the camp was emptied apart from a basic guard. On 15th October 1944 Aldbourne camp was finally returned to the British authorities (101st Regimental diaries, 8651-8).

Many of the veterans of the 506th remembered their time in Aldbourne fondly – their reminiscences stretch, on occasion, to details about the camp though their recollections are perhaps less fulsome where the huts were concerned. David Kenyon Webster, for example, was astonished by the village

itself 'Webster wrote that when he woke the next morning, "I thought I'd passed out on a Hollywood movie set' (Ambrose, 2017,44) and he was not alone in this feeling.

In his unpublished manuscript he went even further – "Cast as look back now to that dim and half-forgotten era as one of those men fondly recalls the downland village where his unit was billeted in 1943 and 1944, when England was an embattled island and all the tourists wore khaki.

We arrived in Aldbourne in a blocked-out convoy one frosty September night in 1943. When we awoke the next morning, we saw the England of nursery rhyme and childrens' story. Fairy-tale cottages with thatched roofs and rose vines on trellises stood all round us.

This area was home to most of us. It contained a quadrangle of Nissen huts, half a dozen one-story tarpaper barracks, and two latrines.

600 men were put in huts and barracks on a meadow that could well have supported at least two cows; the village soccer field became a combination gridiron-ball diamond-parade ground".

The cold conditions and the ablutions arrangements featured heavily within the memories of the soldiers: "Once in the village, men were bivouacked in at least two different locations. Some moved into what was called Camp Aldbourne, a cluster of rounded Quonset (sic) huts that occupied what been a football field – or to Americans, a soccer field – along Farm Lane on the town's western edge.

"Williams of Headquarters Company recalled "A gloomy light was shining through an open door of a Quonset (sic) hut. We entered and found wooden double-deck bunks lined down both sides. The hut was of corrugated iron construction and not insulated. We were issued a mattress cover and shown a pile of straw with which to fill them. I got into bed, dog-tired, and could not stop shivering. The cold air came up through the mattress and it was impossible to sleep. I found some old newspapers and put them under the mattress, which made things marginally better. Awake at 0600 the next morning, we headed for the mess hall. I got my first view of the camp and I was not impressed. Shaving in cold water and sitting on a stinking honey-bucket in the latrines on a cold September day was not my idea of fun. This was, however, to be our home for the next year, so we simply got on and made the best of it" (Alexander, 2010, 40).

One of the celebrated characters of the 'Band of Brothers', Don Malarkey, shared these feelings. 'We were quartered in the village of Aldbourne, in south England, about a hundred miles west of London. We stayed in both wood and Quonset-type buildings with a potbelly stove in each and toilets outside. We called them honey pots. They stunk to high heaven'. (Malarkey, D with Welch, B. 2008, 67).

The locals too had their memories of the young Americans, they still do. Nancy Barrett reminisced about the hut camp that "I can see it in my mind as plain as day. I can see the huts, the jeeps, the uniforms, the soldiers eating lardy cakes. I can see Dick Winters walking down the Butts toward the field in his dress uniform, brasses shining and the face of the young GIs knocking on my door and asking if I could wash their pants. The men that left Aldbourne...to lay down their lives were my neighbors... I can't imagine how any of those men ever came back alive. Just what they went through and how they survived is quite unbelievable..." (Alexander, 2010, 49).

In 1946 there are records that the different camps in Aldbourne were squatted. This was a national phenomenon at the end of the war and both the Searchlight camp, Rectory Camp and the NAAFI complex of buildings in the playing field, south of Farm Lane were all occupied. Records show that both the Searchlight and Rectory camps became official squatter camps until permanent social

housing was built on the sites in the early 1950s. The main part of the camp on the playing field was cleared and the site returned to the local council to be used as a playing field.

Component 1 – Archaeological excavation of the hut:

Methodology of the Archaeological Fieldwork

All the archaeological fieldwork was by hand (apart from the backfilling) with turves removed to strip an area. Although two hut bases visible on the geophysical survey were marked out with mine tape at the start of the week, only one was investigated and stripped as this was what time permitted. We chose to look at the Sergeants' hut as this had the best photographic (and documentary) archive connected with it. Surfaces were trowel cleaned and the pier bases exposed though no cross-sections were cut other than to evaluate the depth of these bases. This trowelling cleaned the ground layer below the hut but was not excavated down to the natural. The site was trowel cleaned with a detail plan made of the hut base piers at the southern (entrance end) to incorporate tar paper spread and entrance (included in site archive). Other pier bases were simply DGPS plotted (all four corners and iron reinforcement bars). Trench edges (Trench 1 and test pit to the SE) were DGPS plotted. The excavation work thus established the ground plan of the hut, the presence of the path sub strata (in the test pit) and that, with preservation being reasonable, the likelihood for further deposits of heritage value is very high.

Metal detection took place to the south of the sports field with all finds flagged and subsequently DGPS plotted.

Results



Fig 8: Trench 1 – Aldbourn 2019 showing the extent of the hut. Note the dark staining of the tarpaper between the pier pads at the front of the hut. Post pads are numbered sequentially from 1 in bottom right (SE) corner in a clockwise direction. Note the darker linear staining in the foreground which is the remaining clinker/slag and tar-paper damp course. The entrance is between pads 2 and 3 at the front.

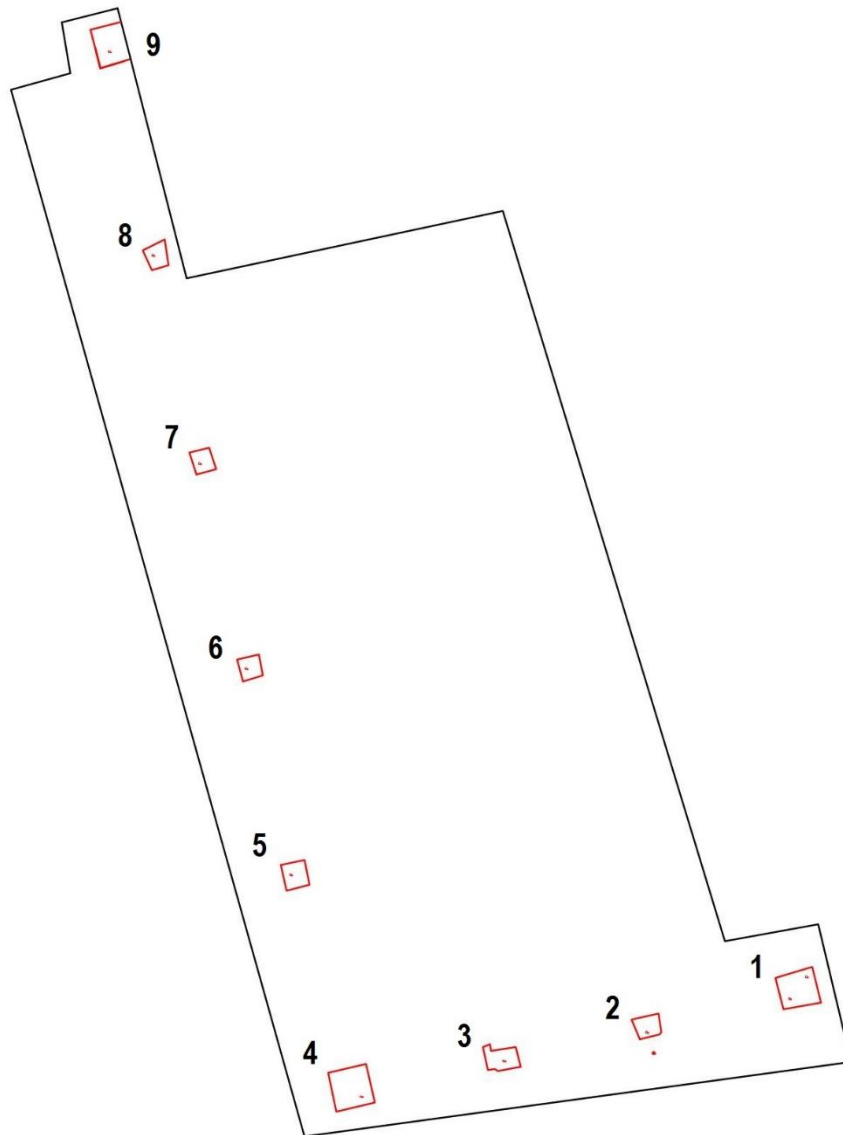


Fig 9: The Excavation Trench at Aldbourne 2019, with arrangement (and numbering) of post-pads and hence the alignment of the hut. The distance between the outer corner of pads 1 and 4 was exactly 16 feet (4.9m)

Surprisingly, given that much of the site had been demolished shortly after the war, a great deal still remained, and the project research design was able to be tested to the full. A small test pit was opened over a linear anomaly on the survey which was located just outside the line of 'huts'. This small excavation trench gave us the evidence for one of the many paths that would once have connected all the elements of the camp. Now reduced to a base layer of iron slag on which, we presume, concrete slabs had once been laid.

Similar foundations were present in the area of the hut we were examining, with slag and a small amount of sharp sand. Other components of the footings of this 'Quonset' hut soon were also

revealed. These were square pads of concrete with iron reinforcement over which the curved sheets of corrugated iron which formed the hut superstructure sat. Bitumen sheets of the damp-proofing course adhered to the pads and some bricks, with the occasional makers stamp, were also still in situ. The site also yielded copious quantities of corrugated iron, of roofing nails (often with the retaining plates used to hold the sheets of iron in place still in situ) and a range of brackets, nuts, bolts, screws and hinges. We found a quantity of safety window glass too which added to our understanding of the barracks.

