

Western Heights Combined Heritage and Landscape Appraisal

Volume 3



Vegetation Action Plans

Dover District Council

Western Heights

Combined Heritage and Landscape Appraisal

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Western Heights Combined Heritage and Landscape Appraisal

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1: Citadel & Western Outworks

Overview of character area

- Situated on the high point of the Western Heights
- Command extensive views in all directions
- Character area is broadly flat
- Citadel surrounded by maintained Lines and extensively developed
- North-West Bastion to the north of the area
- Lines around Western Outworks are either infilled or overgrown
- Central part of Western Outworks is maintained grass
- Low buildings to the west of Western Outworks
- Western Outworks surrounded by a high security fence
- Southernmost part of the Western Outworks and North-West Bastion are only un-maintained areas

Heritage

- Citadel has its origins in the 1780s
- Remodelled in 1804 when Lines were revetted and casemated barracks added
- Western Outworks added in the 1850s with revetted lines with casemated gun rooms
- Listed Officers' Quarters buildings added to Citadel in 1860s
- During both World Wars modifications made in order to use for coastal defence and troop accommodation
- Citadel and Western Outworks transferred to Prison Commissioners in 1950's
- Became an immigration detention centre in 2002
- Construction of new buildings and erection of security fencing and cameras

Landscape & Visual

- Location on highest point of the site ensures that the Citadel is prominent in views from the surrounding area
- Modern internal buildings and perimeter fence around Western Outworks are the most notable features in views
- Prominent in views from high ground to the west and north
- Less visible in views from lower ground and from the east, including from Dover Castle
- Screening created by mature trees in Fortress Interior
- Topography screens views from east
- Officers' Quarters are prominent from the harbour area
- Lines surrounding the area are only apparent from a short distance

Significant views

- Military function dictates that significant views of, from and within, relate to observation, fields of fire, camouflage and intimidation
- Views from south-west and harbour represent how area would appear to an attacking force
- Views towards south-west and harbour demonstrate observational qualities
- Officer's Quarters provide commanding views over harbour and is a prominent feature in views from the coast
- Citadel was an independent fort with 360° field of fire, oversailing Western Outworks
- Views from its terre-plein in all directions and of Fortress Interior of particular importance
- Within Lines around Citadel and Western Outworks casemated gun rooms provided flanking fire

Summary description of views

Heritage views:

- Wide view from harbour placing the monument in the context of the castle, topography, town, and White Cliffs
- Officer's Quarters prominent in key view
- Modern Citadel buildings visible in views from south-west, Lines are not
- Buildings in Western Outworks obscure views west from the Citadel
- Modern housing in Fortress Interior obscure views east from Citadel
- Glimpsed views from Drop Redoubt towards character area features modern Citadel buildings

Landscape views:

- Character area set back from crest of spur on which Western Heights are situated
- Visibility restricted from urban Dover
- Occupies a commanding and visually prominent position from high ground and from sea

Role of vegetation in views

- Trees in Fortress Interior filter views of Citadel from Dover Castle
- Views across Fortress Interior to Drop Redoubt screened by vegetation
- Scrub and trees on Defensive Slopes mask prominence of site in views from north, from North Centre Bastion and harbour
- Scrub and trees obscure views along Defensive Slopes from Citadel and its North-West Bastion
- From the ridge to west scrub vegetation heavily filters views of character area
- Site designed to lack prominence in these views, modern Citadel buildings are visible
- Grassland in South Front Battery enhances views to and from Officers' Quarters building
- Lines around Citadel well maintained
- Lines around Western Outworks infilled and overgrown



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Vegetation Action Plan Area 1: Citadel & Western Outworks

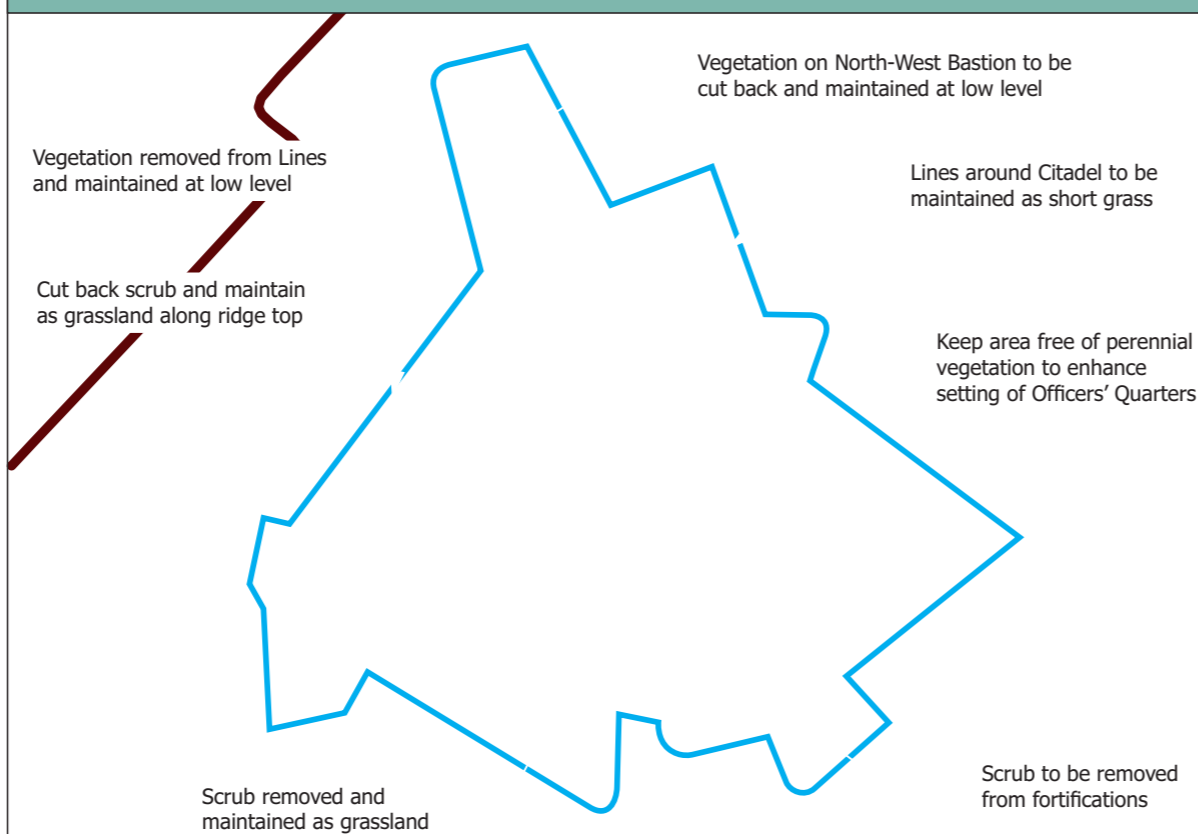
Location map



Significant view images



Vegetation action plan



Vegetation management actions

The central part of the character area, including the interior of the Citadel, the Lines surrounding it and the interior of the Western Outworks, are predominately free of significant vegetation.

Vegetation that does exist is well maintained by the site owners. Management of these areas should continue in a similar manner.

The periphery of the area does not currently receive any maintenance, notably the Lines to the north and south of the Western Outworks, and has become overgrown, action is required to clear these features to increase the visibility of the site to allow its context to be read in within the surrounding landscape.

The proposed vegetation management actions are to:

- Maintain as short grass the Lines around the Citadel and the open space within the Western Outworks;

- Remove scrub from the Western Outworks and maintain the area as rough grass free of perennial or woody vegetation;
- Clear vegetation from the Lines to the north-west and south-west of the Western Outworks and then to maintain them free of woody and perennial vegetation;
- Remove scrub vegetation from the south-west of the Western Outworks to assist in increasing the visibility of the site from the south and the west. Area to be maintained as chalk grassland;
- Maintain site of South Front Battery as grassland to enhance the setting of the Officers' Quarters building.

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2: Drop Redoubt

Overview of character area

- Drop Redoubt occupies high point on end of high spur to south-west of Dover
- Fortification is approximately pentagon shaped and surrounded by deep lines which separate it from its surroundings
- Site forms a prominent feature on the skyline from central Dover and from the harbour area
- Seen in more distant views from Dover Castle and Fort Burgoyne
- Around fort land drops steeply to the north-west, north-east and south-east
- Woodland and scrub covers spur to south-west
- Centre of fortification is open and contains ruined structures and buildings associated with its use

Heritage

- Formerly occupied by a Roman Pharos
- Drop Redoubt has its origins in the 1780s
- Remodelled in 1804 to pentagonal form with revetted Lines and casemated barracks
- Two-storey caponiers added to the corners in 1850-60s to protect the Lines
- Remains of the Pharos uncovered and re-erected on the terre-plein in 1850s
- Defences extended west with a battery on the North Lines in 1893, battery had a planted screen bank on its south side
- Battery out of use by 1902
- Drop Redoubt used to house troops during both World Wars
- Ownership passed to English Heritage in 1968, parts now open to the public

Landscape & Visual

- Lofty location on end of steep sided spur ensures Drop Redoubt is a prominent feature on skyline in background of many views from within central Dover and from around harbour area
- Direct line of sight across Dour Valley to Dover Castle, from which is easily identifiable
- North-East Lines to south-east side of fort provide a channelled view directly towards harbour
- Citadel just visible to the south-west at opposite end of Western Heights, though mostly screened by woodland and trees
- Site visible from high ground around Dover to north and east and from Channel
- Not visible from south-west where topography screens character area

Significant views

- Military function dictates that significant views of, from and within it relate to observation, fields of fire, camouflage and intimidation
- Views from north-east and harbour represent how site would appear to an attacking force
- Views towards north-east and harbour demonstrate its observational qualities
- Views towards and from Dover Castle and Fort Burgoyne important to setting of all three
- Drop Redoubt was an independent fort with a 360° field of fire, but southern side had no guns
- Views from terre-plein in all directions and over Fortress Interior of particular importance
- Within Lines around the Redoubt the two-storey caponiers provided flanking fire

Summary description of views

Heritage views:

- Wide view from harbour placing site in context of castle, topography, town and White Cliffs
- Drop Redoubt prominent in this key view
- Redoubt only feature of Western Heights in views from town centre
- Prominent in views from Dover Castle
- Views towards Fortress Interior screened by woodland and buildings
- Lines around Drop Redoubt are well-managed and showcase military purpose of the caponiers

Landscape views:

- Located in visually prominent position overlooking Dover and the harbour
- Forms a notable backdrop in views from town centre and Dover Castle
- Seen from conservation areas, national trails, national cycle routes and from Kent Downs AONB.

