

BFG Rebasing Bulletin

What to Expect When Arriving in the UK



We have titled this edition of the Rebasing and Drawdown Bulletin 'What to Expect When Arriving in the UK' and have focussed the content to address some of the concerns that we have picked up from the BFG community, as well as feedback from families that rebased to Bulford in 2016.

To help you get your bearings, we have put together a single page arrival guide covering Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) with contacts you might find useful. This guide includes closest shops and supermarkets, best ways to get around and things to do in the South of England.

We have covered details on how the Combined Accommodation Assessment System (CAAS) works and what constitutes Decent Home Standard building. Now that you have received your SFA offer, with your CAAS banding listed, this will help you understand what to expect from your SFA and allow you to budget for your SFA rental costs.

There have been detailed housing recces conducted by units and we have used some of their findings to share with you the difference between the SFA offer and the SFA reality. All homes are required to be at least Decent Home Standard before Amey can allocate that home to a family. Inside, you will see from our example that a lot of work has taken place, ensuring existing stock of SFA is of a good standard for you to move into this summer.

Finally, we have included a checklist of the administrative tasks that you will need to do when you arrive in the UK. Don't delay getting started on your Rebasing preparations.



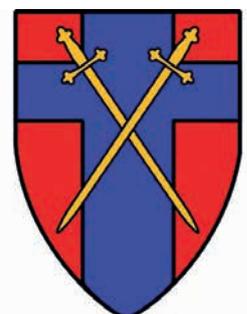
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SPTA CONTACTS

GUARDROOMS	
Tidworth VCP 2	01980 650577
Perham Down	01980 651511
Bulford Camp (Kiwi/Picton)	01980 672922
Bulford Camp (Ward/Wing)	01980 672794
Larkhill VCP (entrance to ALL barracks)	01980 845310

MILITARY POLICE	
Tidworth Military Police	01980 672251
Bulford Military Police	01980 672334

HEALTHCARE	
Queen Elizabeth Memorial Health Centre Tidworth	01980 650640
Bulford Medical Group Practice	01980 672204
Larkhill Practice	01980 845266

www.nhs.uk/Service-Search

The nearest Accident and Emergency are in Salisbury and Swindon. The nearest Minor Injuries Unit is in Andover.

LEISURE & FITNESS	
Tidworth Leisure Centre	01980 847140
Tidworth Community Centre	01980 847390
The Beeches Bulford	01980 672420
Amesbury Sports & Community Centre (no pool)	01980 622173
Durrington Swimming & Fitness Centre	01980 594594
Larkhill Garrison Gym	01980 845305
Bulford Supergym	01980 672217
Tidworth Supergym	01980 650262

SPTA HIVE	01980 650224
Army Families Federation	07527 492783
CTP Regional Resettlement Centre Tidworth	01980 650689
10 Army Education Centre	01980 650370
Amey Repairs Hotline	0800 707 6000
Jobcentre Plus Nationwide	0800 169 0190

LOCAL TO YOU...

Take a look at the information we have gathered about SPTA. If you're posted elsewhere, this should act as a guide for the things to look out for when you arrive in your new home!

Supermarkets

Tidworth has 2 main supermarkets – a Tesco Superstore and a Lidl. Both are open 7 days a week. There are also a number of smaller shops including convenience stores, chemists and charity shops.

Andover is 10 miles away and has a full choice of supermarkets.

Bulford and **Larkhill** have limited shopping facilities. The small town of **Amesbury** is close by, which has a small high street as well as a Tesco Superstore, Lidl, Aldi and Co-Op.

Retail

The historic towns of **Salisbury**, **Winchester** and **Marlborough** are all within a 30 minute drive. In Salisbury and Winchester you will find a good selection of high street stores as well as some independent shops.

Southampton and **Reading** are both about 1 hour away. You will find large shopping complexes including John Lewis, Ikea and other major retailers.

Fuel

Tidworth has a 24 hour Esso garage situated on the A338, which runs north to south through Tidworth. The nearest fuel station to **Bulford** and **Larkhill** is located in **Durrington**.



SHOPPING

Sports Clubs

Tidworth Garrison Golf Club
Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club
Tidworth Polo Club
for children's **after school clubs**:
www.familiesonline.co.uk/local/wiltshire/clubs-and-classes

National Heritage Sites

Stonehenge
Avebury Circle
Woodhenge
Old Sarum, Salisbury
Langford Lakes, Salisbury
City of Bath, 38 miles from Tidworth

Amusement Parks

Paultons Park, Romsey, 25 miles from Tidworth
4 Kingdoms Adventure Park & Family Farm, Thatcham, 30 miles from Tidworth
Marwell Zoo, Winchester, 30 miles from Tidworth
Longleat, Warminster, 31 miles from Tidworth
Basingstoke Miniature Railway, Basingstoke, 31 miles from Tidworth

Airports

There are a number of airports within easy reach from Salisbury Plain. **Southampton Airport** flies to over 40 destinations. **London Heathrow** can be reached within just over an hour from **Tidworth**, **Larkhill** and **Bulford** and is one of the busiest airports in the world offering flights across the globe.

