



Sydney Harbour National Park

Middle Head and Georges Head Master Plan



‘Aboriginal communities have a profound association and connection to the land. The land and water, flora and fauna within a landscape are central to Aboriginal spirituality and contribute to Aboriginal identity.’ (SHNP Plan of Management 2012)

NPWS acknowledges the traditional owners of the land at Middle and Georges Head and pays its respects to elders past, present and future.

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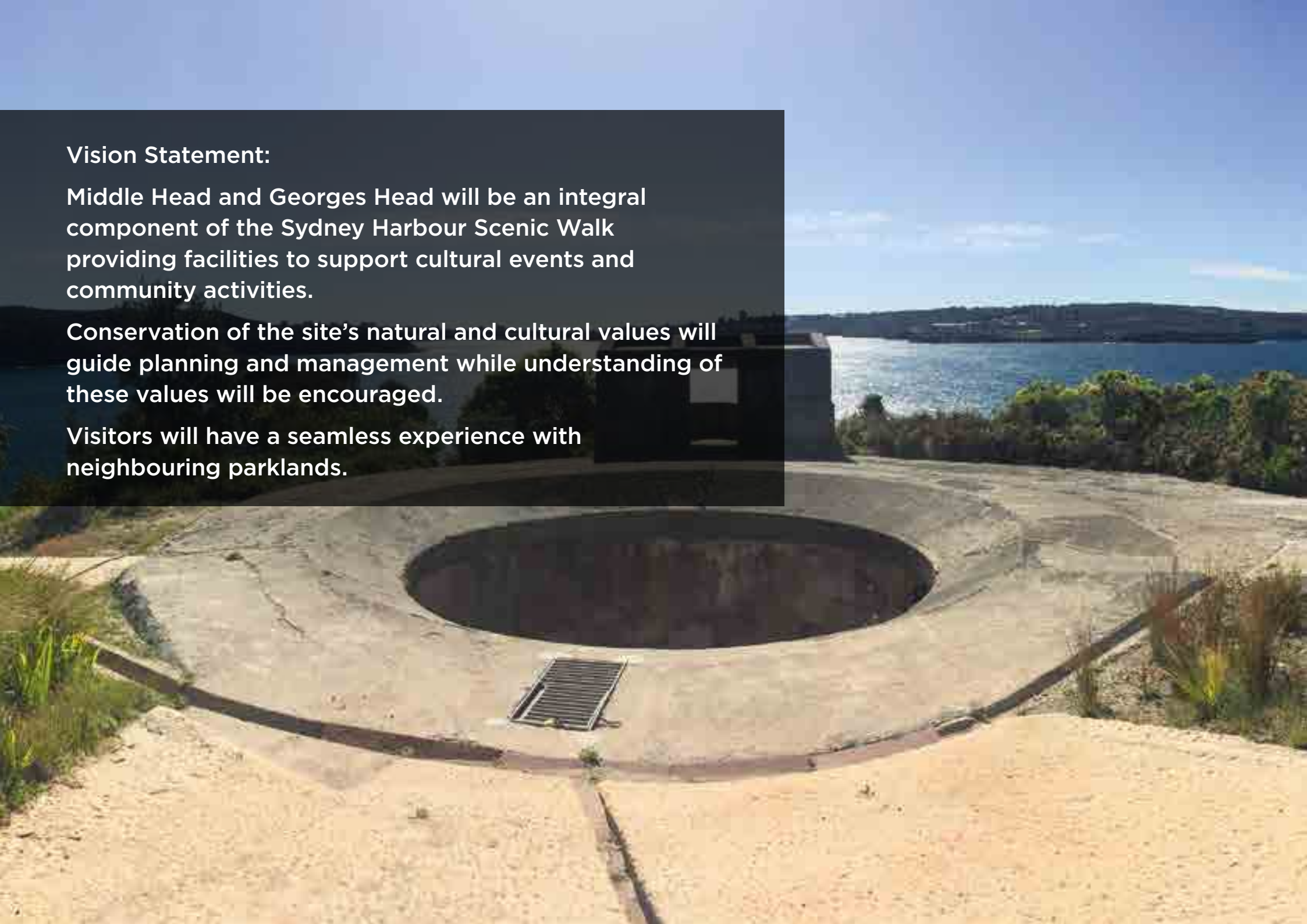
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Vision Statement:

Middle Head and Georges Head will be an integral component of the Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk providing facilities to support cultural events and community activities.

Conservation of the site's natural and cultural values will guide planning and management while understanding of these values will be encouraged.

Visitors will have a seamless experience with neighbouring parklands.





1 Summary

1.1 A vision for Middle Head and Georges Head

Background

The Middle Head and Georges Head Master Plan was prepared between July 2015 to October 2016 for the NSW National Park and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

The NPWS brief identifies the following objectives for the master plan:

‘To prepare a master plan for the Middle Head and Georges Head Precinct in Sydney Harbour National Park which addresses:

- **activity and use** constraints and opportunities for the site
- vehicle and pedestrian **access, parking and circulation**
- the **conservation** and **adaptation** of the existing buildings in their historical and contemporary setting
- **landscape management**, treatments and improvements
- **sustainable** and **viable opportunities** for use of the precinct
- improving and developing **key linkages** with neighbouring attractions, walking tracks and activities
- potential future **revenue generating activities** on the site
- **community interest** in the site
- **joint workshop and office** facilities
- **NPWS requirements**’.

The preparation of the master plan supports the strategies and policies of the *Sydney Harbour National Park Plan of Management 2012* (POM). The master plan aims to support and complement that strategic framework.

NPWS worked closely with the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (SHFT) to prepare this document. NPWS and the SHFT will continue to work together to provide a unified parkland experience across Middle Head and Georges Head.

In addition the study process involved the following consultation with key stakeholder groups:

- two working forums with NPWS Operational Staff Stakeholders
- two working forums with Community Stakeholders
- community open day in conjunction with SHFT.

Master Plan Summary

Middle Head and Georges Head are jewels within the stunning array of open space that adjoins Sydney Harbour. The headlands offer a unique combination of natural features and reflect a number of phases of Sydney's cultural history. Intrinsic to Middle Head and Georges Head is a sense of retreat and release from urban Sydney made possible by the place's largely undeveloped and low key character. This master plan seeks to reconcile these fundamental values with a level of access that can encourage visitation and usage enabling a broad cross section of users and visitors from across Sydney and beyond to enjoy this special place.

The master plan identifies that key environmental management works are required to address issues such as erosion and weed encroachment and ensure that the natural values of Middle and Georges Heads are protected and enhanced.

Across Middle and Georges Heads there is a number of points of interest or nodes focussed on natural features and related fortifications from various phases of Sydney's history. Each of these is a worthy destination and together they can paint a rich and highly layered recreational experience. In every case these nodes could be enhanced, through improved interpretation and provision of safe viewing points and other improvements.

These nodes also have potential for a variety of uses. The armoured casemates at Georges Head, for example, could create a highly evocative indoor events venue. A number of existing buildings have potential as low key short-term visitor accommodation, and others for adaptation for visitor facilities and interpretation. In addition, various spaces across the headlands offer potential for events, to present the site in new and innovative ways and contribute to the cultural dialogue of the Sydney area.

However the most important strategy to enhance the community experience of Middle and Georges Heads is effective integration to the Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk. The headlands are not linked effectively to the broader Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk, key connections are difficult and unclear. Walkers largely bypass the headlands unless aware of tenuous on-road links. Development of a new track linking Middle Head to Georges Head via Obelisk Bay will create an iconic harbour experience leading walkers to the unmatched cultural and visual environment of Middle Head. To complement this connection there are several key 'off site' links on SHFT lands to investigate. Within the headlands several important connections between and to nodes can then be added which will further expand the range of experiences.

Completion of these key access improvements is the highest priority of the master plan, and will establish the platform for significantly improved visitor experiences.



Figure 1.1: Sydney Harbour National Park – Middle Head and Georges Head.
Source: Sydney Harbour National Park POM 2012



Concept Illustrations of master plan recommendations – refer to section 1.3.

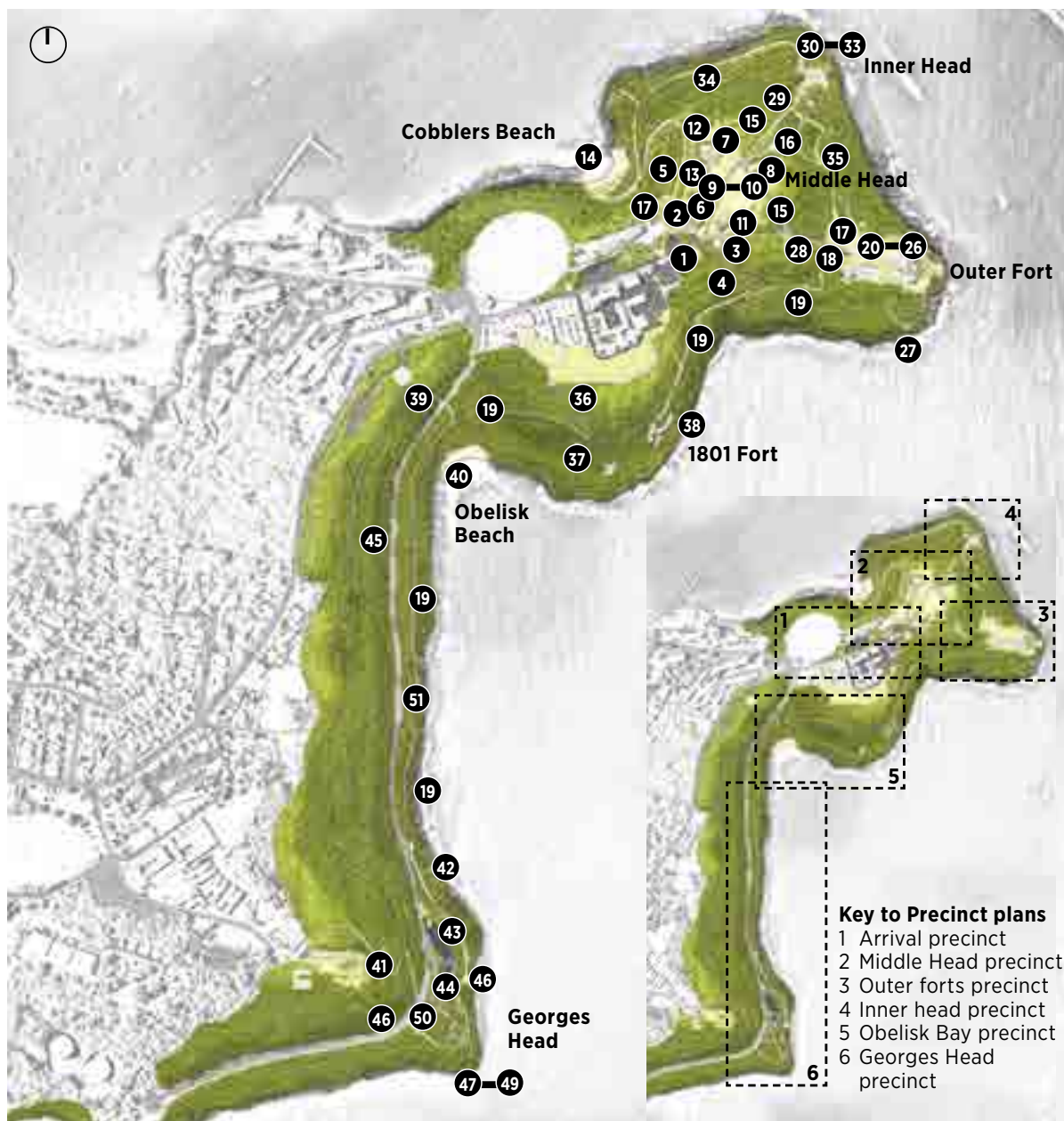


Figure 1.2: Location of master plan recommendations.

1.2 The Master Plan

The site master plan on this page illustrates the overall recommendations for the headlands. The master plan is supported in section 1.3 by detailed concept plans for each of the precincts and a brief outline of the key recommendations for each (figure 1.2).

1. Arrival feature at reinstated defensive ditch (see page 50)
2. NPWS operations compound in reduced footprint
3. Guard house arrival and orientation point
4. Link track to Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk from guard house arrival and orientation point (figure 1.3)
5. Improved drainage, erosion control, and surfacing to Cobblers Beach Road
6. Sergeant Majors Quarters – NPWS operations
7. Officers Quarters low key short-stay accommodation rental
8. Soldiers Institute function and community rooms
9. Barracks Green grassed area
10. Outdoor kitchen shelter to Barracks Green
11. Barracks management offices
12. Reinstatement and interpretation of defensive ditch
13. Tennis court terrace
14. Cobblers Beach
15. Reinstatement of road/tracks to historical alignment
16. NPWS parking rationalised to gravel parking area with buffer planting
17. Multi-purpose sitting/picnic platforms
18. Orientation/interpretation point for outer fort
19. New Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk connections (figure 1.3)

20. Underground tiger cages interpretation
21. Fortifications interpretation and small events space MH51-54*
22. Fortifications interpretation and small events space MH-2*
23. Tunnels and rooms
24. Interpretive platforms to gun emplacements
25. Access management around MH-59* gun emplacement
26. Viewing platform at cliff edge
27. Lower viewing point to observation post
28. Reinforce planting along road edge
29. Orientation/interpretation point for inner head fortifications
30. Fortifications interpretation MH-65*
31. Fortifications interpretation MH-64*
32. Observation post interpretation point MH-117*
33. Mesh step structure to new track link
34. Proposed track link to Cobblers Beach Road
35. Interpretive points on walk to outer forts
36. Existing 1801 fort board-walk connected to new Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk
37. Interpret former latrines building and MH-95/98* fortifications and obelisk monument
38. Interpretation to MH-1 1801 Fort
39. Shared zone marking to reduce traffic speed and enhance safety around parking areas
40. Obelisk Beach
41. Potential track link to Georges Heights lookout (figure 1.3)
42. Beehive casemate interpretive observation deck
43. Armoured casemate stabilisation for interpretive walks and small events
44. Armoured casemate observation deck
45. Investigate shared zones around parking for increased safety
46. Existing grassed clearing and seating area
47. Interpretation to case battery gun emplacement
48. Interpretation to searchlight tower
49. Interpretation to historic submarine net anchor point
50. Road edge track to connect existing tracks for through walking access (figure 1.3)
51. Additional verge parking bays linked to new track on Chowder Bay road

* Reference number from Fortifications Strategic Plan 2007



Figure 1.3: Potentially accessible track routes
The diagram above highlights the extent of track alignments to be investigated for potential implementation of accessible surfacing and gradients.

1.3 Precinct Plans

Arrival Precinct

The Arrival Precinct (figure 1.4) is a corridor which extends from the roundabout at HMAS Penguin on Middle Head Road to the national park entry. The roundabout is a key decision point for vehicles, and the identity of and orientation to the national park is fundamental. From the roundabout, Middle Head Road forms a long narrow corridor with opportunity for gradual revealing and build up to the park entry.

A visually distinctive and thought provoking art element is one way to improve the entry way. This could originate at the roundabout and continue down Middle Head Road.

At the entry to the national park it is proposed to reinstate the defensive ditch and potentially adapt it as an interpretive and rain-garden element. A timber threshold over the defensive ditch will provide a gateway to Middle Head interpreting the draw bridge once located here. Operable bollards will control vehicular access from Middle Head Road to the national park clearly identifying pedestrian priority.

Across the threshold it is proposed that the guard house be adapted as an internal visitor orientation facility (refer Middle Head precinct).

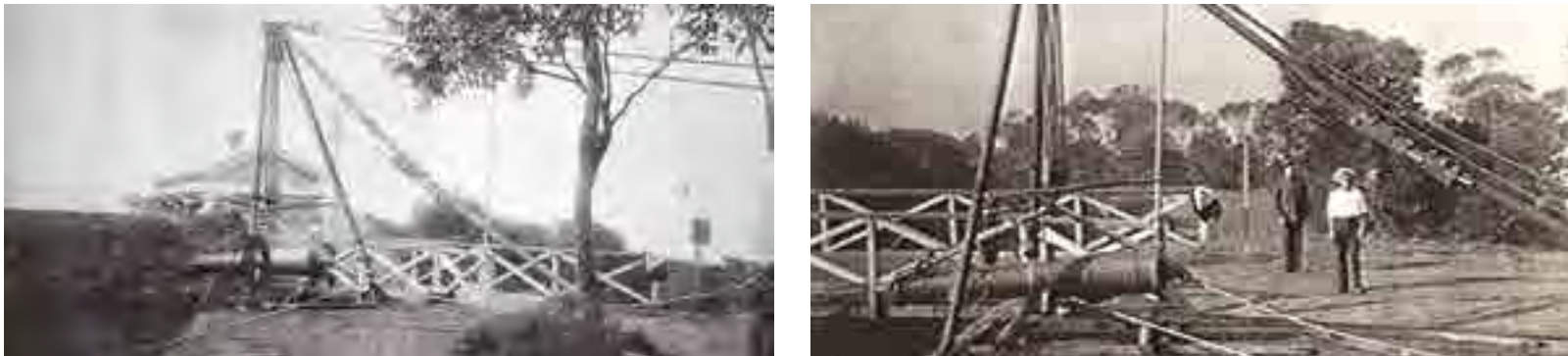
NPWS and SHFT will work together to provide a clear and effective arrival experience to Georges Head and to coordinate interpretation through the arrival precinct.



