

Lincolnshire's Aviation Heritage

Take to Lincolnshire's 'big skies' and experience the thrill and excitement of aviation - past and present.

Lincolnshire's love affair with flying began in the 1800s with the invention of the balloon. Many ascents took place over Lincolnshire but the military links date back to the Great War of 1914-1918 as Lincoln found itself as the major hub for aircraft production.

However, it was the events of the 1940s which put Lincolnshire firmly on the aviation map. During the Second World War Lincolnshire carved out a name as "Bomber County" and stood at the western edge of the largest battlefield the world has ever seen.

The county was primarily home to 1 Group and 5 Group of RAF Bomber Command. Both Groups were equipped with the Avro Lancaster and established a fine record of endeavour. Almost half of Bomber Command's 19 Victoria Crosses were awarded to airmen operating from Lincolnshire.

The story is not simply one of Bomber Command, and the county saw much other activity - day fighters, night fighters, an anti-shipping strike, transport and flying training also took place, together with less obvious aspects, such as the work of the RAF's air-sea rescue launches.

By 1945 there were 49 airfields in Lincolnshire, with the average distance between each only 7.5 miles – more than any other county. The total area occupied by airfields was 2% of the county's whole land area. Even today only 5% is occupied by towns and villages, and 80% of the county is under cultivation.

From the 1950s, the RAF's role in the county included the Thor missiles and the delta-winged Avro Vulcan strategic bomber. Today, it is the home to a wide variety of military aircraft from the E-3D and Sentinel radar surveillance platforms to the Nimrod R1 and Eurofighter Typhoon.

Lincolnshire is also home to the Royal Air Force College, Royal Air Force Central Flying School, Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team - The Red Arrows, and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

How to Find Us

For public transport information call the Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel

Below is the Airfield Trail Map with tour highlights marked.



1 Branston Hall Hotel, 2 RAF Waddington, 3 RAF Cranwell, 4 Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre, 5 Metheringham Airfield Visitor Centre, 6 RAF Digby, 7 Coleby Grange, 8 Scopwick, 9 Wellingore

Acknowledgements

North Kesteven District Council gratefully value the help given by:

All staff at RAF Cranwell and College Hall, Crown Copyright, RAF Waddington, RAF Digby, Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre, Metheringham Airfield Visitor Centre, RAF Digby Sector Operations Museum, The Kitchen, Branston Hall Hotel, Sleafordian, Mike Hodgson, Mike Ingham, Jeff Williams, Richard Overton, Keith Campbell and Howard Heeley of Down to Earth Promotions.

Whilst great care has been taken in compiling this information into this leaflet, North Kesteven District Council cannot be held responsible for any errors, omissions or alterations contained within it. The inclusion of an establishment within this leaflet does not imply any official recommendations by North Kesteven District Council.

Behind the Scenes Aviation Past & Present Tour

in the Heart of Lincolnshire
19 & 20 March 2010



districtnk
100 flourishing communities
North Kesteven District Council

The two-day break will include:

- One nights dinner, bed and breakfast at Branston Hall Hotel
- Lunches at RAF Cranwell and The Kitchen at Nocton Heath
- An intriguing evening lecture
- Guided tours around RAF Waddington and RAF Cranwell and College Hall
- Two days coach transportation
- Refreshment breaks
- Entry into three aviation centres in North Kesteven



Friday 19 March

After refreshments and registration at Branston Hall Hotel, you will travel via coach to RAF Waddington. At RAF Waddington, you will be given a unique, behind the scenes tour of the camp. After your morning at RAF Waddington, you will then travel to RAF Cranwell where you will have a buffet lunch and refreshments. Lunch will be followed by a guided tour around the camp and College Hall. Upon completion of your tour, you will return to Branston Hall Hotel for your evening three-course meal. There will be a lecture on the 'Development of Flight in Lincolnshire', by guest speaker, Mike Hodgson.

If you would only like to book on the lecture, please indicate on the booking form to the right.

Saturday 20 March

After a night's accommodation at Branston Hall Hotel and a hearty cooked breakfast, you will leave the hotel for a day tour around aviation attractions and old WW2 airfields, providing an insight into North Kesteven's aviation heritage. You will visit RAF Digby Sector Operations Museum and while at the museum, an RAF Officer will give you a brief talk on the history of RAF Digby. Other venues include Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre, Metheringham Airfield Visitor Centre, Scopwick Cemetery, Coleby Grange and Wellingore. Traditional Lincolnshire produce will be served for lunch at The Kitchen at Nocton Heath.

For further information, or for a copy of North Kesteven's Airfield Trail booklet, call 01529 414294.



Booking Form

Please complete the relevant section for the two-day break or lecture only, giving your details in the space provided, and return to the address below by 1 February 2010

Two-Day Break

I would like to book places at £145 per person on the Behind the Scenes Aviation Tour. I require the following number and type of rooms:

Single Double Twin

Please inform us of any dietary requirements

I enclose a cheque for £

Evening Lecture

If you would only like to attend the evening lecture on Friday 19 March, please arrive from 7.45pm, with the lecture starting at 8pm.

I would like to book places at £5 per person and this cost includes refreshments.

I enclose a cheque for £

Name:
Address:
Home telephone:
Mobile number:
Email address:
Emergency contact name/number:

Cheques (made payable to North Kesteven District Council) and completed booking forms to be returned to Sleaford Tourist Information Centre, Money's Yard, Carre Street, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 7TW. Email: tic@n-kesteven.gov.uk. Debit/Credit Card payments can be made by telephoning 01529 414294, and cash payments by calling in to the Tourist Information Centre. You will receive written confirmation of your booking.

Cancellation Policy

In the event of cancellation one month before the date of the aviation tour, a 50% cancellation fee will be charged. An insurance policy can be taken out with a broker to cover the risk of the need to cancel your booking.

In the event of unforeseen circumstances, the right to make reasonable changes to the itinerary is reserved if the organisers deem it necessary to cancel the tour, all sums paid by the delegate will be refunded in full.