

BERKSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

GUIDE TO WORLD WAR 2 RECORDS



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Introduction

The Berkshire Record Office was established in 1948 to locate and preserve records relating to the county of Berkshire and its people, and to make them available for research to anyone who is interested in the county's past.

This is a guide to the sources that can be used to study World War 2 at the Berkshire Record Office. If you would like to visit the office to carry out your research, please make an appointment (see contact details on the front of this guide). Please ask for our free leaflet **Essential Information for Visitors**.

Who Did What?

During wartime many emergency functions were run by the Government. This guide is to those carried out by the local councils in Berkshire. The two most important local councils at the time were Berkshire County Council and the County Borough of Reading, which were responsible for effecting emergency orders. These principal councils either carried out the orders themselves or delegated them to the other borough or district councils.

If you are interested in a particular place or area, find out which borough or district council it was in to see which records survive. For all places other than Reading, check the entries for Berkshire County Council throughout this guide.

This guide also includes place-specific records for towns and villages throughout Berkshire.

Organisation of this Guide

This guide is divided into the following sections:

- Air Raid Precautions
- Bombing Raids
- Home Guard
- Civil Defence
- Evacuation Scheme
- Remembrance
- Home Front

The reference that you find after each entry is the code to quote if you would like to see that record. Some references are for more than one item. Please ask staff for advice.

Air Raid Precautions (ARP)

ARP Operation

Berkshire: County ARP operational data, including distribution services with map of communications and control 1944 (C/D5).

County ARP Officer's reports in the Emergency Committee for Civil Defence 1939-1948 (C/CL/C3/19/1).

Siren and incident log books 1940-1945 (C/D2/1-3).

Abingdon Rural District: ARP matters dealt with in the Emergency Committee and the Finance and General Services Committee 1939-1944 (RD/A/CB1/7-9).

Demolition of Shelters and other Structures 1944-1960 (C/D10).

Bradfield Rural District: ARP Committee reports in the minutes of the Rural District Council 1939-1945 (RD/B/CA1/34-40).

Cookham Rural District: ARP information in the Finance and General Purposes Committee minutes 1938-1945 (RD/C/CB2/4-6).

Demolition of Shelters 1945-1961 (C/D11).

Easthampstead Rural District: ARP committee reports and information on provision in the Rural District Council minutes 1939-1945 (RD/E/CA1/15).

Some ARP information in the Emergency Committee minutes

1940-1945 (RD/E/CB16/1), and in the Health and General Services Committee minutes 1939-1945 (RD/E/CB13/2).

Hungerford Rural District: Rural District Council and Emergency Committee minutes 1939-1945 (RD/H/CA1/10-12).

Maidenhead: ARP Sub-Committee minutes, later the Civil Defence Sub-Committee 1941-1945 (M/AC2/3/2).

Newbury Rural District: Rural District Council minutes 1939-1945 (RD/N/CA1/10).

Reading: Emergency Committee for Civil Defence minutes 1939-1945 (R/AC2/20/1-6).

Records of Chief ARP Warden 1939-1958 (D/EX1657/1-6).

Use of part of Reading Prison by military authorities for fire-watching 1945 (P/RP1/16/1).

Slough: Special ARP Committee, ARP Special Committee, later ARP Committee, later ARP Sub-committee 1935-1942 (S/AC1/4/3, S/AC2/18/1, S/AC2/19/1, S/AC2/23/1, S/AC2/25/1).

South Buckinghamshire ARP Joint Committee 1937-1942 (S/AC3/1/1-2).

South Buckinghamshire ARP Emergency Committee 1937-1950 (S/AC3/2/1-2).

Air Raid Precautions (ARP)

ARP Operation

Wallingford: ARP Committee minutes 1938-1942 (W/AC2/2/8-9). Joint Fire Brigade and ARP Committee minutes 1941 (W/AC2/2/9).

Wallingford Rural District: Rural District Council minutes 1939-1945 (RD/W/CA1/19-20).

Wantage: Reports of the ARP Committee in the Urban District Council minutes, later in Finance and General Purposes Committee 1939-1945 (UD/WT/CA1/8-9).

Wantage Rural District: Rural District Council minutes 1939-1945 (RD/WT/CA1/13-15).

Windsor: ARP Committee minutes 1939-1945 (WI/AC2/11/9-15).

Wokingham: Plan of Air Raid Shelters 1940 (WO/SW2/3/1-3).
Floor plan of ARP first aid post at the indoor bowling green, Reading Road 1938 (WO/SW2/1).

