

Gosport Borough Council

# Haslar Peninsula Conservation Area Appraisal

March 2007



*Delivering  
for Gosport*

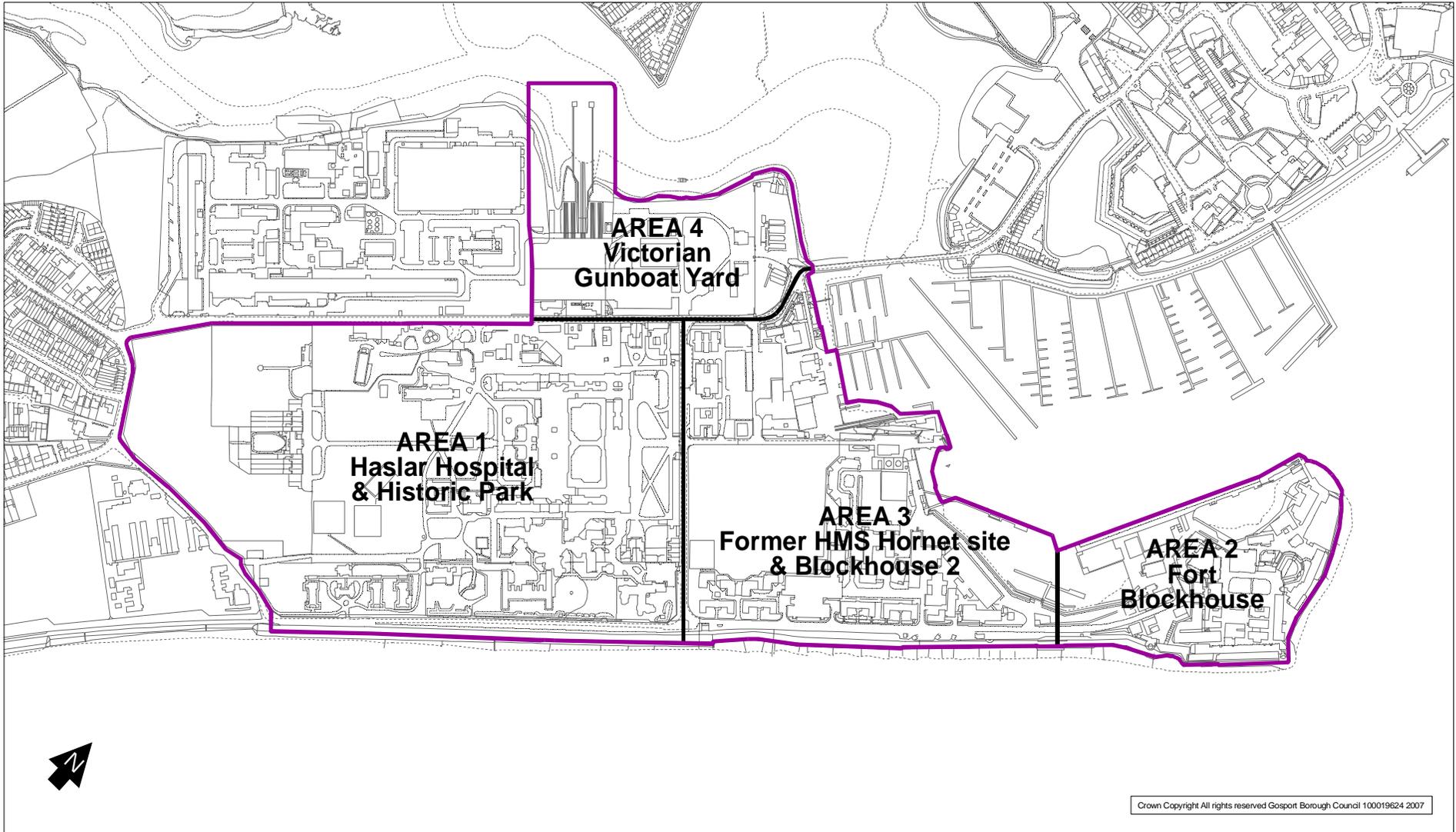


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# Haslar Peninsula Conservation Area Appraisal

## Introduction

Designated in 1990, Haslar Peninsula Conservation Area covers approximately 50 hectares and incorporates three major areas of historic and architectural interest: Haslar Hospital, Fort Blockhouse, and Haslar Gunboat Yard. In addition there are further buildings and features within the former HMS Hornet site and the area to its south.

## Scope and Structure of the Appraisal

The Conservation Area Appraisal identifies all the buildings and features that to date have been identified as being of historic or architectural interest and the extent of the Grade II Listed Historic Park. Some sites of known archaeological interest have been identified on the plan and further comment is given later in this document.

This document is intended to act as a guide to the buildings and features that make a special contribution to the character of the area. It assesses the areas historic development, its character, the scale and form of development and opportunities for continuing enhancement.

The need to designate a conservation area is often illustrated by the way in which poor quality design or inappropriate extensions, or the demolition of notable historic buildings can have a major impact on the distinctive character of an area. The special character of the Haslar Peninsula Conservation Area is therefore highlighted throughout this document.

## Character Statement The special architectural and historic character of the area

The qualities of the extensive Conservation Area are best understood by analysing its significance in four sub areas (See Plan):

1. Haslar Hospital and Historic Park;
2. Fort Blockhouse (Blockhouse 1);
3. Former HMS Hornet site and area to its south (Most of Blockhouse 2).
4. The Victorian Gunboat Yard (Blockhouse 3);

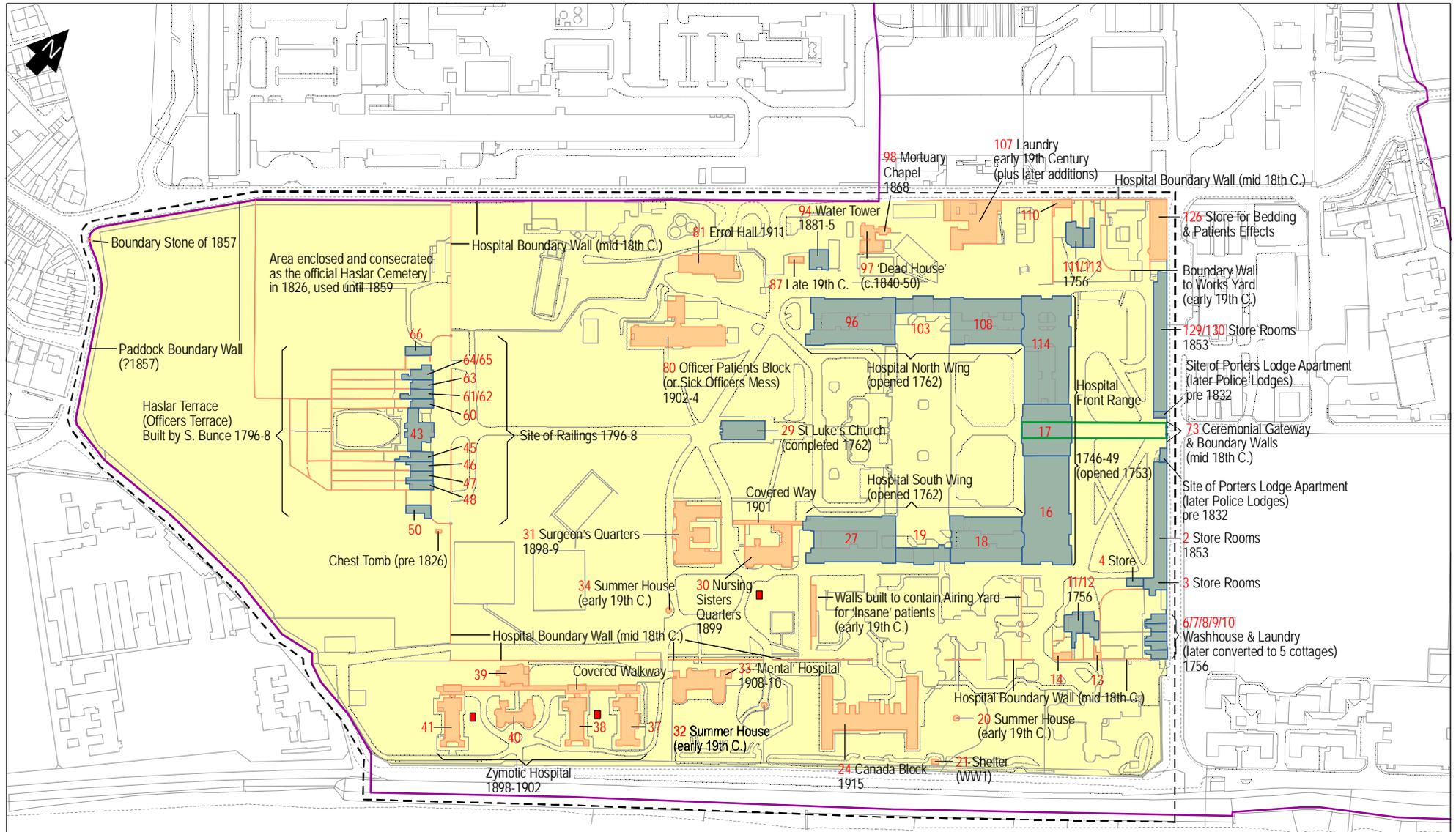
### **AREA 1. Haslar Hospital and its Historic Park**

#### **Brief History of the site: 18<sup>th</sup> Century**

*(Note the historic plans referred to in this section are at the end of the document)*

Begun in 1745 and completed in 1761/2 Haslar was the first purpose-built naval hospital for the sick and wounded in England. The need for naval hospitals had been periodically discussed in admiralty circles but only became a priority when the war with Spain in 1739 alerted the navy to the scale of the problem. With 15,868 sick and wounded seamen put ashore between August 1739 and September 1740: mostly at Gosport and Plymouth, it was clear the ad hoc systems in place could not cope.

A 95 acre site was chosen for Haslar Hospital on the isolated spit of land south of Gosport. The Admiralty order of 1745 specified the need for a hospital for 1,500 men and to be 'a strong, durable, plain building



# AREA 1

## Haslar Hospital & Historic Park

- Boundary of Area 1
- Conservation Area
- Listed Building
- Building of Historic Interest
- Archaeological Site of Interest
- Historic Park
- Air Raid Shelters

consisting of three stories; the same to form a large quadrangle with a spacious piazza within, the outfronts [sic] to be decent but not expensive'.

Although not completed to the original plan the buildings on the site resemble the simple austerity requested by the Admiralty and the unity of the whole scheme remains remarkably intact.

The development of this massive complex progressed slowly. The foundations were laid in 1746 and a monumental sewerage system developed in tandem. The front wing was opened in 1753 for 100 patients. The east and west wings opened in 1762 with 1,800 beds, and by 1780 2,100 patients could be accommodated. The plan to build a connecting rear wing was abandoned by 1756 and St Luke's church was built outside the quadrangle but intended to unify the composition. The gap between the east and west wings was closed in 1796 by iron railings as a means of discouraging desertion and remained in place until 1905.

