

1.0 INTRODUCTION



Top (L-R): Damien, re-enactor at Fort Amherst; the Naval War Memorial on the Great Lines; Re-enactors (60th Rifle Regiment) at Fort Amherst. Centre (L-R): Mervyn, model barge maker inside No. 3 Slip, Chatham Historic Dockyard; Robert, ropery worker, Chatham Historic Dockyard; Mick, volunteer in the Museum of the Royal Dockyard. Bottom (L-R) Upnor residents on the staircase of Upnor Castle; Model boatmakers by the Mastpond, Chatham Historic Dockyard; Brian, volunteer in the tunnels at Fort Amherst. Thanks to the students at UCA for the photographs.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Plan

1.1.1 Chatham Dockyard and its Defences is an extensive and complex cultural heritage site. The Site is a living and working place, and there are a range of stakeholders with an interest in its long-term conservation and use. The Management Plan provides a long-term strategy to protect the Site for present and future generations. The primary aim is to protect the Site from damage to its Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and authenticity (see Section 2.4). The Plan takes into account regeneration and local community needs, and interests related to the uses of the Site for recreation, education, tourism and business (see Section 2.5). It offers a long-term vision and an advisory framework for the management of the Site's heritage values.

1.1.2 The Management Plan aims to:

- encourage greater local and international awareness and appreciation of the Site's Outstanding Universal Value;
- protect Chatham Dockyard and its Defences from change that would harm the Site's Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and authenticity;
- promote the Site's potential contribution to Medway's renaissance through heritage-led regeneration;
- achieve sustainable use of the Site for public benefit by sensitive re-use of historic buildings, structures and places, and development of education, recreation and tourism opportunities.

1.1.3 A partnership representing a range of organisations with conservation, regeneration and landowning interests has come together as a Steering Group to promote Chatham Dockyard and its Defences as a World Heritage Site. The Chatham World Heritage Steering Group is committed to the preparation and implementation of a consensus-based Management Plan to ensure a sustainable and long-term future for the Site. The Steering Group currently includes representatives of:

- Medway Council;
- Chatham World Heritage Partnership;
- Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust (CHDT);
- English Heritage;
- South East England Development Agency (SEEDA);
- Communities and Local Government (CLG)
- The Royal School of Military Engineering and Chatham Garrison (RSME);
- Fort Amherst Heritage Trust (FAHT);
- Medway Renaissance;
- Defence Estates;
- International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS-UK); and
- Universities at Medway.

1.2 Preparation of the Plan

- 1.2.1 On behalf of the Chatham World Heritage Steering Group, Medway Council commissioned independent consultants Chris Blandford Associates (CBA) to develop the Management Plan, and assist with the preparation of the World Heritage Nomination.
- 1.2.2 The Plan was informed by consultation with stakeholders undertaken as part of feasibility work during 2003 and 2005, and by more recent stakeholder and public consultation during 2007 and 2008. Views from local communities within the Site have been obtained through the Chatham World Heritage Partnership, and specific discussions held with resident groups. See **Appendix A** for details of the stakeholder consultation process.
- 1.2.3 The Management Plan has been prepared in accordance with UNESCO's general procedures and requirements set out in the Management Guidelines for Cultural World Heritage Sites (1998), Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2008) and the draft English Heritage Guidance Note on the Protection and Management of World Heritage Sites in England (2008). See **Appendix B** for information about the background to World Heritage Sites.

1.3 User's Guide

- 1.3.1 The Management Plan can be used at a number of levels. To find out about:
- What is in the Site and why the Chatham Dockyard and its Defences are important – see **Section 2.0**;
 - The proposed overarching vision and long-term aims for the Site over the next 30 years – see **Section 3.0**;
 - Policies for managing the Site for the next 5 years – see **Section 4.0**; and
 - The proposed action plan for delivering the Plan's vision – see **Section 5.0**.
- 1.3.2 Further supporting details can be found in the **Appendices**.