

## Beacon Hill Battery

<b>Commenced</b>	January 1899
<b>Completed</b>	1892
<b>Cost</b>	£ 25,000
<b>Map Reference</b>	TM262317
<b>Position</b>	Beacon Hill opposite Landguard Fort
<b>Type</b>	
<b>Ditch</b>	Coast defence battery
<b>Guns</b>	The sea
<b>Barrack Accom.</b>	Many
<b>Present use</b>	War shelters only Derelict site
<b>History</b>	
<b>Disposal</b>	Coast defence and practice. Some trials carried out.
<b>Condition</b>	1981 sold to developer
<b>Access</b>	Overgrown and neglected. Fenced off. Ancient Monument
<b>Sources</b>	F.S.G. Fort No.11; English Heritage field survey report Beacon Hill 1997.

### Armament

**1812** 5 x 12pdr S.B.  
**1871** Practice battery  
**1892**  
 1 x 10-inch B.L.  
 1 x 6inch B.L. H.P.  
 2 x 4.7-inch B.L.  
**1894** Practice Battery 3 x 64pdr R.M.L.  
**1898** 2 x 3pdrs added  
**1901** 6-inch B.L. added  
**1904** 4 x 5inch B.L. Practice Battery added.  
**1905** 2 x 6-inch B.L. MkVII on CPII  
           2 x 4.7-inch Q.F.  
  
**1918** 1 x 12pr BL 6cwt for examination service  
**1940** Twin-Six pounder 'Cornwallis Battery'  
**1942** 1 x 6inch B.L. MkXXIV added  
**1947** 4.7inch guns removed.  
**1956** Twin-six removed.

### History and Description

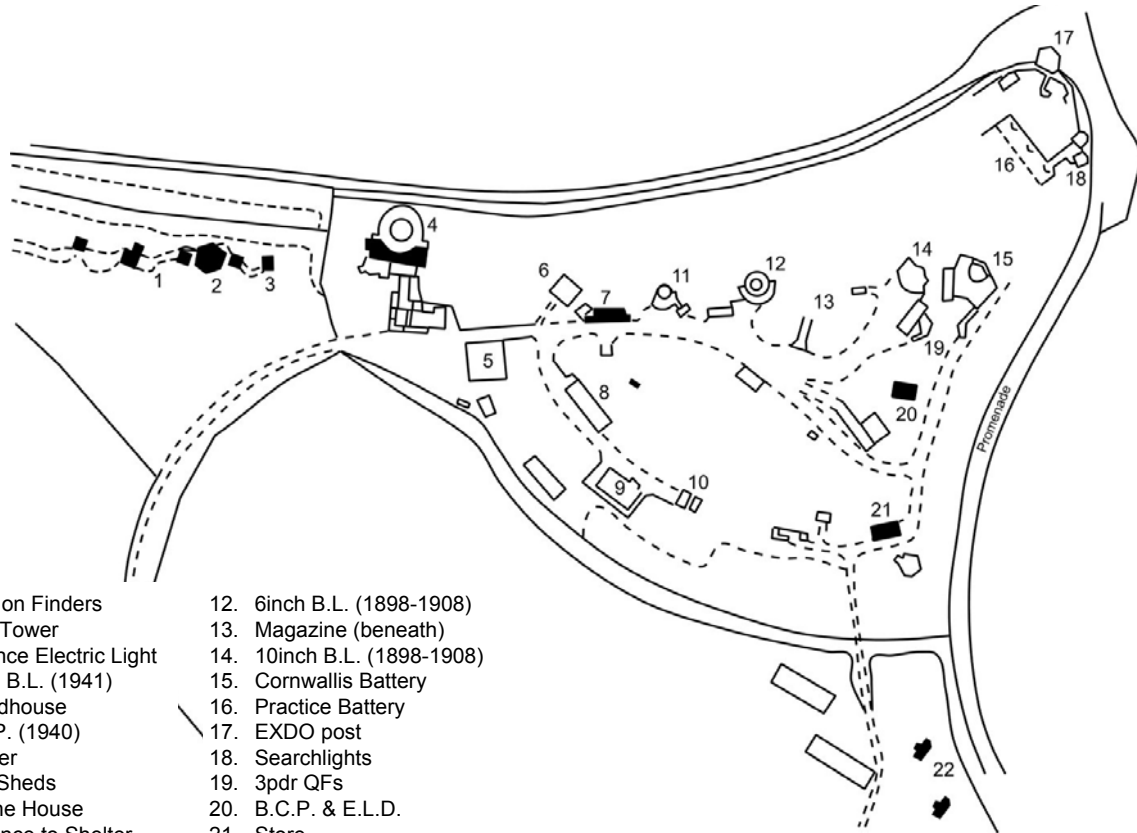
On September 16th 1888 a new battery was called for at Beacon Hill on the site of a former blockhouse of 1543 and a battery for five 12pdrs. It was to be armed with a 10inch B.L. and a 6-inch B.L. on an H.P. Disappearing carriage. The work was completed by May 1892 with two 4.7-inch B.L. guns added to the site. The site is a complex one with the range of emplacements and supporting structures running along the coastline to the breakwater on Beacon Hill overlooking the entrance to Harwich. The 10-inch B.L. was mounted on 21 September 1889 and was fired for trials in March 1890 before being accepted into service.

