

Finding out more

In addition to this leaflet, there are information boards on site and a 22 page illustrated booklet, exploring the fort's fascinating history in more detail. The booklet is available for £3 from Box Hill shop or by mail order by sending a cheque and an A4 SAE to: **The National Trust Surrey Hills Office, Warren Farm Barns, Headley Lane, Mickleham, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6DG.** You can find Reigate Fort on the internet at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/reigatefort

Schools

Why not use the fort as your outdoor classroom? A teacher's pack with many ideas and resources for delivering both on and off site is available from the website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/reigatefort

Help the National Trust to look after Reigate Fort

1: Give your time as a volunteer

The National Trust couldn't do what it does without them! The work of many volunteers has made this restoration possible. Thirty five of the Limpsfield Volunteers removed trees, with the London and West Middlesex Volunteers clearing the magazine store. We are always in need of voluntary assistance in the Reigate area. Please contact the North Downs East Estate office for local volunteering opportunities. There's something for everyone!

2: Join the National Trust

As well as helping to care for precious countryside such as the Surrey Hills, you benefit by getting free entry to hundreds of historic houses and gardens throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Join us today at a nearby property or contact **0844 800 1895**.

3: Join your local Association

National Trust Centres and Associations are social groups, who through events and outings raise much needed funds for National Trust projects of their choice. Both the South East Surrey Centre and the Croydon Centre have provided much valued support locally. To find out more visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/supportergroups

4: Make a donation

The restoration of Reigate Fort is not complete. We would like to dress the buildings to bring them to life to enhance the visitor experience. If you would like to help the National Trust to continue this work, please make a donation by contacting the Surrey Hills office.

5: Attend a National Trust event

The National Trust hosts a varied schedule of events, from guided walks to open air concerts. there is something to please everyone. For further details visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events






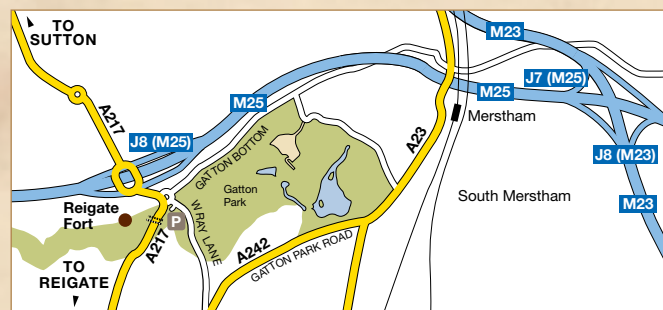
The Tool Store seen from the entrance gates

Opening Times & Information

Reigate Fort is open from dawn until dusk every day of the week, although access to the interior of the buildings is restricted. The buildings can be viewed on scheduled guided walks, or by chartering your own guided tour for groups of fifteen or more. Contact the North Downs East Estate office for further details.

How to get there:

-  Please park at Wray Lane car park. There is a short walk uphill, approximately 200 metres, to the fort.
-  Nearest station is Reigate.
-  The Fort is located approximately 2 miles north of a National Cycle Network route, which runs through Reigate town centre.



Make a day of it

Why not visit our nearby properties?

Gattton Park to the east and Colley Hill to the west are immediate neighbours of Reigate Fort and can be visited in the same day. Visit Box Hill and Leith Hill Tower for inspiring views; Chartwell, the home of Winston Churchill or Polesden Lacey, an Edwardian home set within a beautiful downland landscape.

Contact details

Surrey Hills Office 01372 220643
North Downs - East Estate Office 01342 843225

Reigate Fort

Strategic Safeguard or Military Folly?



Welcome to Reigate Fort

Reigate Fort was built in 1898 during a period of rapid changes in guns, ships and military tactics.

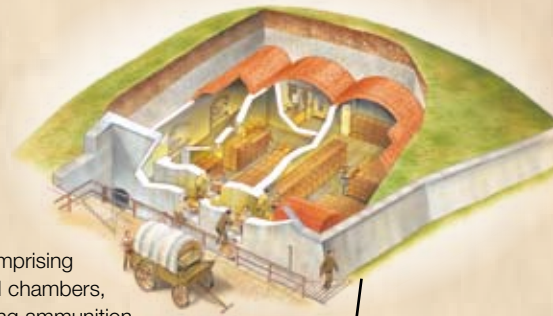
Following the defeat of Napoleon the French quickly re-emerged as a threat to Britain and her Empire. The London Defence Scheme was initiated in 1889 to protect London whilst the British warship fleet expanded.

