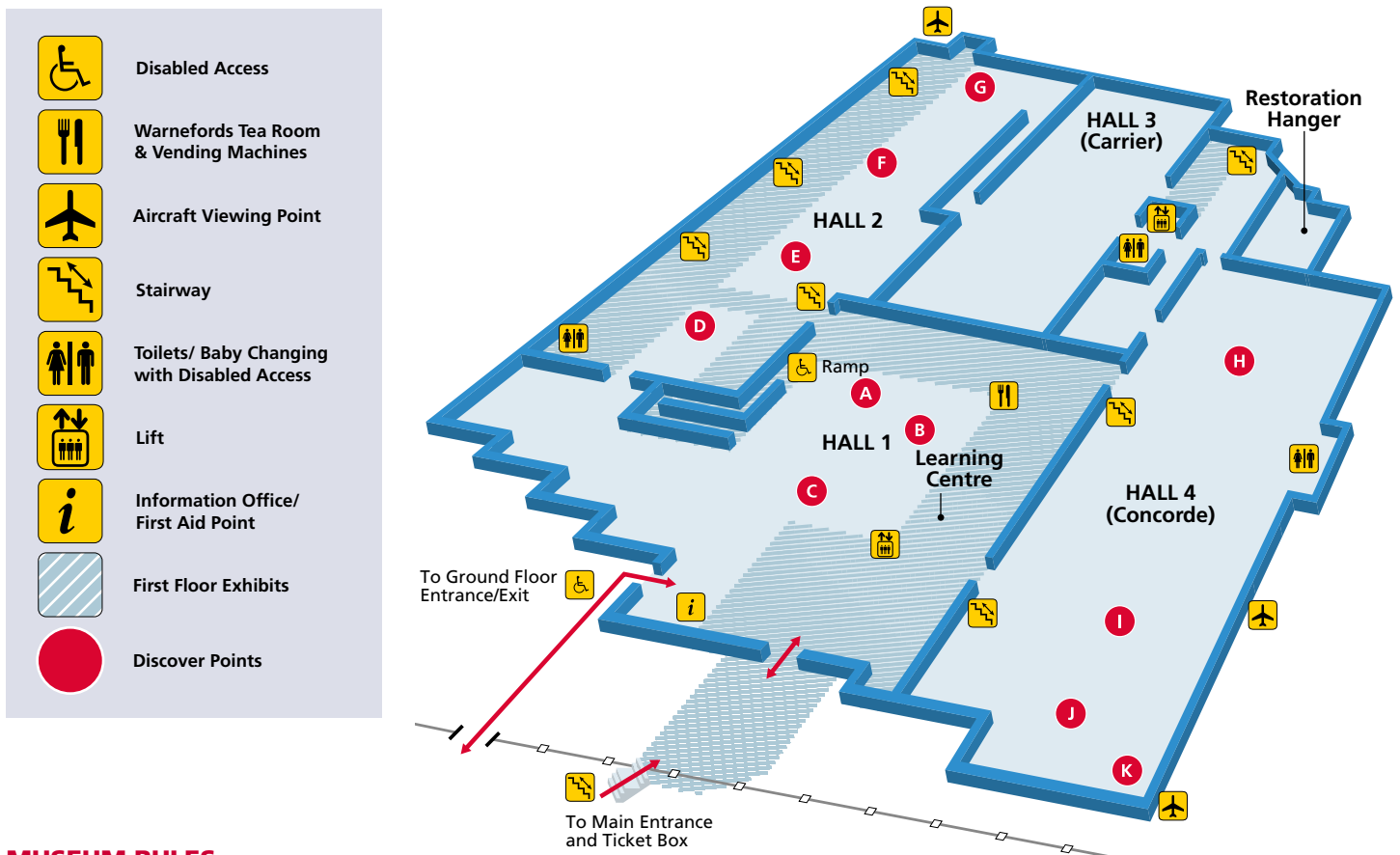




OUR LOCAL NAVY DISCOVERY TRAIL

Yeovil and the surround area have had a strong connection through the history of flying in the Royal Navy, long before RNAS Yeovilton was built.

