



**POLISH BOMBER
SQUADRONS CENTRE**

*Centrum Polskich
Dywizjonów Bombowych*

RAF INGHAM

ACCESS STATEMENT

This Access Statement aims to accurately describe the transport links, facilities and services that we at Polish Bomber Squadron Centre can currently offer our visitors, volunteers and staff.

1. Introduction
2. Travel & Transport Links
3. Arrival & Car Parking
4. Same Level Access
5. Dog Policy
6. Main Entrance, Reception & Shop
7. Exhibition
8. Polish Nissen Hut
9. Cinema
10. Toilets
11. 'Airmen's Rest' Café
12. Picnic Garden
13. Signage
14. Future Access Plans and Improvements

1. Introduction

The Polish Bomber Squadron Centre – RAF Ingham is located north of Lincoln, Lincolnshire, England. We have created a globally unique Heritage Centre dedicated to remembering and celebrating the remarkable lives and memories of the men and women (both ground and air crews) of the Polish Air Force Bomber Squadrons, who lived, worked and flew alongside the RAF during WW2; and tell the humanitarian 'Post-war' story, of their struggles to settle and integrate into 'post-war' Britain, whilst retaining their customs, culture and Polish heritage. We also remember those who worked and flew from RAF Ingham (Cammeringham), between 1941 and 1946.

The Centre is based around the former Airmen's Mess, and currently consists of the Memorial and Remembrance Gardens, Reception, Shop, Exhibition space, Polish Families Resettlement Nissen Hut, Cinema, Toilets and 'Airmen's Rest' Café and Picnic Garden.

Currently, you should allow up to 1hr 30mins for your visit.

We look forward to welcoming you, and if you have any queries or require any assistance, please email: enquiries@rafingham.co.uk

2. Travel - Transport Links

Polish Bomber Squadron Centre – RAF Ingham is located on the B1398, between the villages of Ingham and Fillingham. Our postcode is **DN21 5BU**.

For full details and maps of how to reach us, please see our 'Visit Us' page on our website:
<https://www.rafingham.co.uk/visitors>

Air:

The nearest Airports are:

Humberside (25 miles)
Doncaster/Sheffield (28 miles)
East Midlands (60 miles)
Leeds/Bradford (84 miles)

Rail:

The nearest railway stations are:

Lincoln Central (13 miles)
Bus Station opposite; catch No.103.

Kirton in Lindsey (10 miles)
Catch No.103 bus to Lincoln, from Millennium Cottages.

Bus:

The nearest bus stations are:

Lincoln Bus Station - No.103

Kirton in Lindsey - No.103 (to Lincoln), from Millennium Cottages.

The Bus Stops are ½ a mile away in either direction. You can politely ask the bus driver to drop you off at our Centre, but no guarantees.

For details of all local bus services, see www.visitlincoln.com/buses.

Road:

From North: M180, Junction 4, turn south on A15 (Lincoln); at Caenby Corner Roundabout take 3rd exit to A631 (Gainsborough); at next small roundabout take 1st exit to B1398 (Ingham); continue for approx. 2 miles; our Centre is on the left.

From South: head for Lincoln; join A46 Ring Road around Lincoln; at Riseholme roundabout, turn north on A15 (Humber Bridge); once past RAF Scampton, take second left onto Ingham Lane towards Ingham; at top of the hill turn right onto B1398; continue for approx. 2 miles; our Centre is on right.

From Lincoln: join B1398 at top of Yarborough Road roundabout; continue along B1398 for approx. 13 miles, our Centre is on right.

From West: from Gainsborough take A631 to Market Rasen; at Harpswell roundabout, take 3rd exit to B1398; continue for approx. 2 miles; our Centre is on the left.

From East: from Market Rasen take A631 towards Gainsborough; at Caenby Corner Roundabout take 2nd exit to A631 (Gainsborough); at small roundabout take 1st exit to B1398; continue for approx. 2 miles; our Centre is on the left.

3. Arrival and Car Parking

As you approach our Main Gates, there are two large blue signs on either side of our Entrance. The driveway takes you up to the Car Park, where there is parking for 20+ cars.

(The entrance road and car park are still under construction, and consequently have a 'step-up' requirement. We have provided several temporary ramps.)

If you require additional assistance, please ask a member of staff, who'll be only too pleased to help. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

We also have a Cycle Rack located near the Main Entrance.