Wokingham Rural District: ARP Committee minutes 1939 (RD/WO/CB26/3).
Emergency Committee minutes include ARP 1939-1940 (RD/WO/CB17/1).

Out-County: Board of Education circular on ARP in schools 1939 (D/P19/28/21/2).

ARP Local Information

The amount of information contained in these records can vary.

Beedon: Civil Parish Council minutes 1939-1945 (CPC15/2/1).

Chaddleworth: Civil Parish Council minutes 1940-1941 (CPC32/1/1).

Crowthorne: Civil Parish Council minutes 1940-1941 (CPC102B/1/2).

Finchampstead: Civil Parish Council minutes 1940 (CPC56/1/3).

Hampstead Marshall: Civil Parish Council minutes 1940 (CPC61/1/1).

Mapledurham: Civil Parish Council minutes 1940-1942 (CPC162B/1/2).

Padworth: Civil Parish Council minutes 1940 (CPC90/1/1).

Air Raid Precautions (ARP)

ARP Local Information

Pangbourne: Civil Parish Council minutes 1939-1940 (CPC91/2/1).

Purley: Civil Parish Council minutes and rough minutes 1939-1941 (CPC93/1/1, CPC93/2/1).

Reading: Pocket Guide to the ARP Arrangements in Reading c.1939 (D/EX1650/1).

Sandhurst: Civil Parish Council minutes 1940 (CPC102/1/3).

Shaw-cum-Donnington: Newspaper clipping of public appeal for ARP volunteers in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1940 (CPC106/1/1).

Shinfield: Civil Parish Council minutes 1939-1945 (CPC110/1/5).

Slough: ARP map of Slough 1940 (D/EX1983/1).

Sonning: Civil Parish Council minutes 1939 (CPC113/1/3).

Speen: Civil Parish Council minutes 1940-1942 (CPC116/1/3).

Stanford-in-the-Vale: Appointment card (Air Raid Warden) 1939 (D/EX284/545).

Stratfield Mortimer: Civil Parish Council minutes 1939-1941 (CPC120/1/2).

Streatley: Civil Parish Council Minutes 1940-1945 (CPC122/1/2).

Sunningdale: Civil Parish Council minutes 1940-1941 (CPC150B/1/2).

Sunninghill: Civil Parish Council minutes 1939 (CPC126/1/4).

Thatcham: Civil Parish Council minutes 1939-1942 (CPC130/1/4).

Tilehurst: Civil Parish Council minutes 1939-1941 (CPC126/1/4).

Twyford: Civil Parish Council minutes 1939 (CPC73B/1/3).

Wallingford: Notice of fire fighting demonstration 1941 (D/P139/28/8).

Waltham St Lawrence: Civil Parish Council minutes 1940-1941 (CPC141/1/2).

Wargrave: Civil Parish Council minutes 1940 (CPC145/1/4).

Air Raid Precautions (ARP)

ARP Local Information

West Hendred: Civil Parish Council minutes 1940 (CPC67/1/1).

Winnersh: Civil Parish Council minutes 1940-1944 (CPC73C/1/22).

Woodley: Civil Parish Council minutes 1939 (CPC113B/1/3).

Bombing Raids

Berkshire: Log book of casualties, damage to buildings, bombs, incidents and alerts, enemy planes destroyed and unexploded bombs 1940-1945 (C/D1).

Unexploded bomb clearance certificates 1942-1946 (C/D3).

Incident reports 1940-1945 (C/D4).

Plans for Post-Blitz Emergency Works in Berkshire 1942-1943 (D/EX1483/1/1).

Charney Bassett: Memorandum on damage to church 1939-1945 (D/P83B/5/1).

Maidenhead: Emergency Committee [convened to address bombing damage] July 1944 (M/AC2/3/2).

Reading: German map showing bombing targets in Reading c.1940 (D/EX1911/1).

St. Mary's register of services includes details of the effects of the blackout on church services and bomb damage in Reading 1939-1944 (D/P98/1B/12).

Statement of damage from enemy action to St. Laurence's church 1943 (D/P97/8A/18).

Huntley and Palmers Ltd air raid casualty card (unused) (n.d.) (D/EX1748/1/23).

Photographs of bomb damage in Reading town centre 1943 (D/EX1657/3).

Wokingham: Register of properties damaged by enemy action 1940-1943 (WO/SA4/2).

