

# HERITAGE, DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

**Diving Museum**

**January 2024**



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The following Heritage, Design and Access Statement has been prepared to accompany the applications for the internal alterations (Listed Building Consent) and the replacement of the existing external signage (Planning) for Battery No.2 in connection with its continued use as a museum.

1.1. The Battery No : 2 is a Grade II\* listed building and a former gun battery of c1860, built as part of the fortifications to protect Portsmouth Harbour, and known as the Stokes Bay Lines and now used by the Historic Diving Society as the National Diving Museum.

1.2. List Description: BATTERY NO: 2, STOKES BAY

List Entry Number :	1276305
Grade:	II*
Date Listed :	20- APR- 1983
Date of most recent amendment:	20-Dec-2016
Listing NGR :	SZ5869098925



Fig 1: Entrance to The Diving Museum



Fig 2: Gun emplacement on earth bank

1.3. **Site Location and Additional Designations**

1.3.1. The Diving Museum, Gosport

2 Stokes Bay Rd, Gosport PO12 2QU

1.4. *Sites of Special Scientific Interest*

1.4.1. Battery No.2 is not in a site of special scientific interest Site of Important Nature Conservation

1.5. *Site of Important Nature Conservation*

1.5.1. *Battery N:2 is not a site defined as being of 'important nature conservation'*

1.6. Conservation Areas

1.6.1. Battery No.2 in a Conservation Area



**Fig 3: Battery No: 2** Scale: 1:1250

## 1.7. Planning History

1.7.1. 10/00126/FULL: USE OF PREMISES AS DIVING HERITAGE MUSEUM (USE CLASS D1) (LISTED BUILDING) (as amplified by e-mail received 26.04.10)

**Granted**

1.7.2. **11/00149/FULL:** DISPLAY OF 9NO. OUTSIDE EXHIBITS, 1NO. FLAGPOLE AND FLAG AND REINSTATEMENT OF INTERNAL DOOR AND WINDOW TO SWITCH ROOM (LISTED BUILDING) (as amended by plans received 22.06.11)

**Granted**

1.7.3. **11/00151/LBA:** DISPLAY OF 9NO. OUTSIDE EXHIBITS, 1NO. FLAGPOLE AND FLAG AND REINSTATEMENT OF INTERNAL DOOR AND WINDOW TO SWITCH ROOM (LISTED BUILDING) (as amended by plans received 22.06.11)

**Granted**

1.7.4. **13/00184/FULL:** DISPLAY OF 1 NO. EXTERNAL EXHIBIT (LISTED BUILDING)

**Granted**

1.7.5. **13/00223/LBA:** LISTED BUILDING APPLICATION - DISPLAY OF 1 NO. EXTERNAL EXHIBIT

**Granted**

1.7.6. **14/00437/FULL:** DEMOLITION OF INFILL PANEL AND INSTALLATION OF FIRE ESCAPE DOOR (LISTED BUILDING)

**Granted**

1.7.7. **14/00438/LBA:** LISTED BUILDING APPLICATION - DEMOLITION OF INFILL PANEL AND INSTALLATION OF FIRE ESCAPE DOOR

**Granted**

1.7.8. **21/00549/FULL:** REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING EXHIBIT TO SOUTH OF NO.2 BATTERY (LISTED BUILDING).

**Granted**

1.7.9. **21/00530/LBA:** LISTED BUILDING APPLICATION - INSTALLATION OF UNDERFLOOR HEATING SYSTEM TO THE LINK CORRIDOR AND AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP (amplified by plans received 02.11.2021) (description amended 03.12.2021)

**Granted**

1.7.10. **21/00616/LBA:** LISTED BUILDING APPLICATION - INSTALLATION OF TIMBER DOOR WITHIN EXISTING OPENING, ALTERATIONS TO ENTRANCE INCLUDING INTERNAL ACCESS RAMP, PLATFORM LIFT AND HANDRAIL AND REPAIRS TO GUN EMPLACEMENTS

**Granted**

1.7.11. **21/00615/FULL:** ALTERATIONS TO ENTRANCE INCLUDING ACCESS RAMP, HANDRAIL AND STEPS AND INSTALLATION OF TIMBER DOOR WITHIN EXISTING OPENING (Listed Building)

**Granted**

## 2. HERITAGE STATEMENT

### 2.1. List Entry Description

The following paragraphs describe the development of the building and its construction now form part of the list description contained within the Historic England List Entry.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1276305>.

