

Defence Strategic Vision 2025

Annex D - Military Sites Location Plan



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Military Sites Location Plan

In accordance with point 9 of this Strategic Vision 2025, this annex has been added following approval by the Council of Ministers on 20 March 2026 (Point of notification 6).

a. Introduction

This annex provides an overview of the current military sites and outlines their expected development by 2035, based on the principles governing the development of the Ministry of Defence's property portfolio.

The Military Sites Location Plan is a tool designed to ensure coherence between the objectives of the Strategic Vision, on the one hand, and the layout and evolution of the use of military sites and barracks in Belgium, on the other.

The Military Sites Location Plan is not intended to describe the construction works to be carried out, nor their detailed planning. This task is fulfilled by the Infra Business Plan (IBP), which will be developed to implement the Military Sites Location Plan.

The infrastructure sector is characterised by relatively long lead times, whether in identifying a suitable location, assessing requirements, concluding contracts or implementation. It is therefore crucial to be able to rely on a long-term vision based on stable principles.

b. Current situation

The 2021 Military Sites Location Plan emphasised the optimisation of the geographical distribution of barracks and their composition (i.e. the units stationed within them). In particular, it provided for the construction of new barracks ('*Quartier du Future*') in areas with a limited military presence, such as the provinces of East Flanders and Hainaut. Given the geopolitical developments and the emergence of new threats described in this Strategic Vision, the current Military Sites Location Plan must be adapted to align with the orientations and principles of this new vision.

c. Evolution of the Military Sites Location Plan

1) Principles for the drafting of the Military Sites Location Plan

Given the long lead times and the risks associated with acquiring and reallocating new sites, which are often difficult to manage, priority has been given to maximising the use of sites owned by the Ministry of Defence. This does not rule out potential acquisitions, such as the '*Quartier du Future*' in Charleroi, for which initial steps were already taken in 2021 and for which an agreement exists regarding the purchase and preparation of the sites.

Sites for which no requirement has yet been identified for the 2026–2034 period covered by the Strategic Vision will be retained as a strategic reserve for the further evolution of requirements beyond this period. They may also be made available to the defence industry or other third parties as part of societal anchorage initiatives.

Within the current portfolio, sites with sufficient growth potential to accommodate personnel and equipment, in line with the capacity build-up envisaged in the Strategic Vision, have been identified. Existing units have been retained at their current locations as far as possible, while

new sites are primarily intended for units yet to be established. As the military presence in the western part of the country is currently limited, the Military Sites Location Plan prioritises the development of available sites located in that region.

2) Evolution of military sites by 2030–2034

Overall, under the new Military Sites Location Plan, Defence will evolve from 41 active sites, including 36 key sites, in 2025 to 54 active sites, including 49 key sites, in 2034. Existing sites and barracks will be further expanded. A key site is defined as a site with its own territorial support resources; sub-sites may depend on, and be supported by, a key site.

The new key sites are primarily sites already owned by the Ministry of Defence, some of which were closed under previous military sites location plans but have not yet been sold. The main function is assigned to each site, which may be complemented by one or more secondary functions. For example, units of the territorial reserve will be stationed at various sites spread across the country.

During this legislative term, development will begin on the following key and training sites, with a view to their completion by 2034:

- 1) Charleroi: *Quartier du Future* South with mixed occupancy for a combat unit, a logistics unit and a cyber force detachment.
- 2) Berlaar: logistics site, recommissioned last year for a logistics unit and for the reception of transiting troops (Enablement). The Enablement function will eventually be taken over by the Kievermont site in Geel.
- 3) Ypres: is being brought back into use for a logistics unit.
- 4) Helchteren: is being brought back into use for a logistics function.
- 5) Glons: is being brought back into use in the context of resilience and for further growth post-2034.
- 6) Ursel (Aalter) Airfield: will become the home base of an air defence unit.

In accordance with the Federal Coalition Agreement and the Defence Policy Paper of 24 April 2025, the dossier on the '*Kwartier van de Toekomst*' North in East Flanders was reviewed and relocated to Aalter (Ursel Airfield) instead of Geraardsbergen.

