



WOOLVERSTONE FROM THE AIR - 1944

6th July 1944 - This photograph taken one month after D-Day invasion commenced, by 309 Squadron. This was a reconnaissance group made up of Polish – Land of Czerwien - pilots. The deception plan, Operation Quicksilver, was being maintained but in the next few days the operation would be wound down and the dummy craft recovered and dismantled. They had achieved their purpose.



We can see:

- 39 x Landing Craft, Tank Mk V dummy vessels moored along Potters Reach. Most are moored in threes, some in twos and occasional single craft.
- 3 x small landing craft on Woolverstone beach
- 5 x small landing craft moored to Dolphins and jetty
- Cat House
- Nissen hut on top of the cliff
- Lower of the two diesel storage tanks
- Irregular outline and bank for camouflage netting
- Nissen huts, where RHYC Club House would be established
- Paths between Woolverstone Hall and Cat House are various and well worn, especially below the block of Nissen to the west of the Hall
- Evidence of where tents had been pitched
- Observation tower on the Hall roof
- 2 x slit trenches, zig-zag lines, to the east of the stable block. Perhaps these were for training purposes, unlikely to be defensive.
- a clear white squiggly mark that appears in all three photographs at the same place. Could this be connected with the site of the Obelisk which had been demolished in 1943?
- Clear view of vista from the Hall.
- Note that the area is more wooded today.