

# Folkestone & Hythe District Council

# Heritage Strategy



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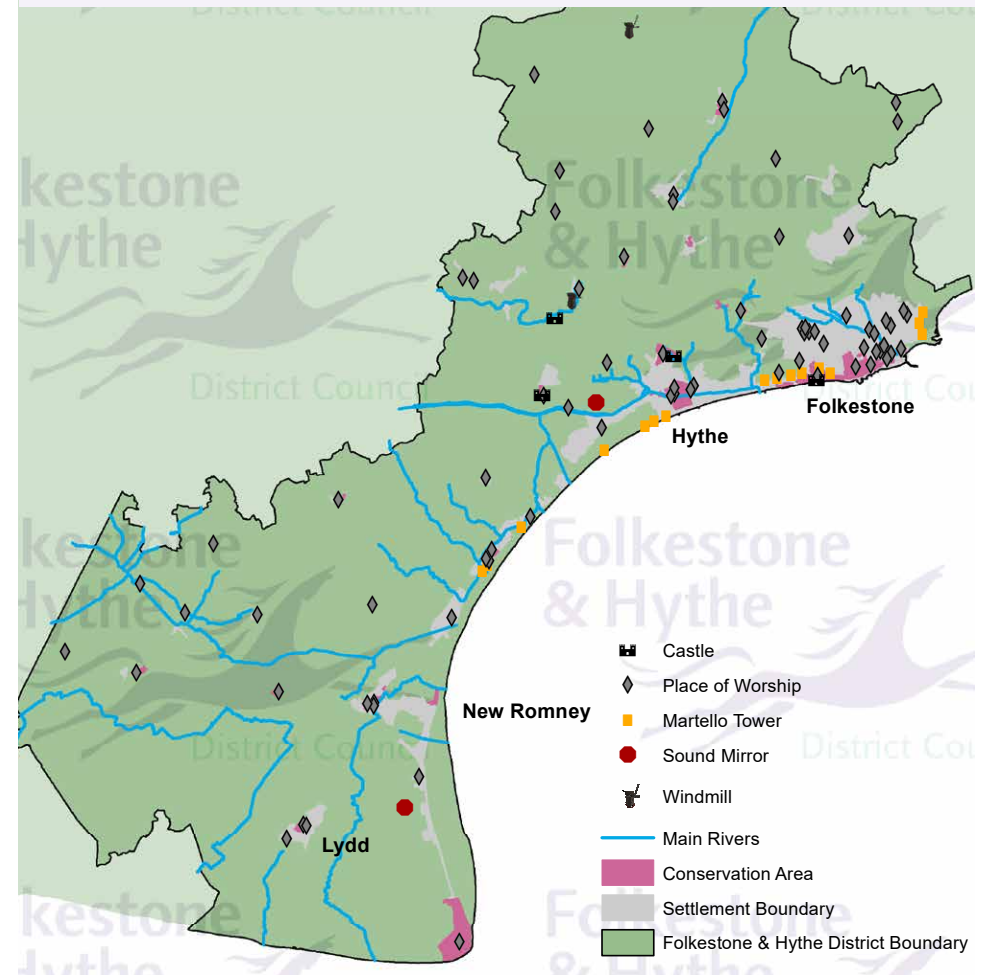
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1.1 Folkestone & Hythe District is located in the southeast of Kent. It extends from the North Kent Downs in the north, through the Greensand Ridge and southwards onto the Romney Marsh and the Dungeness shingle spit. It is a coastal district edged by high white chalk cliffs and sandy and shingle beaches interspersed with a number of coastal towns and settlements including the former port of Folkestone, which is the largest town within the district.

▼ Map of the district showing the locations of some of its many heritage assets



# 1. Introduction to the heritage strategy



1.2 The district's heritage assets, from its individual features to wider landscapes, have all played a role in shaping its development and identity. While some of these heritage assets are instantly recognisable, such as the Martello towers along its coastline, there are many more that are less well known but that play a major role in creating its unique local character.

1.3 As a gateway to the British Isles since earliest times, the district has an extraordinarily rich historic environment, including a vast wealth of individual heritage assets and asset groups. These assets, in all their aspects, have played a major role in shaping the district's development and identity and can provide a unique opportunity for placemaking and guiding and stimulating regeneration.

1.4 The Heritage Strategy was commissioned by Folkestone and Hythe District Council to ensure that heritage plays a clear and positive role in the future of the district. This strategy has been produced to promote the district's heritage and to set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats.

1.5 The document assesses the nature of the heritage assets within the district and contains objectives and priorities to ensure that any future policies and approaches to the district's heritage are based on a clear understanding of the place, its significance and its value. The aim of the Folkestone and Hythe District Heritage Strategy is therefore to enable Folkestone and Hythe District Council to achieve their objectives for the protection and enhancement of the historic environment as set out in the district's local planning documents.

1.6 Furthermore, through the background papers, the strategy is an evidence base for project funding bids as well as planning proposals, providing an initial assessment on the significance of assets (grouped as 'themes') which could be used as the starting point for more detailed assessments in Heritage Statements.

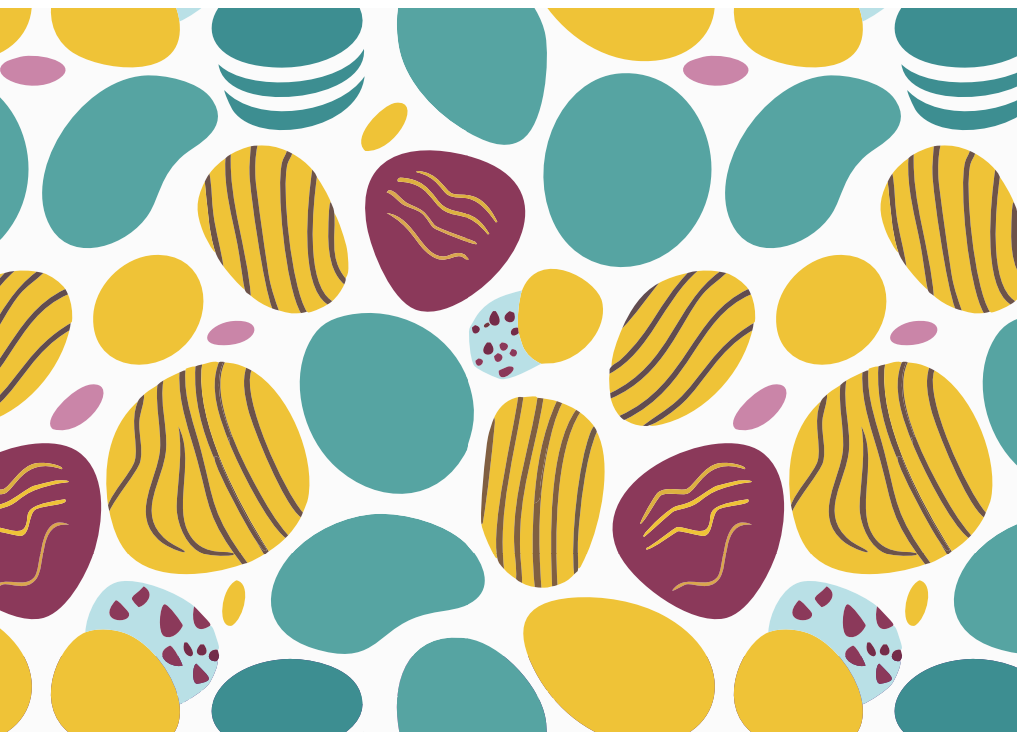
1.7 The district's heritage assets provide a unique opportunity for place-making, guiding and stimulating regeneration and making significant contributions to recreation, tourism, the economy, health and education. These are identified as key priorities within the themes in the Corporate Plan 'Our District, Our World' (2025-2030):

- **Theme 2:** Improving people's health, wellbeing and sense of community – the seventh objective recognises the importance of heritage to promote social well being within the district - Engage with local groups to promote the district's artistic, cultural, historic and tourist attractions and celebrate our special character, heritage and creativity.
- **Theme 5:** Enhancing our local environment and supporting climate action – fourth objective recognises the importance of heritage within placemaking - Ensure new developments are well designed, enhance heritage and local character, are energy efficient and make maximum use of renewable energy.



