



Historic OS of Shotley Gate area dated 1881



Historic OS of Shotley Gate area dated 1926



Historic OS of Shotley Gate area dated 1956

HMS Ganges sits at the end of the Shotley peninsula at the confluence of the rivers Orwell, to the east and Stour to the south. The site is approx. 24 hectares of which 16 is previously developed “brownfield” land and lies at the eastern edge of Shotley Gate

The site occupies a prominent position within the Orwell/ Stour estuary. A variety of existing buildings associated with the former use as a Royal Naval Training Establishment remain on the site together with a large amount of hard standing in areas such as the Parade Yard.

A number of mature trees in good condition are also to be found on the site. A Tree Preservation Order was placed on 117 trees in 2006 (TPO BT 401). The trees provide valuable screening and shelter and will assist in integrating any future development into the site.

The site has four distinct and differing boundary conditions. To the north Marsh Lane a narrow track off the B1456 provides access to an adjoining caravan park. Beyond Marsh Lane is an open expanse of agricultural land. To the west is the residential community of Shotley Gate. The settlement consists of a post office and public house but immediately adjacent to the site is mostly suburban housing from the second half of the 20th century.

The southern and southeastern edge of the site consists of steeply sloping escarpments going down to Stour and Orwell estuaries. Long distance views across the estuary are available from this part of the site.

Shotley Marina is located immediately to the east. It is a popular facility catering to pleasure craft with capacity for 350 berths. A Planning Application for approx 160 Residential Units around the Marina was recently granted approval by Babergh District Council and it is currently proposed that work shall commence in October 2007.

HMS Ganges is currently accessed via Caledonia Road off the B1456. Attractive iron gates/ railings with tall brick piers, which are now listed, mark the site entrance. Several other historical structures exist on the site, which include a Napoleonic Fort, Martello Tower and a Listed Ceremonial Mast of the former HMS Ganges.

The Historic OS Map extracts pictured opposite clearly show the dramatic changes to the character of the landscape in the Shotley Gate area over the past century. At the end of the nineteenth century the area was primarily farmland with only the remains of the Napoleonic Fort and Martello Towers suggesting the former military significance of the site. The only area of activity by the end of the nineteenth century was a couple of isolated farmsteads and the cluster of buildings around the Bristol Arms Public House.

The arrival in this location in 1905 of the HMS Ganges Royal Naval Training Establishment saw a sudden appearance and constant expansion of new buildings, facilities and residences associated with this use. HMS Ganges was from 1905 to 1975 the largest RNTE in the UK.



Former Drill Shed



Existing Swimming Pool



View over the estuary



Shotley Marina



The North Martello Tower



The South Martello Tower



View towards the B1456



The Bristol Arms