

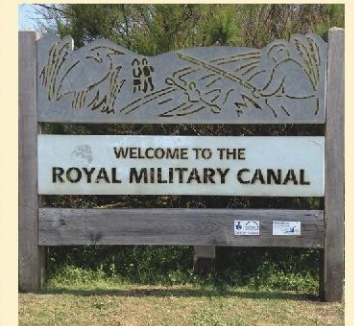
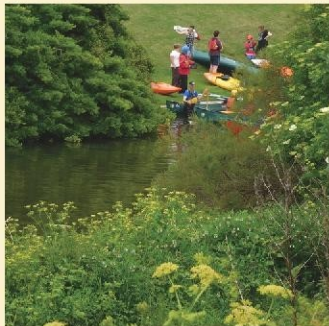
Princes Parade, Hythe

Planning Application Y17/1042/SH

Additional Information and Clarification - March 2018

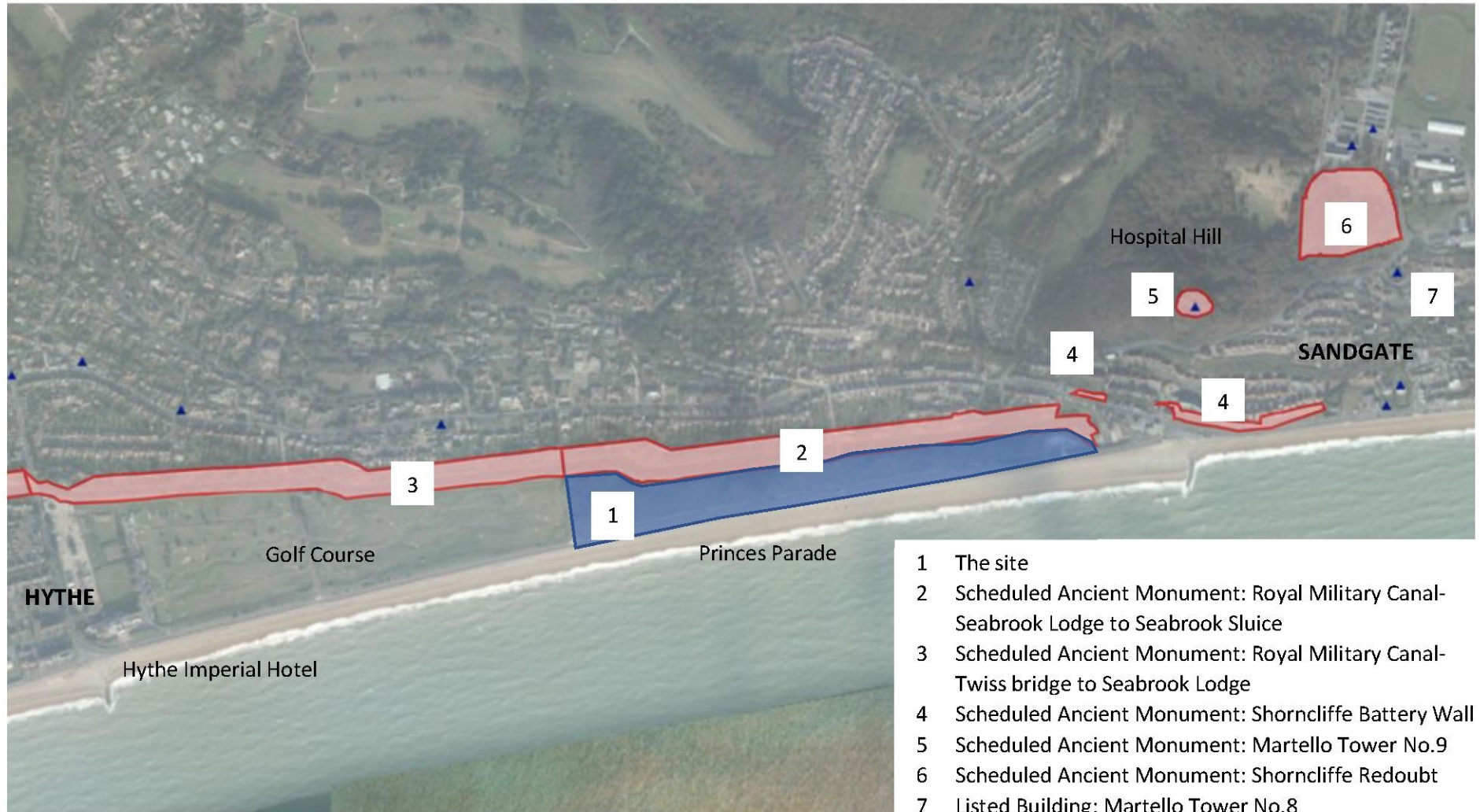
Appendix 02

Heritage

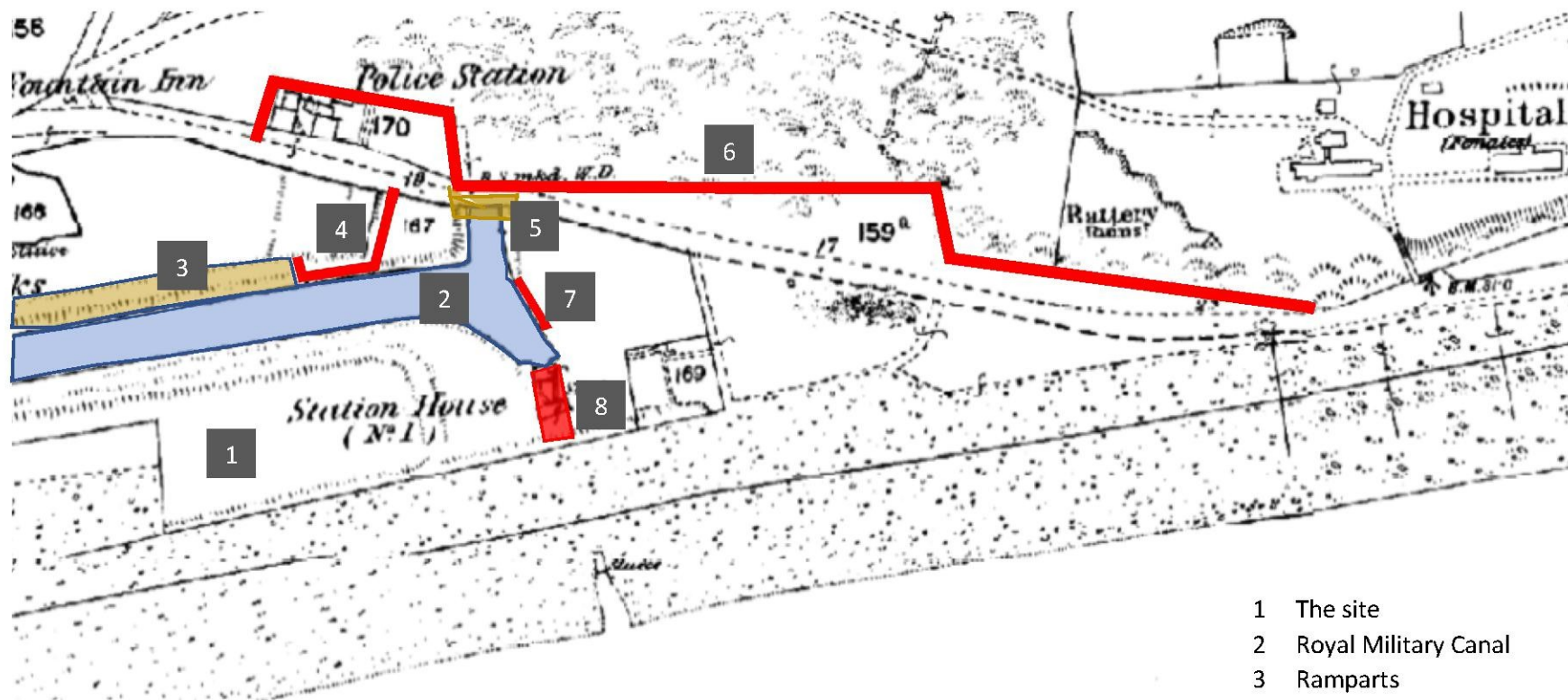


Links between RMC and adjacent fortifications- Impacts of planning application Y17/1042/SH on heritage asset chain

Addendum to Heritage Statement MM Jan 18 (**Revision B 03/18**)



Annotated 1871- 1890 Ordnance Survey Map



- 1 The site
- 2 Royal Military Canal
- 3 Ramparts
- 4 Drawbridge Redoubt
- 5 site of drawbridge
- 6 Shorncliffe Battery
- 7 Wharf
- 8 site of sluice

The Royal Military Canal runs as a defensive barrier for 28 miles across Romney Marsh from Cliffs End in the west to its eastern terminus immediately adjacent to the council development site at Princes Parade Seabrook (the subject of this application). It constituted a physical barrier to invading troops who would otherwise have been able to sweep across the flat ground of Romney Marsh. It was also designed such that it, and the seaward ground in front of it, could be covered by cannon and rifle fire from raised banks on its landward side.