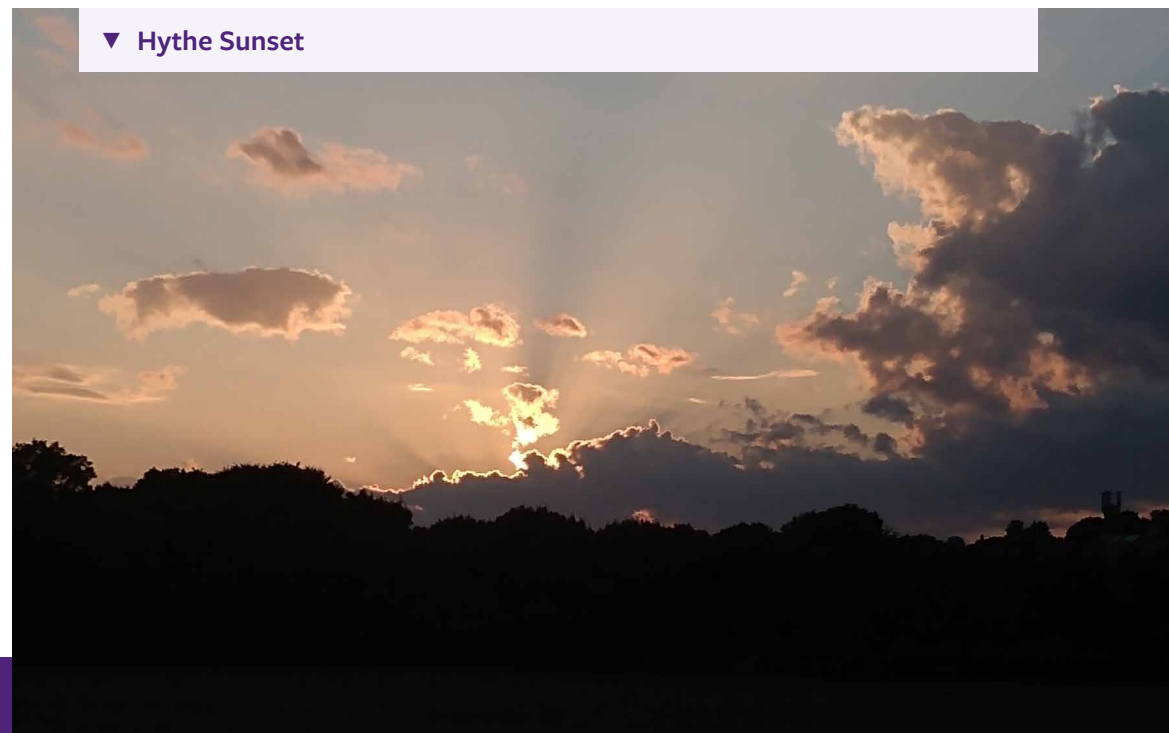


## 2. Vision



2.1 To celebrate the importance of the district's heritage through its protection and sensitive use, to effectively engage and communicate with stakeholders and to ensure that heritage complements the delivery of long-term economic, social and environmental benefits to the district.

2.2 Much of the delivery mechanism for the vision is already in place. National and local planning policy provides a significant amount of control over proposed works to the district's historic assets. The foremost elements of legislation and guidance are listed below, under Section 3.0. In addition the Development Management Team have recently engaged a Conservation and Heritage Officer to provide inhouse expertise on development affecting the historic environment. The main focus of the strategy will be to provide opportunities for cooperation at the local level, with the establishment of new webpages hosted on the council's website, which will serve as a resource for the local community and others, the realisation of a local list, which will highlight the importance of existing non-designated heritage assets and the possibility of reviewing the district's conservation areas.





## Policy Hierarchy

**National Planning Policy Framework**  
Department for Levelling Up, Housing  
and Communities



**Core Strategy Review (2022)**  
Folkestone and Hythe District  
Council

**Kent Minerals and Waste  
Local Plan 2024 to 2039**  
Kent County Council



**Places and Policies Local Plan (2020)**  
Folkestone and Hythe District Council



### Evidence Base

This is the information that is collated to inform the plan making process. FHDC has started work on preparing its new plan. The Heritage strategy is a vital component of this work.

Please note that this is not a full listing, it has been summarised for the purposes of the heritage strategy

## 3. Policy background



3.1 Within the District of Folkestone and Hythe development plan policy includes:

- The National Planning Policy Framework
- The Core Strategy Review
- The Places and Policies Local Plan
- Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan

### **Additional relevant legislation and information**

- Historic Environment - Planning Practice Guidance - [Planning practice guidance - GOV.UK](#)
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 - [Planning \(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas\) Act 1990](#)
- [Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979](#)
- [Protection of Wrecks Act 1973](#)

This strategy forms part of the evidence base that will contribute to the new local plan, which will replace the Core Strategy Review and the Places and Policies Local Plan. A timetable for the production of the new local plan was published in March 2025, but progress is dependent on the publication of new Regulations by the government.

### **National Planning Policy Framework**

3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the national policy on conservation in the historic environment, which is recognised as a key element of sustainable development.

3.3 In accordance with paragraph 203 of the NPPF, local authorities need to make plans that set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats.

3.4 The NPPF also sets out how planning applications that affect heritage assets should be considered. In paragraph 210 it states that when determining applications local planning authorities should take account of:

- a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
- c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

### **Core Strategy Review 2022**

3.5 The Core Strategy is the overarching planning policy document at the local level and provides a long-term vision and strategic policies for the district. The Core Strategy Review makes provision from 2019 to the end of March 2037. It sets out economic, social and environmental aims for the district and the amount and type of development and strategic development locations for major developments.

3.6 The Core Strategy Review recognises the importance of quality of life and sense of place in its Strategic Need C as a key element of its growth. Strategic Need B recognises the need to enhance the management and maintenance of the district's rich natural and heritage assets. These two aspects are fundamentally linked and should work together in regeneration, development and growth within the district. The Government in its 2016 Culture White Paper explains that "The development of our historic built environment can drive wider regeneration, job creation, business growth and prosperity."

## Places and Policies Local Plan 2020

3.7 The Places and Policies Local Plan sits below the Core Strategy and has two functions:

- To allocate enough land for future development to meet the requirements set out in the Core Strategy for residential, employment, community and other needs; and
- To provide development management policies that will be used to assess planning applications and guide future development.

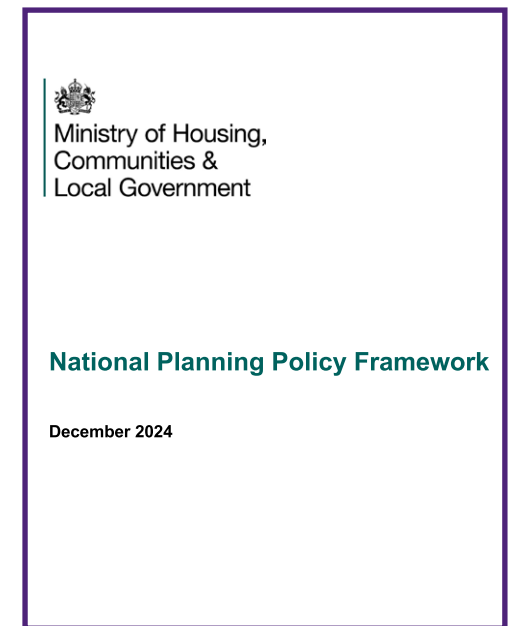
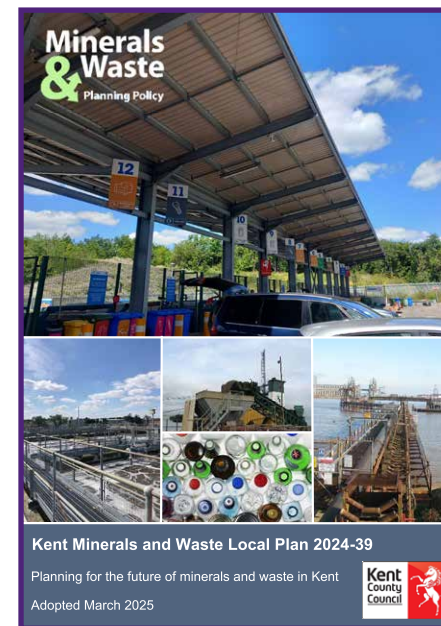
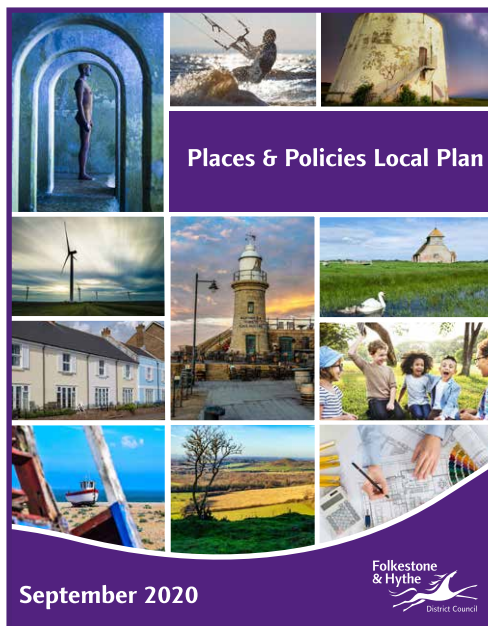
3.8 The plan plays an important role in shaping the future of the district and ensuring that the aims set out in the Core Strategy are met, providing local communities, landowners, developers and infrastructure providers

with certainty about the future pattern of development in the district.

