

Please record all the sites you have visited on the Heritage Trail.

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Historic England



HISTORY OF THE 11 GROUP

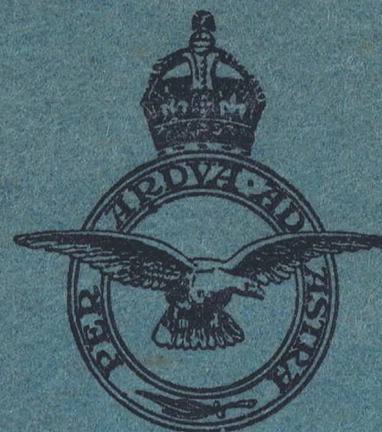
11 Group was a section of the Royal Air Force which was initially formed to provide air defence of London and the South East in the run-up to and including the Second World War.

It was the first RAF Fighter Command Group formed and is most known for its role during the Battle of Britain (10th July to 31st October 1940) when, due to its geographical position, it bore the brunt of aerial attacks from the Luftwaffe.

During this time, 11 Group was commanded by Air Vice-Marshal Sir Keith Park and its headquarters were at RAF Uxbridge. 11 Group was further divided into sectors, with RAF Biggin Hill designated as the Sector Station, or headquarters, for Sector C.

HERITAGE TRAIL

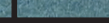
Each time you visit a site on this Heritage Trail don't forget to get your trail stamped by the site you are visiting. Once you have visited 12 sites on the map and collected a stamp for each site, please email a copy of your trail to **hello@bhmm.org.uk** to receive your prize. More details: **www.mahn.org.uk/trails**



ROYAL AIR FORCE

HERITAGE TRAIL

IDENTITY CARD FOR R.A.F. PERSONNEL

REGISTRATION NUMBER		
MUSEUM OFFICE CODE No.		
	Surname.....	GENERAL 1162645
	Initials.....	
	Email..... (as on Identity Card)	
	Expire by date.....	

ACCESS ALL AREAS

1 Kenley Revival

Discover the most intact fighter airfield associated with the Battle of Britain, the wildflower-rich meadows and ancient woodland of Kenley Common. There are still a significant number of structures remaining from World War Two, which have become some of the youngest scheduled ancient monuments in the country. A heritage trail tells the story of RAF Kenley and the men and women who served there. www.kenleyrevival.org

2 Kent Battle of Britain Museum

Visit the Kent Battle of Britain Museum Trust on the site of RAF Hawkinge and walk in the footsteps of the greatest-ever air battle. The museum has the world's largest collection of Battle of Britain artefacts recovered from over 700 Battle of Britain aircraft crash-sites. Get up close to the iconic Battle of Britain fighter planes - the Hurricane, Spitfire, Boulton-Paul Defiant, Messerschmitt Bf 109E and the Bristol Blenheim Mk.IV, together with our recently acquired Heinkel He 111H-16. Discover the stories of the brave airmen, the planes they flew. www.kbobm.org

3 Wings Museum

The Wings Museum is housed in a large "hangar" style building located near to Gatwick Airport. We display an abundance of original memorabilia representing a wealth of themes including: The Home Front, RAF Fighter Command, The Blitz, Battle of Britain, Bomb Disposal, Home Guard, Air Raid Shelters, Aircraft Turrets, RAF Bomber Command, US 8th Air Force, Luftwaffe, Russian Front and D-Day and Beyond. www.wingsmuseum.co.uk

4 Battle of Britain Bunker

Deep underground, the Bunker housed RAF Fighter Command's No. 11 Group Operations Room during the Second World War. Using multimedia interactives, unique objects and fascinating stories, the Battle of Britain Bunker explains the Dowding System – the world's first integrated air defence network. There are also two new permanent installations – The Battle Underground (soundscape) and the Polish Air Force Exhibition. www.battleofbritainbunker.co.uk

5 Croydon Airport Visitor Centre

The Croydon Airport Visitor Centre tells the story of Britain's first great airport at Croydon, from its origins as a World War One air defence aerodrome, through the interwar years as Britain's intercontinental airport, its role during World War Two and final post-war years. At the outbreak of war in 1939, it was transformed into RAF Croydon, later becoming a frontline air defence fighter station in the Battle of Britain under 11 Group Fighter Command. www.historiccroydonairport.org.uk

