

**PUBLIC ACCESS CONSULTANCY**  
**FOR THE ARMY TRAINING ESTATE**  
**Regional Report – Consultation Draft**  
**ATE Home Counties**

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# 1 Introduction

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## Overall Aims of the Study

- 1.1 RPS has been commissioned by Headquarters Land Command (HQ Land) and Defence Estates (DE), to undertake a study of Public Access across the Army Training Estate.
- 1.2 The Study will be taken forward within the context of the Strategy for the Defence Estate, *“In Trust and On Trust”* (referred to as the Estate Strategy) and the emerging Countryside and Rights of Way legislation.
- 1.3 Within the Estate Strategy, the Charter for the Defence Estate states the following:-  
  
*“There is a presumption in favour of public access to the rural estate although operational, safety and conservation interests necessarily restrict unlimited access”.*
- 1.4 With this in mind, the Strategy explains that *“Although subject to intensive military use, there will continue to be a presumption of public access wherever this is compatible with its primary military purpose. Where our duty of care to the general public, safety and security considerations permit, we will seek to increase the overall amount, quality and certainty of access to the estate. Against this, we will have to balance the interests of our tenants and protect fragile aspects of the environment”.*
- 1.5 Taking these commitments into account, the Public Access Study has been carried out with the following aim:  
  
*“To review the existing opportunities available for public access across the Training Estate and to make recommendations that could be implemented to enhance public access opportunities commensurate with military training requirements, in line with Government policy. Any recommendations must therefore take into account nature conservation, cultural heritage and other issues/constraints.”*

## Approach and Methodology

- 1.6 It has been agreed to focus the study on each of the 12 ATEs that make up the Army Training Estate separately. This allows consideration of the regional context of each ATE and the unique nature of public access resources and demand in different regions throughout the UK. Figure 1 illustrates the location of ATE Home Counties (ATE HC), the focus of this report, in relation to the other 11 ATEs.

**Figure 1 Army Training Estate, highlighting ATE Home Counties**



1.7 The method employed for the study involved visits to selected sites within ATE HC and interviews with selected staff. A proforma was devised to ensure all relevant information was collected for each site, included in Appendix A of this report. The findings of these visits and interviews are provided in the form of Site Reports, included in Appendix B of this report.

- 1.8 Information was also collected from various sources on each region in general, including the demographics and current access resources, to give a regional context to each of the 12 reports.

## **Report Structure**

- 1.9 Each regional report will follow a similar structure, with a review of the existing public access and recommendations about how those opportunities could potentially be improved and enhanced.
- 1.10 Chapter 2 of the report is an overview of ATE HC, summarising the training facilities and use. Chapter 3 then sets the Regional context of the report, providing an overview of the key characteristics of the Home Counties, including its demographics and the general public access resources. Chapter 4 summarises the current situation of public access on ATE HC and the key opportunities arising from the research. Individual reports for each site within ATE HC are included in Appendix B.
- 1.11 It should be noted that the recommendations made in this report have not been costed, nor has funding been identified to meet any such cost. If the recommendations were implemented, this would be part of a rolling programme of improvements.
- 1.12 In addition, this study has been undertaken at the same time as the implications of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) are emerging. The report reflects the current situation in relation to ATE HC, at the time of production of the report.
- 1.13 In the wider context, this study does not take into consideration any change in the current situation that may arise in light of the Byelaw Review that is currently being carried out by DE. Following publication of the outcome of this review, it may be necessary to revisit some of the recommendations.

## **Consultation Process**

- 1.14 The consultation process adopted for all 12 Regional Reports is to send an initial confidential draft to the Countryside Agency, the relevant Local Authorities and other relevant Statutory Bodies. Following their comment, the consultation report will be more widely distributed at the Regional level to all interested parties.
- 1.15 It is expected that the individual site reports and proposals will be incorporated within the wider Integrated Land Management Plans (ILMP) or equivalent for each training site, and further consultation will be undertaken as the recommendations are implemented.

## 2 Army Training Estate Home Counties

### Training Areas – Summary Details

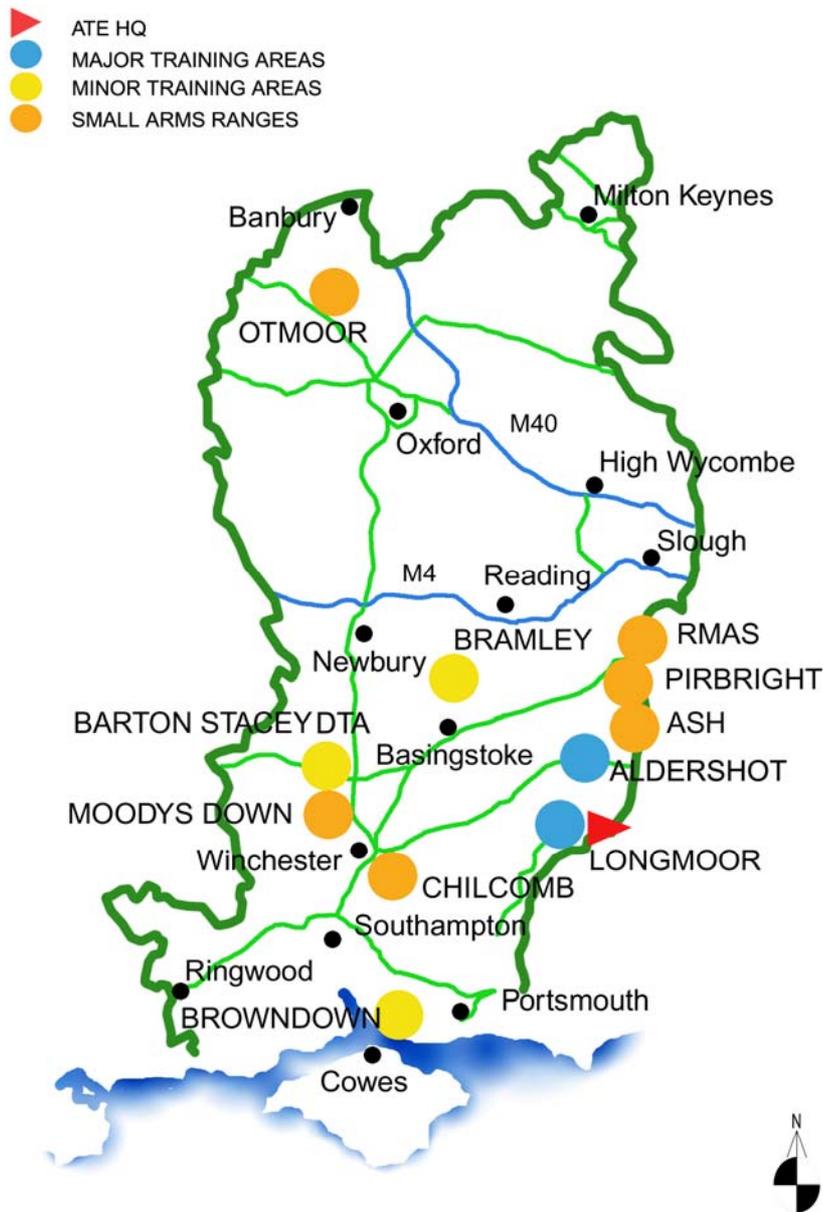
- 2.1 The ATE HC comprises some fourteen separate training areas and range complexes, which offer a range of training opportunities, as shown in Table 1 below. The location of the sites is shown in Figure 1.

**Table 1: Details of Training Areas and Ranges**

Location	Total Area (ha)	DTA	Ranges	Field Firing	AFV	FIBUA	Driver Trg
Chilcomb Range	70	-	X	-	-	-	-
Moody's Down and Barton Stacy DTA	862	X	X	-	-	-	-
Browndown Training Area	130	X	-	-	-	-	-
Otmoor Range	208	-	X	-	-	-	-
Bramley Training Area	364	X	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Aldershot Training Area</b>							
- Ash Ranges	1635	X	X	-	-	-	-
- Pirbright Ranges	1555	X	X	-	-	-	-
- Sandhurst (RMAS)	919	X	X	-	-	-	-
- Minley Training Area	2461	X	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Longmoor Training Area</b>							
- Longmoor Range and Training Area	1107	X	X	-	-	X	-
- Bordon Training Area	751	X	-	-	-	-	X
- Bramshott	241	X	-	-	-	-	-
- Hankley & Elstead	793	X	-	-	-	-	-

- 2.2 The location of the sites is shown in Figure 2. The main sites are concentrated in the area around Aldershot and Longmoor, in close proximity of each other, with additional sites further afield around Barton Stacey, Oxfordshire and on the coast near Portsmouth.

Figure 2: Map of ATE Home Counties



2.3 The sites support a range of different habitats and subsequently different land uses. The sites around Aldershot and Longmoor are predominantly lowland heathland and woodland, where as the sites at Barton Stacey and Otmoor are more open grassland, with areas used for agriculture, and some areas of wetland. Browndown Range has a landscape of shingle, predictable due to its location.

- 2.4 A large proportion of ATE HC is considered important for its nature conservation value, including sites with local, national and European designations:
- 1 Ramsar site
  - 2 candidate Special Areas for Conservation (cSACs) and 2 Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
  - 11 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
  - Several Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINCs).

### **Training Area Management and Use**

2.5 ATE HC lies mainly within Land Command 4 Division area and is commanded by the Commander ATE HC, based at HQ ATE HC, Longmoor Camp.

2.6 Usage of the facilities is dominated by:

- Regular Units;
- Territorial Army Units;
- Cadets;

It is also used by a wide variety of civilian clubs (see Table 6 p16).

2.7 Information has been obtained on usage of the Training Areas (and ranges), in the form of recorded data and anecdotal reports, and the general picture is that most of them are used heavily throughout the year, including weekends.

## 3 Public Access in the Home Counties

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### Regional Make-up

3.1 The aim of this chapter is to give an overview of the regional facts and statistics covering demographics, linear and open access to ATE HC as defined in Figure 1. The geographical areas covered by ATE HC includes the following counties, although not all these counties contain training areas or ranges:

- Hampshire, (containing Longmoor Camp, Aldershot, Barton Stacey, Moody's Down, Chilcomb, Browndown, Bramley, Bramshott)
- Oxfordshire (containing Otmoor)
- Part of Surrey (containing RMAS, Pirbright, Ash, Hankley)
- Unitary Authorities of Berkshire
- Buckinghamshire

3.2 Although the access resources in the Home Counties are undoubtedly used by members of the public who live outside these authority boundaries, the demographics and access statistics for the rest of the UK are considered in greater depth in other ATE Access Reports. For the purposes of this report, the study area will only cover the regions of Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey, the former county of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Greater London.

3.3 Greater London does not have any army training areas, and therefore is not part of any ATE. It has a major influence on the economy of the region, resulting in widespread commuting and subsequent pressure on the rural environment surrounding the city. The effect is diluted, to some extent, further away from the urban areas. Therefore, as it is a population focus for the Home Counties, it must be considered in a report on regional access for the area and statistics on demographics and access for Greater London are also included in this chapter. It is not realistic to divide the population of Greater London into those that use the access resources in one army training area more than another: i.e. dividing the population between ATE HC, ATE East or ATE South East which all surround London.

## Demographics

- 3.4 The South East region is defined by the Countryside Agency (2000) as a relatively prosperous region and a high quality of life is enjoyed by its residents, in particular those in the countryside. The regional population of the Home Counties was estimated in 1998 at 4.9m, and with Greater London this rises a further 7.2m to 12.1m (1998, National Statistics). The population density of this region as a whole varies considerably between the urban and rural areas with over 2,500 persons/km<sup>2</sup> in the large towns of Oxford, Reading, Southampton and the London Boroughs of Kensington & Chelsea and Islington. In the more rural local authority areas including West Berkshire, the density is much lower with between 100 - 249 people/km<sup>2</sup> (1998, National Statistics).
- 3.5 With reference to the Countryside Agency's regional statistics "*between 1984 and 1998 the population of the South East as a whole & London in both urban and rural areas rose by more than 1 million to 15.2 million, an increase of 14%*" (Countryside Agency, 2000). Population trends over the last decade have reflected both in-migration of younger people into urban areas, and out-migration from urban to rural areas by older, higher income earning people. During this same period there was a slight increase in the proportions living in rural districts. In and out-migration are both key factors of change in the character of the rural society and economics in the region.
- 3.6 Research into access use suggests that there is substantial demand for opportunities to walk in the countryside within these counties, as the population density is high in most areas across the South East as a whole, leading to substantial pressure on the land. For affluent urban-dwellers, whether resident in the region or outside, the countryside has a vital role in terms of recreation and leisure. In this context, the interdependence of the town and country should not with underestimated: *within the South East, expenditure on day visits to the countryside currently exceeds the contribution of farming to the regional GDP by a factor of 8* (England Rural Development Programme, MAFF 2000). Informal recreation often involves the use of the car to drive to stretches of attractive countryside. Areas close to car parks are often under pressure as a consequence. The countryside that exists in this area is therefore extremely precious but at the same time a threatened asset. Public interest in, and concern for countryside issues is high in this area (State of the Countryside, 2000).
- 3.7 The boundaries between rural and urban activities can cause conflict, creating urban fringe problems, such as trespass, vandalism and fly-tipping. In addition, much of the region is threatened by creeping urbanisation of the countryside and this in relation to an increasing population causes further pressures on the access resources.

## Access Resources

### General Geography

- 3.8 The Home Counties (as defined in 3.2 above) extends to some 12,600km<sup>2</sup> (Columbia Encyclopaedia, 2000). Although agriculture remains the dominant rural land use, the region contains a wide diversity of habitats, many of which are of national or international importance. However, the region has substantially more urban land and less natural habitat than England as a whole, but this is due mainly to the inclusion of London and its suburbs. 43.3% of the land cover area in 1990 was arable and horticultural; 25.9% was improved grassland; 9.2% broadleaved and coniferous woodland; 6.4% semi-natural grassland, heathland, water and rock habitats; and 15.1% urban (Countryside Agency, 2000).
- 3.9 The most rural parts of the Home Counties consist of the North Wessex Downs and the Chilterns, which extend through Hampshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The Cotswolds also extends into the study area in Oxfordshire. These areas have been designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). The South Downs and New Forest have also been proposed by the Countryside Agency as National Parks because of their natural beauty and national significance for outdoor recreation. Owing to their location in the busy South East, these designated sites are under considerable pressure from development of roads, industry and other infrastructure. Some parts of the ATE HC training areas fall within the South Downs National Park draft boundary.

### Linear Access

- 3.10 There are approximately 19,000 kilometres of Public Rights of Way (PROW) within the Home Counties', made up as shown in Table 3. They are important within the Region for allowing people to enjoy the countryside, by foot, horse or bicycle.

**Table 3 Length of Public Rights of Way by Type in Each Highway Authority Area**

	<b>Footpaths (km)</b>	<b>Bridleways (km)</b>	<b>Byways (km)</b>	<b>RUPPS* (km)</b>	<b>Total KM</b>
Surrey	2112	1014	134	0	3,260
Buckinghamshire	2720	587	6	17	3,330
Oxfordshire	2774	1081	66	255	4176
Hampshire	3342	681	226	303	4,552
Southampton	16	3	0	0	19
Isle of Wight	514	266	47	0	827
Reading	17	1	0	0	18
Slough	19	3	0	0	22
Bracknell	45	5	3	15	68

	<b>Footpaths (km)</b>	<b>Bridleways (km)</b>	<b>Byways (km)</b>	<b>RUPPS* (km)</b>	<b>Total KM</b>
Wokingham	143	21	37	19	220
Windsor & Maidenhead	219	30	8	27	284
West Berkshire	676	200	154	100	1,130
Milton Keynes	345	191	1	0	537
Outer London Boroughs**	938	89	4	15	1,046
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13659</b>	<b>4061</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>19,123</b>

Source: Countryside Agency, National Condition Survey, 2000

\* RUPPS (Roads Used as Public Paths) to become Restricted Byways under the CROW Act, 2000

\*\* Outer London Boroughs: Harrow, Hillingdon, Croydon, Barking & Dagenham, Sutton, Barnet, Redbridge, Ealing, Enfield, Haringey, Hounslow, Brent, Bexley, Bromley, Merton, Kingston, Havering, Richmond upon Thames, Waltham Forest, Newnham

- 3.11 The 13 Inner London Boroughs of the 33 within Greater London are not obliged to keep a definitive map and statement of public rights of way. While all other highway authorities are required to produce a definitive map, which by virtue of section 56 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) provides conclusive, statutory proof of the existence of public rights of way over the paths shown on it, the Inner London Boroughs may still contain rights of way. Nevertheless, Greater London offers a large variety of linear access opportunities for both walkers and cyclists. There are 300 promoted routes in Greater including the Thames Path and the South-East London Green Chain (pers. comm. London Walking Forum, 2002).
- 3.12 The England Rural Development Programme states that *'The South East Rights of Way (RoW) network is extensive, well used and in general, better maintained than in other regions. The Isle of Wight is the first local authority to achieve the national target of public rights of way in the district accessible by the year 2000. Bracknell Forest is hoping to complete its target by March 2000. All local highway authorities are encouraged to prepare Milestones Statements which set out a business plan approach to RoW management'* (MAFF, 2000).
- 3.13 The availability of rights of way needs to be seen in the context of the likely demand. A comparison of the length of PROW available against the regional population can be used as an indicator of supply and demand. Note however that this does not take into account the demand from visitors to the region and is therefore only a crude assessment.

**Table 4 Indicator of Supply and Demand for PROW**

<b>Geographical Area</b>	<b>Total Length of PROW (km)</b>	<b>Population (millions)</b>	<b>Length (km) of PROW / person</b>
England	188, 531	49.5	0.0038
Home Counties	19, 123	12.1	0.0016

- 3.14 A comparison of total length of PROW in the Home Counties against population, relative to the whole of England, indicates that there is a lower quantity of footpaths for the population of the area. This area contains 24% of the population of England and 10% of England's PROW network.
- 3.15 Within this overall network, there are several promoted routes of regional and even national significance, as shown in Table 5. National Trails are considered to be 'flagships' of the region's rights of way network. In total, the Thames Path, Ridgeway, North Downs Way and South Downs Way National Trails cover more than 860 km (534 miles) of public rights of way, over a third of which is available to horseriders and cyclists, and nearly a quarter of which has vehicular rights (MAFF, 2000). The popularity of the four trails is confirmed by surveys, which estimate a total of well over half a million user-days recorded over a six month period. National trails only represent a small fraction of walking opportunities in the region although the economic benefits of tourism and recreation access to rural areas is considerable.
- 3.16 Sustrans has developed a number of cycle routes around the area, including 4 long distance routes as described in Table 5. A number of other cycling routes are to be completed by 2005 particularly to the south of the study area. Off Road Cycle Trails are also promoted by local authorities including Hampshire County Council.
- 3.17 The British Horse Society (BHS) also promotes recreational rides around the region including The Ridgeway, Three Shires Way and the Swan's Way (Table 5). Table 5 is not a definitive list, but those routes listed above are the main regional, national and international trails found in this area.



representative to liaise with the Highway Authority regarding the management of the Green Lanes and BOATs in each county, including the organisation of surveys and clearance works. The carrying out of any such work on a PROW should always be in consultation with the Highway Authority.

### **Area Access**

- 3.19 The region's diverse character is partly reflected in its land uses. Of the total land area, 66% is used for agricultural production (Countryside Agency, 2000). Land use in the regional study area varies from county to county where in Surrey agricultural practices use only around 37% of the land (Surrey CC, 2001), although it contains the largest proportion of woodland, at 19%, with Oxfordshire having the least, at 6.3%. Plainly much of this land would not be 'open access' but these figures show the disparities between land use within the study area.
- 3.20 Aside from rights of way, the general public have access to open spaces, country parks, picnic sites, most beaches and canal towpaths, open country/coastline owned by the National Trust, most commons near older towns and cities, some woods and forest and land with access agreements. In the case of the latter, some land is covered by voluntary access agreements with the landowner. Countryside Stewardship Schemes encourage farmers and other landowners to protect and improve the English landscape and its wildlife, and the public can visit these conservation areas. There are some 311 such sites in the Home Counties and many of these conservation walks link in with the existing rights of way network (MAFF, Conservation Walks, 2001).
- 3.21 The CROW Act will have some implications on the amount of area wide access there is. Part of the study area for this chapter lies within the Countryside Agency's South East area, one of the pilot regions exploring how best to deliver the Government's proposals for access to open countryside. The region contains three of the five land use types, which will be affected. The downland areas of the South Downs, Wessex Downs, Isle of Wight and the Chilterns constitute a significant proportion of the total downland in England, whilst the Surrey Hills and the New Forest both contain nationally important tracts of heath and the heathlands of north and east Hampshire are of national and international importance. There are also many areas of common land distributed throughout the region and they represent a high proportion of the total number of commons in England. A section on the CROW Act and its implications for the training areas and ranges in ATE HC, is included in the next chapter.
- 3.22 The Countryside Agency's Integrated Access Pilot Projects, some of which will be in the Home Counties are underway, with those in Surrey due to end in spring 2004. They are being run to see how best to maximise access to the countryside in the context of known user

demand. Integrated Access Projects will be a form of strategic planning for access, involving a wide range of interests. They will seek to improve physical access to

open countryside and linear routes for several sorts of use and users. As well as legislative measures, they may use incentive schemes to support access provision and management, and to improve other community and economic benefits.

## Summary and Conclusion

3.23 The Home Counties region is characterised by:

- a large population relative to the rest of England centred principally to the west and south west of London, along major route corridors including the M4 and coastal towns of Southampton and Portsmouth;
- an increasing population leading to rapid urbanisation of the countryside;
- large areas of countryside and intensively managed agricultural land interspersed between urban areas ;
- a lower quantity of public rights of way per person relative to those in other regions of England;
- Several promoted regional, national and European trails designed for all types of users;
- Some existing countryside access in designated open spaces, country parks, picnic sites, most beaches and canal towpaths, most commons near older towns and cities, some woods and forest and land with largely voluntary access agreements;

3.24 It is reasonable to conclude therefore that there is likely to be more pressure on the existing access resources owing the high regional population in the Home Counties. Pressure on access is likely to be greatest around urban fringes and around the proposed New Forest and South Downs National Parks.

## 4 Access to the Training Estate

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### Introduction

- 4.1 The training areas and ranges of ATE HC comprise important areas of countryside in a region largely dominated by the environments of urban areas and the urban fringe, especially around Aldershot. They therefore present an important resource for the local population where extensive access is already available, through both informal use and managed activities. This chapter summarises the baseline of what is available and explores where there are opportunities to improve the current situation with reference to the Estate Strategy, in terms of quantity, quality and certainty. More detailed descriptions of each site are given in the Site Reports at Appendix B.

### Current Situation

#### Quantity

- 4.2 Generally, access can be provided through the informal use of PROWs, area-wide open access or use of an area for licensed activities. In ATE HC, the public has open access to the majority of the estate for the greater part of the time, with restrictions only being imposed through the byelaws when public safety is threatened, i.e. at times of live firing and/or times of major dry training exercises. Indeed, the MOD are proactive in their provision of access opportunities and manage the training areas within ATE HC in such a way that the public has as much access onto the estate as possible, resulting in its heavy use by locals for recreation. Such access includes use of some areas during times of dry training where this is feasible and the use of tracks, which have developed over time on some training areas.
- 4.3 In addition, the training areas of ATE HC have many PROWs across them, including the less common RUPPs (to be redefined as Restricted Byways under the CROW Act 2000) and BOATs. These PROWs are illustrated on the figures included with the Site Reports in Appendix B.
- 4.4 The majority of the training areas within ATE HC are covered by military byelaws. The aim of the byelaws is to ensure safety of the public by regulating access to training areas and ranges when they are being used for military activity. The details of each set of byelaws is set out in each site report (see Appendix B) and will be dependent on the type of military activity taking place and the associated risks. Public access is only restricted during periods of live firing and associated military activities, as noted above.

4.5 Access is also granted via a licensing system to a wide range of organised activities. Licences are issued by DE in consultation with the Commander. Examples of the types of activity undertaken under licence are given in Table 6 overleaf. Note that this is not intended to be a comprehensive list, merely indicative.

**Table 6 Indicative List of Licensed Activities**

<b>Activity</b>
Cross country runs
Cycling
Filming
Fishing
Horse jumping/riding
Hunts
Model Aircraft
Motorised events
Nature Walks
Orienteering
Sailing
Use of Ranges by civilian clubs

### **Quality**

4.7 The definition of quality of access is subjective and will reflect an individual's differing needs and values. However, for the purposes of this report, quality of access can be considered as a function of the following criteria:

- Condition of the paths;
- Linkages between paths;
- What there is available to see during the visit;
- Facilities provided by organisations/landowners in the area;
- Less tangible aspects of quality including quiet enjoyment, freedom to wander, remoteness and level of use.

- 4.8 The condition of PROWs is extremely important. Condition can be measured in several different ways including overall ease to find, ease to follow and ease to use. Ease to use will take account of such practical issues as incidence of obstacles, which may render a path unusable and level of signage (Countryside Agency, National Condition Survey 2001). Whilst no formal condition assessment was undertaken during the site visits, the PROWs where found in general, to be free from obstruction and easy to follow on the ground. An exception to this is the bridleway at Otmoor, which has been highlighted for improvements in the future opportunities below. DE in association with WS Atkins have been developing a form and survey methodology for assessing the condition of paths on some MOD sites. The original intention was to test this methodology by undertaking a pilot study assessing the paths on the Aldershot Training Area but due to the considerable amount of open access and lack of clearly defined paths an alternative training area outside the Home Counties was used. It is anticipated that this survey programme will be extended to other training areas in due course.
- 4.9 Linkages are important where opportunities are provided for circular routes and connections between urban areas. Within the training areas and ranges of ATE HC, many of the PROWs link in with others crossing surrounding land, and therefore provide vital contributions to the overall PROW network of the area. For example, at Elstead Common and at Browndown, where the Solent Way path linking Gosport to Lee-on-Solent passes through the Range.
- 4.10 To assist visitor access and management in the area, a number of car parks have been established. For example, on the Minley & Aldershot dry training areas there are around 30 car parks and lay-bys. Such initiatives help to reduce the problems associated with vergeside parking (e.g. traffic congestion, erosion, and damage to habitats) and also aid management by controlling access and concentrating visitors in certain areas. MOD is continually working with English Nature in this regard.
- 4.11 A variety of landscape types attract visitors including large areas of open spaces, mountains and coastline environments. The training areas and ranges are of high interest in terms of ecology and general landscape value, many with national or international designations (SSSIs and/or cSACs) and some within Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). There are certain high points within the training areas which provide extensive views across the landscape, e.g. at Caesar's Camp on Minley and Aldershot TA, and also points of interest due to their military significance, e.g. the Canadian Memorial and Atlantic Wall, also on Minley and Aldershot TA.
- 4.12 Many people value remoteness, peace and quiet in the countryside; conversely others enjoy company. Remoteness is valued as, amongst other reasons, it may be a challenging environment, provides a contrast with the more populous areas, and provides a 'wilderness' experience. Whilst most of the ranges and training areas within ATE HC are reasonably close to large concentrations of population, many comprise extensive heathland or open areas

which afford a degree of remoteness to the visitor, for example at Aldershot, Pirbright or Otmoor. On the other hand, there are other training areas adjacent to built up areas which offer a more intimate experience, for example at Browdown which lies between Gosport and Lee-on-Solent.

- 4.13 DE, with the assistance of WS Atkins, has developed a survey methodology, to assess the quality and quantity of the access and recreation experience on MOD training areas. This methodology was tested in the pilot visitor study undertaken for the Aldershot training area. The study found that 351 out of the total 358 respondents had travelled to the training area directly from home and 327 of those had travelled less than 5 miles, reflecting the dominance of use by local people. 195 respondents visited the training area every day; with a further 122 make visits 1-3 times per week. The main purpose of most visits (295 out of 358) was for dog walking, followed by running and walking and 262 respondents confirmed they had always known that the area was open to the public. The main factors found to have a positive impact on their enjoyment were scenery and ease of access, whilst most cited civilian fly tipping and litter as the main detractors which had a negative impact on their visit.

#### **Certainty**

- 4.14 The level of use for recreational purposes of the training areas and ranges will be depend on the understanding of the general public as to where they can go and when. The notification of live firing times, the signs positioned at appropriate places and the flying of red flags all helps to provide this information. At some sites, it has been highlighted that the notification could be improved through the clarification of signage.
- 4.15 Open access onto the ATE HC is not actively promoted by the MOD, although these access opportunities are generally well known by the local population, who are the predominant users. However, the MOD does promote two walks at Elstead Common in Surrey, one a 6.4km circular/linear route across open heathland and woodland, the other an easy going trail across Royal Common. Both walks are featured in the latest edition of the Walks on MOD Lands booklet. In addition, some areas and routes are promoted by local authorities and other interested parties e.g. the Solent Way, Sparsholt Cycle Trail and there is general promotion of the PROW network by Hampshire County Council.

#### **Pressures and Constraints**

- 4.16 This study has highlighted both pressures and constraints in providing public access to the sites of ATE HC.

- 4.17 The predominant users are those living in the urban areas immediately surrounding the training areas and ranges. The demand for access is on a local rather than national level. There is a general pressure from all interested parties to sustain the training areas and ranges as the last remaining areas of dry and wet heathland in southern England and MOD are working with English Nature and other nature conservation organisations to ensure this facility is maintained for use by the local community.
- 4.18 There are a number of constraints that the existing provision of public access must work within, and these would need to be fully taken into account in the further development of access within ATE HC. The principal constraints are:-
- The immediate needs of military training and public safety.
  - The continued development and evolution of military training.
  - The protection of the environmental 'assets', including nationally and internationally designated areas of ecology.
  - The resources required to manage, and respond to, the more anti-social aspects of access, e.g. flytipping (current expenditure is around £75,000 pa), in liaison with the Highway Authority.
- 4.19 The nature conservation interests of the training areas and ranges are of particular significance, with many national and international designations. The majority of Aldershot and Longmoor Training Areas are part of sites of international importance, including:-
- Woolmer Forest SAC/SPA (Longmoor Range and Training Area);
  - Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham SAC (Ash and Pirbright Ranges);
  - Wealden Heaths SPA (Bramshott, Bordon and Hankley & Elstead); and
  - Thames Basin Heaths pSPA (Ash Ranges, Pirbright Ranges, Sandhurst and Minley Ranges).

