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Defence Statistics
(Web Development & Surveys),
Ministry of Defence,
Floor 3 Zone K,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2HB.

The Responsible Statistician for this publication is the Web Development & Surveys Head of Branch.
Tel: 020 7807 8792
Email: DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Hd@mod.uk

The Background Quality Report for this publication can be found [here](#).

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Statistical Bulletin Series 6 provides statistical information on aspects of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and Armed Forces which are not covered by the other series.

Bulletin 6.01 is an annual publication which provides figures on MOD Land Holdings, by parent service, country, type of use and whether owned, leased or with legal rights.

This edition gives statistics for 2008 to 2014, with a base year of 2000, and updates figures released in the 2013 edition of this bulletin, which provided statistics up to 2013.

Key Points and Trends

- At 1st April 2014, the MOD owned 227,300 hectares of land and foreshore (either freehold or leasehold), and held rights over a further 222,000 hectares. In total, this is about 1.8% of the UK land mass.
- Since 2013, there has been a decrease in the freehold and leasehold figure by 700 hectares, or 0.3%. This decrease is in accordance with the trends in the estate over recent years as the Department seeks to divest itself of properties that are surplus to requirements.
- England accounts for the largest portion of land owned or with rights held, at 259,400 hectares (or 58% of the MOD total), a decrease of 2,100 hectares, or 0.8%, since 2013.
- Training areas and ranges occupy the largest area at 377,400 hectares (or 84% of the MOD total).

Contents

	Page
Key Points and Trends	1
Further Information	2
Key Findings	3
Background Information	5
Symbols and Conventions	8
Table 6.01.01 Land holdings by parent service area and whether owned, leased or with legal rights, at 1 April each year (NS)	9
Table 6.01.02 Land holdings by country and whether owned, leased or with legal rights, at 1 April each year (NS)	10
Table 6.01.03 Land holdings by type of use and whether owned, leased or with legal rights, at 1 April each year (NS)	11

Tables marked as **NS** are National Statistics.

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Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
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Further Information

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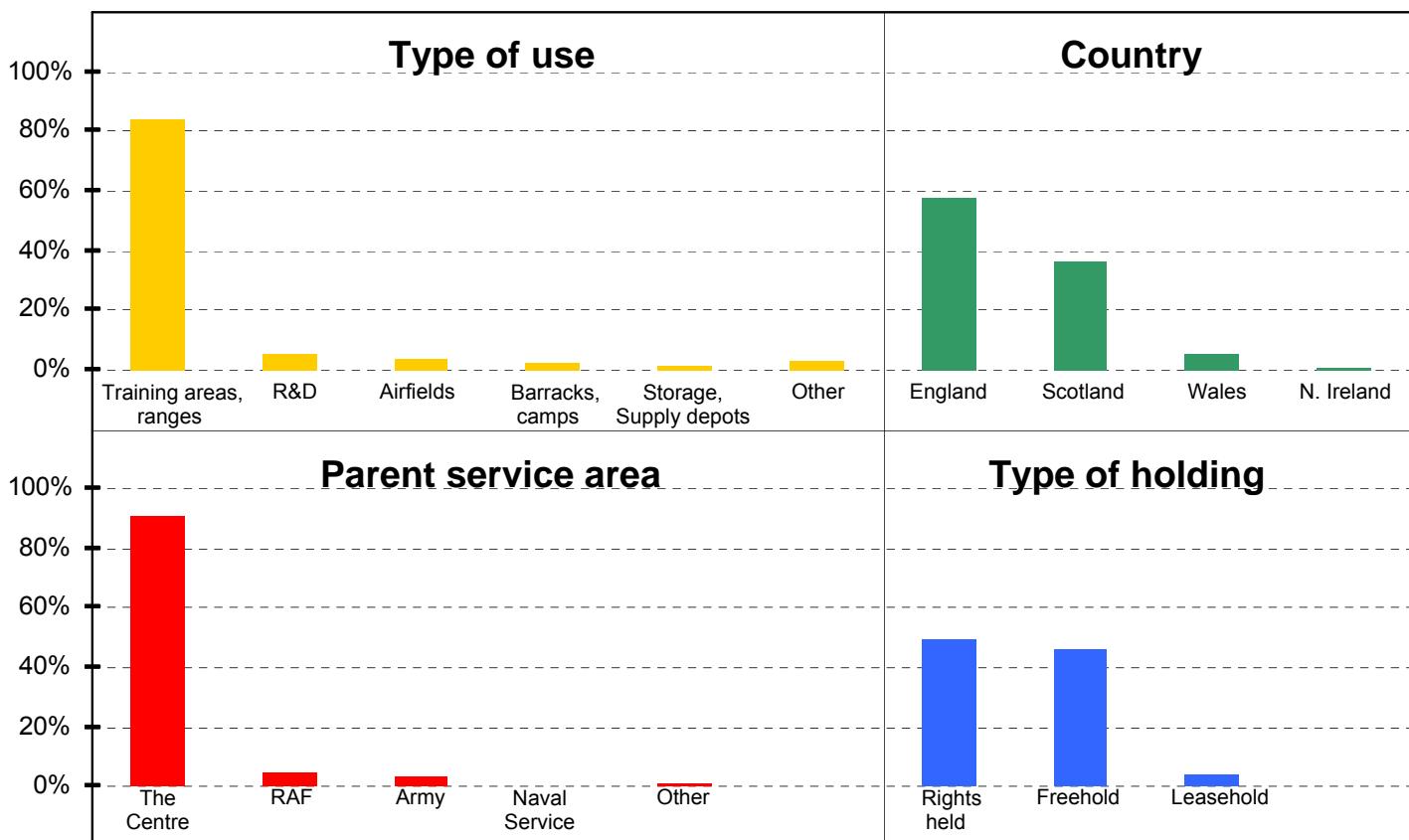
- Phone Defence Statistics (Web Development and Surveys) 020 7807 8792, or mil: 9621 78792.
- Email DefStrat-Stat-Enquiries-Mailbox@mod.uk

