

## 3.0 OVERALL VISION



*Top (L-R) Machinery inside the Brunel Saw Mills; Bird in flight on the Great Lines. Middle (L-R) Top of the Naval War Memorial on the Great Lines; Ceiling inside Commissioner's House. Bottom (L-R) Steps inside No. 3 Covered Slip; Machinery inside the ropery; The Covered Slips viewed through an embrasure at Upnor Castle.*

## 3.0 OVERALL VISION

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section sets out the proposed overarching vision and long-term aims for the future sustainable management, protection, conservation and use of the Site as a whole. The vision and aims provide a 30-year framework for the implementation of the more detailed management policies and associated actions that will be developed over the next five years. Stakeholders agree that the long-term integrity and sustainability of the Site is best served by taking a site-wide approach, rather than focussing investment and resources in any one area.

### 3.2 Vision for the Future

3.2.1 The vision for the future of Chatham Dockyard and its Defences (illustrated in Figure 6) is based on the fundamental need to protect, conserve, interpret, and, where possible, enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of this large and complex site for future generations.

#### **Increased local and international awareness of the Site's Outstanding Universal Value**

3.2.2 Locally and regionally, the Site will continue to provide the focus for the celebration of Chatham's naval maritime heritage in a changing 21<sup>st</sup> century context, and promote the ongoing positive contribution of the area's military history to the identity of local communities. The Site will be recognised internationally as the most complete example of a naval Dockyard and associated fortifications from the age of the sail powered navy, and for its major contribution to Britain's global influence as a naval power. It will be recognised for its outstanding contributions to world trade, technology and culture. Internationally, Chatham Dockyard and its Defences will be honoured as unique amongst major 18<sup>th</sup> century naval Dockyards for its survival and authenticity. The increased awareness of the historic importance of Chatham Dockyard and its Defences will provide the foundations for the sustainable management, enjoyment and use of the Site, and provide a boost to civic pride throughout Medway.

#### **Capitalising on Chatham's heritage values as a catalyst for Medway's renaissance**

3.2.3 Medway will become increasingly recognised for the outstanding contribution of Chatham Dockyard and its Defences to world history, as will the contribution of the Site's heritage values to delivering quality of life benefits for local communities. The long-term preservation, presentation and enhancement of the heritage significances of the Site, both tangible and intangible, will be a catalyst for the creation of a world-class sense of place to support Medway's renaissance as a centre of learning, culture, tourism and enterprise. Based on the improved conservation of, and public access to, Fort Amherst and the Chatham Lines, the Great Lines Heritage Park will be a world-class space where residents and visitors alike come to relax, play and engage with history and nature. The Park will become emblematic of Medway's transformation, offering a range of education, training, sports, recreation, performance and arts facilities, and contributing to an enhanced sense of place and

local identity for Medway. As a result, future generations will be endowed with a heritage legacy of global significance stitched into the heart of a vibrant city.

### Developing a world-class visitor and educational experience

- 3.2.4 The Site's naval and military heritage attractions will be promoted as a single destination for visitors, with world-class facilities and interpretation. At the heart of the Site, Chatham Historic Dockyard will continue to be celebrated as a unique naval heritage attraction, with innovative educational, business and tourism facilities. The Site will offer an enhanced and coherent visitor experience through effective partnership working, synergy and linkages between the core visitor hubs/attractions (Chatham Historic Dockyard, Fort Amherst, the Royal Engineers Museum, and Upnor Castle). These will provide a strong focus for visitor orientation to the Site as a whole, offer innovative heritage-based education and learning in partnership with local educational providers, and be physically and intellectually accessible to a wide range of users and audiences. Sustainable public transport options, including pedestrian, cycle, and river pathways, will be improved to connect the core visitor hubs/attractions to different parts of the Site. Chatham Dockyard and its Defences will become a destination that offers a unique and engaging visitor experience of a quality suited to its international significance. This will be achieved through the recognition and promotion of the integrity of the whole Site, the rich diversity of each of its components and through provision of inventive and appealing interpretation that enables all users to take part in an exciting journey of discovery. Brompton Barracks will be sustained for military purposes, and as operational requirements permit opportunities for controlled public access to the historic buildings will be considered.
- 3.2.6 Major development within and around the Site as part of Medway's transformation will be managed through the planning system to minimise and mitigate adverse impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Site, and to encourage good design and excellence of public realm. The heritage values of the Site will be sustained and enhanced through appropriate activities that deliver lasting social and economic regeneration benefits for local communities. New buildings of appropriate height and distinctive architectural quality will be sensitively sited within the Site and its Buffer Zone, such that Medway's ambitions to city status can be reconciled with preservation of the strategic views required to understand the Site's Outstanding Universal Value. High-quality landscaping and urban design around new buildings will improve the public realm. The renaissance of Chatham and Gillingham town centres will deliver a high quality townscape setting for the Site, enhancing approaches from the railway stations and other access routes. In addition, Conservation Areas within and around the Site, such as Brompton Lines and Upper Upnor, will be protected from inappropriate changes and carefully managed and enhanced to maintain their special historic and architectural significance.

## 3.3 Long-Term Aims

- 3.2.1 The four long-term aims that underpin the vision are:
- **Managing the Site** – Effective, sustainable long-term management of the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity and integrity of the Site, supported by

active stakeholder and community engagement, and strong co-ordinated governance;

- **Protecting the Site's Outstanding Universal Value** - Promotion of a balanced approach to development and regeneration that ensures protection and enhancement of the Site's Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity and integrity, and ultimately contributes to its long-term conservation;
- **Conserving the Site** - Sustainable conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity and integrity of the Site by preserving its built heritage, archaeology, collections and landscape for future generations in line with international and national standards; and
- **Using the Site** - Sustainable use of the Site for public benefit through development of education, recreation and tourism opportunities, enabling both visitors and local users to more fully access, understand and enjoy the Outstanding Universal Value of the Site.

3.2.2 These aims will be delivered through the policies for the Site set out in **Section 4.0**, and the actions identified in **Section 5.0**.