

TRAVEL

Nas propriedades de Bletchley Park – ainda lembrada como **Station X** – decifrava-se os códigos secretos dos países do Eixo durante a **Segunda Guerra Mundial**. Com esse fim, foi concebido aqui o primeiro computador de que se tem notícia.

By John Rigg

LANGUAGE LEVEL
BASIC

Track

4

Speaker: Justin Ratcliffe
(Standard British accent)

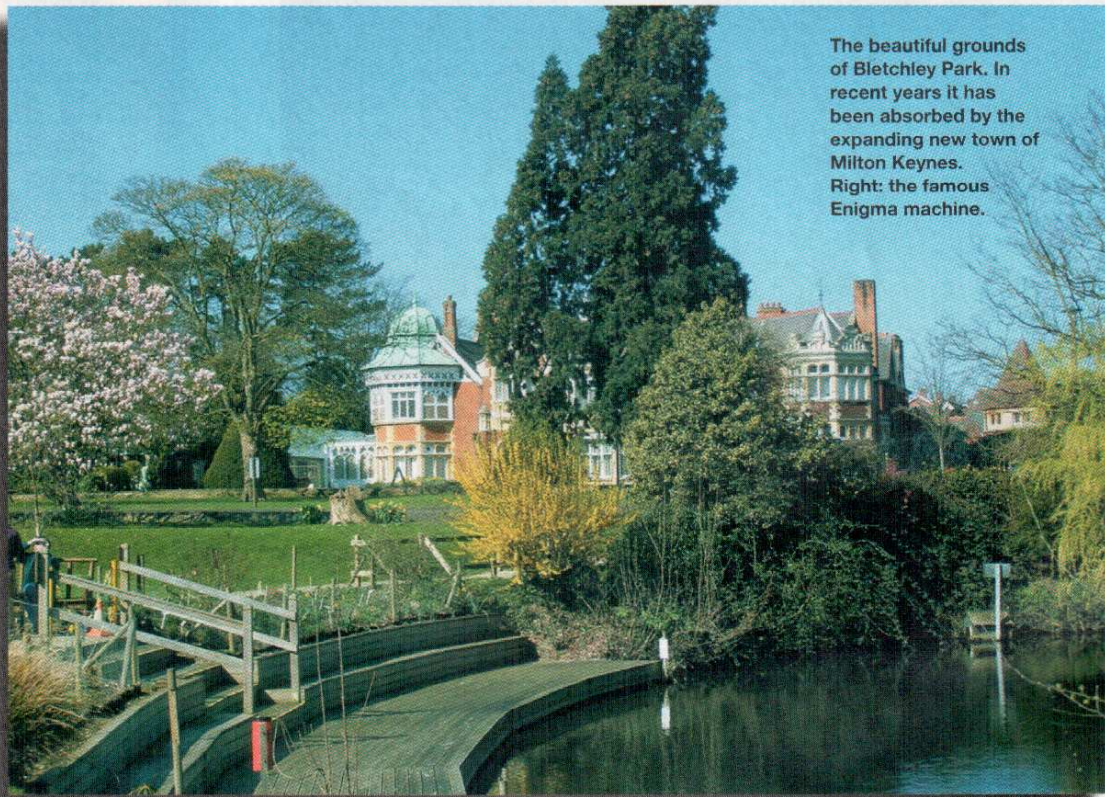
Bletchley Park



Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire looks like a typical English country house with four acres of beautiful gardens and its own lake, but then you notice several wooden huts¹ and concrete constructions built around² the house. What happened in these buildings... in this strange place?

THE CODEBREAKERS

During the **Second World War** this was the legendary³ "Station X" where



The beautiful grounds of Bletchley Park. In recent years it has been absorbed by the expanding new town of Milton Keynes. Right: the famous Enigma machine.

The Enigma Machine

This was an electrical device which used rotating wheels to produce random code¹².

