

MARK LANCASTER TO MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE AND
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PERSONNEL AND VETERANS

MSU/4/6/2/2/DH

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE FLOOR 5 ZONE B MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

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I am writing to let you know that I will today be announcing initial findings of the Department's Footprint Strategy. This Strategy examines the Defence Estate across the UK, with the aim of providing a smaller more sustainable estate in support of Military capabilities. In addition this work will also contribute to the Government's commitment to release public sector land for house building in this parliament.

Overall, the announcement I am making today concerns 12 sites which together are expected to contribute £500M to land receipts which will be reinvested in the Defence Estate, and enable the provision of more than 15,000 homes in support of the Government's housing target. This includes the following site which is in your constituency:

Lodge Hill

Lodge Hill was previously announced as surplus to defence requirements within the Defence Training Review Rationalisation Programme in November 2002. We have now agreed to transfer the site to the Housing and Communities Agency for them to take forward the necessary disposal action, subject to normal process.

Your Local Authority will also be informed of this announcement.

I will be placing further information on all 12 sites in the Library of the House.

MARK LANCASTER TD MP

Kelly Tolhurst MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA