

## Calshot Battery

<b>Commenced</b>	1897	<b>Armament</b>	
<b>Completed</b>	1897	<b>1897-1916</b>	
<b>Cost</b>	£ 10,738	4 x 12pdr Q.F.	
<b>Map Reference</b>	SU 479025	2 x 4.7-inch Q.F.	
<b>Position</b>	Entrance to River Hamble on west bank - Calshot Spit		
<b>Type</b>			
<b>Ditch</b>	Coast Defence Battery		
<b>Guns</b>	The Sea		
<b>Barrack Accom.</b>	6		
<b>Present use</b>	Keep of Calshot Castle Calshot Castle only - English		
<b>History</b>	Heritage Monument Became R.N.Air Station	<b>Caponiers</b>	None
<b>Disposal</b>		<b>Counterscarp galleries</b>	None
<b>Condition</b>	Completely demolished by 1915	<b>Haxo casemates</b>	None
<b>Access</b>	Nothing of the battery remains, site now a Hanger/activities centre.	<b>Moncrieff Pits</b>	None
<b>Sources</b>			

### History and Description

Calshot Battery was completed in 1897 for four 12pdr Q.F. guns and two 4.7-inch Q.F. guns to defend the approaches to the Port of Southampton. The battery was built as an addition to the south of Calshot Castle on the spit of land that juts out from the West bank of the River's mouth. Four additional 12pdrs were fitted on special platforms on the opposite bank of the river to cover the boom defence across the entrance. Two Searchlights were provided inside the battery to the front of the Keep of the Castle. The central core of the keep provided barrack accommodation.

In 1904 the Owen Report recommended that two of the 12pdrs be transferred to the top of the keep of the Castle and an extra searchlight be provided. This was done by 1907 but the extra searchlight was withdrawn by 1911.

In 1913 Calshot Spit became a royal Naval Air Station. The battery retained its armament in reserve until 1915/16 when the guns were withdrawn. After WWI a huge hangar for flying boats was constructed on the site of the battery, which was completely demolished. Nothing of it remains. The Castle is an English Heritage property which is open to the public.

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