

THE HAWKER AIRCRAFT SATELLITE FACTORY AT LANGLEY



Hawker's satellite factory and grass airfield at Langley

By 1936 Hawker Aircraft Ltd again needed greater production capacity, in spite of the new erection shops built at Brooklands the previous year. Using a £30,000 loan from the Hawker Siddeley Aircraft Co, Parlaunt Farm, near Langley Buckinghamshire, was purchased and a factory and aerodrome were built. From 1938 large numbers of aircraft were built at Langley and flight development of all Hawker aircraft was conducted there.

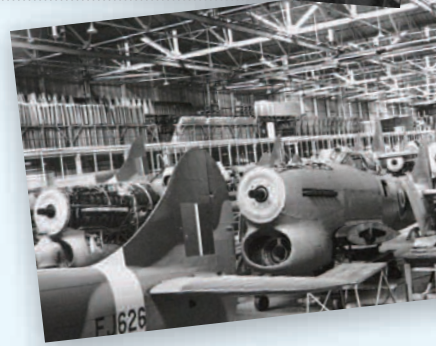
Hawker Hurricane production line at Langley during World War II

Langley took over Hurricane production completely from Brooklands in 1941. Over 14,000 of the type were built: 9920 at Brooklands, Langley and Kingston with another 2750 by the Gloster Aircraft at Hucclecote and 300 by the Austin Motor Company at Longbridge. Overseas the Canadian Car & Foundry Company built 1451 in Montreal.



The Hawker Tempest followed the Hurricane at Langley

Flight development of the Hawker Tornado, Typhoon and Tempest was carried out at Langley. These next generation Hawker fighters had semi-monocoque fuselages replacing steel tube. Typhoon production was contracted to Gloster Aircraft. Almost 1400 of the faster Tempest were built at Langley.



Hawker's last piston engine fighter, the Sea Fury, was produced and flown at Langley

The Sea Fury lightweight development of the Tempest for the Royal Navy, was the last type delivered from Langley, including many for export customers. Manufacturing work for aircraft up to the Hawker Hunter continued to 1958.



Hawker's first jet, the P.1040 was ground tested at Langley in 1947

Langley's grass runway was unsuitable for jet aircraft and the closeness to the rapidly expanding Heathrow Airport ruled out building a hard runway. The P.1040 was taken to Boscombe Down in Wiltshire for its first flight. Flight development was carried out by a Hawker team at Farnborough.



From 1951 Hawker aircraft assembly and flight testing transferred to their newly acquired Dunsfold Airfield in Surrey

By 1958 the Hawker factory on the Richmond Road in Kingston had been sufficiently developed to accommodate all Langley's facilities and workforce, and Langley was closed