Role of vegetation in views

- Vegetation in character area currently maintained as short cut grass in Lines and rough grassland within fort
- Vegetation provides an attractive mix of structure and nature
- Along wall tops sporadic taller vegetation obstructs clear views of surrounding area
- Defensive Slopes around Redoubt are key part of its defences and its interpretation as a landscape-scale fortification
- Defensive Slopes surrounding the Redoubt covered in grassland with scattered trees and scrub
- Vegetation on Defensive Slopes reduces prominence of site within views
- Woodland to west represents overgrown planted screen bank, obscures views across Fortress Interior and screens the Redoubt's field of fire
- Woodland also screens views of modern buildings within Fortress Interior



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Vegetation Action Plan Area 2: Drop Redoubt

Location map



Significant view images

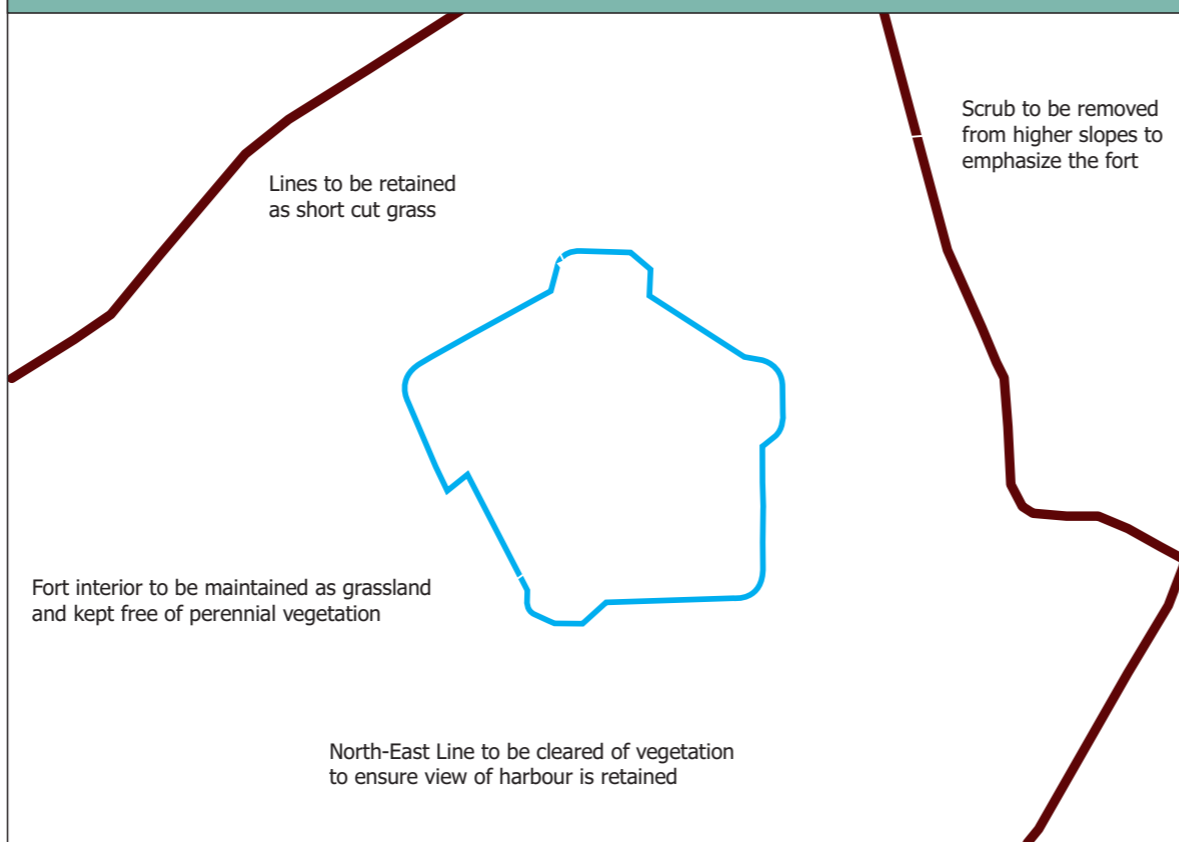


View from Dover Castle towards Western Heights



View towards Dover Castle from Drop Redoubt

Vegetation action plan



Vegetation management actions

Drop Redoubt currently benefits from regular maintenance and forms a window as to what the entire fortifications would look like with similar upkeep. The Lines surrounding the fort are well kept with short grass while the interior consists of rough grassland and is kept free of perennial and woody vegetation, although ivy appears on some of the outer walls of the Lines.

The management actions are very much to maintain the status-quo in these areas. Around the fort the chalk grassland to the north and east is becoming colonised by scrub vegetation and young trees. The proposed vegetation management actions are to:

- Continue with the regular maintenance of the fort interior, ensuring that it remains clear of woody and perennial vegetation;
- Maintain the Lines around the fort in a similar manner to the existing maintenance regime, ensuring close cut grass and that the walls are kept predominately free of ivy;

- Ensure that the chalk grassland to the north and east of the character area has scrub vegetation and small trees removed in order to increase the presence of the site in views. The dense scrub to the south-east would also benefit from being removed;
- Clear vegetation in the North-East Line to ensure that the visual connection between the fort and the harbour is maintained; and
- Selectively clear woodland to south-west of the Redoubt to open out views westwards and increase the prominence of the Redoubt in views from the harbour. Care should be taken to retain the planted screen bank at the North Lines battery and to maintain the screening function of the woodland with regards to views of modern housing within the site from the Redoubt and harbour.

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3: Lines & Detached Bastion

Overview of character area

- Lines originally surrounded the fortifications on Western Heights and connected the forts at either end
- Natural topography taken advantage of to south to use and form embankments
- To north a deep channel was created along the ridge side
- South Lines have mostly been removed
- North Lines and Detached Bastion are structurally intact but heavily overgrown
- Lines create a long and narrow character area removed from immediate context
- Creates an isolated and enclosed character that is emphasised by presence of gun emplacements in the of the Lines
- Detached Bastion is difficult to access and is overgrown

Heritage

- Lines added to fortress after 1804
- North Lines include revetted Line, circuitous North Entrance and North Centre Bastion
- South Lines exploit cliff-edge augmented by Lines from south-east of Citadel and t North-East Line, from south-east of Drop Redoubt
- North Centre Bastion provided flanking fire along northern slope and casemates provided flanking fire within Lines
- North Centre Bastion and North Entrance modified in 1860s
- Further South Line added at new South Entrance in 1860s
- In 1968 ownership of North Lines passed to English Heritage, although public access limited

Landscape & Visual

- Defensive design of Lines ensures limited opportunities for external views
- Important views from gun emplacements within walls aligned for a clear view along the length of each Line
- Lines difficult to identify in external views although their location can be determined by the Defensive Slopes
- South Lines would have been prominent in views as for parts they took advantage of topography to form an embankment
- South Lines now mostly removed and the remaining are covered in vegetation or appear as a slope
- North-east Line is directly orientated towards the harbour from where views are available along it towards Drop Redoubt

Significant views

- Military function dictates significant views are focused on past fields of fire and appearance in approaches
- The Lines linear nature and scale provides understanding of the landscape-scale fortification and style of defences
- Views from harbour contain the South Lines
- Views from north and north-east showcase North Lines
- Views west, north and east from North Centre Bastion show observational qualities
- Views along Lines from casemated gun rooms also important

Summary description of views

Heritage views:

- All Lines and North Centre Bastion are overgrown detracting from the understanding of their defensive purpose
- South Lines are partly overgrown or infilled in key view from harbour area
- On north side vegetation on Defensive Slopes and in North Centre Bastion blurs views of the Lines from that direction
- Overgrown North-East Lines important in views from Dover and Waterloo Crescent and in view from area over harbour

Landscape views:

- Important visual connection along North-East Line towards harbour, traceable in views but filtered by adjacent vegetation
- Internal views directed along Lines although most of these are obscured by vegetation
- South Lines predominately screened by vegetation

Role of vegetation in views

- Vegetation is a major issue concerning the majority of Lines and North Centre / Detached Bastion
- Structures intact but are in danger of damage by vegetation establishing itself in the Lines or by ivy growing on the walls
- Vegetation screens views along Lines, particularly around Detached Bastion and North Entrance
- South Lines more publically accessible but equally obscured, particularly within area of woodland near former South Entrance
- South Lines adjoining Citadels tenaille have been infilled and appear as a slope covered in perennial vegetation
- Views towards North-East Line from Dover and Waterloo Crescent are important, but the overgrown Line partially screens view of gun ports on Drop Redoubt's caponier



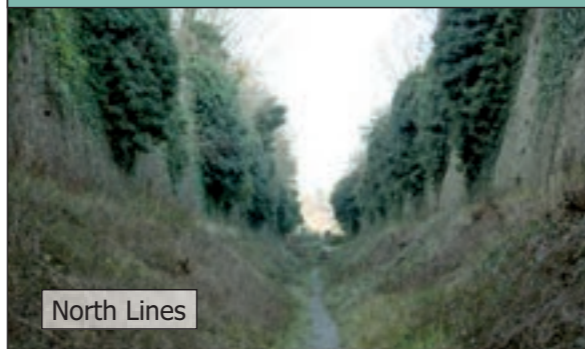
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Vegetation Action Plan Area 3: Lines & Detached Bastion

