

Airfield Occupation.

RAF Wethersfield was, on and off, an active USAF and RAF airbase from 1944 until 1990.

After the USAF 819th Red Horse deactivated, Wethersfield became the home of the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP). Since that time the MDP was the primary occupier of the facility until 2022.

In 2016 the Government had planned to put 5,000 houses on the airfield that plan was scrapped. In 2021 the Ministry of Justice considered the airfield as the site for two prison complexes, that plan has not as yet been dismissed. In 2022 the Home Office and UK Border Force took control of the airfield and it created an Asylum Camp, still in place at June 2024.

Who operates the Museum?

Ross Stewart is the curator of the museum, originally the Information Manager in the MDP. After retiring from the MDP in 2012 Ross was asked in 2014 by the Chief Constable to host visitors from the USA. Ross is assisted by a small group of dedicated volunteers, all of whom have some connection with or interest in the history of the airbase.

Opening hours are normally April to October 10am to 4pm with last entry at 3pm. Due to the space available opening might be restricted to 90 minute visits. There may be open days for other events and private visitors.

The museum will sell bottled water, for refreshments we encourage the use of the village cafes and pubs. There is no toilet facility but there are public toilets in the village car park.

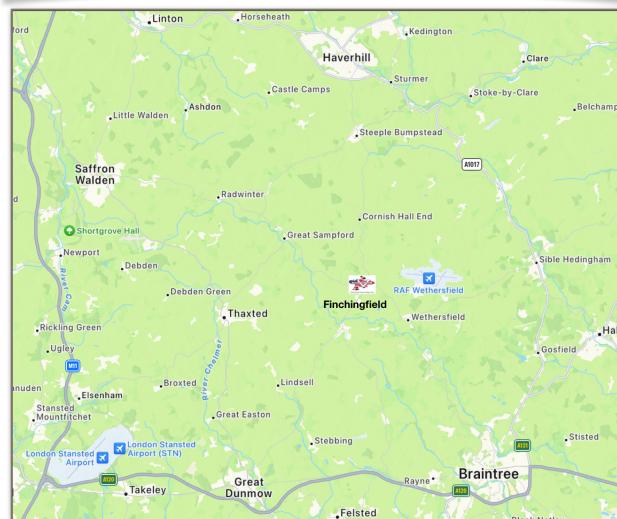
Finding the Museum

For Sat Nav use Post Code CM7 4JS

Wethersfield Airfield Museum.

At the Finchingfield Bridge the Museum door is in the archway on the right.

NOTE: it is upstairs and unfortunately we have no stair lift at this time.



Wethersfield Airfield Museum

**Sat & Sun 10am - 4pm
Last entry 3pm
April to October**



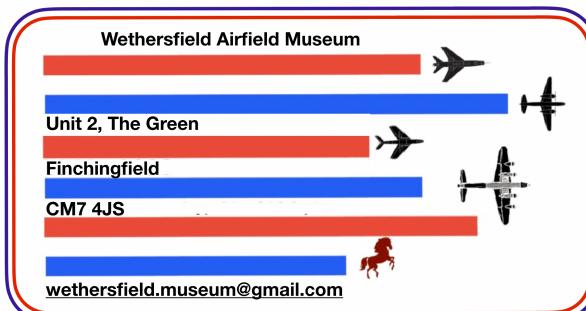
Museum Update

In June 2022, the museum was required to leave the building used on the airfield since 2016. With the goodwill of two local property owners, the archive was put in storage. On August 20th 2023 we held an airfield 80th anniversary event. June 2024 the Museum has taken a rental lease on a property in Finchingfield, with a view over the village pond. A museum display will open to the public in August 2024. While the space is small and not accessible to all we will endeavour to mitigate this as funds become available. The display allows us to stay in the public eye and carry out our mission to tell the story of RAF Wethersfield and the men and women who served there. The Museum committee is currently applying to be a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and Charity Bank Account.

We will continue to seek to have the museum back on the airfield.

Funding

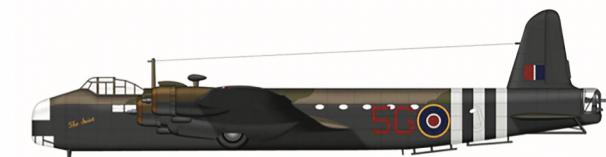
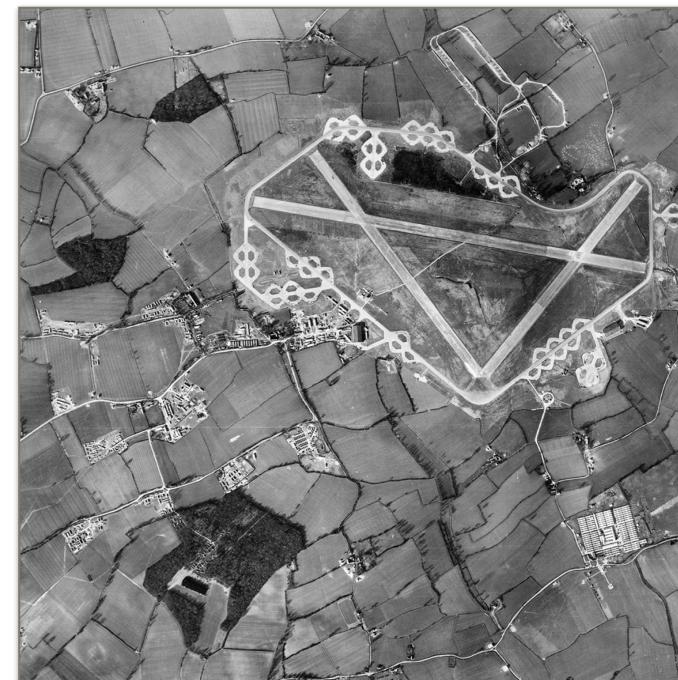
The museum will be free to enter and will rely on donations and sale of donated items supplemented by grants from the Parish Councils and other organisations.



The Airfield

Top 1944 showing the various accommodation sites around the base.

Bottom current showing the extended runway and build of the technical, administration and housing area.



1944 - 1990

Anglo - American Heritage

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