

## Mandrel

Sculthorpe aerodrome was operational in 1943 at the time when North Creake (Egmere) was being built.

By 1944 both were operating under 100 (Bomber Support) group. Sculthorpe was host to B17s fitted out with Radio Countermeasures equipment, there were also a few B17s of the USAAF 803 bomber Squadron (BS). These were fitted up with Mandrel equipment which would create an electronic screen to compromise the German radar that controlled the night-fighters. Sculthorpe closed in May 1944 and all the aircraft relocated to Oulton.

North Creake was home to the venerable Short Sterling also fitted with Mandrel in some cases.

In the middle of June 1944 North Creake sent up a pair of 'mandrel Stirlings' on a sortie and with them was a lone B17 from the 803 BS. This was to position itself midway between the two Stirlings to give a more extended screen. This may have gone forward because it proved to be successful.

The RAF left North Creake in 1947 and Sculthorpe reopened in 1948.