

WESTLAND GAZELLE HCC.4 XW855
MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER X003-2247

Built by Westland Helicopters Ltd, Weston-super-Mare, Avon as one of 32 Gazelles delivered to the RAF; others served with the Army Air Corps and Fleet Air Arm.

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| 31 Jul 73 | First issued to service as a Gazelle HT Mk.3. |
| 8 Aug 73 | Awaiting Collection. |
| 9 Aug 73 | Flown from Westland Helicopters, Yeovil, Somerset to RAF Ternhill, Salop; Airframe hours 6.30. Used as a helicopter pilot trainer with Central Flying School (Helicopter Wing) |
| 9 Nov 73 | Damaged in flying accident (Category 2) |
| 10 Jun 74 | On loan to MoD Procurement Executive. |
| 25 Jul 74 | To Westland Helicopters. |
| 6 Jan 76 | To Westland Helicopters, Yeovil for modification and overhaul. Airframe hours 158.20. Given 3.20 hours of test flying following modification. |
| 3 Mar 76 | From Yeovil to RNAY Wroughton, Wilts. Airframe hours 161.40 |
| 6 May 76 | From Wroughton to 207 Squadron, RAF Northolt. Airframe hours 164.95 |
| 15 Nov 78 | To Central Flying School, Rotary Wing section. |
| 28 Nov 78 | To No.32 Squadron, RAF Northolt as a short-range light communications aircraft/fast VIP transport; altered to HCC.4 VIP Transport standard. |
| 5 Nov 79 | On loan to Central Flying School. |
| 23 Jan 80 | Returned to No 32 Squadron at Northolt. |
| 27 Jan 82 | To Marshalls for minor overhaul, returning to Northolt 17 March 1982. |
| 4 Oct 83 | To RAF Shawbury for minor overhaul, returning to RAF Northolt 7 November 1983. |
| 4 Dec 85 | To RAF Shawbury for minor overhaul, returning to RAF Northolt 27 January 1986. |

- 20 Oct 86 To Royal Naval Air Yard, Fleetlands, Hants for modifications, returning to 32 Squadron at Northolt 10 November 1986.
- 17 Dec87 To RAF Shawbury for major overhaul by Marshalls, returning to 32 Squadron at Northolt 15 February 1988.
- 2 May 89 To RAF Shawbury, Salop from RAF Northolt. Airframe hours 2624
- 14 May 90 Returned to RAF Northolt from RAF Shawbury. Airframe hours 2820. At this time No.32 Squadron operated four Gazelle HCC.4s, including XW855.
- 2 Apr 96 Final flight; 45 minutes. Total Flying Hours 3958.30
Placed in 'Medium Term Reserve'. Final ground run 9 May 1996.
RNAY Fleetlands, Hants for storage
- 26 Mar 01 To RAF Shawbury, Salop for storage. Various items 'spares recovered'.
- 1 Apr 03 By road to RAF Museum Hendon for display in Main Aircraft Hall. Photos – Flypast June 2003 p.3; Wingspan International 23 p.11.
Form 700 held by RAFM Archives.

TEXT; ANDREW SIMPSON

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