

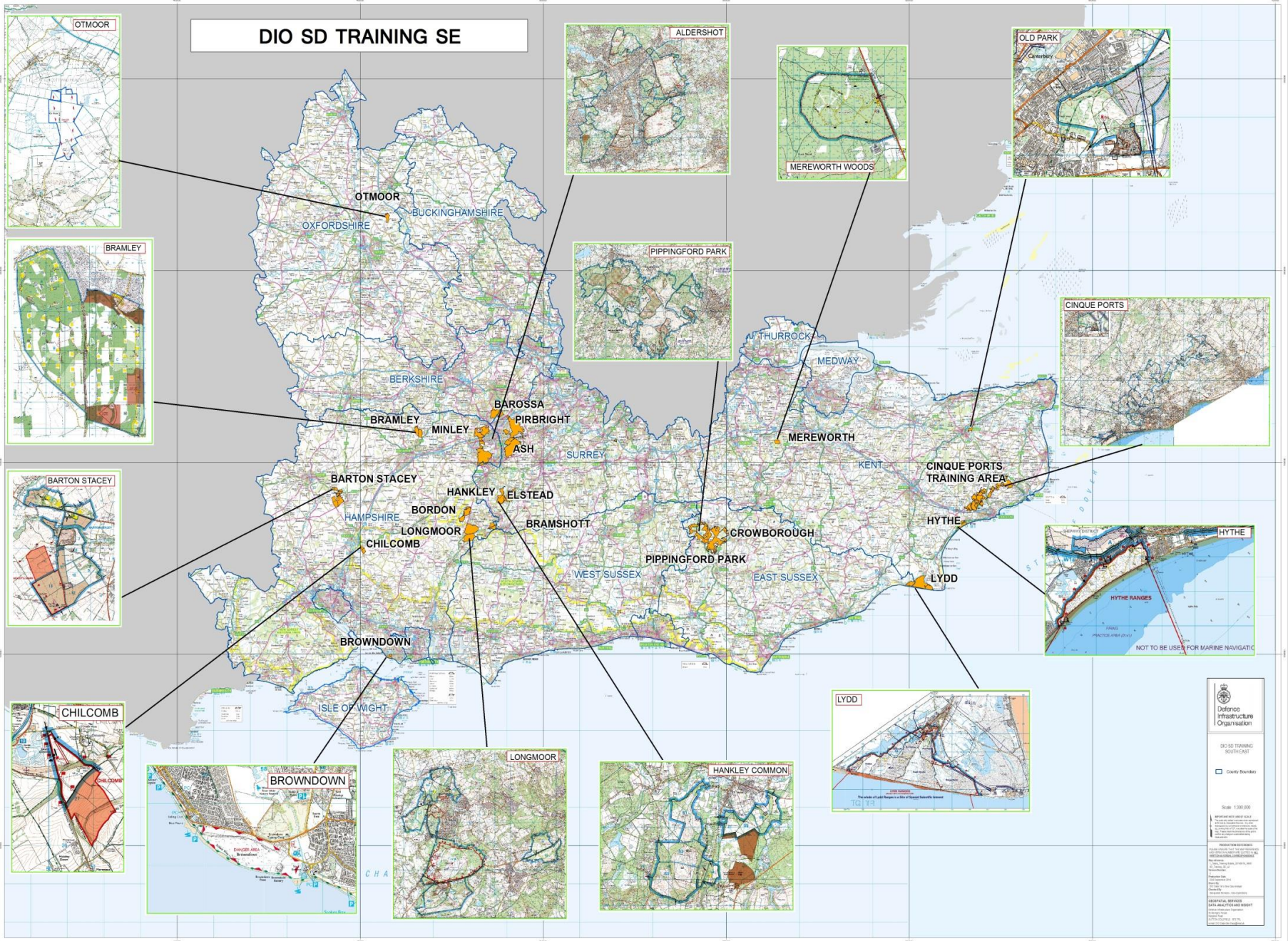


Ash Ranges
10 Aug 20

- # Defence Training Estate



DIO SD TRAINING SE





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Organisation

THE FACILITIES

96 Ranges: Fixed Firing Small Arm, Mission Specific & Demolition
Dry Training Areas
Stone Tents/Buildings of Opportunity
Beach Landing Site
Parachute Drop Zone
Urban Training Complexes
Training Camps (Longmoor, Brunswick, Crowborough, Lydd, Napier, Risborough, St Martin's Plain)
Driver Training and Vehicle Testing Tracks
Training on Private land (TOPL)





