

Useful Information for visitors

ROUTE INFORMATION

For safety reasons this trail is recommended as a car trail.

STARTING POINT

International Bomber Command Centre, Canwick Hill, Lincoln LN4 2RF.

PARKING

There is limited parking at the main site locations along this route. Some of the points of interest require your vehicle to be parked along the roadside and can be accessed via a public right of way.

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS FOR THE AREA

OS Explorer 272 and OS Land Ranger 121.

ROUTE LENGTH AND TIMINGS

Short route: approximately 20 miles / 1hour (plus time to visit IBCC).
Extended route: approximately 40 miles / 3-4 hours (including time to visit the museums).

REFRESHMENTS

Within Waddington there is a Budgen's shop and several takeaway restaurants. There are several pubs, a Tesco Express, Co-op and Fish and chip shop located in Bracebridge Heath. The Sentry Café at the Vulcan along the A15 serves refreshments and has toilet facilities. IBCC and Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre also have cafes and toilets.

PUBLIC TOILETS

There are toilet facilities within the local pubs in Bracebridge Heath and also at the Sentry Café on the A15.

Extended Route: CRANWELL AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE

At this museum you can discover the history of RAF Cranwell/RAF College Cranwell through artefacts, and exhibits or try your hand on our flight simulator where you can attempt to land a Jet Provost on the runway at RAF Cranwell before your fuel runs out!
After point **E** on the trail, continue along A15 toward Sleaford, at the roundabout take the 4th exit (A17 - Newark) Carry along the A17 until you reach North Rauceby, turn left into Main Street and the centre is on the right. The route is clearly marked with brown signs.

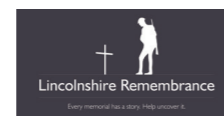
WADDINGTON

— MEMORIAL TRAIL —



We are Airplay Waddington a group of young people aged 11-18 whose families work within the RAF and whose service has a constant effect on our lives. We have produced this route to showcase the history and different memorials within our local area. We feel it is important for everyone to know that Lincolnshire RAF service people played a big part in defending our country during times of despair. We feel it is important also for people to keep current service men and women like our parents in their thoughts as they continue to defend our country.

The project is funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and Armed Forces Covenant and Lincolnshire County Council.



Every memorial has a story. Help uncover it.

LINCOLNSHIRE MEMORIES AND MEMORIALS TRAIL

WADDINGTON

FROM PILLAR TO POST

A journey to discover more about the RAF in Lincolnshire.



Historical Background

Lincolnshire has always had an important part to play in the history of military aviation.

The First World War was the first time Britain was threatened by aerial attack. Zeppelin airships came across the North Sea and followed the rivers inland to bomb cities and industry. The aircraft which flew from Lincolnshire's 37 grass airfields were one of the first defences. The world's oldest military air academy - RAF College Cranwell was established here in 1916 by the Royal Naval Air Service. It has trained thousands of officers and aircrew. Lincoln was also the biggest centre of aircraft production in the world during this war.

By the time of the Second World War the Royal Air Force was an indispensable service. The main functions were divided between Coastal Command, Bomber Command and Fighter Command. At the start of the war there were 10 airbases operational in Lincolnshire by the end of the war there were 49 bases, of which 28 were bomber bases. Lincolnshire was home to the crews who flew in the Dambusters raid. There are many air museums including the new International Bomber Command Centre which will help you to discover more about some of the people involved in this war and what it was like to be part of a Lancaster Bomber crew.

The RAF still has a strong presence in Lincolnshire and some of the most technically advanced planes such as Typhoons and the Red Arrows Hawk fast jets can often be seen in the skies. It is also home to the historic planes of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight at Coningsby.

To find out more about the RAF in Lincolnshire, visit:
www.aviationheritagelincolnshire.com



Starting point for this trail is the International Bomber Command Centre - Located on B1131 at the top of Canwick Hill.

A International Bomber Command Centre

During the Second World War over a million men and women served in or supported RAF Bomber Command. By the end of 1945, 27 of the 49 airfields in Lincolnshire were Bomber Command stations; more than any other county in Great Britain. Working at the Bomber Command bases across Lincolnshire were air crew, ground crew, women's auxiliary air force, auxiliary air transport services, and NAAFI services. Bomber Command suffered some of the highest losses of any unit. Around 58,000 men and women who lost their lives whilst serving Bomber Command are remembered on the memorial walls at the centre. The IBCC aims to tell the stories of all those involved in Bomber Command or affected by it in a spirit of remembrance and reconciliation. Please do visit!

Check website for opening times: internationalbcc.co.uk



Follow the B1131 back towards Bracebridge Heath. Turn left onto London Road/A15, remain in the left hand lane at the traffic lights and continue along Sleaford Road/A15. After leaving Bracebridge Heath continue 1 mile along A15 and the Sentry Post Snack Bar will be on your left hand side. There is a parking area at the Snack Bar where the Vulcan can be viewed from.

