10 Coastal Defence Fort

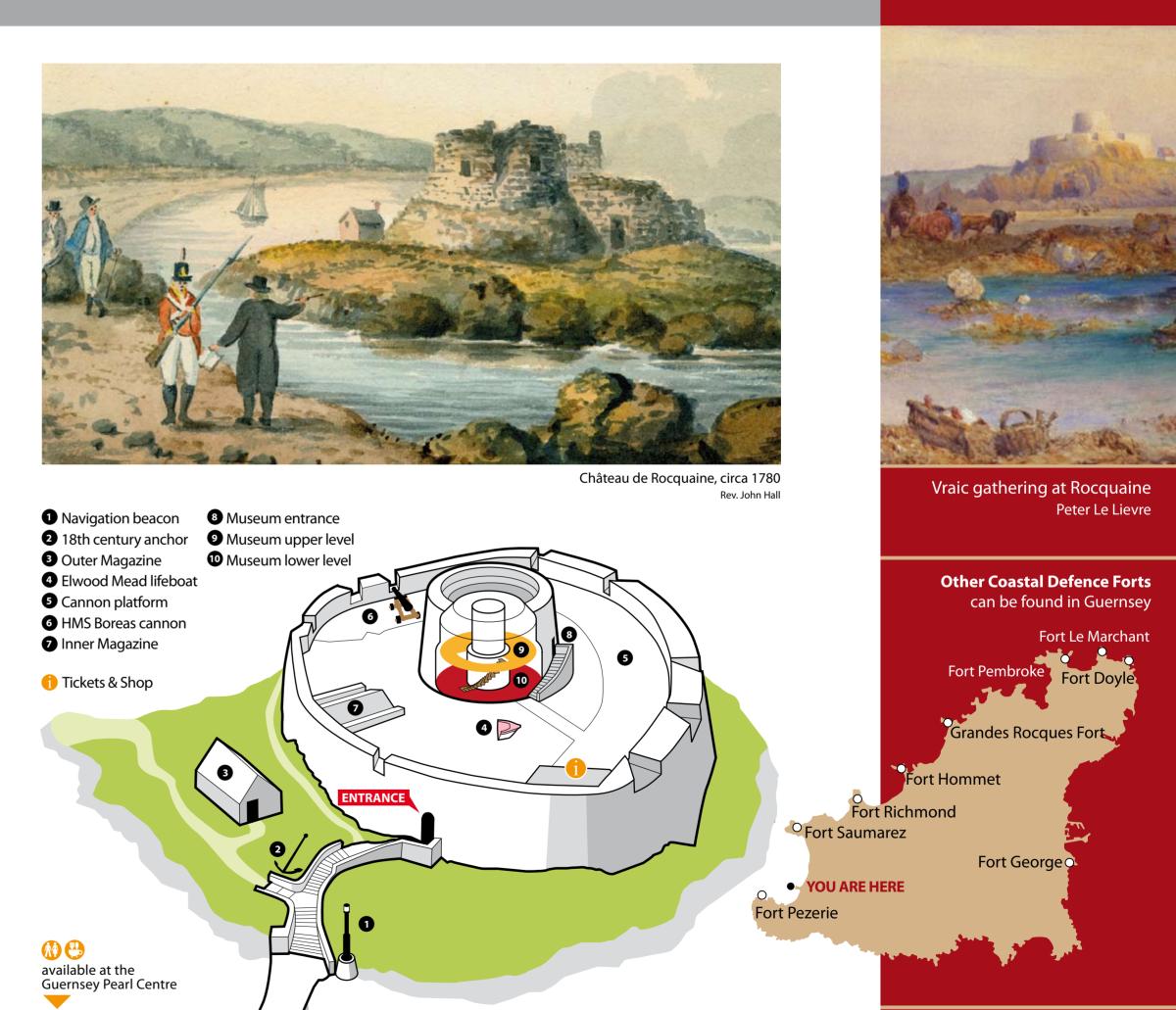
Fort Grey stands on the site of an earlier castle known as the Château de Rocquaine. In 1803, the ruins of the castle were demolished and replaced with a battery for twelve to fourteen guns, protected by a semi-circular wall which was 3m (10ft) thick. In 1804 a tower, perimeter wall and outer powder magazine were built. An inner magazine was built in 1809. By 1816 a 24 pounder carronade was mounted on the top of the tower and six 24 pounder guns were mounted on the battery. The fort was only accessible using a ladder to climb over the walls.

The fort was part of a chain of coastal defences built to protect Guernsey against French attack but it is one of only three Martello towers built on the island. It was named Fort Grey in honour of General Charles, Earl Grey of Howick, K.B., the Governor of Guernsey from 1797 to 1807. The concentric design and white tower have led the fort to be known locally as the 'Cup and Saucer'.

The Guernsey Militia originally manned the fort, as they did again during the First World War. The Germans utilised it during the Occupation, but did not make great changes to the structure. It was opened as a Shipwreck Museum in 1976, at which time the current entrance into the fort was built.

Archaeology

At least two phases of prehistoric occupation took place on this small island before the construction of Fort Grey. Pottery has been found dating from the late Bronze Age, around the ninth century BC. Finds of 'briquetage', the poorly-fired clay bricks and vessels used during salt production which date from around the first century BC and the first century AD have also been recorded. Most of these deposits have been eroded away and there is little trace left of what must once have been an area of intensive activity.







This **scheduled Ancient Monument** is cared for by the Culture & Leisure Department If you have any comments about it please telephone us on 01481 726518 or write to us at Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery, Candie Gardens, St Peter Port, GY1 1UG