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TRAINING CAMPS



ST MARTINS PLAIN



BRUNSWICK



LONGMOOR



LYDD

NAPIER



CROWBOROUGH



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THE CHALLENGE

Geographic Span: 43,500 acre (17600 hectares) estate - 46% SSSI

Training Activity (Annual):

- 20+ K bids

- 3 M Trg area man training days

- 15 M rounds fired

Usage:

- Phase 1 Recruits - UK SF

- Police

- Foreign Forces

- Cadets

- Civilian Club/Organisation

Estate Management:

- Agricultural and residential agreements 71

- Commercial 20

- Phone Masts 24

- Sporting syndicate licences 15

- Other licences 119

- Overshooting Rights 28



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SAFE PLACE CHALLENGES CIVILIAN





Military Lands Act 1892

1892 CHAPTER 43 55 and 56 Vict

An Act to consolidate and amend certain enactments relating to the acquisition of land for military purposes.

[27th June 1892]

14 Power of Secretary of State to make byelaws as to use of land held for military purposes and securing safety of public.

- (1) Where any land belonging to a Secretary of State or to a volunteer corps is for the time being appropriated by or with the consent of a Secretary of State for any military purpose, a Secretary of State may make byelaws for regulating the use of the land for the purposes to which it is appropriated, and for securing the public against danger arising from that use, with power to prohibit all intrusion on the land and all obstruction of the use thereof.

Provided that no byelaws promulgated under this section shall authorise the Secretary of State to take away or prejudicially affect any right of common.

- (2) Where any such byelaws permit the public to use the land for any purpose when not used for the military purpose to which it is appropriated, those byelaws may also provide for the government of the land when so used by the public, and the preservation of order and good conduct thereon, and for the prevention of nuisances, obstructions, encampments, and encroachments thereon, and for the prevention of any injury to the same, or to anything growing or erected thereon, and for the prevention of anything interfering with the orderly use thereof by the public for the purpose permitted by the byelaws.
- (3) For the purposes of this section, "land belonging to a Secretary of State" means land under the management of a Secretary of State, whether vested in Her Majesty or in the Secretary of State, or in a person as trustee for Her Majesty or the Secretary of State; and "land belonging to a volunteer corps" means any land vested in that corps or in any person as trustee for that corps.



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Aldershot and District Military Lands Byelaws 1976



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USE OF LANDS BY PUBLIC

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



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Ash Ranges Byelaws 1983

BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTIONS

6. No person shall climb on or enter butts, firing points or any other construction or building in the Danger Area or do any act likely to cause damage to such butts, firing points, construction or building.

