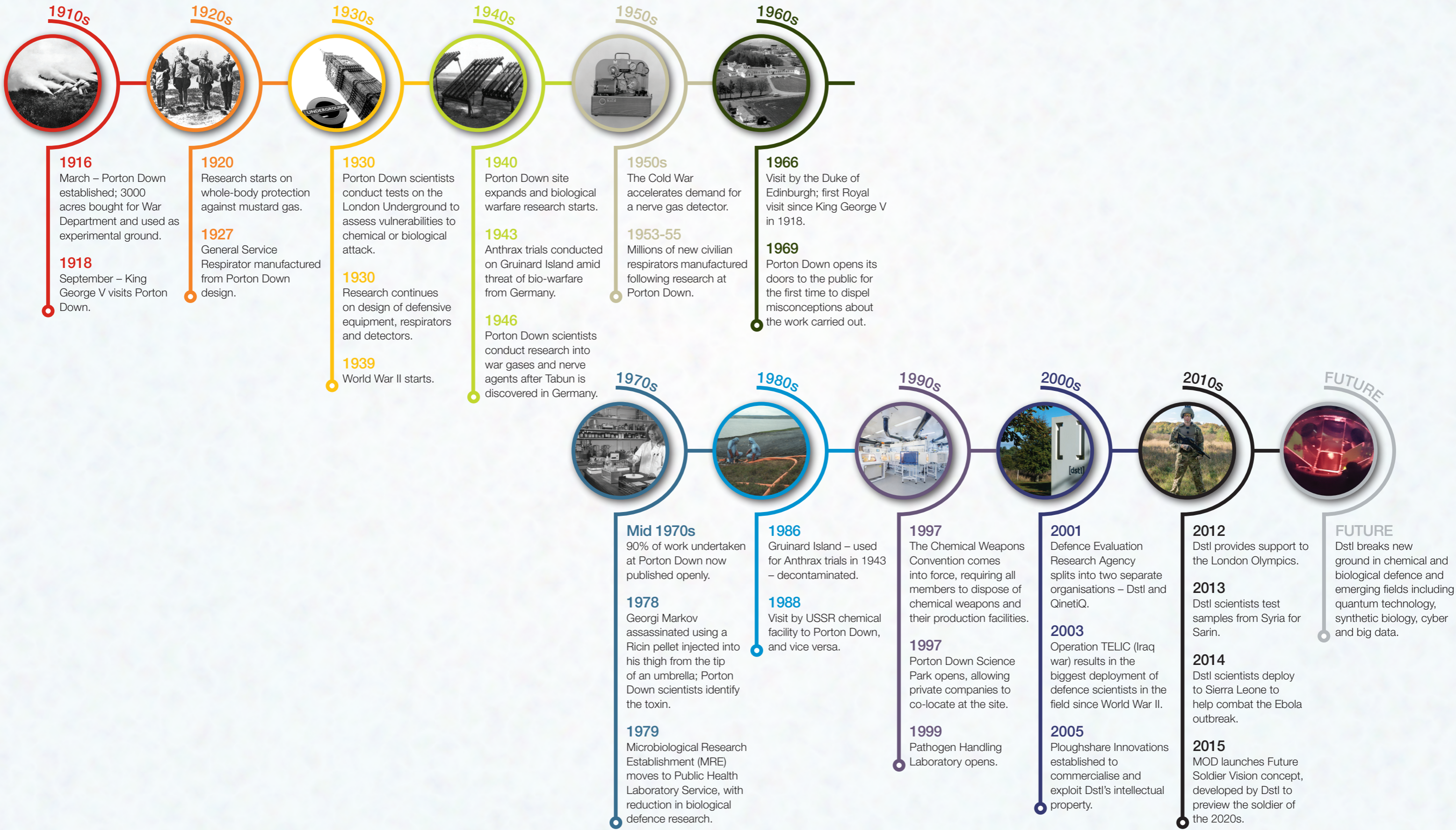


# [ Dstl 100



1910s



**1916**  
March – Porton Down established; 3000 acres bought for War Department and used as experimental ground.

**1918**  
September – King George V visits Porton Down.

1920s



**1920**  
Research starts on whole-body protection against mustard gas.

**1927**  
General Service Respirator manufactured from Porton Down design.

1930s



**1930**  
Porton Down scientists conduct tests on the London Underground to assess vulnerabilities to chemical or biological attack.

**1930**  
Research continues on design of defensive equipment, respirators and detectors.

**1939**  
World War II starts.

1940s



**1940**  
Porton Down site expands and biological warfare research starts.

**1943**  
Anthrax trials conducted on Gruinard Island amid threat of bio-warfare from Germany.

**1946**  
Porton Down scientists conduct research into war gases and nerve agents after Tabun is discovered in Germany.

1950s



**1950s**  
The Cold War accelerates demand for a nerve gas detector.

**1953-55**  
Millions of new civilian respirators manufactured following research at Porton Down.

1960s



**1966**  
Visit by the Duke of Edinburgh; first Royal visit since King George V in 1918.

**1969**  
Porton Down opens its doors to the public for the first time to dispel misconceptions about the work carried out.

1970s



**Mid 1970s**  
90% of work undertaken at Porton Down now published openly.

**1978**  
Georgi Markov assassinated using a Ricin pellet injected into his thigh from the tip of an umbrella; Porton Down scientists identify the toxin.

**1979**  
Microbiological Research Establishment (MRE) moves to Public Health Laboratory Service, with reduction in biological defence research.

1980s



**1986**  
Gruinard Island – used for Anthrax trials in 1943 – decontaminated.

**1988**  
Visit by USSR chemical facility to Porton Down, and vice versa.

1990s



**1997**  
The Chemical Weapons Convention comes into force, requiring all members to dispose of chemical weapons and their production facilities.

**1997**  
Porton Down Science Park opens, allowing private companies to co-locate at the site.

**1999**  
Pathogen Handling Laboratory opens.

2000s



**2001**  
Defence Evaluation Research Agency splits into two separate organisations – Dstl and QinetiQ.

**2003**  
Operation TELIC (Iraq war) results in the biggest deployment of defence scientists in the field since World War II.

**2005**  
Ploughshare Innovations established to commercialise and exploit Dstl's intellectual property.

2010s



**2012**  
Dstl provides support to the London Olympics.

**2013**  
Dstl scientists test samples from Syria for Sarin.

**2014**  
Dstl scientists deploy to Sierra Leone to help combat the Ebola outbreak.

**2015**  
MOD launches Future Soldier Vision concept, developed by Dstl to preview the soldier of the 2020s.

FUTURE



**FUTURE**  
Dstl breaks new ground in chemical and biological defence and emerging fields including quantum technology, synthetic biology, cyber and big data.