

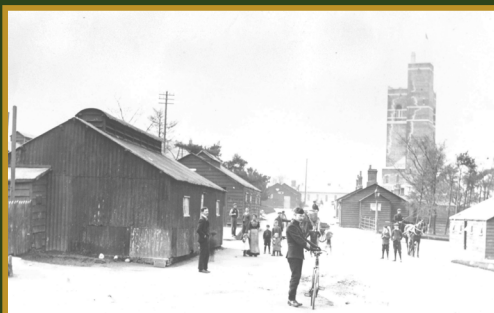


Óglaigh  
na hÉireann  
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

## Defence Forces Ireland Through the Ages

### Defence Forces Training Centre **OPEN DAY**

**Sunday 24th April 2016**  
**1200hrs - 1600hrs**



*Vintage and Modern Vehicle Parade 12:45hrs and 14:45hrs*

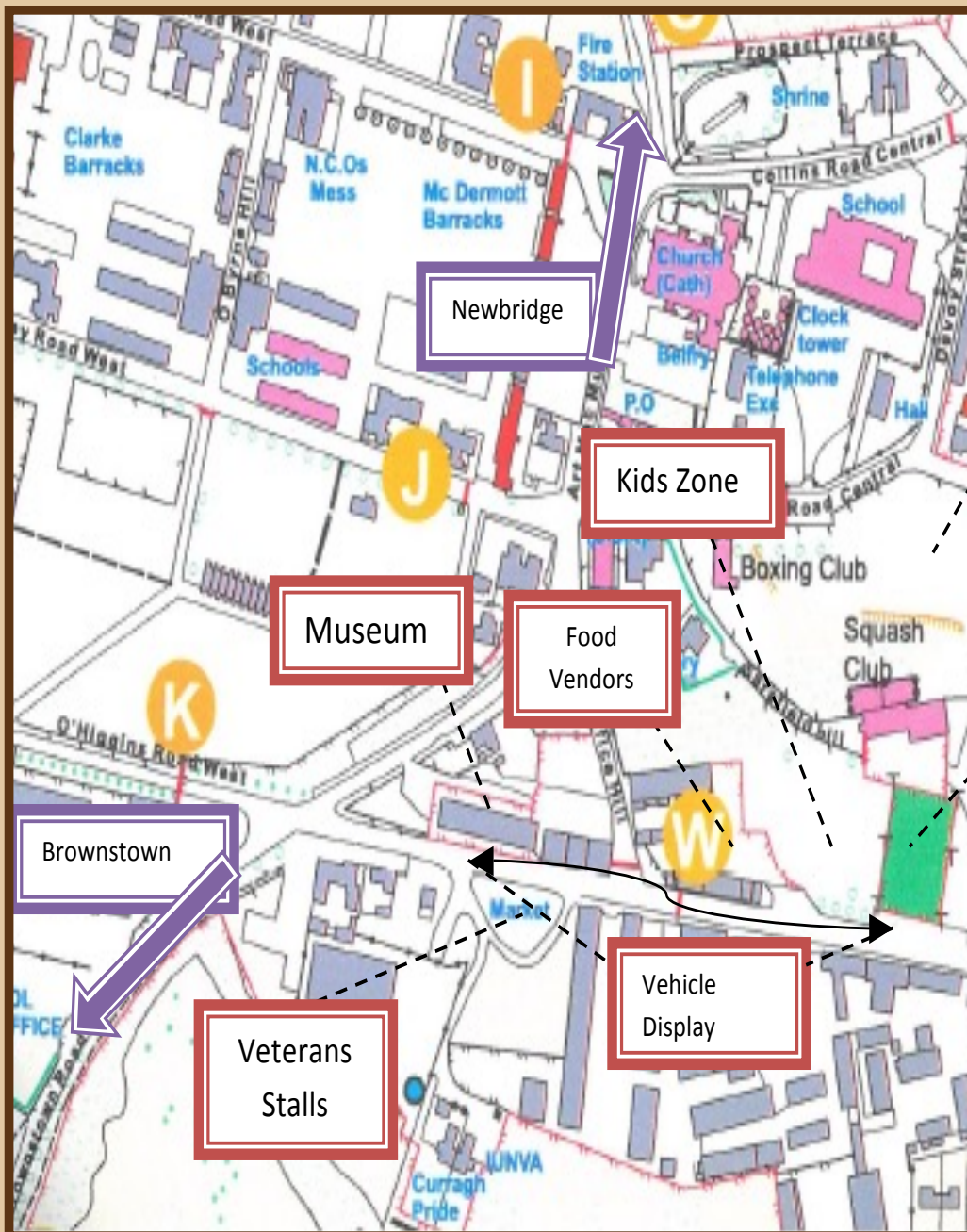
*Museum Tours every 15 minutes from 12:30hrs*

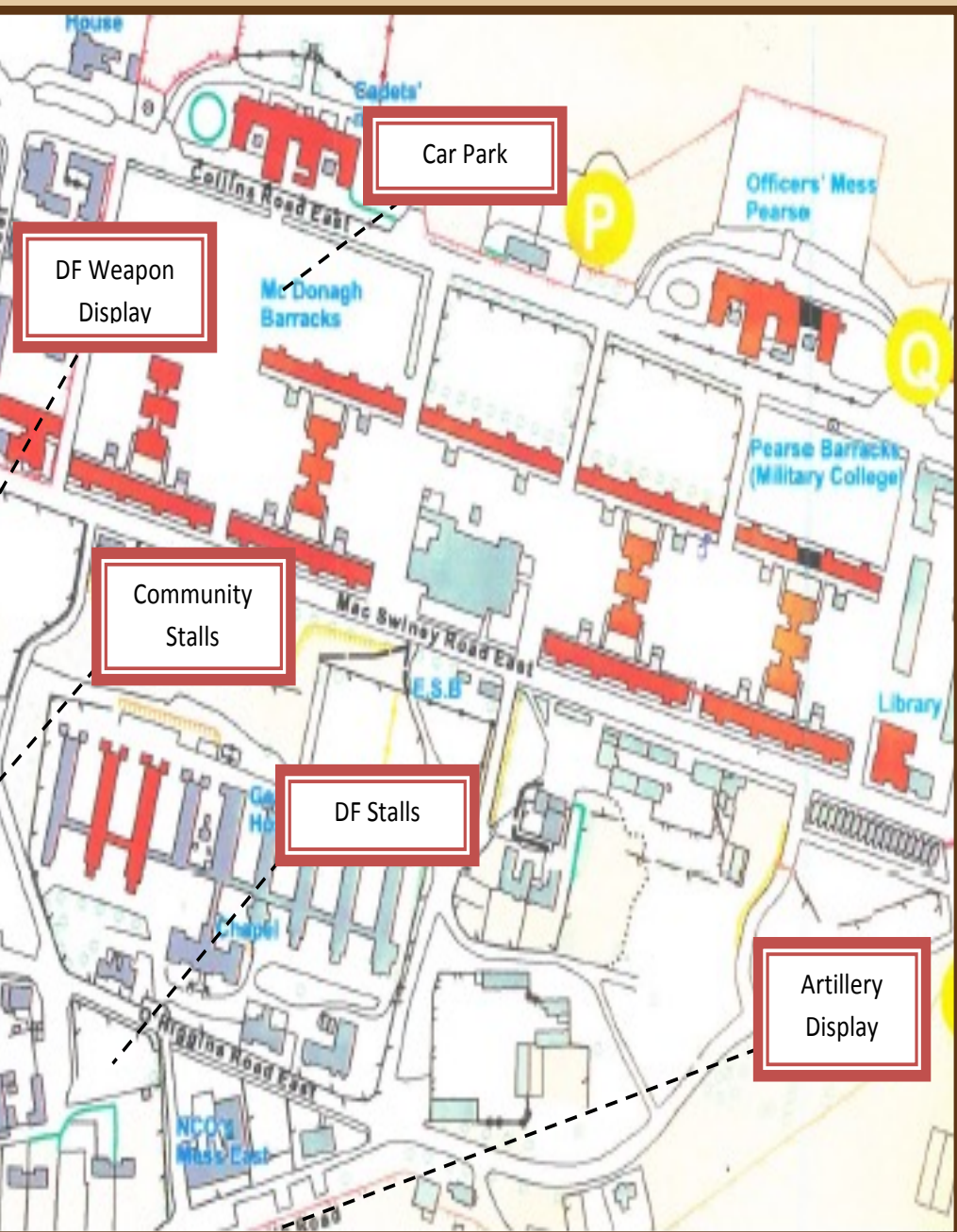
*Artillery 25 Pdr Shoot 13:30hrs and 15:30hrs*

*Kids Zone & Family Entertainment*

[www.military.ie](http://www.military.ie)

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## **The Ecological and Archaeological History of the Curragh**

The Curragh has been of special interest to botanists and ecologists for decades. This interest is due to the unique Curragh landscape which is home to numerous bird species and many rare plants. Melting glacier ice from the Wicklow Mountains formed the shape of the unique Curragh Plain as we know it today. The Curragh also harbours an extraordinary wealth of earthworks of archaeological significance, including one of the largest concentrations of barrow-type features in the country.

## **The Defence Forces from 1922 to the Present Day**

On Tuesday, May 16th 1922 the Curragh Camp was formally handed over to the Irish National Army. Using original artefacts, letters, photos and audio visual displays, the museum highlights the generations of military personnel and their families that have passed through the Curragh Camp.

## **Chester Beatty Weapons Collection**

Sir Alfred Chester Beatty donated a wonderful collection of weapons to the Defence Forces in the 1950s. It includes some rare examples of oriental gun smithing and also some Japanese Matchlock guns. (Collection available to view at The Curragh Museum)

## **The Period from the Boer War to Irish Independence 1922**

Artefacts from this period include a Mauser Rifle used by the Boers, a Thompson Sub-Machine Gun used in the Irish War of Independence, British Lee-Enfield and German Mauser Rifles from the 1st World War. A number of exhibits concentrate on individuals who were involved in the momentous events of this period. Frank Kelly served with the Dublin Fusiliers and was killed at the Battle of the Somme. Joe Lawless was interned in the Curragh Camp during the War of Independence. Denis Barry was a Republican Prisoner who died on hunger strike during the Civil War. A panel also commemorates the seven Republican Prisoners executed in the Curragh during the Civil War. (Collection available to view at The Curragh Museum)