

Western Outwork

Commenced	1858(?)	Armament	
Completed	1862		
Cost	£ 86,143		Originally for 27 guns on terreplein and 18 in caponier and casemates 1892
Map Reference	TR 306404		Approved: 4 machine guns on parapet mountings 1892 Mounted: Nil
Position	Western extremity of Western Heights defences		
Type	Land front / Polygonal		
Ditch	Dry		
Guns	45		
Barrack Accom.	3 officers, 178 other ranks		
Present use	Immigration Removal Centre since 2002 H.M. Prison, H.M. Borstal / Young Offender Institution	Caponiers	One double
History	Army moved out mid-1950s Young Offender Institution buildings (mostly 1890s brick-built huts) maintained, remainder derelict / buried	Counterscarp galleries	None
Disposal		Haxo casemates	None
Condition		Moncrieff Pits	None
Access	None. Home Office/Private		
Sources	Burridge, 'Guide to the Western Heights Defences'		

History and Description

The Western Outwork was built to command dead ground to the west of the Citadel. Designed by du Cane, it was adopted by the Royal Commission. The Outwork had a fine double caponier which gave flanking fire back along the ditches which connected it to the Citadel. This caponier, unfortunately, along with much else of the Outwork, was buried by the then Dover Corporation in the 1960s when the ditch was used as a dumping ground for the demolished barracks of a WW2 anti-aircraft battery.

Most of the Outwork is now occupied by an Immigration Removal Centre. but some fine bomb-proof barrack rooms remain, though in a very dangerous condition, and the remaining counterscarp wall is also dangerous in parts. The barracks are visible from outside of an enclosing fence. These imposing casemates are constructed on a grand scale with a wide access staircase at the east end giving access to eight very large barracks rooms on two levels. The floors have all collapsed, all internal fittings removed and the rear walls of the rooms on the roof which served as sergeants, quarters stores and offices have been shored up with modern brickwork. The front facade is still in good condition but steadily being overgrown with ivy.

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