Trains

The nearest manned station with a taxi rank to **Tidworth** is **Andover**. **Grateley** station is closer, but is unmanned and there is no taxi rank. The nearest manned train station to **Bulford** and **Larkhill** is **Salisbury**

For further details and routes visit:
www.nationalrail.co.uk



TRANSPORT

Roads

The **A303** runs south of **Tidworth**, **Bulford** and **Larkhill** and is the main arterial route **from London to the M3**.

Buses

The **Activ8** is the bus route between **Salisbury** and **Andover**, via **Amesbury**, **Bulford** and **Tidworth**. Further details can be found on www.salisburyreds.co.uk
The **X4** is the bus route between **Salisbury** and **Larkhill**.

THINGS TO DO



Adventure Activity

Alpine Snowsports, Southampton, 30 miles from Tidworth
Skizone, Basingstoke, 35 miles from Tidworth
Go Ape, Southampton, 40 miles from Tidworth
Moors Valley Country Park, Ringwood, 40 miles from Tidworth

What goes where?

Black bins – food waste and non-recyclables
Black box – glass bottles, jars, papers, magazines, cans, tins
Blue bin – recycling plastic bottles and cardboard
Green bin – garden waste



RECYCLING & WASTE DISPOSAL

Household Recycling

Household recycling centres are located in **Amesbury**, **Salisbury** and **Marlborough**. For more details and to find your nearest centre:
www.wiltshire.gov.uk/household-recycling-centres

Recycling & Waste

Recycling and Waste disposal varies between local authorities. In **Wiltshire** you will be provided with a black, wheeled bin; blue lidded bin; and a black box. You can also sign up for a green bin at a small annual fee.

Find out more...

To find out what will be collected and when visit:
www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-collection-days



WHAT TO EXPECT IN YOUR NEW HOME

Combined Accommodation Assessment System (CAAS) covers **condition, scale and location**. Condition is based on **Decent Homes Standard** which is a modern, measured national standard.

CONDITION	SCALE	LOCATION		
		Urban	Intermediate	Remote
DH+	Upper	A	B	C
	Middle	B	C	D
	Lower	C	D	E
DH	Upper	C	D	E
	Middle	D	E	F
	Lower	E	F	G
DH-	Upper	E	F	G
	Middle	F	G	H
	Lower	G	H	I

Whilst extensive work has not taken place on all SFA, CAAS ratings will provide you a better indication of the condition of your home than the images that you have been provided. The home in the images below has the following CAAS bands: condition is now Decent Home Plus, scale is Upper, location is Intermediate.

Overall this would see the property at a CAAS band of B. A property can not jump up more than 1 level a year, so when the work was completed in April 2018 the property was charged at a CAAS Band D, rising to CAAS band C from April 2019 and finally CAAS band B in April 2020. Review your offer letter to understand what to expect from your new home.

YOUR MOVE IN

Your Accommodation Officer (AO) or your Unit representative will take you on a tour of the house, showing you where everything is. They will fill out an Occupancy Form to record any important information, like any faults found at Move In and the action taken to resolve them, meter readings, details of recent safety inspections and your contact details.

At the end of the Move In appointment, you will be asked to sign the Occupancy Form to say you are satisfied that your house meets move-in standard. We recommend walking round your home for the first time with our handy Move In Standard Checklist, to help you keep track of what you have been shown and how it meets the move-in standard.

For Amey's Easy Reference Checklist please go to bit.ly/2WzBtUI

If you are Rebasing in summer 2019 you should now have received a Service Families Accommodation (SFA) offer. If you have been offered existing stock SFA, your offer will include an image of the front of your property as well as floor plans and a few internal images of your new home.

One of the issues that we have come across is that the images you have been provided in your offer do not always reflect the SFA that you will be presented. Amey have carried out a lot of work to ensure that all SFA issued to families in summer 2019 meet the Decent Home standards. Below you can see an example of the differences between the property that was provided on the offer letter and the condition of that same property now.

OFFER

vs.

REALITY

FRONT OF HOUSE




The whole row of houses have been updated externally to great effect. White cladding replaces the pebble dash exterior which provides both aesthetic improvements as well as improving the energy efficiency of the property. All windows have also been replaced with brand new thermally efficient windows.