This trail will highlight some of these connections to you, from the Leather Industry in Yeovil used for Flying Suits, to the building of aircraft, to the development of the Air Stations.

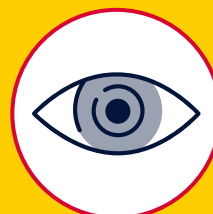


MUSEUM RULES

- Please only eat and drink in designated museum spaces.
- Please do not run
- Please stay in your small groups as you go around the museum
- If you are using the Learning Centre as a lunch space, the door code is **C4590Z**

HINTS & TIPS

- As you go around the museum, you will see our amazing volunteers. Make sure you ask them lots of questions!
- Try using the 'See, Think, Wonder' Model as you go around the museum. What do you **SEE**? What do you **THINK** is going on? What does it make you **WONDER**?



HALL 1

In the early 1900s, before RNAS Yeovilton was built, Yeovil and the surrounding area still had a strong connection to the Fleet Air Arm, then called the Royal Naval Air Service.

The local leather industry was extremely important for the making of leather gloves and flying suits, and many of the first aircraft were also built locally.

A SHORT 184



See: This aircraft was built in Yeovil at Westland Aircraft works over 100 years ago, and is the oldest Royal Navy Aircraft known to exist. Which parts are missing? Which parts are left?



Think: Materials. In 1915, local skills from Petters engineering and Yeovil's gloving industries came together to build the wooden frames and stitch the fabric coverings in manufacturing the first early Royal Navy aeroplanes. This became Westland Aircraft Works.



Wonder: What would it have been like to have flown in these aircraft in comparison to modern day aircraft?



B WW1 PILOTS UNIFORM



See: This Flying suit is over 100 years old. What is it made from and why?



Think: Materials. During WW1, leather factories in Yeovil made gloves and coats for soldier and pilots. The leather glove industry was so important in Yeovil that the football club are still known as "The Glovers".



Wonder: How protected would you feel flying an aircraft and wearing a leather flying suit? You probably have more protection riding a bike!

C THE SOPWITH BABY & THE SHORT 27



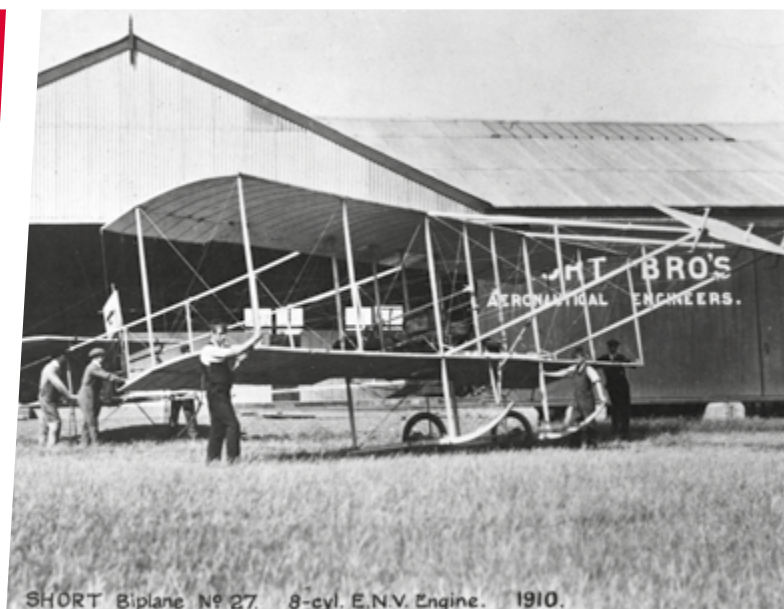
See: What materials are these aircraft made from? What skills might the workers in Yeovil need to build an aircraft like this?



Think: Materials. Westland Aircraft works – now Leonardo Helicopters – is the oldest aircraft factory in Britain and built most of these early aircraft and others in the museum.



Wonder: The S.27 and Short 184 were designed by the 'Short' Brothers. Are there any other brothers you can think of who designed similar aircraft?



HALL 2

RNAS Yeovilton (or HMS Heron) was built between 1939 and 1941. During World War 2 it was mostly used as a training site and part of one of the runways was marked up as a flight deck to practise landing on an aircraft carrier.