Location map



Significant view images



North Lines

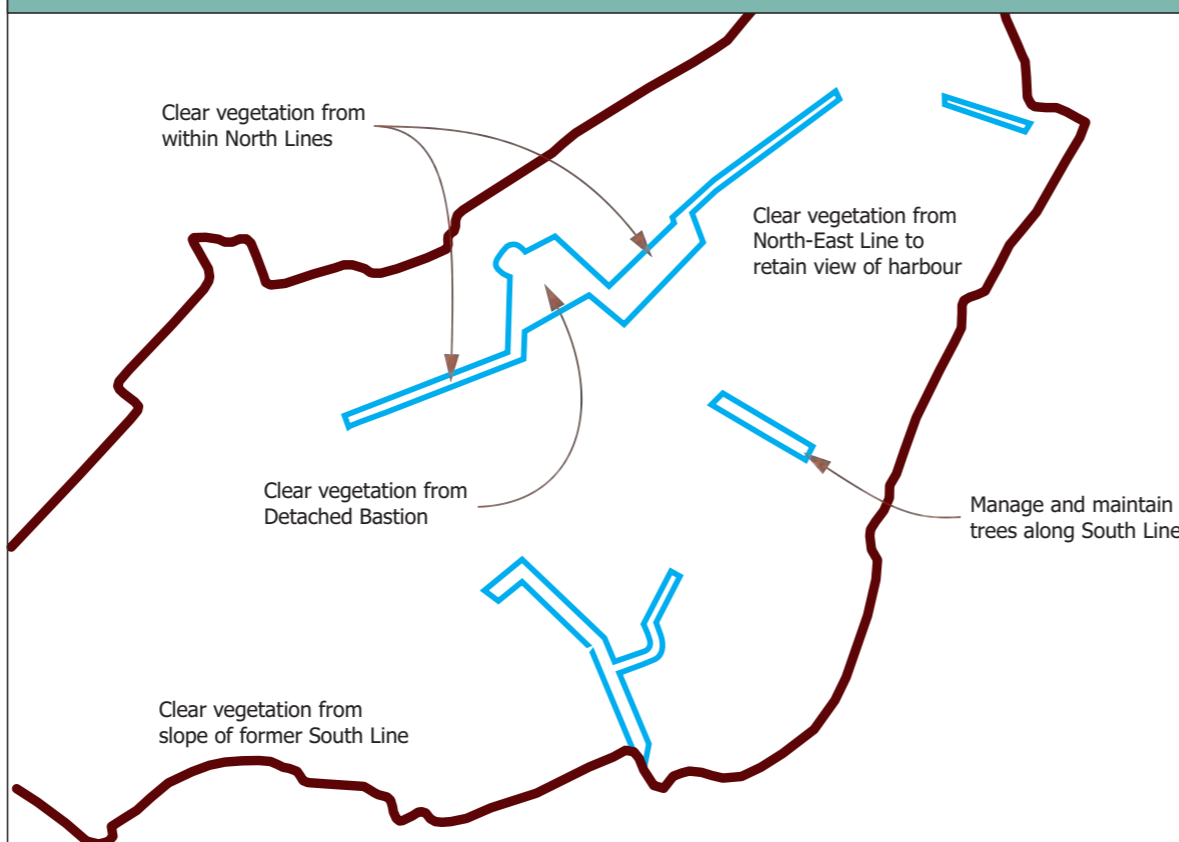


Drop Redoubt and Dover Castle from Detached Bastion



North-East Line from Waterloo Crescent

Vegetation action plan



Vegetation management actions

The primary concern for the Lines is that vegetation is becoming established both within them and on their walls, in many areas the vegetation is significant and has the ability to cause lasting damage to the structures. Clearing this vegetation will regain the original sightlines along the Lines and aid in understanding their designed purpose.

The Detached Bastion is currently a hidden and forgotten fort that would benefit from improved access and visibility around it in order to understand its defensive position. The proposed vegetation management action are to:

- Clear the Lines of the vegetation that has become established within them and maintain them free of woody and perennial vegetation, as is already being undertaken for the north-easternmost part of the North Lines;
- Ensure the view along the North-East Line is maintained free of obstructions to retain the view through it of the harbour;

- Clear vegetation off of the top of the Detached Bastion and maintain free of woody and perennial vegetation;
- Manage the woodland along the South Line adjacent to the former South Entrance to ensure that the walls are not damaged;
- Clear vegetation off of the site of the former South Lines in the south of the area and maintain as chalk grassland in order to aid their interpretation. Opportunities to recreate the sense of a linear feature through vegetation management in this location should be explored; and
- Clear vegetation from the northern slope and along the top of the North-East Line and slope to its west side to improve legibility of the artificial landform and Lines in key views from the north and from the harbour.

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4: Fortress Interior

Overview of character area

- Covers a large predominately flat area between North and South Lines
- Two main forts of Citadel and Drop Redoubt are at either end
- Originally kept free of vegetation and buildings to allow an unobscured sightline between Citadel and Drop Redoubt
- Area levelled to create three large platforms which still exist
- Higher and lower platforms contain modern housing and open space
- Area is predominately open and consists of maintained grass or rough grassland
- Trees on embankments between platforms and along boundary with North Lines

Heritage

- Fortress Interior enclosed in 1804
- Ridge graded to allow direct line of sight between Citadel and Drop Redoubt in 1850s-60s
- The forts were intended to be intervisible and the Fortress Interior was within their independent fields of fire
- Kept largely clear of permanent buildings except for Church and School north-west of Centre Road
- Used for parades
- Temporary hutments built during the World Wars
- Post-war pockets of housing constructed within the area

Landscape & Visual

- Area divided into three large platforms
- Level nature of character area and its location on top of ridgeline means that it is not visible from surrounding area
- Buildings and vegetation which stand higher form prominent features on skyline
- To south-east is an area of woodland which screens features on the lower part of area from Dover
- Buildings on higher part, to west, seen on skyline from much of urban Dover and from surrounding hills
- Central platform is short cut grass and used as a sport ground
- Central and lower platform surrounded by trees which screen them in external views
- Eastern and Western platforms used for housing with open spaces of cut grass

Significant views

- Fortress Interior intended to act as an open space
- Key views across open area from Citadel and Drop Redoubt
- Road network through the Fortress Interior forms separate character area, but is integral to how it was experienced by military personnel
- Visual relationship between Fortress Interior and Grand Shaft and South Front Barracks would have been important

Summary description of views

Heritage views:

- Clear line of sight across Fortress Interior no longer achievable due to buildings and vegetation
- Area of woodland to south-west of Drop Redoubt blocks views towards character area
- View east from Citadel is suburban in character and does not reflect the importance of the area as the interior of a significant fortress

Landscape views:

- Majority of area screened by either topography or by mature trees and woodland
- Upper platform more open where mature trees and residential buildings form skyline features in views towards the site
- Filtered external views available from the edges of central and upper platforms

Role of vegetation in views

- Periphery vegetation to north of character area along the side of the Lines screen the interior in views from northern Dover
- To north-east and east of character area dense boundary vegetation screens views both in and out of character area
- Western part is predominantly open, with occasional mature trees around housing the only notable vegetation visible in views towards area
- Majority of central part of area is maintained grassland
- Intervisibility between Citadel and Drop Redoubt is severely impaired by intervening buildings and vegetation
- This presents a challenge to improving the understanding, since removal of vegetation is likely only to open up views of detracting buildings



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Vegetation Action Plan Area 4: Fortress Interior

Location map



Significant view images



View north-east across Fortress Interior from Citadel

Vegetation action plan



Remove trees along North Lines that are not screening buildings

Retain trees to screen buildings

Clear slope of trees and scrub vegetation

Retain open grassland in centre of character area

Vegetation management actions

Vegetation around the periphery of the Fortress Interior forms prominent features in views towards the site, detracting from interpreting the site as a defensive fortification. Woodland also screens the view across the area designed to allow intervisibility between the Citadel and Drop Redoubt.

Although approximately two-thirds of the character area remains open, there is enough modern housing scattered across it, which is a notable visual detractor in views towards the site, to require that vegetation is retained in places to aid in screening the buildings. The proposed vegetation management actions are to:

- Remove trees along North Lines on the western and central platforms where they are not aiding in screening buildings to help to recreate the profile of the area in external views;
- Retain trees to the north of the lower platform to ensure that the housing area remains

- screened in external views towards the site;
- Remove trees and scrub on the embankment between the central and western platforms and maintained free of woody vegetation to allow the platforms to be interpreted; and
- Maintain areas of grassland in the centre of the character area in their current condition.

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5: Grand Shaft Barracks

Overview of character area

- Site of the former Grand Shaft Barracks being colonised by scrub and young trees, altering the character of the area
- Building platforms were retained following the demolition of the barracks
- Interpretation of platforms now becoming difficult due to the encroaching vegetation
- Character area is isolated from majority of Western Heights by topography and woodland
- Woodland covers slopes to north and west of area and creates a contained character
- North-East Lines and Drop Redoubt are screened by vegetation
- Grand Shaft Staircase lies in the south-east of the area although its prominence and purpose are degraded by vegetation

Heritage

- Barracks constructed in c. 1804 to house troops
- Siting allowed 360° fields of fire of Drop Redoubt and Citadel to be maintained and left the Fortress Interior free of permanent buildings
- Construction involved terracing the slope
- Barracks commanded views out to and from the sea
- Grand Shaft Staircase provided access to and from the barracks and the seafront via a triple staircase
- Modifications made to barracks throughout the life of the fortress, eventually demolished in the 1960s
- Staircase survives, now a listed building

Landscape & Visual

- Woodland and topography screen the site from the majority of Western Heights
- Only visual connections remaining are of Grand Shaft staircase and towards Drop Redoubt from northern boundary of area
- Vegetation clearance around entrance to Drop Redoubt allows the two sites to be visually connected
- Woody vegetation screens the view beyond Drop redoubt Road to the Grand Shaft Barracks
- Site is oriented to south-east towards Dover Harbour
- Views to harbour are filtered by vegetation within site and along site boundary on top of the escarpment above Snaregate Street
- Vegetation also filters views towards site that are available from harbour area

Significant views

- Loss of barracks buildings means that several significant views are no longer extant, e.g. views from buildings out to sea and views of the barracks from the harbour
- Visual and functional relationship between the barracks and Fortress Interior also lost
- Surviving features include Grand Shaft Staircase and terracing created for the barracks and parade ground
- Views across terraces and from top of Grand Shaft Staircase important to understanding the history of the site

Summary description of views

Heritage views:

- Wide view of site from harbour placing it in the context of the town, local topography, castle and White Cliffs
- Grand Shaft Barracks would have been a key feature of this view
- Vegetation gives the appearance of a natural coomb and dulling the understanding of the fortified hilltop
- View of Grand Shaft Staircase and across terraces are filtered by encroaching scrub

Landscape views:

- External views screened or heavily filtered
- Harbour area seen below in filtered views
- Woodland along western and northern boundary screen views of Fortress Interior
- A gap in vegetation at the entrance to Drop Redoubt allows a view towards it from Drop Redoubt Road
- Harbour area is the only place from which an external view of the site is available

