



Information Sheet 1c

Location Overview

Last Updated: January 2008

RAF BENSON

This information sheet is designed to give you a general picture of **RAF BENSON and the immediate area**. If you would like further, more detailed information on specific subjects please contact the HIVE.

RAF Benson is in a prime location; it has access to all major motorways, and is situated between two large towns. Oxford, to the North, is home to many well-known museums, art galleries, colleges and universities, providing a wealth of culture and history. Reading to the South of Benson boasts two major shopping malls; one of which is The Oracle. RAF Benson is located within the 'Chilterns', an area of natural outstanding beauty. The River Thames runs through Benson and down onto Henley-on-Thames.

Unit Facilities

The Unit is home to many amenities, including a gym and various sport and recreational clubs including football, saddle club, archery and ceramics club. The Station has a learning centre which runs various courses, hairdressers, HIVE (free broadband internet access), 'Naffy Caffy', Families Club, thrift shop, and a wide range of activities for children, including parent and toddler group, scouts, rainbows, brownies and youth club. The messes have all the usual facilities, and also host various functions throughout the year.

Contact House

RAF Benson has two contact houses; Elm Lodge & Willow House. Both houses have two bedrooms; Elm Lodge has bunk beds and a sofa bed. The charge is £10 per adult per night and can be booked through the MT Section on 01491 837766 ext 6303 or 7266. Priority is given to welfare and parent child contact. Please be aware that if you book this accommodation and a welfare issue arises you can be asked to vacate the house with extremely short notice.

Service Families Accommodation

The station has 600 quarters, comprising of 2, 3, and 4 bedroom houses, all of which are behind the wire. The local DE office can be contacted on 01491 837766 ext. 6261.

The regional office for allocations of SFA at RAF Benson is High Wycombe. Civ 01494 495504/06/07/08/09/10/5530, mil 95221 5504/06/07/08/09/10/5503.

Single Living Accommodation

Sergeants and junior ranks must contact the accommodation office on 01491 837766 ext 7912, to notify them of any single accommodation needs. Officers must contact the Officers Mess reception on 01491 837766 ext.6505.

Schools

There is a nursery school on camp, and two pre- schools in local villages. There is a primary school within Station and 3 further schools within the local area. Icknield Community College is the secondary school within RAF Benson catchment area. There are a variety of Public & Church schools in the area around RAF Benson.

Transport

The nearest train station is in Cholsey; 4 miles from RAF Benson. London is only an hour away and is served by a direct train link either from Reading or Didcot. There is an hourly bus service from the camp gates to Wallingford; from here you can get a bus to either Oxford or Reading. There is a Taxi firm, which can pick up and drop off on Station. The HIVE holds bus timetables and other transport information.

Shopping

There is a Spar shop located on camp, and a Somerfield and Unwins in Benson Village. Reading's Oracle Centre and High Street have a wide variety of shops to suit all tastes. Oxford has different arcades and specialist shops. Bicester and Swindon are reasonably close and have discount outlets'

Eating Out

There are a wide variety of places to eat around RAF Benson; on camp itself there is the Naffy Caffy and Osman's Kebab Van. There are many country and riverside pubs, which serve a variety of food. Oxford has many places to eat; Cowley Road has many curry houses and Chinese restaurants as well other types of cuisine, the City Centre has most chain restaurants. Reading has a lot of restaurants in the redeveloped riverside area. The local town of Wallingford has a variety of takeaways and restaurants. The Wallingford Herald does a weekly write up of local places to eat.

Healthcare

Single serving personnel and families are entitled to use RAF Benson Medical Centre on 01491 837766 ext 7235. There are other surgeries in the local area, the closest being Millstream Surgery in Benson Village, which can be contacted on 01491 838286.

All military personnel are entitled to use the RAF Benson Dental Centre on 01491 837766 ext 7123. Dependents must register with a local private or NHS Dentist; Henley Dental Centre on 01491 412233 is an NHS dentist taking on patients.



For more information on Benson and the surrounding area please contact the HIVE on:

RAF Benson HIVE, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 6AA
Tel: 01491 827213
Email: benenson@hivegb.co.uk
Website: www.hive.mod.uk/rafbenson
OPENING HOURS: Mon – Fri 9am – 3pm

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