

## Just some info on the old airbase at Stourhead

**RAF Zeals** was a wartime [Royal Air Force station](#) in Wiltshire.

The station was sited to the north of the village of [Zeals](#), next to the village of [Stourton](#) and the [Stourhead estate](#).

The station was only in operation from 1942 to 1946. In that time it was successively occupied by the [Royal Air Force](#), the [United States Army Air Force](#) and the [Royal Navy](#).

From opening until August 1943 the site was used by the RAF as an airfield for [Hawker Hurricane](#) and [Supermarine Spitfire](#) fighters.

In August 1943 it was transferred to the United States Army Air Force with the intention of using the airfield for maintenance of [C-47 Skytrain](#) transport aircraft. However, the damp conditions prevented the operation of heavy aircraft so [P-47 Thunderbolt](#) fighters were flown from Zeals instead.

From March 1944, it returned to the RAF who used it as a fighter airfield for [de Havilland Mosquito](#) fighters against German bombers.

Following [D-Day](#), the RAF used the airfield for [military glider](#) training in preparation for action against Japan. In April 1945 the station was taken over by the Royal Navy (as [HMS Hummingbird](#) or [RNAS Zeals](#)) who used the airfield for [aircraft carrier](#) training.

The airfield was closed down from January 1946 and in June it was returned to farmland. As of 2006, the control tower, now a private house, remains on Bells Lane in Zeals.