6 Bentley Priory Museum

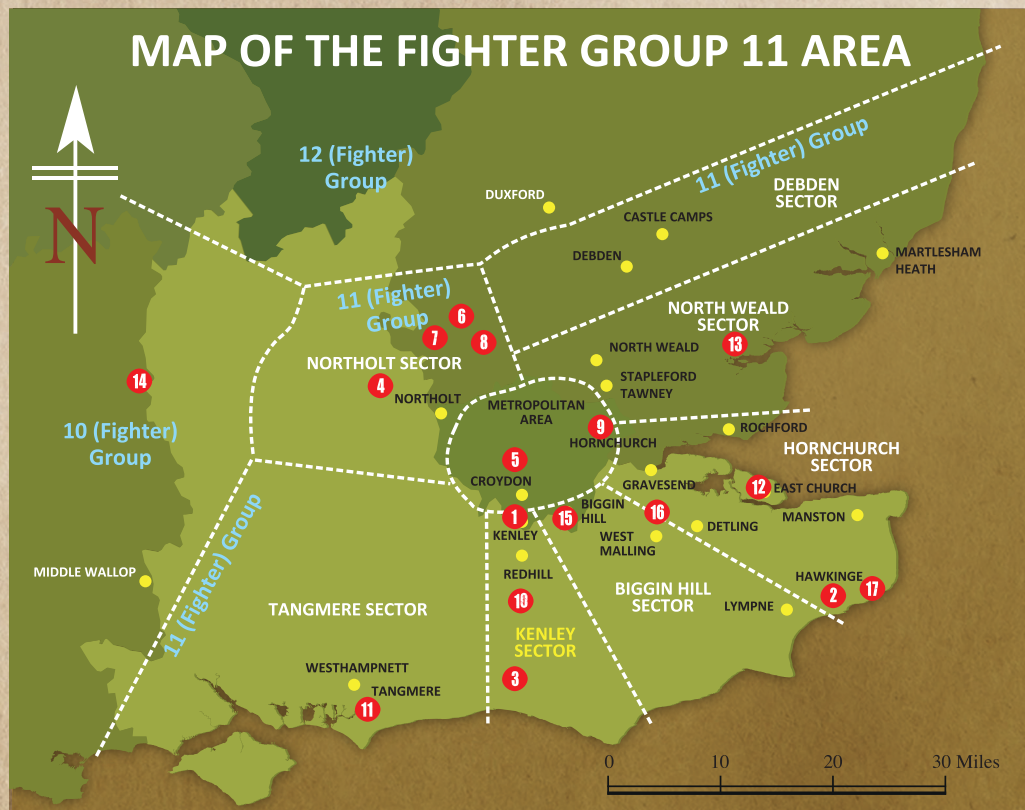
As Headquarters Fighter Command, Bentley Priory played a pivotal role during the Battle of Britain. Now a Museum, visit Bentley Priory and explore the leadership of ACM Dowding, the courage of 'The Few' - the aircrew - and the technology within the Filter Room to discover how the Battle of Britain was won. Dress up as a RAF pilot or WAAF, sit in a replica Spitfire cockpit and help the Observer Corps identify incoming air raids! www.bentleypriorymuseum.org.uk

7 RAF Northolt

RAF Northolt was established in 1915 and remains an active RAF airfield. The base was involved in the development of the Dowding system of integrated air defence and subsequently in the Battle of Britain, including hosting 303 Squadron Polish Air Force. Northolt also served as London Airport from 1945-55 while Heathrow was being developed. www.tinyurl.com/4dhmk78w Facebook: The Sir Keith Park Operations Building, RAF Northolt

8 RAF Museum

The Royal Air Force Museum London is located on the former Hendon Aerodrome. It includes six hangars showing the history of the Royal Air Force. Innovative galleries explore the first 100 years of the RAF and its roles today and invite you to imagine its future contribution and technology. Displays include numerous aircraft, interactive displays and flight simulators. A new open, grassed landscape which is perfect for picnics, reflects the heritage of our site as The London Aerodrome and RAF Hendon. www.rafmuseum.org.uk



