



Ministry
of Defence



UK Defence Footprint

Making Defence an engine for growth



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Making defence an engine for economic growth in the nations and regions

In the Plan for Change, the government pledged to improve the lives of people in every corner of the UK, by growing the economy.

The security guaranteed by a strong Defence underpins the economic prosperity of the UK. A stronger defence sector that is fit for the future will boost prosperity in all corners of the country, make us more resilient, and deter our adversaries.

That's why the government has announced the largest sustained increase to defence spending since the Cold War: 2.6% of GDP by 2027, an ambition to increase to 3% in the next parliament, as fiscal and economic conditions allow, and a historic commitment to spend 5% on national security by 2035 alongside our NATO allies.

Increasing defence spending to 2.6% by 2027 to 2028 means that, over this Spending Review period, the government will invest over £270 billion in cash terms on defence. The Defence Industrial Strategy outlined how we will successfully implement the Strategic Defence Review; moving to warfighting readiness to deter increasing threats, drive defence as an engine for jobs and growth, innovate at a wartime pace to get the best kit into the hands of our war fighters, and renew the nation's contract with those who serve with better housing and better pay. This will deliver on our ambition to make the UK the best place in the world to start and grow a defence firm and will put Britain at the leading edge of innovation.

In a powerful boost to the UK economy, the latest figures show a real-terms increase of 6% of Ministry of Defence (MOD) expenditure with UK industry in 2024 to 2025, up to a record high of £31.7 billion. These figures show how the defence dividend from our record investment is benefitting working people across the UK.

The MOD already supports over 460,000 jobs and 24,000 apprenticeships across the UK, providing sustainable, high-quality, well-paying jobs, the majority of which are outside London and the South East.

This booklet provides key figures on how Defence is actively contributing to employment, growth and security in your area.

United Kingdom

As at 1 April 2025:



131,280
UK Regular Forces
in the UK



53,400
MOD Civilian
personnel in
the UK



29,200
Strength of the
Trained Future
Reserves 2020*

*Volunteer Reserves can provide support to the Regular Forces at home and overseas.

In 2024 to 2025:

£31.7 billion
MOD expenditure
with UK industry
(up by **6%** after inflation
from £29.9 billion
in the previous year)

£460
MOD expenditure with
industry for each person
living in the UK

£1.2 billion
MOD direct
expenditure with small
and medium-sized
enterprises (SMEs)

In 2023 to 2024:

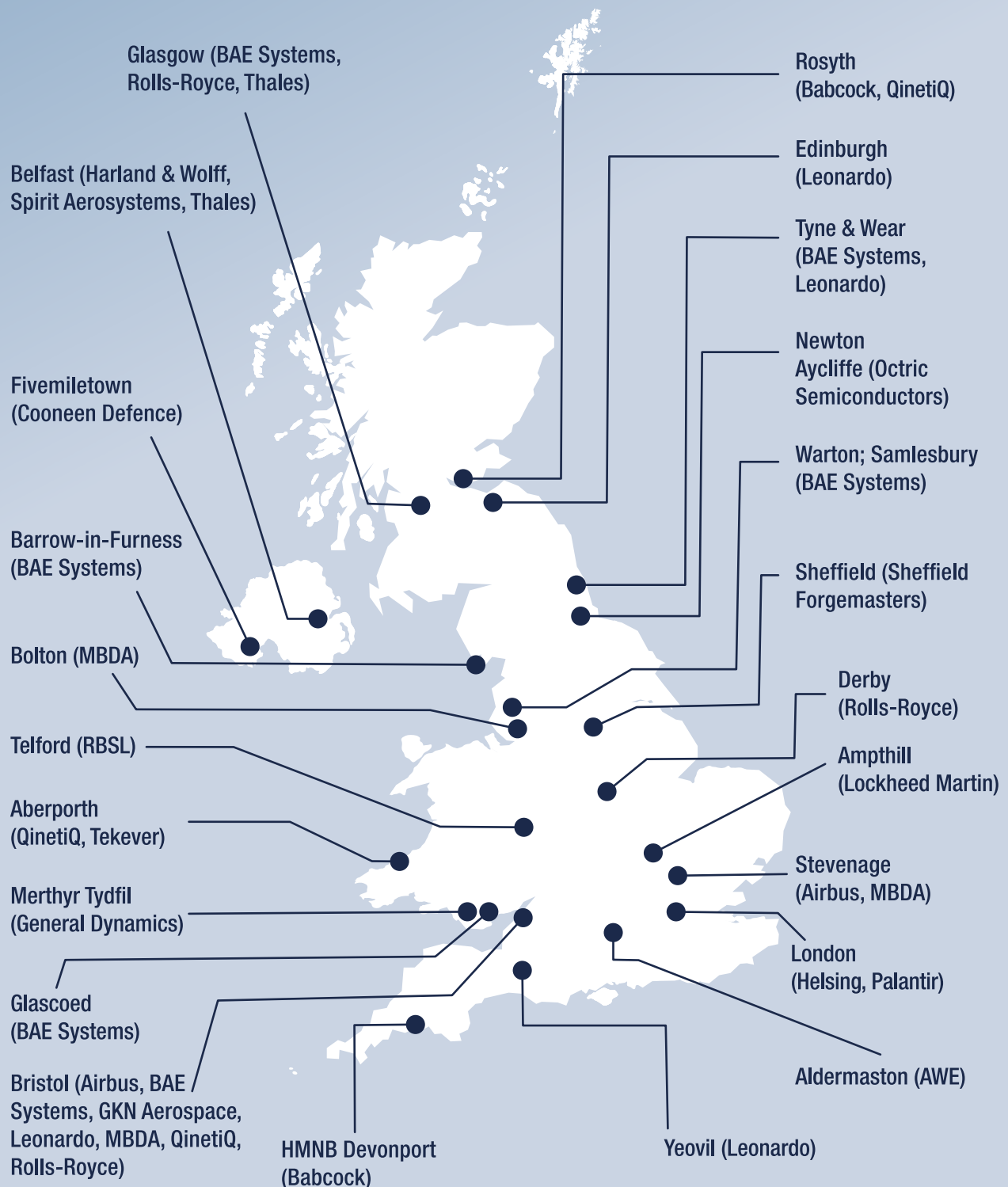


272,000
industry-supported
direct and indirect jobs
(up by **11%** from 244,000
in the previous year)



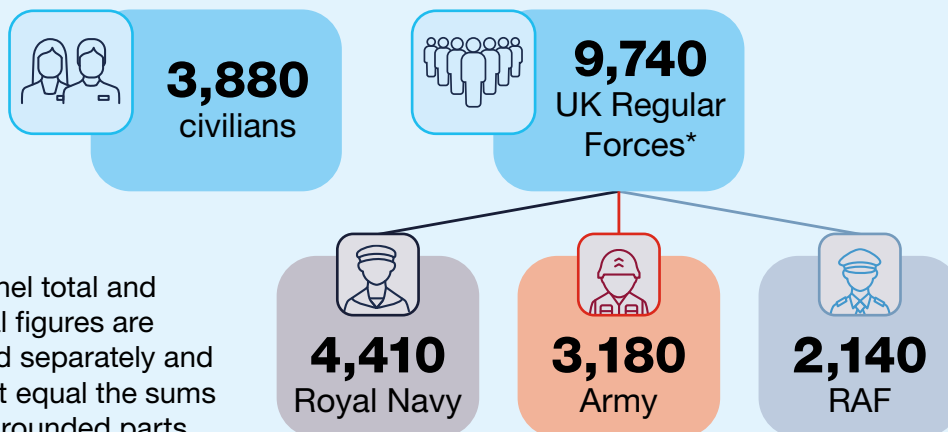
24,000
MOD apprenticeships

Selected UK Defence Industry Locations



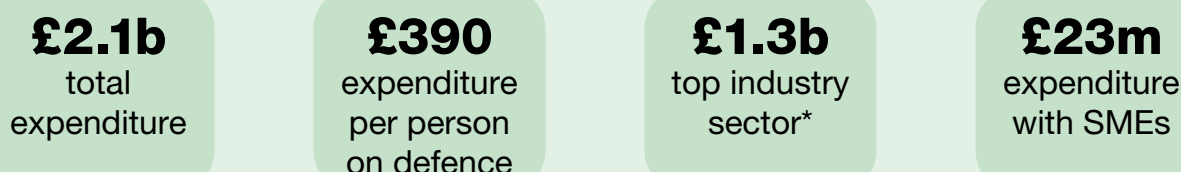


Personnel numbers as at 1 April 2025:



