



Environment

We integrate care of the environment into our business operations and our delivery of test and evaluation.

Environmental stewardship

The challenges of protecting the environment and wildlife, in locations used in the conduct of defence and security related test and evaluation trials, can appear daunting. Our own QinetiQ estate and MOD LTPA sites are located across the UK, with significant marine and land environmental considerations, encompassing European and UK protected areas. The use of structured planning processes, in combination with innovative solutions, robust technology and skilled employees, has enabled the elimination or minimisation of environmental risks from diverse trial activities. The introduction and application of sustainability appraisals (SA) from early in the trial planning phase continues to support prompt identification of potential impacts and careful selection of mitigation measures. Examples include:

- **Aberporth:** Use of remote visual and acoustic marine monitoring systems for protection of mammals. These measures, together with acoustic deterrent devices (ADD) and physical checks, have provided protection for species including bottlenose dolphins, harbour porpoise and grey seals.
- **West Freugh:** Trials timed to avoid disturbance of breeding birds and to protect great crested newts.
- **Hebrides RAF trial:** SA process resulted in agreement for missile airburst detonation instead of at sea surface to reduce any potential sea mammal impacts.
- **Hebrides ASD15 trial (page 17):** modified existing concrete platform to shelter rocket and launch infrastructure to prevent the risk of damage to the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) habitat.

The drive and enthusiasm with which our people, guided by a team of skilled environmental professionals, embrace sound environmental practice have contributed to our performance across the year:

- Our waste recycling arrangements and levels have been further enhanced; 84% compared with 76% for FY15.
- Work has been conducted to collect, understand and interrogate water consumption and travel information, with a view to identifying additional improvement programmes.
- We have initiated transition to the new ISO 14001 Environmental Management standard.
- We have made considerable progress in energy management (see page 31).

Celebrating our 20-year partnership with Marwell Wildlife

Protecting and restoring Eelmoor Marsh

QinetiQ's head office site in Farnborough, UK, includes Eelmoor Marsh which was designated a national Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1978 and is a hotspot for biodiversity. Covering more than 79 hectares, Eelmoor Marsh supports more than 400 species of conservation concern across grassland, lowland heath, bog and mire, including six species of insectivorous plants, 11 species of orchid, the rare nail fungus, over a third of Britain's dragonfly and damselfly species, around 60% of Britain's butterfly species, four out of six native species of reptile, and bird species including woodlark, nightjar and lapwing. The site forms part of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA), notified in 2005 following the arrival of the Dartford Warbler and provides excellent undisturbed habitat for specialist heathland birds. In partnership with British conservation charity Marwell Wildlife we have managed this ecologically sensitive location for over 20 years.

"Our relationship with Marwell Wildlife began in 1995 with the need for conservation grazing but over the 20 years has become much broader and is vital to the success of the project," says Dr Sam Healy, Group Corporate Responsibility Director, QinetiQ. Highland cattle and endangered Przewalski's horses are employed to help control scrub and grass encroachment and have become an integral part of long-term restoration of the lowland heath system. One-third of Eelmoor Marsh has already been restored from pine woodland, and 157 survey reports and 17 student projects have been produced creating a wealth of valuable information about this special site. Natural England has confirmed 'favourable' condition status across all three units on site.

Employees can also access and enjoy this special place during the week, and experts from Marwell regularly provide guided tours for employees. Employees have volunteered their time to support the project.



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