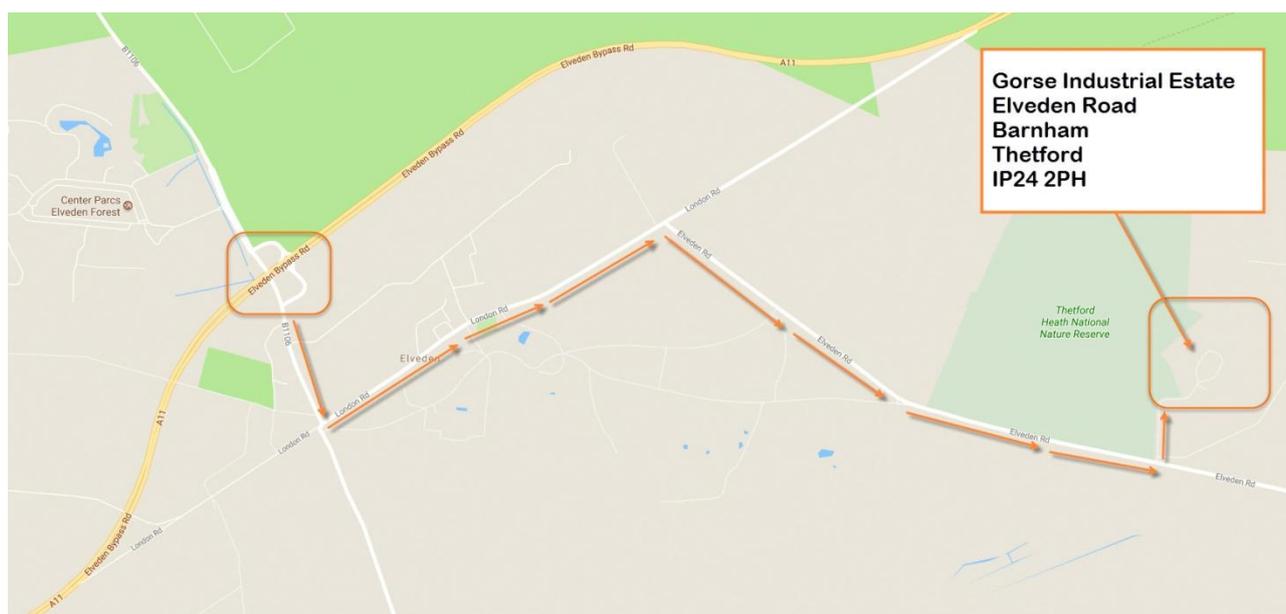


Visit to RAF Barnham

The RPS East Anglia Region outing to RAF Barnham takes place on Sunday 10th September 2017, so here are a few notes which explain how to get there and what to expect on the day. My telephone numbers and email address are at the end of this sheet, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the event.

Getting There

If you type "RAF Barnham" into Google Maps (and, possibly, car SatNavs too), you will be taken to a junction off the A134, north of Barnham Village. *This is wrong!* Instead, search for: "Gorse Industrial Estate, Elveden Road, Barnham, Thetford, IP24 2PH".



Coming from the A11, join the B1106 at the *Center Parcs* exit and then turn left towards Elveden. After a few hundred yards, just past the Elveden Inn, turn left again along London Road through Elveden village. About half a mile after leaving the village, take the right turn along Elveden Road which is signposted to Barnham and RAF Honington. After about a mile and a half, you will see the Gorse Industrial Estate on your left. Turn in and drive to the Visitor Parking area (200-300 yards).