The **Germans** believed the Enigma code was impossible to decipher, but **British** and **Polish** codebreakers at Bletchley Park succeeded with the help of Colossus and its predecessor, "the Bombe." British agents then listened to German orders transmitted all over the world. This saved many lives: for example, they discovered the position and plans of U-boats operating in the Atlantic.

Most important of all, in 1944 they confirmed that the Germans believed the false plans that the Allies leaked¹³ before D-Day, the Allied invasion and liberation of Europe.

codebreakers⁴ and spies worked to defeat⁵ Hitler's Germany and the **Enigma Machine** . All this has been chronicled in the film *Enigma* (2001), starring Kate Winslet. Bletchley Park was also the birthplace⁶ of the modern world. It was here that **Alan Turing** and **Tommy Flowers** built **Colossus** , the world's first "programmable, digital, electronic computing device⁷," or computer.

A GREAT DAY OUT

There's plenty to do at Bletchley Park: you can begin with a tour of the "Station X" exhibits, then you can see the Colossus and Enigma machines and learn about their role in codebreaking and military espionage during the Second World War.

The work here wasn't all high technology: the "Pigeons At War" display explains the role homing pigeons⁸ played during the war.

Visit the garage to see some 1930s cars, then on to the antique toy collection⁹, and don't miss the **Churchill** memorabilia exhibition.

Bletchley Park offers an interesting and fun day out, but it could also change someone's life.

Legend

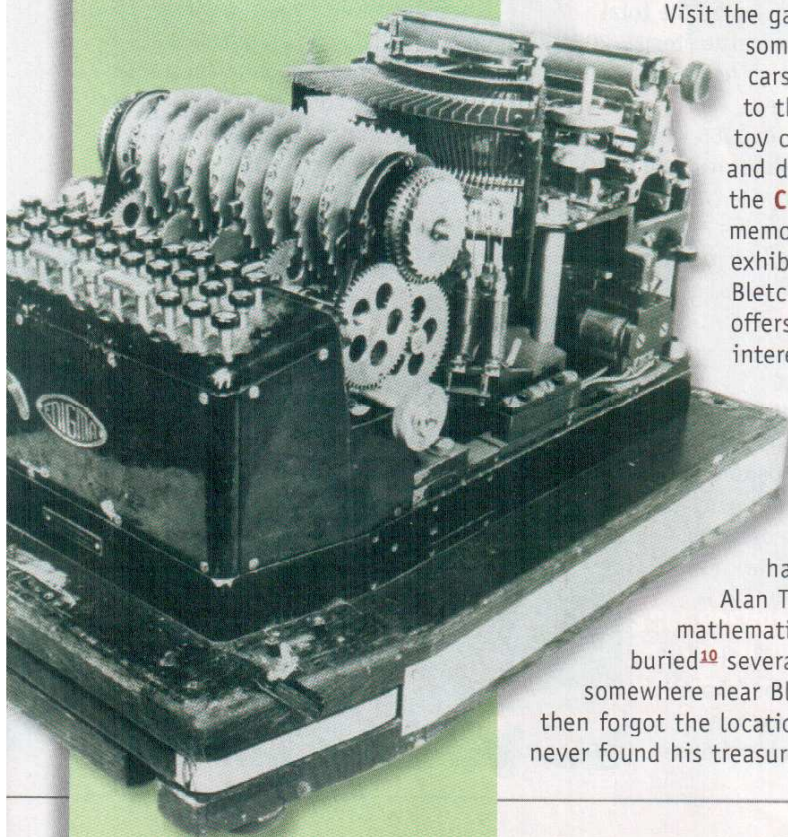
has it that

Alan Turing, the mathematical genius,

buried¹⁰ several **silver bars** ¹¹ somewhere near Bletchley and then forgot the location. Turing never found his treasure: can you? □

Station X

In 1940 prime minister **Winston Churchill** moved the government's **Code & Cipher School** away from London's constant bombardment to Bletchley Park. There were 12,000 people working at the centre by the end of the war, many of them recruited from **Cambridge University** . There were chess masters¹⁴, mathematicians, academics, and crossword¹⁵ experts - people like **Alan Turing** and **Ian Fleming** , the creator of **James Bond** . Secrecy was essential. In fact no-one knew about the centre until the 1970s, when documents describing wartime events at Bletchley became available.