Increased pressure for future public access to the ATE necessitates the MOD to continually seek to improve the management of these sensitive areas, to ensure that potential damage resulting from public access is kept to a minimum.

## **Future Changes and Opportunities**

### **Introduction**

- 4.20 There are opportunities for increasing the quantity, quality and certainty of public access to the Training Areas and Ranges that constitute ATE HC. However, these need reconciling with the constraints related to military training needs, safety considerations, nature conservation, other land issues and the availability of MOD (or other) resources, as summarised above.
- 4.21 The possibilities proposed below are offered as indicative of the types of improved access that could be offered but without full consideration of these other constraints. Where the proposals will potentially have an impact on SACs or SPAs (i.e. habitats that are designated under the Habitats Directive for their European importance), an Appropriate Assessment may need to be carried out. In addition, access projects or proposals to change the frequency and type of access on SSSIs may also require assent under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 4.22 Some of these opportunities have been identified as best practice from other sites; some are already being explored by MOD/DE; others may involve a proactive approach that would involve third parties (e.g. neighbouring landowners, user representatives, other statutory bodies).
- 4.23 The initial section focuses on the impacts of the CROW Act to ATE HC and the actions that will need to be taken, along with additional recommendations to consider. Following this, the main recommendations on improving access are summarised.

### **Impact of the CROW Act**

- 4.24 The CROW Act will create a right of access on foot to open country (mountain, moor, heath and down) and registered common land in England and Wales (separate legislation is being taken forward in Scotland). It will also allow land to be dedicated by the landowner for public access under Section 16 of the CROW Act and some coastal land if the Secretary of State chooses to invoke the power provided to them under Section 3.
- 4.25 Schedule 1 of the Act defines certain types of land use to be 'Excepted Land', which will, whilst being defined as open country, not be designated as access land. One category of such 'Excepted Land' is land covered by military byelaws.
- 4.26 Owners of Access Land will be able to close this land to public access generally up to a maximum of 28 days per year but within certain rules and restrictions. The CROW Act also provides the opportunity for additional closures for particular reasons of land management (Section 24), safety (Section 25), and the need for defence or national security (Section 28).

4.27 English Nature (EN) is the relevant advisory body under S.26 of the CROW Act, with regard to exclusions or restrictions deemed necessary for conserving flora and fauna. They have reviewed all the SSSIs, SPAs, cSACs and Ramsar sites in the Home Counties area that have been identified as access land on the draft maps under Part 1 of CROW and have identified concerns over the potential impacts of open access on the following Natura 2000 sites with component SSSIs covering the ATE HC:

- Woolmer Forest cSAC
- Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA
- Thames Basin Heaths SPA
- Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham cSAC
- Thursley and Oakley Bogs Ramsar site.

EN, with the Countryside Agency will now be examining the likely changes in access that may take place on these sites and will help determine whether access management measures, restrictions or exclusions are necessary to sustain the interest for which the sites were designated.

4.28 The areas covered by the ATE HC are split between different regions in relation to the mapping programme of the Countryside Agency. Table 7 sets out this programme, and which training areas are in each region.

4.29 After receiving comments on the draft maps, the Countryside Agency produces provisional maps. Beyond this stage, only someone with a legal interest in land mapped as access land will be entitled to appeal against the land's inclusion on the maps, if they feel they have grounds to do so.

**Table 7 Timetable for CROW Act Mapping**

<b>Region (as defined by Countryside Agency)</b>	<b>Draft Map Published</b>	<b>Provisional Map Published</b>	<b>Training Areas covered</b>
South East	November 2001	July 2002	Pirbright and Ash Ranges Sandhurst Hankley and Elstead Minley Range (small section on southern boundary)
Central Southern England	September 2002	May 2003	Bramshott Longmoor Camp Bordon

			Bramley Hawley and Minley Ranges (apart from section already mapped) Chilcomb Range and Moody's Down Browndown Range
West	Summer 2003	Due Spring 2004	Otmoor

- 4.30 On the draft and/or provisional maps that have been produced to date, large areas of ATE HC have been mapped as open country or common land.
- 4.31 A procedure has been established by the MOD for reviewing and commenting on these maps. The areas mapped are illustrated in the Site Reports, with details of the approach that the MOD intends to take for each area. In general, the majority of the areas are covered by military byelaws and therefore the situation of access will remain unchanged, with the continued offer of access opportunities when it is safe to do so.
- 4.32 The MOD will need to consider how the new rights of access are to be communicated by the Countryside Agency and Ordnance Survey, and how byelawed land will be depicted on maps to avoid any confusion to the general public on where open access is available. The MOD is currently liaising with the Countryside Agency and Ordnance Survey on this issue.
- 4.33 Part II of the Act (Rights of Way) makes amendments to the provisions for landowners to apply for diversions or closures of PROW under the Highways Act 1980 by placing a duty on the local highway authority to determine such applications within a given timescale. It will also empower the public to apply to the local highway authority for orders to remove obstructions. There may be opportunities to modify the PROW network in some places to everyone's advantage, although in practice these may be difficult to effect.
- 4.34 The CROW Act also requires access authorities (Highway and National Park Authorities) to prepare Rights of Way Improvement Plans (RoWIP) and to establish Local Access Forums (LAF). LAFs will have a responsibility to consider a wide range of access issues, not just issues related to Part I of the CROW Act. MOD has developed policy which states representation on these forums will be at observer status.

#### **Proposals for Improvements to the Existing Access Situation**

- 4.35 There would be a resultant benefit if ATE HC were to take a holistic approach in considering opportunities to "improve the quality and quantity of public access" (Estate Strategy), since

many of the sites are located in very close proximity of each other (e.g. around Aldershot and Longmoor) and impact on each other in terms of access provision.

- 4.36 The following paragraphs consider the potential strategic improvements, which could be considered in line with the review of primary byelaw legislation and the prevention of damage to all Natura 2000 sites within ATE HC.

#### *Provision of Access*

- **Circular Routes**

Identify suitable circular routes, in areas of particular interest due to their nature conservation or military history, or simply nice places to walk. The routes should be selected in order to achieve the aim of providing a good walk whilst minimising damage to the cSAC and preventing disruption to military training. The routes may include a combination of PROWs and the use of tracks as permissive routes and should be way marked to ensure users are able to follow the route easily and are led in the direction suitable for both military training and public access. All such routes should be assessed to ensure compliance with the relevant requirements of The Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

- **Cycling**

Develop routes around the areas, incorporating the use of disused railway tracks and perimeter tracks. These routes could be set up as permissive bridleways, therefore removing the need for all users to be issued with a licence.

- **Path Condition Surveys**

Further to the pilot study, which was undertaken to assess the condition of paths on a training area outside the Home Counties, extend this survey methodology to other training areas on a rolling programme. This should be undertaken in liaison with the local authority and with regard to their statutory duties with regards to PROW. In addition local user groups could be approached to provide assistance with this programme on a voluntary basis.

- **Visitor Surveys**

Further to the pilot visitor survey undertaken for the Aldershot training area, the survey methodology developed to assess the quality and quantity of the access and recreation experience on MOD training areas should be tested throughout the ATE HC.

## *Information/Promotion*

- **Intpretation Boards**

In conjunction with the circular routes referred to above, and/or at other appropriate points within the training area, the introduction of interpretation boards should be established to provide visitors with general information about the area. By providing relevant information, the visitors will receive a much better understanding of the training area itself and also more widely the need for military training. Information that could be presented on an interpretation board includes:-

- General information on the area, including the geography/geology of the area and any ecological and archaeological points of interest
- A map illustrating the area and what public access is available/where
- Information on the military history of the area and current military training activities
- 'Easy to Understand' version of access rights/codes of conduct
- Where to get information on non-firing times or other details on access opportunities

- **Public Access Information Leaflet**

Develop a leaflet or update existing information leaflets to provide information on the current access opportunities of the area, with detail on specific points of interest (e.g. Waggoners Wells, Canadian Memorial, Atlantic Wall, Caesar's Camp etc.). Place copies of leaflet in local tourist information centres, parish council information boards and the Military Museum in Aldershot, for easy distribution to the local population and visitors to the area.

- **Websites**

The DE access website could be developed to provide information about access rights, restrictions and opportunities across the whole of the ATE including ATE HC and/or a specific ATE HC website could be created. Any such provision should include high quality maps and links to the sites of other access promoters including county councils, other statutory bodies (e.g. Forestry Commission, National Trust, Countryside Agency), tourist boards, access groups (e.g. Ramblers Association) etc.

- **Promotion of horse riding circuits**

Link up with local riding schools and stables to consider potential opportunities to promote riding circuits and 'chasers'.

### *Liaison*

- **Working with local bodies**

Approach local landowners e.g. the National Trust and the Heritage Centre Cycle Hire, and local bodies who are working to promote access in the area e.g. the Blackwater Valley Countryside Service and Sustrans to discuss ideas of working together to enhance and promote the access opportunities in the area.

- **Working with statutory bodies**

Continue to work with English Nature, Countryside Agency etc. to ensure that management of the training areas balances the requirements of military training with the needs of nature conservation, access, cultural heritage etc. Continue to work with the Highway Authorities regarding the provision of access and management of PROW, and access for the disabled.

### *Anti-Social Impact*

In order to improve the quality of the access opportunities at the training areas and ranges of ATE HC, there is a need to address the anti-social issues associated with access e.g. damage by 4x4s, illegal access by motorbikes, vandalism, flytipping, burnt out cars etc. The following lists a range of actions that should be implemented across ATE HC to help deal with these issues:-

- **Encourage locals to be 'your eyes and ears'**

Hold presentations for local parish councils and other local community groups on the importance of the training area for military training, the nature conservation interests, and the access opportunities available. Encourage the reporting of vandalism and fly tipping as a way of working together to sustain the area.

- **Increase warden presence.**

Since there is no significant police presence within the training areas, an increase in the number of wardens to patrol areas at particular risk from the above anti-social impact might discourage illegal activity.

- **Working with Local User Groups**

Contact the local representatives of User Groups e.g. Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF) or the Motoring Organisations' Land Access and Recreation Association (LARA) for help in reducing illegal access. Such liaison should also include disseminating information on the sensitivities of designated nature conservation sites and ensuring that legitimate activities are timed to avoid damage to sensitive habitats and periods of sensitivity for Annex 1

birds. EN/MOD have already made progress towards producing a leaflet in this regard and TRF produce their own Codes of Conduct on use of PROWs for motorcycle activities and are likely to be supportive of such an approach.

- **Improve signs**

Erect signs to encourage the public to report fly tipping and warning of the illegal nature of some activities (e.g. it is a criminal offence to use of footpaths and bridleways by motorised vehicles).

- **Adopt measures to prevent the abandonment of cars on the training area**

Install measures e.g. sand traps, bollards or 'dragons teeth', which act as deterrents to normal vehicles (i.e. 2WD vehicles), in consultation with the local highway authority where they affect PROW.

4.32 In addition to those of a strategic nature, this study has highlighted further specific opportunities for some of the training areas and ranges of ATE HC. These are summarised in Table 8 below. A fuller description is provided in the reports for each site in Appendix B.

**Table 8 Summary of Proposals and Recommendations**

Site	Proposals and Recommendations
<b>Barton Stacey Training Area</b>	
Chilcomb Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear byelaw signs should be erected and better waymarking of the bridleway across the Range to ensure the public understand the access opportunities available.</li> <li>• Investigate the possibility of providing a permissive footpath to Deacon Hill, linking from the existing PROWs.</li> </ul>
Moody's Down and Barton Stacey Training Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review signs at the edge of the Range to remove the potential to confuse users of the PROWs.</li> <li>• Consider establishment of a permissive bridleway link between Cocum Farm and Sutton Scotney, along the boundary between areas 10 and 12, and continuing through the centre of Area 9.</li> </ul>
Browndown Training Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the signage of the Solent Way across the Range Area, with 'Solent Way' waymarkers located at the western and eastern entrance to the Range.</li> </ul>

Site	Proposals and Recommendations
Otmoor Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research opportunities to improve the surface conditions of the bridleways in conjunction with the local authority and stable owners in the area.</li> <li>• Continue to work with RSPB via the Conservation Group to enhance the quality of visits to the area e.g. by facilitating educational visits and/or constructing bird hides adjacent to the PROWs.</li> <li>• Consider the use of additional sentries to ensure there is no public access across the danger area when the red flags are flying.</li> </ul>
<b>Aldershot Training Area</b>	
Pirbright Ranges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review signs on the Range, to ensure they are clearly visible and easy to read.</li> </ul>
Sandhurst (RMAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve signage of bridleways.</li> <li>• Consider the request from the British Horse Society.</li> <li>• Fly red flags around the danger area only when live firing is taking place.</li> </ul>
Minley & Aldershot Training Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold discussions with the British Horse Society and local stable owners to address the current issues of horse riding on the area.</li> </ul>
<b>Longmoor Training Area</b>	
Longmoor Range and Training Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider developing a permissive bridleway, which is then waymarked as a cycle route through Areas N2A and N2B.</li> </ul>
Bordon Training Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration to be given to the upgrading of footpaths 5, 9 and 10 to bridleways, together with an additional link across Area J2 to Boxstead Common, in liaison with Hampshire County Council.</li> </ul>
Hankley & Elstead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change the sign at Hankley Common to a general information sign about 'Walks on MOD Lands'.</li> </ul>

## **Appendix A**

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### **Proforma for Site Visits**

**Public Access Study  
Draft Proforma for Baseline Studies and Reporting**

<b>Basic Information</b>			
<b>1. ATE:</b>			
<b>2. Training Area/Facility:</b>			
<b>3. Managed by (HQ Land, ATRA etc)</b>			
<b>4. Size</b>	Acres/Ha	<b>5. Map Attached?</b>	
<b>6. Are any areas not owned freehold by the MoD ?</b>			
<b>7. If Yes, give brief details and explain any use restrictions/ limitations:</b>			
<b>8. Is there any registered common land (&amp; give details)</b>			
<b>9. Training Activities (√?)</b>	AFV live firing (LF)		AFV manoeuvre
	Arty LF		Mortar LF
	Field firing		Small arms ranges
	RAF/heli LF		FGA/Heli trg (dry)
	Engineer trg		FIBUA trg
	Dismount. dry trg		Other dry trg
<b>9a. Is there a guide to the training area/ATE for visiting units (if yes, obtain copy)</b>			
<b>10. Major Users</b>			
<b>Danger Area</b>			
<b>11. Does the training area map show (a) land Danger Area(s)?</b>			
<b>12. Size of the land Danger Area</b>		Acres/Ha	
<b>12a. Confirm that firing templates always remain within this/these Danger Area(s)? (if no – explain)</b>			
<b>13. Is there also an inner Impact Area ?</b>			
<b>14. Is there also a Sea Danger Area?</b>			
<b>15. Size of the Sea Danger Area?</b>		Acres/Ha	
<b>16. Copy of the Sea Danger Area attached?</b>			
<b>16a. Other information (e.g. pattern of use):</b>			
<b>Byelaws</b>			

17. Is any part of the training area/facility covered by byelaws?		
18. When were the byelaws last reviewed/updated?		
19. Copy of the byelaws attached?		
17. Does the byelaw boundary follow the Danger Area boundary?		
18. Explain any differences		
19. Do the byelaws enable parts of the byelawed area to be managed independently?		
20. If so, describe		
21. Do the byelaws describe any local arrangements or exceptions?		
22. If so, describe		
23. Which activities do the byelaws require MoD to restrict access for?		
24. Are there byelaws covering a sea Danger Area?		
25. Explain the operation of these byelaws		
26. Other byelaws information		
<b>Live Firing Notification</b>		
27. Does the training area issue a live firing warning/notice in advance?		
28. How often is this published?	Weekly / Monthly / Bi-monthly / Quarterly / Yearly	
28. How far in advance of the period covered is the notice published?		
29. Where is the notice published?		
30. Attach copies of the notices for the training year 1999/2000		
31. Do the notices show that individual Danger Areas are managed separately (where possible?)		

32. Do the notices provide any public access info. as well as basic firing info?	
33. Are the notices compiled strictly on the basis of bids received? (or is 'slack' built into the programme)	
34. Give any reasons for 'no' to questions 31, 32 and 33	
35. What happens if training is cancelled and a booked area is free from training. Are flags etc taken down?	
36. If no, why not?	
37. What other measures are taken to let people know?	
38. What are the normal live firing hours	
39. How many nights of night firing per month?	
40. What hours constitute "night firing"	
41. Are there any planning conditions or other agreements that set max. live firing levels/hours etc?	
42. If yes, provide details	
<b>Dry Training</b>	
43. Does dry training involve the use of blank ammo/BATSIM/pyrotechnics/trip wires?	
44. If so, please detail use of relevant areas?	
45. Are any measures adopted currently to minimise conflict with public access e.g. no use of blanks near footpaths?	
46. If yes, provide details	
<b>Extent of Public Access</b>	
47. Is there any area-wide access at present within the training area?	
48. If yes, explain basis and provide details	

<p><b>49. Are there any public car parks, picnic sites, holiday accommodation, visitor centres or other formal facilities within the MoD estate?</b></p> <p><b>(NB include facilities provided by tenants)</b></p>	
<p><b>50. If yes, provide details</b></p>	
<p><b>51. Are any of the rights of way set out at Table 1 below part of a National Trail ?</b></p>	
<p><b>52. If yes, provide details</b></p>	
<p><b>53. Are any of the footpaths set out below part of any other promoted walks/trails e.g. by SUSTRANS, the County Council ?</b></p>	
<p><b>54. If yes, provide details</b></p>	
<p><b>55. Are there any routes within the byelawed area that are available for public access at all times?</b></p>	
<p><b>56. On what basis is this access provided ?</b></p>	
<p><b>57. Has the MoD produced or collaborated on any leaflets/guides/books on local access opportunities?</b></p>	
<p><b>58. If yes, provide details</b></p>	
<p><b>59. Has the MoD ever received requests for new access routes within the training area/estate?</b></p>	
<p><b>60. What was the outcome?</b></p>	
<p><b>61. Does the MoD have any aspirations for new routes, as yet unfulfilled?</b></p>	
<p><b>62. If Yes, what has prevented progress?</b></p>	
<p><b>63. Are there any special projects/programmes that will improve access opportunities, e.g. Millennium projects?</b></p> <p><b>(If yes – give details)</b></p>	
<p><b>64. Are there are ongoing problems of trespass or misuses of access opportunities (lawful or unlawful)?</b></p> <p><b>(If yes – give details)</b></p>	
<p><b>65. (For areas with live firing) How many <u>published</u> non firing (public access) days were there in 1997/1998, 1998/1999 and 1999/2000?</b></p>	<p>1997/988 -</p> <p>1998/99 -</p> <p>1999/00 -</p>
<p><b>66. What is the public allowed to use/do on non-firing days?</b></p>	

67. Are any certain non firing days always available every year, e.g. by custom, agreement etc (e.g. lambing, Bank Holidays etc)?	
68. If yes, provide details	
69. Have the location of warning signs and flags ever been reviewed?	
70. If yes, when and with what result?	
71. Is there any other info for the public “on the ground” other than red flags and lamps, warning notices and copies of the byelaws?	
72. If yes, provide details	
73. Are there any other opportunities as yet unmentioned, e.g. organised motor sport events, access for climbing, water sports, orienteering etc?	
74. Please provide details	
75. Are there any arrangements for liaison with the public/groups about access issues, e.g. through ESG, Conservation Group, access group etc?	
76. If yes, provide details	
77. Does any educational access take place, e.g. visits by University courses	
78. If yes, provide details	
79. Are any areas affected by unexploded ordnance (UXO)?	
80. If yes, provide details and/or obtain copy of any map	
<b>Management of Access</b>	
81. What is the general training area/facility policy or practice towards access?	
82. Who is responsible for managing access and how is this done?	
83. Is there an ILMP or Estate Management Plan in either draft or final form? What does it say about current and future access (obtain copy if possible)	

## **Appendix B**

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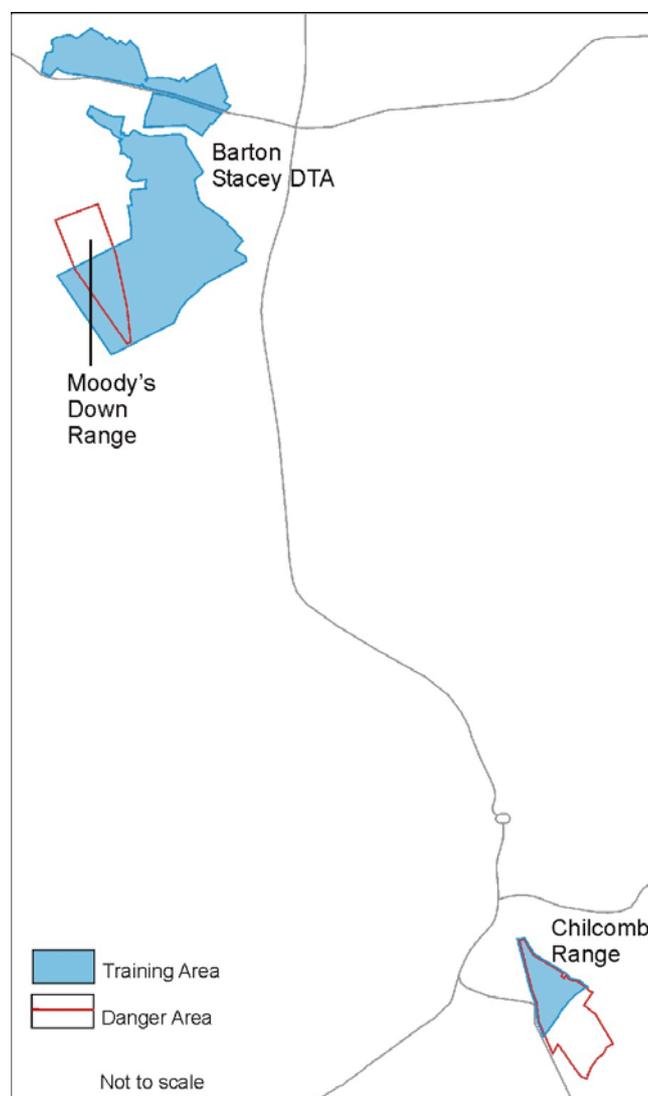
### **Site Reports**

## ATE Home Counties

### Barton Stacey Training Area

Barton Stacey Training Area is located in the county of Hampshire and is comprised of two ranges: Chilcomb and Moody's Down, and a Dry Training Area (DTA). Together the Training Area totals 644 hectares. The figure below illustrates the location of these areas in relation to each other.

**Figure 1 Barton Stacey Training Area**



The following site reports provide details of the Training Area, set out in two separate reports; Chilcomb Range, and Moody's Down and Barton Stacey DTA.

## ATE Home Counties

### Barton Stacey Training Area: Chilcomb Range

#### 1. Geography

Chilcomb Range lies approximately 1km to the south-east of Winchester, covering Fawley Down, Morestead Down and Deacon Hill (145 hectares) (See Figure 1 and Photograph 1).



**Photograph 1: View south across Chilcomb Range**

#### 2. Designations

There are no statutory nature conservation sites on the Range.

The range falls within the proposed South Downs National Park boundary. The draft boundary is shown on Figure 1. A decision is currently awaiting from the Secretary of State as to whether the Designation Order will be confirmed or if a public inquiry will be held first.

The range falls within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which covers the village of Chilcomb and the whole of the range area.

### 3. Training Use

The range is used primarily for shooting by ATR Winchester, and has a high usage (approximately 60-70%). Some dry training takes place on the range.

### 4. Danger Areas

The whole of Chilcomb Range is designated as a danger area, which may be used for the firing of rifles, machine guns and for all activities ancillary to such firing.

### 5. Byelaws/Control

The range is covered by The Chilcomb Range Byelaws, which came into operation on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1969. These byelaws allow for the area to be closed during live firing and restrict and prohibit access through the range at such times. Byelaw signs are located at the entrances into the range (See Sections 8, 14 & 16 below).

### 6. Public Access Resources/Facilities

There are two bridleways running through the danger area (See Figure 1 and Photograph 2). The bridleway which runs through the centre of the danger area links up with a footpath outside the range area which runs north to meet up with the South Downs Way.



**Photograph 2: Bridleway – eastern entrance into Range (NGR 507 277)**

Aside from PROW there is de facto open access to the Training Area, which is only limited when the range is in use.

## 7. Other Existing Opportunities

The range is also used by the National Rifle Association. Demand however has recently fallen with changes in legislation on the possession of fire arms.

## 8. Signage

There are signs at the entrance to the range to indicate that walkers are entering a firing range and that warning signs will be displayed (flags/lamps) when firing is taking place.

## 9. Live Firing Warning/Notification

Red flags are flown/ lamps lit when firing is taking place. When there is no firing, there are no flags/lamps displayed. These are located at various points around the boundary of the range. (See Photograph 3)



**Photograph 3: Sign indicating the use of flags and lamps during live firing**

A sign indicating the use of red flags/lamps is given at the entrance to the range in the east on the bridleway (GR 507 248). However it was not easy to see any flagpole within this area.

Notification of firing times is not given to the Parish Council unless there are exceptional activities taking place.

## 10. Non-Firing Days

The range is open 7 days per week for training purposes (live and dry training), but there is no firing at weekends. Firing takes place between 08:00 and 16:30 hours. There may be some night firing between Monday and Friday.

On some occasions, due to the proximity of St Andrew's Church in Chilcomb (GR 507 277), firing will be ceased during church services (See Photograph 4 below).



**Photograph 4 St Andrew's Church Chilcombe – Looking northwards down the bridleway**

## 11. Management of Dry Training Areas

Parts of the range are leased to tenant farmers.

## 12. Promotion

The Public Rights of Way (PROW) in the area are promoted by Hampshire County Council with information on PROWs and the South Downs Way on their website.

Public access across the range is not actively promoted by ATE HC.

Part of the South Downs Way runs through Hampshire, following old routes and droveways across the chalk escarpment and ridges of the South Downs. The route crosses land to the north of the range. This route is designated as a national trail and is 161km in total running between Winchester and Eastbourne.

### 13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures

The promoters of the South Downs Way requested consideration of a route through the Training Area rather than along the road through Chilcomb (see Figure 1). However, since the danger area is closed at times of live firing, it was not possible to guarantee that the route would be available and open at all times.

### 14. Current Access Problems/Issues

The byelaw sign on the bridleway at the eastern access point into the range (NGR 507 248) has been obliterated by graffiti and is not readable (See Photograph 5 below). It is also not clear on the ground at this point as to whether the bridleway bears right or continues initially up the slope, as there are no waymarkers.



Photograph 5: Byelaw sign at NGR 507 248

Issues have been raised by Owslesbury Parish Council regarding the misleading signage along the Morestead Road and Footpath 2.

As discussed in Section 9, although there are signs indicating that flags will be flown when firing is taking place, it is not easy to see any flagpole from the eastern end of the bridleway (GR 507 248). It was noted on the site visit that there is a flagpole at the other end of the bridleway (GR 502 274).

Under Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, the Countryside Agency has published the draft maps for the Southern Region. Chilcomb Range does not meet the criteria for open country and therefore has not been mapped.

## **15. UXO**

There are no areas of UXO on the Range.

## **16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed**

To address the existing issues, the following recommendations are made:-

- Clear byelaw signs should be erected and better waymarking of the bridleway across the Range to ensure the public understand the access opportunities available.
- Make improvements to the signage along the Morestead Road and on Footpath 2 to ensure that it is clear, well sited and easy to understand.
- The inclusion of the site within the boundary of the proposed South Downs National Park is unlikely to have any major impact in relation to public access.
- The range has not been identified as meeting the criteria of 'open country' under the CROW Act. However, in the spirit of the Act, the MOD has considered the possibility of dedicating the area of Deacon Hill as open access under Section 16 of the CROW Act, although it is likely that this would result in difficulties in managing military training requirements now and in the future. An alternative to this is the provision of a permissive footpath to Deacon Hill, linking with the existing PROW. This path, which would be open during non-firing times, would provide excellent views to the west and south across the South Downs. It is recommended that this possibility be investigated in detail, in liaison with the local highway authority.

