

# BFG Rebasing Bulletin

## Transition to Life in the UK



Welcome to your Transition to Life in the UK Rebasing and Drawdown Bulletin. In this edition, we want to get you focussed and looking forward to your move in the summer.

To ensure that you are able to hit the ground running, I encourage you to make contact with your local HIVE; like in Germany, they will be an invaluable source of information for you. Make sure you contact them for any information that you would like to know ahead of your move. You can also sign up for email notifications for your local HVE blog, a website which will also help you locate your new HIVE office as soon as you arrive.

If you are moving to the Salisbury Plain area, make sure you check out the short films that the Army Welfare Service have put together. You will find these and lots of other rebasing resources on the 'Leaving BFG' pages on BFGnet. If you have children who will be going to one of the local schools, I suggest you view the schools video that AWS have produced. Your children may be feeling nervous about moving, but this short video has done a great job in providing a warm welcome and showing your children that they don't need to worry.

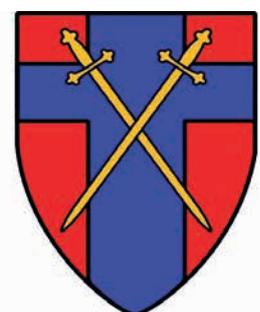
Finally, we have included some aspects of the UK that make it a great place to live. We hope that these enthuse you and help you view your move this summer in the most positive way. Over the next few months we will be sharing more information on what to expect when you arrive, as well as some final checks to ensure that you and your family are 100% ready for your move.



BFGnet.de



@BFGnet





Worldwide, HIVE information centres offer an extensive range of information on relocation, local unit and civilian facilities, places of interest, schools and further education, housing, healthcare facilities, employment and training opportunities.

HIVE is an information network available to all members of the Service community. It serves both married and single personnel, together with their families, dependants and civilians employed by the Services.

Make contact with your HIVE before you move to hit the ground running!



**MOD LYNEHAM HIVE**

SERVING PERSONNEL HIVE, Brunel Building, MOD Lyneham, Chippenham, SN15 4XX  
 Contact: 01249 894419 / Mil: 95481 4419  
 Monday – Thursday 0830 - 1645hrs / Friday 0830 - 1350hrs  
 FAMILIES HIVE, Community Centre, MOD Lyneham, Chippenham, SN15 4XX  
 Contact: 01249 894857 / Mil: 95481 4857  
 Monday - Thursday 0830 - 1100hrs  
 Email: [lynehamhive@armymail.mod.uk](mailto:lynehamhive@armymail.mod.uk)  
 Lyneham HIVE publishes a blog providing local and military community information for the area. You can access the blog at [www.lynehamhive.blogspot.com](http://www.lynehamhive.blogspot.com)



**LEUCHARS HIVE**

Community Centre, Tutor Road, Leuchars, Fife. KY16 0JX  
 Contact: 01334 857649 / Mil: 9 5151 7649  
 Email: [leucharshive@armymail.mod.uk](mailto:leucharshive@armymail.mod.uk)  
 Leuchars HIVE publishes a blog providing local and military community information for the area. You can access the blog at [www.leucharshive.blogspot.com](http://www.leucharshive.blogspot.com)



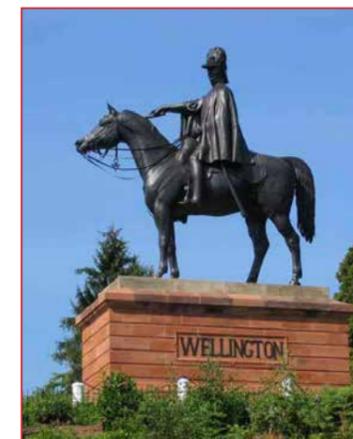
**SALISBURY PLAIN HIVE**

Tidworth Leisure Centre, Nadder Rd, Tidworth, SP9 7QN  
 Contact: 01980 650 224  
 Email: [salisburyplainhive@armymail.mod.uk](mailto:salisburyplainhive@armymail.mod.uk)  
 Salisbury Plain HIVE publishes a blog providing local and military community information for the Salisbury Plain areas. You can access the blog at [www.salisburyplainhive.blogspot.com](http://www.salisburyplainhive.blogspot.com)



**WOODBRIIDGE HIVE**

Please note that Woodbridge HIVE is **permanently closed**. Colchester HIVE provides support to the service community in Woodbridge. Contact: 01206 816588  
 Email: [colchesterhive@armymail.mod.uk](mailto:colchesterhive@armymail.mod.uk)  
 You can access the blog at: [www.colchesterhive.blogspot.com](http://www.colchesterhive.blogspot.com)



**ALDERSHOT HIVE HUB**

The Connaught Community Centre, Alanbrooke Road, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 2NX  
 Tel: 01252 348650  
 Email: [aldershothive@armymail.mod.uk](mailto:aldershothive@armymail.mod.uk)  
 Monday - Friday 0815 - 1610  
 The Aldershot HIVE Hub will be covering the South East of England. You can access the following blogs for South East:  
 Aldershot: [www.aldershothive.blogspot.com](http://www.aldershothive.blogspot.com)  
 Sandhurst: [www.sandhursthive.blogspot.com](http://www.sandhursthive.blogspot.com)  
 Chatham: [www.chathamhive.blogspot.com](http://www.chathamhive.blogspot.com)

# Why is Britain Great?

There are a few things which would make life easier and perhaps better in the UK...