9 RAF Hornchurch Heritage Centre

The RAF Hornchurch Heritage Centre is dedicated to the commemoration and remembrance of the pilots and all ground personnel based at both RFC Sutton's Farm and subsequently RAF Hornchurch from 1915 to 1962. RAF Hornchurch played a major role as a key Sector station during the Battle of Britain in the summer of 1940. We also have other dedicated rooms to Bomber Command as well as civilian life on the Home Front. www.rafhornchurch.com

10 Gatwick Aviation Museum

Gatwick Aviation Museum is a charity situated on the boarder of Sussex and Surrey. Visit today to explore the wealth of aviation history they have to offer, learn about their story and the stories behind the many British aircraft they have on display, take a personalised tour led by an experienced guide, watch their engineers at work and learn all about the Cold War and British Aviation Heritage. Don't forget to take a walk around their beautiful 30-acre grounds and get close to the action in the plane spotters hut, that overlooks Gatwick's main runway for an impressive display of engineering, power and speed. www.gatwick-aviation-museum.co.uk

11 Tangmere Military Aviation Museum

RAF Tangmere was a front line fighter base in World War Two and continued as a fighter base until 1958 after which it's roll changed until final closure in 1970. In 1982 the Tangmere Military Aviation Museum opened on part of the original airfield since when it has gone from strength to strength covering military aviation form World War One to the Cold War and Falklands. www.tangmere-museum.org.uk

12 Eastchurch Aviation Museum

Eastchurch Aviation Museum sits on the site of one of the first established airfields in the UK. Home to the Short Brothers Ltd; the Royal Aero Club ground; the first Royal Naval Air Service station and one of the first RAF stations. www.eastchurchaviationmuseum.org.uk

13 Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome

Stow Maries is the most intact World War One aerodrome in the UK, with 22 surviving buildings from the period. The aim of the Trust is to restore the site to the 1918 period and re-create the sight and sounds of an operational airfield in World War One, which was part of the defence of the South-East of England. The site currently offers four main exhibitions and two hangars containing several replica aircraft from 1909 -1918. Whilst this World War One aerodrome was not part of 11 Group in World War Two, it did play a key role as a part of the World War One London Air Defence Region development for UK air defence during the period 1916-1918 which was the forerunner of what became 11 Group in the 1930's. www.stowmaries.org.uk

14 RAF Greenham Common

RAF Greenham Common was an RAF and US Air Force base. Opened in 1942 through World War Two, the Cold War and later with the 501st Tactical Missile Wing with 96 Ground Launched Cruise Missiles. Greenham Common closed in 1992 but its history lives on... www.greenhamcommon.org.uk

15 Biggin Hill Memorial Museum

Biggin Hill Memorial Museum tells the story of Britain's most famous fighter station through the personal experiences of those who served there, and the community that supported them. The museum is situated on the same site as St George's RAF Chapel of Remembrance, built in 1951 to preserve the legacy of those who served and died at Biggin Hill during the Second World War. www.bhmm.org.uk

16 Shoreham Aircraft Museum

The Shoreham Aircraft Museum was founded in 1978 by local enthusiasts, whose passion for the Battle of Britain period resulted in the establishment of a permanent display in 1988. The Museum houses hundreds of aviation relics excavated by the group over many years from crashed British and German aircraft, as well as items which have been kindly donated. In addition, there is a fine collection of flying helmets, uniforms and insignia and a display of Home Front memorabilia. www.shoreham-aircraftmuseum.co.uk

17 The Battle of Britain Memorial, Capel-le-Ferne

The clifftop home of the National Memorial to the Few - a figure of a seated airman looking out over the Channel - is a quiet place of contemplation and reflection which is also home to the Christopher Foxley-Norris Memorial Wall, which lists the names of the aircrew known to have taken part in the Battle of Britain, and a replica Hurricane and Spitfire. The interactive Scramble Experience in the Trust's Wing visitor centre combines hands-on fun with in-depth information. www.battleofbritainmemorial.org