By 1798 the hospital had 84 general medical and surgical wards, as well as isolation wards for fever and smallpox.

The hospital was served by a number of ancillary buildings developed in phases around the periphery of the site and high brick walls enclosed the entire area. Sick and wounded sailors were transported to the site via a wharf to the north and carts on rails. The ancillary buildings included accommodation for the officers and administrative staff, a 'Dead House' (mortuary), Wash House and Laundry (converted to cottages in 1876), and a Dispensary. To the north of the Hospital a Guardhouse was built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century. At the south west corner of the site an 'Engine for Raising Water' provided water for the site. This is potentially a site of archaeological importance.

### **The late Georgian era. c1800 to 1830s**

G L Taylor's Plan of 1831 shows in precise detail the layout of the site at a period when the Georgian hospital had been completed and before development took place that would be to a different architectural style.

Approaching from the Landing Place past the Guardhouse the prominence of the central gable with the Royal Coat of Arms and balanced wings to the main façade loomed behind the centrally placed gateway flanked by two small buildings: one being the Lodge. The boundary wall then ran in either direction and utilitarian buildings (the wash house, laundry and stores) were neatly placed on either extreme. Moving through the gate these buildings were screened by brick walls that also framed the formal open space along the frontage. Officers Houses were located on the flanks.

As originally conceived the natural progress would be to move through the centre of the façade into the inner courtyard where the balance in concept is again clearly evident and the Chapel, and Officers Terrace (1796-8) beyond, provided impressive backdrops set in, and at the back edge of, the main Airing Ground. The more private areas would be where the dispensary was located and the more secure wards and airing grounds for the 'Insane Patients' located to the south. Finally, the continuous red brick wall that surrounded the hospital enclosed the whole area: only relieved by the Officers Terrace at the centre of the southern boundary.

Taylor shows the latest developments including Gardens and 'Playground for students of the RN College' to the south of the original boundary alongside the seafront, and the formal cemetery to the south west of the site: neither interrupting the precision in

layout at the heart of the original Georgian scheme.

The formality of the planting within the original hospital complex noticeably contrasts with the informality of the grounds along the seafront. The cemetery of 1826 is also more densely planted. Because Taylor's interest was the buildings it is not clear how established the soft landscaping was by the time it was surveyed in the 1850s. Judging by the 1831 plan it is highly likely that a significant portion of the landscaping was in place by this earlier date. This is confirmed by the smaller, but reasonably accurate, Lewis Plan of Gosport dated 1832.

Virtually all of the buildings shown on Taylor's plan survive and the formality of the Georgian layout can be clearly understood on site.

### **1840s to 1890s**

An OS plan for the site prepared in 1856, and published in 1870, reveals with more precision the landscaping undertaken around the buildings, it again reveals that little had changed in the 25 years since Taylor's survey. A mortuary had appeared near to the pharmacy (on stylistic grounds probably in the 1830s to 1840s), as had a new laundry block (built 1854-5). Single storey ranges (built 1853) now flanked the main entrance running along the inside of the wall, and lean-to covered ways had appeared in what had been the 'Insane Patients' Airing grounds.

The OS survey of 1861 with revisions of 1873-4 again shows remarkably little change. The grounds have been subdivided a little more and the two Summer Houses are clearly marked on their artificial mounds with commanding views of the Solent. A third Summer House is shown towards the boundary wall directly south of the Chapel. This plan helpfully names a number of buildings. One notable addition is the extension to the 'Dead

House' (mortuary) with a particularly interesting Mortuary Chapel built in 1868.

Over the next twenty years the only noticeable additions were the prominent Water Tower close to the present main entrance (built 1881-5) and the front range to the Laundry Block of 1895.

### **c1898 to 1918**

Some important developments occurred by this date. The first phase spanned the years 1898 to 1902: around the time of the Boer War, when five important groups of buildings and further ancillary buildings appeared: The Surgeons' Quarters, Nursing Sisters' Quarters, Pathology Lab, Officers' Patients' Block (Sick Officers Mess) and the Zymotic Hospital. Additionally Dispenser's Stores, Labourers' Quarters and an SB Instruction Room (demolished) were built against the west boundary wall behind the Water Tower and Mortuary.

The next developments were more sporadic although have left some notable buildings: The 'Mental Hospital' or G Block (1908-10), Errol Hall (1911), Canada Block (1915), and an interesting small timber Shelter NE of Canada Block (1917).

### **Later 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

No further buildings of interest have appeared since the earlier part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Two large buildings, the hospital block linking the two wings of Haslar Hospital, and a large building north of Canada Block are the only noticeable structures from this era: neither being of architectural interest.

### **Design Comment**

The key characteristic of the site of Haslar Hospital is the formality in the layout and form of the buildings and grounds and the subservient scale of buildings to the main hospital. There is

a hierarchy in the formal layout but first and foremost the hospital dominates the entire site and its main elevation is a notable landmark across a wide area. The formal open space in front of the main facade forms a prime setting for the Hospital and should be preserved and enhanced.

To the south west of the main hospital the chapel, boundary wall and officers terrace enclose a further landscape of semi-formal planting, green spaces, and avenue of trees. These make up the core of the historic 'Airing grounds'. The enhancement in the geometry of the planting and the open space in this area would positively contribute to its historic character. Particular care needs to be taken in recording and enhancing the historic form of the planting and random planting schemes should be avoided. Notable areas of planting that contribute to the area are marked on the plan.

The Historic boundary wall frames the historic core of the site. There is negligible planting along the north and south flanks of the hospital within the original historic boundary.

Haslar Cemetery and the Paddock: The cemetery dating from 1826 and in use until 1859 contains a number of important memorials, its original boundary wall, and notable trees. Works within the area would need to have regard to the sensitive historic setting. Detailed research into the memorials and landscape would help in the understanding of the historic importance of this area. The Paddock pre-dates the cemetery as an informal graveyard and its open rural aspect is its most important quality.

Coastal zone: This is the area outside of the Georgian hospital grounds and running the length of the site from the former Zymotic Hospital to the north east corner. The area contains a number of mature trees of significant

landscape value: notably many Holm Oaks.

Buildings of interest are noted on the plan and in the following section.

The historic plans and above commentary make clear that the historic and architectural character of the Hospital and its setting are still largely intact although some late 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings have eroded the historic form in small areas.

Historic Park Designation: English Heritage acknowledged the significance of Haslar as a landscape by its inclusion on the National Register of Historic Parks and Gardens and its designation in 2001 as a Grade II Listed Historic Park. Any development proposals in the Historic Park will need to have special regard to the landscape character of the area.

### **Buildings and Features of historic or architectural interest**

There are many buildings and features of interest in the Conservation Area. These are detailed below and identified on the plan. The buildings are referenced by their MoD number and title, if they do not have a MoD reference their historic name is used.

- **2. Store Rooms.** Built 1853 against the Boundary Wall to Haslar Hospital. Grade II Listed.
- **3. Store Rooms.** Built 1853 against the Boundary Wall to Haslar Hospital. Grade II Listed.
- **4. Store.** Red brick structure of historic interest built in a sympathetic style to adjacent Listed Stores.
- **6, 7, 8, 9 & 10.** Original Wash House and Laundry to Haslar Hospital built 1756 and later converted to five cottages. Grade II Listed.

- **11. Residence No. 11.** Officer's Residence of 1756. One of a pair mirrored by a similar pair to the northwest. Grade II Listed.
- **12. Residence No. 12.** Officer's Residence of 1756. One of a pair mirrored by a similar pair to the northwest. Grade II Listed.
- **13.** Early outbuilding to Residence No. 11. Historic interest and curtilage listed building.
- **14.** Early outbuilding to Residence No. 12. Historic interest and curtilage listed building.
- **16. D Block.** Haslar Hospital. 1746-1749 opened in 1753. Part of the front range to the Hospital. Grade II\* Listed.
- **17. Centre Block.** Haslar Hospital. 1746-1749 opened in 1753. Part of the front range to the hospital. Grade II\* Listed.
- **18. E Block.** Haslar Hospital. Opened 1762. Part of the later south range to the hospital. Grade II\* Listed.
- **19. E/F Pavilion.** Haslar Hospital. Opened 1762. A lower link block between E and F Blocks. Part of the later southern range to the hospital. Grade II\* Listed.
- **20. Summer House.** Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Summer House for patients. This small hexagonal building is sited on top of a low mound to take advantage of the sea views. Significant historic interest and an important feature within the historic park.
- **21. Shelter.** A timber shelter donated in WW1 for convalescing patients. Significant historic interest and an important feature within the historic park.
- **24. Canada Block.** A prominent building of significant historic interest donated by the Canadian's in 1915 for convalescing patients.
- **27. F Block.** Haslar Hospital. Opened 1762. Part of the later south range to the hospital. Grade II\* Listed.
- **29. St Luke's Church.** Completed in 1762 as the hospital chapel and in place of a fourth range originally planned to enclose the western side of the hospital. Grade II\* Listed.
- **30. Nursing Sisters Quarters.** Now Eliza Mackensie House. Built 1899 with a Covered Way linking this block to the hospital of 1901. This building forms part of the Boer War expansion and is of significant historic interest.
- **31. Surgeon's Quarters.** Now Medical Mess. 1898-1899. An important landmark building on the site just pre-dating the Boer War. Significant historic interest as part of the hospital's development.
- **32. Summer House.** Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Summer House for patients. This small hexagonal building is sited on top of a low mound to take advantage of the sea views. Significant historic interest and an important feature within the historic park.
- **33. 'Mental Hospital'.** G Block. 1908-1910. An important building within the historic development of the site.
- **34. Summer House.** Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, remodelled early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Significant historic interest and an important feature within the historic park.
- **37. M1/M2; 38. M3/M4; 39. Workshop; 40. Admin Block; 41. Ex-Works Office.** This group of buildings formed the Zymotic Hospital (isolation hospital) developed in 1898-1902. The Zymotic Hospital forms an important group of

buildings of significant historic interest, built during a key development phase.

