

**FORT  
BROCKHURST  
ACCESSIBLE  
TOUR**



**LARGE**

**TEXT & PICTURE  
DESCRIPTIONS**

**Welcome to the Fort Brockhurst Accessible Tour. Here in the reception area we begin our journey back and forth through time across the various eras of Fort Brockhurst. On our tour there are six rooms and each one uses a personal story to access an insight into life at the fort. In each of these rooms you will find a textile wall hanging with an accompanying soundtrack.**

**It is hoped on this tour that you will be able to experience a multisensory snapshot of the history of the Fort in one or more of the following ways.**

**SIGHT: Large visual textile pieces. If you would like extra guidance of the pictures content - a description is given next to this icon**



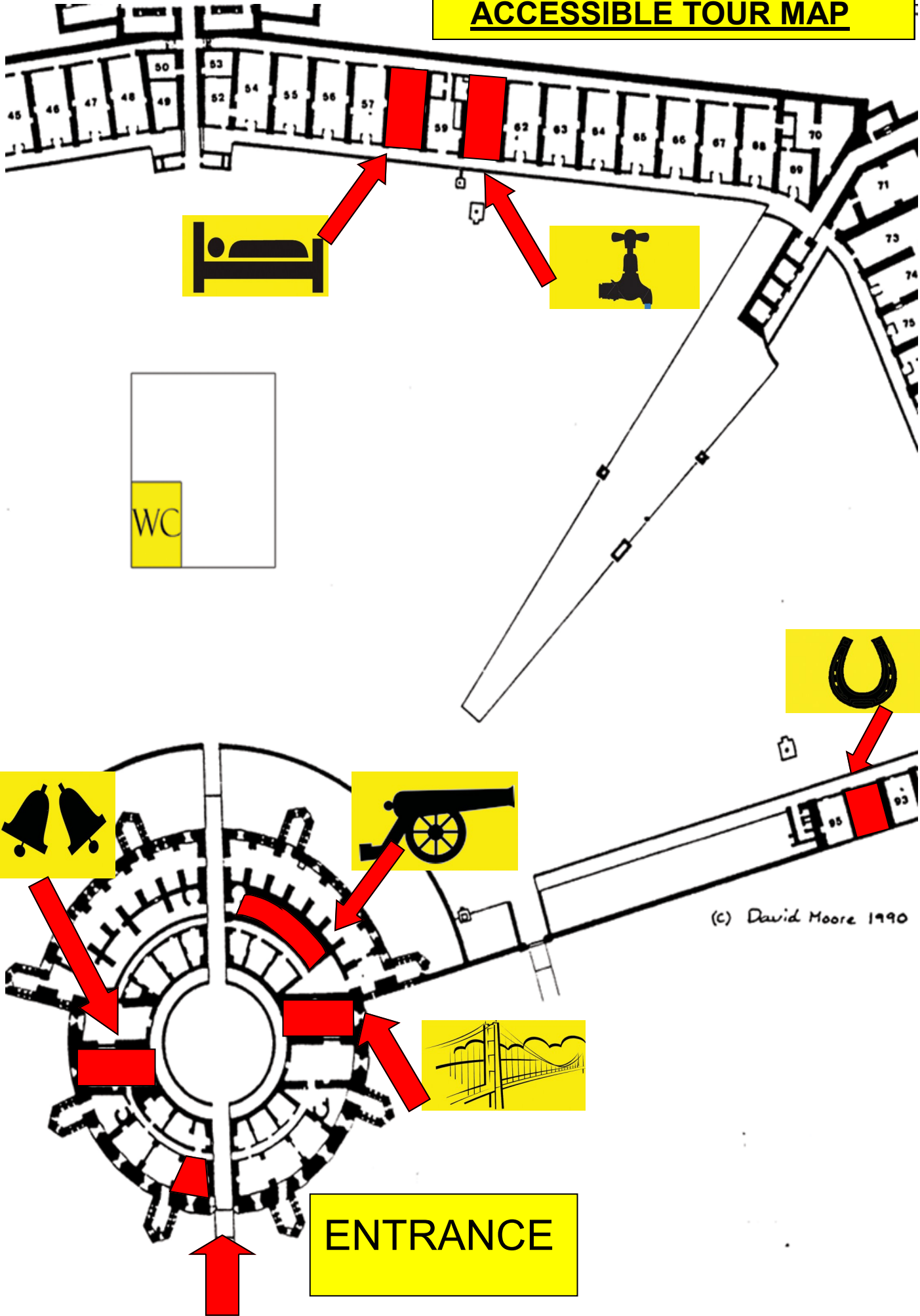
**SOUND:** An accompanying soundtrack featuring sound effects, music and speech.

**TOUCH:** The textile pieces have been formed from a range of tactile materials to create a 3D effect. You are very welcome to touch these gently with clean hands.

**SMELL:** The textile pieces have been partly made with authentic military uniforms which have a distinct musty aroma. We have also incorporated other authentic aromas into the pictures. You are welcome to experience these with your nose!

All of the rooms also has an animal associated with them – see if you can detect them all!

