

TAKE FLIGHT

Exploring our aviation heritage

Aviation Heritage

Lincolnshire

a partnership of Lincolnshire's aviation heritage



The Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre



Teacher's Pack

Why visit the Centre?

We passionately believe it is important for today's school children to learn about the Second World War and the men of Bomber Command. Over 55,500 men of Bomber Command made the ultimate sacrifice and thousands more were injured and traumatised to secure our freedom. They should never be forgotten.

The Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre offers that history about WWII and Bomber Command. Having a taxiing Lancaster on site provides the children with the chance to get up close to a WWII aircraft. If you pick the right day and time to visit, the children will be able to watch the Lancaster taxiing at close quarters. Please ring in advance on 01790763207 or check the website www.lincsaviation.co.uk to check when the Lancaster is taxiing.

In 2007 we opened a Home Front exhibition which supports the KS2 History Curriculum. The Home Front building covers Rationing, Evacuation, ARP wardens, the Home Guard and the Land Army. We also have a Home Front resources pack available for teachers to use with children on site. The resources pack covers all the relevant areas of the Home Front that the children cover in KS2; with suggested activities, teaching assistant information sheets and examples of toys, 1940's money, an evacuee's case and children's clothing partially adjusted to show how to 'make do and mend'. The resources pack is available free of charge.

There are also many other things to look at around the Centre like the Barnes Wallis Bouncing Bomb, the Memorial Chapel, which holds the names of the 848 aircrew and ground crew lost from this base, and the Escape museum.

The Lancaster Bomber and its crew

The Lancaster Bomber was the most successful bomber of WWII. It had a crew of 7: the Pilot, Flight Engineer, Bomb Aimer, Navigator, Wireless Operator, Mid-Upper Gunner and Rear Gunner. The average age of the crew was about 20 years old. Many pilots could not drive a car because when war began they were too young to obtain a driving licence.

Each crew had to do a tour of operations which was 30 ops over enemy territory. Their chance of surviving the tour was as low as 1 in 3. A rear gunner life expectancy was only 40 hrs which could be as little as 5 trips. The highest risk was during the first five or last five operations when either inexperience or battle-fatigue reduced the efficiency of the crew.

The Lancaster had the most versatile bomb bay of the heavy bombers. It could carry general purpose bombs. On average a bomb load weighing around 14,000lbs; or it could carry specialist bombs like the Upkeep mine, most famously known as the Bouncing Bomb used by the Dambusters. One of the practice bouncing bombs used in training for that mission was recovered and is now on display at the Centre.



The Control Tower

The original Control Tower has been restored back to how it looked operationally in wartime. The WAAFs in the Control Tower spoke by radio to all the aircraft of 57 and 630 Squadrons based at East Kirkby as they flew on operations over Germany. They instructed the aircraft when to take off or land and informed the aircraft of any changes in wind speed or to warn them about areas of flak (anti-aircraft fire).

The Hangar

On days when the Lancaster is not taxiing the Lancaster is kept in the hangar. Surrounding her are information and pictures on Squadrons and wreckages of WWII aircraft found in Lincolnshire. There is also the cockpit of a Canberra which the children can climb into to see just how different it is to modern air liners.

The Escape Museum

The Escape Museum was refurbished in 2008 making it much friendlier for the children's learning. Here they will get the chance to learn about the Goldfish Club (for those airmen who baled out of an aircraft or had to ditch into the sea) and the Caterpillar Club (for those airmen who baled out of an aircraft onto land). Escape and evasion stories of airmen line the walls.

The Escape Museum also offers the children an opportunity to see equipment used by airmen when evading capture in enemy occupied territory and during escape attempts from POW camps.

There is also a section on the resistance movement, a group who worked undercover the help Allied airmen evade capture, often at the expense of their own lives.

We hope you would like to bring a school visit to the Centre at some time in the future. If you would like to discuss school visits in more detail or book to visit the Centre please feel free to contact us either by phone on 01790763207 or by email on: enquiries@lincsaviation.co.uk



Task Sheet

The building number relates to the museum map/guide available from the entrance till in the NAAFI. Teachers and teaching assistants take the children around and ask them the questions relevant for the following areas

Task One – Building 2 - NAAFI

What does N.A.A.F.I. stand for?

A: Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes

Task Two – Building 6 – Control Tower

What was the call sign for East Kirkby?

A: Silksheen – See blackboard in Duty Control Room upstairs

Task Three – Building 11 – Radio Room

Tap out your own name in Morse code

There is a poster with the Morse Code written out on the left hand side of the room.

Task Four – Building 11 – Early Bombers

Make sure you visit the following exhibits:

1940's living room – through the entrance and turn left – press a button to illuminate the scene. Look for clues that tell you it is a living room in the 1940's.