Role of vegetation in views

- Establishing vegetation in the centre of site either screens or heavily filters views out of character area
- Vegetation aids in screening site in views available towards it from the harbour
- Woodland to north and west visually separates the site from the main features of Western Heights
- A maintained gap in this allows limited visual connectivity to Drop Redoubt
- Legibility of this part of the site is severely impaired by the loss of buildings and this is exacerbated by encroaching vegetation
- Area appears as waste ground and does not encourage investigation of Grand Shaft Staircase
- Elements of tree planting present along west side of barracks historically, framing the buildings and providing an attractive setting for residential part of fortifications



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Vegetation Action Plan Area 5: Grand Shaft Barracks

Location map



Significant view images

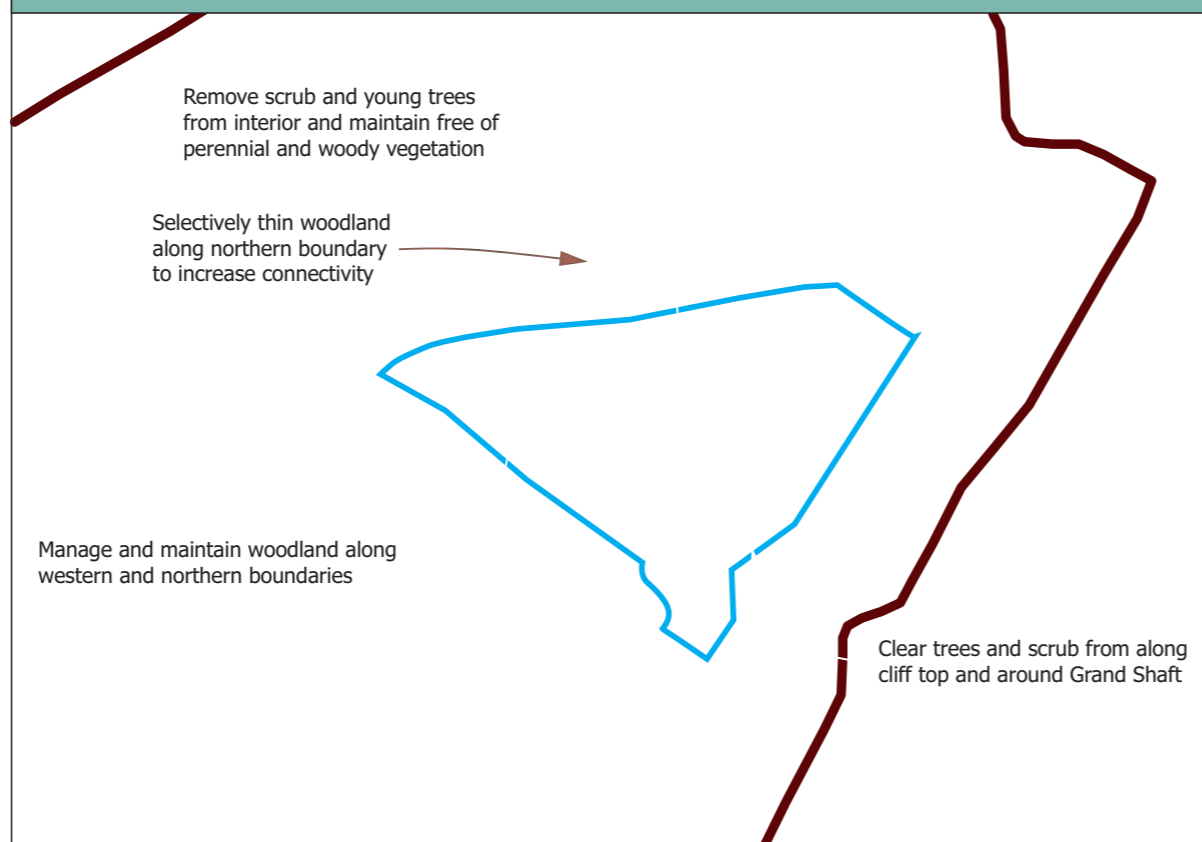


View south-east across Grand Shaft Barracks site



View towards Drop Redoubt from south-west of Grand Shaft Barracks site

Vegetation action plan



Vegetation management actions

Since the demolition of the Grand Shaft Barracks the character area has become overgrown, the vegetation becoming increasingly dense and obscuring the historic integrity of the site.

Although the access road still exists, it is now lined by dense vegetation and has little connection with the building footprints.

Views both out and into the character area to the south-east are further filtered by trees along the boundary on top of the Snaregate Street escarpment. The proposed vegetation management actions are to:

- Remove the scrub, young trees and any other woody vegetation from the central part of the area to open it up and allow the historic features to be read. The site should be maintained free of perennial and woody vegetation;
- Manage and maintain woodland along the western boundary of the character area, it

should be used to frame any future development proposals for the character area, as it did historically;

- The woodland along the northern boundary of the character area should be selectively thinned to increase connectivity between this character area and the Drop Redoubt; and
- Trees and scrub along the south-east character area boundary should be removed to allow for unfiltered views both in to and out of the area as well as increasing the prominence of the Grand Shaft Staircase.

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6: South Front Barracks

Overview of character area

- South Front Barracks were demolished in 1959, area is now fragmented and much has become overgrown with trees and woody vegetation
- Lowest part of the site is now an industrial unit and part of a different character area
- Highest part, to north-west, developed shortly after demolition of the barracks and now has a row of residential houses
- Area around these is private and therefore not included in management actions
- Central part of character area is a south-east facing slope, the south-western part of which is open chalk grassland
- Slopes becomes progressively more vegetated until it becomes mature woodland on north-eastern boundary
- The England Coast Path and North Downs Way pass through the centre of the area

Heritage

- Barracks constructed in the 1850-60s
- Siting allowed the 360° fields of fire of Citadel and Drop Redoubt to be maintained and left Fortress Interior free of permanent buildings
- Barracks comprised an L-shape of three-storey casemates with series of buildings running upslope
- In the 1890s further buildings added along Citadel Road including Victoria Hall
- Majority of the barracks buildings demolished in 1960s, leaving part of the casemates and some buildings along Citadel Road
- Site partially reoccupied with housing and industrial buildings, the latter falls within Industrial character area

Landscape & Visual

- South-east facing aspect of character area ensures that external views towards it are only available from south
- Views further restricted by woodland cover to the south-east
- Row of residential properties to north-west are only prominent feature and these assist in locating it within views
- Within Western Heights the area is well screened by vegetation and topography and only visible from near its boundary
- Views from the higher northern section around residential properties are available to the south
- National Trails that cross area have views from them screened by trees and dense scrub vegetation

Significant views

- Loss of barracks buildings means that several significant historic views are no longer extant, e.g. views from the buildings out to sea and views of the buildings from the harbour
- Visual and functional relationship between barracks and Fortress Interior has also been lost, although survival of some buildings on Citadel Road gives a flavour of this
- These buildings and the rear wall of the casemated barracks are all that survive of the site, and they now fall within separate character areas
- No significant historic views have been identified

Summary description of views

Heritage views:

- No surviving significant historic views identified pertaining to this character area
- Views from harbour are important to the overall view of the Western Heights
- Houses built within area visible against backdrop of buildings on Citadel Road
- View allows an appreciation of the terracing of the hill slope
- Domestic scale and character of houses erodes understanding of the full extent of the fortification

Landscape views:

- Higher part of the area can be seen from outer harbour area with residential properties demarking the location
- Landform and woodland screen lower part
- Woodland screens views from harbour
- Views from area orientated towards Channel to the south
- Views from National Trails are screened

Role of vegetation in views

- Trees and woodland in eastern part of character area contribute to screening views both from and towards the area
- Dense scrub covering lower half of area screens views, notably from National Trails that pass through it
- Open views available from north-western part of area where scrub is replaced by grassland
- Modern residential properties restrict the availability of views
- In wide views from the harbour vegetation within character area filters views of houses within site and of buildings on Citadel Road
- In closer views towards the site a combination of landform and vegetation serves to screen all views of the houses and partially screen views of buildings on Citadel Road.



Western Heights Combined Heritage & Landscape Appraisal

Vegetation Action Plan Area 6: South Front Barracks

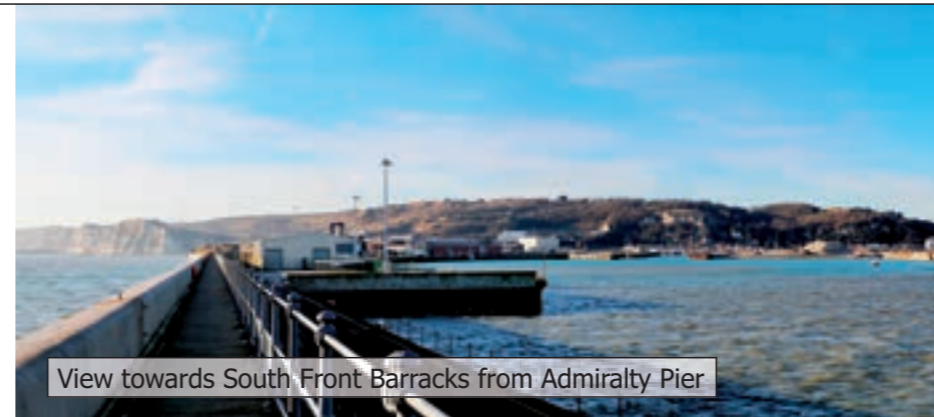
Location map



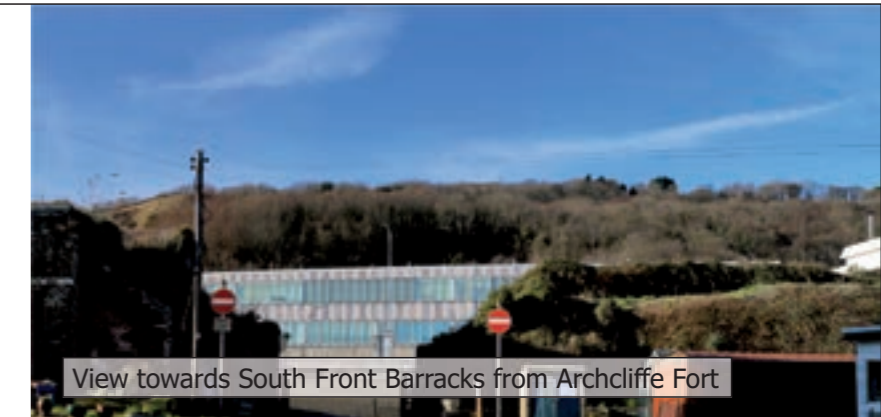
Significant view images



Dover Harbour from adjacent to site



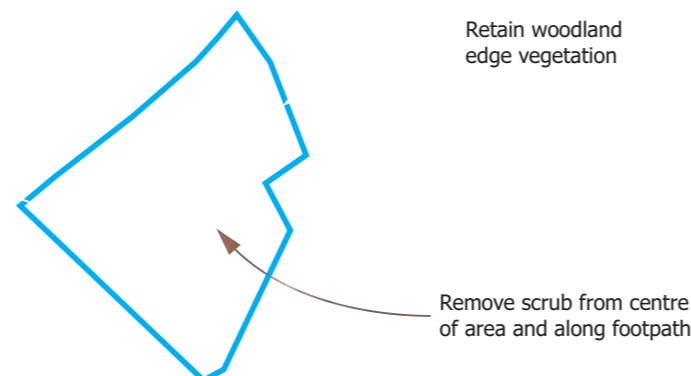
View towards South Front Barracks from Admiralty Pier



