



Flowerdown

Sir John Moore Barracks

A summary of the Chalkland Ecology, Flooding, Planning Status and Military History of Flowerdown

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Key Points to take away from this document.

- ✓ We know that over half of the world's chalk grassland is found in the UK and a significant amount of it is in the Winchester area. Flowerdown is typical chalk grassland and should be protected from development.
- ✓ The climate crisis will have a severe impact on our children and future generations. It is caused by the increasing amount of man-made CO₂ gas in the atmosphere. This means that development plans, such as those proposed for Flowerdown, must be scrutinised against any environmental losses that will reduce the land's ability to absorb CO₂.
- ✓ The government agrees that we need to reduce future flood risk. Ground water levels are seen as being a central sustainability issue in Littleton & Flowerdown.
- ✓ A strong case can be argued for designating the entire Flowerdown 'unbuilt' site as a SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation) or in selected parts, as an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest).
- ✓ Painsstaking observations by The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland over many years has recorded 212 plant species on Flowerdown. Of these, 13 are nationally scarce, vulnerable, endangered or near threatened.
- ✓ Flowerdown has been an important military site for over a century. The men & women who served there should be remembered by a permanent memorial.

An appeal to our representatives, conservation groups and individuals

This document is an appeal for help to all those who love our Hampshire countryside. The Ministry of Defence through their Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and consultants, Avison Young, are planning to sell the Army Training Regiment barracks and the surrounding lands of Flowerdown for development of one sort or another. Their public presentation can be found at <https://avison-young.foleon.com/john-moore-barracks/john-moore-barracks/concept-masterplan/>

The following tells a different story, one that treasures what we have, paying attention to the needs of the flora and fauna to be found there, the military story of those who served at Flowerdown over the past century, the beauty of the surrounding countryside and the increasing rarity of Winchester chalkland. This is my statement of what I know about Flowerdown. I have used the resources that were on hand and simply brought them together. There may be errors in interpretation or in my understanding but I believe that it is a broadly accurate account that you are free to use as you will.



With acknowledgements to Avison Young and the DOI

In my opinion, any re-development should be solely on the elevated central axis of the site by replacing or re-using existing buildings. The remaining land should stay in public ownership and be maintained by a body such as the Hampshire & IoW Wildlife Trust financed by an endowment.

The existing built footprint could be developed as a **Science Park** by the Universities of Winchester or Southampton along the lines of the University of Southampton Science Park at Chilworth <https://www.science-park.co.uk/>. This would fit neatly into the landscape in an environmentally sensitive way and would provide high quality employment to support the local and regional economy.

The Chapel and its important artefacts at Flowerdown should be rededicated to the men and women who served there during two world wars. The statues, including that of Sir John Moore, should be retained, together with the eight trees planted by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, to remember the men of the Light Infantry who were killed at Ballygorley in Northern Ireland in 1988.

Chalkland - Flowerdown

Over half of the world's chalk grassland is found in the UK and a significant amount of it is in the Winchester area. Flowerdown is typical of this chalk grassland and the 20.0 Ha SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation) described later in this document is an example that should be applied to the entire area of the undeveloped MoD/DOI Sir John Moore Barracks site.

We know that there is an impending climate crisis that will have a severe impact on our children and future generations. It is caused by the increasing amount of man-made CO₂ gas in the atmosphere.

This means that plans, such as those proposed by the DIO/AVI for Flowerdown, must be scrutinised against the attendant environmental losses that will reduce the land's ability to absorb CO₂. Is it right to remove or degrade this carbon sink?

Flowerdown is described as a patchwork of scrub and chalk grassland with forested areas and, for a clear benefit to our environment, it must be afforded protection from 'built' development.



View of the chalkland looking south towards Sir John Moore Barracks from the Church Lane footpath

The Sir John Moore Barracks and Administration buildings occupy the centre of the site on an elevated roughly NE-SW axis on the crest of Flowerdown. They were built by the Norwest Holst company in the early 1980s as an infantry training base for The Rifle Brigade. During the construction only two mature trees were felled and 38,500 new trees planted along with thousands of spring bulbs. A description of the built site is given in the Appendix on page 30

The undeveloped and largely unused peripheral chalkland to the north, southeast and west comprises most of the site. This was partially planted with trees and is occasionally used for field exercises.

The Littleton Parish Council maintains a Conservation Field on its Recreation Ground adjoining Flowerdown and, with volunteers, has restored the chalkland back to its near original state encouraging and favouring chalkland flora and fauna. This is an important wildlife corridor

adjacent to the MoD chalkland. This could be connected to the undeveloped chalkland of the Flowerdown site.

Littleton – Its geographical characteristics and their consequences

The Ordnance Survey Geological Sheet 299 for Winchester indicates that Littleton is located on the “Upper Chalk” strata, which is defined as “a soft white chalk with many flint nodules”. Chalk is essentially a soft marine limestone bedrock, largely made up of minute particles of crystalline calcium carbonate. Whilst chalk is to varying degrees porous, it can be compromised by layers of interlocking flints and these are found in Littleton at varying depths. There is also a tendency for the water-bearing joints and fissures of bedrock chalk to clog with silt and mud making it impermeable.

There is no mains drainage in Littleton and all wastewater and sewage is discharged into the subsoil through various types of sewage systems. Whilst some are modern treatment plants, others are more aged and less effective. Residents have reported that it is not uncommon for the sewage filter beds to block up and need replacing.

The Environment Agency flood map for Littleton indicates a Winterbourne flood zone running east along South Drive across to North Drive and Pitter Close then draining into MoD Flowerdown. The area concerned is identified on the WDLP Review Map as being in a “1 in 100 year Floodplain Area as identified by the Environment Agency (as at Dec 2005)”.

The area around the pond on Main Road is the natural point to which road surface water will run and collect in the valley, resulting in regular temporary flooding onto the roads adjacent to it. Locally, this area was known as “Flood Bottom”. Whilst this is usually caused by run-off from land, the soakaways in this area are no doubt compromised by years of silt from roads and discharge from sewage systems.

Sankey J in “Chalkland Ecology” (Heinemann London 1966) and central government’s Planning Policy Statement 25 explain that groundwater flooding occurs when “below ground” water levels rise above surface elevations in chalk, especially when underlain by less permeable rocks including large deposits of flints as in Littleton. In very wet periods, rising levels of water lead to flooding of normally dry land and reactivates intermittent streams called Winterbournes.

In Littleton, a Winterbourne in the west rises periodically causing degrees of flooding along the valley. This flows eastward through Littleton from South Drive across Main Road into North Drive and Pitter Close before draining into Flowerdown. The septic tanks and cess pits along this route invariably overflow thus contaminating the downstream flows into Flowerdown. These matters are discussed on page 18.

The need to reduce future flood risk exacerbated by climate change and increased rainfall and ground water levels is seen as being a central sustainability issue in the village and is a material planning consideration impacting on future development pressures.

Flowerdown

The Hampshire Downs form a large area of downland and are part of a belt of chalk downland extending from the South Downs in the southeast then north to the Berkshire and Marlborough Downs and west to the Dorset Downs. **Natural England have designated The Downs as a National Character Area (NCA 130).**

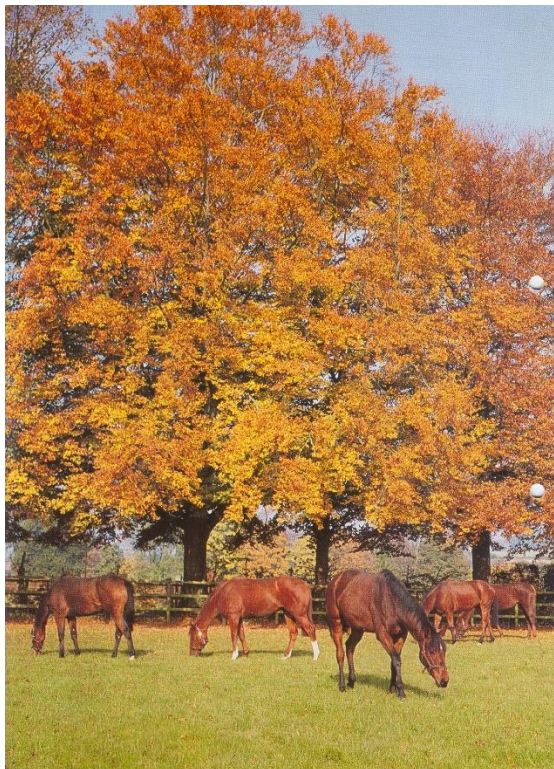
The word ‘Down’ is a Hampshire term for a chalkland hill and one can well imagine that in earlier days the Downs were covered with wild flowers and it is possible that the name “Flower

Down” or Flower Hill derives from a rolling hill of grassy pasture over chalk noted for its wild flowers.



The Church Lane footpath on the northern boundary of Flowerdown leading to the Roman road.

To the north and immediately adjacent to Flowerdown is an internationally famous racehorse stud that demands a totally quiet and unlit rural setting.



Autumn at the Littleton Stud

The eastern edge of the Flowerdown site lies alongside the Roman road to Marlborough and can be accessed by the Three Maids Hill footpath recently established by the Hampshire County Council.



...and to the west is the Littleton settlement..



..and to the southwest is an important group of Bronze Age barrows lying near the summit of the Flowerdown ridge.



Flower Down, as it was titled on Taylor's 1750 map of Hampshire and on the Littleton Enclosure map of 1844, an area of downland rich in wildflowers.

Flowerdown was formerly common land available to the people of Littleton from mediaeval times and, as such, would never have been ploughed, being principally used for grazing. **To date most of the site has never been treated with artificial fertilisers or pesticides. During WW2, the land to the north was fertilised by muck spreading (manure from the mixed farm cattle that were grazed at that time).**

Following the Enclosures Acts the land was given to a local landowner and the villagers were allocated a small area of common land to the south that included the Barrows (now under the care of English Heritage). Although the land was 'alienated' it remained unfenced and was probably open for regular foot-travellers. A footpath ran across Flowerdown from Deane Down Drove to the Andover Road perhaps following the present Chestnut Avenue route.

Lowland chalk grassland such as Flowerdown has suffered a marked decline in extent since the middle of the twentieth century. Some remaining chalk downland has been protected against future development to preserve its unique biodiversity.

Among the many wartime memories of those who served during WW2 on HMS Flowerdown found in the Hampshire County Council Archive research paper 'History of Flowerdown Camp' Reference 11A20/1 are these remarks....

...I came back from a jaunt one night and the whole of the hill was ablaze with glow worms .