The Canal was part of an integrated system of early 19thC defences along the southern coast of England which included forts, towers, batteries and redoubts. This is obvious at the eastern terminus of the canal adjacent to the site where the flat ground of the marsh gives way to more hilly terrain. At this point the terminus of the Canal is protected by Shorncliffe Battery in close proximity on the landward side (to the north). The battery consists of a raised stone-faced firing platform/ gun emplacement which faces over the Canal and the adjacent beach. Further to the east and towards the top of nearby Hospital Hill is Martello Tower No.9 which would have been able to cover the ground in front of it with its guns, including the ground between itself and Shorncliffe Battery. Further to the east again and also situated at high level on Hospital Hill is Martello Tower No 8 and then further east again towers from 7-1 ending at Folkstone. Together all these features form a chain to defend this part of the south coast from attack.

In addition to this chain, the Shorncliffe Redoubt exists at the very top of Hospital Hill some distance to the east of the Canal and the site and above the Martello Towers.

The function of each individual defensive feature and the interdependence of the defensive features is manifested in the views (lines of site or fire) to and from each defensive feature over the ground in front of it, and between it and the next defence in the chain. In addition, views towards each defence within the chain of defences are important in understanding their interdependence.

In many cases the setting of individual defences has changed over the years such that the views as described above are now obscured or partially obscured, and such that an understanding of each defence as a part of a chain of interdependent defences is now not obvious. In these cases, the harm to the setting has already occurred and additional harm caused by the proposed scheme will be therefore be limited.

In addition, the condition of each defence varies. Some have been partially lost or altered such that their function is no longer obvious, or such that they are no longer obvious features.

This document therefore looks at the aspects described above with regard to each defence.

Canal, Canal embankments and the site



Earth ramparts were formed from the excavations of the Canal on its landward side to provide a defensive position commanding lower ground on the seaward side (including across the site which is the subject of this planning application). Behind the ramparts was a military road from where defending soldiers could move without being seen.

The site would have constituted a low-lying shore that could be raked by gunfire from the ramparts.

View along top of rampart. Form of rampart obscured by trees and vegetation. Canal (immediately to the left) partially obscured by vegetation. High ground of site (blocking the historic prospect towards the sea) obvious on the left.

Condition:

The ramparts are still extant but are eroded and rather overgrown. There is still a track behind the ramparts although it is not evident whether this is on the exact line as the original military road. A sea wall and route of Princes Parade was constructed in the late 19th C, and in the 60's and 70's the site was used as a refuse tip. This has resulted in Princes Parade and the site being raised by some 4m above the RMC. The site is now covered in dense shrubs.



Views:

Views towards the sea and shore from the ramparts over the canal (and vice versa) are now obscured by the raised land level of the application site and the raised level of Princes Parade. The key aspect of openness of the RMC and its ramparts towards the sea and the attackers' side has been lost. Princes Parade and the application site as existing therefore impinge upon the historic setting of the RMC and harm the RMC's historic functional relationship with the low lying seaward ground in front of it. The significance of the RMC in this location has been harmed as a result.

View along east along canal towards canal terminus. Raised ground of site on the right destroys any visual/functional connection with the shore.

Additional harm to an understanding of the function of the defence / defensive chain that would be caused by the proposed development:

Given that the Canal in the vicinity of the site is now in a trench it is difficult to appreciate that there was any direct functional relationship between the canal and the site. The development of the site will change the character of the area in the vicinity of the Canal. However, the extent of previous heritage harm is such that additional harm caused by the development to the Canal and its functional relationship with its surroundings will be limited.

Drawbridge, drawbridge redoubt, northern arm of Canal basin.

In 1812 a very short arm (7m or 22ft in length) was added to the terminus of the Canal to connect the Canal with the gun platform of the Shorncliffe battery immediately to the north. This was to enable the main road to Folkestone in front of the battery to be cut in the event of an invasion. A drawbridge carrying the road was constructed and a stone redoubt was built immediately to west to provide a location from which the drawbridge could be protected by covering fire and to provide a further position from which the seaward sluices of the canal could be defended from sabotage or attack.



