

# Final Major Project

By Laura Wing



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# Introduction

Our familiar landscapes are often forced to alter through World Wars and conflicts. It can result in leaving a unique imprint, in which these can represent either it's accomplishments or defeats. The development of military aviation sites increased dramatically during the Second World War for all of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Presently, some of these military sites still stand today as they intertwine as past and present. Often stuck in time, with no formal classification as a heritage site, neither conserved nor regenerated, their fate often lies with Mother Nature.

This body of work collectively rediscovers the airfields of Northern Ireland, the structures that stand the test of time offer us a chance to reflect the Second World War. This work does not depict the harrowing scenes of the front line but instead you are invited to view the wider perspective. The essential cogs that provided the fight for victory, the flying training camps, aircraft maintenance units but also the Royal Air Force Coastal Command that engaged with the German U-boat for the Battle of the Atlantic. The influx of these military airfields would also require the participation from communities around these sites, as they often would be displaced from home and their livelihoods.

It was not possible to offer a conclusive catalogue of every known airfield in Northern Ireland but instead the imagery reflects a personal journey through discovering these sites. By combining historic source imagery and recent aerial imagery it was also possible to see how these airfields, their runways leave a lasting imprint, some only faint but still present. We can not physically preserve all of these sites but if we continue to record the story and in this case the image, we can encourage the conversation between generations and help to preserve this legacy into heritage.