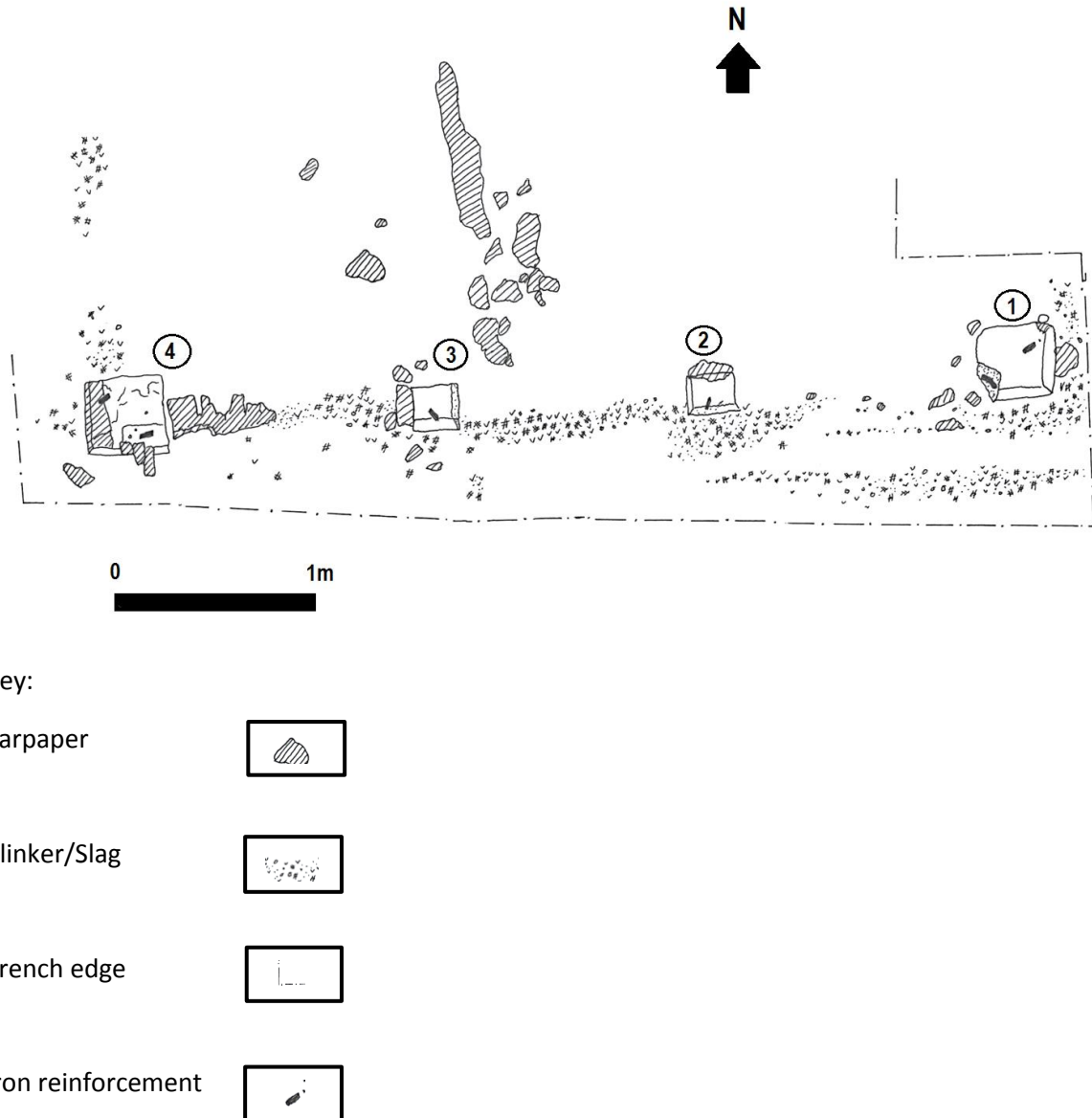


Fig 10: The spread of 'tarpaper' and clinker/slag in relation to the four front pads of the hut excavated in Trench 1.

All this enabled us to discern the method of construction and also the final shape of the building, beyond that provided on the wartime photos, even though we didn't see any evidence for the stove that would once have been in the middle of the hut. In his book 'Band of Brothers', Stephen Ambrose discussed the arrival in Aldbourne of this unit on 16th September 1943, 'They got to their barracks, which were Nissen huts heated by twin pot-bellied stoves, were given mattress covers and

shown the straw they could stuff into them, along with heavy wool blankets that itched, and went to bed' (44).

Nine of the hut post pads were excavated to ensure we had both the maximum width and length of the structure exposed. The hut would have had 16 pads in total (Four on the long axis, two on the width, and four corner pads). The outer faces of all of the pads were sloped. Examination of pads 3 and 6 showed the former to be 9 inches deep, and the latter 8 inches. There was a small sandy layer on which pads 1-4 sat and with tar paper up and over the pads.



Fig 11: the nine pier pads excavated. These ran (from pad 1) the south east corner in a clockwise direction. Pads 1, 4 and 9 are corner pads.

From the layout of the pads, and with plans of the building and the photograph held by the family of Sgt Carwood Lipton showing the Sergeants of Easy Company outside this building, we were able to formulate a depiction of the hut on these standings. The sole surviving hut in Aldbourne of this period, the Red Cross hut owned by Stephen Sowerby, also gives further detailing on the methodology of construction. Many of the components relating to the hut were also located; from roof screws and retaining plates through to corrugated superstructure material.



Fig 12: Layout and dimensions of the Nissen hut excavated at Aldbourne.

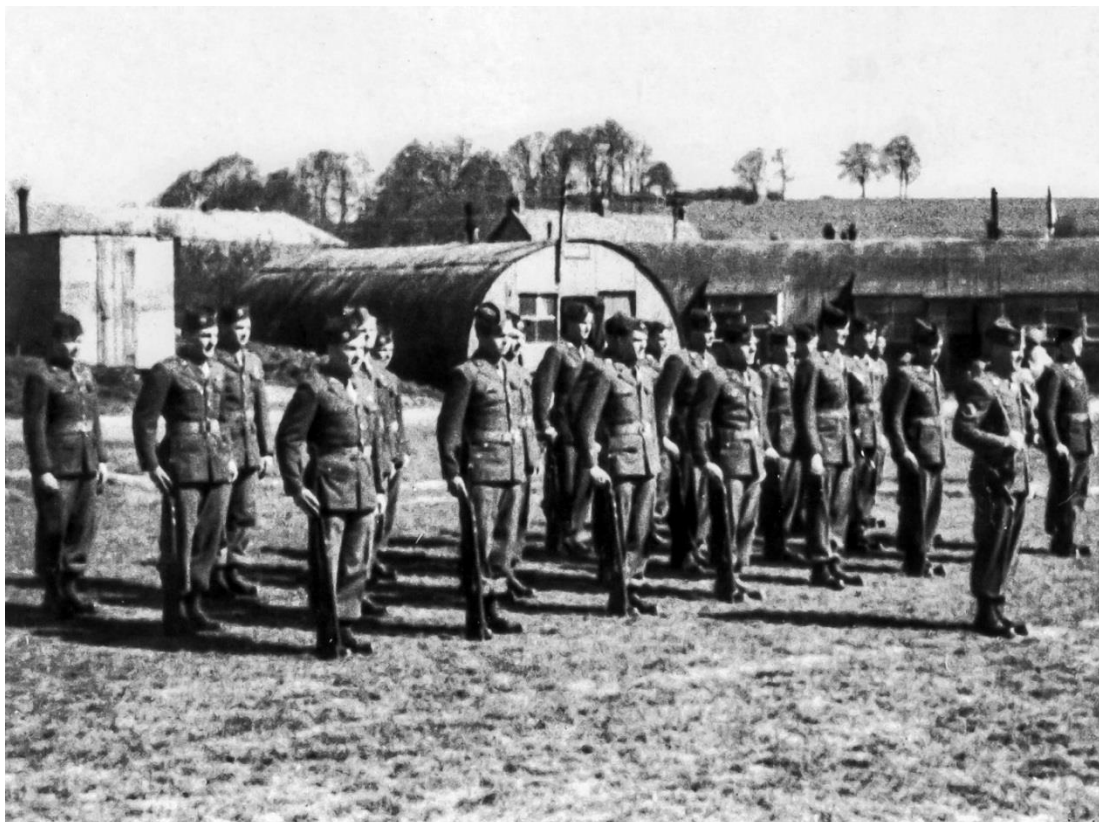


Fig 13: Photograph of Sgt Carwood Lipton (front) and the Sergeants of Easy Company owned by the Lipton Estate and care of Neil Stevens.

Component 2 – An examination of the surviving buildings of the wartime camp:

There are three extant buildings associated with the Second World War army camp in Aldbourne. The three buildings were photographed and recorded and subsequent research has been undertaken to get a better understanding of their date, function and historical context. The research (on going) has included historic map regression, aerial photography analysis, documentary research and talking to local residents.

Extant Buildings

1 Cookhouse

Description

This building, located on the corner of Farm Lane (SU 26622 75288), is known locally as the army camp cookhouse. It is a permanent structure comprising of two distinctive parts with different elevations and construction materials.

This can be clearly seen on the main, western, façade which consists of a higher south western section, 2.8m length by 3.6m high to the eaves. This section is built of brick, in English bond, with a central main door and a window, both with clearly defined lintels. It has a corrugated iron apex roof, which is separate to the roof of the other section of the building. The brickwork has been painted white.

The lower in height north western section is constructed of rendered cinder blocks and is 7.65m in length by 2.25m high. It has two doors and two windows and is covered by a corrugated iron apex roof. The cinderblocks on the northern end have been replaced by concrete blocks and a window on the southern end (near to where it joins the brick built structure) has been blocked in.

The north side elevation is 4.3m wide by 2.25m and has a high window that is in the roof space. The south side elevation is 4.3m by 3.6m high and has a central window, with pronounced lintel. There is a 1" metal pipe (1.4m length) that comes out of the building at the bottom and has an open u-bend at the top.

