

PRESS RELEASE

16 July 2019

Airfields in Cambridgeshire to be honoured with the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust's latest memorials

As a result of long planning and co-operation between the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust (www.abct.org.uk) and various more local elements, three memorials will be unveiled during the weekend of 27 and 28 July 2019 to commemorate Upwood, Warboys and Mepal Airfields.

Upwood remains a most famous airfield which dates back to World War One, when it was originally known as Bury. Heavily used by many famous bomber aircraft types and their units between the late 1930s and early 1960s, Upwood then gave further excellent RAF service as primarily a ground station before being taken over by the United States Air Force in the 1980s. Now a mixture of industry and housing, flying still continues in the form of the Nene Valley Gliding Club.

Nearby Warboys also had a distinguished career as a bomber airfield during World War Two, both in operational and training capacities. Originally Upwood's main satellite airfield, it subsequently became an independent base and played a major part in RAF Bomber Command's Pathfinder Force operations, seeing Avro Lancaster and de Havilland Mosquito squadrons. One of Britain's most famous bomber pilots, 'Hamish' Mahaddie, served as Station Commander and his son will be attending the memorial unveiling.

Mepal near Ely possesses strong links with New Zealand and No 75 Squadron, which arrived from Newmarket in June 1943. This unit's Short Stirlings and then Avro Lancasters were heavily involved in the RAF bomber offensive and became the main resident here until the end of World War Two. As with Warboys, Mepal later saw missile use before eventually closing in 1963. As with Upwood and Warboys, Mepal continues to be an evocative and highly relevant place, also epitomising the sheer timelessness that is a striking feature of Britain's airfields.

All three memorials are of the main standardised design already widely utilised by the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust (ABCT). The charity's objective is to eventually commemorate each known disused airfield site in Britain with one of two forms of standardised granite memorial – well over 100 have already been unveiled to clearly major effect, with more than 200 scheduled to be in place by the end of 2019.

ABCT is the world's first national airfield charity, truly revolutionary and making a real difference to the advancement and betterment of everyday society.

Event details as follows:

Upwood Airfield

Saturday 27 July 2019, 2.30 pm

Turn left off Ramsey Road between Upwood and Ramsey at Fairmead Park housing estate, south of airfield; memorial on green alongside Canberra Road A46 (approximate postcode PE26 2PY)

<http://www.abct.org.uk/airfields/airfield-finder/upwood-bury-ramsey/>

Warboys Airfield

Saturday 27 July 2019, 11 am

South of village, on east side of airfield alongside B1040 at industrial area, and close to existing squadron memorial (approximate postcode PE28 2R)

<http://www.abct.org.uk/airfields/airfield-finder/warboys/>

Mepal Airfield

Sunday 28 July 2019, 11 am North-west side of Sutton village, off The Brook and to the north of both Sutton C of E (VC) Primary School and The Royal British Legion, alongside sports field (approximate postcode CB6 2QQ)

<http://www.abct.org.uk/airfields/airfield-finder/mepal/>

See the News section of the home page of ABCT's extremely popular 3,000 page website (<http://www.abct.org.uk/>) and associated social media pages for further details.

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The Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust (ABCT)

www.abct.org.uk

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