

History of the Airfield

1922: The airfield was established to service the fleet seasonally when it was at Invergordon. It was initially known as **Novar or Newton of Novar airfield**.

1937: The site was massively expanded and became **RAF Evanton**, training pilots in flying and gunnery.

1943: The airfield was again expanded, becoming a Class B repair yard. At first the site was shared with the RAF, with the naval section known as **H.M.S. Owl II**. In 1944 the Navy assumed sole possession, and the airfield was renamed **H.M.S. Fieldfare**.

At its greatest extent the camp stretched from the shore to Novar House. Today the modern A9 cuts through the area of the camp.

After the war the camp briefly held displaced persons, and then in 1955 was leased to the U.S. Airforce,

who used it to launch spy balloons. After this shortlived failure, the buildings and fittings were sold, and many buildings were destroyed and used as sea defences.



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Remains from the airfield have been recorded by a group in 2013, as part of a project run by ARCH. The participants drew on memories of wartime and later Evanton, aerial photographs, old photographs, archive plans and documents, newspaper articles and published sources.

Find out more ...

All the sites recorded in the project were submitted to the Highland Council Historic Environment Record (her.highland.gov.uk) and Canmore (canmore.rcahms.gov.uk). The project also produced a booklet summarising results, and binders of resources are located in Dingwall and Alness Libraries, Cornerstone Cafe, (Evanton) and Alness Heritage Centre. The list of all recorded sites can also be downloaded from the ARCH website www.archhighland.org.uk.

A summary about the airfield was published by Jim Hughes in his books *Airfield Focus: Evanton* (1994) and *A Steep Turn to the Stars* (1999).

If you have any information to add, please contact the ARCH office at info@archhighland.org.uk or 01349 868230.



Gun mount on Newton Road North railway bridge

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Evanton Airfield Past and Present



A number of wartime remains from a 20th century military airfield at Evanton still survive. This leaflet describes some of the structures which can be seen from roads.



1. This abluitions block (wash house) near the Evanton Road recently emerged after tree felling. The surrounding nissen hut barracks are long gone.



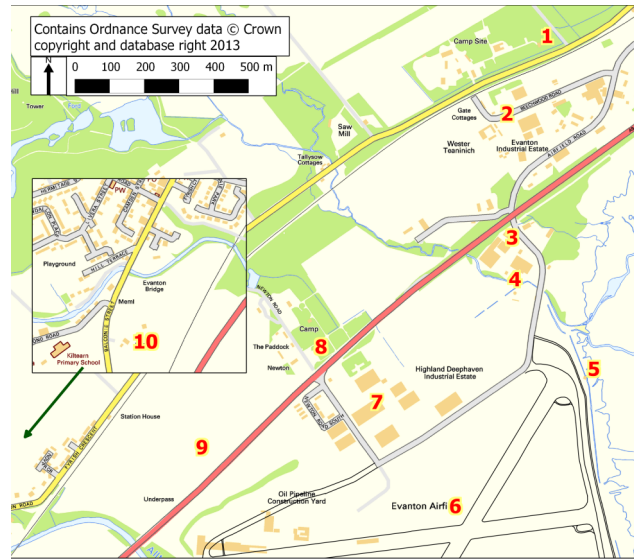
2. Off Beechwood Road are several wartime buildings including this wartime first aid station, a large hangar used now by Munros, and two large Romney huts.



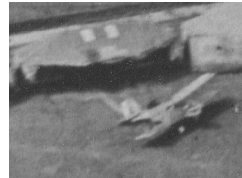
3. RAF and Navy Workshops in Blytheswood compound. The Blytheswood charity shop is the only publicly accessible wartime building. The high north facing windows allowed even lighting.



10. At the southern edge of the village, the old wireless station is preserved, along with its pill-box. Originally there were 5 masts on this site.



4. The site of the first camp (see cover) was situated near the present Mac Gas site. Only foundations remain in a few places.



5. This type 27 pillbox is one of three pillboxes still in situ on the shore protecting the runway. It still preserves a wooden post for mounting the gun.



9. The remains of what was probably battle headquarters survive in a field visible from the old and new A9.

6. The two runways can still be seen, especially from the air (see cover) or nearby hills. Until 1942 they were grass.



8. At the end of Newton Road north beside the A9 are the remains of a large coal store.



7. The hangars around the Deephaven entrance preserve one of the best clusters of wartime hangars on military airfields. Two were demolished recently. The nearby houses were married quarters during the war.

Please note that many buildings are still in use, while others are unsafe. Please respect private property and do not enter buildings