Home Guard

Berkshire: Berkshire Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association minutes 1936-1949 (P/TA1/1/2) and scrapbook 1922-1952 (P/TA1/4/1).
Lord Glyn's Home Guard papers including material relating to the Upper Thames Patrol 1940-1960 (D/EGL/O149-174).

Bracknell: A History of the 6th (Bracknell) Battalion Berkshire Home Guard 1945 (D/EX1458/4).

Compton: Photograph of the Home Guard c.1940s (CPC41/18/26).

Newbury: Local Defence Volunteer Corps number 2 platoon register of personnel c.1940s (D/EX656/15).

Pangbourne: Papers of the 4th (Pangbourne) Battalion Berkshire Home Guard, including Battalion orders 1940-1942 (D/P132B/28/6).

Reading: Records of the 7th (Huntley & Palmers Branch) Berkshire Home Guard Association 1941-1970 (D/EX1615/1-5).

Photographs, probably of Home Guard unit at Samuel Elliott and Sons, Ltd c.1940s (D/EX1263/12/11).

Photographs of Women's Army Corps parade (n.d.) (D/EX831/1).

Sandhurst: Copy of the 'B' (Sandhurst) Company 11th Berkshire Battalion Home Guard history [1940-1945] 2005 (T/A156/2).

Sonning: Photographs of Sonning Home Guard, including Woodley Platoon 1940-1944 (D/EX1458/1-3).

Theale: Register and accounts of Theale Home Guard 1940-1941 (D/P132B/28/5).

Civil Defence

Civil Defence Operation

Berkshire County Council: Emergency Committee for Civil Defence minutes 1939-1948 (C/CL/C3/19/1).

County Defence and Invasion Committees minutes 1941-1943 (C/CL/C3/20).

Berkshire War Agricultural Committee papers 1940s (D/EX734/31-33).

Berkshire : Civil Defence Special Committee of Thames Conservancy minutes 1939-1946 (D/TC311-313).

Abingdon Rural District: Emergency Committee minutes 1939-1946 (RD/A/CB1/7-11).

Bradfield Rural District: Emergency Committee reports in Rural District Council minutes 1939-1945 (RD/B/CA1/34-40).

Cookham Rural District: Emergency Committee reports in the Rural District Council Finance and General Purposes Committee minutes 1938-1948 (RD/C/CB2/4-6). Rural District Council Minutes also contain information on provision 1938-1947 (RD/C/CA1/17-18).

Easthampstead Rural District: Emergency Committee minutes 1940-1945 (RD/E/CB16/1).

Faringdon Rural District: Emergency Committee minutes 1939-1946 (RD/F/CB4/1-3).

Hungerford Rural District: Emergency Committee minutes 1939-1945 (RD/H/CA1/10-12).

Maidenhead: Civil Defence Sub-Committee (formerly the ARP Committee) minutes 1941-1945 (M/AC2/3/2).

Newbury: Emergency Committee minutes 1939-1945 (N/AC2/2/6, N/AC2/19/2-10)

Newbury Rural District: Some information on the Emergency Committee in the Rural District Council minutes 1939 (RD/N/CA1/10).

Reading: Emergency Committee for Civil Defence minutes 1939-1942, later Emergency and Invasion Committee minutes 1942-1944 (R/AC2/20/1-6).

Slough: Civil Defence (Special) Committee, later Civil Defence Committee 1940-1944 (S/AC1/4/3-6), Civil Defence Sub-Committee, Civil Defence (Public Relations) Sub-committee 1940-1942 (S/AC2/25/1),

Civil Defence

Civil Defence Operation

Slough (cont): Civil Defence (Billeting etc) Sub-committee, Invasion Sub-committee 1942-1947 (S/AC2/25/2).

Wallingford : Emergency Committee minutes 1939-1944 (W/AC2/2/8-9).

Wallingford Rural District: Rural District Council minutes 1939-1944 (RD/W/CA1/19-20).

Wantage: Emergency Committee reports in the Urban District Council minutes 1937-1946 (UD/WT/CA1/8-9).

Wantage Rural District: Emergency Committee reports in the Rural District Council Minutes 1939-1945 (RD/WT/CA1/13-15).

Windsor Rural District: Emergency Committee minutes 1939-1945 (RD/WI/CB1/1, RD/WI/CA1/23-24, 26).

Wokingham: Register of properties damaged by enemy action 1940-1943 (WO/SA4/2).

Wokingham Rural District: Emergency Committee minutes 1939-1940 (RD/WO/CB17/1), Emergency Committee minutes 1941-1942 (RD/WO/CB26/3).