- **43. Surgeon Rear Admiral's Residence.** Built 1796-1798 as the centrepiece of the Officers Terrace. Grade II Listed.
- **45. No.4.** Part of the Officers Terrace. Grade II Listed.
- **46. No.3.** Part of the Officers Terrace. Grade II Listed.
- **47. No.2.** Part of the Officers Terrace. Grade II Listed.
- **48. No.1.** Part of the Officers Terrace. Grade II Listed.
- **50. Garages.** Built as outbuildings to the Officers Terrace. Grade II Listed.
- **60. No.5.** Part of the Officers Terrace. Grade II Listed.
- **61 & 62. No's. 6 and 7 (Flats).** Part of the Officers Terrace. Grade II Listed.
- **63. No.8.** Part of the Officers Terrace. Grade II Listed.
- **65 & 65. No's. 9 and 10 (Flats).** Part of the Officers Terrace. Grade II Listed.
- **66. Garages.** Built as outbuildings to the Officers Terrace. Grade II Listed.
- **73. Ceremonial Gate.** This ornamental gateway to Haslar Hospital formed the principal historic entrance to the site and dates from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Grade II Listed (along with attached boundary wall).
- **80. Officer Patients Block (or Sick Officers Mess).** Now Administration Block. 1902-1904. A landmark building within the grounds of the hospital. Historic and architectural interest.
- **81. Errol Hall.** 1911. An interesting Edwardian building of historic significance to the development of the hospital.
- **87. Store.** Small red brick building dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.
- **94. Water Tower** 1881-1885. A major landmark on Haslar Peninsula and building of historic and architectural interest. Grade II Listed.
- **96. A Block.** Haslar Hospital. Opened 1762. Part of the later north range to the hospital. Grade II\* Listed.
- **97. 'Dead House'.** Mortuary. c.1840-50. Stylistically this building reflects the classical style of the original hospital and forms an important early building within the historic development of the site.
- **98. Mortuary Chapel.** 1868. An ornate small chapel of architectural and historic interest.
- **103. A/B Pavilion.** Haslar Hospital. Opened 1762. A lower link block between A and B Blocks. Part of the later north range to the hospital. Grade II\* Listed.
- **107. Laundry.** Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century with later additions. A significant historic building within the early development of the site and clearly designed to fit in with the simple classical style of the Georgian era and the geometric layout of the site.
- **108. B Block.** Haslar Hospital. Opened 1762. Part of the later north range to the hospital. Grade II\* Listed.
- **110.** Outbuilding to Residence No.14. Curtilage Listed Building.
- **111. Residence No. 13.** Officer's Residence of 1756. One of a pair mirrored by a similar pair to the northwest. Grade II Listed.
- **113. Residence No. 14.** Officer's Residence of 1756. One of a pair mirrored by a similar pair to the northwest. Grade II Listed.
- **114. C Block,** Haslar Hospital. 1746-1749 opened in 1753. Part of the front range to the Hospital. Grade II\* Listed.

- **126. Store for Bedding and Patients Effects.** Later, Pharmacy Stores. Built before 1832: although the building was later heavily remodelled. Significant historic building within the site and attached to the Grade II Listed Boundary Wall.
- **129 & 130.** Built 1853 against the Boundary Wall to Haslar Hospital. Grade II Listed.

#### Miscellaneous features (Unnumbered)

- **Historic Park.** As noted in the previous section, the grounds of Haslar Hospital (coloured yellow on the plan) are included on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens held by English Heritage, Listed Grade II. Works requiring planning consent will need to have special regard to the historic layout, form and setting of the Park.
- **Boundary Wall.** There are several surviving sections of the original Boundary Wall to Haslar Hospital constructed in the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> Century. All sections of this wall should be retained due to its historic significance. Parts are specifically Listed Grade II and the rest would be Listed as curtilage structures.
- **Boundary Wall to Former Airing Yard.** The Airing Yard was where patients gained the benefits of fresh air. To the south of the Hospital were wards designed for 'insane' patients who had their own secure Airing Yard enclosed by walls at either end. These walls remain in large part and form an important historic feature of the grounds to the Hospital.
- **Covered Way to No.s 37 to 41.** Built 1898-1902. This covered way linked the separate buildings that formed

the Zymotic Hospital. Historic interest.

- **Air Raid Shelters.** There are a number of air raid shelters on the site specifically designed to shelter staff or patients. Three of these, marked on the plan, could sleep between 8 and 12 people and remain in excellent condition.
- **Cemetery.** Due to the scandalous reports of random and haphazard burials across the site of the Hospital, a formal cemetery was established in 1826 in the northern part of the Paddock. The area was enclosed in 1826 and used until 1859 at which point a new cemetery was built on Clayhall Road. The area contains a number of historically significant burials and is of significant interest within the history of the site.
- **Cemetery Wall.** A low boundary wall built in 1826 enclosed the Cemetery. Most of this red brick wall survives. Important historic feature within the grounds of Haslar Hospital.
- **Chest Tomb, The Paddock.** One Chest Tomb remains close to the east end of the Officers Terrace within the Paddock and pre dates the 1826 cemetery. Numerous other monuments within the Paddock were relocated to the cemetery: this lone survival is therefore an interesting and significant landscape feature within the historic grounds to the Hospital.
- **Plinth to Railing.** 1796-8. The Officers Terrace is largely enclosed to its north by a low plinth wall that was originally railed. Although the rails have been removed (probably as part of the War effort) this remains an important historic feature within the grounds of the Hospital.

- **Paddock Boundary Wall.** Mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century. This wall encloses the southern extremity of the Hospital site and the former burial ground in which countless patients were interred. The wall is of significant historic interest.
- **Boundary Stone.** Set within the Paddock wall near the junction of Haslar Road and Clayhall Road is an Admiralty Boundary Stone of 1857. Boundary stones of that early date are rare. Of historic interest.
- **Boundary Wall to Works Yard.** Located towards the north east corner of the site this curved wall enclosed the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century works yard and is mirrored by a similar wall adjacent to buildings No's 11 and 12 (Officers Residences) to the south. These walls form an important element of the formal landscaping within the Hospital grounds.

## AREA 2. Fort Blockhouse

### Historic Background

*(Particular thanks are given to Chris Donnithorne for his input into the buildings and history of Fort Blockhouse)*

### Phase 1: The Development of the Fort up to the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century

A Blockhouse, or fortified tower, is known to have been located on this spit of land from 1417 with further modifications made to it in the Tudor period.

During the English Civil War attention was drawn to the vulnerability of Portsmouth when it was bombarded from Gosport. With the threat of attacks by Dutch fleets in the 1660s Sir Bernard de Gomme was

commissioned to make extensive proposals to upgrade the defences around the harbour. Although the full extent of De Gomme's extravagant plans were not carried out, by 1674 a battery for 21 guns was constructed at Blockhouse (then termed 'Gosport Point') with nearly all the guns facing south.

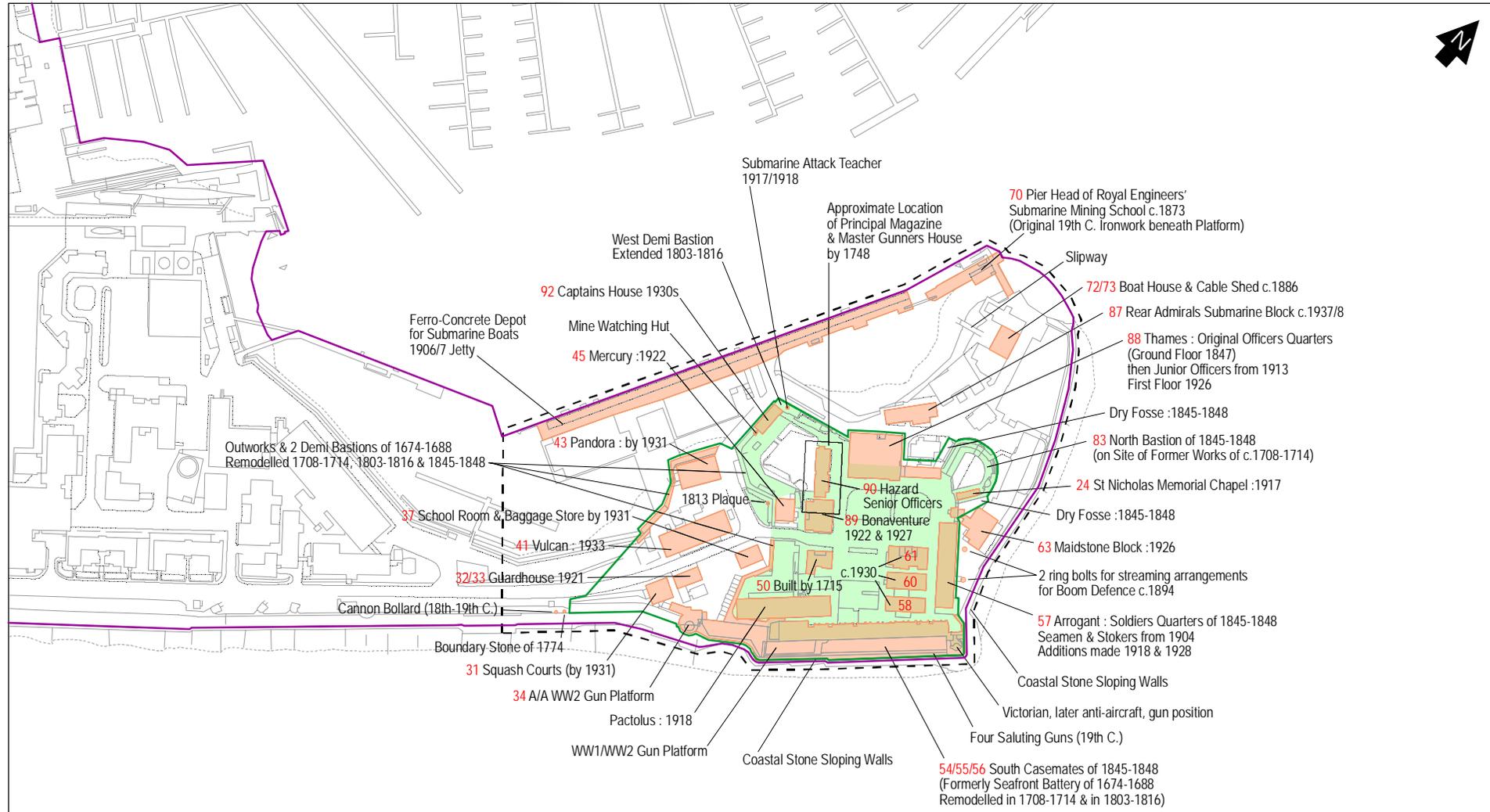
Significant works to construct two Demi-Bastions facing landward and a seaward 21 gun battery was undertaken between 1708 and 1714 by order of Admiral Bing during the War of Spanish Succession. Some important parts of this work survive today and dictated the basic form of the fort that continued thereafter.

With the threat of potential invasion posed by Napoleon after the Peace of Amiens broke down (1803), works were underway to repair and improve fortifications across Gosport. At Blockhouse this included remodelling the north Demi-Bastion and the seaward battery. Commenced in 1803 and completed when the threat had long passed in 1816 there was again a pause: this time for nearly thirty years.

### Phase 2: The Victorian era

In the late 1840s the extensive system of earthwork defences, known as the Gosport Lines, were completely overhauled and to a large extent rebuilt. At Blockhouse significant improvements were made between 1845 and 1848 to take account of developments in weaponry and the latest thinking on fortifications.