Additional information has been introduced following further examination of the modern records and on the basis of newspaper articles drafted in the 1980s and early 1990s at the time its future use was held under review.

### 2.2. Historic Development and Reasons for Designation

- 2.3. A former gun battery of c1860, built as part of the fortifications to protect Portsmouth Harbour, and known as the Stokes Bay Lines

### 2.4. Reasons for Designation

- 2.4.1. No. 2 Battery, c1860, built as part of the fortifications to protect Portsmouth Harbour, is listed at Grade II\* for the following principal reasons:

Historic interest: this is a vital building in our understanding of the evolving defence of Portsmouth over the past 500 years, but particularly in the Victorian period when fear of a French invasion was high, and technological advances in armaments were very rapid. It also helps illustrate how local government prepared to survive a nuclear attack;

Rarity: it is the largest and most technologically innovative battery at Stokes Bay and designed from the outset to have embrasures. More latterly it had gun hoists to supply gun emplacements from fortified ammunition stores;

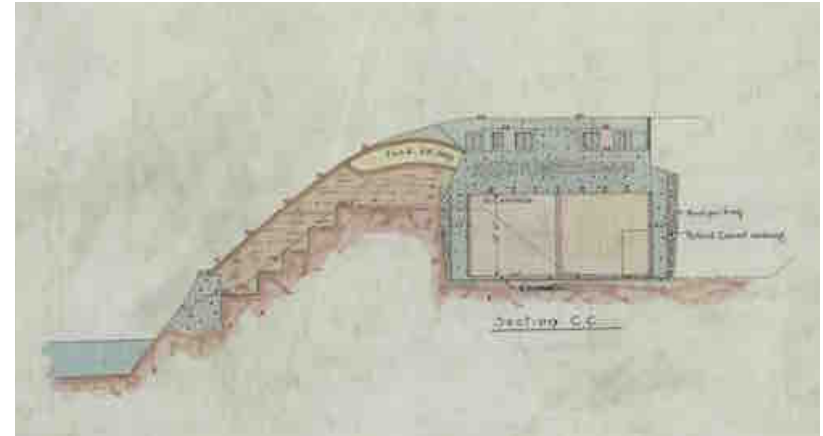


Fig 4 : Historic drawings of the battery, section drawing (1899)

Survival: it survives well and is the only purpose built Stokes Bay battery with substantial above ground structure;

Design and form: the original function of the building is clearly legible, and although altered, the specialised form remains legible through each technological and functional update;

Group value: the battery is linked to No. 1 Battery via a disused tunnel, and it is an integral part of the wider Stokes Bay defensive strategy, which also includes Fort Monckton and Fort Gilkicker.



## 2.5. History

2.5.1. Batteries No. 1 and 2 were built in the Stokes Bay area of Gosport, primarily to defend against a sea-borne attack, and are located at the north-west end of the Stokes Bay Lines. They were part of a system of ramparts, moats and batteries built in the 1860s as part of a major update to the outer defences of Gosport and Portsmouth Harbour. They were built in a strategic position at Browndown Point, which marks the north-western end of Stokes Bay beach; the opposite south-east end was defended by Fort Monckton and Fort Gilkicker (which was built on the site of an earlier fort). Along with the wider defences the batteries were intended to cover the moat, beach, and adjoining deep water anchorage. Their location was partly determined by two earlier batteries; Browndown West and Browndown East, which were built in the early 1850s but were soon recognised as inadequate. Browndown West was rebuilt and later extended, and now survives largely intact as Browndown Battery, within the Browndown firing range. Batteries No. 1 and 2 comprised a connected group of ramparts, casemates, gun emplacements, buildings and related structures which together formed the largest of the Stokes Bay batteries. Unlike the other batteries in the Lines, Battery No. 2 was built with casemated gun positions that were designed to complement those at Fort Gilkicker at the opposite end of the bay

