

*The spirit of the Spitfire.  
Honouring our past, inspiring our future.*

**The National  
Spitfire Project**



***"Never in the field of human conflict was  
so much owed by so many to so few."***

*Sir Winston Churchill on the Battle of Britain*



## **THE SPITFIRE**

An icon and  
a symbol  
for freedom  
around the  
world



**THIS  
TRIBUTE  
WILL...**

**CELEBRATE**

**COMMEMORATE**

**INSPIRE**







# ABOUT THE TRIBUTE

## THE SPITFIRE

The Spitfire inspired the Nation that there was hope during its darkest hours, its spirit epitomized the will to resist.

1.5 times the size of the original Spitfire, the stainless steel representation will soar 40m (131ft) above ground seemingly taking flight over Southampton Water.

## THE VAPOUR TRAIL

The stainless steel mast elegantly curves skyward where it is topped by the Spitfire reproduction. The mast resembles a vapour trail; wider at the base it guides the eye of the visitor to the Spitfire at its pinnacle.

At the bottom of the mast the word 'Spitfire' will be embossed on the surface. The style of the text comes directly from the original marketing brochure for the Supermarine Spitfire produced in 1938.

## THE PLINTH AND ROUNDELS

The circular plinth invokes the style of the roundels or insignia used by the Royal Air Force. It will protrude over the waterfront and will have a reflection pool at its centre.

The stepped design will raise the reflection pool at its centre and the outer edge will include seating for quiet contemplation whilst overlooking Southampton Water.

It is the Project's aim that the outer ring of the plinth will display the roundels and insignia of the 31 allied air forces that flew the Spitfire throughout its service career. It is hoped that the monument will also include roundels representing the cities and towns that were involved in the construction and maintenance of the Spitfire. The roundels will be interactive so as to draw people into the monument.

## THE LOCATION

Southampton is the home of the Spitfire – it is where RJ Mitchell designed the aircraft in the Supermarine factory. It made its maiden flight from Eastleigh airfield, now Southampton Airport.

As the centre-piece of the multi-million pound Southampton Waterfront development, the tribute will be seen by over 7m people per annum visiting Europe's busiest cruise port.

The tribute will greet visitors from all over the world and inspire them to visit the city.





# INTERACTIVE FEATURES

Just as the Spitfire designers used ingenuity and forward thinking, we want to make and keep the National Spitfire Monument continuously relevant to both current and future generations.

Not just a stunning monument – once built the National Spitfire Monument could include interactive features so as to provide an educational and audiovisual experience. Each of the 31 plus roundels would guide you to a webpage telling the story of its Air Force, City, Organisation or Company and explain its role in the building and operation of the Spitfire.

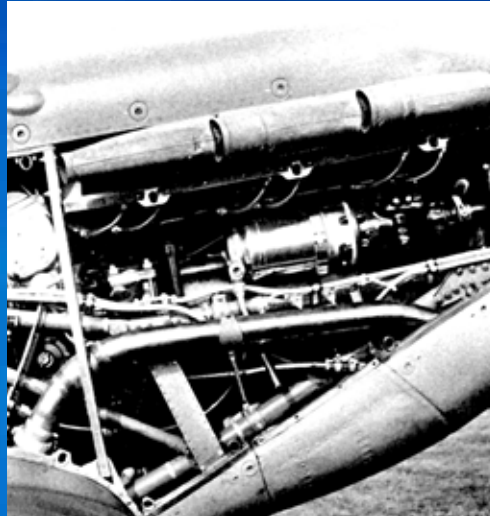
It is hoped that the monument will inspire future engineers and pilots; and we aspire to have web links to apprenticeship and training schemes so as to foster their ambitions. It will also have an area where you can share your Spitfire stories. Did you have a family member who was a pilot? Did someone you know work on the Spitfire production line? Add your stories into a central archive so that others can read your personal Spitfire history.



Image is for illustration purposes only



# THE SPIRIT OF THE SPITFIRE



*The Rolls-Royce Merlin engine, described as “the pilot’s friend” was one of the most famous and influential engines ever. Development never ceased – more and more power was extracted from the engine to outstrip the opposition and gain outright air superiority.*



## THE CITY

Southampton is the true home of the Spitfire. RJ Mitchell started working for Supermarine in Woolston in 1917. He had a passion for racing aircraft and this passion would drive him to develop the Spitfire.

The prototype was completed in 1936 and fabricated in the Woolston factory. It made its maiden flight from Eastleigh airfield (now Southampton Airport) on 5<sup>th</sup> March of the same year. After the initial test flight Supermarine’s chief test pilot Captain Joseph ‘Mutt’ Summers famously said, “Don’t touch anything.”