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence#freedom-of-information>

Key Findings

MOD land and foreshore holdings at 1st April 2014 by type of use, country, parent service area, and type of holding



- At 1st April 2014, the MOD's total land and foreshore freeholdings, leaseholdings, and rights held was 449,300 hectares. In total, this is about 1.8% of the UK land mass.
- About half (227,300 hectares) is owned (either freehold or leasehold), and this is a decrease of 700 hectares, or 0.3%, compared to 1st April 2013. This is the third successive annual decrease since 2011 (when a new spatial dataset was first used), as the Department seeks to divest itself of properties that are surplus to requirements.
- The MOD has access to a further 222,000 hectares from various rights and grants. This is an increase of 17,100 hectares from the 2013 figure, and this is due to the inclusion this year of the full extent of the Kinlochleven Training Area in Scotland, some of which was omitted previously. This was highlighted by data quality improvement work as a result of the introduction of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation's Infrastructure Management System.
- The Centre owns or has rights over the largest area, at 406,600 hectares (or 90% of the MOD total), and much of this forms the training estate. The Centre's freehold and leasehold total has fallen by 1,600 hectares, and this can be accounted for partially by the disposal of a number of sites, but largely by the transfer of a number of other sites from Centre responsibility to the Joint Forces

Command (JFC). This is also reflected by the increase in the size of the holdings under the Other category, which formerly held Permanent Joint Headquarters (now part of JFC) holdings and those of the Trading Funds.

- England accounts for the largest portion, at 259,400 hectares (or 58% of the MOD total), a decrease of 2,100 hectares, or 0.8%, since 2013. The decrease in freehold land in England is largely due to the disposal of a number of sites, including Graven Hill in Bicester, RAF Brampton, and smaller MOD sites and residential properties across the estate. The freehold and leasehold figure for Scotland has decreased by 300 hectares, reflecting the disposal of the former RAF Milltown in Morayshire. There continues to be a reduction in the holdings in Northern Ireland due to the normalisation process.
- Training areas and ranges occupy the largest area at 377,400 hectares (or 84% of the MOD total). The area attributed to radio & wireless stations has decreased by 300 hectares between 2013 and 2014, largely as a result of the disposal of Milltown Radio Station already indicated above. The area occupied by barracks and camps has also had a small reduction (200 hectares), including the sale of Massereene and Drumadd Barracks in Northern Ireland.

