



AERODROMES UPDATE
(Updated 29 September 2023)

Aerodrome	Current Status
Bourn	Site earmarked for some 3,500 homes in 2031 Local Plan adopted by South Cambridgeshire District Council on 27 September 2018. The Council approved a planning application for the development on 19 February 2021 subject to the completion of prior conditions.
Cambridge	Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group will be vacating the aerodrome by 2030 and have signed an option to lease land at Cranfield. An outline planning application for Marshall's new facility at Cranfield was conditionally granted by Central Bedfordshire Council on 19 April 2023. The Cambridge site has been put forward for a major housing development in the First Proposals for the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan issued for public consultation that ended on 13 December 2021.
Carlisle	Esken Limited are progressing the sale of the aerodrome land lease (see entry for Southend below).
Chalgrove	Site included in South Oxfordshire District Council 2034 Local Plan adopted on 10 December 2020 for a 3,000-home development with a new runway for Martin-Baker Aircraft (MBA) operations for which development a planning application was submitted by Homes England (HE) the land owner. The application was withdrawn on 21 May 21 pending a review of the plans after the CAA recommended that the proposed development be discontinued as it was incompatible with MBA's current site operations. HE has stated that they will use their CPO powers if negotiations about the development with MBA (their tenant) are unsuccessful.
Chatteris	Anglian Water held a first public consultation that ended on 21 December 2022 on a proposal for the aerodrome site and its surroundings to become a new water reservoir.
Coventry	Outline planning applications for an electric vehicle battery Gigafactory on the aerodrome site were fully approved by both Warwick District and Coventry City Councils on 30 March 2022. The applications were referred to the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities who in a letter dated 26 January 2022, declined to decide them.
Deenethorpe	Central Government has accepted the site for development as a 1,500 home Garden Village. East Northamptonshire Council (now part of the new North Northamptonshire Council) approved the site masterplan on 15 October 2018. A planning application for the development is awaited.
Doncaster Sheffield	The aerodrome has been notified as being without any aviation related services with its associated airspace reverting to Class G. Doncaster City Council have decided to continue negotiations with the Peel Group, the land owner, for a long-term lease of the site and to seek a suitable investment party to reopen and operate the aerodrome with all of the necessary agreements being in place by March 2024.
Dunsfold	Planning application for mixed use development with 1,800 homes on site approved by Waverley Borough Council on 14 December 2016 but called in for a Public Inquiry the result of which was Central Government approval for the application on 29 March 2018. Protest groups appealed these decisions in the High Court but the Court rejected these challenges on 5 November 2018. The development has now been granted Government Garden Village status. A Supplementary Planning Document for the development was adopted by the Council on 22 February 2022.
Elvington	York City Council draft Local Plan submitted for Public Examination on 25 May 2018 with public hearings commencing on 10 December 2019 includes a development of up to 3,330 homes occupying the middle section of the runway. A further public consultation on major modifications to the Local Plan ended on 27 March 2023.
Fairoaks	Land owner of part of the site gave notices to vacant by February 2022 to some hangar and aerodrome building tenants which action did not affect the operation of the taxiways and runway which are in separate ownership. Public consultation ended on 9 May 2022 on Surrey Heath Borough Council's draft 2038 Local Plan Preferred Options document which states that the aerodrome is earmarked as a locally important employment site and notes its established use as an aerodrome.
Halfpenny Green (Wolverhampton Business Airport)	MCR Property Group have sold the aerodrome site and the new owner has stated their intention to keep the site as an aerodrome and improve it where possible.



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Long Marston	Aerodrome is designated in Stratford-on-Avon District Council Local Plan adopted Core Strategy for housing and has Government Garden Village approval for which a planning application has been submitted. Developer is Cala Homes in conjunction with site owner.
Manston	On 9 July 2020, the Secretary of State (SoS) made a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the aerodrome as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project which Order was quashed on 15 February 2021 as the result of a Judicial Review. After a public consultation and independent reports on the need for the development reviewing the decision to grant the Order, an amended DCO was made by the SoS on 18 August 2022. On 17 January 2023 the High Court initially refused an application for a Judicial Review of the amended DCO but at a further aural hearing on 23 March 2023, granted the application with the full hearing taking place on 5/6 July 2023. In a decision dated 22 September 2023, the High Court dismissed the second application. On 9 July 2020 Thanet District Council adopted its 2031 Local Plan that safeguards the aerodrome.
North Denes	The aerodrome (Yarmouth Heliport) is under new management who intend to reopen the site for general aviation and as a drone centre.
Nottingham City (Tollerton)	With the support of the land owner, site and adjoining land earmarked for 4,000 homes in Local Plan adopted by Rushcliffe Borough Council on 8 October 2019. A planning application for development proposals to the north and west of the aerodrome has been submitted and the Council have provided an Environmental Impact Assessment scoping opinion for a 1,600-home development on the aerodrome site.
Panshanger	HE has bought the aerodrome site from Mariposa Investments. A further public consultation ended on 30 July 2023 on major modifications to the Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council draft Local Plan which includes additional housing on the site precluding its use as an aerodrome. An outline planning application to re-open the aerodrome was 'disposed of' by the Council on 10 March 2023 as the time limit for its determination had long expired and the applicant had not requested an extension of this time.
Peterborough / Sibson	Huntingdonshire District Council submitted an unsuccessful bid for a 2,500 home Garden Village on the site. The Council subsequently withdrew their support for the proposal but the site is still listed in the Council's Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment.
Plymouth	FlyPlymouth, a local social enterprise aerodrome support group, plans to reopen the aerodrome and start regional airline services. Sutton Harbour Group, the site lease holder, have proposed a mixed-use development although the Plymouth City / South-West Devon Joint Local Plan adopted in March 2019 retains the site for aviation use at least until the first five-year review of the Plan.
Popham	Site land owner has submitted the site for a 3,000-home development in the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) and the site is provisionally shortlisted for development as part of the Local Plan review by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.
Redhill	The draft Tandridge District Council 2033 Local Plan submitted for Public Examination on 18 January 2019 with hearings ending on 28 November 2019 ruled out the site for a Garden Village and allocated it protected status as an Important Employment Site. Part of the site is within the boundary of Reigate and Banstead Borough Council whose adopted Local Plan makes no mention of the aerodrome.
Retford / Gamston	Full planning permission granted by Bassetlaw District Council on 25 October 2021 to convert hangars 6 to 11 into a vehicle testing facility and for dual use of the runway for autonomous vehicle testing and aircraft.
Shipdham	The aerodrome is reportedly closing in November 2023 with the resident aircraft owners being given notices to quit the site. The site owner has proposed the site for economic, non-residential development in the review of the Local Plan by Breckland Council.
Southend	Esken Limited are progressing a sale of their Aviation business, primarily London Southend and Carlisle Airports for which they hold the land leases and have sold their aircraft handling company.
Thurrock	Thurrock Council have received and validated a planning application for development of 750 houses, a medical centre and employment units on aerodrome site.



