

2024 UPDATE

DAEDALUS 

DAEDALUS
A HIGH FLYING
SUCCESS STORY



A JOURNEY OF WHICH TO BE PROUD

When the Council purchased the 369-acre HMS Daedalus site in 2015, we knew that it had the potential to become a premier location for engineering and advanced manufacturing businesses, creating skilled employment opportunities for local people, underpinned by a vibrant and sustainable airfield.

Less than nine years on, this has become a reality.

Faraday Business Park is now home to dozens of valuable businesses, providing the best part of 1,000 jobs for local people. Fareham Innovation Centre alone, successfully operated for us by Oxford Innovation Space, has 57 businesses employing over 350 people. We have also played our part in the country's energy supply resilience by providing a home for National Grid's IFA2 Interconnector between France and the UK. The Skills and Innovation cluster also includes Fareham College's Centre of Excellence in Engineering, Manufacturing and Advanced Skills Training (CEMAST) and the literally ground-breaking industry-led "digger school", CETC (Civil Engineering Training College).

Solent Airport has a fantastic heritage and has gone from strength to strength, with approaching double the number of powered aircraft movements today than in 2015. Under

the management of our experienced airport operator, RCA (Regional and City Airports Ltd), we have invested millions of pounds in the airport's infrastructure to improve its competitive position on the south coast.

And Daedalus has something for every member of our community. As well as the spectacle of modern and vintage aircraft that use the airport every day, the airport is host to a variety of community events throughout the year and the newly refurbished Cafe @ 05 is a popular draw all year round.

I was particularly pleased when we opened the new 40-acre Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee Park, in honour of our late Queen, which provides another wonderful open space in Fareham for everyone to enjoy – even our four-legged residents! With Daedalus himself guarding the eastern edge of the park, the western side boasts our inclusive aviation-themed play area.

While we have many more years of work to complete our Vision for the Daedalus site, I am proud of what we have achieved so far and am determined that this journey will continue to the benefit of residents now and long into the future.



Councillor Seán Woodward
Executive Leader of Council



INTRODUCTION

Daedalus is an important part of the community and holds very special memories for countless people that have passed through it over the years.

When the Council took ownership in 2015, it wanted to take control of its future to ensure that this important site remained an asset for our community. While other decommissioned airfield sites have remained unused or been repurposed for housing, at Fareham there was a huge appetite to create something very special and our Vision for Daedalus was launched.

Daedalus was carefully rebranded to reflect the opportunities there for businesses whilst retaining an important link to its past. Daedalus airfield became Solent Airport @ Daedalus, and the first new business park was named Faraday @ Daedalus.

Millions of pounds have been invested by the Council and our key partners, including Hampshire County Council and the Solent LEP. New infrastructure, including new roads, has been developed to serve the many new business premises which include hangars, manufacturing facilities, and new corporate headquarters.

A skills/innovation cluster led by Fareham College's CEMAST and Fareham Innovation Centre underpins the ethos of sharing and building on knowledge, partnerships and creating pathways for businesses and individuals to progress.

The airport is now CAA-licensed and managed by RCA (Regional and City Airports Ltd). Investment here has resulted in a refurbished control tower; the provision of onsite food and beverages at Cafe @05, improvements to the runway and the installation of runway lighting.

The following pages tell the story of the latest developments at Daedalus and outline the next steps in this very exciting journey.

“ Our vision is for Daedalus to become a premier location for aviation, aerospace engineering and advanced manufacturing businesses, creating many skilled employment opportunities for local people, underpinned by a vibrant and sustainable airfield.

Building on the existing general aviation uses, the airfield will be an attractive destination for visiting aircraft and will offer the hangars, facilities and services to attract more corporate and commercial aviation activities, allowing it to be self-sustaining in the medium term and contribute positively to the local community. ”

HOW ARE WE DOING?

With things moving so quickly at Daedalus it is sometimes easy to forget just how much has happened.

SOLENT AIRPORT



Welcome to Solent Airport



Fuel farm



Control tower and runway improvements



Café @ 05



Viewing area



Play equipment

SKILLS & INNOVATION CLUSTER



CEMAST



CETC



Fareham Innovation Centre extended in 2018



The Bridge Conference Suite...



