Broxbourne World War Two Trail

To mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War Two, Broxbourne Borough Council has produced this trail of sites within the Borough with links to World War Two. Not every location could be included, and we recommend a visit to Lowewood Museum in Hoddesdon to access their extensive collection.

Lowewood staff have helped with this listing as have a number of websites including Hertfordshire Memories and Historic England. Some locations are on private property and so may not be accessed without the landowner's position. Other locations are on busy roads or by railway tracks and we urge you to take care.



Map not to scale.
For illustrative purposes only.

1. Goffs Oak War Memorial *Goffs Lane, Goffs Oak, Waltham Cross EN7 5HF*

2. Broxbourne War Memorial
Station Road, Broxbourne EN10 7AU

3. Cheshunt War Memorial *Almshouses, Turners Hill, Cheshunt EN8 9BE*

4. Hoddesdon War Memorial
High Street, Hoddesdon EN11 8HD

5. Burnt Farm Camp *south of Silver Street, Goffs Oak, EN7 5JG.*
This hosted a heavy anti-aircraft gunsite. Burnt Farm Camp is described as an exceptional survival of its type and provides a significant, visible reminder of the nature of home defence during World War II. Its function was to combat German bombers heading towards the capital, the Thames estuary and other military targets. The importance of the site lies in the complexity and range of surviving gun emplacements and ancillary buildings, including a well preserved command post; generator block; radar vehicle; equipment enclosures and on-site magazine.

6. Little Cot Cottage *Goffs Lane, Goff's Oak, Waltham Cross EN7 5HJ [junction with St Johns Road]*
On 17 August 1944, a V1 flying bomb landed on this property killing two members of the Marvell family who lived there along with two visiting cousins. A local air raid warden also died during this incident in which was the biggest loss of civilian lives in Goffs Oak during World War Two

7. Lieutenant Ellis Memorial
Lieutenant Ellis Way, Waltham Cross, EN7 5FB
On 12 August 1944, a US Air Force B24 Liberator bomber crashed on farmland near Cheshunt, killing all ten airmen on board. The plane, commanded by Lieutenant John D. Ellis, was based at Wending, Norfolk, and was part of 577th Squadron, 392nd Bomb Group, scheduled to carry out a bombing raid against Juvicort Airfield in France. Adverse weather forced the plane to turn back. It is believed that Lieutenant Ellis and his crew deliberately steered their plane away from the built-up areas of Cheshunt and Waltham Cross, sacrificing their chance to bale out in order to safeguard the civilian population.

Lowewood MUSEUM
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The Flamstead End Relief Road was renamed the Lieutenant Ellis Way on 8 May 1995 and a memorial was installed at the site in 2011.

A memorial plaque for the dead airmen can be found in Cheshunt Library.

8. Chadwick & Shapcott's Acorn Works *Sturlas Way, Waltham Cross EN8 7BF*
On 2 January 1945, a V2 rocket hit Chadwick & Shapcott's Acorn Works, the Brush factory on Waltham Cross High Street, killing many.

9. Winston Churchill Way *Waltham Cross, EN8 8RL*
Named after the United Kingdom's Wartime Prime Minister (1940-45).

10. Fishpools *115 High St, Waltham Cross EN8 7AL*
An advert in the Hertfordshire Mercury from August 1940 claimed that Fishpools could make blackout curtains for everything between a back door to a whole factory.

11. Replica WW1 Tank *Cedars Park, Theobalds Lane, Waltham Cross EN8 8RX*
In 1921, Cheshunt Urban Council was one of 265 areas in the country presented with a World War One tank recognising the area's contribution to raising funds for the war effort. It was placed in Cedars Park until May 1940 when it was given to the government to use as scrap metal for Second World War resources. A replica of the tank was installed in 2019.

12. Dahlia Close, *Cheshunt, EN7 6NR*
This road was named to commemorate the close association between the people of Cheshunt and the Royal Navy corvette H.M.S. Dahlia which served with distinction during World War Two.

13. Pillbox - *Cheshunt Park, Park Lane, Cheshunt EN7 6QA*
This hexagonal concrete and brick pillbox is a remnant of the outer London defence ring developed to protect the capital from a German invasion. During the war, armed troops and volunteers from the Home Guard manned the pillbox night and day ready to repel an invasion that never came.

Another pillbox is located at nearby Cheshunt Park Farm facing north west across fields to Hells Wood.

14. Pillbox *Bread and Cheese Lane, Cheshunt, EN7 6PE*
Octagonal concrete pillbox on west side of Bread and Cheese Lane. The position, near the top of a hill, gives a dominating view across the valley to the North West. It features a central well for mounting a Bren or Lewis Gun in an anti-aircraft role. Alongside the pillbox is an anti-tank block.

15. Cheshunt Cottage Hospital *Cottage Gardens, Cheshunt EN8 0DL*
Cheshunt Cottage Hospital joined the Emergency Medical Service in 1939 with the outbreak of war, offering 16 beds. It suffered bomb damage in 1941.

16. Grundy Park *Cheshunt EN8 8LF*
Trench shelters were installed in Grundy Park during the war.

The Sports Pavilion suffered war damage.

Elm Arches was used as a first aid station and lookout point.

On Thursday 7 June 1945, a garden fete was held between 3pm and 8pm to raise money for the Red Cross and St John Fund. Activities included children's sports, maypole dancing, stalls, games and light refreshments. Admission cost six pence.