Civil Defence Local Information

The amount of information contained in these records can vary.

Ashampstead: Local Defence (later Invasion) Committee minutes, papers and War Book 1941-1944 (CPC8/18/3).

Beenham: Records of the Local Defence Committee, including War Book 1938-1944 (D/EX847/1).

Combe: War Book of the Local Defence Committee 1942 (D/P197/28/6).

Compton: Local Defence / Invasion Committee minutes, papers and War Book 1941-1944 (CPC41/18/12-15).

Crowthorne: Some information on the Local Invasion Committee in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1943 (CPC102B/1/2).

Civil Defence

Civil Defence Local Information

Pangbourne: Some information on the War Emergency Committee in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1941 (CPC91/2/1).

Reading: Papers of a Civil Defence Officer in Reading 1940-1942 (D/EX1370/1/1-14, 2/1-9, 3/1-2).

Sandhurst: Civil Parish Council minutes include some information on the Local Committee for Civil Defence 1941 (CPC102/1/3).

Shinfield: List of members of the Emergency Committee in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1940, 1944 (CPC110/1/5).

Streatley: Civil Parish Council minutes 1941 (CPC122/1/2).

Sunningdale: War Book of the Local Defence Committee (with Sunninghill) 1942-1944 (CPC126/18/4).
Civil Parish Council minutes 1941 (CPC150B/1/2).

Sunninghill: War Book of the Local Defence Committee (with Sunningdale) 1942-1944 (CPC126/18/4).

Thatcham: Civil Parish Council minutes 1941-1942 (CPC130/1/4).

Waltham St Lawrence: Civil Parish Council minutes include some information on the Local Defence Committee and the Home Guard 1941 (CPC141/1/2).

Wargrave: Discussion on comforts for Civil Defence workers in Civil Parish Council minutes 1941 (CPC145/1/4).

West Hendred: Some information on the Local Defence Committee in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1941 (CPC67/1/1).

Winkfield: Civil Parish Council minutes include some information on the Emergency Committee 1940-1945 (CPC151/1/2).

Evacuation Scheme

Most of these records concern the local management of the evacuation scheme. Few contain the names of evacuees. Please also see the Emergency Committee minutes (or equivalent) of the place in which you are interested for further information.

Berkshire: Evacuees Welfare Sub-Committee July 1941-April 1942 and Evacuation Sub-Committee May-December 1942 (C/CL/C3/5E/1).

Abingdon Rural District: Finance and General Services Committee minutes 1939-1945 (RD/A/CB1/8-11).

Binfield: Notes, photographs and press cuttings on the war, including evacuees, air raids and Home Guard c.1939-1945 (D/EX1511/1/5).

Bracknell: Special Committee on "The Forest", High Street, Bracknell, as sick bay accommodation [for evacuees] 1939 (RD/E/CB16/1).

Bradfield Rural District: Evacuation Committee reports in the Rural District Council minutes 1939-1945 (RD/B/CA1/34-40).

Caversham: Papers regarding the use of Wesley Hall by children evacuated from a school in London 1939-1941 (D/MS30/1F/1-3).

Cookham Rural District: Billeting Committee minutes 1941-1944 (RD/C/CB13/2). Finance and General Services minutes 1939-1945 (RD/C/CB2/4-6).

Donnington: Sale particulars for property including a cottage occupied by evacuees 1945 (D/EX898/2/456).

Easthampstead Rural District: Rural District Council minutes 1939-1945 (RD/E/CA1/15-16).

Billeting Costs Refunds Committee minutes 1941 (RD/E/CB16/1).

Hungerford: Correspondence regarding the use of the Methodist Church Sunday School for the evacuated Macklin Street Roman Catholic School 1939-1946 (D/MS3/1F/8).

Maidenhead: Special Committee Regarding Evacuation minutes, later the Billeting and Emergency Feeding Committee 1939-1946 (M/AC2/3/2).

Craufurd Home (for evacuees) Sub-Committee minutes 1945 (M/AC2/3/2).

Newbury: Recollections of an evacuee in Newbury 1940 (1990) (T/Z35).

Newbury Rural District: Rural District Council minutes 1939-1944 (RD/N/CA1/10).

Evacuation Scheme

Reading: London evacuees at Battle Senior School recorded in the log book 1939-1944 (2001/SCH4/2).

Circulars from Chief Billeting Officer of Reading relating to evacuation (addressed to Mr Gleave, Headmaster of Battle School, Reading) 1940 (D/MS62/8/5/1-4).