The original east elevation cannot be seen from the outside due to the addition of later extensions that go back to the fence line. However, access to one of these did reveal the original east elevation and two blocked up windows – similar to those on the west elevation - were identified.

The inside of the building was accessed, however it is currently being used as a store for the Aldbourne carnival and it was very difficult to get a good view of its internal features. The higher brick section of the building has a chimney breast on the back wall that goes from the floor up into the roof. Just beneath the ceiling is an air vent in the chimney breast and c1.5m above the floor is a blocked up circular stove pipe entrance (9cm diameter). On the external side of the wall part of the blocked up flue cover can be seen which was covered when the modern day rear extension was built. The chimney breast continues in the roof space, and a stack rises above the height of the back wall of the building, but does not exit the roof indicating that the roof has been replaced. Another entrance, with similar lintels to the door and two windows in this section of the building, to the rear

of the building has been blocked up. A number of internal modifications have been made to the building, including a partition wall that partly covers this blocked up entrance. The main part of the cinder block section of the buildings has been significantly modified with more partition walls creating two changing room spaces and original doorways and windows have been blocked up.



Fig 14: The Cookhouse showing the distinctive differences in the building.



Fig 15 and 16: inside the cookhouse showing the chimney breast with air vent and blocked up stove pipe entrance. A boiler or stove was located here with a water tank above in the roof space.

Historical context and interpretation

The building is known locally in Aldbourne as the cookhouse, built as part of the army camp. A local resident, Ethel Underwood (100 years old), has always known the building as the "Cookhouse" and remembers it being built at the time when the British army built the huts on the football field, at the

beginning of the war (Pers comms, Aldbourne Heritage Group, 2019). The date of the building's construction can be confirmed to between 1925 and 1942 through looking at historical maps and aerial photographs. The building does not appear on the OS map 1:10560 Epoch 3 1925 edition and it is first seen on aerial photographs taken in April 1942 (RAF/AC47/ N13 V 53 29-APR-1942 Historic England RAF Photography). The materials and form of its construction also suggest that it was built during the Second World War.

The higher, almost tower like section, of the building may well have been where the boiler or stove was, indicated by the extant chimney breast with air vent, stove pipe entrance and flue cover. Ethel also believed that this part of the building was used to house a water tank. This would explain why this part of the building is higher to the rest (housing a gravity fed water system) and also fits well with the buildings repurposing and conversion post war into football and cricket changing rooms with showers.

However, so far, no other examples of similar type Second World War cookhouses have been identified. Much more work is needed to look at the internal features and modifications to the building to get a better understanding of its original use.

2 Pumping Station

This small building is located in the back garden of a house at SU 26664 75240 and kind permission was granted by the homeowner to visit it. It is square in plan (1.9m x 1.9m) and 2.4m high, constructed of brick with a concrete roof, base and door lintel. There are three small ventilation gaps on each of the four sides of the building, just beneath the concrete roof. Inside a large dimension water pipe (cut off at both ends) remains running along the east internal wall just below the ceiling line. No other internal features could be seen due to the building's current use as a storage shed.

Attached to the bottom part of the eastern elevation of the building is a small brick and concrete capped structure. The low platform type structure measures 1.75m in length, is 1m wide and 0.5m high.



Fig 17: Pumping station showing the ventilation gaps just under the concrete roof.

Historical context and interpretation

This small building can be seen on the 1942 aerial photograph (RAF/AC47/N13 V 53 29-Apr-1942 Historic England RAF Photography) associated with an area of disturbance and construction to the eastern side of the army camp. The building stands at an angle to two garden plots and in fact extends into both plots interrupting the boundary fence line. These houses were constructed post war in the early 1950s which confirms the earlier, Second World War date for this building. Its construction is also very typical of military construction of this period.

So far no other similar types of auxiliary buildings from Second World War camps have been identified, however this is an area which has seen very little research. This building has been interpreted as being a possible pumping station or at least an auxiliary building associated with the camp's drainage and sewage disposal system.

This is supported by documentary evidence from 1946 to 1949. After the war, a number of the huts were taken over by local families creating "squatter camps". Reports by the Marlborough and Ramsbury Rural District Council Housing group describe in detail the different camp huts and associated facilities. These reports were camp audits undertaken in order to plan for their conversion and reuse into temporary accommodation. The report on Rectory Camp and the Farm Lane Camp (football pitch) states that there was a war department sewer on the playing field site, with a nearby off-site pumping station and disposal site. This would have to be to the east of the camp on the lands sloping down towards the river. The report also describes that the sewage works pumping station had been overhauled and a new electric motor installed (Marlborough and Ramsbury Rural District Council Housing, 2nd March 1949).

The 1942 aerial photograph shows the pumping station near to an area of recent disturbance and construction. This area has been interpreted as the site of the waste disposal system, with potentially various cess pits or other flotation type tanks. The outline of lines (drains) lead to this area from some of the central camp buildings, which have been interpreted as latrines and ablution blocks.

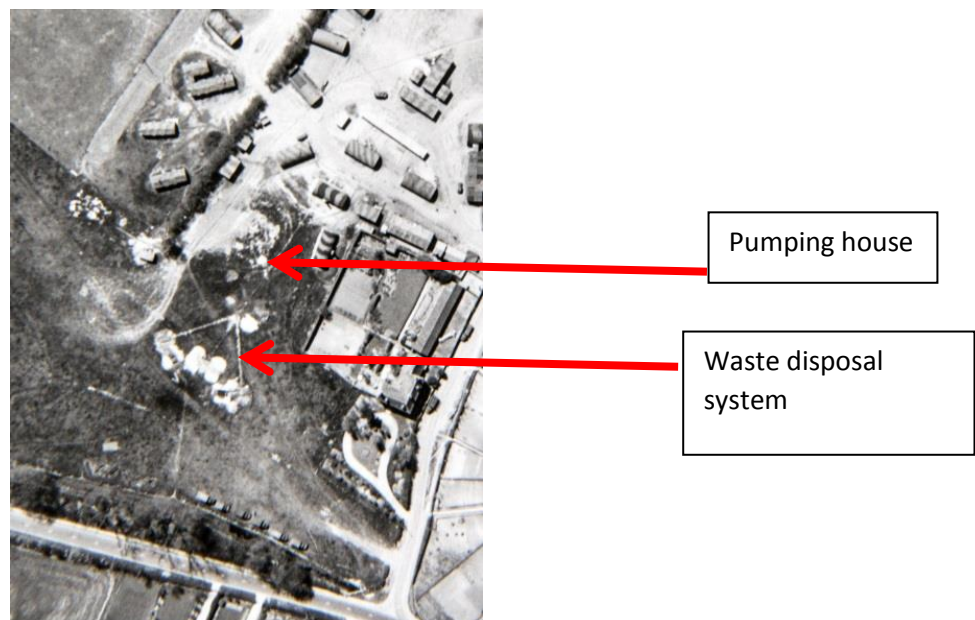


Fig 18: the disposal system is evident in the aerial photograph

This waste disposal system was probably just for greywater waste from the cookhouse, showers and ablutions as the latrines, according to US soldier accounts, were described as being “honey buckets” that were cleaned out and disposed of by a civilian contractor (Webster, unpublished).

The location of this small building along with its physical characteristics, in particular the ventilation holes, pipe and potential engine base or platform supports its interpretation as a pumping station. The owner of the building also remembers the original door having a warning sign on the front indicating it housed some sort of machinery.

More research is required and further visits would help to provide further information to help with the interpretation of this building.

3 Nissen hut

Description

There is a large Nissen type hut located off Southward Lane at SU 26487 75204 which is currently being used as a carpentry workshop. This is the last remaining camp hut in the village, though it is not in its original location. We were given access to the hut by its current owner Stephen Sowerby.

The Nissen hut measures 11.0m in length and c. 7.8m in width (internal cladding dimensions). It is a prefabricated half-cylindrical steel structure that is covered in curved corrugated asbestos sheeting. Its main facade has a central entrance that protrudes from the main elevation. The entrance has been modified. The steel structure of the hut is made up of four individual frames comprising of three curved steel ‘T’ shaped ribs (3.5m length) bolted together. These are connected to the other frames by 10 horizontal steel bars that are spaced out in intervals of 1.2m, from the base of one side to the other. The frames of each section are 3.65m apart. The inside of the hut has been converted into a workshop and has wooden cladding. Apart from the steel frame, no original features or fittings have survived.



Fig 19: Photo of the outside of the Nissen hut



Fig 22: The Nissen hut is currently used by Stephen Sowerby as his carpentry workshop

Historical Context and Interpretation

A number of Nissen type huts were present in the different camps at Aldbourne, however only two have a similar width and only one of them, the large Nissen hut in the north east corner of the playing field camp, appears to be large enough to be the one owned by Mr Sowerby. Nissen huts were in three sizes: 16ft, 24ft and 30ft span and varied in length due to their compartmentalised construction. The width of the extant hut is difficult to measure due to the internal features but appears to be 7.8m or 25.6ft. This measurement wasn't from frame side to frame side, so could probably measure 30ft, the largest of the Nissen type frames. The similar sized Nissen hut identified in the aerial photograph has dormer windows on both sides, which is different to Mr Sowerby's hut, however the frame would have been the same, as the dormers were just additional structural attachments. The hut is certainly not as long as that identified on the aerial photograph and it is likely that the extant hut is just a few sections of this hut.