**FOOD IS GREAT**

**ARMED FORCES COVENANT**

Shopping on a Sunday

H M Forces RAILCARD

Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
VALID 12 MONTHS FROM DATE SHOWN:  
ONLY AVAILABLE IF DATED BY UNIT ISSUING STAMP. SECURITY PIN MUST BE USED.  
Issued to: \_\_\_\_\_  
TO BE CARRIED ON ALL JOURNEYS WITH PHOTOCARD No: \_\_\_\_\_

Driving on the left side of the road - the correct side for your car!

This means you can shop around and get the best deals on EVERYTHING: cars, phones, furniture, insurance, contracts!

No need for legal disputes over a loss in translation regarding any contracts.

Over 50 **free** museums across the UK

With 19,491 miles of coastline you are never more than 2 hours away from the nearest beach!

Know what you're ordering in a restaurant!

**REMOVED**

Memberships with the National Trust and English Heritage give you access to hundreds of unforgettable and historical places

Over 80 National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**National Trust**

**ENGLISH HERITAGE**

**Premier League**

**PREMIERSHIP RUGBY**

**the Pub**

## DID YOU KNOW?

The UK labour market continued to grow in late 2018. Employment rates have risen to a new record high (75.8%) and pay remains on an upward trend despite political headwinds, and the unemployment rate has fallen again to a 44-year low of 4.0%.

# Welcome to Salisbury Plain!

Here are some helpful videos provided by the AWS Community Support Team in Salisbury.

<https://youtu.be/G-eCSEUufTA>

An introduction to three secondary schools in SPTA: **Avon Valley College, The Wellington Academy and Stonehenge School.**

<https://youtu.be/uNjoARddBos>

An introduction to **Tidworth** and the leisure, sport and youth activities taking place in and around Tidworth.

<https://youtu.be/YourlHKM7LA>

An introduction to **Bulford** and the Beeches Community Centre.

<https://youtu.be/rAlsTfd5olc>

An introduction to **Larkhill** and the new facilities being built.

# Wiltshire Location Guides

The Army Basing Programme have caught up with Tara and Anya who rebased to Bulford in Summer 2015 with 5 Rifles. We have picked some of the useful tips and observations from those interviews to help you prepare.



### Cultural Differences

Both Tara and Anya observed that the Regiment was now more spread out and did not feel as close knit as it had in Germany. Anya described this as not being in the 'Army bubble', but having more independence. Whilst this took both ladies some time to get used to, they are now thriving with friends from a wider circle and are able to take advantage of more opportunities.

### Getting Around

Whilst Tara found driving in Germany challenging, which limited her ability to get out and about, she was immediately confident driving back in the UK. This has meant that she makes the most of the area, and has made friends from further afield.

As a German national, Anya was used to driving on the German roads, and was not as confident to drive in the UK. She uses the bus regularly and notes that the bus connections are brilliant. She would, however, recommend that you may consider learning to drive if you are going to live on Salisbury Plain.

### Local Area

One of the best things about the Salisbury Plain area according to both Tara and Anya is the countryside. The beautiful countryside is right on your doorstep, perfect for walking the dog and muddy walks with the children.

Whilst they have found Bulford quite quiet, they both agree that they are central to some great places. Bournemouth and Bristol are both easily reachable and great for family days out. There are also lots of great places to eat out close by.

### Housing

When asked about housing their experiences differed. Anya has slightly less overall space than she enjoyed in Germany and, whilst she did need to move after rebasing back to Bulford, she now loves living in her SFA. Tara was housed in a flat in Germany and is pleased to have masses of extra space living in a house.

### Support Networks

Anya is now looking forward to welcoming many more German national wives who have never lived in the UK before. She is looking forward to helping them settle and get used to the cultural differences of the UK as quickly as possible. She would like to assure those moving this summer that there are some great support organisations that are there to help you, from your Unit Welfare Team to the Army Families Federation and the network of German and English spouses. Make sure that you ask for support – it is out there!

Anya would recommend that you utilise social media groups to ask any questions that you might have before you move. If you have questions about housing, local groups or finding out about work opportunities, Facebook is an invaluable tool.

### Childcare and Schooling

Tara's experience of childcare provisions was that there was a good choice of nursery provision and it was easy to get allocated places. She would encourage online research.

Anya's experience of schooling for her children was also very positive. She found the schools to be good and if your child requires special needs support her personal experience of this has been amazing with her child continuing to make enormous progress.

Watch out for the launch of the Wiltshire Location Films being put together by the Army Basing Programme for all of Anya and Tara's top tips and observations plus much more. Further tips and observations from Tara and Anya will be covered in the "Are you ready to Rebase?" Bulletin in May.

## **FIND OUT MORE:**

<https://bfgnet.de/leaving-bfg/>

<https://www.army.mod.uk/personnel-and-welfare/hives/>

<https://youtu.be/G-eCSEUufTA>

<https://youtu.be/uNjoARddBos>

<https://youtu.be/YourlHKM7LA>

<https://youtu.be/rAlsTfd5olc>

<https://www.citybaseapartments.com/blog/50-reasons-why-britain-is-great/>

[https://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/what-we-do/encouraging\\_investment/free-admission/](https://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/what-we-do/encouraging_investment/free-admission/)

<https://nationalparks.uk/>

<http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/about-aonbs/visit-aonbs/>

<http://greatbritaincampaign.com>

## **CONTACT US:**



**BFGnet.de**



**@BFGnet**

We are keen to hear your feedback.

**Please send comments to [scs@bfgnet.info](mailto:scs@bfgnet.info)**