

Victorian Forts and Batteries

Datasheets on the Victorian Fortifications of the United Kingdom

Portsmouth



David Moore

<http://www.victorianforts.co.uk>

Fort Cumberland

Commenced	1785	Armament	1820 64 emplacements of ramparts
Completed	1810		1872
Cost	£ 110,229 - 11s - 6½d		2 x 7inch R.B.L. 12 x 8inch S.B.
Map Reference	SZ 683992		21 x 32pr S.B. 5 x 24pr S.B.
Position	Eastney point on Portsea Island -Langstone Harbour		1886
Type	Casemated (star) bastioned fort		1 x 7-inch R.B.L.
Ditch	Dry		12 x 8-inch S.B.
Guns	81		15 x 64pr R.M.L.
Barrack Accom.	714 (1860) 526 (1882)		1890
Present use	English Heritage Updated in 1858, 1890s.		4 x 6-inch B.L. 6 x 64pr R.M.L.
History	Royal Marines Depot R.M. withdrew 1970s		1897
Disposal			2 x 9inch R.M.L. H.A. guns added.
Condition	Casemates generally sound		
Access	None yet		
Sources	Portsmouth Papers "Fort Cumberland" P. McGrath		

History and Description

Fort Cumberland, designed to defend Portsea Island's Eastern flank, was the last self-contained fully bastioned fortress constructed in England. It was the brainchild of the 3rd. Duke of Richmond, who, as Master general of the Ordnance, conceived it during an extensive Southern tour in 1782. He most likely envisaged a showpiece structure incorporating new techniques advocated by the Frenchman Montalembert. These were not, however, immediately acceptable to English Engineers trained more traditionally in the Vauban school. So a compromise was reached utilising casemates revived by Montalembert and Vauban's bastions. The twenty-five year project involved thousands of transport-destined convicts representing a security nightmare but a cheap and semi-skilled labour force. The site, including a south-western facing ravelin and outworks, covers some twenty four acres. It contained 41 barrack casemates with four magazines for a powder capacity of 2200 barrels. Between 1882 and 1890 major revisions were undertaken to the south and left bastions, including the intervening curtain, and the centre bastion to provide a clear field of fire for the 6-inch BL guns. The Royal Marine Artillery's permanent association with the fort began in 1817 and during the Great War became the base for its Howitzer and anti-aircraft Brigade. During the last war it played host to 'X' organisation or the Mobile Naval Base Defence Organisation specialising in a variety of activities including landing craft work. The Royal Marines used the fort subsequently until the 1970s. Ancient Monument status was bestowed upon it in 1959. Currently it is owned by English Heritage, housing the Central Archaeology Service. Their intention is to conserve it and open parts of it to the public.

Fort Cumberland



Fort Cumberland High Angle Battery

Commenced	9th April 1890	Armament	
Completed	20th November 1894	1893	2 x 9-inch R.M.L. H.A. guns
Cost	£ 2,544	1907	Disarmed
Map Reference	SZ 68106 99131		
Position	Outwork to Fort Cumberland, Eastney Portsmouth.		
Type	Coast Defence High Angle		
Ditch	None		
Guns	2		
Barrack Accom.	Inside Fort Cumberland		
Present use	Overgrown. Part of Fort Cumberland Ancient monument		
History	Experimental mountings for high angle fire.		
Disposal	When Fraser closed 2006		
Condition	Fair		
Access	Arrange with English Heritage at Fort Cumberland		
Sources	High Angle Fire Batteries by David Moore Redan 36. National Archive plans WO78 4164		

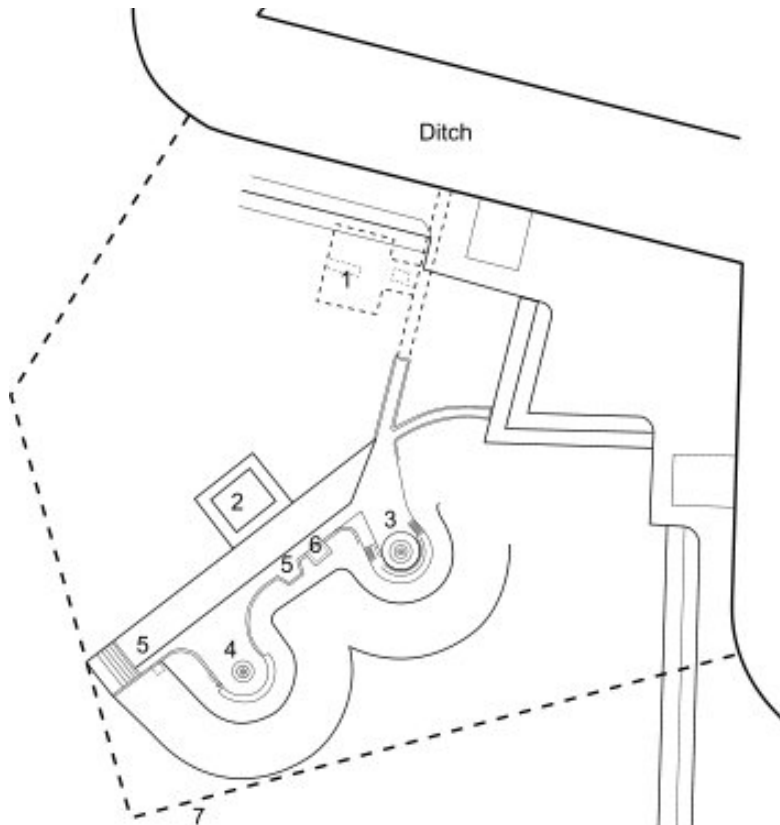
History and Description

High-angle batteries were not common. At Portsmouth a high angle battery for two 9-inch RML HA was proposed by the Defence Committee for Fort Cumberland in 1888. Authority was given for the construction in 1890 and work commenced in April of that year. The battery was built by Bramble Brothers of Portsea and was added to the west side of Fort Cumberland to bear on the western approaches to Portsmouth Harbour and Spithead and was later referred to as 'Cumberland Battery' in armament returns. The battery consists of two gun emplacements for 9inch 12ton RML guns, each adapted to take a particular mark of mounting. The left one for gun the mark 1 mounting has a loading rail running along the parapet and a loading derrick whilst the one on the right is of much simpler construction for the mark 2 mounting, which had its own loading stage. Access to the battery is via a gate from the ditch or via short tunnel from the ditch of Fort Cumberland, south of the Ravelin. Part way along this tunnels is an ammunition store for the HA battery consisting of shell, cartridge and artillery stores. Behind the two gun positions is an Artillery Group Store constructed in the glacis of the Fort. moulded into the concrete apron of the gun emplacements are two cartridge recesses and a telephone shelter. The battery was surrounded on three sides with a barbed wire fence. Two guns were in place but awaiting carriages in 1893. They appear to have been the two trials mountings Mark 1 and 2.

The Mark I mounting, the Elswick Ordnance Company design, is built up of steel and was designed to fire at high angles of elevation from 30 degrees to 70 degrees. Only one was made. The Mark II, of Royal Carriage Department design, is of steel and is similar in principle to the Mark III but this was the first one manufactured of this type, and was an ordinary dwarf C pivot slide with side brackets built on it to support the cradle and gun. Only one was made. The quoted range for the 9inch HA was 10,500 yards for a 360lb shell propelled by 14lb Cordite Mark 1 size 7.5 charge.

The two guns were mounted by 1899, possibly earlier, but were deemed unnecessary by 1905 and were to be removed. It was disarmed in 1907. At a later stage the earth of the glacis at the rear of the gun emplacements was excavated and store buildings added when the area became part of the nearby gun ranges of the Royal Naval training facility know as 'Fraser Battery' and then an experimental MOD section run by QinetiQ. The battery is now part of the ancient monument of Fort Cumberland administered by English Heritage

Fort Cumberland High Angle Battery



1. Ammunition Store
2. Artillery Group Store
3. 9inch RML HA Mk1
4. 9inch RML HA Mk2
5. Cartridge Recess
6. Telephone Shelter
7. Barbed Wire Fence



