

# Landguard Peninsula Initial Heritage Impact Assessment Prepared for the Landguard Partnership July 2014





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### Contents

1.0 Introduction .....	01
2.0 Scope of the Proposed Works.....	02
3.0 Assessment of Impacts .....	03
3.1 Repair and Maintenance .....	03
3.2 Circulation and Movement .....	03
3.3 Presentation and Display .....	05
4.0 Conclusion .....	06
Appendix - Project Proposals .....	07



# 1.0 Introduction

As part of the preparation for the HLF Stage 1 submission, the Discover Landguard Project has developed draft proposals for the 'preservation, restoration, reconstruction, adaption [and] enhancement' of the Peninsula and of the Fort. These are set out in the Appendix.

The proposals are still very much at an early stage (roughly RIBA early Stage 2), so their precise impacts cannot be measured; much will depend on detailed design. However, it is important for the Landguard Partnership to have confidence that – in principle – the proposals are compatible with the particular significances of the site, as set out in the Outline Conservation Statement.

This Heritage Impact Assessment therefore considers the potential impacts of the draft proposals, in the light of national and local policies and guidance (notably the NPPF and Suffolk Coastal District Council's Core Strategy) and of the issues and opportunities set out in the Outline Conservation Statement.

It is intended to allow English Heritage and the HLF to reach a preliminary view on whether the proposals are likely to secure Scheduled Monument Consent.

# 2.0

## Scope of the Proposed Works

The proposed works (see Appendix) can be divided into three broad categories:

- Repair and maintenance
- Circulation and movement
- Display and presentation

Clearly there are overlaps between the categories and all are associated with proposals for a programme of education and activities intended to draw out the key themes (natural, archaeological and historic) of the Fort and the Peninsula.

# 3.0 Assessment of Impacts

## 3.1 Repair and Maintenance

The Landguard Fortifications are currently awaiting a second Condition Survey to be carried out by English Heritage. It is likely that the works identified as being required in the near future will include:

- Re-asphalting and waterproofing the roofs
- Brickwork repairs and repointing
- Concrete repairs
- Woodwork and metalwork repairs, repainting, etc.
- Re-surfacing the inner parade

In addition, there is a need to improve the servicing of the fort (water, electricity, IT and security).

The renewal of the sea defences in front of the Fort also requires consideration.

The impact of these works, subject to appropriate conservation-led design, would be beneficial. Particular care would be needed in the design of the services (pipes, cabling, cameras, etc.) to avoid unnecessary loss of fabric or visual intrusion. The sea defences too will need to be sensitively designed.

As set out in the Issues section of the Outline Conservation Statement, the Fort requires a continuous programme of repair and conservation. The generation of adequate on-going funding to contribute towards this is a key consideration for the Landguard Partnership.

## 3.2 Circulation and Movement

As noted in the Outline Conservation Statement, movement around the fort is currently restricted, while the division of the wider site into a series of fenced enclosures further limits the visitors' ability to appreciate key elements of the significance of the site, as well as the relationship between the fort and the wider land- and seascape. The outline proposals are intended to address these issues by providing new movement routes around the site and, of particular importance, access to areas currently off the visitors' route. These include:

- A new route around the outer moat of the Fort. This will require improvements to existing ramps, steps and railings, and the construction of a board walk along the base of the moat.
- A new admissions building with toilets and offices in the Fort car park.
- Visitor access to Darell's Battery, with a viewing area constructed in front of it to provide views of the estuary and container port. As currently envisaged, the viewing platform would be accessed from within the fort, but a direct link to the car park and current visitors' centre would offer considerable benefits.
- Visitor access to the fort roof and – ideally – to the Port War Signal Station/Fire

Commander's Post, from which the best views of the wider landscape are obtained. Full access would require a lift, as well as careful conservation of the fragile remains of interior of the Fire Commander's Post; this is discussed in greater detail below.

- Removing internal barriers between the Fort and Museum, so that the two become a single 'attraction'.
- Improving and extending current paths around the wider nature reserve.

