

Visit to The Historic Dockyard, Portsmouth - Thursday 18 May 2006

This visit has been organised by Tom Rutherford

Because of the 200th anniversary recently of the Battle of Trafalgar, much has been written and discussed about the historic dockyard. There are, in the dockyard, many things of historical interest to see and experience. It is the home of the famous old ships, HMS Victory, the "Mary Rose" – with its associated museum of artefacts recovered, HMS Warrior plus the extensive Royal Naval Museum.

During 2006 Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the Portsmouth born engineer's birth will be celebrated nationwide and Portsmouth Historic Dockyard will be taking the opportunity to focus on technology and industrial innovation throughout the year. The genius of Brunel is exemplified in the steam technology on board HMS Warrior 1860, which was the first warship to combine steam and sail. A new £1 million science and technology discovery gallery focuses on the marine, maritime and defence worlds, it is expected to open in February 2006.

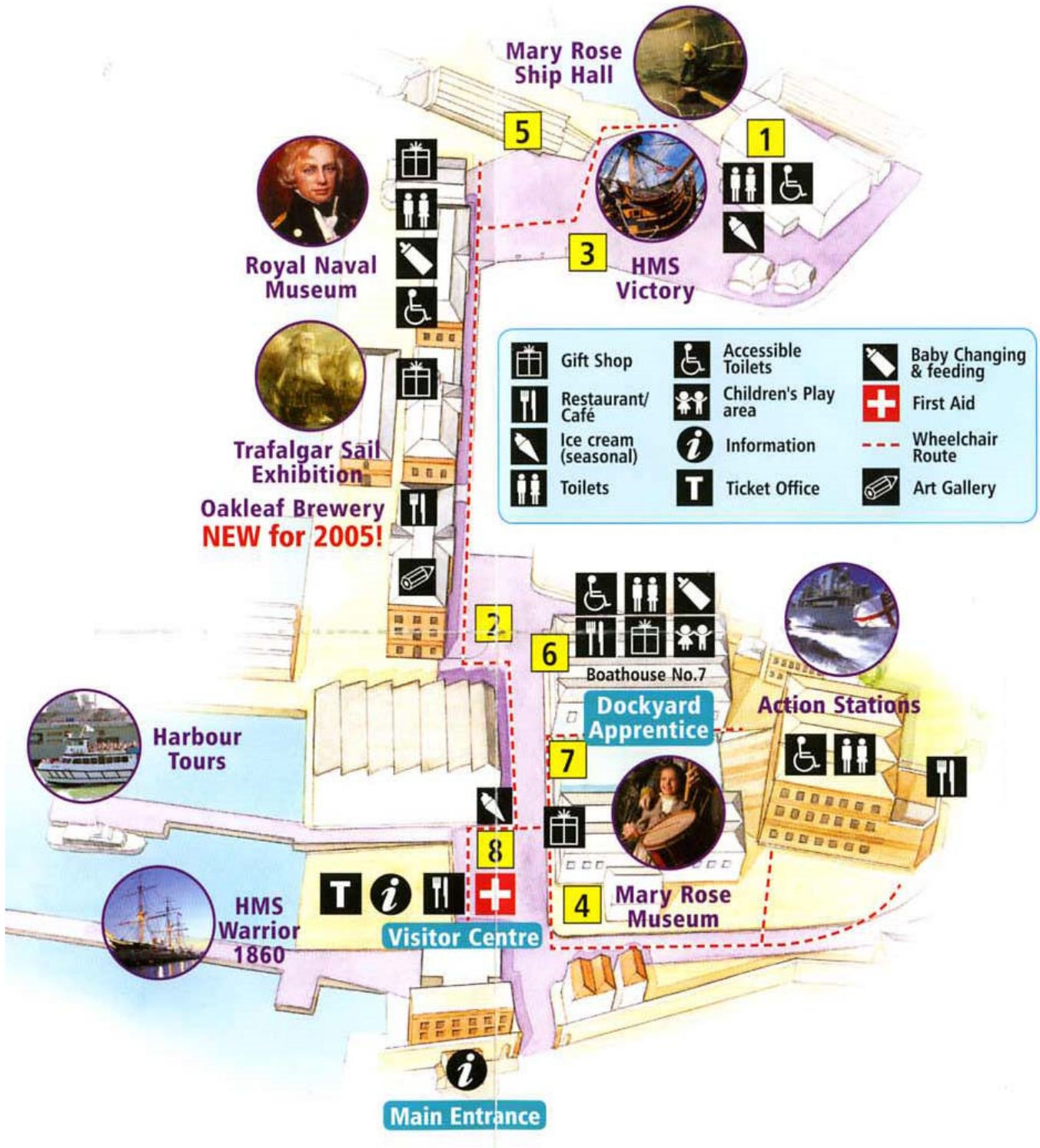
The attached diagrams give both the site layout and travel information. The main attractions are as follows –

- HMS Victory – conducted tour 12.15hrs
- Mary Rose ship hall – mobile recorder issued
- Mary Rose Museum
- HMS Warrior
- Royal Naval Museum
- Action Stations
- Dockyard Apprentice
- Harbour Tour – hourly on the hour

Please arrive at the visitor centre no later than 11.55hrs – Booking Reference Number "23 0000 654" may be requested. You will be issued at 12.00hrs with an "all inclusive" ticket, which gives free access to all the exhibits, including the harbour tour.

The first event is a guided tour of HMS Victory, which starts at 12.15hrs and lasts about 1 hour. The ship is about 5 minutes walk from the visitor centre. After this you could have lunch, in the site restaurant in Boat House No 7, or you may prefer the "Ship Anson" – a pleasant hostelry with good "Pub Grub". The latter is about 3 minutes walk on the left just outside the main gate. After lunch a visit to the "Mary Rose" wreck (being restored) and its museum is recommended. Weather permitting, the harbour cruise is also worthwhile — the last trip is at 16.00hrs.

The cost is £9.00 pp and the maximum number is 25.



How to get to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard is located within Portsmouth Naval Base with entry through Victory Gate at the corner of Queen Street and the Hard.



The Historic Dockyard is less than 5 miles from Junction 12 of the M27. Follow the brown Historic Waterfront signs from the M27 and join the M275 into Portsmouth. The Historic Ships Coach and Car Park is located on Queens Street, approximately 300 metres from Victory Gate. Please note that there is a temporary change to the pricing of the car park due to vandalism of equipment. Upon entry to the car park a flat rate of £5 per car will be charged.

Rail:

Portsmouth Harbour Station / Hard Interchange coach and bus station is a few minutes walk from Victory Gate. London Waterloo Station to Portsmouth Harbour Station is only a 90 minute journey and these run frequently. A suitable train to Portsmouth Harbour Station is the 10.00hrs from Waterloo Station — arriving at 11.32hrs (2005 timetable). You may wish to go earlier since the dockyard opens at 10.00hrs, when you could have coffee at the cafe in the visitor centre. There

is a frequent train service back to London.