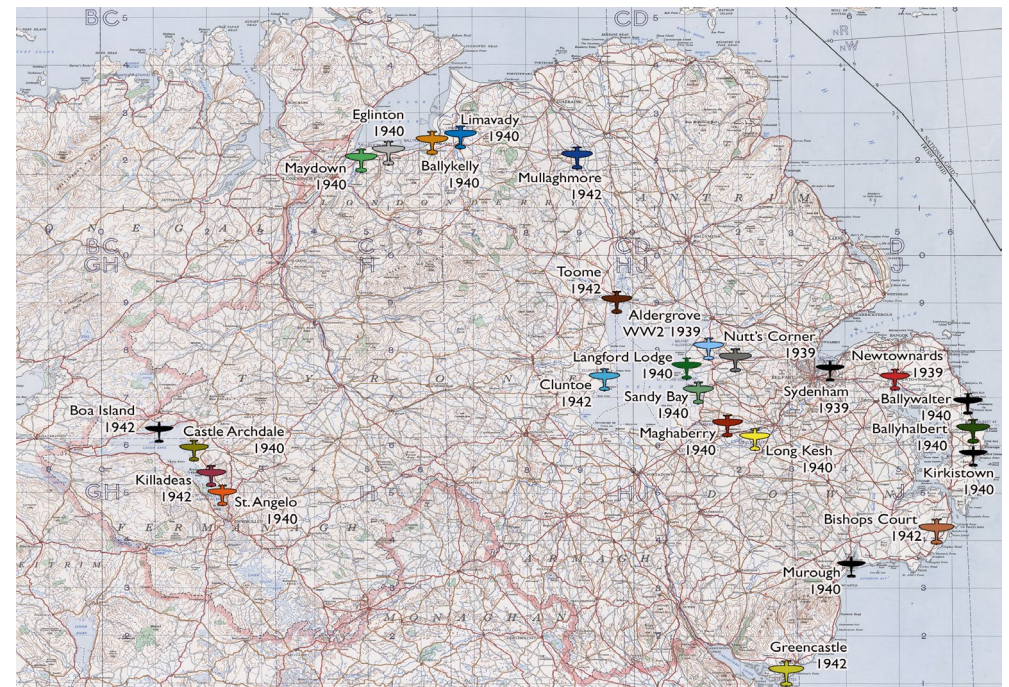


Fig.1. 1963 Northern Ireland



# Final Images



Fig.2.The Runway Ballyhalbert



Fig.3.The Control Tower Limavady





Fig.4.The Dock Castle Archdale



Fig.5.The Battle HQ Limavady





Fig.6.The Bird's Eye View Nutt's Corner



Fig.7.The Hangar Eglinton





Fig.8.The Runway Newtownards



Fig.9.The Control Tower Cluntoe





Fig.10.The Operation Block Ballyhalbert



Fig.11.The Defensive Structure Newtownards





Fig.12.The Bird's Eye View Long Kesh



Fig.13.The Hangar Limavady





Fig.14.The Runway St.Angelo



Fig.15.The Control Tower Greencastle





Fig.16.The Machine Gun Range Newtownards



Fig.17.The Bird's Eye View Toome





Fig.18.The Defensive Structure Eglinton



Fig.19.The Hangar Long Kesh





Fig.20.The Runway Mullaghmore



Fig.21.The Control Tower Ballyhalbert





Fig.22. The Refuelling Jetty Castle Archdale



Fig.23. The Bird's Eye View Ballyhalbert





Fig.24. The Defensive Structure Long Kesh



Fig.25. The Hangar Aldergrove





Fig.26.The Runway Bishops Court



Fig.27.The Control Tower Greencastle





Fig.28.The Norden Bombsight Structure Toome



Fig.29.The Bird's Eye View Castle Archdale





Fig.30.The Pillbox Newtownards



Fig.31.The Hangar Maghaberry





Fig.32. The Nissen Hut Killadeas



Fig.33. The Bird's Eye View Langford Lodge



**Date:** 21st May 2019

**Location:** Public Records Office Northern Ireland

**Event:** Digital Centenaries

**Attendance:** Various kiosks featuring different projects in relation to the theme, I shared my kiosk with another project that used the TV screen (see fig.34.)

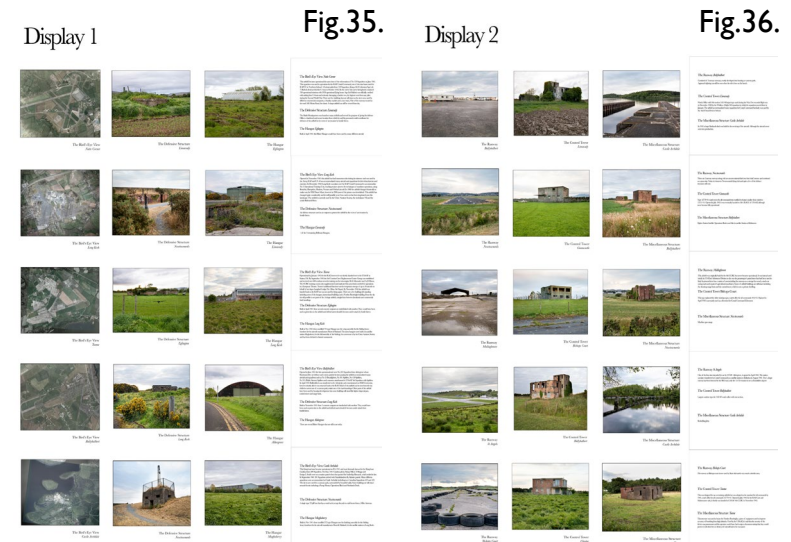
**Audience:** General public by social media and ticked by Eventbrite.

**Installation:** 2 towers of 5 12 x 12 inch boxes, separated into categories, featuring 30 images and area captions. Imagery printed onto matte paper and mounted onto foam board and using Velcro to attach each box for ease of assembly and transportation. Tower made with parasol and metal rod, boxes could be spun around as so the viewer could change the order of images if they so wished.

**Photography:** I was told that media would be captured at the event, no imagery was taken of me.

# Exhibition

Fig.34. Installation shot



**2019 WW1 Engagement Centres Festival - Legacies of the First World War**  
Shared Heritage  
18th – 22nd May 2019

<b>LANDSCAPE LEGACIES</b> Cleish Island and Enniskilling Museum, Co. Fermanagh To explore how war left legacies in the landscape. The day includes a field trip to Cleish Island and discussion afterward in the Barrack room, Enniskilling Museum. 09:00 - 17:30 <b>18 MAY</b>	<b>COMMEMORATIVE WALKING TOUR</b> From the Falls to the Shankill, Cultivern, Falls Rd, Belfast The Story of the West Belfast Ulster Volunteer Force. The event will begin with a talk by Professor Richard Grayson who will then lead a walking tour around West Belfast. 10:50 - 13:30 <b>20 MAY</b>
<b>PERFORMING THE PAST</b> SYMPOSIUM - Brian Priel Theatre, Queen's University Belfast The use of creative methods to explore the legacies of WW1. The event will celebrate how community groups have used artistic methods to communicate their own local history. 14:00 - 17:30 <b>20 MAY</b>	<b>MEDAL IN THE DRAWER</b> Play - Brian Priel Theatre, Queen's University Belfast A play by Brenda Winter-Palmer which charts the journey of four young men from Belfast. Based on the war journey of the playwright's great uncle Willie. 18:30 - 21:00 <b>20 MAY</b>
<b>DIGITAL CENTENARIES</b> Public Records Office Northern Ireland - Belfast Celebrating examples of digital achievements of the Centenary, illustrating community successes. Afternoon talks and discussion on 'where next' for digital legacies. Optional tour to HMS Caroline. 10:00 - 15:15 <b>21 MAY</b>	<b>COLLECTING CONNECTIONS</b> Ulster Folk & Transport Museum, Cultra Objects and stories from WW1 form the focus for this event which looks at how communities and museums have worked together to explore Shared Heritage. Optional tour around Ulster Folk Park at Cultra. 12:30 - 15:10 <b>22 MAY</b>