Detailed figures on the MOD's land holdings at 1st April each year since 2008 can be found in [Table 6.01.01](#) (by parent service), [Table 6.01.02](#) (by country) and [Table 6.01.03](#) (by type of use).

Background Information

The Ministry of Defence is one of the largest landowners in the country, with an estate equal to over 1% of the UK land mass. The estate, spread over approximately 4,000 sites, is critical to the effectiveness of the Armed Forces as it is used for training, accommodation and provides a base from which operations can be instigated. It is held solely to support the delivery of Defence capability.

DIO came into existence on 1 April 2011 as recommended in the Defence Reform Review, replacing the Defence Estates organisation, and includes Top Level Budget (TLB) property and facilities management functions. The DIO manages property assets ranging from barracks and airfields to rural training areas, which are valued at about £20 billion. The total annual cost to support the Defence Estate is in excess of £3.3 billion, of which over £2 billion covers the cost of new construction, maintenance and property maintenance.

Defence Estates (DE) became a TLB on 1 April 2005 with the merger of Defence Estates with the Defence Housing Executive. DE was responsible for managing the defence estate and ensuring that it was managed and developed in a sustainable manner, in line with acknowledged best practice and Government policy. Defence Estates ceased to be a TLB and became part of DIO on 1 April 2011.

For more information, visit the Defence Infrastructure Organisation website at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/defence-infrastructure-organisation>

Context

This Bulletin is the primary means by which information on MOD's land holdings is made widely available. A range of users including the media, politicians, academic researchers and the general public may use the information in this Bulletin to:

- gain an understanding of the size and condition of the MOD estate;
- set the context for other information on Defence;
- assist in understanding the impact of initiatives and policy on MOD estate.

Public accountability requires that the MOD should account for its assets, as well as knowing where they are and how they are used. The publication of this information in a bulletin format means that the data is available publicly, regularly and as a time series.

Data Sources

The land holding figures this year are derived from the DIO Infrastructure Management System (IMS) which has replaced the numerous information systems within DIO. The IMS contains information on all property assets that are owned, occupied or over which the MOD hold rights. The areas of each property are calculated from computerised mapping to provide the most accurate representation of the size of the Defence Estate.

Due to the way the data is held in the IMS, it is no longer possible to show the extent of foreshore that held by the MOD. Therefore, separate figures for this are no longer shown but are included in the totals provided.

The figures presented include land occupied by all MOD Top Level Budget holders (including United States Visiting Forces occupied sites); all Trading Funds and Agencies (including Defence Support

Group, Defence Science & Technology Laboratory and the UK Hydrographic Office). The figures do not currently include land held by the Volunteer Estate.

Data Quality

The data in these tables have been extracted from a MOD database which is considered to be reliable and there are no significant concerns over the accuracy of data. In addition to validation by DIO, the data in these tables have been subjected to sense checks by Government Statisticians. Further information can be found in the Background Quality Report.

Larger areas of the Defence Estate

Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire

The Army has been connected with Salisbury Plain since 1897, and the total area of the current estate is just over 38,000 hectares. It is 25 miles by 10 miles (40km by 16km) and occupies about one ninth of the area of Wiltshire.

Much of the land is let to farmers or is grazed under license. Approximately 12,150 hectares of the land is used for live firing and as impact areas. In certain areas, public access is permanently restricted for safety reasons.

Catterick and Feldom Training Area, Yorkshire

The area's military history dates from as far back as 1798. Later, General Lord Baden-Powell, based in Richmond from 1908 to 1910 as GOC the Northumbrian Division, was tasked by the War Office to establish a military training centre in the north of England - he chose Catterick. Its status as a permanent training centre was secured in 1921, and a period of intensive building followed. The land comprising the current training area was acquired between 1921 and 1985 and its current size is some 8,000 hectares.