The overwhelming impact of these proposals would be beneficial. They would lead not only to much increased public access to the site as a whole, but also to a much better understanding of the Fort and its relationship to its surroundings. The newly accessible views, particularly from Darell's Battery and the Port War Signal Station, would allow a much improved appreciation of the land- and seascape of the Landguard and Harwich Haven. The removal of the fence between the Fort and Museum is an important first step in reuniting the site as a whole, the ultimate goal of which should be to create a single attraction encompassing the car park/visitor centre, Museum, Fort, Nature Reserve and wider Peninsula.

Most of the proposed works to secure these benefits are relatively minor, reversible and – as in the case of opening the sally port – would involve the removal of fabric which detracts from the significance of the site. The exceptions to this are the viewing platform in front of Darell's Battery, and the provision of public access to Darell's Battery and the fort roof and/or the Port War Signal Station.

The proposed admissions building in the car park by the rear entrance to the Fort, on the foundation of the Old Gyn & Tackle Store, is in principle an appropriate location because it does not interfere with any of the Fort's more historically significant sea-facing elevations. However, it will need to be given a high-quality, sensitive design in order to minimise its impact on the setting of the Fort. The excavations for services and utilities connections will need to be carried out with consideration to buried archaeology, which is likely to be highly significant as it is within the footprint of the 17th-century Fort.

The construction of the new viewing platform could be designed to minimize physical impacts on significant fabric and to be reversible, but would clearly cause visual harm to a significant view of the Fort from the beach and from the approach channel to the Haven. However (subject to detailed design), the benefits of the platform (particularly if it can be directly linked to the car park), both in attracting new visitors to the Fort and in providing new views of the Peninsula and Haven, would outweigh the harm to an important view. In the event that Phase 2 of the Felixstowe South Regeneration takes place, the area would be a potential location for a relocated visitor centre.

Providing enhanced public access to Darell's Battery and the Port War Signal Station/Fire Commander's Post is more challenging. Depending on the level of access, these would require substantial new works which could have significant physical and – particularly – visual impacts. In both cases non-DDA access could be achieved with much less impact than full DDA access, but a further design exercise is needed before final decisions can be taken.

The Port War Signal Station offers the best views and, with such vivid survivals as the painted range-finding markers in the Fire Commander's Post, is of particular significance for the 20th century history of the fort. However, providing physical access to it is likely to prove particularly problematic and it is our view that full public access is unlikely to be achievable

without unjustifiable damage to its history and significance. This is a case where ‘virtual access’, via a real-time camera or other means, might be an acceptable compromise. Some public access to the lower parts of Darell’s Battery should be possible, but for the same reasons, access to the visually striking Fire Control Towers on Darell’s Battery is unlikely to be possible.

### 3.3 Presentation and Display

At the moment, the display of artefacts and information on the history of the Fort, and the wider Peninsula is limited. Equally, the Fort contains a large number of rooms and spaces currently without a use.

The proposals therefore envisage the refurbishment of selected existing spaces for a range of displays, together with improvements to the presentation of the wider nature reserve. It is also suggested that replica guns are installed in some of the key batteries, in a way similar to the Rifled muzzle-loading gun (RML) currently displayed in South Curtain battery.

In parallel with the displays, a programme of well-planned community archaeological excavations is proposed to improve understanding of key areas of the Fort’s history.

The proposals for displays should be designed to cause minimum impact on historic fabric; this is particularly relevant to any cabling or lighting. Their impact in allowing greater understanding of the significance of the Fort and wider Peninsula will be beneficial. Similarly, the addition of real or replica guns will enhance understanding of the fundamental role of the Fort in the defence of Harwich Haven and of the developments of coastal artillery which determined the design of the Fort over its history.

It is suggested in the Outline Conservation Statement that an alternative use of spaces not needed for display or storage would be as Landmark-Trust-style holiday accommodation, to generate income for the upkeep of the Fort. The most appropriate spaces would be the former Officers’ Quarters and the 1870s casemates. Clearly, conversion would require some potentially significant interventions but, with careful design, it could be achieved without unnecessary loss of overall significance, particularly if it contributes to long-term maintenance

Archaeological excavation, by its nature, inevitably leads to a loss of archaeological remains and therefore of significance. This can be mitigated by ensuring that excavations are driven by an agreed Research Design, carefully targeted, leave behind intact samples of layers excavated, and that they are fully recorded and written up. In order to justify any proposed excavations, a Research Design should be prepared and agreed with English Heritage, as the basis for obtaining Scheduled Monument Consent.