...I remember freezing nights, but also going on Middle Watch in summer with glow worms scattered in the grass near W Block, looking like recently discarded fag ends, & the nightingales singing in the hedges.

Are there still glow worms and nightingales to be found in 2021.....??? and will they be there if Flowerdown is sold for development?

The various areas of Flowerdown

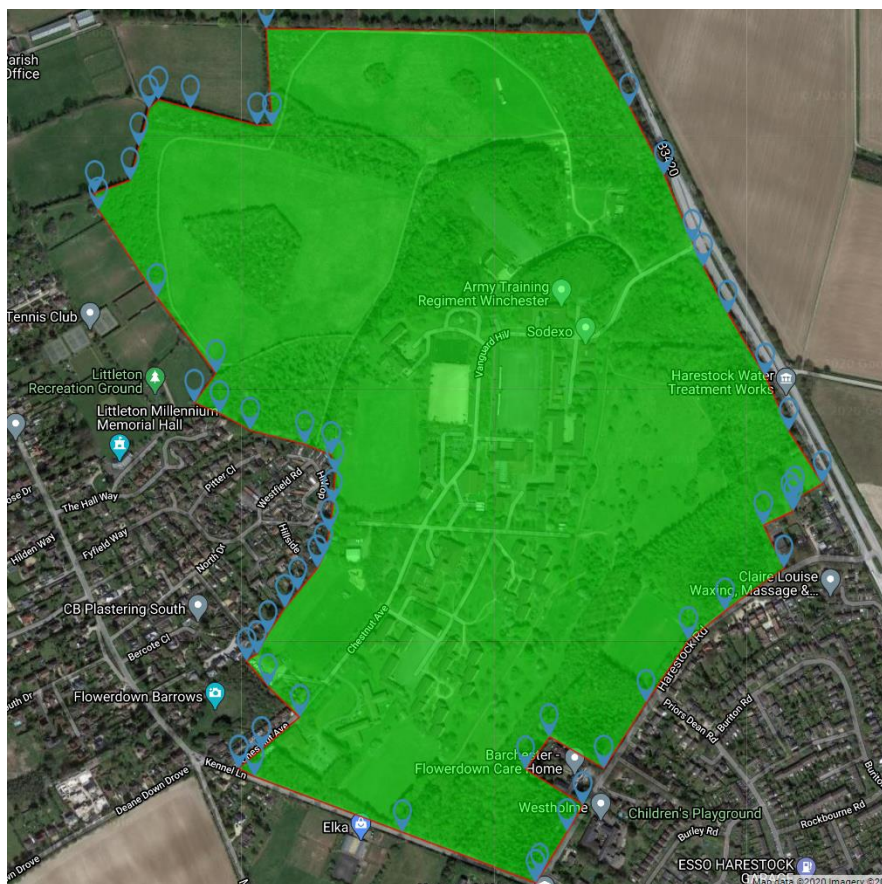


A post-WW2 aerial view of H.M.S Flowerdown Y station showing the aerial masts.

The southern area of the site has changed but this photograph is of interest as it shows the aerial masts that were used to receive enemy Enigma coded messages during WW2. These were forwarded to Bletchley Park and decoded in the famous Hut 6 by Alan Turing's team. The present entrance to Flowerdown is on the Andover Road with a new road called Vanguard Hill ascending to the Sir John Moore built site.

The WW2 Y station occupied about 42 Ha/100 Acres i.e., roughly about half the present site. The remainder to the north was farmed.

The green areas below were measured and averaged using www.freemaptools.com/area-calculator.htm and Google Maps.



The entire Flowerdown site shown above has an area of 84 Ha.



The existing “built” area shown in green above is occupied by the ATR barracks & offices and is 22 Ha and sits around the 70m contour line. You can see that the ‘built’ area occupies only 25% of the entire Flowerdown site.

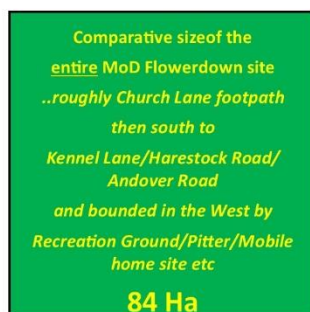


The southern SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation) occupies a mere 20 Ha.

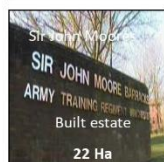


For comparison, most of the Littleton settlement (Main Road with streets off) is 60 Ha.

The squares below show these different areas in a simpler way....



The entire Flowerdown site compared with Littleton settlement.



Sir John Moore 'built' estate.



Flowerdown SINC site



Littleton Recreation Ground

The roads of Littleton that may be affected by adverse development of Flowerdown e.g., lighting, noise, loss of visual amenities etc. lie to the east of Main Road:-

The Littleton Stud and the Church Lane footpath to the Andover Road
 New Road
 The Hall Way
 Fyfield Way
 Pitter Close
 North Drive and lanes off
 Bercote Close
 The roads in the Residential Mobile Home Park
 Chestnut Avenue

Flowerdown Ecology & Wildlife

A strong case can be argued for designating the entire Flowerdown 'unbuilt' site as a SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation) or possibly, in selected parts, as an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest).

Over many years 212 plant species have been recorded on Flowerdown and these are named in the tables below. Of these, 13 are nationally scarce, vulnerable, endangered or near threatened and are marked in yellow. These records include recent and historic observations. Whether rare chalkland plants are still present is unknown but must be determined.

The southern SINC site bordering Harestock Road/Andover Road records the same species (noted below as YES). The sources of this information are the HCC SINC Flowerdown Sir John Moore Barracks (SU46403210) 43-0043 10th August 2017 Reference 43-0043 and the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland database maintained by the BSBI North Hampshire Recorder.

During the construction of the present Sir John Moore barracks the entire site was planted with 35,500 trees both for environmental reasons and to provide cover for infantry training.

Taxon number	The species marked below are also found in SINC No WC0066 Flowerdown/SU46403210	Taxon	Common Name	Number of observations
1		Acer campestre	Field Maple	7
2	YES	Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	7
3	YES	Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	6
4		Achillea ptarmica	Sneezewort	1
5	YES	Aegopodium podagraria	Ground-elder	5
6	YES	Aesculus hippocastanum	Horse-chestnut	1
7	YES	Agrimonia eupatoria	Agrimony	8
8	YES	Agrostis capillaris	Common Bent	2
9	YES	Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping Bent	2
10		Alliaria petiolata	Garlic Mustard	5
11		Alnus cordata	Italian Alder	1
12		Anacamptis morio	Green-winged Orchid	1
13		Anagallis arvensis	Scarlet Pimpernel	5
14		Anthyllis vulneraria	Kidney Vetch	1
15	YES	Aquilegia vulgaris	Columbine	1
16	YES	Arctium minus	Lesser Burdock	8
17	YES	Arenaria serpyllifolia	Thyme-leaved Sandwort	1
18	YES	Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-Grass	2
19	YES	Artemisia vulgaris	Mugwort	1
20		Arum maculatum	Lords-and-Ladies	6
21		Barbarea vulgaris	Winter-cress	1
22	YES	Bellis perennis	Daisy	4
23		Betonica officinalis	Betony	3
24	YES	Betula pendula	Silver Birch	2
25	YES	Betula sp.	a birch	1
26	YES	Brachypodium sylvaticum	False-brome	1
27		Bryonia dioica	White Bryony	3
28	YES	Buddleja davidii	Butterfly-bush	7
29		Calystegia sepium	Hedge Bindweed	3
30	YES	Campanula glomerata	Clustered Bellflower	8
31		Cardamine flexuosa	Wavy Bitter-cress	1
32	YES	Carduus crispus	Wetted Thistle	4
33		Carduus nutans	Musk Thistle	2
34	YES	Carex divulsa	Grey Sedge	1
35	YES	Carex flacca	Glaucous Sedge	2

36	YES	Carex spicata	Spiked Sedge	3
37	YES	Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	6
38		Centaurea nigra agg.		1
39	YES	Centaurea scabiosa	Greater Knapweed	7
40	YES	Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear	6
41		Chaerophyllum temulum	Rough Chervil	1
42	YES	Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle	8
43	YES	Cirsium palustre	Marsh Thistle	1
44		Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle	8
45		Clematis vitalba	Traveller's-joy	6
46	YES	Clinopodium vulgare	Wild Basil	7
47		Coeloglossum viride	Frog Orchid	1
48		Conium maculatum	Hemlock	1
49	YES	Convolvulus arvensis	Field Bindweed	8
50	YES	Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood	7
51		Corylus avellana	Hazel	1
52	YES	Cotoneaster sp.	a cotoneaster	1
53	YES	Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	8
54	YES	Crepis capillaris	Smooth Hawk's-beard	6
55		Cynoglossum officinale	Hound's-tongue	1
56	YES	Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	8
57	YES	Daucus carota	Carrot	3
58		Deschampsia cespitosa	Tufted Hair-grass	1
59	YES	Dipsacus fullonum	Wild Teasel	8
60	YES	Elytrigia repens	Common Couch	1
61		Elytrigia repens agg.		1
62	YES	Epilobium hirsutum	Great Willowherb	1
63		Euonymus europaeus	Spindle	6
64	YES	Euphrasia agg.	Eyebright	1
65		Euphrasia nemorosa		5
66		Fagus sylvatica	Beech	4
67		Festuca ovina	Sheep's-fescue	1
68		Festuca ovina agg.	Sheep's-fescue	2
69	YES	Festuca rubra	Red Fescue	1
70	YES	Filipendula vulgaris	Dropwort	8
71		Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	7
72		Fumaria officinalis	Common Fumitory	1
73		Galium album	Hedge Bedstraw	5
74	YES	Galium aparine	Cleavers	7