.. features an outdoor terrace

HOW ARE WE DOING? (continued)

FARADAY@DAEDALUS



New speculative units completed in 2022



UTP (left) and Proptech Aero (right)



Six new hangars completed in 2018



New road network and supporting infrastructure

FARADAY – AN AWARD-WINNING BUSINESS PARK AT DAEDALUS SOLENT ENTERPRISE ZONE



With two awards under its belt for ‘Development of the Year’ and ‘Business Park Innovation of the Year’, Faraday at Daedalus forms part of the Daedalus Solent Enterprise Zone. It is the Borough’s largest employment site, which has already benefited from a multi-million-pound investment programme and is quickly becoming a premier location for businesses.

The units at Faraday are not only ideally located with easy access to sea, air and land transport links, including easy access to the M27, but its modern office space also boasts the highest energy performance rating, solar PV panels, ample on-site parking and the capability for electric vehicle charging.

But don’t just take our word for it – here is what some of our newest tenants have to say:

“ We chose Faraday as it is a modern, well-located site close to Portsmouth and Southampton docks with easy access to the motorway for distribution. All4 Logistics is wanting to generate business within the Hampshire area and is focused on employing people from within the local community. We have a strong customer base in Hampshire and service the plastics, engineering and automotive sectors, supporting our clients with logistics services from warehousing and customs to UK and EU distributions. ”

Caroline Millea Downing
All4 Logistics Director

“ DFS Composites was founded in 2015 and we have evolved into a team of more than a dozen strong, servicing production lines across five different continents. The unit space at Faraday was ideal to house our business with its easy access to road, air and sea. We have an exciting period of growth ahead of us with new jobs becoming available soon and we look forward to helping more customers harness wind power in the future. ”

Feras Yosef, Founder of DFS Composites

“ We are preparing for a period of rapid growth, driven by factors such as new building regulations, the UK’s net zero strategy and rising energy costs. We chose to purchase the unit at Faraday Business Park not only for its easy access to the motorway, but also its energy efficient and forward-thinking design. We have an exciting future ahead of us and look forward to helping more customers achieve their zero-carbon goals. ”

James Bull, Managing Director of UPOWA

“ Parco are delighted to secure these modern premises in the heart of Fareham. It marks a substantial milestone in the growth and development of our business here on the South Coast and how serious our clients are in making a difference. This space will be used as part of everyone’s global responsibility in making this planet a greener place for future generations. The passion we have in building multiple sites on a weekly basis for the vastly growing EV driver is the reason we have taken the tenancy on these premises, and it is ideal for our needs. We look forward to working with Fareham Borough Council in the coming years! ”

Jamie Allen, Director of Parco Civil Engineering and Groundworks Ltd

HIGHLIGHTS

As well as being the most significant commercial development area in the Borough, Daedalus continues to be enjoyed as a real community asset.

In 2017, just two years after taking ownership of the site, Daedalus celebrated its 100th anniversary. The Council did not let this go unnoticed and we were very proud to welcome HRH The Princess Royal as part of the year's celebrations.





Two years later the Council hosted D-Day 75 – a fitting event for a location that had seen the highest number of sorties 75 years earlier.

As well as hosting events, Solent Airport has also attracted significant attention from further afield. For example, did you know that the opening credits to one of James Martin's shows was filmed in a Spitfire that took off from Solent Airport? Or that the hangars were used as a base for the spitfires that featured in the film Dunkirk?



CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA



SECURE GATED ENTRANCE



AIRCRAFT HANGARS



BELLMAN HANGARS

STUBBINGTON

STUBBINGTON LANE

B3334

GOS

QUEEN ELI
PLATINUM JU

SWORDFISH
BUSINESS PARK

SOLENT
AIRPORT

SIX BUSINESS HANGARS



VIEWING AREA



DRIVING TEST CENTRE

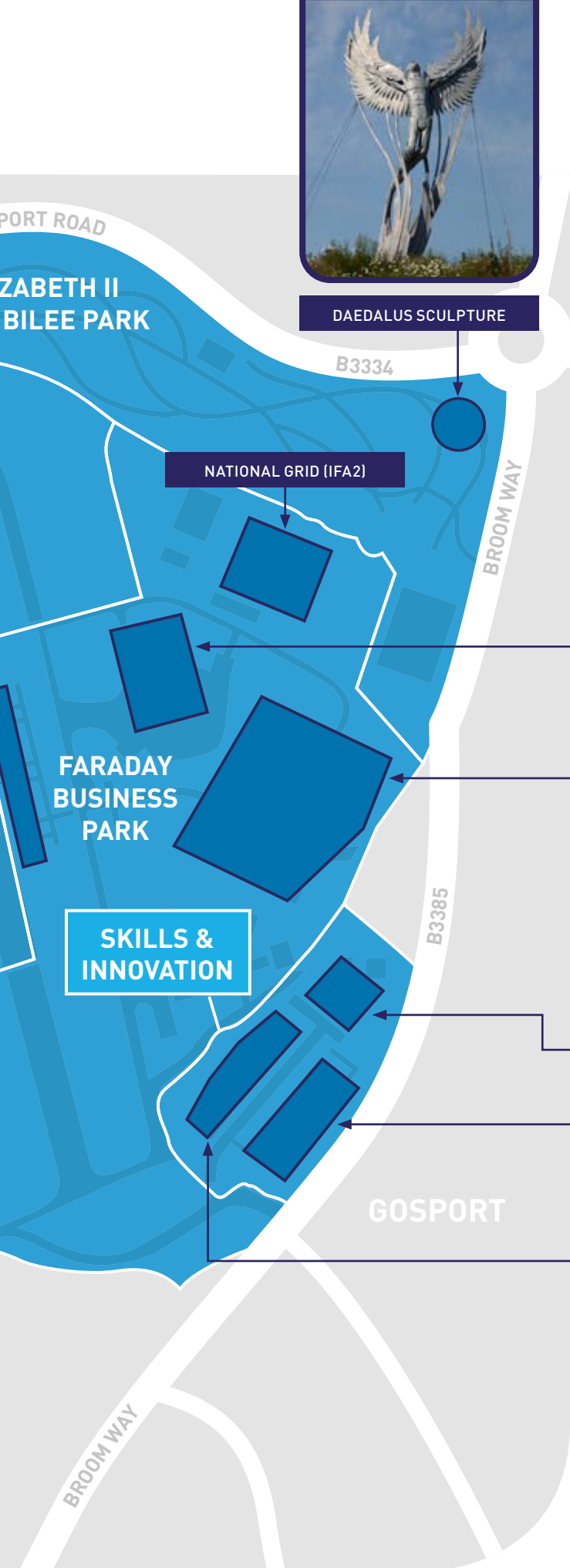
CAR PARK

HM COASTGUARD

CAFE @05

CONTROL TOWER





DAEDALUS SCULPTURE



5 GENERAL AVIATION HANGARS



PURPOSE-BUILT BUSINESS UNITS



CETC



CEMAST

FAREHAM INNOVATION CENTRE



AIRPORT FACILITIES

Our ambitious plans for Solent Airport have been buffeted by headwinds from time to time but today we are proud to offer one of the best general aviation airports in the UK.

Our initial £10M investment went towards vital improvements and repairs for the runway, taxiways and apron, control tower, and aircraft fuelling facilities. We also invested in new hangars, and a new Flight Information Service in 2019 enabled the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to licence the airport for flights for the purpose of public transport or instruction in flying.

We have partnered with RCA to manage and operate our airport since 2015. They have grown the airport business in a way that respects and attracts the general aviation community while delivering on our ambitions to attract new business, including more corporate and commercial aviation. The airport is twice as busy today as it was when we took it over in 2015 and returns over six times the revenue, while maintaining its exemplary safety record.

Our investment has also paid for the hugely popular Café @ 05 and our Corporate Lounge Facilities:



CAFÉ @ 05

Open to the public all year round, Café @ 05 is located at the centre of activities at Solent Airport's control tower and was first opened in 2018.

The recently refurbished Cafe @ 05 offers a warm and relaxed atmosphere, while still boasting its own viewing area, offering spectacular and unrestricted views across the airport and an up-close feel to the airport activities.

It provides customers with a range of hot and cold refreshments, seven days a week from 9am to 6pm.



CORPORATE LOUNGE FACILITIES

The corporate lounge at Solent Airport provides a restful location for flying visitors to recharge.

With a discreet personalised service, the lounge provides a calm, welcoming environment, offering HD-TV and free WIFI, with complimentary refreshments. Specialist catering services can also be provided, to meet any special needs clients may have.



FUTURE-PROOFING IMPROVEMENTS

Our current £5.5M programme of investment in runway lighting and associated navigation systems, alongside a further round of taxiway maintenance and resurfacing, and fleet investments is nearly complete. The installation of Aeronautical Ground Lighting (AGL) is a gamechanger for the airport and you can read all about this on page 13.