# 4.0 Conclusion

As set out in the Outline Conservation Statement, the Landguard Peninsula and the Fort in particular face some significant challenges, particularly once the current s106 funding comes to an end in 2018. While some of these relate to wider issues of management and funding, others relate to the current configuration of the site, patterns of movement and circulation, access and presentation.

It is these, requiring physical alterations or additions to the Fort and wider site, which have been addressed in the Discover Landguard Project's draft proposals, and which are assessed here.

In general, and subject to design detail, the proposals are low-key and reversible and will be generally and overwhelmingly beneficial to the significance of the Landguard, by instituting a programme of much needed repair and maintenance, upgrading the services, providing enhanced access to important parts of the site, and by improving the currently poor level of display and interpretation.

There are two particular areas where further design thought is required before the balance between impact on significance and public benefit can be fully understood. The first is the Port War Signal Station/Fire Commander's Post building. The second is Darell's Battery. Both are of intrinsic significance to the 20th-century history of the Fort and also offer the good vantage points to appreciate the wider land- and seascape of the Landguard and the Haven. Full public access to both would therefore be highly desirable in theory, but likely to be hard to achieve in practice without significant damage to fabric, character and key views. The provision of a new viewing platform in front of Darell's Battery, by contrast, will have a significant visual impact, but relatively little physical impact. The benefit of the views that it can provide, and its potential to attract additional visitors to the Fort, are likely to outweigh the (reversible) damage.

In summary, the Discover Landguard Project's proposals – developed in tandem with a robust management framework and proposals for the long-term generation of income to support on-going maintenance and repair - offer a realistic way forward and should be able to secure the necessary consents.

# Appendix - Project Proposals

Draft

## Discover Landguard Project – Draft Proposals

### Preservation, Restoration, Reconstruction, Adaption, Enhancement,

Area	Proposal	Remarks
Fort & Museum	Construct boardwalk to provide all round access to external areas of fort and museum. Requires Restoration / refurbishment of existing ramps, steps and railings.	Also possible toilet location in fort opposite sally port.
Fort & Museum	Re open Sally port in North wall.	
Fort & Museum	Re align fence line (pay perimeter). One main entrance gate	
Fort & Museum	Build and fit out Admissions building with toilets / Office / crew room. Connected to utilities. Location fort car park, (Old Gyn & Tackle Store foundation).	
Fort & Museum	Landscape areas front of fort, and around museum. Resurface existing tarmac areas. Refurbish paths, railings, surfaces. Obtain suitable artillery pieces for display.	
Fort	Show / mark out area of original 1667 fort, or part of, linked to interpretation	
Darell's Battery	Improvement works to Darell's Battery making it accessible, including to towers. Construct decking area to front as viewpoint. Landscape as required.	
Darell's Battery	Mount twin 6 pounder gun- original or reproduction.	

Outside area	Small children's play area – themed to site. Location TBC.	Front of Museum? Utilise Searchlight bldg?
Fort	<p>Create displays / shop etc in ground floor rooms;</p> <p>G1 – Volunteers room / small meeting room                      G2 – Display 'Guns of Landguard'                      G3 – Darell's / RMA room – Diorama of 1667 battle, interpretation display Darell / RM                      G4 – Evolution of Fort and Harwich Haven defences. Models, info panels.                      G5 – Virtual history of Peninsula (AV screen) with seating                      G6 – Shop                      G7 – AV display / AV tour of Fort / Museum as is / linked to web cams in vantage points (Aimed at visitors with DDA issues) with seating                      G8 – Reconstruction Victorian barrack room                      G9 – Display key figures / events / stories at Landguard                      G10 – Picture gallery with seating</p>	Extend water / sewage utilities to inner keep.
Fort	<p>Restore key areas with displays / equipment;</p> <p>Submarine Mining room                      Magazine shell store                      Magazine Cartridge store                      RML Casemate                      Operations rooms                      Port War Signal Station                      Officers quarters / office, first floor                      Replica RML Gun on Chapel bastion</p>	
Fort	Establish library / resource room in suitable first floor room.	First floor to mitigate risk of flooding.