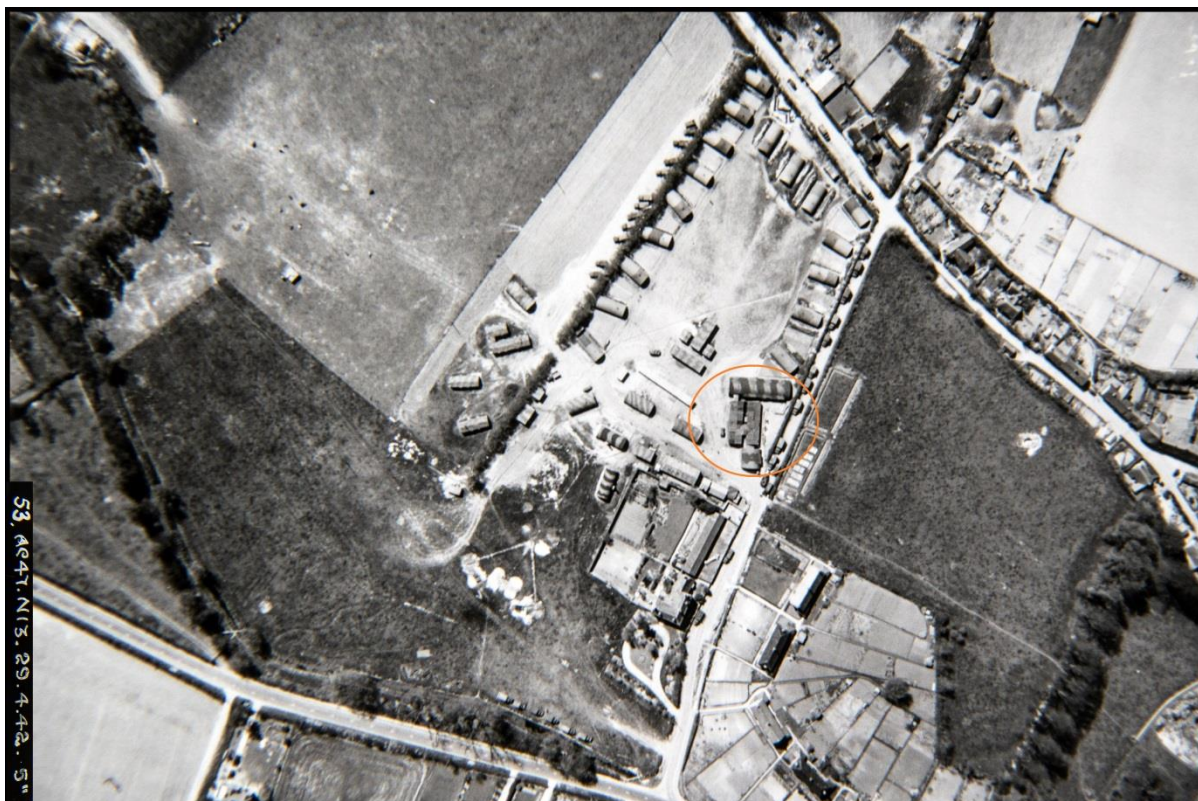


Fig 23: Area of the Red Cross or NAAFI huts

In the 1942 aerial photograph the large Nissen hut is surrounded by various other wooden huts. It has been recorded on the map drawn by the East Company veteran Burton P Christenson in 1992 as being the Red Cross hut. However, in the post war council documentation it is stated that this large Nissen building was, with three other wooden buildings, the NAAFI canteen. The different names for the hut indicate the change in occupation – Red Cross hut according to the US troops, and NAAFI to the British. At the end of the war, the playing field part of the camp was not required for housing and was returned to the village council. The military huts and building were removed, and initially the Nissen hut was offered to Wiltshire Council as a school canteen building (Rural District Council Squatters Committee Report, 22nd October 1947).

However this does not seem to have transpired and in the early 1950s the hut was moved to its location by a local builder, William “Busky” Liddiard, to be used as a workshop. It continues to be used so today as a carpentry workshop.



Fig 24: Large Nissen hut in the Liddiard yard probably dating to the 1960s

Component 3 – Exploring the potential for wider training legacy components – from field firing zones to tree carvings (arborglyphs)

One of the aims of the project was to identify archaeologically the training areas associated with the 506th Regiment. In particular this was through the identification of arborglyphs (tree carvings) and through the targeted investigation of one of the documented training areas at Pentico Wood.

The 506th spent nearly nine months training in preparation for the invasion of Normandy. This included specialist parachute training at the 101st Parachute Jump School at Chilton Foliate and various large scale exercises, for example at Torquay as well as live firing practice at the ranges on Salisbury Plain and Senny Bridge. However, the majority of the training took place around the local Kennet Valley area, including route marches, encampments, bivouacs and even small scale live firing practice. Evidence for this training is recorded in the 101st regimental diaries 8651/S (Pers comm, Roger Day) and in oral history contributions to the book *Tonight We Die As Men: The untold story of Third Battalion 506 Parachute Infantry Regiment from Tocchoa to D-Day* by Ian Gardner and Roger Day (2010). Two specific areas are noted as being centres for local training, which were located in between the two main 506th camps at Ramsbury and Aldbourne: Loves Copse (SU 27251 73407) and Pentico Wood (SU 25590 73311).

Training in Pentico Wood

Please note that these all lie on Private Property and are not accessible

The use of Pentico Wood was recorded in oral history contributions that described live firing practice (grenade, bazooka and pole charges) taking place at Pentico Farm. The farm buildings, just next to the wood, located at SU 25808 73255, were totally destroyed. The aftermath of this destruction was also recorded in compensation claims by the Burdett family who owned the property (Gardner and Day, 2010).

The hand drawn map of the US army camp at Aldbourne, by Easy Company veteran Burton P Christensen, also has an arrow pointing to the training areas, which is on the road directly towards Pentico Wood.

A short distance from Pentico Wood is a clump of beech trees at SU 25570 73672. In one of the trees the point of a bazooka rocket was found stuck into the bark by Roger Day 20 years ago. Today all that remains is the metal staining in the bark. In addition a US army helmet was also found by the owners of Pentico wood, though sadly today lost (Pers Comm, Jo Hutchinson).

Aerial photographic analysis shows clearly the destruction of the farm buildings. An aerial photograph taken by the US air force on 8th September 1943 (US/7PH/LOC36 V 5053 08-Sep-1943 Historic England USAAF Photography) shows various extant farm buildings next to the wood. However, the Royal Air Force aerial photograph taken on 14th April 1946, shows these buildings completely destroyed (RAF/106G/UK/1415 V 3124 14-Apr-1946. Historic England RAF Photography).

Field work at Pentico Wood

Permission was granted by the current owners of Pentico Wood to undertake a short “taster” metal-detecting survey of the area during the project week at Aldbourne. The aim of the survey was to see whether any evidence could be found to confirm the oral testimonies that the area was used by the US troops for training. A small group of the team went to the wood and undertook the survey. The wood was very overgrown with brambles and stinging nettles due to the time of the year and it was impossible to do a marked out or systematic survey so it was decided to do a random survey making the most of the conditions.

The location of the farm buildings that were used for live firing practice in open land next to the wood was also visited.

Results of the field work

The location of the farm buildings is indicated by an area of levelled land and small traces of brick work, potentially part of the foundations or construction material of the buildings. A circular depression on the ground was also seen which has been interpreted as the site of a well. The rest of the site is covered in grassland and there are no other surface features visible indicating the existence of the buildings.



Fig 25: Foundations of the farmhouse at Pentico Wood.

A number of finds associated with the Second World War were found in the wood and in particular along the treeline leading to the wood which is located on the top of a slope directly above the position of the farm buildings. The finds included a number of US army M1 Garand cartridges, a M2 Machine Gun or Browning .50 calibre machine gun cartridge and a piece of grenade shrapnel. However, what was interesting is that a number of 303 cartridges were also found, which were used by the British army rather than the US army.

[Finds from Pentico Wood](#)

- 1 x Willys Jeep fan
- 1 US handgrenade trigger mechanism
- 1 small piece of handgrenade shrapnel
- 12 US M1 cartridges (fired)
- 1 x US .50cal round (fired)
- 2 x British Army 303 cartridges (fired)

A concentration of M1 Garand cartridges was found on the tree line above the position of the farm building – at SU 25736 73168. These cartridges were found behind the large oak trees that are still standing there and close to what appear to be small one-man foxholes. The cartridges and foxholes have been interpreted as indicating firing points from which the farmhouse and buildings were fired down upon.



Fig 26: Tree line viewed from the location of the farmhouse where the concentrations of M1 Garand cartridges were found.

Conclusion

The small scale survey has shown that there were US army troops using the wood and surrounding area as a live training area, targeting the farm buildings, which have literally been raised to the ground. Evidence of fox holes and firing points were also found. However, it appears that the wood may have been used earlier as part of British Army training, potentially by British troops based at Aldbourne camp prior to the arrival of the 506th. This may not be so surprising as areas available for training would have been identified and reused by the US army.

Arborglyphs

As well as the area between Aldbourne and Ramsbury camps identified from the different sources as being training areas, the troops would have roamed over the whole of the local countryside on marches and temporary exercises. Very little evidence of where this training took place survives due to the ephemeral nature of it. However, casual finds of ammunition and other military paraphernalia have been made over the area near North Farm (SU 25182 78644), just to the north of Aldbourne (Pers comm, Lawton). An M1 Garand bayonet found near North Farm is now in the Aldbourne Heritage Centre. Another type of evidence for military training are arborglyphs or tree carvings that are carved into the bark, of mostly smooth barked trees, in particular beech trees. A number of these are known around the Aldbourne and Ramsbury areas, near Ramsbury airfield and Littlecote House (which was the HQ of the 506th regiment). Other carvings were reported to the project by Ben Lawton, son of the owner of North Farm, and permission was granted to undertake a survey to record these. Due to time pressures and heavy undergrowth only one area at Sheepwalk plantation was surveyed.

