

Haveringland

Friendly Invasion Sites



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During WW2 more than 300,000 Americans settled into airbases scattered across East Anglia.

Welcome to the Friendly Invasion around Haveringland

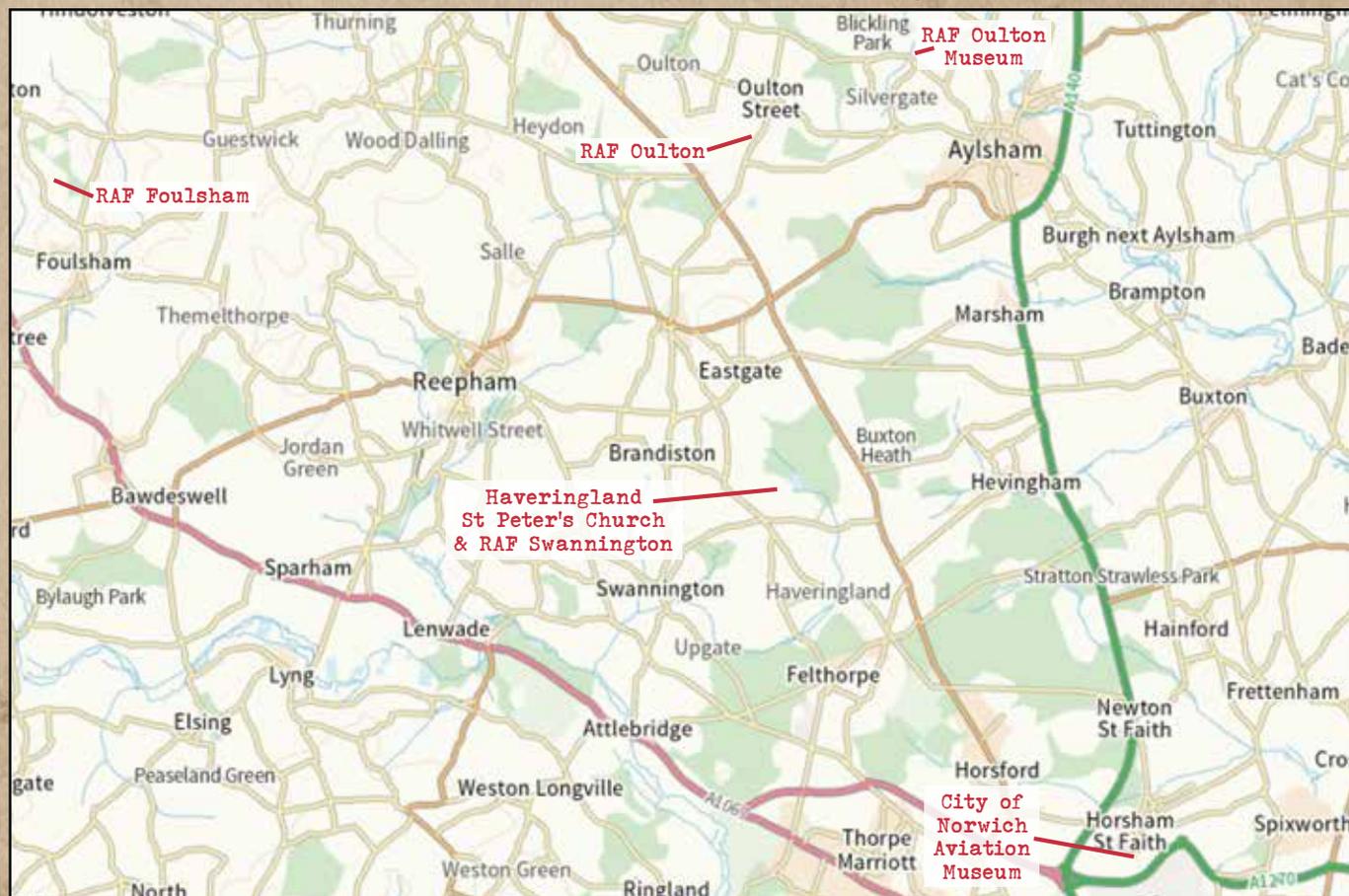
This area of beautiful rural Norfolk, north-west of Norwich and dotted with market towns and villages, was once hectic with airbases and thousands of RAF, Commonwealth, American and Dutch air force personnel, especially during the last two years of WW2. VE Day in Spring 1945 marked the end of the Friendly Invasion.

You can reach these locations shown on the map by car or bicycle, and we recommend making Haveringland St Peter's Church your first stop, where there is more information.



What to expect

With the passage of time there is little evidence left of these airbases. Even so, many like to find the last traces and stop to remember. Look out for parts of runway leading onto wide-open farmland, which was ideal for long runways. Farmland is always private property so please take care not to trespass.