The most notable addition was the Upper and Lower Battery known as the North Bastion at the north east corner of the fort. Laid out on the site of earlier rudimentary defences, this round bastion was built in stone and provided fields of fire over the harbour. New ranges were built connecting this Battery to the west and south ranges: the north range included new Officers Quarters, and the east range Soldiers



LOCATION OF ORIGINAL 15th C. FORT UNKNOWN

## AREA 2

## Fort Blockhouse

- Boundary of Area 2
- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Ancient Monument

- Building of Historic Interest
- Archaeological Site of Interest

Quarters. Once again the seaward battery was heavily remodelled.

The defensive value of Blockhouse soon diminished as advances in gunnery rapidly meant a radical rethink of military defences. The Palmerston Forts superseded the inner line of defences around Gosport, of which Blockhouse formed a part. In the 1870s the Fort became the home of the Portsmouth Company of the Submarine Mining Engineers. New Buildings and a small pier were constructed north east of the fort and rails set up to carry the mines across the site to the pier.

### **Phase 3: The Submarine Base**

In 1902 submarines appeared in Portsmouth Harbour for the first time and by 1905 Blockhouse had become the home of the Submarine Service and remained so until 1998. During this period the site has witnessed substantial changes. Before WWI little change had occurred: an important exception being the development of the Jetty and creation of a small enclosed bay. Then there appears to have been a significant period of expansion between the two world wars. By the early 30s development was spreading beyond the fort.

Although now obscuring views of the fort from the north and west, several of these buildings were of some quality and designed to a high standard: one notable example being Building 63, the former Maidstone Block now Clyde Block South, and a notable landmark facing Old Portsmouth. Unfortunately the development of the southern approaches to the fort led to the levelling of the parts of the outworks and infilling of the moat near the entrance. There is, however, clear evidence on site that much of this 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> century work remains intact below ground level and some important features are still visible.

One feature of interest in the area are the number of surviving anti-aircraft defences established during WW2 in the form of concrete mountings for guns.

After WW2 development expanded over a much wider area: most in the open land towards Haslar Hospital. There was also the redevelopment of much of the area north of the fort: unfortunately generally of poor quality.

One or two interesting buildings were developed in this period: the Submarine Escape Tower dating to the 1950s the 1957 accommodation blocks entitled Montclare, Cyclops, Medway, Adamant and Ursula: built to a uniform design and facing the Solent. During the 60s land was being reclaimed and concrete platforms constructed to intensify development along the northern shore of the Creek.

### **Archaeology**

The green line on the plan marks the boundary of the known phases of development in fortifications based on historic maps and site survey. Some notable remains are visible west of the Demi-Bastions: in particular part of the stone lined moat to the south of the southern Demi-Bastion, and stone revetment walling forming the northern coastline alongside Mercury Block and to its south west. There is likely to be a high level of survival of archaeological features where this site has not been disturbed by later buildings. This is a highly important area of both archaeological and historic interest. Locating the site of the original medieval tower will be of particular interest.

### **Design Comment**

The plan indicates the buildings of historic interest within the site. The main historic phases of development explain the areas significance and two eras dominate in terms of design and

layout: the Fortifications and the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Submarine Base.

The fortifications clearly control the form and layout of the site and development should seek to preserve and enhance the setting of these nationally significant structures. Proposals that open up views of the fortifications from the north and east would be welcomed, as some particularly poor and congested development obscures a better appreciation of the landmark value of the site. Development elsewhere should similarly aim to draw attention to the historic fort and avoid blocking views towards them.

The early 20<sup>th</sup> Century submarine base was developed within and then beyond the fortifications and the great majority of buildings associated with it respected the setting of the fort and introduced a relatively formal layout to the built form of the site. The preservation of this formality is fundamental to the preservation of the character of the Conservation Area.

In terms of soft landscaping three areas are of interest: The former parade ground, the garden area within the Demi-Bastion, and the small memorial garden immediately west of the historic entrance. These small plots are of historic interest and add to the character of the Conservation Area.

### **Buildings and features of historic or architectural interest**

The historic plans show how the site developed and the likely location of a number of features of potential significance not visible above ground. The extent of the fortifications and related structures make this a highly sensitive site of national archaeological significance covered in part by the designation of the Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The numbers below relate to the current numbering of buildings on the site by the MoD. Original names of the buildings are also indicated where known.

Features of interest in this era are as follows:

- **31. The Squash Courts.** Built by 1931. Part of the 1930s expansion to the Submarine Base.
- **32 & 33. Guardhouse.** Attractive and well-built brick building built by 1921 forming part of the early Submarine Base.
- **34.** WW2 Anti-Aircraft Gun Platform. Of historic interest.
- **37. School Room and Baggage Store.** Part of the 1930's expansion to the Submarine Base. Group value as part of the 1930s Base. The building is constructed on a raft within the moat.
- **41. Vulcan Block.** Built 1933 as seamans accommodation. Historic interest and group value.
- **43. Pandora Block.** Built by 1931 as an accommodation block. Historic interest and group value.
- **45. Mercury Block.** Built 1922. Part of the 1920s expansion of the Submarine base. Historic interest and group value.
- **50.** Known as the Post Office and probably the original Guardhouse. Built by 1715 and although altered this remains one of the most important and oldest buildings on the site. There was a furnace for heating shot to the rear of. c.1798.
- **54, 55 & 56. The South Casemates.** 1845-1848. Part of the Ancient Monument, this site may contain the remains of the original seafront battery of 1674-1688, which was

remodelled in 1708-1714 and again in 1803 to 1816 when the casemates were constructed. The mid 1840s saw a major phase of reconstruction and modernisation of the ramparts and defences of Gosport before the development of the Palmerston Forts in the 1850s and 1860s. Further features of particular interest include the four Victorian Saluting Guns and the WW2 Gun platform.

- **57. Arrogant Block.** Part of the Ancient Monument, this block was built as Soldiers Quarters in 1845-1848 although almost certainly contains elements of much older structures as it is within the boundary of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Fort. Modified in 1912 additions were made to the building in 1918 and 1928 during the expansion period of the site for the submariners. The top floor was added in 1928.
- **58. Electricity Sub Station.** This Block forms part of the late 1920s/early 1930s expansion period. Historic interest and group value.
- **60. Rapid Block.** Part of the late 1920s/early 1930s expansion period. Originally the Chest Room and Engine Room Artificers Bathroom and locker flat. Historic interest and group value.
- **61. Alecto Block.** Part of the late 1920s/early 1930s expansion period. Built as the fort Office Block. Historic interest and group value.
- **63. Maidstone Block.** Built 1926 during the expansion period of the Submarine Base. A landmark building at the mouth of Portsmouth Harbour built to a high standard of design.
- **70. Pier Head of Royal Engineers' Submarine**
- **Mining School.** Built c.1873 and extended in 1882. The original iron latticework and columns survive as does some evidence of the rails that were once part of the narrow gauge network for transporting mines across the site. A very important historic structure from the Mining Engineers' occupancy of the site.
- **72 & 73. Boat House and Cable Shed.** c.1886. These buildings are thought to date from the period of the Mining Engineers. As few buildings date from this era the historic significance of these buildings is high.
- **83. North Bastion.** 1845-1848. Built on the site of fortifications dating from c.1708-1714, the North Bastion formed part of the major overhaul of defences carried out in the 1840s. Built in high quality cut stone a Dry Fosse existed both to its north and south (the northern one recently having been restored). On the east of the Bastion, close to the chapel, is a large bollard that forms part of the system for hauling out the harbour defence boom of 1893/4. The entrance to the harbour could, through this boom, be sealed off from attack. The surrounding concrete is part of a WW2 anti-aircraft gun position. Part of the Ancient Monument, views of the Bastion from the harbour are now sadly obscured by later structures.
- **84. St Nicholas Memorial Chapel.** Built on the top of the North Bastion and part of the Ancient Monument, this Memorial Chapel to Submariners was built in 1917 and historically is highly significant.
- **87. Rear Admirals Submarine Block.** c.1938. Part of the

1930s expansion period. This building is of historic significance.

- **88. Thames Block.** A group of buildings of different eras developed from the original Officers Quarters built during the 1847 expansion period. A second floor was added in 1926. Within this complex is the outstanding Wylie exhibition, now a dining area. Wylie was commissioned to paint a series of historic ships in the late 1920s, after which buildings on the site are named. The paintings were commissioned in memory of submariners who died in WW1. The building forms part of the Ancient Monument.
- **89. Bonaventure Block.** Built in 1922 and extended in 1927 this is an important building within the expansion period of the site as a submarine base.
- **90. Hazard Block.** Built in 1913 for Senior Officers this is a rare pre-WW1 building known to form part of the original submarine base. It was built on the site of the Principal Magazine and Master Gunners House both constructed by 1748.
- **92. Captain's House.** Part of the expansion period of the site in the 1930s this is on the Right Demi-Bastion. Although much altered and originally only single storey, being built against the fortifications this may contain elements of interest. A mine watching hut of the 1940s survives close to this house.

Miscellaneous features (unnumbered):

- **Boundary Stone of 1774.** A highly significant historic feature, this boundary stone undoubtedly marks the outer edge of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Fort.

- **Cannon Bollard.** Close to the Boundary Stone this upturned heavy calibre cannon, probably of Napoleonic origin, forms an important boundary feature and historic structure.
- **Plaque of 1813.** This plaque was removed from the stone entrance to the fort when it was demolished in the early 1960s.
- **Ferro-Concrete Depot for Submarine Boats 1906/7 Jetty.** The original plans suggest that much of the existing structure, beneath the platform, dates to 1906/7 when this jetty provided an enclosed harbour for submarines shortly after they began using the base. The jetty was widened in the 1960s. Potentially of significant historic interest.
- **Coastal Stone Sloping Walls.** The stone coastal retaining walls, although having been repaired and partly remodelled many times, may contain numerous features of interest relating to history of the fortifications. An understanding of the history of the site would be gained through ongoing archaeological research when works are considered in this area.
- **Slipway north west of building 72.** This small slipway is said to have formed part of the works developed by the Mining Engineers in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Historic interest.
- **Submarine Attack Teacher.** Constructed in 1917/1918 this feature forms an important historic reminder of the sites significant role in training submariners during WW1.
- **Mine Watching Hut.** Built during, or shortly after WW2. Of historic interest.
- **Fort Blockhouse Ancient Monument and wider archaeologically sensitive area.** The area covered by the

Ancient Monument is shaded in green on the plan. This covers the core of the original fort, the North Bastion and the two western Demi-Bastions. Somewhere within the bounds of the monument is likely to be Henry VIII's original round tower (the 'Blockhouse' which gave its name to the site). The original bridge over the moat at the entrance to the site is thought to exist beneath the road.

When the Mining Engineers occupied the fort 18" gauge tracks were laid across the site and beyond. The majority of this system of tracks for transporting mines is thought to still exist beneath the tarmac.

