

CONSERVATION AREA DESCRIPTION :

October 2005

HULLAVINGTON AIRBASE (Designated 15th September 1992)

RAF Hullavington, a particularly well preserved and representative example, was the “showplace” of the government’s “Expansion Scheme” for the construction of some 50 new permanent stations of standard function built between 1935 and 1940. It may even have been deliberately chosen by the Air Ministry as the prime example of the high standards of airfield construction and architecture that they could achieve.

Unique on any RAF station, the majority of the buildings are faced with locally produced ‘Bath’ stone. This may have been requested by the Duke of Beaufort but was likely an attempt by the Air Ministry to satisfy the Royal Fine Arts Commission and the Society for the Preservation of Rural England.



The station has a fascinating and unique history from 1937 to the present day – although it ceased to be a fully operational airfield in 1965.

RAF Hullavington is also a fine example of the 24 vast “Aircraft Storage Units” built between 1936 and 1940, besides which it is one of the best surviving examples of the few combined “Flying Training School” and “Aircraft Storage Unit” stations.

Many of the original buildings have been retained in very good condition and several are considered to be rare survivors of their types. The three-storey officers mess building is particularly fine and the six ‘E’ type and two ‘L’ type aircraft storage hangars retain their original protective earth covering which helped considerably in camouflaging these large hangars in World War 2. Most surviving similar hangars elsewhere have had their earth layers removed postwar.

Two historic Listed 16th century barns are also preserved in the middle of the main camp.

The Conservation Area encompasses buildings on the RAF base as well as the entire airfield, and some adjacent land.