View towards South Front Barracks from Archcliffe Fort

Vegetation action plan

Retain chalk grassland and manage as adjacent areas



Vegetation management actions

The woodland edge along the eastern side of the site should be maintained as this forms part of a notable area of woodland. Outside of the private area around the residential properties the majority of the area is currently covered in dense scrub.

Following the demolition of the barracks it would have been left as an area of open ground. The reinstatement of the open ground would improve the setting of the National Trails.

In heritage terms, whilst the view of houses present on the barracks site detract from the understanding of the monument from the harbour, an alternative view towards unmanaged, or planted, screening vegetation would be even less desirable, as this would mask the terracing and add nothing to understanding. The clearance of scrub from the central area is therefore also desirable from a heritage perspective.

The proposed vegetation management actions

are to:

- Clear the scrub from the centre of the character area to open up views from the National Trails and to aid the historic understanding of the area. Maintain this area to be free of perennial and woody vegetation;
- Retain the woodland edge vegetation along the eastern boundary as part of a buffer to the adjoining notable area of mature woodland; and
- Ensure that the chalk grassland to the west of the site is retained and is managed in conjunction with the neighbouring character areas.

A099905

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8: Woodland

Overview of character area

- Centre of the site originally kept clear of vegetation
- Decades without regular maintenance has seen an extensive area of woodland develop in north-east part of study area
- Woodland follows top of the escapement from the south of the site
- Covers area around St Martin's Battery, of former south entrance and slopes to west and north of Grand Shaft Barracks site
- Trees are predominately semi-mature sycamore with notable ivy both in trees and on ground
- South Military Road runs through the centre of the character area to south
- Drop Redoubt Road runs through northern part of the area
- Character area forms a visual barrier that serves to split Western heights in two.

Heritage

- Woodland has limited basis in the heritage of the site
- Two small areas within the character area had tree planting mapped in 1877; west of Grand Shaft Barracks and west of the Military Hospital
- Both areas were planted and vegetation framed views of buildings
- In 1893 a planted screen bank was introduced to south side of North Lines Battery, south-west of Drop Redoubt
- Aside from this, vegetation within the fortification, and on its slopes, was kept to a minimum
- Woodland is now present in areas of heritage significance such as at the South Entrance and Lines, the overgrown screen bank south-west of Drop Redoubt, and around St Martin's Battery

Landscape & Visual

- Band of semi-mature trees forms character area runs across eastern part of site
- Divides main fortifications to the west (Citadel, North Lines, Detached Bastion) from those to the east (Drop Redoubt, Grand Shaft Barracks, St Martin's Battery)
- Dense nature of woodland results in no external views from within character area
- Trees form a prominent features on skyline in all views from the east
- Woodland also plays a important role in screening built features in the centre of the site, including houses on Knights Templars and industrial buildings on Centre Road and to west of South Military Road
- Site of Knights Templar church is on edge of the character area

Significant views

- Historic purpose of wooded areas in 1877 was to create attractive setting for adjacent buildings, buildings in both cases have been demolished
- Historic purpose of planted screen bank to the south-west of Drop Redoubt was to screen the North Lines Battery, North Lines Battery is no longer extant
- Within character area views to north-west and south-east of former South Entrance, containing defensive features and lines of sight, are important
- View south-west from Drop Redoubt formed part of its 360° field of fire and its visual relationship with the Citadel, later screen bank would have partially interrupted, but not entirely obscured it
- Views from Fortress Interior and road network feature the woodland character area, as do views from harbour and town centre

Summary description of views

Heritage views:

- Nature of character area means that significant historic views such as of South Entrance and from Drop Redoubt are blocked by woodland
- In key view of Western Heights from harbour area woodland gives the site appearance of a natural hill slope and diminishes understanding of the nature of the fortifications and their landscape scale
- Similar can be said of views from the direction of Dover Castle

Landscape views:

- Woodland nature of character area ensures no views available from within it of surrounding area
- In views towards site from east and north woodland forms a distinctive and prominent feature on skyline
- Although prominent, woodland screens negative features in these views

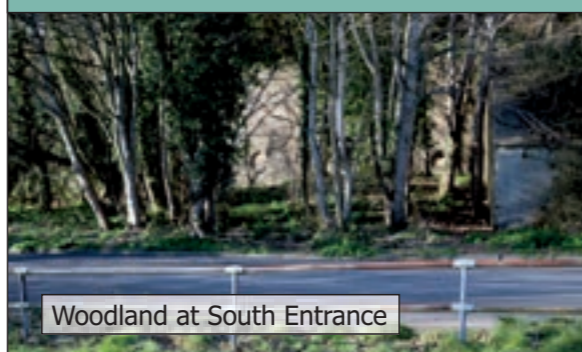
Role of vegetation in views

- When viewed from south, east or north, woodland belt creates an impression that site is predominantly wooded on east end
- Most apparent in views from the harbour
- Detracts from understanding of the landscape-scale of the fortifications
- From east and north woodland forms a backdrop to North Lines and the Redoubt
- Within Western Heights woodland creates a visual break, divorcing Fortress Interior from former barracks sites
- Occupies important lines of sight at former South Entrance
- Woodland obscures views of field of fire west from Drop Redoubt and engulfs site of North Lines Battery, planted screen bank overgrown diminishing understanding
- Woodland also beneficially screens views of detracted buildings within the Fortress Interior

Location map



Significant view images

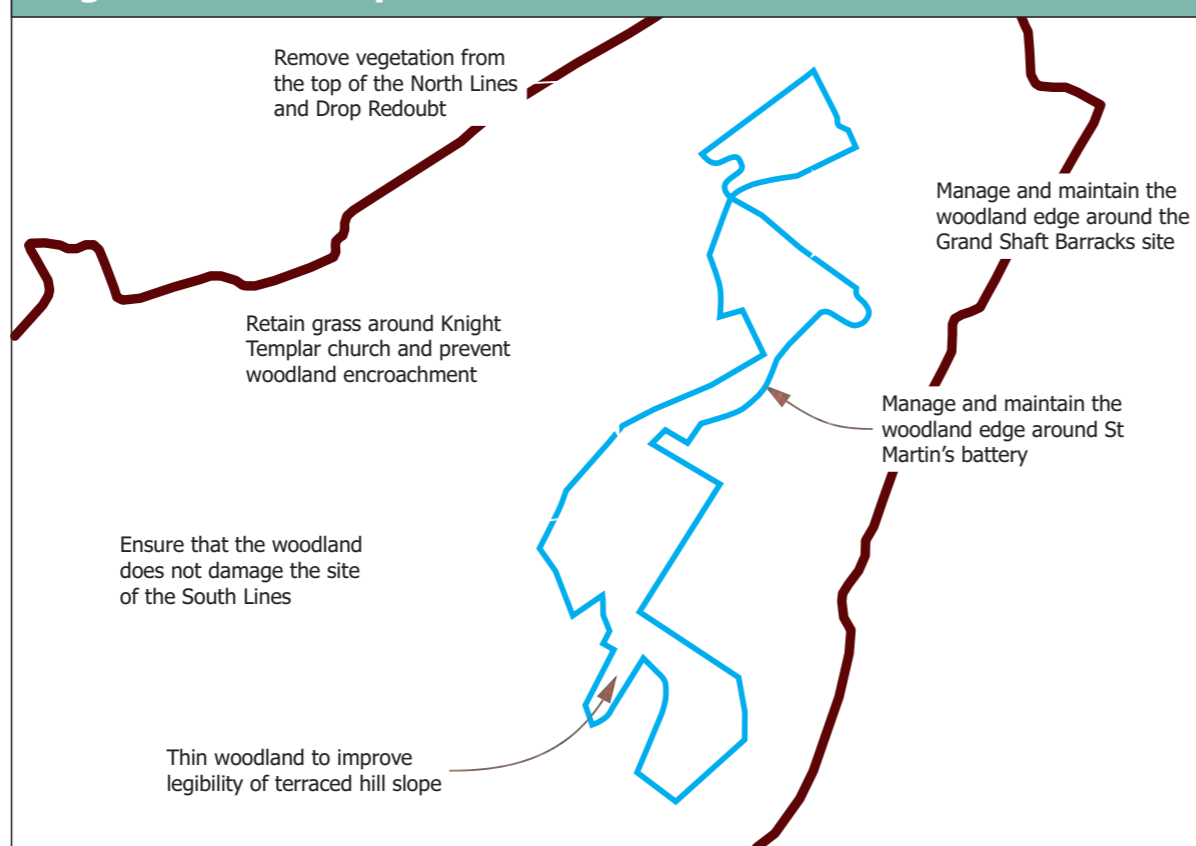


Woodland at South Entrance



Woodland on site from Archcliffe Fort

Vegetation action plan



Vegetation management actions

Vegetation throughout the character area is fairly constant, consisting of semi-mature sycamore with a strong ground cover of ivy and ivy within the trees. There are few other features in the character area, the most notable being the roads that divide the area into sections and the Knights Templar church. The proposed vegetation management actions are to:

- Retain the woodland and manage it to ensure no damage to surrounding heritage features;
- Keep the area around the Knights Templar church as maintained grass and prevent the woodland encroaching into it;
- Ensure that the site of the South Lines, including the artificially created embankment are not damaged by woodland;
- Clear woodland from the immediate vicinity of the former South Entrance and consider recreating the linear run of the South Lines through selected vegetation removal;
- Manage and maintain the woodland edge around the site of the Grand Shaft Barracks to

- ensure that it does not encroach into site;
- Remove vegetation that is overhanging the North Lines and the south-west side the Drop Redoubt to ensure that there is no damage to the structures.
- Thin woodland to this side to create more of an open aspect in views from the Redoubt and improve understanding of the battery on the North Lines. Planting on the screen bank should be retained as should the screening function of the woodland with regard to views of detracting buildings;
- Thin the woodland on the slope to the immediate south-east of industrial unit on the site of South Front Barracks to improve legibility of the terraced hill slope; and
- Retain the present screening function of the woodland in views towards the Fort Interior.