In conjunction with military training, Catterick Training Area is predominantly used for livestock grazing, while the better in-bye land is farmed more intensively for hay, silage and arable crops.

Otterburn Training Area, Northumberland

A military presence, in the form of Roman legions, existed in the Otterburn area as long ago as the first and second centuries AD. In 1911, the War Office bought 7,690 hectares of land here and the artillery ranges were extended during the Second World War.

The training area now consists of some 22,900 hectares of land, which is all owned by the MOD, and is the largest single impact area range in the UK. It is partitioned into three separate Danger Areas: Redesdale Range, Otterburn Range, Bellshielis Demolition Area, and has three Outside Gun Areas. Some 45,000 soldiers use the area each year. The Cheviot Dry Training Area is to the north of these areas.

Dartmoor Training Area, Devon

Military training has taken place on Dartmoor since the early 1800s, being used intensively for tactical exercises with live ammunition during the Second World War. Today, the MOD uses (by freehold, lease or licence) approximately 12,760 hectares of the National Park's 94,400 hectares. The Dartmoor Training Area is used for light forces exercises, mostly for Royal Marines and other units based in the southwest.

There are three Range Danger Areas: Okehampton, Merrivale and Willsworthy, which when this land is not in use for live firing, provide an area for dry training with blank ammunition. There are also smaller training areas at Cramber and Ringmoor.

RAF Spadeadam, Cumbria

Located on the edge of the Wark Forest between Hadrian's Wall and the Scottish Borders, the site now occupied by the RAF used to be known as the Spadeadam Wastes. This area was mostly remote and uninhabited until 1957 when the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile Test Centre was built.

The land area of this site is about 3,642 hectares, making it the largest RAF Station in the UK. The majority of this land is sub-let for timber production to the Forestry Commission.

RAF Spadeadam is home to the Electronic Warfare Tactics Range, one of two such facilities in Europe, which offers a unique facility for the training of aircrews in a realistic, hostile Electronic Warfare environment. The range is contained within Low Flying Area 13, which extends from Hawick in Scotland, south to Alston in England, to Langholm in the west and to Hexham in the east.

RAF Spadeadam provides realistic Electronic Warfare training for aircrew, primarily for the RAF, although other NATO Air Forces use this facility as well.

Sennybridge Training Area, Powys

Sennybridge Training Area (SENTA), the third largest training area in the UK, is a major Field Firing Area which was requisitioned in 1939, and taken over as a Royal Artillery Practice Camp in 1940. The site consists of approximately 12,000 hectares of land owned by the MOD on the Mynydd Epynt, a wild plateau covered largely by blanket bog and grass, and an additional 2,500 hectares leased from Forest Enterprises in the Crychan Forest, which is available for limited training.

The Epynt Way, a 56 mile (90 km) circular permissive bridleway that follows on, or near to, the boundary of SENTA, was opened in 2004.

Symbols and Conventions

Symbols

- || discontinuity in time series
- .. not available
- Zero or rounded to zero

Italic figures are used for percentages and other rates, except where otherwise indicated.

Rounding

Where rounding has been used, totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.

Revisions

There are no regular planned revisions of this Bulletin. Amendments to figures for earlier years may be identified during the annual compilation of this Bulletin. This will be addressed in one of two ways:

- i. where the number of figures updated in a table is small, figures will be updated and those which have been revised will be identified with the symbol "r". An explanation for the revision will be given in the footnotes to the table.
- ii. where the number of figures updated in a table is substantial, the revisions to the table, together with the reason for the revisions, will be identified in the commentary at the beginning of the relevant chapter / section, and in the commentary above affected tables. Revisions will not be identified by the symbol "r" since where there are a large number of revisions in a table this could make them more difficult to read

Occasionally updated figures will be provided to the editor during the course of the year. Since this Bulletin is published electronically it is possible to revise figures during the course of the year. However to ensure continuity and consistency, figures will only be adjusted during the year where it is likely to substantially affect interpretation and use of the figures.

Abbreviations

See Glossary.

Table 6.01.01

Land holdings by parent service area and whether owned, leased or with legal rights, at 1 April each year

These holdings include land declared as surplus to defence requirements.