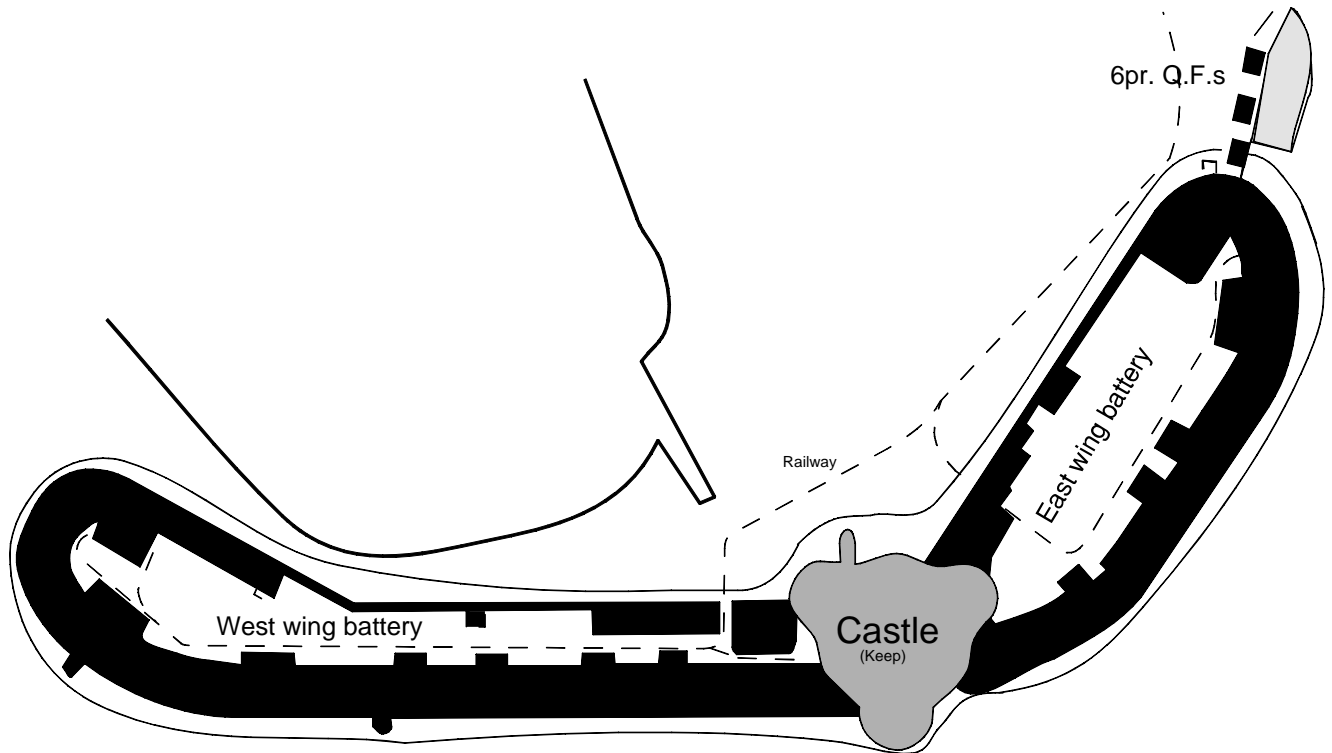
Hurst Castle

Commenced	1861	Armament	
Completed	1870	1893	
Cost	£ 140,000 + £80,000 for shields		10 x 12.5-inch RML
Map Reference	SZ 317898		15 x 10-inch RML
Position	Mainland / Needles passage		5 x 9-inch RML
	Western approaches		3 x 64pr. RML
Type	Coast Battery / Casemated		3 x 6pdr QF (dismounted)
Ditch	Dry		3 x 3pdr QF
Guns	61		3 x 0.45" MG
Barrack Accom.		1941	
Present use	English Heritage site		2 x twin 6pr. by 1944 two 40mm AA Bofors added
History	Coast defence	Caponiers	3 (1 left)
Disposal		Counterscarp galleries	None
Condition	Mostly restored	Haxo casemates	None
Access	All week in Summer, weekends in Winter	Moncrieff Pits	None
Sources	Solent Papers No 2		

History and Description

The Victorian wing batteries of Hurst Castle were added to the Tudor keep to replace earlier wing batteries that were considered to be too low-lying and liable to swept with grape shot by passing warships. The new wing batteries are casemated and granite faced with iron shields. They were designed to bring heavy RML guns to bear on ships rapidly passing Hurst on the fast current through the Needles passage. The west battery had positions for 37 guns, whilst the east had positions for 24 guns. Work began in 1861 and the superstructure was completed by 1870. The wing batteries were not fully armed until 1879 because of the pace of development of bigger and better guns and thicker armour plate on battle ships. The original plan was to mount sixty one 9-inch RMLs with three two-gun turrets on the roof. Only twenty one 9-inch guns had been mounted by 1873 when it was proposed to mount more powerful guns. The roof turrets were never fitted. Another plan called for four 9-inch Moncrieff emplacements on the roof and this idea was also abandoned. Eventually by 1879, after thicker shields had been fitted, sixteen of the 9-inch guns were removed and heavier 12.5-inch and 10-inch RMLs put in their places. The remaining five 9-inch guns were left in the east wing battery. Eight 12.5-inch RMLs and fifteen 10-inch RMLs were fitted in the west wing whilst two 12.5-inch RMLs and eight 10-inch RMLs were placed in the east wing. The Tudor castle held three 64pr. RMLs. In 1889, as in most other Victorian Coast batteries, Hurst was strengthened against shells penetrating the magazines. Part of each flank magazine was filled with concrete and traverses were provided by filling nine of the casemates with concrete. The western expense magazines were rebuilt to store shells at ground level and cartridges below. As the RMLs became obsolete they were gradually withdrawn leaving Hurst with 3 x 12pr. QFs and 3 machine guns by 1909, together with a few RMLs as running past guns. In 1898, 1902 and 1914 searchlight emplacements were added. The RMLs were to be used 1914 to 1918 with case shot against torpedo boats. The 12pr. QFs and searchlights were removed in 1928 and the fort put in care and maintenance until 1940 when two 12pr. QFs were installed in their old emplacements. Searchlights were added and in 1941 two twin 6pr guns were fitted on the roof of the west wing. In 1943 a 40mm AA Bofors was added to the east wing, with another in 1944. The AA guns were removed in 1945, the 12prs in 1948 and twin sixes in 1957 when coast defences were abolished. The castle is currently being restored by English Heritage and is open to the public.