* Personnel total and subtotal figures are rounded separately and may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.

MOD spending with UK industry and commerce, 2024 to 2025



* shipbuilding and repairing (including submarines)

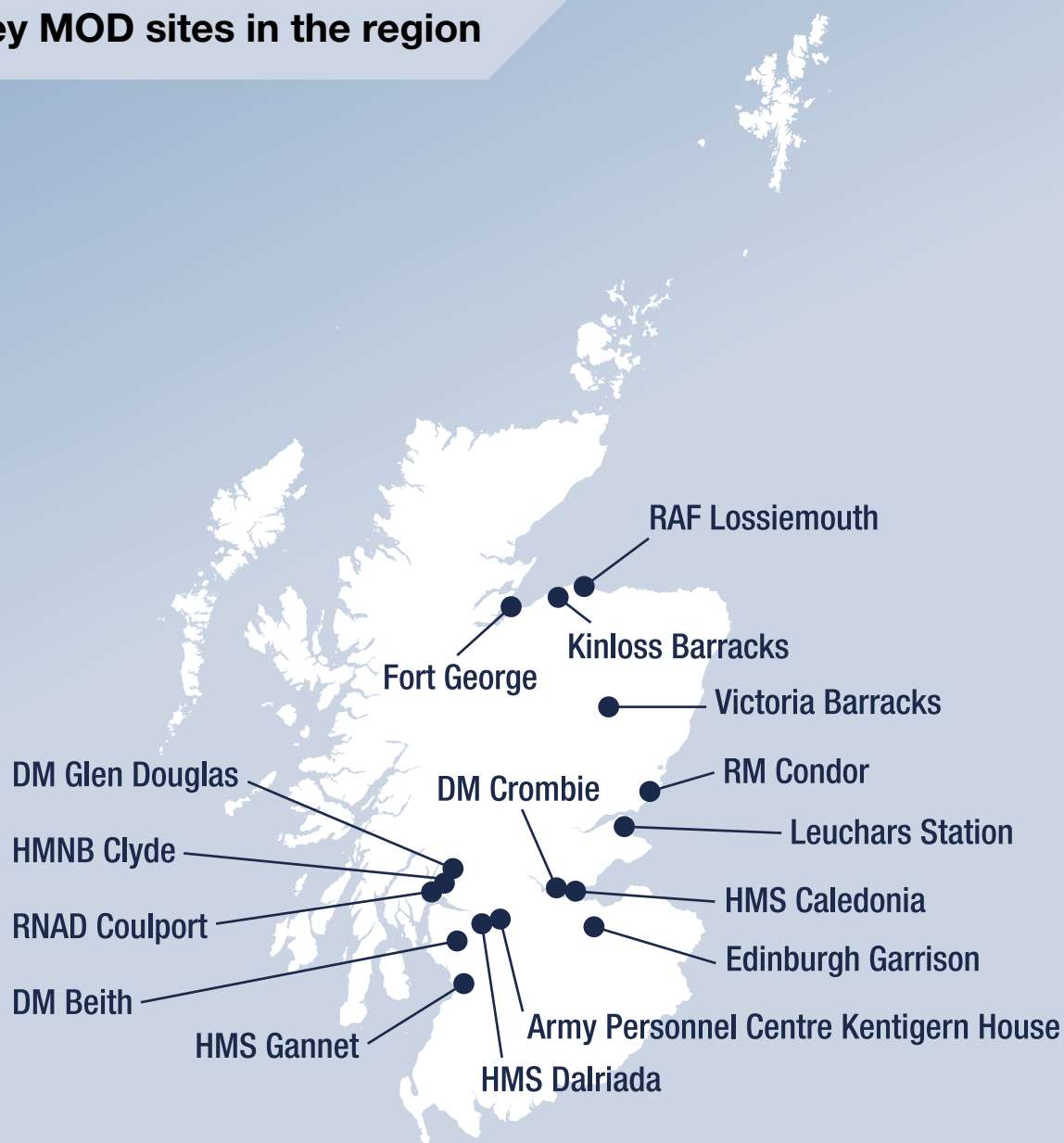
Strategic suppliers and key industry sites

BAE Systems has a significant presence in Scotland, including shipbuilding in Glasgow, electronics development and manufacturing near Dunfermline, an aircraft engineering support facility in Prestwick, munitions testing and evaluation in Bishopton, and supporting the Typhoon fleet at RAF Lossiemouth. Leonardo provides surveillance radars and countermeasure systems from Edinburgh, and Boeing Defence UK supports the operation of Poseidon P-8A aircraft at RAF Lossiemouth. In Rosyth, Babcock International build Type 31 ships, support the Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers, and dismantle decommissioned nuclear submarines, DXC Technology has a cyber threat analysis centre in Bishopton. In Glasgow, Rolls-Royce provide specialist nuclear engineering support, and Thales develop electro-optical systems. Scotland is also a hub for academic research and development in the maritime domain.



11,800
directly
supported
industry jobs,
2023 to 2024

Key MOD sites in the region



Edinburgh Garrison includes Edinburgh Castle, Redford Barracks, Glencorse Barracks and Dreghorn Barracks. Edinburgh Garrison is home to Joint Military Command Scotland (an Army 1* formation in Redford Barracks).

The locations plotted on this map are illustrative of the broader defence footprint in Scotland. It is not an exhaustive list of every site, more detail on how sites were selected can be found in the background notes.

Northern Ireland



Personnel numbers as at 1 April 2025:



760
civilians



1,210
UK Regular
Forces*

* Personnel total and subtotal figures are rounded separately and may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.



10
Royal Navy



1,150
Army



60
RAF

MOD spending with UK industry and commerce, 2024 to 2025

£271m
total
expenditure

£140
expenditure
per person
on defence

£226m
top industry
sector*

£2m
expenditure
with SMEs

* weapons and ammunition (including armoured fighting vehicles)

Strategic suppliers and key industry sites

Thales has a significant presence in Northern Ireland with a 60-year heritage, employing people across the defence and space sectors. Belfast is home to the global Space Electric Propulsion Integration Centre, a joint venture between Thales and Thales Alenia Space, which is jointly owned by the Italian defence company Leonardo and the Thales Group. The Centre designs satellite-based systems and builds next-generation propulsion systems. It also undertakes integration and testing of new innovative military payloads. Harland and Wolff has now been acquired by Navantia UK, ensuring the Fleet Solid Support Programme will continue in Belfast. Spirit AeroSystems, based in Belfast, is being acquired by Boeing and the A220 Wings manufacturing part of the business will be bought by Airbus.



