

Fort Bovisand_Plymouth



Fort Bovisand on the south coast reflects the history of over 400 years of British coastal defence. From an early gun battery, established in the late 16th century, to the creation of the harbour and casemates, built in the 19th century, the site became part of a network of fortifications around Plymouth, intended to protect the Naval dockyard. The site continued to be used and developed for coastal defence for the next 80 years, particularly during the two World Wars, until it was finally decommissioned in 1956. More recently, it has been used as a centre for diving activities, including the training of divers; an activity that continues today.

The Brief

ADP was commissioned as lead consultant to deliver architectural and landscape design proposals for the regeneration of the Fort Bovisand site, which includes Grade II and Grade II* listed buildings and a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Design Proposals

Proposals include the restoration of eight of the distinctive Victorian casemates as a visitor interpretation centre. This will include an exhibition space, a learning hub and outdoor spaces for a range of activities including guided tours. Improving the entry, ticketing and visitor flows through the site is also an important consideration. This has been helped by the natural topology of the site and different levels, as buildings and structures cascade down the hillside towards the sea.

ADP is also working closely with interpretation designers, Tandem, to take the visitor on a journey through Fort Bovisand's past, from the history of everyday military life to discovering more about the world of diving and marine archaeology.

Bringing the site back to life through reuse of existing buildings is inherently sustainable, and design features that reduce ecological impact and energy consumption have been integral to the scheme. Existing structures that are in a state of dilapidation will be stabilized, conserved and adapted for new uses with minimal intervention. New apartments will be built on the footprint of two previous towers that were demolished. These have been designed to respond sensitively to the topography of the Upper Fort and historic listed setting.

Designed to Passivhaus standards, a new apartment building to the west of the site will recede into the hillside with discrete parking and amenity.

Materials, colours and textures have been chosen to reduce visual impact, and these will be robust construction that is energy efficient and able to withstand assault by the coastal weather.

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Landscape and Sustainability

Working with the native planting of the coastal site, ADP Landscape's design proposals will enhance the area's natural beauty and bring old and new elements together in a simple, harmonious manner.

Little human presence on the site has provided a perfect habitat for wildlife and this will be protected through the retention of undisturbed areas and introduction of nesting boxes. Proposals also include providing picnic areas and spaces as part of the layered interpretation of the site, including a learning nature trail, and an amphitheatre on the quayside for exhibitions and events.

Sustainable travel will be encouraged to reduce the impact of cars. The link with the South West Coastal Path will be reinstated and the Fort Bovisand Trust hope to enable access by bicycle, bus and ferry to increase the different ways for visitors to reach the site. A small area of parking will be provided. This will be banked and partly shielded by planting to minimise visual and environmental impact.

Client: Fort Bovisand Trust
Services: Architectural, Landscape
Contract Value: £14m
Completion Date: Spring 2019