

Email trail – Lydden Spout – CCCU - NT

Watts, Martin (martin.watts@canterbury.ac.uk)

Dear Jon,

Thank you for the information and the files on wettransfer. I would like to offer the following supportive statement.

The Lydden Spout Battery is one of a series of coastal batteries, of varying calibres, that were employed in either or both of the World Wars. The position of this coastline was critical to the defence of Britain and to the ability of the nation to project a large army onto the continent of Europe in both conflicts. The six inch battery at Lydden Spout was employed during the second world war in the dual role of anti-shipping and anti-aircraft artillery, with the guns having a high angle capability specifically designed for this purpose. What is particularly striking about this site is the survival of much of the infrastructure involved with maintaining and operating the guns, including the day to day living environment of the gun crews who were based here. In this respect, Lydden Spout is more than complementary to the preserved Fan Bay site which is notable for its sound mirrors and deep shelter, therefore the importance of preserving Lydden lies in the opportunity it presents for a comprehensive display and information centre, educating and explaining to visitors how rather second world war was fought at this strategically important site.

As an historian (and author and presenter of the undergraduate course 'War on the Front Line: Kent and the Two World Wars'), I am only too aware of how much of the physical legacy of the 20th century has been lost. By the same token I am also aware of the strong public interest in the two world wars, as evidenced by the nationwide activities that commemorate important anniversaries of battles and campaigns, and of the interest shown by schools and universities, on behalf of their students. Sadly, we are fast approaching the point where the few remaining survivors of the second world war will be no longer amongst us and, if the public interest shown in the hundred year commemorations of the first world war are anything to go by, then this is an appropriate time to preserve sites like Lydden Spout. If the site can be developed to provide public access to show how the gunners lived and demonstrate the battery's importance to the defence of the nation, then I believe this to be a worthwhile enterprise with a sound heritage and historical basis.'

As mentioned on the phone, I can come down on the morning of the 30th - please advise time and place to meet. I have to be in Folkestone at 1400.

Best wishes,

Martin

From: Barker, Jon <Jon.Barker@nationaltrust.org.uk>

Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 2:19:36 PM

To: Watts, Martin (martin.watts@canterbury.ac.uk)

Subject: RE: National Trust Lydden Spout

Dear Martin,

I just wanted to let you know we got the go ahead to purchase Lydden Spout yesterday.

We are really pleased and thank you very much for all your help. I would think the legal side of things will take some time but hopefully it will be in our ownership sometime in the summer.

Apparently on the day the external comments on significance were very persuasive so again many, many thanks.

All the best and I will let you know how things progress.

Jon