A thousand hectares is 3.86 square miles.

This table is a National Statistic.

	2000	2008	2009 ¹	2010 ¹	2011 ^{2,3}	2012	2013	2014 ⁴
	Thousand hectares							
Total land & foreshore holdings and Rights held⁵	363.3	373.4	372.0	371.0	435.3	434.1	432.9	449.3
Land and foreshore holdings	238.5	240.3	239.0	238.0	230.4	229.1	228.0	227.3
Freehold	219.9	220.0	219.0	218.0	209.8	208.8	207.7	207.0
Leasehold	18.6	20.3	20.0	20.0	20.6	20.3	20.3	20.3
Rights held ⁵	124.8	133.1	133.0	133.0	204.9	204.9	204.9	222.0
<i>Of which:</i>								
Naval Service	39.3	43.6	44.0	44.0	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
Land and foreshore holdings	13.1	17.4	18.0	18.0	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.2
Freehold	10.7	14.9	15.0	15.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0
Leasehold	2.4	2.5	3.0	3.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Rights held ⁵	26.2	26.2	26.0	26.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Army	243.9	245.2	245.0	245.0	15.1	15.1	14.7	14.6
Land and foreshore holdings	155.9	157.1	157.0	157.0	14.7	14.6	14.3	14.2
Freehold	152.1	151.4	151.0	151.0	14.2	14.1	13.8	13.7
Leasehold	3.8	5.7	6.0	6.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Rights held ⁵	88.0	88.1	88.0	88.0	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
Royal Air Force	48.6	46.6	46.0	45.0	21.7	21.7	21.7	21.4
Land and foreshore holdings	39.3	37.3	37.0	36.0	21.7	21.6	21.6	21.4
Freehold	30.9	29.0	28.0	28.0	17.8	17.7	17.7	17.5
Leasehold	8.4	8.3	8.0	8.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
Rights held ⁵	9.3	9.3	9.0	9.0	-	-	-	-
The Centre⁶	27.4	34.5	34.0	34.0	392.8	391.8	391.1	406.6
Land and foreshore holdings	26.1	25.0	25.0	25.0	188.6	187.4	186.8	185.2
Freehold	25.1	24.0	24.0	24.0	172.7	171.9	171.2	169.7
Leasehold	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	15.9	15.5	15.6	15.5
Rights held ⁵	1.3	9.5	10.0	10.0	204.3	204.4	204.4	221.4
Other⁷	4.1	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.3	3.2	3.1	4.3
Land and foreshore holdings	4.1	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.3	3.1	3.1	4.3
Freehold	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.0	3.2	3.0	3.0	4.1
Leasehold	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Rights held ⁵	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: MOD Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)

1. The figures presented for years 2009 and 2010 were rounded to the nearest thousand hectares.
2. Data from 2011 has been compiled using a new spatial dataset which allows for greater accuracy in the measurement of the estate. Because of this new dataset, comparable figures for earlier years are not available. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred hectares.
3. The large changes in the allocations to parent service areas between 2010 and 2011 reflect the outcome of the Defence Estate Training Review, with the Training Estate now transferred to the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, part of the Centre.
4. Part of the Kinlochleven Training Area in Scotland, over which MOD holds rights, is now included, having been omitted from figures previously reported. It was highlighted by data quality improvement work as a result of the introduction of the DIO's Infrastructure Management System.
5. Rights held are land and foreshore that are not owned by, or leased to MOD, but over which the Department has limited rights under grants and rights.
6. The Centre includes Defence Equipment & Support, Defence Infrastructure Organisation (including former Defence Training Estate (hence marked increase in values from 2011) and Service family quarters leased from Annington Property Ltd.) and Centre TLBs.
7. Includes Permanent Joint Headquarters and Trading Funds.

Table 6.01.02

Land holdings by country and whether owned, leased or with legal rights, at 1 April each year

These holdings include land declared as surplus to defence requirements.

A thousand hectares is 3.86 square miles.

This table is a National Statistic.