75	YES	Galium verum	Lady's Bedstraw	5
76		Genista tinctoria	Dyer's Greenweed	1
77	YES	Gentianaella amarella	Autumn Gentian	1
78	YES	Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	6
79		Geranium molle	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	5
80	YES	Geranium pratense	Meadow Crane's-bill	4
81		Geranium pusillum	Small-flowered Crane's-bill	1
82	YES	Geranium robertianum	Herb-Robert	1
83		Geum urbanum	Wood Avenis	3
84	YES	Glechoma hederacea	Ground-ivy	8
85		Hedera helix	Common Ivy	1
86		Hedera helix agg.	Ivy	3
87		Helianthemum nummularium	Common Rock-rose	7
88	YES	Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	8
89	YES	Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog	4
90	YES	Hypericum hirsutum	Hairy St John's-wort	1
91	YES	Hypericum perforatum	Perforate St John's-wort	8
92		Ilex aquifolium	Holly	1
93		Inis pseudacorus	Yellow Iris	1
94	YES	Juglans regia	Walnut	3
95	YES	Knautia arvensis	Field Scabious	4
96		Lamium album	Garden Yellow-archangel	1
97	YES	Lamium purpureum	White Dead-nettle	7
98		Lapsana communis	Red Dead-nettle	2
99	YES	Larix decidua	Nipplewort	2
100		Lathyrus pratensis	European Larch	1
101	YES	Leontodon hispidus	Meadow Vetchling	6
102		Leontodon saxatilis	Rough Hawkbit	3
103	YES	Ligustrum vulgare	Lesser Hawkbit	6
104		Linaria vulgaris	Wild Privet	8
105	YES	Linum catharticum	Common Toadflax	2
106		Lolium perenne	Fairy Flax	5
107	YES	Lotus corniculatus	Perennial Rye-grass	1
108		Malva sylvestris	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	7
109	YES	Malva moschata	Crab Apple	1
110		Medicago lupulina	Musk-mallow	2
		Melilotus albus	Common Mallow	1
		Melilotus albus	Black Medick	4
		Melilotus albus	Tall Melilot	1

111		Mercurialis annua	Annual Mercury	1
112	YES	Myosotis arvensis	Field Forget-me-not	8
113		Myosotis ramosissima	Early Forget-me-not	1
114		Narcissus agg.	Cultivated Daffodil	5
115		Neotinea ustulata	Burnt Orchid	1
116	YES	Odontites vernus	Red Bartsia	7
117	YES	Ononis repens	Common Restharrow	2
118	YES	Origanum vulgare	Wild Marjoram	6
119	YES	Orobanchae elatior	Knapweed Broomrape	3
120		Orobanchae minor	Common Broomrape	2
121		Papaver rhoeas	Common Poppy	1
122	YES	Pastinaca sativa sens. lat.	Parsnip	6
123		Phleum bertolonii	Smaller Cat's-tail	1
124		Phleum pratense	Timothy	1
125		Phyteuma orbiculare	Round-headed Rampion	2
126	YES	Pimpinella saxifraga	Burnet-saxifrage	6
127	YES	Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	7
128	YES	Plantago major	Greater Plantain	3
129		Plantago media	Hoary Plantain	1
130		Poa pratensis	Smooth Meadow-grass	1
131	YES	Potentilla reptans	Creeping Cinquefoil	7
132	YES	Poterium sanguisorba	Salad Burnet	7
133	YES	Primula veris	Cowslip	7
134	YES	Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal	4
135	YES	Prunus avium	Wild Cherry	3
136		Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	7
137		Pseudofumaria lutea	Yellow Corydalis	1
138	YES	Pulicaria dysenterica	Common Fleabane	7
139		Quercus robur	Pedunculate Oak	3
140		Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup	4
141	YES	Ranunculus bulbosus	Bulbous Buttercup	6
142	YES	Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	7
143		Reseda lutea	Wild Mignonette	6
144	YES	Reseda luteola	Weld	3
145	YES	Rhamnus cathartica	Buckthorn	8
146	YES	Rhinanthus minor	Yellow-rattle	3
147	YES	Robinia pseudoacacia	False-acacia	1
148	YES	Rosa canina	Dog-rose	3
149		Rosa canina agg.	Dog-rose	3

150	YES	Rosa rubiginosa	Sweet-briar	1
151		Rosa sp.	a Rose	1
152	YES	Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	7
153		Rubus idaeus	Raspberry	1
154		Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel	2
155	YES	Rumex crispus	Curled Dock	8
156	YES	Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock	5
157		Rumex sanguineus	Wood Dock	3
158	YES	Salix caprea	Goat Willow	1
159		Salvia verbenaca	Wild Clary	1
160		Sambucus nigra	Elder	7
161		Scabiosa columbiana	Small Scabious	1
162		Schedonorus arundinaceus	Tall Fescue	1
163		Schedonorus pratensis	Meadow Fescue	1
164		Scorzonera autumnalis	Autumn Hawkbit	1
165	YES	Senecio erucifolius	Hoary Ragwort	2
166	YES	Senecio jacobaea	Common Ragwort	8
167	YES	Silene dioica	Red Campion	1
168		Silene latifolia	White Campion	5
169	YES	Silene vulgaris	Bladder Campion	7
170		Sinapis arvensis	Charlock	5
171		Sisymbrium officinale	Hedge Mustard	1
172		Solidago canadensis	Canadian Goldenrod	1
173	YES	Sonchus arvensis	Perennial Sow-thistle	4
174		Sonchus asper	Prickly Sow-thistle	6
175	YES	Sonchus oleraceus	Smooth Sow-thistle	2
176		Sorbus aria	Common Whitebeam	5
177		Stachys sylvatica	Hedge Woundwort	7
178		Stellaria graminea	Lesser Stitchwort	2
179		Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	1
180	YES	Symphytum officinale	Common Comfrey	1
181		Tamus communis	Black Bryony	1
182	YES	Taraxacum agg.	Dandelion	7
183		Taxus baccata	Yew	6
184		Tephrosia integrifolia	Field Fleawort	1
185		Thesium humifusum	Bastard-toadflax	1
186		Thymus polytrichus	Wild Thyme	2
187		Tilia cordata	Small-leaved Lime	1
188		Tonlis japonica	Upright Hedge-parsley	2

189	YES	Trifolium campestre	Hop Trefoil	2
190	YES	Trifolium dubium	Lesser Trefoil	1
191	YES	Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	7
192	YES	Trifolium repens	White Clover	2
193		Tripleurospermum inodorum	Scentless Mayweed	1
194		Tussilago farfara	Colt's-foot	7
195	YES	Urtica dioica	Common Nettle	8
196	YES	Verbascum nigrum	Dark Mullein	9
197		Verbascum thapsus	Great Mullein	4
198		Veronica arvensis	Wall Speedwell	1
199	YES	Veronica chamaedrys	Germander Speedwell	8
200		Veronica filiformis	Slender Speedwell	1
201		Veronica hederifolia	Ivy-leaved Speedwell	4
202		Veronica persica	Common Field-speedwell	3
203		Veronica polita	Grey Field-speedwell	1
204		Veronica serpyllifolia	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	3
205	YES	Viburnum lantana	Wayfaring-tree	4
206	YES	Viburnum opulus	Gelder-rose	3
207	YES	Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch	4
208		Viola canina	Heath Dog-violet	1
209	YES	Viola hirta	Hairy Violet	3
210		Viola odorata	Sweet Violet	2
211		Viola reichenbachiana	Early Dog-violet	1
212	YES	Viola riviniana	Common Dog-violet	5

The following are listed in the SINC. It should be noted that this was not a 24 hour survey and it probably took place on a single summer day in August 2017 and would inevitably have missed many species of seasonal flora and fauna.

Invertebrates

Brimstone, Meadow Brown, Common Blue

The Silver Y Moth (Immigrant)

Glow worms – not visible at that time of the year!

Many species of chalk loving moths, butterflies and other ground dwelling insects would not have been recorded. All are seasonal and many are rarely seen. Chalkland butterflies are specialists. We simply don't know!

Reptiles

Slow worms – numerous in the area but unrecorded by the SINC survey

Mammals

Hedgehogs– were not surveyed but have been seen on the site.

Bats – were not surveyed but have been seen on the site.

Red Fox, Deer, Rabbits, Moles, Badgers may be present but were not observed during the survey.

Birds

Buzzard, Woodpigeon, Green Woodpecker

The absence of small birds can be explained by the inevitable disturbance caused by the SINC recorders, but we simply do not know until a full wildlife survey is conducted.

Informal species sightings recorded on Flowerdown include:-

Chaffinches, Green Woodpeckers, Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Partridge, Pheasants, Wrens, Blue Tits, Great Tits, Robins, Blackbirds

Bats

Field Mice, Red Fox, Hedgehogs, Muntjac and Roe Deer

Slow Worms

Wildlife corridors

This photo shows Flowerdown and the Stud surrounded by fields, trees and hedges allowing easy movement of species.

