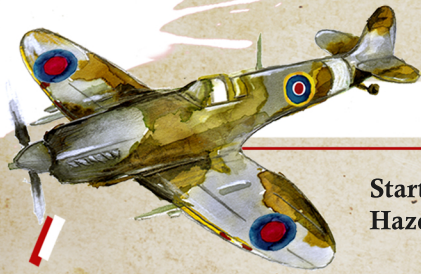


Woolston Spitfire Trail

Follow these directions to discover more about Southampton's Spitfire story...

Start your walk by the memorial to the designer of the Spitfire, located in front of Seafire Court, Hazel Road, Woolston, Southampton, SO19 7SP. OS Grid Ref: SU 43600 11215.



- 1 RJ Mitchell Memorial** From the memorial, take the first turning left into Mitchell Close. Walking under the Itchen Bridge, cut across the grass to the water's edge.

- 2 Former Vickers Supermarine Slipway and Plaque** To your right through the security fencing, you can see the 1930s slipway for launching Supermarine flying boats. Behind you, beyond the housing (private property) are the remains of the former Floating Bridge site. **Walking back out of Mitchell Close, turn left and continue along Hazel Road. On the left-hand side you will find....**

Women working at Woolston Works



- 3 Marine Skills Centre** This was the site of the main Vickers Supermarine Woolston Works. **Across Hazel Road were shelters in the hillside for Air Raid Wardens and First Aiders.**

- 4 Entrance Gates to Aggregates Yard** Here was the entrance to the Main Office block of the Vickers Supermarine Woolston Works which included the Design Office on the top floor. **Continue up Hazel Road and cross the road to....**



Design Office

- 5 Dreadnought Flats** Connected to the main factory by a pedestrian bridge were the Wood Mill, Paint Shop, Dope Shop and Workers' Canteen. **Continue up Hazel Road on the right-hand side you will come to...**



Entrance to Woolston Works

- 6 Doyle Sails** This separate re-clad building was originally the Supermarine Mould Loft. The next two stops are in a busy industrial area - **approach with caution.** (An alternative is to skip steps 7-8 and head up Sea Road towards Peartree Green Nature Reserve to see the view over the Itchen Works site). **Continue along Hazel Road. Cross over and take care as the pavement narrows.**

- 7 The Siva Group** The bomb-damaged Vickers Supermarine Itchen Works was dismantled after the War and rebuilt in the late 1940s to the same design. It has been re-clad and is now known as Spitfire House. **Continue to the end of the industrial units, turn right onto Hazel Road. Cross to the gravel area - be aware of works traffic and lack of pavement.**



Spitfire fuselages inside the Itchen Works

- 8 Railway Tunnel Entrance** The end walls of this tunnel have now been uncovered. It led to the Supermarine air raid shelters at the bottom of Peartree Green. **Now, retrace your steps, past the Itchen Works, back up Hazel Road until you reach Sea Road. Go under the railway tunnel to Hill Street.** On this corner was the Red Lion pub - the cellar was an official air-raid shelter during WWII.

Here, you may wish to divert to Peartree Green Nature Reserve for stunning views over the former Supermarine Itchen Works site and the city of Southampton, as well as picnic tables and an information board.

Ready to end the walk? For wheelchair users or pushchairs, follow the alternative blue route marked on the map. After Hill Street, still on Sea Road, take the steps up to Wharncliffe Road. Follow the pavement to the right, then the public footpath after Highlands House that leads to a footbridge over the railway. The footbridge has a concrete base that was installed for a Bofors anti-aircraft gun during WWII.

The steps down bring you back under Itchen Bridge to Oakbank Road car park where this walk ends.

Thank you for following the Woolston Spitfire Trail.



spitfiremakers.org.uk

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association
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supermariners.wordpress.com



www.solentsky.org



Bitterne Local History Society

bitterne.net

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