Yeovil was also planned to receive 4,410 evacuees from London, made up of unaccompanied children, teachers, and mothers with young babies and children.

D AIRCRAFT



See: Wings can fold in several ways: Simple (upwards) – like a butterfly; Aftward (Backwards) – like a moth or bird; Double – like the Seafire. How many can you see?



Think: Shape & Size. The Westland factory in Yeovil built the famous Spitfire aircraft and designed the Royal Navy version – the Seafire.



Wonder: How might flying an aircraft onto land be different from flying one onto an aircraft carrier?

E LOCAL PEOPLE



See: In WW2 women recruited into the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) were employed to do a range of jobs that had previously been done by men. What jobs can you think of that women did during WW2?



Think: History. In 1941, Speckington Manor (on the edge of the RNAS Yeovilton airfield) was set up to train WRNS in guiding fighter pilots to find enemy aircraft. With no real aeroplanes to 'control', they practiced using tricycles.



Wonder: Some children were also evacuated by ship to English speaking countries, like Canada. How might life be as an evacuee in another country, or even just in Yeovil, in comparison to a big city?

F AIRCRAFT CARRIERS



See: What does an aircraft carrier do? Why might it be useful for aircraft to fold their wings once they have landed on one?



Think: Shape & Size. Royal Navy land bases are also given ship names – RNAS (Royal Naval Air Station) Yeovilton is also called HMS (Her/His Majesty's Ship) Heron.



Wonder: Would you rather have worked and lived on an aircraft carrier, or an Air Station during World War 2?



G RNAS YEOVILTON



See: The airfield was used during WW2 largely as a training site. Why do you think the enemy might have wanted to destroy it?



Think: History. The Westland factory was camouflaged by painting it to look like houses, and by marking the grass airfield to look like hedges and fields from the air.



Wonder: What could you do to try and stop or confuse the German Air Force (Luftwaffe) from bombing the Yeovil area?

HALL 4

Today, RNAS Yeovilton is one of the Royal Navy's two main air bases, and one of the busiest military airfields in the UK. Here, you will largely see helicopters as opposed to fast jets, mainly because of their comparative versatility. Royal Navy helicopters operate from land bases, small ships and aircraft carriers in home and international waters.

H TEST AIRCRAFT



See: Fairey Delta and HP115 were built to provide design information and test elements of Concorde's design. Why do you think it is important to test an aircraft out before flying it?



Think: Scientific Enquiry. Jet aircraft were developed to fly at supersonic speeds, faster than the speed of sound. Concorde 002, built in Filton, Bristol travelled at over twice the speed of sound.



Wonder: The astronaut Neil Armstrong was a test pilot before he went into space, and flew HP115 once he got back. How would you feel being a test pilot, testing a brand new aircraft?



I JET AIRCRAFT



See: Jets, such as the Sea Harrier, used RNAS Yeovilton from the 1950s to the 1980s so the length of the runways was extended. Why do you think this was needed?



Think: Shape & Size. In most cases, jet aircraft are a lot faster than helicopters and most other aircraft. The Sea Harrier on the ramp has a max speed of approximately 735mph, vs the Westland Lynx at 201mph!



Wonder: Would you prefer to be a Helicopter pilot or a Jet Pilot? Why?

J HELICOPTERS



See: Look at the helicopters and compare them with the jet aircraft. What differences can you spot between how they might fly?



Think: Shape & Size. Westland is now known as Leonardo Helicopters - named after Leonardo da Vinci, who invented design for an "aerial screw" (helicopter) in the late 1480's, amongst other things!



Wonder: Why do you think the helicopter is more suitable for use with the Royal Navy? Particularly on Aircraft Carriers?



K RNAS YEOVILTON



See: The 'Ski Jump' ramp in the corner of hall 4 is built into most modern Aircraft Carriers, and was developed here at Yeovilton. Why might a ramp be useful for a jet taking off from an aircraft carrier?



Think: Shape & Size. After WW2, Westland made the decision to only build helicopters - every helicopter in this museum was built at Westland in Yeovil!



Wonder: The aircraft flying from RNAS Yeovilton don't only fight in wars. What other tasks do you think they might do?