

# OPEN SENNE



The Senne - and in particular territory of the Sennelager Training area - are considered one of the most important hotspots for biodiversity in Germany and are a unique natural habitat in the heart of Europe. The views about a military and / or civilian use of the Senne are subject to controversial discussions and often characterized by hardened positions.

In addition to the protection of this unique ecosystem, with its more than 1000 endangered animal and plant species, regional economic effects can be expected for the neighboring communities and the entire East Westphalia-Lippe region through the development of nature based tourism as part of the designation of a protected

area. The added value, created by stationed troops, which was still noticeable for the region a few years ago, is no longer playing a role, since the British Army officially withdrew from Germany. The following conversion schedule is intended to show possibilities for conversion in harmony with nature, people and military use.

## CONVERSION SCHEDULE SENNE MILITARY TRAINING AREA

### STEP 1

Marketing and wide support of the “Senne for all senses” (1) project by the neighboring municipalities and further development of nature based tourism and the implementation of environmental education offers in the accessible peripheral areas of the Sennelager Military Training Area. This will bring the Senne region into focus, and will support developing it into an important tourist destination and notable brand in North Rhine-Westphalia. Strict adherence to the Senne agreement by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) in order to ensure accessibility to the Senne for those seeking relaxation and commuters must be demanded. Exceptions to the regulations must actually remain the exception. Lively biking tourism can already be established in this step. Guided tours, e.g. by environmental associations or certified nature guides, can be offered regularly and reliably. For this purpose, theme weekends can be introduced, on which the transit roads can only be used by cyclists and carriages, for example.

### STEP 2

Gradual restriction of military training operations to areas within the boundaries of the so-called „Panzerringstrasse“. Release of less or no longer used military training areas for civil use and the development of sustainable tourist usage (e.g. areas east of the Ringstrasse in the area of Schlangen, east of the B1 between Bad Lippspringe and Marienloh, etc.). Other areas of the Ringstrasse as well as some streets within the military training area (e.g. in the Staumühle area, between the Tütgenmühle in Schlangen and Bad Lippspringe Airport, Lopshorner Strasse, former K97, area between Dreihügelheiligtum and Kreuzkrug) should also be designated as transit roads and should be available to civil use (cycling, inline skating, carriage rides, etc.) outside projected barrier closure times. Creation of further offers for hikers, cyclists and riders. A campaign, based on the British model (Respect the Range (2)), which supports safe civilian use outside of training times on military training areas, should also be initiated in the Senne in order to further promote tourism use and recreation in the Senne next to military use.

### STEP 3

Further, continuous reduction in military training operations at the Sennelager Military Training Area. The Bundeswehr in Augustdorf continues to use the Stapel exercise area for its training. Other areas previously used by the military will be opened up for nature based tourism and environmental conservation. Following the British model, the Senne is designated as a protected area (e.g. National Natural Heritage, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, National Park) parallel to military use. Nature enjoys strict protection and the abandoning of military use for sensitive natural areas is mandatory. At the same time, a nature-friendly path and protection zone concept is being developed, taking into account various interest groups (tourism, environmental education, forestry, etc.).

### STEP 4

Complete abandonment of military use on the Sennelager Military Training Area. This is followed by the further expansion of tourist and environmental education offers. The “Senne” brand can further be established and sharpen itself as the driving force behind the national and international marketing and growth of the Senne region and entire East Westphalia-Lippe, in conjunction with the Teutoburger Forest and Egge Mountains. The Stapel exercise area will be retained for the Bundeswehr base in Augustdorf.

(1) <https://sennefuerallesinne.de>

(2) [https://bit.ly/senne\\_rtr](https://bit.ly/senne_rtr)