900
directly
supported
industry jobs,
2023 to 2024

Key MOD sites in the region



Thiepval Barracks is also home to HMS Hibernia, headquarters of the Royal Naval Reserve in Northern Ireland.

The locations plotted on this map are illustrative of the broader defence footprint in Northern Ireland. It is not an exhaustive list of every site, more detail on how sites were selected can be found in the background notes.



Personnel numbers as at 1 April 2025:



920
civilians



1,880
UK Regular
Forces*

* Personnel total and subtotal figures are rounded separately and may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.



160
Royal Navy



1,320
Army



390
RAF

MOD spending with UK industry and commerce, 2024 to 2025

£1.1b
total
expenditure

£340
expenditure
per person
on defence

£527m
top industry
sector*

£42m
expenditure
with SMEs

* weapons and ammunition (including armoured fighting vehicles)

Strategic suppliers and key industry sites

A number of defence strategic suppliers have established locations across Wales. General Dynamics has its UK headquarters near Caerphilly and specialises in armoured fighting vehicles from their base in Merthyr Tydfil. Airbus has a site in Broughton focusing on wing design and manufacture, and a space facility in Newport which leads cyber security research initiatives. Thales UK provides digital trust and cyber resilience from their base in Ebbw Vale and QinetiQ provides testing of aerial systems at their base in Aberporth. BAE Systems in Glascoed supplies approximately 80% of the 'general munitions' consumed by UK Armed Forces for training and front-line operations. BAE Systems staff are also located at RAF Valley, providing support for Hawk trainer jets. MOD Sealand is a nominated UK repair depot for the F-35 Lightning II aircraft.



3,900
directly
supported
industry jobs,
2023 to 2024

Key MOD sites in the region



The locations plotted on this map are illustrative of the broader defence footprint in Wales. It is not an exhaustive list of every site, more detail on how sites were selected can be found in the background notes.



Personnel numbers as at 1 April 2025:



190
civilians



940
UK Regular
Forces*

* Personnel total and subtotal figures are rounded separately and may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.



10
Royal Navy



430
Army



500
RAF

MOD spending with UK industry and commerce, 2024 to 2025

£178m

total regional
expenditure

£60

expenditure
per person
on defence

£47m

top industry
sector*

£63m

expenditure
with SMEs

* shipbuilding and repairing (including submarines)

Strategic suppliers and key industry sites

A number of Defence strategic suppliers have established themselves in the North East of England. BAE Systems has two munition sites in the region, in Washington near Sunderland, and Risdale in Northumberland. Washington is also home to Rolls-Royce's aerospace disc manufacturing facility which manufactures over 1,500 turbines a year for military and civilian aircraft engines. DXC Technology, provider of IT services to the MOD, has offices in Newcastle. In 2023, Leonardo opened a machine learning, data analytics and artificial intelligence centre in Newcastle. The world's largest defence company, Lockheed Martin, has formed a partnership with Northumbria University to create the North East Space Skills and Technology Centre. Newcastle is also home to local companies such as Pearson Engineering, a key supplier of armoured vehicles to the British Armed Forces. UK Docks has its headquarters in the North East, delivering a range of dry dock and marine services.



2,000
directly
supported
industry jobs,
2023 to 2024

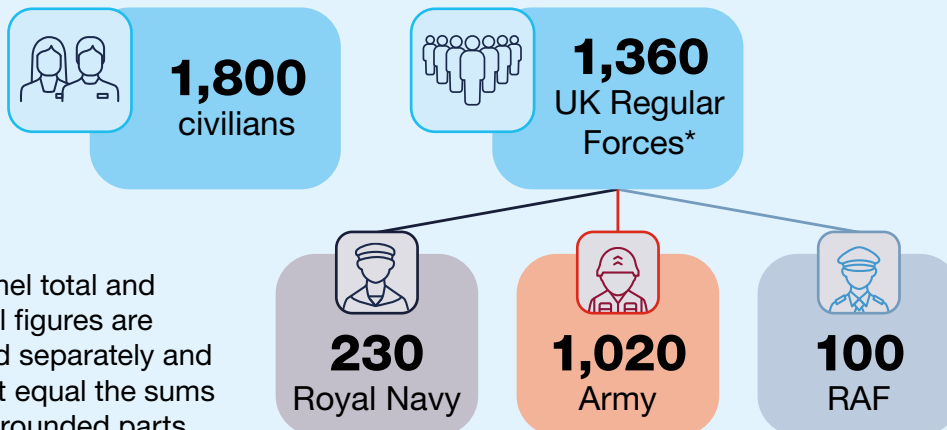
Key MOD sites in the region



The locations plotted on this map are illustrative of the broader defence footprint in the North East. It is not an exhaustive list of every site, more detail on how sites were selected can be found in the background notes.

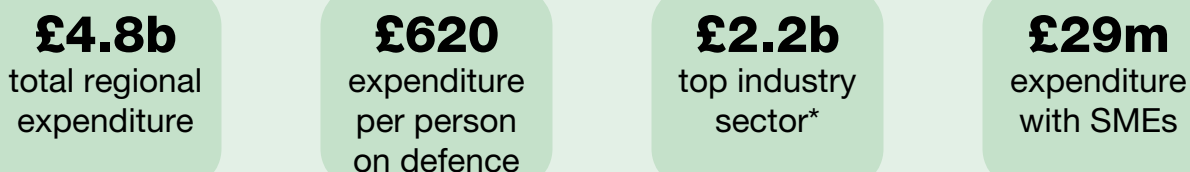


Personnel numbers as at 1 April 2025:



* Personnel total and subtotal figures are rounded separately and may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.

MOD spending with UK industry and commerce, 2024 to 2025



* shipbuilding and repairing (including submarines)

Strategic suppliers and key industry sites

The region is home to significant BAE Systems locations. In Barrow-in-Furness, they are delivering Astute, Dreadnought and the future submarines as part of the AUKUS trilateral security partnership. In Warton and Samlesbury, they are delivering our current and future combat air capabilities. In Radway Green in Crewe, they are manufacturing and testing small arms munitions. Elsewhere in the region, Raytheon Systems is providing cyber security expertise from Salford and MBDA's engineering facility in Bolton manufactures some of the most critical elements of our missile systems. Cammell Laird is a global leader in the maritime defence sector. Its defence division provides shipbuilding, ship repair, conversion and fabrications services in the region.



20,100
directly
supported
industry jobs,
2023 to 2024

Key MOD sites in the region



The locations plotted on this map are illustrative of the broader defence footprint in the North West. It is not an exhaustive list of every site, more detail on how sites were selected can be found in the background notes.

Yorkshire and the Humber



Personnel numbers as at 1 April 2025:



1,770
civilians



12,510
UK Regular
Forces*

* Personnel total and subtotal figures are rounded separately and may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.



