

CONSERVATION AREA DESCRIPTION : **October 2005**

YATESBURY AERODROME (Designated 26th May 1998)

Yatesbury is a parish 5 miles north-east of Calne. The village was once dominated by nearby RAF Yatesbury, and many servicemen and women were stationed here during the Great War. Many are also buried in the nearby cemetery in Yatesbury village.

Yatesbury aerodrome contains several early structures. It was originally built in 1916, and accommodated two Royal Flying Corps training sites, and in 1937 the school was further expanded. Among the school's pupils in 1936 was Guy Gibson of 'Dambusters' fame, who made his first solo flight at Yatesbury. Yatesbury became part of Training Command in 1938 when the No 2 Electrical and Wireless School was formed, later to become the No 2 Radio School.



RAF Yatesbury in 1940 was a large bustling training centre for air gunners and wireless operators as well as wireless and radar operators in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF). There were in excess of five Air Wings training on the station throughout most of the war. The camp had its own sports facilities, hospital, cinema and theatre.

The site is considered to have national significance and a place in local history. The preserved buildings act as a visible reminder of the station and its role during World War I and World War II. The Conservation Area boundary encompasses these buildings and the extent of the airfield in use during the wars.