3.9 The policies in the plan will ensure that new developments are sustainable, the natural and historic environment is maintained and that people's quality of life is improved and healthy lifestyles are encouraged.

# Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39

3.10 The Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan sets out planning policies related to the supply of minerals and waste management in Kent. The plan contains planning policies relating to heritage assets, and states that proposals for minerals and waste development will be required to ensure that Kent's heritage assets and their settings are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance.





## 4. The District's Rich Heritage



▲ The surviving commemorative foundation stone from Folkestone's Victoria Pier. The pier was opened by Lady Folkestone on 21st July 1888 and formed an important part of Folkestone's leisure provision. After a fire badly damaged the seaward end of the pier the remains were demolished in 1954.

4.1 The district contains an exceptional wealth of heritage spanning from prehistoric times to the present day. The district features archaeological finds, historic structures and landscapes that are of outstanding significance having importance nationally and even internationally. Amongst the iconic assets within the district are the Martello Towers, Shorncliffe Camp, one of the country's most historically significant military training camps, the Redoubt at Dymchurch and the Royal Military Canal which sit proudly amongst its unrivalled collection of Napoleonic period defences. The unique landscapes at Dungeness and the chalk landscapes in the east of the district (now the focus for a bid for UNESCO status for the Cross Channel Geopark) are unparalleled within the country, the rich religious heritage is inherent

throughout the district, the impressive castles and the district coastal location have all helped to shape its development, which is reflected in themes, which make the district unique.

4.2 There are many nationally important sites within the district as well as numerous sites of regional or local importance, less well known perhaps but still treasured and valued by local communities as markers of their own history and that of their towns and villages.

4.3 The geography of the district plays an important role in its heritage and history. Located in the southeast of the country, separated from the Continent by the English Channel and the narrow Straits of Dover, the interaction with Europe through trade, new people, cultures and ideas and through cross channel travel all play a part in the story of the district.

4.4 The district has a valuable and varied historic landscape which spans southward from the quintessential rolling Kentish chalk downland to the unique and vegetated shingles of Dungeness. In doing so it crosses the major coastal transport conduit of the Greensand Ridge before dropping into the expansive Romney Marsh. The district's coastline, varying between the iconic White Cliffs and sand or shingle beaches with a seascape that includes views to France and the busy shipping routes through the Channel, makes a further major contribution to the outstanding local landscape.

4.5 Historically East Kent has been in the forefront of new ideas and well as vulnerable to invasion. In the sixth century it was the first part of Britain to convert to Christianity, hence we have an Archbishop of Canterbury. Following that it was the foremost Anglo-Saxon kingdom (Ethelburga and Eanswythe are both buried in our district). In the Middle Ages the Pas de Calais was an English territory. The passage of people back and forth across the Straits of Dover has linked us to France over the centuries. Links and connections are still an important feature of the district today, such as the Channel Tunnel, which links Folkestone and Calais.

## Defensive Heritage

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4.6 A strong legacy of defence is represented by the remains of various fortifications on the coastline and inland going back to the Iron Age and continuing through to the 20th century. They form an outstanding collection of assets that represent the nation's responses to foreign threats and the defence strategies that were employed as a result.

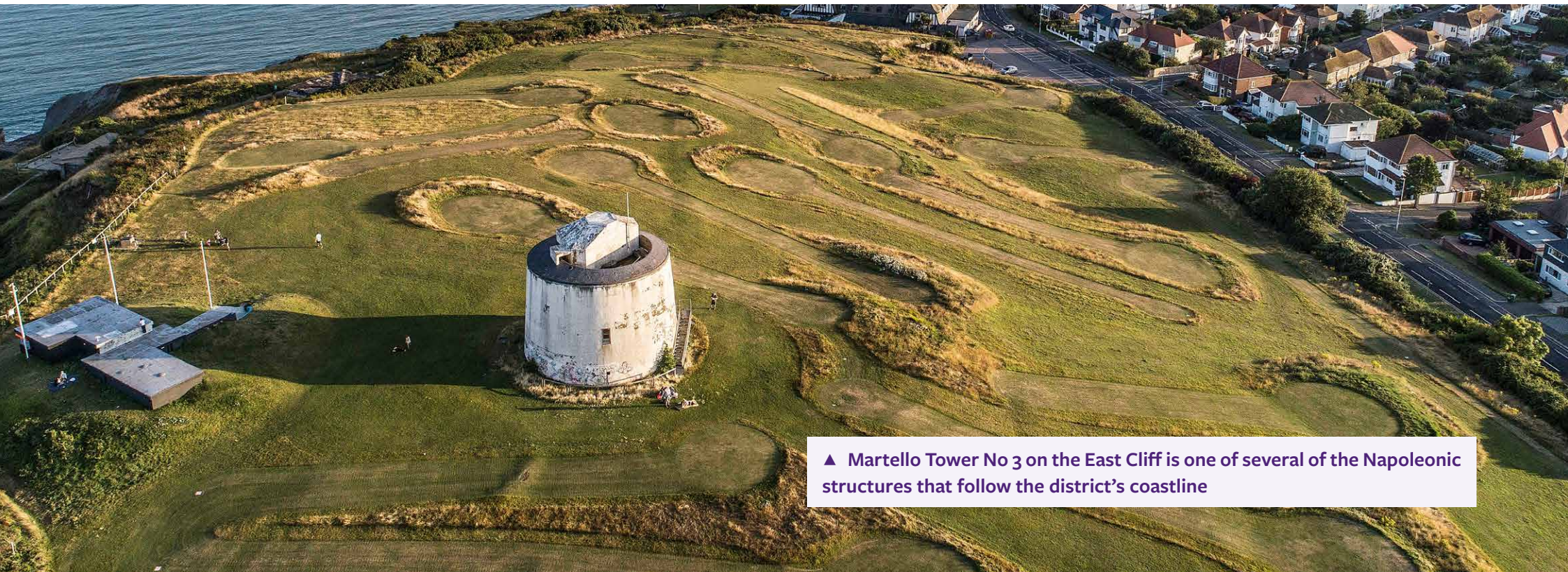
4.7 The earliest potential fortification in the district lies at Castle Hill; a prominent hill overlooking Folkestone with Norman castle earthwork. In addition, to the north of Folkestone there are further Norman earthworks at Stowting. The arrival of the Romans led to the emergence of Portus Lemanis, (Lympne) as a main channel crossing point in the southeast. (Roman travellers would cross the channel from Boulogne and travel onward from Portus Lemanis to Canterbury via Stone Street. Archaeological evidence, for example the villa at East Cliff in Folkestone, has highlighted the importance of the area in the activities of the Classis Britannica, the Roman channel fleet. The most prominent evidence in the district of the Roman's defence from seaborne raiding survives at Lympne where the ruins of Stutfall Castle, a third century Roman fort on the Saxon Shore are still visible. The district's medieval castles are some of its most significant fortifications. These were designed more as defended seats of power rather than serving an anti-invasion purpose. There are castles at Saltwood (mainly 14th Century, which had a Norman precursor), Sandgate and the fortified manor house of Westenhanger Castle. There was also once a castle in the Bayle, Folkestone, which has now been mostly lost to coastal erosion. The castles illustrate the changing nature and function of the fortifications over the time.

4.8 By the late fourteenth and fifteenth centuries coastal defences again became important, meeting the threat of French raiding. Saltwood Castle would have played an important role in overlooking the Cinque Port at Hythe. Changes in both the military potential of France and Spain and schism with Catholic powers led Henry VIII to initiate a programme of new castles along the coast, linked by lines of fortifications and now designed both to deliver

and withstand artillery fire. In this district we see the construction of one such castle at Sandgate in 1540. Sandgate Castle was short lived and became derelict by 1560, before its later modification, first during the English Civil War and later as part of the Martello scheme. Perhaps the most significant anti-invasion fortifications are the outstanding collection of Napoleonic (and Revolutionary Wars) period defences built along the coast. Although the numerous towers of the Martello scheme are the best known remains of these defences, redoubts at Shorncliffe and Dymchurch, several coastal batteries and the Royal Military Canal are all important surviving elements in this defensive arrangement, one of the best examples in the country.