70
Royal Navy



10,990
Army



1,460
RAF

MOD spending with UK industry and commerce, 2024 to 2025

£971m

total regional
expenditure

£170

expenditure
per person
on defence

£412m

top industry
sector*

£36m

expenditure
with SMEs

* technical, financial and other business services

Strategic suppliers and key industry sites

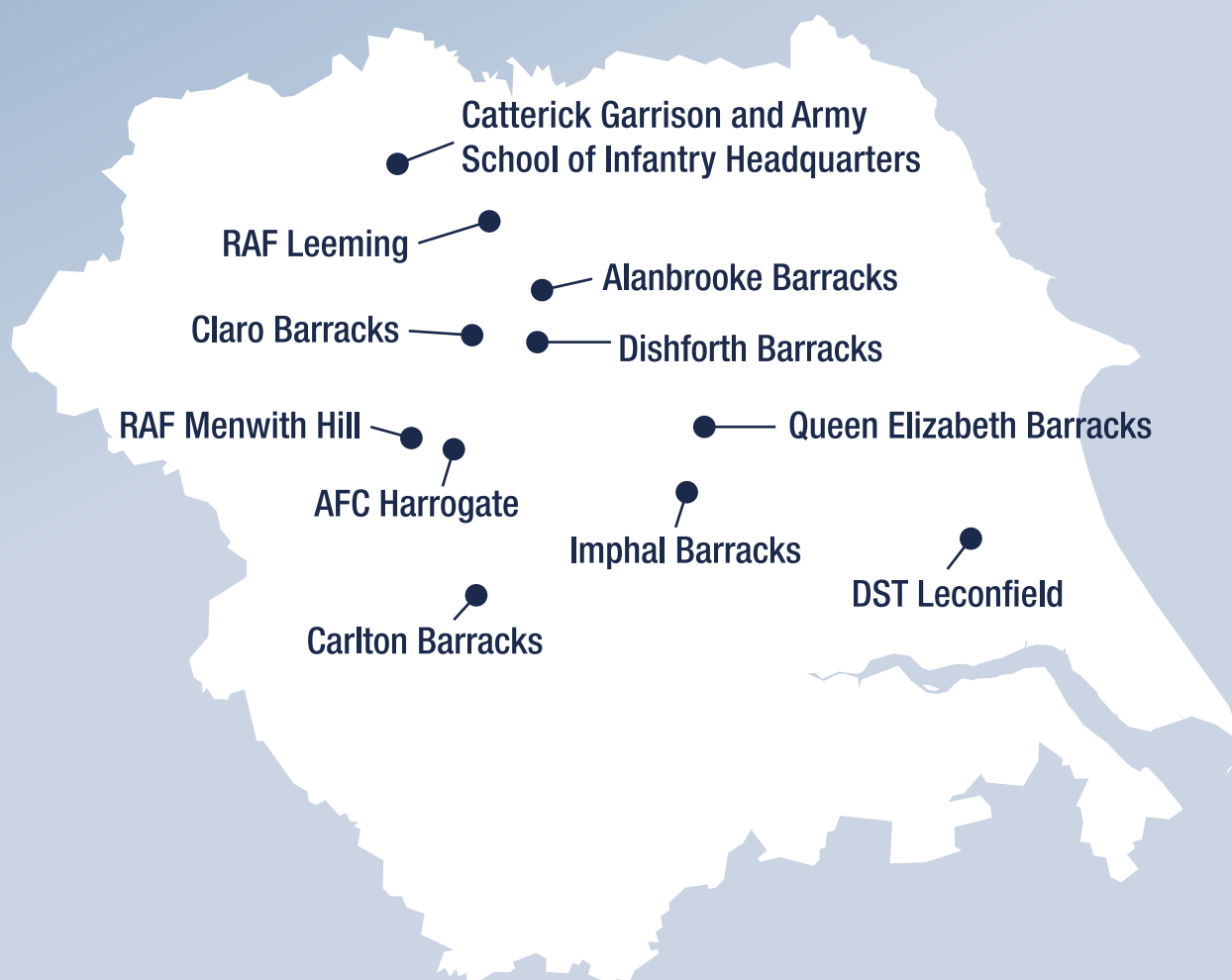
BAE Systems has a strong presence in the region. Its facility in Brough, near Hull, supports digital engineering for submarine and air programmes. Humberside Airport is home to its aircraft maintenance academy. BAE Systems also recently announced the creation of 50 new jobs as part of a £25 million investment in Sheffield specialising in artillery. Elsewhere in the region, Rolls-Royce has an advanced blade casting facility in Rotherham, while Sheffield Forgemasters is a heavy engineering company with over 200 years' experience. It is a fully accredited supplier of steel castings and forgings for the global defence and marine industries, and provides critical components for the UK's defence nuclear programmes.



3,200

**directly
supported
industry jobs,
2023 to 2024**

Key MOD sites in the region



The locations plotted on this map are illustrative of the broader defence footprint in Yorkshire and the Humber. It is not an exhaustive list of every site, more detail on how sites were selected can be found in the background notes.

East Midlands



Personnel numbers as at 1 April 2025:



1,670
civilians



7,980
UK Regular
Forces*

* Personnel total and subtotal figures are rounded separately and may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.



140
Royal Navy



2,210
Army



5,630
RAF

MOD spending with UK industry and commerce, 2024 to 2025

£1.6b
total regional
expenditure

£310
expenditure
per person
on defence

£732m
top industry
sector*

£55m
expenditure
with SMEs

* shipbuilding and repairing (including submarines)

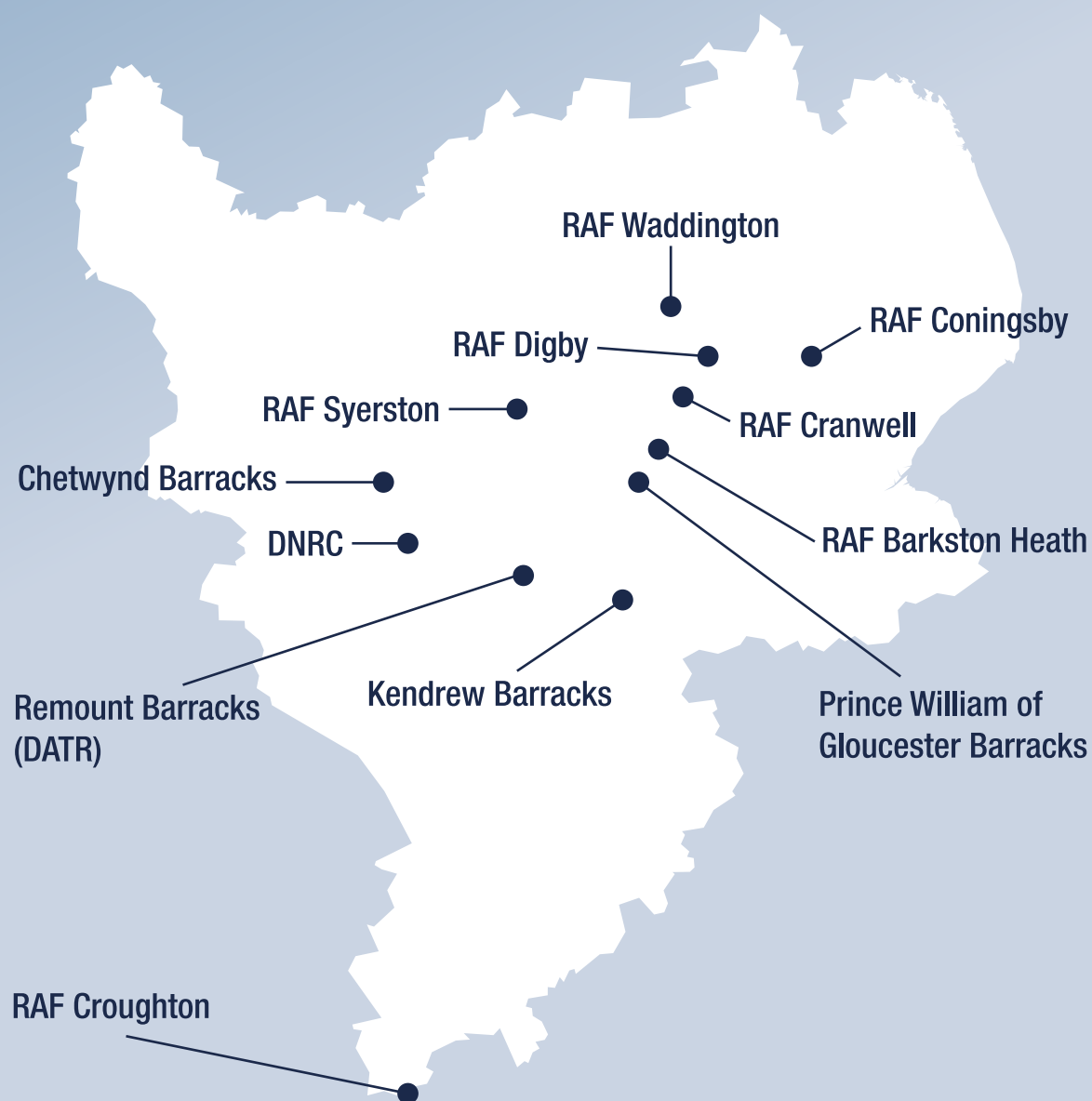
Strategic suppliers and key industry sites

