Defence iQ

What the 2026 UK Defence Investment Plan means for Armoured Vehicles



(All investment figures taken from the UK Ministry of Defence's Defence Investment Plan 2026)

£19.2 BILLION

Investment in the Land Domain
(FY2026/27–FY2029/30)

THE FUTURE OF BRITISH ARMOUR

The Defence Investment Plan outlines a transformation of the British Army into a fifth-generation force designed for NATO warfighting, combining modern armoured vehicles with AI, autonomous systems, long-range fires and digital networks.

Rather than replacing armoured vehicles, the Plan positions them as the protected backbone of a far more connected and lethal land force.

THE ARMOURED VEHICLE INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

BOXER

£2.2 BILLION

8x8 all-terrain armoured vehicle

- Enables rapid deployment and protected manoeuvre
- Built in the West Midlands
- Largest individual armoured vehicle investment within the Land budget



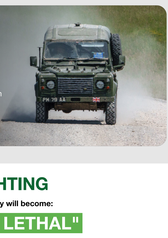
CHALLENGER 3

£1.1 BILLION

Next-generation Main Battle Tank

Investment will:

- Complete production of Challenger 3
- Build on the success of Challenger 2 in Ukraine
- Deliver the British Army's future Main Battle Tank capability



AJAX

£1.1 BILLION

Armoured Fighting Vehicle

Continued investment supports the Army's modern reconnaissance capability as part of wider land transformation.



ARMOURED VEHICLES AS PART OF THE RECCE-STRIKE REVOLUTION

PROJECT ASGARD

£370 MILLION

Project ASGARD develops and expands the Army's new Recce-Strike approach.

It links:

- Armoured vehicles
- Drones
- AI-enabled technologies
- Digital targeting

to deliver greater combined battlefield effect.

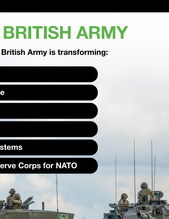
LAND MOBILITY

OVER £500 MILLION

Land Mobility Programme

Investment includes:

- Successor to the Land Rover
- Heavy Protected Mobility programme
- New versatile 6x6 armoured vehicle system



A NEW WAY OF FIGHTING

The Defence Investment Plan states the Army will become:

"TEN TIMES MORE LETHAL"

through integration of:

- Armoured capability
- Air defence
- Communications
- Artificial intelligence
- Software
- Long-range weapons
- Uncrewed Ground Vehicles
- Armed autonomous drones operating alongside Apache helicopters

rather than relying on individual platforms alone.

LESSONS FROM UKRAINE

According to the Plan, future land forces will increasingly combine:

Survivable
Crewed armoured vehicles

Attritable
Platforms such as reusable drones

Consumable
One-way attack drones, missiles, rockets and artillery

This reflects lessons learned from the war in Ukraine and the increasing transparency of the modern battlefield.

SUPPORTING CAPABILITIES

Alongside armoured vehicle investment, the Land Domain also includes:

Close Support Artillery	Long Range Rocket Artillery	Army ISTAR	Land Lethality Pipeline	Ground Based Air Defence
£1.3bn	£590m	£570m	£400m	£1.5bn

MODERNISING THE BRITISH ARMY

The Defence Investment Plan states that the British Army is transforming:

- From an expeditionary force
- Into a fifth-generation modernised force
- Designed for NATO warfighting
- Built around Recce-Strike doctrine
- Underpinned by AI and autonomous systems
- Delivering a transformed Strategic Reserve Corps for NATO



INTERNATIONAL ARMOURED VEHICLES

Join the Conversation at International Armoured Vehicles 2027

The Global Hub for Armoured Vehicle Capability, Collaboration and Innovation

19–21 January 2027 • Farnborough International Exhibition Centre, UK

As armed forces modernise for high-intensity conflict, the focus is shifting beyond individual platforms towards integrated mounted capability. The Defence Investment Plan highlights how future combat effectiveness will depend on combining armoured vehicles with AI, autonomous systems, digital networks, long-range fires and advanced protection. These themes sit at the heart of International Armoured Vehicles 2027, where military leaders, programme owners and industry will explore how next-generation land forces are being designed, developed and delivered.

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