2.5.2. Battery No. 2 was originally surrounded by its own moat. The primary casemates faced west and east, and two guns faced north-west. There were also two gun emplacements on the southern rampart facing the Solent, which were accessed by a long gun ramp from the parade ground to the north. This now forms park of the caravan park.

2.5.3. No. 2 and No. 1 battery were connected by an underground tunnel, and access over the moat was via a bridge in the north-west corner. The battery was originally equipped with up to fifteen smooth-bore eight inch muzzle-loading guns mounted in casemates. In the early 1890s they were replaced with rifled breech-loading seven-inch guns, and at this time the casemates in the south face were replaced with two open

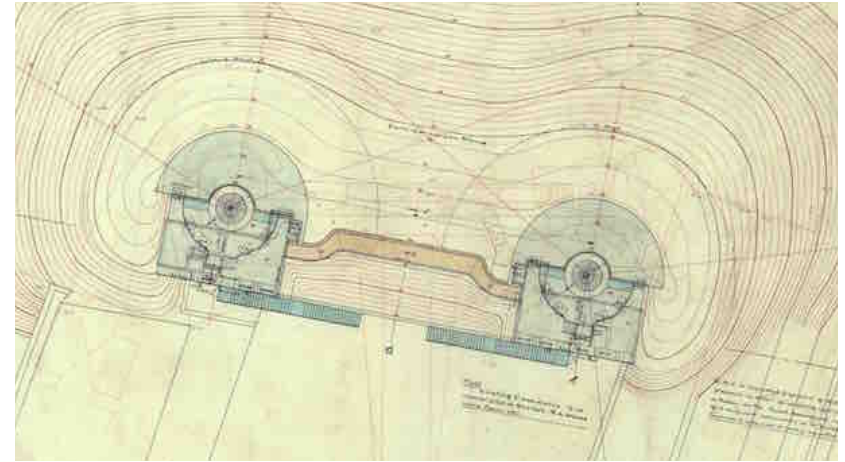


Fig 5: Historic drawings of the battery, plan drawing (1899)

positions for seven inch muzzle-loading guns on the parapet. The latter comprised semi-circular concrete emplacements for Moncrieff disappearing gun carriages. The guns and carriages in these positions were replaced again in c1901, with six inch rifled breech loaders, requiring the concrete emplacements to be in-filled and raised.

2.5.4. A contemporary concrete command post remains on the parapet between the two emplacements, but these later guns may have been withdrawn as early as 1902. In the late 1890s the other guns were replaced with fixed Maxim machine guns, mounted in the west and east facing casemates. The southern and western embrasures in front of the casemates were later in-filled to create the current (2016) form of the embankment, presumably when these casemates were no longer used as gun positions. All guns were withdrawn by 1907.