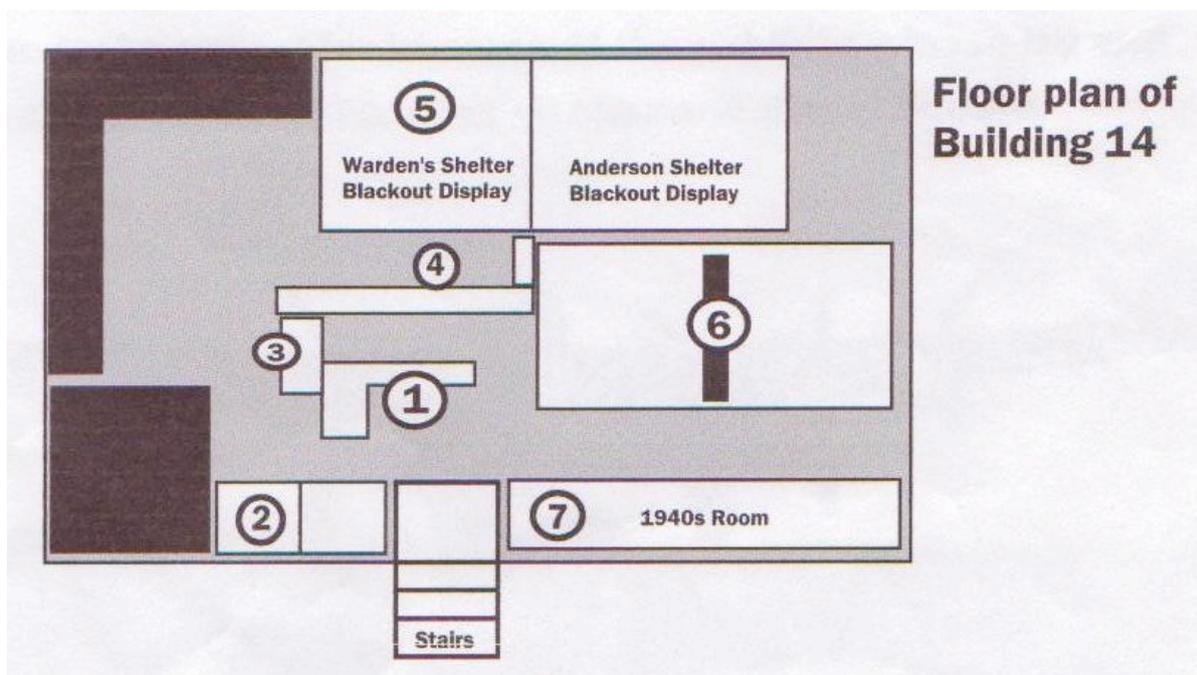
Bomb Damage/ Auxiliary Fire Service Scene - Look at the equipment used. Look for evidence of incendiary bombs.



Task Five – Building 4 – Home Front Exhibition

This exhibition is on the upper floor. The information given below can be found in the displays or information notices around the room.

To start go up the stairs and turn left. There is a basic plan of the floor (below) to help with locating the displays for each question. The question number relates to the location on the plan.



1. How did the ARP warden's gas mask differ from a normal adult gas mask?

A: It was made from stronger rubber; had 2 eye pieces; a respirator at the end of a long tube and it was possible to speak on the telephone whilst wearing it.

2. From the display identify 3 objects that would help the Home Guard do his job effectively?

A: Bike – to get to places quickly (petrol was even rationed)
Gas mask – to protect in the event of gas
Tin Hat – protect from gunfire or shrapnel

3. Complete this saying:

“Turn saucepans into _____”

A: Spitfires

4. Give the children 1 minute to locate the following:

- An incendiary bomb
- Helmet belonging to a Fire Guard volunteer
- Plane spotting cards used by the Royal Observer Corps
- Hand siren

A: The plane spotting cards are in the furthest corner; the helmet with FG painted on it (bottom shelf) the others are evident.

5. Before going into the Blackout display, tell the children you will ask them some questions about what is in there when they have come out at the other side. Explain that there will be an ARP warden's shelter with a dummy person if the children are anxious.

What number was the Warden's post?

A: Number 26

Names two objects that were outside the warden's post

A: a bicycle/ hand siren / barrel for holding water / stirrup pump

6. Finish these 3 slogans (Central display stand):

“Make do and _____”

“Britain shall not _____”

“Firebomb F_____”

A: mend; burn; Fritz. Fritz was the slang word for a German.

Ask the children to find a ration book on the Central Display Stand.

Who was the owner?

Where did he live?

Where did he use all his coupons?

A: George Jubbs, High Street Nettleham, M Radford.

7. Identify 3 items that have changed since the 1940's:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.