The Tours

Keith Eldred, the current owner of RAF Barnham, does guided tours of the site which last about two hours. Tours are limited to 20 people, for practical reasons, but this event has proved so popular that Keith has very kindly offered to put on two tours for us: one at 10:30 and the other at 14:30. Those on the morning tour are very welcome to stay around to take photographs in the afternoon; and, similarly, those on the afternoon tour are free to take photographs in the morning. All Keith asks is that we show consideration when it comes to

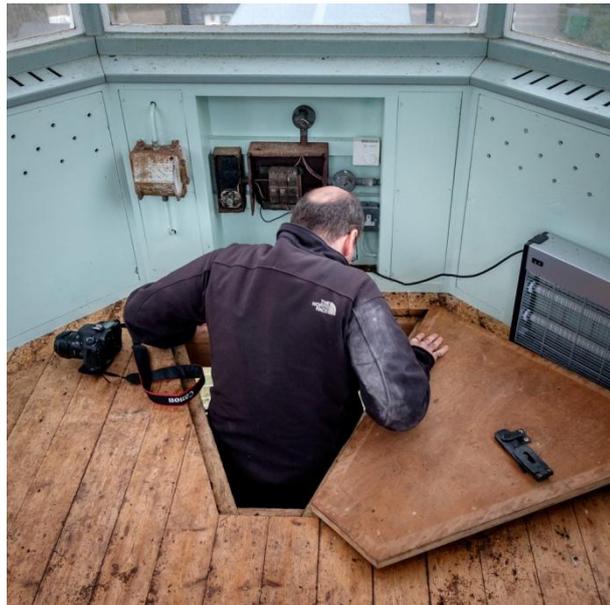
positioning ourselves (and our associated photographic paraphernalia!) so that we don't interfere with the tours he is conducting.

Arrival Time

I shall arrange to be in the parking area between 10:00-10:30 and 14:00-14:30 in order to meet those who are coming for the morning and afternoon tours respectively. If you arrive outside these times, please enter the site and look out for either myself or Ann Miles so that we know you're there. If you get lost, or are in need of any other kind assistance, my mobile number is at the bottom of this sheet.

Health & Safety

The RAF Barnham site was built at the height of the Cold War, and was used to store fissile nuclear material until the early 1960s. You'll be pleased to hear that nothing radioactive remains at the location, however! The site is maintained by Keith with assistance from English Heritage, but inevitably many of the buildings – including several which are listed monuments – have deteriorated with age. There are also plenty of rusty fences and the remains of barbed wire attached to crumbling concrete posts, and a water storage reservoir. Clearly, common sense needs to be applied when approaching any of these potentially hazardous areas. Finally, it's possible that Keith may give us the opportunity to climb one of the restored watch towers on the site. While this gives unrivalled views of the area, the climb should not be undertaken lightly as the tower is high, the ladder is steep and the aperture through which it's necessary to crawl is rather narrow. You have been warned!



Donation

Keith opens RAF Barnham and give tours free of charge as a condition of the support he receives from English Heritage. He is passionate about the site, as will become clear when you've heard him talk about it, and this includes doing lots of work with outside bodies and undertaking extra restoration projects. Keith is currently producing a replica "Blue Danube" bomb, and – as a thank-you for his time in welcoming us to the site – my suggestion is that we each make a donation of £10 towards this project. I shall be collecting cash on the day, and will present the donation to Keith just before we leave.

Food and Drink

Keith and his wife supply tea and coffee to visitors, but please bring your own packed lunch unless you are planning to eat out (see below). It's quite a distance to the nearest shop, so it would be sensible to bring a flask and/or water for the day.

If you wish to have a good lunch during your visit, there are two places to eat in Elveden itself: the *Elveden Inn* and the *Elveden Courtyard Restaurant*. The entrance to the Courtyard is directly opposite the Inn. Both eateries are very busy on Sundays (usually full) so if you do plan to eat in either, it would be worth booking ASAP. I am told that the *Elvedon Courtyard* also does an excellent afternoon tea.

- <http://www.elvedeninn.com/eat>
- <http://www.elvedencourtyard.com>

Inclement Weather

There's a small meeting room in which we can shelter if the weather is poor, but let's hope that it stays dry on the day of our visit. If not, please come equipped with appropriate wet weather clothing and some means of keeping your camera equipment dry.

Further Reading

I don't want to pre-empt Keith's excellent tour, but here are a couple of URLs if you fancy doing some research into the location before you visit.

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAF_Barnham
- <http://www.bunkertours.co.uk/barnham.htm>

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