



AERODROMES UPDATE
(Updated 24 October 2024)

Aerodrome	Current Status
Bicester	A planning application has been submitted to refurbish and convert the recently vacated Grade II listed hangar as an indoor electric go-kart track. An agreement has been reached to site the UK's first vertiport testbed on the aerodrome for which planning permission has been granted.
Blackbushe	A public consultation ended on 16 February 2024 for the application by Blackbushe Airport to deregister the Common Land on which the aerodrome sits. Deregistration would enable the Airport to apply for planning permission to erect permanent aviation related facilities.
Cambridge	Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group will be vacating the aerodrome by 2027 and an outline planning application for Marshall's new facility at Cranfield was conditionally granted by Central Bedfordshire Council on 19 April 2023. The conditions were signed off in a Section 106 agreement dated 20 October 2023. The Cambridge site is cited 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	Cumberland Council and Esken Limited (now in administration) have both approved the purchase of the aerodrome land lease by the A W Jenkinson Group who plan to retain the aerodrome facilities.
Chalgrove	A public consultation on the South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse District Councils draft Joint Local Plan for the years up to 2041 ends on 12 November 2024. The Joint Plan will supersede both of the Council's current Local Plans and the draft excludes the aerodrome site from development. Homes England (HE), the site landowner, have objected to this exclusion and consulted with the local community from 18 April to 17 May 2024 on their revised scheme for a housing development on the site.
Chatteris	Anglian Water have conducted a second public consultation which ended on 9 August 2024 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 (SoS) 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. On 21 March 2024 Doncaster City Council signed a 125-year lease of the site from the Peel Group, the land owner, and will decide later this summer on which of four potential investment partners will reopen and operate the aerodrome.
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 concerning traveller sites ended on 3 September 2024.
Fairoaks	Public consultation ended on 20 September 2024 on Surrey Heath Borough Council's draft 2038 Local Plan document which states that part of the aerodrome site is earmarked as a strategically important employment site and acknowledges its economic value as a general aviation aerodrome.
Gloucestershire	Cheltenham Borough Council and Gloucester City Council, the site owners, have appointed Savills as their agent for the sale of the aerodrome freehold including the Meteor Business Park at a guide price of £25 million. The sale is on condition that the site remains an aerodrome.



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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 SoS made a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the aerodrome as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project which was quashed on 15 February 2021 as the result of a Judicial Review. After a public consultation and independent reports 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 and an appeal against this decision was also dismissed on 9 October 2023. An application for permission to lodge a further appeal was made on 30 October 2023 and granted on 7 February 2024 with a hearing held on 24 April 2024 resulting in the application being refused on 21 May 2024. On 9 July 2020 Thanet District Council adopted its 2031 Local Plan that safeguards the aerodrome.
Newquay	Cornwall Council, the aerodrome land owner / operator, have provisionally selected Adynaton Asset Management LLP as the private sector investment and development joint partner to manage the whole aerodrome estate. On completion of further discussions, the Council expect to decide on the future site management structure and associated agreement terms in the autumn.
Nottingham City (Tollerton)	The aerodrome site and adjoining land are earmarked for 4,000 homes in the Local Plan adopted by Rushcliffe Borough Council on 8 October 2019 and planning applications for this development have been submitted. The Council will determine these applications after a Supplementary Planning Document for the whole area has been approved. Pending the approval process, Nottingham County Council have approved a lease extension for land forming part of the aerodrome.
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 (SHG), the site lease holder, have proposed a mixed-use development although the Plymouth City / South-West Devon Joint Local Plan adopted in March 2019 and reviewed in 2024 retains the site for aviation use until March 2029. The Council have issued a Section 146 Notice under the Law and Property Act 1925 to SHG for forfeiture of the lease which Notice expires in February 2025.
Popham	The site is proposed for a 3,000 home Garden Village development in the draft Local Plan Update covering the period 2021 to 2040 by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. The six-week public consultation period on the draft Update ended on 4 March 2024.
Redhill	The draft Tandridge District Council 2033 Local Plan which ruled out the site for a Garden Village and allocated it protected status as an Important Employment Site, was withdrawn from public examination by the Council on 18 April 2024 because the Planning Inspector deemed the draft Plan to be unsound. 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	Planning permission granted by Bassetlaw District Council on 25 October 2021 to convert hangars 6 to 11 into a vehicle test facility and dual use of the runway for autonomous vehicles and aircraft.
Southend	In a debt for equity deal, Esken Limited (now in administration) ceded control of the aerodrome and land lease to Carlyle Global Investments and have sold their interest in Carlisle Airport (see above).
Thurrock	Thurrock Council Planning Committee refused on 9 July 2024 a planning application for development of 750 houses, a medical centre and employment units on the aerodrome site.
Wellesbourne Mountford	In line with the MoU between Stratford-on-Avon District Council and the site owners, a public consultation took place in September 2023 on proposals for a new realigned runway and aviation related facilities with the revised site being safeguarded for future aviation tenants. Following the consultation, a planning application has been submitted for the new facilities.

Note: Bourn aerodrome has been deleted from the previous list as an aeronautical chart amendment has designated the site as disused



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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 the 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.
Coleme 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 consulted on a Preferred Options document for the new 2041 Local Plan which lists the site as a future opportunity area which would be the subject of a separate development plan. The consultation ended on 8 January 2024.
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 and heritage assets in line with the Central Lincolnshire Joint 2040 Local Plan adopted on 13 April 2023. The recently elected new Government has abandoned plans to use the site as a holding centre for asylum seekers and are removing the facilities thereto as soon as possible.
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 2031	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. As part of the current 5-year review of the Local Plan the site has been listed for a possible 2,000-home development in a preferred options public consultation which ended on 15 July 2024.
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 hearings on the draft Plan ended on 22 October 2024.
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 claim into the Government's use of the site as a holding centre for asylum seekers has been withdrawn by Braintree District Council. A separate but related Judicial Review hearing took place in July 2024 for which a judgement is pending
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.