Slough: Emergency Housing and Billeting Sub-Committee 1942-1947(S/AC2/25/2).

Sandhurst: Civil Parish Council minutes 1940 (CPC102/1/3).

Stratfield Mortimer: Civil Parish Council minutes 1939-1940 (CPC120/1/2).

Wallingford: Lists of evacuees in Wallingford Cottage Homes 1940-1943 (D/XGW1/6).

Lists of hospital cases and war workers transferred to Wallingford from Reading and London 1940-1948 (D/XGW1/7/1-2).

Wallingford Rural District: Some information on the evacuation scheme and the Evacuation Sub-Committee in the Rural District Council minutes 1939-1945 (RD/W/CA1/19-20).

Waltham St Lawrence: Civil Parish Council minutes 1940-1941 (CPC141/1/2).

Wargrave: Proposal for an evacuation camp at Cockpole Green and other information on the evacuation scheme in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1939-1941 (CPC145/1/4).

White Waltham: Evacuees' use of allotments described in the memoirs of Charles Hazell of Littlewick Green 1946 (D/EX1505/1, pp 211-212).

Windsor: Evacuation Committee minutes 1942-1945 (WI/AC2/11/12-15).
Details of nurses evacuated from London hospitals to Windsor 1939-1944 (D/H6/15/1).

Windsor Rural District: Evacuation Committee minutes 1941-1943 (RD/WI/CA1/23-24).

Wokingham: Records and memories of Oakfield Hostel (for child evacuees) 1940-c.1985 (D/EX1362/1-6).

Wokingham Rural District: Evacuation Scheme Sub-Committee minutes 1940-1941 (RD/WO/CB26/3).

Woodley: Information on the use of the village hall by evacuees in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1939 (CPC113B/1/3).

Evacuation Scheme

Out-County: Register of evacuees to St. Neots, Huntingdonshire 1939-1943 (D/MS82/8/10).

Remembrance

Berkshire: Awards for Gallantry [general correspondence, including information on persons recommended for awards] 1940-1946 (C/D6).
The Defence Medal District Lists of Personnel 1945 (C/D8).

Crowthorne: Information on the war memorial in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1947 (CPC102B/3/2).

Easthampstead: Papers relating to the war memorial cross in the churchyard 1919-c.1945 (D/P49/6/4).

Great Coxwell: Book of remembrance for servicemen of the parish killed in the two world wars c.1914-1989 (D/P44/28/4).

Hermitage: War memorial fund accounts 1947-1949 (D/P62B/28/18-19).

Inkpen: Information on the war memorial in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1944 (CPC76/1/2).

Maidenhead: Copy of Imperial War Commission roll of honour for civilian war dead [1939-1945] (D/EX1445/7).

Newbury: Copy of Imperial War Commission roll of honour for civilian war dead [1939-1945] (D/EX1445/7).

Reading: Holy Trinity roll of honour c.1940s (D/P171/28/6).

Slough: War memorials Sub-committee 1942-1947 (S/AC2/25/2).

Sunninghill: Papers relating to the war memorial 1949-1950 (D/P126/8A/8).

Thatcham: Some information on the war memorial in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1944-1945 (CPC130/1/4).

Wallingford: Copy of Imperial War Commission roll of honour for civilian war dead [1939-1945] (D/EX1445/7).

Remembrance

Wantage: Copy of Imperial War Commission roll of honour for civilian war dead [1939-1945] (D/EX1445/7).

Windsor: Copy of Imperial War Commission roll of honour for civilian war dead [1939-1945] (D/EX1445/7).

Home Front

Both school log books and parish magazines can give further information about the effects of the War, though the amount can vary. Please see the schools index and the parish catalogues in the searchroom for further information.

Berkshire: War Agricultural Committee papers 1940s (D/EX734/31-33, D/EX652/26).

Berkshire County Council Domestic Food Production Committee notes of members of the village produce associations 1944 (D/EX1511/10/18).

Wills and administrations of persons killed during active service c.1939-1945 (D/EBB/B3/129, 175, 194, 204, 231, 261, 279, 312, 324, 337, 368, 370, 414, 475, 484, 530, 556, 750).

Abingdon Rural District: Housing (Post-War Housing) Sub-Committee minutes 1944 (RD/A/CB1/10).

Binfield: Clothing ration book 1947 (D/ENM10/4).

Bradfield Rural District: Food Control Committee reports in the Rural District Council minutes 1939-1945 (RD/B/CA1/34-40).