A study identified both Geraardsbergen and Aalter as suitable locations for the '*Kwartier van de Toekomst*' North. At the time, a political decision was made in favour of Geraardsbergen. However, this choice encountered significant local opposition and would have required land expropriation and amendments to the regional plan. Unlike Aalter, Geraardsbergen does not have an existing military site, making its development more complex and subject to an uncertain timeframe. On the contrary, Aalter is a more logical option, given the presence of an existing military site and its central location. Mobility considerations and the presence of a runway constitute additional strategic advantages. For these reasons, Aalter has been selected. Further development will take place in close consultation with all stakeholders in Geraardsbergen, including local authorities, the *Agentschap Natuur en Bos*, nature conservation organisations, and residents. In addition to operational requirements, sustainability, mobility, quality of life and nature conservation are important criteria. The Drongengoedbos, which is open to the public, will not be affected. The feasibility of the future concept will be examined, considering operational and safety requirements.

The training school for air defence unit personnel will be established in Beauvechain.

- 7) Burcht (Fort Sint-Marie): an abandoned site with access to the Scheldt, intended for a Marine Fusiliers unit. This site, with a limited occupancy, will rely on the Luitenant Victor Thoumsin quarter in Burcht for its territorial support.
- 8) Ammunition depots: various options are being explored for additional storage within the framework of resilience, to achieve a larger and more dispersed ammunition storage capacity. The study considers, among other things, storage capacity, geographical distribution and the condition of the available infrastructure. In addition to extra storage at existing locations, the use of additional sites is being considered:
 - a) Arendonk: former ammunition depot, still owned by the Ministry of Defence except for the administrative sites, which have been sold.
 - b) Sugny: former NATO ammunition depot, for which discussions are ongoing with the current owner, the municipality of Vresse-sur-Semois
 - c) Zutendaal: The Ministry of Defence is investigating, in consultation with the US forces stationed there, whether the ammunition depot on the grounds of Zutendaal airfield can be partially brought back into use
- 9) Goetsenhoven: former military airfield, for which purchase discussions are ongoing with the current owner, the city of Tienen. The airfield function will be retained, and the site is envisaged as an expansion option for the heavily occupied sites at Beauvechain and Heverlee and, later, also as a base for a Medical Support Unit.
- 10) St Hubert Airfield: is intended for a logistics unit.
- 11) Geel: is intended for Enablement and for a logistics unit.
- 12) Moorsele Airfield: is intended for a logistics unit and for further growth post-2034
- 13) Lessive: former RTT site for which acquisition discussions are ongoing with the current owner, with the aim of developing the site into a tactical training centre that will include virtual reality capabilities.

The following bases, which were planned for closure in the previous military sites location plan, will also be retained as key sites:

- 1) The Koksijde base will be retained and will become a mixed base for use by Air and Land units.
- 2) The naval base at St Kruis will be retained for enablement and logistical functions.

3) Gradual closure of asylum centres on military sites

The Federal Government Agreement specifies that our support network has been under pressure for years and that it is unacceptable for people seeking international protection to sleep on the streets. We must fulfil our obligation to provide reception facilities, but we must also take measures to significantly reduce the pressure on the support system. We are therefore doing everything in our power to significantly and structurally reduce the asylum influx and, at a later stage, once these measures have taken effect, we will gradually and sensitively scale back the network of asylum centres.

We will always ensure there are sufficient buffer places to manage fluctuations. As part of this reduction, hotel accommodation will be phased out as a priority, followed gradually by the accommodation of asylum seekers in individual houses and flats via the Public Centre for Social Action. Vulnerable individuals will be accommodated in small-scale, collective centres with tailored support.

Taking this agreement into account, it will be assessed, in full coordination with Asylum and Migration, to what extent the closure of these existing asylum centres on military sites can be utilised to absorb part of the increase in Defence personnel.

4) Strategic reserve and shared military sites

The barracks or buildings on military sites retained as a strategic reserve may be made available, either in full or for shared use, to the defence industry or other third parties, where this provides demonstrable added value for Defence.