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Wellesbourne Mountford	In line with the terms of the MoU between Stratford-on-Avon District Council and the site owners, a public consultation took place between 6 and 22 September 2023 on proposals for a new realigned runway; new hangars, aircraft parking and maintenance facilities; a new control tower, check-in area, waiting lounge and café with the revised site being safeguarded for future aviation tenants. Following the consultation, a planning application will be submitted for the new facilities.
MoD Aerodrome Sites	Current Status
The following MoD aerodrome sites are planned for disposal in the years indicated:	
Abingdon Aerodrome 2030	Site earmarked for Garden Village style development with 1,200 homes in Vale of White Horse District Council 2031 Local Plan Part 2 adopted by the Council on 9 October 2019. Under the Plan, the development area is restricted to the south of the old runway 08/26.
Brawdy 2028	Cawdor Barracks. Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) have submitted site for mixed use development for the review of 2033 Local Development Plan 2 by Pembrokeshire Council but this is not included in the draft Plan issued for public consultation ending on 18 March 2020.
Colerne 2025	Aerodrome was originally expected to be sold in 2018. Local business interest in maintaining the aerodrome for aviation purposes.
Dishforth 2031	Aerodrome site being disposed of but not included for development in the 2035 Harrogate Borough Council Local Plan adopted by the Council on 4 March 2020 but site is expected to be considered during first five-year review of the adopted Plan.
Halton Aerodrome 2027	The DIO future vision document for RAF Halton & the Aylesbury Vale District Council (now part of the new Buckinghamshire Council) 2033 Local Plan adopted by the Council on 15 September 2021, exclude development of the aerodrome site.
Henlow 2026	Future of the site being progressed by a partnership between the DIO and HE. The Central Bedfordshire Council 2035 Local Plan adopted by the Council on 22 July 2021 expects the site to be redeveloped for alternative, non-military uses with due regard for the on-site heritage assets including the airfield.
North Luffenham 2026	Rutland County Council have withdrawn the draft Local Plan which included a 2,215-home community for the site, from public examination and are drafting a new Plan. The community development had been accepted under the Government Garden Village programme.
Scampton 2023	West Lindsey District Council have reached an agreement with the MoD to acquire the site and pass ownership on to Scampton Holdings Limited whose masterplan retains the existing site aviation facilities. The Central Lincolnshire Joint 2040 Local Plan was adopted on 13 April 2023 and calls for a masterplan to be developed for the site preserving and enhancing its heritage assets. A Judicial Review hearing will start on 31 October 2023 into the Government's proposal to use the site as a holding centre for asylum seekers.
Spitalgate 2028	Prince William of Gloucester Barracks. Future of the site being progressed by a partnership between the DIO and HE. Site earmarked for a Garden Village style settlement in South Kesteven District Council 2036 Local Plan adopted by the Council on 30 January 2020.
Swanton Morley 2029	Robertson Barracks. There is no reference to the closure of the Barracks in the definitive Breckland Council 2036 Local Plan adopted by the Council on 28 November 2019.
Tern Hill 2029	Clive Barracks. Shropshire Council submitted its draft 2038 Local Plan for public examination on 3 September 2021 which includes a 750-home mixed use development of the Barracks site leaving the airfield intact. The latest public hearing on the draft Plan took place on 3 May 2023.
Topcliffe 2031	Alanbrooke Barracks. Due to close under the Future Soldier army restructuring programme.
Wethersfield 2025	Future of the site being progressed by a partnership between the DIO and HE with new prisons and housing being considered. A Judicial Review hearing will start on 31 October 2023 into the Government's proposal to use the site as a holding centre for asylum seekers.
Wyton Aerodrome 2024	DIO in partnership with property developer Crest Nicholson has proposed a 4,500-home development on the site which is not included in the adopted 2036 Huntingdonshire District Council Local Plan.



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