Bucklebury: Plans of Bradfield Rural District Council post-war housing proposed at Bucklebury and Hatch Lane, Bucklebury 1944 (CPC28/17/2).
Newspaper cutting on the use of Bucklebury Common as a Vehicle Repair Depot during wartime 1939-1945 (D/EX227/Z4).

Coleshill: Details of fire watching and the Welcome Home Fund in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1939-1945 (CPC40/1/1).

Home Front

Cookham Rural District: Special (Use of Petroleum Spirit) Committee August 1942, Special (Removal of iron railings, gates, etc) Sub-Committee June 1942, and Salvage Committee minutes 1942-1946 (RD/C/CB13/2).

Crowthorne: Information on domestic food production, keeping records during war-time, War Weapons Week, iron railings salvage and post-war housing in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1942-1944 (CPC102B/1/2).

Didcot: Wartime Nursery plans n.d. (C/AR/P5/1).

Easthampstead Rural District: Some information on the Food Control Committee in the Rural District Council minutes 1939-1945 (RD/E/C1/15-16).
Iron Railings Committee minutes 1941 (RD/E/CB16/1).
Post-war development information in the Rural District Council minutes 1944-1945 (RD/E/CA1/16).

Faringdon Rural District: Post-War Reconstruction Sub-Committee minutes 1942-1943 (RD/F/CB5/1).

Finchampstead: Information on blackout provision, civilian war deaths provision, and scrap metal collection in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1940-1945 (CPC56/1/3).

East Ilsley: Information on the Welcome Home Fund in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1945 (CPC74/1/1).

Hinksey, North: Botley Wartime Nursery plans n.d. (C/AR/P5/2/1-2).

Hurst (St Nicholas): Information on emergency food control, salvage, post-war planning, victory celebrations and the Welcome Home Fund in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1941-1945 (CPC73/1/4).

Inkpen: Records of Manor Farm, managed by women during the war 1941-1955 (D/EX1785/1/1-3, 6, 2/1-3, 6, 3/1). Information on Victory in Europe Day celebrations in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1945 (CPC76/1/2).

Maidenhead: Communal Feeding Sub-Committee minutes 1941 (M/AC2/3/2).
Food Office Amalgamation Special Sub-Committee minutes 1941 (M/AC2/3/2).
Salvage Sub-Committee and Salvage Scrutiny Sub-Committee minutes 1942-1943 (M/AC2/3/2).
Holidays at Home Sub-Committee minutes 1943 (M/AC2/3/2).
Entertainments Sub-Committee minutes [concerning Victory in Europe Day celebrations] 1945 (M/AC2/3/2).
Newspaper cuttings relating to Frederick Hickman's army service 1925-1993 (D/EX1219/1-4).

Home Front

Mapledurham: Some information on post-war reconstruction in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1942-1943 (CPC162B/1/2).

Moulsford: Papers relating to the Moulsford Welcome Home Fund, including minutes and accounts 1947 (CPC88/18/2).

Newbury: Register of petrol rationing 1941-1945 (D/EX656/16, 16a). Newbury Boys Club magazines [produced in part to communicate the difficulties of wartime] 1943 (D/EX1741/1).

Newbury Rural District: Some information on the Food Control Committee, the salvage scheme and post-war housing in the Rural District Council minutes 1939-1945 (RD/N/CA1/10).

Newland: Post-war development discussion recorded in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1944 (CPC73D/1/12).

Padworth: Information on the salvage scheme, communal feeding, and domestic food production in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1939-1945 (CPC90/1/1-2).

Pangbourne: Information on wartime allotments, troops stationed in Pangbourne, holidays at home, post-war housing and the Welcome Home Fund in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1939-1945 (CPC91/2/1).

Letters regarding gifts by Pangbourne Congregational Church to families of German prisoners of war worshipping at church 1947 (D/N45/14/8).

Purley: Information on post-war housing in the Civil Parish Council minutes and rough minutes 1944-1945 (CPC93/1/1, CPC93/2/1).
Information on the Welcome Home Fund in the Civil Parish Council rough minutes 1945 (CPC93/1/1).

Radley: Orders of service in the time of war 1940 and thanksgiving for victory 1945 (D/P95/28/3).

Reading: Post-War Reconstruction Committee minutes 1942-1946 (R/AC1/3/84, 90, 93, 97).

Letters relating to the wartime activities of Samuel Elliott and Sons Ltd, Engineers, including work on landing craft 1942-1945 (D/EX1263/6/6-9).