## **17. Sources**

Chilcomb Range Byelaws. Statutory Instruments 1969 No 533 A/119/Hants/739

Countryside Agency website [www.countryside.gov.uk](http://www.countryside.gov.uk)

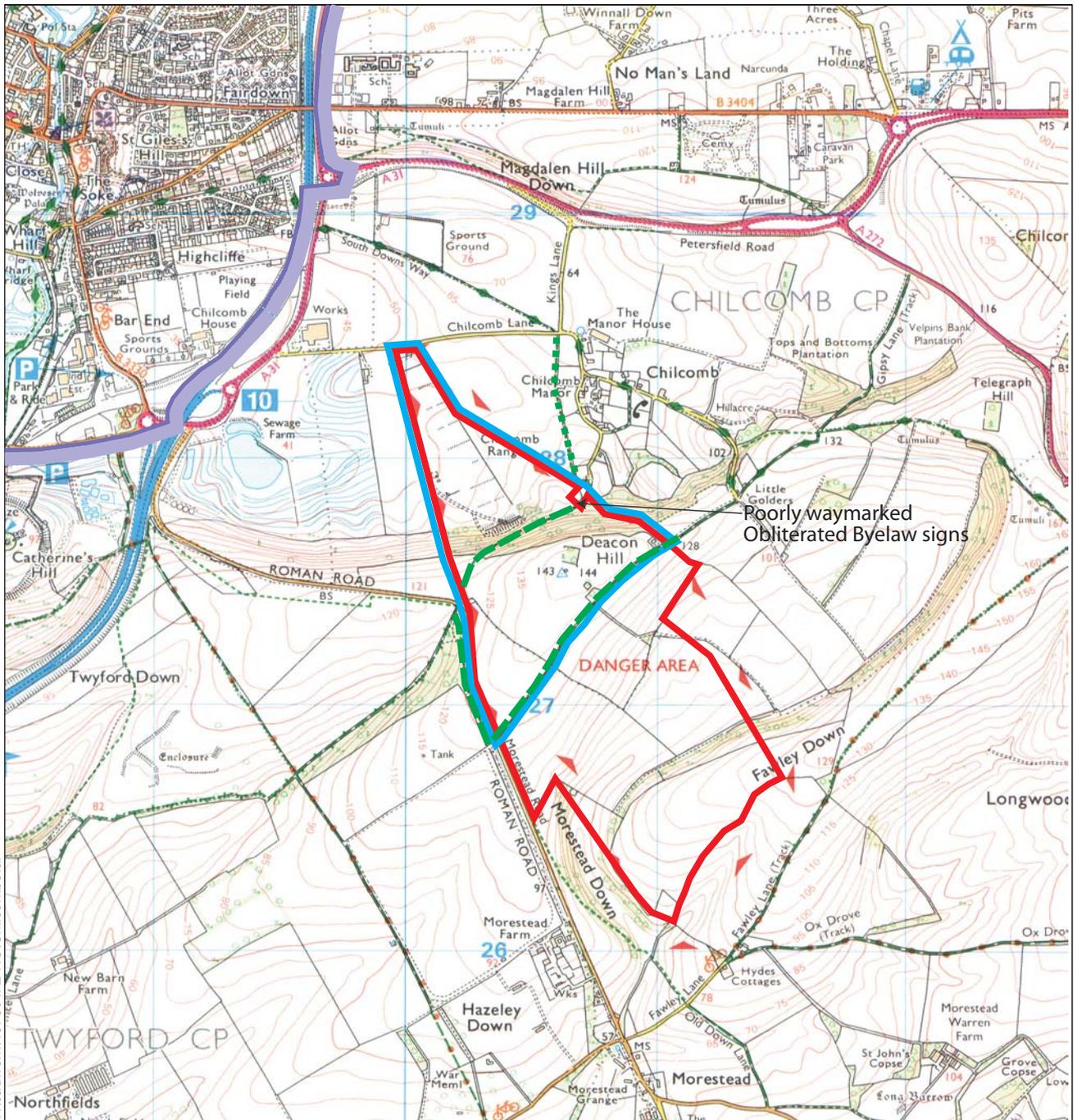
Defence Estates Map (1:25,000) Chilcomb Range

Hampshire County Council website [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

OS Explorer Map Sheet 132 Winchester

Information supplied by MOD and DE personnel at a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2002 and subsequent discussions

Site visit undertaken on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2002



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- Danger Area
- Training Area
- Footpath
- Bridleway
- National Trail/Recreational Path
- Road used as a Public Path
- Proposed South Downs National Park (as defined by Countryside Agency in consultation November 2001) (Shading internal to boundary)

Source: Countryside Agency website  
Draft Consultation Maps



Project  
ATE HC -Chilcomb Range

Title  
Proposed South Downs National Park Boundary

Project Number 4078	Drawing Number Figure 1
Scale 1:25,000	Date August 2003

## ATE Home Counties

### Barton Stacey Training Area:

#### Moody's Down Range and Barton Stacey Dry Training Area

##### 1. Geography

Moody's Down Range and Barton Stacey Dry Training Area (DTA) is located approximately 7km to the north west of Winchester (approximate GR 445 405). The Range covers 862 hectares of which 123 hectares is danger area (see Figure 1).

The River Test runs through the northern section of the range to the north of Barton Stacey. It is a classic chalk stream and is one of the most species rich lowland rivers in England. The Range is predominantly open grass land, with some areas used for agriculture.

##### 2. Designations

The Training Area includes part of the River Test SSSI and is adjacent to Bransbury Common SSSI.

##### 3. Training Use

As with Chilcomb Range, Moody's Down Range is used predominantly for live firing by ATR Winchester.

In addition, Barton Stacey DTA (Areas 1, 2 and 3) is used for dry training. Area 2 is used for logistics training for units on route to Salisbury Plain with vehicles coming off the A303 for rolling replenishment. It is also used for helicopter training (see Photograph 1).



Photograph 1: Area 2, used for logistics training

#### **4. Danger areas**

The Danger area is located in the southwest corner of the Range (see Figure 1).

#### **5. Byelaws/Control**

The Moody's Down Range Byelaws cover the range and came into operation on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1960. The danger area, as defined by the byelaws and illustrated on Figure 1, may be used for the firing of rifles and for all activities ancillary to such firing (Byelaw 2). Byelaw 3 prohibits public access when firing is in progress. At such times, flags (daytime) or lamps (night-time) will be displayed at various locations around the range.

The definition of the danger area, as stated in the byelaws, however, excludes the PROW between Moody's Down Farm and Cocum Farm. To ensure the public's safety and as required by the byelaws, a sentry is posted at each end of this PROW when firing is taking place.

There are no byelaws covering Barton Stacey DTA (Areas 1, 2 and 3).

#### **6. Public Access Resources/Facilities**

There are several PROWs across the range as a whole, including a footpath and three Roads Used as Public Paths (RUPPs) (see Figure 1). (N.B. RUPPs will be redefined as Restricted Byways under the CROW Act 2000).

The Sparsholt Cycle Trail runs through the eastern section of the range from Sutton Scotney through Barton Stacey, and then along the road outside the Training Area, to link up with the RUPP running along the western boundary (see Photograph 2). The Sparsholt Cycle Route starts and finishes from Crab Wood to the south of the Range, 2½ miles west of Winchester and is a circular route encompassing the settlements of Wonston, Sutton Scotney, Barton Stacey and Crawley. The route is 25 miles in total, 16 miles of which are off-road.

In Areas 1, 2 and 3, there are no PROW. However, access by local dog-walkers is tolerated, as long it does not unnecessarily interfere with military training activity.



**Photograph 2: View northwest along RUPP (part of Sparsholt Cycle Route from GR 428 388)**

## **7. Other Existing Opportunities**

Areas 1, 2 and 3 are used for some licensed events e.g. classic car rallies. The range is also used by fishing and shooting syndicates.

## **8. Signage**

Byelaw and warning signs are located around the boundary of the range. There is also an 'early warning' notice at the junction of the two RUPPs by Moody's Down Farm (see Photographs 3 and 4). Some of the signs may confuse the user of the PROW, e.g. adjacent signs state 'No Entry' and 'Keep Out While Red Flags or Lamps Are Displayed'. The user may interpret this as no entry at any time.



**Photograph 3: Moody's Down Byelaws Sign**



**Photograph 4: Warning and Byelaws sign at junction of RUPPs (GR 428 388)**

Signs around the boundary of Barton Stacey DTA (Areas 1, 2 and 3) indicate that public access is prohibited (see Photograph 5).



**Photograph 5: Signage at Entrance to Area 2**

## **9. Live Firing Warning/Notification**

Red flags are flown (daytime) and red lamps lit (night-time) when live firing is taking place. These are located at various points around the range (see Photograph 6). The danger area is entirely closed to the public during firing times as stated in Section 5 above.

**Photograph 6: Live Firing in Progress – view south-eastwards along the RUPP, part of the Sparsholt Cycle Route (GR 418 403)**



ATE HC have a good relationship with Barton Stacey Parish Council. The Parish Council is only notified when there is likely to be activity, which is exceptional to the normal firing times. All the tenant farmers are aware of the firing times/activities and are suitably notified in the event of an exceptional activity.

#### **10. Non-Firing Days**

The range is open 6 days a week, between the hours of 08:00-16:30. There may be some night firing between Mondays and Fridays. There are no specific non-firing periods.

#### **11. Management of Dry Training Areas**

Much of the dry training area and range is leased to tenant farmers and is considered to provide excellent dry training facilities.

#### **12. Promotion**

A leaflet detailing the route of Sparsholt Cycle Trail is produced by Hampshire County Council.

The access opportunities are not actively promoted by ATE HC as it would not be appropriate to encourage any more de facto access across Barton Stacey DTA (Areas 1, 2 and 3).

#### **13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures**

There are no known third party aspirations or pressures.

#### **14. Current Access Problems/Issues**

There are some potential threats from travellers on to the areas along the A303. Consequently ditches and posts have been constructed and erected around the perimeter of the range where there are problems.

#### **15. UXO**

There are no areas of UXO on the Ranges.

#### **16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed**

It is recommended that the signs at the edge of the range be reviewed, in liaison with the local highway authority, to remove the potential to confuse users of the PROWs. The local highway authority has also suggested that the footpath running diagonally across Area 13 should be considered for diversion and this should also be discussed.

There may be potential to develop a permissive bridleway link between Cocum Farm and Sutton Scotney, along the boundary between areas 10 and 12, and continuing through the centre of Area 9, subject to negotiations with the relevant tenant farmers and the local highway authority. This would provide an alternative route for horseriders instead of having to use the road, and provide a good linked network in an area where the PROWs do not appear to be well connected.

#### **17. Sources**

Defence Estate Map Training Area (1:25,000) Barton Stacey – Moody's Down

English Nature River Test SSSI Citation Sheet

Hampshire County Council website [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

Hampshire County Council Cycle Pack – Section on Sparsholt Cycle Route

OS Explorer Map Sheet 132 Winchester

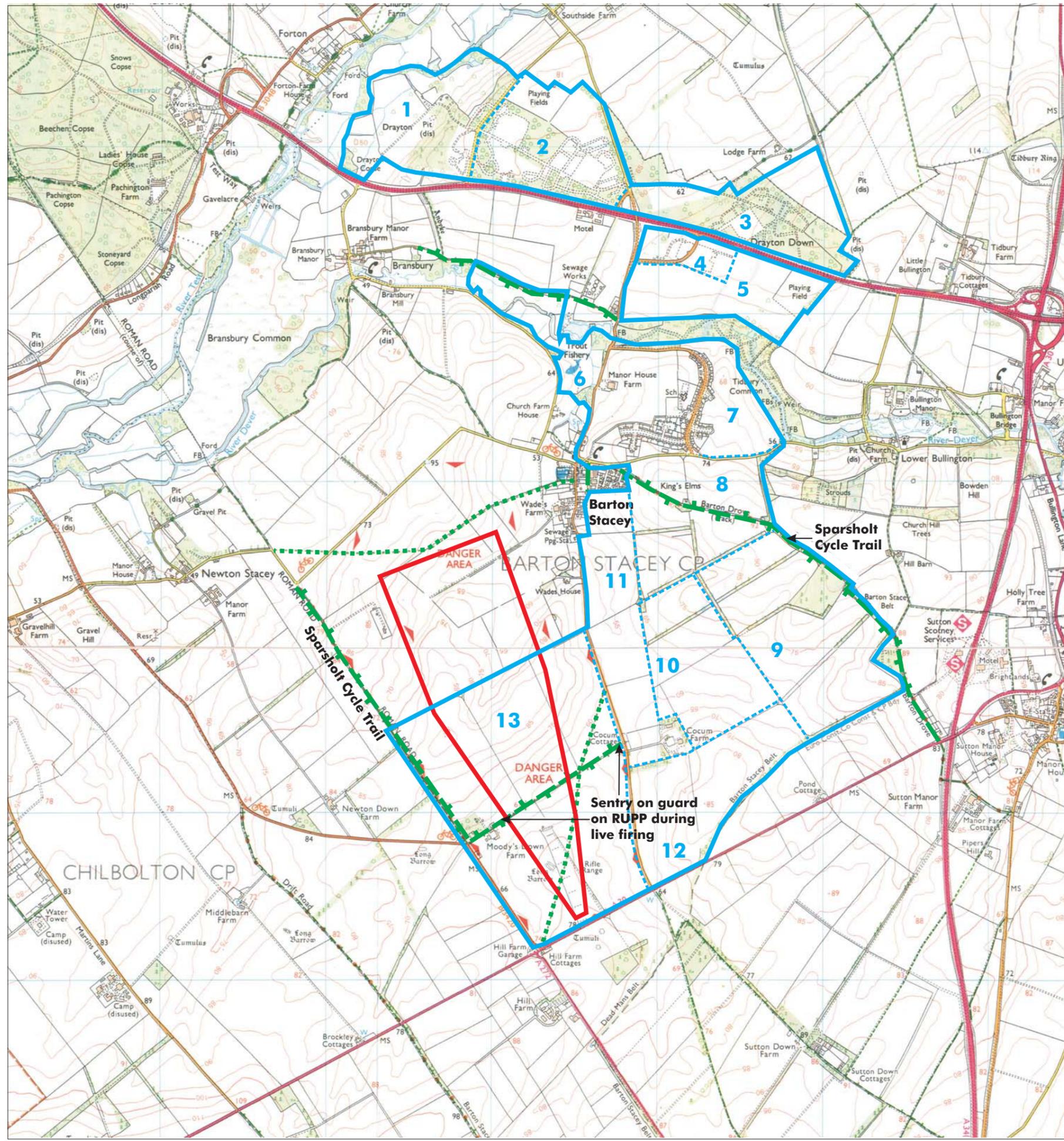
OS Explorer Map Sheet 144 Basingstoke

The Moody's Down Range Byelaws. Statutory Rules and Order No 1747 of 1960 119/Hants/282

Information supplied by MOD and DE personnel at a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2002 and subsequent discussions

Site visit undertaken on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2002

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- Danger Area
- Training Area
- - - - Subdivision of Training Area
- · - · - Footpath
- - - Bridleway
- - - - - Road used as a Public Path (RUPP)

**RPS** Planning, Transport and Environment

Project	
ATE HC - Moody's Down Range & Barton Stacey DTA	
Title	
Location Plan and PROW Network	
Project Number	Drawing Number
4078	Figure 1
Scale	Date
1:25,000	August 2003

# ATE Home Counties

## Browndown Range

### 1. Geography

Browndown Range is located to the west of Gosport on the Solent, within the county of Hampshire. The coastal resort of Lee-on-Solent is located to the west of the Range (see Figure 1).

The Range occupies the foreshore and adjacent land as well as land to the north of the B3333 within the River Alver Valley. The Range covers a total area of 130 hectares.

The area to the south of the B3333 is designated a SSSI and comprises an extensive shingle beach with a disturbed sequence of apposition ridges supporting three main plant communities: extensive tracts of heathers and gorse, open grass heath and gorse scrubland. The invertebrate fauna is also known to include a range of species specialised to this habitat and thus rare in south-east England.

This landscape of shingle is almost unique within southern Britain with the exception of Dungeness in Kent (see Photograph 1 below).



**Photograph 1: Looking eastwards across Browndown Range**

The River Alver valley is comprised of predominantly marshland, reeds and scrubland.

### 2. Designations

Browndown Range is designated as a SSSI and was first notified in 1979.

The northern section of Browdown Range is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).

The land along the southern side of the B3333 between the road and the Range is referred to as the Browdown Coastal Area, which is managed by Hampshire County Council (see Photograph 2 below).



**Photograph 2: Browdown Coastal Area**

The Browdown Battery in the southeast corner of the Range is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Though it has been modified and strengthened many times during its history much of the original building is still identifiable.

### **3. Training Use**

The Range is used by the Royal Marines, the RLC and Cadets for emergency fuel handling and for on-shore amphibious landings.

The training area is also used by MOD sailing clubs.

### **4. Danger Areas**

There is no Danger Area as there is no live firing undertaken on the Range.

### **5. Byelaws/Control**

Browdown Range is covered by The Browdown and Rowner Military Lands Byelaws, which came into operation on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1995. The Byelaws state that they do not *'interfere with the lawful exercise by any person on any public right of way'* (Byelaw 1.(2)).

Browndown is the only site in the UK used by the ATE for amphibious manoeuvres. The beach therefore may be closed during amphibious landings. Such activities are likely to take place twice a month both day and night time and notices are displayed at the entrances to the Range to indicate that the area is closed.

## **6. Public Access Resources/Facilities**

Public access is allowed along the foreshore and is promoted as part of the Solent Way, a locally promoted Recreational Trail.

The route of the Solent Way through the Range is not clearly defined on the ground and there is no indication that one is on the Solent Way when first entering the Range at either the western or eastern end. Given there is no defined route it is therefore possible to deviate from the route shown on the OS map. During the site visit it was noted that people were dog walking in the area adjacent to the foreshore.

The land to the north of the B3333 road, in the River Alver Valley, does not have any Public Rights of Way across it. However, there is de facto access and this area is frequently used by local people for dog walking.

The range is generally used by both local people and visitors from the adjacent caravan site (east of the range). Usage of the Solent Way increases during holiday seasons.

There is no public access allowed to Browndown Camp, located in the east of the Range on the B3333.

There are public car parks at either end of the Solent Way at Lee-on-Solent (west) and Stokes Bay (east). Toilet facilities are located at the Stokes Bay carpark.

## **7. Other Existing Opportunities**

The area of Stokes Bay is an important area for water sports and is promoted and managed by Gosport Borough Council.

## **8. Signage**

Danger warning signs and byelaws are located at the western and eastern entrances to the Range. There is a fence defining the Range Boundary, but there are no physical barriers into the Range (see Photographs 3 and 4 below). Should access to the Solent Way be prohibited at any time for training purposes, signs and notices are displayed at both the eastern and eastern entrances to the Range.



**Photograph 3: Entrance into Browdown Range (west)**



**Photograph 4: Entrance into Browdown Range (east)**

## **9. Live Firing Warning/Notification**

Public access to the range and the Solent Way is possible at all times except during some military activities (amphibious landings as discussed in Section 5). There is no live firing undertaken at Browdown Range.

## **10. Non-Firing Days**

There is no live firing at Browdown Range and access is available at all times except when there may be amphibious landings taking place as discussed in Section 5.

## **11. Management of Dry Training Areas**

The Range is fenced off from the adjacent coastal land, but there are no physical barriers to public access across the range (see Photograph 3).

## **12. Promotion**

The Solent Way begins in Milford-on-Sea, at Christchurch Bay, to the west of Lee-on-Solent, and finishes at Langstone Harbour, east of Portsmouth. This 97km recreational trail is supported and promoted by Hampshire County Council. Information on the route is available on their website, and the Solent Way Guide is also available which promotes the route.

The area of Stokes Bay is a popular tourist destination and is actively promoted and managed by Gosport Borough Council. An interpretation board, providing information on Stokes Bay, is situated in the carpark to the east of the Range.

## **13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures**

English Nature (EN) have made it clear that they would not like to see any further increase in access to the Training Area outside the existing rights of way because of the area is already under pressure from users. Accordingly, they welcome clear signing of the route across the foreshore.

## **14. Current Access Problems/Issues**

There are no clear signs to indicate that the route across the foreshore of Browndown Range is part of the Solent Way, and as to whether it can be used by walkers, cyclists and horseriders alike.

There are no known problems related to the de facto access in the River Alver Valley and no demand to increase the amount of access available in this area.

Under the CROW Act 2000, the Countryside Agency has published the provisional maps of open country and registered common land for the Southern Region. The land to the north of the B3333 has been mapped as meeting the criteria for 'open country' (see Figure 1). However, this area will become 'excepted land' under Schedule 1 of the Act, because of the presence of the military byelaws. Therefore there will be no change to the current situation.

## **15. UXO**

There are no areas of UXO on the Range.

## **16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed**

It is recommended that signage of the Solent Way across the Range Area is improved, with waymarkers located at the western and eastern entrance to the Range. Hampshire County Council Countryside Service (HCCCS) have developed a unique waymarker for this. It is therefore suggested that ATE should liaise with HCCCS to implement appropriate signage of the route at this point.

The area to the north of B3333 has been identified as 'open country' under the CROW Act, but the current situation will not change because the land will be 'excepted'. In the spirit of the Act, the MoD has considered the possibility of dedicating this area as open access under Section 16 of the CROW Act. However it is likely that this would result in difficulties in managing military training requirements now and in the future, and would not provide any real benefit to the public as de facto open access is already available. As discussed in section 14 above, there is no demand to change the high level of access already provided.

## **17. Sources**

Defence Estates Map - Transfer of Land from HQ 4 Div to Home Counties Army Training Estate (1:25,000) Browndown

English Nature SSSI Citation Sheet – Browndown SSSI

Hampshire County Council - Nature Conservation Designation Map (1:25,000)

Hampshire County Council website - [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

OS Explorer Map Sheet No 119 Meon Valley, Portsmouth

Information supplied by MOD and DE personnel at meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2002

Site visit on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2002 and subsequent discussions



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- Training Area
- National Trail/  
Recreational Route
- Land mapped as Open Country  
(on provisional maps produced  
by Countryside Agency)

Project	
ATE HC: Browndown Range	
Title	
Location Plan, PROW Network and Land Mapped as Open Country	
Project Number	Drawing Number
4078	Figure 1
Scale	Date
1:25,000	August 2003

# **ATE Home Counties**

## **Otmoor Range**

### **1. Geography**

Otmoor Range is located to the north east of Oxford, approximately 2km south of the M40 motorway (see Figure 1). The villages of Beckley lie to the south and to the northeast Murcott, Charlton-on-Otmoor to the north and Oddington to the northwest. The area is a mixture of arable and improved pasture, along with areas of wetland which contain many species of nationally uncommon plants and animals. Historically, this area was predominantly an extensive area of wetland.

The total area of the range is approximately 208 hectares. Of this, 199 hectares is owned by ATE Home Counties and the remaining 9 hectares is comprised of private land over which the MOD has firing rights. Otmoor is a large bowl-shaped area of land on the floodplain of the River Ray to the northeast of Oxford.

### **2. Designations**

The Range includes the Otmoor SSSI, whilst land adjacent to the west is a Nature Reserve owned and managed by the RSPB.

There is an old Roman road running north-south through the site which is roughly represented by the bridleway, which is a scheduled ancient monument.

### **3. Training Use**

Otmoor offers facilities for live firing on gallery ranges. An Electric Target Range (ETR) is proposed in the near future which is likely to increase the level of usage and which will require assent from English Nature under S28(H) of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1980, as amended by the CROW Act. The range is used by Cadets, Oxford University OTC and the RLC Regiment based at Bicester.

### **4. Danger Areas**

The danger area covers the 208 hectares of the Range.

### **5. Byelaws/Control**

The Otmoor Range Byelaws 1980 prohibit public access when there are red flags flying, red lamps lit or orange lights flashing.

## 6. Public Access Resources/Facilities

There is a bridleway running from north to south through the range and one from west to southeast. These meet in the north of the site. A footpath joins with these two bridleways and runs northwestwards out of the range in the north west corner (see Figure 1).

The centre of Otmoor is flooded for 2-3 months every winter as it acts as a 'reservoir' to prevent flooding in Kidlington and Oxford. During this time and in wet conditions generally, these routes become very muddy and parts of the bridleways may be impassable on foot and may require users to deviate from the defined route (see Photograph 1 below).



**Photograph 1: Views north along the bridleway**

The Oxfordshire Way runs approximately 1km to the south of the site, through Beckley. It is possible to link up with the PROW on the Range from the Oxfordshire Way, north via Otmoor Lane.

## 7. Other Existing Opportunities

There are licences for hunts through the site, as well as for shoots.



**Photograph 2: A Hunt using southern part of Otmoor Range**

The general area is well used by horse riders. There was clear evidence of this during the site visit, with RPSB signs outside the range, stating the bad conditions of the bridleway (outside the range) due to the wet weather and heavy use (see Photograph 3).



**Photograph 3: Sign on adjacent RSPB land at GR 570 125**

There is a small carpark adjacent to the west of the range at GR 570 125, which is owned by RSPB.

## 8. Signage

There are boundary gates into the site on the bridleway. There have been problems of these being vandalised. There are no sentries on the entry points into the range.

There are clear signs indicating the limit of the range area, access restrictions and the rights of way. Byelaw noticeboards are also displayed (see Photograph 4 below).



**Photograph 4: Looking north along bridleway from southern entrance to Range)**

## **9. Live Firing Warning/Notification**

The local communities are aware of the firing times and notification is only given to Beckley Parish Council when there is likely to be an unexceptional activity taking place. The local police have indicated that they do not wish to be notified about firing.

During firing times, flags are flown and/or red lamps/orange lights lit and these are located at key points around the range boundary.

## **10. Non-Firing Days**

The Range is used for firing 5 days per week, except Mondays and Thursdays. Firing Times are 09:00 – 16:00 hours (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays) and 09:30 – 16:00 hours (Sundays).

There is no night-time firing allowed on the range. Last firing is at 15.45 hours unless advised otherwise.

## **11. Management of Dry Training Areas**

Dry training does not take place on this range.

## **12. Promotion**

The range is not actively promoted by ATE HC.

The RSPB nature reserve adjacent to the range is open to visitors but it is not actively promoted by RSPB. Information is available on the RSPB website and the area is well known with bird watchers and local residents.

## **13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures**

Otmoor was referred to in the Independent on Sunday's Out of Bounds Britain campaign. The article, which focused on hunts being allowed to go where walkers are prohibited, quoted a representative from an anti-hunting group, stating "*I have clearly seen personnel of the Vale of Aylesbury hunt enter MOD land at Otmoor, Oxfordshire, when the red flag is flying*".

Proposals were put forward by ATE HC to allow more access to the area following representations by the local Ramblers Association. However, the Beckley Parish Council and conservation groups were not happy to open up the area as this would put increased pressure on the village of Beckley. There are no organised conservation group trips within the area.

Oxfordshire County Council would support any proposed improvements to the surface of the bridleways including appropriate drainage, particularly the southern sections and at the entrance to the site.

#### **14. Current Access Problems/Issues**

Otmoor is considered to be a sensitive area in terms of ecological interest. Local residents and conservation groups are not keen to open up the area to more visitors, as they consider there is enough pressure in the area, in particular with vehicular access along Otmoor Lane, which runs north out of the village of Beckley.

When conditions are wet the bridleways and footpath become difficult to use and impassable in places. Oxfordshire County Council has highlighted the damage caused to the bridleways by the high numbers of local, and boxed in, horses who use these routes. The Council has suggested that access to the Hunt could be restricted during the winter to alleviate such pressure, which together with the flooding of Otmoor every winter has a detrimental effect on the surface of the bridleways.

The County Council would also like to see, with MOD support, the removal of access barriers and chains in favour of the use of additional sentries and the introduction of interpretative panels.

Signage at the entrance to the site needs to be clear, concise and up to date. A proliferation of confusing signage needs to be avoided, and the problems associated with vandalism of signage addressed.

#### **15. UXO**

There are no areas of UXO.

#### **16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed**

There may be some opportunity to improve the surface conditions of the bridleways across the site in conjunction with the local authority, stable owners in the area and in close liaison with EN to ensure there are no impacts on the sensitive features of the SSSI. This would improve accessibility, making the use of bridleways easier in wet conditions, and have the potential to reduce the impact on the natural environment.

Given the nature conservation interests of the general area, it is recommended that the MOD continue to work with RSPB, via the Conservation Group, to enhance the quality of visits to the area e.g. by facilitating educational visits and/or constructing bird hides. There will also need to be close liaison with EN since proposed future opportunities are likely to require assent under S28(H) of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1980, as amended by CROW. Consideration should also be given to the introduction

of interpretative panels to explain the nature conservation interests of Otmoor, its historical significance and its use for military training.

Consideration should be given to the use of additional sentries to ensure there is no public access across the danger area when the red flags are flying. Such an initiative would be welcomed by the County Council as a appropriate measure to control access, enforce access restrictions and explain to visitors the reasons for such measures and alternative routes that could be followed.

Consideration should be given to the nature and amount of signage necessary at the entrance/exit points to the site. Signage should be clear and concise and provide up to date information on access opportunities and restrictions.

## **17. Sources**

Defence Estate Map (1:1,000) Transfer of Land from Eastern Wessex TAVRA to Home Counties Army Training Estate.

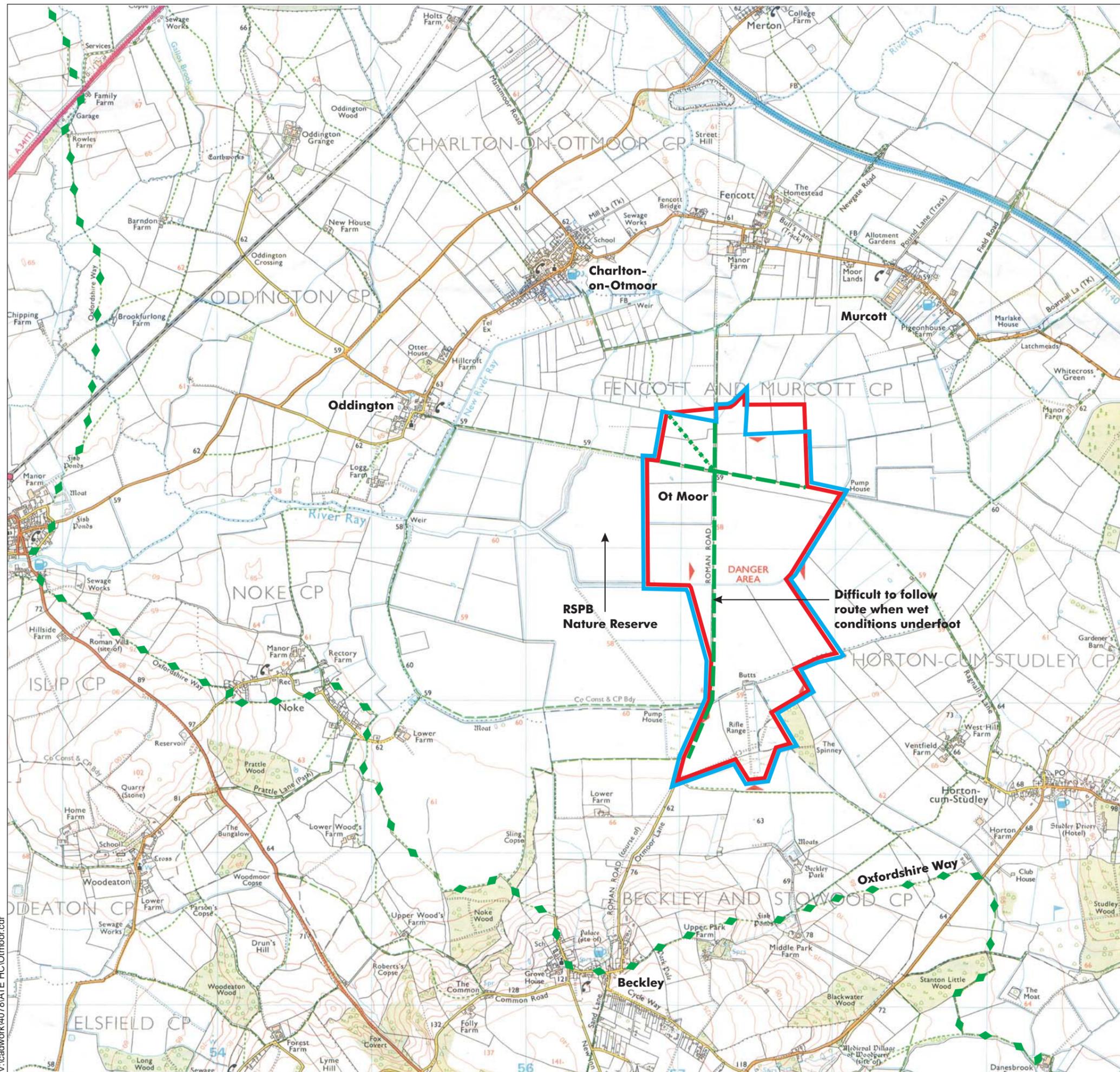
English Nature SSSI Citation Sheet - Otmoor

OS Explorer Map Sheet 180 (1:25,000) Oxford, Witney & Woodstock

RSPB Website [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

Information supplied by MOD and DE personnel at meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2002. Site visit undertaken on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2002.