Figure 1.4 Entry detail plan



Figure 1.5 Concept illustration of proposed arrival threshold to national park bridge interpretation across defensive ditch



Archival images of the defensive ditch bridge and lifting of heavy canon. Image: Australian War Memorial

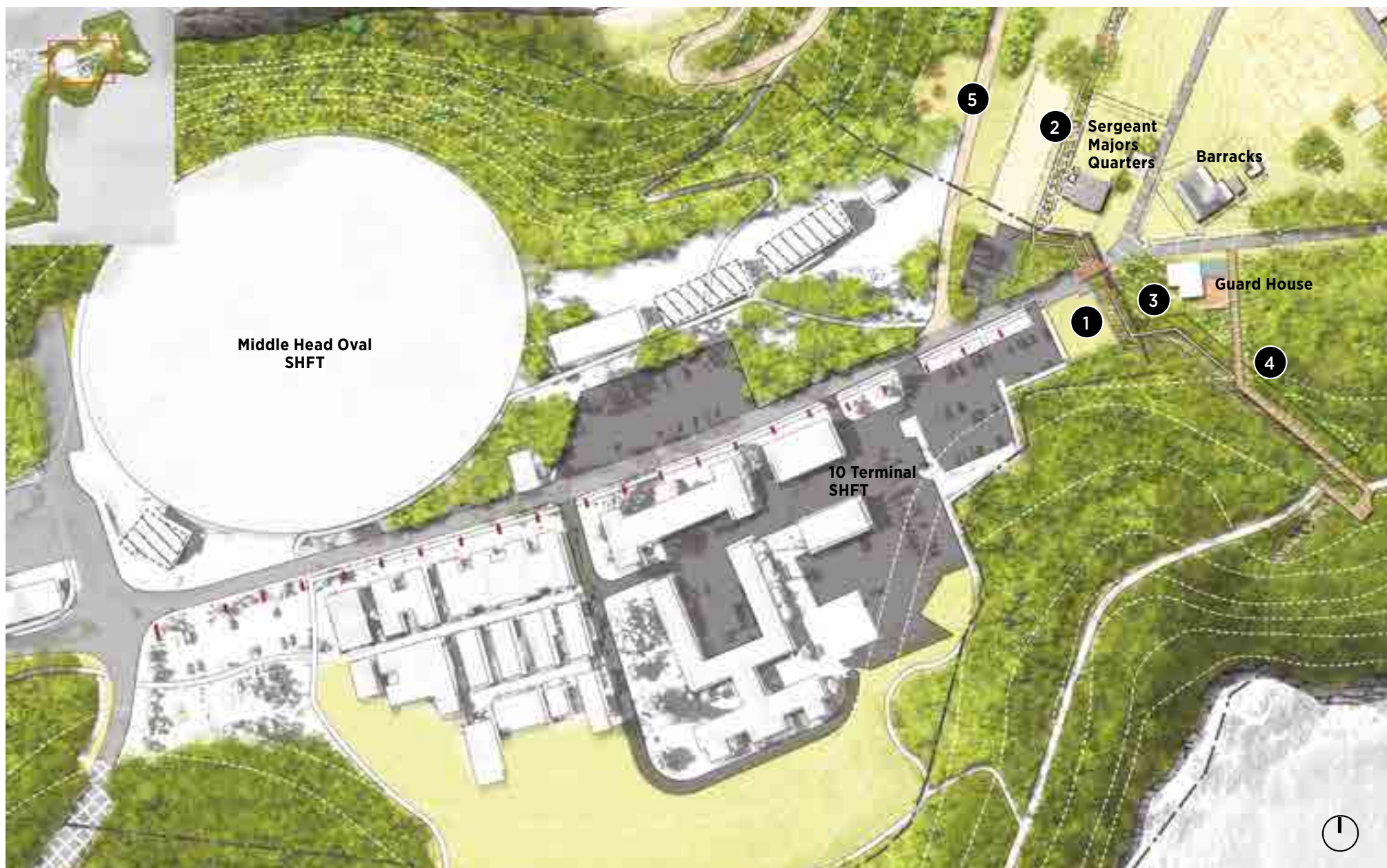


Figure 1.6: Arrival Precinct Master Plan

Collaborative enhancements program with SHFT

NPWS and SHFT to work together to provide enhanced arrival experience including:

- entry identity and orientation
- potential for secondary pedestrian access to Cobblers Beach
- improved access to national park at east end of SHFT carpark
- coordinated interpretation

1. Main pedestrian threshold

- main orientation and entry point
- SHFT to investigate modifying east end of carpark to enhance curtilage to defensive ditch
- reinstated defensive ditch – potentially adapt as raingarden element
- timber bridge over reinstated defensive ditch marks threshold to Middle Head interpreting the past bridge in this location
- operable bollards to control vehicular access and maintain current level of security to non-authorised vehicular access

2. NPWS operations compound

- NPWS operations and storage for Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk works in medium term
- potential conversion to lawn terrace if operations relocated
- vehicle access to be reviewed

3. Guard house arrival/orientation point

- orientation/entry point
- internal display
- café and deck as new annex
- track link to harbour track along defensive ditch

4. Access link to Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk

- link to cliff top walk above upper edge of defensive ditch

5. Cobblers Beach Road

- provide upgraded drainage to track edge
- upgrade informal road surface
- upgraded wayfinding signage
- outlook/viewing point with sitting decks
- provide interpretation of defensive role of road and beach access
- platform benches at viewing location above

Middle Head Precinct

Middle Head is the key arrival precinct (figure 1.8) by foot or car and is also where the principle buildings on the headlands are found.

A proposed entry threshold at the reinstated defensive ditch leads to the site. An orientation facility (3) is proposed, immediately south of the entry as an adaptation of the north guard house. An internal display of interpretive themes such as environment, Aboriginal and European heritage along with general site orientation is envisaged. The annex could be renewed to feature an outdoor deck area with views of the harbour. This could become an attractive cafe. The guard house orientation facility can also be accessed from the south from the proposed continuation of the Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk – via a boardwalk along the defensive ditch. From the north side of the guard house visitors are lead along the road leading to the outer fort.

Barracks Green (9) is the open grassed space around the Middle Head buildings complex. A series of barracks occupied the green – these are indicated in a dashed line on the plan. The master plan recommends that the green be maintained as an open grassed multi-purpose space suitable for events, existing operational uses and activities.

Each of the existing buildings surrounding the green will be adapted to complement recreational use of the park. This will include any necessary upgrading/renewal required to improve suitability for flexible use and for conservation/maintenance purposes.

If the NPWS operations (2) were to relocate, this would change the visual curtilage of the Sergeant Majors Quarters (6), and potentially allow attractive views of the harbour towards Balmoral. NPWS may consider upgrade of the building and adaptive re-use for short-stay accommodation taking advantage of views.

It is recommended that a new shelter (10) be considered to the south of Barracks Green echoing the fabric of the previous barracks buildings. This could house key facilities such as an outdoor kitchen. The balance of the building could be opened up as a shelter or fully enclosed by operable doors. The building could support events on the green, and for large events portable toilets could be added to the area south of the building with sewer connection.

The level terrace (13), where a tennis court adjoined the Officers Quarters during military times, is currently the NPWS compound. This use will continue to serve park operations in a reduced capacity for Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk works and other medium-term operations. In the longer term, should operations be relocated, the grassed terrace could be re-established to cater for picnics and events as well as provide managed camping alongside Cobblers Beach or Middle Head. A small pedestrian bridge over the defensive ditch could provide a future link between Cobblers Beach Road and Barracks Green via the grassed terrace.



Figure 1.7 Concept Illustration of Barracks Green in event mode. Note: events use will be guided by NPWS event policies and environmental assessment procedures.



Example: The End Festival, Hill End Historic Site.
Image: John Spencer/OEH



Example: The End Festival, Hill End Historic Site.
Image: John Spencer/OEH

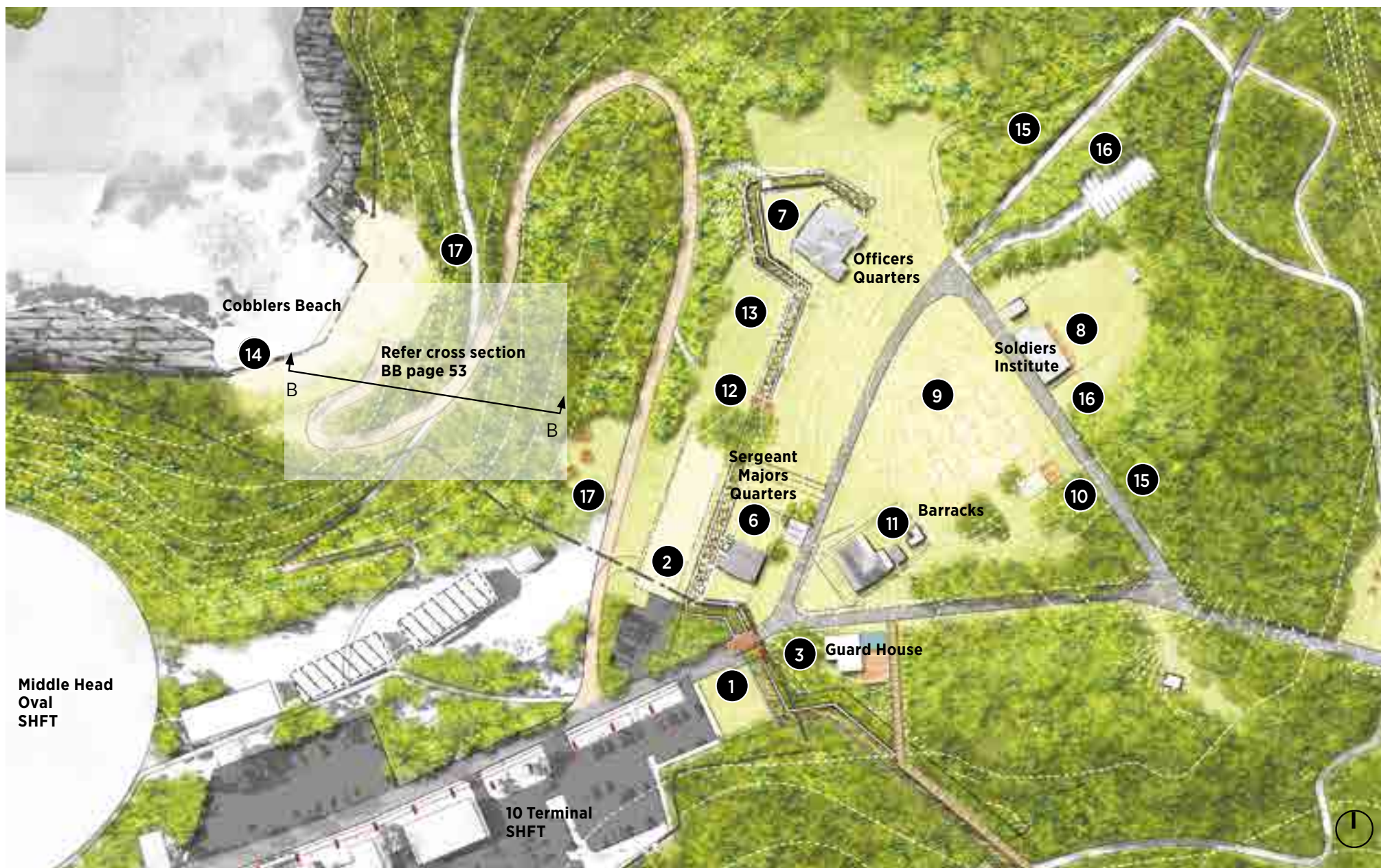


Figure 1.8 Middle Head Precinct Master Plan

1. Main pedestrian threshold

2. NPWS operations compound

3. Guard house arrival/orientation point

4. Access link to Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk

5. Cobblers Beach Road

6. Sergeant Majors Quarters

- NPWS operations or
- short-stay rental if operations relocated

7. Officers Quarters

- short-stay rental
- adaptable to one or two occupancies

8. Soldiers Institute

- provide public toilets in adjoining shed
- refurbish kitchen and internal spaces
- continue function room hiring and community uses
- support to events on the 'green'
- provide outdoor courtyard to east of building

9. Barracks Green

- maintain current operational use
- events hiring
- support to events at Cobblers Beach, outer fort, and Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk
- managed events and camping

10. Outdoor kitchen shelter

- roof structure providing shade and shelter
- possible outdoor kitchen

11. Barracks

- management offices
- potential short-stay accommodation in long term

12. Defensive ditch

- reinstate ditch and provide rain-garden planting

13. The tennis court terrace

- grassed terrace can be used for events, camping
- manage planted vegetation between defensive ditch and existing NPWS compound in accordance with Conservation Management Plan

14. Cobblers Beach

- promote/facilitate public use
- multi purpose decks (sitting, outdoor education, picnics and adaptable for managed camping)

15. Reinstate former road/track alignments

- reinstate past access connection to outer fort as gravel road/track
- realign track to inner head to former alignment

16. Additional on-site NPWS parking

- realign inner head link track to former road alignment
- gravel parking zone in existing clearing
- reinstate former track alignment to Inner Head
- reinforce screen planting

17. Platform benches

- indicative location of platform benches for picnics and seating as per Parks Facilities Manual

Outer Forts Precinct

The outer forts are an iconic Sydney 'must do'. Easy road access and a short walk reveals a snapshot of the natural history of Sydney Harbour, its compelling military history and offers unparalleled views to Sydney Heads. The master plan recommends development of a heritage discovery route enabling visitors to best understand the layers of history on display (see figure 1.9 and 2.1 Exploring the Stories).

For the outer forts (figure 1.12) it is recommended to commence at the elevated outlook and orientation point (18). A landing may include an overall orientation medium (eg a bronze relief) for the battery, from where the journey can move through the various elements.

The low-key ruinous character is to be maintained and conserved. Where required for safety, barriers should be minimal and industrial. Fixing points for 'bump in' supplementary events barriers are recommended along selected edges.

It is proposed that the strong radial form of the VII 6" gun emplacements (8) be reinforced by subtle extension of the accessible area to enable enhanced viewing, a sitting edge, and a medium for interpretation. The surface of this platform (eg recycled/weathered timber) can be inlaid with interpretive plaques related to the gun emplacements and their purpose and capacities.

At the cliff edge the management of access is difficult; visitors gravitate to the edge due to the wonderful views. It is proposed to provide a discrete small platform (26) offering optimum views as an attractive and safe alternative to the cliff edges. A further viewing area (27) is proposed in the more remote lower cliff with views up the harbour, as a supplementary bush walk experience which interprets the former observation post and search light station.

The tunnels will be stabilised and made safe to enable small scale event use that does not compromise winter eastern bentwing bat habitat.



