FORT NELSON
VENUE HIRE
Conferences, seminars, meetings & weddings
HOLD YOUR EVENT AT FORT NELSON

Whatever the occasion, from a full civil ceremony and reception, to a lavish military mess-style dinner or an intimate meeting, we have plenty of options to offer you.

SPECTACULAR VIEWS

Fort Nelson is one of six Palmerston forts, strategically positioned along the chalk ridge of Portsdown Hill, and is one of the best surviving examples of a 19th-century Victorian fort.

This fully restored Victorian fort was built to protect the great naval harbour of Portsmouth and is set in over 19 acres of glorious Hampshire countryside.

The spectacular views of Portsmouth Harbour, the Meon Valley and South Downs National Park make it a unique place for your special event.

A DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE

Impress your guests with a guided tour of this fascinating museum – home of the national collection of artillery. Discover the art in artillery and visit some of the world’s most iconic great guns from medieval monsters to World War workhorses.

Make your event extra special and let your guests experience the power and might of the big guns with a live-gun firing.

Take time out for an adventure and explore the secret tunnels and underground chambers. Whatever the event Fort Nelson will provide you and your guests with an unforgettable experience.
After recently undergoing a multi-million pound redevelopment, the Fort has been transformed into a museum for the 21st century and includes a new visitor centre, state-of-the-art galleries and Cafe 1871.

One of the highlights is the magnificent glass-sided Voice of the Guns gallery, showcasing 14 of the most iconic weapons from the national collection. These include two sections of the infamous Iraqi Super Gun, two anti-aircraft guns used to defend the south coast and the city of Portsmouth during the Second World War, and the Great Turkish Bombard dating to 1464.

The museum also has more than 350 big guns on display, from all corners of the globe, tracing the development of artillery from pre-gunpowder siege machines to the modern day. Discover the history of the Fort and the people who lived and worked here - from Victorian navvies to the young cadets and the ‘Kitchener’ volunteers preparing for the First World War.

**GUN SALUTE**

Make your event really go with a bang with a special gun salute — experience the noise and power of one of our big guns being fired on The Parade.

**GUIDED TOURS**

We can offer special guided tours for your party. Explore the Fort’s intriguing history through the tunnels and underground stores with one of our knowledgeable tour guides.

**ROOM HIRE**

All the rooms available to hire are packed full of individuality and heritage, providing the perfect atmosphere and ambience – adding that extra special something to your event. Rooms are available for hire during the day and/or evening. Our staff will be on hand to support you before and throughout your event and will ensure the delivery of the services and facilities you require.

Whatever you are celebrating, whether it’s gathering family and friends in celebration of a significant birthday or anniversary, marking a personal milestone or achievement, holding a civil ceremony or conducting a training session, seminar or product launch with colleagues, Fort Nelson will provide a unique venue for your event.
Make a real impression by having your next business meeting at Fort Nelson. This superbly restored Victorian fort offers a variety of room settings to suit any occasion, from conference to board meeting.

Your guests and delegates can also enjoy the museum galleries, guided tours and the experience of one of the big guns being fired out on The Parade. Our rooms can be set up to accommodate a range of business meetings:

- Reception  
- Theatre style  
- Banquet  
- Cabaret style  
- Board Meeting

We can provide a variety of food and beverage options. Our personal service and our experienced Events Manager will be available prior to your event to offer advice and help with planning and on-hand during your event to ensure everything runs smoothly.

**FACILITIES**

A flip chart, projector and screen are included in the room hire. A PC projector and TV are also available and can be booked in advance.

**REFRESHMENTS AND CATERING**

Tea and coffee for refreshment breaks will be served in the Palmerston Suite. Hot and cold buffets are also served in this room. If you would prefer a more formal fine dining experience this can be arranged through one of our selected catering partners.

**“THE SUCCESS OF ANY EVENT IS IN THE DETAIL. RATHER THAN JUST PICKING A HOTEL WE PLACED A GREAT DEAL OF IMPORTANCE ON SETTING THE RIGHT SCENE AT AN INTERESTING VENUE.”**

Bob Wright  
General Manager, Perrys Portsmouth
YOUR SPECIAL DAY

Fort Nelson provides the perfect setting for such a wonderful occasion ensuring you enjoy a truly unforgettable day.