Hurst Castle



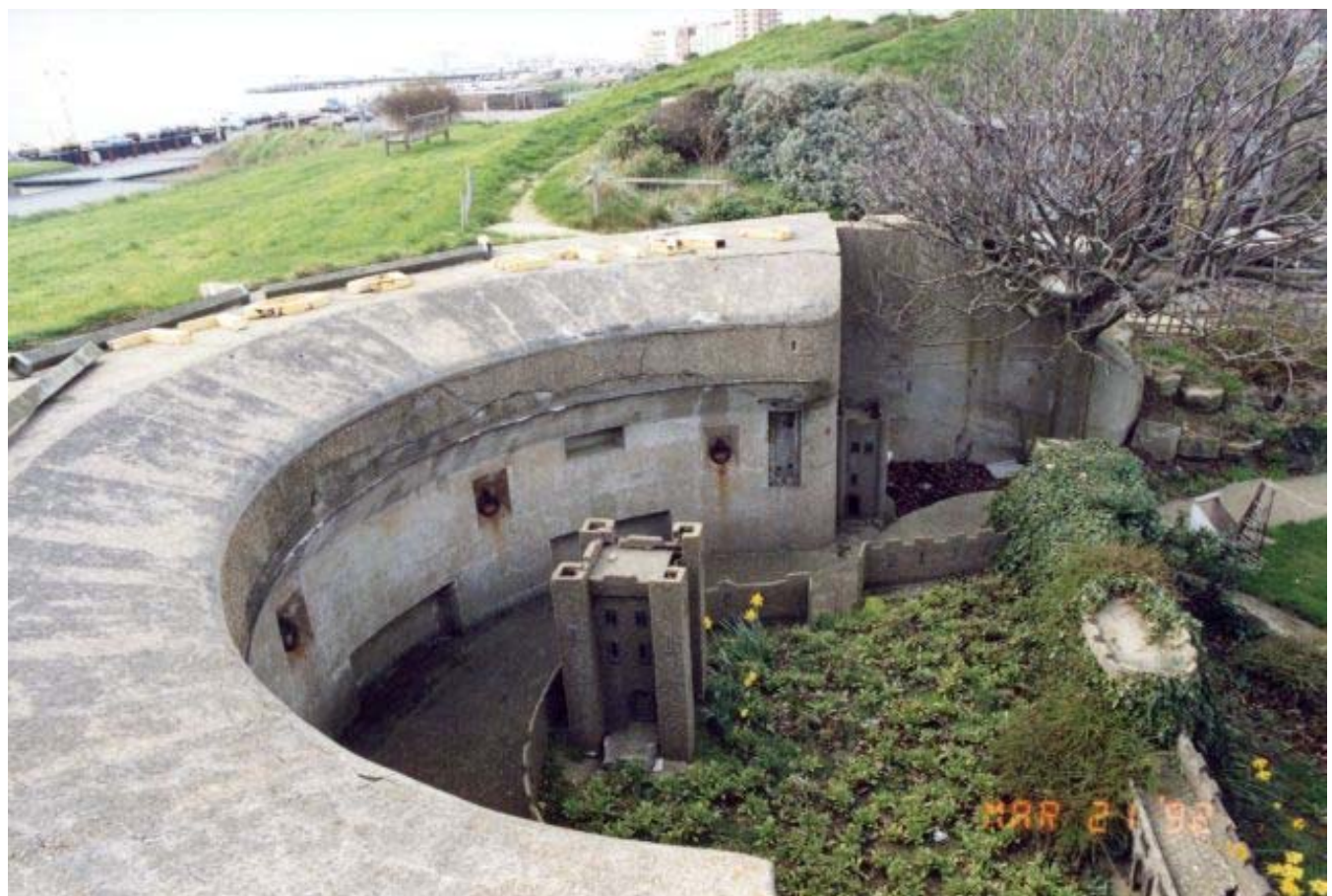
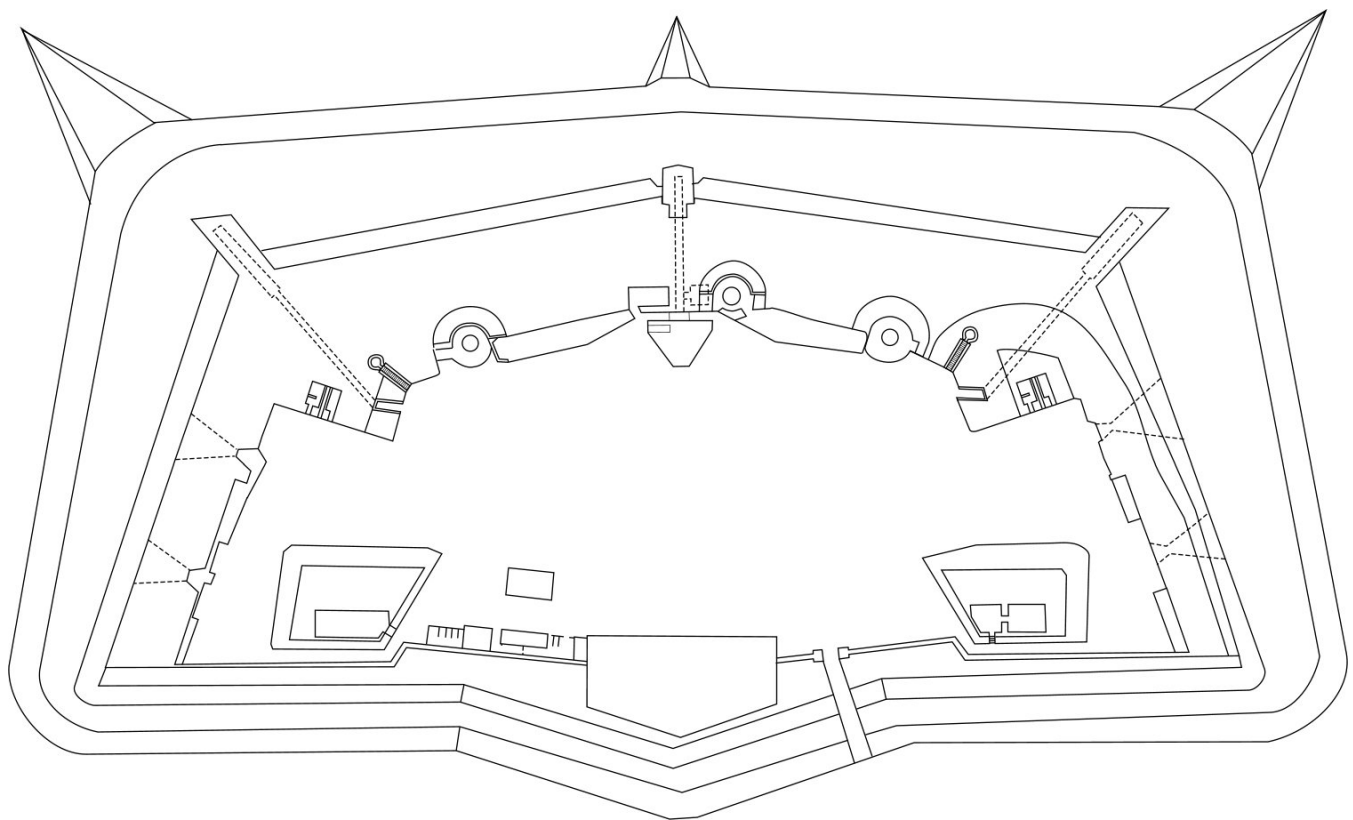
Lumps Fort

Commenced	1859	Armament	
Completed	1861	1886	3 x 7-inch R.B.L. 1 x 7-inch R.M.L. 11 x 64-pdr R.M.L. 1 x 40-pdr R.B.L.
Cost	£ 1,8945	1893	2 x 6-inch BL H.P. (1 x 7-inch & 1 x 7-inch RBL 2 x 64pr RML for 6 x 64pr RML drill & practice only)
Map Reference	SZ 657984	1898	2 x MG added 1902 2 x 5-inch BL Volunteer practice battery outside fort. 3 x 6-inch B.L. 1907 disarmed WWI 2 x 6-inch B.L.
Position	Portsmouth Sea Front / Southsea	Caponiers	3 (musketry only)
Type	Coast Battery/beach defence	Counterscarp galleries	None
Ditch	Dry. Could not hold water.	Haxo casemates	None
Guns	17 reduced to 16	Moncrieff Pits	None (3 x H.P.)
Barrack Accom.	100		
Present use	Public Rose Garden / model village / gardeners workshop		
History	Volunteer practice battery nearby Electric Lights		
Disposal Condition	Sold in 1932 to Portsmouth Council Recognisable / partly filled in		
Access	Parts all year round		
Sources			

History and Description

The first fort to occupy the Lumps site was in existence in 1545 and was built as a redoubt to prevent a beach landing to the south of Southsea Castle. During the Napoleonic Wars Lumps Fort was in use once more. In 1857 Jervois proposed to occupy 'again the ground at Lumps Fort and at Eastney, between Southsea Castle and Fort Cumberland.' The two batteries nearest Southsea Castle, one of which was Lumps Fort, were to act as keeps to guns placed at intervals along the shore between them. They were to be for nine guns each, with accommodation under the terre-plein for 100 men, provided with full revetments, 27 feet high, flanked by small caponieres, and covered by an earthen glacis to the front. Each fort was to be surrounded by a ditch and rampart. Reconstruction began in November 1859 and was completed in October 1861. The fort was armed with seventeen guns, nine on its sea face, commanding the entrance to the channel leading into Portsmouth Harbour, and four each on its east and west flanks. Fourteen of these guns were constructed so as to fire through embrasures on the parapet and the other three were pivot guns, on circular bastions or cavaliers, on the salient angles of the front of the work. These three guns were placed to sweep the flank and the front of the work. They were well placed to "dominate the whole of the work". The rear of the work was undefended by artillery, being closed from each flank by an earthen parapet, with a brick wall, pierced or loopholed for rifle fire, as well as some officers' and mens' quarters, and the entrance gate. The fort was surrounded by a wet ditch of considerable depth and breadth on its sea front. The landward side was less deep and less broad. The entrance to the fort was over a drawbridge, the rolling part of which was only four paces wide. At this point the whole width of the ditch was only sixteen paces. The front of the fort had three caponieres flanking the ditch, one at each angle, and the front was also covered by an earthen glacis which extended to within a short distance of the high water mark. The ditch was not revetted and the bottom was of loose sand and shingle and it was reported to be unlikely to maintain its angle for any length of time. It was the intention of the engineers to counteract the defect in the original design of the fort by building a sea wall right in front of the fort, thereby resisting the action of the sea. The 1869 report stated that Lumps Fort was "...well constructed... well adapted to its object - that of preventing a landing between Eastney and Southsea Castle." The report stated that the fort had 14 guns in embrasures, and three en-barbette. It was then armed with 68 pounders, 8-inch guns, and breech loading 7-inch rifled guns. The ditch surrounding it was designed to be filled with water, but the report noted that it would not retain water and it was ... "*an imperfect obstacle to an assaulting party, and although protected by the flanking fire of three caponieres, some measure seems to be necessary to improve it, which might however be deferred till a time of expected attack.*" During World War One Lumps Fort was armed with two 6-inch guns (there are pits for three). At the end of the war it was abandoned and was purchased by Portsmouth Council in 1932. It is now occupied by a Rose Garden and a model village.