Overall the house now looks far more inviting than what the family received in the offer letter.




KITCHEN



This property has had a new kitchen fitted.




BATHROOM

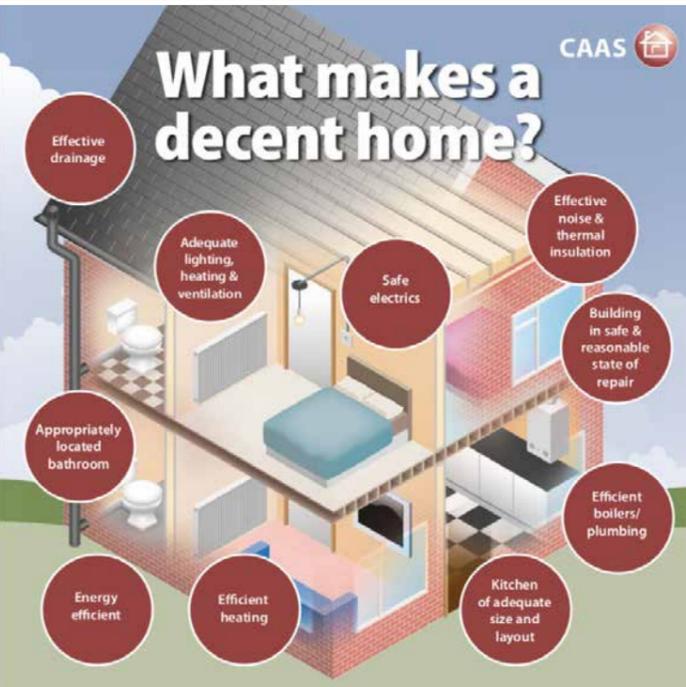


The bathroom has not seen any major update, but is of a functional standard complete with a shower. New windows come complete with blinds replacing the dated curtains.



CHECKLIST FOR THE UK

- Ensure the you hand in your 14 day report. bit.ly/2WzDtvP
- Change your address – bank, driving licence, insurance, subscriptions etc.
- Register to vote.
- Set up your utilities, telephone and internet contracts in your new home.
- For spouses: register with your local Job Centre and apply for jobs, if you are keen to work.
- Universal Credits are a single payment that has replaced 6 benefits including Job Seekers Allowance and Child Tax Credits. If you are entitled to claim Universal Credits make sure you have initiated your application. www.gov.uk/how-to-claim-universal-credit
- Tax your car for the UK roads.
- MOT your car if it's over 3 years old.
- Make sure you register with a GP and Dentist. www.nhs.uk/Service-Search
- Make sure your insurance policies cover you in the UK and have been updated to reflect your move – home, car, pet etc.



What is Decent Home Standard?

Condition is one of the three criteria that is taken into account when assessing a property's CAAS band. Amey are working hard to ensure that all SFA allocated as part of the rebasing moves meet the Decent Home Standard.

For more details on what constitutes Decent Home Standard visit bit.ly/2I3P963

If it is above the standard then it will be awarded Decent Home Plus (DH+) status. Properties failing to meet this standard will be awarded Decent Home Minus (DH-) and will not be allocated to families.

BFG Rebasing early moves are now underway. QRH D Squadron have now completed their move back to the UK ahead of their forthcoming deployment to Canada: a total of 89 single soliders and 25 families have now moved to Tidworth. SO1 Rebasing says, 'the D Squadron moves were important, they went well, and are a clear demonstration that all our hard work has prepared us for the main unit moves in the summer.'



FIND OUT MORE:

www.ameydefenceservices.co.uk/housing/moving-in/

www.ameydefenceservices.co.uk/media/4648/amey-fr397-easy-reference-checklist-for-move-in-standardv2.pdf

www.ameydefenceservices.co.uk/media/4780/amey-14-day-observation-form-v4.pdf

www.gov.uk/government/publications/combined-accommodation-assessment-system-the-new-accommodation-charging-system-explained

www.nhs.uk/Service-Search

www.nationalrail.co.uk

www.salisburyreds.co.uk

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling

www.daysoutwiththekids.co.uk

www.familiesonline.co.uk/select-a-location

Salisbury Plain HIVE:

www.salisburyplainhive.blogspot.co.uk

01980 650 224

Tidworth Leisure Centre, Nadder Rd, Tidworth, SP9 7QN

AFF

www.aff.org.uk

Wiltshire Co-ordinator: Carol Morris

07527 492783

Email: wiltshire@aff.org.uk

CONTACT US:



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We are keen to hear your feedback.

Please send comments to scs@bfgnet.info