Methodology

Please note that these all lie on Private Property and are not accessible

The tree carvings were measured, photographed, GPSd and details recorded in a spreadsheet that had been created as part of the on-going Wiltshire arborglyphs recording project. A Garmin GPSmap 62stc was used to record the locations of the arborglyphs (+/- 5m error). Details of the arborglyphs are in the attached spreadsheet (Annex 5).



Fig 27: Recording arborglyphs near Aldbourne

Findings

A number of arborglyphs were recorded in a small area of predominantly beech trees in the western end of Sheepwalk plantation (SU 24026 78751). Although there is a potential 5 metre location error the results recorded and plotted on a map closely relate to the positions seen in the field.

Some of the arborglyphs are more modern in date (post 1970s), however, the majority most likely to date from the Second World War. This is indicated by the style and bark growth around the carvings, but also more clearly by dates carved into the bark - including 1943, July 44 etc.... Some have been carved with the initials USA, or locations in the US, for example S.C – South Carolina. Others also have what could be considered American influenced names (or at least non-classic 1940s British names), for example Tony G or Samarin, which has a Russian/ Ukranian origin. At the moment none of the tree carvings have been identified to individuals, whether as part of Easy Company, other companies in the 506th regiment or British army soldiers. It is thought that British Army soldiers based at Aldbourne before the US arrival would have trained in the same areas and may well have left their names carved in the local trees.



Fig 28: 'Samarin J. 43'. One of the Aldbourne Arborglyphs



Fig 29: 'CL.SC.USA' – COULD this be Carwood Lipton from South Carolina? He's the Sergeant pictured in front of the hut the team excavated. And one of the best-known members of Easy company thanks to the television series.

In addition to the arborglyphs found, two two-man foxholes, and three potential foxholes, have been found in the same area of the woods. The two foxholes, measure c.2.2m by 1.1m and have a depth of c. 0.2m.



Fig 30: Photo of foxhole

More work is required to be able to potentially identify some of the tree carvings, and there are other areas of known arborglyphs nearby and areas of high potential (beech copses). There is the potential for much more work to be done in this field associated with the Aldbourne camps.

Assessment of overall objectives and their results:

Several of the main project aspirations were thus achieved in the first season of the programme. A detailed response to the project design illustrates the areas with the greatest progress:

Objective: 1 To understand the condition of the sub surface remains of the US and earlier British army camp at Aldbourne.

- Ground Truthing of Geophysical anomalies
- Establishing the levels of preservation of hut camp footings

Results: No clear differentiation between British and American presence was perceived in the stratigraphy; in part because the deposits were shallow, and in part potentially as the material might have been used by both armies. No materiel of a purely British type was seen – whilst many American finds were noted. The fieldwork showed that the footings of the building – the post pads – were still in situ and enabled a reconstruction of the form of the hut. Further to this, many other elements of the building were located; from the toughened window glass through to roofing screws.

The foundations for the camp paths were also noted and, if these results can be extrapolated across the entire area for which geophysical survey had been undertaken, there should be reasonable preservation and evidence for the camp across much of the sports pitches.

The ground truthing of geophysical survey was a real success; with the test pit we were able to establish that the anomaly was a layer of material that formed the foundation sub-strata for the paths of the camp. This can also be examined in future work. There were no paving slabs seen to be still in place over any paths so the signals present on the geophysical survey can be related to foundations materials. The layout of the hut examined precisely followed the interpretation of the air photographic plot and the geophysical survey. Thus, laying out excavation trenches over correct locations, and predicting which are likely to have surviving components, should be easily accomplished. Furthermore, the individual pier pads were visible in the survey helped, in part, by the presence of the iron reinforcement bars within them.

Objective 2: To understand better the physical features and infrastructure of the camp

- Identify and locate the camp rubbish pits
- To determine the level of amenities – drainage, water and power supply
- Examine the unidentified squares visible on aerial photography to establish their purpose
- To identify the role and function of some of the hut bases identified through the geophysics and contrast this with the historical and oral testimonies of the camp.
- Examine the surviving structures relating to the camp and consider their origins and usage.

Results: Archaeologically, this was perhaps less successful. There are local anecdotes (in several locations) for the presence of these dumps. Our work was of small enough scale that no specific dumps were located - as one would not expect them to be in the floor levels of a hut. The various amenities pipes did seem to be revealed in the geophysical survey, though they could relate to later sports usage of the site, but this is not certain and was not examined archaeologically. No water pipes were found in the hut we excavated though we have a better understanding that there was a drainage and disposals system thanks to the examination of the pumping station.

Our excavation work did however reveal the martial nature of the hut we examined – with military ammunition and equipment located within it. Furthermore, we were able to demonstrate the construction methodology (with damp coursing and post foundations which vary from other Nissen huts). There would be nothing to demonstrate that it was the Sergeant's hut however nor did our work corroborate nor contradict any oral accounts as they tended to be more general about the camp itself. We also found some corrugated iron of the hut itself which matched the soldier's accounts of the Nissen huts. It should be remembered that these huts were only up for a short period of time and that they were used by 'squatters' after the war.

Having said the above, the documentary assessment of the surviving, extant components of the camp provided much interesting data to add to the overall consideration of Aldbourne's wartime heritage.

Objective 3: To collect material culture in order to help our understanding of the camp and of its occupants

- To consider all archaeological findings in illustrating the lives of those in the camp pre D-Day
- Attempting to examine whether there is any historical palimpsest to demonstrate differences between British and American military detritus

Results: For a relatively small excavation area, the fieldwork produced a large number of interesting finds (for Full list See Annex 1 below). Although we were unable to identify a layer relating to the earlier British occupation of huts, the evidence for the American presence was prolific. Not only did the team recover items reflecting the military duties and roles of the soldiers, they also found the more human aspects such as the brylcream bottle, spam tin keys and the Pepsi cola bottle. Some of the artefacts were recovered were palpably military – from the rifle rounds (both British and American) through to the parachute pull – whilst others might have been used by British, American or indeed post-war occupants (the Spam tin keys and brylcream bottles for example). The coin with the bullet hole through it also illustrated the wider shenanigans of , presumably, bored hut occupants. Interestingly, there was also abundant evidence for the post-war civilian ‘squatter’ use of the hut before its destruction. This is an oft-neglected part of the story.

Objective 4: To demonstrate the efficacy of the archaeological methodologies used

- Contrast the geophysics readings with the reality of the ground and determine the factors that have an impact on this.
- To see if gridded metal detection leads to a significant density of finds in fields not yet examined

Results: the ground-truthing of the geophysical results was a phenomenal success and confirmed that the technique of magnetometry was extremely valuable on such a site. The accuracy was such that the layout of buildings could be predicted. In the end, no grid was set up for the metal detectors – with a more free approach at the far end being adopted. The detectors saw that there were concentrated areas by the sides of the modern houses which perhaps indicate an area not previously detected and away from the sports pitches. All finds were DGPS plotted but revealed no specific patterning.



Fig 31: the test pit opened in 2019 to evaluate readings on the geophysical survey. Note the central strip which is the cinder sub-strata of a path (Layer 007) which ran in front of the various huts.

Objective 5: Continue the assessment of the efficacy of cultural heritage for wellbeing and recovery (work by BGH)

Results: This work is ongoing

Objective 6: To locate and record evidence of Second World War troop movements around the Aldbourne camp in order to consider whether their distribution has significance in terms of locating hitherto unknown/undocumented training elements

- If particular to record tree carvings associated with the Second World War, and if possible with US troops including the 101st Airborne.
- Record evidence of training activities – impact from live firing and temporary occupation (eg slit trenches)
- To identify tree carvings relating to specific individuals

Results: Again, this proved to be a great success with American carvings, names and training positions located nearby. The team found individual ‘foxholes’ complete with fired rounds at the edges of woodblocks – in a direct comparator for what these troops would encounter at places like Bastogne in the war itself. Some of the rounds located were Garand-type and hence of US origin.

Objective 7: To provide some management recommendations to the local community for the site

Results: This target is ongoing, but the fieldwork indicates that the huts on the edge of the pitch are under no threat. Although discussions on display potential took place on site, all the elements uncovered were covered over with the topsoil on completion of the exercise and are thus preserved for any future investigation or simply as a curation method. The identification of the pumping station and cookhouse should also be highlighted within the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record and promoted locally to prevent the demolition of the last surviving camp buildings.

Objective 8: To provide evidence and new understanding of the 101st occupation of Aldbourne for its interpretation and public display in the village

- To enhance the archive of the Aldbourne History Society
- To provide new stories for display in the Aldbourne Museum
- To help further develop the story of the 101st in Aldbourne to broader audiences

Results: The project held a very popular open day as well as visits by the local school and by a scout group. Other outreach elements include an article in Current Archaeology and coverage in BBC TV series ‘Digging for Britain’. All the artefacts have been donated for curation at the Aldbourne Heritage Centre who will make their own decisions on how to utilise them for stories relating to the 101st.

Conclusion

The project revealed that there a project relating to a study of mid-20th Century heritage deposits and assets can be a valuable one. There are substantial desktop resources – from the HER through to extensive aerial photographic coverage. There is also the added benefit of the site being within living memory for some villagers and hence open to oral history study and anecdotal evidence.

The excavations were able to corroborate the results of the geophysical survey and showed that important archaeological features relating to the Second World War are still present in spite of subsequent works on the sports pitch.

The single week of excavation was able to determine the shape and extent of this hut, elements of its construction methodology, and the form of its footings. It also successfully recovered artefacts relating to its use by American military personnel and by later civilian communities. We found no evidence for service trenching but were able to demonstrate the structure of paths around the buildings.

Recommendation for further work

The fieldwork components undertaken in May 2019 showed the huge potential for further study of this site and also the wider story connected to the presence of the 101st Airborne in the area. The project was very well received by the team participants and proved an engaging piece of archaeology. Furthermore, the social elements and friendly welcome from the community of Aldbourne worked superbly from a wellbeing perspective. We propose that a further week is carried out in 2020 using similar techniques.