Lumps Fort



Lumps Fort Practice Battery

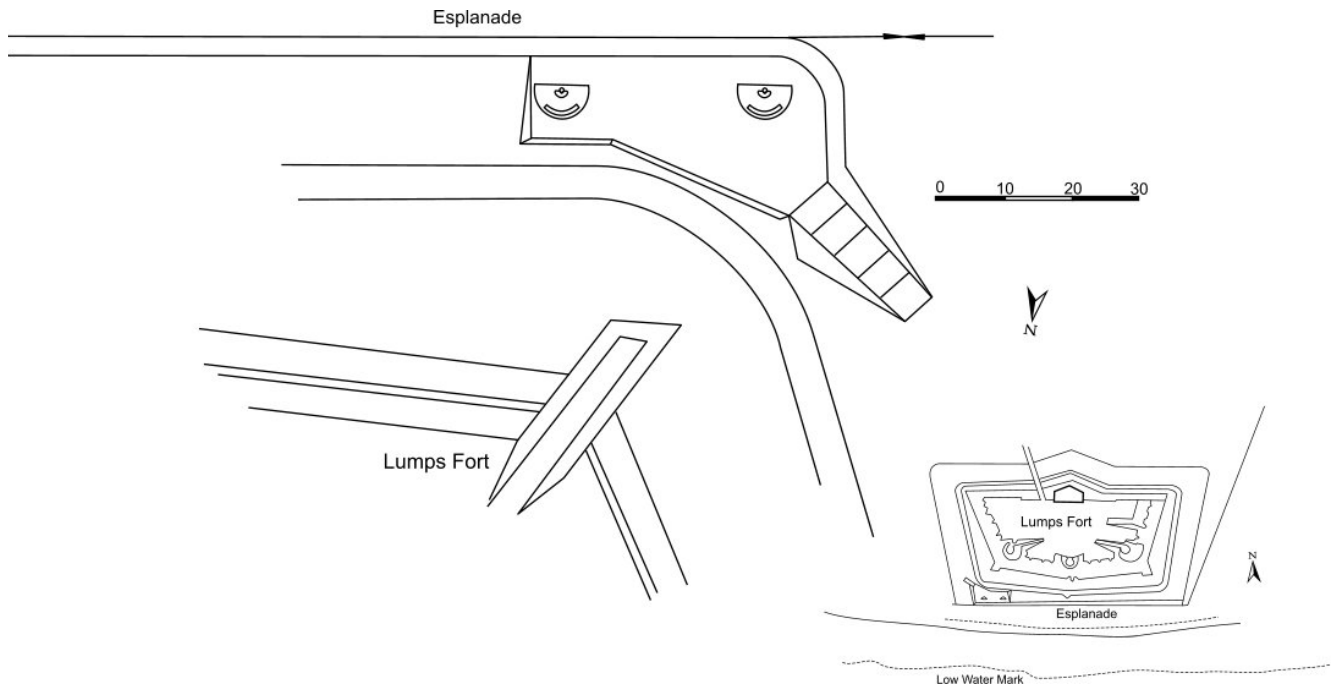
Commenced	30th July 1901	Armament 1901 2 x 5inch B.L. guns
Completed	28th September 1901	
Cost	£ 299	
Map Reference	SZ 65761 98281	
Position	Glacis of Lumps Fort at Southsea esplanade	
Type	Volunteer practice battery	
Ditch	None	
Guns	2	
Barrack Accom.	none	
Present use	Flower bed	
History	Volunteer use 1901 to 1906	
Disposal	1906	
Condition	two granite beds remain	
Access	open	
Sources	WO78/3829	

History and Description

This battery was constructed in 1901 to provide a practice facility for local volunteer artillery units only. It consisted of a pair of emplacements to mount 5-inch B.L. guns on vavasseur mountings. They were sited on the glacis of Lumps Fort at the south west corner overlooking the esplanade and firing out to sea across the beach. A ramp provided access to the two emplacements which were sixty feet apart.

At a later date the battery seems to have been modified to take siege platforms. All that is left now are two granite siege platforms with remains of their holding down straps amongst the flower bed south of the fort.

Lumps Fort Practice Battery



Eastney Battery East

Commenced	1861	Armament	
Completed	1863	1893	1 x 6-inch BL HP 3 x 64pr 58cwt. RML
Cost	£ 17,435	1898 - 1906	South West Angle 1 - 64 pdr R.M.L. 1-12 pdr. Q.F. Sea face 1 - 6 inch B.L. 5 tons East Flank 2 - 64 pdr 58 cwt R.M.L. 1-12 pdr. Q.F.
Map Reference	SZ 666986	1907	Disarmed
Position	Eastney Barracks / Sea Front	Caponiers	1 + 2 x open bastions
Type	Coast battery / beach defence	Counterscarp galleries	None
Ditch	Dry	Haxo casemates	None
Guns	12 reduced to 11	Moncrieff Pits	None (1 x H.P.)
Barrack Accom.	0		
Present use	In Museum grounds to be used for displays Continued military use / Radar use		
History			
Disposal	To R.M. museum 1993		
Condition	Modified, being restored (2002)		
Access	None at present		
Sources	1891 Armament book		

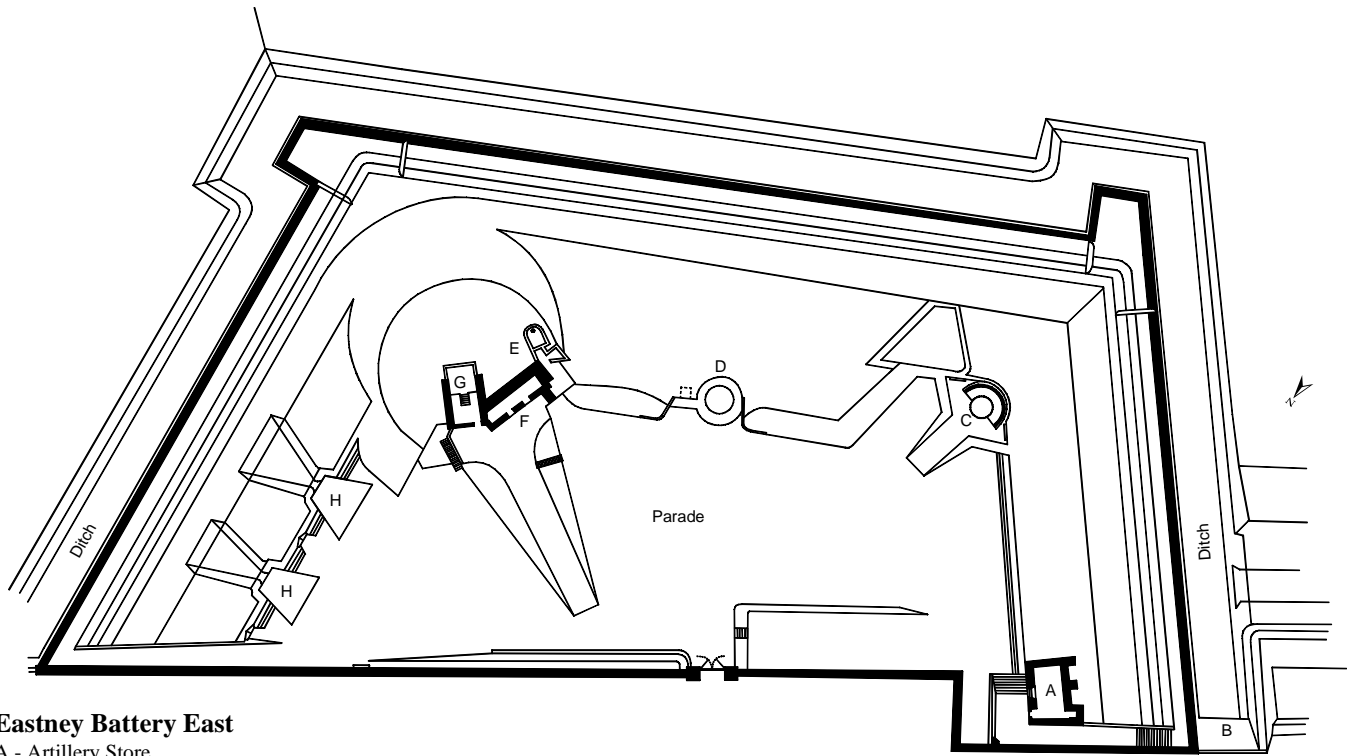
History and Description

The Eastney work was commenced in June 1861 and completed in March 1863 for the sum of £17,435. They consisted of two batteries connected by a parapet, in front of the barracks of the Royal Marine Artillery. They were intended to command the approach to Langstone Harbour and the water to the east of Horse Sand Fort. The face of each battery and of the connecting parapet was covered by a dry ditch and the gorge was closed by a loopholed wall three feet thick. Each battery was constructed with ten embrasures and two guns en-barbette. The 1869 report stated that the armament was five 7-inch breech loading guns and seven 8-inch smooth bore guns. The magazine accommodation was stated to be ..“ sufficient but the provision for artillery stores is scarcely adequate ”The report continued.... “ as these batteries are at a great distance from the channel leading into Spithead and have a large extent of shoal water in front of them, they would take but little part in an engagement with large ships, and their present armament seems to be sufficient to keep small vessels or boats at a distance. For this purpose they have been skilfully constructed.” Both batteries were to be manned in time of need by marines from the barracks. By 1907 the east battery had only its 6-inch BL remaining and this was removed in April of that year.