Running an airport carries obvious tensions with the Council's commitment to Climate Change but we are determined to do our bit to reduce its impact on the environment. Our vehicles already run on vegetable oil and our latest investment in the airport fleet hopes to see us offering unleaded aviation fuel to our customers, as well as electric aircraft charging facilities.



AERONAUTICAL GROUND LIGHTING AT SOLENT AIRPORT

The installation of Aeronautical Ground Lighting (AGL) at Solent Airport has been a key objective of the Council's Vision for Daedalus and installation work is now underway.

AGL is a series of lights which run along the length of the main runway and taxiways so that pilots can see where to land their aircraft.

AGL, in conjunction with the Performance Based Navigation instrument-based approach procedure also being developed, will provide certainty that aircraft will always be able to land as planned, despite poor weather or after dark.

It will increase airport movements, improve the airport's revenue position and may also attract new tenants to the airport whose operations rely on this level of certainty.

This, in turn, will generate job opportunities in the Borough and strengthen the role of Daedalus at the heart of Fareham's economy.

Once AGL is installed, the airport will be able to extend its opening hours to 9am-6pm throughout the year, rather than having to close much earlier in the winter months due to poor light.

This major improvement at the airport has led to a further programme of investment to ensure its continued safe operation and to grow its competitive position.

This programme of work includes new airport fuel assets, safety improvements to the Visual Control Room at the Control Tower required by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and upgrades to the runway, taxiways and hangers.



**FAREHAM
INNOVATION
CENTRE AT
DAEDALUS**

Owned by Fareham Borough Council, Fareham Innovation Centre has gone from strength to strength since it first opened its doors in 2015.



Now home to around 50 technology-led companies including start-ups, the Council appointed Oxford Innovation Space to manage the Centre and to provide expertise and business support to the businesses that are based there.

Centre Director, Stephen Brownlie, explains:

“By providing complimentary strategic advice, our customers are more likely to buck the trend and, crucially, thrive.

By growing, they generate inward investment through the creation of new jobs and the multiplier effect of spending with doorstep and regional supply chains; the local economy resoundingly benefits.”

Two long-standing occupiers, **Psion Consulting** and **LR Animation Studios**, are a template of what can be achieved by way of in-house business support.

Owned and run by Paul Dawson, and following our bespoke business support sessions, Psion Consulting was contracted by a corporate manufacturer to develop advanced software for smart eyewear.

His success was reported in the region’s daily newspaper, with Paul saying:

“The Centre’s business support has been invaluable, from opening doors and unlocking grants to setting up meetings with corporate customers and guidance on to how to conduct negotiations.”

LR Animation, owned and run by Lewis Rogers, makes animated explainer videos for a range of companies and organisations.

Following a business planning strategy, Lewis increased pipeline orders in the UK offshore oil and gas industry, which supports more than 280,000 jobs.

Sharing that success with the same newspaper, Lewis said:

“As anyone who runs a business will know, you get pulled in all directions every day and strategy can take a back seat.

The Innovation Director was the signal through the noise, identifying our value proposition and how to package video explainers as a series for clients and their staff, rather than just one-offs.

This better-business approach paid dividends, with increased orders from the oil and gas industry as well as other sectors.”



As the Centre's owner, Fareham Borough Council has been incredibly supportive of the way we work, which fosters a vibrant ecosystem of entrepreneurialism, innovation, ingenuity, growth and collaboration among go-getting businesses from the engineering, advanced manufacturing, marine, aviation and aerospace industries.

This energising ecosystem includes regular workshops and networking events for occupiers and their staff – sometimes over pizza cooked outside in a wood-fired oven!

Close ties with education have also been made – firms here draw upon work-experience T-Level students from Fareham College and, on the road opposite to us, is the College's Centre for Engineering and Manufacturing Advanced Skills Training (CEMAST).

Undergraduates and post-graduates from the region's universities provide valuable assistance on projects as well.

When we opened the Centre's doors for the first time, back in 2015, we had little idea that the demand for flexible serviced offices, co-working space, workshops, meeting rooms and a conference/events suite would be such that a larger building would be required...

Just three years later, in 2018, the Centre more than doubled in size with a seamless extension.

There are now 55 offices, 20 workshops, meeting rooms and The Bridge, a conference and events space for up to 120 people, with a Mediterranean-style rooftop terrace overlooking Solent Airport.

