

There is a presumption in favour of public access to the Defence Training Estates, on Public Rights of Way, balanced against the overriding national requirement for safe and sustainable military training and conservation. Public access is encouraged wherever and whenever possible, although access to the range impact areas is prohibited at all times. When on a public Right of Way that crosses a training area follow the Country Code:

The Country Code

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
- Guard against all risk of fire
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
- Take your litter home
- Take special care on country roads
- Make no unnecessary noise
- Keep to the public paths across farmland
- Fasten all gates
- Keep dogs under close control
- Protect wild life, plants and trees
- Help to keep all water clean

Great care is taken to ensure the safety of these walks, although areas used by the armed forces for training can obviously be dangerous – and this applies throughout the DTE North training areas. Anyone walking on MoD land must obey all signs and byelaws relevant to the area being visited.

Remember! Unexploded Ordnance: Do not touch any unidentified object.

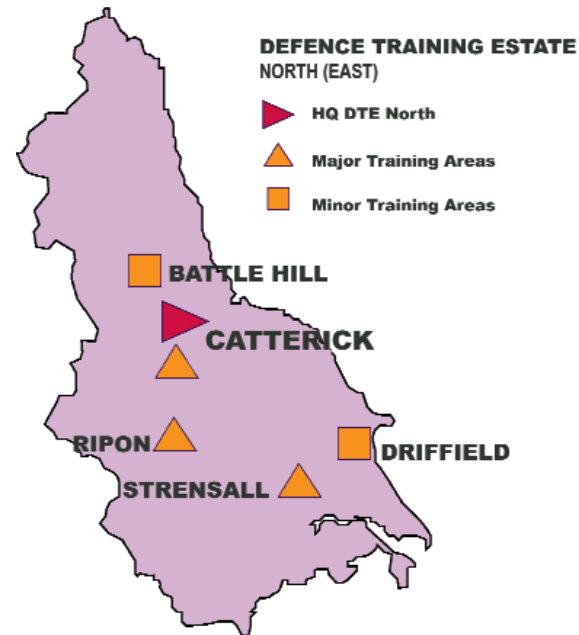
Always comply with the following Safety Rules:

Safety

- Do not approach, touch, or pick up any metal objects lying on the ground
- Keep to the footpaths and do not deviate from them
- The use of metal detectors is prohibited
- Keep away from all buildings, bunkers and military installations except where it is clearly shown that public access is permitted
- No camping or fires are permitted
- All cliffs are dangerous



Photo courtesy of DTE North



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In addition to this Public Information Leaflet for DTE North (East), the Defence Training Estate and Defence Estates (DE) both produce more literature. The DTE Annual Report summarises yearly progress by the DTE organisation; DE's Walks on MoD Land details a number of walks on 10 DTE areas including Salisbury Plain, Castlemartin, Catterick, Dartmoor and Otterburn. Finally, DE's annual publication Sanctuary contains articles about the Defence Estate across the whole country. All these publications are free and can be obtained from the respective addresses below.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Headquarters DTE North

Wathgill Camp, Downholme, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL11 6AH
Telephone: 01748 875504

Headquarters Defence Training Estate

Land Warfare Centre, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 0DJ
Telephone: 01985 222856

Defence Estates

Blakemore Drive, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B75 7RL
Telephone: 0121 3112000
www.defence-estates.mod.uk

PUBLIC INFORMATION LEAFLET



DE
DEFENCE ESTATES
Delivering Estate Solutions to Defence Needs



DTE North (East)

WHY THE ARMY NEEDS TO TRAIN



The British Army is held in the highest regard around the world. This respect has been hard-won over recent years in Northern Ireland, the Falkland Islands, the Gulf, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan - and countless other peacekeeping operations throughout the world. But such professionalism does not happen by chance. It is attained by constant, thorough and tough training, in realistic conditions. The Defence Training Estate (DTE) provides the principal facilities to achieve this.

ORGANISATION

The Defence Training Estate in the UK is controlled by Headquarters DTE, based at Land Warfare Centre in Warminster, Wiltshire (see address at end of this leaflet). The Estate is sub-divided into 10 regionally-based areas, each with its own Headquarters and staff. DTE North (East) was formed in 1999, and hosts units from many other parts of the UK who come to take advantage of the particular facilities it can offer them.

TRAINING IN DTE NORTH (EAST)

HQ DTE North (East) is responsible for the cost-effective, sustainable provision of safe training facilities for the three Armed Services and their Cadet organisations. From time to time the Police, Fire and Ambulance Services also use these training amenities. The training facilities in DTE North (East) are essentially infantry-orientated, focusing on infantry tactical training and skill-at-arms, spread across North Yorkshire, Durham and Humberside and, with the exception of 220 acres (90 hectares) leased at Battle Hill, the entire estate is owned by the MoD. In North Yorkshire, Humberside and Durham there is limited room for armoured manoeuvre, both at Catterick and Ellington Banks in Ripon, but there is no live firing by either artillery or armoured units. Each of the DTE North (East) areas is described on the following pages.