4.9 From the late eighteenth century the district takes on a more prominent role in encamping and preparing troops for foreign expeditions. A camp was established at Shorncliffe in 1794, training troops for fighting in

the Napoleonic Wars on the continent. It was again used as a staging post for troops destined for the Western Front embarking at Folkestone. Its association with Commonwealth troops is particularly notable; from 1915 a Canadian training division was formed there and since 2001 until recently it has been a base for the Royal Gurkha rifles. The training of troops has left its considerable mark on the district. A school of musketry was established at Hythe in 1853, where the wide-open beaches and proximity to the sea made it ideal for shooting. The school consisted of a dedicated body of instructors tasked with ensuring a standardised level of proficiency across the infantry. In 1861, it relocated to Fleetwood in Lancashire, before returning to Hythe six years later. Areas along the Hythe, Dymchurch to Lydd coast are still in use for military training today. The Downs north of Folkestone and Shorncliffe were also heavily used for training troops before departure to the Western Front in the First World War (WWI). An incredible footage of troops training



▲ Martello Tower No 3 on the East Cliff is one of several of the Napoleonic structures that follow the district's coastline

is available in Canadian archives and aerial photography has revealed the survival of practice trenches and other defences across the landscape with particularly important survival at Tolsford Hill where Canadian troops camped at Sandling.

4.10 The final stages of the development of the district's defences were during the twentieth century. The increasing threat of invasion saw defensive positions being established around the vital port of embarkation at Folkestone in WWI. The Second World War (WWII) sees the development of new forms of warfare and the district's heritage assets illustrate the national response to new threats. Assets associated with air defence, coastal defence, troop support and supply, anti-invasion works and civil defence are all well represented. Together these assets help to tell the story of Britain's changing fortunes in the war from initial preparations, through the dark days of the Battle of Britain and real invasion threat following the Dunkirk evacuation, to invasion planning and support for the Normandy landings evidenced by the remains of a Mulberry Harbour and the Pluto pipeline.

4.11 Kent's defensive role has now greatly diminished, but numerous sites survive, and many can still be visited to remind us of the dramatic events that occurred in the district, in the sea that surrounded it and the air above. The human cost of the wars can also be seen through the war memorials and monuments across the district.

## Maritime Heritage

4.12 Most of the maritime traffic between the Atlantic and the North Sea travels through the English Channel and the Strait of Dover making it the busiest seaway in the world. This has been the case from early times resulting in a wealth of maritime heritage whether in the abundant wrecks that litter the seafloor between the district and the French coast as little as twenty-two miles away, or as features on the shoreline and inland within the district. Around 630 wrecks or reported sites of foundering of vessels are recorded on the Kent Heritage Environment Record for the local waters, representing

a fraction of the losses in the area. The coastal heritage includes assets associated with navigation of this important sea route such as the lighthouses at Dungeness and Folkestone, lifeboat stations and the fishing industry and more recently Derek Jarman's Prospect Cottage. The expansive lengths of beaches flanking the Romney Marshes became synonymous with smuggling and the history of this is well represented in the towns and villages of the area. Elements of the chain of coast-guard stations still survive along the coastline.

▼ View of the Warren, backed by white chalk cliffs. The sea and its influences are intrinsic to the development of the district.



4.13 The district played an important role in the growth of seaside leisure in the nineteenth century. The coming of the railway to Folkestone in 1843 opened up access to the district's coastline. At the end of century Folkestone and Sandgate had developed into fashionable seaside resorts with luxurious hotels, villas, pleasure gardens and other seaside amenities. Hythe too, developed during this the period with the construction of the Hotel Imperial and Princes Parade. The Hythe to Sandgate tramway was also a significant

▼ Hythe Beach at sunset, with its extensive coastline the fishing industry is intrinsic to the heritage of the district



feature of the time. At the beginning of the twentieth century popular holiday camps were springing up along the coastline's sandy beaches at Dymchurch, St Mary's Bay and Romney Sands, access to which was greatly helped by the opening of the purpose-built Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway in 1927. Today much of the character of the district's coastal area is provided by the nineteenth and twentieth century leisure heritage assets. Folkestone and Sandgate's Victorian and Edwardian built heritage is particularly significant with areas such as the Leas containing important assets such as the Leas Lift and Leas Pavilion (at the time of writing the Leas Pavilion is under reconstruction), other settlements along the coast remain popular leisure destinations, many because of their extensive sandy beaches. The Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway is a particularly important heritage asset that plays a valuable role in the district's tourism offer and community as well as, in part, its aesthetic value to the coastal landscape.

## Transport Heritage

4.14 The district's position at the channel end of the corridor through the Greensand Ridge has meant that it has played an important role in transport since early times. Archaeological excavation has discovered the remains of a major late Iron Age coastal trading and production site at East Wear Bay, Folkestone. Evidence suggests that by 50BC the site was an important point of contact with the Roman world. It was particularly important for quern stone production, which took place on an industrial scale. In Roman times we see the establishment of Stone Street, a major road between Canterbury and the coastal port at Lympne (Portus Lemanis) facilitating cross channel access to the wider Roman Empire.

4.15 The old stagecoach route that travelled through Lyminge parish during the 1700's to the mid 1800's was the main way that people and post travelled long distances. Lyminge served as an important midpoint between the coast and inland Kent where horses could be changed and passengers refreshed. Coaches would travel from Folkestone and stop at Etchinghill, Lyminge, Elham, Barham and Canterbury. Evidence of the important stagecoach route still exists in the form of the Coach and Horses pub (Lyminge) and The Gatekeeper Inn (originally The New Inn). The stagecoach route was paramount in giving Lyminge parish an economic boost including inns, blacksmiths and acting as part of the turnpike and mail coach network.

4.16 In the nineteenth century Folkestone became a major cross channel port with the coming of the railway with many of the harbour assets relating to this heritage. The town developed significantly during this period with many new attractions being created. The Leas Lift, the last remaining of three lifts serving the Leas is a grade II\* funicular railway, which was built in 1885, making it one of the oldest water lifts in the UK. While the ferry services linking Folkestone to the continent have now gone, the development of the Channel Tunnel and its terminal at Cheriton plays a very significant role in the country's connection with its European neighbours. Branch railways have come and gone in the district, for example the Elham Valley Line and the

Hythe and Sandgate branch line, though some parts survive as memories of these links. The Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway has survived as a particularly special reminder of the local network. It was opened in 1927 and runs thirteen and half miles from Hythe, through Dymchurch and New Romney before terminating at Dungeness.

▼ **The Leas Lift prior to the commencement of the restoration works – Image courtesy of The Folkestone Leas Lift Company CIO**



▼ **A train leaving the station at Dungeness on the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway**



4.17 Lydd Airport, (originally Lydd Ferryfield) was constructed in 1954 and was once one of the busiest airports in the country handling cross channel ferrying of cars to Le Touquet in France. It is now called London Ashford Airport and provides flights for passengers and for flying instruction. The airport cannot currently handle larger aircraft but planning permission was granted for an extension to the runway in 2013 to allow for an increase in the size of planes that could operate from it. There was also an airport at Lympne with airfields at Hawkinge and Westenhanger, which were operational during WWII, but have since ceased to operate or have been redeveloped.

▼ **Left: Cars being loaded onto Superfreighters at Ferryfield Airport, Lydd (now London Ashford Airport) in the 1950's/1960's**

**Right: Picture of Ferryfield Airport, Lydd (now London Ashford Airport) in the 1954 – Images courtesy of Silver City Airways**



## Religious Heritage

4.18 The religious heritage provides valuable and unique evidence of a long and varied history of spirituality and Christianity in Kent. It includes some examples of the earliest churches dating back to Anglo-Saxon times with one example All Saints, Lydd arguably including Romano-British religious architecture. Other early remains, discovered in recent excavations include an important early Christian monastic site attached to the fifth to eighth century

▼ Saint Mary and Saint Ethelburga, Lyminge – Image courtesy of Robert Baldwin – Lyminge Archaeological Project and Lyminge Historical Society



▼ Saint Mary and Saint Eanswythe - Image courtesy of Robert Baldwin – Lyminge Archaeological Project and Lyminge Historical Society



royal Anglo-Saxon site at Lyminge. Of the fifty two churches known in the district a particularly important grouping are those that stand in isolation on the Romney Marsh, markers of the lost settlements that they once served. Saint Eanswythe is one of the most renowned saints within the district. It has long been thought that she founded an early minster in Folkestone and she has several miracles attributed to her as well as a watercourse named after her. A recent archaeological investigation of her relics has given probable confirmation they are indeed her remains, making these the only surviving relics of a Kentish Royal and the earliest remains of an English saint and British monarch. Saint Ethelburga of Lyminge is also an important historical religious figure. She popularised Christianity in England and founded one of the first Benedictine nunneries in the country. The Royal Kentish Camino is a modern development, building on the religious heritage of the district. It is a pilgrimage route that connects three churches in Canterbury, Lyminge and Folkestone. The route celebrates Kent's Christian routes and royal history while encouraging walking, reflection and cultural exploration.