### **AREA 3. Former HMS Hornet and area to south (Most of Blockhouse 2)**

#### **Historic Background**

The historic interest of this area is more fragmentary. A Coastal Motor Boat Base was in operation on the site during World War One, although the base was not permanently established until 1921. It took on the name HMS Hornet in 1925. In 1939 the site became a base for the new Motor Torpedo Boats with numerous motor launches and MTB's of Coastal Forces using the area. Their important wartime role was recognised by the Admiralty following numerous actions against German convoys. Although it had a role after the war in developing new designs of Fast Patrol Boats, the base closed in 1957. The site is currently in use as a Joint Service Adventurous Sail Training Centre.

Further research is required to assess the historic significance of the buildings that form the core of this base.

South east of the former HMS Hornet site rails run from near the Submarine Museum to the historic entrance to Haslar Hospital. These may date to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

Other features of interest are described in the section on historic buildings and features.

#### **Design Comment**

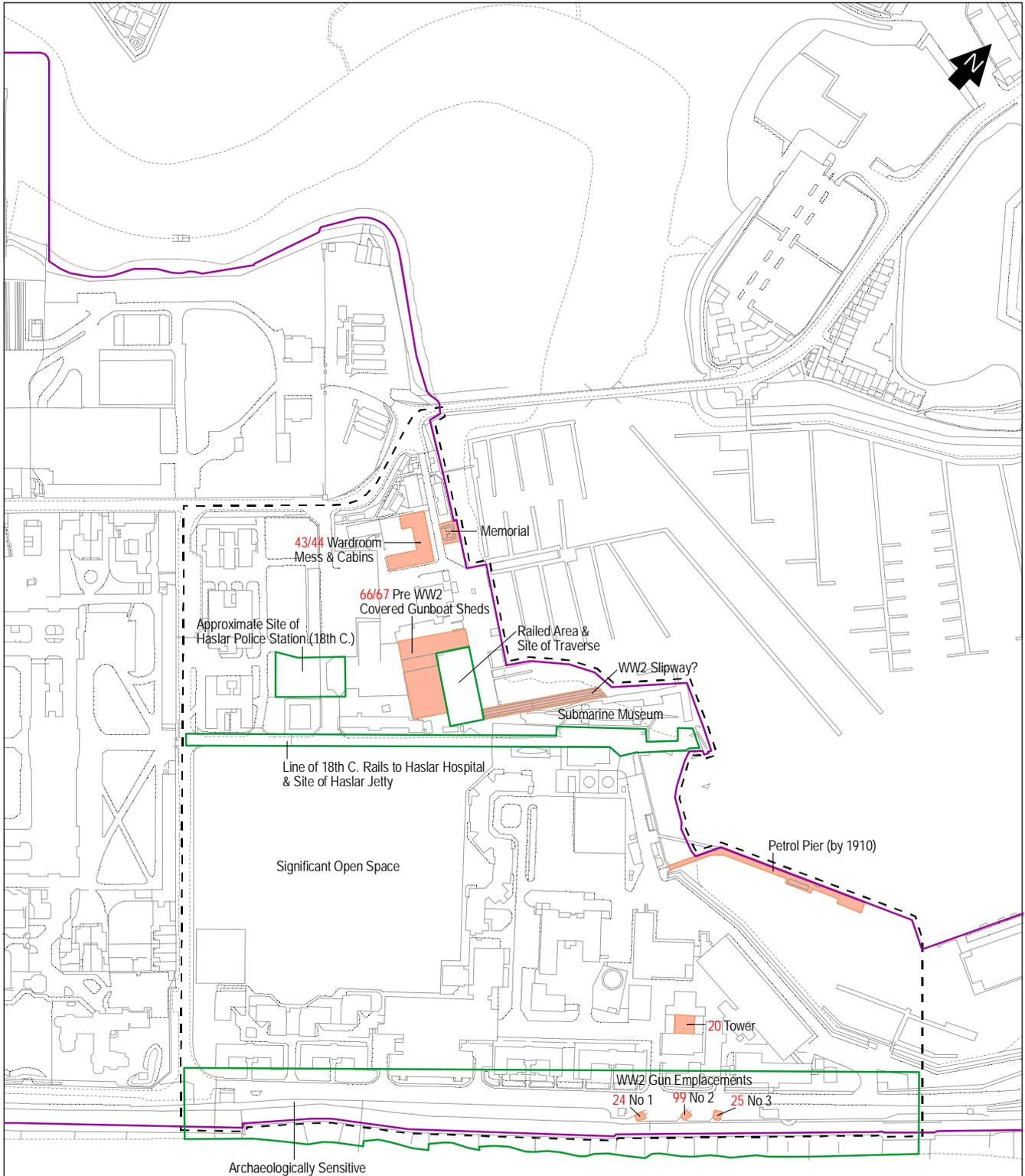
Particular care is needed in the vicinity of the former HMS Hornet site to preserve and enhance the historic interest of key buildings in that area. To its west any built development should aim to draw attention to the dominance and importance of the Hospital façade and therefore remain noticeably subservient in scale and simple in form.

Opportunities should be taken to improve views to the hospital and draw attention to the historic entrance to the hospital grounds. Similarly the line of the historic rails and the avenue of trees adjacent to it should be protected and enhanced.

In terms of the open landscape, a significant part of the area is dominated by the Recreation Ground. Framed in part by avenues of trees these fields also serve as grazing for migratory Brent Geese.

The row of trees to the south, running parallel to the boundary to the hospital, forms an important backdrop to this open space. The open space itself ensures that views to the main façade are protected over a broad area. This area has always remained undeveloped.

To its south and east whilst the buildings, with some exceptions, are of little individual merit the general layout preserves the formality evident across the Conservation Area.



### AREA 3

## Former HMS Hornet Site & Blockhouse 2

- Boundary of Area 3
- Conservation Area
- Building of Historic Interest
- Archaeological Site of Interest

The Submarine Museum is located within this area immediately north east of the former HMS Hornet site. This is an entirely appropriate use for this site continuing the important legacy of submarine links to the area. The development in this area associated with the Museum has a neutral impact on the wider Conservation Area setting.

### **Buildings and features of historic or architectural interest**

Numbered Buildings:

- **43 & 44. Wardroom, Mess and Cabins.** Built in WW2 for Coastal Forces (HMS Hornet), this building is therefore of particular historic significance.
- **66 & 67. Gunboat Sheds.** Built between the Wars. Although heavily altered this building is a reminder of the association of the site with Coastal Forces. To the immediate east of the building was the site of the traverse and some of the original rails are still visible.
- **24.** WW2 Gun Emplacement No.1. Historic interest.
- **25.** WW2 Gun Emplacement No.3. Historic interest.
- **99.** WW2 Gun Emplacement No.2. Historic interest.
- **20. S.E.T.T. Submarine Training Tower.** 1950s. Major landmark on the Haslar Peninsula.

Miscellaneous features (unnumbered):

- **Line of 18<sup>th</sup> Century Rails to Haslar Hospital.** Patients destined for Haslar Hospital were offloaded at a jetty that has long disappeared but was within the area now occupied by the Submarine Museum. From the jetty they were then transported on railed wagons to the Hospital. The rails can still be seen for parts of the

route and this site is therefore of notable historic and archaeological significance.

- **WW2 Slipway.** This slipway appears to have been constructed when the site was in use by Coastal Forces. Of historic interest.
- **Memorial.** The Memorial to Coastal Forces is of historic significance. It was constructed in the 1950s.
- **Site of Haslar 18<sup>th</sup> Century Police Station.** A small brick built building covered the approach to Haslar Hospital and would have had a military guard. The site of this structure is of archaeological interest.
- **Petrol Pier.** Constructed by 1910 this pier forms part of the original submarine base of the pre-WW1 era. Historic interest.
- **Archaeologically Sensitive Area at SW corner of Blockhouse 2.** This area formed part of the original Causeway to Fort Blockhouse. It is said to contain ordnance in the form of old cannon that was used to reinforce it against the erosive effects of the sea at some point in the past. Although no excavation has been carried out to verify whether this is the case, sensitivity will be required to ensure due regard is given to any possible surviving features.

### **AREA 4. The Victorian Gunboat Yard (Blockhouse 3)**

#### **Historic Background**

Haslar Gunboat Yard originated at the time of the Crimean War when a site was required to help maintain the vast gunboat fleet being developed by the Victorian Navy.

Works commenced in 1856 and 20 covered sheds were completed in



# AREA 4

## Victorian Gunboat Yard

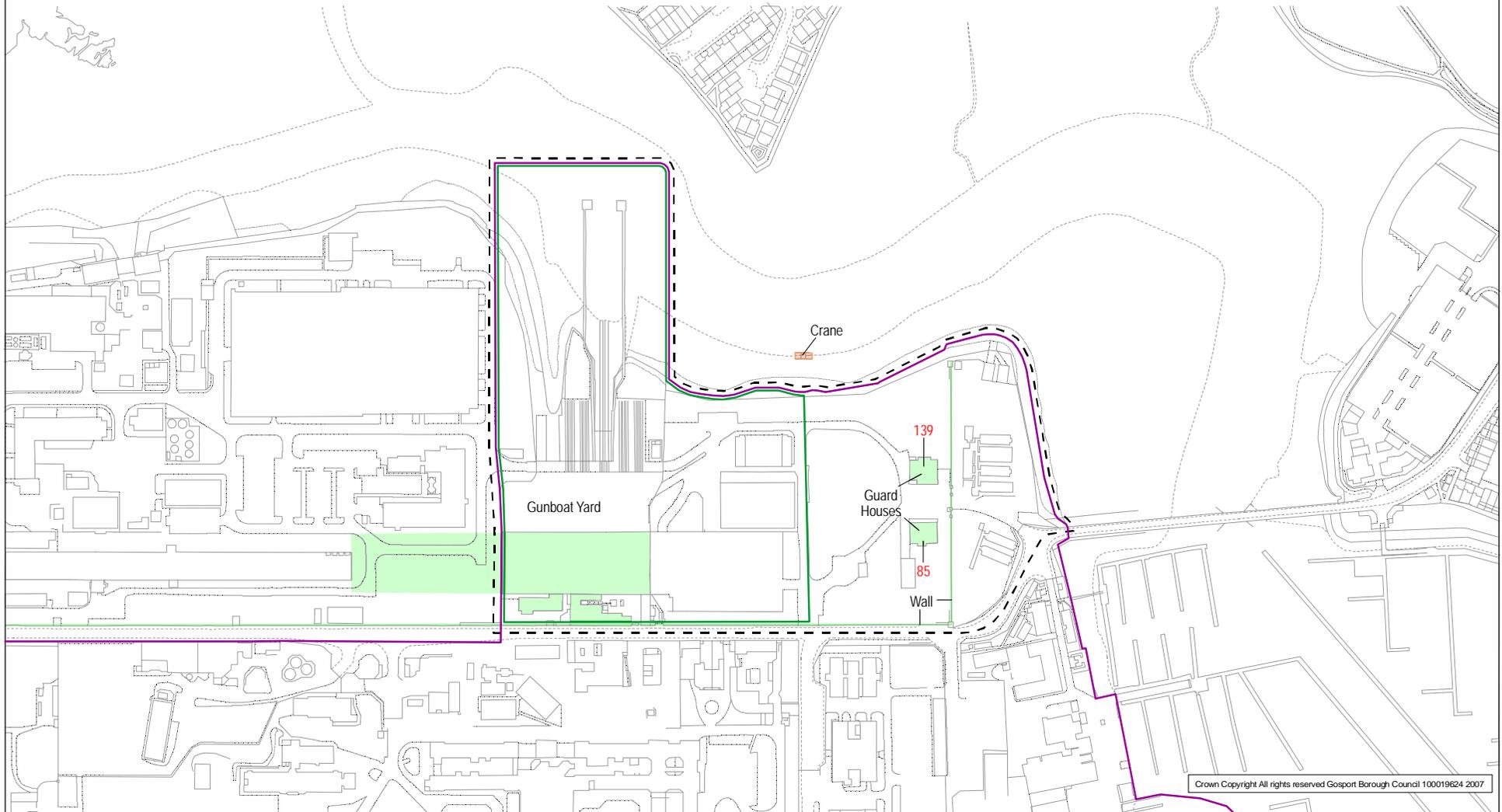
 Boundary of Area 4

 Conservation Area

 Scheduled Ancient Monument

 Building of Historic Interest

 Archaeological Site of Interest



1857. By 1859 about 50 gunboats were being dealt with on the site. The surviving sheds are a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Of equal interest is the archaeological potential of the wider site as ships were hauled up from Haslar Creek by a steam driven wheeled platform called a 'Traverser': capable of moving up to 160 tons.