Record of the work of the British Welcome Club for servicemen at Broad Street Church 1943-1945 (D/N11/1/2/9).

List of army comforts provided by Tyndale Baptist Church 1939 (D/N28/7/2/3).
Photographs and articles concerning military vehicle conversions carried out by Vincents of Reading 1939-1944 (D/EX1401/46-48).

Home Front

Reading: Reading National Savings Committee records 1939-1945 (P/NS2/9, 10, 6/2). Letters of A R Reeves on life in wartime c.1941 (D/EBB/B3/550).

Sale catalogue of house requisitioned as a children's sickbay 1942 (D/EX1852/2/9).

Letter from the Red Cross regarding communications with people in enemy occupied territory 1942 (D/EBB/B3/260).

Annual dinner menus of Reading Biscuit Factory Fire Brigade 1936-1949 (D/EX1615/6).

Blotter advertising "Embrostat Process" as a precaution against air raids by Sargents Embrook Limited, Printers c.1940s (D/EX1397/1).

Remenham: Parish church service register annotated with commentary on the progress of the war and related local events 1939-1945 (D/P99/1B/4).

Sandhurst: Information on the Produce Association [run at the direction of the Berkshire War Agricultural Committee] 1942-1943 and the salvage of iron railings 1943 in the Civil Parish Council minutes (CPC102/1/3).

Shinfield: Arrangements for provision of services in case of civilian deaths due to enemy action 1940, wartime allotments 1941, iron railing salvage 1941-1945 and the Victory Garden Show 1943 in the Civil Parish Council minutes (CPC110/1/5).

Shrivenham: Papers on and photographs of bells and plaque in the parish church given by British and American soldiers stationed in Shrivenham 1944-1946 (D/P112/8A/37-39).

Shrivenham Post, newspaper of US Army University Centre, 1945 (D/EX1407/1).

Slough: Staff (War Allowances) Sub-Committee 1942-1947 (S/AC2/25/2). Salvage Sub-Committee, British Restaurant Sub-Committee 1942-1947 (S/AC2/25/2). Bell's Asbestos and Engineering Ltd scrapbook containing advertisements for fire screens, smother blankets, and bells for incendiary bombs supplied to ARP departments [c.1940s] (D/EX1800/2).

Sonning: Information on the salvage scheme 1941, Victory Garden Show 1943-1944 and post-war development 1943-1945 in the Civil Parish Council minutes (CPC113/1/3).

South Ascot: Order of service of thanksgiving for victory in Europe 1945 (D/P186/1B/10).

South Moreton: Notes of war news in the parish church service registers 1940-1945 (D/P87/1B/4-5).

Home Front

Speen: Post-war development and the Welcome Home Fund/War Memorial information in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1944-1945 (CPC116/1/3).

Stratfield Mortimer: Information on communal feeding, emergency water supplies and the salvage scheme in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1940-1945 (CPC120/1/2).

Streatley: Information on the salvage scheme, civilian deaths, allotments and post-war development in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1939-1945 (CPC122/1/2).
Prayer in the time of war 1940 (D/P122/1C/2).

Sunningdale: Information on the use of an allotment by a London schoolmaster for educational purposes 1939, post-war development and peace celebrations 1945 in the Civil Parish Council minutes (CPC150B/1/2).

Sunninghill: Information on post-war development and Victory in Europe Day celebrations in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1945 (CPC126/1/4).

Sunningwell: Papers concerning the Welcome Home Fund and festivities for members of the forces 1946 (D/P127/28/3).

Thatcham: Information on the salvage of iron railings, holidays at home, allotments for wartime food production, post-war development and Victory in Japan Day celebrations in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1940-1945 (CPC130/1/4).

Theale: Information on a communal feeding centre 1940-1941 and post-war housing in Civil Parish Council minutes 1944-1945 (CPC132B/1/2).

Tilehurst: Information on emergency communal feeding, salvage scheme, domestic food production, post-war planning, ration books, Battle of Britain Sunday, Sailors Flag Day, Warships Week and Victory in Europe Day celebrations in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1940-1945 (CPC132/1/6-7).

Statement regarding the appointment of a German curate 1943 (D/P132/8A/5).

Twyford: Information on iron salvage in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1940 (CPC73B/1/3).

Wallingford Borough: Local Government Staffs (War Service) Act Committee minutes 1939-1940 (W/AC2/2/8).

Emergency Petrol Supplies Committee minutes 1943 (W/AC2/2/9).

