



PRESS RELEASE

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Government continues clearing out works at the Northern Defences

The Government continues to lead in the clearing of the Northern Defences at an impressive pace. These works are now reaching their fifth year.

The area of the King's Lines has received a complete transformation following decades of neglect and abandonment.

The Lines of defences are now clearly visible and are testimony of the formidable defences which kept Gibraltar safe from a northern enemy assault. Spanning over a series of hundreds of metres, these open terraces are connected by galleries carved into the Rock and allowed safe and concealed movement of troops during perilous times.

The Kings and Queens Lines, which have been visited by many enthusiasts as part of tours organised by the Heritage Trust, would have been defended by rifle men during the 18th and 19th century as they would have overlooked the approaches to landport gate below.

Equally stunning are the galleries within the Rock itself where previously blocked openings have been reopened allowing for light to flood into the now clean chambers. An attraction in their own right these galleries provide not only an insight into the 18th century monument but also how some were adapted during the WWII to serve as operational headquarters.

Bastions such as Hesse's demi Bastion and Hanover Battery, which overlook Land port Bridge, have been cleared and one can now value their strategic importance in covering vital landmarks.

The project manager is Mr Carl Viagas who has led on this on behalf of the Office of the Deputy Chief Minister. Mr Viagas, who is no newcomer when it comes to the conservation and restoration of historical sites, outlined the logistical difficulties in managing the operations whilst being sensitive to the historical significance and environmental challenges.

The Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia said:

"The Government is delighted with the pace of the works and with the positive impact of this project. We have uncovered genuine historical treasures in the network of fortifications and tunnels that have been uncovered and restored. I am particularly grateful to Carl Viagas who has steered this project very successfully, to the Royal Engineers who have continued to



assist with the operations and also to the Heritage Trust who have organised tours of enthusiasts to the area.”