4. Same Level Access

All external pathways and internal floor areas have same-level access.

5. Dogs

The Centre welcomes Assistance Dogs within the buildings.

Other dogs are permitted in any of our outdoor areas, including the Picnic Gardens, provided they are on a lead and under the owner's control.

6. Main Entrance, Shop and Reception Area

The Main Entrance to the Centre is located on the north-east corner of the car park and is well signed. There is a small ramp providing access into the building.

The Reception area and Shop are well lit with overhead energy efficient lighting and lighting to the shop displays. There is a lowered section of the Reception counter for wheelchair users.

There is ample room within the Shop and Reception area for a large wheelchair to maneuver and turn.

Our Shop displays are generally accessible from a seated position; however, there are also taller display racks above 130cm. Staff are available and can help, if required.

A wheelchair is available to use, on request.

Food products sold within the Shop, carry appropriate ingredients and allergy information.

7. Exhibition

The Exhibition covers two wings, with level concrete floor throughout (see Sect 9 Cinema). Almost all areas are well lit with either overhead energy efficient lighting, natural light and/or display cabinet lighting; however, a few areas may be more dimly lit to aid preservation of the exhibits, or to provide authentic lighting conditions.

The entire Exhibition is bi-lingual (Polish and English), and interpretation and information boards are all in large text.

Where there are interactive touch screen activities in the Centre; all can be accessed from a sitting or standing position.

There are artefacts and exhibits displayed in vertical glass cabinets, which may not be visible if the eye line is below 115cm.

Some areas have audio/visual displays, or background sounds and music playing relating to the objects on display.

Certain display areas may have flashing lights, sounds of explosions and commentary at regular intervals. To maintain historical accuracy, the floor in these areas may be uneven, but are still accessible for most wheelchairs.

Individual seats are located at various points around the Exhibition for the use of visitors.

8. Polish Nissen Hut

Our Polish Families Resettlement Nissen Hut is authentic in both structure and dimensions, consequently the doorways and visitor area within the hut is slightly restricted.

The Hut is well lit with overhead energy efficient lighting and natural light from the windows.

Due to the construction material being mainly corrugated metal, the temperature inside the Hut can rise dramatically when it is sunny outside.

Background sounds and music may be playing to create authenticity.

9. Cinema

The Cinema is located between the North and South Wing. It has rows of raised seating to accommodate 12 people, and a space at the front for a wheelchair.

Access is via a door, which remains open throughout all performances.

The Cinema is dimly lit, with safety strips on the leading edge of each step.

The floor and all raised areas are covered with office style carpet.

Each Cinema seat is sprung-loaded as normal in cinemas and theatres.

The screen is a large TV/monitor, allowing good visual and audio experience for all visitors.

10. Toilets & Baby Changing Facility

The Toilets and Baby Changing Facility are in the South Wing beyond the Lancaster art installation.

Both toilets are unisex, with the lefthand toilet being fitted for Accessibility/Disability use and includes an emergency alarm pull cord.

The righthand toilet is fitted with baby changing facilities. Both toilet doors open outwards and are fitted with lever locks. There are lever taps on the sinks. The toilets are well lit with overhead energy efficient lighting which illuminates automatically.

11. 'Airmen's Rest' Cafe

The 'Airmen's Rest' Café is situated to the rear of the South Wing and has step free level access from all areas.

The Café, although snug, has tables and chairs that can easily be moved to accommodate a wheelchair.

The Café has counter and table service. Staff are happy to assist on request.

If you have any dietary and allergy requirements, please ask a member of the Café Team, who have the ingredients and allergy information about all our products.

12. Picnic Garden

The Picnic Garden is located on the right-hand side of the Café and can be accessed via a concrete ramp; and consists of a grassed area with benches, tables and wheelchair accessible table.

13. Signage

The signage around the Centre is in large font and contrasting colours.

14. Future Access Plans and Improvements

Our future access plans and improvements include: - Same-level Car Park surface; Hearing Loop; Bus Stops on either side of B1398, outside our main Entrance; Cycle path from Main Gate to Car Park; Audio/Visual Guides; Accessibility Training for our staff; and consultation with accessibility groups to better understand the needs and challenges of visitors.

Review Freq:	Created:	Last Reviewed:	Review Due:
Annually	Nov 2019	Apr 2024	Apr 2025