9: Snargate Street

Overview of character area

- Snargate Street is located to north-east of the study area
- Only part of the site with commercial and retail premises
- Row of buildings consisting of a random mixture of ages and uses on the north-west side the street
- Remains of a former road, south-east side demolished to make way for A20
- Buildings lie between busy A20 dual-carriageway and a steep vegetation covered escarpment
- Escarpment separates character area from the rest of Western Heights
- Character of area defined by roads and by harbour area beyond
- A20 creates a physical barrier between it and Wellington Dock

Heritage

- Snargate Street has its origins in medieval period at the walled town's Snar(e) Gate
- 16th & 17th century artistic representations show collection of buildings at foot of the western hilltop
- Present street largely created in late 18th century
- In mid-19th century the street was linked to the town's seaside resort, containing a theatre, assembly room and lodges on its seaward side, shops and houses with terraced gardens, on the northern side
- To the rear of number 137 a crenellated folly mimicking Dover Castle became a local tourist attraction
- In 1928 the seaward side of the street was demolished
- Two of the buildings on the remaining part of the street are listed

Landscape & Visual

- Escarpment to rear of buildings on Snargate Street is sufficiently high to screen all of Western Heights fortifications
- Buildings oriented to face the road and overlook A20 and Wellington Dock beyond
- Bottom of the Grand Shaft Staircase at southern end of character area, only apparent if searched for
- Character area forms an interesting and diverse backdrop in views across Wellington Dock with escarpment adding additional height and diversity of colour above buildings
- Although views are available from adjacent A20 dual-carriageway receptors using this route do not have their attention on the character area

Significant views

- Loss of the seaward side of Snargate Street means that significant views along the street, with the opposing row in place, are no longer extant
- Removal of the seaward row opened out views towards the harbour and marina
- Terraced gardens to the rear of the buildings also form part of their setting
- Views from the folly to the marina and vice versa are important
- The view from the folly to Dover Castle, which it mimics, is significant
- The is street visible in the key view of the Western Heights from the harbour area

Summary description of views

Heritage views:

- Waterloo Crescent and Dover Castle visible from character area to north-east
- Boat masts in marina prominent in views to south-east on the opposite side of A20
- Marina a key feature in views from upper floor windows from buildings
- Wide pavement with regularly spaced street trees in front of buildings line A20
- Window in north-east wall of folly frames view of Dover Castle, windows in south-east wall overlook harbour

Landscape views:

- Position of character area at foot of an escarpment on edge of the study area ensures limited visual connectivity between it and rest of Western Heights
- Views from area directed towards harbour and Wellington Dock to south-east
- Harbour area only location which views towards Snargate Street are available

Role of vegetation in views

- Several street trees and occasional raised beds along Snargate Street
- Trees have limited impact on views towards and from character area
- Trees are a positive aspect to the setting of buildings, raised beds create townscape character and separation from busy A20
- Vegetation partially filters views from the folly towards Dover Castle and the Marina
- Vegetation present on folly structure and flint revetting walls along terrace
- Vegetation obscuring the folly from the harbour, coupled with difficulty of access, has dissuaded investigation of the feature and likely also saved it from vandalism
- The steep vegetation-covered slope creates a positive backdrop to views of the street from the harbour area
- Trees on top of escarpment filter views from harbour towards Grand Shaft Barracks, diminishing its understanding

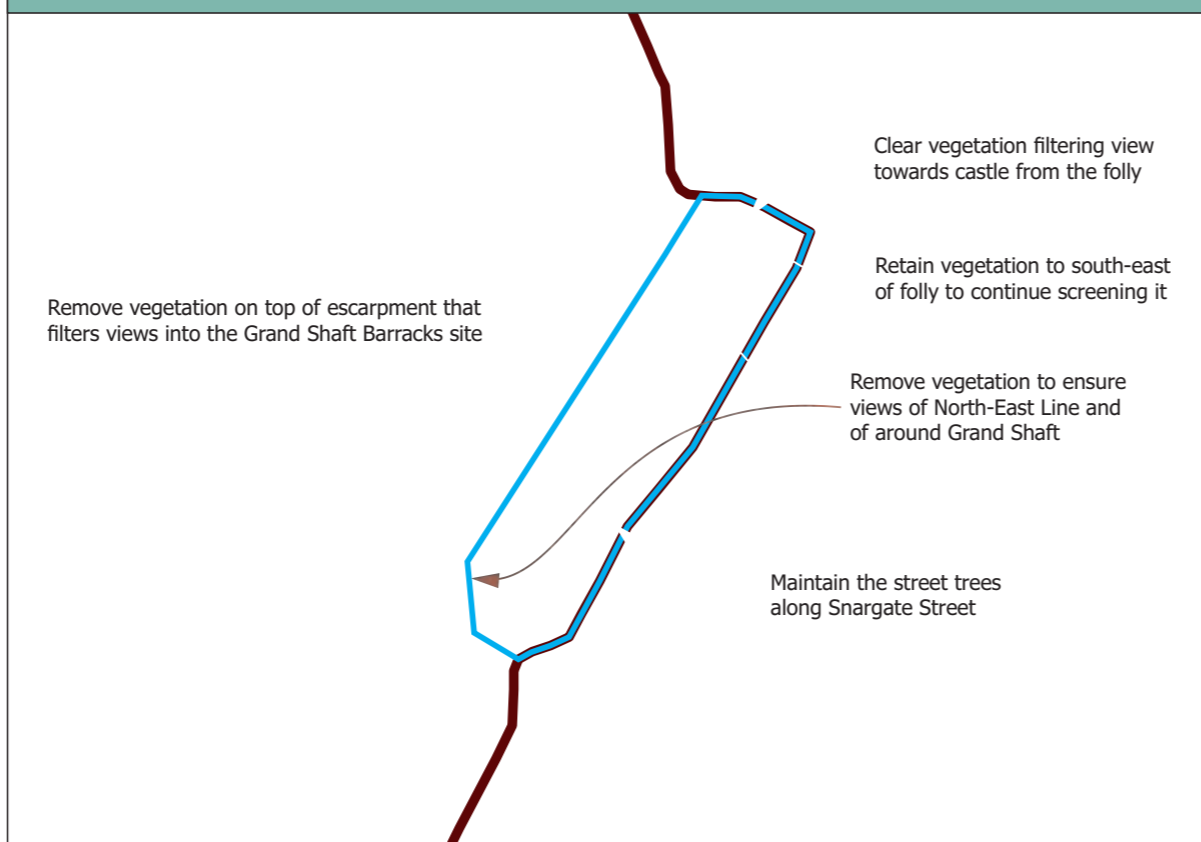
Location map



Significant view images



Vegetation action plan



Vegetation management actions

Due to the restricted access to the majority of vegetation within the character area, which is on the steep escarpment, there are limited opportunities for management.

Snargate Street has a number of street trees along its length and the boundary between the character area and the Grand Shaft Barracks has become overgrown, filtering views both into and out of the former barracks site. The proposed vegetation management actions are to:

- Remove vegetation from around the North-East Line and adjacent to the Grand Shaft and maintain free of woody vegetation to maximize their visibility from the harbour area;
- Maintain the street trees along Snargate Street as they add some green infrastructure to an area that is otherwise dominated by the adjacent A20;
- Consider the addition of further raised beds between the footpath and the A20;

- Retain vegetation along the south-eastern side of the terrace at the folly (at least until its situation is improved sufficiently to protect it against anti-social behaviour). Clear vegetation from structural features at the folly including the flint walls of the terrace. Clear vegetation that filters the view of Dover Castle from the north-eastern window; and
- Remove trees from along the boundary with the Grand Shaft Barracks site to assist in opening up views of that area from the harbour.

10: Defensive Slopes

Overview of character area

- Defensive Slopes are by far the largest character area
- Slopes between Western Heights on ridge top and built up area below
- Forms a near continuous band of chalk grassland and scrub around the fort
- Broken only to south-east by woodland and site of Grand Shaft Barracks
- Area has received little maintenance and has become increasingly enveloped by scrub and young trees
- Area originally maintained as chalk grassland to maximize visibility from the fortifications
- Prominence of fort in views from surrounding area reduced by encroaching vegetation

Heritage

- Defensive slopes around Western Heights were created in c. 1804
- Scarping, grading and steepening were used to achieve difficult angles of approach and controlled fields of fire with no blind areas
- Immediately east and west of the Citadel's North-West Bastion the slope was cut into a series of inclined steps to facilitate ascent, but then to leave enemy forces vulnerable to the forts defences
- The slopes were an integral part of the fortress's defences, kept clear of vegetation to offer no hope of cover
- A number of Second World War pillboxes are also positioned across the character area, aimed at protecting the fort's perimeter

Landscape & Visual

- Serve to provide a visual separation between urban Dover and Western Heights fortifications
- Largely covered in scrub with small areas of woodland becoming established in many places, particularly on lower northern slopes
- Encroaching vegetation threatening the visual integrity of Defensive Slopes, although underlying importance as a defensive feature can still be understood
- From south-east woodland provides the main visual separation between the built up harbour area and the Western Heights fortifications
- Defensive Slopes seen as an element within this rather than as primary feature

Significant views

- The sculpted slopes would be the most obvious indicator of a fortification occupying the hilltop in views
- Views from the town, Dover Castle, the north, the harbour and the seafront would all have featured views of the stepped hillside and its close-cropped vegetation
- Historic letters and maps dated 1835 show the slopes tenanted for grazing with fences used rather than hedges
- In views outwards, the sculpted slopes formed part of the fortress's field of fire; this visual relationship and intervisibility is most apparent in views from the Drop Redoubt, Citadel and North Centre Bastion