## Landscape Influences

4.19 The historic character of the district is underpinned by its historic landscapes which play an important role in its distinctiveness. Within the landscapes the pattern of settlement, farms, fields, tracks and lanes has evolved over millennia, influenced by the area's geology and by the movement of peoples through this important place connecting Britain to Europe. While many of the earliest remains survive only as archaeological remains buried beneath the ground, the influence they have on the district's landscape can still be traced. For example, at Saltwood investigations have revealed that the nineteenth century road network, sections of which are still used today, had its origins at least as far back as the Iron Age.

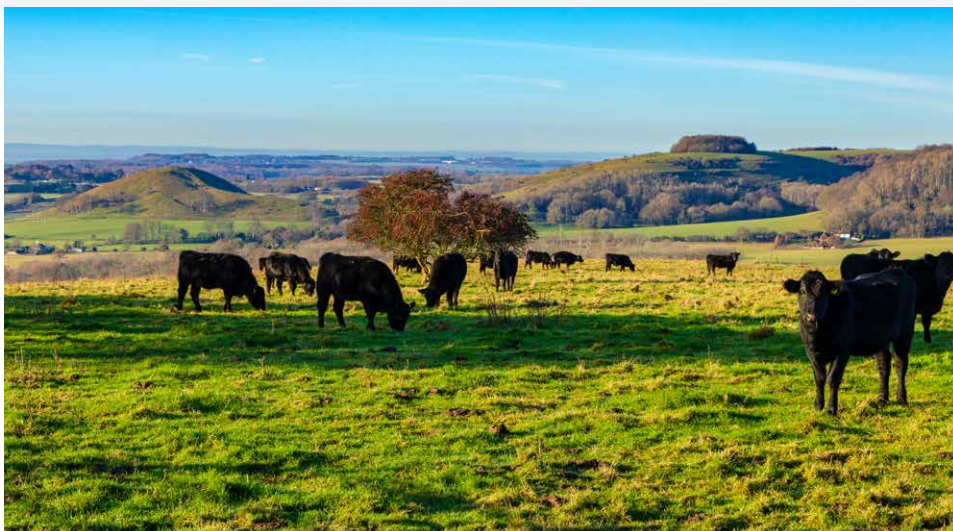
## The District's Settlements

4.20 The settlements in the district are rich and varied: the historic port towns at Folkestone and the Cinque Ports of Hythe and New Romney; the

▼ **Summerhouse Hill in the North Downs National Landscape**



▼ **View of pastoral landscape synonymous with the North Downs taken from the North Downs Way with Summerhouse Hill and Tolsford Hill in the distance**



seaside heritage settlements stretching from Folkestone to Romney Sands; the unique settlement at Dungeness; the garrison town at Shorncliffe and the many small historic towns and villages scattered through the valleys of the North Downs and on the shingle banks of the Romney Marshes. These contain a wealth of historic buildings and buried archaeological remains that record their evolution, development and rich history. The district's built heritage, including its many listed buildings together with more that are not designated, but are still of historic interest are distributed throughout the district. They are buildings of special architectural or historic interest and tell the story of people's homes, places of work and worship for more than a thousand years. Some are of national or international renown while others are of more local relevance telling the story of how ordinary people lived and worked in the district. All of these remains, whether listed or not, have helped to shape the character of the places where they stand and are valued landmarks for local communities. They provide character, interest and a sense of age within settlements, often defining the heart of an old settlement and linking new development with old.

▼ **The Coat of Arms of the Cinque Ports dates from 1305 and is the second amongst the earliest English known heraldic emblems. It features a heraldic combination of three ships' hulls and three lions. It symbolises royal patronage and "ship service" to the Crown. The lions represent England's arms, and the ships represent the Ports' crucial role in providing a fleet in the absence of a permanent navy.**



**The Cinque Ports**  
Cradle of the Royal Navy



## 5. Definition of a heritage asset



5.1 A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing) NPPF December 2023 Annex 2.

5.2 A heritage asset will hold meaning to individuals and groups of individuals beyond its purely functional utility. Heritage assets have been shaped by people responding to their local environment but will also help to shape that environment in the future. They have a significant role to play in creating a sense of place and acting as a catalyst for regeneration and supporting local economic activity. The district's heritage assets add distinctiveness, meaning and identity to the place and are an exceptionally valuable local resource.

5.3 It is therefore important that the significance of the district's heritage assets is considered as part of any future development management, regeneration or maintenance decisions and opportunities are sought, wherever possible to enhance the district's heritage assets.

### Types of assets and designations

5.4 The following statutory designations cover heritage assets that exist within Folkestone & Hythe District:

- **Scheduled Monuments:** are those archaeological sites which are considered to be nationally significant and as such have been given legal protection by being placed on a list by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.
- **Listed Buildings:** Significant historic buildings or structures are provided with statutory protection by being placed upon the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.
- **Conservation Areas** are designated where a place is of special historic or architectural interest and where it is desirable to preserve or enhance the character and appearance.

- **Registered Parks and Gardens:** This Register is specifically concerned with gardens, grounds and planned open-spaces and the emphasis is on the significance of the place as a designed landscape, rather than its botanical importance.
- **Protected Wreck Sites:** The Protection of Wrecks Act (1973) provides the legislative framework for designating the remains of vessels (or their contents) which are of historical, artistic or archaeological importance.

▼ **The Royal Military Canal is a scheduled monument, which stretches for twenty-eight miles from Hythe to Cliff End in East Sussex. It was built between 1804 and 1809 as a response to the perceived threat from Napoleonic invasion.**



5.5 In addition to these specific protections, heritage assets may indirectly benefit from other statutory designations, such as National Landscapes, which protect the natural beauty of a place; heritage assets are likely to form an important part of what makes a National Landscape special.

5.6 The chalk cliffs at Dover and Folkestone are defined as a Heritage Coast, one of thirty-two in England. The conservation, management and enhancement of the National Landscape, including the Heritage Coast, for a five-year period is set out in the Kent Downs Management Plan 2021-2026 which includes a vision for the National Landscape to 2041.

5.7 The historic environment and the natural environment are not mutually exclusive and designations aimed at the conservation of the natural environment, such as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), can play an important part in conserving the special and distinctive historic character of an area and afford protection to its heritage assets. Within the district there are three SACs at Dungeness, the Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment and at Parkgate Down. Dungeness and Romney Marsh are designated as a SPA. Numerous Sites of Special Scientific Interest fall within these and other areas of the district. The Kent Downs National Landscape is also very significant, covering much of the northern rural area of the district.

## **Non-designated heritage assets**

5.8 The majority of heritage assets are not designated, either because they do not warrant formal designation or their significance has only recently been revealed or has not been considered. Some of the undesignated heritage assets are of equivalent significance to those that are. Non-designated heritage assets are all those recognised elements of the historic environment not covered by one of the previous designations. Some assets may have a locally defined designation; these do not have any statutory framework underpinning them but represent recognised heritage assets of local significance or value. As there is no currently adopted local list of

buildings for the district, the only locally defined heritage assets are the Historic Parks and Gardens included in the Kent Gardens Compendium 1996.

5.9 In conjunction with local plan policy a significant output from this strategy will be a local list of heritage assets. Once the list is functional new development on locally listed heritage assets will be measured against Places and Policies Local Plan Policy HE3 - Local List of Heritage Assets. It is envisaged that this work is likely to be conducted in conjunction with local stakeholder groups. The council has already produced a draft format for assessing non-designated heritage assets.



▲ Hythe – Looking southwards towards the coast at the junction of Church Hill and North Road, within the Hythe Town Conservation Area. The cottages nestled together on the steep hill are commonplace within this area of the town.



## 6. Introduction to the themes



### Introduction to the themes

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6.1 The heritage of the district is exceptionally rich, varied and extensive. It comprises thousands of known and recorded heritage assets and many more that are not known. Those assets occur in several forms: archaeology, built heritage, landscapes and townscapes, wrecks, customs, traditions and stories. Some assets are specifically protected by designation, but the majority are not. To properly define and characterise these assets this strategy uses a thematic approach, one that was developed and successfully used on the Dover District Heritage Strategy.

6.2 A thematic approach has considerable strengths:

- It allows a mixture of assets types to be brought together into a coherent and accessible story that explains their context and collective significance;
- It explains the contribution that the vast number of undesignated heritage assets can make to the overall significance of the district's heritage; and
- It allows broader links to be made across the district's heritage and heritage activity enabling co-ordinated effort, project development and promotion.