Derby is home to Rolls-Royce, one of the world's best-known engine and nuclear component manufacturers, providing a range of solutions for Defence. With more than 16,000 military engines in service with 160 customers in 103 countries, Rolls-Royce is a key player in the defence aero engine market. BAE Systems is partnering with the MOD to maintain and support the RAF fleet of Typhoon aircraft at RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire. Leonardo's Lincoln site offers a dedicated facility to provide electronic warfare operational support. The location also includes Leonardo's training academy which educates technical specialists from the UK and internationally within the cyber and electromagnetic activities domain.



7,500
directly
supported
industry jobs,
2023 to 2024

Key MOD sites in the region

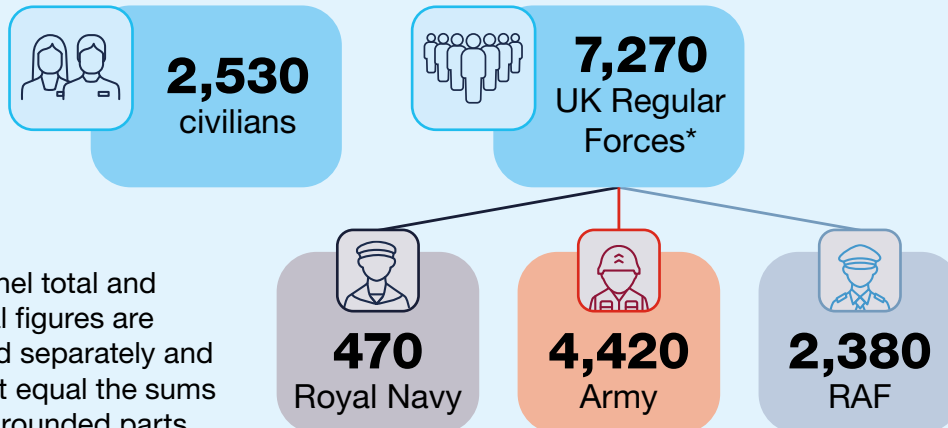


The locations plotted on this map are illustrative of the broader defence footprint in the East Midlands. It is not an exhaustive list of every site, more detail on how sites were selected can be found in the background notes.

West Midlands

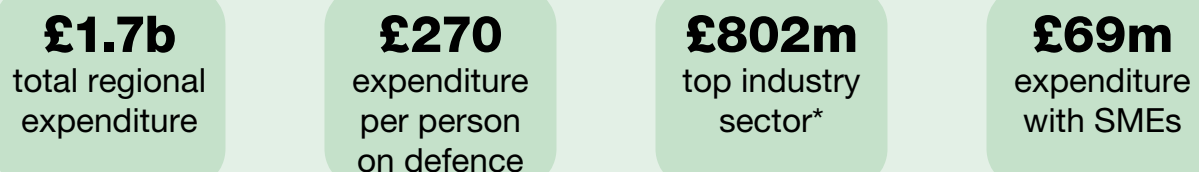


Personnel numbers as at 1 April 2025:



* Personnel total and subtotal figures are rounded separately and may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.

MOD spending with UK industry and commerce, 2024 to 2025



* technical, financial and other business services

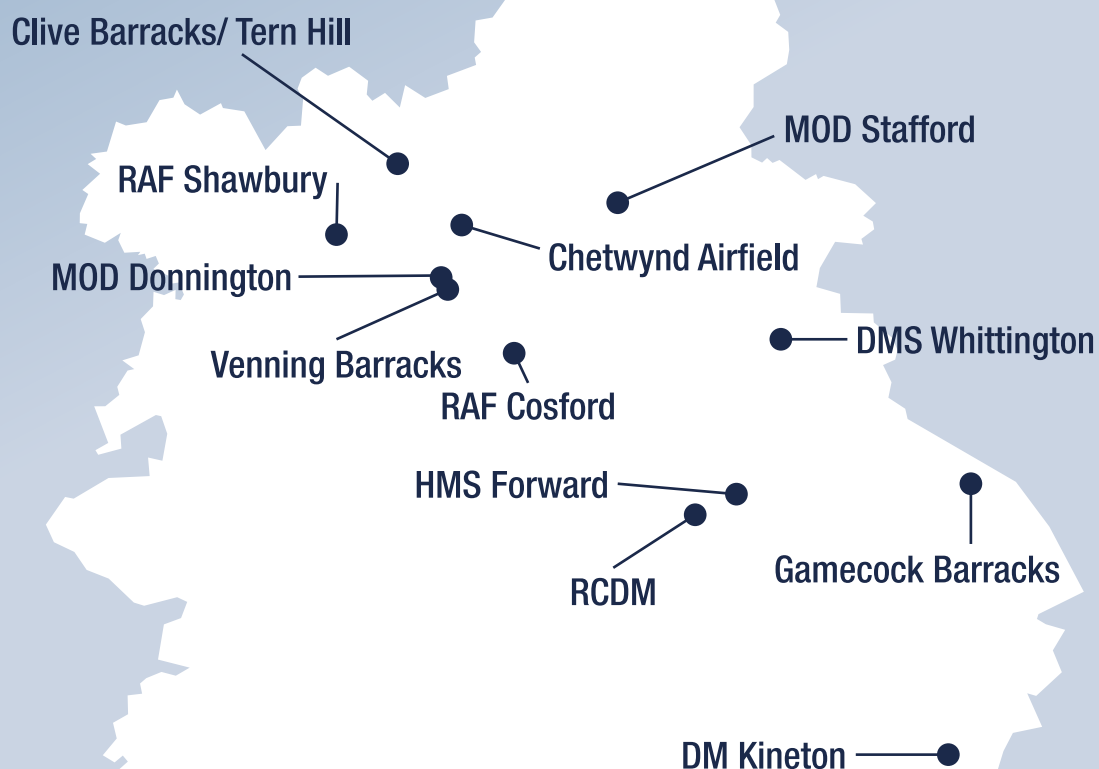
Strategic suppliers and key industry sites

The West Midlands is home to a number of manufacturers supporting UK Armed Forces. Rheinmetall BAE Systems Land, based in Telford, designs, manufactures and supports military vehicles used by the British Army and international customers including 'Boxer', a state-of-the-art wheeled armoured vehicle. The Defence Fulfilment Centre at Donnington is operated by Team Leidos and is the driving force behind delivering effective logistics for the MOD. The introduction of the Defence Fulfilment Centre has enabled the consolidation of fast-moving items into a single location. In Birmingham, Boeing is building new E-7 Wedgetail early-warning aircraft for the RAF and US Air Force.