- 2.5.5. When operational, the battery had two shell stores (holding 890 rounds), six cartridge stores (holding approximately 1900 rounds), and a small arms store. Ammunition was delivered to the overhead guns using mechanised cartridge lifting belts. By 1891, two of the cartridge stores were removed and the storage areas underwent continuous alteration through the late C19 and early C20, reflecting changing armament technology. In the 1890s additional storage buildings were added in the parade ground and the northern casemate in the west face was adapted to provide married quarters.
- 2.5.6. Gosport Borough Council purchased the battery in 1932 from the Home Office for £1,500, and in 1933 the parade ground was cleared of buildings and became a caravan park. In 1939 the council moved their records from the town hall to the battery for safe storage. For the remainder of the Second World War the battery was once again under military control, and by 1947 it was being used by the Special Armament Development Establishment (SADE) based in Fort Gomer.
- 2.5.7. In 1950 the battery was in use by the 7th Royal Tank Regiment Amphibious Wing, but by November 1951 the military handed the site back to the council. The moat was filled in 1956, and presumably around this time the officers married-quarters and the access bridge were demolished. The channel connecting the River Alver to the sea remains and forms the western boundary
- 2.5.8. In 1982 Gosport Council converted the casemates and magazines of the battery into a nuclear bunker (or Civil Defence Command Post) at a cost of £30,000. The eastern central gun embrasure was converted to a doorway, and the remaining embrasures had blanks inserted, or were in-filled with brick. A link tunnel was formed in the 'gap' between the eastern range and the south range, which was subsequently covered beneath an earth bank (Fig.7).
- 2.5.9. At some point, the western casemates and stores have had their wooden partitions removed allowing them to be used for storage by the council and caravan park residents.

- 2.5.10. Photographic evidence taken in the early 1980's would suggest that a further casemate remains hidden in the south west corner of the site, although its entrance and form remain unclear (Fig. 8).
- 2.5.11. In 2011 Gosport Borough Council agreed a long lease for the use of the site by the Historical Diving Society as a museum



**Fig. 6:** Photos of a further casemate in south west corner of the site (c1980)

### 3. Construction

- 3.1. A former gun battery of c1860, built as part of the Stokes Bay defences.
- 3.2. **MATERIALS:** Re-enforced concrete core, with brickwork to the built elevations and stone detailing to embrasures. Gun emplacements have some iron fittings, and internally there are iron and timber fixtures and fittings.
- 3.3. **PLAN:** the battery is C-shaped in plan and is now predominantly orientated to the south-east. The former parade ground lies behind the ramparts to the north, and the River Alver forms a boundary to the west. The principal brick rampart faces east, and houses the main entrance. The western and southern ramparts are predominantly under grass cover
- 3.4. **EXTERIOR:** the principal east brick rampart is symmetrical and consists of three bays over a single storey. It is constructed of brick in an English bond. The outlying bays have a low and large round-headed embrasure with sturdy granite chamfered square architrave to the side and above. The embrasures have deep set multi-paned timber casement windows set behind metal railings. Above each embrasure there is a broad rounded soldier brick arch of six courses with central circular vent. The central bay is similar but the embrasure has been removed and replaced with a recessed door inserted into brick infill. Either side of the entrance there are large round headed shaped sections of render. The top of the rampart face has a short parapet, made from a single course of rounded brick. The roof is grass covered, and has a central concrete open observation post with access to the north.
- 3.4.1. The southern rampart is hidden behind a grass bank. Towards the top there are the remains of two concrete circular gun emplacements. On the front face there are three visible courses of concrete blocks, the uppermost of which is chamfered in to a parapet. The front face also houses the shell storage area and aperture for the cartridge lifting belt. To the rear there is a lower concrete plinth again with a chamfered outer edge. Inside the bowl of the emplacements there is a circle of locating