TO BOOK ANY OF THESE FREE EVENTS AND FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EACH DAY PLEASE GO TO: <http://go.qub.ac.uk/LLSharedHeritage>

Arts & Humanities Research Council | LIVING LEGACIES | VOICES OF WAR AND PEACE | Everyday Lives in War | Centre for Hidden Histories

Fig.37. Poster



**Book:** Rediscovering the Aerodrome

**Book Flow:** Introduction, Imagery, Extended captions and Acknowledgments/References.

**Design:** Laura Wing

**Main feature:** Colour coded map (in introduction) that cross-references with location, imagery and extended captions.

**Print:** 250mm x 250mm square format, paperback binding, front cover matte 300gsm, inside pages 135gsm silk.

**Available:** PDF of book available for download on website.

**Front Cover of Book sent to print**

**Book PDF sent to print**

Fig.38. Front Cover

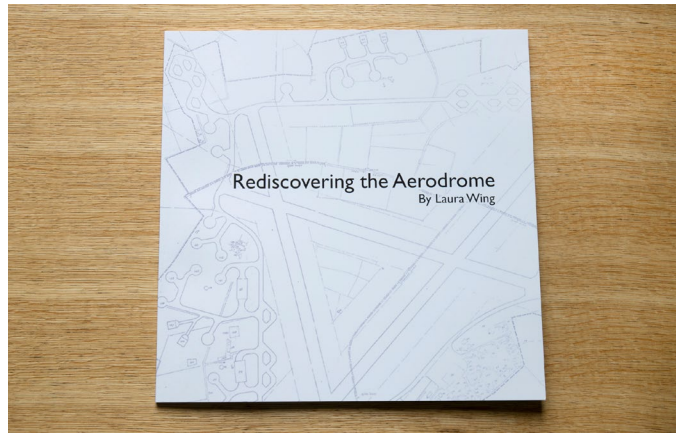


Fig.39. Introduction



Fig.40. Images



Fig.41. Images

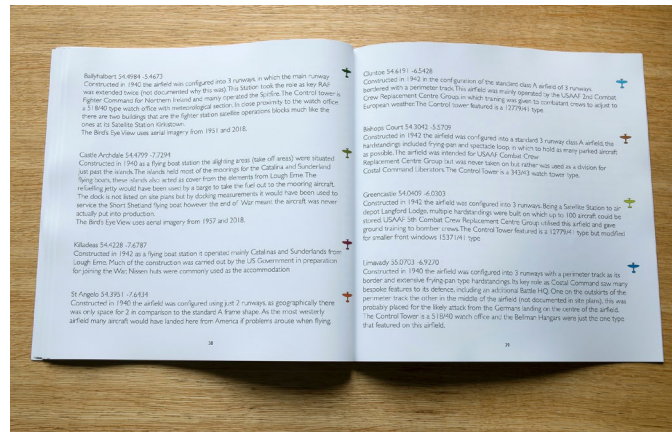


Fig.42. Captions



Fig.43. Captions



Website: [www.lauraframe.com](http://www.lauraframe.com)

Platform: Squarespace

Design: Avenue template and Laura Wing

Website Flow: Introduction, Images, PDF for book, Contact/Acknowledgements

Images: All images include structure name and area caption, no extended captions (features in book only)

