

Application Name: **G-47 Quartermaster Depot and Hill Camp, Westbury, Wiltshire**

Number: 1497555

Type: New

Heritage Category: Scheduling

Address:

Storridge Road, Westbury, BA13 4HX

County	District	District Type	Parish
	Wiltshire	Unitary Authority	Heywood
	Wiltshire	Unitary Authority	Westbury

Recommendation: **Reject**

Assessment

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

We have received a request to consider scheduling the site of the US G-47 General Quartermaster Depot and Hill Camp, Westbury, due to the threat of development.

Part of the site is currently subject to an outline planning application (Wiltshire Council reference PL/2026/03375) for the demolition of 5 and 6 Storridge Road and the erection of up to 165 dwellings with associated infrastructure.

The land is not located within a conservation area.

The application was supported by a large quantity of social history research, which we are very grateful for. We have considered this information carefully, but our report is not intended to be exhaustive, and we can only take account of national importance based on current information.

HISTORY AND DETAILS

Land immediately to the north-west of The Ham on the north-western periphery of Westbury has archaeological evidence dating back to the Roman period. In the central part of the site is a medieval moated site that is scheduled. The southern part of the site was possibly used by the Westbury Ironworks in the late C19.

During the Second World War, a United States G-47 General Quartermaster Depot and a prisoner-of-war camp known as Hill Camp were established at the site. The northern part was occupied by the General Quartermaster Depot and appears to have accommodated military personnel and served as a logistics depot in the build-up of American troops and supplies in Britain prior to the Normandy landings of 6 June

1944, known by the codename Operation Bolero. It is understood that the depot was laid out with 11 rows of Romney huts and some Nissen huts arranged around a network of roads. In 1942, a railway spur gave direct access from the depot to the mainline. An aerial photograph from 1945 shows the extent of the camp and the railway. As of 2026, surviving road names such as Quartermaster Road, Headquarters Road and Engineer Road reflect its former use, but the railway into the site has been removed. Some original buildings remain, although many have been removed and replaced with modern structures.

From 1945 to 1947, Hill Camp (as prisoner-of-war camp 658) housed German and Italian prisoners. Aerial photographs and local accounts suggest that it was located towards the southern end of the site. An aerial photograph from 1945 appears to show the camp where the housing estate, Hawkeridge Park, now stands. Cropmarks further north have also been interpreted as possible footings for camp buildings, and a 1947 aerial photograph shows some structures in this part of the site; however, archaeological trial trenching in 2022 did not record any evidence of these buildings.

Documentation supplied with the application provides a detailed social history of the site's occupation during the war. However, the archaeological investigations undertaken have not recorded any significant remains associated with the depot or camp.

CRITERIA/ASSESSMENT

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) states that the Secretary of State may schedule monuments of national importance. The considerations used by the Secretary of State when determining whether sites of all types are suitable for statutory designation through scheduling are set out in the DCMS statement on Scheduled Monuments & Nationally Important but Non-Scheduled Monuments (2013). The key criteria for consideration are period, rarity, documentation, group value, survival, fragility, diversity, and potential. Only the most relevant criteria will be applicable to an individual site.

Historic England Scheduling Selection Guide for Military Sites Post-1500 (July 2018) offers further guidance on such sites.

With reference to the DCMS statement on Scheduled Monuments, the G-47 General Quartermaster Depot and Hill Camp are not recommended for scheduling for the following principal reasons:

- * **Rarity:** the site of the G-47 General Quartermaster Depot is associated with the large-scale expansion and logistics surrounding Operation Bolero and the preparations for the D-Day landings. Logistics depots and prisoner-of-war camps were widespread during this period, and this example is representative; there is no evidence that any surviving remains reflect the previous use of the site.
- * **Survival:** the site comprised temporary tented accommodation and standardised Nissen huts. There is a lack of evidence that any nationally important remains survive. The exact location of Hill Camp has not been confirmed, but is presumed to have been replaced by a housing estate. No evidence has been provided to demonstrate that significant archaeological remains of the camp survive.
- * **Documentation:** the site has been subject to archaeological investigations that have established the limited survival of archaeological remains pertaining to Second World War infrastructure.

CONCLUSION

The G-47 General Quartermaster Depot and Hill Camp do not demonstrate the degree of national importance needed to merit scheduling. While the social history associated is of some interest, it is considered to be at a local level.

SOURCES

Land West of Storridge Road, Westbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation, Simon Reames for Red River Archaeology (2022).

Heritage Statement: Land off Storridge Road, Westbury, Pegasus Group (2026).

Thomas, R, Prisoner of War Camps (1939-1948) Project Report, Twentieth Century Military Recording Project, English Heritage (2003).