Acknowledgements

Dickie (and Breaking Ground Heritage), Harvey, Cassie, Paul B, Paul H, Jessie, Carlos, Janine, Briony, An, Dan, Darius, David, John, Liz, George, Kayleigh, Jo, Mark, Roger, Neil, Jess, James, Gemma, Jim, Tim, Chinese takeaway, The Blue Boar, The Crown, The Junction, The Post Office (Lt Col Dick Winters old residence!), the Village Hall, Aldbourne Parish Council, Aldbourne Heritage Centre, the Residents of Aldbourne, Rachel and Tom from Wiltshire Council, the crew and owner of 'Drag Em Oot' - the Dakota that flew over the site, Dave & Kerry of Archaeological Surveys.

Finds

For a full list, see Annex 1

Our finds team were kept extremely busy by a most eclectic collection of discoveries, including toy cars, marbles, stove and cooking pots of people that had lived in the huts after the war and prior to the construction of new council houses. These 'squatters' had been homed here for various reasons including as a result of their own houses having been bombed in the war. Topsoil had been pushed over the northern end of the hut, at the edge of the field – presumably during site clearance and levelling works post-war – which made all the excavation more arduous. All of our digging was done by hand and much of the upper fill was made up of later 20th Century material but this served its own purpose with some of the many site visitors. Included within the modern 'assemblage' of tins and chocolate wrappers were pre-decimalisation plastic crisp packets that gave a timely environmental message to the schoolchildren that visited the site with their teachers. The story of villagers returning after the war is an important and oft-ignored part of the overall narrative and certainly of interest to today's residents.

Coins of a wartime denomination (and with dates that fitted the American presence such as a 1944 halfpenny) were also recovered – the most intriguing being a 1937 'thrupenny bit' with a bullet hole right through the middle; the diameter of the hole a perfect fit for an American Garand round. Even the most talented of snipers would have found such a bullseye hard to achieve and there would have been much more flaring on the reverse side of the impact hole had it been undertaken from any range. The only conclusion can be that the individual had place the coin (and the King's head no

less!) directly on top of the barrel of the gun before firing it – producing a most unusual souvenir. A bored soldier is a most dangerous, if inventive, beast. Extraordinarily this is not the only evidence for such goings-on in Aldbourne. A further coin in the village heritage centre also seems to show some sort of projectile impact and, more famously, the church weathercock which is now housed in the Wiltshire Museum in Devizes also has clear bullet hole damage – attributed locally to the American presence.

The most astonishing finds however linked to the specific role of these men; part of a parachute, now brown with age and its presence in the mud but once white and which was probably part of a reserve or supply parachute made of nylon. One of the veterans, Paul, also recovered a rusty T-shaped object with some small flecks of red paint still adhering and, for our project was perfect; it was the handle for a reserve parachute. Why was it in one of the huts? Theories were plentiful and included thoughts that it might have been hidden within the wall having been accidentally pulled, but one of the most elegant – provided by a current paratrooper – was that it represented a souvenir of a first jump into a combat zone. If so, given that Easy Company returned here after D Day itself, this small item may relate directly to those landings.

Finds Relating to the Nissen hut:

SF Number	Object
23	Angle Bracket
24	Roof Screw and Square Washer
25	Bolt and Washer
26	Long Bolt and Washer
27	Hut Nails
28	Window Latch Lifter
29	Socket from Socket set
30	Safety Window Glass
31	Roof Screws and Square Washer
32	T-Shaped Roof Plate
33	Metal Arm
34	Mirror Fragment
35	Roof Pin

The structure was a Nissen hut judging by the surviving photograph with the Sergeants of Easy Company standing outside it (see above). This is similar in form to the American Quonset huts, being rectangular in plan and with a curved roof, but installed for the British troops who occupied the camp prior to the arrival of the Americans. The walls of this building were made from corrugated iron and many of the fixtures can also be seen in the one surviving wartime hut in the village (the old Red Cross hut) owned by Stephen Sowerby. These finds, added to the photograph from the war and the footings found in the excavation, give us a clear image of the structure examined.

Finds Relating to the American presence:

Issued Equipment

SF Number	Object
14	4 Hole Buttons (x2)
15	4 Hole Button
16	Reserve Parachute Handle
18	Parachute Material Fragment

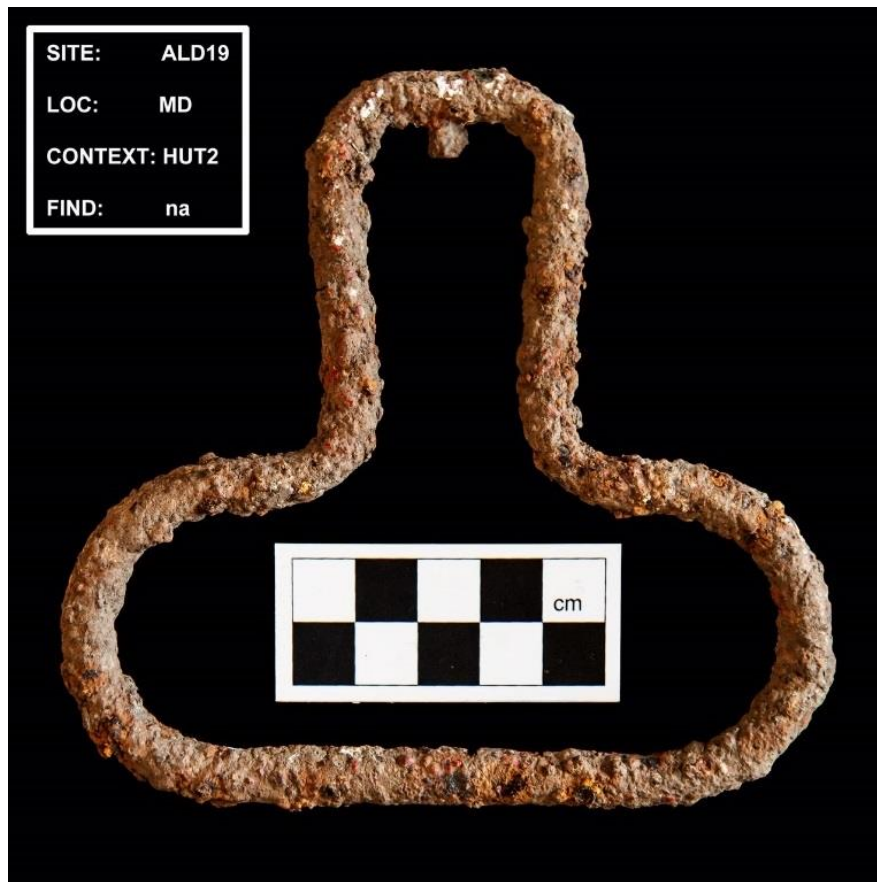


Fig 32: Reserve Parachute Handle, SF 016



Fig 33: Parachute Material Fragment, SF 018

Ammunition Related

SF Number	Object
19	60mm Mortar Tube Lid
20	Tracer (red stripe) Bullet
21	Garand Rifle Clip
22	Garand Round Cases and Possible Flare



Fig 34: Garand Rifle Clip with Museum Example for Comparison, SF 021

Personal Equipment

SF Number	Object
1	Yeastvite Bottle
2	Black Ceramic sherd with Raised Design
3	Three Spam Tin Keys
4	Glass Vessel Base with Embossed Crown
5	Food Tin Key
6	Small Glass (?Medicine) Bottle
7	Small Metal Tube Cap
8	Brylcream Bottle and Lid
9	Ceramic Cigarette Holder
1	Pepsi Cola Bottle Base
11	Metal Tube (?Possible Morphine)
12	Leese and Co. (Swindon) glass bottle
13	Possible Brylcream Bottle Lid

38	I Support [] Basketball Badge
41	1944 Halfpenny
44	Thruppyen Bit with Bullet Hole



Fig 35: Brylcream Bottle, SF 008

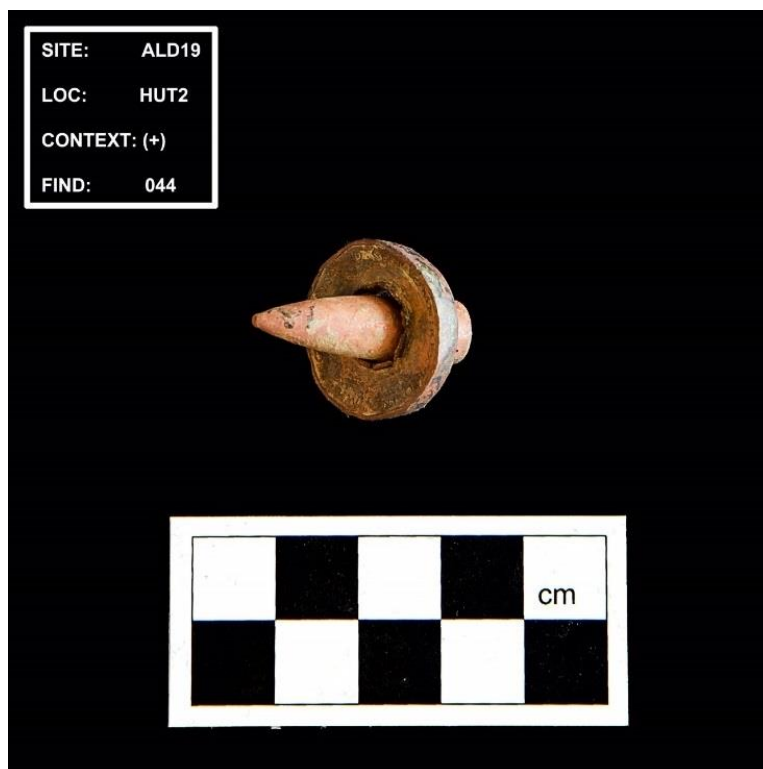


Fig 36: Thruppyen bit with bullet hole (Bullet added to demonstrate fit), SF 044



Fig 37: Three Spam Tin Keys, SF 003



Fig 38: Base of a Wartime Pepsi Cola Bottle, SF010

Presumed relating to the later squatter use:

