

## INTERACTIVE MAP



*Probably the best surviving example of a Victorian fortress, Fort Nelson has been restored to its original state, together with important parts of its Second World War heritage. Explore the vast 19-acre monument, including the underground tunnels and magazines, and from the ramparts enjoy spectacular views of the Solent and Meon Valley.*

*Fort Nelson has undergone a multi-million pound redevelopment transforming it into a museum for the 21st century with a new visitor centre, a new café and new galleries, including the magnificent Voice of the Guns gallery.*

### **Visitor Centre, Cafe 1871 & Museum Shop**

#### **Visitor Centre**

Our new visitor centre is an ideal place to start exploring Portsdown Hill one of the most popular tourist spots in southern Hampshire.

A massive ridge running just north of Portsmouth, the hill provides incredible views of the Solent and to the north, the picturesque Meon Valley and the new South Downs National Park.

### **Cafe 1871**

Situated in the new visitor centre, Cafe 1871 is a bright and modern restaurant with a traditional twist. Whether seated indoors in the incredible grass covered dome, or relaxing outside on our panoramic terrace, you can enjoy a variety of food and drinks including Fairtrade tea and coffee, local beers, fresh sandwiches, cakes, hot paninis and jacket potatoes.

### **Museum Shop**

Our new shop, also located in the visitor centre carries an exciting range of souvenirs, books, toys, confectionery and local products.

### ***The Voice of the Guns gallery (1)***

Artillery has helped change world history for over five hundred years. Great events have been shaped by the big guns and the technological advances that have influenced their design and performance. This gallery displays artillery, great and small, which was used on land, at sea, and in the air. Some played an important part at critical battles and others involve amazing stories of faraway places and fascinating people.

### ***The Story of Fort Nelson (2)***

Discover the history of Fort Nelson and its Volunteer garrison in galleries describing a journey from the threat of French invasion to the largest building project of its kind ever undertaken in Great Britain. Find out who commissioned, designed and built Fort Nelson and how it changed through its long and fascinating history.

### ***The Story of Artillery (3)***

Through its world-class collection, Royal Armouries tells the story of artillery since before the age of gunpowder to the present day. From Britain's oldest cannon to exquisite 'art' objects from every corner of the globe, the Fort's galleries will lead you through a history of conflict and power across the ages.

### ***Temporary Exhibition Gallery (4)***

### ***Main tunnels and Underground Galleries (5)***

Explore the tunnels that allowed the garrison to reach various key parts of the Fort under cover.

### ***North Caponier (6)***

The two-storey North Caponier overlooks both the North-East and North-West approach to Fort Nelson. The North Caponier features two

casemates on each floor of both flanks for artillery fire, multiple embrasures to allow the firing of muskets, and a firing step on the roof to allow further firing support.

### ***North Mortar Battery (7)***

The North Mortar Battery is fitted with the correct armament of 13-inch cast-iron mortars which are fired on occasion by the Portsmouth Artillery Volunteers. These concealed mortars could attack any enemy positions dug into the hillside to a range of nearly 3,000 yards.

### ***West-Demi Caponier (8)***

Similar in construction and design to the North Caponier, the West-Demi Caponier lacks a firing step on the roof and instead is covered by earth. It houses four 32-pounder smoothbore breech-loading guns.

### ***West Mortar Battery (9)***

As with the North Mortar Battery, the West Mortar Battery is fitted with three 13-inch mortars capable of attacking enemy positions within a range of nearly 3,000 yards.

### ***West Haxo Casemate (10)***

The West Haxo Casemate houses an Armstrong rifled, breech-loading gun that could be used to fire upon enemy forces from a fortified position.

### ***The Parade (11)***

The Parade would have been served as a mustering point for the fort's garrison as well as a parade ground and grazing area for the fort's horses.

### ***WW2 Ammunition Sheds (12)***

During the Second World War, ten ammunition sheds were constructed upon the parade ground to store anti-aircraft ammunition. Two remain to this day and are used by the Royal Armouries as workshops and stores.

### ***Ditch (13)***

The fort is surrounded by a dry ditch intended to act as a line of defence against attackers.

### ***Refreshment Kiosk (Summer only) (14)***