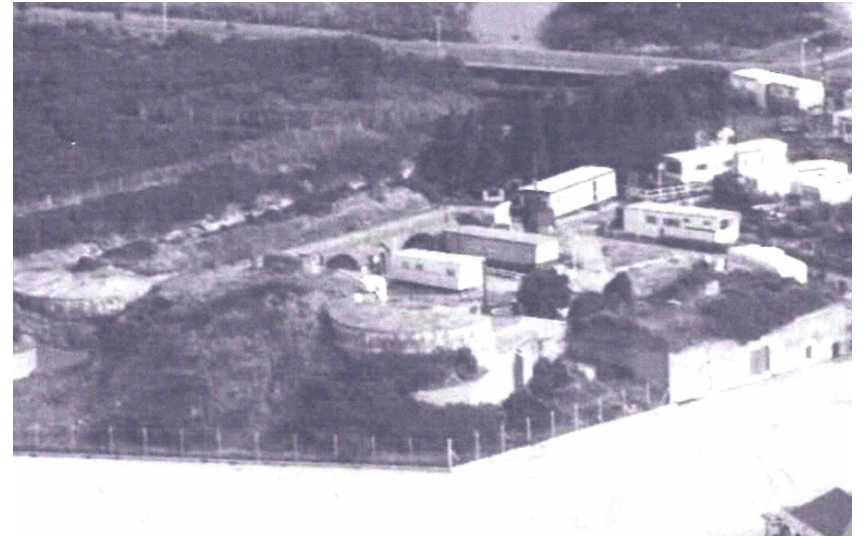


Fig. 7: Photos of link tunnel formed before earth bank covering (c1980)

bolts. At the top of the bank there is a centralised range finding position consisting of a waist height concrete wall with chamfered top. Behind the wall there is a brick built standing platform and the remains of pedestrian ramp leading down to the rear. The western rampart is covered with undergrowth on the western face. On the eastern side there are ten bays of tall single storey brick casemates and stores. They are constructed of brick in an English bond in the form of round headed arches. Each arch is formed of six soldier courses. Some have later timber doors, and some are open. The northern elevation is of two visible storeys and three sections. The western and central sections are brick faced with evidence of former window openings with brick segmental arches. The central section has a rectangular opening at first floor level with stone cill. The eastern section is rendered and blind, and towards the top, has the remnants of a metal crane or gantry. The top of the elevation is a mixture of concrete and patchwork render, and has a protective metal rail running its width



- 3.5. INTERIOR: the eastern rampart has a brick lining, including a brick vaulted ceiling over each casemate and store. To the north there is a small heavy duty metal door set into later infill brickwork, which provides access in to a small room. The two remaining east facing casemates have timber internal shutters with wrought iron hinges. Either side of the shutters there are narrow vertical timber boards. The shell storage recesses have a plain timber architrave with segmental timber arch and signage. To the south there are brick lined ammunition store rooms with baffled passageways, decorated ventilation apertures, oil lamps recesses, and evidence of the position of the hoist machinery. There is also evidence of later brickwork alterations\* and opening up where the high cambered vaulting rests on metal girders\*. This area also has some fittings associated with its use as a nuclear bunker including a brick waste point, air filtration system, and heavy duty metal doors.
- 3.5.1. The west-facing rampart comprises of five casemates separated by five ammunition stores. They are lined in brick with cambered vaulting to the casemates and semi-circular vaulting to the stores. The embrasures are framed in granite, and some have bucket irons, wall rings and door frames. In the most southerly casemate, the filtration system pipework runs along the ceiling and exits to the west.

## 4. REGULATORY AND POLICY CONTEXT

### 4.1. Introduction

4.1.1. Under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 there is national legislation and guidance relating to the protection of, and development on or near important archaeological sites or historical buildings within planning regulations. In addition, local authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system.

### 4.2. Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953

4.2.1. Historic England is enabled by the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 (as amended by the National Heritage Act 1983) to maintain a register of parks, gardens and battlefield sites which appear to Historic England to be of special historic interest. Registration in this way makes the effect of proposed development on the sites and their settings a material consideration. Historic England are a statutory consultee in relation to works affecting Grade I/II\* Registered Parks and Gardens

### 4.3. Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

4.3.1. Scheduled Monuments and Areas of Archaeological Interest are afforded statutory protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as Amended) and the consent of the Secretary of State (Department of Culture, Media and Sport), as advised by Historic England, is required for any works.

### 4.4. Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

4.4.1. Works affecting Listed Buildings or structures and Conservation Areas are subject to additional planning controls administered by LPAs under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. In considering development which affects a Listed Building or its setting, the LPA shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic

interest which it possesses (Section 66). In considering Conservation Areas the planning authority has a general duty to give special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area (Section 72).