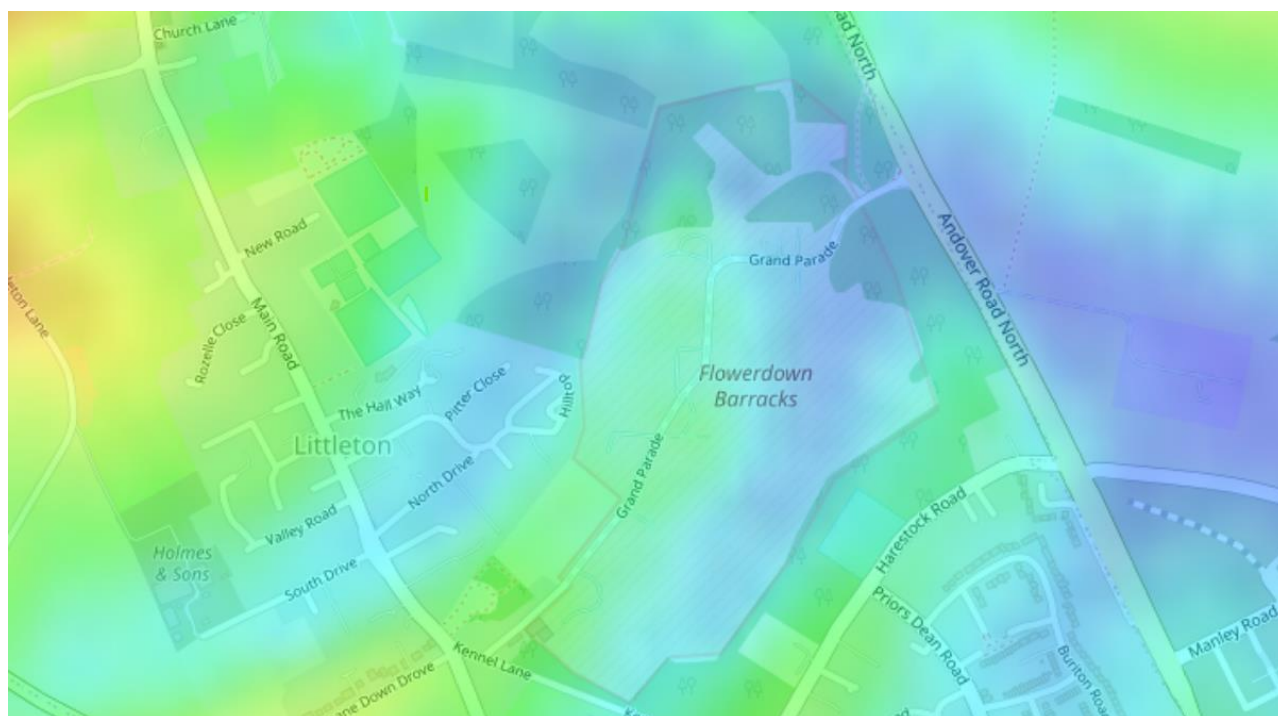


Flooding in Littleton & Flowerdown



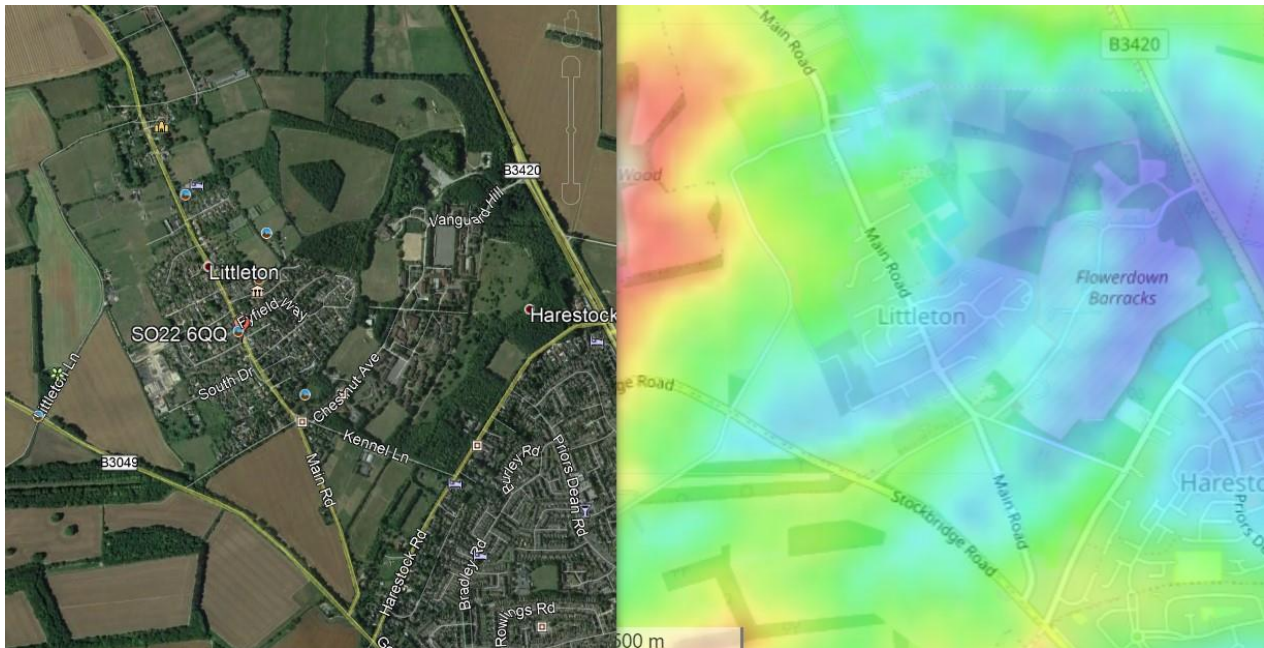
This OS 1 inch 1885-1903 map above neatly shows Flower Down (Hill) with its two valleys that are subject to the Winterbourne flooding crossing Main Road and South Drive and on the other side, half way down Kennel Lane. Flowerdown continues as the steepish hill on Main Road leading up (south) to its junction with Deane Down Drove and Kennel Lane.

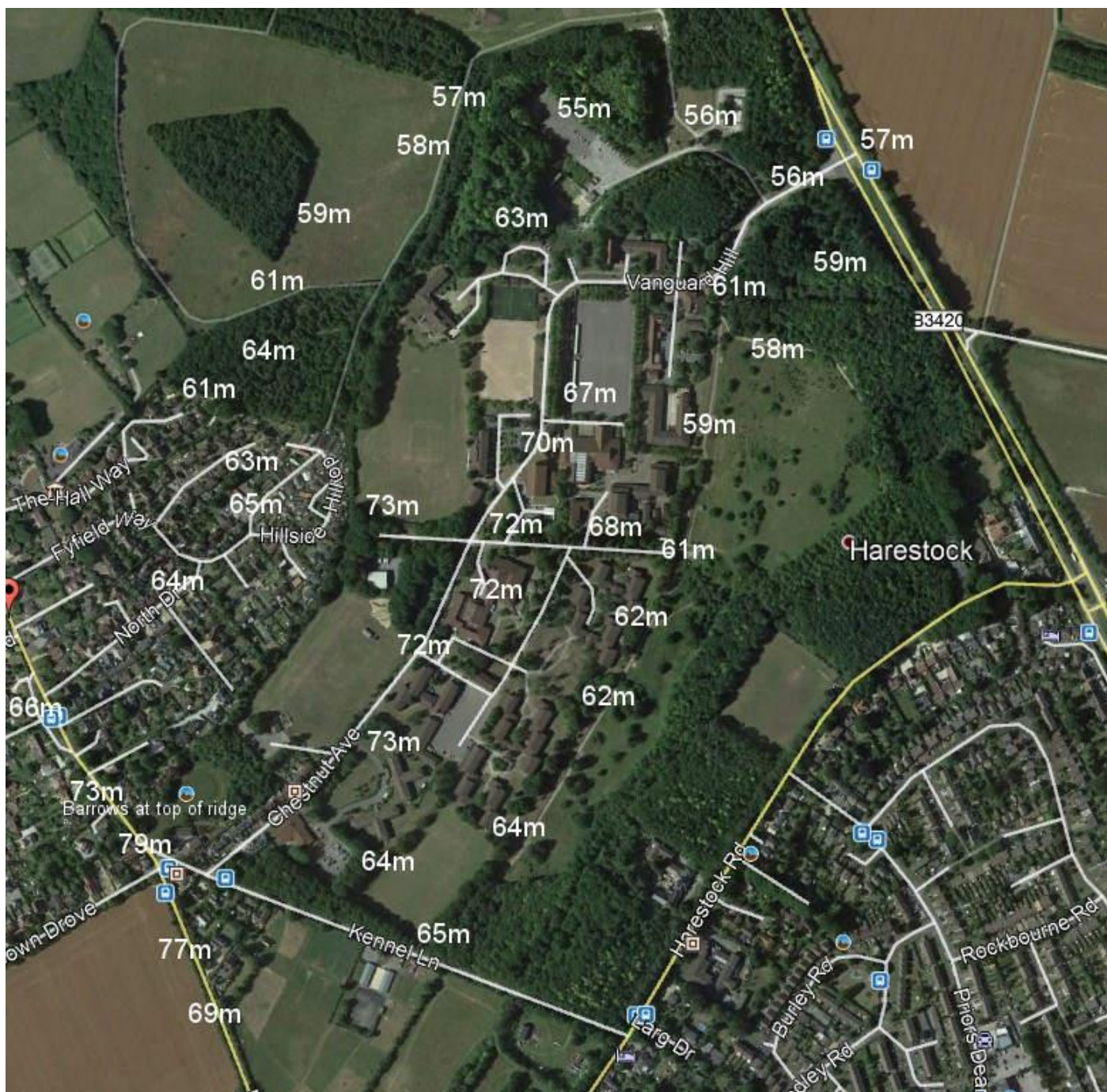
<https://en-gb.topographic-map.com/maps/d75/Winchester/>



Sir John Moore barracks is built on the ridge of Flowerdown away from potential flood areas.

The image below shows a Google Earth map alongside the Government flood map and shows that the Norwest Holst builders sought to avoid any risk of flood damage to the buildings and parade grounds by building mostly on the 70-72 metres contours. The blue valleys are about 64m. It would not make sense to build in the blue areas that are prone to Winterbourne flooding and possible contamination by faecal matter.





This shows that the Norwest Holst hilltop site for the Sir John Moore barracks was built roughly on the 70 - 72m contours. The flood areas are in the valleys on either side. The elevations were measured using Google Earth. The Flowerdown Barrows at the top of the ridge crossing Main Road at about 79m and comprise, three well-preserved Bronze Age burial mounds constructed 4,000 years ago. They were once part of a much larger 'barrow cemetery' standing along the Flowerdown ridge and may have acted as territorial markers.

If this is the case then the adjacent MoD land may be a site of archaeological interest.

There are two bowl barrows and the largest and finest disc barrow in Hampshire. This group is a particularly important prehistoric monument as it survives so well. Almost 75 per cent, of

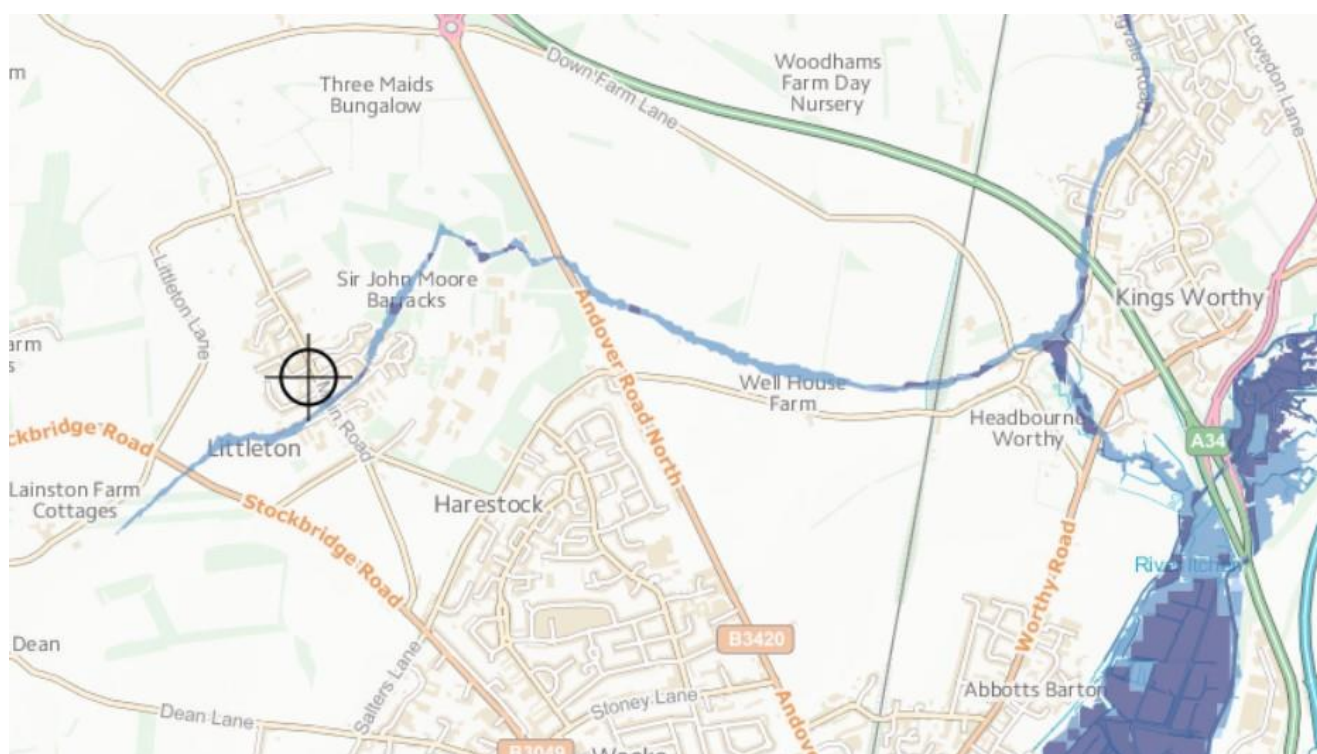
Hampshire barrows have been destroyed or badly damaged by development or ploughing, only 5 per cent survive intact.