Emergency Housing Accommodation Committee minutes 1945 (W/AC2/2/9).

Wartime Nursery plans n.d. (C/AR/P5/6).

Home Front

Wallingford Rural District: Information on the Food Control Committee 1940-1944, salvage scheme 1941, and the British Restaurant, Didcot, Sub-Committee, Wallingford 1942, Didcot Warships Week 1942, American troops 1942, post-war reconstruction 1945, use of German prisoners of war as labourers (for the preparation of post-war housing sites) 1945, and the Victory in Europe Day holiday 1945 in the Rural District Council minutes 1940-1944 (RD/W/CA1/19-20).

Waltham St Lawrence: Some information on victory celebrations in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1945 (CPC141/1/2).

Wantage: Food Control Committee minutes 1939 (UD/WT/CA1/8-9).

Wargrave: Some information on planning for civilian war deaths 1940, salvage scheme 1942-1944, Victory Garden, Wings for Victory, and Warships Weeks 1943, post-war planning 1943-1944, American Airplane Crash memorial 1944-1946, Salute to the Solider Week 1945, Victory in Europe and Victory in Japan Day celebrations 1945 in the Civil Parish Council minutes (CPC145/1/4).

West Hendred: Information on ploughing the village recreation ground for food production in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1941 (CPC67/1/1).

Windsor: Dig for Victory Campaign and wartime allotments information in the Allotments Committee minutes 1939-1945 (WI/AC2/9/9-15).

Communal Feeding Committee, later British Restaurant Committee minutes 1942-1945 (WI/AC2/11/12-15).

Wartime Nurseries Committee minutes 1940-1945 (WI/AC 2/11/11-15).

Copies of letters regarding the supply of eggs to Windsor Castle (1940) (T/A96/1-5).

Windsor Rural District: Reconstruction Committee minutes 1943-1946 (RD/WI/CA1/25-28).

Old Windsor: Copy of letter of appreciation to those returning from military service, Old Windsor, c. 1945 (CPC150/18/5).

Some information on peace-time celebrations in Old Windsor in Civil Parish Council Minutes 1945 (CPC162B/1/2).

Winkfield: Some information on post-war housing in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1944 (CPC151/1/2).

Winnersh: Information on iron railing and other salvage schemes 1941-1943 and post-war development 1943-1944 in the Civil Parish Council minutes (CPC73C/1/2-3).

Home Front

Wokingham: Letters from the Wokingham Borough Surveyor as the Local Fuel Overseer 1939-1943 (WO/SA2/9-13).

Scrapbooks of the Town Clerk on all aspects of wartime life 1939-1945 (WO/AZ1/2-2).

Plans of the proposed British Restaurant, for the Ministry of Food 1941-1942 (WO/SW2/4/1-4).

Some information about food organisers (for communal feeding) in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1941 (CPC154B/1/2).

Food ration card (n.d.) (D/ENM10/3).

Woodley: Information on entertainment for troops 1941, war loan investments 1941, emergency food officers' posts 1942, iron railing salvage 1942 and ration books 1941-1942 in the Civil Parish Council minutes (CPC113B/1/3).

Out-county: Map of Salisbury Plain showing night march route 1942 (D/EX503/3/2).

Southern Command Plans of tank transporter routes 1944 (D/EX1742/5). Ordnance Survey map of South East England, showing airfields and other air defence sites at the beginning of WW2 1940 (BRO library).

Further Information

Service Records

For information on individuals serving in World War 2, please contact the Ministry of Defence Veterans' Agency:

Army Personnel Centre, Historical Disclosures
Mail Point 400, Kentigern House
65 Brown Street
Glasgow
G2 8EX

Local Regiments

Information on the Royal Berkshire Regiment can be obtained at the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire (Salisbury) Museum. The contact details are:

58 The Close
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP1 2EX
Tel: 01722 419419
www.thewardrobe.org.uk

War Memorials

The Imperial War Museum undertook a survey of war memorials in the UK, entitled the National Inventory of War Memorials. For further information, please contact:

Unit C, Walnut Tree Walk
London
SE11 6DN
Tel: 020 7207 9863
Email: memorials@iwm.org.uk

War Graves

Commonwealth War Graves Commission
2 Marlow Road
Maidenhead
SL6 7DX
www.cwgc.org

The National Archives

For records of central government operations during World War 2, please contact:

Kew
Richmond
Surrey
TW9 4DU
Tel: 020 8876 3444
www.nationalarchives.org.uk