Victorian Forts Harwich 1a

## Landguard Wing (Left) Battery

Commenced 1888 Completed 1891

**Cost £** 7,252 (actual 1891) £3,918 (1899)

Map Reference TM 285320

**Position** Seaward, East of Landguard Fort

**Type** Coast Defence Battery

Ditch None Guns 3

Barrack Accom. Huts on common

Present use Abandoned

**History** Coast defence to 1913

**Disposal** Crown land

**Condition** 10-inch sealed, 6-inch filled site nature reserve, no access to

sealed gun pit

**Sources** WO plans & 5/3259 5/17 of 1898

WO78 WO 192 Owen report 1904

Armament

1891 1 x 6-inch BL HP MkIV (no.2)

1 x 10-inch BL HP (no.1)

**1899** 2 x 6-inch BL HP MkIV (no.2 & 3)

1 x 10-inch BL HP (no.1)

**1908** 1 x 10-inch BL HP (no.1)

**1909** none

**1911** 1 x 10-inch (no.1)

**1914** none

**1922** 2 x 6-inch H.A. Experimental

None

Caponiers None

Counterscarp

galleries

Haxo casemates None

Moncrieff Pits None

## **History and Description**

Construction Started on Wing Battery in December 1888 and was completed in January 1891.

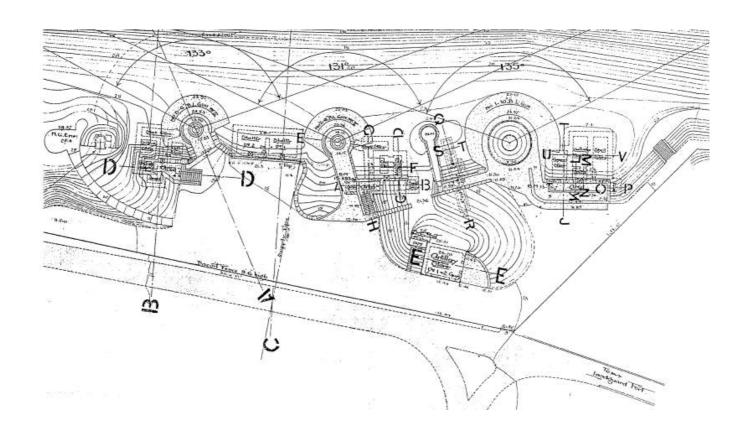
In February 1898 further work was carried out on No 3 Gun at Wing Battery, and completed in April 1898. An 1897 Survey, shows Wing Battery, at a scale of 30ft. to 1 inch, with three gun positions and an existing HP Gun Emplacement to the rear of the battery. (the Easton and Anderson design of 1891) It shows no Artillery Store. In 1903 plans were made for remounting the guns in the Battery, the 10-inch on a barbette carriage and the 6-inch on CP mounts, but nothing was done for lack of money. Around this time the name changed from Wing to Left Battery. Between 1906 and 1914, the two 6-inch Mk IV HP from Left Battery and the 10-inch BLS from both Left and Right Batteries. were removed, the 10-inch HP in 1909, 10-inch LCP in 1911, however a 10-inch was remounted in Left Battery in 1911. Q and R towers were made redundant when the 10-inch BL guns were removed from Landguard they had served as the position finding stations.

In 1922 the position was used to mount two experimental High Angle 6 inch gun mountings, until the Second World War, when the No. 1 position was roofed over and an as an anti aircraft operations room later moved to Q tower. Later it became an ammunition store for the 6-inch Mark 24 guns of Right Battery. Much of the rear of it was bulldozed during the port expansion. The pits for the 6-inch were filled in the 1950s, with only the aprons left visible. The 10-inch is roofed and sealed All form part of the nature reserve but remain crown land under English Heritage.

In 2000 English Heritage removed the earth covering from the gun emplacements, revealing a rare Tressider's Cartridge Store beneath the left side of the no.2 emplacement, complete with winch and cartridge trolley.

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## Landguard Wing Left Battery





Landguard Left Wing Battery