Figure 1.9 Outer Forts Interpretive Discovery Route



Figure 1.10 Concept illustration VII 6'' gun interpretive landings



Example: Tunnel on Cockatoo Island. Image: Environmental Partnership



Figure 1.11 Concept illustration of outer forts cliff top viewing platform

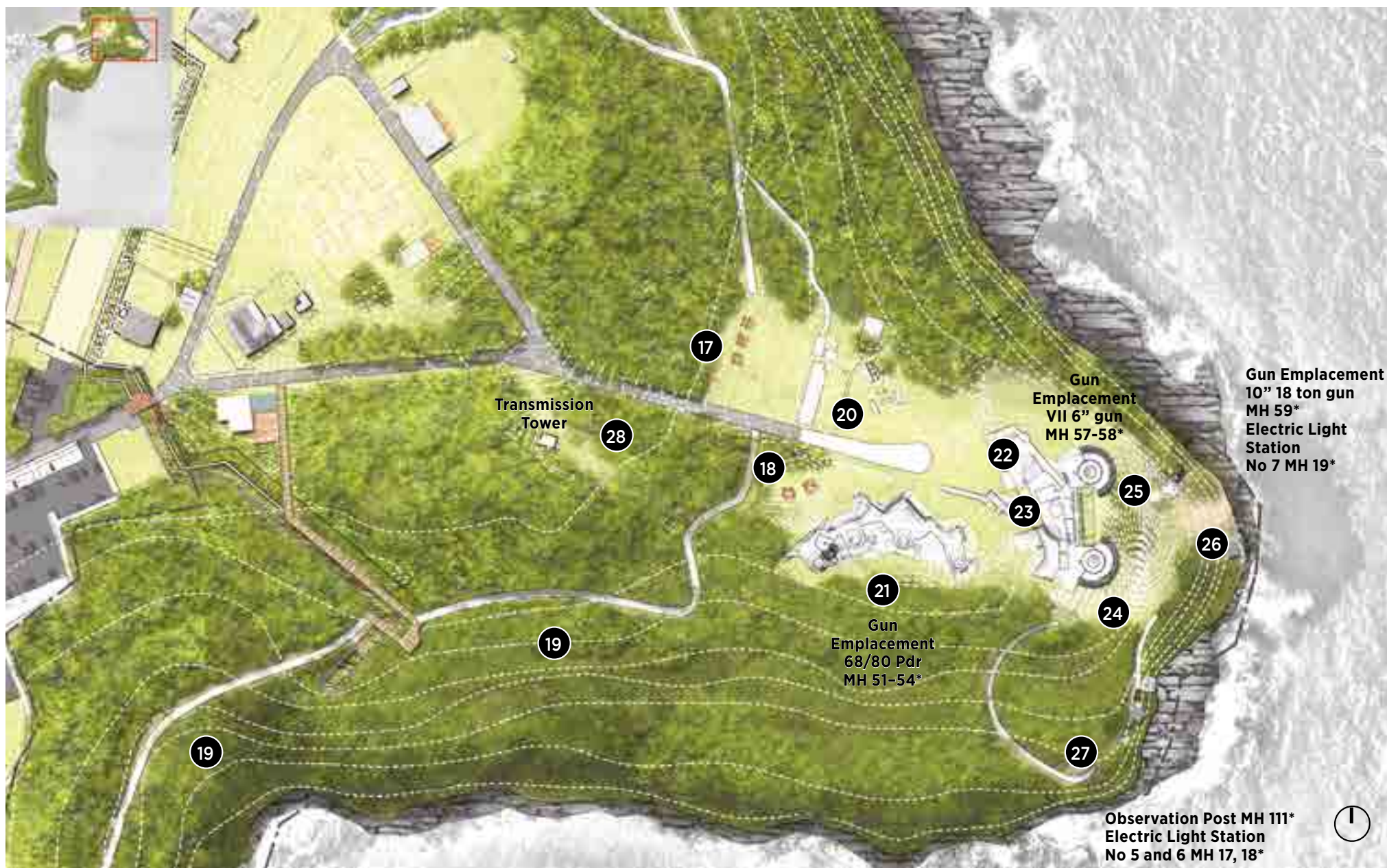


Figure 1.12 Outer Forts Precinct Master Plan

* Reference number from Fortifications Strategic Plan 2007

17. Platform benches**18. Orientation point**

- elevated orientation point overlooking outer fort
- platform area with interpretive elements
- sitting decks on existing mound

19. Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk continuation

- new Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk track from beehive casemate to outer fort
- separation of pedestrians from vehicles
- viewing and rest points integrated
- link tracks to carparking

20. Underground tiger cages

- interpretive installation
- minor works to define safe walking route
- self-guided walk through of core area at selected times
- guided tours of full tunnel
- gallery space as part of events

21. MH 51-54* events area

- lower area forms small amphitheatre suitable for small events as existing
- link via tunnels to MH 2*

22. MH 2* events area

- lower area forms small amphitheatre suitable for small events as existing
- link via tunnels to MH 51-54*

23. Tunnels and rooms

- stabilising and make safe works to selected rooms (refer 2.6 Events)
- carefully designed lighting for night time access
- interpretive installations to key connecting tunnels
- use of tunnels as gallery display, installations and performances

24. Interpretive platforms

- radial interpretive platforms reinforce the geometry of the gun emplacements and provide additional viewing space
- interpretive inlays to decking

25. MH 59* Gun Emplacement

- interpretive barrier subtly controlling access

26. Viewing platform and seating

- subtle structured viewing platform to provide safe outlook subject to geotechnical investigations

27. Viewing point to observation post

- destination walking track and viewing platform to lower military post
- interpret observation post and track/steps

28. Reinforce vegetated edge

- selectively infill native vegetation along road edge to reinforce enclosure and subsequent opening up of views at 18

Inner Head Precinct

The inner Middle Head (figure 1.13) battery is potentially part of a quick-visit loop in combination with the outer forts, offering a series of different but equally spectacular views.

Visitor movement should start at an orientation point (29) at the arrival location. This may also be a sculptural relief recreating the scope of the battery at its height.

The observation post (32) is ideal for upgrading as a supporting interpretive node with covered internal space.

The sunken gun emplacements (30–31) and adjoining tunnels could host smaller scale events. Stabilisation of selected tunnels including drainage, wayfinding lighting, and provision of a safe walking route is required. Existing track links to the outer forts (35) should be maintained and stabilised as necessary. This short link can be supplemented with a series of interpretive moments enhancing the short-term visitor experience.

The cliff top link to Cobblers Beach (34) is proposed to be formalised with a crushed sandstone surface. A sensitively designed stairway link between the track and the battery is to be provided.



View from Middle Head observation post.
Image: Ian Evans



View of gun emplacement prior to excavation of fill – 1990's.
Image: NPWS



View over gun emplacement towards observation post. Image: Environmental Partnership



Bottom level to observation post.
Image: Environmental Partnership



Middle Head.
Image: John Yurasek/OEH

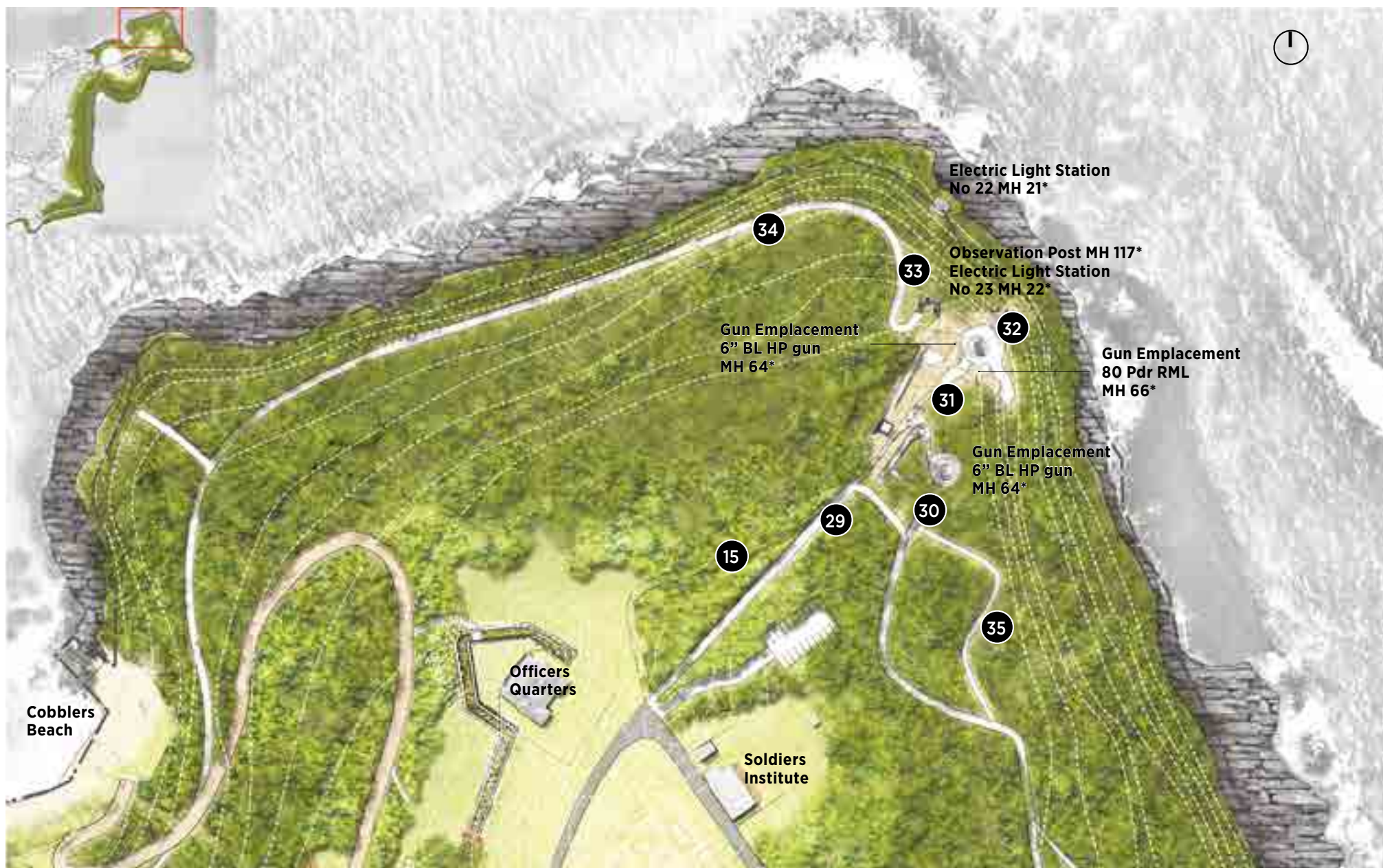


Figure 1.13 Inner Head Precinct Master Plan

* Reference number from Fortifications Strategic Plan 2007

15. Reinstate former road/track alignments**29. Interpretive orientation**

- provide coordinated interpretation of inner head integrated with interpretation to other areas

30. MH 65* gun emplacement

- complete archaeological excavations
- provide coordinated interpretation including walk through to tunnels and gun emplacement MH 64 gun emplacement

31. MH 64* gun emplacement

- interpretation of past gun fixtures
- Potential small events venue

32. MH 117* observation post

- stabilise building and make safe for access
- provide interpretation of observation activities within post structure
- manage safe access at lower outlook point

33. Mesh platform and steps

- connect linking path from Cobblers Beach to upper area by steps as required
- if possible integrate on ground steps into sandstone cliff
- integrate viewing landings and interpretation

34. Proposed Cobblers Beach track

- formalise existing trample tracks on optimum route with crushed sandstone track to continue Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk

35. Outer fort link and interpretive stops

- stabilise as required existing track links
- address erosion and drainage
- provide interpretation to points along walk – MH4 MH 73 MH 8 and MH 90*



Obelisk Bay Precinct

The Obelisk Bay (figure 1.14) batteries illustrate further dimensions of harbour defence history. A boardwalk link to the 1801 fort was opened in 2010 by NPWS (36). It is proposed that the boardwalk be integrated with the continuation of the Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk to create a stopover point here. The 1801 fort provides an ideal node on the Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk with expansive views and a protected aspect to the harbour and Sydney Heads.

The continuation of the Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk is proposed to intersect with the existing Obelisk Beach access track at an elevated level. The existing track will link the Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk to Chowder Bay Road here.

Both Obelisk Beach and Cobblers Beach feature clothing optional bathing. The master plan recommends that Cobblers Beach presents an important element of the heritage story, and of recreational use of the headlands. Here the proposed Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk access to the upper slopes will provide a setback to Obelisk Beach for visitors sensitive to clothing optional bathing.

A marked slow zone/shared zone (subject to traffic investigations) is recommended for Chowder Bay Road, comprising a marked zone of pedestrian movement from parking bays and a potential future access connection to SHFT lands.

Observation Post. Image: Environmental Partnership



View from 1801 Fort Boardwalk viewing deck. Image: Environmental Partnership



Existing boardwalk to 1801 Fort.
Image: Environmental Partnership



Inner Head observation post.
Image: John Spencer/OEH



Obelisk Beach.
Image: Environmental Partnership



Figure 1.14 Obelisk Bay Precinct Master Plan

* Reference number from Fortifications Strategic Plan 2007

19. Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk continuation**36. Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk 1801 fort Boardwalk**

- existing boardwalk to 1801 fort
- integrate with new Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk linkage

37. Interpret latrines, MH 95/98* fortifications and obelisk monument

- interpret former latrine location as link to permanent presence in challenging environment during military history
- interpretive support to twin six pound gun emplacements
- stabilise observation post and make safe for access
- provide interpretation of observation activities within post structure

38. MH1* 1801 fort battery

- stabilise heritage setting as required
- provide centralised interpretation of Obelisk Bay battery in full – eg bronze relief

39. Slow zone at parking bays

- linemarked slow zone supported by signage at Chowder Bay Road parking bays and road crossing points to reduce traffic speeds around zone of pedestrian movement and generally enhance safety for pedestrians and cycles to Chowder Bay Road for all users
- bicycle racks near parking bays and track access

40. Obelisk Beach

- current clothing optional bathing beach

Georges Head Precinct

Georges Head is the most underused of the nodes within the headlands. There is tenuous access by trample tracks used by only those who know the area. Connections to the north to Middle Head are poor and largely on the verge of Chowder Bay Road, unsafe for walkers and joggers. The development of the Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk through the area (19) will unlock distinctive experiences between Georges Head and Middle Head.

The precinct's beehive casemates (42) and armoured casemate (43–44) are significant military heritage sites, closed to access and slowly degrading. The armoured casemate is a more accessible and expansive underground space, with potential for more frequent public access (refer 2.6 Events). Key priorities are stabilisation and tidy up works along with wayfinding lighting, power provision, stormwater, and plumbing to provide water.

To the top of the south end of the armoured casemate where the existing tree canopy opens with the grassed clearing below, it is proposed to provide a viewing deck to the harbour (figure 1.15). The shape of the deck will reflect the arrangement of the underground spaces below, providing the central interpretation node for Georges Head. A stairway at the south end of the deck will link the internal spaces and the asphalt roadway access. The existing ablutions room to the south of the building can be rehabilitated to provide male and female toilets for day to day public use.

The beehive casemates (figure 1.20) chambers (42) are harder to access, more fragile and less flexible for uses. It is proposed to provide a deck over the south chamber which will offer spectacular views to the harbour. It is also suggested that the deck have an opening to enables viewing into the chamber with uplighting and covers above that part of the deck to prevent rainfall entering the chamber. Access in the medium term to the beehive casemates may only be by guided access, although this could evolve further in the future.

Universal access to key experiences should be pursued. The armoured casemate viewing deck (44) can be wheelchair

accessible from the roadway that leads down to the casemate. Investigations will determine if the proposed link from the beehive casemate to Middle Head (19) can be accessible. This could potentially be accommodated through link alignments and levels, with surfacing to enable wheelchair access (eg boardwalk).

The case battery gun emplacement (47) has dappled views to the harbour, an interesting stop-off on the Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk. It is proposed that access be enhanced through an overlay of decking that may also enable small groups to stop here for rest or education.

The searchlight tower (48) has a close inter-relationship with the observation post and submarine net landward point. It offers potential for internal/covered interpretation of the submarine defences.

Walking access between Georges Head and the SHFT Georges Heights Lookout could potentially be enhanced by an additional track link. This will be further investigated by SHFT and NPWS.