Independent on Sunday, 19 Dec 1999 'Hunts ride where walkers are barred'



- Danger Area
- Training Area
- - - - Footpath
- · - · Bridleway
- ◆ ◆ ◆ Oxfordshire Way

RSPB  
Nature Reserve

DANGER  
AREA

Difficult to follow  
route when wet  
conditions underfoot



Project	
ATE HC: Otmoor	
Title	
Location Plan and PROW Network	
Project Number	Drawing Number
4078	Figure 1
Scale	Date
1:25,000	August 2003

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# **ATE Home Counties**

## **Bramley Training Area**

### **1. Geography**

Bramley Training Area is located approximately 5km to the north west of Hook and south of Bramley in Hampshire (approximate central GR 660 580) (see Figure 1).

The training area covers an area of 364 hectares and follows the linear corridor of a railway line. The land use within the Training Area is predominantly woodland.

### **2. Designations**

There are no designations within or immediately adjacent to the Bramley Training Area.

### **3. Training Use**

The training area is completely fenced off and is used solely for army training purposes e.g. training of logistic units. Parts of the Training Area have been used historically as an ammunition dump.

### **4. Danger Areas**

There is no live firing undertaken on the training area.

### **5. Byelaws/Control**

There are no Byelaws covering the Bramley Training Area.

### **6. Public Access Resources/Facilities**

Due to its sensitive nature, when the site was purchased in 1923, the existing PROWs were closed by Statutory Instrument for the period of ownership of the site. This includes a RUPP that currently appears on the Hampshire County Council Definitive Public Right of Way Map and therefore is also depicted on Ordnance Survey maps. The Statutory Instrument includes the provision that, on disposal of the site, the original PROWs will be re-instated.

### **7. Other Existing Opportunities**

Access to Bramley is available for specific managed activities, agreed upon application for a licence to the MOD. Recent licensed activities have included orienteering and clay target shooting.

## **8. Signage**

A security fence encloses the site. At the points where the PROW is closed (see Section 6), signs have been erected to explain the right to close by Statutory Instrument. In addition, a sign is erected at the start of the PROW, with agreement from the local landowner.

## **9. Live Firing Warning/Notification**

There is no live firing undertaken on this training area, therefore no requirements to issue warnings or notification.

## **10. Non-Firing Days**

There is no live firing there this is not applicable.

## **11. Management of Dry Training Areas**

This is not applicable to the site.

## **12. Promotion**

There is no public access and therefore no promotion.

## **13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures**

There are no known third party aspirations or pressures.

## **14. Current Access Problems/Issues**

There are no known access problems/issues associated with this training area.

## **15. UXO**

Parts of the training area have been used historically as an ammunition storage facility. Some waste has been buried, but the exact extent and nature of the contamination is not completely known. There is therefore an increased health and safety issue associated with this training area.

## **16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed**

No opportunities or issues have been identified.

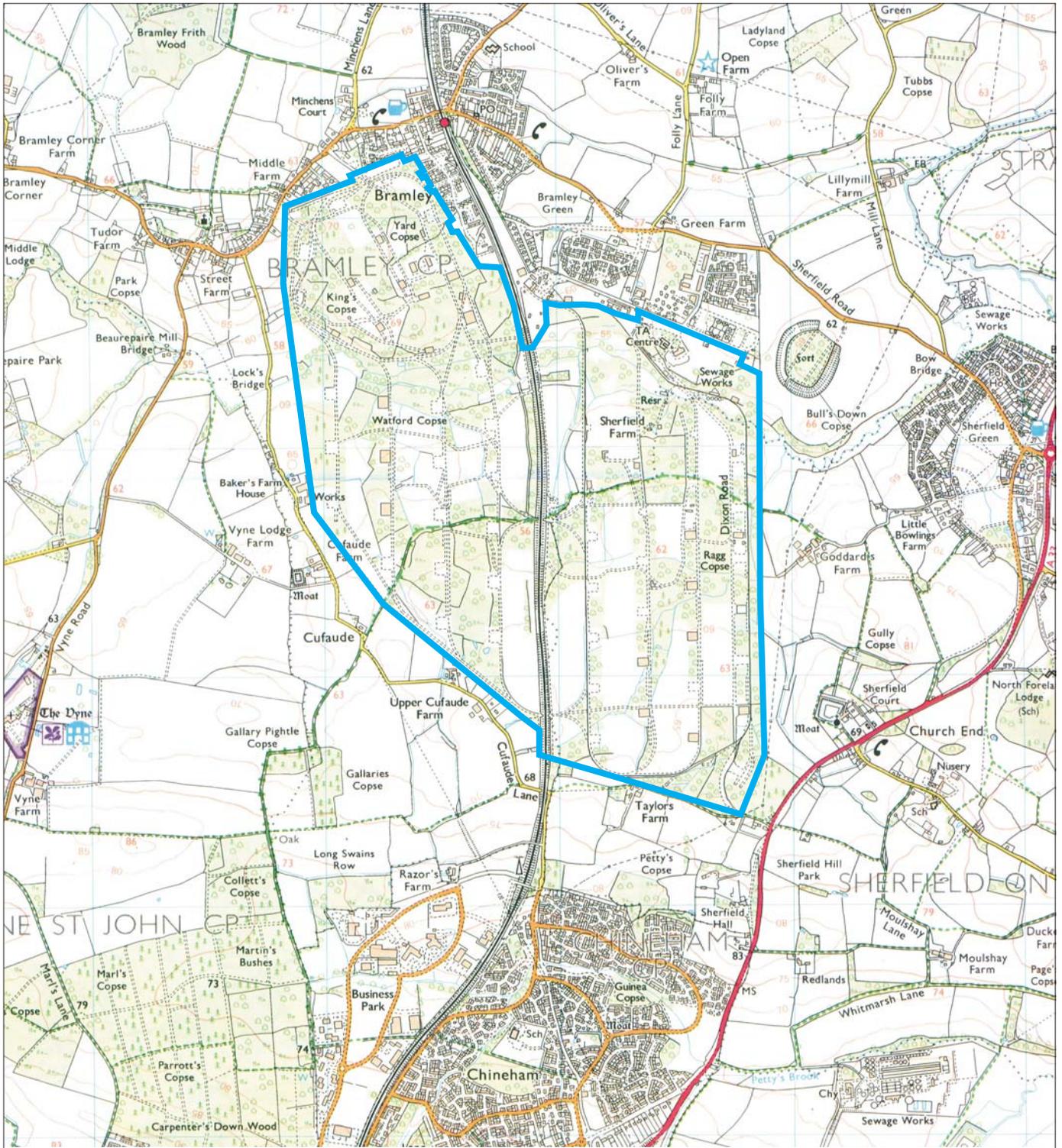
## **17. Sources**

Defence Estate Map (1:5,000) Bramley Training Area Map

OS Explorer Map Sheet 160 (1:25,000) Windsor, Weybridge & Bracknell

Information supplied by MOD and DE personnel at a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2002 and subsequent discussions

Note: This Training Area was not visited



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 Training Area



Project  
ATE HC: Bramley Training Area -

Title  
Location Plan

Project Number  
4078  
Scale  
1:25,000

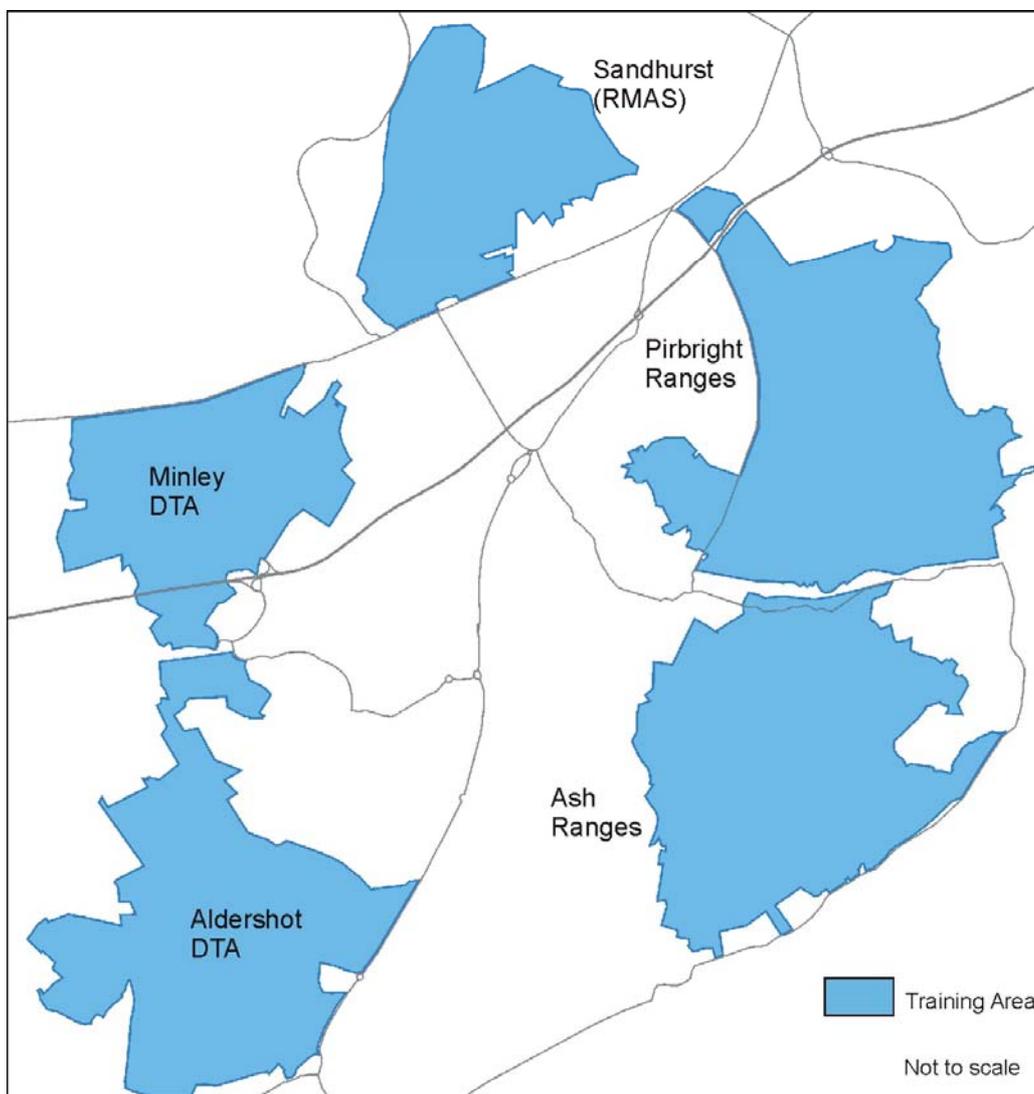
Drawing Number  
Figure 1  
Date  
August 2003

## ATE Home Counties

### Aldershot Training Area

Aldershot Training Area is divided into four main areas: Sandhurst (RMAS); Pirbright Ranges; Ash Ranges; Minley and Aldershot dry training areas . These are located within the counties of Surrey and Hampshire and together total 2,723 hectares. The figure below illustrates the location of these areas in relation to each other.

**Figure 1 Aldershot Training Areas**



The following site reports provide details of the Training Area, covering each of the four main areas in turn.

# ATE Home Counties

## Aldershot Training Area: Ash Ranges

### 1. Geography

Ash Ranges are located to the north east of the urban edge of Aldershot, in Surrey, covering an area of 1,635 hectares (approximate central GR 915 535) (see Figure 1). The Ranges comprise of some of the largest dry heathland remaining in the London Basin, along with extensive areas of wet heathland, bog and associated habitats. The Basingstoke Canal flows along the western boundary of the Ranges.

### 2. Designations

The area is very important from a conservation perspective and there are a number of wildlife site designations covering the Ranges. These presently include Ash to Brookwood Heaths, which is a component SSSI of the Thames Basin Heaths and Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham cSAC. There are also several Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation Interest (SINCs) around the Range and the site is also adjacent to Basingstoke Canal SSSI.

### 3. Training Use

Ash Ranges are the most heavily used range in the ATE HC area, with gallery ranges situated around the perimeter of the training area, firing into the centre. Areas E1, E2 and E3 are used for low level training.

### 4. Danger Areas

The Danger Area covers approximately 965 hectares of the training area, with the dry training areas surrounding it (Areas E1-E6) acting as a buffer zone between the danger area and the residential areas.

### 5. Byelaws/Control

The Ranges are covered, in general, by the Aldershot and District Military Lands Byelaws 1976, which came into operation on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1976, and specifically by the Ash Ranges Byelaws 1983, which came into operation on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1983.

The Danger Area is defined by the Ash Ranges Byelaws 1983, as illustrated on Figure 1. The Byelaws prevent access to the Danger Area when in use for military purposes.

## 6. Public Access Resources/Facilities

There are no PROWs within the Danger Area. There are Footpaths, Bridleways and BOATs within the dry training areas (see Figure 1) and there is open access to the dry training area in the southwest corner of the Ranges (Area E5) around Surprise Hill (see Photograph 1), with numerous tracks but no PROWs.

The Ranges are heavily used by the public, in particular local residents. Basingstoke Canal, to the north of the Range, is important within the local area for leisure trips (including boating and the use of the towpaths for walking).



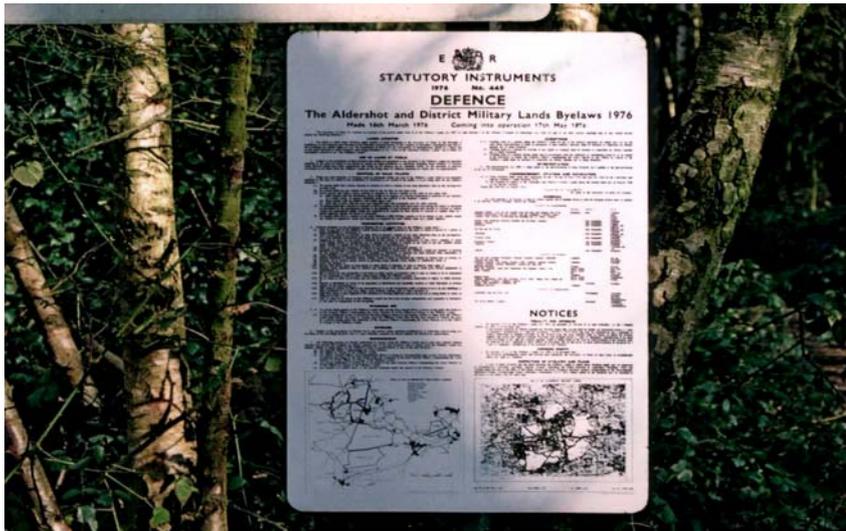
Photograph 1: Open access into dry training area (Area E5)

## 7. Other Existing Opportunities

The area is also used for managed activities under licence. Recent activities include a charity walk, filming and shooting.

## 8. Signage

There are clear warning and byelaw signs around the Ranges indicating that the land is the property of MOD and used for training purposes.



**Photograph 2: Byelaw Sign at Boundary of Ranges.**

## **9. Live Firing Warning/Notification**

Red flags are flown when live firing is taking place. Upon request, the Commandant notifies local people when live firing is taking place.

## **10. Non-Firing Days**

Live firing can take place on 7 days per week. Open access on foot within the training area is available after 16.30 hours. The Range is closed for 2 weeks in August every year.

## **11. Management of Dry Training Areas**

An Integrated Land Management Plan for the Aldershot and Longmoor Training Areas is currently being prepared.

EN and DE have produced 'Guidelines for Assessment of Recreational Events by Defence Estates' for all of the MOD sites within the Thames Basin Heaths pSPA and Thursley Ash, Pirbright and Chobham cSAC. This guidance outlines the possible impacts of recreational events/recreation and best practice to minimise the impact.

## **12. Promotion**

There are no routes across the Ranges, which are actively promoted by ATE HC or any other third parties.

The Public Rights of Way are shown on the definitive maps, which are available on the Surrey County Council website.

### **13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures**

There are no known third party aspirations or pressures.

### **14. Current Access Problems/Issues**

The CROW Act has the potential to introduce open access on the ATE. The provisional maps for land to be defined as 'open access' under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 have been published for the South East Region. Land within Ash Ranges has been identified (see Figure 2) as open country. However, due to the Byelaws that cover Ash Ranges, these areas will be 'Excepted Land' as defined under Schedule 1 of the Act and the current access arrangements will not change.

Nevertheless, EN is concerned about the possible disturbance to sand lizard, woodlark, Dartford warbler and nightjar, particularly from dogs, as a result of an increase in access under CROW. It is intended that potential effects of access will be examined through an appropriate assessment. EN has also submitted advice under S26 with regard to open access and possible impacts on special interest features within the Thames Basin Heaths pSPA.

### **15. UXO**

There are no areas of UXO on the Ranges.

### **16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed**

The publication of the access maps under the CROW Act 2000 will illustrate which areas are to be designated as open country or as registered common land. The MOD will need to consider the future management strategy for those areas so designated, including the implications of byelawed land being excepted land under Schedule 1 of the Act and the use of section 28 restrictions/exclusions.

### **17. Sources**

Aldershot and District Military Lands Byelaws 1976 Statutory Instruments 1976 No 449

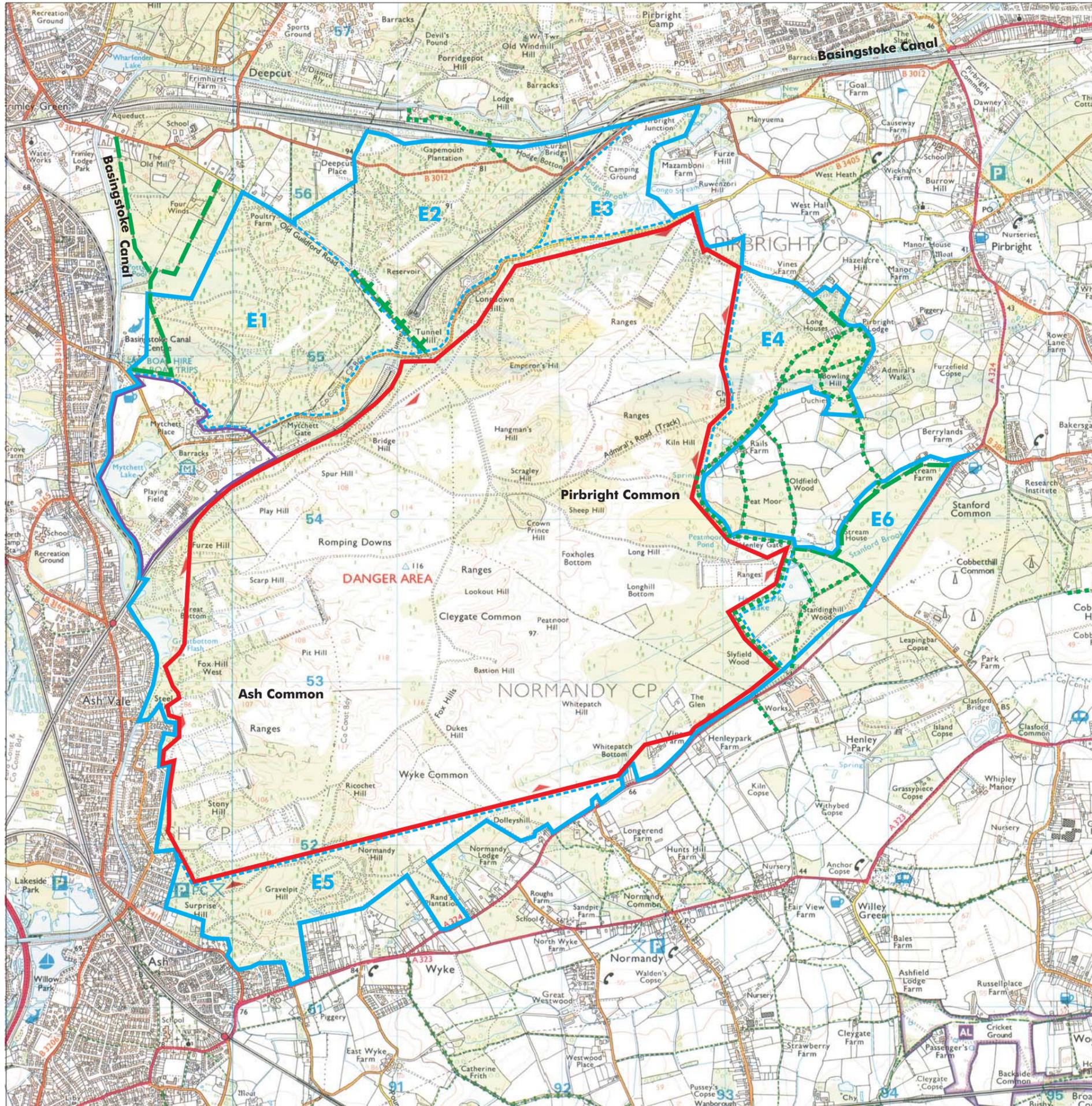
Ash Ranges Byelaws 1983 Statutory Instruments 1983 No 162 D/Lands/6/75

Defence Estates Training Area Map (1:25,000) Ash Ranges

English Nature SSSI Citation Sheet – Ash to Brookwood Heaths

OS Explorer Map Sheet No 145 Guildford and Farnham

Information supplied by MOD and DE personnel at a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2002, site visit undertaken on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2002 and subsequent discussions

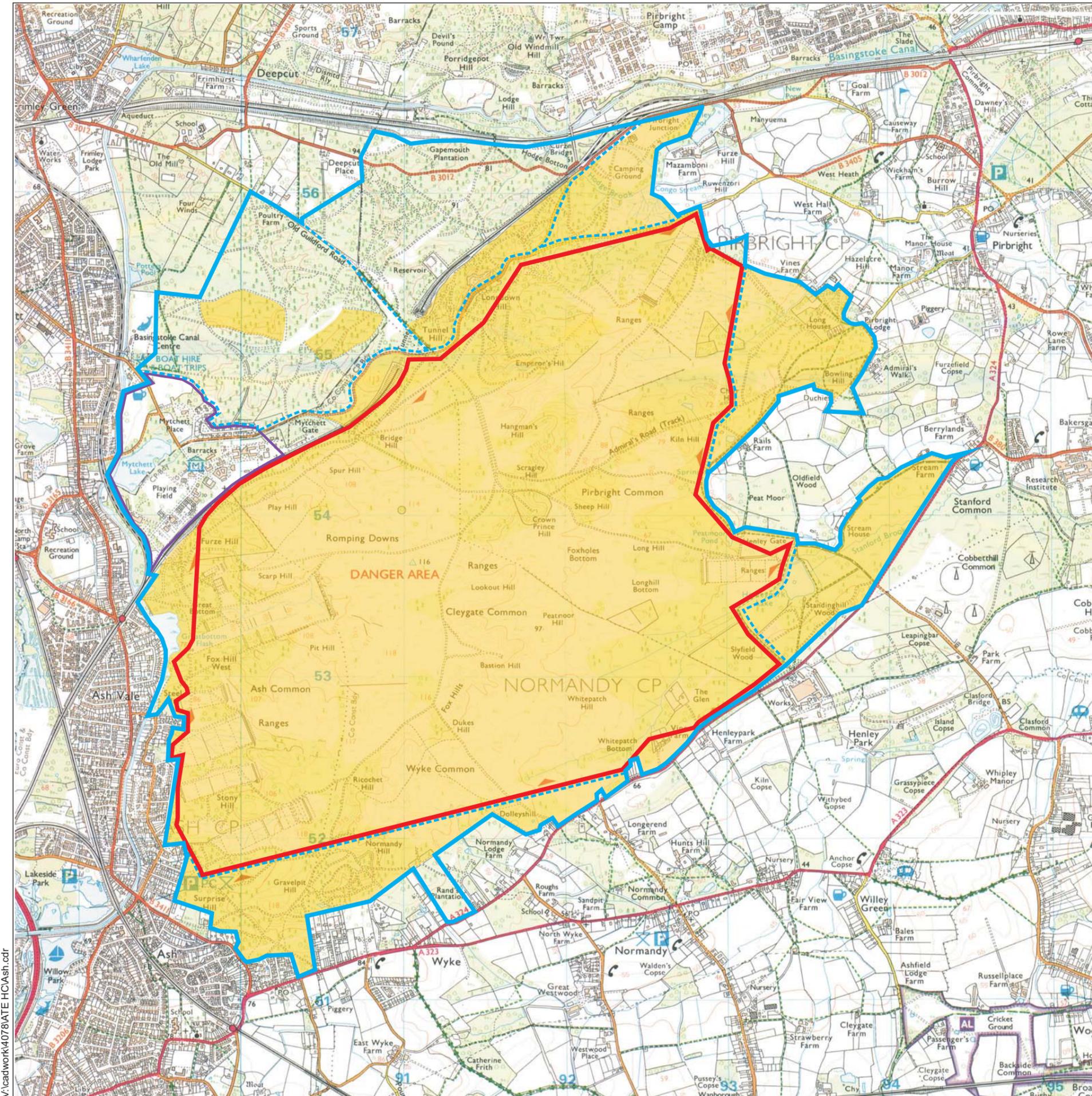


- Danger Area
- Training Area
- - - Subdivision of Training Area
- Barrack Areas
- - - Footpath
- Bridleway
- + Byway open to all traffic



Project	
ATE HC - Ash Ranges	
Title	
Location Plan and PROW Network	
Project Number	Drawing Number
4078	Figure 1
Scale	Date
1:25,000	August 2003

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- Danger Area
- Training Area
- - - Subdivision of Training Area
- Open Country



Project	
ATE HC - Ash Ranges	
Title	
Land Mapped as Open Country (on Provisional Maps Produced by the Countryside Agency)	
Project Number	Drawing Number
4078	Figure 2
Scale	Date
1:25,000	August 2003

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# ATE Home Counties

## Aldershot Training Area: Pirbright Ranges

### 1. Geography

Pirbright Ranges are located between Woking and Camberley, in Surrey (approximate GR 925 590) (see Figure 1). The range covers 1555 hectares of which 911 hectares is danger area. The ranges cover Colony Bog and Bagshot Heath, which are wet and dry heath. These form some of the finest surviving tracts of predominantly wet heathland in southeast England.

The Basingstoke Canal flows along the southern boundary of the ranges.

### 2. Designations

The Pirbright Ranges cover a number of wildlife designations. These presently include Colony Bog to Bagshot Heaths, which is a component SSSI of the Thames Basin Heaths pSPA and Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham cSAC. There are also some SINC's within the ranges, which are also adjacent to Basingstoke Canal SSSI.

### 3. Training Use

The range is used for live firing. The range complex includes Barrack Ranges, Gallery Ranges, ETRs, MMTTR and Grenade Ranges. There is also a Demolition Area.

There is low level dry training in areas G1 and G2. There may be some pyrotechnics used in these areas. Area D1 is used for vehicle testing.

### 4. Danger Areas

The danger area covers 911 hectares of the range. It is fenced off and is out of bounds at all times because of unexploded ordnance.

### 5. Byelaws/Control

The ranges are covered, in general, by the Aldershot and District Military Lands Byelaws 1976, which came into operation on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1976. Byelaw 2 states that:

*Subject to the provisions of these Byelaws the public are permitted to use all parts of the Military Land not specially enclosed or the entry to which is not shown by notice as being prohibited or restricted, including those Ministry of Defence roads thereon which have been constructed and made up for*

*general use by vehicular traffic, for the purposes of open-air recreation at all times when the Military Lands are not being used for military purposes for which they are appropriated.*

In accordance with these byelaws, and due to the potential safety risks associated with the range, the danger area, as illustrated on Figure 1, is enclosed by a fence and there is no access to the danger area.

## **6. Public Access Resources/Facilities**

There are no PROWs in the danger area, which is fenced off.

The dry training areas outside the Danger Area are criss-crossed with PROWs and open access is tolerated in some areas. The PROWs include:-

- Two bridleways in Area D1 (northwestern corner of the site) across the Vehicle Testing Area. These bridleways give access to Bagshot Heath and the Lightwater Country Park to the east of the ranges.
- A footpath runs along the boundary of the Danger Area from Colony Gate (GR 899 587), through Area D1 and into Area D3 in the northeast corner. There are 3 more bridleways in this area (D3).
- A footpath running north to south in the southeast corner close to Bisley Camp. There are a further 3 bridleways and 2 footpaths within this southeastern area.
- A bridleway and a footpath within area G1 in the west of the range.

