

## **Speculation about Sculthorpe**

When the USAF left Sculthorpe for the second time in 1992 there was some speculation about its future. It was still an RAF station and service families from West Raynham and Marham were housed there for a while, and the munition stores were still in use. But then the ideas came thick and fast.

Fakenham Town Council suggested an airport and a later suggestion was an airfreight depot and the MOD were quick to deny that Richard Branson wanted to base his Virgin airline there. The poor road infrastructure in the area did not help these ideas! Another idea was a holding area for asylum seekers and another for an Ecotown. Gravel extraction was also considered. Yet another idea was for a Holiday complex. Some of these ideas got to the planning stage and one was approved, a factory to make high-powered sports cars never saw the light of day!

The MOD said that they had a plan for Sculthorpe but did not say what it was, in the end the remaining houses were sold off for £10,000, each. They became Wicken Green village and the technical area was sold off a bit at a time, invitations for sheep grazing were invited.

The Mail on Sunday newspaper ran a story about the possibility of a number of former RAF stations including Sculthorpe being sold off for £300,000,000 at that time!

Then the British army used the airfield for training making use of the new entrance gate. After this the USAF from Mildenhall used it for remote flying training