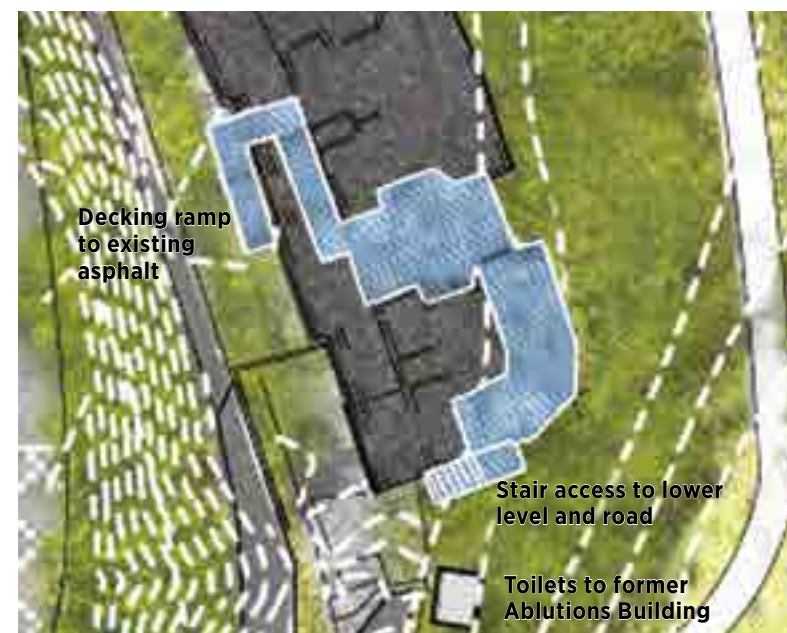


Figure 1.15 Armoured Casemate viewing/event deck – detailed plan view



Figure 1.16 Concept illustration of the armoured casemate viewing/event deck



Armoured casemate entrance. Image: Environmental Partnership



Armoured Casemate internal spaces. Image: Environmental Partnership



Figure 1.17 Georges Head Precinct Master Plan



Figure 1.18 Georges Head Precinct Detail Master Plan

19. Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk continuation**39. Slow zone at parking bays****41. Track Link to Georges Heights lookout**

- indicative future track link to Georges Heights (SHFT)

42. Beehive casemate

- stabilise with drainage works and general clean-up to be suitable for guided access
- small viewing deck constructed above south chamber with viewing opening and possible feature lighting
- wayfinding lighting to tunnels and chambers
- guided tours
- potential for small scale events in internal chambers and viewing deck above south beehive
- smaller events on deck

43. Armoured casemate

- stabilise with drainage works and general clean-up
- provide basic fitout to make suitable for events
- events lighting and power infrastructure
- interpretive AV projections to internal walls
- events hiring and corporate hiring

44. Armoured casemate observation deck

- viewing deck above structure with views to harbour – deck shape reflects internal layout below
- provide centralised interpretation for Georges Head
- can support event/function uses – connected by external access stair to internal space below
- upper access continuation to north along casemate roof with link track to Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk

45. On street parking

- maintain on street parking and investigate additional verge parking and bicycle racks
- provide signage to improve pedestrian safety where crossing of road required

46. Grassed clearing

- maintain grassed clearing and seating

47. Case battery gun emplacement

- general stabilisation
- decking walkway to enable safe access and for small gatherings events
- trial managed temporary 'street art' programme providing interpretive artwork to selected concrete faces subject to vandalism
- integration with site wide events related to track network

48. Searchlight Tower

- stabilise building and address maintenance issues
- consider internal interpretive node – related to submarine measures midget submarine event

49. Observation post/Submarine net

- maintain and provide stabilisation of trample track access
- provide interpretation to observation post and submarine net connection point

50. Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk links to Chowder Bay

- infill missing link track/pathway adjoining Chowder Bay Road to NPWS lands
- review existing path widths for adequacy adjoining road

51. Additional verge parking bays linked to new track on Chowder Bay Road



Figure 1.19 Beehive Casemate viewing/event deck – detailed plan view

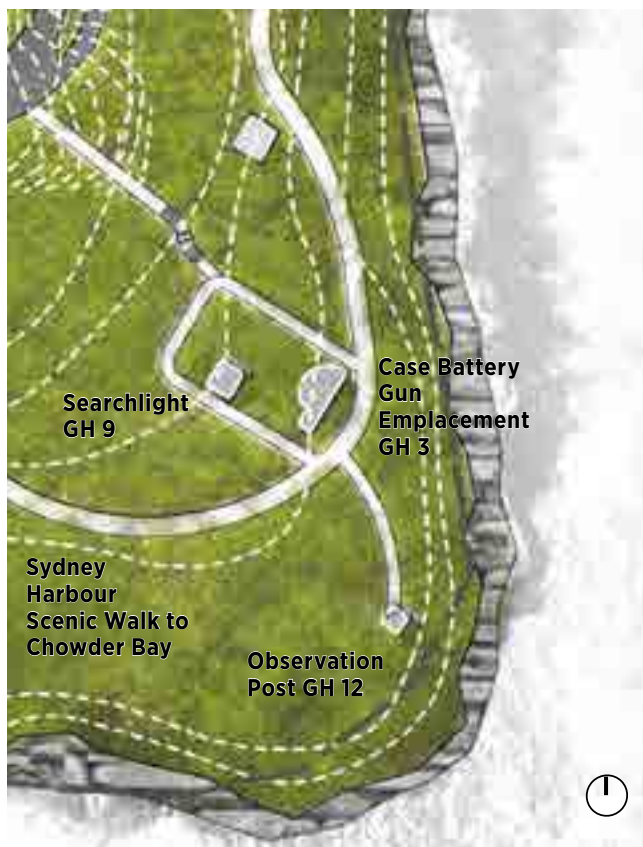


Figure 1.21 Georges Head Gun Emplacement and Lower Fortifications detailed plan view



Figure 1.20 Beehive Casemate viewing/event deck – sketch section



View from area of beehive casemate viewing deck.
Image: Environmental Partnership



Example: Interpretive access to lookout/searchlight post.
Image: NPWS

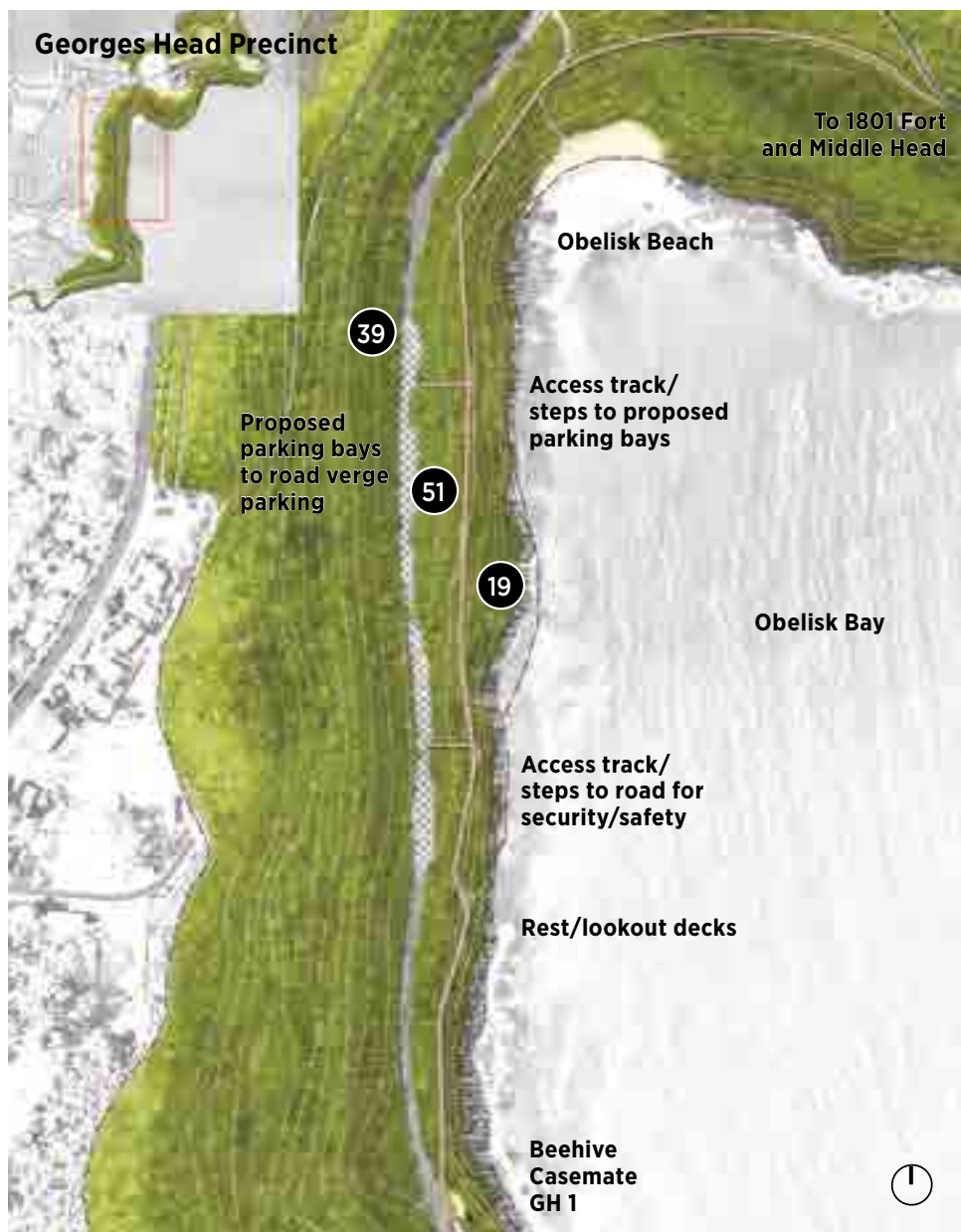


Figure 1.22 Scenic Walk Boardwalk Link



Typical view from Scenic Walk boardwalk alignment. Image: Environmental Partnership



Example: Tomaree National Park. Image: John Spencer/OEH





2 Master Planning Strategies

Introduction

The master plan described in section 1 reflects a series of site-wide strategies. These have been developed, in consultation with internal and external stakeholders, in response to the NPWS brief, assessment of the site and background documentation.

The master plan strategies are described as follows:

- 2.1 Exploring the stories
- 2.2 Arrival
- 2.3 Walking the harbour
- 2.4 Panorama
- 2.5 Healthy environment
- 2.6 Facilities and uses
- 2.7 Traffic and parking
- 2.8 Events

Image Credit: Environmental Partnership

2.1 Exploring the Stories

Strategies

The natural and cultural heritage of Middle Head and Georges Head offers an important opportunity to enrich visitor experience through a greater understanding and appreciation of a range of diverse stories.

This recognises that the stories are intrinsically linked across a series of nodes or key areas (figure 2.1) in which the narratives of the site are most effectively revealed and explained. NPWS will work collaboratively with SHFT on the content and location of interpretive elements across the headlands.

Guiding strategies for interpretation will be implemented across each of the precincts described in section 1. These include:

- strengthen story connection between Middle Head and Georges Head
- integrate interpretive narratives across the landscape
- facilitate a sequence or journey through the fort precincts
- facilitate connections between Middle Head and harbour/beaches that reinforce their Aboriginal and historical inter-relationships.

Themes

A preliminary series of themes has been developed and can be applied to the various precincts to outline the experiences that can be provided. These themes should be subject to more detailed consideration and development to guide implementation on site.

Naturally Hidden

- important scenic, ecological and geological qualities and a symbolic value as part of the visual landscape that is the iconic Sydney Harbour
- threatened Species – flora and fauna including:
 - Sunshine Wattle, *Acacia terminalis* ssp. *terminalis*
 - Grey Headed Flying Fox, *Pteropus poliocephalus*
 - Eastern bentwing bat, *Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*
- part of a suite of headlands around Sydney Harbour
- sensory and aesthetic qualities, birdsong, smells, sounds, water, rock, colours, textures, spatial experiential feelings, isolation, refuge.

Cubba Cubba

- the Camaragal (Gamaragal) clan occupied the north shore of Port Jackson, from Karabilye (Kirribilli) opposite Warrane (Sydney Cove) to the cliffs of Garungal or Carangle (North Head) and the sandy bay of Kayyeemy (Manly Cove), reputedly the most densely populated part of Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour) at the time
- Cubba Cubba (or Kuba Kaba) is the name that the Camaragal people used for the dramatic sandstone cliffs that were named Middle Head by the British in 1788.

Guard at the gate

The significance of the site to defending a nation:

- 1801-1853 The first military presence
- 1853-1870 Crimean War activity followed by a hiatus
- 1871-1882 Sydney stands alone
- 1883-1911 From harbour defence to coastal defence
- 1912-1938 World War I to the outbreak of World War II
- 1939-1945 The war comes to Sydney
- 1946 After the end of the war
- residences and other associated buildings play a key role in the story of the whole site (strong connection with SHFT lands).

The potential application of these themes to the site precincts is illustrated on Figures 2.2 and 2.3 and following pages.



Figure 2.1 The headlands feature a series of heritage nodes which provide an opportunity to link interpretive story lines across the site.

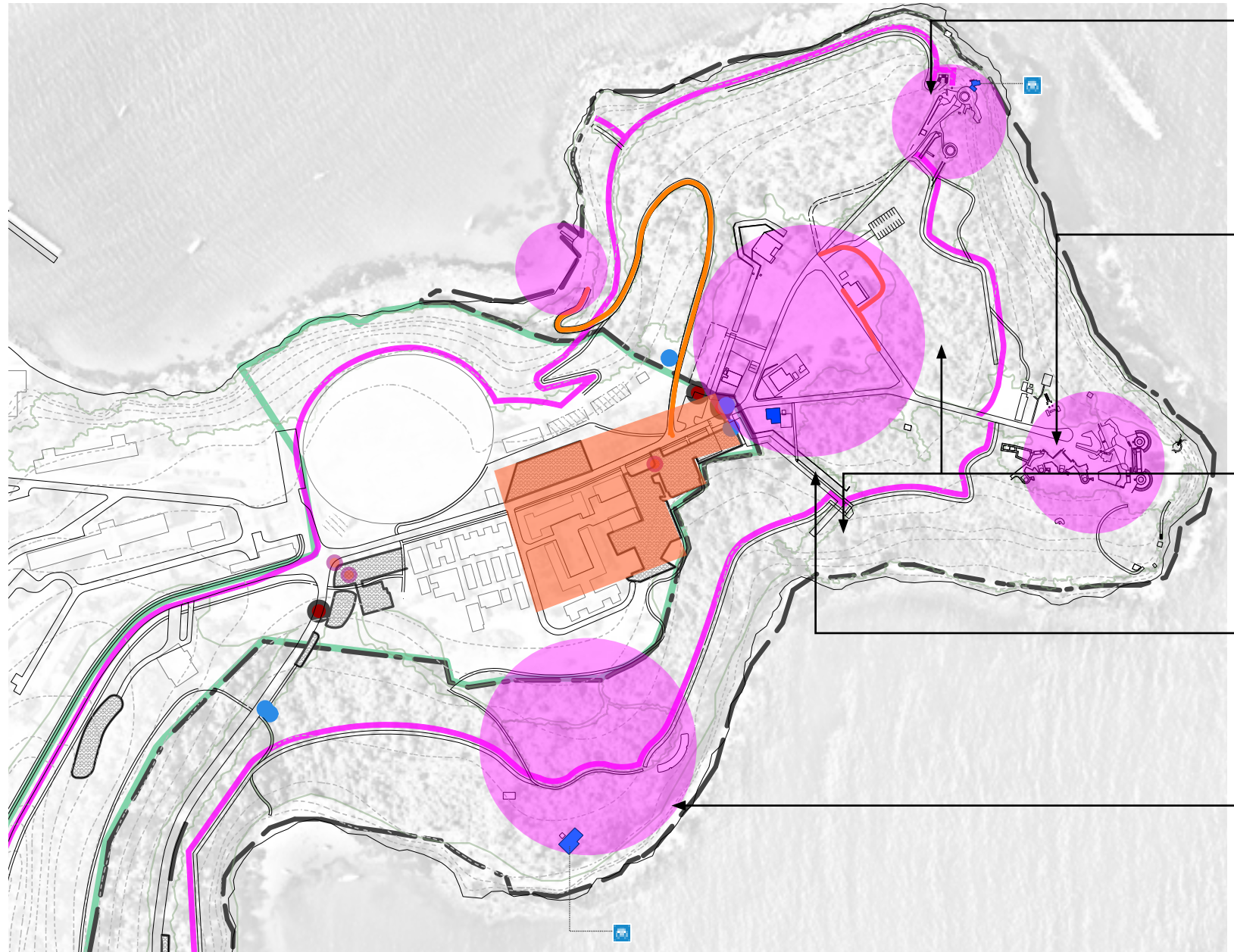


Figure 2.2 Exploring the stories – Middle Head and Georges Head

Guard at the gate

- understanding how forts operate
- geology

Strategies

- encourage exploration
- provide more developed interpretive experience to sunken areas and tunnels taking advantage of more contained character
- sound-scape
- interactive play
- interpretation in observation box
- installations



Image: Environmental Partnership

Guard at the gate/Cubba Cubba

- harbour context
- orientation to harbour indigenous clans
- technical achievement
- tiger cages and their use across eras

Strategies

- encourage exploration
- assist understanding the location in the harbour – lookouts
- sound-scape
- installations about military use



Image: Environmental Partnership

Cubba Cubba

- Aboriginal connection with the harbour
- native plants and their use

Strategies

- walking tracks
- interpretation
- guided walks



Image: Environmental Partnership

Guard at the gate/Cubba Cubba

- how did the place work
- defending a nation – the stories Aboriginal connection with land
- the headland before 'Middle Head'

Strategies

- interpretation exhibition at guardhouse
- information points at buildings
- reinstate defensive ditch
- walking trails



Image: Environmental Partnership

Guard at the gate

- 1801 Fort

Strategies

- help to understand location in the harbour defence system
- sound-scapes
- installations about military use