..... even in WW1 flooding was a problem! Were they camped on the 64m contour?

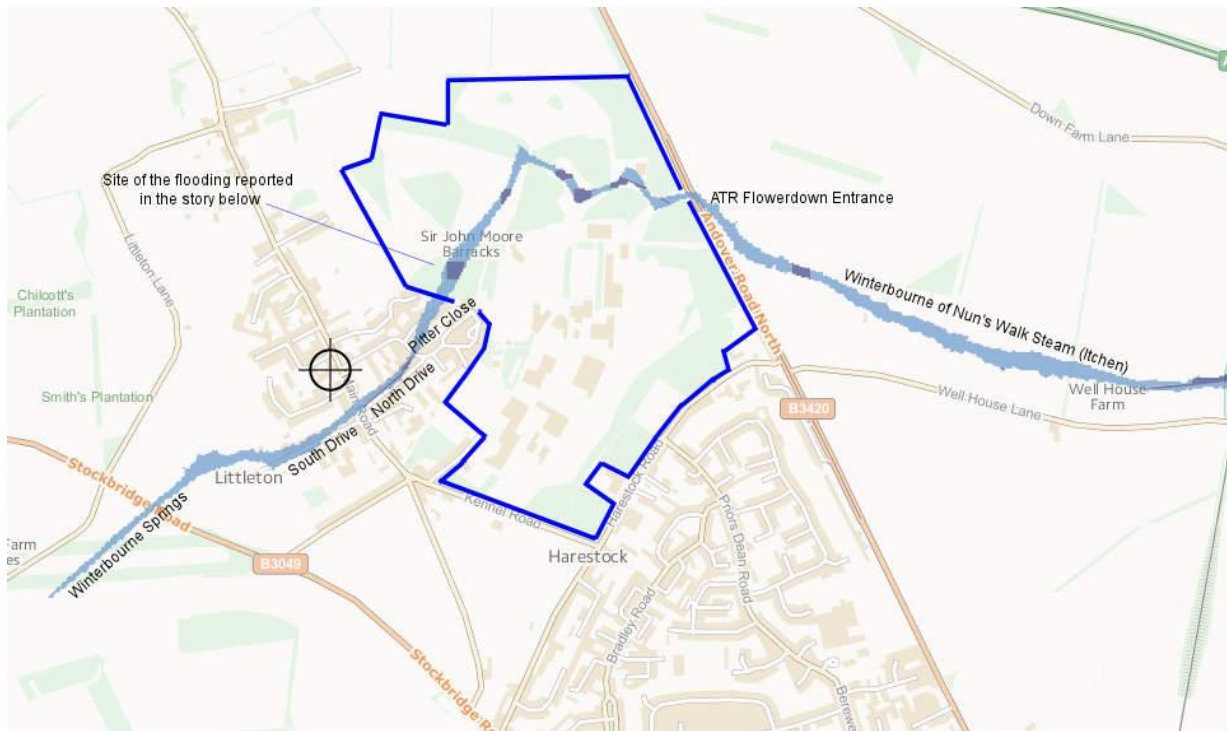


A WW1 post card from Flowerdown "At Mud Down Camp"

The flood map below <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/map?easting=445630&northing=132202&map=RiversOrSea> shows the winterbourne of the Nuns Walk Stream rising from the fields at the end of South Drive Littleton.



Detail showing Flowerdown –Sir John Moore Barracks site



The photographs below were taken in March 2004 and are typical of more recent Littleton flooding.



Source of the Winterbourne



“Pooling” on the land at end of South Drive



...streaming across Main Road



...towards Sir John Moore Flowerdown

A Cautionary Tale

Following a wet winter in the late 1930s, there was flooding in Littleton beyond the present Hall Way. A culvert ran under Andover Road to let the water flow from Flowerdown across the fields to the river at Headbourne Worthy, but it wasn't large enough to take the flood and a lake developed on the Flowerdown side (see flood map above). So, enterprising Littleton lads found a large crate and a couple of old oil drums and with a sense of adventure planned to row across this new lake! With a struggle, they pulled their raft across ploughed fields to the flood, which by now had created a deep lake. This spot is shown on the map below. Many years later, when plans were mooted to build the present Sir John Moore barracks on Flowerdown, a meeting was held between MoD staff and Littleton villagers to discuss their proposals. During this meeting, a much-respected local pointed out to the MoD that where they planned to have their firing range and the entrance to the barracks, lads including himself had boated in the 30s! But alas, his comments were ignored. Later, during the building work, a surveyor who had read the Minutes of the meeting, met with the local. The surveyor told him that as far as they were concerned they could not find any sign of water!

However, a few years later, when Sir John Moore barracks were in use, the lake reappeared and was even bigger than the one the lads had seen before the war! Whilst building the camp entrance, the contractors had removed the culvert under the Andover Road so the water had nowhere to go! As a result, the Army could not use the range or the entrance for three months until the level of the entrance road had been raised by ten feet in the hope that this would prevent a reoccurrence! But of course, the Winterbourne floods occur from time to time and the Hampshire County Council currently have mitigation plans in place to relieve Littleton flood events.

Current planning status of Flowerdown

Winchester City Council Planning Policy

An extract from the Winchester District Local Plan Review Adopted 2006

7.42 Sir John Moore Barracks: This Barracks falls largely within an area of countryside between Winchester and Littleton, which is defined as a Local Gap (see Policy CE.2). It was opened in 1985 as a training centre and the site comprises a number of facilities including living accommodation. Having regard to the need to prevent coalescence between Winchester and Littleton, proposals for expansion are unlikely to be acceptable.

Flowerdown Sir John Moore Barracks and the Littleton Stud to the north have both been offered as SHELAA sites both referenced below. This does not mean that either will be included in the emerging Local Plan.

- The Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (**SHELAA**) is a process that the WCC carry out to find possible land for development. The assessment of land availability is promoted and set out in National **Planning** Practice Guidance.
- The SHELAA is a technical document which provides information on sites; submitted by Landowners and Agents, for potential housing, economic development, in relation to their suitability, availability and achievability. The SHELAA will only identify sites which have been submitted to the council, it does NOT allocate sites. The inclusion of the site in the SHELAA does not imply that the council would necessarily grant planning permission.

LH06 Sir John Moore Barracks 84.2 ha

Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment 2020

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/winchester-district-local-plan-2018-2038-emerging/shlaa-strategic-housing-land-availability-assessment>

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/assets/attach/27092/SHELAA-2020-Appendix-2.pdf>

Littleton Stud

Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment 2019

LH12 Littleton Stud 70.3 Ha

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/winchester-district-local-plan-2018-2038-emerging/shlaa-strategic-housing-land-availability-assessment>

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/assets/attach/19547/SHELAA-2019-Appendix-2-Winchester-and-surrounding-Parishes.pdf>

As far as I can see, Flowerdown is NOT a designated Brownfield site – follow this link to WCC Planning Policy website to view the Brownfield register.

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/monitoring-and-other-planning-documents/brownfield-land-register>

The Winchester City Council's July 2015 position on the status of Flowerdown confirmed 7.42.

The extracts below are from a July 2015 letter found on the web from the WCC and addressed to Mark Lancaster the then Undersecretary of State for Defence stating the Council's position on any development of Flowerdown noting that it was designated as Countryside.

https://www.google.com/search?safe=active&source=hp&ei=iBUAYMDSFo6yUujmjPgG&q=Leader-s-letter-to-Defence-Minister-re-Sir-John-Moore-Barracks-July-2016&oq=Leader-s-letter-to-Defence-Minister-re-Sir-John-Moore-Barracks-July-2016&gs_lcp=CgZwc3ktYWIQA1C-C1i-C2CbGGgAcAB4AIABNogBNpIBATGYAQcQAQKqAQGgAQdnd3Mtd2l6&scient=psy-ab&ved=0ahUKEwjAtsDEIJvuAhUOmRQKHWgzA28Q4dUDCAk&uact=5

Extract 1

Planning policy does not support housing on the Flowerdown site. The barracks sit in land designated as countryside, being outside the settlement boundaries, and our adopted Local Plan does not generally support new market housing development in such areas. About half the land of the barracks falls within a 'Settlement Gap' between Winchester and the nearby village of Littleton. As a result, any proposals for housing that may be brought forward at this time would be contrary to national and local policies. The Council would have no option but to strongly resist such a significant departure from the Local Plan.

