

# THE FIRST WORLD WAR ON THE HER

The Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record includes an increasing number of World War I sites, and we're hoping that during this centenary period many more will come to light. (For more information about how you can help, please see the reverse side of this leaflet!) This leaflet is a gazetteer of the sites we have recorded so far.

The reference numbers used here, prefixed 'MLE', are the HER reference numbers. All of the HER records featured in this leaflet can be looked up on the Heritage Gateway.

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>



*Zeppelin L20*

On 31st January 1916, Zeppelin L20 carried out a bombing raid on Loughborough. Four bombs were dropped in total. At The Rushes and Empress Road there are stone markers with Maltese Crosses on them marking where bombs fell (HER Ref. No. MLE20861 and MLE20862). In total, ten people were killed and 12 injured. A plaque with the names of those killed is in the Carillon.

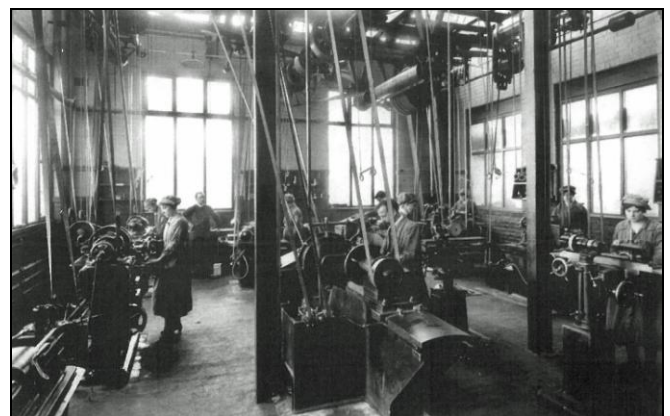
There were 9 First World War airfields in Leicestershire: Castle Donington, also used in the Second World War and today as the East Midlands Airport (MLE15963); Desford, which was later used as a training airfield in the Second World War (MLE15965); Brentingby, used as a night landing airfield in 1916, vacated in favour of Scaford (MLE16178); Burton on the Wolds (MLE16179), Queniborough (MLE16180), Scaford (MLE16181), Welham, used as a landing airfield in 1916, vacated in favour of Blaston (MLE17267); Blaston (MLE16177) and Loughborough Meadows Airfield (MLE15968).

Loughborough Meadows Airfield was used by the Brush Electrical Co. for test and delivery flights of their aircraft.



*An Avro 504A biplane*

The Brush Electrical Co. (MLE8694), a Loughborough company, made aircraft from 1915-19. In total they built 87 Farman Longhorns, 350 Avro 504As, Js and Ks, one experimental Henri Farman Astral twin-engined bomber, 20 Short 827 seaplanes and 142 Short 184 seaplanes. They tested their aircraft at Loughborough Meadows (MLE15968).



*Training at the Loughborough Technical College*

Also in Loughborough, the Loughborough Technical College (MLE15380) on Greenclose Lane was built in 1918 and trained over 2000 men and women in munitions production.

The Asfordby Proof Range (MLE20863) was built in 1918 to test new guns, but was only completed a short time before the armistice and was therefore not used. (It was, however, used during the Second World War and after.)



*The Penn Street Drill Hall, Oakham*

There were various Drill Halls in Leicestershire, built as bases for the Territorial Army, though only one used during the First World War is known to survive. Of the two Drill Halls recorded in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, the one near the Ashby Baths (MLE20639) has been demolished and the one on Range Road (MLE20864) still stands. A Drill Hall is also recorded in Loughborough (MLE20866), built as part of Queen Victoria's

Jubilee celebrations, now demolished. The story is the same in Rutland - few Drill Halls are known to have survived. On Penn Street in Oakham the Drill Hall is still used by the Territorial Army (MLE20867) and the building that now houses the museum was originally a Leicestershire Yeomanry Riding School (MLE18226).



*Donington Hall in use as a POW camp*

Country houses were used for various purposes during the war, for example Donington Hall (MLE11299) was requisitioned for use as a Prisoner of War camp for German officers.

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*Inspired to dig deeper into our First World War heritage? Why not take part in this project?*



The Council for British Archaeology is working with English Heritage and partners across the UK to help local communities identify and map the remains of the First World War in Britain. Local people can help to document and preserve our stories, and vulnerable remains, for future generations.

Running from 2014–2018, the **Home Front Legacy project** is supporting community groups researching local places associated with the Great War with an online toolkit and guidance for recording the remains of surviving sites, structures and buildings around Britain.

This local knowledge is presented on a UK-wide map of sites and projects, helping us to better understand the legacy of the War on our landscape and consciousness. The data is also submitted to the UK's national and local archaeological records (including the Leicestershire & Rutland HER) to inform planning decisions and help to safeguard First World War remains for generations to come.

For more information visit <http://www.homefrontlegacy.org.uk>

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The Physical Legacy of the First World War and its Home Front, 1914-18 is a UK partnership project, coordinated by the Council for British Archaeology, with funding from English Heritage, Historic Scotland and Cadw.