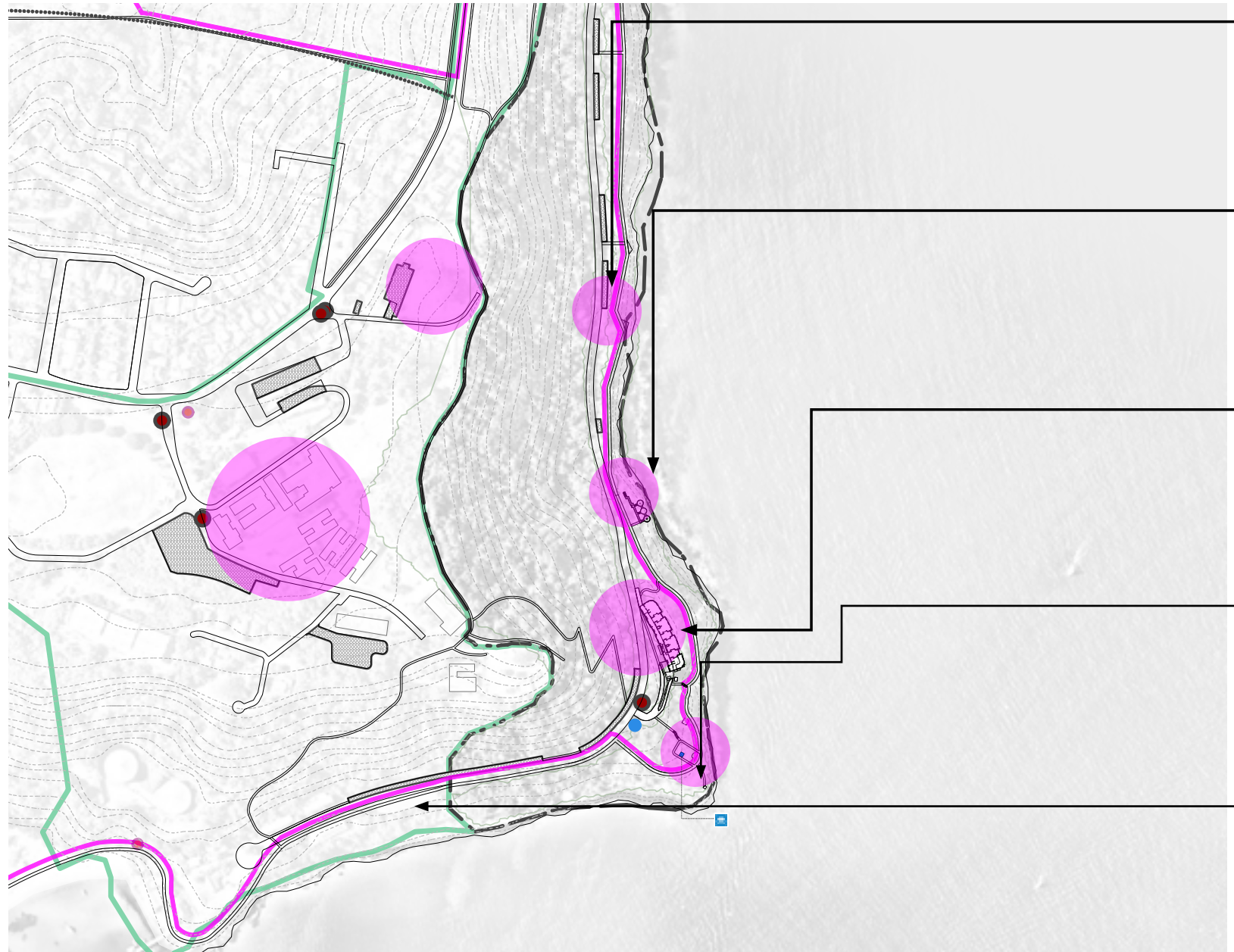


Figure 2.3 Exploring the stories – George Head and Georges Heights

Cubba Cubba/Naturally hidden

- Aboriginal clans and movement around the harbour and foreshores
- harbour headlands and bays

Strategies

- walking track
- viewing and rest points
- interpretation and public art

Guard at the gate

- beehive casemate story of construction
- stories about operational life

Strategies

- viewing deck to harbour with viewing portal into south chamber
- sound-scape
- interpretation
- guided tours into casemates

Guard at the gate

- armoured casemate story of construction
- stories about operational life

Strategies

- viewing deck to harbour reflecting internal layout of casemate
- sound-scape
- interpretation
- events in casemate
- guided tours in casemates

Guard at the gate

- submarine boom line

Strategies

- walking track
- interpretation
- sound-scape

Naturally hidden

- threatened species
- natural environment including vegetation and geology

Strategies

- interpretation on walking track



Image: Environmental Partnership



Image: Environmental Partnership



Image: Australian War Memorial



Image: Environmental Partnership

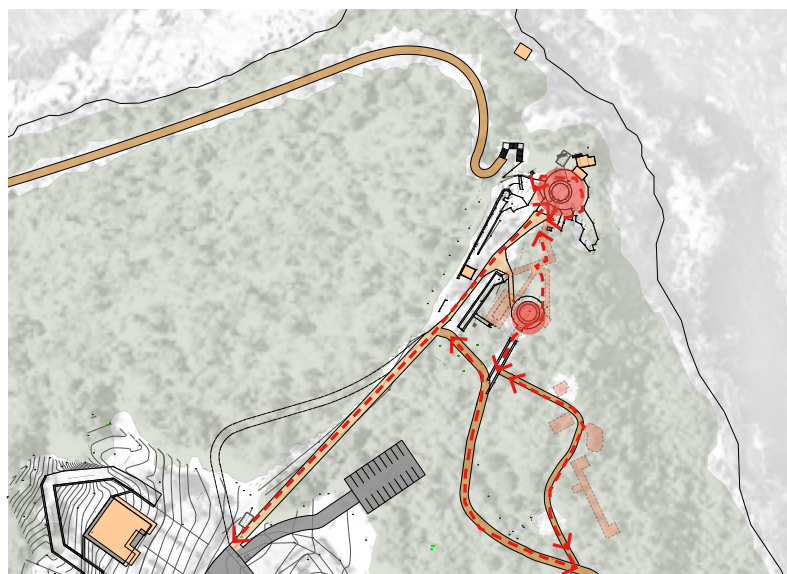
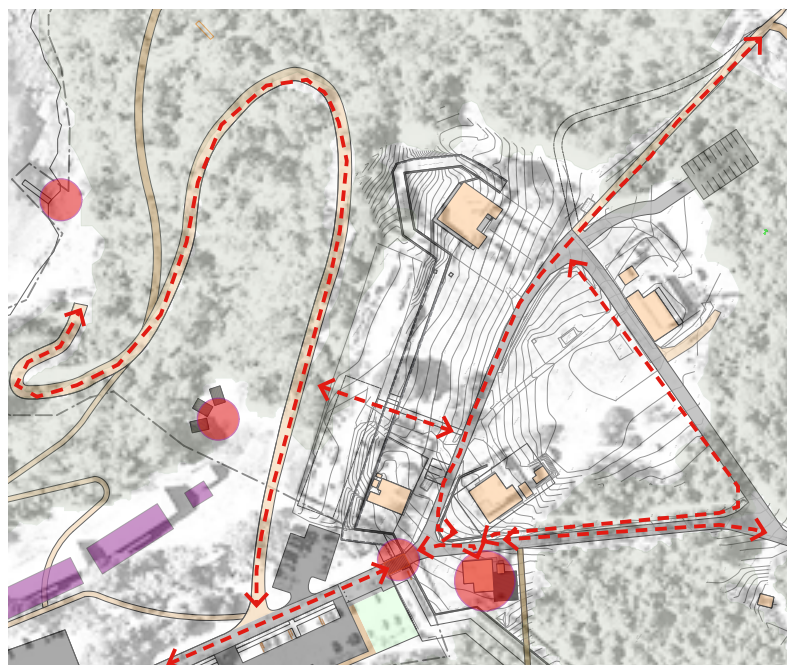


Figure 2.4 Exploring the stories – Journeys

Journeys and Experiences

It is proposed to develop a story based journey through the fort precincts.

Historic themes will be explored as part of this journey using different techniques.

The diagrams on this page illustrate potential routes through the fort precincts which could be included in ongoing development of an interpretive strategy.

The interpretive routes will facilitate logical movement flow to allow optimum appreciation of the place, its history and its features.



Image: Environmental Partnership



Image: Environmental Partnership

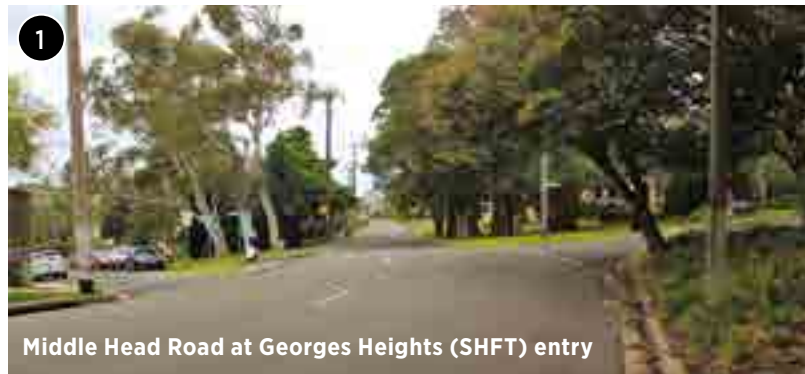
2.2 Arrival

Strategies

The master plan identifies that arrival at Middle Head can be significantly improved to help visitors orient themselves to the national park and to SHFT facilities.

The strategies below seek to address this challenge:

- signpost key attractions on the headland at strategic locations along Middle Head Road as collaborative project with SHFT
- provide a recurring element that builds a sense of arrival at Middle Head and echoes military rhythm/repetition
- build a story and sense of interest/intrigue through the arrival journey
- provide elements that have enduring visual interest take advantage of light and shadow
- use robust industrial and natural materials.



Key points in the arrival experience existing images. Images: Google Street View



Figure 2.5 Key points in the arrival experience – plan

Arrival markers – concept

Two levels of markers may be explored as an arrival marker strategy.

Way finding markers: an element of appropriate scale would help orient visitors to the park and SHFT facilities.

Interpretive sculpture markers: an indicative concept was developed to illustrate the potential to link stories from the place and related archival images to interpretive artworks in the landscape, and signal arrival.

Archival images and stories document the storylines of the headlands. The concept suggests interpreting these images and stories and their characters and representing them in the landscape to create intrigue and interest.



Illustrative example way finding marker on approach to the national park.



Worker at drawbridge over former defensive ditch (moat)



Gun emplacement

Illustrative examples (above) interpretive sculpture markers to arrival route.



Riveted steel



Weathered concrete



Corten weathering steel



Weathered timber

Robust materials (above) can reflect industrial/military character.
Images: Australian War Memorial



The park has a rich archive of documented imagery of the cultural use of the place. These diverse stories offer great scope to enrich the experience and understanding.
Images: NPWS, Australian War Memorial

National Park entry/orientation – concept

The defensive ditch is an important historic element that marked the threshold of the Middle Head batteries. In the past a timber bridge provided access across the ditch but in post-military times the ditch was filled. The master plan proposes that the defensive ditch be partially uncovered, and walls exposed and made good. It is proposed to use the ditch for a contemporary environmental purpose – as a rain-garden filtering runoff from adjoining roads and the NPWS compound. Reinstatement of the ditch through this area creates an entry experience that reflects the site's history, but has contemporary function.

The nearby north guard house offers a well located opportunity to be adapted for an internal display of interpretive material, and site orientation. The guard house is currently used for storage and other activities. These uses would need to be relocated to the NPWS compound.



Existing guard house annex and views south to harbour from existing annex.
Images: Environmental Partnership

Recommendations for entry and orientation at the park entry are:

- timber bridge interprets past drawbridge over moat
- reinstate defensive ditch uncovering walls and creating raingarden landscape draining to the south (as per past ditch)
- possible entry sculpture interpreting the operational need to lift heavy artillery and machine items across bridge
- adapt guard house as entry orientation point reflecting its historic role
- entry threshold interpreting moat and drawbridge
- future internal display
- potential terrace and cafe to south side replacing existing extension.





Historic images in vicinity of defensive ditch and bridge.

Images: Australian War Memorial

Examples: contemporary additions to heritage buildings can enhance the heritage setting and provide attractive functional spaces for use.



Figure 2.6 Orientation elements



Concept illustration defensive ditch and bridge threshold



Roto House. Image: John Spencer



Audley, Royal National Park. Image: Eric Siens



Cape Byron. Image: NPWS

2.3 Walking the harbour

Strategies

The importance of the site to allow access to the harbour is highlighted in the PoM and supported by the strategic positioning identified in the *Sydney Harbour National Landscape Experience Development Strategy 2013*.

This master plan provides high-level recommendations for the main Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk, circuit walks and link walks. These are indicative only and subject to detailed environmental assessment and design.

Strategies include:

- integrate Middle Head with the Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk
- plan and implement the walk as a nature-based bushwalk experience integrated within the natural environment
- enhance existing loop walk options through new track and boardwalk connections and additional secondary track loops
- provide coordinated wayfinding and interpretation to track alignments
- recognise Cobblers Beach as the waterfront gateway to Middle Head
- improve pedestrian arrival and orientation at all pedestrian entries
- investigate centralised visitor orientation
- investigate permanent safety barriers to selected locations
- provide temporary event safety barrier system comprising fixing points and removable barrier system to areas subject to high event traffic with identified unsafe drop offs
- provide for movement from parking to orientation/ arrival node

- investigate additional verge parking to Chowder Bay Road
- investigate slow zone markings and signage on Chowder Bay
- provide strategically placed NPWS seating to provide rest and viewing spots.

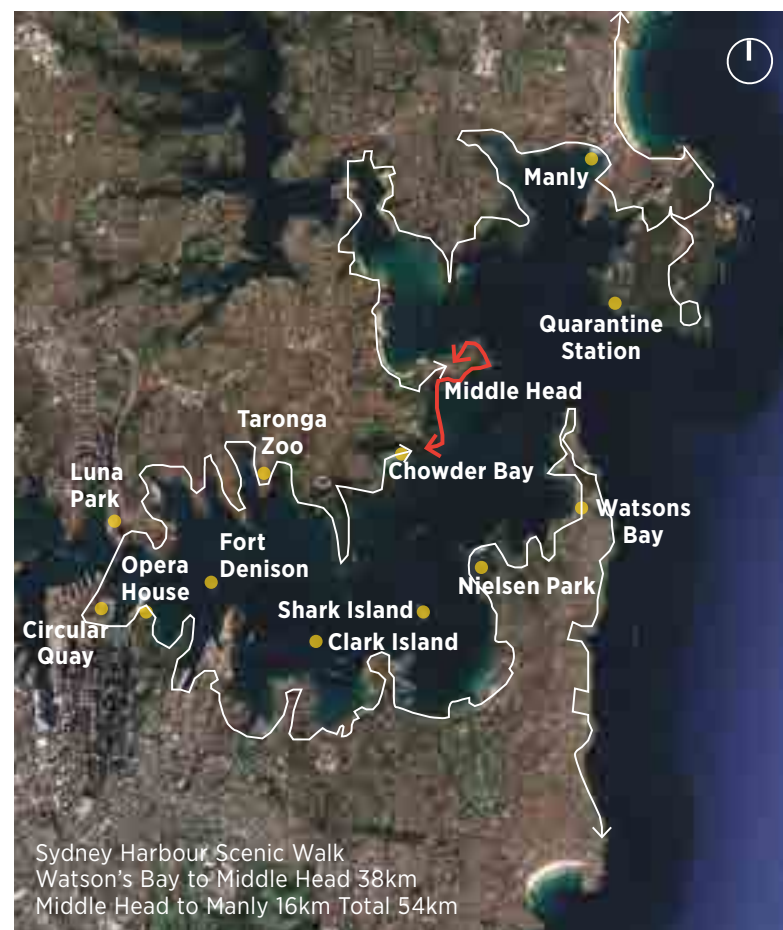


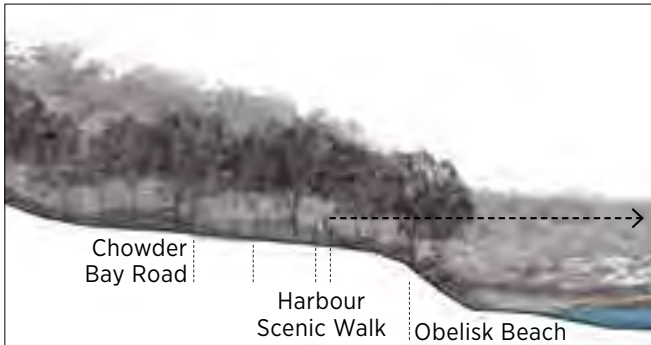
Figure 2.7 Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk. Image: Google Maps