The people of Southampton delivered the first operational Spitfires to the RAF on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1938 and the Woolston factory continued to be the only supplier of Spitfires until the summer of 1940 when, during the Battle of Britain, it was catastrophically bombed with the loss of 100 lives.

Even after the bombing of the Supermarine factory, the people of Southampton continued to produce the Spitfire, dispersed to locations throughout the city, for the duration of the war.

The Spitfire and Southampton are inseparable and it is the attitude of perseverance, ingenuity and patriotism that really does embody the spirit of the Spitfire.

## THE ENGINEERING

The Spitfire really was ahead of its time. Aeroplanes of the day were still being made with a stretched fabric fuselage, the norm for the 1930s. When RJ Mitchell envisioned an aluminium body for his revolutionary elliptical wing design, the Spitfire really was uniquely innovative.

RJ Mitchell was obsessed with speed and refined the aerodynamics of the aircraft so as to get as much speed out of it as possible. Amongst his innovations, Mitchell made the wings thinner than its contemporaries and put covers on the landing gear housing to reduce drag – common sense now but really forward thinking at the time.

Rolls-Royce developed the Merlin engine for the Spitfire. The norm at the time was to angle the exhaust away from the fuselage but with the Merlin, in keeping with the innovative spirit of the Spitfire, the exhausts ran parallel to the body of the plane giving more thrust – yet another innovation that made the Spitfire stand out from the pack.

With these and many other key design features, the Spitfire could achieve top speeds of 362mph. This meant the Spitfire could outmanoeuvre her German enemies in speed, aerobatic ability and most crucially its turning circle – key attributes that led people to believe there was hope that the nation could win the Battle of Britain.





## THE PEOPLE

The people who devoted their lives on the home front to building the Spitfire really do embody the spirit of the Spitfire. The dedication and fortitude of the men and women, most of whom were not professional aircraft fabricators, really was remarkable.

When the Supermarine factory was bombed during the Battle of Britain, with the death of 100 workers, this did not stop the tireless efforts of the workers.

Key sites were requisitioned throughout the city so as to disperse the building of the aircraft. Manufacturing never stopped. In total, the people of Southampton produced 8000 Spitfires throughout the lifetime of the aircraft.

Their resilience is celebrated through the lasting landmark to be built in Southampton.

## THE PILOTS

The pilots of the Spitfire are rightly remembered, primarily for their pivotal role in the Battle of Britain. At the height of the war, the average life expectancy of a new pilot was said to be only four weeks and it is entirely appropriate that their sacrifice to safeguard our freedom and democracy is remembered with this monument.

Just as 'the few' inspired generations to become pilots themselves, so this monument will capture their bold and patriotic spirit to inspire future generations to serve their country.

## THE WORLD

More than 30 nations flew the Spitfire throughout its career. Allied air forces even flew in Spitfires alongside the RAF during the Battle of Britain.

There is no doubt that the Spitfire inspired a nation to believe that there was hope. The victory in the Battle of Britain halted the advance of the Axis forces that, after a year of allied defeats, was a turning point in the public mentality in the UK and around the world.

The Spitfire played its part in securing democracy for the free world in the face of a potent enemy. It was the only aircraft in production before, during and after the Second World War and was exported around the world.

This international landmark will greet visitors from all over the world and will remind them of the importance of freedom and democracy today.



*"After Dunkirk we all knew that the Spitfire was the plane to build and we all got stuck in to making as many as possible with the materials available."*

*Spitfire factory worker*







NELSON'S  
COLUMN  
52M

STATUE OF  
LIBERTY  
46M

NATIONAL SPITFIRE  
TRIBUTE  
40M

ANGEL OF  
THE NORTH  
20M

# VISION TO REALITY

## ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

A spectacular location has been identified and the land has been granted, a design concept chosen and planning permission obtained.

The city has pledged to provide the base for the tribute.

## PRO-BONO PROJECT SUPPORT

The project already has the support of major businesses, which are kindly providing their time and expertise free of charge. Blake Morgan LLP, Evolution5, and others are supporting the charity as it sources the necessary funding and proceeds to build.

## TARGET

Foundations	£500,000
Spitfire	£1,000,000
Vapour Trail Mast	£1,000,000
Interactive Features	£250,000
Other Main Structure Materials	£400,000
Platform Base	£450,000
Construction	£250,000
Contingency	£250,000
Structural Engineering & Detailed Design	£400,000
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>£4,500,000</b>
<b>Maintenance Fund</b>	<b>£500,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,000,000</b>



BLAKE  
MORGAN

Evolution5

nhds





# TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE IT

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