To date, more than 250 companies have benefitted from working life at the Centre, drawing upon knowledge, expertise, in-house business support and ambition.

Stephen Brownlie, Centre Director, said:

“ You can sense the buzz as soon you walk into reception – there is a pioneering spirit that defines Fareham Innovation Centre. It is a template of how the private and public sectors can work together so successfully. ”





BRISTOW FLYING HIGH AT DAEDALUS

Daedalus has a long history of support for life-saving helicopter Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.

Almost 40 years ago the airfield became home to one of the UK's first civilian SAR teams as responsibility for the service was passed from the Royal Navy to specialist helicopter operators.

Since then the airfield has constantly evolved and in 2008 a new custom-built hangar was created at the site, specifically to support UK SAR operations.

Today this hangar accommodates the team of Bristow pilots, technical crew members, engineers and support staff who operate specialist AW189 aircraft on behalf of the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). Every day the teams fly operations and training sorties from the base, responding to emergencies and keeping their life-saving skills honed.

Chief Pilot, Captain Rich Norris, said:

“Daedalus is an ideal base for our helicopter SAR operation. Its position means we can get to where we need to be, fast. Perhaps more importantly its history of SAR support means there is a deep understanding here of how the SAR team operate and what we need to respond swiftly, and safely, when lives are at risk. ”





IFA2

One of the largest and most nationally significant innovations in recent years has been the National Grid's Interconnexion France/Angleterre 2 (IFA2) high voltage interconnector.

Located on the boundary of Solent Airport at Daedalus, IFA2 is ideally located for the connection of power sources to and from the French mainland. This is achieved through 149 miles of underground and under-sea high voltage cabling and ensures the reliable and efficient provision of sustainable power throughout the UK network, with back-up during times when the network may be under strain.

It is also a vital low-carbon opportunity to supplement the power infrastructure of the UK and the Council is proud to be in a position to facilitate this, given its own commitment to be carbon neutral across its buildings and services by 2030.

Construction began in 2018 and it was successfully commissioned and declared fully operational in January 2021. IFA2 is a truly impressive feat of engineering and only the second interconnector of its type in existence.



QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLATINUM JUBILEE PARK

Part of the obligations relating to the IFA2 project was the National Grid's investment in a new 40-acre park on the site at Daedalus - dedicated to her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Originally referred to as Daedalus Common, the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Park was opened at Daedalus in December 2022 to benefit the local community, visitors and employees that work nearby.

It features a network of accessible paths and cycle routes, a dog exercise area and various wildlife habitats. There has also been significant shrub and tree planting to enrich it even further for the future with around 21,000

trees planted on the site. A special memorial tree was also planted for the late Queen Elizabeth II, using mulch from the condolence flowers that were laid by local residents following her passing.

This superb and accessible open space is further enhanced by the children's aviation-themed play area adjacent to the entrance as well as VE and VJ commemorative seats and the striking eight-metre high sculpture of Daedalus himself.

For more information, go to:
www.fareham.gov.uk/daedalus



A LAUNCH PAD FOR FUTURE GROWTH/ AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

We have exciting plans for the next steps at Daedalus:

BUSINESS PARKS

- Continue the build-out of the northern end of Faraday Business Park to attract and support businesses
- Progress the infrastructure works required to deliver the southern end of Faraday Business Park
- Support the development of Bristow's new Search and Rescue Training facility at Faraday Business Park
- Progress a business case for the development of a 'Next Steps' scheme to accommodate growing businesses
- Begin the master planning of Swordfish Business Park and associated infrastructure works
- Seek to introduce facilities for business park occupiers such as a complementary food and beverage offer

SOLENT AIRPORT

- Develop a growth plan to expand corporate, rotary and military air traffic
- Consider airspace change certification to enable drone operations alongside manned aviation traffic
- Market the airport to new aircraft operators and Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) businesses
- Progress the installation of Performance Based Navigation
- Upgrade the Visual Control Room at the Control Tower
- Plan and implement Airport Operator arrangements
- Develop a business case for investing in additional airport infrastructure, such as aircraft parking
- Develop a business case for additional hangars for commercial uses and managed hangarage
- Market the location for commercial filming and photography

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Support events and festivals
- Prepare plans and a business case to provide a heritage facility

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Investigate opportunities for electric vehicle charging and renewable energy across the entire site
- Introduce alternative aviation fuels and power services, including UL91 unleaded fuel supply and electric aircraft charging