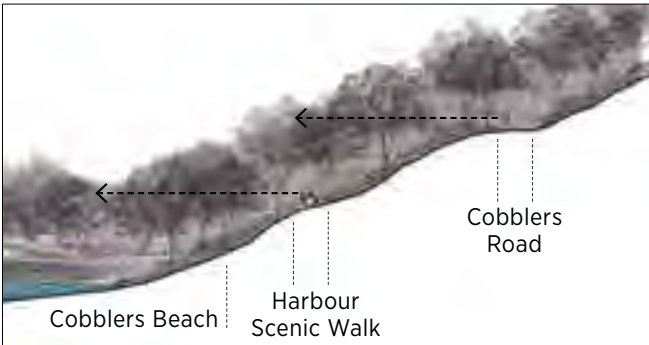
Existing view south towards Georges Head – showing the indicative alignment of future track and boardwalk works to enable walkers safe walking access off Chowder Bay Road and a direct connection to Middle Head.
Image: Environmental Partnership



Example of harbour walk Sydney – Fairfax Walking Tack.
Image: John Yurasek/OEH



Section AA: Vegetation screening to Obelisk Beach when viewed from Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk



Section BB: Vegetation screening to Cobblers Beach when viewed from Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk



Example of possible finishes, walkway without handrail to low height situations – Hermitage Foreshore.
Image: John Yurasek/OEH

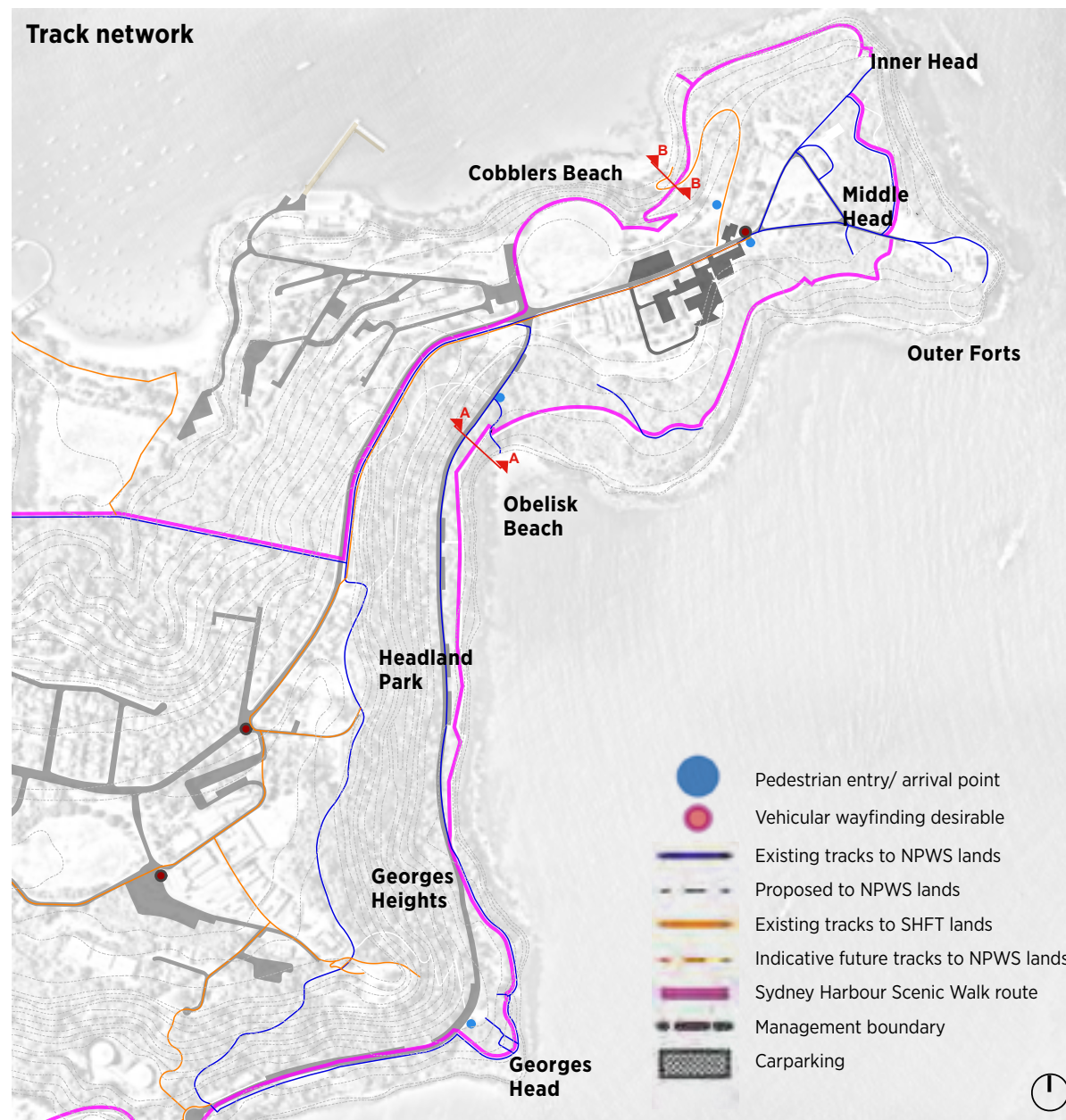


Figure 2.8 Proposed track network

Track orientation signage

Track markers should be considered for major track junctions. Siting and design should integrate interpretive information in addition to wayfinding.

The form and fabric of the signage should be developed as part of a coordinated approach between NPWS and SHFT, integrated with the Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk.



Example: Interpretive signage at track junctions NPWS Munmorah SRA.
Image: Environmental Partnership



Figure 2.9 Indicative track network markers

2.4 Panorama

Strategies

Viewing points

Viewing points celebrate the iconic and unrivalled views of Sydney Harbour by providing a diversity of spectacular and safe vantage points.

Location	Potential Enhancements
1 Upper Cobblers Beach Road	grassed area adjoining road provided with sitting platforms
2 Inner head foreshore track	proposed viewing point
3 Inner head	selected low key barriers for safety
4 North guard house	possible deck area adjoining guard house annex for seating
5 Defensive ditch track junction	proposed boardwalk connection
6 Gun emplacements	proposed interpretive radial platform adjoining structures
7 Cliff edge platform	new NPWS platform integrated into cliff edge
8 Lower outer fort lookout	new NPWS platform integrated into cliff edge

Location	Potential Enhancements
9 1801 fort – Obelisk Bay	existing boardwalk
10 Track/boardwalk link	new NPWS track and boardwalk to foreshore slopes
11 Beehive casemate platform	new viewing platform over south chamber
12 Armoured casemate platform	new viewing platform over roof at south end where views open out
13 Observation post	existing track

View management

In some cases regenerating vegetation may impact on views from these vantage points. As the experience and understanding of these views is such an important value, selected vegetation management by NPWS staff may be required from time to time. A similar approach is found in the critical heritage conservation views identified by the Fortifications Strategic Plan 2007 (right).

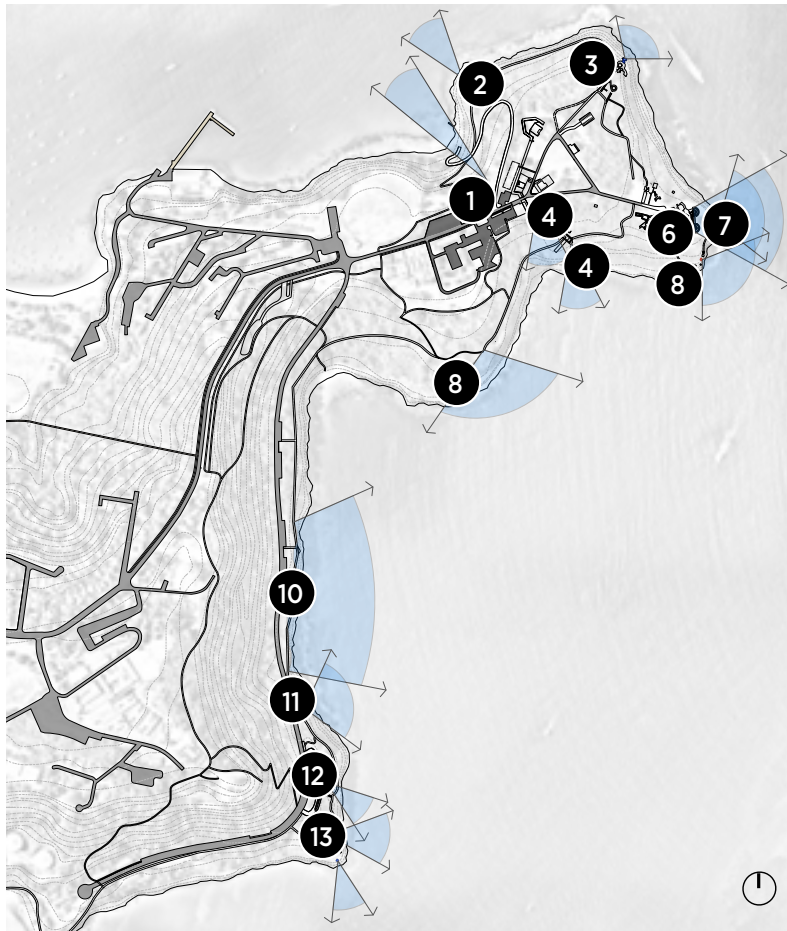
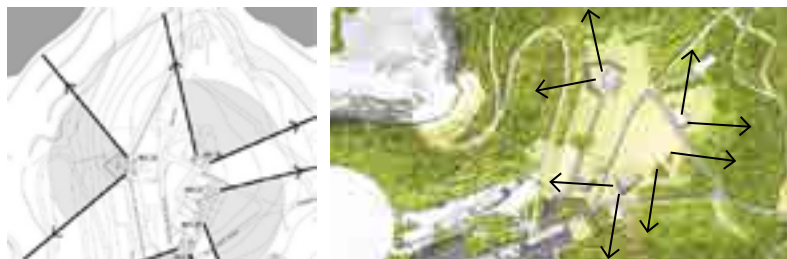


Figure 2.10 Key viewing points



Above left: Significant view corridors (Fortifications Strategic Plan 2007)
 Above right: Concept Master Plan with overlay of significant view corridors

Images above
 3, 8: Existing views from clifftops.
 11: View from area of beehive casemate viewing platform.
 7: Concept illustration of proposed viewing platforms at gun emplacements to outer fort.
 12: Concept illustration of proposed armoured casemate viewing platform.
 Images: Environmental Partnership



Figure 2.11 Environmental management actions

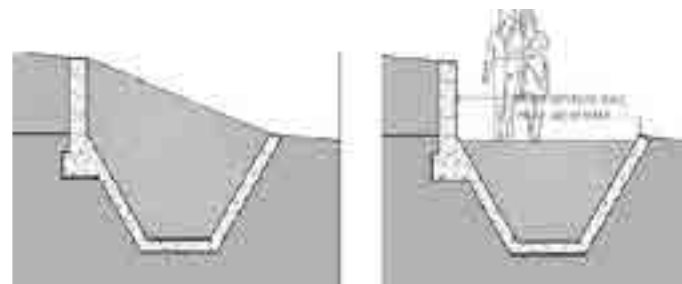
2.5 Healthy environment

Strategies

Ongoing management of the natural environment at Middle and Georges Heads remains an important long term goal (locations identified in figure 2.11).

1. Reinstatement of defensive ditch as interpretive opportunity and for capture and treatment of runoff. Revealing the remnant walling is desirable for conservation of the walling element. The master plan recommends that the ditch be adaptively re-used to take runoff from adjoining areas and draining, as currently, to above Obelisk Bay. This area of drainage outfall will need to be reviewed to confirm it is suitable, with potential upgrade of works undertaken here. Rain-garden and perched swamp sandstone type plantings can be used along the corridor to provide a habitat zone of interest.
2. Liaise with SHFT to consider smaller scale 'capture ditch' at edge of hilltop path to SHFT lands to control and filter runoff.
3. Continue ongoing weed management targeting priority areas in a phased program.
4. Undertake selected and supervised foliage management to conserve heritage views (refer to 2.4 Panorama).
5. Upgrade drainage and manage erosion to Cobblers Beach Road.
6. Upgrade drainage and manage erosion to Chowder Bay Road edges.
7. Upgrade drainage and manage erosion to Middle Head Road.
8. Continue community engagement and involvement in environmental management activities.

New work including track work, adaptation and interpretation works will be subject to detailed environmental assessment.



Extracts from 2002 Heritage Study by Paul Davies and Associates suggesting uncovering and interpretation of the defensive ditch.



Cobblers Beach Road is proposed to be subject to drainage improvements and then surfacing upgrade.



The existing defensive ditch is proposed to be partially uncovered and interpreted.

Images: Environmental Partnership



2.6 Facilities and uses

Overall Strategy

The master plan seeks to optimise existing and new facilities. This includes maintaining flexibility and potential for adaptability in the longer term to respond to changing needs and opportunities compatible with NPWS policies and procedures.

Review of potential uses

The master plan has considered a range of potential uses that may be possible on the Middle Head and Georges Head sites and reviewed their compatibility with site values and qualities.

The uses reviewed included:

1. Accommodation
 - camping
 - short-stay holiday accommodation
2. Seminars
3. Educational visits
4. Tourism visits
5. Recreation
6. Corporate hire

Several other uses were considered desirable for consideration on the park to support community use.

7. Orientation/internal display
8. Café/food and beverage
9. Events

Uses 1–6 are evaluated in Table 1.

Uses 7–8 are evaluated on pages 62–67.

Use 9 (Events) is evaluated on pages 68–73.

Table 1. Review of potential facility uses.

	Role and relevance to site	Site opportunity	Evaluation
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the site has, in various forms, provided accommodation for more than 150 years, including camp style, dormitory and residential accommodation overnight tourism stays could: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enable users to experience the Sydney Harbour National Park in a way previously not available enable an enhanced appreciation and understanding of the site complement and support the Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk support events on the site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> adaptive use of existing buildings where suitable managed camping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> refer to facilities and uses.
Seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue to enhance the existing role of the site in providing facilities for NPWS, community and commercial use continue to offer opportunity for small scale seminars with potential to integrate with the site's natural and cultural environment potential to integrate with any accommodation opportunities offered potential to expand awareness and understanding of site that may build visitation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soldiers Institute function venue to continue to be used for community purposes and small meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting facilities need to be well presented and equipped. The Soldiers Institute needs to be refurbished, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> broadband access, preferably WiFi upgrade kitchen facilities to better cater for uses upgrade external shed as public toilet facilities for precinct – potentially remove internal toilets to enable greater space for kitchen/seminar uses provide extended external patio/deck as break-out space.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use the rich natural and cultural heritage values and the related diversity of experiences offered by the site to continue and expand its educational role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> site-wide opportunity outdoor classroom potential at outer fort grassed space and Georges Heights gun emplacement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> facilitate a wide range of educational activities across site through flexible provision of gathering spaces and seating and through coordinated interpretation support on site interpretation with on line mediums.

Table 1. continued

	Role and relevance to site	Site opportunity	Evaluation
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> offering rich and diverse experiences in close proximity to CBD to continue and expand its visitation role potential to expand awareness and understanding of site that may build visitation and support of the site integration of the site into visitor promotions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> site-wide opportunity potential for Middle Head to support tourist visitation if integrated facilities are available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> interpretive orientation/display landmark/iconic views/experiences some short loop track options café. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> enabling a holistic experience of the physical and cultural environment supported by effective orientation and interpretation to enhance tourism potential enhanced amenities including toilets and parking along with potential for simple food and beverage availability will enhance tourism potential.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> potential for new users to experience the site in new and diverse ways without long term impacts potential to expand awareness and understanding of site that may build visitation and support of the site integration of the site into visitation promotion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> key recreational role will remain harbour walking as outlined in 2.3 Walking the harbour continued potential for site to stage recreational events such as triathlon and swimming events using land based areas above Cobblers Beach (eg Barracks Green) and the beach itself as for the 'Sydney Skinny' ocean swim and potentially the Balmoral Triathlon potential to play increased role as stop over for informal kayak use, provide access to water and cafe facilities with adequate signage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recreational role of headlands can broaden with provision of low key facilities to better support community use enhance picnic facilities in areas such as Cobblers Beach, the tennis court green, and outer forts.
Corporate hiring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a range of diverse settings and locations offering broad potential for corporate events while maintaining day to day use potential to expand awareness and understanding of site that may build visitation and support of the site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the site currently supports a range of commercial and corporate uses. The stunning views and visual setting ensures that there will be continued long term corporate interest NPWS should continue a strong management framework around corporate and event hiring to maintain a sustainable balance with day use and activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate hiring that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enables the community to experience the place in diverse and stimulating ways builds community awareness of the site and its qualities provides revenue generation opportunities is temporary and does not create permanent impacts on the site.

Adaptive re-use of buildings

NPWS uses the existing buildings for a variety of operational purposes. The master plan investigates the optimum use of these buildings compatible with NPWS policy, the values of the place and opportunities for visitors.

