

# Explore our historic airfield

The museum is located on the edge of a First World War Royal Naval Air Station and Second World War RAF airfield. Vast sheds, one over 200 metres long, once stored huge airships. In 1919, airship R34 completed the first ever direct flight from Britain to the United States.

What you see around you is similar to how the airfield would have looked in 1944, when approximately 2,000 people trained and worked here.

## A Air raid shelter

This shelter is where non-technical office staff would have taken cover in the event of the airfield being bombed. Luckily it was never attacked.

## B Hangars 2 & 3

During the Second World War these hangars were used for servicing and maintenance.

## C Blast shelters

These shelters would have been used by engineers and mechanics, taking cover at the last minute as an air raid took place. This allowed them to continue work on repairing and

servicing aircraft as long as possible. How many can you find as you explore the site?

## D WAAF restroom and dope shop

Members of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force would take breaks here. Dope, a laquer which was painted on fabric aircraft coverings to make them tight and waterproof, was stored in a separate room.

## E Bulk fuel installation

These underground tanks held 48,000 gallons (218,000 litres) of petrol.

## F Armoury

The pistols and rifles used to defend and secure the airfield were held here, along with machine guns and cannons carried by the aircraft.

## G Signals instrument & electrical workshop

Aircraft equipment, such as radio and radar equipment, was serviced here.

## H Control tower (off-site)

During the Second World War most communication was by signals marked on the ground, or by signalling lamp. Only rarely were messages sent by radio.

From the late 1940s, East Fortune was also important during the first part of the Cold War. Initially there were plans to make it a United States Air Force base. Instead the site was used for civil defence.

## 1 Technology

During the Cold War some Scottish companies worked on secretive research projects. These advances in military technology found other uses, including some of the navigation equipment on Concorde.

## 2 Stockpiling

In case of shortages, the Government stockpiled emergency supplies on this site. This included sugar, flour, biscuits, peanut fat and lard.

## 3 Emergencies

Throughout this period the armed forces were prepared to respond to nuclear attack. This site stored equipment for 'civil defence', including fire engines known as Green Goddesses. They could put out fires or pump large quantities of water in case of flooding.



## 4 Military might

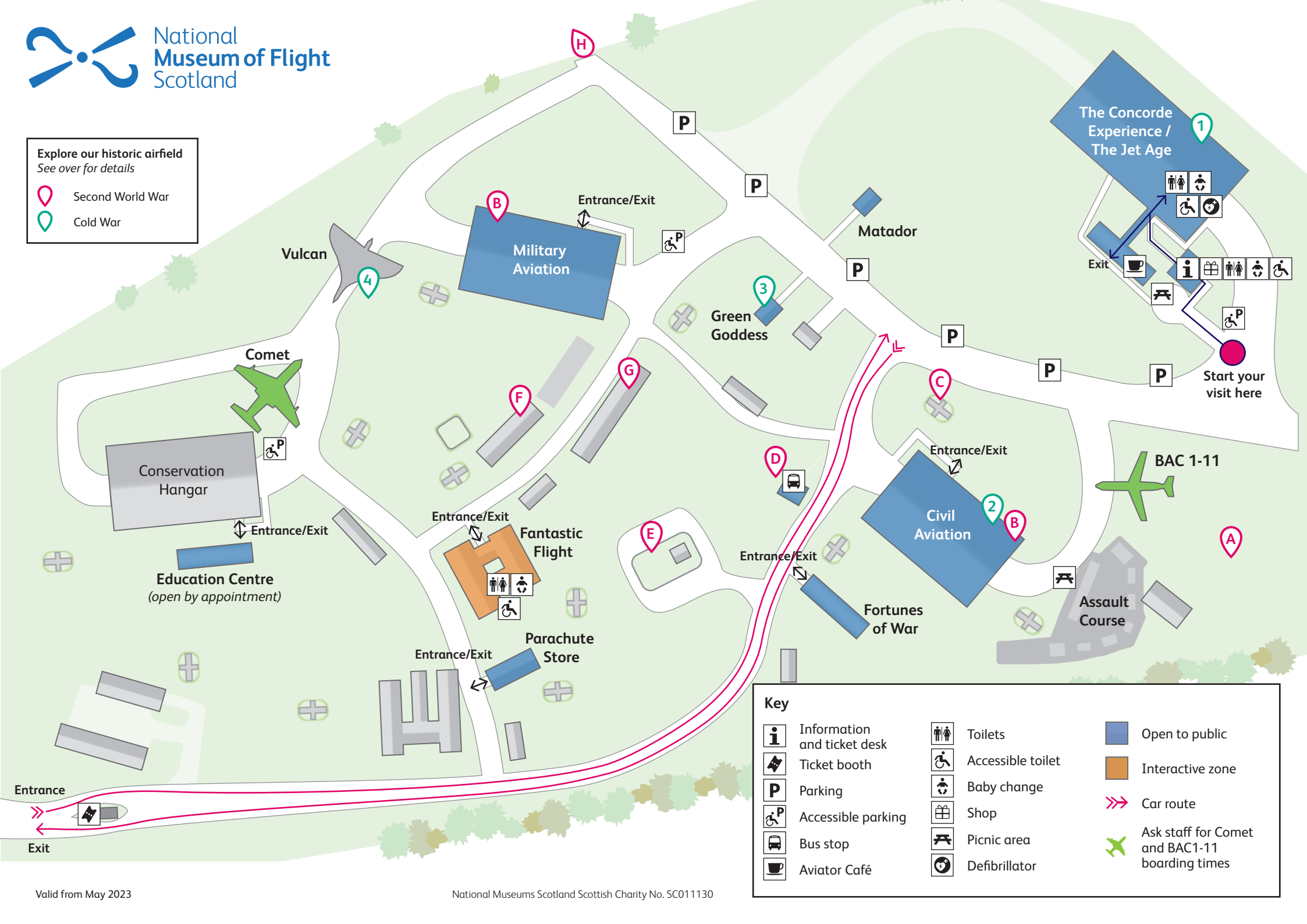
The National Museum of Flight houses a world-class collection of military hardware developed to fight a nuclear war, including the Vulcan XM597, which flew in the 1982 Falklands conflict.

RAF East Fortune personnel with a Percival Proctor communications aircraft, c.1945 © Jean Crawford


















Explore our historic airfield  
See over for details

-  Second World War
-  Cold War



**Key**

	Information and ticket desk		Toilets		Open to public
	Ticket booth		Accessible toilet		Interactive zone
	Parking		Baby change		Car route
	Accessible parking		Shop		Ask staff for Comet and BAC1-11 boarding times
	Bus stop		Picnic area		
	Aviator Café		Defibrillator		