Draft

Fort	Refurbish engine house into gallery / display area / Oral & visual heritage / education room. Lighting, heating, AV system. (Or in other location?)	
Fort	Refurbish and make accessible Port War Signal Station (Fort roof) to visitors	
Fort & Museum	Re asphalt roof / waterproof where necessary	Determined by next EH AMP survey
Fort & Museum	Carry out brick work repairs / re pointing / woodwork, metalwork as required.	Determined by next EH AMP survey
Fort & Museum	Relocate workshop, storage	Paint store etc.
Fort	Re surface inner parade?	Determined by next EH AMP survey
Fort & Museum	Improve / extend lighting and electrical supply to entire fort.	
Site	Improve IT and communications. Purchase of suitable Hardware and software. Training if required.	Link in to fibre optic cable to be laid in near future? Enable broadband access throughout site.
Fort & Museum	CCTV	Security Could double up as site web cams / interpretation for DDA visitors
Fort & Museum	Carry out concrete repairs where necessary.	Determined by next EH AMP survey
Fort & Museum	Signage site wide	

Draft

Fort & Museum	Displays refresh, QR codes, new display cabinets if required	
Fort & Museum & Nature Reserve	Virtual / augmented reality tour / displays	
Fort & Museum	Renew sea defences	As part of S106
Fort & Museum	Open Up Submarine Mining cutting gate as secondary entrance / exit when needed	As part of S106?
Nature Reserve	Resurface / repair road and aggregate yard	As part of S106?
Nature Reserve	Refurbish paths, steps and any other access requirements	
Nature Reserve	Extend boardwalk	
Nature Reserve	Signage – Main entrance – large welcome / info sign	
Nature Reserve	Manor Terrace Large welcome / info sign	
Nature Reserve	NR entrance by LBO – Welcome / info sign	
Nature Reserve	Site wide interpretation and information signage – nature and heritage and work of LBO	
Nature Reserve	Refurbish / replace / new furniture – bins, dog bins, seating etc.	
Nature Reserve	Interpretation – signage, QR codes, virtual interpretation?	
Nature Reserve	Extend out of Bounds area with proper fence to protect wildlife (link to boardwalk)	

Draft

Nature Reserve	Convert old military buildings to bird hides / look outs	
Site location TBC	Education facility	S106? Temp Visitor Centre
Site location TBC	Additional car parking	S106? Require negotiation with Port. Use of Aggregate yard?

**Staffing**

Site	Site Operations Manager	Full time
Fort & Museum	Curator / Education Officer	Full time (if roles can be combined)
Site	X 1.5 Site Operations Assistants (seasonal contracts)	Full time
Nature Reserve	Ranger	Part Time

**Education / Activities**

- Create Apprenticeship centre – x3 apprentices?
- UCS partnership – link to Heritage Management Course
- Heritage skills courses
- Virtual Interpretation project - UEA?
- Archive project
- Improve links with local schools
- Promote Captain Darell and Dutch invasion as significant historic event in Suffolk
- Focus on Anglo Dutch Wars (not widely known about nationally)
- East Coast Front line – How this area was involved in successive conflicts

- Study centre
- Arts
- Create local re enactment group - Dutch wars period / Victorian / 20th C?
- Archeology dig - submarine mining cable route / other sites on peninsula?

#### **Events**

- 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2017 Of Dutch invasion – major event with Royal Marines Association
- Series of reenactments / community activity / school workshops leading up to it
- 2018 end of WWI centenary
- Expand current events programme
- Links to other similar military heritage sites nationally / internationally

#### **Issues**

- Extending Fort and Museum opening hours
- LMA with EH
- Single ticket entry
- Car park charges
- Car parking space
- Linking to wider FX project – signage / heritage trail
- Long term business case
- Establishing Landguard 'brand'.

#### **Jobs/ and income:**

- Venue hire – EH view?
- Events
- Membership
- Car parking
- Retail opportunities

Draft

- Local markets
- Bike rental
- Extend café / restaurant offer – bar, evenings
- Coach tours
- Educational courses
- Arts – courses / exhibitions
- ITC heritage resource / interpretation educational project



# Alan Baxter

**Prepared by** William Filmer-Sankey and Tom Brooks

**Reviewed by** Reider Payne

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