



# RAF Memorials in East Lincolnshire





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## Introduction

East Lindsey's rich aviation heritage is as a result of the high demand for airfields near to the coast during World War II. Unfortunately having such a high concentration of airfields in the district resulted in a large number of casualties over the years.

Details were provided in the East Lindsey Aviation Heritage guide about the districts active RAF stations and former airfield sites. Some of those sites are marked by memorials, but in addition the district also commemorates the men and women who lost their lives as a result of aviation incidents, both in and outside the district.

Throughout the district the number of memorials is increasing all the time. This leaflet includes information relating to all the memorials that we were aware of and were in situ at the time of publication.

Many of the memorials relate to individual RAF bases and were featured in the East Lindsey Aviation Heritage guide, whilst some are located at particular crash sites. Others commemorate individual airmen or RAF squadrons and are located in local village churches, whilst others are simple plaques or roadside markers.

Most of the memorials are publically accessible. However in some cases specific access details have been included to advise how you can arrange to view the memorials and we urge you to respect those access requirements.

A couple of memorials have been specially omitted at the request of the landowner or relevant authorities as they are on private land and access is not allowed. Again we would urge you to respect those privacy requests.



## HISTORY:

As you enter the village of Binbrook on the B1203 from Market Rasen you will find the 460 Squadron memorial stone. This is located on the right hand side of the road close to the road junction that takes you up to the former RAF base. Dedicated on 9th September 1973 this memorial features 460 Squadron's badge and motto.

On the opposite side of the road, in the grounds of the Binbrook Church of England Primary School is the upper section of a tail fin from a Lightning jet fighter. This fin came from a Lightning aircraft from the nearby RAF Binbrook and was presented to the school on 19th June 1987. The fin is decorated with the markings from 5 Squadron and 11 Squadron who flew Lightnings from the base. This memorial is viewable from the roadside and a small plaque on the nearby verge explains the background to the memorial.

In the village church of St Mary and St Gabriel on St Mary's Lane there are various artefacts relating to the village's air force heritage. A roll of honour to 460 Squadron and its crews is housed in a display cabinet and a litany desk dated 9th June 1974 also commemorates the memory of 460 Squadron RAAF.

The Binbrook Parish was closely connected to RAF Binbrook, which closed in 1989. A stained glass window was dedicated that year to mark the close connections; this was designed and fabricated by the Lincoln artist Glenn Carter. Several military graves can also be seen in the churchyard.



## Binbrook

### GRID REF:

Sheet 113 SK 210940:  
460 Squadron memorial plaque

Sheet 113 SK 208942:  
Binbrook Church of England Primary School

Sheet 113 SK 212939:  
St Mary and St Gabriel's Church



## Coningsby

### GRID REF:

Sheet 122 SK 223580:  
St Michael's Church

Sheet 122 SK 226574:  
Coningsby village cemetery

Sheet 122 SK 226574:  
Church of the Holy Spirit, RAF Coningsby

### HISTORY:

As you enter Coningsby the village signs indicate the first connections to the RAF; as they feature aircraft from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight that are based at RAF Coningsby.

There are various memorials in the chapel off the north aisle of St Michael Church, which is in the centre of the village alongside the A153 road. One of the first memorials dedicated there was in memory of the No 83 Pathfinder Squadron. This is now accompanied by two memorial plaques in memory of 29(F) Squadron crews who lost their lives whilst flying from RAF Coningsby in the 1980s.

In the chapel there is a RAF Ensign and a national flag of the Netherlands; plus a memorial plaque in

memory of Jacoba Maria Pulskens of Tilberg. She was a member of the resistance movement who housed three allied airmen, who were eventually shot. The Netherlands flag in the chapel was used by Jacoba to cover the bodies of the airmen; she herself was taken away, never to return.

The village cemetery on Dogdyke Road houses several air force graves.