7,900
directly
supported
industry jobs,
2023 to 2024

Key MOD sites in the region



The locations plotted on this map are illustrative of the broader defence footprint in the West Midlands. It is not an exhaustive list of every site, more detail on how sites were selected can be found in the background notes.

East of England



Personnel numbers as at 1 April 2025:



3,330
civilians



12,680
UK Regular
Forces*

* Personnel total and subtotal figures are rounded separately and may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.



1,120
Royal Navy



7,570
Army



4,000
RAF

MOD spending with UK industry and commerce, 2024 to 2025

£1.6b
total regional
expenditure

£250
expenditure
per person
on defence

£468m
top industry
sector*

£72m
expenditure
with SMEs

* technical, financial and other business services

Strategic suppliers and key industry sites

As a legacy of the Second World War the East of England is home to many air bases hosting state-of-the-art air systems, including those operated by visiting US forces. The UK's fleet of F-35 Lightning aircraft is based at RAF Marham. The region hosts major defence suppliers including Lockheed Martin UK, MBDA in Stevenage and Airbus, delivering ground-breaking missile, space and electronics technologies. Raytheon has its UK headquarters in Harlow, Essex which is also the home of its Technology Centre of Excellence. The company is focused on the following key areas: airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, precision weapons, cyber and intelligence, and mission critical systems.



8,200
directly
supported
industry jobs,
2023 to 2024

Key MOD sites in the region



The locations plotted on this map are illustrative of the broader defence footprint in the East of England. It is not an exhaustive list of every site, more detail on how sites were selected can be found in the background notes.



Personnel numbers as at 1 April 2025:



4,320
civilians



3,480
UK Regular
Forces*

* Personnel total and subtotal figures are rounded separately and may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.



470
Royal Navy



1,990
Army



1,010
RAF

MOD spending with UK industry and commerce, 2024 to 2025

£3.0b
total regional
expenditure

£330
expenditure
per person
on defence

£601m
top industry
sector*

£120m
expenditure
with SMEs

* technical, financial and other business services

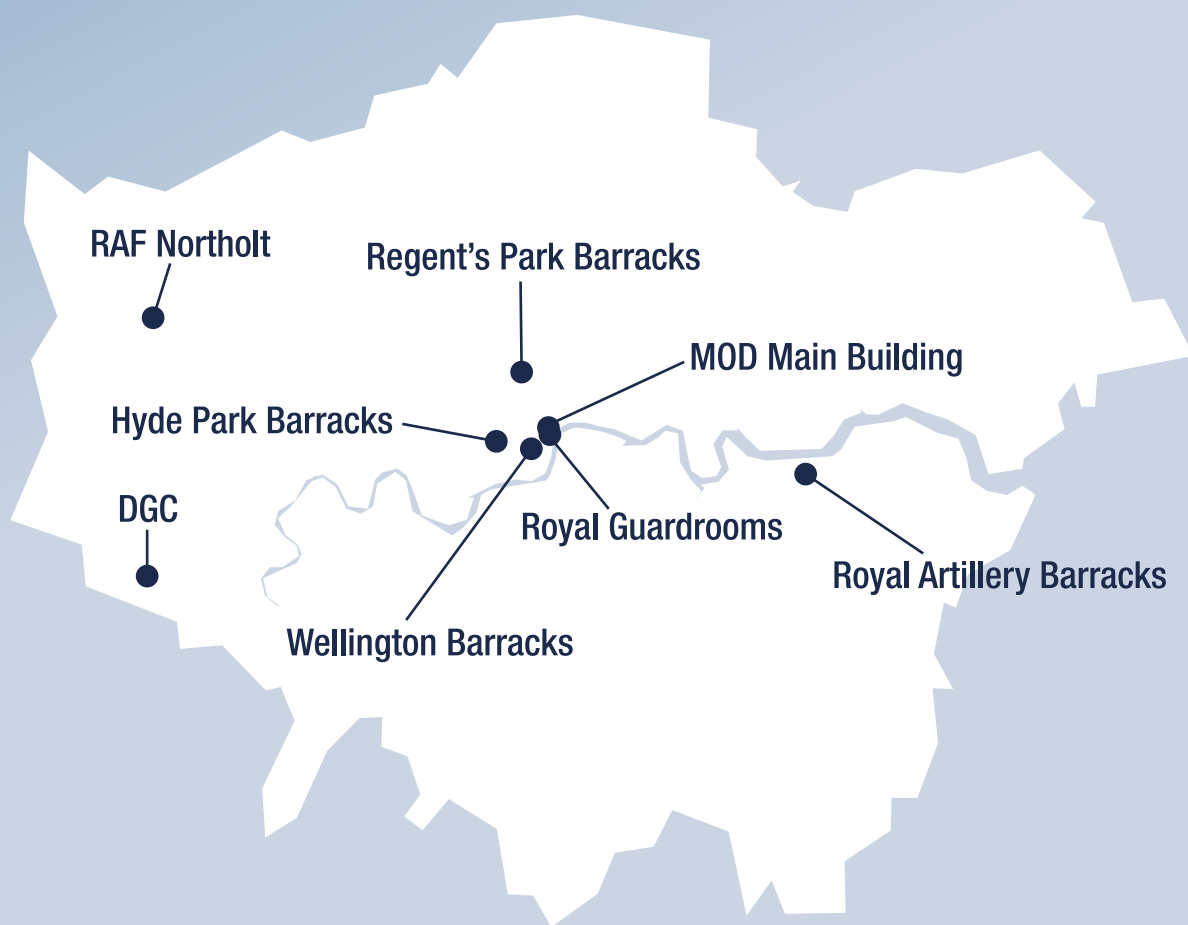
Strategic suppliers and key industry sites

As an international centre for technology and finance, London is home to the global and regional headquarters of many of the MOD's largest suppliers including Capita, Lockheed Martin and Boeing UK. It is a global hub for the kind of technological development that will be essential for equipping our Armed Forces in the future and for ensuring the UK's national prosperity through an internationally competitive defence industry. Also in the region is BAE Systems Digital Intelligence, who are developing world-leading technologies with defence and wider applications. London is also home to leading defence technology companies such as Helsing and Palantir, among others.



9,700
directly
supported
industry jobs,
2023 to 2024

Key MOD sites in the region



Royal Guardrooms – includes Buckingham Palace, Tower of London and St James's Place.

The locations plotted on this map are illustrative of the broader defence footprint in London. It is not an exhaustive list of every site, more detail on how sites were selected can be found in the background notes.



Personnel numbers as at 1 April 2025:



9,610
civilians



37,410
UK Regular
Forces*

* Personnel total and subtotal figures are rounded separately and may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.



