

DHF DEFENCE HERITAGE FUTURE

2025
AUGUST
4TH – 8TH

CREATIVE CO-DESIGN FOR RESILIENT CONSERVATION
FORT CUMBERLAND, PORTSMOUTH, UK



"By redefining the social dimension of heritage beyond static statements of significance and toward dynamic processes of engagement with clear societal aims, the heritage field has the potential to serve as a powerful agent of change."

- Avrami & Mason, 2019, p.30.

Defence heritage constitutes an essential dimension of local and national communities' memory, history and identity. However, owing to the rapid advancement of technology, many military sites lost their original function and moved to a phase of liminality and disuse, even though they still embed strong heritage values. Thus, there has been a growing need to understand the heritage context as the result of overlapping layers of information, values and attributes and define conservation as a creative act through which the juxtaposition of research and design, with the contribution of communities, facilitates resilient adaptive reuse and regeneration of heritage for community benefits and wellbeing.

The University of Portsmouth in collaboration with the University of Cagliari and Historic England are organising a transdisciplinary workshop that brings together academics, professionals, as well as PhD, Specialisation and Master students to work together on envisaging adaptive reuse and regeneration strategies for a significant defence heritage site, Fort Cumberland, a multi-historic layers' military structure that sits on the coastal edge of Portsmouth. The work will demonstrate how research and design can together contribute to successful and resilient revitalisation of complex military heritage structures. Through site visits, community and stakeholders' workshops and co-design activities, the work will produce strategies to preserve the established cultural values of the Fort while responding to its current challenges and future development requirements. The workshop aims to demonstrate how Design as a Creative Act in Conservation can ensure balance between change and preservation, respect the heritage continuity and support the contemporary social and cultural value and vitality of the site through Interdisciplinary approaches, compatible use and sustainable strategies and interventions.

Portsmouth as a naval city is considered rich context to identify best practices that can suggest further reflection to understand and resolve some difficult issues still controversial in defence heritage conservation and sustainable development.

The workshop is supported by SIRA [Società Italiana per il Restauro dell'Architettura].

WORKSHOP PLAN

AUGUST 4TH - 8TH

SUNDAY - 3RD AUGUST:

Arrival in Portsmouth

MONDAY - 4TH AUGUST:

Opening Session, Groups creation and Site visit in Fort Cumberland

TUESDAY - 5TH AUGUST:

Focus group discussions with local communities and relevant stakeholders

WEDNESDAY - 6TH AUGUST:

Co-design workshops between Participants and local representatives

THURSDAY - 7TH AUGUST:

Co-design workshops between Participants and local representatives

FRIDAY (AM) - 8TH AUGUST:

Co-design workshops between Participants and local representatives

FRIDAY (PM) - 8TH AUGUST:

Group presentations of final outputs and celebrating the completion of the workshop

SATURDAY - 9TH AUGUST:

Check out from accommodation

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL INFO:

Flights to London Gatwick and then train to Portsmouth & Southsea



COST OPTIONS:

£525 Workshop Fee

Materials, Site visits, Daily lunch and coffees, Accommodation (breakfast incl.)

£210 Workshop Fee

Materials, Site visits, Daily lunch and coffees.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR PLACE!](#)