

## Fort Efford

<b>Commenced</b>	1863	<b>Armament</b>	
<b>Completed</b>	1868	<b>1875</b> proposed	19 x 7-inch RBL 5 x 64pr. RML 3 x SB flank guns
<b>Cost</b>	£ 50,403	<b>1885</b> mounted	11 x 7-inch RBL
<b>Map Reference</b>	SX515566	<b>1893</b> mounted	9 x 7-inch RBL 3 x 64pr. RML 2 x 5-inch BL required 2 x 32pr. SBBL
<b>Position</b>	North East Defences Right Flank	<b>Efford Emplacement</b>	
<b>Type</b>	Land Front, Polygonal	<b>1893</b>	6 x 8-inch RML How. (3 on travelling carriages)
<b>Ditch</b>	Dry	<b>Caponiers</b>	1
<b>Guns</b>	21 guns	<b>Counterscarp galleries</b>	None
<b>Barrack Accom.</b>	5 Officers 108 men	<b>Haxo casemates</b>	3
<b>Present use</b>	Storage Showman's Guild	<b>Moncrieff Pits</b>	None
<b>History</b>	WWII ammunition storage		
<b>Disposal Condition</b>	1961 to Plymouth City Council Poor, overgrown & derelict		
<b>Access</b>	Not likely		
<b>Sources</b>	1868 report : Precis of Correspondence relating to the Defences of Plymouth 1893. Historic Defences of Plymouth by A. Pye and F. Woodward		

### History and Description

Fort Efford was built by contract on a schedule of prices. It is situated on the right flank of the North Eastern Defences and has a supporting battery, Laira Battery 300 yards distant. The fort stands on the last knoll of a ridge extending from Compton, at a height of 246 feet above sea level and 1,300 yards from Austin. The front of the work is steep, in many places inaccessible, or needing little labour in scarping to make it so, and therefore ditches and counterscarps were considered unnecessary. For flank defence the Fort relied on the fire from collateral works. It was to mount 21 guns on its terreplein, three of them in Haxo casemates with lifts connecting to basement magazines. Two magazines were contained in traverses, one communicating via a lift with a magazine below. On the right flank five guns in casemates flanked Laira Battery. Below these were two guns in casemates to flank the ditch connecting Laira with Efford. The gorge of the fort is closed by a wall 20ft. high with a defensible guard room in its centre providing flanking fire. A defect in the plan of the fort that allowed access at the point where the gorge met the parapet at the southern end had to be remedied. A casemated barrack contained accommodation for 5 officers and 108 men. A movable armament storage shed was constructed on the parade. Two 5-inch BL guns on Siege Disappearing mounts were allotted to the fort in 1893

A curtain, with an emplacement for four guns was thrown across the valley between Efford and Laira, and two casemates for guns at Efford Flanked its ditch.

An emplacement for five guns was prepared on the military road connecting Efford with Egg Buckland and another for six guns was designed 300 yards in the rear of Laira Battery, with two of the guns bearing on the right of Laira Battery and four on the Laira River and ground opposite.

The entrance to the fort has been partially demolished. The fort is now occupied by caravans and vehicles and is used by the Showman's Guild for storage. The fort is Scheduled.

# Fort Efford