11,400
Royal Navy



16,540
Army



9,470
RAF

MOD spending with UK industry and commerce, 2024 to 2025

£7.9b
total regional
expenditure

£810
expenditure
per person
on defence

£3.0b
top industry
sector*

£270m
expenditure
with SMEs

* technical, financial and other business services

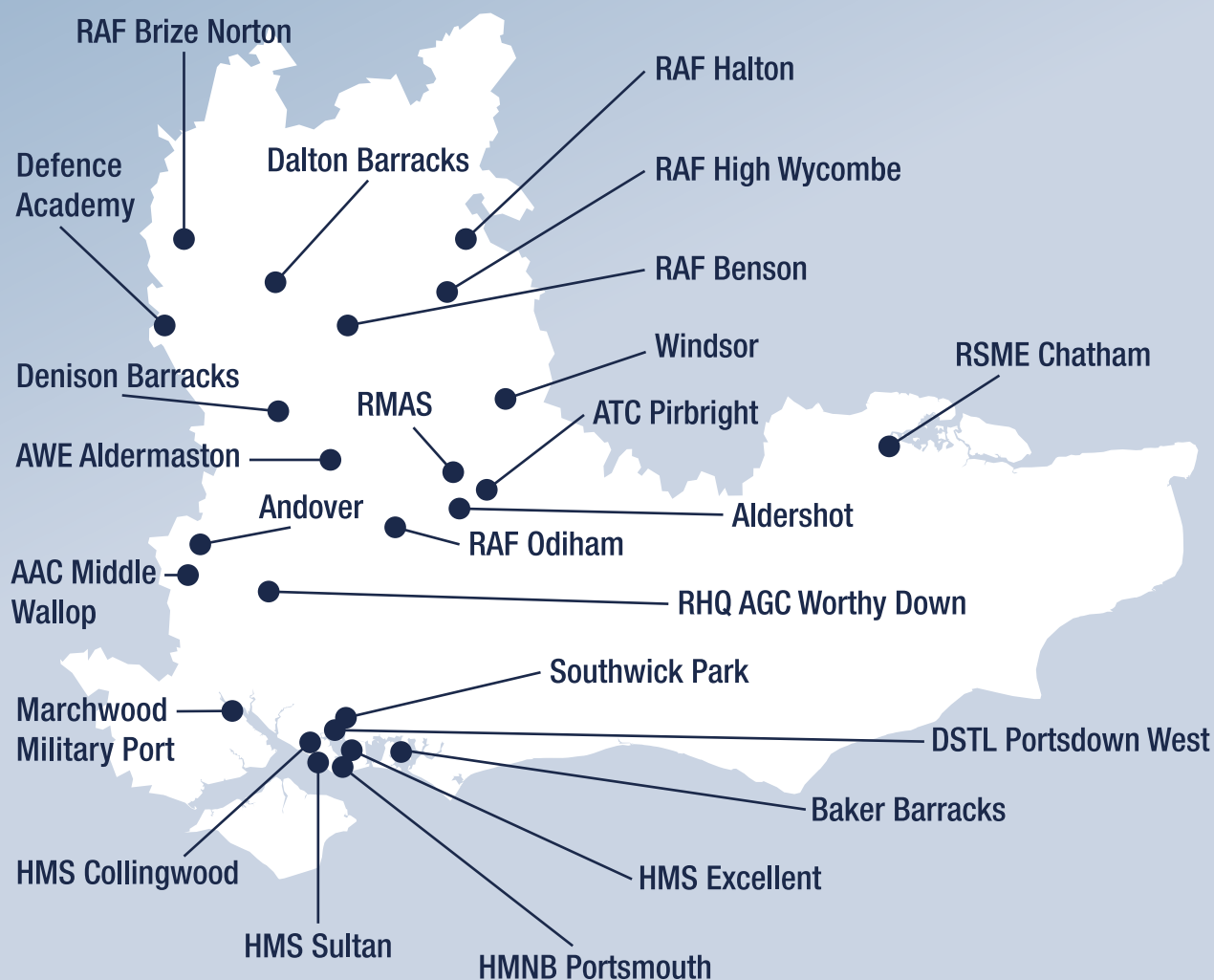
Strategic suppliers and key industry sites

The South East of England has strong links to Defence. The region includes several major BAE Systems sites, including in Portsmouth, where they are delivering key warship support and infrastructure services, the nearby Broad Oak site manufacturing naval systems, and the Cowes site on the Isle of Wight developing radar technology. Airbus has its headquarters for helicopter activity in the UK at Oxford Airport, with 100 of its rotorcraft in service with the MOD. RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire hosts Airtanker, which provides safe and effective operation of the RAF's fleet of voyager military transporter aircraft. Farnborough is the headquarters of QinetiQ, a leading science and engineering company operating primarily in the defence and security markets. Crawley is home to Thales's largest UK site, from which it has delivered equipment and services to the MOD since 1964.



38,700
directly
supported
industry jobs,
2023 to 2024

Key MOD sites in the region



Aldershot – contains Aldershot Garrison, Home Command and Regional Command

Andover – contains Army HQ and HQ Field Army

The locations plotted on this map are illustrative of the broader defence footprint in the South East. It is not an exhaustive list of every site, more detail on how sites were selected can be found in the background notes.



Personnel numbers as at 1 April 2025:



22,460
civilians



34,820
UK Regular
Forces*

* Personnel total and subtotal figures are rounded separately and may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.



12,830
Royal Navy



20,550
Army



1,430
RAF

MOD spending with UK industry and commerce, 2024 to 2025

£6.6b
total regional
expenditure

£1,120
expenditure
per person
on defence

£2.1b
top industry
sector*

£397m
expenditure
with SMEs

* technical, financial and other business services

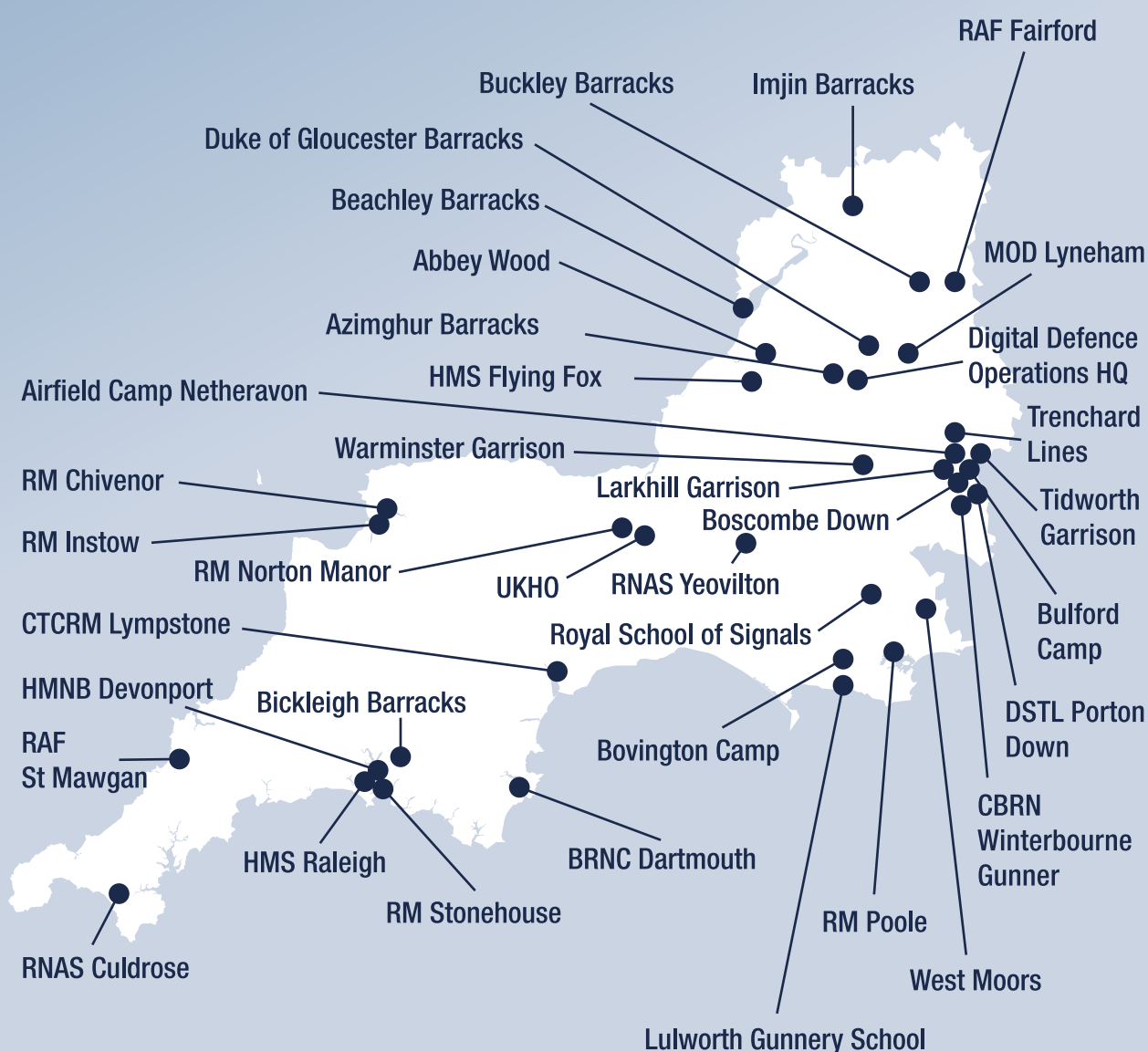
Strategic suppliers and key industry sites