The old practice battery of 1871 on the tip of the site overlooking Mill Bay was converted to mount three 64pdr R.M.L. guns in 1894. Two 3pdr Q.F. guns were added to the battery in 1898. Various changes were made throughout the service life of the battery including the addition of gunsheds and a magazine for the 3pdrs in 1895, a practice battery magazine in 1895 and a 6inch B.L. just outside the entrance to the battery in 1901. Shelters for the gun crew were fitted in 1902/3. A practice battery of four 5-inch B.L.s was added outside the defences in 1904.

The Owen Committee of 1904/5 resulted in the removal of all the guns except the 4.7inch QFs. The 6-inch and 10-inch guns were replaced with two 6-inch B.L. MkVII on CPII mountings, the emplacements built into the existing ones. A Battery Command Post was constructed on top of the old practice battery magazine. These changes were complete by 1911. Position finding cells and searchlights were added. In 1916 the Battery Command Post was removed to allow a greater arc of fire with a temporary one was added behind the 4.7 emplacements.

The 4.7inch guns were withdrawn in 1927. In 1940 a twin six pounder emplacement was fitted and became known as Cornwallis Battery. Overhead covers were added to the 6-inch B.L. emplacements, a new BOP was added and a new engine house fitted. In 1941 a radar tower was added for Naval gun control trials. The control tower for the twin-six was removed and a new 6-inch B.L. added for a 6inch Mk XXIV. Two 5.25inch guns were proposed but not fitted. The 6-inch MkVII's were removed in 1947. and Beacon Hill's sole armament was the twin-six until 1956. The site was sold to a developer in 1981 but the site has remained overgrown, derelict and fenced-off ever since. It is now designated as an Ancient Monument because of its complex history and contribution to the development of coast defence.

# Beacon Hill Battery



- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Position Finders                     | 12. 6inch B.L. (1898-1908)  |
| 2. RDF Tower                            | 13. Magazine (beneath)      |
| 3. Defence Electric Light               | 14. 10inch B.L. (1898-1908) |
| 4. 6inch B.L. (1941)                    | 15. Cornwallis Battery      |
| 5. Guardhouse                           | 16. Practice Battery        |
| 6. B.O.P. (1940)                        | 17. EXDO post               |
| 7. Shelter                              | 18. Searchlights            |
| 8. Gun Sheds                            | 19. 3pdr QFs                |
| 9. Engine House                         | 20. B.C.P. & E.L.D.         |
| 10. Entrance to Shelter and E.L. Engine | 21. Store                   |
| 11. 4.7inch (18980-1927)                | 22. Searchlights            |