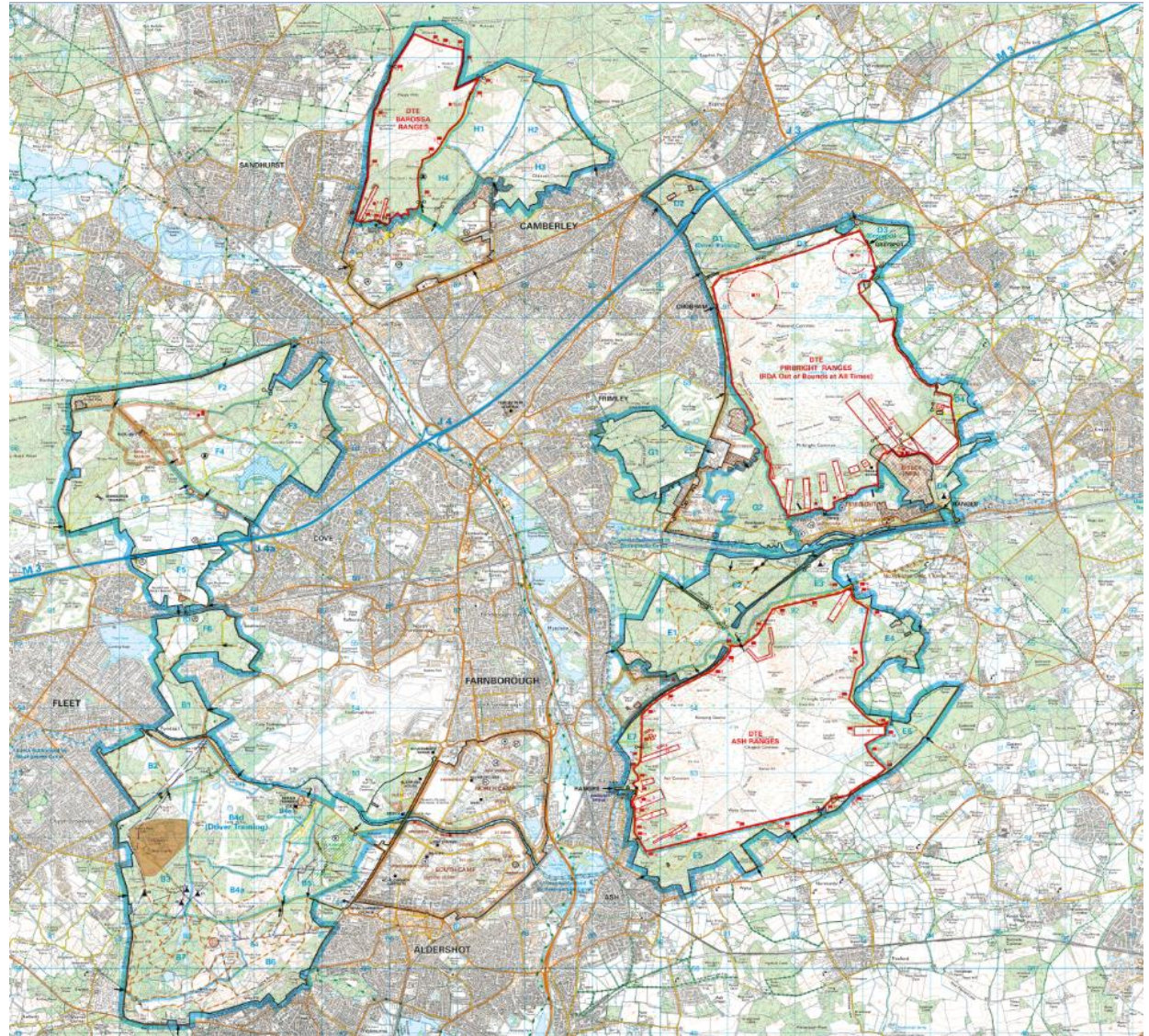
■ Aldershot and Farnborough 1919

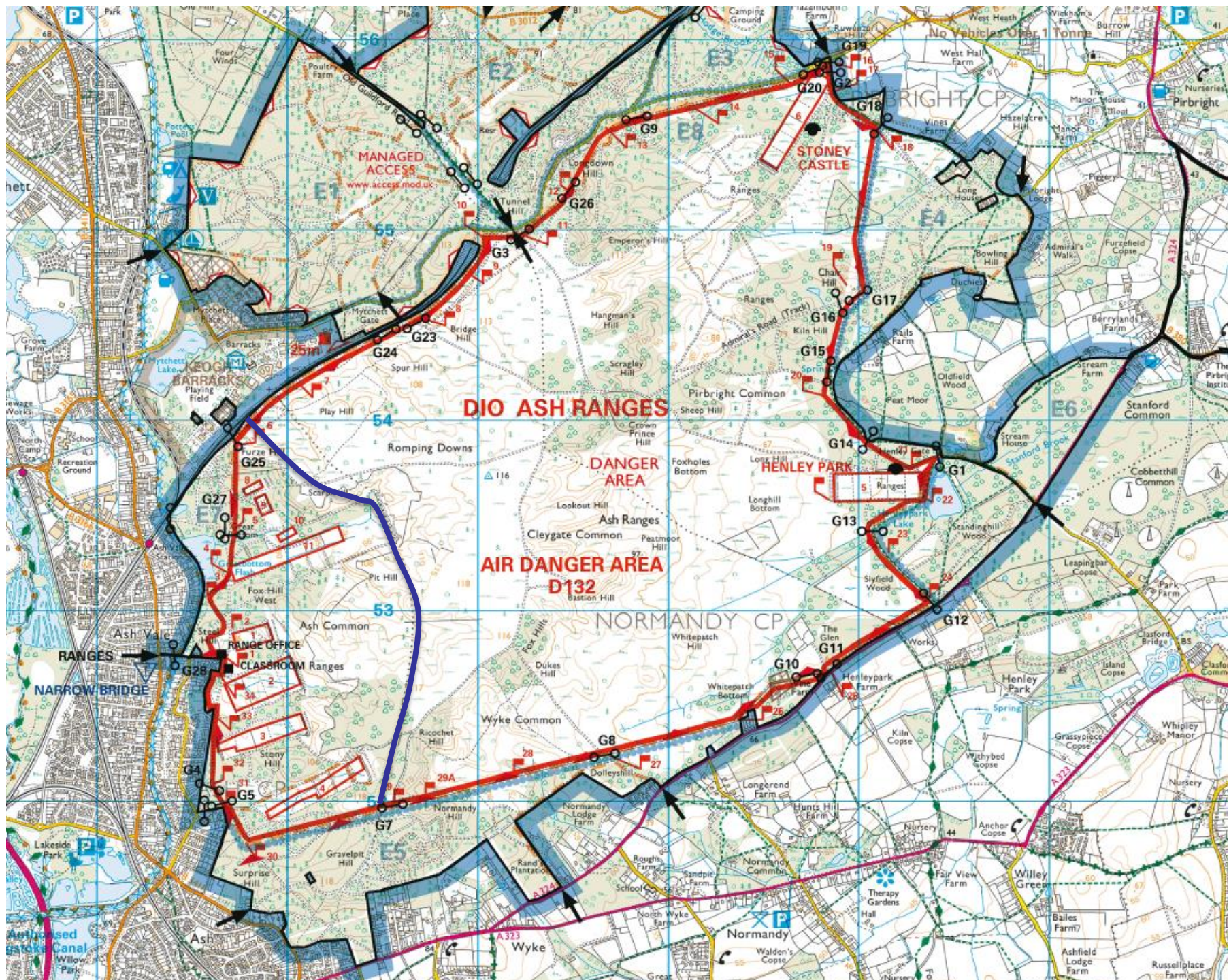


■ Aldershot and Farnborough 1940



■ Aldershot and Farnborough 2019









Ash Ranges

History

1854 - Purchase of parts of Ash Common for rifle ranges

1887 – Military Byelaws for Ash Ranges

1983 – Military Byelaws for Ash Ranges (To be reviewed)

Usage – 2019

Firers – 50,701

Rounds Fired - 3,561,960

There are no Public Rights Of Way across Ash Ranges



Ash Ranges

The Ash Range Complex consists of the range floor area with firing points, target mechanisms and maintenance buildings and the Range Danger Area (RDA) which extends with associated small non firing training areas to c 3500 acres.

Military live firing has been disrupted, when vandalism has necessitated the closure of the Ash range floor area. Vandalism since 2015 and rectification costs have exceeded £170,000 it was subsequently decided to prohibit public access in accordance with the Byelaws.

The range floor area with its firing points, targets and maintenance buildings is potentially hazardous and therefore the MOD has a duty of care to protect members of the public.

Discussions with stakeholders including Ash Parish Council are focussed on facilitating public access to the RDA and surrounding training areas whilst protecting the range floor area. This included widening tracks and building new bridges to improve access.