4.4.2. The statutory criteria for listing is the special architectural or historic interest of a building. Buildings on the list are graded to reflect their relative architectural and historic interest (DCMS, 2010a, para 7, page 4):

Grade I: Buildings of exceptional interest;

Grade II\*: Particularly important buildings of more than special interest;

Grade II: Buildings of special interest which warrant every effort being made to preserve them.

Historic England is a statutory consultee in relation to works affecting Grade I/II\* Listed Buildings.

### 4.5. Local Plan

4.5.1. The Gosport Borough Local plan 2011- 2029 is the principal planning policy document in the borough's Local Plan and replaces a large number of policies.

4.5.2. The Local Authority responsible for planning policy is Gosport Borough Council. The Gosport Borough Local Plan adopted in October 2015 contains Policy LP11, which relates to design and conservation. This policy states that “ ensure that historic buildings are appropriately re-used as soon as possible to prevent deterioration of condition” & “ensure that new development conserves or enhances designated heritage assets”.

#### **4.6. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2023)**

- 4.6.1. Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023 sets out the Government's current planning policy in relation to conserving and enhancing the historic environment. The key requirements are summarised below.
- 4.6.2. Applicants are required to provide proportionate information on the significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets affected by the proposals and an impact assessment of the proposed development on that significance. This should be in the form of a desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation (NPPF, 200).
- 4.6.3. LPAs are required to take into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets. Putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation; the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring; the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place (NPPF, 196/203).
- 4.6.4. In determining planning applications, great weight should be given to the conservation of designated heritage assets - World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Conservation Areas designated under the relevant legislation (NPPF, 205/206).
- 4.6.5. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect the significance of a non-designated heritage asset, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset (NPPF, 209)
- 4.6.6. LPAs should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their significance, the impact, and to make this evidence publicly accessible and for any archives deposited with a local museum or other public depository (NPPF, 211).

#### **4.7. Constraints**

- 4.7.1. The significance of the building is associated to its setting, form, material and internal spatial arrangements. The proposal does not disturb the historic form of the building.

## 5. METHODOLOGY

### 5.1. Standards

- 5.1.1. This document is been assessed in accordance with:
- 5.1.2. Planning Practice Guidance Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (6th March 2014), published by the Department for Communities and Local Government
- 5.1.3. Historic England, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Notes (2015a-c)

### 5.2. Scope

- 5.2.1. The purpose of the Heritage Statement is to identify historic fabric within the building or its setting that is likely to be sensitive to change. The appraisal is informed through a desk-based study of existing documentary sources, a visit to inspect and photograph the building, including its setting, and archival research at the local Records Office. Supplementary documentation and plans of the building have been provided by the client.
- 5.2.2. The following sources were consulted to inform the study in order to provide a baseline for the identification of historic fabric within the building and assessment of its significance:
  - Listing Information held for the building by the National Heritage List for England (NHLE)
  - Architects plans and other relevant documents held by the local Record Office
  - Relevant primary and secondary sources including published and unpublished reports and observations in the area around the building;
  - Documents and plans of the building supplied by the client.

-HLF investigation conducted by TGP in 2018.

- A site visit was undertaken on the 11th October 2021. The observations taken on the building and its setting were supported by photographic evidence.

### 5.3. Significance

- 5.3.1. The National Planning Policy Framework recommends that, in determining applications, local planning authorities should require applicants to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting (NPPF, 2023: 196).
- 5.3.2. Only two classes of heritage asset are recognised by the NPPF: designated and non-designated assets. A third category of assets comprises those whose significance is still to be determined. Under NPPF, the significance of a heritage asset is defined in terms of its values to this and future generations. The heritage interest which makes an asset of value derives not only from its physical presence, but also from its settings. Heritage interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic (NPPF, 2023 Annex 2)
- 5.3.3. Archaeological interest: derives from the presence or potential for evidence of past human activities worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.
- 5.3.4. Architectural interest: derives from the architectural design, decoration or craftsmanship of a heritage asset. Architectural interest may also apply to nationally important examples of particular building types and techniques and significant plan forms.

