



Environmental Planning

Defence Estates Landscape Component Plans

MOD Defence Estates: Rural Elements of the Estates Strategy (REES) team

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is one of the UK's largest landowners. The demand for realistic training across challenging and demanding terrain in a variety of environments means that the MOD has responsibility for some of the most unspoilt and remote areas in Britain. Almost one third of the UK training land is within National Parks. The MOD recognises that in areas of designated landscape, and sometimes outside designated areas, there is a need to protect and enhance the landscape for its own sake.

Defence Estates is an Agency of the MOD, established in 1999 to ensure that the national defence estate is managed in line with government policy on the environment, and to actively conserve MOD land, its properties and its wildlife.

The REES Team was set up in 2002 to advise the MOD on managing the rural elements of the defence estates. Landmark worked with REES to produce strategies, termed Component Plans, to address the Historic Environment, Public Access, Nature Conservation and Landscape, for four pilot sites at RAF Kinloss, DM Dean Hill, Merryfield Airfield, and Langport Rifle Range.

A tailor-made methodology, including landscape character and visual assessment, was created by Landmark for undertaking Landscape Component Plans. The Plans were then used to identify valuable and sensitive features and specific tasks and timetables for implementation at each of the four pilot sites.

The Component Plans will help the relevant Defence Estates staff to understand the landscape of their own site. The Plans will aid implementation of an appropriate management regime to maintain and improve the rural character of the establishment.

Project

Client

Background

Description

Client benefits