



Co-ordinated Landscaping

The original character of aviation sites can easily be eroded by piecemeal changes to the landscaping, such as the inconsiderate addition of light fittings, signage, service pipes, sub-stations or fencing. It is therefore desirable, particularly in designated conservation areas, to maintain a consistent and sensitive approach to all elements of the landscape. Prior consultation with the local planning authority should be undertaken in respect of any such works to ensure that they are carefully designed and to clarify the need for any formal consent.

Hard landscaping

Different types of hard surfacing materials should not be allowed to proliferate. The replacement of original clinker ash paths with modern paving materials such as block paviours or concrete slabs should be avoided. Open areas between buildings should not be cluttered with miscellaneous items of hardware such as sub-stations for electrical and other services. Every effort should be made to locate these out of sight or to screen them with suitable fencing or planting. Exterior light fittings should be simple and unobtrusive.

Fencing and subdivision

Military airfields are characterised by secure boundaries and entrances controlled by guardhouses. Within this perimeter, most sites have an open-plan layout. The subdivision of former military sites into separate curtilages marked by walls and fences is bound to erode this essential aspect of their character. In residential areas the original boundary treatment - such as picket fences or hedges to delineate front gardens – should be retained or reinstated where possible.

Signage

The identification of individual buildings by a system of site numbers is characteristic of military sites and original painted signage of this type should be retained. A simple 'house style' for all external signage – whether on buildings or free-standing – is much preferable to uncontrolled proliferation of different styles. On sites with commercial uses, local authorities may wish to encourage a coordinated approach to signage by providing design advice and using their powers to control inappropriate forms of advertising.

Trees and grassland

Planting makes an important contribution to the character of aviation sites and to the quality of their environment. Trees and grassed areas were a significant element in the overall design of aviation sites dating from the inter-war period. Their purpose was to break up the appearance of sites as seen from the air and to allow them to blend into the rural landscape. Ornamental tree planting also played an important role in the character of the Rotor radar stations of the early 1950s.

The retention and, where necessary, replacement of trees with appropriate new species is encouraged. In any programme of tree planting, consideration should be given to the historical pattern of planting on the site. Further research may be required to clarify the development of the landscape and to establish the significance of the surviving features. Sympathetic management of grassed areas, with appropriate mowing regimes, can produce considerable dividends for nature conservation, while also providing movement and colour.



View point 1a looking north west



View point 1b looking west



View point 1c looking south west



View point 1d looking south



View point 2 looking north west



View point 3

Appendix D: Views