- 5.3.5. Artistic interest: derives from interest in the design and general aesthetics of a place. It can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from the way the place has evolved. More specifically, architectural interest is an interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures of all types. Artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skill, like sculpture.
- 5.3.6. Historic interest: derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It tends to be illustrative or associative. Considers documentation, wider context, regional factors, and group value of the site.
- 5.3.7. The heritage interest of an asset's physical presence is assessed in terms of attributes identified in statutory criteria, general principles for selection (DCMS 2010a-b), selection guides published by Historic England, and regional research agendas.
- 5.3.8. The heritage interest of an asset may be affected by its setting. The setting of a heritage asset encompasses its physical surroundings (including its relationship with other heritage assets) and the way in which it is experienced or appreciated. Patterns of historical association and use can further contribute to the appreciation of setting. Attributes of setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset or could have a neutral effect NPPF 2023: 200/201.



## 6. **NEED and THE PROPOSAL**

- 6.1. This Heritage, Design and Access Statement has been prepared to support the proposal for the extension of the museum into areas of the building which had previously not been accessed by the public.
- 6.2. These underused areas had suffered from extensive problems of damp arising through condensation in the summer months and moisture ingress through the building fabric.
- 6.3. The previous application for the introduction of underfloor heating and improvements to the ventilation (21/00530/LBA) are currently under way and once completed, they are expected to modify the internal environmental conditions to allow access to these areas to the point that they can be used as exhibition galleries.
- 6.4. A proposal has been developed to inhabit these previously vacant spaces within the battery with the introduction of new display cases, and interpretation panels, to convey the history of diving and the development of Battery No.2. This forms the basis for the current application for listed building consent.
- 6.5. To the outside of the building, changes are proposed to improve signage, allowing the temporary signs to be changed to reflect the improvements being to the museum, and the collection it represents.
- 6.6. *External Signage (Planning)*
- 6.6.1. The current temporary signage at the museum comprises a vinyl printed banner, which had been secured to the building using screw in hooks into the masonry on the east facing elevation. This arrangement is considered to be harmful to the asset, but it had proved effective in providing a clear indication of the museum's presence.
- 6.6.2. Under the current proposal, the signage is still required, but it is proposed that this is provided as a series of letters secured on metal spikes set into the ground above the line of the brickwork. These will be secured in a concrete foundation buried below the level of the grass capping.
- 6.6.3. The external exhibitions have existing signage, comprised of timber posts with acrylic boards. This signage is suffering deterioration, and will be replaced with new stainless steel folded signs.
- 6.6.4. There is to be an additional row of signs to present the external exhibitions. These are to give additional information on the exhibits, secondary to the existing signs. The new signs will be a folded stainless steel design.
- 6.6.5. This arrangement reduces the physical harm to the asset, and it is potentially reversible.
- 6.6.6. A second sign, following the pattern and design of the first, will face the existing public car park, to increase visitor numbers to the museum.
- 6.6.7. While there is still some visual harm, this is outweighed by the public benefit of the additional interaction and appreciation of the building and its original purpose.
- 6.6.8. The signage to the east range will be illuminated using carefully concealed black spike lights (IP65), to provide gentle illumination of the lettering only. This will be fitted with a timer so allow the sign to be switched on for occasional evening events, up to to 2200 hrs.
- 6.7. *External Fire Exit Door (Planning and Listed Building Consent)*
- 6.7.1. There is currently a blast door at the eastern end of the former parade ground, which once gave access to and from the asset, when it was planned for use as a civil defence post.

6.7.2. Under the previous applications 21/00616/LBA and 21/00615/FUL, consent was approved to re-open a bricked up opening to the west, and permission is now sought to re-open the same to the east. This will provide a much needed second means of escape from the museum.

