



THE DAMBUSTERS BIKE RIDE 2023



Royal Air Force
Benevolent Fund

#DambustersRide



WELCOME TO THE DAMBUSTERS RIDE BRIEFING PACK 2023

SAT 13 MAY 2023, 7AM - 6PM

Heritage Routes – Short (41 mile), Medium (80 miles), and Long (103 miles)



Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, LN10 6QG

What3Words: ///manly.polishing.drags

All contact details referenced throughout are listed at the end of the document

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WHAT YOU NEED

All riders must be wearing a helmet throughout the ride to take part. Failure to do so will result in you being removed from the ride at any stage. Please contact us via email if you are exempt from wearing a helmet for medical reasons.

Although we will be providing light refreshments and mechanical support on the route, we strongly recommend you prepare yourself with some essentials:

FOR ME


- Cycling helmet
- Water bottles - you can refill these at the feeding stations
- Sunscreen - even if it isn't visibly sunny, we still recommend protecting your skin
- Waterproof lightweight jacket
- A small first aid kit in case of minor injury.

FOR MY BIKE

- Fully serviced bike
- Race number timing chip
- Lights/reflective strips
- Bike repair toolkit and tools for punctures including spare inner tubes
- Time trial bikes and aero-bars are not able to be used at the bike ride due to safety.

NAVIGATION

- A fully charged phone with emergency contact numbers pre-saved
- A GPS device with the route preloaded or a smart phone with the following installed:

 What3Words app for GPS location

  Strava or Garmin Connect app with Heritage 41, 80 or 103-mile route loaded.

There will be emergency medical staff as well as mechanics stationed along the route to support any breakdowns or injuries. In case of emergency please call 999.



PARKING

There is no specified event parking. Parking at the start line at the Petwood Hotel will only be available for residents, blue badge holders, and participants who are residing at the Petwood Hotel for the event.

This is due to there only being one access road to the Hotel, so an influx of vehicles would cause significant disruption to cyclists setting off on the Heritage Routes.

Parking is available on a first come, first served basis in the surrounding area for all the other participants and supporters.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

Please arrive at least 30 minutes before your start time.

The start time you have been allocated must be adhered to. If for any reason you are likely to miss your start time, please notify **Jon** via text with your full name and race number. We can then make amendments and allocate you a later start time. If you start after the allocated start time period for your route, you should be aware that the route may not be signposted so you should be prepared to navigate yourself around the route.

Participants will be set off in waves of up to 20 people at 5-minute intervals, based on the anticipated finish time you provided and your route distance.

We will be photographing, filming, and sharing highlights through our social media channels. We would love to see your pictures and stories from the day. Please tag us in anything you share using **@rafbf** and **#DambustersRide**

Images and filming from the 2023 event may also be used on various channels to promote the Fund's work in the future.

If you do not wish to have your image used and have not already informed us of this on your registration form, please make it clear to one of our staff members prior to, or on the morning of the event.

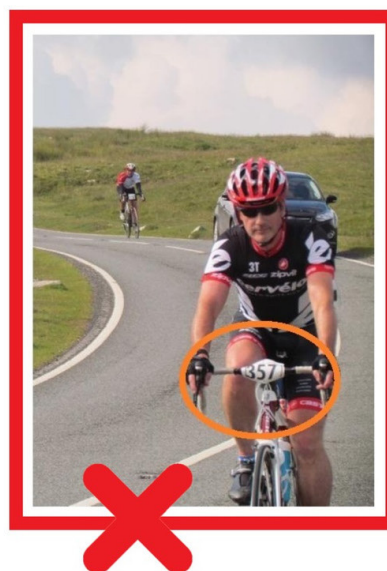


YOUR TIMING CHIP

Our event is chip timed through our partner Race Timing Solutions. This allows us to track your safety and ride completion time. **You will receive your race number timing chip through the post up to 1 week before the event.** You must bring this with you in order to take part in the ride. The timing data will be recorded and shared with all participants online shortly after the event.

Please follow this easy guide on how to attach your race number timing chip to your bike correctly. This will ensure we are able to track you crossing the timing points. Race numbers not attached correctly according to the provided user guide will fail to track and record completion times.

HOW TO USE A NUMBER BOARD ON YOUR BIKE



Board must be visible and straight
Please remember - race chip is on reverse of number board.

