

## Calshot Spit in World War Two

### **Why was Calshot used?**

Calshot is on the coast of the New Forest so it was easy to look after seaplanes and flying boats in aircraft hangers.

Henry VIII's castle was used as a strategic base to help protect the airfield from Britain's enemies.

### **What happened at the base?**

The base at Calshot was involved in training pilots, who not only flew planes but also spied on and captured German seaplanes.

The Royal Air Force also repaired and improved the boats, in particular High Speed Launches and Sunderland 'Flying Boats', and trained up people to work on them.

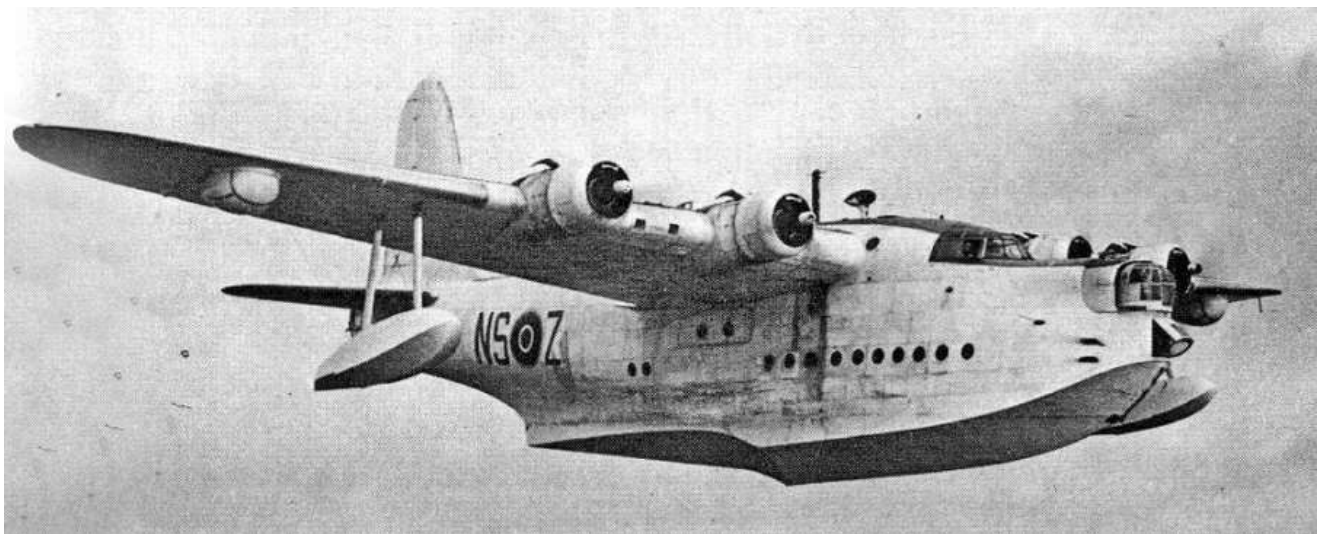
On 31 May 1940, Calshot sent 5 RAF High Speed Launches to help save 500 men at Dunkirk in France.

The Sunderland Flying Boat was the last flying-boat used by the Royal Air Force!

Before World War Two, Calshot Spit was home to beach huts, which had to close down when the Royal Air Force bought the land for their military operations.



High Speed Launch seaplane off Calshot Spit



A Sunderland flying boat in World War Two



Can you spot any landmarks?  
Can you spot anything linked to the  
military?





A photograph of Calshot at the end of the war – you can see the planes and water in the background. Can you also spot Henry VIII's Calshot Castle?