

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**12 March 2020**

**Triple Gold for The Historic Dockyard Chatham**

The Historic Dockyard Chatham is thrilled to announce it has been awarded the prestigious Gold Accolade by VisitEngland for the quality of its visitor experience for the third year running.

VisitEngland, the national body promoting England as a world class tourist destination, has designed its awards to celebrate excellence within the visitor attraction sector and to showcase those businesses in the VisitEngland Visitor Attraction Quality Scheme (VAQAS) that go the extra mile to provide a high quality day out.

Of the 100's of attractions taking part across the country only 17 attractions have reached the Gold standard as judged by VisitEngland's team of independent assessors. Others to win the Gold Accolade in South East England are Bletchley Park, Paulton's Park in Romsey and Waddesdon Manor in Aylesbury, with fellow Kent attraction Shepherd Neame receiving the accolade for Welcome.

Andrew Stokes, Director. VisitEngland said: *“England’s attractions provide visitors with amazing experiences and these accolades recognise the outstanding customer service and quality on offer across the country. From Best Told Story interpretation to Hidden Gem and overall Gold, these accolades show that there is an attraction capable of capturing everyone’s imagination creating lasting memories and spreading the economic benefits from tourism.”*

Amy Welsh, Head of Visitor Experience, Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, said: *“Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust’s philosophy is excellence in all that we do. As a visitor attraction, we provide an experience to this standard across all aspects of our business. This is the third consecutive year we have received the Gold Accolade,*

*and with an even higher score this time, it is testament to our fantastic team who are committed to delivering the highest standard of service to all of our visitors.”*

ENDS

#### **MORE PRESS INFORMATION**

Please contact Susanna Hodder if you are interested in attending these events for press purposes on 01634 823800 or email [shodder@chdt.org.uk](mailto:shodder@chdt.org.uk)

#### **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

##### **The Historic Dockyard Chatham**

[www.thedockyard.co.uk](http://www.thedockyard.co.uk)

The Historic Dockyard Chatham is the only place in the world that lets you explore a complete dockyard from the age of sail and beyond. It's a unique destination that celebrates Great Britain's magnificent maritime past and unmatched contribution to the Royal Navy's shipbuilding excellence that led to worldwide command of the oceans.

Chatham offers unrivalled access to the ships that shaped the world, from a Victorian anti-slavery sailing ship, to a Second World War Destroyer or a Cold War submarine and the stories of the people who made them. From Chatham's historic buildings, from the Commissioner's House and officers' quarters to the remarkable Victorian ropery, where the rigging for HMS Victory was made, to its collection of maritime archaeology, the Dockyard forms an indispensable part of Britain's naval history and its national heritage.

As a fully accredited museum, Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust collects, preserves, researches and exhibits objects and materials connected with the history of the dockyard and its people. It studies the development of Royal Navy warship design, construction and the use of the River Medway by the Royal Navy.

Visitors to and users of The Historic Dockyard Chatham are fundamental to its purpose and the economic reuse of the site and its buildings. Its staff and volunteers play a vital role in providing a high level of service and customer care. The Trust is also involved in the on-going regeneration of Medway and The Thames Gateway, with Culture and Heritage at its heart.

As part of the Trust's strategy of "Preservation through re-use" recent projects have secured the long-term financial sustainability (on a revenue basis) of the wider Historic Dockyard site. The economic outputs from the new uses of the recently opened Fitted Rigging House as well as other activities across the site will bring the total annual contribution made to Medway's economy to £26.3m in 2019, building on the 2012 estimate of £16m (64% growth).