# Website

Fig.44. Landing Page

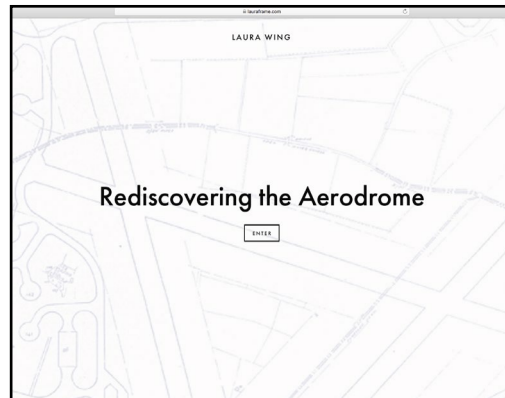


Fig.45. Introduction

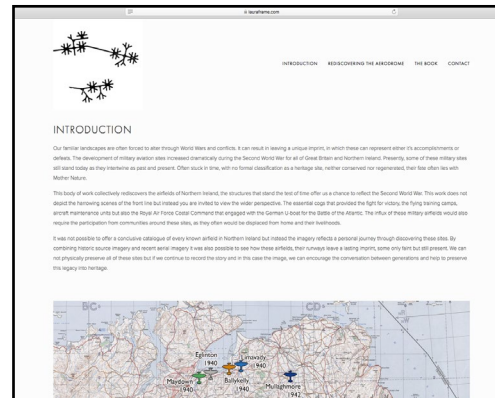


Fig.46. Slideshow

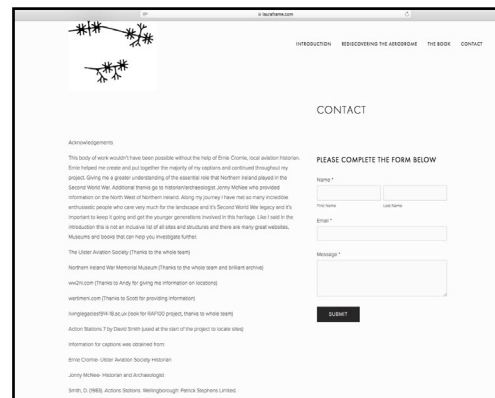


Fig.47. Contact

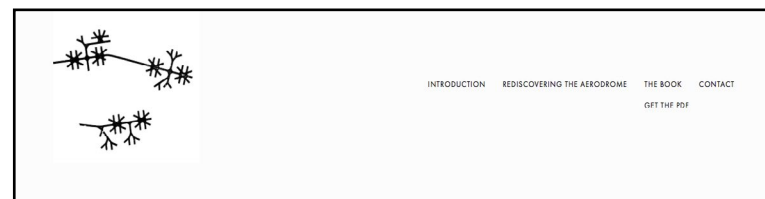


Fig.48. Menu



## Portfolio reviews at Belfast Photo Festival reviewing exhibition imagery with then title of Aerodrome Landscapes.

Malcolm Dickson, Director of Street Level Photoworks, Glasgow.

Liked how the imagery was consistent throughout, well put together and would best be suited to a publication. Encouraged a rethink to the title, something more poetic.

Trish Lamb, Curator at Gallery of Photography, Dublin.

Found my subject really interesting, liked the general feel of my work and how it links place with structure. Suggested I work on typeface when exhibiting work again and to change the name of the 'Miscellaneous' category. Felt that the aerial imagery worked well with the rest of the project and would keep me in mind if anything came up in the gallery.

Deirdre Robb, Chief Executive Belfast Exposed, Belfast.

Liked my project as a whole and was glad it was not another project about the Northern Ireland troubles and that it focused on the Second World War.

Described the imagery as stunning, very consistent and enjoyed the warmer tones in comparison to the subject. Could see this as a large-scale exhibition in any contemporary gallery but wasn't sure if the aerial imagery would work together but would in a publication. Would keep me in mind of anything comes up at the gallery.

## Reviews from Historian and Curator reviewing website and book.

Andy Glenfield – [WW2NI \(website\)](#)

Laura Wing has shown the huge importance of Northern Ireland as an aviation Hub during the Second World War indeed I have heard us being referred to as an Aircraft Carrier. The Airfields which were constructed throughout Northern Ireland had various uses from the Coastal Command operations at Limavady and Ballykelly to the Flying Boats availing of the "Donegal Corridor". This was without doubt a massive contribution to the battle of the Atlantic with the central "Gap" where the U-Boats could operate without fear of discovery by Allied Aircraft finally being closed. The American "Eagle Squadron" at Eglinton and the Polish Airmen at Ballyhalbert added to the mix. There are some remains at all these sites however the march of "Development" continues and Laura's photography is important in the recording of a momentous time in our history. A commendable Project!

Clare Ablett - Curatorial Assistant National Museums NI

I think Rediscovering the Aerodrome is a great piece of work which has brought together imagery of the many forgotten airfields across Northern Ireland. This can only help raise awareness of our rich aviation history and through these detailed photographs it enables the public to have a more tangible idea of what once existed. The aerial photographs are particularly impressive and give an idea of the huge size of these operations.



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