PLEASE DO NOT BEND OR FOLD YOUR NUMBER BOARD
IT WILL DAMAGE THE RACE CHIP

ON THE START LINE

Please make your way to the sign posted starting area at the Petwood Hotel 10 minutes before your allocated start time. Here you will be given a short briefing and gear up to start your Heritage Route.

Make sure you have attached your timing chip to your bike and secured your helmet as you won't be permitted to start without both of these fitted correctly.

EVENT FINISH TIME

The Dambusters Ride finishes at 6pm. If you are still out on the course at 6pm you must call the emergency number stating your name and location for assistance. If for whatever reason you have had to leave the course and go home, please ensure you phone us and let us know.

If you are not accounted for by 6pm we will:

Call the personal mobile number you provided.

Call the emergency contact number you provided.

If the sweeper bus has not picked you up from the course, you have not followed the above steps, and all other avenues have been exhausted, we will call the emergency services.

ROUTE FACILITIES

There will be toilet facilities located at the Petwood Hotel (start/finish) and at each feeding station.

There will be water refill and light refreshments at each feeding station, as well as celebratory refreshments at the finish.

TO KEEP YOU SAFE

Please save the **Emergency Contact Numbers** in your phone before the event. Call this number if you have mechanical issues or require emergency medical staff. This number can be found at the end of this document.

For serious medical emergencies and road accidents, please dial 999 immediately before informing us via the emergency contact number.

You may have to wait for recovery. Your best course of action, if you are able, may be to go to the nearest feeding station or find a safe place off the road to wait.

Download the What3words application on your mobile so we can track your location accurately in case of emergency.

THE CODE ON THE ROAD

This is an open road, non-competitive event. Cyclists must follow the rules of the road at all times. We please ask that you consider other road users when riding. This includes cars, pedestrians, other cyclists, and horses.

Signposts, marshals and supporting mobile patrols are there to support you but not to provide any traffic management.

The responsibility is on the rider to be physically capable of completing their chosen distance. The rider is also responsible for their own bike and needs to be confident that it's safe and reliable enough to complete the distance. If the event team judge that your bike is not in a suitable or safe condition you will not be allowed to start.



THE HERITAGE ROUTES



The Short, Medium, and Long routes will be sign posted at regular intervals and marked with the route distance you are following. The Medium and Long Routes will share the roads with the Lincoln Grand Prix Sportive that is also taking place on the 13 May. The designs of the signs for the two sportives differ so make sure you familiarise yourself with the Dambusters Heritage Ride signage.

THE SHORT ROUTE

The Short Route is 66km/41 miles with 338m/1109' of ascent. The route includes a food stop at the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre and passes RAF Coningsby, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, Thorpe Camp Visitor Centre, and the Dambusters Memorial in Woodhall Spa. The routes signage will follow blue signs for the entirety of the route.



[The Short Route on Strava](#)



[The Short Route on Garmin Connect](#)

THE MEDIUM ROUTE

The Medium Route is 129km/80 miles with 525m/1722' of ascent and largely follows the Long Route until it returns to Woodhall Spa. It includes food stops in Scampton Village Church Community and RAF War Graves Heritage Centre (52km/32 miles), International Bomber Command Centre (91km/57 miles) and Metheringham Airfield Visitor Centre (114km/71 miles). It also passes RAF Wickenby Memorial Museum, RAF Waddington, Scopwick church, the former RAF Metheringham airfield and the Dambusters Memorial in Woodhall Spa. You will follow pink signs for the entirety of the route.



[The Medium Route on Strava](#)



[The Medium Route on Garmin Connect](#)

THE LONG ROUTE

The Long Route is 166km/103 miles with 626m/2054' of ascent. The route includes food stops at Scampton Village Church Community and RAF War Graves Heritage Centre (45km/28 miles), International Bomber Command Centre (85km/52 miles), Metheringham Airfield Visitor Centre (107km/67 miles) and Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre (139km/86 miles). Riders will also pass RAF Waddington, Scopwick church, the former RAF Metheringham airfield, Thorpe Camp Visitor Centre, and the Dambusters Memorial in Woodhall Spa. You will follow yellow signs throughout the duration of the ride and will be joined by riders on the Short Route at 136km/85miles between the village of Miningsby and the final food stop at East Kirkby.



