



Case Study

Fort Burgoyne

Location: Dover (close to Dover Castle)

Size: 42 hectares

- 10 ha – Scheduled Ancient Monument
- 7 ha – Recreation Ground
- 25 ha – Local Wildlife Site grassland

the Land Trust's Role:

- Long term maintenance
- Project management
- Leveraging funding

Fort Burgoyne is a historic Palmerston Fort which forms an important part of the history of the defence of Dover and the United Kingdom.

The Fort and the surrounding chalk grassland are now under the ownership of national charity, the Land Trust and have received an endowment to maintain the site in perpetuity.

We have aspirations to bring the site back into economic use, to benefit the local communities and wildlife.

Opportunities

This site, with its dramatic spaces, has a variety of potential future uses, which will provide fantastic opportunities to benefit local communities and wildlife.

By creating a wonderful environment, this will boost the local economy; provide educational opportunities; enhance people's health and wellbeing; bring communities together and support biodiversity.

We are working hard to identify potential partners and seek funding from different sources, to enable us to invest in and bring new life to the Fort.

We would love to hear from any organisation that could help us realise this vision and be a part of an exciting journey to put this landmark on the map.



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What we are doing now

The Land Trust will ensure that the Fort has a sustainable future and is keen to develop a range of options for public consultation in due course.

Following many years of neglect, our initial priorities are to focus on the Fort and its Wing Batteries to undertake:

- vital maintenance
- health and safety assessments
- ecological assessments

Apart from the occasional organised tour, the Fort will remain closed to the public whilst these works take place.

In the short-term, the Land Trust is working with tenants and partners to explore opportunities to improve access to Combe Hill Local Wildlife Site; enhance the chalk grassland habitats and improve the recreation ground. These works will not only increase the ecological and recreational value of the site, but also provide an off road walking route between the Fort, existing communities and Dover.



History

Fort Burgoyne was built in the 1860s and was originally known as Castle Hill Fort.

Situated just to the north of Dover Castle, it is built on a polygonal model with casemated barracks and caponiers overlooking substantial outworks and two flanking wing batteries.

It was constructed in response to the Royal Commission into the Defence of the United Kingdom to provide protection to Dover Castle, which was recognised as being vulnerable to overland attack. As a consequence, its guns faced inland, rather than out to sea.

Later modifications were undertaken for both the First and Second World Wars to ensure that the site could respond to new aerial threat to the country.

It was owned by the military, who vacated it in 2006. It was then left empty for eight years until the Land Trust acquired it in 2014.