Little is known of its history from then on but it was occupied for some years up to the 1980s by the Royal Navy, who used it for training personnel on the use of RADAR. The site was festooned with many varieties of RADAR dishes and antennae with associated buildings constructed on the parade. The ditches were filled and the ramparts slowly became overgrown and neglected. The magazine is still intact underneath the cavalier which was altered in the early 1900s to contain a Battery Command Post, chart room, observing cell and telephone room for the six inch gun.

It is now part of the Royal Marines Museum complex and all of the buildings on the parade have demolished to allow room for exhibitions and visitor facilities. The southeast bastion has been partly demolished where the main seafront road encroaches on the site. The NW caponier and SW bastion are covered by the infilling of the moat to the top of the Carnot wall. In 2002 the PFS began restoring some of the gun positions to their original profile.

Eastney Battery East



Eastney Battery East

- A - Artillery Store
- B - Caponier
- C - 64pr 58cwt RML on Parapet Slide
- D - 6-inch BL HP
- E - Battery Command Post and Telephone Bunk F - Telephone Room
- G - Fire Commander's Post with Observing Cell and Chart Room
- H - 64pr. 58cwt RML on Standing Carriage

David Moore
Portsmouth Forts Society



Eastney Battery West

Commenced	1861	Armament	
Completed	1863	1893	1 x 6-inch BL HP 4 x 64pr 58cwt. RML
Cost	£ 17,435	1898	West Flank 2 machine guns Cavalier 1 - 64 pdr. R.M.L. 1-6 inch B.L. Sea Face 1 - 6 inch B.L. South East Angle 1 Machine Gun
Map Reference	SZ 670988	1898	3 x MG added
Position	Eastney Barracks / Sea Front	1907	Disarmed
Type	Coast battery / beach defence	Caponiers	1 & 2 x open bastions?
Ditch	Dry	Counterscarp galleries	None
Guns	11	Haxo casemates	None
Barrack Accom.	0	Moncrieff Pits	None (1 x H.P.)
Present use	Private garden for nearby residents (Teapot Row)		
History	Continued military use R.M. C.O.s garden		
Disposal	1993 sold with Marine barracks		
Condition	Reasonable, part filled in		
Access	None		
Sources	1891 Armament Book		

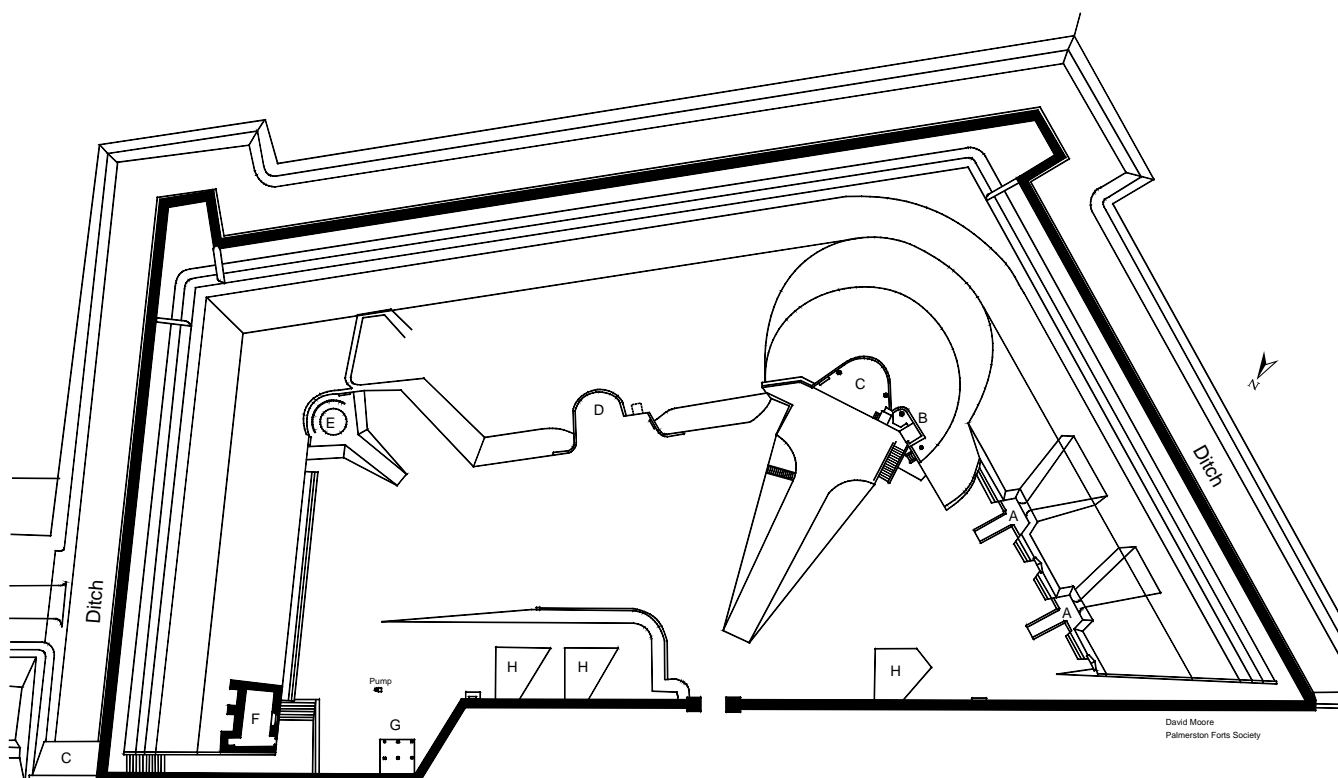
History and Description

Eastney Battery West was constructed as a mirror image of its twin Eastney Battery East. It's armament was virtually the same with the exception of the provision of Maxim machine guns on parapet mountings in 1898. The main magazines of both batteries were reinforced in the early 1900s by partial filling with concrete on the seaward sides. Each fort received a 6-inch B.L. of 5 tons on a hydropneumatic disappearing mounting Mark IV with associated Battery Command Post and telephone room on top of the cavalier. It is most likely that the batteries were to be manned in time of need by marines from the barracks which occupied a considerable area to the north of the batteries. The batteries acted as beach defence and were connected to each other by a parapet and covered way which also provided protection for the barracks and parade ground.

The west battery served for some years as the gardens of the Commanding Officer Royal Marines Eastney Barracks and until recently the hydropneumatic disappearing gun pit was used to contain a greenhouse whilst the magazines were employed as a toolstore and the artillery store was used as a potting shed. The moat and left (east) caponier have been completely removed. The south and west moat and the open bastions at the south east and south west angles have been filled in to the level of the carnot wall.

Following the release of the marine barracks complex in 1993 the battery was included in the sale, with the proviso that it was to remain undeveloped and incorporated into a sympathetic development, possibly for recreational purposes. The proposal suggested that it could be used as a private space for hotel guests. It, like its brother, is a listed building. In 1996 the developer began clearing the site for use as a private garden for the use of nearby residents (of Teapot Row).

Eastney Battery West



Eastney Battery West

- A - Old 64pr position converted for Maxim Machine gun
- B - Battery Command Post and Telephone Bunk
- C - Caponier
- D - 6-inch BL HP
- E - 64pr 58cwt RML on Parapet Slide
- F - Artillery Store
- G - Cart Shed
- H - Field Gun positions



