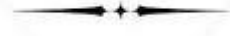


# *Durrington*



## Durrington Estate Office

The Ministry of Defence Estate Office is situated in the High Street approximately 100 yards south of the Church. The total area of land administered by Land Agents, Technical and Office staff is about 92,000 acres of which nearly 89,000 acres are concentrated in one block on Salisbury Plain.

The main bulk of land together with all different kinds of farm buildings, farmhouses and cottages are let to individual farmers for agricultural purposes. These farming activities give employment to many local Inhabitants.

A great deal of the remaining portion of the land is quite considerably used as tank passages and range areas and these areas are patrolled daily by Land Wardens. The Salisbury Plain Estate also includes many wooded areas, planted and maintained by a team of woodmen.

In addition to farm lettings, there are approximately 650 residential lettings under the management of the Estate Office, giving homes to many of the personnel employed as industrial and non- industrial staff by the Ministry. These lettings are mainly situated in Durrington and the adjoining villages. Of course, these residential lettings have to be repaired and modernised at times and the Estate Office employs members of the building trade to do this work, supervised by Clerk of Works, and drivers to transport materials and workmen to the various sites,

To supplement the shortage of official military quarters for serving Army Personnel, the Estate Office hires approximately 800 furnished houses or flats in Wiltshire, Hampshire and Gloucestershire for this purpose.

The staff of the Durrington Office, in addition to those mentioned previously, comprises:-

Executive officer, who is responsible for the administration of staff.

Architectural staff, who plan the farm buildings, farm cottages and, in some instances, farm houses.

Cartographical Drawing Office, which holds all records of legal documents, produce plans of all scales as required, and perambulate all M.O.D. land and boundaries.

Clerical staff, who are responsible for the financial records, filing and registering of files and mail and the shorthand and typing staff who are directly responsible to the Land Agents.

The Land Agents, their Technical Assistants, The Architectural staff and Executive offices are all in the main block which is part of a large old county house. It is mainly of brick construction with a slate roof.

The typing pool and registry is in what used to be stable block, which was converted to garages in 1915 and subsequently made into offices in 1954. The Drawing Office, Clerk of Works office block and the Mess and Conference Room are all situated in fairly recent temporary wooden structures.

In front of the main office block there are well maintained lawns and flower beds and beyond this is a staff car park. All this adds to a very pleasant approach to the Estate Office itself.

*(Information from 1965 - W.I. & retrieved courtesy of Dave Healing)*

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Durrington - Red House (Photo courtesy of Dave Healing)

Behind the Red House listed building was the MOD (Ministry of Defence) estate office whose staff used to manage most of MOD land. The Estate Office was shut down in about 2000 and some of the work transferred to Warminster. Red House was sold and is now a private dwelling with a number of flats in conversion.