Figure 2.11 identifies the factors related to each building in evaluating potential for alternative uses. One of the key influences is the NPWS operational compound on the terrace area just above Cobblers Beach Road. Although partially buffered by shrub planting along its edge it is in a location that impacts on the arrival experience and relationship of Middle Head to Cobblers Beach.

Site opportunities

Figures 2.12 and 2.13 review potential for adaptive re-use with a reduced NPWS compound, and with the compound relocated to an alternative position.

Short-stay holiday accommodation opportunities

Commercial review of the opportunities for adaptive re-use suggested the following accommodation possibilities

- short-stay self-contained holiday house accommodation.

Central orientation and internal display opportunities

- whole site as outdoor classroom and outdoor museum – orientation point provides gateway to whole of site experience
- adaptation of guardhouse with new annex structure – guardhouse was the historical orientation/entry point
- integrate with arrival experience
- internal display
- overview of the complex heritage stories
- guide visitors on effective routes and means to understand site
- could be complemented by availability of food and beverage refreshments
- boardwalk link to harbour track.



Guard House.



Sergeant Majors Quarters.



Barracks.



Soldiers Institute.



Officers Quarters.
Images: Environmental Partnership

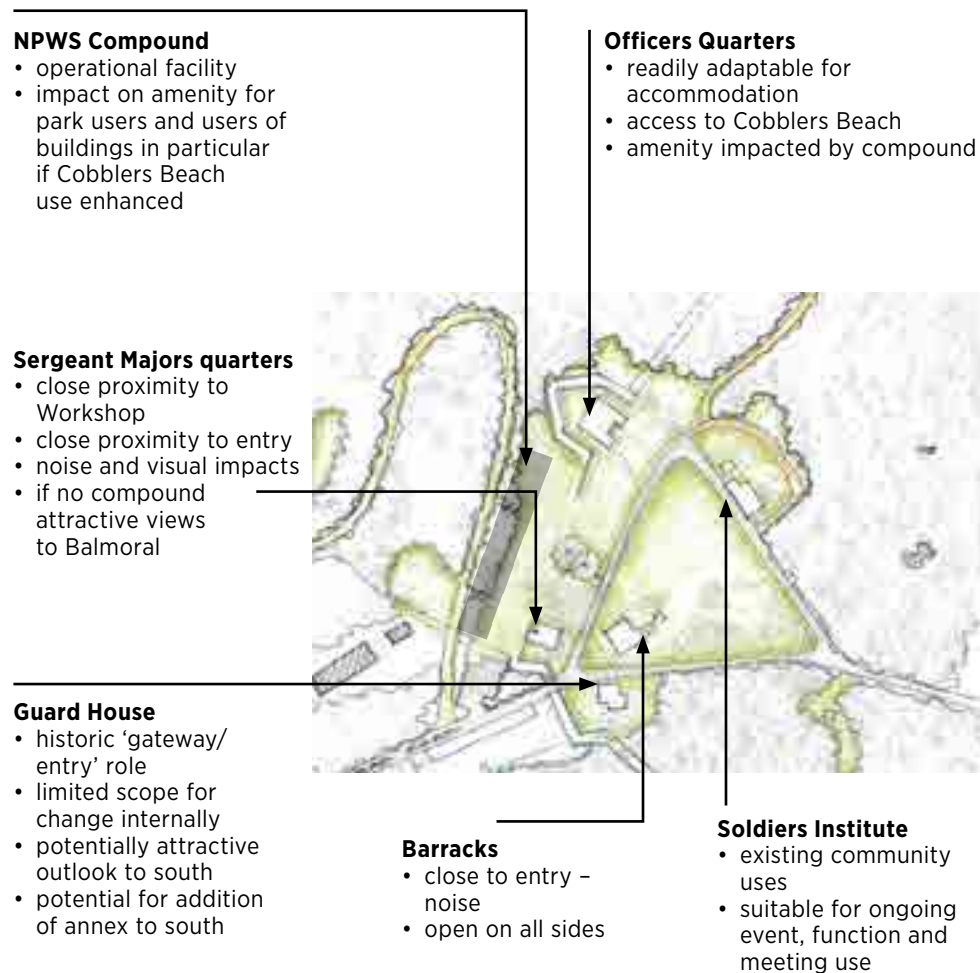


Figure 2.12 Adaptive re use – influencing factors

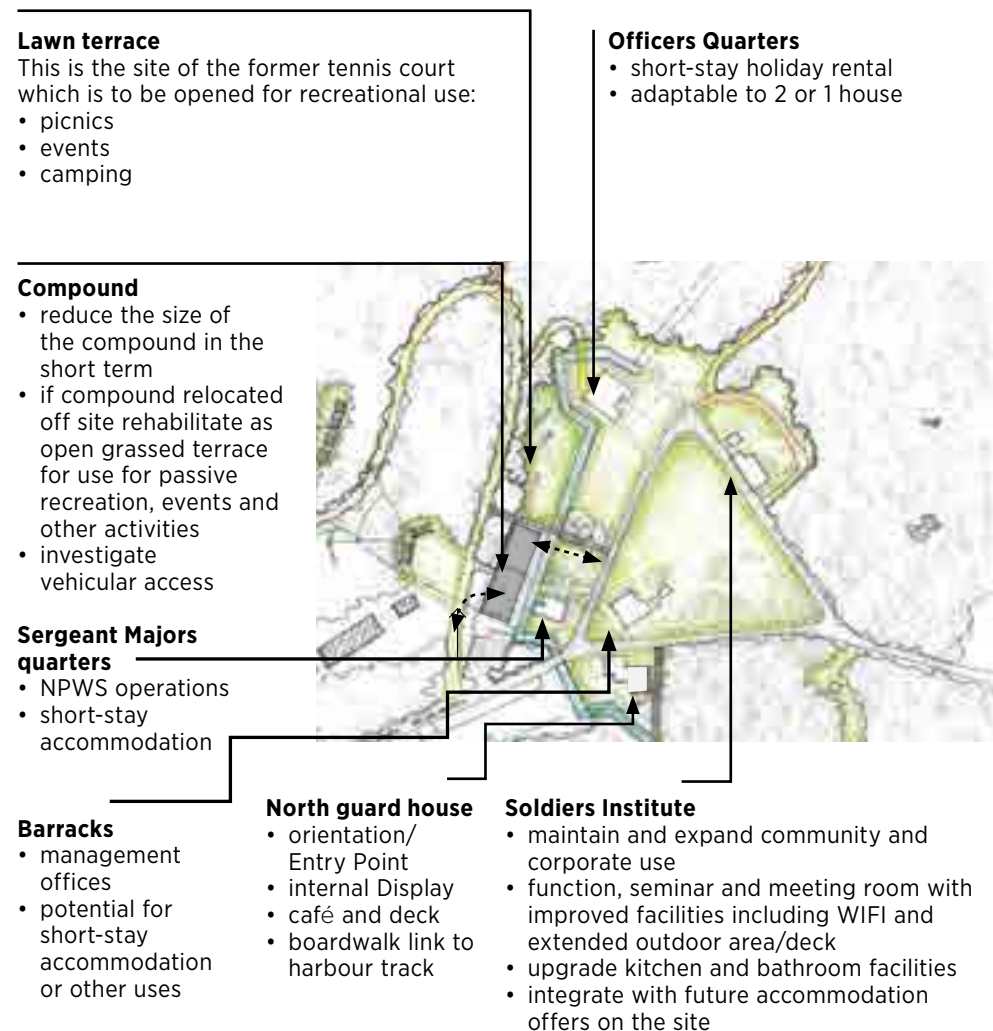


Figure 2.13 Adaptive re use potential

Barracks Green – Possible multi-purpose shelter

Strategy

The functionality and amenity of Middle Head would be enhanced by an additional structure that could provide:

- cooking facilities
- storage
- flexible indoor/outdoor covered area that can be fully open as a large shelter or fully enclosed as additional semi-enclosed space
- potential for additional external permanent toilets.

The architectural style could reflect the past MH27 Barracks Building (see elevation below right). Three possible locations are indicated on the plan right:

1. adjoining the green to serve events
2. to the tennis court green to serve events and camping use
3. in the area of NPWS compound (if relocated to alternative site).

Figure 2.14 – site 1 has the greatest potential for short term implementation.



1943 Aerial Photograph of Middle Head showing MH 27 Barracks building and extent of vegetation clearing. Image: NPWS



Elevation of Middle Head Barracks building (MH 27) previously located west of the Soldiers Institute. Image: NPWS

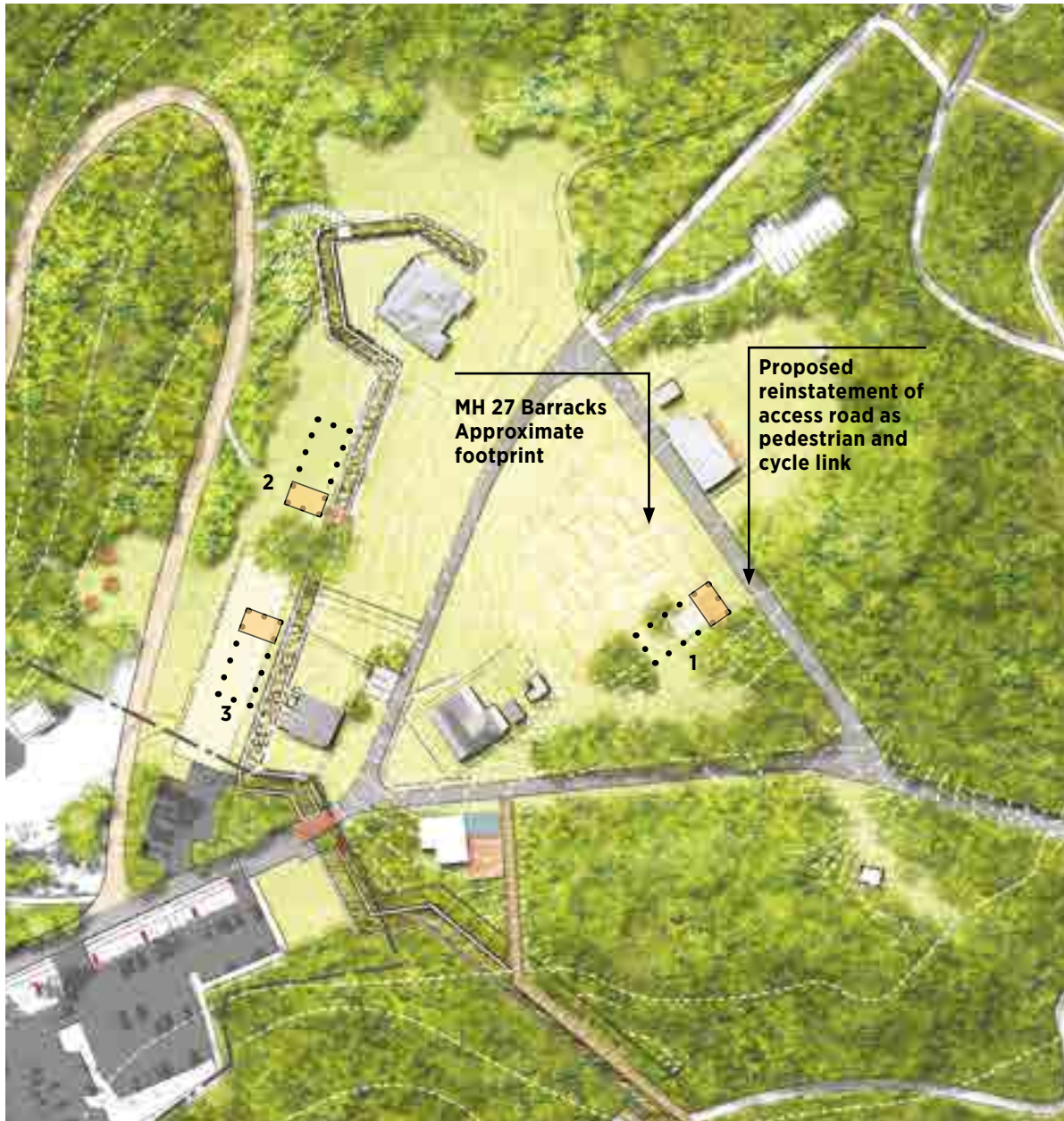


Figure 2.14 Barracks Green – possible multi-purpose shelter



Cockatoo Island camp kitchen. Image: Environmental Partnership



Cockatoo Island shelter structure. Image: Environmental Partnership

Examples of structures providing flexible indoor/outdoor space – not intended to be example of recommended architectural design.

2.7 Traffic and parking

Strategies

The following traffic and parking management strategies will be pursued (locations identified in figure 2.15):

1. NPWS will continue to work with the SHFT and Mosman Council to manage traffic and road safety on Middle Head Road and Chowder Bay Road.
2. Investigate with specialist traffic engineer input potential for targeted slow zones at crossing points to Chowder Bay Road supported by engineering measures and signage.
3. Investigate potential for additional verge parking on Chowder Bay Road where sustainable.
4. NPWS will continue to work with Sydney Buses for enhancement of bus facilities including shelters at stops.
5. NPWS will continue to work with the SHFT and State Government and other providers to explore public transport options – day to day along with event use.
6. Cycling and pedestrian access will be integrated into the planning for Chowder Bay Road. Options for bicycle racks will be investigated.
7. Provide bicycle racks at other key arrival and access points.

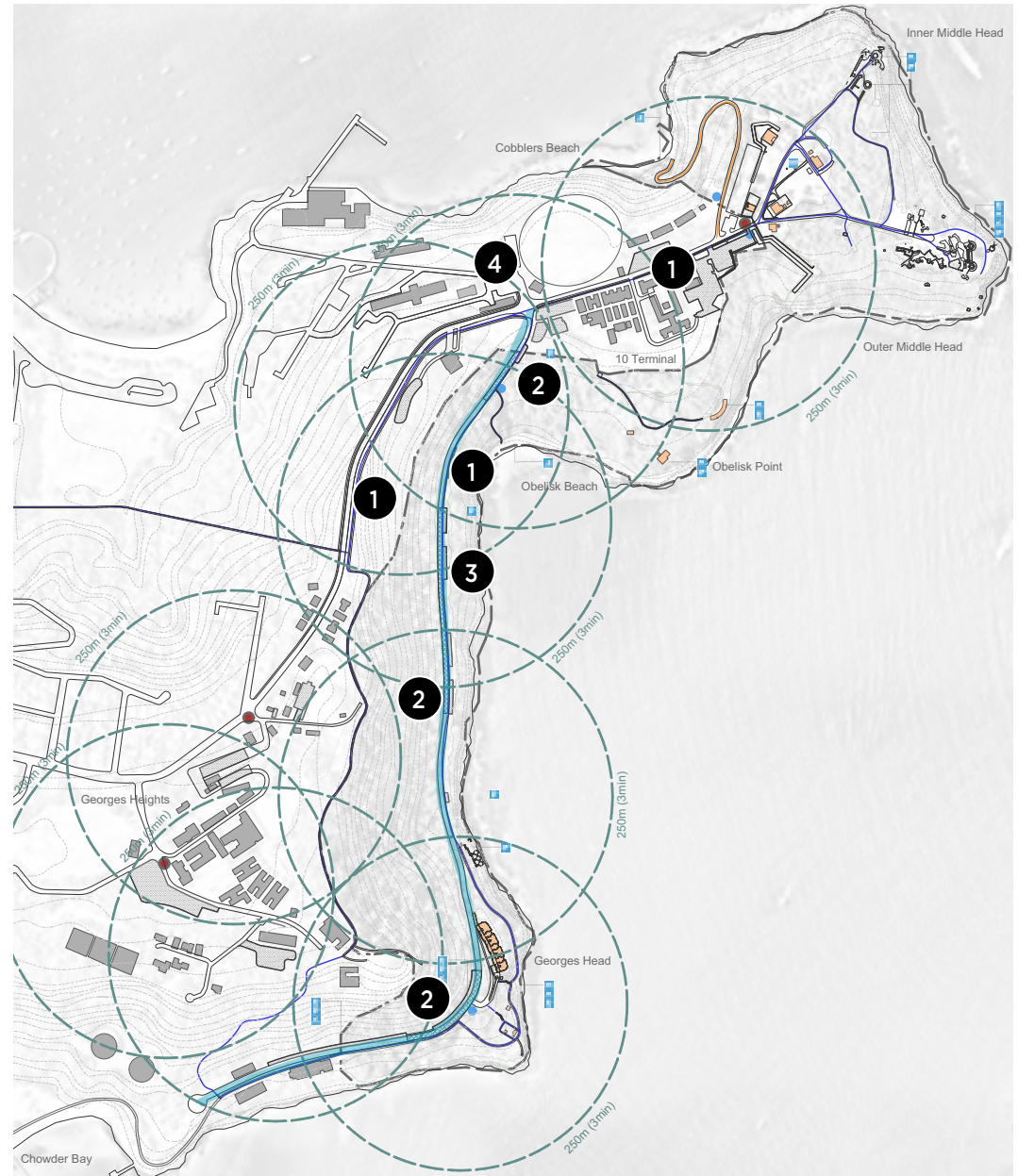


Figure 2.15 Traffic and parking actions



Pedestrian safety can be improved by providing off road access beyond the road verge and enhancing safety at locations of movement across Chowder Bay Road. Images: Environmental Partnership

2.8 Events

Event role and relevance to site

The primary role of events is to open up opportunities for visitors to experience the site in a new and diverse way without long term impacts, to engage with new and emerging communities, and to use a range of spaces and locations.