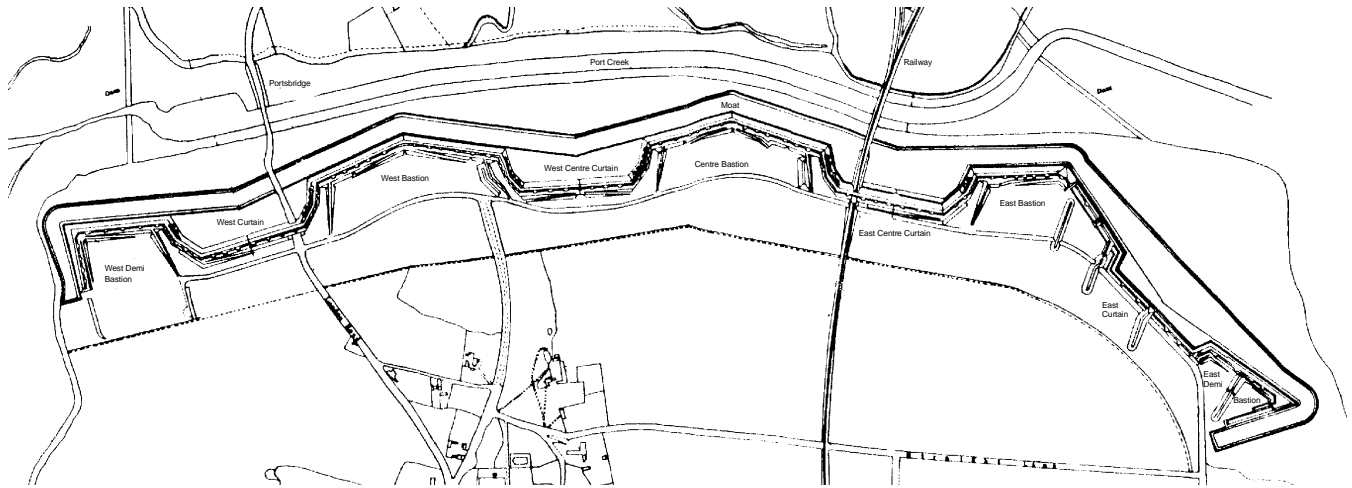
Hilsea Lines

<p>Commenced 1858</p> <p>Completed 1869</p> <p>Cost £ 209,254</p> <p>Map Reference SU 650045 to SU670 040</p> <p>Position Northern Portsmouth Approaches. Hilsea Channel</p> <p>Type Continuous rampart & bastions</p> <p>Ditch In front only : wet : navigable</p> <p>Guns 218</p> <p>Barrack Accom. 408</p> <p>Present use Mostly owned by Hampshire County Council. Some industrial.</p> <p>History Modified many times</p> <p>Disposal Bought by Portsmouth</p> <p>Condition Overgrown, East end demolished</p> <p>Access Public access along most of its length</p> <p>Sources Solent Papers No 4</p>	<p>Armament</p> <p>Original Terreplein - 168 smooth bore Flank Casemates - 50 smooth bore</p> <p>1893 23 x 7-inch RBL 3 x 7-inch RML of these (4 on short carriages 6 on Moncrieff 16 on sliding carriages)</p> <p>1907 Disarmed</p> <p>Caponiers None</p> <p>Counterscarp galleries None</p> <p>Haxo casemates None</p> <p>Moncrieff Pits 6</p>
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History and Description

The Hilsea Lines, in their present state, date from Jervois' design and rebuilding of 1858. The original lines of 1747 were completely demolished and the ground levelled. Trouble with contractors delayed the completion of the lines until 1869 when the R.E. had to finish the job. The 1869 report concluded that the lines were in a secure and stable condition, were well and skilfully constructed and were adapted to the requirements of a modern armament. 'The enormous obstacles presented by two wet ditches, combined with the powerful flanking fire from guns both in casemates and on the ramparts, render their defensive power unusually great.' The lines followed the natural canal, called the Hilsea Channel, joining Langston and Portsmouth harbours which cut off Portsea Island from the mainland. The line lies on an arc whose chord is 2,700 yards, and versed sine 450 yards. It was constructed with four bastioned fronts of three whole and two demi bastions with sides 770 yards and lines of defence 500 yards. The flanks were designed with casemates for 50 guns, before the introduction of rifled artillery and at the time of building were considered to be out of the range of guns on Portsdown Hill. The merlons which covered the embrasures were found to be insufficient protection and alternate embrasures were subsequently blocked. The terreplein has a command of 30ft. over the countryside to the north and was provided with bombproof chambers in traverses and six Moncrieff pits. Additional positions were to be filled with movable armament in time of need. The flanking positions in the casemates were for five and ten gun batteries for 7-inch guns on traversing platforms. The crews were accommodated in barrack casemates, separated from the gun floor by a pressure shields of iron. The ditch in front of the rampart was constructed in addition to the natural creek. It was 130 feet wide at top and 90 feet at bottom to hold 8 feet of water. Dams were added to the tidal creek to hold back the water and allow gunboats to cooperate in the defence. The London road was diverted across the ditch and creek and through the left curtain. The railway passed under the right centre curtain. Behind the lines was a camping field for a large body of troops. The Lines are still intact for most of their length but the extreme east end has been demolished. The bastions were later numbered from West to east. No.1 bastion is now changing rooms for the nearby sports fields, no.2 bastion has been demolished for the main Portsmouth road, no.3, 4, 5 bastions are intact and no.6 bastion is in private hands. The main magazine was situated under the salient of East Bastion (no.6) and was fairly intact up to recent times.

Hilsea Lines



Taken from a plan In Solent Papers No. 4 'Hilsea Lines' by Garry Mitchell



Southsea Castle Flanking Batteries

<p>Commenced 1863</p> <p>Completed July 1868</p> <p>Cost £ 40,854 plus £35,025 for shields.</p> <p>Map Reference SZ 643980</p> <p>Position Southsea sea front, Portsmouth,</p> <p>Type Sea Front, Open batteries</p> <p>Ditch Dry</p> <p>Guns 36</p> <p>Barrack Accom. 3 officers & 61 men (keep of castle)</p> <p>Present use Pleasure gardens</p> <p>History Coast Artillery until 1956</p> <p>Disposal Bought by council 1960</p> <p>Condition Some emplacements still visible,</p> <p>Access At all times</p> <p>Sources R.A. Institute papers. 1891 Armament book</p>	<p>Armament</p> <p>1868 1 x 13.3-inch RML 22tons (Big Will of 1863) 22 x 9-inch RMLs 12 tons 9 x 7-inch RMLs 7-tons</p> <p>1884 2 x 12-inch, 4 x 11-inch, 5 x 9-inch 1 x 7-inch 7 ton R.M.Ls 3 x 6pr. QF 2 x M.G.</p> <p>1893 3 x 11-inch, 5 x 9-inch, 4 x 7-inch, 5 x 6pr. QF, 5 x M.G.</p> <p>1904 1 x 11-inch, 5 x 9-inch 5 x 6pr.Q.F. 1 x 4.7-inch QF, 2 x 6-inch B.L. 2 x 9.2-inch B.L. 5 x M.G.</p> <p>Caponiers None</p> <p>Counterscarp galleries None</p> <p>Haxo casemates None</p> <p>Moncrieff Pits None</p>
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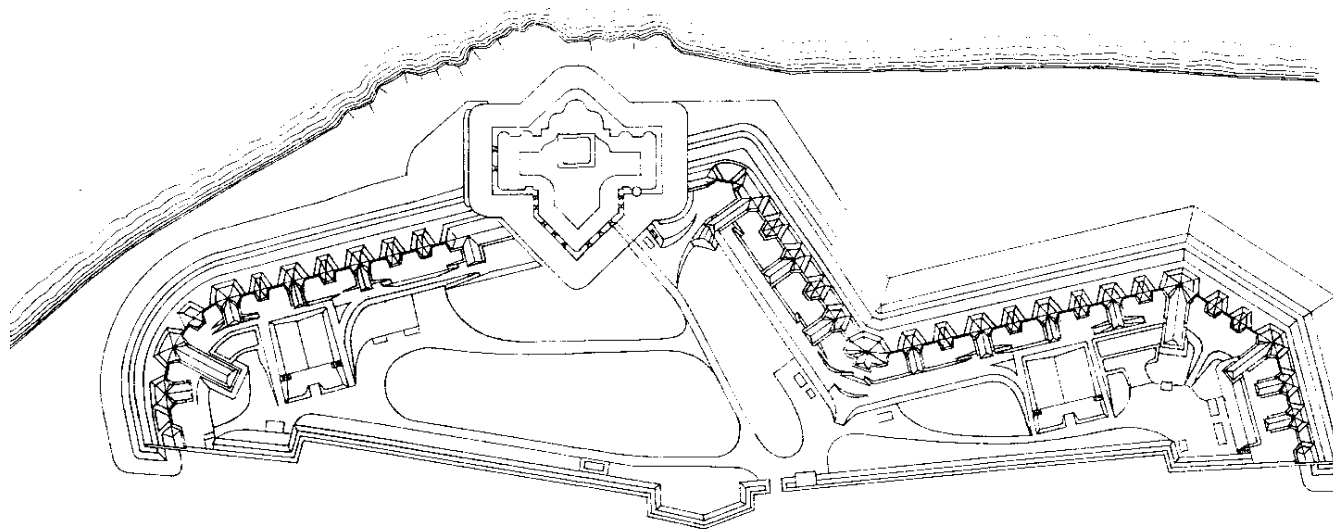
History and Description

The Royal Commission ordered two flanking batteries for 32 guns to be added to the existing Southsea Castle, armed with one rifled 13.3-inch gun on the left flank of the west battery together with 22 x rifled guns of 9 or 10-inch and 9 x 7-inch guns for flank defence with four mortars. The batteries were considered to be sufficiently complete to be handed over to the Royal Artillery in July 1868. When the 1869 Commission visited they found the protection to the guns and magazines to be insufficient to withstand the heavy projectiles of the present day. The gorge of the work was closed with a brick wall, loopholed for musketry defence, a section of which remains.

In 1901 it was proposed to remove the 11-inch and 9-inch R.M.Ls. A 4.7-inch Q.F. gun was added to the west battery and two 6-inch B.L. VII guns were fitted on the east battery. In 1903 these were supplemented with two 9.2-inch B.L. guns. The new B.L.s were to counter attacking vessels attempting to block the entrance to the harbour. By 1914 Southsea East Battery was still armed with the 6-inch and 9.2-inch B.L.s and Southsea West was armed with 3 x 12pr. Q.F.s. The 1917 return states that 2 x 12pr. QFs and 1 x 4.7-inch QFs were in place. By 1922 the 6-inch and 9.2-inch BLs were still in place as were 3 x 12pr. Q.F.s.