There is a high concentration of defence suppliers in the South West. Leonardo in Yeovil builds helicopters. The Raytheon Cyber Innovation Centre in Gloucester is responsible for research, software development and global cybersecurity. Thales' maritime and air operations are based in Templecombe, and they have opened a new maritime autonomy centre in Plymouth. Rolls-Royce in Bristol builds and maintains gas turbine engines for combat and transport aircraft and ships. Airbus has a facility in Bristol which builds wings for the A400M aircraft. Babcock International Group has sites in Bristol, and at Devonport Royal Dockyard, which provides deep submarine maintenance. BAE Systems has operations in Bristol, Christchurch, Yeovil and Weymouth, as well as Digital Intelligence employees in Dorchester and Gloucester. Veteran-founded Rowden produce sensing and decision-making capabilities for the Armed Forces in Bristol.



37,300
directly
supported
industry jobs,
2023 to 2024

Key MOD sites in the region



The locations plotted on this map are illustrative of the broader defence footprint in the South West. It is not an exhaustive list of every site, more detail on how sites were selected can be found in the background notes.



Scotland

DM	Defence Munitions
HMNB	His Majesty's Naval Base
HMS	His Majesty's Ship
RM	Royal Marines
RNAD	Royal Naval Armament Depot

Wales

IBS	Infantry Battle School
OLTC	Outdoor Leadership Training Centre

North East

DSTL	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
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Yorkshire and the Humber

AFC	Army Foundation College
DST	Defence School of Transport

East Midlands

DATR	Defence Animal Training Regiment
DNRC	Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre

West Midlands

DM	Defence Munitions
DMS	Defence Medical Services
RCDM	Royal College for Defence Medicine

East of England

MRTC	Mission Ready Training Centre
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London

DGC	Defence Geographic Centre
-----	---------------------------

South East

AAC	Army Aviation Centre
-----	----------------------

ATC	Army Training Centre
-----	----------------------

AWE	Atomic Weapons Establishment
-----	------------------------------

DSTL	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
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RHQ AGC	Regimental Headquarters Adjutant General's Corps
---------	--

RMAS	Royal Military Academy Sandhurst
------	----------------------------------

RSME	Royal School of Military Engineering
------	--------------------------------------

South West

BRNC	Britannia Royal Naval College
------	-------------------------------

CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
------	--

CTCRM	Commando Training Centre Royal Marines
-------	--

DSTL	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
------	---

RNAS	Royal Naval Air Service
------	-------------------------

UKHO	UK Hydrographic Office
------	------------------------

Personnel:

MOD civilian personnel in the UK: Location statistics for UK Regular Armed Forces and civilians 2025, Table 2.1a in associated open data.

UK Regular Forces, by service: Location statistics for UK Regular Armed Forces and civilians 2025, Table 2.1b in associated open data.

Future Reserves 2020: Quarterly Service personnel statistics: 1 April 2025.

Expenditure:

MOD expenditure with UK industry: MOD regional expenditure statistics with industry 2024 to 2025, Tables 2, 4, 8 and 9 in associated data tables.

Employment:

Jobs supported by MOD expenditure: MOD supported employment estimates 2023 to 2024, Table 1 and 3 in associated data tables.

Apprenticeships: MOD annual report and accounts 2023 to 2024, page 15.

Strategic suppliers:

Information on the strategic suppliers and selected other key suppliers in regions was provided by Defence Commercial.

Key sites by region:

The sites included are based on a combination of physical size of establishments using data from the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, personnel numbers at establishments provided by the Analysis Directorate and other subject matter expertise provided by sources within the MOD. For more MOD statistics please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mod-accredited-official-and-official-statistics-by-topic/mod-national-and-official-statistics-by-topic>

Background notes

This booklet is intended as a light-touch, top-level overview of Defence's expenditure footprint in each region. Data is presented by International Territorial Levels Level 1 Regions.

Different time points have been used in this booklet.

Royal Navy includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Civilian personnel includes those working in MOD Main and the four executive agencies (Defence Equipment and Support, Submarine Delivery Agency, UK Hydrographic Office, and Defence Science and Technology Laboratory).

Military personnel deployed on operations and temporary assignments are counted against their permanent stationed location in regional personnel figures.

Figures in this publication have been rounded. Personnel figures are rounded to the nearest 10, with numbers ending in a '5' rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent the systematic bias caused by always rounding numbers upwards. Totals and sub-totals are rounded separately and may not equal the sums of their rounded parts. Expenditure figures have been rounded to the nearest million, excluding figures over a billion which are presented to the nearest 0.1 billion.

Definitions

UK Regular Forces – includes both trained and untrained personnel and comprises full-time Service personnel, including nursing services, but excludes full-time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, Military Provost Guard Service and mobilised Reservists.

Future Reserves 2020 – includes Volunteer Reserves who are mobilised, High Readiness Reserves and those Volunteer Reserves serving on Full-time Reserve Service and Additional Duties Commitment.

Small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) – refers to an enterprise or business with fewer than 250 employees and an annual turnover of less than or equal to £44 million in annual turnover or a balance sheet total of less than or equal to £38 million.

Directly supported industry jobs – direct jobs are defined as those supported within companies receiving payments for goods and services directly from MOD.

Indirect industry jobs – jobs generated as a result of supporting and supplying goods and services to those in direct employment. It is therefore a measure of jobs that occur further down the supply chain through sub-contracting or via suppliers to the direct contractor

Strategic suppliers – the Strategic Partnering Programme is a joint MOD and Cabinet Office programme to reshape government's relationship with industry. The decision to establish the MOD Strategic Partnering Programme was taken in 2018.



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