Summary description of views

Heritage views:

- Defensive Slopes visible in nearly all views towards the monument
- Appear as a 'natural' buffer area, with the fortification confined to the ridge top
- Only in views from harbour are sculpted slopes readily visible in vicinity of Citadel
- Views from the monument across the northern slope are partially screened by vegetation, interrupting intervisibility

Landscape views:

- Surrounds the majority of the site
- Primary feature in just about all views towards the Western Heights
- Provides visual separation between fortifications and the built up area below
- Encroaching scrub throughout area reduces the impact of the setting of the fortifications

Role of vegetation in views

- Encroaching scrub and areas of woodland threatening the historic integrity as intervisibility between features no longer available
- Scrub also blurs appearance of fortification in key views towards the monument
- Scrub in the centre part of site creates separation between Citadel and Drop Redoubt and hinders understanding of the hill as one whole monument in key view from harbour
- Views from pillboxes are filtered by vegetation to varying degrees, vegetation also present on the structures
- In views from surrounding area vegetation softens and divides the slopes, reducing their impact as a defensive feature
- Vegetated slopes are not immediately understandable as part of the fortification

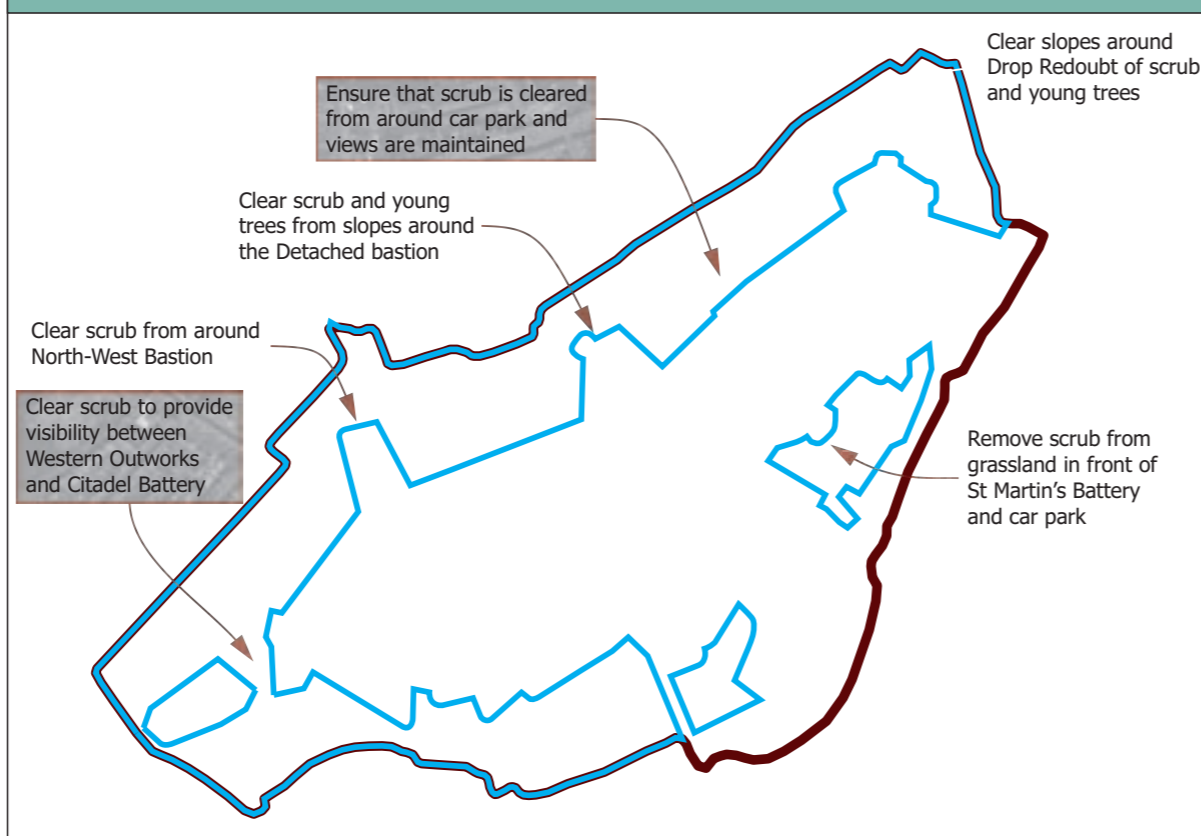
Location map



Significant view images



Vegetation action plan



Vegetation management actions

The encroaching vegetation on the Defensive Slopes around the Western Heights is limiting the ability to be able to interpret the defensive capabilities of the site, both in terms of the intervisibility between the defensive features and in the setting of the fortifications.

The area was originally maintained as chalk grassland, a condition that would be desirable to reinstate in order to allow the site to be read in its historic context in views from the surrounding area and so that the defensive feature's purpose can be interpreted. The proposed vegetation management actions are to:

- Remove scrub and young trees from throughout the character area and maintain as chalk grassland to reinstate the historic state and visibility on the slopes, large trees and copses to be retained for ecological interest;
- Ensure that the significant fortifications around the perimeter of the Western Heights

are cleared of scrub and woody vegetation to maximise their visibility from the surrounding area, this also includes the pillboxes that are scattered around the character area;

- Ensure that vegetation is removed where it aids in screening or filtering important visual and historic interactions and connections across the site, including between the Detached Bastion and Drop Redoubt and the Citadel and between the Citadel Battery and the Western Outworks; and
- Maintain the area around the designated car parks near both the North Entrance and the South Entrance to ensure that there are unfiltered views available from them.

11: Industrial

Overview of character area

- On south-east corner of site between Western Heights escarpment and A20
- Series of platforms, central part of which was the site of Military Hospital
- Area currently used for industry and contains a number of large buildings
- Industrial units are for the most part accessed from A20 and have a physical and commercial connection with port to east
- Area has little in common with rest of Western Heights site
- Tree covered escarpment to west of character area isolates it both physically and visually from fortifications, its character instead linked to adjacent port facilities
- South of character area contains end of South Military Road, the alignment of which was altered when A20 was built

Heritage

- Character area lies largely outside the scheduled monument, but in ownership of the War Department since 1804
- Guard house and Military Hospital built in 1804, but area remained largely undeveloped until a Milita Depot appears on maps in 1863
- By 1877 a Prison and Engineer's Workshop had been built and the Military Hospital expanded
- Snargate Street extended as far as Archcliffe Fort in 1804, but by 1877 Limekiln Street had been created with a large factory west of the railway
- All buildings were demolished in the late 20th century and replaced with industrial development
- Also in the character area is the industrial occupation of part of South Front Barracks

Landscape & Visual

- Steep escarpment to west of character area, aided by woodland, separate it from rest of the Western Heights site
- Visual and character connections are instead to A20 and harbour area to east
- Part of character area accessed from South Military Road well screened by topography and woodland and has minimal impact on surrounding character areas
- Main part of the character area prominent in views towards Western Heights from harbour area
- Lower elevation and separation provided by cliffs and woodland to west result in it being read in conjunction with port infrastructure rather than with rest of site

Significant views

- Character area restricted to south-eastern side of the study site, not visible from the south-west, north and north-east
- Demolition of the 19th century buildings means that significant views of, from and within the area have been lost
- Character area present in views of the study site from harbour and Archcliffe Fort, forming part of the present setting of that monument
- The road network links this area to Snargate Street
- Remnants of the casemated barracks survive within the part of the South Front Barracks that is now occupied by commercial buildings
- Views from the road into South Front Barracks site may be significant

Summary description of views

Heritage views:

- The modern character of the industrial buildings in this area means that in views of the Western Heights they appear to be not part of the fortification, contributing to an erroneous understanding of the fortress as being limited to the hilltop

Landscape views:

- Primary views of character area are from western docks from where it is seen against a steep wooded backdrop
- From Admiralty Pier the area is seen in context of all of Western Heights with Drop Redoubt and Citadel at either end
- From closer to character area these features are screened and it is read with the surrounding harbour infrastructure

Role of vegetation in views

- Character area has limited vegetation cover, scrub and trees on banks between the levels being the only source
- Wooded escarpment to the west plays a vital role in screening the site in views from the main part of Western Heights
- Woodland provides visual and physical separation between character area and fortifications, as seen in views towards character area from harbour
- The part of character area that lies within the former site of South Front Barracks is partially screened by trees in views from the South Military Road
- Whilst views into area feature historic brickwork, detracting modern commercial buildings are more prominent, so screening trees perform an important function in this location



Western Heights Combined Heritage & Landscape Appraisal

Vegetation Action Plan Area 11: Industrial

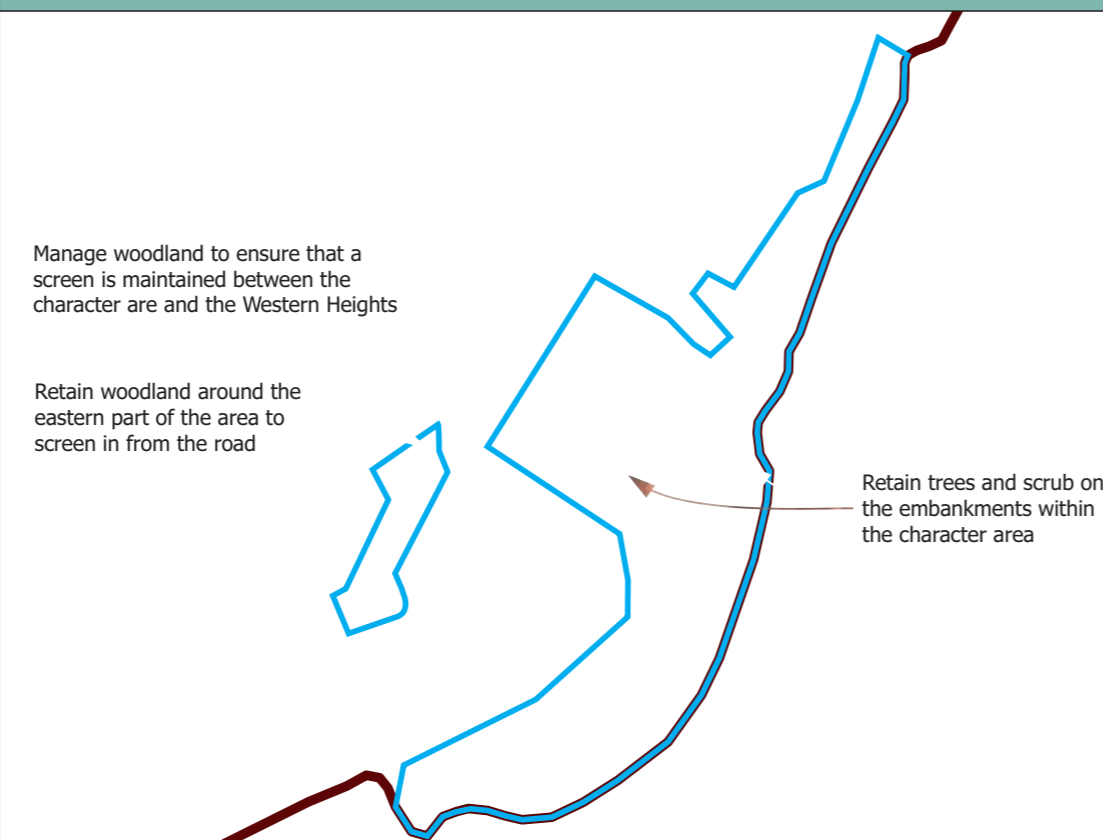
Location map



Significant view images



Vegetation action plan



Vegetation management actions

As the character area has little in the way of vegetation cover the areas that do exist are of importance and their retention and maintenance is a priority.