6.3 The themes that have been identified for Folkestone and Hythe are:

## **Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Themes**

### **1. Landscape**

- 1a Romney Marsh
- 1b North Downs & Greensand Vale
- 1c Dungeness
- 1d The District's Coastline

### **2. Coastal Heritage - Harbours & Ports**

- 2a Early Harbours
- 2b Cinque Ports, Limbs & Connected Towns
- 2c Folkestone as a Cross Channel Port

### **3. Coastal Heritage - Seaside Leisure & Tourism**

- 3a Folkestone & Sandgate as seaside resorts
- 3b Dymchurch, St Mary's Bay & Romney Sands
- 3c The Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway

### **4. Coastal Heritage - The District's Maritime Coast**

- 4a Fishing
- 4b Safeguarding the coast
- 4c Wrecks

### **5. Defence Heritage**

- 5a Invasion Coast
- 5b Castles
- 5c Napoleonic
- 5d Great War
- 5e Second World War
- 5f Camps, training grounds and ranges

### **6 Church**

### **7 Settlement**

### **8 Farming & farmsteads**

### **9 Parks, gardens and estates**

### **10 Transport**

### **11 Archaeology**

### **12 Built Heritage**

### **13 Conservation Areas**

6.4 It is recognised that there are significant heritage assets within the district that do not easily fall into the above themes; it is for this reason we have adopted a thematic approach. The thematic approach provides flexibility, can be added to through future studies and be applied at different scales perhaps focusing on a particular collection of assets or an area of the district.

## **Themes methodology, values and significance**

6.5 The historic themes are derived from desk top studies of the district. They are intended to provide an illustration of significant elements, examples or key groupings of the district's heritage assets that contribute to the significance of the theme. The nature of such a theme-based approach means that there will be considerable overlap between themes, groups and sub-themes. As such some heritage assets feature in multiple themes.

6.6 The theme studies as background papers are available to read separately and can be viewed within the heritage section of the website.

6.7 The importance of identifying the significance of a heritage asset for the consideration of planning applications is set out in the NPPF and summarised earlier in the strategy.

To provide a starting point for any applicants, the council has assessed the significance of each of the themes. To do this, the council has based the assessment on values set out in English Heritage's Conservation Principle, which are as follows:

**Evidential value** derives from the potential for heritage assets to yield further evidence of past human activity.

**Historical values** may be represented through the ability of an asset to illustrate an aspect of history or prehistory on a wider scale, or by association with a specific notable family, person, event or movement.

**Aesthetic value** derives from the ways in which people draw sensory or intellectual stimulation from a place. It is recognised in the present study that some assets may have an aesthetic value as a result of deliberate and conscious designs, whereas the aesthetic value of other places may be accidental or secondary to their primary function.

**Communal value** derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. As part of the communal value consideration has also been given to the amenity value of themes or elements therein.

6.8 The overall assessment of significance is considered in terms of its evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal values and is intended to reflect the theme, group or sub-theme as a whole. Assets may individually be of greater or lesser significance or may contribute to the significance of multiple themes or have an additional group value. This assessment is intended as a starting point for individual assets, where proposals would require an individual evaluation to establish the particular significance of each asset.

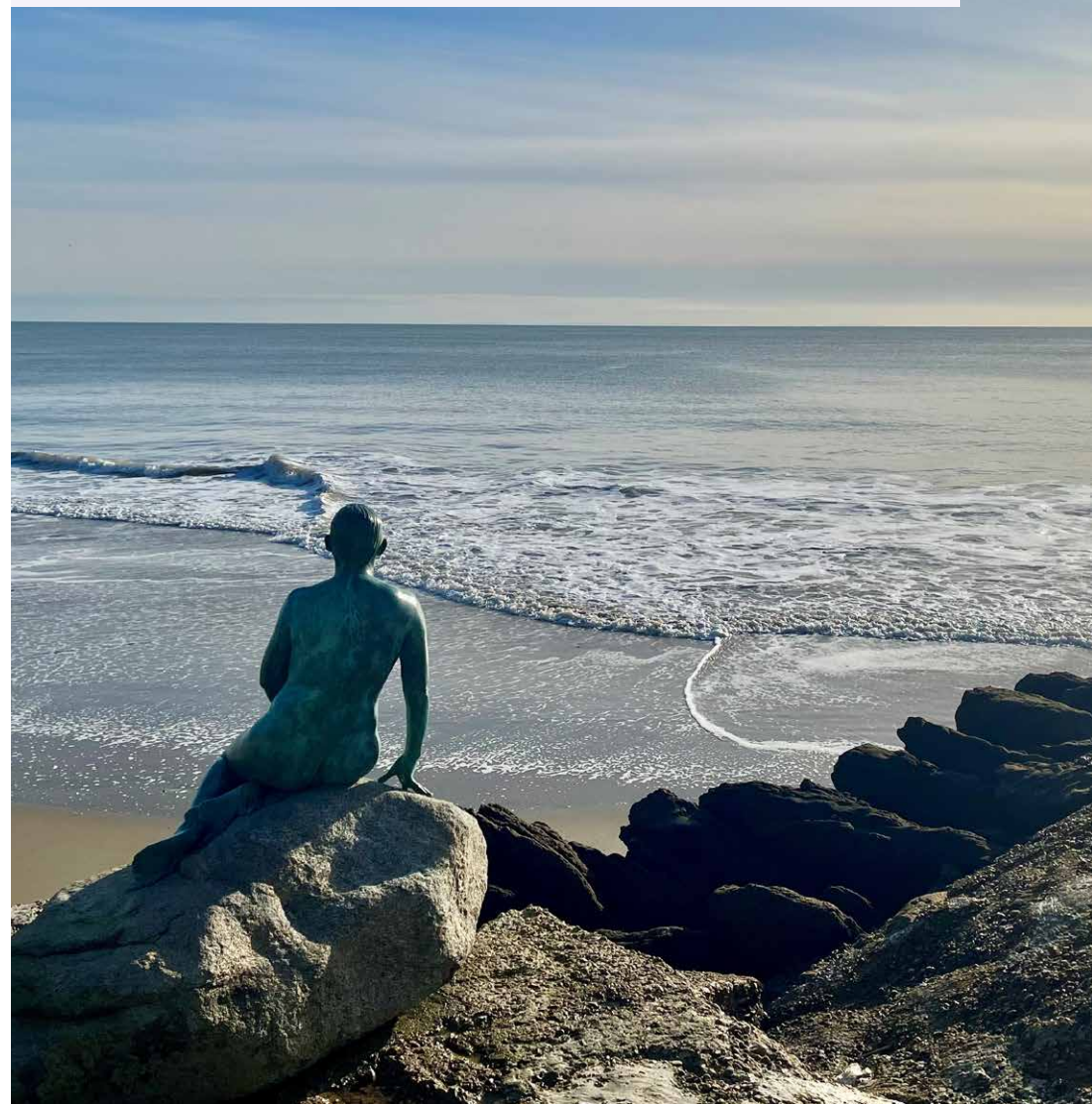
The degrees of significance adopted in the Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Strategy are:

- **Outstanding Significance:** themes which are of key national or international significance. These contain significant heritage assets, which are among the best (or the only surviving example) of an important type of monument or are outstanding representatives of important social or cultural phenomena or are of very major regional or local significance.
- **Considerable Significance:** themes which contain heritage assets that are good and representative examples of an important class of monument (or the only example locally) or have a particular significance through association (although surviving examples may be relatively common on a national scale).
- **Moderate Significance:** themes which contribute to the character and distinctiveness of the district, or which provide an historical or cultural context for other themes that may be of individually greater significance.
- **Low Significance:** themes which are of individually low value in general terms or have little or no significance in promoting understanding or appreciation of the district, without being intrusive.
- **Uncertain Significance:** themes or elements therein which have the potential to be significant (e.g., buried archaeological remains) but where it is not possible to be certain on the evidence currently available.
- **Intrusive:** themes or elements therein which detract visually from or which obscure understanding of significant elements or values of the district. Recommendations may be made on their removal or other methods of mitigation.

6.9 The table below sets out the significance of each of the themes assessed for the heritage strategy and shows the richness of heritage assets within the district

Theme	Significance
1a Romney Marsh	Outstanding
1b North Downs & Greensand Vale	Outstanding
1c Dungeness	Outstanding
1d The District's Coastline	Outstanding
2a Early Harbours	Outstanding
2b Cinque Ports, Limbs & Connected Towns	Considerable
2c Folkestone as a Cross Channel Port	Considerable
3a Folkestone & Sandgate as seaside resorts	Considerable
3b Hythe, Dymchurch, St Mary's Bay & Romney Sands	Moderate - Considerable
3c The Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway	Considerable
4a Fishing	Considerable
4b Safeguarding the coast	Considerable
4c Wrecks	Outstanding
5a Invasion Coast	Considerable - Outstanding
5b Castles	Considerable - Outstanding
5c Napoleonic	Outstanding
5d Great War	Considerable
5e Second World War	Considerable
5f Camps, training grounds and ranges	Considerable
6 Church	Outstanding
7 Settlement	Outstanding
8 Farming & farmsteads	Moderate
9 Parks, gardens and estates	Considerable
10 Transport	Considerable
11 Archaeology	Outstanding
12 Built Heritage	Outstanding
13 Conservation Areas	Outstanding

▼ The Folkestone Mermaid dates from 2011. Created by Cornelia Parker OBE, the Folkestone Mermaid is local interpretation of Copenhagen's world famous Little Mermaid and modelled on a local resident. The creative arts have become increasingly important in town in recent years, facilitating regeneration and informing its character.