Opportunities have been identified in the following military sites in each province: Koksijde and Moorsele (Province of West Flanders); Fort Brosius and Fort van Kruibeke (Province of East Flanders); Fort Kapellen, Weelde Airfield and Brasschaat (Province of Antwerp); Hoksent Depot and Brustem Airfield (Province of Limburg); Melsbroek and Tienen-Vissenaken (Province of Flemish Brabant); the Ath region (Province of Hainaut); Nivelles and Beauvechain (Province of Walloon Brabant); Namur – Polygone de Sart-Hulet (Province of Namur); Elsenborn (Province of Liège); St-Hubert Airfield (Province of Luxembourg).

In Peutie (Province of Flemish Brabant) and Rocourt (Province of Liège), the defence industry is already operating under a shared-use arrangement. In addition, certain key defence activities will also continue to take place at other sites not owned by the Ministry of Defence, such as at Redu in the *cyber* and *space* sectors.

5) Other elements

1) Expansion of the Evere headquarters

The growth of the Defence has also led to an expansion of the staff. Part of the site of the former NATO headquarters, adjacent to the new headquarters currently under construction, is being reserved for an extension of this headquarters.

2) Training areas

Given the increase in personnel, pressure is mounting on the available training grounds, which are currently located mainly in the east of the country. During the current legislative period, additional training grounds will be sought, either through acquisition or via cooperation agreements with the owners. Priority will be given to sites in the west of the country to limit the travel time for units to the training site and improve training output. A site in the vicinity of Ghlin, or another location in Hainaut, would provide a solution for both the military sites in the north-west and those in the south-west of the country. In addition, potential opportunities for acquiring sites in Lessive (former RTT site) and Namur (already sold plot of the military site at Sart-Hulet) are being investigated.

3) Additional quarters on sites to be acquired

This Military Sites Location Plan will ensure a more even structural distribution of the military presence across the territory. Through the establishment of the military sites in Aalter, Charleroi, Moorsele, the reopening of the site in Ypres and the expansion of the existing quarters in East Flanders, West Flanders and Hainaut, the military presence West of the Antwerp/Brussels axis will increase from 14% of personnel to around 22.5% of military personnel, whereas this region accounts for 40% of the population.

The geographical dispersion can therefore be further optimised in the future through the acquisition of new sites and the construction of new quarters in regions with a proportionally lower military presence and where there is significant recruitment

potential, particularly in Hainaut and East Flanders. These additional sites will enable the growth of the Defence after 2034.

In this context, the Ministry of Defence has specifically identified the site of Cerfontaine airfield, near Lake l'Eau d'Heure, as a potential location; the purchase of this site will be analysed in detail before 2035, with a view to establishing a heavy bridge-laying unit there. In Hainaut, a site is being sought to establish new quarter to station a long-range air defence unit there. In addition, an investigation will be carried out to determine whether the para-commando capacity in Diest could be expanded.

Research efforts will begin without delay during this legislative period.

- 4) As stated in the Strategic Vision, given the strategic importance of the von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics (VKI), closer cooperation with Defence will be actively pursued. In this context, Defence is investigating whether it would be appropriate to convert the VKI site in Sint-Genesius-Rode back into a military quarter.
- 5) From 2028, Defence, in close consultation with the Federal Police, will also make use of the training facilities offered by Westakkers in Sint-Niklaas, and will, in that context, co-finance the development of the new tactical training centre at that site.

