

# 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 base. Vast sheds, one over 200 metres long, once stored airships on site. In 1919, Airship R.34 completed the first ever direct flight from Britain to the United States.

**What you see around you today is similar to how the air base would have looked in 1944 when 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

Blast shelters allowed engineers and mechanics to continue working during an air raid alert. 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, were 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, and only rarely by radio message. The glass Visual Control Room on top of the tower was added in 1961 when East Fortune temporarily acted as Edinburgh Airport.

**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 the navigation equipment in the jets used to power Concorde.

## **2** Stockpiling

In case of shortages, the Government stockpiled emergency supplies on this site, including biscuits, peanut fat and lard. This hangar stored great piles of sugar and flour.

## **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.

## Welcome

Head off on a journey of discovery at this former airfield and home to Scotland's Concorde.

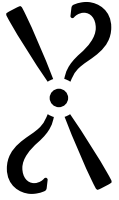
We've made some changes to make your visit safe and enjoyable. Please use this map and read our on-site signage carefully to help you during your visit.

### We want you to have a safe visit:

- Please keep your distance from others
- Use the hand sanitisers provided
- Wash your hands often
- Face coverings must be worn in our indoor spaces by visitors aged 12 and over
- Please note we are accepting card payments only
- Any questions? Ask the team and they will be delighted to help



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



National  
Museum of Flight  
Scotland



**Key**

	Information and Ticket Desk		Aviator Café
	Ticket Booth		Shop
	Parking		Picnic Area
	Disabled Parking		Explore the airfield see over for details
	Open building / Area		Second World War
	Aircraft viewable outdoors		Cold War
	Bus Stop		Route in/out of building
	Toilets		Car route
	Accessible toilet		
	Baby Change		