Open public access is permissible in the dry training area land to the north of the M3 in the northwest of the range (Area D2), and in Area G1 to the west of the danger area. It was noted during the site visit that these areas are used for dog walking. There is a carpark just off the B3015 adjacent to Area D2 (see Photograph 1 below).

Basingstoke Canal is important within the local area for leisure trips (including boating and the use of the towpaths for walking).



**Photograph 1: Track leading into Area D2 (GR 900 617) where there is de facto access**

## **7. Other Existing Opportunities**

The range is also used for managed activities under licence. Recent activities include motorcycle events, cross country runs and orienteering.

## **8. Signage**

Access to the bridleways across the Vehicle Training Area (Area D1) is marked at the boundary to the range with signs (see Photograph 2 below). Users of the bridleways must stay within the white markers, at all times (see Photograph 3 below). However the sign at GR 906 607 is not very clearly and is obscured by vegetation.



**Photograph 2: Signs at the start of the bridleway across Area D1 (GR 906 607)**



**Photograph 3: Access to bridleway – white markers on trees to indicate route**

Byelaw signs are located around the boundary of the ranges.

#### **9. Live Firing Warning/Notification**

The danger area is fenced off and no public access is allowed at any time. Red flags are not flown in this area when firing is taking place, because the area is fenced off and out-of-bounds.

#### **10. Non-Firing Days**

The range danger area is out of bounds at all times.

#### **11. Management of Dry Training Areas**

An Integrated Land Management Plan is currently being produced for the Aldershot and Longmoor Training Areas, including the Pirbright Ranges.

EN and DE have produced 'Guidelines for Assessment of Recreational Events by Defence Estates' for all of the MOD sites within the Thames Basin Heaths pSPA and Thursley Ash, Pirbright and Chobham cSAC. This guidance outlines the possible impacts of recreational events/recreation and best practice to minimise the impact.

#### **12. Promotion**

The Public Rights of Way in this area are shown on the definitive maps, which are given on the Surrey County Council website.

The area is not actively promoted by ATE HC or any other third parties.

### **13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures**

EN have commented that since access to a large proportion of the land at Pirbright Ranges is restricted due to it being a Danger Area they would welcome the development of an access management strategy for those areas outside the Danger Area, which could also address the issues of fly-tipping and accidental fires on the site

### **14. Current Access Problems/Issues**

The sign for the bridleway at GR 906 607 is not very clear and is obscured by vegetation.

Dumping of waste materials and old cars appears to be a problem in Area D1 in particular, where there are signs in the carpark prohibiting dumping. When undertaking the site visit there was a burnt out car noted in the carpark.

The CROW Act has the potential to introduce open access on the ATE. The provisional maps for land to be defined as 'open access' under CROW have been published for the South East Region. Land within Pirbright Ranges has been identified (see Figure 2). However, due to the byelaws that cover Pirbright Ranges, these areas will be 'Excepted Land' as defined under Schedule 1 of the Act and the current access arrangements will not change.

Nevertheless, EN is concerned about trampling and compaction of wet heath areas as well as possible disturbance to woodlark, Dartford warbler and nightjar, particularly from dogs, as a result of an increase in access under CROW. It is intended that these issues will be examined through an appropriate assessment. EN has also submitted advice under S26 with regard to open access and possible impacts on special interest features within the Thames Basin Heaths pSPA.

### **15. UXO**

There is a major UXO issue associated with the Pirbright danger area. The danger area is therefore closed at all times to the public and there are no PROW through this area.

### **16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed**

The signs around the range should be reviewed and updated where appropriate to ensure that they are all clearly visible and easy to read.

To attempt to prevent flytipping on the area, it is recommended that signs are erected encouraging people to report suspicious behaviour.

The publication of the access maps under the CROW Act 2000 will illustrate which areas are to be designated as open country or as registered common land. The MOD will need to consider the future management strategy for those areas so designated, including the implications of byelawed land being excepted land under Schedule 1 of the Act and the use of section 28 restrictions/exclusions.

## 17. Sources

Aldershot and District Military Lands Byelaws 1976 Statutory Instruments 1976 No 449

Countryside Agency website [www.countryside.gov.uk](http://www.countryside.gov.uk)

Defence Estate Training Area Map (1:25,000) Pirbright

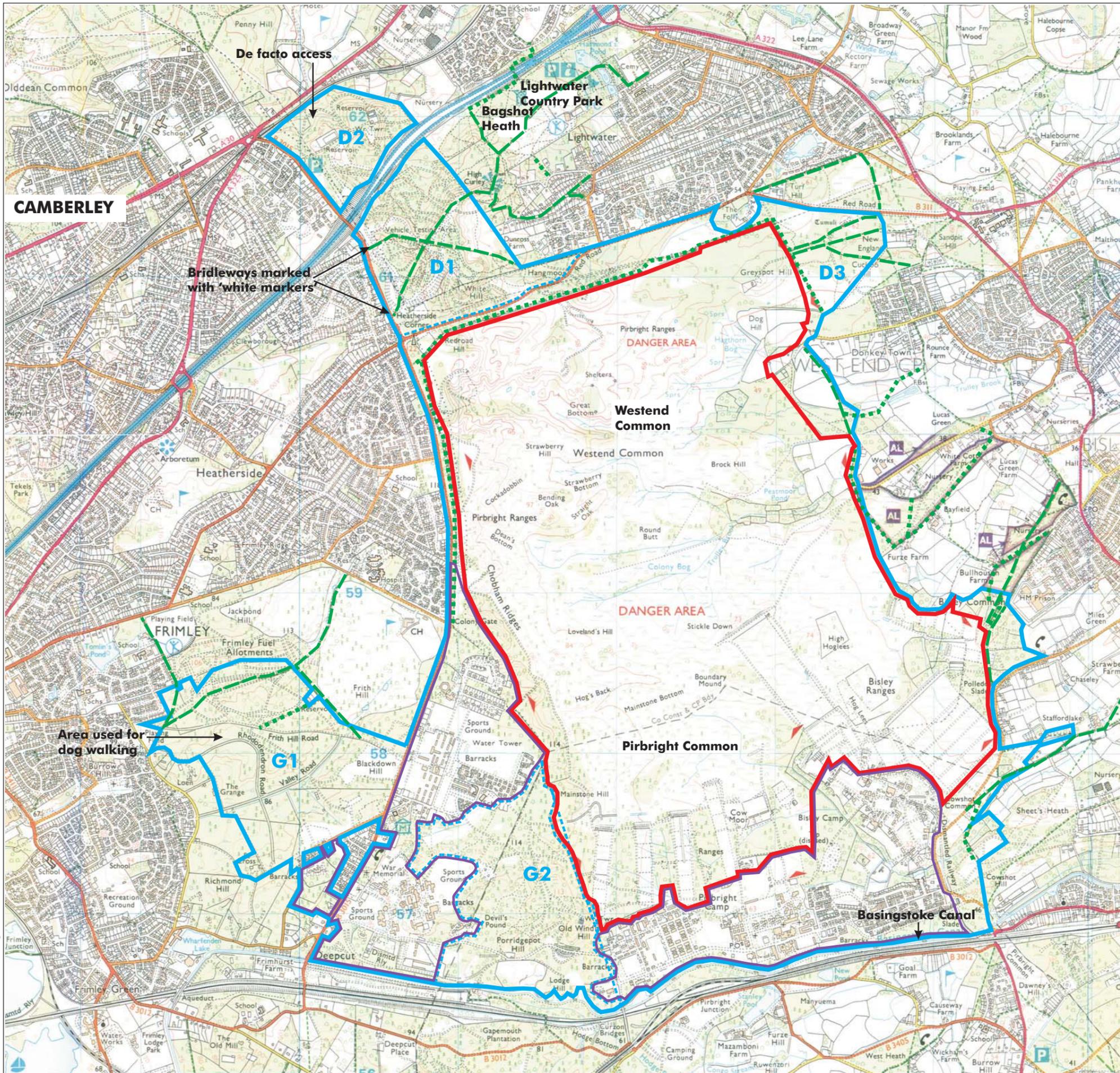
English Nature SSSI Citation Sheet – Colony Bog & Bagshot Heath

OS Explorer Map Sheet No 145 (1:25,000) Guildford & Farnham

Surrey County Council website [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

Site visit undertaken on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2002

Information supplied by MOD and DE personnel at a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2002 and subsequent discussions

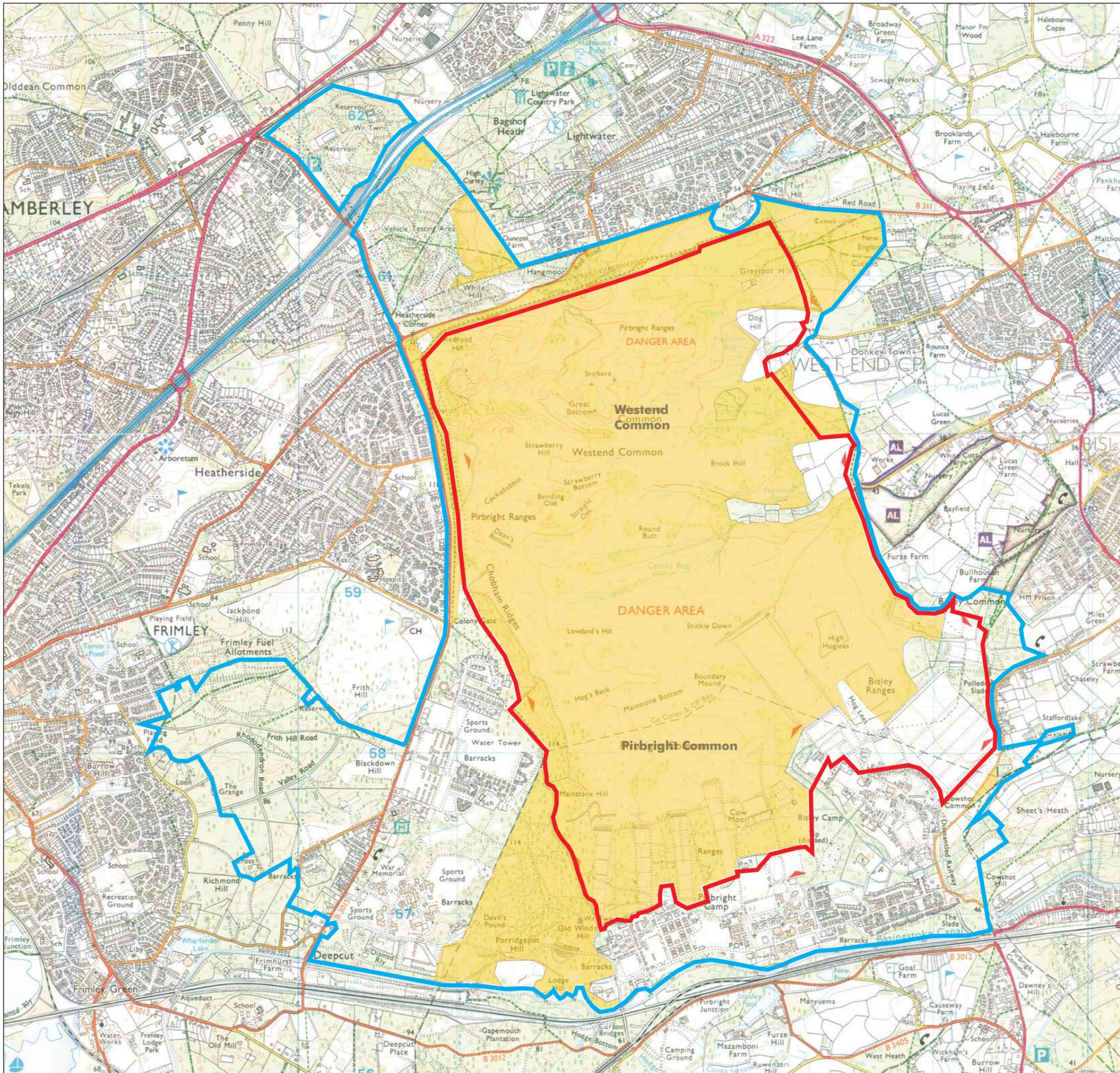


- Danger Area
- Training Area
- - - - Subdivision of Training Area
- Barrack Areas
- . . . . Footpath
- - - - Bridleway



Project	
ATE HC - Pirbright Ranges	
Title	
Location Plan and PROW Network	
Project Number	Drawing Number
4078	Figure 1
Scale	Date
1:25,000	August 2003

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- Danger Area
- Training Area
- Open Country



Project  
ATE HC - Pirbright Ranges

Title  
Land Mapped as Open Country (on Provisional Maps Produced by the Countryside Agency)

Project Number 4078	Drawing Number Figure 2
Scale 1:25,000	Date August 2003

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# ATE Home Counties

## Aldershot Training Area: Sandhurst (RMAS)

### 1. Geography

Sandhurst (RMAS) is located north of Camberley, in Surrey (approximate central GR 870 625) (see Figure 1). This area comprises of an extensive mosaic of broadleaved woodland, coniferous plantation, dry and wet heathland, and valley mire. Sandhurst covers 919 hectares.

The Royal Military Academy is located here, southwest of the Training Area.

### 2. Designations

The Sandhurst Training Area covers a number of wildlife designations. These presently include Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heath SSSI, which is a component of the Thames Basin Heaths pSPA.

### 3. Training Use

The Training Area is used for both live and dry training, predominantly by the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

### 4. Danger Areas

The danger area covers 274 hectares of the training area. It is fenced off due to the closeness of the range to residential areas, and closed to the public at all times.

### 5. Byelaws/Control

The ranges are covered by the Aldershot and District Military Lands Byelaws 1976, which came into operation on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1976. Byelaw 2 states that:

*Subject to the provisions of these Byelaws the public are permitted to use all parts of the Military Land not specially enclosed or the entry to which is not shown by notice as being prohibited or restricted, including those Ministry of Defence roads thereon which have been constructed and made up for general use by vehicular traffic, for the purposes of open-air recreation at all times when the Military Lands are not being used for military purposes for which they are appropriated.*

In accordance with these byelaws, and due to the potential safety risks associated with the range, the danger area, as illustrated on Figure 1, is enclosed by a fence and there is no access to the danger area.

## **6. Public Access Resources/Facilities**

Public access to the dry training areas is possible at all times. There are PROWs across this area (see Figure 1). There are three bridleways in the east of the area.

The Three Castles Path, a recreational path runs along part of the northwestern boundary of the training area.

There are no PROW through the danger area or to the Royal Military Academy.

## **7. Other Existing Opportunities**

The Training Area is also used for managed activities, under licence, e.g. mountain biking events.

## **8. Signage**

Signage in the eastern section of the training area is poor. It is difficult to ascertain as to whether you are in the training area if using the bridleway network. There did not appear to be any byelaw signs visible in this area during the site visit. There are no clear signs indicating the direction of the bridleways once in the training area at GR 892 625 (see Photograph 1 below). There are signs outside of the training area indicating the direction of the bridleways and footpath at GR 894 624.



**Photograph 1: Looking northwestwards along the bridleway from GR 892 624**

## **9. Live Firing Warning/Notification**

Red flags are flown at all times on the danger area, even when there is no live firing.

## **10. Non-Firing Days**

As there is no access to the danger area, there are no relevant non-firing days. However, access is available at all times to the dry training area.

## **11. Management of Dry Training Areas**

A Land Management Plan is currently being prepared for Sandhurst.

EN and DE have produced 'Guidelines for Assessment of Recreational Events by Defence Estates' for all of the MOD sites within the Thames Basin Heaths pSPA. This guidance outlines the possible impacts of recreational events/recreation and best practice to minimise the impact.

## **12. Promotion**

The PROWs across the area are shown on the definitive maps, which are given on the Surrey County Council website.

The Three Castles Path is a locally promoted recreational path, following a route of 62 miles from Windsor to Winchester. It is based on journeys undertaken by King John at the time of the Magna Carta, and is detailed in 'The Guide to the Three Castles Path', produced by the East Berkshire Ramblers Association Group.

Blackwater Valley, to the south west of Sandhurst Training Area and the Royal Military Academy is an area of countryside promoted by Blackwater Valley Countryside Service, on behalf of the region's local authorities. It is an area where a variety of activities are promoted including walking, cycling, horse-riding, wind surfing, jet skiing, sailing and angling. Within the valley there are many local country parks and recreation areas. There are no areas promoted within Sandhurst Training Area.

## **13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures**

A representative of the British Horse Society wrote to the MOD in August 2001, requesting consideration of a link between the bridleway through Pascal Wood and the bridleway at Crowthorne, across MOD land. Although a track exists, it is not a PROW or a permissive path. Should this suggestion be taken forward there will be a need for formal consultation with EN under both the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 and the CROW Act.

#### **14. Current Access Problems/Issues**

The CROW Act has the potential to introduce open access on the ATE. The draft and provisional maps for land to be defined as 'open access' under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 have been published for the South East Region, and the draft maps have been published for the Central Southern England Region. Sandhurst crosses the boundary between these two regions and Figure 2 illustrates that some of the area has been mapped as open country. However, due to the Byelaws that cover Sandhurst, these areas will be 'Excepted Land' as defined under Schedule 1 of the Act and the current access arrangements will not change.

Nevertheless, EN is concerned about possible disturbance to woodlark, Dartford warbler and nightjar, particularly from dogs, as a result of an increase in access under CROW. It is intended that these issues will be examined through an appropriate assessment. EN has also submitted advice under S26 with regard to open access and possible impacts on special interest features within the Thames Basin Heaths pSPA.

There are problems of local people lifting/damaging gates and barriers to gain access to the site and leaving burnt out cars on the Training Area, in particular in the north east of the Training Area. It is however difficult to monitor public access in this area.



**Photograph 2: Evidence of a burnt out car found on Sandhurst Training Area**

#### **15. UXO**

There are no areas of UXO on the Training Area.

## **16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed**

It is recommended that the signage of the bridleways across the eastern corner of the training area is improved to assist users in determining which tracks constitute the PROWs. Byelaw signs should also be made clear and visible.

Consideration should be given to the British Horse Society request, taking into account any safety concerns and potential impact on military training.

It is important that the public receive a consistent message related to the flying of red flags, thus ensuring the full understanding of the dangers associated. It is therefore recommended that the red flags are only flown during periods of live firing.

In order to attempt to prevent the abandonment of cars on the training area, a variety of measures can be adopted. These include the installation of locked barriers or the creation of large puddles or 'soft sand traps'.

The publication of the access maps under the CROW Act 2000 will illustrate which areas are to be designated as open country or as registered common land. The MOD will need to consider the future management strategy for those areas so designated, including the implications of byelawed land being excepted land under Schedule 1 of the Act and the use of section 28 restrictions/exclusions.

## **17. Sources**

Aldershot and District Military Lands Byelaws 1976 Statutory Instruments 1976 No 449

Countryside Agency website [www.countryside.gov.uk](http://www.countryside.gov.uk)

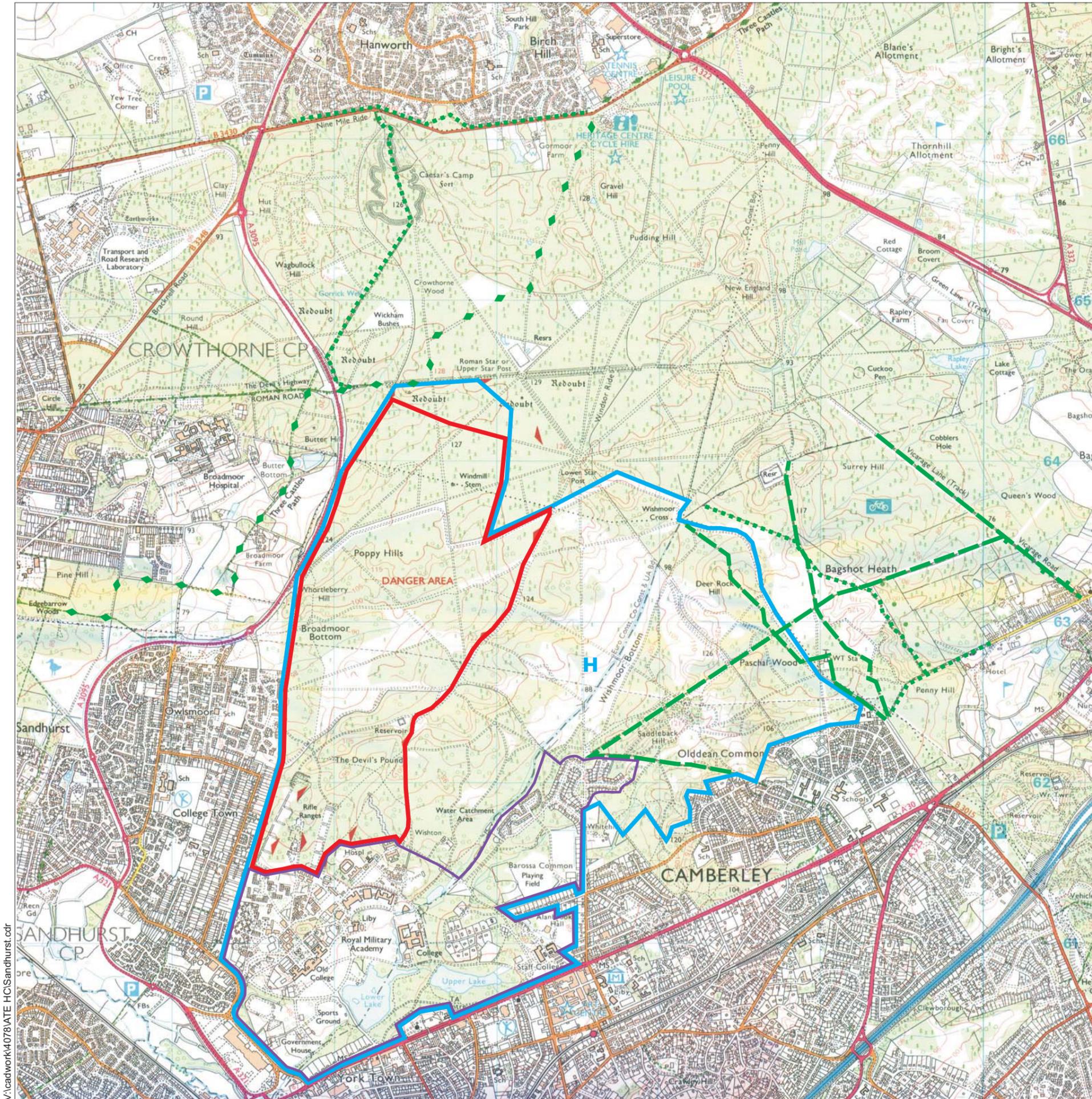
Defence Estates Training Area Map (1:25,000) Sandhurst/ Camberley

OS Explorer Map Sheet No 160 Windsor, Weybridge & Bracknell

Surrey County Council website [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

Site visit undertaken on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2002

Information supplied by MOD and DE personnel at a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2002 and subsequent discussions

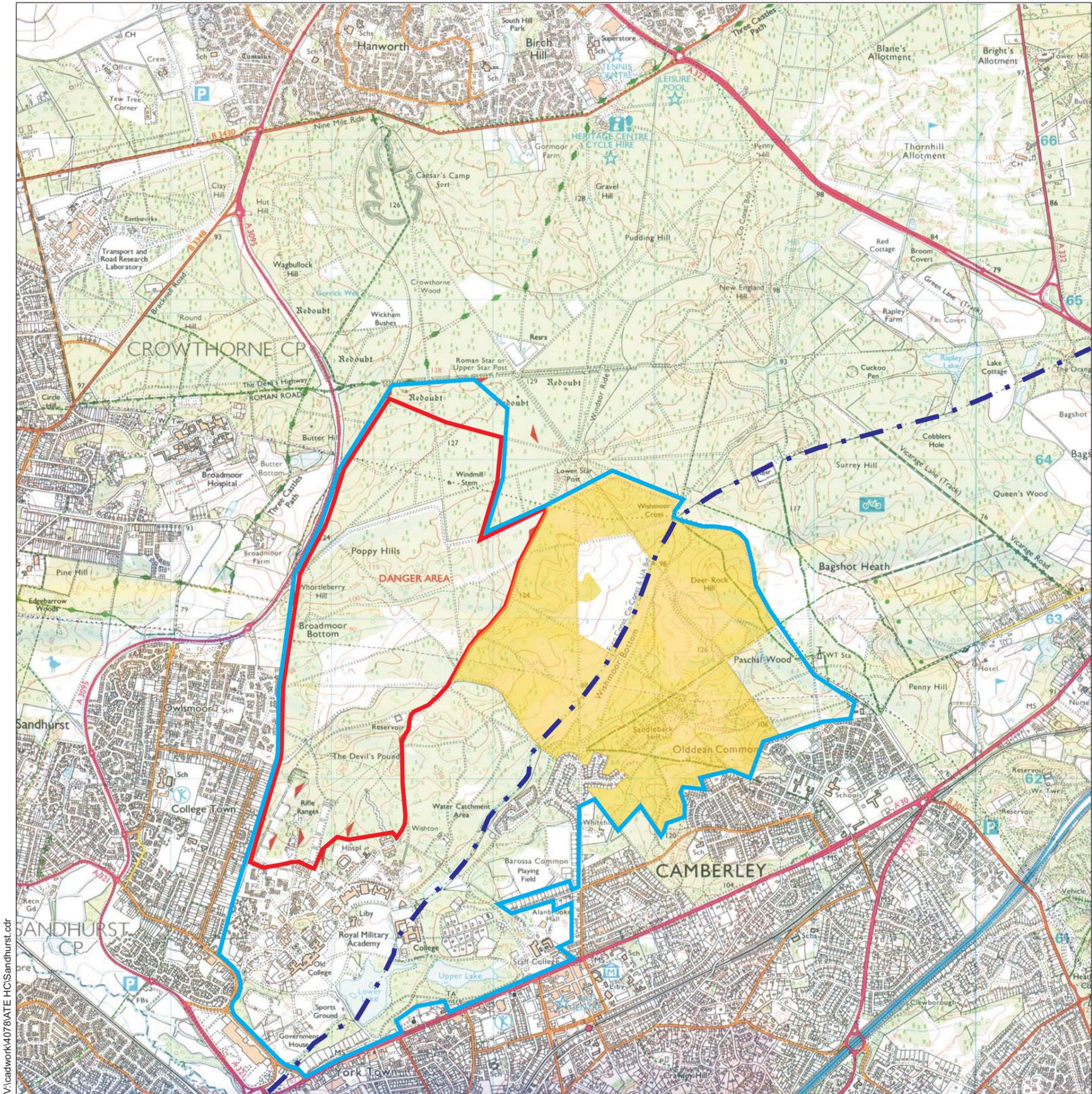


- Danger Area
- Training Area
- RMAS
- ⋯ Footpath
- - - Bridleway
- ◆◆◆ National Trail/Recreational Path
- ┌┐ Road used as a Public Path



Project	
ATE HC: Sandhurst (RMAS)	
Title	
Location Plan and PROW Network	
Project Number	Drawing Number
4078	Figure 1
Scale	Date
1:25,000	August 2003

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- Danger Area
- Training Area
- - - Mapping Boundary
- Open Country (as on South East and Southern Region Provisional Maps)



Project	
ATE HC: Sandhurst (RMAS)	
Title	
Land Mapped as open Country (based on Draft and Provisional Maps Produced by Countryside Agency)	
Project Number	Drawing Number
4078	Figure 2
Scale	Date
1:25,000	August 2003

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## **ATE Home Counties**

### **Aldershot Training Area: Minley and Aldershot Dry Training Areas (DTAs)**

#### **1. Geography**

Minley and Aldershot DTAs are located to the west of Aldershot, Hampshire. The Training Areas cover 2461 hectares (approximate central GR 835 845) (see Figure 1) and are comprised of a diverse mosaic of heathland, woodland, mire, scrub and grassland habitats, which supports a rich flora and fauna. Photograph 1 below gives a view across the training area from Caesar Camp, in Area B6.



**Photograph 1: Views across Aldershot DTA from Caesar Camp (Area B6)**

The Basingstoke Canal flows through the DTAs, from the direction of Fleet in the west to Aldershot in the east.

#### **2. Designations**

Minley and Aldershot DTAs have the following national designations:-

- Part of Bourley and Long Valley SSSI. This was first notified in 1993.
- Area F2 falls within Castle Bottom to Yateley Common and Hawley Commons SSSI that was first notified in 1979.
- Parts of Area F5 fall within Foxlease and Ancells Meadows SSSI that was first notified in 1988.

The Training Area is part of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and there are also several SINCs within Minley and Aldershot DTAs.

### **3. Training Use**

Minley and Aldershot DTAs are used for dry training. Principally 12 Mechanised Brigade uses the area, predominantly for low level, company and school training. The Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst also uses the area.

### **4. Danger Areas**

There are no danger areas on Minley and Aldershot DTAs.

### **5. Byelaws/Control**

The Training Area is covered by the Aldershot and District Military Lands Byelaws 1976, which came into operation on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1976. Byelaw 2 states that:

*Subject to the provisions of these Byelaws the public are permitted to use all parts of the Military Land not specially enclosed or the entry to which is not shown by notice as being prohibited or restricted, including those Ministry of Defence roads thereon which have been constructed and made up for general use by vehicular traffic, for the purposes of open-air recreation at all times when the Military Lands are not being used for military purposes for which they are appropriated.*

The water catchment area in the southwestern corner of the Training Area (Area B7), to the west of Caesar's Camp, is out of bounds at all times to the public.