	2000	2008	2009 ¹	2010 ¹	2011 ²	2012	2013	2014 ³
	Thousand hectares							
Total land & foreshore holdings and Rights held⁴	363.3	373.4	372.0	371.0 ||	435.3	434.1	432.9 ||	449.3
Land and foreshore holdings	238.5	240.3	239.0	238.0 ||	230.4	229.1	228.0	227.3
Freehold	219.9	220.0	219.0	218.0 ||	209.8	208.8	207.7	207.0
Leasehold	18.6	20.3	20.0	20.0 ||	20.6	20.3	20.3	20.3
Rights held ⁴	124.8	133.1	133.0	133.0 ||	204.9	204.9	204.9 ||	222.0
<i>Of which:</i>								
England	226.3	223.9	223.0	221.0 ||	263.3	262.4	261.5	259.4
Land and foreshore holdings	191.8	189.5	188.0	187.0 ||	179.1	178.2	177.5	177.0
Freehold	176.2	172.2	171.0	170.0 ||	164.5	163.8	163.1	162.6
Leasehold	15.6	17.3	17.0	17.0 ||	14.6	14.4	14.4	14.4
Rights held ⁴	34.5	34.4	34.0	34.0 ||	84.1	84.1	84.1	82.3
Wales	23.0	22.9	23.0	23.0 ||	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4
Land and foreshore holdings	20.8	20.7	21.0	21.0 ||	20.1	20.1	20.1	20.1
Freehold	20.6	20.5	21.0	21.0 ||	19.8	19.8	19.8	19.8
Leasehold	0.2	0.2	-	- ||	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Rights held ⁴	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0 ||	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Scotland	110.7	123.5	124.0	124.0 ||	146.4	146.4	146.1 ||	164.6
Land and foreshore holdings	22.7	27.2	28.0	28.0 ||	28.9	28.9	28.6	28.3
Freehold	20.2	24.6	25.0	25.0 ||	23.5	23.5	23.1	22.9
Leasehold	2.5	2.6	3.0	3.0 ||	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5
Rights held ⁴	88.0	96.3	96.0	96.0 ||	117.4	117.5	117.5 ||	136.3
Northern Ireland	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.0 ||	2.2	1.9	1.9	1.8
Land and foreshore holdings	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0 ||	2.2	1.8	1.8	1.8
Freehold	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.0 ||	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.7
Leasehold	0.3	0.3	-	- ||	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Rights held ⁴	0.1	0.1	-	- ||	-	-	-	-
Land and foreshore holdings	238.5	240.3	239.0	238.0 ||	230.4⁵	229.1	228.0	227.3
Land	219.9	221.7	221.0	220.0 ||	..	..	..	..
England	176.6	174.2	173.0	172.0 ||	..	..	..	..
Wales	19.7	19.7	20.0	20.0 ||	..	..	..	..
Scotland	20.6	24.9	25.0	25.0 ||	..	..	..	..
Northern Ireland	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0 ||	..	..	..	..
Foreshore	18.6	18.6	18.0	18.0 ||	..	..	..	..
England	15.3	15.3	15.0	15.0 ||	..	..	..	..
Wales	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0 ||	..	..	..	..
Scotland	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0 ||	..	..	..	..
Northern Ireland	0.2	0.2	-	- ||	..	..	..	..

Source: MOD Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)

1. The figures presented for years 2009 and 2010 were rounded to the nearest thousand hectares.

2. Data from 2011 has been compiled using a new spatial dataset which allows for greater accuracy in the measurement of the estate. Because of this new dataset, comparable figures for earlier years are not available. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred hectares.

3. Part of the Kinlochleven Training Area in Scotland, over which MOD holds rights, is now included, having been omitted from figures previously reported. It was highlighted by data quality improvement work as a result of the introduction of the DIO's Infrastructure Management System.

4. Rights held are Land and foreshore that are not owned by, or leased to MOD, but over which the Department has limited rights under grants and rights.

5. Separate figures for land and foreshore are no longer recorded.

Table 6.01.03

Land holdings by type of use and whether owned, leased or with legal rights, at 1 April each year

These holdings include land declared as surplus to defence requirements.