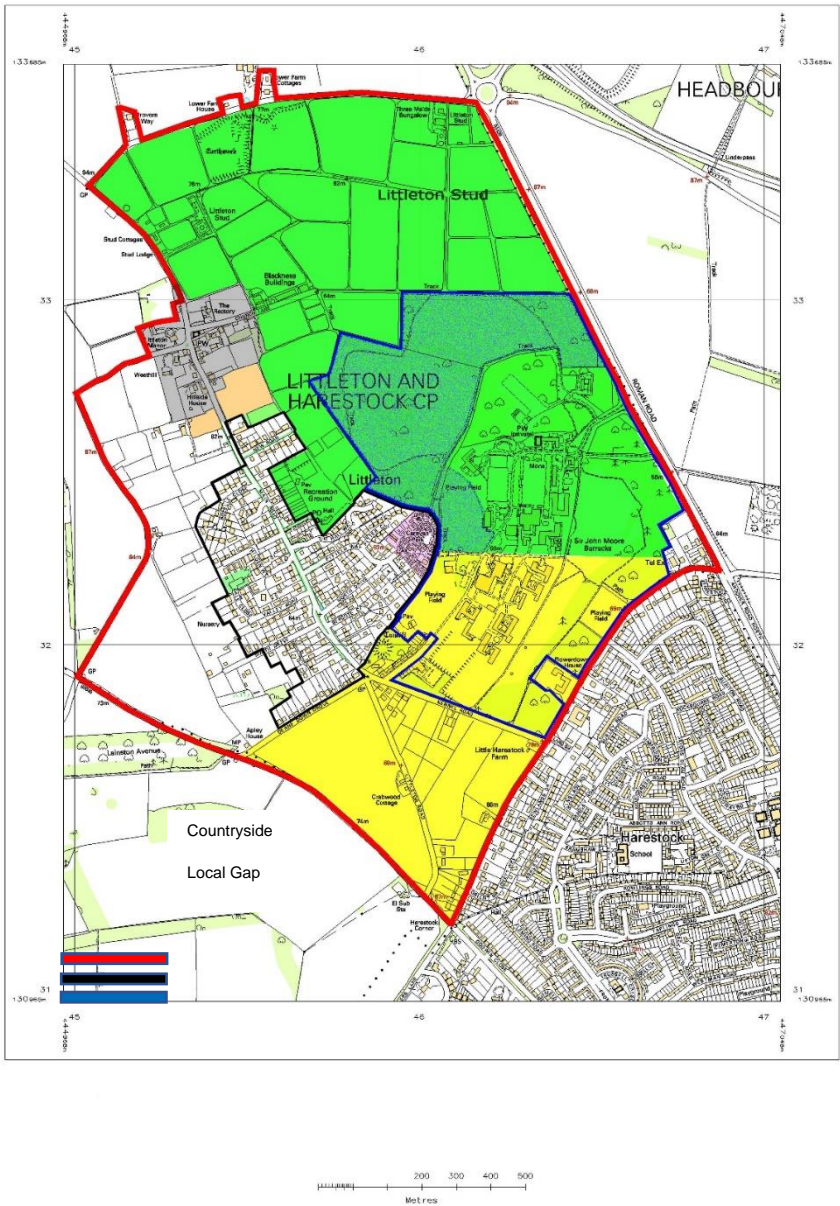
Extract 2

Winchester City Council is very keen to exploit opportunities for use of any redundant public land, particularly to retain local employment. Should a decision be made to vacate Sir John Moore Barracks, the DIO should be aware that Winchester City Council will resist any proposal to develop the barracks primarily for housing. I would expect the local community would also voice significant concerns about such a proposal. However, we would be very supportive of any appropriate proposal that conforms with our Local Plan.

Littleton & Harestock Parish Council policy on Flowerdown

The Littleton Village Design Statement is an adopted adjunct to the Winchester District Local Plan Review (2006) providing supplementary guidance on planning decisions. The current 2009 VDS is presently being updated by the Littleton & Harestock Parish Council.

The entire Flowerdown site (see 7.42 above) is designated in the Local Plan as **Countryside** (marked in green). The southern part of Flowerdown has a higher level of protection being designated as a **Local Gap** (marked in yellow). The Local Gap is to prevent coalescence between the Harestock and the Littleton settlements.



4.4 The two main approach roads are the B3420 from Andover and B3049 from Stockbridge. The village is almost completely screened from these roads by the rolling landscape and tree and hedge cover. The narrow rural roads leading into the village, the high banks on either side of the road, the long frontages and well set back houses and the many large trees and bushes all contribute to the hidden nature and rural appearance of Littleton.

4.5 The **Sir John Moore Barracks** occupies a large area of Littleton to the east of the village and lies partly in the Local Gap. With the rolling landscape, extensive woodland planting, and an area of countryside between the barracks and the village, the proximity of the army base has no great impact on Littleton's character. There is, however, some concern that the barracks could further encroach upon the village through building development and an increase in artificial lighting. The view was expressed by the public at the VDS workshop in 2000 that any future development at the barracks should seek to maintain and enhance the existing green landscape character.

4.6 The open space around the **Sir John Moore barracks** identified and located in Chapter 7 (DG 8 & DG 10) is an important feature that should be maintained in order to prevent coalescence with the village and loss of village character.

4.7 The designation of Conservation Area status for the older part of the village is of great importance to residents. This area should be preserved by maintaining its existing countryside boundaries (as defined in the WDLP Review 2006) and in particular the important area of countryside and woodland between the Conservation Area in the north and the newer parts of the village to the south identified and located in Chapter 7 (DG 9).

4.8 St Catherine's Church, the Millennium Memorial Hall, the Recreation Ground, and the Running Horse Public House are among the features considered to be important by villagers and every effort should be made to retain these popular amenities and the associated community services. In accordance with Littleton's existing policy of minimal artificial night lighting, any further increase in lighting of these amenities should be kept to a minimum.

The military history of Flowerdown

The following extracts are from the Hampshire County Council Archive research paper on sources of the 'History of Flowerdown Camp' Reference 11A20/1.

Pre-history

- Bronze Age burials in the Flowerdown Barrows (English Heritage)
- Flowerdown lies appropriately next to the straight Roman military road from Winchester to Mildenhall.

From 1914 to 1977 it is estimated that more than 20,000 men and women served at Flowerdown..

Many wrote moving stories telling of their time at Flowerdown – their loyal service to our country should be recognised by the MoD and DOI by preserving the existing Green areas and dedicating the Chapel to those who served our country at Flowerdown...

Edwardian period

- A hint of things to come? - an early flight of a Bleriot monoplane from Flowerdown

World War 1

- Military units of many nations pass through or are based at Flowerdown among these are:-
- 1915 RASC "Remount "centre for horses requisitioned for the Army
- 1915 7th Battalion The King's Shropshire Light Infantry
- Royal Army Medical Corps 77th Field Ambulance
- Royal Artillery Motor Machine Gun Battery Units (17th Division)
- 8th Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment
- 130th (St John) Field Ambulance
- 1916 Royal Field Artillery- Heavy Artillery Units
- 1917 Allied Czech Army Units
- 1918 United States Army Air Service (USAAS), 8th Aero Squadron, 1107th Aero Replacement Squadron, 841st Aero Squadron, 325th Aero Squadron, 638th Aero Squadron
- Late 1918 - Royal Flying Corps Brooklands transfer to Flower Down and their flying wing to nearby Worthy Down (HMS Kestrel)
- Stated intention is to make Britain a world leader in military aircraft radio communications through the technical work at Flowerdown.

Between the wars

- Littleton Parish Hall built & dedicated to those of Littleton who served and fell
- 1920 RAF Electrical & Wireless School established at Flowerdown

- In 1921 Winston Churchill says....*At Flowerdown, there is an electrical and wireless school I need scarcely say is the head of an extremely elaborate, complicated, and mentally dominating study and art, which has its relation to the general purpose we have in hand...*
- The RAF Electrical & Wireless School dance band and symphony orchestra!
- Engineering workshops set up to manufacture radio components for aircraft
- 1925 Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Trenchard says.. *"I consider Flowerdown as the backbone of the Royal Air Force"*.
- 1930 The RAF base moves to RAF Cranwell and the Royal Navy take over the RAF facilities and rename it as shore-based **HMS Flowerdown**

World War 2

- 1937 RN Direction finding team set up to locate and destroy enemy shipping
- 1939 Merlin Theodore Minshall arrives at Flowerdown (One of the inspirations behind James Bond, the fictional spy created by Ian Fleming)
- Sir Robert Watson Watt & his team develop radio-fingerprinting & TINA enemy operator id
- HMS Flowerdown Naval 'listeners' (mostly Wrens - WRNS) listen to top secret Enigma coded messages from enemy transmitters received through the giant aerials and pass these to Bletchley Park for decoding.
- 1940 Bombing attack and death on H.M.S. Flowerdown. German papers reported that HMS Flowerdown had been sunk!
- March 1941 Assists Bletchley Park - Battle of Matapan (Eastern Mediterranean)
- May 1941 Successfully locates German pocket battleship *Bismarck*
- May 1945 locates Japanese Cruiser *Haguro* - Battle of the Malacca Straits
- The 'Wombles' creator, Elisabeth Beresford, based at H.M.S Flowerdown!

Post War

- 1964 - 1970's Many local civilians still employed on GCHQ classified work
- 1960 Royal Corps of Signals continue to monitor military signals
- 1977 Final closure of the Flowerdown Y station and transfer of staff to GCHQ
- 1983 Construction of Sir John Moore Barracks at Flowerdown for The Rifles
- 1993 Sir John Moore barracks designated as a depot of the Army Training Regiment
- 2020 The MoD announce the closure of Flowerdown

Appendix: Notes on the construction of Sir John Moore Barracks

Major Dennis Williams MBE, the Army Project Liaison Officer assigned to coordinate the building work, wrote this account of the construction of Sir John Moore barracks on the then disused Flowerdown site in September 1999. His account is included in full because it provides detailed information about Sir John Moore barracks built site and discusses at length the Chapel and its works of art. He also describes the statues and historic artefacts that should be conserved for posterity.

He generously donated a set of 21 slides and 8 large photographic prints to the Littleton History Society's archives. Unfortunately, the whereabouts of these are presently unknown but they may be in the Hampshire Record Office catalogue No. 199M86 Littleton Local History Group; *Chronicling Littleton, 1985-1986 item 8/12 Sir John Moore Barracks : notes & photographs of construction.*

Colour Slides - Sir John Moore Barracks

1. Construction of new entrance. (A.Cootes - Superintending Architect, R.J.O.Jones - Project Manager, Major (Retd) D.Williams, MBE - Army Project Liaison Officer).
2. Bottom of valley
3. Looking towards Littleton from crest of hill - roughly area of Officers Mess.
4. Crest of hill.
5. The last crop of cereals.
6. Top road looking towards Chestnut Avenue.
7. Crest of hill looking towards Harestock, main comms building in valley.
8. Sir John Moore.
9. Area of statues looking towards Depot HQ and Chapel.
10. Rear of Sergeants Mess.
11. Training Wing & Boiler House
12. Boiler House with Physical & Recreational Training Centre in background.
13. Training Wing.
14. Mounds of spoil constructed around Range Area.
15. Mounds of spoil constructed around Range Area.
16. Recruit accommodation blocks.
17. Junior Ranks Club and Mess
18. Junior Ranks Club and Mess.
19. View inside Physical & Recreational Training Centre.
20. Parade Ground looking towards Chapel, with Medical & Dental Centre on light.
21. Chapel & Depot HQ.

