

Beginnings and the Beacon The Beacon was an important navigational device in the 1930s. Removed in the 1980s, it was repaired and reinstated in 2011 as an iconic monument to



The aerodrome contributed a tremendous amount to the community in Hatfield through sports competitions, clubs, concerts, and popular public open days.



The Early Years

The aerodrome's facilities became known for staging major aviation events. The RAF's Elementary Flying Training School, based at the aerodrome, trained over 3000 RAF and Army pilots.



**Design Innovation** 

Community

In 1941 the Comet Racer was the fastest aeroplane in the sky and in 1948 the Vampire iet fighter achieved a world record height of 59,446 feet.



The Runway

The Gipsy Moth and the Tiger Moth aeroplanes could frequently be seen taking off from the aerodrome site. First flown in 1931, the Tiger Moth went on to become the main primary training aeroplane for the RAF until the 1950s.



Administration Block and the bombing

The administration block was the hub of the aerodrome. It was painted in camouflage colours to avoid being bombed during the War. Also here is the Police Station's tribute to de Havilland the Walk of Memories.



Astwick Manor

The Astwick estate was held by the Bassingbourne family from the thirteenth to the sixteenth century. In 1949 the Manor became the new headquarters of the de Havilland Aeronautical Technical School.



The Gatehouse

This is another surviving listed building from the early days, which stands next to what was the main entrance to the aerodrome.



Rocket Development

The aerodrome became a centre for rocket research, design and development. Innovations in missile and rocket technology were developed at the site including the Firestreak and the Blue Streak.



The Comet

This stands before the Flight Test Hangar, where the Comet jet airliner was maintained. Completed in 1954 it was the largest aluminium building in the world, measuring 200 by 300 feet.

Content written by Abi Wilson, UH History student

Hertfordshire



University of Hertfordshire

School of Humanities College Lane Hatfield Hertfordshire AL 10 9AB

Telephone 01707 284800 go.herts.ac.uk/dehavillandproject Sponsored by



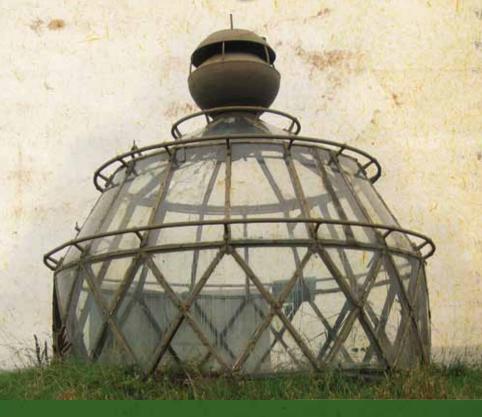
With 3 bars and a warm, friendly atmosphere Club de Havilland is the perfect place to end your heritage tour with a drink and a meal.



University of Hertfordshire



## **Hatfield Aerodrome** Heritage Trail



Within easy access of London, yet situated amid delightful Hertfordshire country surroundings, Hatfield Aerodrome is undoubtedly the largest and finest private flying ground in Great Britain,

From 'Hatfield Aerodrome' (1936)

