

**It's hard to imagine that this tranquil area around you was once a busy military airfield.**

Across the south of England many airfields were built during the Second World War. The New Forest was important with 12 airfields in the area. Stoney Cross was one of the largest and construction started in 1942. At its busiest over 1000 people were stationed here.

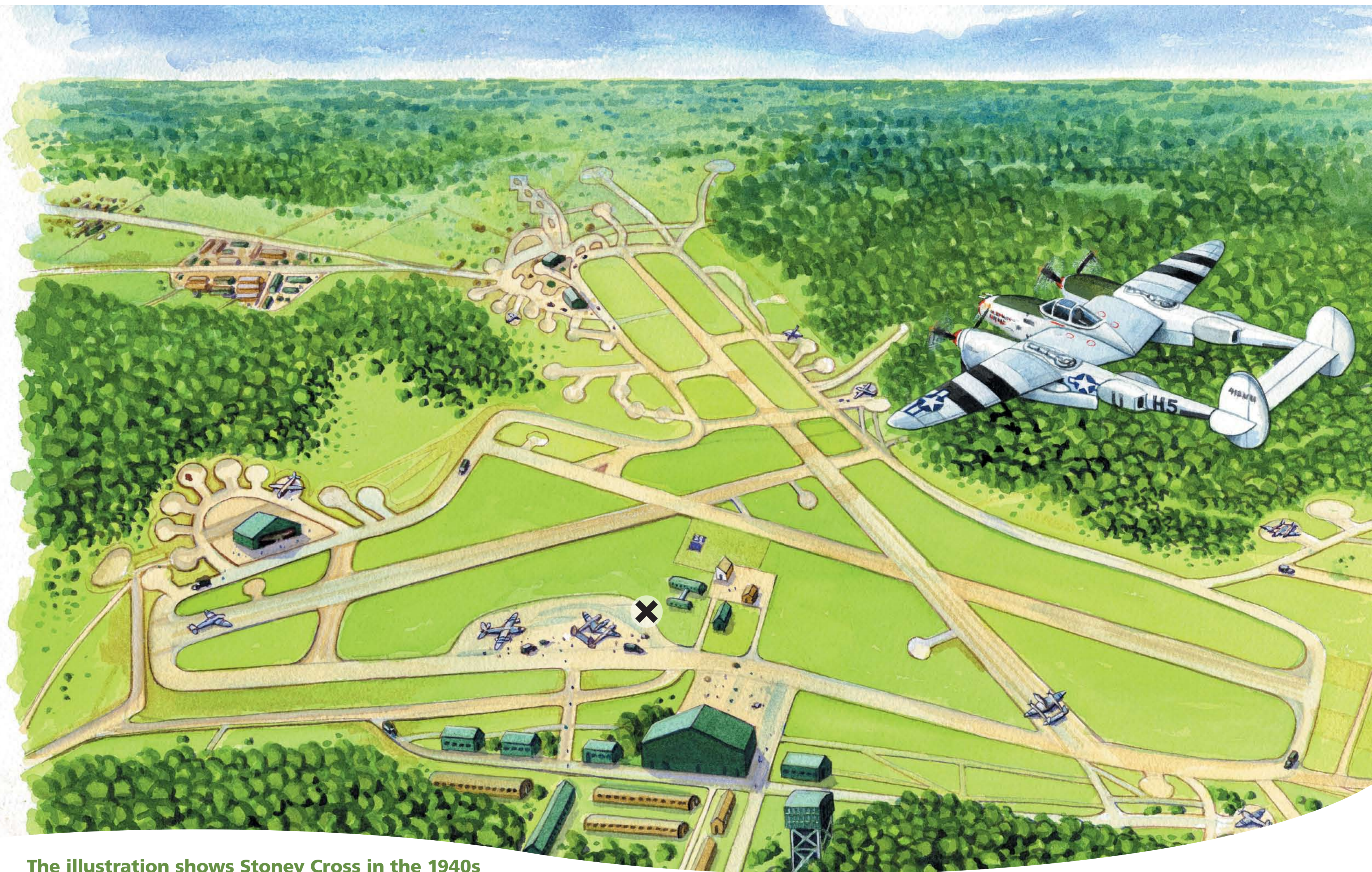
First to fly from here were the 123 Wing of the RAF Army Co-operation Squadrons (fighter bombers and photo reconnaissance). The airfield's main runway was over a mile long, making it ideal for training with glider tugs and troop-carrying aircraft by 38 Wing RAF.

In April 1944, prior to D-Day, the 367th Fighter Group of the USAAF arrived, replaced in July by the 387th Bomb Group. By September 1944 the Americans had moved to Normandy and the airfield was used by RAF Transport Command. Personnel were flown out to India and the Far East.

In 1946 flying ceased. Afterwards the District Council used buildings as homes for local families at what is now Long Beech campsite. Today all you can see are some concrete roadways, aircraft dispersal bays and runway outlines.

This panel commemorates the brave men and women who served here and is a memorial to those who paid the ultimate price.

# The Forest at War: RAF Stoney Cross



**The illustration shows Stoney Cross in the 1940s and a USAAF P-38 Lightning fighter with D-Day invasion stripes**

The **X** on the illustration marks the position of this panel.

Visit [www.newforestnpa.gov.uk](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk) to find out more.

With thanks to Alan Brown and the Friends of the New Forest Airfields.