SF Number	Object
36	8 Glass Marbles
37	1 Glass Marble
45	?Kerosene Hut Lamp Fitting
50	Metal Cooking Pot
51	Cooking Fixture Tripod and Chain

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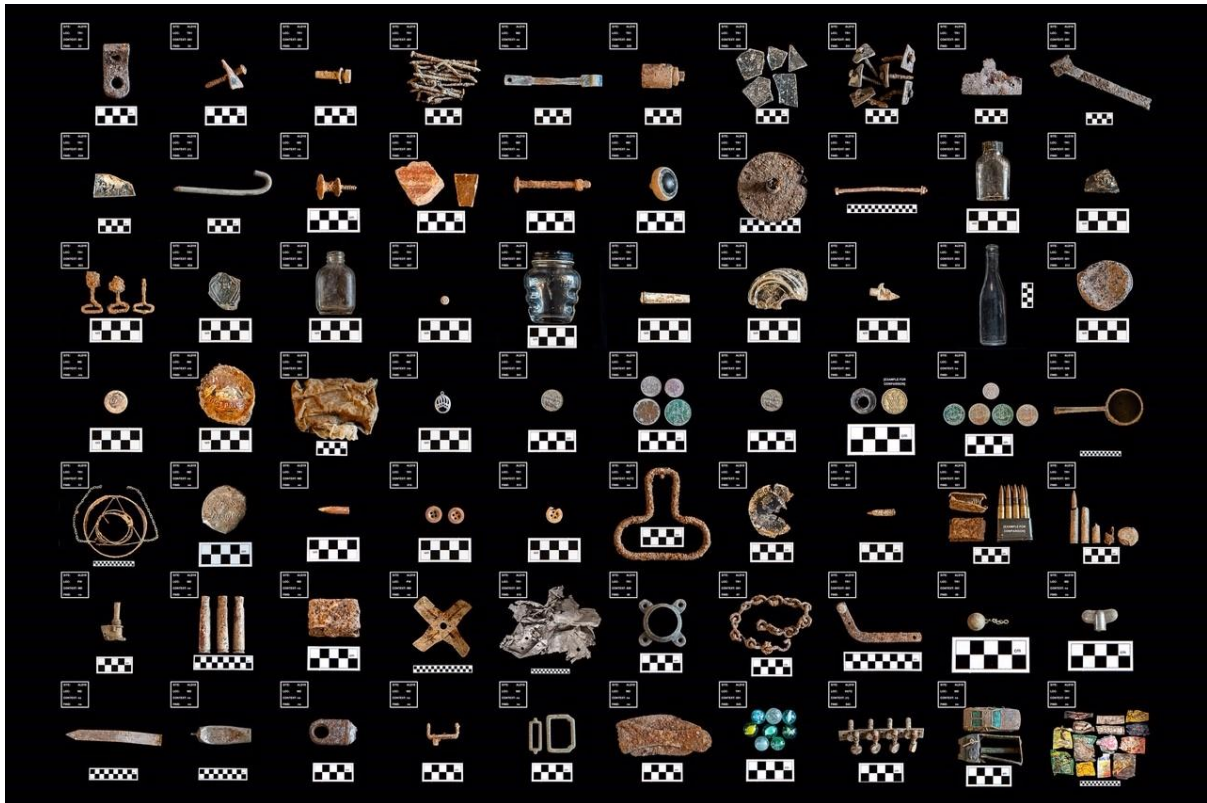
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ANNEXES

Annex 1: Small Finds



Find No.	Context	Material	Description	Photo Ref
1	1	Glass	yeastvite bottle	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-001-4
2	1	Ceramic	Black ceramic with raised design	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-002-3
3	1	FE	Three spam tin keys	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-003-2
4	3	Glass	Glass vessel base with crown embossed	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-004-2
5	1	Fe	food tin key	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-005
6	1	Glass	small glass (?medicine) bottle	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-006
7	1	Metal	small metal cap	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-007

8	1	Glass	brylcream bottle and lid	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-008
9	1	Ceramic	ceramic cigarette holder with metal band	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-009
10	3	Glass	pepsi cola bottle base	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-010
11	3	Metal	metal tube (?possible morphine)	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-011
12	3	Glass	Leese and Co (Swindon) glass bottle	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-012
13	1	Metal	possible brylcream lid	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-013
14	1	Metal	4 hole button x 2	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-017
15	1	Metal	4 hole button	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-018
16	MD from hut 2	Metal	reserve parachute handle	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-019
17	1	Nylon	stocking frag	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-020
18	1	Fabric	parachute frag	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-079
19	MD from hut 2	Metal	60mm mortar tube lid	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-022
20	1	Metal	tracer (red stripe) bullet	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-022
21	1	Metal	Garand clip	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-024 + 025
22	1	Metal	Garand round cases and possible flare case	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-022
23	1	Fe	angle bracket	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-031

24	1	Fe	roof screw and square washer	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-032
25	3	Fe	bolt and washer	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-033
26	1	Fe	long bolt and washer	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-077
27	1	Fe	hut nails	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-035
28	MD	Metal	window latch handle	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-036
29	3	Metal	socket from socket set	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-037
30	1	Glass	window safety glass	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-038
31	3	Fe	roof screws and square washer	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-039
32	1	Fe	T-shaped roof plate	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-040
33	1	Fe	metal arm	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-041
34	3	Glass	mirror frag	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-042
35	(+)	Metal	roof pin	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-043
36	1	Glass	8 x glass marbles	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-048
37	1	Glass	1 x marble	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-049
38	(+)	Metal and Plastic	I support basketball badge	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-015.jpg
39	1	Metal	1908 penny and 1926 halfpenny	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-050.jpg
40	1	Metal	4 x coins (1946 penny, 1955 shilling, 1936	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-051.jpg

			penny, Charles II coin)	
41	1	Metal	1944 halfpenny	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-052.jpg
42	1	Metal	3 x modern coins (23p worth)	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-053.jpg
43	(+)	Metal	mandolin tuning pegs	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-054.jpg
44	1	Metal	thrupenny bit with bullet hole	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-055 + 56.jpg
45	8	Metal	?kerosene hut lamp fitting	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-061.jpg
46	8	CuA	metal fixing - 4 hole	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-062.jpg
47	1	Fe	Chain	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-063.jpg
48	3	Fe	angled strip with rivet	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-064.jpg
49	1	Metal	small cap with chain	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-065.jpg
50	8	Metal	metal cooking pot	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-075
51	8	Metal	cooking fixture tripod and chain	ALDBOURNE BOB MAY 2019-076

Annex 2: Contexts for Aldbourne 2019

001 – Topsoil Covering all Trench 1

002 – Four post pads at south end of hut in Trench 1

003 – Gritty soil with clinker in Trench 1

004 – layer of clinker at hut edges in Trench 1

005 - lenses of sharp sand below ‘tar paper’ in Trench 1

006 – test pit topsoil

007 – cinder layer in test pit

008 – Area to north of Trench 1 by pad 9 – with metallic components

001 – Topsoil. Very deep to the north where it seems to have been pushed from the edge of the field and thus formed a mounded bank. Included within this were components of modern detritus including pre-decimalisation crisp packets. Present across entire trench

002 – Four concrete post pads (c9x13”) at the south end of the Sergeants hut at Aldbourne. These were concrete squares with iron reinforcement rods situated at the front of the hut. There were traces of tar paper as a waterproofing course lipping up to some of the bases and across the southern edge of the hut. Some brick fragments also were present

003 – Gravelly soil below the topsoil across the entire trench. This layer filled the remnants of the hut and held finds such as rounds and chargers. It also had buttons, glass and coins and contained clearly American components. It lay up against the post pads.

004 – A dark layer of ‘clinker’ or slag which marked the perimeter of the extremities of the hut and we presume to be the linear anomaly seen on the geophysical survey. This was truncated at the south east corner by drips from the roof there was a clear line at the entrance to the hut. Possible blast furnace slag. Very clear in photographs.


005 – lenses of fine sharp sand which was located at the southern end of the hut and lay below tarpaper and, in places, the clinker. Part of construction foundation levels of the Sgts barrack hut.

006 – a 13cm depth of topsoil across a test pit cut to establish what the nature of a geophysical anomaly at a perpendicular to some of the huts

007 – cinder layer of a presumed path within the test pit, this was c94cm wide and 8cm thick and was a sub base for the path. We presume that concrete slabs formed the path and there is anecdotal evidence for these being removed and used as hard core in the repair of the village pond. It seems that the path was dug down through the field surface to ensure slabs were flush with this.

008- a thick layer of soil and detritus from the hut camp and its demolition including material relating to the later ‘squatter’ occupation of the site such as a pan and cooker suspension rack, Also nails from the roof and fragments of corrugated iron, This late across the entire site and below the initial topsoil crisp packets etc within this. Probably equivalent to layers 1 and 3 but kept separate for spatial demarcation.