Colour Photographs - Sir John Moore Barracks

1. Aerial view of Flowerdown prior to construction of Recruit accommodation blocks
2. Aerial view Flowerdown during construction of Recruit accommodation blocks
3. Large panoramic view of Winchester & Littleton showing the Peninsular Barracks and the proposed site for Sir John Moore Barracks
4. Construction work in the Range area

After a wide-ranging review of potential sites for the new depot to replace Peninsular Barracks, Winchester, the Army Board agreed that the Flowerdown site - formerly a RN Communications site owned by the MOD - was the most appropriate. The site met the criteria of "ease of access" to appropriate ranges, training areas, civilian amenities and excellent road and rail communications. The requisite number of married quarters were available at no extra cost.

The new build decision reflected the growing realisation that modernisation or conversion of an existing asset such as Peninsular Barracks with some additional new buildings is not a cost effective or functional solution to this type of project. Conversion costs have been found to be equal to or higher than a new build yet offering approximately one-third of the future economic life of a new build.

The PSA and the quartering staff were well aware of the mistakes of the Sixties “new builds” epitomised by Aldershot. Sir John Moore Barracks was built of conventional materials with brick exteriors and pitched tiled roofs. The buildings incorporate high insulation factors, gas central heating, coated aluminium windows and quality fittings to ensure low maintenance. Extensive landscaping of the site and a tree preservation and planting programme were included in the contract.

The project was split into a preliminary and 4 main phases:

- Preliminary. Alteration to B3420 road and creation of new site entrance - completed Spring 1983.
- Phase 1. Landscaping and provision of sports pitches ahead of main contract to allow time to settle and mature.
- Phase 2 Build of sufficient accommodation and training facilities to open the new depot and to close the Depot at Shrewsbury while still using part of Peninsula Barracks in Winchester. This was completed in 1985.
- Phase 3 Concurrent with Phase 2 but a separate contract to build a Physical and Recreational Training Centre (P&RTC), a swimming pool and a training theatre. These were completed by the end of 1985.
- Phase 4. Completion of Officer Mess and accommodation for Junior Soldiers. The final elements were handed over to the MOD on 1 August 1986.

The Flowerdown Site

The Royal Navy occupied the site prior to and throughout WW2 and it was they who erected the aerial masts to serve the ‘Y’ station. Each mast had four concrete blocks at the base to which aerial support cables were attached. Those blocks constructed before 1939 measured about 3 cu m., whilst those built during the war were 1.5 cu m.

A number of organisations leased buildings on the site - The Civil Service Sports and Social Club occupied what was the Main Officers Mess, HM Prison occupied at least two buildings and there was a thriving Agricultural Club (connected to the Civil Service). Along the crest of the hill in the camp were a number of old single storey lecture rooms, these had been converted into bungalows which were occupied by retired employees.

Whilst a few buildings were occupied, the larger part of the site was derelict and, as such, did not raise revenue for the parish. On completion of the barracks the Treasury Solicitor pays a contribution in lieu of rates/council tax to Winchester City Council who in turn pay a precept to the parish.

The original site extended to Harestock Road, excepting the few houses at the junction of Harestock and Andover Road North. The site of the Telephone Exchange was later handed over

to the GPO. Flowerdown House had at some time formed a part of the site and, prior to the build of the new barracks, it was surveyed with a view to buying it back with funds raised from selling a large MoD house in Winchester. As the upper floors had not been used for many years it would have proved too costly. (This was before the present Nursing Home). The fields to the North West of the site were leased to the farmer for grazing.

The Andover Road North Sewage Treatment Plant was also part of the MoD Estate. It was handed over to Southern Water Authority early in 1982.

The construction of Sir John Moore Barracks

Access to the site had been via a blind entrance on Andover Road North, the intention being to make the new main entrance at the Chestnut Avenue end of the barracks. However, as no military transport was to be based in the barracks and it would all come from Worthy Down it was felt that the main entrance would be better sited on the Andover Road. The County Highways Engineer agreed the sight lines and, at a later date, the Chief Constable became involved and also agreed the position of the main access road. At the time Hampshire County Council was widening the area of the Hockley Traffic Lights on the Winchester Bypass. They were able to tender for the construction of the new entrance and use it to dispose of their spoil.

The project was designed by the Property Services Agency (PSA) with some assistance from a number of Agency Architectural and Engineering firms. During the Design Stage the PSA produced a Climatic Chart for the site. This showed that all the extremes of temperature and weather in the Winchester area had been experienced at Flowerdown. During the winter of 1983/4 a temperature of -28°C was recorded in the valley where the main signals building had been.

Norwest Holst (Southern) were awarded the contract and the site was handed over to them on 1st August 1983. The final elements of the build were taken over on 1st August 1986.

It was felt that bricks used on other military sites at that time were too bland. The PSA architects therefore chose attractive bricks. Their selection was confirmed by Winchester City Planning Department and buildings at the entrance and the largest buildings were clad in red Ockley bricks with red tiles. The remainder of the buildings were built with Redland Funton Stock bricks with brown tiles.

The barracks were designed to hold two companies of adult soldiers, two companies of junior soldiers, holdees and TA trainees. There is accommodation for permanent staff, a complex for the band and buglers, a quartermaster's department and a training wing which includes offices, classrooms and a lecture theatre, a Depot Headquarters along with a new Chapel, a large Junior Ranks Club and Mess, an Officers Mess and a Mess for the Warrant Officers and Sergeants. Also included are Medical and Dental departments and the usual Guardroom. An indoor 25 metre swimming pool and adjacent sports hall covers the physical side of the training.

The barracks were built in the centre of the site on raised ground with sports pitches located on the Southern and Western sides. A training area and woodland covered the Eastern side. It had been anticipated that two rifle ranges would be constructed, a 25 yard range and a 100 yard baffled range on the Northern boundary. The 25 yard range was built and is still in use. However, because of two accidents at Ash Ranges near Aldershot (neither of which involved a baffled range) the larger range has never been constructed.

It will be remembered that the M3 motorway was being constructed at the same time as the barracks. Hampshire County Council were having difficulty disposing of their spoil and it was decreed that no spoil would leave our site. The large man-made hills at the Northern boundary contain 250,000 cu m of spoil and buried under the easternmost mound are the aerial mast concrete blocks in neat rows.

During the contract only two mature trees were felled, but 38,500 were planted along with thousands of spring bulbs.

The Director of the PSA controlled a fund for the provision of pieces of artistic sculpture for government buildings, and it was deemed that this project should have such a work of art. The Director of Army Quartering formed a committee which included Sir Anthony Lusada (advisor to The Queen), Willy Sukov (past President of the Royal College of Sculptures), PSA reps and reps from The Light Infantry and The Royal Green Jackets. The PSA tabled a proposal that sculpture should be a modern piece. This did not find favour with the military reps on the committee and it proposed that we should have a statue of Sir John Moore as he was connected to both regiments. At this point Sir Anthony Lusada and Willy Sukov said that one statue looked too much like a memorial and that there should be a group. Without any argument it was agreed that two lesser statues should be provided, a Light Infantry Bugler in full dress and a Royal Green Jacket Rifleman in modern combat dress with weapon. The bugler was easy to model but the equipment and SA80 rifle had not been issued but, fortunately, the Quartermaster General's staff were extremely helpful and equipment and rifle were borrowed. A little time previously the MOD had held a competition to appoint a sculptor to produce a statue of Field Marshal Wavell for the Guards, this was won by James Butler, RA. This statue stands in the forecourt of Wellington Barracks facing Birdcage Walk. It was then decided that we would not have a competition and that James Butler would get the commission.

The three statues stand on Winstone Granite plinths. Sir John Moore was born in Scotland and this is Scottish granite. In the same area as the statues is the plinth on which stands the bronze plaque unveiled by HM the Queen. This plinth is made from cast concrete containing small black pebbles, known as whallies which come from the lower reaches of the River Thames. It had been hoped to plant Minden roses in the landscaping immediately behind the statues, as the Light Infantry had fought in the battle in 1759, but they do not exist. They are 'dog roses', however as HM The Queen Mother is Colonel in Chief of the Light Infantry, pink roses named Elizabeth of Glamis were planted.

Just inside the main entrance to the barracks there stand a set of inner gates. These were originally the gates from Peninsula Barracks which led from the Officers Mess into St James' Lane, Winchester.

During the construction, a lady appeared at the perimeter fence asking if she could come and look at the site as she had once lived there. It transpired that her father had served in the Navy at HMS Flowerdown and some families lived on site in the converted lecture rooms previously mentioned. She remembered a bomb hitting one of these buildings and that some family members were killed. The next day all the families were evacuated to Poole and Weymouth. She later emigrated to Canada and this was her first visit to Flowerdown since then. The bomb dropped on a spot where the tennis courts are now located opposite the Junior Ranks Mess.

In the early stages of the contract everyone was alerted to the possibility of archaeological items being discovered. The one collection of bones proved to be animal and the one piece of pottery, which was handed into the Hyde Resources Centre, was identified as Romano-British.

The buildings, with the exception of the Officers and Sergeants Messes, were placed in the valley away from Littleton Village. The positioning of the sports fields and training area around the perimeter attempted to keep noise levels to a minimum. Before the barracks were completed sound attenuation tests were carried out over a number of days. Knowing that weapon fire could be the most disturbing, live and blank rounds were fired in the middle of the site (not in the area of the range) and the noise registered at the following locations: Three Maids Hill, the Telephone Exchange, football pitch opposite entrance to Priors Dean Road, Chestnut Avenue, the mobile home park, and the Recreation Ground.

Mention has been made earlier of the Civil Service Sports and Social Club. In view of the fact that they had to vacate their leased premises, the MoD handed over the plot of land adjacent to Chestnut Avenue to enable them to build a new club. In addition, they were compensated in the sum of £27,000 for the loss of their wooden pavilion on the sports field.

Before 1984 the water pressure in the area, especially in Littleton Village, fluctuated. The construction of the barracks meant that Southern Water, with a cash contribution from the MOD, had to construct a new water tower behind Teg Down which went a long way to stabilising the water pressure in the surrounding area.

Prior to the project there was no mains gas in the area and British Gas were not prepared to provide it. Thus, the intention was to use solid fuel boilers for the new barracks. After the contract had been let British Gas declared they had the capacity and that for a contribution they would provide gas.

Towards the end of the last century a local Littleton farmer had unearthed a Sarsen Stone weighing approximately 2.5 tons on his land. When he moved to Chilcombe House he dragged the stone on a horse drawn sledge through Winchester (Hampshire Chronicle). During the construction of the M3 extension Hampshire County Museum Service, who then occupied Chilcombe House, asked the village if they wanted the stone back otherwise it was due to be buried under the motorway. The MoD arranged the move in conjunction with Norwest Holst to its present location in the village. Hampshire Constabulary closed off the roads and Southern Electricity Board turned off the power to allow the stone to be lifted over the main electricity cables.