View from raised ground of site at Canal Terminus north to the Drawbridge Redoubt

Condition:

The road to Folkestone is still an important route. However, the drawbridge has long since been removed and the northern arm of the canal has been replaced with a green open green space. A paving or planting scheme could pick out the former positions of the canal arm and the drawbridge.

The drawbridge redoubt still exists as a very obvious stone wall facing south over the canal and east across the open space of what would have been the northern arm of the canal terminus.

Views:

Views from the site and from the greenspace surrounding the canal terminus to the redoubt are still obvious. The redoubt largely inaccessible due to vegetation. It still has an obvious seaward view, albeit one rather less than commanding due to the land raising of the site.

Additional harm to an understanding of the function of the defence / defensive chain that would be caused by the proposed development:

Limited: development is not proposed for the open space at the terminus of the canal. The view out to sea (over the former connection of the canal with the sea via the long-gone sluice) will also still be obvious at this point, although the bulk of the ARC will be visible a little to the west. Views to the redoubt from the terminus of the Canal will not be affected by the development.

Shorncliffe battery:

Just to the east and north of the site are two sections of the scheduled ancient monument of Shorncliffe Battery. This was a raised gun platform constructed between 1793 and 1804 (prior to the RMC) to command the beach and sea and defend the base of the high ground of Hospital Hill. It would also have had an important role in defending the eastern terminus of the RMC.

Condition:



The middle section has been lost to modern road layouts and housing but the stone walls of the surviving parts of the battery are in fair condition. The firing platform is largely inaccessible due to thick undergrowth, and an understanding of the original function of the battery is much compromised by modern housing development in very close proximity, by the modern road layout, and by loss of ancillary features (drawbridge and arm of canal).

View from approx. vicinity of Drawbridge Redoubt east to Shorncliffe Battery (the raised wall topped by vegetation). The Drawbridge would have carried the road across an arm of the Canal that connected with the battery but is no longer obvious.

Views

It is evident that the eastern part of the battery, close to the RMC basin, would still command views over the basin, the RMC and the Council site if it were to be accessible. Views to the battery are available from the end of the Canal, although more distant views from further along the Canal and from the sea shore are compromised by the raised level of the site and by modern development.

Additional harm to an understanding of the function of the defence / defensive chain that would be caused by the proposed development:

Extensive changes to the integrity, condition and the setting of the Battery will mean that additional heritage harm to the ability to understand the functional relationship with the nearby Canal and the drawbridge redoubt will be minimal. The line of the arm of the Canal up to the road / drawbridge could be picked out in a contrasting material. This would aid an understanding of the complex of defences.

Martello Towers 8 and 9

Martello Towers were chains of gun towers constructed to defend the south-eastern coast of England against the threat of ship-borne invasion by Napoleonic forces.

Condition:

Martello Tower No.9 is the most westerly of a cliff-top series of six moated towers, constructed in 1805-6 to defend the coastline between Hythe and Folkestone. The slightly elliptical brick-built tower measures up to 13m in diameter externally and stands complete at its original height of about 10m within a shallow moat. It is in poor condition and is fenced off at present. It stands within woodland.



Martello Tower No. 8



Martello Tower No. 9

Martello Tower No.8 lies 400m to the east of No.9 and therefore further away from the site. It is largely complete but has been converted to a private residence. The gun platform at the top of the tower has been replaced by a modern circular extension.

Views/ setting:

No.9 stands on the high ground almost at the top of a level spur of Hospital Hill which projects westwards towards the site. Its cannons would have been able to cover the eastern end of the RMC and the Council development site although there would have been a more direct line of fire straight down the hill to the western end of the Shorncliffe battery. Today, however, it stands within dense woodland and shrubland. It cannot be seen from the surrounding area and no views are possible from its immediate vicinity. The implementation of a woodland management scheme may result in opening of views to and from the Tower, although as viewed from the vicinity of the canal it would, due to distance, be a small and relatively inconspicuous feature.



View from clearing in woods to the west of Martello Tower No.9

Views towards the site and the RMC can just be found in a small clearing a little to the west of the No.9 and give an indication of what the views to and from the tower would be like if its immediate surroundings were to be cleared. From this viewpoint the Canal terminus can be seen along with the eastern portion of the site and sea beyond. Further views of the canal and the site to the west are obscured by vegetation. Nevertheless, the connection between the canal, the site and sea can be understood in this glimpsed view.

