

Shoreham Redoubt (Shoreham Fort)

Commenced	1857	Armament	
Completed	1857	1857	6 x 68dr SB 95cwt.
Cost	£ 11,685 (originally 9,000)	1876	4 x 68pr SB
Map Reference	TQ 233 045	1886	3 x 64pdr 2 x 80pdr RMLs
Position	Seaward side of Shoreham Harbour	1888	2 x 90pr RML 2 x 64pr RML
Type	Coast battery, defensible	Proposed	2 x 80pr RML 2 x 60pr RML
Ditch	Dry	Caponiers	3
Guns	6	Counterscarp galleries	None
Barrack Accom.	2 Off, 1 m-gunner 35 N.C.O.s & men	Haxo casemates	None
Present use	Coastguard station Apparently abandoned c.1900.	Moncrieff Pits	None
History	Barracks used for film studio and residence at various times, demolished 1960s.		
Disposal	Good		
Condition	Open site		
Access			
Sources	Goodwin, The Military Defence of W. Sussex.		

History and Description

Shoreham Redoubt stands on the spit of shingle immediately to the west of the entrance in a position precisely similar to that of the work at Littlehampton. Shoreham Redoubt, otherwise known as Kingston Redoubt, was commenced in 1857 shortly after the completion of the work at Littlehampton from which it only differs in having six guns instead of five. It is the shape of a lunette with a ditch 27 feet wide on the flanks and faces, escarp detached and loopholed 12 ft. high, counterscarp of concrete 10ft. high, gorge closed by a loopholed wall 10ft. to 12ft. high, good defensible barrack capable of accommodating 2 officers and 48 men, magazines for 360 barrels badly protected against the dropping power of heavy projectiles, artillery store & co, Good parapets only 18 ft. thick. The guns were 33 ft. apart and very badly traversed, even the terreplein being completely visible from the land side. The position gives a good command over the approaches to and the entrance of the harbour as well as over the beach on either side but being isolated by the river from the mainland it could not readily be supported or reinforced. The enceinte could not be considered secure against even the casual attack of a party landing in boats and the armament, in 1871, was obsolete. The 1871 Committee on Coast defences was of the opinion that both in construction and armament Shoreham and Littlehampton were inadequate to afford a sufficient degree of protection to the respective harbours and they considered that either the existing works should be remodelled extended and rearmed or that entirely new works should be constructed, fulfilling in either case the conditions laid down in their preliminary observations. Some remodelling was done.

The R.A. and R.E. Works Committee reported in 1888: *Shoreham is Littlehampton on a larger scale. The harbour is better, but is only available for coasting craft, and its commercial value is very small. The entrance is defended by a small enclosed work, built in 1857, and mounting 2 x 80pr, RML and 3 x 64pr RML guns. The work is of no practical use except for defence against small craft, but it may be maintained as at present, especially as it serves as a practice battery for the Volunteers.*

In WW2 a 6-inch emergency battery was built on the beach nearby, and of this a brick searchlight emplacement and the B.O.P (now the Coastguard station) survive. Some restoration was undertaken in 1978. The fort is actively conserved and promoted by a group of volunteers who regularly man the fort with special events.

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