

## ***Farnborough Historic Wind Tunnel Tours***

Trenchard House, home of the FAST Museum, is the earliest building on the historic Farnborough aviation site. Built in 1907 by the Royal Engineers as headquarters of their Balloon School it is one of the oldest, if not the oldest aviation related building in the country. It is superbly located on a hill overlooking the runway of Farnborough Airfield, now the country's leading Executive Aircraft destination. In its time no other single location in the world has contributed so much to the development of aeronautical science over such a long period of time as Farnborough.

In the middle of Farnborough's historic aviation site, there are three listed buildings which are historically important in themselves but equally importantly, they contain five wind tunnels, all of which played a central role in the development of aviation in Britain. The FAST Museum can now offer comprehensive tours of two of these most impressive Wind Tunnels. Details of these fascinating tours follow below:

The tours are held by pre-arrangement on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon - during summer months only at the moment. For Health and Safety reasons tours are limited to a visitor group no larger than 20 individuals and run for 2.5 hours between 14:00 and 16:30. Tour groups are accompanied by three 'marshalling guides' with a FAST Volunteer as leader on the day. In addition, at least one subject matter expert will be on hand to provide detailed descriptions of the tunnels, their history and the activities that took place within them.

Visitors are each issued with a personal flashlight which acts both as the 'ID badge' for the day and also provides assistance over and above the general lighting levels by enabling individuals to illuminate their footfall in the darker areas of the tour route. We strongly recommend visitors bring warm clothing as the temperature inside the tunnels can be quite low – even in the height of summer.

### **A general tour agenda encompasses:**

- An initial gathering at the site; issue of personal torches, collection of entry fees, 'do's, don'ts' and full safety briefing.
- An exhibition of wind tunnel models and photographs within Building R52 with subject matter expertise on hand for discussion.
- A detailed inspection of and subject matter expert talk about the so called '4 x 3 low turbulence' wind tunnel also in building R52
- A short walk across the site into building Q121, the so-called '24 Foot' Wind Tunnel.'
- Tour of and subject matter expert talk about the preparation area, balance platform and working section of the Tunnel
- Tour of and subject matter expert talk around the so-called 'return circuit' of the 24 Foot Wind Tunnel; including entry into the fan area.
- A short walk across the site to the remains of the 'Sea Plane Tank' accompanied by a brief discussion.
- Final gathering, subject matter Q&A, hand out of supporting printed materials, retrieval of flashlights etc.

The fee for the wind tunnel tour is £25.00 per person and for logistics / security reasons we need no less than a two-week advanced notice of a firm booking. Late changes of numbers (within the maximum limit of 20) or substitution of names can be accepted later but ideally, three days' notice is required in this case.

In the unlikely event of a late cancellation of the entire visit for reasons entirely beyond the reasonable control of FAST, we reserve the right to request that any FAST non-recoverable costs be indemnified. This is however simply the daily charge for the dedicated two man security team provided by the site owners under their own health and safety policy.