RAF Coningsby itself is home to a number of aviation memorials, but these are only accessible by prior arrangement and with the station and operational commitments this access cannot be guaranteed.

The entrance to the station headquarters building houses an honours and awards board to the station's squadrons and personnel. These are accompanied by engraved panels to 83 Squadrons and 97 Squadron; and a panel in memory of Jacoba Maria Pulskens. A commemorative garden is also located in front of the Sergeant's Mess.

The station church, the Church of the Holy Spirit houses a host of stained glass windows. Most notable of which are the Holy Spirit Window and the Japan (BCAIR) Window – British Commonwealth Air Japan Association, who donated this window in tribute to those who served in Japan. Other memorials include windows dedicated to: 29 Squadron, Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, 56(F) Squadron, 17 Squadron and 97 Squadron.





## East Kirkby

GRID REF:

Sheet 122 SK338618:  
Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre

HISTORY:

The memorial at the entrance to the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre site is in memory to 57 Squadron and 630 Squadron and was unveiled in 1979. Brothers Fred and Harold Panton established the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre on the former airfield site just off the A155 road in 1988.



Around the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre there are a host of commemorative displays and object displays in memory of a diverse range of service personnel and their squadrons. To view these memorials you have to pay an admission fee to enter the site.



## Great Steeping (Spilsby)

GRID REF:

Sheet 122 SK 441643:  
All Saints Church

HISTORY:

The All Saints village church houses two memorial plaques for squadrons that served locally at RAF Spilsby. The smaller of the two plaques was dedicated to 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron on 21st May 1989, whilst the larger memorial plaque was dedicated to 207 Squadron on 8th May 1992.

In the western end of the church there is a display case that houses the 207 Squadron roll of honour, which was deposited at the church by the squadron at the same time that the memorial plaque was dedicated.

## Halton Hologate

### GRID REF:

Sheet 122 SK  
416652: The Bell  
public house

### HISTORY:

The slightly faded sign at The Bell public house features a painting of a Lancaster flying over the public house and it also has the names of 44 and 207 Squadrons at the foot of the sign.



## Kelstern

### GRID REF:

Sheet 113 SK 260920: RAF Kelstern memorial

### HISTORY:

In 1964 Kelstern achieved a first when the site became one of the first airfields in the county to have a memorial erected and dedicated to the base's squadron and personnel, this was funded by the 625 Squadron Association. The memorial was dedicated on 25 October 1964 and is still there today, close to the T junction where the Ludborough Road meets the North Elkington to Binbrook Road.



## Ludborough - Lincolnshire Wolds Railway

### GRID REF:

Sheet 113 SK 308960: Memorial plaques

### HISTORY:

A memorial plaque to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain was unveiled at the Ludborough Station of the Lincolnshire Wolds Railway on 11th September 2010. This plaque is displayed on the waiting room wall.

A second plaque with an aviation connection is displayed alongside a rose in the garden behind the signal box at the station, it commemorates those killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks in America.



## Ludford

### GRID REF:

Sheet 113 SK  
196890: RAF Ludford  
Magna memorial

Sheet 113 SK  
195890: The White  
Hart public house  
memorial plaque

Sheet 113 SK  
201893: St Mary &  
Peter's Church



### HISTORY:

101 Squadron's strong associations with nearby RAF Ludford Magna are maintained via a simple memorial to the squadron that was dedicated in July 1978. This memorial has been kept up to date with the squadron's Battle Honours, including the South Atlantic (Falklands); Gulf War I; and Kosovo. The memorial is on the side of the A631 in the village of Ludford.

Located on the Magna Mile (A631) is the White Hart public house and displayed on the wall outside the pub is a memorial plaque that also honours the brave crews of 101 Squadron.

In the village church of St Mary & Peter there is a roll of honour of 101 Squadron, which is displayed in a cabinet. Also in the church are the Squadron and Squadron Association standards, plus a small display about a 101 Squadron crew buried in Ludford's twinned village of Voué, France.