During World War Two a 4-inch A.A. gun was fitted to the end of the West Battery. A Coast Artillery Maintenance Battery continued in service at Southsea Castle until 1956, when coast artillery was abolished. Southsea Castle then became surplus to requirements and in July 1961 Portsmouth Council acquired the whole site for £35,000. Most of the gun positions were destroyed or filled in to form gardens. The 6-inch and 9.2-inch B.L. gun concrete aprons remain intact but the emplacements have been landscaped and converted to modern use as apart of an open park and garden. One of the 9-inch R.M.L. barbette positions remains intact to the west of the castle keep. A Portsmouth City spokesperson indicated that the Victorian magazines were blocked and covered over but remain beneath the grass. The brick loopholed gorge wall to the rear is mostly intact. The 4.7-inch Q.F. position on west battery has been completely removed but the Q.F. positions are recognisable.

Southsea Castle Flanking Batteries



Southsea Battery original plan Circa 1870



9-inch R.M.L. barbette position

Point Battery

Commenced	1847	Armament	
Completed	1850	1884	2 x 7-inch RBL 2 x 80pr RML 3 x 6pdr QF
Cost	£	1898	2 x 64pr RML* 1 x 9-inch RML* 2 x 7-inch RBL* 2 x 80pr RML* 3 x 12pdr QF 2 x 6pdr QF
Map Reference	SU629993	1904	5 x 12pdr QF 2 x Maxim MG
Position	Entrance of Portsmouth Harbour	1916	3 x 12pdr QF
Type	Casemated Sea Battery	1922	5 x 12pdr QF
Ditch	None	WW2	1 x Twin 6pdr QF
Guns	24		* indicates guns for drill purposes only
Barrack Accom.	1 officer and 55 NCOs & men	Caponiers	None
Present use	Open site & Public Toilets	Counterscarp galleries	None
History	Harbour mouth defences since 15th century	Haxo casemates	None
Disposal	1958	Moncrieff Pits	None
Condition	Partially demolished		
Access	All year round		
Sources	Fortifications in Old Portsmouth - A.Corney. A Military Heritage - B.H.Patterson.		

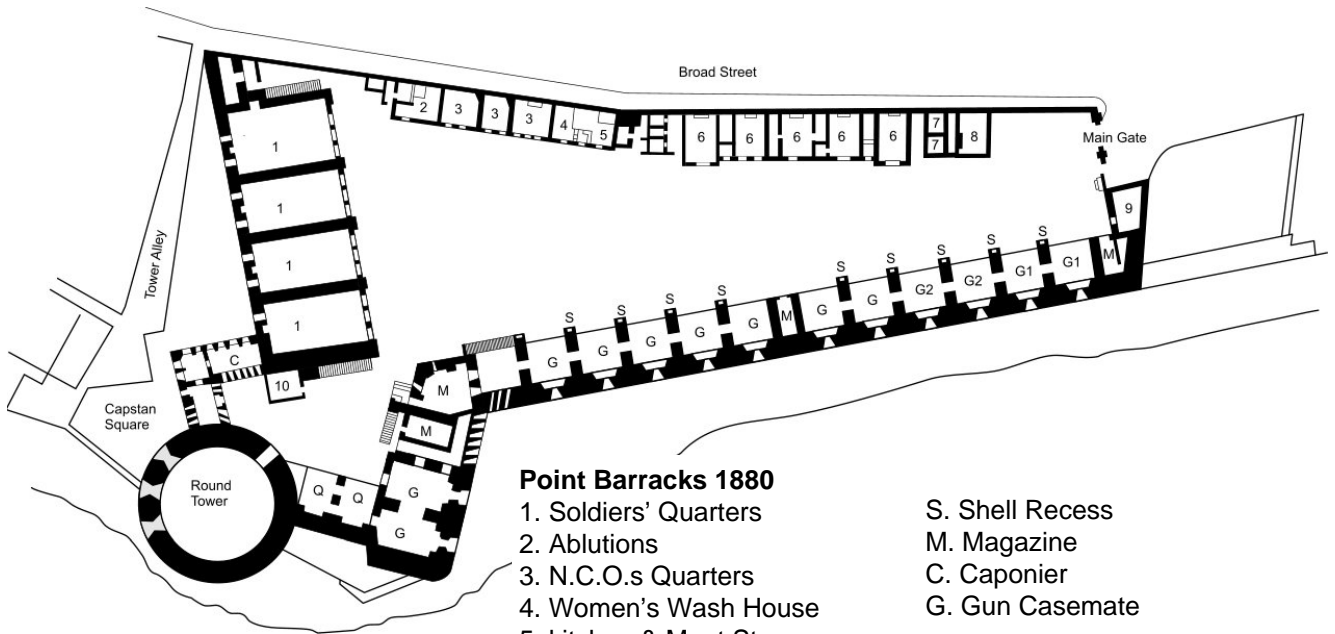
History and Description

The origins of a permanent fortification on this site date back to the early part of the fifteenth century, when a tower was erected on the site together with a similar tower on the Gosport shore to guard a chain boom which was strung between them across the harbour mouth. Successive monarchs updated the Defences at this point to what became known as the Round Tower. During the 1680s a larger permanent fortification known as Eighteen-gun Battery was erected as part of the last phase of the de Gomme defensive works of Portsmouth. This larger fortification took the L shaped trace which is still largely visible today, a large twelve casemate stone battery along Point beach, parallel to the sea, with a short flanking four casemate gallery linking it, via another two casemates to the Round Tower. The Casemates were limestone faced and brick vaulted.

In 1847 the de Gomme battery was modified together with the demolishing of nearby houses to build Point Battery. The gun Casemates were deepened to accommodate 68pdr guns and an extra storey of four stone Casemates was added to the flanking gallery to accommodate five 32-pdr S.B guns on traversing platforms. To the rear of the eighteen-gun battery, the demolished houses made way for a narrow parade ground with soldiers barrack accommodation (in four Casemates with two en-barbette gun emplacements on the roof) at the northern end together with an L shaped flanking musketry gallery linking it to the Round Tower. Officers quarters and administration buildings were built along the high brick gorge wall which ran adjacent to Broad street. During the 1880's and early 1890's the battery was armed with an assortment of RBL's and RML's, mainly for drill purposes and two 6pr. Q.F. guns. The battery was again updated in the late 1890s to accommodate three 12pr. QF guns on the roof of the eighteen gun battery, a 12pr. Q.F. on the Round Tower, and another 12pr QF on nearby King James's Battery. Also, the upper Casemates of the flanking gallery were fitted with hammock hooks, in order to provide extra accommodation., and two Defence Electric Lights, together with another located next to Tower house (to the north of the battery), were installed to illuminate the harbour entrance. In the 1930-40s the battery was again upgraded with the building of a twin-6pdr Q.F gun emplacement and also the associated directing tower and ammunition facilities. This last upgrade of the Defences was again to provide 'last ditch' Defences to the harbour mouth, should a fast attack craft try to gain entrance of the harbour.

After the disposal of the Battery, in 1962-3 Portsmouth City council demolished the gorge wall and associated buildings, removed the rear walls and ammunition recesses of the main gun Casemates and cut in half the soldiers accommodation Casemates leaving an open site; they also removed any reference to the later QF gun positions and modified the Victorian magazine into public toilets! The extent of what the Casemates used to look like is now marked out with cobble stones. Point Battery is now used as an extension of the Southsea sea front promenade as well as a public viewing point to watch shipping entering and leaving harbour.

Point Battery



Point Barracks 1880

- 1. Soldiers' Quarters
- 2. Ablutions
- 3. N.C.O.s Quarters
- 4. Women's Wash House
- 5. kitchen & Meat Store
- 6. Officers' Quarters
- 7. Cells
- 8. Guard Room
- 9. Store
- 10. Master Gunner's Store

- S. Shell Recess
- M. Magazine
- C. Caponier
- G. Gun Casemate

1898 armament

- G1 7inch RBL 82cwt (Practice)
- G2 80pr Converted (Practice)
- Q 6pr QF



Long Curtain Battery*

Commenced	1600s	Armament	
Completed		1884	3 x 64pr RML 5 x 80pr RML 1 x 7-inch RBL 6 x 9pr RML § 6 x 6pr QF 2 x 12pr QF
Cost	£	1891	2 x 80pr RML 4 x 6pr QF
Map Reference	SZ633992	1898	7 x 9pr RML § 4 x 6pr QF 2 x 12pr QF
Position	Entrance to Portsmouth Harbour	1913	4 x 12pr QF
Type	Sea Battery	1922	11 x 5-inch BL on VCP mk II carriages, 1 x 12pr Bl on field carriage §
Ditch	Wet, to front only	WW2	1 x Twin 6pr QF
Guns			
Barrack Accom.	Only crew shelters		
Present use	Open site/View point		
History	Town wall and harbour mouth defences since 1660s		
Disposal	1958		
Condition	Partially buried & demolished		
Access	All year round		
Sources	Portsmouth City Records Office.		