Although not within the character area, the woodland surrounding its western boundary plays a major role in its setting, and was present historically to frame the Military Hospital. It provides both a visual and a physical division between the built form of the industrial area and the fortifications of the Western Heights beyond.

The retention and management of this area is an important consideration for both the character area and for the Western Heights as a whole. The proposed vegetation management actions are to:

- Retain the strips of trees and scrub within the character area that follow the embankments between the levels to provide green infrastructure in an area dominated by

buildings and hard landscape;

- Manage and maintain the woodland on the slopes to the west of the character area to ensure that the visual and physical division created by it between the industrial area and the rest of the Western Heights is retained; and
- Retain the trees around the entrance to the industrial area accessed off the South Military Road to ensure that the site remains as well screened as possible.

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12: Road Network c1811

Overview of character area

- Character area follows road network that still exists from c1811
- Majority of roads have been incorporated into modern road network, although widened to take modern vehicles
- Exception is North Entrance which is not in use as was replaced by a modern route which cut through the North Line in 1967
- Network includes two access routes to the site (North Military Road and South Military Road), road to Citadel (Citadel Road) and road to Grand Shaft Barracks (Drop Redoubt Road)
- South Entrance removed and no longer visible from South Military Road
- Other roads on site date from the construction of modern development

Heritage

- Represents the surviving, post-1804, road network first mapped in 1811
- Until 1804 the high road from Folkestone ran through the Citadel, across the ridge and along the north side of Drop Redoubt
- After 1804, road was diverted away from the Citadel and the section to the north of Drop Redoubt retained as North Military Road
- North Military Road led into the fortress via a circuitous North Entrance and, within the lines, led to the Grand Shaft Barracks, Citadel and South Military Road
- Fortress was also accessed on the low road via a bridge over the South Lines, where a spur led to the Military Hospital
- South Entrance, within the fortress, added in the 1860s and demolished in the 1950s

Landscape & Visual

- Majority of road network is contained within woodland, ensuring it is screened in views from surrounding area
- Exception is section to north of North Entrance which crosses chalk grassland
- Western part of this now a car park and viewpoint since construction of modern road cutting North Lines
- Drop Redoubt Road passes fort and continues to Grand Shaft Barracks site
- Grand Shaft Barracks site screened by vegetation within the site
- Citadel Road is only access route to Citadel, gappy line of trees to north and scattered buildings along southern side
- Access road to site of former South Front Barracks also exists as an access to residential properties

Significant views

- Entrances are the weakest points of any fortification and the focus of defensive features
- Flanking lines of sight towards, and fields of fire from, the entrances are therefore important
- Views from a visitor/attacker's perspective illustrate the fort's qualities of intimidation, disorientation and surveillance
- Some views lost in later developments, e.g. demolition of the South Entrance gate, infilling of South Line and bypassing of the North Entrance
- Structure and layout of the North Entrance remains and views through this area and in the vicinity of the former South Gate are still important
- Views along the historic routes provide understanding of how it was experienced by military personnel and visitors

Summary description of views

Heritage views:

- North Entrance survives but is overgrown and accessed via an uninviting route
- Flanking views from North Centre Bastion and Drop Redoubt blocked by vegetation
- South Entrance has been demolished and lines to either side are overgrown with woodland and partially infilled
- No tangible sense of former entrance
- Road network runs through Woodland character area with Fortress Interior to its north, trees screen detracting buildings

Landscape views:

- Majority of roads pass through trees and woodland, few places from which are views available of surrounding landscape
- Notable exception to north by North Entrance where former line of road is now a car park and promoted viewpoint
- Filtered and glimpsed views from Drop Redoubt Road towards harbour area

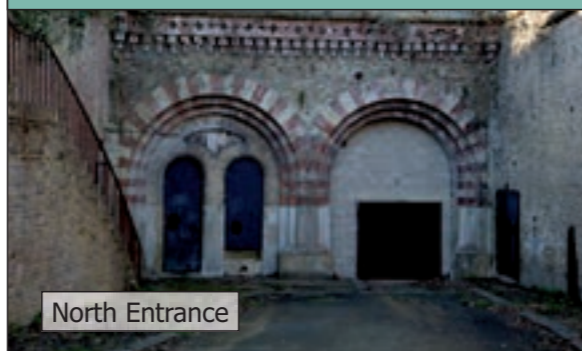
Role of vegetation in views

- Scrub vegetation is a major issue regarding visibility around North Entrance
- Features that should provide views towards it, such as North Centre Bastion and Drop Redoubt, have screened views
- Vegetation is probably causing structural damage
- The modern road into the fortress cutting through the North Lines provides no understanding of the former lines
- At South Entrance the overgrown and partially infilled lines to either side exacerbate the problem caused through the demolition of the gate, allowing for no appreciation of the former existence of an entrance in this location.
- Along the road network the vegetation screens some views of detracting buildings in the Fortress Interior, but also screens views of the Fortress Interior itself, detracting from its appreciation

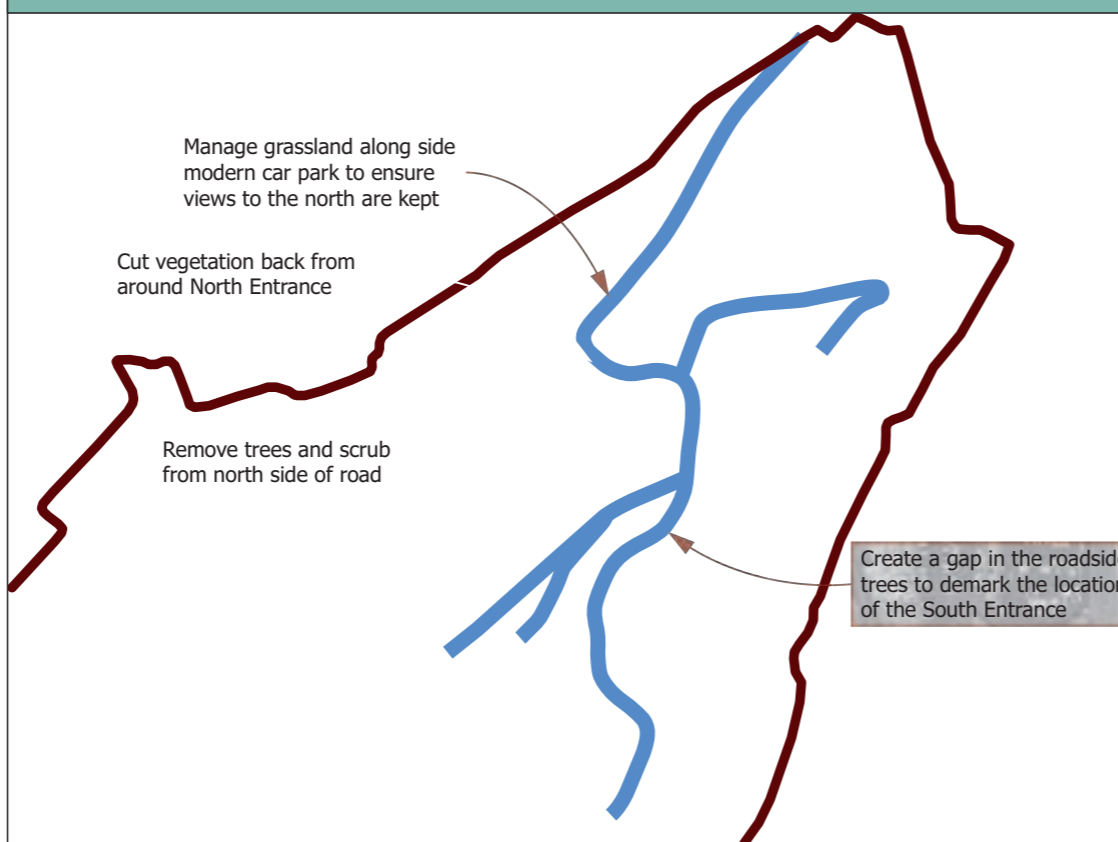
Location map



Significant view images



Vegetation action plan



Vegetation management actions

Although much of the road network passes through relatively modern woodland and is screened in views, it does pass a number of important historical features that have been lost due to the encroaching trees.

Selected woodland management in these areas would see their prominence brought to the fore and their revelation would aid the historic interpretation of the site. The proposed vegetation management actions are to:

- Ensure that the vegetation around the North Entrance is cut back and kept under control and that it does not damage the integrity of the structure;
- Cut and clear the scrub vegetation around the car park to the north of the North Entrance to ensure that views from it are retained and maintain the area as chalk grassland;
- Remove the trees and scrub along the north side of Citadel Road and maintain as grassland in order to retain some of the

historic open fabric of the Fortress Interior; and

- Create a gap in the woodland on the roadside at the location of the South Entrance in order for the remaining features to be seen and for the significance of the site to be interpreted.