B The Vulcan

Vulcans were based at Waddington from May 1957 until the type was finally retired in March 1984. In the final months of its operational life the Vulcan served during the Falklands War and the 'Black Buck 1' Falkland veteran XM607 is displayed opposite the Sentry Post Snack Bar and viewing point on the A15 road. Operation Black Buck was a series of RAF air attacks on Port Stanley during the Falkland's War between Britain and Argentina.



RAF Waddington remains one of the largest stations in the UK, its current role is best described by the text from the station website: "RAF Waddington is the UK hub of intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance, supporting national and NATO operations. We use airborne intelligence systems to achieve our mission.

These are the E-3D Sentry and Sentinel R1. Our area of expertise is known collectively as ISTAR. The role of ISTAR is to provide an electronic 'eye in the sky' to gather information. Information from our aircraft sensors is then processed into useful knowledge and transmitted to those who need it in a timely fashion."

Turn left out of the Sentry Post Snack Bar back onto the A15. Take the next left onto the B1178. Take the first right onto Bloxholm Lane. About 0.5 miles along this road you will come to a crossroads. Park along the road just past the crossroads. At the crossroads there is a gate leading onto private land. There is a public right of way along the hedge line of this land and just along the path you will come across an empty building on the right this was the Branston Mere Listening Post.

C



Branston Mere Listening Post

This is on private land but can be viewed from the public right of way. This Listening station is part of the area's secret history. On this site was one of the earliest listening posts or 'Y' station set up by the RAF in 1919. During the Second World War it is thought to have played a key role in the interception of German radio transmissions. The data gathered from this and other sites formed part of the intelligence information supplied to Bletchley Park near Milton Keynes, which was home to the Enigma code breakers. The wooden huts were replaced by brick buildings in the 1950s. You can find out more about the listening post at this website:

www.raf-lincolnshire.info/mere/mere.htm

Return to Bloxholm Lane and follow it back onto the B1178. Turn left onto the B1178 and then left back onto the Sleaford Road/A15. 1.5 miles down the road on the left hand side you will come across Dunston Pillar. There is no parking, however there is space to the side of the road and a lane that is a public bridleway which will take you to the Pillar.

D The Dunston Pillar

The Dunston Pillar, originally known as Dashwood's Lighthouse was commissioned by Sir Francis Dashwood in the 1751 to shine beams of light across the heath to deter highwaymen and make the road from Sleaford to Lincoln safer. For King George III's, Golden Jubilee in 1808 Robert Hobart the 4th Earl of Buckinghamshire decided to place a statue of the King made out of Coade Stone on top of the Dunston Pillar. The pillar was reduced in height in 1940 to lessen the risk of aircraft from RAF Coleby Grange colliding with it. The Statue of King George III can now be seen in the grounds of Lincoln Castle.



Continue along the Sleaford Road/A15 just under a mile you will see the Kitchen Café on the right hand side. You can park here in order to view the Coleby Grange Tower.

E Coleby Grange Control Tower

This airfield had grass runways. The site was a satellite airfield for RAF Digby. The airfield was a Fighter Command base and the planes which flew from here included Defiants, Beaufighters and Mosquito night fighters.

During the war the base was home to No. 402 Squadron, and then No. 409 and No. 410 Royal Canadian Airforce Squadrons, No.425 Squadron and the USAF 9th Air Force deployed from Coleby Grange to participate in the Allied Expeditionary Air Force effort during Operation OVERLORD/NEPTUNE in Normandy, June 1944. Finally No. 307 (Polish) Squadron were posted here until the end of the war in Europe.



Park at the Kitchen Café on the A15 to view the remnants of Coleby Grange Control Tower, but please note there is **NO PUBLIC ACCESS**.

Extended Route: You could extend the trail at this point to incorporate a visit to Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre. (North Rauceby, NG34 8QR). But please check the website for details of opening times, as the museum is seasonal. (See Useful information section for further details).

From the Kitchen Café turn right back onto Sleaford Road/A15. Take the first right onto Heath Lane. Continue 1.5 miles down Heath Lane then turn right onto Rose Cottage Lane.

High Dyke / Rose Cottage Lane

High Dyke / Rose Cottage Lane follows the line of the Roman road Ermine Street which ran from London to Lincoln and then on to York. It was constructed between 45 and 75 AD. The route of Ermine Street is still mostly there, however if you look on satellite images you will see that the road had to be diverted when RAF Waddington was built.

Follow Rose Cottage Lane round and then turn right onto Grantham Road (A607). Follow the road to Waddington. You will come to a set of traffic lights in the village where you will see Budgen's turn left here. You can park in Budgen's car park and the Memorial Clock is on the opposite side of the road.

F



Waddington Village Memorial Clock

The clock was given to Waddington by the 467/463 Squadrons Association in 1987. The two Australian squadrons both flew Lancaster Bombers during the Second World War. There is a plinth near the clock which stands at the church gate and a tree was also planted however it succumbed to Lincolnshire weather and the tree stump was replaced by a tiled Anzac memorial in 2015 to commemorate the 100 anniversary of Anzac Day when Australia and New Zealand forces landed at Gallipoli in WW1. These memorials are the location for Remembrance Day and Anzac Day commemorations held each year.