### **6. Public Access Resources/Facilities**

There are several public rights of way (PROWs) crossing the Training Area, and in general, de facto public access is permissible to most other areas except where there are restrictions to the water catchment area in the southwest corner (Area B7). Specific routes/areas of de facto access include: -

- A bridleway in the north west area through Areas B1 and F6.
- Two short footpaths in the west through areas C1 and C2.
- De facto access to Caesar's Camp in the south (Area B6), which gives extensive views across the Training Areas (see Photographs 1 above and 2 below). This area is criss-crossed by a network of tracks but no PROWs.

- A network of footpaths and bridleways across Hawley Common and Hawley Lake in the north.
- Around and within Minley and Aldershot DTAs, there are approximately 30 car parks/lay-bys which are used by the public.



**Photograph 2: Walkers at Caesar's Camp (Area B6)**

Basingstoke Canal is important within the local area for leisure trips (including boating and the use of the towpaths for walking).

## **7. Other Existing Opportunities**

The training area is also used for managed activities, under licence. Recent activities that have taken place on Minley and Aldershot DTAs include motorcycle events, a cross country run, motorcar rallies, orienteering, school nature walks. In addition the area has recently been used for filming.

The following facilities are available:-

- Tweseldown Hill racecourse is located within Area B3 in the west of the Training Area (GR 825 519) This area is leased on a long term basis to the British Horse Society.
- Watersports are undertaken at Hawley Lake where there is a Sail Training Centre. This is used by both military and civilian personnel (see Section 12 below).
- The Aldershot Fishing Club and Garrison Club also use the lake for fishing.

## **8. Signage**

Signs indicating that the land is MOD property are located around the boundary of the Training Area.

There are signs clearly indicating that there is no public access at anytime to the water catchment area in the southwest corner (Area B7).

## **9. Live Firing Warning/Notification**

Not applicable

## **10. Non-Firing Days**

Not applicable

## **11. Management of Dry Training Areas**

The area is used primarily for dry training and is covered predominantly by a mosaic of heathland, woodland, mire, scrub and grassland habitats.

An Integrated Land Management Plan is currently being produced for the Aldershot and Longmoor Training Areas, including Minley and Aldershot DTAs.

EN and DE have produced 'Guidelines for Assessment of Recreational Events by Defence Estates' for all of the MOD sites within the Thames Basin Heaths pSPA. This guidance outlines the possible impacts of recreational events/recreation and best practice to minimise the impact.

## **12. Promotion**

The PROW across the Training Areas are promoted by Hampshire County Council through their definitive map. This will be available to view shortly on the Council's website.

Hawley Lake Sail Training Centre offers training in sailing, windsurfing, canoeing and powerboating. Waterski-ing is also available here. The centre membership comprises a mixture of civilian, military and organised groups taking part in watersports activities.

The open space of Blackwater Valley, to the north and east of the Training Area, is an area of countryside promoted by Blackwater Valley Countryside Service, on behalf of the region's local authorities. It is an area where a variety of activities are promoted including walking, cycling, horse-riding, wind surfing, jet skiing, sailing and angling. Within the valley there are many local country parks and recreation areas. In relation to the Training Area, the following areas are promoted:-

- Hawley Lake Sail Training Centre,

- Yateley Common Country Park, to the north of the Training Area,
- Hawley Meadows, to the east of Hawley Common.

### **13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures**

English Nature (EN) have made it clear that they would not like to see any further increase in access to the Training Area because these areas are already under pressure from users.

Hampshire County Council have highlighted the fact that the opportunity to provide off road equestrian opportunities was missed during the planning and construction of the cycleway along the northern edge of the A30.

### **14. Current Access Problems/Issues**

There have recently been problems with horse riders in the area, pulling down fences along the bridleways to gain more access to other areas. There are many livery stables on the fringes of the range. New licences are being negotiated with the British Horse Society. There are currently problems over perceived access and there is some conflict between users of routes.

The CROW Act has the potential to introduce open access on the ATE. The provisional maps for land to be defined as 'open access' under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 have been published for the South East Region, and the draft maps have been published for the Central Southern England Region. Minley Ranges crosses the boundary between these two regions and Figure 2 illustrates that some of the area has been mapped as open country and some as common land. However, due to the Byelaws that cover Minley Ranges, these areas will be 'Excepted Land' as defined under Schedule 1 of the Act and the current access arrangements will not change.

Nevertheless, EN is concerned about possible disturbance to woodlark, Dartford warbler and nightjar, particularly from dogs, as a result of an increase in access under CROW. It is intended that these issues will be examined through an appropriate assessment. EN has also submitted advice under S26 with regard to open access and possible impacts on special interest features within the Thames Basin Heaths pSPA, Bourley and Long Valley SSSI and Castle Bottom to Yateley and Hawley Commons SSSI.

### **15. UXO**

There are no areas of UXO on the Ranges.

## **16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed**

Discussions should be continued with the British Horse Society and the local stable owners to address the current problems concerning horse riders in the area. These discussions will help identify the requests of all interested parties and enable the agreement of a mutually beneficial solution.

The publication of the access maps under the CROW Act 2000 will illustrate which areas are to be designated as open country or as registered common land. The MOD will need to consider the future management strategy for those areas so designated, including the implications of byelawed land being excepted land under Schedule 1 of the Act and the use of section 28 restrictions/exclusions.

## **17. Sources**

Defence Estate Training Area Map (1:25,000) Aldershot – Minley

English Nature SSSI Citation Sheet – Bourley and Long Valley SSSI

English Nature SSSI Citation Sheet – Foxlease and Ancells Meadows SSSI

English Nature SSSI Citation Sheet – Castle Bottom to Yatley Common SSSI

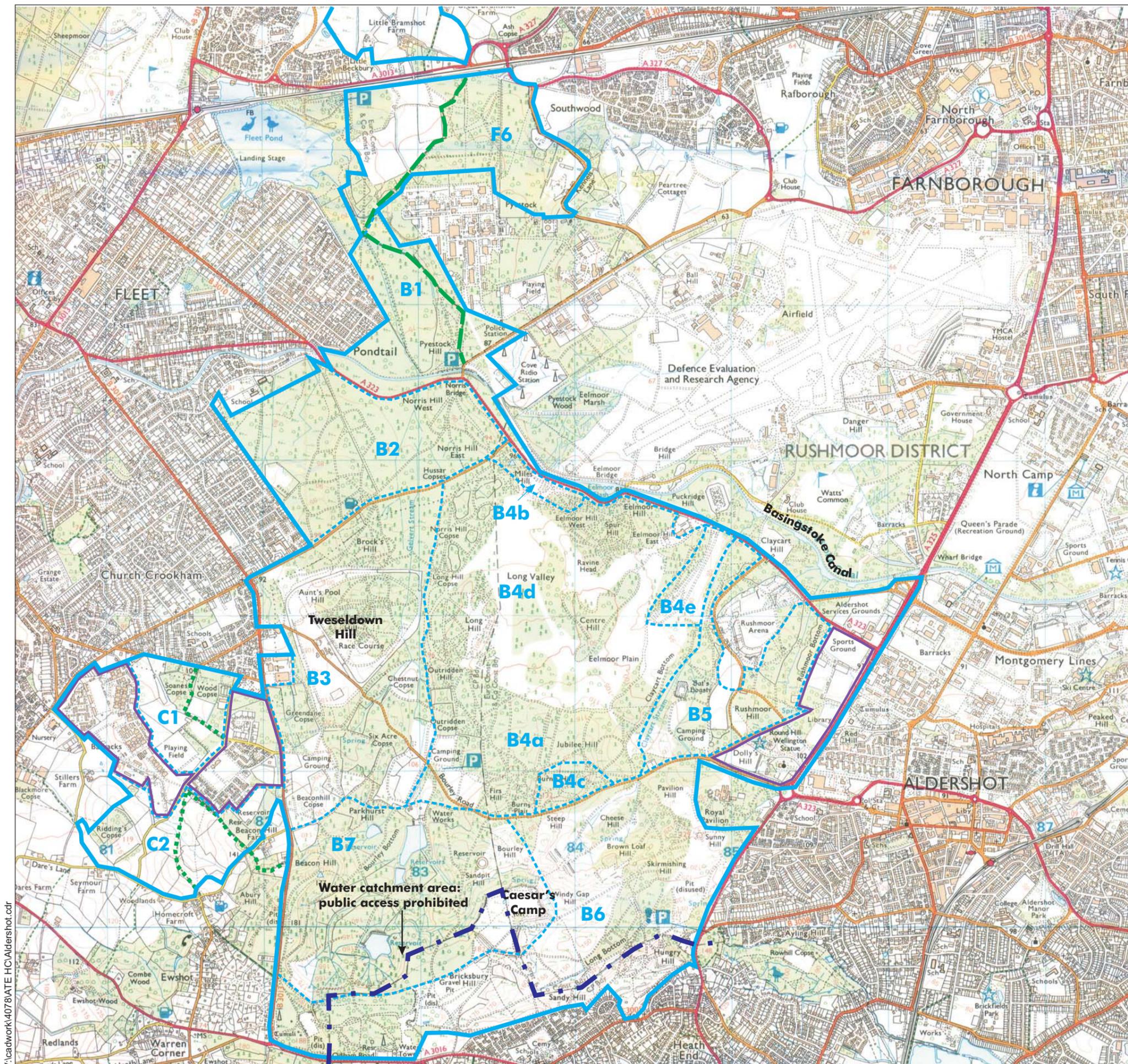
Hampshire County Council website [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

Hawley Lake Sail Training Centre website [www.hawleylake.co.uk](http://www.hawleylake.co.uk)

OS Explorer Map Sheet No 145 (1:25,000) Guildford & Farnham

Site visit undertaken on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2002

Information supplied by MOD and DE personnel at a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2002 and subsequent discussions



- Training Area
- - - Subdivision of Training Area
- Barrack Areas
- - - Footpath
- Bridleway
- Mapping Boundary

Figure 1b

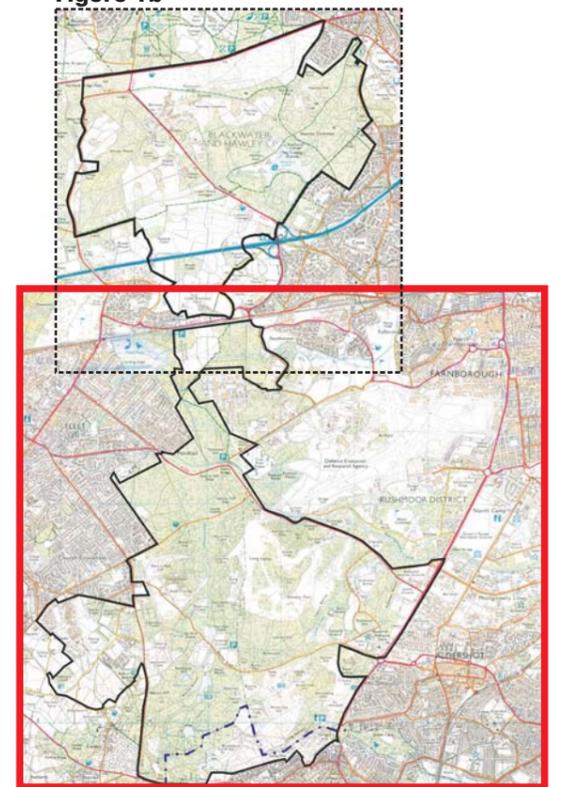


Figure 1a

**RPS** Planning, Transport and Environment



Project  
ATE HC - Minley & Aldershot Dry Training Areas (DTAs)

Title  
Location Plan and PROW Network

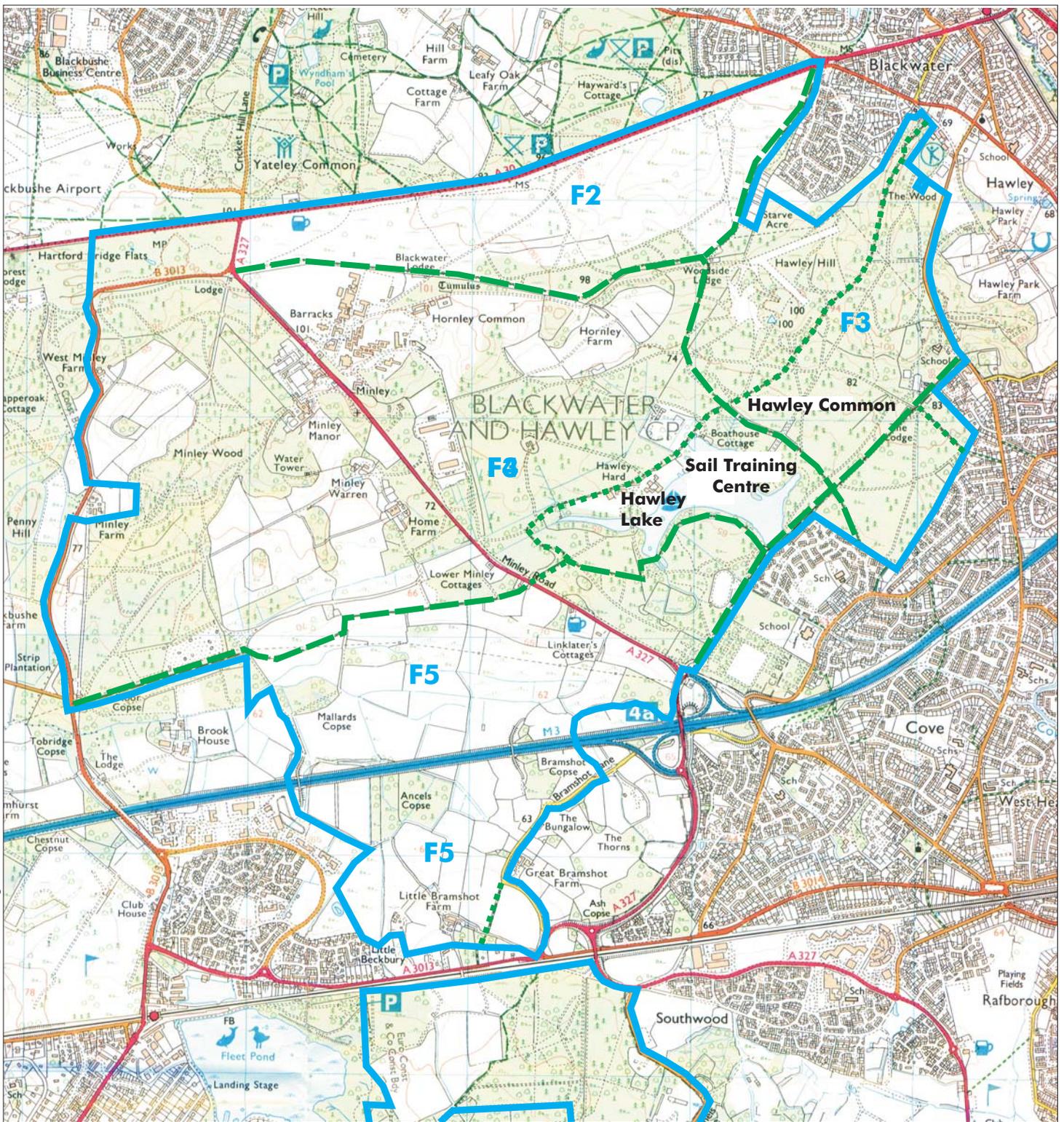
Project Number  
4078

Drawing Number  
Figure 1a

Scale  
1:25,000

Date  
August 2003

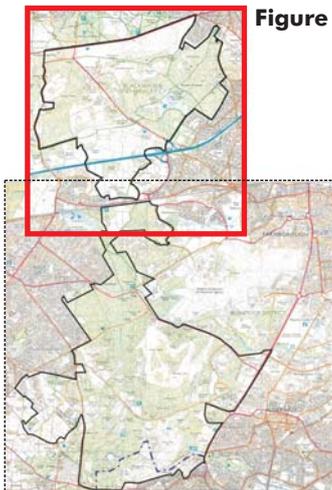
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**Figure 1b**



**Figure 1a**

- Training Area
- - - - - Footpath
- Bridleway



Project  
ATE HC - Minley & Aldershot Dry Training Areas (DTAs)

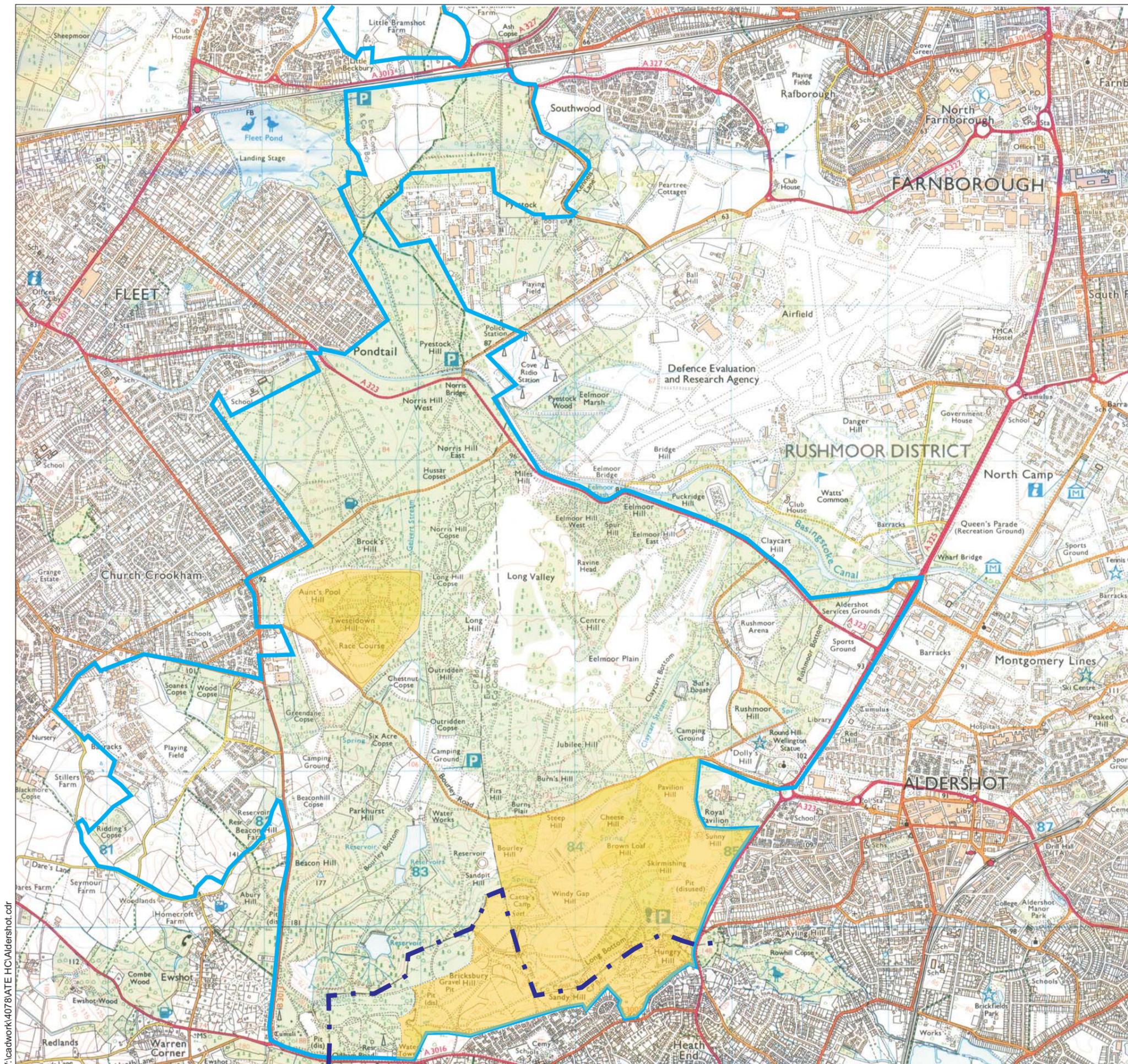
Title  
Location Plan and PROW Network

Project Number  
4078

Drawing Number  
Figure 1b

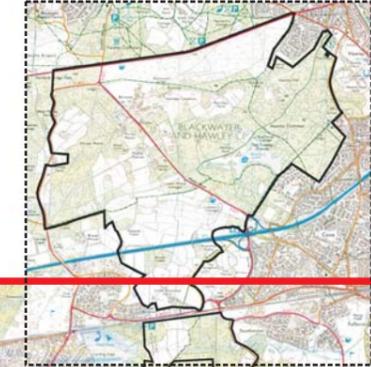
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Date  
August 2003

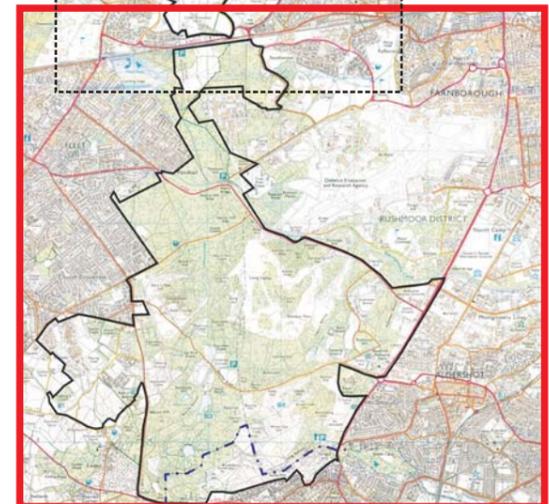


- Training Area
- - - - Subdivision of Training Area
- - - - Mapping Boundary
- Open Country

**Figure 2b**



**Figure 2a**



**RPS** Planning, Transport and Environment



Project  
ATE HC - Minley & Aldershot Dry Training Areas (DTAs)

Title  
Land Mapped as Open Country (on Provisional Maps Produced by Countryside Agency)

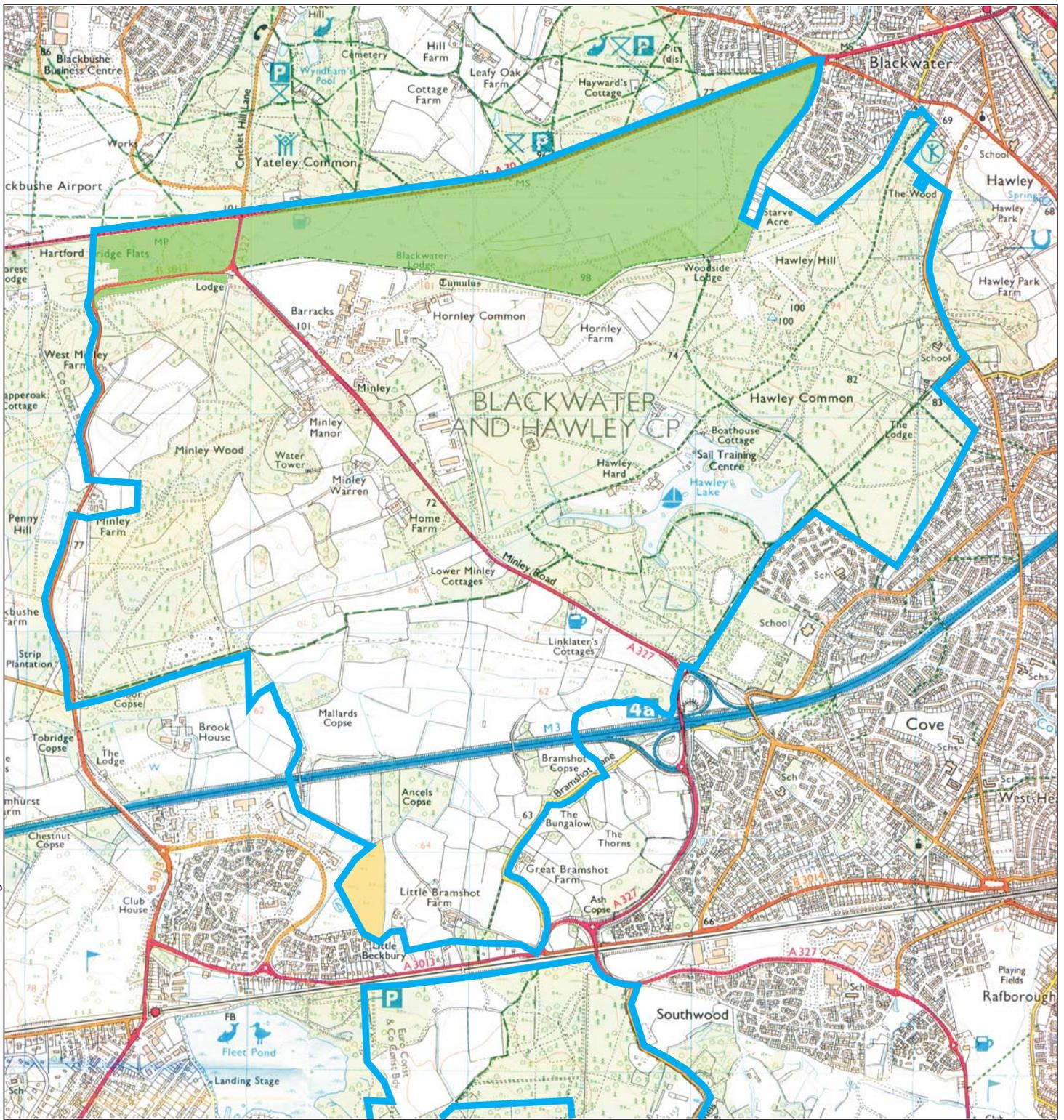
Project Number  
4078

Drawing Number  
Figure 2a

Scale  
1:25,000

Date  
August 2003

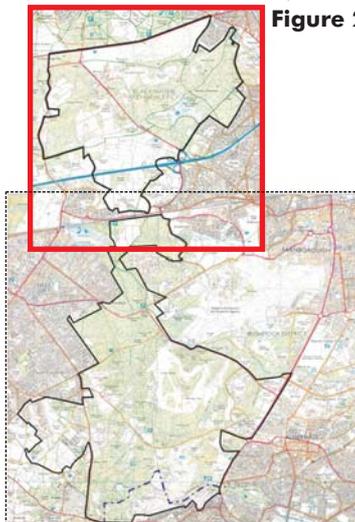
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V:\cadwork\4078\ATE HC\Aldershot Fig 1b.cdr

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**Figure 2b**



**Figure 2a**

- Training Area
- Open Country
- Registered Common Land

**RPS** Planning, Transport and Environment



Project  
ATE HC - Minley & Aldershot Dry Training Areas (DTAs)

Title  
Land Mapped as Open Country & Registered Common Land (on Provisional Maps produced by Countryside Agency)

Project Number  
4078

Drawing Number  
Figure 2b

Scale  
1:25,000

Date  
August 2003

## ATE Home Counties

### Longmoor Training Area

The Longmoor Training Area is situated on the boundary of Surrey and Hampshire between the towns of Bordon, Liphook, Farnham and Guildford. It is divided into four main areas: Longmoor Range and Training Area, Bordon, Bramshott, and Hankley and Elstead Commons. Together these total 2823 hectares. The figure below illustrates the location of these areas in relation to each other.

**Figure 1 Longmoor Training Areas**



The following site reports provide details of the Training Area, covering each of the four main areas in turn.

## ATE Home Counties

### Longmoor Training Area: Longmoor Range and Training Area

#### 1. Geography

Longmoor Range and Training Area is located approximately 2km to the west of Liphook, in Hampshire (approximate central GR 805 325) (see Figure 1). The Training Area is approximately 1,100 hectares, comprised of heathland and woodland (see Photograph 1). Woolmer Forest contains the largest and most diverse area of lowland heathland habitats in Hampshire (outside the New Forest) and is important within the region.



**Photograph 1: General view of Longmoor Training Area**

#### 2. Designations

Areas N1B, N2A and N2B are designated as a SSSI – Woolmer Forest. It was first notified in 1971. Woolmer Forest is also a cSAC and is part of the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA. There are some SINC areas adjacent to Longmoor, but not within the boundary of the training area.

Under current proposals, the whole of Longmoor Range and Training Area is within the proposed boundary of the South Downs National Park, as shown on Figure 3. The South Downs National Park Designation Order has been signed by the Chief Executive of the Countryside Agency, and awaits a

decision early in 2003 from the Secretary of State as to whether a public inquiry is to be held before making the final decision.

### **3. Training Use**

Live firing is undertaken in the danger area covering Woolmer Forest (see Figure 1). The range complex includes Gallery Ranges, an ETR, and a Grenade Range.

The dry training Areas N2A and N2B are heavily used. Area N2A was formerly used as a demolition area (see Figure 1).

### **4. Danger Areas**

The danger area (Area N1B) covers approximately half of Longmoor Training Area (approx. 600 hectares).

### **5. Byelaws/Control**

The area is covered, in general, by the Aldershot and District Military Lands Byelaws 1976, which came into operation on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1976, and specifically by the Longmoor Ranges and Demolition Training Area Byelaws 1982, which came into operation on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1982.

Access across the range danger area (N1B) and (former) demolition danger area (N2) is prohibited when these areas are being used for live firing (see Figure 1).

### **6. Public Access Resources/Facilities**

There are two footpaths crossing the eastern section of Area N1B (inside the danger area). When access is available to Area N1B, the area is frequently used by the public, particularly by local residents (see Section 5 below). The definitive footpath over Polecat Hill terminates abruptly in the middle of the danger area. It is likely the public will continue along the marked track.

There is a bridleway running along the eastern boundary of Area N2A. Areas N2A and N2B are used a lot by cyclists on a de facto access basis. (Although the signs at the edge of the area state cycling is not permitted, see section 8). There is a car park located in the southwest corner of N2A, with a disused railway track leading into the training area (see Photograph 2).



**Photograph 2: Disused Railway Track through N2A**

Area N1A is used by local people from Greatham for dog walking on a de facto basis.

Passfield Common, to the northeast of the Training Area (GR 815 337), is owned and managed by the National Trust who operate an 'open access' policy.

## **7. Other Existing Opportunities**

Longmoor Range and Training Area is also used for managed activities, under licences. Recent activities include motoring events (cars, motorcycling), a sponsored cycle ride and mountain biking.

## **8. Signage**

The Training Area boundary is extensively signed.

There are signs following the danger area boundary (including along the northern edge of the A3) stating it is a live firing range, and access is prohibited when the red flags are flying.