This system was designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

The site served through both wars when it was used to repair torpedo and patrol boats. It closed in 1978 and the buildings now sit in the Qinetiq site, although the remains of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's 'Traverser' and associated fixtures span both sites.

### Design Comments

The Gunboat Sheds are a significant landmark feature visible from some distance to their north and forming an attractive backdrop to Haslar Creek.

There is a rigid geometry to the buildings on the site, which is framed by the historic boundary wall to the area. This geometry should be retained and enhanced.

Due to the lack of detailed research on the site, its status as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and the association with Isambard Kingdom Brunel, further research into the historic, archaeological and architectural significance of the site is required to assist in an understanding of its importance. A number of the buildings have been deteriorating for some years and their repair and restoration would be a priority.

### Buildings and features of historic or architectural interest

Numbered Buildings.

- **85.** One of two matching buildings close to the entrance to the Victorian Gunboat Yard

and part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument. Further research is required to fully understand the role and purpose of this building.

- **139.** The second of a matching pair of buildings close to the entrance to the Victorian Gunboat Yard and part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument. Further research is required to fully understand the role and purpose of this building.

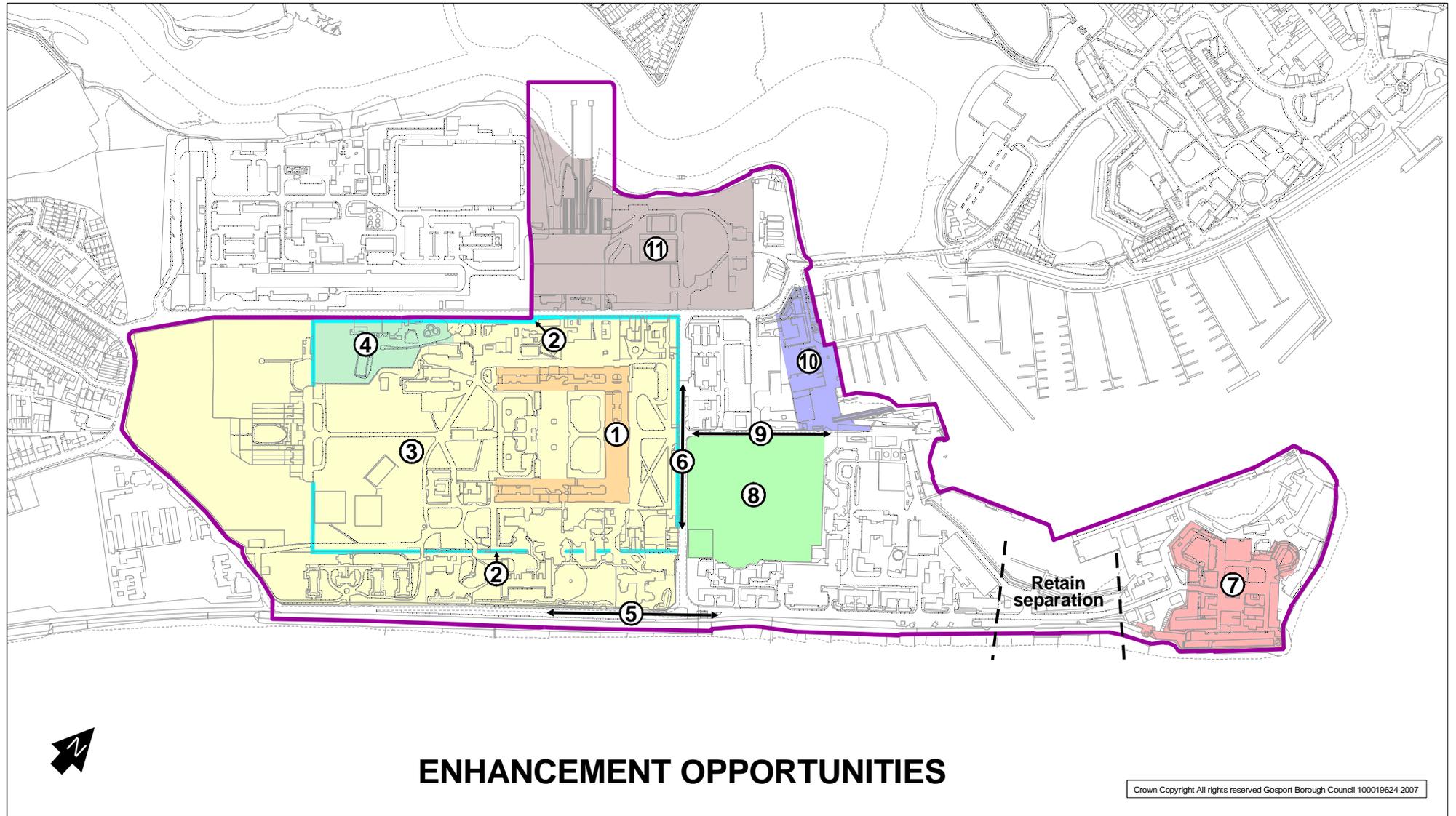
Miscellaneous features (unnumbered)

- **Boundary Wall.** Part of the Ancient Monument this Boundary Wall enclosed the Victorian Gunboat Yard.
- **Crane.** Clearly part of the Victorian Gunboat Yard this crane is of historic and archaeological significance.
- **Archaeologically Sensitive Area of Gunboat Yard.** The Victorian Gunboat Yard requires significantly more research to fully understand and appreciate its historic and archaeological significance. On the ground it is evident that there are many surviving features that merit further research.

### Summary of Enhancement Opportunities

Whilst some key design issues have been addressed in the four sections above, to assist with an understanding of the characteristics of the site as a whole enhancement opportunities to preserve and enhance the character of the Conservation Area are summarised below and illustrated on the accompanying plan.

1. Retain and reinforce the dominance of Haslar Hospital by protecting views to it and ensuring the scale of other buildings are kept distinctly



# ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

subservient in scale. Sight lines around the building should also remain uninterrupted by keeping the adjacent roadways clear of development.

2. Reinforce and protect the historic boundary to the site and look to improve areas where this has been partially eroded (particularly on the Boundary to Haslar Road and at the south east corner of the site).
3. Protect and enhance the historic landscape of the hospital.
4. Improve the poor layout of the site around the public car park area and seek opportunities to restore a sense of its presence within the Historic Park.
5. Retain sightlines along the seafront all the way to Fort Blockhouse and retain the simple rhythmic geometry in the layout of buildings across Blockhouse 2.
6. Retain separation between Haslar Hospital and Blockhouse by keeping the clear break between the sites. This is indicated on the ground by the road along the northern boundary of Haslar.
7. Reinforce the prominence of Fort Blockhouse, enhance views to the Fort, retain a clear break between Blockhouse and the land to the southwest, and reinforce the geometric layout of the historic buildings on the site.
8. Preserve and enhance the open space and avenues of trees close to the Recreation Ground.
9. Protect the rail link running from the Submarine Museum site to Haslar and highlight its visual prominence and historic significance.
10. Protect the historic core of the former HMS Hornet site.
11. Retain a sense of enclosure of the Victorian Gunboat Yard,

protect views to the Gunboat Sheds, and preserve and enhance the rigid layout of the site.

### **Planning Policy and Development Control**

The designation of a Conservation Area places certain requirements on any applicant to submit detailed information to the Local Planning Authority in support of planning applications in, or in appropriate cases near to, the area. In most cases there will therefore be the requirement to submit full proposals rather than just outline details for development schemes.

Additionally applications within a Conservation Area will require a supporting Design and Access Statement. This short report would need to explain how the layout, scale and appearance of a proposal preserves or enhances the character of the area. Internal and external access to a proposed development would need to have special regard to highway concerns, access for the emergency services and the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. An access statement addressing these, and related issues, would therefore be required. Further information can be found regarding Design and Access Statements on the Gosport Borough Council website: [www.gosport.gov.uk](http://www.gosport.gov.uk).

Conservation Area Consent will be required where it is proposed to demolish a building. An application for demolition should be accompanied by detailed proposals for a replacement building.

Six weeks written notice of the intention to carry out any works to a tree, not already covered by a Tree Preservation Order, is also a planning requirement.

The Adopted Gosport Borough Local Plan Review May 2006 (from here referred to as the GBLP) provides clear policy guidance on the issues that need to be considered when submitting an application in a Conservation Area.

Before making an application you are advised to check that your proposal conforms to the relevant planning policies contained within the GBLP. Copies of this document are available from the Planning Policy Section or can be viewed at the Development Services Reception at Gosport Town Hall, in public libraries, or on the Gosport Borough Council website.

The Borough Council has also provided guidance on the implications of owning a Listed Building, living in a Conservation Area, and designing or repairing shopfronts. Further advice is available from English Heritage and through Government Planning Policy guidance: in particular Planning Policy Guidance notes 15 (Planning and the Historic Environment) and 16 (Archaeology and Planning).