Note: § indicates guns for saluting purposes.

History and Description

*The definition of Long Curtain Battery in this description refers to the batteries located in the Long Curtain area, namely Kings Bastion, Spur Redoubt, Long Curtain and Old Saluting Battery.

These batteries are located on the parts of the old defence's of Portsmouth which were designed by de Gomme during the later half of the seventeenth century. The Portsmouth defence's designed by de Gomme, consisted of a bastioned trace with a ditch and rampart profile. The ditch was flooded with sea water which entered through sluices located at the extreme end of Long Curtain. By the mid nineteenth century, whilst the old bastioned defence's of Portsmouth and near-by Portsea where in a very poor state, the Long Curtain batteries were upgraded and rearmed because of their commanding position over the shipping channel running up to the entrance of Portsmouth Harbour. To the rear of the Long Curtain is an area known as Governors Green, which was the headquarters of the 2nd. Hants. Artillery Volunteers.

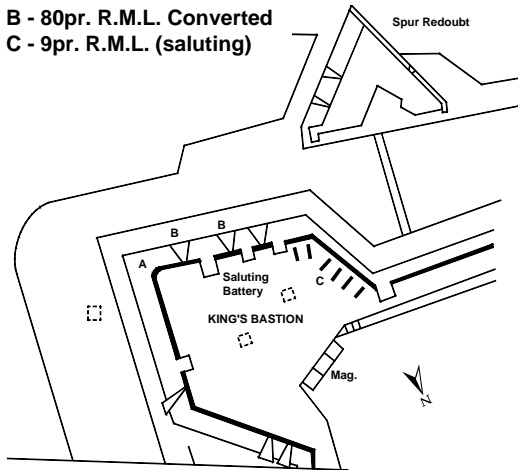
By 1891 there were emplacements for two 80pr RMLs and four 6pr QF guns. One of the old gun emplacements was converted into an observation cell for a submarine minefield. The observation cell, together with a engine house and test room (located to the rear), would have been used to electrically trigger moored submarine mines located in the entrance channel to Portsmouth Harbour.

By the late 1890's the submarine minefield was declared obsolete and the armament of long curtain was upgraded with the removal of the RML emplacements and the installation of more Q.F. guns bringing the armament to four 12pr QFs and two 6pr QFs. Cartridge and shell stores for 1,000 rounds in each were added to the rear of the battery. The emplacements and magazines were designed to ultimately mount 4-inch Q.F. guns, but these were never installed. The old Submarine Mining Engine Room and Test Room were demolished and crew shelters were built in their place. Two blocks of crew shelters were built to the rear of Long Curtain, one for 30 men and 1 officer the other for 35 men; a third block was built to the rear of the Old Saluting Battery for 16 men. These crew shelters consisted of simple rooms which allowed hammocks to be strung between pairs of hooks. By 1913 only the four 12pr Q.F.s remained in place. In 1916 this was reduced to two which by 1919 were mounted in reserve.

In 1922 Long Curtain was armed with four 12pr QFs once more, in care and maintenance. Another return for 1922 shows Long Curtain mounting eleven 5-inch BL guns installed on Vavasour carriages and one 12pr BL VI on a field carriage. These guns were used for saluting purposes and sounding the evening gun at sunset. This ceased when the saluting battery was moved across to Fort Blockhouse, on the Gosport side of the Harbour entrance in the 1930's. The final upgrade of the defences to Long Curtain took place in the late 1930's, when the pair of 12pr QF emplacements were modified into a single emplacement for a Twin 6pr QF gun. Today, many of the gun emplacements have been buried or demolished. Little remains of the battery except for a few concrete emplacements for the QF guns.

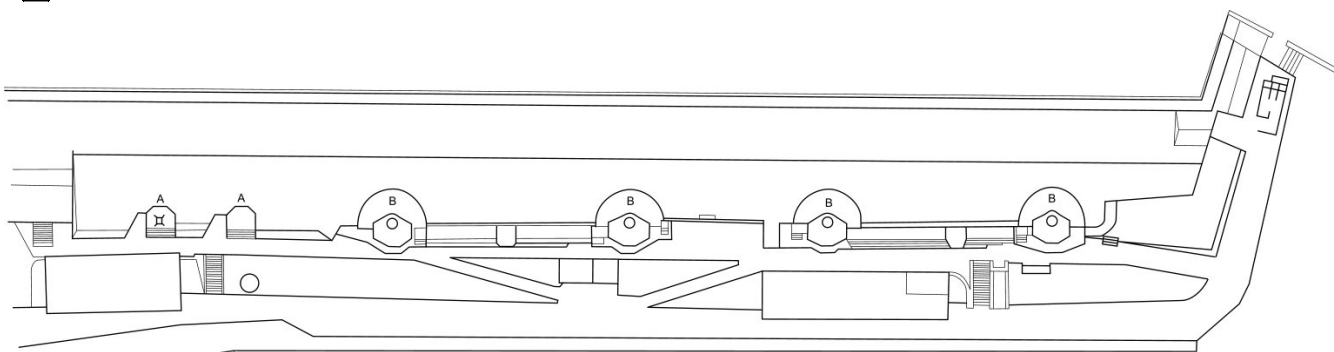
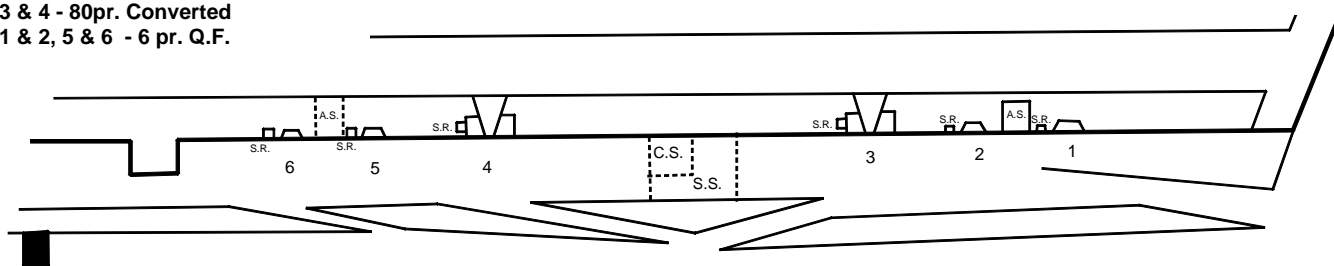
Long Curtain Battery

King's Bastion 1891
 A - 7-inch R.B.L. 82cwt.
 B - 80pr. R.M.L. Converted
 C - 9pr. R.M.L. (saluting)

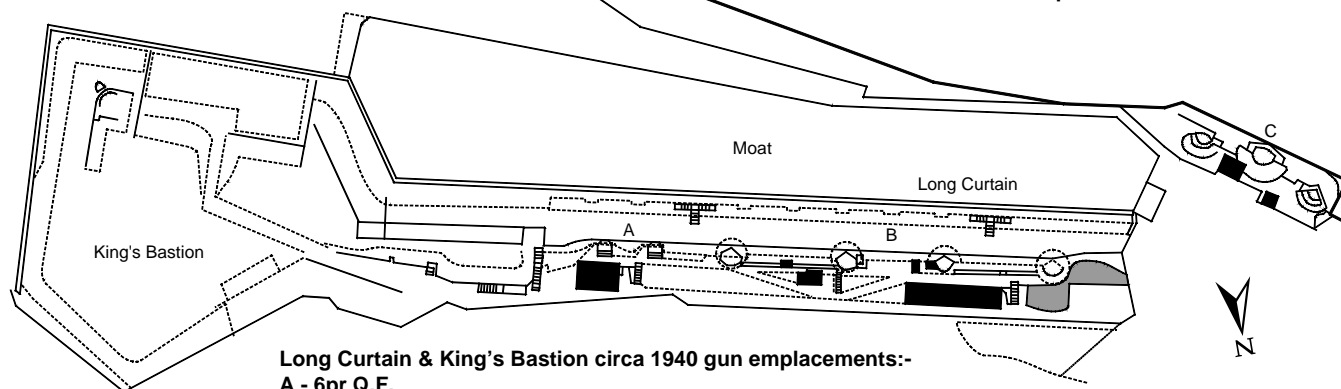


Long Curtain 1891
 3 & 4 - 80pr. Converted
 1 & 2, 5 & 6 - 6 pr. Q.F.

Above : 12pr. QF emplacement



1898:
 A - 6pr Q.F.
 B - 12pr QF



Long Curtain & King's Bastion circa 1940 gun emplacements:-
 A - 6pr Q.F.
 B - 12pr QF
 C - Twin Six

Calshot Battery

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

Calshot Battery

