

SAVE *CONCORDE* GROUP



Concorde at Filton

*Presented to British Airways by the
Save Concorde Group*

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Concorde at Filton

The Save Concorde Group (SCG) presents “Concorde for Filton” – a plan to provide a high-quality yet cost-effective home for Concorde G-BOAF (Alpha Foxtrot) at Filton. We propose to put Alpha Foxtrot centre-stage in a showcase of Bristol’s aviation heritage, as well as to provide first-class educational and conference facilities.



Viewing and exhibition facility for Alpha Foxtrot
Image: De Boer Structures (UK) Ltd.

Preserving G-BOAF

Following the joint meeting on 7 April 2011 between Airbus UK, the Concorde Trust, the Save Concorde Group (SCG) and Heritage Concorde to discuss the future of Concorde G-BOAF (Alpha Foxtrot), SCG was heartened to see the level of care and effort that Airbus was expending to take care of Alpha Foxtrot. We were shown around the aircraft and shown parts that were being refurbished ready for re-fitting to the airframe. Airbus explained what they have been doing to protect Alpha Foxtrot both inside and outside.

Further issues

SCG is however, concerned about the future of Alpha Foxtrot. We note with great concern that the Concorde Trust's bid to attract money from the Heritage Lottery Fund has failed. In addition, we would query the large sum (over £9 million) put forward by the Trust for building their new exhibition facility. In this document we present an alternative plan in which Alpha Foxtrot can be housed in a high-quality exhibition space at a fraction of this cost.



A world-class attraction

SCG proposes to build a facility that includes a hangar for Concorde, space for the Bristol Aero Collection, and areas for meetings and events. There would also be a Visitors' Centre including reception area, shop, staff office, meeting room, presentation room, kitchenette, and toilet areas.

We envisage the museum becoming an asset to Filton and Bristol as a visitor attraction, a space for lectures and demonstrations, and a venue for social occasions. We believe that this Concorde museum could develop a unique identity as a centre for education and entertainment, commemorating and building on Bristol's aviation heritage.



Concorde at Manchester

The Concorde museum at Manchester Airport, which has enjoyed proven success as a Concorde museum and a venue for conferences, weddings and other events. SCG and Heritage Concorde propose having a similar but larger structure at Filton.

Location

We envisage that the new museum will be located at Cribbs Causeway, near the shopping centre. We note that the airfield is due to be closed at the end of 2012, so we do not foresee any problems with placing Concorde on this site.



Proposed site

These aerial views show the suggested location for the Concorde museum in relation to Cribbs Causeway (left) and in relation to the runway at Filton airport (inset, above).

