

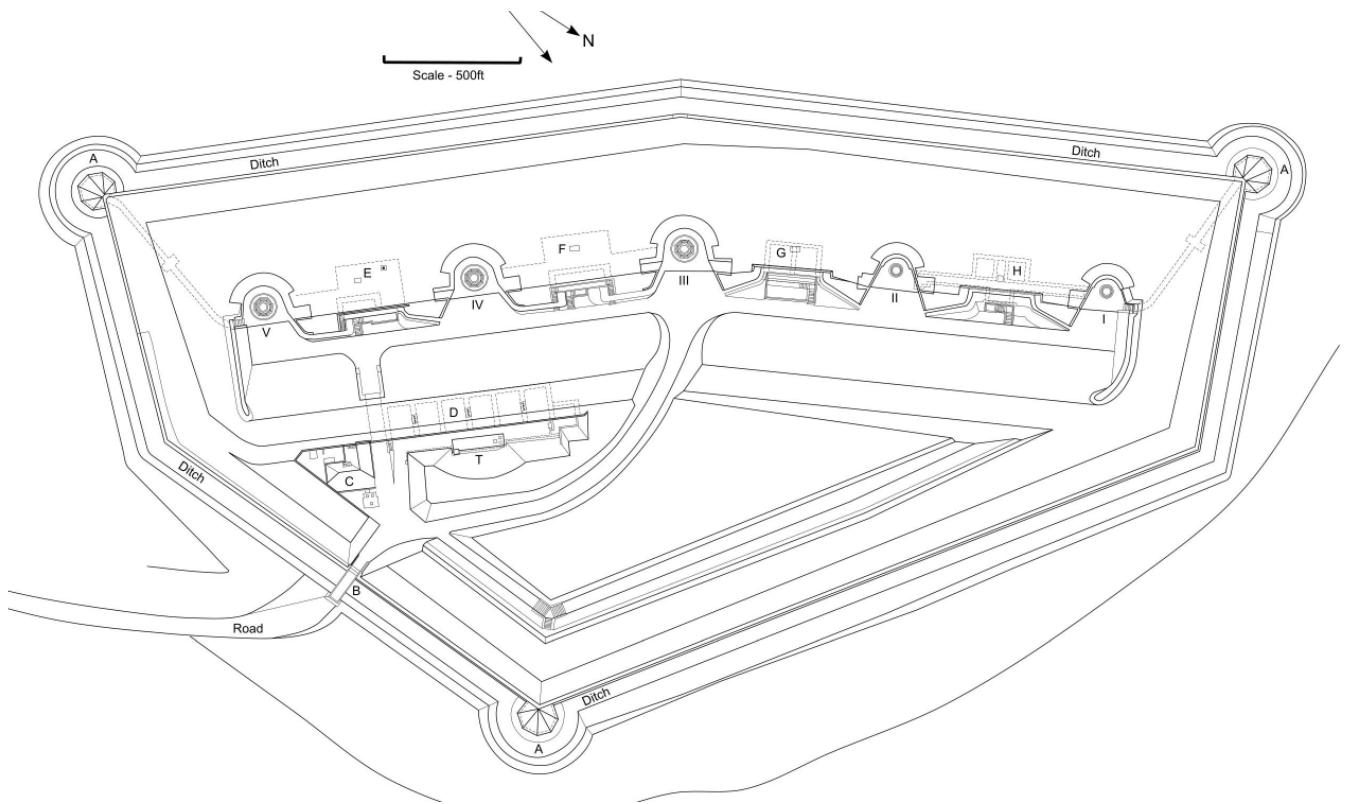
Whitesand Bay Battery

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|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Commenced | 13/04/1889 | Armament | |
| Completed | 30/06/1894 | 1892 | 3 x 12.5-inch R.M.L. 2 x 6-inch B.L. H.P. Mk IV |
| Cost | £ 25,991 | 1897 | 3 x 12.5-inch RML |
| Map Reference | SX 408515 | 1904 | 2 x 6-inch BL on Naval slide mounts |
| Position | Whitesand Bay Heights | 1918 | 3 x 12.5-inch RML mounted but surplus. |
| Type | Coast Defence Battery | 1920 | 12.5-inch RMLs withdrawn |
| Ditch | Dry | Caponiers | 3 octagonal |
| Guns | 5 | Counterscarp galleries | None |
| Barrack Accom. | 40 men | Haxo casemates | None |
| Present use | Holiday park | Moncrieff Pits | None (2 HPs) |
| History | Coast defence | | |
| Disposal | 1951 | | |
| Condition | Mostly extant. Good. | | |
| Access | Open to guests staying at the park | | |
| Sources | Fort Record Book PRO Kew & plans WO78/5052 | | |

History and Description

The Royal Commission foresaw the possibility of an enemy landing at Whitesand Bay, in rear of the Anthony Position, but considered it to be sufficiently guarded by Polhawn Battery as such a landing was unlikely. By the 1880s however the possibility of ships lying at anchor in the Bay with the intention of bombarding the Dockyard from this position at 8,000 yards range had to be prevented. Whitesand Bay Battery was proposed in 1885 and the site chosen was south of Stone Farm. It was to mount three heavy 12.5-inch RML guns to command the bay assisted by the six 10-inch B.L. howitzers proposed for the new battery 600 yards south of Tregantle Fort (Tregantle Down High Angle Battery). By 1887 the proposed armament was changed to 3 x 12.5-inch R.M.L.s and 2 x 6-inch B.L. H.P. guns. All five guns were in place by 1893. The battery was constructed with all-round defence and was more like a fort than a battery with a rock cut dry ditch flanked by three concrete caponiers, or blockhouses, for Maxim machine guns. The BLs were removed in 1897 and the RMLs sometime after 1920. The 1918 armament list the RMLs as mounted but surplus armament. The Fort record book lists 2 x 6-inch BLs on Naval Slide mounts as mounted in 1904. These were probably for practice purposes. They were removed in 1909. The battery was not armed during World War Two and was released by the Military in 1951. The battery is now part of Whitesand Bay Holiday Park. The three 12.5-inch RML and two 6-inch HP emplacements are extant with their magazines beneath and the caponiers at the SW and NE angles are also visible although the ditch has been filled in. Some of the glacis has been re-profiled. To the southwest of the battery, on the edge of the glacis, was constructed a practice battery.

Whitesand Bay Battery



12.5-inch RML emplacement