**FORT BROCKHURST  
ACCESSIBLE TOUR MAP**



(c) David Moore 1990



**MAGAZINE ROOM – VICTORIAN ERA  
(1860S)**

**CANNON FIRING**

**The magazine room was used in Victorian times for the storing of the gunpowder for the cannons.**



**This picture depicts a large cannon pointing through an open window. Three soldiers surround the cannon – one to the left, one to the right and one behind. They have removed their smart jackets for this laborious job and their braces hang down. A very small mouse watches on.**



**THE BRIDGE**  
**WORLD WAR ONE**  
**THE BOYS MARCH HOME**

**At the end of World War One Fort Brockhurst was used as a discharge depot for soldiers returning from service abroad. The returning soldiers arrived with all their kit in a kit bag and they were processed in the depot.**



**The picture shows seven soldiers marching across the wooden bridge from left to right.**

**They are all wearing their army uniform, four are wearing pith helmets, having returned from India. Two of them are carrying their kit in a kit bag and three are holding a cage with a canary in it, having returned from France.**

**The canaries were used during the First World War in the trenches to detect gas. These canaries have been brought back and were taken home as pets.**



**STABLES**  
**WORLD WAR ONE**  
**HORSES AT WAR**



**Horses have been resident at the Fort both in the Victorian Era and during World War One and beyond.**

**On the left the soldier is dressed in his army jacket complete with cap. He tends to his grey horse on the left. He has just finished exercising the horse in preparation for charged battle on the frontline overseas.**





**In reality the use of enemy machine guns made this a pointless tactic. Instead the horses were used as pack animals to carry and draw equipment. Unfortunately this was still a very hard life for the horses with difficult conditions and high risk.**

**A poem from the point of view of the horse owners is read out:**



**We didn't know much about it  
We thought they'd all come back  
But off they all were taken  
White and brown and black;  
Cart and cab and carriage,  
Wagon and break and dray,  
Went out at the call of duty.  
And we watched them go away.  
All of their grieving owners  
Led them along the lane  
Down the hill to the station.  
And saw them off by train  
They must be back by Christmas,  
And won't we give them a feed.**



## **BARRACK ROOM - VICTORIAN ERA(1860S)**

### **MILITARY AND FAMILY LIFE**

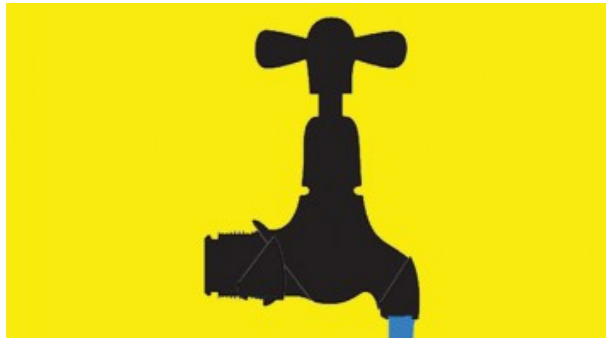
**Barrack rooms were the main living and sleeping quarters of many soldiers from the Victorian Era onwards.**



**The Barrack room picture shows the back of the head of the soldiers wife's looking into the room. One of the barrack beds is seen on the left with a kit laid out on it—blankets, sheets and a hat. Around the bed are Victorian photographs and postcards and a small bag also hangs down.**



**The soldier stands behind the bed in his smart jacket and hat. His jacket is adorned with braiding and gold buttons. He has dark hair with a large moustache. The back of the room is divided by a heavyweight curtain and two young little girls peep out. They have dropped their toy kangaroo on the floor and are hoping to pick it up quickly before anyone notices.**



**ABLUTIONS ROOM – WORLD WAR  
TWO  
A CLOSE SHAVE**



**A World War Two soldier stares into space as he shaves with his issued razor and shaving brush, which he has lathered up with his carbolic soap.**

**He is surrounded by 3 cheeky large rats. There are many stories of rats around the fort. Apparently some were so tame that they would come out in the ablutions room and watch the soldiers in their daily routine!**



## NAAFI – WORLD WAR TWO

### THE WEDDING

**Fort Brockhurst was used during the Second World War for many different units. The original NAAFI was in the large building in the centre of the courtyard. The room you are in now was also used for recreation. The existence of the Fort within Gosport had an effect on the community. One of the effects was many a romance and this picture depicts a wedding that happened on Christmas eve 1943, of a soldier and his bride.**





**They met whilst she was serving in the Naafi. The picture has a soldier on the left and his bride on the right, he is attired in his uniform and she wears a dress made of parachute silk. The fort's rat catcher dog 'Rastus' watches on!**

**Paul Jones and Clare Jefferson- Jones of Splodge Designs would like to say thank you to all the people who have made the development and creation of this project possible.**

**Including: Creative Landscapes with Liz Porter, Esther Gill and Cynara Davies, Pam Braddock and Lewis Colau of Fort Brockhurst, Terry Rhodes, all involved in HOD Inclusion Group, Derek Shaughnessy, Tony Elbourn and his group, Nick Hall Royal Armouries, Fiona Hocking, Anne Constable, Michelle Clayton, Richard Sturgess, Ann Wilson, Les Trewinnard, Alf Skelly, Linford Williams, Ubique- Roger & Barbara Glancefield, Russell Chisnal, Richard Tallack & Georgie Davidson. Geoff Hallett (Palmerston Forts Society & Portsdown Artillery Volunteers) Ben Reid, Mycroft Tierney & Sabre Sales**