The signs around the boundary of Areas N2A and N2B notify that is a military training area, and the potential danger associated. Signs also indicate that cycling is not permitted in these areas (see Photograph 3).



**Photograph 3: Signage at Car Park on edge of Area N2B**

## **9. Live Firing Warning/Notification**

There is no notification of live firing unless there are exceptional activities. Red flags are flown (daytime) and red lights lit (night-time) at appropriate locations around the range danger area and demolition areas when live firing is taking place.

## **10. Non-Firing Days**

Firing takes place on 7 days/week with the latest firing up to 16:30 hours. There is also night firing undertaken on Wednesdays.

The danger area is used for 11 months of the year for live firing. It is closed for 4 weeks each year for maintenance (usually most of September).

## **11. Management of Dry Training Areas**

The dry training area is predominantly heathland with associated woodland. An Integrated Land Management Plan for the Aldershot and Longmoor Training Areas is currently being prepared.

EN and DE have produced 'Guidelines for Assessment of Recreational Events by Defence Estates' for all of the MOD sites within the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA. This guidance outlines the possible impacts of recreational events/recreation and best practice to minimise the impact.

## **12. Promotion**

The PROW in the area are included on the definitive maps for Hampshire which are available on the Hampshire County Council website.

### **13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures**

English Nature would not like to see any further increase in access to Areas N2A and N2B because these areas are already under pressure from users.

### **14. Current Access Problems/Issues**

The tracks across Area N2A and N2B in the south of the Training Area are frequently used by cyclists. ATE HC expressed the difficulty in controlling the number of users. There are potential problems of cyclists getting lost on the tracks as there are no signs or way markers and therefore this presents safety issues. Occasionally there are unauthorised motorcyclists using the tracks.

The CROW Act has the potential to introduce open access on the ATE. The provisional maps for land to be defined as 'open access' under CROW have been published for the Central Southern England Region. A large amount of Longmoor Range and Training Area has been identified as 'open country' (see Figure 2). However, due to the byelaws that cover Longmoor Range and Training Area, these areas will be 'Excepted Land' as defined under Schedule 1 of the Act and the current access arrangements will not change.

Nevertheless, EN is concerned about trampling and compaction of dry heath and valley mire areas as a result of an increase in access under CROW. It is intended that these issues will be examined through an appropriate assessment. EN has also submitted advice under S26 with regard to open access and possible impacts on special interest features within the Woolmer Forest SSSI and cSAC and Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA.

### **15. UXO**

There are no UXO areas within the Longmoor area.

### **16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed**

In order to address the safety concerns of cyclists using the tracks in Areas N2A and N2B, the MOD may wish to consider developing a suitable waymarked route in this area. One option is to define the disused railway track that runs between these two areas as a permitted bridleway.

The inclusion of the site within the boundary of the proposed South Downs National Park is unlikely to have any major impact in relation to public access.

The publication of the access maps under the CROW Act 2000 will illustrate which areas are to be designated as open country or as registered common land. The MOD will need to consider the future

management strategy for those areas so designated, including the implications of byelawed land being excepted land under Schedule 1 of the Act and the use of section 28 restrictions/exclusions.

## **17. Sources**

OS Explorer Map Sheet No 133 Haslemere & Petersfield

Countryside Agency website [www.countryside.gov.uk](http://www.countryside.gov.uk)

Defence Estate Training Estate Map (1:25,000) Longmoor

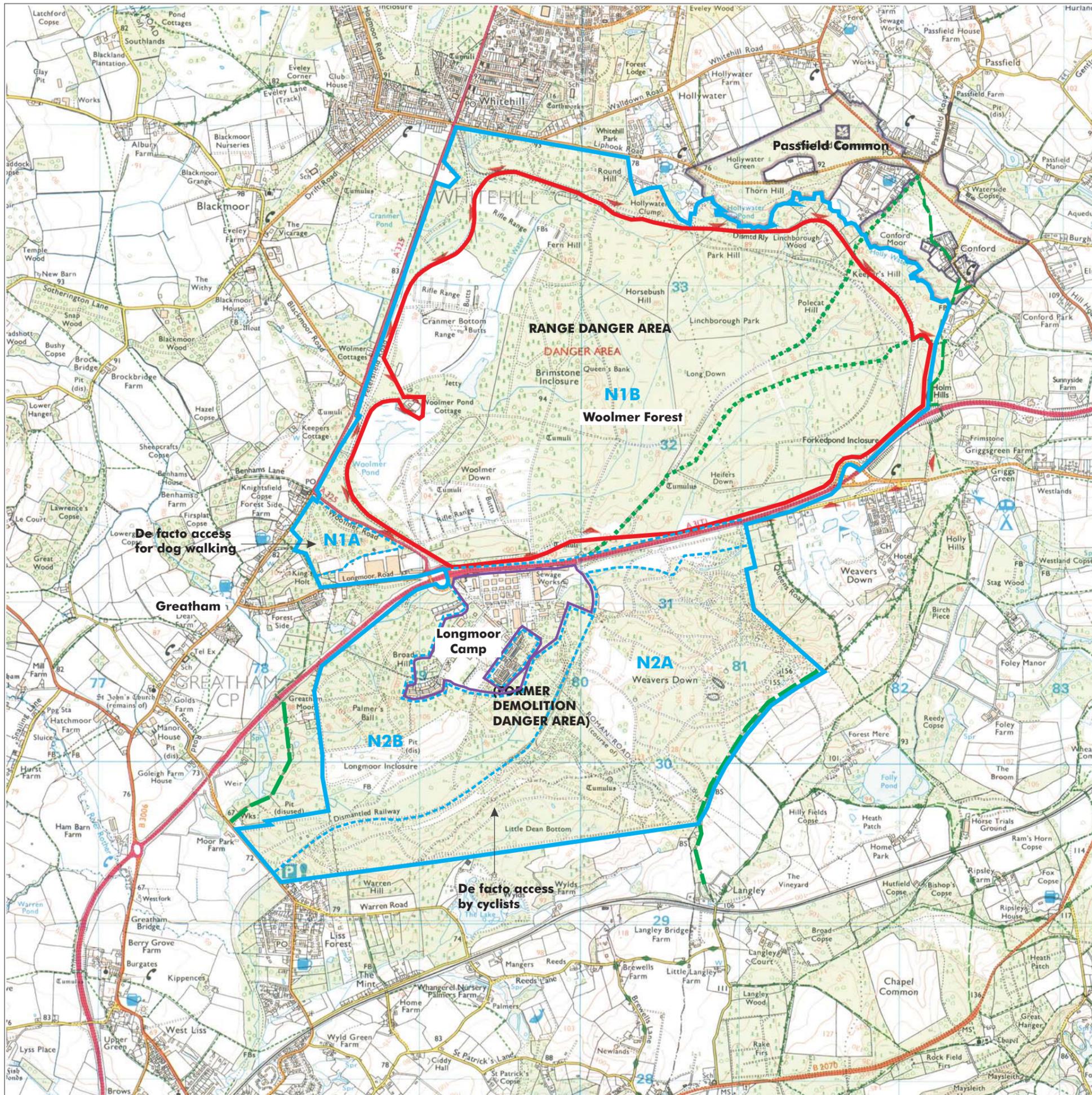
English Nature SSSI Citation Sheet Woolmer Forest SSSI

Hampshire County Council website [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

Information supplied by MOD and DE personnel at a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2002 and subsequent discussions

Site visit on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2002

- Danger Area
- Training Area
- - - Subdivision of Training Area
- Barrack Areas
- - - Footpath
- · - Bridleway



**RPS** Planning, Transport and Environment



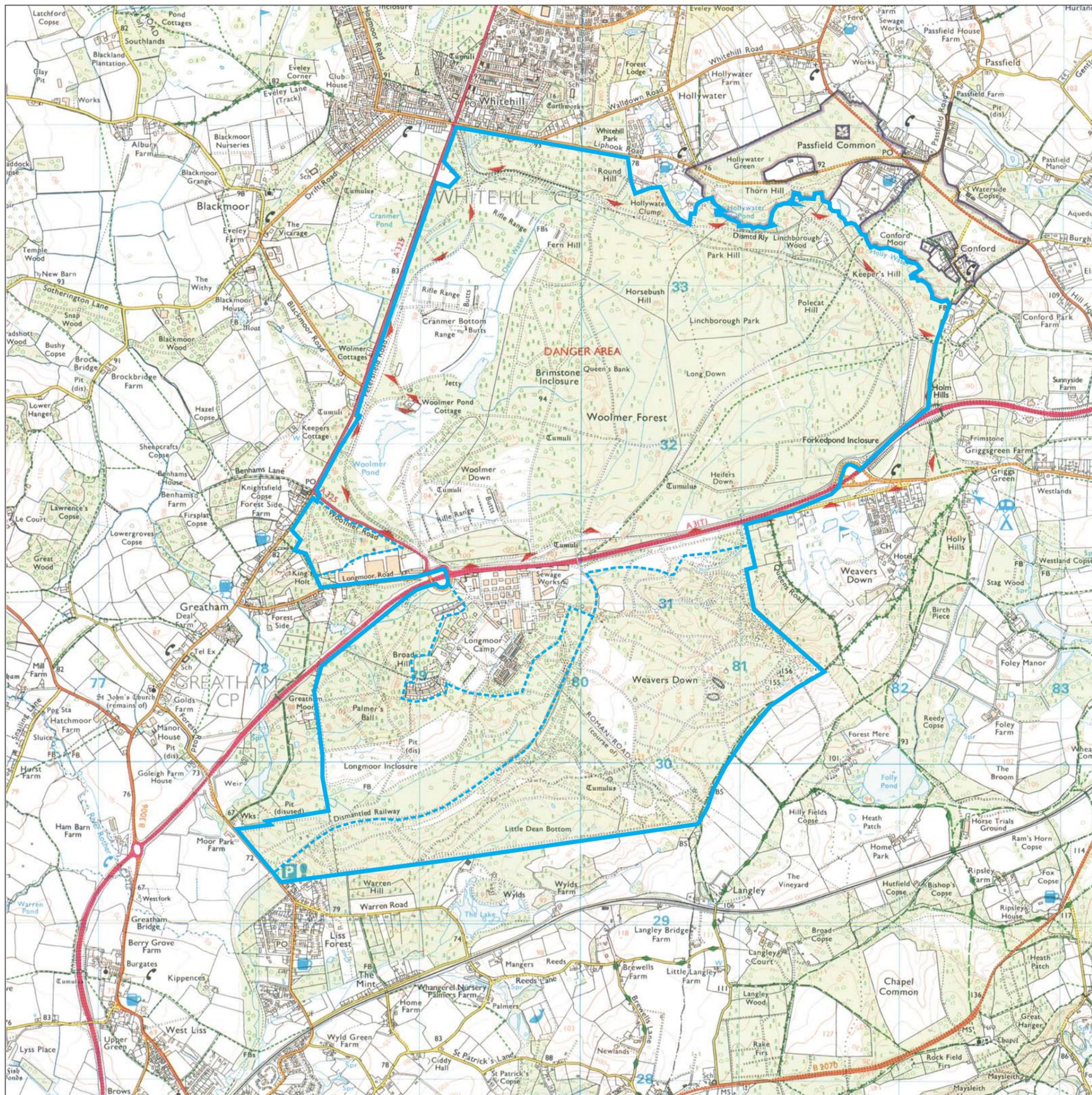
Project  
ATE HC - Longmoor Range and Training Area

Title  
Location Plan and PROW Network

Project Number 4078	Drawing Number Figure 1
Scale 1:25,000	Date August 2003

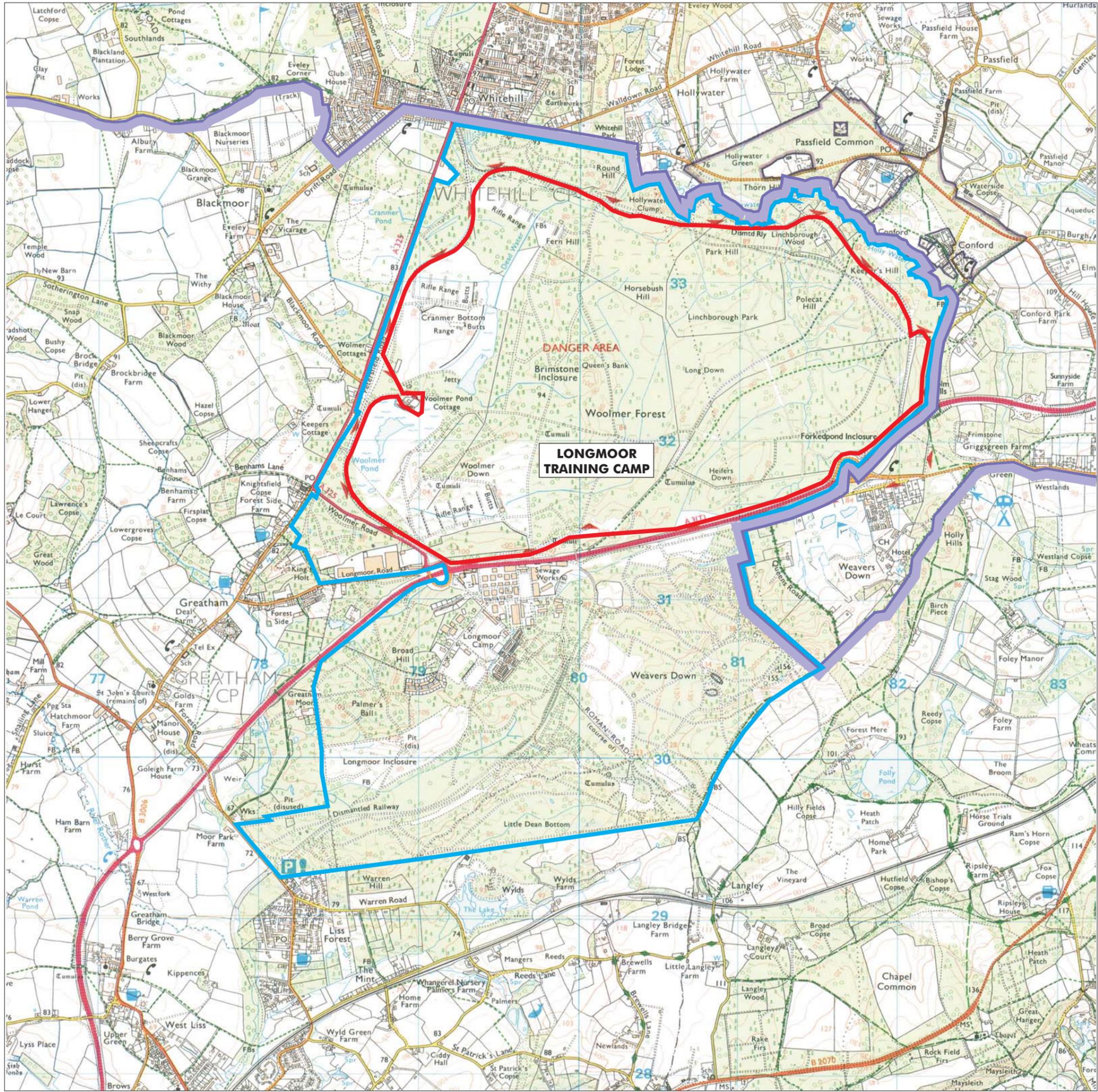
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-  Training Area
-  Subdivision of Training Area
-  Open Country



Project	
ATE HC - Longmoor Range and Training Area	
Title	
Land Mapped as Open Country (on Provisional Maps Produced by the Countryside Agency)	
Project Number	Drawing Number
4078	Figure 2
Scale	Date
1:25,000	August 2003

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- Danger Area
- Training Area
- Land proposed within South Downs National Park Boundary (as shown on Boundary Map, as Annex to "A South Downs National Park; designation order and advice to the Government") (Shading internal to boundary)

Source: Countryside Agency website



Project	
ATE HC - Longmoor Range and Training Area	
Title	
Proposed South Downs National Park Boundary	
Project Number	Drawing Number
4078	Figure 3
Scale	Date
1:25,000	August 2003

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# ATE Home Counties

## Longmoor Training Area: Bordon Training Area

### 1. Geography

Bordon Training Area is located north west of Liphook, Hampshire, directly to the north and west of the settlements of Bordon and Lindford, covering an area of 751 hectares (approximate GR 790 360) (see Figure 1). Broxhead and Kingsley Commons fall within the Training Area and are both registered common land. They are located on the coarse sandy soils of the Folkstone Beds in the western edge of the Weald. These Commons comprise of a mosaic of heathland and acid grassland with areas of scrub and secondary woodland.

### 2. Designations

Broxhead Common lies within Area J2 of the Bordon Training Area and Kingsley Common within Area M1. These commons are together designated as the Broxhead and Kingsley Commons SSSI and as part of the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA. There are also several SINC's and EN are aware that Annex 1 birds are known to breed on the Bordon Training Area outside the statutory nature conservation sites.

### 3. Training Use

The area is heavily used by Cadets and the Signals School at Minley. Oxney Farm is used for logistics activities. The area is considered to be a 'back-door' training area for Bordon Garrison. There is also tank training undertaken at Bordon.

### 4. Danger Areas

There is no Danger Area at Bordon. The area is used for dry training.

### 5. Byelaws/Control

Bordon is covered, in general, by the Aldershot and District Military Lands Byelaws 1976, which came into operation on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1976. Byelaw 2 states that:

*Subject to the provisions of these Byelaws the public are permitted to use all parts of the Military Land not specially enclosed or the entry to which is not shown by notice as being prohibited or restricted, including those Ministry of Defence roads thereon which have been constructed and made up for general use by vehicular traffic, for the purposes of open-air recreation at all times when the Military Lands are not being used for military purposes for which they are appropriated.*

## **6. Public Access Resources/Facilities**

There are various PROW across Kingsley and Broxhead Commons in the north of the training area (Areas J & M – see Figure 1) which are well used. Kingsley and Broxhead Commons are both Registered Common Land.

There are also footpaths across Slab Common (Area L2), although these are often under water and difficult to use. There is also a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) in Area M2.

## **7. Other Existing Opportunities**

The training area is also used for managed activities, under license. Recent activities include motor sport events (4x4 and motor cycling), model aircraft flying and orienteering.

## **8. Signage**

The training area boundary is extensively signed.

## **9. Live Firing Warning/Notification**

There is no notification of any training activities unless for exceptional circumstances. If a major exercise is planned, then the local press is informed.

## **10. Non-Firing Days**

There is no live firing on this training area.

## **11. Management of Dry Training Areas**

An Integrated Land Management Plan for the Aldershot and Longmoor Training Areas is currently being prepared.

EN and DE have produced 'Guidelines for Assessment of Recreational Events by Defence Estates' for all of the MOD sites within the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA. This guidance outlines the possible impacts of recreational events/recreation and best practice to minimise the impact.

## **12. Promotion**

Broxhead Common is promoted by Hampshire County Council as a countryside area for walking. There are occasional guided walks across the Commons, which are included in the Hampshire County Council Guided Walks leaflet. There are car parking facilities close to the common.

### **13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures**

Hampshire County Council have requested that consideration is given to the upgrading of footpaths 5, 9 and 10 to bridleways with an additional link across Area J2 to Boxstead Common, to provide a circular riding route avoiding the A325.

### **14. Current Access Problems/Issues**

There are problems with travellers in the area. Fly tipping is also a problem at Bordon.

The CROW Act has the potential to introduce open access on the ATE. The provisional maps for registered common land and land to be defined as 'open access' under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 have been published for the Central Southern England Region. Kingsley, Slab and Broxhead Commons are all registered Common Land and have been included on the draft maps (see Figure 2). However, due to the Byelaws that cover Bordon Training Area, these areas will be 'Excepted Land' as defined under Schedule 1 of the Act and the current access arrangements will not change.

Nevertheless, EN is concerned about possible disturbance to woodlark, Dartford warbler and nightjar, particularly from dogs, as a result of an increase in access under CROW. It is intended that these issues will be examined through an appropriate assessment. EN has also submitted advice under S26 with regard to open access and possible impacts on special interest features within Broxhead and Kingsley Common SSSI and Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA.

### **15. UXO**

There are no known UXO areas at Bordon.

### **16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed**

Consideration to be given to the upgrading of footpaths 5, 9 and 10 to bridleways, together with an additional link across Area J2 to Boxstead Common, in liaison with Hampshire County Council.

The publication of the access maps under the CROW Act 2000 will illustrate which areas are to be designated as open country or as registered common land. The MOD will need to consider the future management strategy for those areas so designated, including the implications of byelawed land being excepted land under Schedule 1 of the Act and the use of section 28 restrictions/exclusions.

EN recommend that the existence of Annex 1 breeding birds on the Training Area needs to be taken into account if any proposals are put forward in the future to increase public access to the site.

## 17. Sources

OS Explorer Map Sheet No 133 (1:25,000) Haslemere and Petersfield

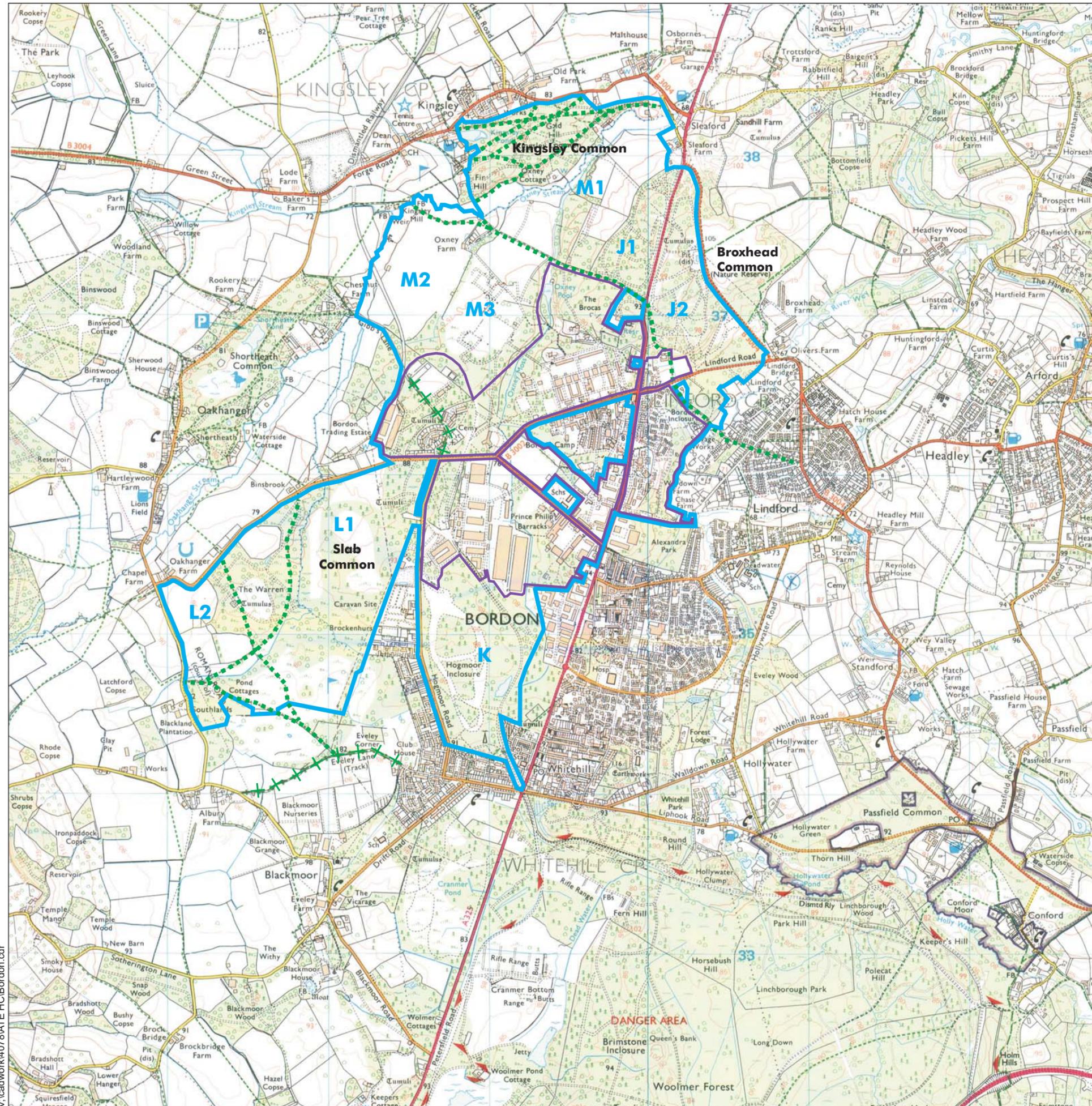
Defence Estates Training Area Map Bordon/Longmoor

Defence Estates Nature Conservation Maps (1:25,000)

English Nature SSSI Citation Sheet - Broxhead and Kingsley Commons SSSI

Hampshire County Council website [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

Information supplied by MOD and DE personnel at a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2002 and subsequent discussions

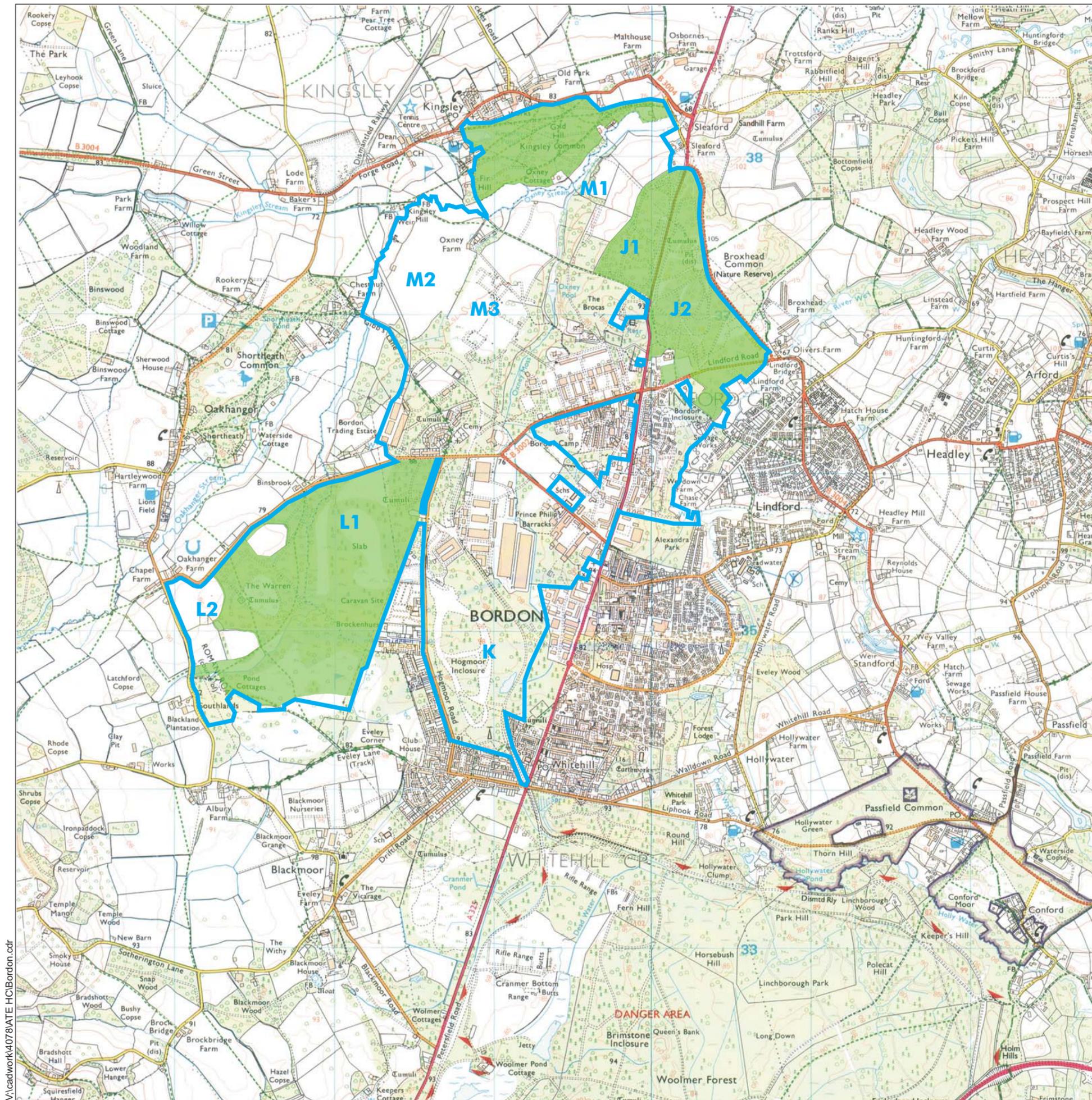


- Training Area
- Barrack Areas
- - - - Footpath
- + + + + Byway open to all traffic



Project	
ATE HC: Bordon Training Area	
Title	
Location Plan and PROW Network	
Project Number	Drawing Number
4078	Figure 1
Scale	Date
1:25,000	August 2003

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Training Area  
 Registered Common Land



Project	
ATE HC: Bordon Training Area	
Title	
Land Mapped as Registered Common Land (on Provisional Maps Produced by the Countryside Agency)	
Project Number	Drawing Number
4078	Figure 2
Scale	Date
1:25,000	August 2003

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# ATE Home Counties

## Longmoor Training Area: Bramshott

### 1. Geography

Bramshott is approximately 3.6km to the north west of Haslemere, in Surrey, covering an area of 241 hectares (central GR 860 335 – see Figure 1). Bramshott Common supports extensive tracts of mature heathland vegetation along with extensive colonisation by birch and Scot's pine. The site represents one of the best remaining examples of open heathland in the western Weald and supports populations of a number of specialised heathland invertebrates.

### 2. Designations

A number of wildlife site designations cover the Training Area. These presently include Bramshott and Ludshott Commons SSSI that covers the northern section of the Training Area (Area P1) and is a component site of the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA. Land to the south of the A3 (Area P2) has two SINCs.

### 3. Training Use

The Training Area is used for low level dry training activities.