6.7.3. The proposal would allow for the existing blast door to remain, but it would be held open, with a timbered door introduced within the opening. Methods of allowing the existing blast door to be used as the barrier to final opening were not possible, to meet modern fire safety standards.

6.7.4. The form of the new timber door would match the door approved at the western end of the parade ground.

6.7.5. The retention of the existing blast door would allow the previous changes arising as a result of the Cold War alterations to remain legible.

#### 6.8. *Internal Alterations*

6.8.1. The impact of the new new exhibition space within the fabric of the building is considered to be minimal.

6.8.2. This formed a cornerstone of the brief for the design of the museum, and how the building would become as important an aspect of the experience as the exhibits themselves. The two threads of the battery, its development and its purpose and the collection would have equal importance.

6.8.3. Two very minor changes are proposed as part of the application, where modern openings in the historic fabric will be reinstated. This includes the reversing a modern (c1950's) change linked to the civil defence use. The decision to reverse these changes are to reinstate the 1900 layout in this location is, where the form of the priming room is critical to

understanding the narrative of the Battery and the importance of these spaces.

6.8.4. The infilling will be carried out using studwork, so that the 1950's alteration is not lost.

#### *Raised Floor*

6.8.5. A new raised floor is required in the eastern range of the battery. This introduction will serve multiple functions, in allowing services to be concealed out of sight and in providing a level wearing surface for the exhibits and for the visitors.

6.8.6. The existing painted floor surface is a modern concrete, and it is uneven.

6.8.7. The new surface will be a moisture resistant decking, spaced on slender timber battens, sufficient to accommodate electrical wiring and floor sockets serving the display cases.

6.8.8. The existing curved tracks for the guns no longer remain, but the impression of their previous existence will be reflected in a glass cover set flush with the finish. The new glass will also allow the design of the tracks to be etched into the surface including the degree increments so essential for firing.

6.8.9. Ventilation below the floor will be provided at the perimeter on all sides.

#### 6.9. *Electrical Fittings*

6.9.1. The new internal fit out of the museum will inevitably require modern services to be added. The design will include lighting, fire detection, security systems.

6.9.2. In the eastern range these will be concealed beneath the raised floor.

## 6.10. *Museum Fittings*

6.10.1. The layout of the museum and the internal position of the display cases is shown on the drawings prepared by the museum consultants Smith and Jones.

6.10.2. As part of the museum fit out, cupboards will be formed against the walls, with ventilation remaining on all sides. All fixings will be into bed joints.

6.10.3. The fit out will also include the use of projector screens and AV equipment.

## 6.11. *External Repairs*

6.11.1. Timber doors and frames will be reinstated to the upper levels of the gun battery to reinstate those lost. The pattern of the doors will be framed, ledged and braced doors, with T&G bead butt detailing. The doors will be painted.

6.11.2. The existing vertical sliding sash window facing the parade ground to the observation post will be replaced. Only the frame remains and this will be used as a template for the replacement, with the existing ironmongery and sash weights re-used.

## 6.12. *Service Connections*

6.12.1. The supply to the underfloor heating will be routed through the modern concrete floor and made good to match the existing

6.12.2. A new water main will be extended into the building through beneath the raised floor to the east range. This will provide a water supply to the underfloor heating area and the mess room. The hole will be carefully drilled through the external wall below ground level using a 32mm core drill. This will be made good using lime mortar around the new insulated MDPE pipe.

7. **Noise Assessment**

7.1. The proposal will have no discernible impact to existing noise levels, where the use of the building remains unchanged.

8. **Flood Risk Assessment**

8.1. Battery No.2 is not locked in an area of flood risk, although the area surrounding the battery is noted as being within Zone 3.

<https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/confirm-location?easting=457862&northing=104479&placeOrPostcode=gosport>

8.2. The changes proposed will not have a negative impact on flooding or floor risk. The new surfacing proposed for the ramp will be for draining and porous.

9. **Access**

9.1. Access to the building will be enhanced