17. Anti-Aircraft Gun Platform *south east of Cheshunt Railway Station, Windmill Lane, EN8 9AQ*
This World War II Bofors Anti-aircraft gun platform overlooks the Lee Valley Navigation canal to the west, and the lakes of the Lee Valley Country Park to the east. The tower was designed to raise a 40mm Bofors Gun and its operational equipment above surrounding obstacles in order to achieve an all-round field of fire. The emplacement includes two parallel, independent towers approximately 6meters tall. Photographs in a contemporary magazine article published in November 1943 show the gun operated by its crew of four, plus an officer manning the telephone, a spotter scanning the sky with binoculars and two further crew members in position protected within the steel tank.

18. Pillbox *Slipe Lane, Wormley, EN10 6HN*
A pillbox is on the east side of the railway line by the closed railway crossing. It can be easily viewed from the footbridge. It was built to cover the marshes in the Lea Valley and the railway line from the north. Anti-tank blocks cover the approach.

19. Broxbourne Aerodrome *Nazeing Road, EN10 6QS (near junction with Old Nazeing Road)*
An aerodrome was built here in 1931 by the Herts and Essex Aero Club. After the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, the airfield was taken over by the government and the club ran a modification and repair operation, run within the Civilian Repair Organisation. Accounts state they modified twenty Caudron Simoun types for the Free French Air Force and prepared Canadian-built Harvards for the RAF. In March 1941, a pilot was completing a delivery flight from Broxbourne to RAF White Waltham. The engine failed in flight, forcing the pilot to attempt an emergency landing. The aircraft, a De Havilland DH 80 Plus Moth, was damaged beyond repair but the pilot was uninjured.

20. Hoddesdonbury *Cock Lane, Hoddesdon*
Hoddesdonbury was the home of Admiral Sir Alexander Bingley who commanded several ships during WW2.

21. Hoddesdon Clock Tower *Burford Street, Hoddesdon EN11 8UR*
Victory in Europe was celebrated on Monday 7 May with dancing around the clock tower. The following day after Germany's surrender was confirmed, there was a bonfire in the market square with large crowds gathering to burn their blackout curtains.

22. Hoddesdon Wallpaper and Timber *Amwell Street, Hoddesdon EN11 8UA*
This company at 70 Amwell Street specialised in creating air raid shelters.

23. Lilac Road *Hoddesdon, EN11 0PG*
Victory in Europe was celebrated in Lilac Road with a bonfire on 7 May around which residents sang and danced until late hours.

24. Duke William of Cumberland Public House *corner of Ware Road and Duke Street, Hoddesdon, EN11 8LB*
Victory in Europe Day was celebrated in 1945 with an open air concert and dancing with music from Jay Dimmock and his band. The pub no longer exists.

25. Nursery Road, *Hoddesdon EN11 9LB*
In October 1940, Arthur Dearman of Nursery Road, Hoddesdon was warned no less than 12 times for breach of blackout regulations before receiving a fine of £2.

26. John Warner School *Stanstead Rd, Hoddesdon EN11 0QF*
A searchlight was situated on part of the land now occupied by the school.

27. Normandy Way *Hoddesdon EN11 0EW*
This road was named on the 55th anniversary of the D-Day landing (6 June 1944) to liberate occupied Europe.

28. Nissen Huts *Rye House, Rye Road, Hoddesdon EN11 0EH*
A factory making Nissen huts was located south of Rye House between 1922 and 1960. A Nissen hut is a prefabricated steel structure originally for military use, especially as barracks.

29. Lowewood Museum *High Street, Hoddesdon EN11 8BH*
During the war Lowewood was occupied by the Hoddesdon Food Committee. In the grounds is the Holocaust Memorial remembering those killed in the Holocaust and other genocides.

30. Cheshunt Cemetery
Contains both WW1 and WW2 graves. Details are on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website (cwgc.org)

BOMB SITES

1. Bury Green Lane, *Goffs Oak EN7*
Eight bombs fell on this road.

2. Barrow Lane, *Cheshunt, EN7 5LU*
Seven bombs fell in Barrow Lane.

3. Silver Street, *Goffs Oak, EN7 5NF*
Eleven bombs dropped in Silver Street, from right by the junction with Jones Road down to Halstead Hill.

4. Goffs Lane, *Goffs Oak EN7 5ET*
A total of 11 bombs fell in Goffs Lane, with most falling near where Goffs Oak Village Hall is located.

5. College Road, *Cheshunt, EN8 9LT* One bomb dropped near the fire station.

6. Monarchs Way, *Waltham Cross EN8* four bombs dropped here.

7. Monarchs Way, *Waltham Cross EN8 7DP* Three bombs were dropped just south of Swanfield Road.

8. Eleanor Cross Road, *Waltham Cross EN8* Four bombs plus a parachute mine fell on either side of the road.

9. High Street, *Waltham Cross EN8 7QX* Three bombs dropped just off the High Street, near to Edinburgh Crescent and Royal Avenue.

10. Cheshunt Lake, *EN8 9AJ*
30 bombs fell north and south of Cheshunt Lake.

11. Hoddesdon,
14 bombs fell between Ware Road and Cock Lane in 1941 killing two people.

12. Dobbs Weir Road, *Hoddesdon EN11 0AY* was bombed on September 16 1940 and the night of February 18 1944.