Sir John Moore Barracks was the first custom-built Infantry Training Barracks to be built since before World War 2. It therefore attracted much interest not only in the MOD but also among foreign armies. During the three years of the construction many delegations visited the site, including, American, Canadian, French, German, Italian, Jordanian, Saudi Arabian, Swedish and the Trucial States.

HM The Queen, as Colonel in Chief of The Royal Green Jackets, performed the Opening Ceremony on 27th November 1986. A most unusual feature of the day was that HRH Princess Alexandra, as Deputy Colonel in Chief of The Light Infantry, was also in attendance. After the Opening Ceremony they toured the barracks separately. They then met and had lunch in the Officers Mess with invited guests. After lunch HM The Queen left for the Royal Hampshire County Hospital where she opened the new operating theatre wing.

It is worth noting that also in attendance at the ceremony and from The Light Division were 3 Field Marshals, 9 generals, 6 Lieutenant Generals, 17 Major Generals, 7 Brigadiers and 2 VC holders. HM The Queen's Private Secretary wrote that he doubted whether any Division past or present could match this.

In 1989 the Colonel-in-Chief of The Light Infantry, HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother visited and planted eight trees to commemorate the eight Light Infantrymen killed in Northern Ireland at Ballygorley.

In 1987 it was learnt that Littleton Parish Council was keen to acquire a parcel of land close to the recreation ground.

Flowerdown Chapel

The chapel was designed by Alan Whitehead and John Studley, both of Edmund Tory Associates from Hemel Hempstead. The design incorporates 14 laminated beams imported from Sweden as were the glass chandeliers.

The Chaplain General at the time of the design declared that it was not necessary to have an external cross on the chapel as this would enable the altar to be covered and the building used as a function room. In addition, some denominations do not display the 'cross'. However, once the church was under construction the new Chaplain General insisted that a cross be displayed. As the build was too far advanced to alter, John Studley designed the bronze glass cross in the window above the organ.

Goddard and Gibbs of Shoreditch carried out the stained-glass window work. The existing windows were removed from the Garrison Chapel (now the Everyman cinema) in Peninsula Barracks, Winchester, under the directions of the General Manager of the firm, Mr H Hamilton-Welch. They were taken to London and refurbished, the 60th and Rifle Brigade windows were 'squared' at the top to allow them to be fitted into door panels. It was agreed by the Regiments that the Ox & Bucks windows along with the 60th and Rifle Brigade windows would be displayed at a lower level than previous to fit in with the design of the building.

Two new stained-glass windows were commissioned by The Light Infantry and The Royal Green Jackets for insertion behind the altar. Goddard & Gibbs made these windows and the principal artist was John Lawson. A conscious decision was made to incorporate old and new glass into these windows. The very dark pieces of glass are early and mid-Victorian whilst the paler glass is modern. The cost of refurbishing those windows moved from the Garrison Chapel was borne by the project, whilst the two new windows, costing £1,750 each, were paid for by the respective Regiments.

All Green Jacket plaques in the Garrison Chapel were transferred to the new building and all plaques of other Regiments were returned to them.

The organ, which had been presented to The Rifle Brigade by the 2nd Lord Northbrook with a brass plate stating it was to be used for 'Church of England services only' was refurbished before re-erection in the new chapel. To avoid any future embarrassment the plate was sited in a more discreet position.

The old altar which had been presented by General Elvington, the Colonel Commandant of The Rifle Brigade, was moved to the new chapel. The altar backing screen which had been presented by Major General Mitchell KRRC was not used but passed to the custody of the chaplain.

The project provided a new pulpit and font. The original stone font now stands outside the Regimental Museum in Peninsula Barracks. The brass lectern from the Garrison Chapel was found to be attributable to a KOYLI Battalion and was re-sited. It was discovered during the build that it is not mandatory to use Royal Blue carpet at the altar. A Wilton carpet as near Rifle Green colour has been used. A number of Colours and Banners were re-located from the old Chapel.

They now hang in the foyer and the Church Room. These are: Ceylon Tea Planters Rifles (Colour), The Kenya Regiment (2 Colours), King's African Rifle Old Comrades (Banner), British Legion Nairobi Boards (Banner), British Legion Kenya Branch (Banner), British Legion African Subbranch (Banner) and South African War Veterans Winchester and District Branch (Banner). Some of these have their own plaque and the Kenya Regiment also has a framed Roll of Honour.

An unusual feature of the Garrison Chapel was a carved rail immediately in front of the first row of pews. This was removed and re-sited as the rail around the organ platform in the new chapel. The craftsman working on it stated that whilst the top rail and uprights were Victorian the carved area was very old and had been cut with an adze. At a later date a party from the WI visited the site and Mrs Carpenter Turner stated that the rail had originally come from St Maurice's Church in Winchester (Debenhams site). An elderly lady in the party said that the husband had been the vergier at St Maurice's and that the rail had been presented to the Garrison Chapel when the church was demolished -see discussion below.

With very few exceptions military churches and chapels are not consecrated, they are dedicated. This dates from the times when troops were always on the move, here today and gone tomorrow, thus places of worship were never consecrated. The new chapel at Sir John Moore Barracks was dedicated on Easter Day, 30th March 1986 by The Venerable W.F. Johnston, CB, MC, QHC Chaplain General.

An early 14th Century oak screen taken from the Garrison Chapel in Winchester now fences the organ and font at the North end of the new chapel. This screen was the subject of an article by Dr Charles Tracy in the December 1994 Volume of the Journal of the British Archaeological Association. An extract is given below:

"The sections of miniaturised oak screenwork have had a chequered history. The earliest known manifestation was as part of the new furnishings of the rebuilt medieval church of St Maurice south of the High Street in the city itself, and practically within the cathedral precincts. St Maurice's was reconsecrated on 21 July 1842. In 1954 it was demolished, the screenwork passing into the guardianship of the British Army at Peninsula Barracks at Winchester. In 1985 it was moved to the new barracks outside the City.

Unfortunately, there seems to be no reference to the setting-up of the screenwork at St Maurice's, in either the diocesan records or the Cathedral Chapter Act Book, the Chapter Minutes or the Treasurer's Book. The possibility that the woodwork may have come from the cathedral will be discussed later. On its removal from the Peninsula Barracks to the new Light Division chapel, two of the ancient screen bays were mitred down the middle to facilitate the present un-historical three-sided arrangement.

There can be little doubt that from a stylistic point of view, the only one available to us, the screenwork must date from the second decade of the fourteenth century. The admixture of a skeleton of conventional Rayonnant-type arcading and reversed-curve decorated trefoils and quatrefoils in the arch heads, manifests a style in metamorphosis. A plank of oak could lend itself to a tracing ground for a master-carver. In this case the artist let free his imagination with compass and dividers. With his prolific and playful exploitation of the reversed curve, he seems to have been feeling his way towards full-scale tracery reticulation, which had already been achieved by architects, as early as 1311, for instance at the Wykeham Chapel, Spalding.

It is almost certain that the screenwork came from a greater church. As there was one within a stone's throw of St Maurice's, the likelihood that the furniture had travelled no further than the radius of the cathedral precinct to find a new home seems overwhelming.

From where in the cathedral could this length of miniaturised screenwork have emanated? At ground level it might probably have looked out of place in such a large building. Too high up it would not have been seen. That it was intended to be set up above eye level is confirmed by the fact that the faces in the oculi are looking down. As on the earlier choirstalls, the eyeballs are gouged, and would originally have been filled with paste. No doubt the screenwork was polychromed, like most choirstalls above 'seat' level, although all trace of this has gone.

There is a vacant space above the feretory in the cathedral for such a structure. The bases of the transverse arches which site on the platform above the screen consist of three courses of rough masonry at the bottom, with two courses of finished and decorated stonework above. Our screenwork must have always been about the height that it is today. If it were to be stood on the platform above the stone arcade of the feretory screen it would overlap the finished courses of the plinth masonry by about 6 cm. Moreover, there is a pair of scored lines along the length of the platform running in a north-south direction. These are not mason's tuning out lines. Rather, they indicate the line of some structure to be laid along the top of the platform. It is also noticeable that the back of the arcade crockets of the feretory screen have been mutilated in places to accommodate something behind them.

Whereas it can be shown that the height of the wooden screen is appropriate for the adduced position, the lengthways measurements do not conform. The bay widths of the stone and wooden screens, being 89.5 cm and 35.3 cm respectively, do not conform either singly or in multiples of two. Whatever it was that embellished the top of the refectory screen, it cannot have been our screenwork. Nor is it likely that the screen was used as a backing to stalls, as in Bishop Stapledon's contemporaneous choir refurnishing in Exeter Cathedral.

This leaves the possibility of a raised fence around a monument, or something similar. The fact that the screen is only single-sided would support this hypothesis. Such an object was and may still be exemplified in the chapel of St Gobrien in the church of St Servant in Brittany. In an early twentieth century photograph a two-tier wooden 'cloture' surrounds the stone tomb of the saint. The tomb seems to have been always standing in the same position in a corner, as only one of the long sides of the surrounding screen is decorated. The carving is only of provincial quality and is probably of the late thirteenth or early fourteenth-century date. There are no comparable wooden tomb enclosures of this date remaining in England."

References

Photographs

<https://www.geograph.org.uk/search.php?i=127021328> under the Creative Commons agreement and to Mr. Peter Facey.

Chalkland Flowerdown

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<http://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/downloads/Chalk%20Grassland%20Restoration.pdf>

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The various areas of the Flowerdown site

www.freemaptools.com/area-calculator.htm and Google Maps.

Flooding in Littleton & Flowerdown

<https://en-gb.topographic-map.com/maps/d75/Winchester/>

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The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

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Current Planning Status of Flowerdown

Littleton Village Design Statement

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/assets/attach/3731/LittletonVillageDesignStatement.pdf>

Winchester District Local Plan Local Plan Review 2006 (WDLP Review 2006)

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/assets/attach/4049/Local-Plan-Review-Adopted-July-2006-1-.pdf>

Winchester City 2020 Brown Field Register

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/monitoring-and-other-planning-documents/brownfield-land-register>

The Military History of Flowerdown & Notes on the construction of Sir John Moore Barracks

Hampshire County Council Archive 'History of Flowerdown Camp' Reference 11A20/1 Brian Middleton

Hampshire County Council Archive 'Photographs & Memories of Life on Harestock Farm' Reference 51A20/1