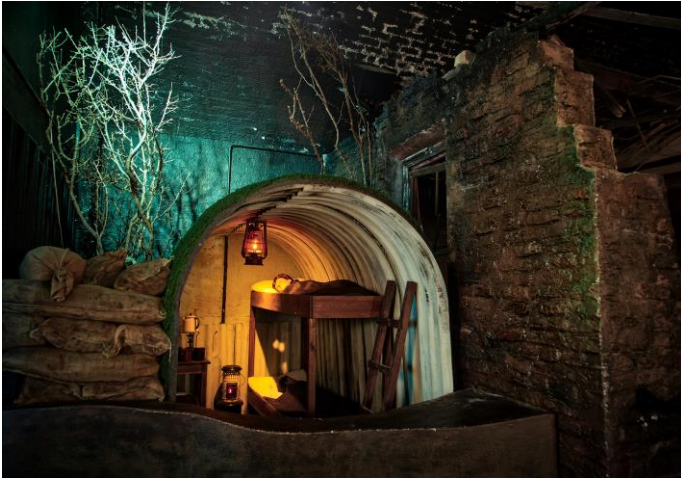




## **NEWHAVEN FORT: UNLOCK THE HIDDEN HISTORY**



**There have been defences on the cliffs overlooking Seaford Bay since the Iron Age. The fort you see today was started in 1862 and was the vision of a young Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers called John Charles Ardagh.**

When war broke out in 1939, Newhaven Fort was a vital element in the defence against the very real threat of German invasion. Thousands of soldiers were stationed in the area, including many Canadians, who took part in the ill-fated Dieppe Raid from Newhaven. Troops also set out from here for the Normandy landings of 1944.

This trail is for use by teachers and adult helpers visiting Newhaven Fort with Key Stage 2 groups. The trail covers the whole site, but there is a particular focus on the role of the fort in the Second World War. It is intended to support your visit to the fort, to help you discover key features of the site and explore some of the displays in the casemates. The trail gives things to look for, things to think about and things to imagine. The things to think about are intended to be prompts for discussion — there are not necessarily any right or wrong answers. You can start at any point and follow the trail around.

# HISTORY OF THE FORT

newhaven  
**FORT**

Find the 'History of the Fort' exhibition. In here you will learn about the defensive history of Newhaven, how and why the fort was built, and what it has been used for over the years.



LOOK  
FOR

1. The model of the fort. Listen to Lt. Ardagh describe his innovative designs and defences.
2. The timelines that tell you when the fort was built and who has used it since then.

THINK  
ABOUT

1. Why Newhaven has always been an important port, and still is today.
2. Why Lt. Ardagh originally chose the site to build a fort and how useful it has been throughout history.

IMAGINE  
...

Life in Newhaven during the Second World War was scary. The fort was a natural defence for the town. What would life have been like here in Newhaven?

Newhaven would have been a very different place from what it is now. Would it have been as busy or as safe? What would have been different? Would different people have lived and worked in the town?

# LIFE IN THE FORT

Find the casemate called 'Life in the Fort'. In here you'll find lots of information about the life of a Victorian soldier.



LOOK  
FOR

1. A Victorian barrack room.
2. Some musical instruments!
3. Some uniforms.
4. Information about 'Barrack Rats'.

THINK  
ABOUT

1. What were the reasons somebody might join the army in the Victorian age?
2. How many people lived in the fort? Was it only soldiers that lived here?
3. Was it all hard work in the army?

IMAGINE  
...

Imagine you're a new recruit to the Victorian Army. Do you think you would like the discipline of army life? What do you think you would enjoy the most? What be the worst thing about it?  
How would you feel if your father was in the army and you lived in the fort with your family? Do you think it would be a fun place to grow up?  
What do you think would be the differences between army life in the Victorian era and during the Second World War?

# SUSSEX SEA & AIR

Find the casemate called 'Sussex Sea & Air'. As you might expect, there are lots of planes and ships to look at in here.



LOOK  
FOR

1. A model of HMS Forward
2. A model of HMS Victory
3. A map of the airfields in Sussex during the Second World War

THINK  
ABOUT

1. What was HMS Forward used for?
2. What was the Battle of the Atlantic? What impact did it have on life in Britain during the Second World War?

IMAGINE  
...

Imagine you are stationed in HMS Forward and you can't tell anybody what you are doing in there, not even your family or best friend. How would that make you feel? Do you think you'd be able to keep it a secret?

# DIEPPE AND D-DAY

Find the exhibition called 'Dieppe And D-Day'. In here you will learn about two famous invasions, one more successful than the other.



## LOOK FOR

1. A picture of a cat. What is special about this animal?
2. A film about the raid on Dieppe.
3. Models of the landing craft and tanks used in the D-Day landings.
4. Maps showing the landing beaches on the Dieppe raid and the D-Day landings.

## THINK ABOUT

1. Listen to the story of the Dieppe raid. The soldiers tell one story, the government tell a slightly different one. Which do you believe?
2. Lessons were learned from the raid and put into practice for the D-Day landings. What lessons did the Allies learn that they could put into practice when they next invaded France?

## IMAGINE ...

Many men lost their lives or were captured during the Dieppe raid. Imagine landing on the beach at Dieppe or on D-Day. How would you feel? You might have lost a really close friend even if you had survived.

Women were not involved in the fighting but their lives were very much altered by the war. In Newhaven many local women married Canadian soldiers who were stationed here during the hostilities, and after the war they moved back to Canada with them. What would it have been like for those women, leaving their families and starting a new life away from England? Travel and communication were very different from today! What would they miss from home? Would they be happy?

# HOME FRONT

Find the casemate with a sign outside saying 'Home Front'. In here you will discover the many ways in which everyday life in Britain was affected by the Second World War.