Annex 3: Air photographs held by Historic England

Historic England Air Photographs		Obliques	Customer enquiry reference number: 117231	 Historic England
Photo reference (NGR and Index number)	Film and frame number	Date	Film type	Map Reference (6 figure grid ref)

SU 2771 / 2	AFL 60172	/ EPW011094	JUL 1924	BW Glass Plate	5"x4"	SU 273715
SU 2771 / 3	AFL 60172	/ EPW011095	JUL 1924	BW Glass Plate	5"x4"	SU 273715
SU 2771 / 4	AFL 60172	/ EPW011134	JUL 1924	BW Glass Plate	5"x4"	SU 272715

Historic England Air Photographs		Verticals	Customer enquiry reference number: 117231				
Sortie number	Library number	Camera position	Frame number	Held	Centre point	Run	Date
RAF/106G/UK/1415	282	RP	3103	P	SU 266 722	1	14 APR 1946
RAF/106G/UK/1415	282	RP	3104	P	SU 273 723	1	14 APR 1946
RAF/106G/UK/1648	424	RP	3019	P	SU 278 720	3	10 JUL 1946
RAF/106G/UK/1648	424	RP	3020	P	SU 274 722	3	10 JUL 1946
RAF/CPE/UK/1821	501	FP	1115	P	SU 268 717	1	04 NOV 1946
RAF/CPE/UK/1821	501	FP	1116	P	SU 273 718	1	04 NOV 1946
US/7PH/GP/LOC36	6792	V	5054	P	SU 252 704	2	08 SEP 1943
US/7PH/GP/LOC36	6792	V	5055	P	SU 260 698	2	08 SEP 1943
US/7PH/GP/LOC36	6792	V	5056	P	SU 269 692	2	08 SEP 1943
US/7PH/GP/LOC209	6887	V	5031	P	SU 241 724	23	08 MAR 1944
US/7PH/GP/LOC209	6887	V	5047	P	SU 278 739	22	08 MAR 1944
US/7PH/GP/LOC230	6902	RP	3028	P	SU 262 713	8	15 MAR 1944
US/7PH/GP/LOC230	6902	RS	4018	P	SU 283 725	13	15 MAR 1944
US/7PH/GP/LOC230	6902	RS	4019	P	SU 279 706	13	15 MAR 1944
OS/72224	10328	V	182	P	SU 271 719	4	15 JUL 1972
FSL/71222	12526	V	222176	P	SU 269 716	6	02 OCT 1971
RAF/543/3859	15228	F22	533	P	SU 282 724	22	13 JUN 1967
RAF/543/3859	15228	F22	534	P	SU 273 725	22	13 JUN 1967
OS/98438	15402	V	4035	P	SU 278 715	7	25 JUL 1998

OS/98438	15402	V	4036	P	SU 271 715	7	25 JUL 1998
OS/01930	23688	V	318	N	SU 272 712	1	25 JUN 2001
OS/01930	23688	V	343	N	SU 272 724	2	25 JUN 2001
OS/01930	23688	V	367	N	SU 272 724	3	25 JUN 2001
OS/031018	24299	V	3332	N	SU 273 717	10	14 JUL 2003
OS/06027	24748	V	264	N	SU 271 713	9	09 JUN 2006
EA/AF/91C/018	40014	V	1999	N	SU 275 715	3	01 MAR 1991
EA/AF/96C/523	40279	V	6702	P	SU 273 712	1	27 APR 1996
EA/AF/96C/523	40279	V	6703	P	SU 275 714	1	27 APR 1996
EA/AF/96C/526	40282	V	6631	N	SU 274 717	3	27 APR 1996
EA/AF/96C/526	40282	V	6632	N	SU 272 718	3	27 APR 1996
EA/AF/96C/526	40282	V	6633	N	SU 269 718	3	27 APR 1996
EA/AF/96C/526	40282	V	6638	N	SU 271 713	4	27 APR 1996
EA/AF/96C/526	40282	V	6659	N	SU 276 718	5	27 APR 1996
EA/AF/96C/526	40282	V	6660	N	SU 272 716	5	27 APR 1996

Historic England Air Photographs		Obliques		Customer enquiry reference number: 117728		 Historic England
Photo reference (NGR and Index number)	Film and frame number		Date	Film type		
	NMR 15384 / 33		04 SEP 1995	Colour slide	35 mm	SU 268745
SU 2674 / 3	NMR 15384 / 34		04 SEP 1995	Colour slide	35 mm	SU 268745
SU 2674 / 4	NMR 15384 / 35		01 SEP 1995	Colour slide	35 mm	SU 268745
SU 2674 / 5	NMR 15384 / 36		01 SEP 1995	Colour slide	35 mm	SU 268745
SU 2674 / 6	NMR 15397 / 04		04 SEP 1995	Black & white	70mm,120,220	SU 268745
SU 2774 / 4	NMR 15397 / 02		04 SEP 1995	Black & white	70mm,120,220	SU 271741
SU 2774 / 5	NMR 15397 / 03		04 SEP 1995	Black & white	70mm,120,220	SU 271741

Historic England Air Photographs		Verticals	Customer enquiry reference				
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			number: 117728				
Sortie number	Library number	Camera position	Frame number	Held	Centre point	Run	Date
RAF/106G/UK/1415	282	RP	3122	P	SU 266 730	2	14 APR 1946
RAF/106G/UK/1415	282	RS	4121	P	SU 273 747	7	14 APR 1946
RAF/106G/UK/1415	282	RS	4122	P	SU 266 747	7	14 APR 1946
RAF/106G/UK/1648	424	RP	3022	P	SU 264 727	3	10 JUL 1946
RAF/106G/UK/1648	424	RP	3023	P	SU 260 729	3	10 JUL 1946
RAF/106G/UK/1648	424	RS	4022	P	SU 273 746	4	10 JUL 1946
RAF/106G/UK/1648	424	RS	4023	P	SU 268 749	4	10 JUL 1946
US/7PH/GP/LOC209	6887	V	5047	P	SU 278 739	22	08 MAR 1944
US/7PH/GP/LOC230	6902	RP	3029	P	SU 267 732	8	15 MAR 1944
OS/72224	10328	V	185	P	SU 271 735	4	15 JUL 1972
OS/72224	10328	V	186	P	SU 271 741	4	15 JUL 1972
OS/72224	10328	V	187	P	SU 271 746	4	15 JUL 1972
OS/72224	10328	V	284	P	SU 260 742	5	15 JUL 1972
OS/72224	10328	V	285	P	SU 260 737	5	15 JUL 1972
RAF/543/3859	15228	F21	294	P	SU 274 749	3	13 JUN 1967
RAF/543/3859	15228	F21	295	P	SU 266 750	3	13 JUN 1967
OS/98438	15402	V	3978	P	SU 270 743	5	25 JUL 1998
OS/98438	15402	V	3979	P	SU 262 743	5	25 JUL 1998
OS/01930	23688	V	382	N	SU 265 737	4	25 JUN 2001
OS/01930	23688	V	383	N	SU 272 737	4	25 JUN 2001
OS/01930	23688	V	424	N	SU 272 749	5	25 JUN 2001
OS/01930	23688	V	425	N	SU 265 749	5	25 JUN 2001
OS/031031	24305	V	3401	N	SU 266 743	2	14 JUL 2003
OS/031031	24305	V	3402	N	SU 273 743	2	14 JUL 2003
OS/06027	24748	V	77	N	SU 263 741	3	09 JUN 2006
OS/06027	24748	V	78	N	SU 271 741	3	09 JUN 2006

EA/AF/96C/526	40282	V	6602	N	SU 268 744	2	27 APR 1996
EA/AF/96C/526	40282	V	6603	N	SU 270 742	2	27 APR 1996
EA/AF/96C/526	40282	V	6604	N	SU 271 740	2	27 APR 1996

Annex 4: HER Excerpts

HER excerpts Tom Sunley Wiltshire Council Historic Environment Record

No HER entries on the sports pitch (and the site of the excavations) themselves. The site was examined by an Op Nightingale team with Tom and Rachel Foster (also WCC) and as part of the desktop training process. Some nearby noteworthy finds were highlighted.

HER Number	NGR	Type	Contractor	Finds inc
EWI1002	SU26347563	Watching Brief	AOC	Romano Br pottery, Medieval Pit
SU27NE056 – MWI19077	SU26527542	Find spot	N/A	Mesolithic flint

Annex 5: Arborglyph Records

Sheepwalk Plantation, Aldbourne, 23rd May 2019

Arborglyph Ref No.	Tree	Tree Type	Carving	Width of Arb (cm)	Height of Arb (cm)	Comments
NF	1	Beech	WLS04	15	13	2004 date
NF2	2	Beech	FRED ?UBY TAND?	22	15	Unidentified name
NF3	3	Beech	RC	10	5	Initials in a box
NF4	4	Beech	SELLOR? 4 E	23	15	Unidentified name
NF5	5	Beech	JO	26	7	Initials
NF6	5	Beech	MH	9	5	Initials
NF7	6	Beech	D	16	6	Initials
NF8	7	Beech	EL. .SC USA	13	16	SC South Carolina
NF9	8	Beech	MAX 1944	25	25	Name and date 1944
NF10	9	Beech	V	16	13	natural mark?
NF11	10	Beech	L PROPER	36	44	Clear name
NF12	11	Beech	RANE OR BAMBI?	15	3	Unidentified name

NF13	11	Beech	J SAMARIN j.43	32	16	Name and date 1943
NF14	11	Beech	TONY G 43	21	23	Name and date 1943
NF15	11	Beech	LETTERS?	40	17	3 words, probably unidentified names
NF16	11	Beech	EC	13	6	Initials
NF17	12	Beech	SMILEY FACE	0	10	Decorative figure
NF18	12	Beech	AM	30	22	Initials within a box
NF19	12	Beech	DS, LK TM TP FW SMILEY FACE	8	29	Vertical line of initials with a crude smiley face
NF20	13	Beech	CH	18	5	Initials
NF21	14	Beech	Lines of text	45	25	4 lines of text unreadable, initials and dates
NF22	15	Beech	AW	10	5	Initials
NF23	15	Beech	V	9	5	Initial or natural mark
NF24	16	Beech	swastika DS	8	8	Back to front swastika symbol
NF25	17	Beech	ME 4 LM	13	19	modern arborglyph
NF26	18	Beech	GO	15	5	Initials



Digging Band of Brothers 2019