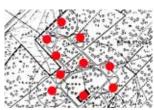
Points of Interest



1. Bomb Stores

Bombs and ammunition were stored in this area which was on the western edge of the airfield well away from accommodation and runways.



2. Stanton Shelter

A reinforced concrete shelter built by the Stanton Ironworks, Ilkeston, that could be built quickly and to any size due to its sectional construction. NB dual entry/exit. DO NOT ENTER



3. Hangars

Scattered around the edge of the airfield in small groups as defence against attack. Their vast size was needed to 'house' the bombers.



4. Pill Boxes

These are the last remaining parts of the perimeter airfield defence which included barbed wire and tank traps. The local Home Guard manned them.



5. War Memorial

This memorial is for all who served on the airfield. There is a list of units based on the airfield and a map. Services are held here on important dates.



6. Village Hall

This is the most recent village hall on the same site. It was built with a specially curved roof to reflect the shape of the hangers.



7. War Graves

The risks of a war time airfield are reflected in the 33 graves, with many Australians and one German. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintains them.



8. Fuel Compounds

Another dangerous area well away from the bomb stores. Bombers used considerable amounts of fuel. A fuel company still uses this facility.



9. Main Entrance to RAF Lichfield

The guard house that led on to the main office block and administration buildings.
They were all demolished in 2019



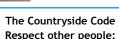
10. Rifle Range

The large brick wall is the rear of the rifle range. A bank of sand the other side of the wall would have been used for practice and testing weapons.



11. Hangars

These hangars are on the eastern side of the airfield and are currently used by logistics companies. Whilst most of the hangars remain intact, some may be lost to future development.



Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors

Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

Protect the natural environment:

Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home Keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors:

Plan ahead and be prepared Follow advice and local signs







Leaflet Funded by 'We Love Lichfield'

This and the other walks in the series can be downloaded from the Fradley History Society website at:

www.fradleyheritagegroup.co.uk

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Fradley Parish









FRADLEY AIRFIELD (RAF LICHFIELD)

Short Walk 1.6 miles (2.6Km) Medium Walk 3.6 miles (5.8Km) Long Walk 4 miles (6.5Km)

Feb2020

Fradley airfield was constructed at the start of the war (1939), and was used throughout World War Two and afterwards until its closure in 1958. It was mainly used for training but was operational from 1942 to 1945. The RAAF (Australian) made up many of the units during this period. Most of the airfield is now used for residential housing and industrial units. Fradley South was originally an area of airfield housing, known locally as "the camp". However, there are still reminders of its past use which you will see on these walks. All the walks start at Fradley Junction. The Swan, the Kingfisher Canalside Café and the Laughing Duck Canalside Café provide refreshments and car parking.

Short Walk From The Swan walk along the canal passing the Kingfisher Café. Pass the Lock and, at bridge 52, cross the canal. Two footpaths are signposted on the right. Take the left path diagonally across the field towards the wooded area. Follow the path to the left and diagonally across the smaller field to a concrete road. This, and the buildings in the distance are, part of the complex built within Fradley Wood (1). Many of the roadways and buildings remain scattered through the area, which was used largely for munitions stores, including bombs! Some buildings are in private use and it is advisable not to enter ANY of the buildings. Continue through the wooded area and follow the roadways to Gorse Lane. Turn left along Gorse Lane (NO footpath). At the next road on the left an original hangar can be seen (3). Carry on along the grassed area between the road and the fence to a long mound on the left. This is a Stanton Shelter (2), one of three surviving on the airfield. It is often flooded and should not be entered. Retrace your steps to Gorse Lane. Continue along Gorse Lane to the canal bridge. There are three pill boxes near the bridge (4). The first is immediately before the bridge on the right. The second is to the right of the first and further back from the canal. It is difficult to see through the trees. The third is on the other side of the road but can only be seen from 20m along the canal tow path towards Fradley Junction. Access to the second and third pill boxes is not possible. These pill boxes were part of the perimeter defence of the airfield and were manned by Fradley Home Guard. Go over the canal bridge and turn left along the canal tow path. Look for the

third pill box. Follow the canal back to Fradley Junction. Cross the canal at the bridge opposite and to the right of The Swan and return to your starting point.

Medium Walk

Follow the Short Walk Route as far as point (B). Go over the canal bridge and turn right along the canal towpath. Follow it towards Fradley Village. Continue under the new road bridge and past the houses on your left and leave the tow path at the At the large chestnut tree, just before the road junction, look to your left to see the RAF memorial (5). Seats are provided for quiet reflection. Across the road is Fradley Village Hall (6) with its 'hangar style' roof, reflecting the original RAF hangars. Cross the road to the church (7) which was built in 1861. The Church and Church Lane were used by aircraft to line up for landing on the main runway. At this point the aircraft were very low! The churchyard contains 32 RAF/RAAF and one German grave.

road turning right towards the church in Fradlev Village (5.6.7).

path and follow it to Fradley Junction. At the junction cross the canal at the bridge, opposite and to the right of The Swan, and return to your starting point.

Long Walk

Follow the Short Walk as far as point (2). Retrace your steps along Gorse Lane passing the large Tesco warehouse to the roundabout on Wood End Lane At the roundabout turn left along Wood End Lane. Beware of traffic. The fuel compunds on the left (8) are some of the last remaining buildings from the original airfield. Continue towards the entrance to Palletways and the industrial area (9). This was the main entrance to the airfield. The guard house has been recently demolished. Continue to the roundabout and turn left along Common Lane. On the right is the rifle range blast wall and pond (10). As you walk along Common Lane you are crossing the centre of the original airfield. At the roundabout turn right and continue to the 'Great Bear area' (11) which contains good examples of original hangars. Retrace your steps to the roundabout and turn right along Common Lane. Pass the shops on the left. and take the footpath straight on (as the road turns right into the housing estate). Take the lane on the left, opposite Bridge Farm Lane. About 25m along this lane on the right-hand side, you will see another pill box (12). Turn about and follow Bridge Farm Lane to (D). Then follow the Medium Walk Routepoints (5) to (7) for the church and war memorial. Return to point (D) and to the canal. At the next bridge (B) leave the canal and turn left over the road bridge. There are three pill boxes near the bridge (4). The first is immediately after the bridge on the left. The second is to the right of the first and further back from the canal. It is difficult to see through the trees. The third is on the other side of the road but can only be seen from 20m along the canal tow path towards Fradlev Junction. Access to the second and third pill boxes is not possible. These pill boxes were part of the perimeter defence of the airfield and were manned by Fradley Home Guard. Make your way back to Fradley Junction along the Canal.