## LOOK FOR

1. Evacuees at a train station.
2. A woman in a uniform.
3. Examples of rationed food.
4. A boy in a Morrison Shelter.
5. Victory celebrations for the end of the war.

## THINK ABOUT

1. Look at the food rations that were supposed to last a whole week! Would they have been enough? Would you still be hungry? Have a look around, what else did people at the time do to provide food for themselves and their families?
2. How the role of women changed during the war. What jobs did they do and why did they do them?
3. Stand next to the bombed house. Children would have played in bomb sites like this. What dangers can you see?

## IMAGINE

Stand by the bomb site. How does it smell? Does it feel cold? Can you see the boy in the shelter? He is on his own. How would he feel?

Because big cities were considered dangerous, children were evacuated to the countryside. They went without their parents. Keeping in touch was difficult, with no mobile phones. In fact, letter writing was the only way to communicate with home.

If you were an evacuee, what things would make you feel less lonely? It was an adventure, but would it have been scary, exciting, or lonely? How would you feel?

# THE GRAND MAGAZINE



The Grand Magazine was originally built to hold the fort's stores of gunpowder. Today you can learn all about this aspect of its history. It is also home to our 'Hidden Fort' film. Venture in to explore some parts of the fort you can't usually see...



1. A 'shifting lobby'.
2. Gunpowder barrels.
3. A painted door.



1. Why was it important to change clothes when entering the Grand Magazine?
2. What is gunpowder made from? Was it always easy to find these ingredients?
3. Where was the gunpowder taken to be put into shells for the guns?
4. Why did the Fort need the musketry galleries that are featured on the 'Hidden Fort' film?
5. What unusual use did these rooms have in 1946?



Imagine you were in charge of lighting the lamps in the lighting passage of the Grand Magazine when it was full of gunpowder. Do you think you would be nervous?

How would you feel if you were heading into the musketry galleries to defend the fort? Would you be excited or scared?

Many people used to play in the old tunnels when the fort was derelict during the 1970s. Do you think you would enjoy playing in them, or would you find it a bit scary?

# OBSERVATION POSTS

newhaven  
**FORT**

Walk along the ramparts to the Battery Observation Post (BOP) and the Royal Observer Corps Post. These are both on the highest point in the fort - great for keeping an eye on the sea and sky all around.



## LOOK FOR

1. Look out to sea. What can you see?
2. Look for the lighthouse and the beach. Are there any ships?
3. Turn around and look at the harbour. Is the ferry there?
4. Look into the sky. Can you see any planes?
5. Can you see the windows in the BOP that the soldiers would have looked out of during the Second World War?

## THINK ABOUT

1. You have been looking for planes, ships, the harbour and the beach. Would the soldiers during the Second World War be looking for the same things? Would they have a different reason to look?
2. We are 120 feet above sea level. This gives us an amazing view. Ardagh would have known this when he designed the fort. Why was this important to him? Why was it important to the soldiers during the Second World War?

## IMAGINE

Try to imagine yourself as a soldier sitting in the cold in 1940. Suddenly you see a German ship. How would you feel? What would you do, and how would you get the information back to Headquarters? Remember, there were no mobile phones!



# CAPONIER

From the Parade Ground, find the entrance to the Caponier and the steps that lead down to bottom of the cliff. This was one of the first lines of defence if the fort was attacked.



## LOOK FOR

1. Steps. How many do you think there are?
2. Can you find the slits in the wall in the Caponier building?

## THINK ABOUT

1. What were the slits used for? Why were they so thin?
2. What is at the bottom of the steps? If you were a soldier, why would you want to go down those steps?
3. During the Second World War why would it be important to put defences at the bottom of the steps?
4. The word Caponier comes from the French word caponnière, which means chicken coop. Do you think this name is suitable? Why?

## IMAGINE ...

If you were a soldier stationed here during the Second World War, why would you want to close off the Caponier? What would you use to defend the fort?

If you were down in the caponier during the Victorian era, it probably meant that an attack was coming and you were part of the fort's first line of defence. How would you feel knowing that enemy soldiers were on their way and you would have to fight soon?

# THE FIRST WORLD WAR

newhaven  
**FORT**

Once you have got your breath back from the climb up the Caponier stairs you'll find the 'First World War' exhibition close by. In here you will learn about the causes and consequences of what was once called 'the war to end all wars'.



LOOK  
FOR

1. When was the First World War?
2. Look around the walls at the government information. Posters were made to encourage men to sign up to fight or keep up the spirits on the Home Front.
3. This was a very different war, fought in a very different way from the Second World War. As you go around the display look for the model of the trenches that the soldiers on both sides lived in and fought from.
4. Can you find the Defence of the Realm Act (DORA)? (If you need a clue, it is a set of rules for living during the war).

THINK  
ABOUT

1. Why the soldiers fought in trenches. Look at the large model - it will give you a clue. This was the last war to use trench warfare. Why? What lessons did we learn? What changed that meant we never fought like this again? Remember that illness killed as many troops as the fighting did.
2. What is propaganda? Why were lots of propaganda posters made in the First World War? What other methods could the Government use to get their pro-war message across to the public? Remember at that time there was no television, very little radio and definitely no internet!

IMAGINE  
...

Try and imagine that you are a soldier sitting in the trenches waiting for the whistle to blow. This is the signal for you to go 'over the top' and fight. How would you feel? Would you want to run away, or would you want to stay and do your duty? Life in the trenches was hard. What would you miss from home? How would you make life more bearable?

Imagine you are at home waiting for news of your son, husband or father in the trenches. What would you be thinking? How would your life and the life of your family have changed since they went to war? Everyone thought the war would only last a few months but it went on for four years. How would you feel about that? What effect would it have on you and those around you?