

**Important facts**

Booker Airfield originally opened in 1939 and was called Marlow Airport. In 1941, it changed its name to RAF (Royal Air Force) Booker. During World War II, it was used as a training centre for RAF pilots. In 1965, it was developed as a civilian aerodrome under the name 'Wycombe Air Park'.

**World War II**

World War II began in 1939 and ended in 1945. During this time, RAF bases across the country were used as training centres for pilots. At RAF Booker, 120 pilots were trained using 72 Tiger Moth and Miles Magistrates fighter planes.

**Gliding**

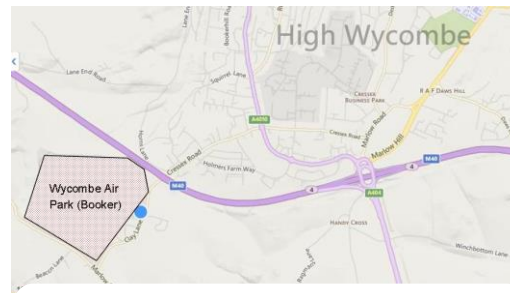
Gliding first began at the airfield in 1942, where officers and men were trained to fly in the light aircrafts. In 1957, RAF Booker became a gliding centre. World records for gliding have been set at the airfield: Brenning James was the first person to fly a 500k and Chris Rollings set the single-seater record for a 750k task. Today, the airfield is still used a gliding club.

**Key Vocabulary**

|                       |                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Aerodrome             | A place where airplane flights happen |
| Aircraft              | Flying machine                        |
| Airport               | A larger aerodrome                    |
| Glider                | A light aircraft                      |
| RAF (Royal Air Force) | The United Kingdom's air force.       |



The Tiger Moth is a 1930s British plane operated by the RAF. They were used during World War II as trainer aircrafts, surveillance planes, in defence operations and sometimes as armed light bombers.



Booker Airfield is located to the South-West of High Wycombe town centre in Buckinghamshire.



A glider plane is a plane which doesn't depend on an engine. Instead, they use the reaction of the air against its lifting surfaces.

Timeline

1939: Booker airfield opens. World War II begins.

1942: Gliding begins at RAF Booker.

1957: RAF Booker becomes a gliding centre.

1975: The airfield was featured in 'Aces High'

1941: Changes to RAF Booker and helps to train RAF pilots.

1945: World War II ends.

1965: The airfield was featured in 'Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines'

Present: Used as a gliding centre.