Confound and Destroy

This was the motto of the RAF 100 (Bomber Support) Group, formed late in 1943 to consolidate the increasingly complex business of electronic warfare and countermeasures in WW2. The group was a pioneer in using electronic 'homers' fitted to De Havilland Mosquito fighters, which detected night fighter radar and radio emissions. This allowed the RAF fighters to home in on enemy aircraft and either shoot them down or disrupt their missions against the bomber streams.



Mosquitoes would also patrol around Luftwaffe fighter airfields, ready to attack night fighters as they landed. The Group operated from 8 airfields across Norfolk; this guide focuses on 3 of them.



AVM E.B. Addison
Commander RAF 100
(Bomber Support) Group

Haveringland St Peter's Church

St. Peter's is a Memorial Church to the RAF 100 (Bomber Support) Group.

Close to the Church and inside you will find a lot more information about the Group and RAF Swannington, including an interactive Heritage Hub and a memorial tablet. The Church is open every day during daylight hours.



RAF Swannington

Your approach to Haveringland Church is one of the perimeter tracks of the former airfield, and just in front of the Church you will find a board with more information, including a map of the former airfield.

Known locally as Haveringland aerodrome, RAF Swannington became operational in April 1944 as part of the newly-formed 100 (Bomber Support) Group making it the last wartime aerodrome to be opened in Norfolk. 85 and 157 Squadrons, flying de Havilland DH 98 Mosquito fighter aircraft, were later joined by two Squadrons of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), which escorted bomber aircraft during day-time missions. During the winter of 1944/45, there was training in Spitfires and patrols setting off to the Netherlands, against V2-rocket launchers.



THIS CHURCH WAS DEDICATED AS THE

MEMORIAL CHURCH TO
THE RAF 100 (BOMBER SUPPORT) GROUP

BY THE RIGHT REVEREND GRAHAM USHER, BISHOP OF NORWICH,
ON SUNDAY 21st MAY 2023

REMEMBERING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF
THE ROYAL AIR FORCE AND ALLIED FORCES
WHO SERVED WITH RAF 100 GROUP

SUPPORTED BY THE
ROYAL AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WHEN I AM AFRAID I PUT MY
TRUST IN YOU - PSALM 96:2

RAF Foulsham

From the centre of Foulsham take the Hindovelston road north until you reach the junction for Guestwick and turn left on to the Guestwick Road.

Along Guestwick Road there is evidence of the original airbase on both sides. The airfield was operational from June 1942 and the first units to arrive were 98 and 180 Squadrons, flying North American Mitchell bombers. 320 Squadron, formed from Dutch Naval personnel, was based at RAF Attlebridge, a satellite of RAF Foulsham, and flew several exercises from Foulsham during 1943.



157 Squadron, Haveringland Hall

RAF Oulton

To the south of Oulton Street village there is a farm gate area paved with historic runway slabs. To the north of the village at the crossroads of Aylsham Road and New Road, is the Memorial.

The airfield opened in 1940, originally as a satellite field to Horsham St Faith (now Norwich International Airport). It hosted a variety of light bomber squadrons flying mainly Blenheims.

By September 1942 the airfield had become a satellite to RAF Swanton Morley with the 88th squadron being based there. The airfield was transferred to the 100 (Bomber Support) Group and became a satellite to RAF Foulsham in September 1943.

RAF Oulton Museum

RAF Oulton Museum is on the Blickling Estate which is a National Trust property. Entry to the museum is free. Car parking charges only apply for non National Trust members.

This is an ideal place to visit as you can look at photos showing what these RAF sites looked like when thousands of personnel were based there.

It's well worth exploring Blickling Hall as it was the home of the last Lord Lothian, who played an instrumental role in persuading the Americans to join the war effort.

Norwich Aviation Museum

North of Norwich with access off the A140 at Horsham St Faiths.

This exciting museum contains a variety of collections, of artefacts and aircraft, covering 40 years of aviation history including an RAF 100 Group Room and United States Army 8th Air Force Collection.

www.cnam.org.uk

Other RAF 100 (Bomber Support) Group Sites

RAF Little Snoring
RAF North Creake
RAF Sculthorpe
RAF West Raynham
RAF Great Massingham



Other sources of information

- **RAF 100 Group Association**
www.raf100groupassociation.org
- **RAF Sculthorpe Heritage Centre**
www.rafsculthorpeheritagecentre.org
- **West Raynham Association**
www.rafwestraynhamassociation.org
- **West Raynham Control Tower**
Find on Facebook
- **RAF Historical Society**
www.rafhistoricalsociety.org.uk
- **The Haveringland Chronicles**
This website covers aspects of local Friendly Invasion history.
www.haveringlandchronicles.wordpress.com

In memory

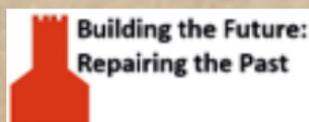
To the many service personnel who gave their lives during World War Two.

With thanks

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