A thousand hectares is 3.86 square miles.

This table is a National Statistic.

	2000	2008	2009 ¹	2010 ¹	2011 ²	2012	2013	2014 ³	Thousands hectares
Total land & foreshore holdings and Rights held	363.3	373.4	372.0	371.0 ||	435.3	434.1	432.9 ||	449.3	
Freehold	219.9	220.0	219.0	218.0 ||	209.8	208.8	207.7	207.0	
Leasehold	18.6	20.3	20.0	20.0 ||	20.6	20.3	20.3	20.3	
Rights held ⁴	124.8	133.1	133.0	133.0 ||	204.9	204.9	204.9 ||	222.0	
<i>Of which:</i>									
Airfields	26.2	26.2	26.0	25.0 ||	16.6	16.1	15.5	15.5	
Freehold	24.5	24.5	24.0	23.0 ||	16.1	15.6	15.1	15.1	
Leasehold	0.2	0.2	-	- ||	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	
Rights ⁴	1.5	1.5	2.0	2.0 ||	-	-	-	-	
Naval bases	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.0 ||	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6	
Freehold	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0 ||	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6	
Leasehold	0.1	0.1	-	- ||	-	-	-	-	
Rights ⁴	-	-	-	- ||	-	-	-	-	
Training areas, ranges	278.2	291.6	291.0	291.0 ||	361.3	360.7	360.4 ||	377.4	
Freehold	145.3	148.7	148.0	148.0 ||	144.0	143.5	143.2	143.1	
Leasehold	13.3	15.2	15.0	15.0 ||	13.1	12.9	13.0	13.0	
Rights ⁴	119.6	127.7	128.0	128.0 ||	204.3	204.3	204.3 ||	221.3	
Barracks, camps	10.8	11.4	11.0	12.0 ||	12.1	11.8	11.6	11.4	
Freehold	10.0	10.6	11.0	11.0 ||	11.6	11.4	11.2	11.0	
Leasehold	0.3	0.3	-	- ||	-	-	-	-	
Rights ⁴	0.5	0.5	1.0	1.0 ||	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	
Storage, supply depots	10.8	11.7	12.0	11.0 ||	7.1	7.4	7.4	7.3	
Freehold	10.3	11.2	11.0	11.0 ||	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.2	
Leasehold	0.1	0.1	-	- ||	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Rights ⁴	0.4	0.4	-	- ||	-	-	-	-	
Research and Development	22.0	18.4	18.0	18.0 ||	19.0	24.4	24.3	24.3	
Freehold	20.5	16.8	16.0	16.0 ||	15.4	20.7	20.6	20.5	
Leasehold	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0 ||	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	
Rights ⁴	0.6	0.6	1.0	1.0 ||	-	-	-	0.1	
Radio & W/T stations	7.3	6.4	6.0	6.0 ||	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.2	
Freehold	5.6	5.1	5.0	5.0 ||	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.1	
Leasehold	0.6	0.6	1.0	1.0 ||	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Rights ⁴	1.1	0.7	1.0	1.0 ||	-	-	-	-	
Miscellaneous	6.8	6.6	7.0	7.0 ||	14.9	9.7	9.7	9.6	
Freehold	2.4	2.1	2.0	2.0 ||	11.5	6.4	6.3	6.3	
Leasehold	3.2	2.8	3.0	3.0 ||	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.1	
Rights ⁴	1.2	1.7	2.0	2.0 ||	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	

Source: MOD Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)

1. The figures presented for years 2009 and 2010 were rounded to the nearest thousand hectares.

2. Data from 2011 has been compiled using a new spatial dataset which allows for greater accuracy in the measurement of the estate. Because of this new dataset, comparable figures for earlier years are not available. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred hectares.

3. Part of the Kinlochleven Training Area in Scotland, over which MOD holds rights, is now included, having been omitted from figures previously reported. It was highlighted by data quality improvement work as a result of the introduction of the DIO's Infrastructure Management System.

4. Rights held are land and foreshore that are not owned by, or leased to MOD, but over which the Department has limited rights under grants and rights.