## Manby

### GRID REF:

Sheet 122 SK 395870: Guy Gibson House -  
Environment Agency

### HISTORY:

Part of the RAF Manby domestic site was purchased by East Lindsey District Council for their main offices and other parts remain intact but under various different ownerships. The former College of Air Warfare building is now known as Tedder Hall, which now houses the main council offices.

Nearby the Station Commanders Board still exists in Guy Gibson House on Manby Park, along with small history display boards. In special circumstances this can be viewed by prior arrangement with the building tenants the Environment Agency.

Many of the roads on the local estates still proudly carry aircraft names that flew from RAF Manby; and situated on the road as you approach the former airfield site is the Lancaster public house.







## North Thoresby

GRID REF:

Sheet 113 SK 292985: Village memorial

HISTORY:

The beautiful memorial in the village commemorates the loss of the entire crew of the Lancaster ED583 on 4th October 1943. Having taken off from nearby RAF Waltham on a test flight the Lancaster suffered structural problems and came down on the village, destroying the Methodist Church and nearby cottages. Fortunately none of the villagers were injured but sadly the entire 8 man crew all lost their lives. The dedication of the memorial to the crew of the Lancaster ED583 took place on 4th September 2005.

## North Cotes

GRID REF:

Sheet 113 SK 350006:  
St Nicholas' Church

HISTORY:

The St Nicholas village church, which is located in the village just off the A1031 road features a stained glass window that shows the station badge from nearby RAF North Coates. The window was presented to the church in January 1971.

The churchyard also contains a number of air force personnel graves.





## Revesby

### GRID REF:

Sheet 122 SK 298614: St Lawrence's Church

### HISTORY:

St Lawrence village church, which is located just off the A155 houses a wooden panel memorial to the village residents from the three services that lost their lives in World War Two.

A second memorial panel is in situ in memory of a 97 Squadron crew that lost their lives when Lancaster ND415 collided with a Lancaster LL967 of 57 Squadron in the parish during World War Two.



## Spilsby

### GRID REF:

Sheet 122 SK445649: RAF Spilsby memorial

### HISTORY:

The sale of the former RAF Spilsby site started in 1962 and gradually parts were returned to agricultural use of various types.

Memorials were erected on the former airfield, including the impressive new memorial that was dedicated in the summer of 2012. This can be located off the B1195 Spilsby to Wainfleet Road, following the signs to the Heavy Horse Centre along the road between Halton Hologate and Bratoft/Gunby.

The memorial is in various sections and commemorates the following aspects associated with the RAF Spilsby site: 207 Squadron and 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron, the personnel that served at RAF Spilsby, and an incident on the station Bomb Dump on 10th April 1944. This incident cost the lives of ten armourers and includes three who have no known graves.



## Strubby

GRID REF:

Sheet 122 SK 446805:  
RAF Strubby memorials

HISTORY:

Whilst a lot of reclamation work was carried out on the former runways after RAF Strubby was sold in the early 1980s, many

original RAF era buildings still stand. There is a particularly evocative cluster near to the Woodthorpe Hall Leisure Park, Woodthorpe Garden Centre and Aquatics Centre, on the B1373 road.

Close to the former entrance to the station are two memorials, the first of which was dedicated in 1992 to the memory of those who served there during World War Two.

On 24th August 2014 a new granite memorial plinth, which is set in a partially walled seating area was dedicated to the personnel that served at the station both during and after World War Two. As well as squadron badges the memorial includes etchings of a Beaufighter and 619 Squadron Lancaster. It is believed that around 20,000 people attended the dedication ceremony, which featured a flypast by two Lancasters. The

ceremony was arranged by Mrs Stubbs on the former airfield site, which is now owned by her family. The nearby Woody's Bar also features commemorative displays about the station.