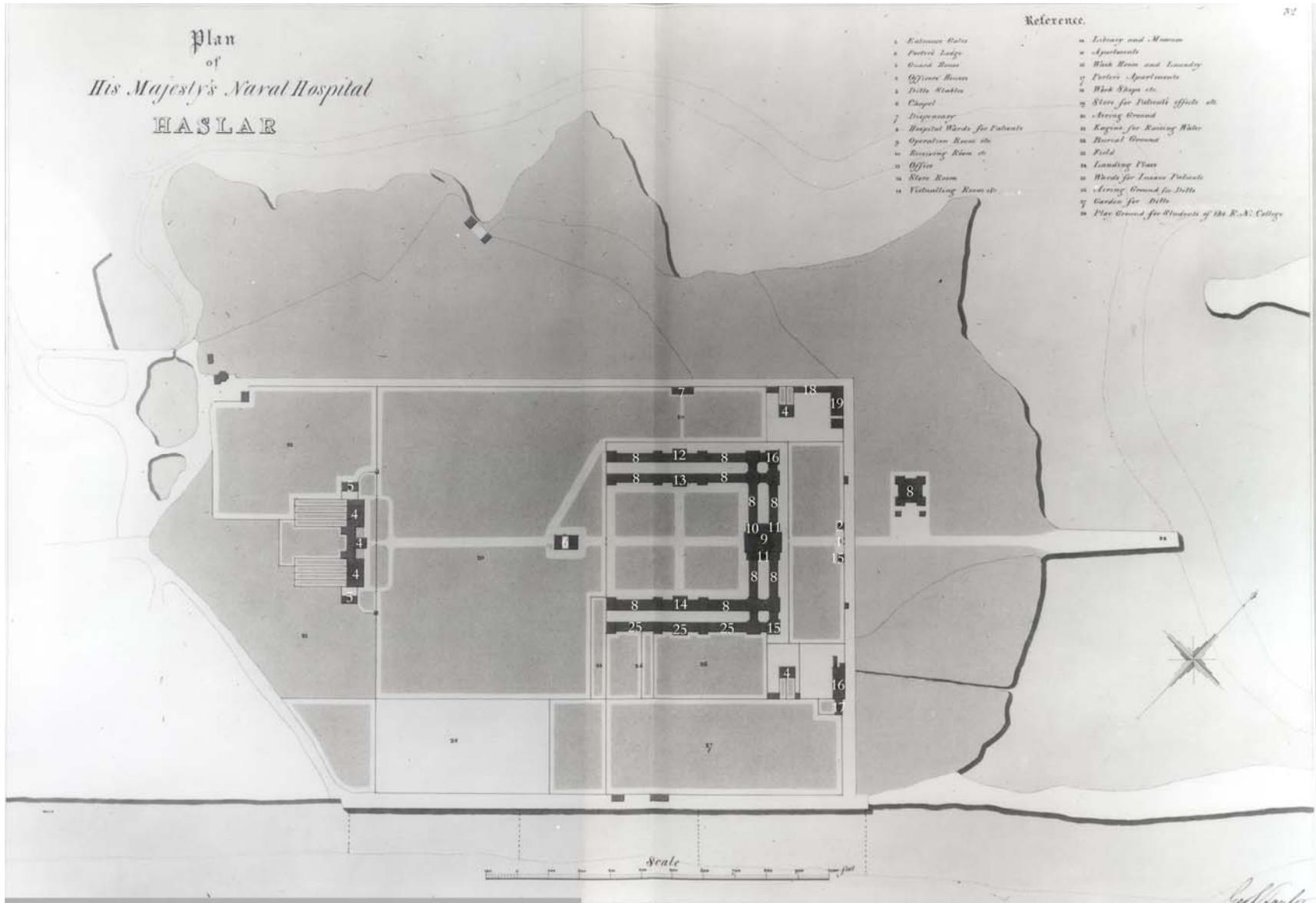
### **Further information or advice**

The Conservation and Design section of Gosport Borough Council can provide further information or advice regarding the built heritage of the Borough, in particular with regard to the following:

- Listed Buildings.
- Conservation Areas.
- Historic Buildings Grant.
- Buildings of Local Interest (The Local List).
- Conservation Planning Policy.
- Design issues affecting heritage sites.

Issues of planning policy and relating to planning applications can be discussed with the Planning Policy Unit or Development Control respectively.

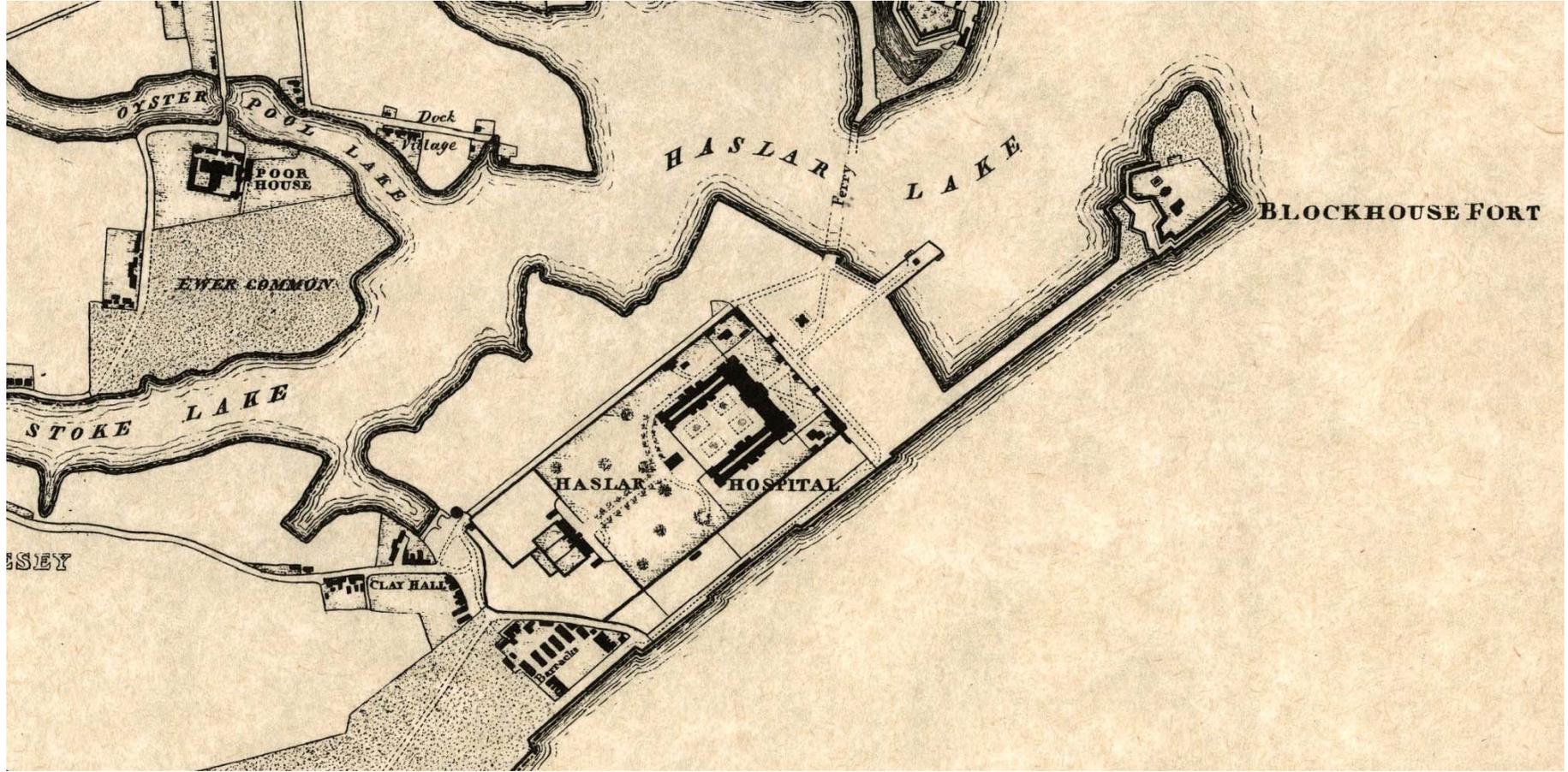
Plan  
of  
*His Majesty's Naval Hospital*  
**HASLAR**



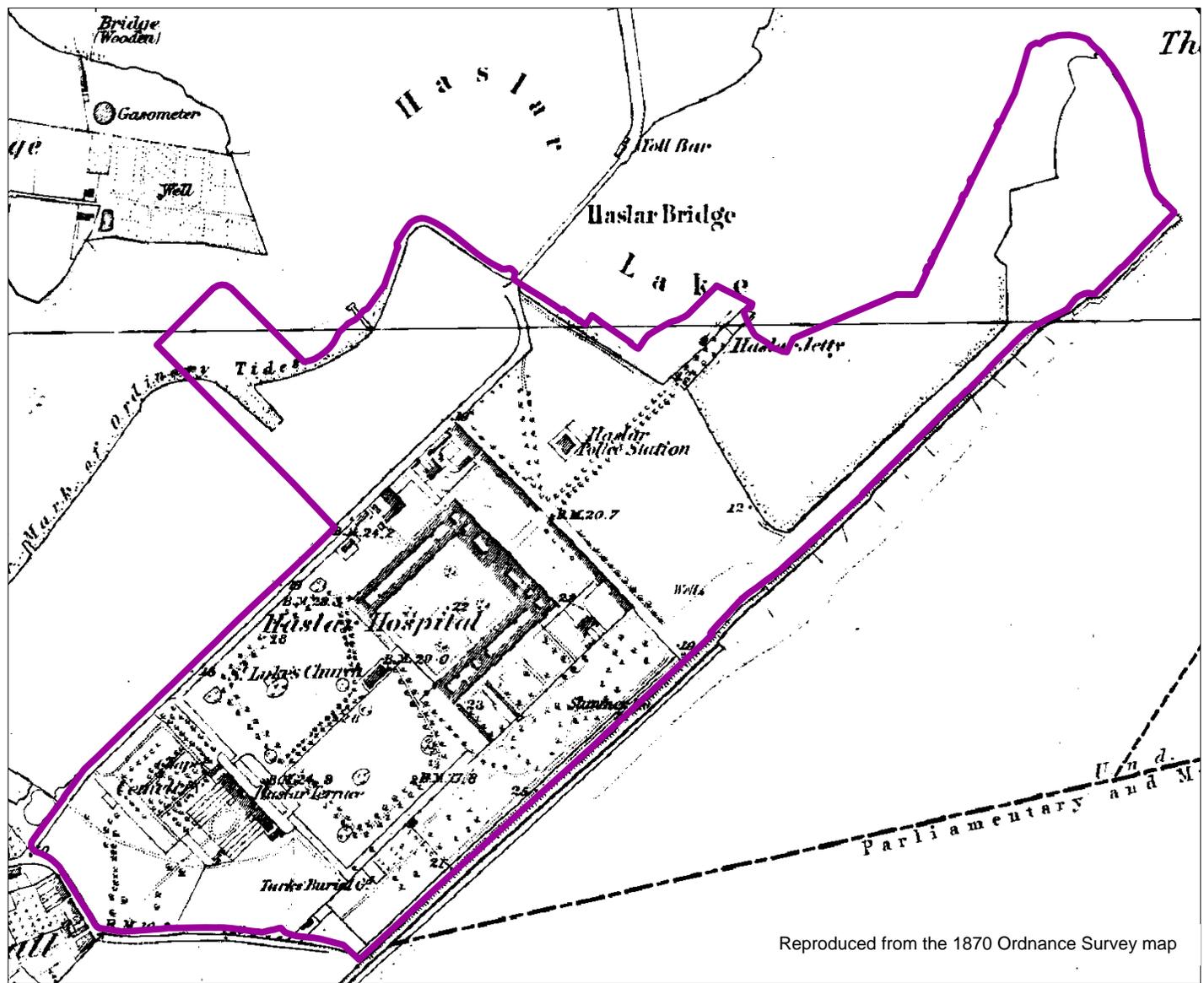
Reference.