### 4. Danger Areas

There are no Danger Areas within the Bramshott Training Area.

### 5. Byelaws/Control

Bramshott Common is covered, in general, by the Aldershot and District Military Lands Byelaws 1976, which came into operation on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1976. Byelaw 2 states that:

*Subject to the provisions of these Byelaws the public are permitted to use all parts of the Military Land not specially enclosed or the entry to which is not shown by notice as being prohibited or restricted, including those Ministry of Defence roads thereon which have been constructed and made up for general use by vehicular traffic, for the purposes of open-air recreation at all times when the Military Lands are not being used for military purposes for which they are appropriated.*

## **6. Public Access Resources/Facilities**

There are many PROWs within Bramshott. There are car parking facilities on the western and northern boundaries of the Training Area. As well as the designated PROWs, there is de facto open access to the area.

Land adjacent to the north east of the training area at Bramshott Chase is owned by the National Trust. There are car parking facilities here as well. Ludshott Common to the north west is also owned and managed by the National Trust, who operate an 'open access' policy. Waggoners' Wells, a chain of lakes in an attractive woodland setting, is on the National Trust land, just north of the MOD boundary.

## **7. Other Existing Opportunities**

Given the historical significance of this Training Area (it was the site of a Canadian Great War Hospital), an avenue of red maples and sugar maples has been planted alongside the A3 road as a Canadian war memorial. This is visited by many Canadians and the local public.

## **8. Signage**

The training area boundary is marked with signs stating it is a MOD training area.

## **9. Live Firing Warning/Notification**

There is no live firing on the training area.

## **10. Non-Firing Days**

Access is possible at all times to Bramshott.

## **11. Management of Dry Training Areas**

The training area comprises of heathland and woodland areas.

An Integrated Land Management Plan for the Aldershot and Longmoor Training Areas is currently being prepared.

EN and DE have produced 'Guidelines for Assessment of Recreational Events by Defence Estates' for all of the MOD sites within the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA. This guidance outlines the possible impacts of recreational events/recreation and best practice to minimise the impact.

## **12. Promotion**

The Training Area is a well known area and is particularly popular with Canadian visitors visiting the war memorial.

Waggoners Well is a local site of importance for visitors. The site is suitably signposted from the main A3 road.

## **13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures**

There are no known third party aspirations or pressures.

## **14. Current Access Problems/Issues**

The CROW Act has the potential to introduce open access on the ATE. The draft maps for registered common land and land to be defined as 'open country' under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 have been published for the Central Southern England Region. Bramshott Common is registered Common Land and have been included on the draft maps, along with a small area of open country (see Figure 2). However, due to the Byelaws that cover Bordon Training Area, these areas will be 'Excepted Land' as defined under Schedule 1 of the Act and the current access arrangements will not change.

Nevertheless, EN is concerned about possible disturbance to woodlark, Dartford warbler and nightjar, particularly from dogs, as a result of an increase in access under CROW. It is intended that these issues will be examined through an appropriate assessment. EN has also submitted advice under S26 with regard to open access and possible impacts on special interest features within the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA.

## **15. UXO**

There are no areas of UXO on the Training Area.

## **16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed**

The publication of the access maps under the CROW Act 2000 will illustrate which areas are to be designated as open country or as registered common land. The MOD will need to consider the future management strategy for those areas so designated, including the implications of byelawed land being excepted land under Schedule 1 of the Act and the use of section 28 restrictions/exclusions.

## **17. Sources**

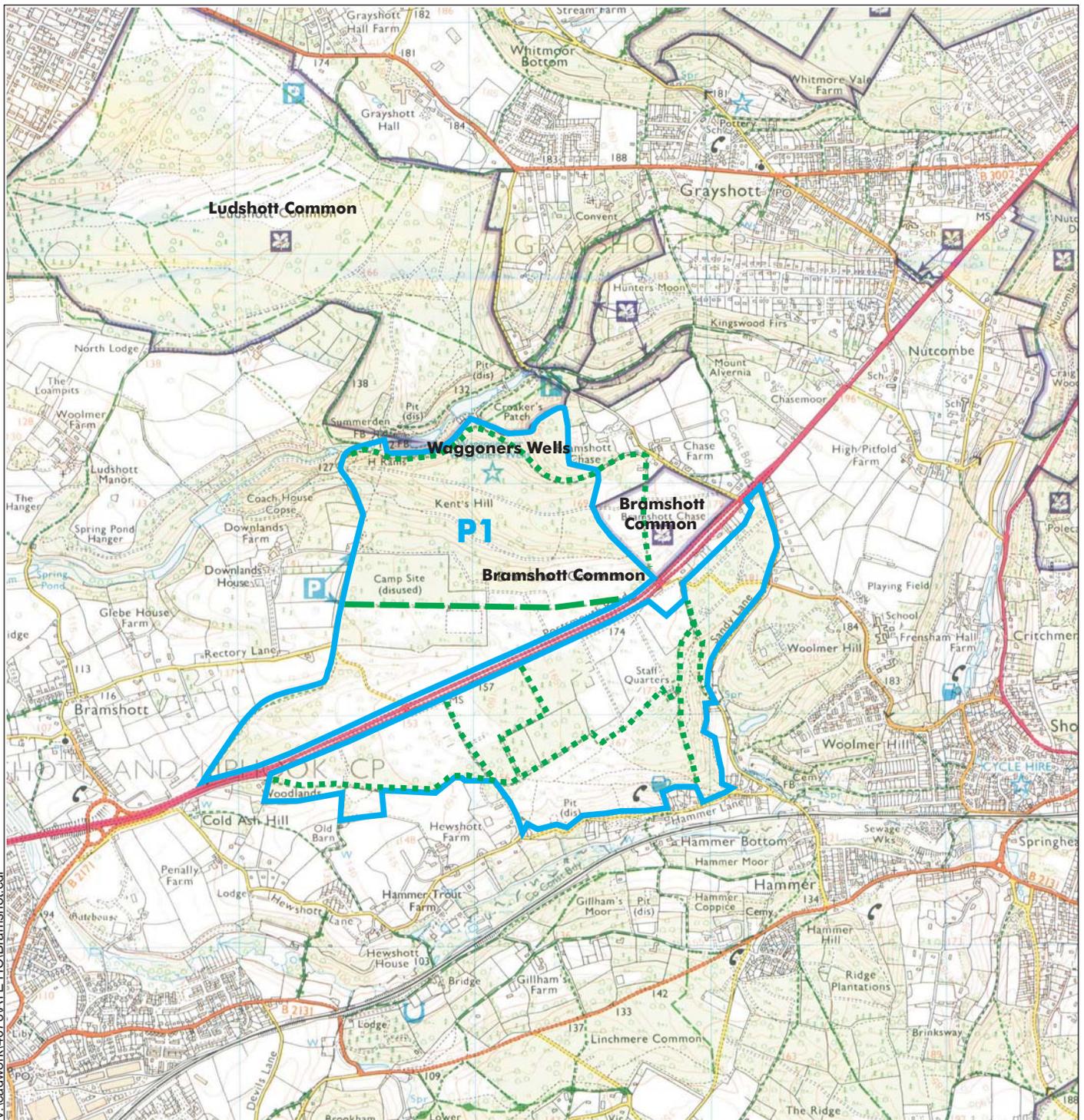
Defence Estates Map 1:25,000 P Training Areas Bramshott

English Nature SSSI Citation Sheet – Bramshott and Ludshott Commons SSSI

SSSI, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, and SPA boundary maps

OS Explorer Map Sheet No 133 Haslemere and Petersfield

Information supplied by MOD and DE personnel at meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2002 and subsequent discussions



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- Training Area
- Footpath
- Bridleway



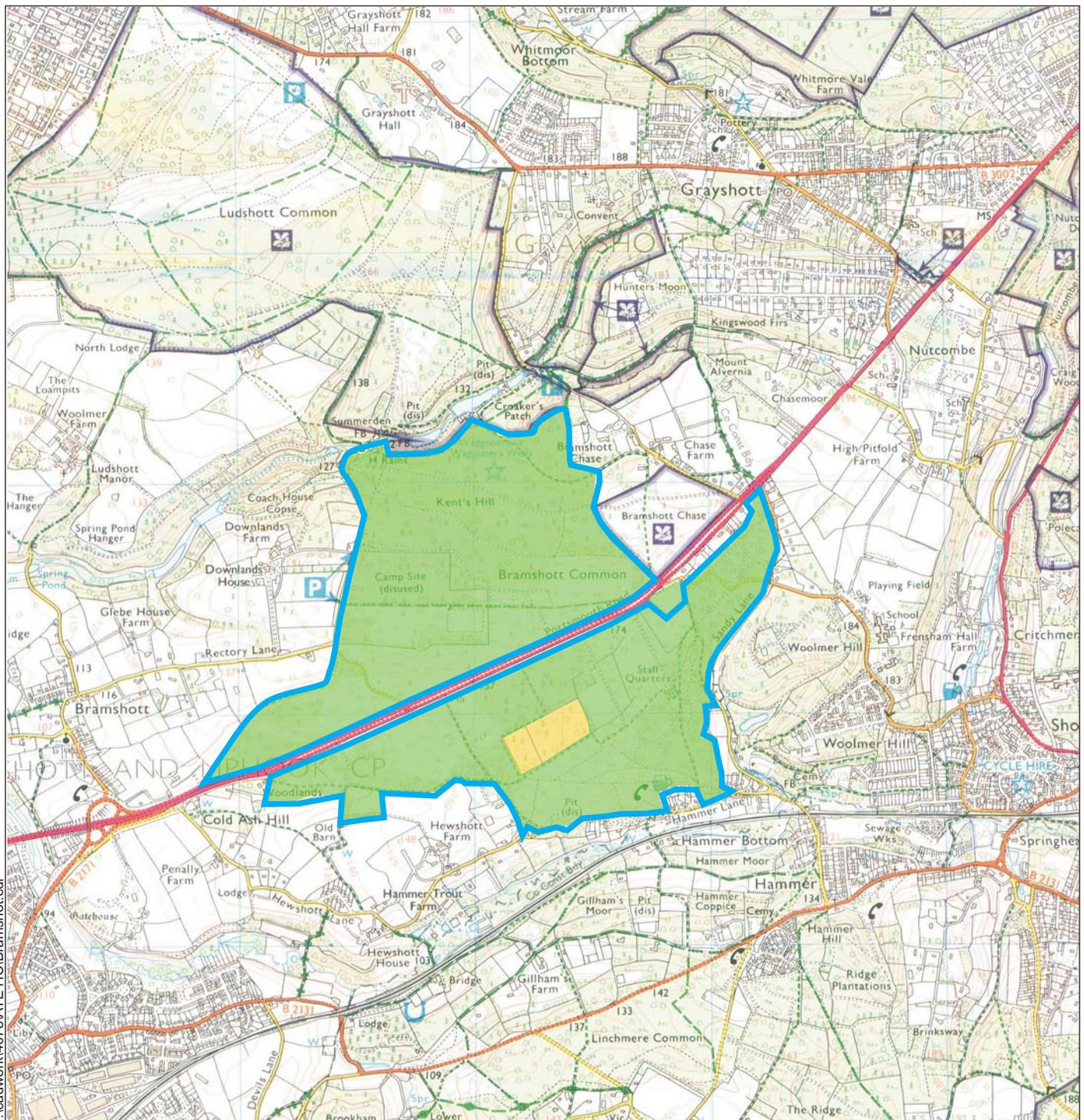
Planning, Transport  
and Environment



Project  
ATE HC - Bramshott

Title  
Location Plan and PROW Network

Project Number 4078	Drawing Number Figure 1
Scale 1:25,000	Date August 2003



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- Training Area
- Open Country
- Registered Common Land



Project  
ATE HC -Bramshott

Title  
Land Mapped as Registered Common Land (On Draft  
Maps Produced by Countryside Agency)

Project Number	Drawing Number
4078	Figure 2

Scale	Date
1:25,000	August 2003

# ATE Home Counties

## Longmoor Training Area: Hankley and Elstead

### 1. Geography

Hankley and Elstead Commons are located south east of Farnham, within the county of Surrey, covering an area of 793 hectares (see Figure 1). Hankley Common is situated to the west of Elstead, and Elstead Common is to the east. The Commons represent some of the finest remaining heathland on the Lower Greensand in Southern England and are nationally important for their bird, reptile and invertebrate populations.

### 2. Designations

A number of wildlife designations cover this site. These presently include Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons, which is a component SSSI of the Wealden Heaths SPA, Thursley and Ockley Bogs Ramsar and Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham cSAC. The Training Area at Elstead is also adjacent to Thursley NNR.

### 3. Training Use

Elstead and Hankley Commons are used for low level training by the TA and Cadets. There are various huts across the areas used for setting up bases.

### 4. Danger Areas

There are no Danger Areas on the Commons and the area is used for dry training.

### 5. Byelaws/Control

The Commons are covered by Byelaws – Surrey Commons Military Lands Byelaws 1978 – which came into operation on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1978. Byelaw 2 states that *'subject to the provision of these Byelaws, the public are permitted to use all parts of the Military Lands not specially enclosed or the entry to which is not shown by notice as being prohibited or restricted, for the purposes of open-air recreation at all times providing such access does not inhibit the military use of such lands for which they are appropriated.'* Byelaw 3 states that *'no person shall cause, permit or suffer a horse or a vehicle of any kind to enter into or upon any part of the Military Lands.'*

There is currently no public access allowed to the Dropping Zone area in the centre of Hankley Common due to EOD clearance (see Section 15 below).

## 6. Public Access Resources/Facilities

There are PROWs across both Commons, including footpaths and bridleways, and the area is highly accessible to the public. An 'easy access' route following a bridleway runs north to south across Royal Common.

There are car parking areas at The Moat on Elstead Common (GR 899 415); Royal Common (GR 921 433) and Hankley Common (GR 891 411).

The Greensand Way, a Regional Trail, runs north west to south east across the centre of Hankley Common.

## 7. Other Existing Opportunities

Orienteering takes place on the Commons, but not during the breeding bird season.

There are guided walks across Ockley Common and on to Elstead Common organised by English Nature. Guided walks by Surrey County Council Heathland Group are also organised on Hankley Common. There is currently open access on the adjacent Thursley NNR.

There are no motorsports or camping allowed on the Commons.

## 8. Signage

Byelaw signs are located at appropriate locations around the Commons. Signs at Hankley indicate that further information can be found in the leaflet '*Walks on MOD Land*'.



Photograph 1: Signs on Hankley Common

## 9. Live Firing Warning/Notification

There is no live firing on this training area, therefore no warning or notification required.

## 10. Non-Firing Days

There is no live firing on this training area.

## 11. Management of Dry Training Areas

The dry training area is predominantly open heathland and associated woodland.

An Integrated Land Management Plan (ILMP) for the Aldershot and Longmoor Training Areas is currently being prepared.

EN and DE have produced 'Guidelines for Assessment of Recreational Events by Defence Estates' for all of the MOD sites within the Thames Basin Heaths pSPA as well as Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons (part of Wealden Heaths SPA and Thursley Ash, Pirbright and Chobham cSAC). This guidance outlines the possible impacts of recreational events/recreation and best practice to minimise the impact.

## 12. Promotion

Two of the walks across Elstead and Royal Commons are promoted in the MOD's booklet '*Walks on MOD Lands*' published in November 2001 (see Photograph 2 below). One of these routes, an easy access route across Royal Common is also promoted by Surrey County Council.



**Photograph 2: Boardwalk across Elstead Common**

The Greensand Way is a regionally promoted route, 107 miles in total, through Surrey and Kent. It passes along the Greensand Ridge, some of Southern England's highest ground. The route is

promoted on the South East Walks Partnership website, and in booklet '*Along and Around the Greensand Way*', produced by Kent & Surrey County Councils.

The Atlantic Wall is located on Hankley Common. This wall was built during the Second World War, to train D-Day troops in the art of attacking Hitler's fortifications. An interpretation board is to be erected here for visitor information.

### **13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures**

EN has expressed a desire for access to Elstead Common to be managed in association with that for the adjacent Thursley NNR.

### **14. Current Access Problems/Issues**

There are some problems of fly-tipping in the area. ATE HC however have a good relationship with the Parish Councils who are helpful in resolving problems.

The CROW Act has the potential to introduce open access on the ATE. The provisional maps for land to be defined as 'open access' under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 have been published for the South East Region. Land within Hankley and Elstead has been identified (see Figure 2). However, due to the Byelaws that cover this training area, these areas will be 'Excepted Land' as defined under Schedule 1 of the Act and the current access arrangements will not change.

Nevertheless, EN has noted that Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons may be affected by open access under CROW. This is due to the possibility of increased disturbance to sand lizard, woodlark, Dartford warbler and nightjar, particularly from dogs. It is intended that these issues will be examined through an appropriate assessment. EN is also concerned about the possible negative effects on potential grazing. Under the Surrey Tomorrows Heathland Heritage project there are plans to introduce grazing to part of this site at Elstead Common.

EN's main concern on Hankley Common relates to access in relation to illegal off-road vehicles, especially motorbikes.

### **15. UXO**

The Dropping Zone area in the centre of Hankley Common (see Figure 1) is currently out of bounds as this area is currently being cleared. Once completed, it may be opened up for public access.

### **16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed**

Changes to the signs at Hankley Common regarding the Walks on MOD Lands booklet is necessary as the booklet only covers walks on Elstead and Royal Commons. A general information sign about

the 'Walks on MOD Lands' booklet and where copies can be obtained would be beneficial especially at the Moat carpark (GR 899 415) on Elstead Common.

The publication of the access maps under the CROW Act 2000 will illustrate which areas are to be designated as open country or as registered common land. The MOD will need to consider the future management strategy for those areas so designated, in liaison with EN, including the implications of byelawed land being excepted land under Schedule 1 of the Act and the use of section 28 restrictions/exclusions. The issue of illegal access by off-road vehicles also needs to be addressed as part of this strategy.

## 17. Sources

OS Explorer Map Sheet No 145 Guildford and Farnham

Countryside Agency website [www.countryside.gov.uk](http://www.countryside.gov.uk)

Defence Estate Training Estate Map (1:25,000) Elstead/Hankley

English Nature SSSI Citation Sheet Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons

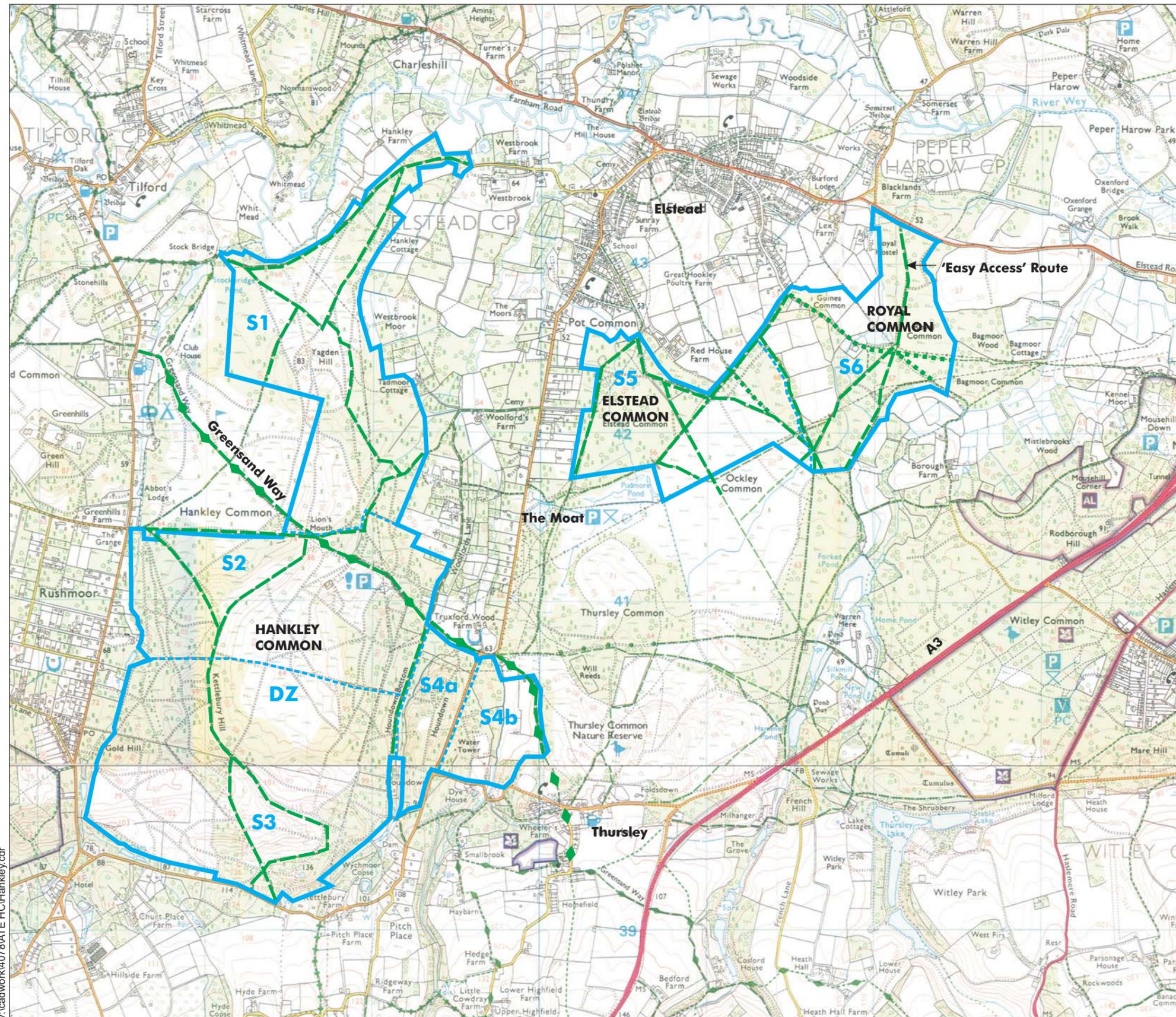
South East Walks Partnership website [www.southeastwalks.com](http://www.southeastwalks.com)

Surrey Commons Military Lands Byelaws 1978 Statutory Instruments 1978 No 64

Surrey County Council website [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

Site visit undertaken on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2002

Information supplied by MOD and DE personnel at a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2002 and subsequent discussions



- Training Area
- - - - - Subdivision of Training Area
- ..... Footpath
- - - - - Bridleway
- ◆◆◆ National Trail/Recreational Path



Project  
ATE HC - Longmoor Training Area:  
Hankley and Elstead

Title  
Location Plan and PROW Network

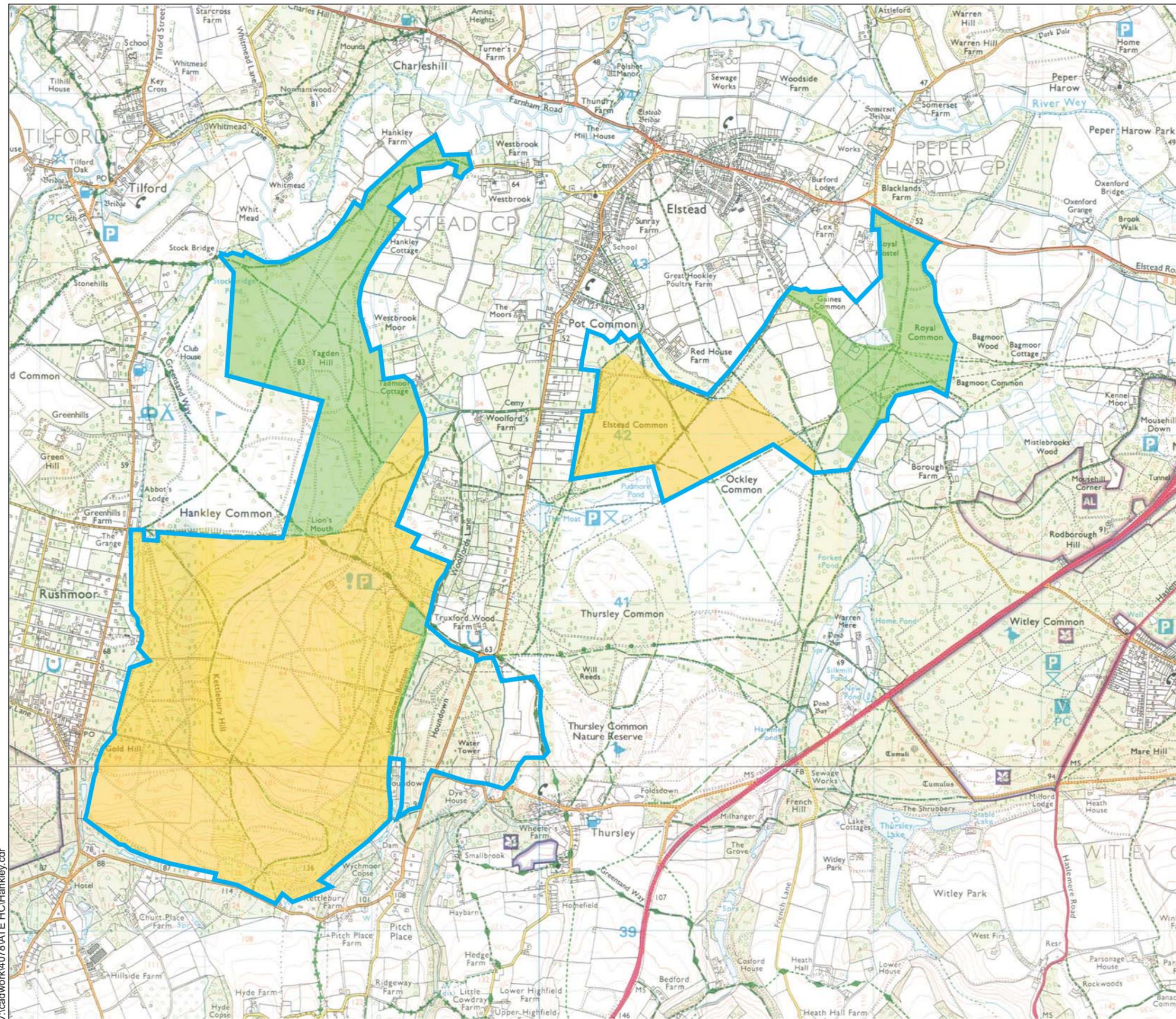
Project Number  
4078

Drawing Number  
Figure 1

Scale  
1:25,000

Date  
August 2003

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- Training Area
- Open Country
- Registered Common Land

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Project  
**ATE HC - Longmoor Training Area:  
 Hankley and Elstead**

Title  
**Land Mapped as Open Country (On Provisional  
 Maps Produced by the Countryside Agency)**

Project Number      Drawing Number  
**4078                      Figure 2**

Scale                      Date  
**1:25,000                  August 2003**

## **Appendix C**

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### **Sources of Information**

MAFF (2000) England Rural Development Plan 2000-2006, South East Region
Countryside Agency (2000) State of the Countryside 2000, The South East and London
Countryside Agency (2000) Rights of Way Condition Survey 2000
Countryside Agency (2001) A South Downs National Park - Public Consultation Report
Countryside Agency (2001) Drawing the Boundaries (Ref CA66)
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
English Nature SSSI Citation Sheets
Welch, D. (1995). Managing Public Use of Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside. Pitman Publishing, London
Ordnance Survey Publications (Maps and Atlases)
Site Visits
Interviews with MOD personnel
Walks on MOD Lands Booklet (November 2001)
MOD documents
Countryside Agency website <a href="http://www.countryside.gov.uk">www.countryside.gov.uk</a>
Hampshire County Council website <a href="http://www.hants.gov.uk">www.hants.gov.uk</a>
Surrey County Council website <a href="http://www.surreycc.gov.uk">www.surreycc.gov.uk</a>

## **Appendix D**

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### **Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations**

## Military Terms

<b>AFV</b>	Armoured Fighting Vehicle
<b>ATE</b>	Army Training Estate
<b>ATE HC</b>	Army Training Estate Home Counties
<b>ATR</b>	Army Training Regiment
<b>DE</b>	Defence Estates
<b>DTA</b>	Dry Training Area
<b>ETR</b>	Electric Target Range
<b>OBUA</b>	Operating In Built-Up Area
<b>HQ Land</b>	Headquarters Land Command
<b>ILMP</b>	Integrated Land Management Plan
<b>MMTTR</b>	Mechanical Moving Training Target Range
<b>MOD</b>	Ministry of Defence
<b>OTC</b>	Officer Training Corp
<b>RFCA</b>	Reserve Forces and Cadets Association
<b>RMAS</b>	Royal Military Academy Sandhurst
<b>TA</b>	Territorial Army
<b>UXO</b>	Unexploded Ordnance

## Access Terms

Access Land	Areas of countryside to which the public are afforded a right of passage as a result of the implementation of the CROW Act. This will include mountain, moor, heath, down, common land and land dedicated for access under Section 16.
BOAT	Byway Open to All Traffic A route that is available to users on foot, on horseback, bicycle, driving a horse-drawn carriage, and motorised vehicles.
Bridleway	A linear route to which rights of access are limited to passage on foot, horseback (or leading a horse) and by bicycle (although cyclists are required to give way to other users).
CROW Act	Countryside and Rights of Way Act
LAF	Local Access Forum Formed under CROW Act
Linear Access	A route to which access is limited to the route itself and not the surrounding areas which it crosses.
Open Access	Areas in which passage by visitors is not restricted to linear routes.
Open Country	Four categories of land (mountain, moor, heath and down) to which access will be given as a right, as a result of the CROW Act.
Permissive Route	A route to which access has been granted by the landowner on a non-permanent basis. No right of way is created.
Public Footpath	A linear route to which rights of access are limited to passage on foot.
PROW	Public Right of Way
RUPP	Road Used as a Public Path (now changed to Restricted Byway) A right of way whose status has not been confirmed but is used as a road. On these routes, the public enjoy the same rights as on a bridleway, but are also entitled to drive a horse-drawn carriage along it.

## Ecological Terms

SAC	Special Area for Conservation
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
SPA	Special Protected Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest