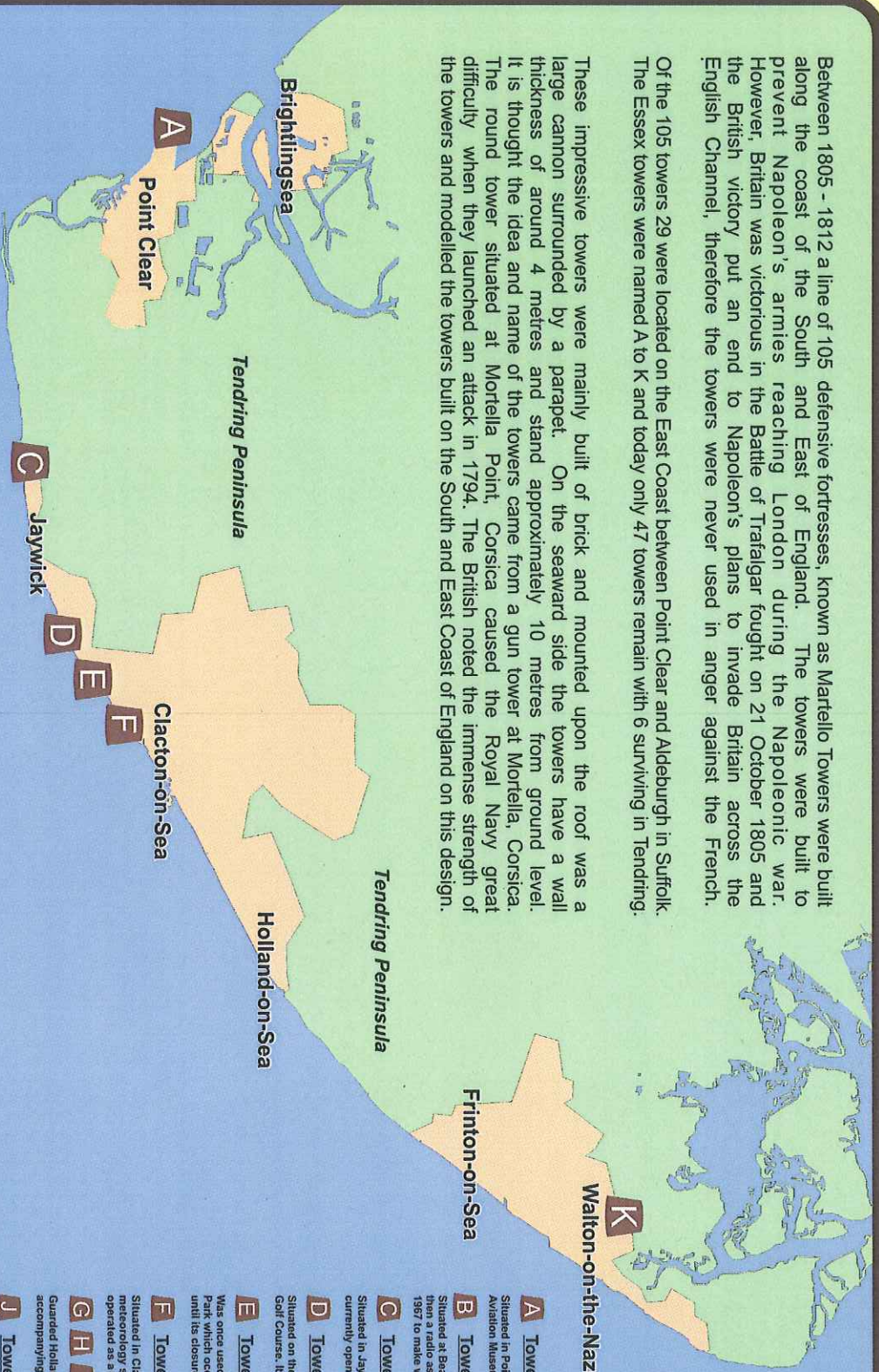


# Tendring Martello Towers

Between 1805 - 1812 a line of 105 defensive fortresses, known as Martello Towers were built along the coast of the South and East of England. The towers were built to prevent Napoleon's armies reaching London during the Napoleonic war. However, Britain was victorious in the Battle of Trafalgar fought on 21 October 1805 and the British victory put an end to Napoleon's plans to invade Britain across the English Channel, therefore the towers were never used in anger against the French.

Of the 105 towers 29 were located on the East Coast between Point Clear and Aldeburgh in Suffolk. The Essex towers were named A to K and today only 47 towers remain with 6 surviving in Tendring.

These impressive towers were mainly built of brick and mounted upon the roof was a large cannon surrounded by a parapet. On the seaward side the towers have a wall thickness of around 4 metres and stand approximately 10 metres from ground level. It is thought the idea and name of the towers came from a gun tower at Mortella, Corsica. The round tower situated at Mortella Point, Corsica caused the Royal Navy great difficulty when they launched an attack in 1794. The British noted the immense strength of the towers and modelled the towers built on the South and East Coast of England on this design.



**A Tower A**  
Sited in Point Clear, currently home to the East Essex Aviation Museum.

**B Tower B**  
Sited at Beacon Hill, St. Osyth was used as a private home and then a radio astronomical observatory before being demolished in 1967 to make way for a housing development.

**C Tower C**  
Sited in Jaywick, the tower was recently restored and is currently open as an arts exhibition centre.

**D Tower D**  
Sited on the outskirts of Clacton, on Clacton Golf Course. It is currently unused.

**E Tower E**  
Was once used as a water tank for Budlins Holiday Park which occupied the site from the c1930s until its closure in 1983.

**F Tower F**  
Sited in Clacton, the tower was the home of Clacton's meteorology station until 2007 and was then restored and operated as a restaurant until 2009.

**G H I Towers G, H & I**  
Guarded Holland Marshes, sold in 1819 (for £2875) with accompanying land and pulled down.

**J Tower J**  
Sited on Walton Cliffs, was pulled down before coastal erosion could claim it.

**K Tower K**  
Sited in Walton-on-the-Naze, on Martello Caravan Park. The tower is in good condition but is currently unused.

