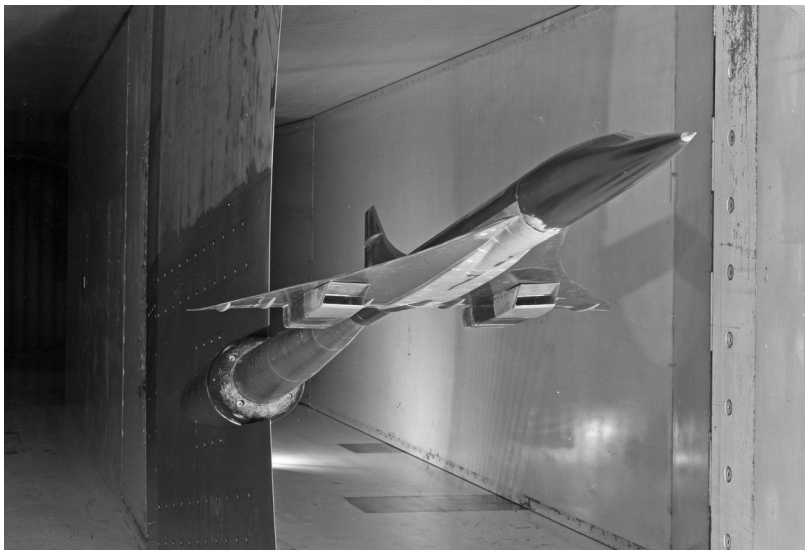


RAE Bedford's Contribution to Concorde

A special exhibition has just opened at The Higgins museum in Bedford to recognise RAE Bedford's research contribution to the Concorde supersonic airliner and to commemorate Concorde's first flight.

Fifty years ago, on 9 April 1969, Concorde 002, the British prototype, took to the air for the first time, at Filton, near Bristol. This flight was the culmination of many years' research for the Concorde project that began in the 1950s. The Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE) Bedford made major contributions to this research, through its world-class wind tunnels near Milton Ernest and its flight research at its airfield at Thurleigh.



Model of Concorde ready for testing in the RAE Bedford 8x8 supersonic wind tunnel



BAC 221 supersonic research aircraft tested at RAE Bedford, showing Concorde-like "Ogee" wing

This display, by the Bedford Aeronautical Heritage Group, illustrates some of the significant contributions to the evolution of Concorde's design made by research at RAE Bedford.

The Higgins in Bedford (www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk) is open Tuesday to Saturday 11AM to 5PM and Sunday 2-5PM. Admission is free. The exhibition will be on display at least to the end of 2019.

The exhibition is part of BAHG's work to preserve and publicise the history and heritage of the Royal Aircraft Establishment Bedford.