CATTERICK TRAINING AREAS



Once the site of a strategic Roman fort 'Cataractonium' on Dere Street, running in those days between Hadrian's Wall and York, Catterick became the principal training area in the north east. It originated prior to the First World War, at which time young soldiers - up to 40,000 of them accommodated in 2,000 huts - carried out their training on an area of land that was increasingly being enlarged for this very purpose.

The establishment of the facility had followed a request by the War Office to General Lord Baden Powell, Boer War hero, founder of the Boys Scout movement, and GOC of the Northumbrian Division from 1908 to 1910, to establish a military training centre in the North of England. This role continued during the Second World War, following increasing emphasis on armoured vehicle training, which continues to this day with Warrior and Challenger II, more recent facilities for Urban Operations training (at Whinny Hill), and numerous live firing ranges. Catterick's own 'dry training' (i.e. no live firing) areas total just over 9,000 acres (3,700 hectares). There are also ranges at Bellerby and combined dry training and range areas at Feldom and Battle Hill. A public footpath crosses Stainton and Bellerby Moor, but otherwise these areas are closed to the public in the interests of safety and security.

RIPON TRAINING AREAS

Originally Ripon Parks was primarily used by the Archbishop of York for hunting. Later, in 678AD, it was gifted to St Wilfred, the first Bishop of Ripon. Laver Banks and Ellington Banks were purchased in the 1940s and 1950s respectively, and today, along with Ripon Parks, form HQ Ripon Training Area under the Commandant based in Deverell Barracks. The training areas are best suited to low level infantry dry training, but also offer a wide variety of



alternative facilities which include training on earth-moving equipment, other combat engineer tasks such as bridging and cross-country driver training. The area provides a variety of terrains for training, from open pasture and arable land to heavily wooded areas with small and large buildings. It is routinely used by local Regular, Territorial and Cadet Units and other non government organisations. Laver Banks is used as a "back-door" training area for units occupying Deverell Barracks.

STRENSALL TRAINING AREAS

The control of Strensall Ranges and Dry Training Area, including the disused airfield at Driffield with its purpose built Off Road Driving circuit, is the responsibility of the Commandant HQ Strensall Training Area based in the Range compound adjacent to Queen Elizabeth Barracks Strensall. Strensall ranges have been in use since the early 1870s when the War Department purchased Strensall Common. By the outbreak of the First World War Strensall had become a garrison town, complete with rifle ranges, dry training areas, barrack accommodation and medical centre. From that time to the present day it has played a key role in the training of the various Yorkshire Regiments of the British Army, and units within York Garrison. Today, the Barracks is home to HQ 2 Medical Brigade.

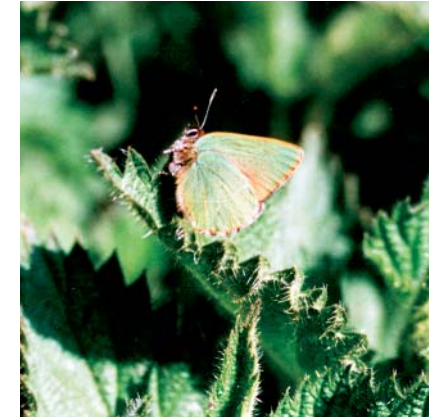


The rifle ranges, dry training area, including a parachute dropping zone and the off road driver training circuit at Driffield, provide military facilities

for units to prepare for operations world wide.

ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

Along with the rest of the Defence Training Estate, DTE North (East) has made excellent progress by developing sophisticated planning and management systems which ensure that training on the Estate is appropriate in terms of the area, nature of ground, and seasonal factors - for example, by taking into account



farming practices and conservation considerations such as the breeding seasons of rare species. The habitat in all DTE North (East) training areas is carefully managed with the best interests of the flora and fauna given full consideration. These habitats represent a tremendous conservation resource containing some of the finest examples of plants and wildlife and include formally established conservation groups. Regular liaison with statutory bodies takes place. Together with local people and other organisations Defence Estates strive continually to accommodate the interests of both the military and other stakeholders in the guardianship of our open spaces. Conserving the rare fauna and flora which live on the area is afforded a high priority. Catterick Garrison also includes the 94 acre (38 hectare) Foxglove Covert on its western edge - the MoD's first official local nature reserve.



This area includes ancient woodland, grassland and wetlands in which over 1700 different species have been logged. More than 33,000 birds that have been ringed, in the past 15 years.

