

Background & History

The Royal Air Force (RAF) Museum is a National Museum, a Government non departmental public body (NDPB) and a registered charity.

Conceived as a legacy of the RAF's fiftieth anniversary, the Royal Air Force Museum opened on its London (Hendon) site in 1972. From 1979, the Museum also managed the Cosford Aerospace Museum for the MOD (which had also been in operation since 1972). This was renamed the RAF Museum Cosford in 1998 when it formally became part of the Museum portfolio.

The Royal Air Force (RAF) has shaped our nation and our society. It has influenced how we live our lives today through its impact on world events, society and technology. The vision of the Royal Air Force Museum is to ensure that the RAF's story endures and enriches future generations. It will be a world-leading visitor destination that engages, inspires and connects everyone with the RAF story through exploration of its people and its collections.

Three strategic priorities will shape the RAF Museum's direction and activities in 2015-2020:

- Interpret the RAF Story
- Focus the Collection
- Invest in the RAF Museum.

The Museum has a unique opportunity to mark the Royal Air Force's Centenary in 2018 by improving our storytelling and building up our financial resilience for the next century. Our vision and strategic priorities will be delivered through an ambitious Centenary Programme that will transform our London site for 2018 and a Centenary Legacy Programme which will continue this transformation through developments at Cosford.

The values that guide the RAF Museum's planning and behaviour are:

INtegrity: we are open, transparent and ethical

Sharing: we work as a team to ensure our collections and expertise are accessible to all

Passion: we care deeply about sharing our collections and their stories

Innovation: we tell our stories and develop our business with creativity and imagination

Relevance: we ensure our legacy by linking our histories with today and tomorrow

Excellence: we are professional and strive to ensure excellence in all that we do.