The scheme involved a chain of defence 72 miles long, stretching from the North Downs to Essex. One of thirteen new military installations, Reigate Fort was a mobilisation centre, holding cutting tools for clearing trees and digging tools for entrenching. Once dug, these trenches would have been the final line of defence for London.

By 1906, the British Admiralty was confident that the naval forces could safeguard against an invasion, particularly with the launch of HMS Dreadnought. The centres were no longer required and Reigate Fort was decommissioned in 1906 and sold off the following year. In 1972, the mobilisation centres were designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments by English Heritage because they represented such a time of change in British warfare. By the 1980s the buildings had fallen into disrepair and were placed on the English Heritage 'Buildings at Risk' register.

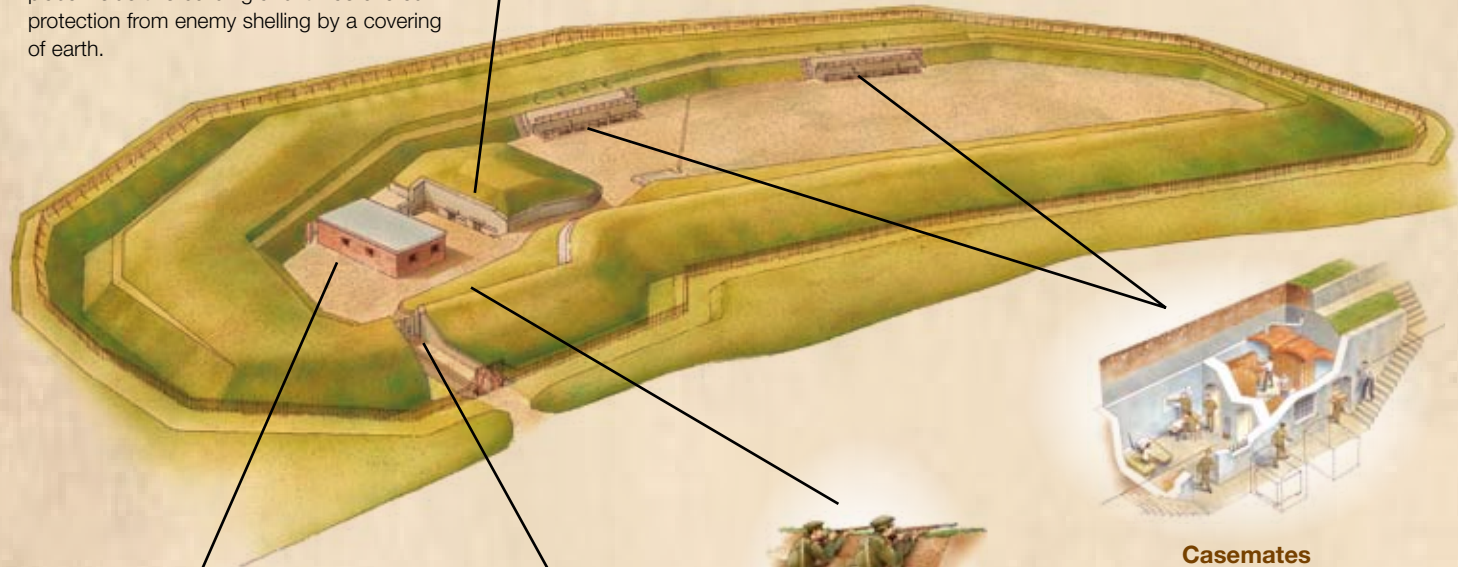
Since 2000, the National Trust, Biffaward, The Heritage Lottery Fund, Nationwide and many volunteers have helped to restore this fort. Visitors can freely explore this heritage site every day between dawn and dusk.

Inside the Magazine at Reigate Fort



Magazine

Principally comprising of two arched chambers, used for storing ammunition and gunpowder for artillery and infantry guns. Various safety measures were put in place inside this building and it was offered protection from enemy shelling by a covering of earth.



Casemates

Initially used to store entrenching tools. May have been utilised as a war room upon invasion.



Firing Step

The firing step has been largely eroded away in places, although it is still quite apparent on the inside of the northern rampart.



Gates

Two sets: the first tall, spiked ironworks; the second heavier, bullet proof gates



Tool Store

Stored digging tools for the creation of trenches and cutting tools to remove trees and bushes.



Caretakers Cottages

Two cottages, which now form part of the Hilltop Cattery