Site opportunity

Generally

The site has played host to a range of temporary events over the years. Events offer an opportunity to bring the community together to experience places in a different way. Events possibilities include:

- music events – held in the outer fort area, using the fortifications
- art exhibitions
- drama productions
- private functions
- markets
- national park activities.

All event use will continue to be guided by NPWS event policies and environmental assessment procedures.

The following review illustrates options for several of the key potential event sites across the headlands.

Potential locations

- Barracks Green at Middle Head
- Outer Fort – fortifications and surrounding grass areas
- Cobblers Beach – ocean swim, triathlon, canoe and kayak events, stand-up paddle boarding etc.
- armoured casemates
- beehive casemates.



Example of events such as hosting swimming events.
Image: Destination NSW



Example of school holiday activities – kite flying. Image: NPWS



Concept illustration concert on Barracks Green.

Barracks Green event study: festival/concert

Fixed infrastructure considerations

- power distribution boards, permanent and temporary shelter
- power and water supply to external areas
- preferred location for bump in toilets

- truck access
- plant hire considerations.

Bump in facility considerations

- grass protection
- area lighting
- security
- weight loadings of ground.

Operational/event day considerations

- noise Levels
- waste management
- security
- traffic management
- medical
- weather.



Example of arts exhibition in reactivated space, 19th Biennale of Sydney.
Image: Destination NSW



Example of potential event or activity, guided tour Seal Rocks.
Image: Rob Cleary

Outer forts event study

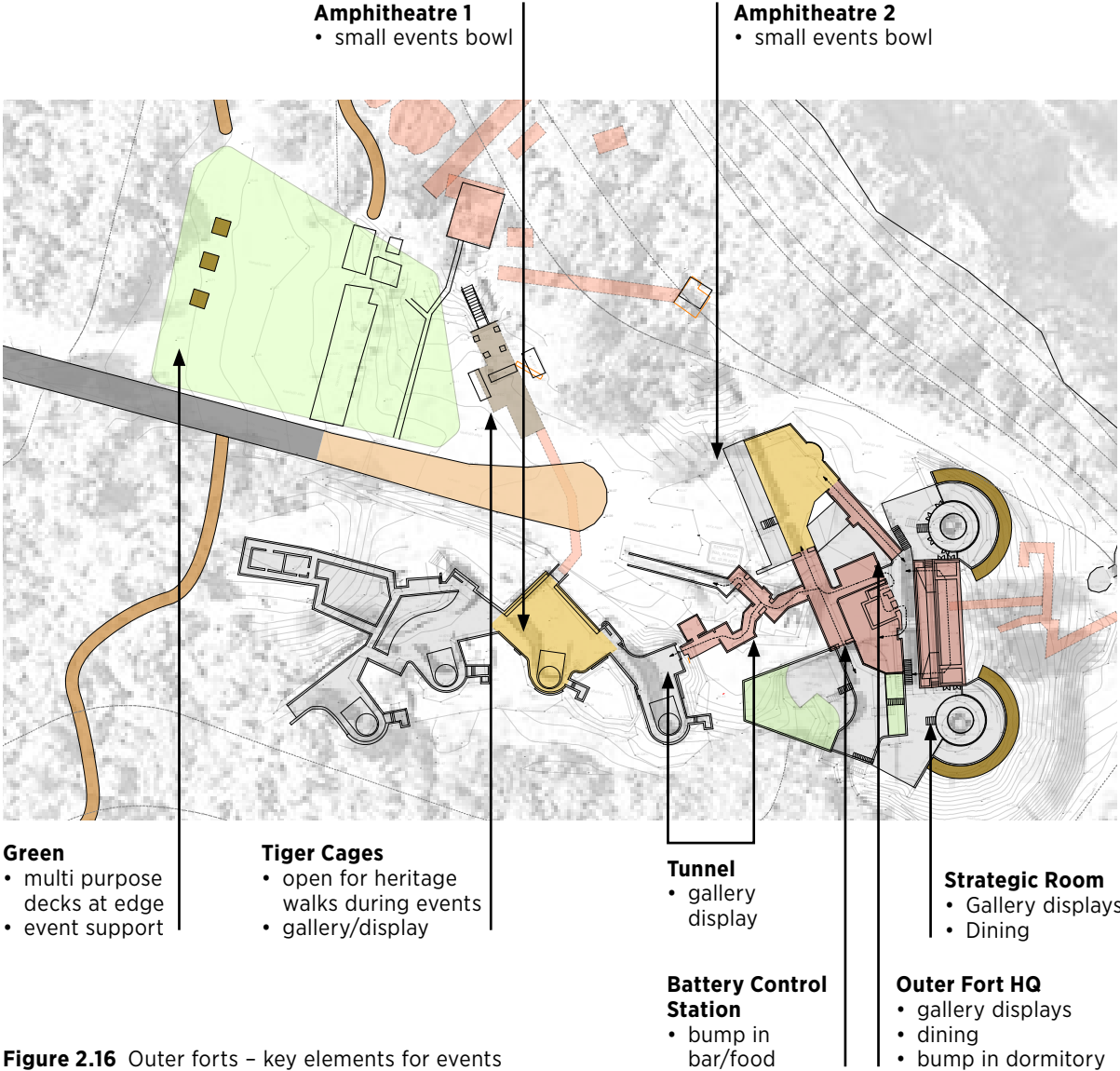


Figure 2.16 Outer forts – key elements for events

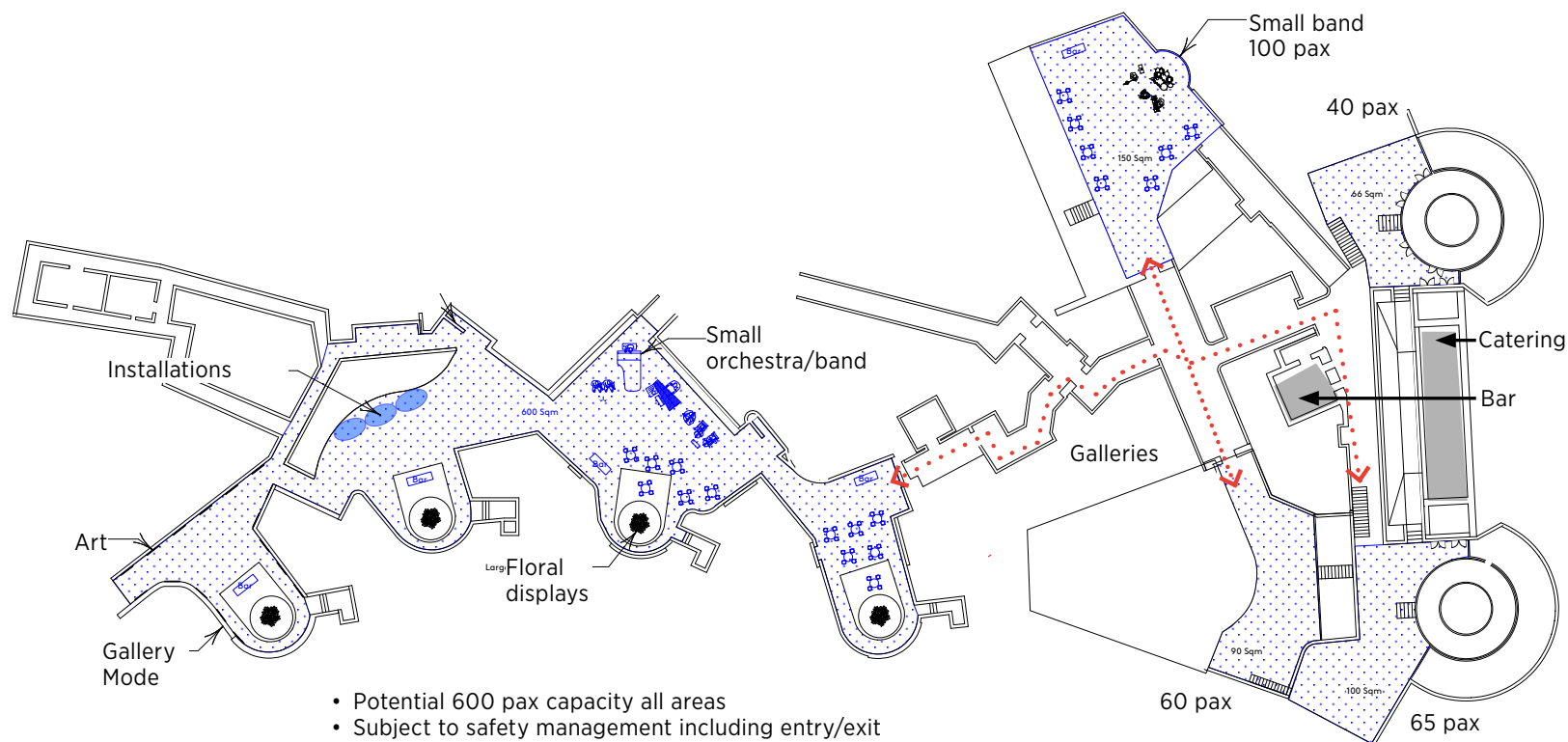


Figure 2.17 Outer Fort example event use

Fixed infrastructure considerations

- site clean up and hazard removal
- temporary barrier system established
- event power and wayfinding lighting to tunnels to be used at night
- gallery hanging system to tunnels to be used

- exit signs
- fire extinguishers
- weather-proofing
- fire evacuation point.

Bump in facility considerations

- load in area surface from road to venue entry
- truck parking
- area lighting
- very small access to inner areas for equipment
- catering area
- site/ground protection.

Operational/event day considerations

- power/generator position
- lighting
- noise levels
- guests access
- security
- with only very limited/ small entry and exits will be an issue
- wet weather.

Armoured Casemate event study

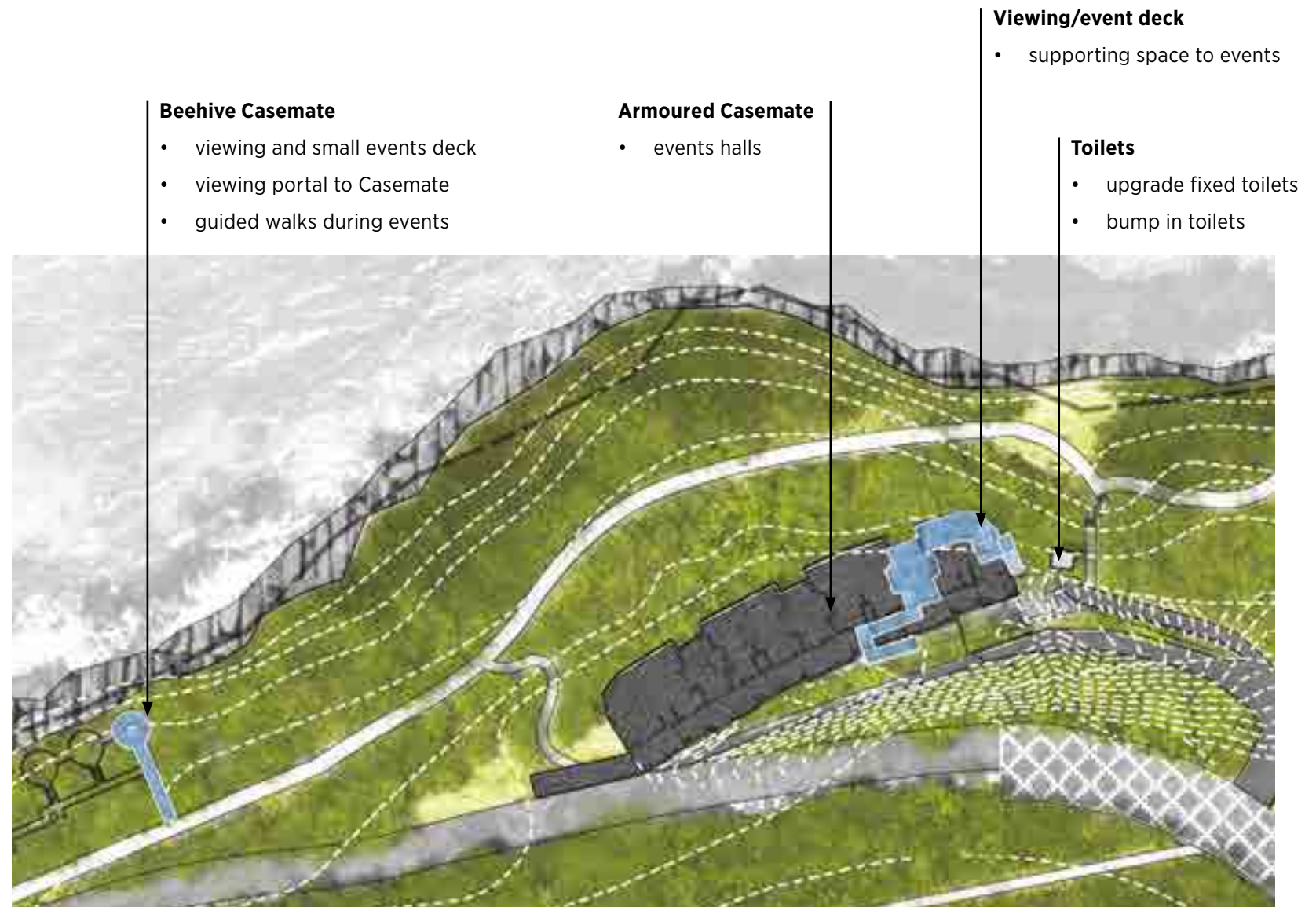


Figure 2.18 Armoured Casemate – key elements

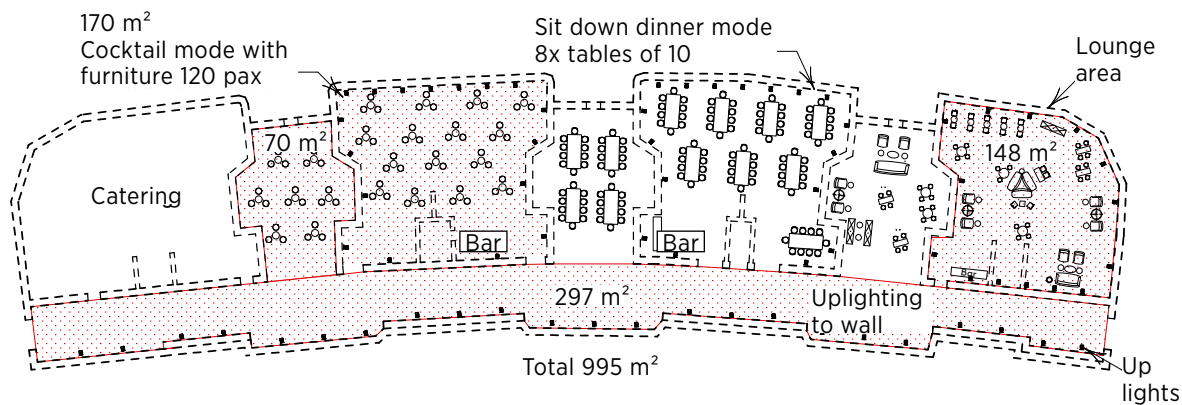


Figure 2.19 Armoured Casemate example event use



Example of event use, West Head Lookout. Image: NPWS



Example of an event in an industrial space, Vivid Sydney. Image: Destination NSW



Example of potential event or activity, Blak Markets at Bare Island. Image: Destination NSW

Objectives

- enable visitors to experience the arts and the site in a way that engages their imagination and senses
- control event numbers to enable effective management of safety and impacts.

Capacity

- with 2 entry/exits 2m wide – total capacity between 240–600 depending on mode (sit down or gallery).

Fixed infrastructure considerations

- site clean-up and hazard removal.
- exit signs
- fire extinguishers
- weather-proofing
- fire evacuation point.

Bump in facility considerations

- load in area surface from road to venue entry
- truck parking
- house lighting
- site protection.

Operational/event day considerations

- patron capacity
- power/generator position
- lighting
- noise levels
- guests access
- security
- climate control.

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