7.1 The rich historic environment offers many opportunities to those who live, work, visit and invest in the district. Heritage plays a vital role in the environmental, social and economic well-being of the district and its sustainable future. This is recognised in the Core Strategy Review and the NPPF which directs this strategy to take into account “the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring.”

▼ The excavation of the 7th Century church at Lyminge in 2019, a community-based project in partnership with the University of Reading, part-funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund - Image courtesy of Robert Baldwin – Lyminge Archaeological Project and Lyminge Historical Society



## 7. Opportunities - Making the most of the district's heritage

7.2 Heritage can play a positive role in the future of the district in the following ways:

- as a catalyst for economic and social regeneration;
- in realising tourism and visitor potential;
- contributing to improved public health and wellbeing; and
- education is imperative to understanding our heritage and history.

▼ Walkers on the route of the Royal Kentish Camino and the Royal Saxon Way, which follow the same path through the Elham Valley to Lyminge – Image courtesy of Robert Baldwin – Lyminge Archaeological Project and Lyminge Historical Society



7.3 The historic environment offers great potential as a resource for enhancing the quality of life in the district. It can act as a framework for regeneration, complementing and supporting the economic development of the area. This can help produce higher quality and more sustainable development that is successfully integrated into life here. The historic environment can also play a key role in social regeneration and in the cultural offering of the district. Successful heritage-led regeneration, where appropriate acting in partnership with community projects, can help to connect people with their urban and rural landscapes, with their heritage and with each other. The linking of heritage with the culture and arts sector can provide significant benefits together and be a strong catalyst to creating wealth and regeneration.

7.4 Successful regeneration must have a lasting long-term positive effect on places and the communities that live in them. It is not just about improving the physical fabric of a place; it is about bringing about social cohesion, encouraging economic growth and restoring vibrancy to communities.

7.5 The incorporation of heritage in a holistic regeneration approach brings a number of benefits which may include:

- Creating a sense of place;
- Re-use of heritage assets;
- Adding value to new development;
- Attracting business and commercial activities;
- Durability of regeneration;
- Optimising regeneration projects; and
- Improving the tourism offer.



## 8. Vulnerability of Heritage Assets



8.1 Heritage assets are vulnerable to change in a number of different ways. The heritage asset may be affected physically through a specific action or it may be affected passively by change over time through environmental factors or neglect.

8.2 The setting of a heritage asset is also vulnerable to change. The NPPF defines the setting of a heritage asset as “the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral”.

### Vulnerabilities

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8.3 The district’s heritage assets are generally vulnerable to:

- Natural processes such as coastal erosion, sea level change, change in hydrology and climate change;
- Rural activities such as ploughing and use of machinery, changes in farming regime and leisure use of the countryside;
- The development and maintenance of infrastructure such as utilities, power generation, roads and railways;
- Development of sites including house building, commercial and industrial properties, extraction of minerals, change in land use, flood and coastal defence works;
- Change through alteration or economic decline and neglect;
- Policy and management gaps, designation thresholds and capacity for monitoring and enforcement;
- Criminal actions such as arson, theft, vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

8.4 Historic England’s Heritage at Risk Register identifies those sites that are most at risk of being lost as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate

development. The register is updated annually. This can be viewed at [Search the Heritage at Risk Register | Historic England](#)

8.5 The 2024 register included the following Folkestone and Hythe historic assets:

Historic Asset	Means of protection and status
Church of St James the Great, Elmsted	Grade I
The Leas Lift including Waiting Rooms, Brake Houses and Railings, Folkestone	Grade II*
Church of St Mary, Stowting	Grade II*
Dymchurch Redoubt, Hythe Ranges, Hythe	Scheduled Monument
Martello No 4, Cliff Road, Folkestone	Scheduled Monument
Martello No 5, Folkestone School for Girls	Scheduled Monument
Martello No 6, Sandgate, Folkestone	Grade II listed & Scheduled Monument
Martello No 7, Sandgate, Folkestone	Grade II listed & Scheduled Monument
Martello 9, Sandgate, Folkestone	Grade II listed & Scheduled Monument
Roman villa, Folkestone	Scheduled Monument
Motte and Bailey Castle 200m NW of Stowting Church, Stowting	Scheduled Monument
Bowl barrow 150m northeast of Red House Farm, Swingfield	Scheduled Monument
Bowl barrow at Minnis Beeches, Swingfield	Scheduled Monument

The Leas Lift closed in 2017 but is currently being refurbished and is due to reopen in 2026.

## Heritage Crime

8.6 Heritage crime is defined by Historic England as “any offence which harms the value of England’s heritage assets and their settings to this and future generations”. It includes crimes against landmarks, archaeological sites and built heritage, historical artefacts and museums. Heritage crime covers a wide range of criminal activity that can result in the irreplaceable loss of or serious damage to heritage assets. As well as the impact that heritage crime can have in its own terms on our heritage and the values our communities place on their heritage, in many cases the financial cost of the heritage crime, protecting and repairing the remaining heritage asset can be substantial. Heritage crime includes:

- criminal damage or vandalism;
- arson;
- theft of heritage and cultural property;
- anti-social behaviour;
- damage by vehicles and trespass;
- unauthorised excavation and metal detecting.

▼ Examples of the impact of vandalism on the historic environment – A headstone, deliberately broken and graffiti within the Cheriton Road Cemetery – Images courtesy of The Friends of Cheriton Road Cemetery



## Tackling Heritage Crime

8.7 Local communities, societies and special interest groups have a valuable role to play in the fight against heritage crime and anti-social behaviour through monitoring the condition of heritage assets and reporting crime in their area. The Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage (ARCH), was launched in 2011. The overriding objective of the group is to reduce the amount of crime that causes damage to, or interferes with, the enjoyment of heritage assets in England. Members of ARCH have a shared interest in preventing and seeing effective enforcement of heritage crime.

8.8 Further information on ARCH can be obtained from Historic England - [Contact Historic England | Historic England](#)

8.9 Heritage crime can be reported as any other crime directly to the police, in an emergency situation, such as when a crime is in progress, when someone suspected of a crime is nearby, when it is considered that there is danger to life or property or when violence is being used or threatened; this can be done by dialling 999.

8.10 In other situations where it is not an emergency and does not require immediate attention the number 101 can be used, or an online report can be made.

## Planning and Planning Enforcement

8.11 Paragraph 3.1 cites the foremost elements of legislation and advice that relate to the historic environment, which will guide decision making. The authority has a dedicated Conservation & Heritage Officer to provide expert advice and guidance on listed building applications, so decisions affecting listed buildings and the historic environment are made with expert advice.

8.12 Where a breach of listed building consent (or planning permission) is suspected it can be investigated by the council's planning team. More details and a link to report suspected violations can be found at [Breach of planning controls | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#)



▲ St Leonards Church tower, Hythe. The large 11th-century church is up the hill; the tower at its western end was destroyed by an earth tremor in 1739 and restored in 1750. St Leonards Church is one of only two churches in England to contain a surviving ossuary. It has the largest and best-preserved collection of ancient human skulls and bones in Britain.



## 9. Taking the Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Strategy forward



### Introduction

9.1 From the analysis of research, consultation and feedback from early consultation of the strategy, four broad objectives have been identified to take forward. These are set out below:

#### The Heritage Strategy's objectives are:

##### **Objective 1 - Leadership**

The district council will seek to promote the rich heritage of the district and related activity.

##### **Objective 2 - Heritage Management**

The district council will seek to ensure that the district's heritage assets are sustained and enhanced so as to best meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to appreciate their significance; ways may be investigated to help manage, inform and guide the process of change in the district.

##### **Objective 3 - Place Shaping**

The district council will seek to promote the use of the historic environment and heritage assets to enable and inform development, regeneration and place making.

##### **Objective 4 - Capitalising**

The district council will seek to realise the economic and social potential of the rich historic environment of the district, together with its heritage assets and heritage activity.

9.2 The heritage strategy has identified a considerable number of potential actions and recommendations at varying scales and levels of importance to deliver the objectives set out above. It would be unrealistic to expect that all of these can be addressed in the short term though some progress can and in fact already is being made on many.

9.3 Leading from the objectives, Folkestone & Hythe District Council have identified eleven priorities, which are initiatives that may be considered to take forward.