[The Long Route on Strava](#)



[The Long Route on Garmin Connect](#)

FEED STATIONS

SCAMPTON VILLAGE CHURCH COMMUNITY AND RAF WAR GRAVES HERITAGE CENTRE

(Medium and Long Routes)

What3Words: ///bike.frightens.invest

Open 9.15am - 12.30pm

The 14th Century church at Scampton is dedicated to St. John the Baptist and houses an RAF Chapel which is furnished with the original squadron shields, and honour boards from the Officers' Mess at RAF Scampton and the altar and small pews from RAF Swinderby when that closed. A feature of the churchyard is the double section of graves of members of the RAF. These men, representing nearly every one of the Dominions, met their deaths during the war, through wounds or in crashing aircraft returning from raids on enemy territory. There are eight German war graves, situated near the road. These men belonged to German aircraft which had attacked military objectives in the district and had been brought down nearby. Sometime later it was discovered that there was an extra man on board one of the aircraft and so a name was added to one of the original headstones. The Heritage Centre project aims to educate the next generation about the meaning of remembrance and tell the personal stories of those buried here.

INTERNATIONAL BOMBER COMMAND CENTRE

(Medium and Long Routes)

What3Words: ///statue.dunes.busy

Open 10.30am - 2.45pm

The International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC) is a world-class facility to serve as a point for recognition, remembrance and reconciliation for Bomber Command. Providing the most comprehensive record of the Command in the world, the IBCC ensures that generations to come can learn of their vital role in protecting the freedom we enjoy today. At the heart of the IBCC are the Memorial Spire and Walls of Names. The Spire commands stunning views across Lincoln, with a focus on the City's ancient Cathedral, which served as a sighting point for crews flying from Lincolnshire. For many of the men named on the accompanying walls, the Cathedral provided their last sight of Britain.

METHERINGHAM AIRFIELD VISITOR CENTRE

(Medium and Long Routes)

What3Words: ///forwarded.candle.teaching

Open 11.10am - 4.10pm

Metheringham Airfield Visitor Centre is dedicated to preserving the memory of all the men and women that flew with or supported 106 Squadron RAF Bomber Command at RAF Metheringham in the Second World War. The airfield was operational between November 1943 and the Spring of 1946. It was home to 106 Squadron RAF during the whole of this period and in the autumn of 1944 they were joined by 1690 Bomber Defence Training Flight. It was also a main staging post for the repatriation of Americans wounded. The Museum here today is on what was part of the administrative area of the airfield and includes a Douglas Dakota (KG651).

LINCOLNSHIRE AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE

(Short and Long Routes)

What3Words: ///sobered.sunk.glow

Open 12.10pm - 5pm

The Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre is a family run museum and was set up in 1989. It is now widely seen as a living memorial to the 55,573 men of Bomber Command who lost their lives during the Second World War. It holds two of the rarest aircraft, an Avro Lancaster Bomber MKVII and De Havilland Mosquito NFII, in its collection. These sit alongside many wartime vehicles including a Ford WOT1 Crew Bus, the only one of its kind in existence. The Centre is based on the old wartime airfield of RAF East Kirkby. It retains the original 1940's watch tower and its hangar is built on the original wartime hangar base.

ON THE FINISH LINE

THE PETWOOD

What3Words: ///manly.polishing.drags

Open 1pm - 6.30pm

Returning to The Petwood you will be greeted by the team and awarded your finishers' medal until 6pm. Hog roast, beer and refreshments will be available to savour. Enjoying a timelessly elegant setting and unique heritage, The Petwood is one of the most memorable places to stay in Lincolnshire. During the Second World War the hotel was the Officers' Mess for nearby RAF Woodhall Spa housing, including the officers of 617 Squadron, The Dambusters, from January 1944 until the end of the war.

Feeding station supplies are not unlimited. All efforts have been made to provide all riders with sufficient sustenance to get around the routes. However, stock cannot be guaranteed. Please consider fellow riders who are yet to visit the feeding stations. There are opportunities to purchase food from commercial outlets as you pass through villages and cafes at RAF Wickenby Memorial Museum (at 30km/19 miles on the Medium Route) and Giant Lincoln, Doddington Hall (at 68km/42 miles on the Medium Route and 62km/38 miles on the Long Route).

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

The Bike Inn

Jon - 07554 494 762

RAF Benevolent Fund

Neil - 07885 466 198

Bryan - 07877 882 393



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