All our rooms are full of individual character and can be set up to provide the perfect civil ceremony followed by a delightful wedding breakfast.

PLANNING

From your initial appointment to the big day itself you will receive the professional support of our Events Manager. They will be on hand throughout to guide you through the arrangements and to ensure the smooth running of your special day.

“FROM THE MOMENT WE MET THE TEAM RIGHT THROUGH TO OUR WEDDING DAY, THEY PROVIDED ALL THE SUPPORT AND SERVICES YOU COULD EVER ASK OF A VENUE.
WE WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND YOU ENTRUST YOUR SPECIAL DAY TO THE TEAM AT FORT NELSON.”

Nikki Cook
“THE FORT NELSON TEAM WERE AMAZING AT MAKING OUR SPECIAL DAY AS PERFECT AS POSSIBLE. NOTHING WAS TOO MUCH TROUBLE AND OUR GUESTS ALL SAID THEY HAD NEVER BEEN TO SUCH A GREAT WEDDING.”

Matthew Cook

THE SETTING

Our elegant function rooms - The Point of the Redan and the Ante Room - have been restored to their full Victorian splendour and will provide the perfect setting for your civil ceremony. In addition, Fort Nelson's historic galleries, quaint courtyard and rugged outdoor areas will form picturesque backdrops for unique photographs. Please see pages 12/13 for room plans.

GUN SALUTE

Make your special day go with a bang. Fire one of our big guns to celebrate your marriage in what will be an unforgettable experience for you and your guests.

CATERING

We offer a variety of delicious buffets to suit all tastes, using only the freshest ingredients and preparing everything on-site to the highest standards. Please see the enclosed information sheet for full details of our buffet options. For a more formal dining experience we can recommend the services of our carefully selected catering partners.

AN EXTRAORDINARY SETTING TO MAKE YOUR DAY EXTRA SPECIAL
Fort Nelson is a unique venue and can accommodate a range of events, from product launches and board meetings to weddings and celebrations.

Please contact our Events Manager to discuss your requirements.

Point of the Redan
The charming ‘Point of the Redan’, originally the officers’ Billiard Room, is a multi-functional space and suitable for a range of activities.
The room layout is flexible and there is access to the Palmerston Suites for break-out groups and/or refreshments.

**Room Capacity:**
- Seated: 80
- Board: 26
- Cabaret: 80
- Theatre: 80

Officers’ Mess
The superb Officers’ Mess is suitable for smaller events. Full of heritage and unique furnishings, it’s the perfect setting for board meetings, personal presentations, formal dinners and interviews.

**Room Capacity:**
- Seated: 12
- Informal: 16

Ante Room
The Ante Room has been restored to its full Victorian splendour and has magnificent views of the Solent and the Isle of Wight from its large picture window.

**Room Capacity:**
- Seated: 45
- Board: 20
- Informal: 50
- Theatre: 45

Palmerston Suite
The Palmerston Suite provides the ideal space for break out groups and/or refreshments.
“THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING US WITH SUCH A WONDROUL VENUE, FRIENDLY SERVICE, LOVELY FOOD AND WITH YOUR ATTENTION TO DETAIL IT MADE FOR A REALLY ENJOYABLE EVENT.”

Fareham Rotary Club
**Opening Times**
April – October
Daily 10am – 5pm
November – March
Daily 10.30am – 4pm
Closed
24, 25 and 26 December

**Disabled access**
A lift and ramps provide access to most parts of Fort Nelson. Wheelchairs are available. Accessible parking close to the main entrance is provided. Please contact us to discuss your access requirements.

**By Car**
Exit the M27 junction 11. Follow brown tourist signs for the Royal Armouries.

**Parking**
On site parking is available.

**By train**
Mainline stations
Havant (20 mins by taxi)
Fareham (10 mins by taxi)
Portchester (3 mins by taxi)

**Fort Nelson**
Portsdown Hill Road,
Fareham, Hampshire
PO17 6AN

01329 233734
fnfunctions@armouries.org.uk

Information correct at time of print. Please check the website before making a special journey.