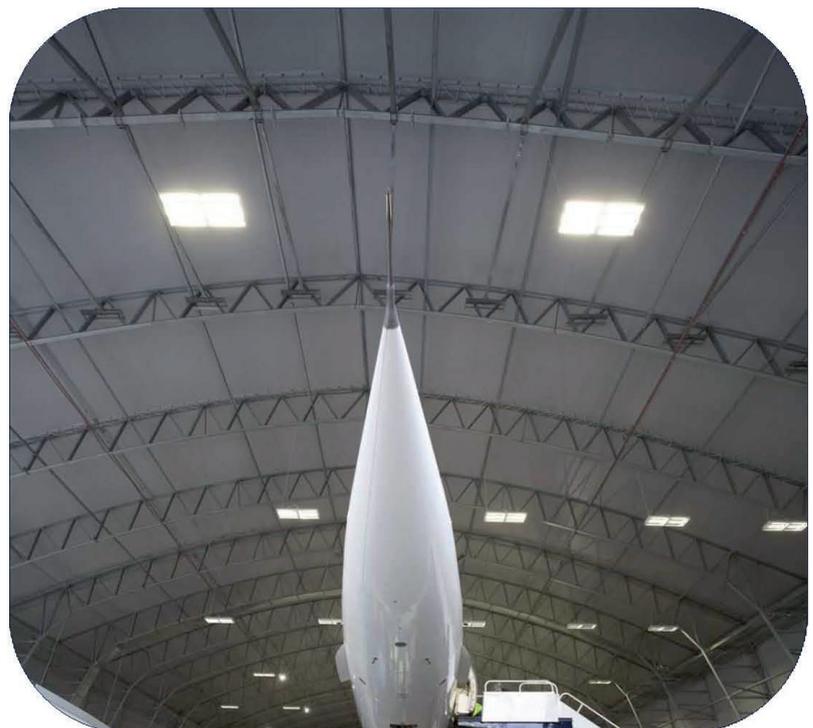
Aerial views: Google Earth

The structure

We have approached De Boer Structures (UK) Limited, and they have put together a proposal for a structure. Their proposal would include the following elements:

- Steel frame with steel wire bracing
- Tensioned roof sail of PVC-impregnated fabric (900g/m²)
- Windows and glass wall façade
- Sliding door and emergency exit doors.

A concrete pad would be needed; De Boer could liaise with the ground contractor in constructing a suitable surface.



Projected costs

We have identified the following requirements, in terms of money and time, for our plan.

COSTS

Construction of hangar/facility <i>Includes labour, equipment and tools, transport</i> <i>Excludes VAT and main contractor role</i>	£754,120.00
Building infrastructure <i>Includes lighting, power supply, dehumidifier, fire alarm system</i>	£212,000.00
Internal fit-out: entrance and Visitors' Centre <i>Includes insulation, temperature control, ventilation, toilets,</i> <i>kitchen area, vinyl flooring</i> <i>Does not include connection to mains electricity, water, etc.</i>	£177,500.00
Design work by De Boers	£14,750.00
TOTAL COST (excluding VAT)	£1,158,370.00

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

De Boers estimate that it will take 8 weeks to manufacture the building and another 5 to 6 weeks to install it, depending on the final specification. This figure does not include the time needed to prepare the concrete base.

Sources of funding

Airbus has pledged approximately £850,000 for a new Concorde museum at Filton. This indicates their ongoing commitment to this aircraft, in addition to the deep maintenance programme that has just been completed to prepare Alpha Foxtrot for going on permanent display. In addition, there is about £300,000 available from the money raised by the Concorde at Filton centre. We intend to draw on our contacts in the aviation industry and beyond, to seek further funding from corporate sponsors such as Rolls-Royce.



A piece of history

Roll-out of the British prototype Concorde in 1968. (Photo courtesy of James Nelis, SCG supporter.)

Ongoing support

SCG is aware that Filton already boasts many people with extensive knowledge about Concorde; in particular, the volunteers at the former Concorde at Filton attraction included people who had helped to construct the airframe and engines. We would like to build on this impressive foundation by offering the support of our former Concorde engineers and flight crew members. These Concorde experts would be invaluable for giving advice on ongoing maintenance. They could also give talks about Concorde to aerospace organisations, apprentices, students and lay audiences, thus helping to grow the museum as a centre of knowledge and excellence.

SCG has thousands of keen followers across the world. We could bring the museum to national and international attention by running publicity campaigns and promoting it in the media.



An icon for all time

Alpha Foxtrot attracted the world's admiration as she made her final flight back to her birthplace at Filton. SCG believes that, in the setting of our proposed museum, she could once again take her place as an enduring global icon.

The Save Concorde Group

- The Save Concorde Group (SCG) was established in late 2003, just as the final commercial flights for Concorde were completed and the airframes delivered to museums.
- SCG is an entirely non-profit organisation whose main aim is to promote the return of Concorde to flight in a heritage capacity.
- SCG's fundamental mission is to help care for Concorde around the world, and to provide assistance that ensures long-term preservation befitting Concorde's status.
- SCG has forged extensive contacts in the aviation industry and among the Concorde community, in the UK, France, and across the world.
- We are the only Concorde group that has strong, direct links with the general public in the UK and abroad. This level of support continues to increase and to be recognised by the national and international media.



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