History - Engagement

- 1980 - Four strand safety fence erected around Range Danger Area
- 2014 - Review of public access
 - Replacement of inadequate fence
- 2016 – Untoward Occurrence Reporting started
- 2018 - 15 Aug Initial meeting with Ash Parish Council (PC) concerning intent to secure range floor area technical area.
- 2019 - Gates replaced
 - Engagement with Ash PC – 18 Jul, 2 Sep, 24 Sep
- 2020 - Engagement with Ash PC – 13 Jan, 3 Feb, 26 Feb, 9 Mar, 16
 - 1 Apr Early closure of range floor technical area due to COVID 19
 - Meeting with Min DP to confirm technical area remains closed



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Ash Ranges





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Ash Ranges





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Ash Ranges





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Letter to THE RT HON MICHAEL GOVE MP

Thank you for your email of 4 July 2019 on behalf of your constituent, regarding her concerns with access to Ash Ranges. I am grateful for the opportunity to provide you with a further update on this situation.

My officials from the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) have advised that total exclusion to the Ash ranges is not an option that the Department wishes to take.

Your constituents can rest assured that any measures that might be under consideration would apply only to the range complex itself and not the wider Range Danger Area, where subject to Byelaws members of the public would continue to have unimpeded access, where firing isn't taking place, flags are down and the gates are open.

THE RT HON TOBIAS ELLWOOD MP



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Ash Ranges

Impact of Public Access 2016 - 2020

Criminal Damage
Fires
Accidents
Padlocks / Fences

2016 – 14
2017 – 17 - 22% increase
2018 – 26 - 53% increase
2019 – 47 – 81% increase
2020 – 60 (as at 15 Sep 20)



Notice – Ash Parish Council

ASH Ranges – Update 31 Mar 20

COVID-19 – ASH RANGES UPDATE.

Ash Parish Council have been briefed by the MOD that the Ash Range complex will undergo lockdown from 01 April until further notice. This due to a large number of military units having cancelled due to personnel being re-tasked in support of OP RESCRIPT, the MOD's response to COVID-19, also all recruit training has ceased. Of course the UK will continue to support ongoing deployments world-wide, this including Afghanistan and Mali, as well as the Police. The requirement to support this will be met by the Pirbright Range complex which will remain open throughout.

Ash range staff will of course continue to man the range during this period for ongoing maintenance and to ensure the ranges can be brought back online rapidly once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and normal duties resume. This will also ensure that in the event of an unforeseen military requirement the ranges are immediately available for use. The MOD have been advised that COVID-19 can remain on hardened surfaces for up to 72 hours and for this reason the range complex itself will be out of bounds to all non-essential personnel during this period, this including members of the public as well as troops.

It is emphasised that these restrictions will only apply to the range complex itself, not the much larger Range Danger Area or RDA. As there will be no live firing at Ash during this time, the RDA will remain open to the public throughout. Flags will be down and the gates will be locked open to avoid people coming into unnecessary contact with a hardened surface. The MOD have undertaken to maintain contact with the Parish Council throughout



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30 Apr 20

History - Engagement

Further to the [announcement](#) concerning measures taken at Ash Ranges in relation to COVID-19, the MOD can now provide further detail concerning the ongoing programme of works to improve public access. Additional funding has been secured via DIO's Conservation Stewardship Fund (CSF), which in addition to improving access to the west of Ash Ranges will also support a CSF-led project to provide a permissive circular route for cyclists, walkers and, where practical, equestrians around the full perimeter of the Range Danger Area. This will be available to the public 24/7, even when firing is taking place. It will provide a continuous off-road circular route of some 8.7 miles, one of the largest in Surrey and, subject to the current situation, will be complete in the next few months.

As regards Ash Parish specifically, these works also include improvements to the paths running north off Heathvale Bridge Road, adjacent to the old St John's Ambulance, and further south off Chandlers Road, adjacent to the Health Centre, as well as improvements to existing ditch crossings and surface repair. This work will not only improve access from Ash Vale to the training areas immediately outside the range, but will also link existing perimeter gates, thus enabling access to the wider Range Danger Area. Of course subject to Byelaws, and when the flags are down and no live firing is taking place.

Ash Range Track Enhancements