A recent flattened development is an obvious feature immediately to the east of the terminus. Views to the Shorncliffe Battery are completely obscured by modern development.

No.8 stands at the western edge of a modern housing estate overlooking the steep road of Hospital Hill and towards the top of Hospital Hill. Views from its top floor (which would have been its gun platform) just about take in the far west of the site (with good views beyond this), although the eastern part is not visible due to the topography of the hillside and modern development. Due to topography, Martello Tower No. 8 cannot be seen from the eastern end of the canal. It may be visible from the western end of the site with binoculars, but it is some considerable distance away.

Additional harm to an understanding of the function of the defence / defensive chain that would be caused by the proposed development:

To the extent that views could be possible following vegetation clearance from the Martello Towers, the ARC on the site between the canal and the sea will be visible from the vicinity of Martello Tower No.9. The development will result in the area around the terminus feeling more built up

than it does at present. This will harm an understanding of the canal within its setting as experienced from this viewpoint. However, the additional harm is limited by the fact that the ARC will not constitute a stand-alone feature in the middle of an historic view, but will instead, with the existing modern development to the east of the terminus, form part of a cluster of bulky buildings.

It is likely that housing development immediately to the east of the ARC would also be visible from this viewpoint if the trees and vegetation around it were to be cleared. This represents an encroachment upon the open character of the landscape as experienced from this viewpoint and will therefore reduce the ability to understand the function of the canal within its setting to an extent.

Views in the opposite direction towards the Martello Tower No.9 and the top of Hospital Hill would still be available from the vicinity of the Canal although obscured in places as one moves along the sea wall of Princes Parade. Following development of the site, views would still be available from parkland within the scheme towards the tower although, due to distance, it would constitute a very small feature. The harm to the understanding of the links between this feature and the Canal would be limited.

The Shorncliffe Redoubt

The Shorncliffe Redoubt is a defensive outwork on flat ground at the top of Hospital Hill. It is set a little way back from the where the scarp slope of the hill starts to dip southwards towards Martello Tower No.8 (in relatively close proximity) and further away, Shornecliffe Battery. It was constructed circa 1794 and covers a rectangular area of ground of approximately 130 square metres.

Condition:

The northern part of redoubt has been flattened but the southern part contains an earthwork in the form of bank which is now somewhat discontinuous. In most places along its length it is covered in dense undergrowth and trees

Views / setting:

The redoubt is largely obscured by vegetation and scarcely recognisable as a feature except when viewed from its immediate surroundings. Glimpsed views can be had through trees from the top of the earthworks of the Redoubt to Martello Tower No.8, although views to other defences are obscured by further trees and undergrowth.

View from top of earthworks of redoubt toward Martello Tower No.8



The woodland surrounding the redoubt is to be thinned and more actively managed as a part of works associated the 2014 planning permission for the development of Shorncliffe Camp. However, even if all the woodland were to be cleared, the distance of the Redoubt from the RMC, the low-profile nature of the earthworks, and the topography of Hospital Hill are such that it would not be visible as conspicuous feature apart from within its immediate surroundings. Its not clear whether there would be views towards the Canal in this eventuality, although the fact that it is set back from the edge of the slope of the hill on which it stands, and some considerable away back from the hill's western spur (the location of Martello Tower No. 9) suggests that it would not command views over the site or the adjacent part of the RMC.



*Looking east along the top of the earthwork of the redoubt.
Elsewhere the earthwork is less complete/ more overgrown.*

Additional harm to an understanding of the function of the defence / defensive chain that would be caused by the proposed development: Extensive changes to the integrity, condition and the setting of the Redoubt, plus the distance of the redoubt from the site will mean that additional harm is minimal.

Conclusion

The functional links between the various defences were dependent upon visual links between them. Even though the site remains an open component at the centre of the defences, the visual links have been compromised to a large degree by land raising of the site itself, by the loss of some of the defences, by modern development and by the growth of vegetation. The loss of some openness of the site as a result of the proposed development will therefore have a limited effect on the understanding of the Canal as a part of a series of linked defences.

The Heritage Statement accepts that there will nevertheless be harm to the significance of the Canal and its associated defences as a result of the scheme. This is due to the change of landscape character brought about by the scheme and the effect that that will have on:

- 1) an understanding of the RMC as the boundary of between two character areas- open on the seaward side, and built up on the landward side is still perceivable and
- 2) an understanding of the function of the canal with an attacking area in front (the site) and a defended area.

This is however rather different from the links between the various defensive components as described above.

END