Appendix I: list of key military sites

No.	Location	Name of military site	Main functions	Comment
1	AALTER	URSEL Airfield	Air defence	Reactivated quarter
2	AMAY	Camp Adjt BRASSEUR	Direct Support Land	
3	ARENDONK	DBW HAUPTMUNITIONDEPOT	Logistical Support	Reactivated quarter Subject to analysis of options: Arendonk-Sugny-Zutendaal
4	ARLON	Camp Gen BASTIN	Combat Function Land	
5	BEAUVECHAIN	Air Base LtCol Avi Ch. ROMAN	Air Force Base	
6	BERLAAR	OLt Baron ZUYLEN VAN NYEVELT	Logistical Support	Reactivated quarter
7	BERTRIX	BERTRIX Airfield and 260 th Coy Mun + Depot	Logistical Support	
8	BRASSCHAAT	BRASSCHAAT WEST	Direct Support Land	
9	BRUSSELS	KMS	Education	
10	BURCHT	FORT ST MARIE	Force protection	Reactivated quarter Depends on 1Lt THOUMSIN
11	BURCHT	1Lt V. THOUMSIN	Direct Support Land	
12	CHARLEROI	Charleroi Quartier du Future	Combat Function and Land Logistics Support	New quarter
13	TOURNAI	Gen Baron RUQUOY and ST JEAN	Education	
14	ELSENBORN	Place et Camp d'ELSENBORN	Education – training ground	
15	EUPEN	SLt ANTOINE	Education & Training	
16	EVERE	Queen ELISABETH Reine ELISABETH	Command Staff	
17	FLAWINNE	SLt THIBAUT	Combat Function: Land	

No.	Location	Name of military site	Main functions	Comment
18	FLORENNES	Jean OFFENBERG Air Base	Air Force Base	
19	GAVERE	Kapt vlieger DE HEMPTINNE	Combat Function Land	
20	GEEL	KIEVERMONT	Logistical Support	Reactivated quarter
21	GLONS	Radar CRC GLONS site	Direct Support	Reactivated quarter
22	GROBBENDONK	DEN TROON	Logistical Support	
23	HELCHTEREN	HELCHTEREN	Logistical Support	Reactivated quarter
24	HEVERLEE	Cdt DE HEMPTINNE	Combat Role and Direct Land Support	
25	HOUTHULST	BOS VAN HOUTHULST + STEENSTRAAT	Direct Support	
26	YPRES	1st Wachtmeester LEMAHIEU Albert	Logistical Support	Reactivated quarter
27	KLEINE BROGEL	Air Base GenMaj Vl DU MONCEAU DE BERGENDAL (KLEINE BROGEL)	Air Force Base	
28	KOKSIJDE	Air Base Adjnt Vl F. ALLAEYS	Mixed quarter Air - Land	
29	LEOPOLDSBURG	LEOPOLDSBURG Garrison	Combat Function Logistical Support Services Land, Education and training ground	
30	LESSIVE	Former RTT site LESSIVE	Education and training ground	New acquisition
31	LOMBARDSIJDE	Kamp van LOMBARDSIJDE	Combat Function and Direct Land Support	
32	MEERDAAL	MEERDAALBOS	Direct Support	

No.	Location	Name of military site	Main functions	Comment
33	MARCHE-EN-FAMENNE	Camp ROI ALBERT	Combat Function Logistical Support Services Land, Education and training ground	
34	MELSBROEK	GROENVELD	Air Force base	
35	MARCHE-LES-DAMES	LtGen ROMAN and Camp WARTET	Education and training	
36	MOORSELE (KORTRIJK)	MOORSELE Airfield	Logistical Support	Reactivated quarter
37	NIVELLES	Cdt Avi DONY	Medical support	
38	NOH	Queen ASTRID	Medical support	
39	OSTEND	Boatsman JONSEN Naval Quarter	Training	
40	PEUTIE	Maj HOUSIAU	Logistical Support and Services; Education	
41	ROCOURT	Maj IFM DUFOUR	Logistical Support	
42	SCHAFFEN	OLt DEVIGNEZ	Training	
43	SINT KRUIS	Luitenant-ter -zee Victor BILLET	Logistical Support	
44	SINT TRUIDEN	Kol VI RENSON	Training	
45	SPA	LtGen Jacques DE DIXMUDE + Training grounds	Combat Function: Land	
46	St HUBERT	St HUBERT Airfield	Logistical Support	Reactivated quarter
47	TIELEN	Kapt Pierre GAILLY	Combat Function: Land	
48	TIENEN	(Former) Airfield GOETSENHOVEN	Logistical Support	Reactivated quarter
49	ZEEBRUGGE	Naval Base ZEEBRUGGE	Naval Base	



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