

UK Intelligence: Russia Captures Up to 550 sq km in Ukraine

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UK Defence Intelligence has reported that Russian forces likely seized between 500 and 550 square kilometres of Ukrainian territory during July 2025. This assessment follows similar gains in June, reflecting continued Russian efforts to advance their position, particularly in the Donetsk region.

The intelligence update, released on 9 August via the UK Ministry of Defence's official social media channels, highlights ongoing combat operations primarily in Donetsk Oblast. Russian troops have focused their efforts northeast and southwest of the city of Pokrovsk, seeking to encircle the area and disrupt Ukrainian supply routes.

According to the report, "The Russian Ground Forces (RGF) seized a similar amount of Ukrainian territory in June 2025, following month-on-month increases since March 2025." The statement notes sustained tactical advances centred on Donetsk Oblast, with the area around Pokrovsk being a focal point of Russian military pressure.

Despite these gains, the UK intelligence briefing also indicates that Russian forces have made no significant territorial advances in Sumy Oblast over the past fortnight. Ukrainian resistance, bolstered by counterattacks, appears to have stymied Russia's attempts to establish a buffer zone in this northern region.

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine remains dynamic, with frontlines shifting as both sides seek strategic advantages. The UK Defence Intelligence update underscores the persistence of Russian offensive operations while acknowledging the effectiveness of Ukrainian defence measures in specific areas.

This intelligence assessment is part of the UK government's broader effort to monitor the situation in Ukraine and provide timely information to policymakers and the public. It reflects the UK's commitment to supporting Ukraine amid ongoing hostilities.

The territorial gains reported by UK Defence Intelligence align with previous assessments from allied sources, illustrating a pattern of gradual Russian advances, especially in the eastern regions of Ukraine.

The situation remains fluid, and further updates from UK and international intelligence agencies are expected as the conflict continues. The UK government maintains close cooperation with its allies in monitoring and responding to developments on the ground.