Glossary

- 1 several wooden huts - diversas choupanas de madeira.
- 2 built around - construídas ao redor de.
- 3 legendary - lendária, famosa.
- 4 codebreakers - decifradores de códigos.
- 5 to defeat - derrotar.
- 6 birthplace - lugar de nascimento.
- 7 device - aparelho.
- 8 homing pigeons - pombos-correio.
- 9 antique toy collection - coleção de brinquedos antigos.
- 10 buried - enterrou.
- 11 silver bars - barras de prata.
- 12 random code - códigos aleatórios.
- 13 leaked - deixaram "vazar".
- 14 chess masters - mestres em xadrez.
- 15 crossword - palavras cruzadas.

Bletchley Park

Basic

*CEFR A2



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• **Before you start**

1. **Talk to a partner.**

1. Do you like spy stories?
2. Do you think espionage plays an important role in a war?
3. If so, can you think of any examples?
4. What is a codebreaker?
5. What do you know about the Enigma machine?

• **Listen and answer** 

2. **Read these incomplete statements.**

Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

1. Bletchley Park is
 - a) a typical country house.
 - b) not what it seems at first.
 - c) a park with beautiful gardens and a lake.
2. The house has other buildings around it.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
 - c) The article doesn't say.
3. Bletchley Park was named "Station X"
 - a) during the First World War.
 - b) during the Second World War.
 - c) in 2001.
4. It was the birthplace of
 - a) the Enigma Machine.
 - b) Kate Winslet.
 - c) the first computer.
5. Bletchley Park is a place
 - a) where you can spend a whole day.
 - b) you can visit in a couple of hours.
 - c) that will change your life.

• **Read and answer**

3. **Read the article and answer the questions with a partner.**

1. Why does Bletchley Park look different from other country houses?
2. What kind of people worked there?
3. What was Colossus and who built it?
4. What can you see at Bletchley Park besides Colossus and Enigma?
5. Why is Bletchley Park the ideal location for a treasure hunt?

• **Learn it! Use it!**

4. **Complete these sentences with words from the glossary.**
(You may have to adapt the expression in some way;
e.g. change the verb tense or change from singular to plural.)

1. We must give this stamp to Jane for her stamp _____.
2. This machine doesn't work if you switch off the safety _____.
3. Who _____ King Harold at the Battle of Hastings?
4. That clock is _____ minutes slow.
5. _____ is a mixture of cement, sand and water.
6. The tramp lived in a _____ in the woods.

• **Take it Further**

5. **Use these verbs in the past tense to complete the sentences.**

BEGIN BUILD FIND FORGET SEE TELL

1. I _____ you to be careful with that vase!
2. We _____ a great film at the cinema last night.
3. The Romans _____ Hadrian's Wall to protect themselves from local tribes.
4. Tom asked the bank for a new PIN number because he _____ his old number.
5. Tara lost her keys, then she _____ them again.
6. Switch on the TV. The programme _____ five minutes ago.

• **Write about it**

6. **Write about a museum in your town.**

- Where is it?
- Why/How was it founded?
- Who is it suitable for?
- What can you see and do there?

Learn it! Use it!
4. 1. collection 2. device 3. defeated 4. several
5. Concrete 6. (wooden) hut
Take it further
5. 1. told 2. saw 3. built 4. forgot 5. found
6. began

It was built by Alan Turing and Tommy Flowers.
4. You can visit other displays like Pigeons at War
and the Churchill memorabilia exhibition; and you
can see 1930s cars and antique toys. 5. Because
there are several silver bars buried somewhere near
Bletchley. Alan Turing buried them and then forgot
the location.

Listen and answer
2. 1. b 2. a 3. b 4. c 5. a
Read and answer
3. 1. Because it has several wooden huts and
concrete constructions built around it.
2. Codebreakers and spies. 3. It was the first
programmable, digital, electronic computing device.

Keys

*Common European Framework