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 Entrance Gate               | 11 Library and Museum                           |
| 2 Portico Lodge               | 12 Apartments                                   |
| 3 Guard House                 | 13 Wash Room and Laundry                        |
| 4 Officers Mess               | 14 Porter Apartments                            |
| 5 Ditch Wall                  | 15 Wash Shops etc.                              |
| 6 Chapel                      | 16 Store for Patients' effects etc.             |
| 7 Dispensary                  | 17 Store Ground                                 |
| 8 Hospital Wards for Patients | 18 Kitchens for Raising Water                   |
| 9 Operation Room etc.         | 19 Hospital Ground                              |
| 10 Dressing Room etc.         | 20 Field  |
| 11 Office                     | 21 Landing Place                                |
| 12 Store Room                 | 22 Wards for Lunatic Patients                   |
| 13 Vestibule Room etc.        | 23 Store Ground for Ditch                       |
|                               | 24 Garden for Ditch                             |
|                               | 25 Play Ground for Students of the R.N. College |

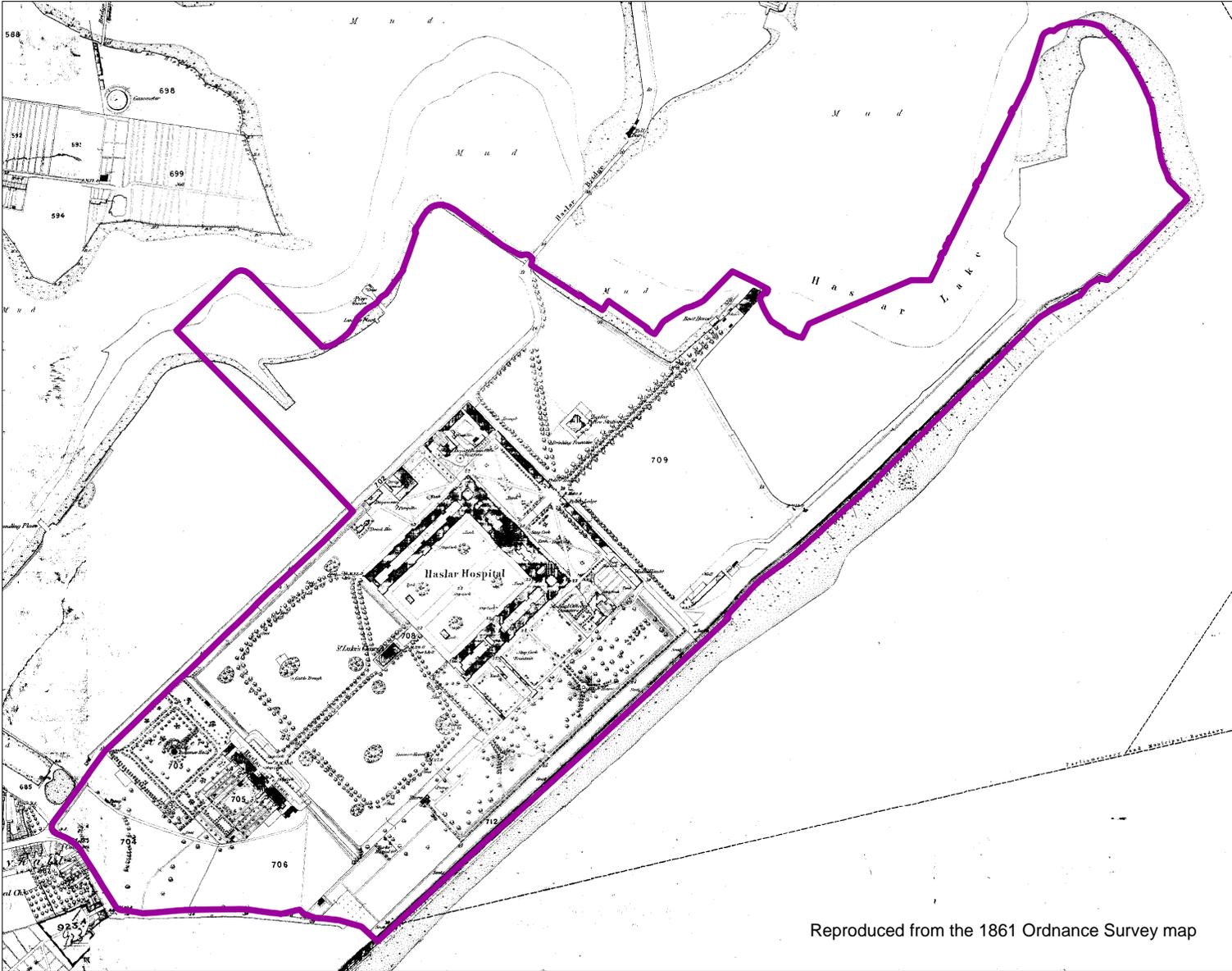
Haslar Taylor's Plan of 1831



Lewis Plan of 1832



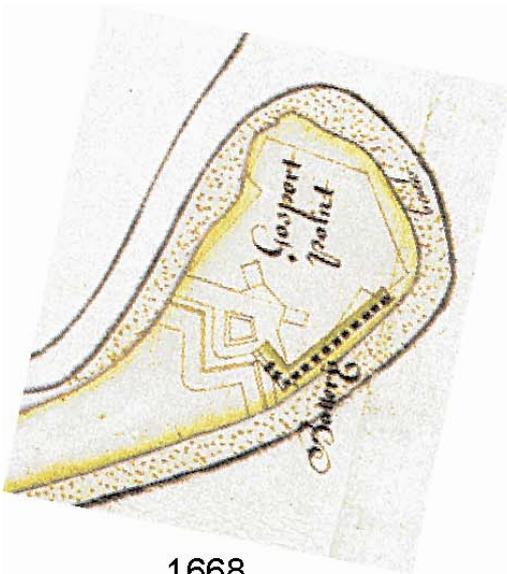
O.S. Plan of 1856 (published 1870)



Reproduced from the 1861 Ordnance Survey map

O.S. Plan of 1861 (revised 1873-4)

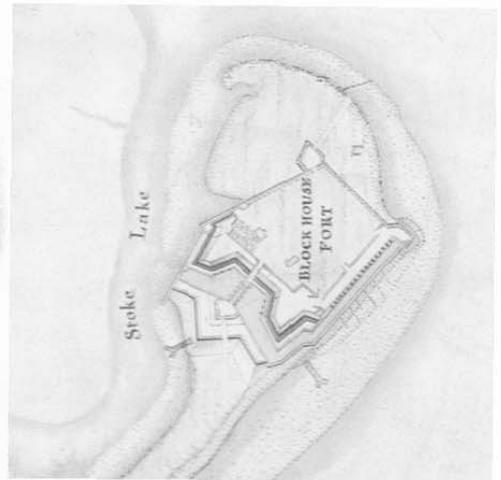




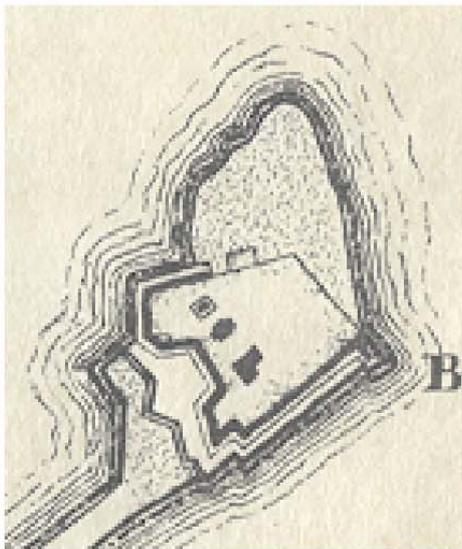
1668



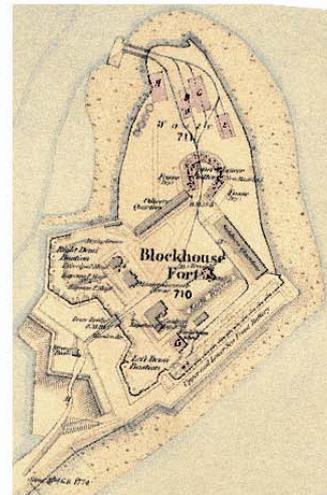
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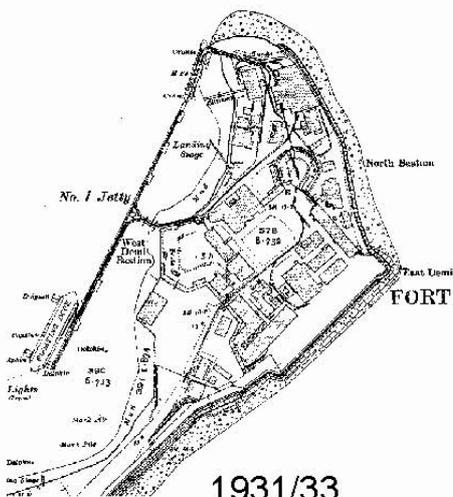
1744



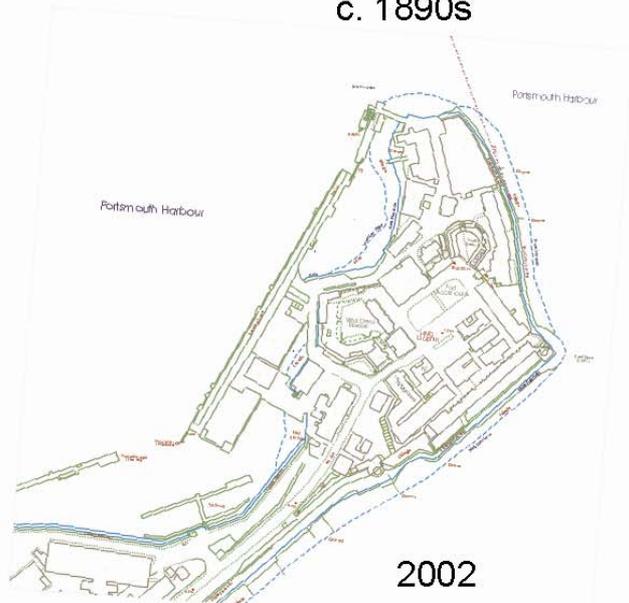
1832



c. 1890s



1931/33



2002

The development of Fort Blockhouse from historic plans