9.4 These are set out and discussed below. The order does not reflect any ranking of priorities.

**Priority 1 | The District Council (the Council) will seek opportunities to co-ordinate, link and support agreed projects of the numerous heritage related groups and activities in the district.**

- The development of the heritage strategy has identified the large number of heritage-related stakeholders and activity within the district. This is seen as a particular strength and is an aspect that can be positively built upon. The district council is keen that the scale of heritage activity and potential connections be examined as part of the strategy development.
- Creation of a single website that promotes and explains the district's rich heritage and the wealth of activity that is taking place will help to promote the work of the stakeholders to the wider public and encourage wider participation. A calendar of activities and events could be included on such a site. The website could also include information on access to assets and visitor sites, guidance to managing the district's heritage and downloadable toolkits to support heritage work.

**Priority 2 | The district's heritage and its significance will be recognised and considered at the earliest stages of development, regeneration and plan-making. The heritage strategy will be taken into account when developing strategies and policies by the council.**

The district's heritage can play a key role in helping to create new places, in development and in regeneration, in association with the following guiding principles:

- The historic environment should be considered as an important element in proposals for new development to help develop a strong 'sense of place' and an identity for existing and new communities.

- Proposals for change should be sensitive to the character of a place, adding to and developing its distinctiveness.
- Proposals for regeneration and development should take account of all its heritage, including that which is undesignated at an early stage and should be reflected in master plans.
- The sustainable and beneficial reuse of heritage assets, conserving them in a manner that is appropriate to their significance, should be encouraged in new development and given appropriate weight in making planning decisions.
- The Regeneration Checklist published in Regeneration and the Historic Environment (English Heritage 2005), or any updates, should be taken account of in regeneration proposals.

**Priority 3 | To make heritage information readily available and understood by those involved in the process of change and heritage activities.**

- Paragraph 199 of the NPPF reads - *Local planning authorities should make information about the historic environment, gathered as part of policy-making or development management, publicly accessible.*
- The Kent Historic Environment Record should remain as the main repository and source of information concerning the district's historic environment, it is intended that a new web page on the council's website might be used as a location for links to local heritage bodies and local heritage interests.

**Priority 4 | To seek to undertake a long-term programme of conservation area appraisal and review and develop management plans and guidance for the district's conservation areas.**

- A number of the district's conservation areas lack conservation area appraisals, others have draft appraisals and the remainder have appraisals that have not been recently reviewed; without such appraisals it is difficult for decision-makers to understand the special significance

of a conservation area and make informed management decisions. A priority for the heritage strategy might include an initiative to undertake a programme of conservation area appraisal for the remaining conservation areas that are yet to be covered and to review those that have been published in adopted or draft form.

**Priority 5 | The Council will develop and make available to planning applicants, guidance for the compilation and content of Heritage Statements.**

This should include:

- A methodology for checking proposals against the district's heritage themes;
- Statements that clearly set out the significance of the heritage assets present;
- Statements that clearly set out the potential impact of proposals on the significance of heritage assets both physically and on their setting.

**Priority 6 | The Council will investigate creating and maintaining a Local Heritage at Risk Register with links to the National Register.**

- The opening sentence of Paragraph 196 within the NPPF reads - *Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats.*
- Historic England only include those heritage assets designated at the highest level i.e. Grade I and II\* Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Grade I Registered Parks and Gardens and Protected Wreck Sites on their Heritage at Risk Register. Many of the district's heritage assets, designated at a lower level or undesignated are not regularly monitored and consequently the risk to them is not understood.

**Priority 7 | The Council will investigate working with Kent Police to assess the feasibility of producing a Heritage Crime Risk Assessment,**

**support systems to record and recognise heritage crime and promote reporting initiatives such as Country Eye.**

- This might be achieved through a new web page for the historic environment. This could be used to advertise links to such initiatives as Country Eye or to advertise local heritage crime related issues.

**Priority 8 | The Council will create and maintain a Local List of Heritage Assets.**

The List shall:

- include all types of heritage assets - e.g. built heritage, archaeology, landscape features;
- have clear and robust criteria for selection of heritage assets on the list;
- require supporting statements of significance, condition, vulnerability and potential opportunities for sustainable use.

There are locally important heritage assets that make up the district's heritage and contribute to the sense of place of its historic areas. Others also contribute positively to areas that are considered less historic. Most people in the district interact with undesignated heritage assets, they provide the distinctive character of their places and define their perception of the district as much as key sites and landscapes do. When proposals for change come forward there are considerable problems in recognising the value of undesignated heritage assets, often with the result that master-planning and development does not give them due consideration at an early enough stage.

**Priority 9 | The Council will consider and promote the district's heritage in a thematic way to provide greater opportunities to link assets and coordinate activities.**

- Developing and promoting the heritage of the district in a thematic way can help to:
  - promote tourism by creating packages that link a number of heritage assets across the district encouraging longer or return visits;

- provide a mix of key heritage assets that are promoted as visitor attractions with heritage that can be found in other publicly accessible locations, thereby drawing visitors into local areas with greater contribution to the local economy;
  - provide a suitable mechanism to support and co-ordinate the efforts of stakeholders and their activities;
  - provide stories that can be readily understood, marketed and celebrated. Such stories help to provide context for the visitor to the heritage.
- Most of the district's heritage themes could be developed for visitors though some have particular strengths e.g., defence and military heritage (especially the Napoleonic defences), church, Romney Marsh and Dungeness (linking with the natural heritage) and Victorian and Edwardian Folkestone.
  - Many visitors may desire a mix of experiences from their trip rather than simply heritage. It is important therefore that the heritage offer becomes more integrated into the wider offer available in the district and benefits are realised from both directions.
  - It is important that promotion and explanation of the heritage of the district is aimed equally at those who live and work there as it is to visitors. They are the people who will interact with the general heritage on a daily basis and in many cases this will not be readily recognised or appreciated. The thematic approach lends itself to presenting the heritage of the district as stories which explains the context of the heritage in an engaging and more readily understood way. Understanding an area's heritage helps to improve a sense of place and pride for those who live and work there.

There is great potential for the heritage of the district to contribute to the education and learning sector. The heritage themes can fit well into the curriculum and local heritage assets can potentially provide for a more convenient and cheaper resource for school visits. Additional benefits of using

local heritage packages for education will be to develop wider appreciation for the district's heritage and encourage students and their families to visit the sites themselves.

**Priority 10 | Support the heritage-related proposals in the Sustainable Access and Recreational Management Strategy at Dungeness and measures to manage the impact of visitor numbers at the site.**

- A particular issue identified in the district has been the fragility of the historic and natural environment and the distinctive character of the Dungeness Estate. One of the biggest challenges at Dungeness is the continued conservation of its unique historic landscape, tranquil character and important flora and fauna whilst in the face of substantial visitor numbers, around a million per year, and increased promotion as a visitor attraction. Issues include visitors deviating from pathways and damaging the sensitive landscape and assets, uncontrolled dogs, littering, trespass on private property and infringing the privacy of residents. Whilst measures can be put in place to mitigate some of these issues, the provision of visitor infrastructure can itself have a detrimental impact on the distinctive and special character of the place. Items such as litter bins, signage and fencing needs to be carefully considered so that a correct balance is achieved. Part of the distinctive character of Dungeness is the remoteness and isolation of the area. This can be undermined by the introduction of substantial numbers of visitors to the area.
- A number of plans and strategies are being developed to help address the issues faced by Dungeness. These include a Sustainable Access and Recreational Management Strategy for Dungeness, Rye and Camber that aims to ensure that increased visitor numbers do not damage the area's heritage. The owners of the Estate, EDF Energy are developing a Management Plan for Dungeness.
- A number of measures are being proposed that may reduce the impact of visitor pressure on Dungeness. Key amongst these is to better inform the visiting public of the fragility of the area and how it should be respectfully treated. A careful balance of information boards, provision of literature

and importantly the presence of wardens who can interact with visitors is needed. The lack of amenities at the site including parking can lead to additional pressures. Improvement of amenities close to but outside the sensitive areas may help to disperse visitor pressure. More use of the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway may help to reduce parking at the site.

**Priority 11 | Show the ways in which the district's heritage can be used to improve public health.**

- A key finding of the original work undertaken for the Heritage Strategy was the substantial role that the district's heritage-related activities play in the public health agenda and the considerable potential for heritage to contribute further.
- Public health and well-being is a major issue locally and nationally; the health and social care system is under substantial and increasing budget and resource pressures. To be affordable, efforts are needed to reduce

the numbers of people who need to access costly health and social services and provide alternative, more cost effective ways of addressing health care problems.

- The district has varying levels of health and includes a number of wards with higher levels of deprivation than the national average.
- The health priorities for the district have been defined as:
  - Increasing physical activity in children and adults;
  - Reducing the number of people that smoke and become obese; as a result also preventing and reducing conditions relating to these behaviours;
  - Prevention of conditions that relate to an aging population.
  - It is considered that there are significant opportunities to use the district's considerable heritage assets to help people's physical and mental health. Further work is required on this.



▼ Conceptual image of the proposed garden town at Otterpool