Hackwood Park

9 December 1803

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst. with one from Sir Ewan Nepean enclosed, upon the subject of Captain H. Deacon’s allowance for the employment, etc understood as Major of the Corps composed of the Men of the Victualling Officer and Portsmouth and at Wervill. I am very sorry to observe a difficulty thrown in the way for a ground, which is extremely unpleasant because it really appears to be designed to deprive that Gentleman of any emolument whatever, which would be contrary to the plan proposed and, as I have concieved, approved. In proposing Captain Deacon to be paid as a Captain of the Sea Fencibles, I only thought of that as a mode of effecting the object, considering the men in that area as of the nature of Sea Fencibles, But is his employment was considered as wholly belonging to the Land Service, I should hope, that the Admiralty would not object to dispense with the oath upon his receiving any addition for this peculiar service during the time of his not being summoned to duty in his own Profession. All I can say is, that I was not aware of not only the necessity, but the propriety of my application to the Admiralty which should otherwise have been [?] to have made at the time of the propostion, which in fact upon that particular head of service was suggested to me by General Whitelocke as an arrangement of great consequnce to the Garrison and Defence of Portsmouth, and so represented by him. Under all circumstances I must venture to flatter myself that you will kindly take this matter into consideration and arrange it in some way satisfactorily to General Whitelocke and Captain Deacon.

In regard to the appointment of Field Officers at Portsmouth, there has been, I fancy, some mistake in the copies from the Gazette, as there are certainly no Volunteers there on permanent duty, the object therefore must be different and I dare say, perfectly proper, and beneficial.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient humble servant

Bolton