## Tattershall Thorpe - Thorpe Camp

GRID REF:

Sheet 122 SK 215597: Various memorials

HISTORY:

Amongst various displays about Lincolnshire aviation, Thorpe Camp Visitor Centre also reflects the activities of nearby RAF Woodhall Spa; the site is on the B1192 Woodhall Spa to Coningsby road.

A significant memorial wall is located just inside the Visitor Centre which features memorial plaques to the four RAF squadrons that flew from RAF Woodhall Spa. In the various display buildings there are also other memorial related items, including the 627 Squadron book of remembrance. To view these memorials you have to pay an admission fee to enter the site.

Located on the roadside close to the entrance to the Visitor Centre is a memorial stone that incorporates a three bladed propeller, which was originally located at the entrance to RAF Woodhall Spa.





## Ulceby Cross

GRID REF:

Sheet 122 SK 406733: Aircraft memorial

HISTORY:

This memorial stone to the crew of a 12 Squadron Lancaster, PB476 from RAF Wickenby is located on an unclassified road close to the A16. The Lancaster was shot down by a Luftwaffe aircraft during the night of 4th March 1945. It features the crew names and was dedicated in 1995, on the 50th anniversary of the original crash.



## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

GRID REF:

Sheet 122 SK 196635: Airborne Forces memorial

HISTORY:

The Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum opened its doors in 1987 and in its grounds there is a memorial stone "To the men who left Woodhall Spa to fight in the battle of Arnhem", this was dedicated in September 2011. The museum also houses the Tourist Information Centre.





On 19th May 2013, just after the 70th Anniversary of the original Dams Raid a new 617 Squadron memorial in the shape of a marble pyramid was dedicated. This commemorates the post-World War Two operations and includes battle honours for the Gulf War – 1991 and Iraq – 2003.

At the nearby St Peter's church there are memorial plaques to 617 Squadron; 619 Squadron and outside the church there is a flagpole and plaque. The item latter was presented to the church by members of the 619 Squadron Association on 18th April 1993.

## Woodhall Spa

### GRID REF:

Sheet 122 SK 193631:  
Royal Square Gardens – Various memorials

Sheet 122 SK 197632:  
St Peter's Church

### HISTORY:

There are now two major memorials located in the Royal Square Gardens in the centre of Woodhall Spa, which commemorate the towns association with 617 Squadron.

The original memorial was formed in the shape of a breached dam. The memorial was dedicated on 17th May 1987 and it carries the squadron badge, lists its battle honours and a carved

roll of honour. It dominates the square and surrounding flower gardens, which also includes a floral memorial planting to the RAF.





## Woodhall Spa Petwood Hotel

### GRID REF:

Sheet 122 SK193638: Squadron memorials

### HISTORY:

Requisitioned by the RAF in 1942, originally Officers of 97 and 619 Squadrons were based at the Petwood. 619 Squadron was moved out of the Petwood and 617 Squadron was moved in.

Today, the Squadron Bar hosts a range of memorabilia and tributes to Guy Gibson VC, Leonard Cheshire VC and their Officers. A memorial plaque in the entrance door lists each squadron and in the grounds there are the remains of a practice bouncing bomb, as was used in the Dambusters raid and over the bar you will see the branch of a tree that was found impaled in the fuselage of a Lancaster.



# Discover East Lincolnshire's Aviation Heritage



During World War II there was a high demand for airfields close to the county's coastline which made East Lincolnshire an ideal location for countless concrete runways and taxiways.

As a result, East Lincolnshire is rich in Aviation Heritage, come and see for yourself...



### East Lindsey Aviation Heritage Guide

An aviation guide through East Lincolnshire locating active RAF stations and former airfield sites.

For a copy, tel 01507 613116 or download from [visiteastlincolnshire.com](http://visiteastlincolnshire.com)



For further information on Aviation Heritage  
go to [visitlincolnshire.com/aviation](http://visitlincolnshire.com/aviation)



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For further information or a copy of the guide  
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