

Fort Brockhurst

Commenced	31/03/1858	Armament	
Completed	20/12/1862		Originally for 50 guns on ramparts and in flanking casemates with 30 in the keep and caponiers.
Cost	£ 108,999	1893 Approved	8 x 7-inch RBL 9 x 64 pr RML 2 x .45 MG
Map Reference	SU 596020	1893 Mounted	9 x 64 pr. RML 16 x 7-inch RBL
Position	Gosport Advanced Line / Western Flank		
Type	Land Front / Polygonal	Caponiers	Two demi one full
Ditch	Wet	Counterscarp galleries	None
Guns	73	Haxo casemates	Four (2 x double) + one on keep
Barrack Accom.	308 men	Moncrieff Pits	None
Present use	English Heritage / museum / training workshop		
History	Army barracks and transit camp		
Disposal Condition	Army moved out in 1957 Actively conserved and restored All year		
Access	round		
Sources	Solent Papers No 6		

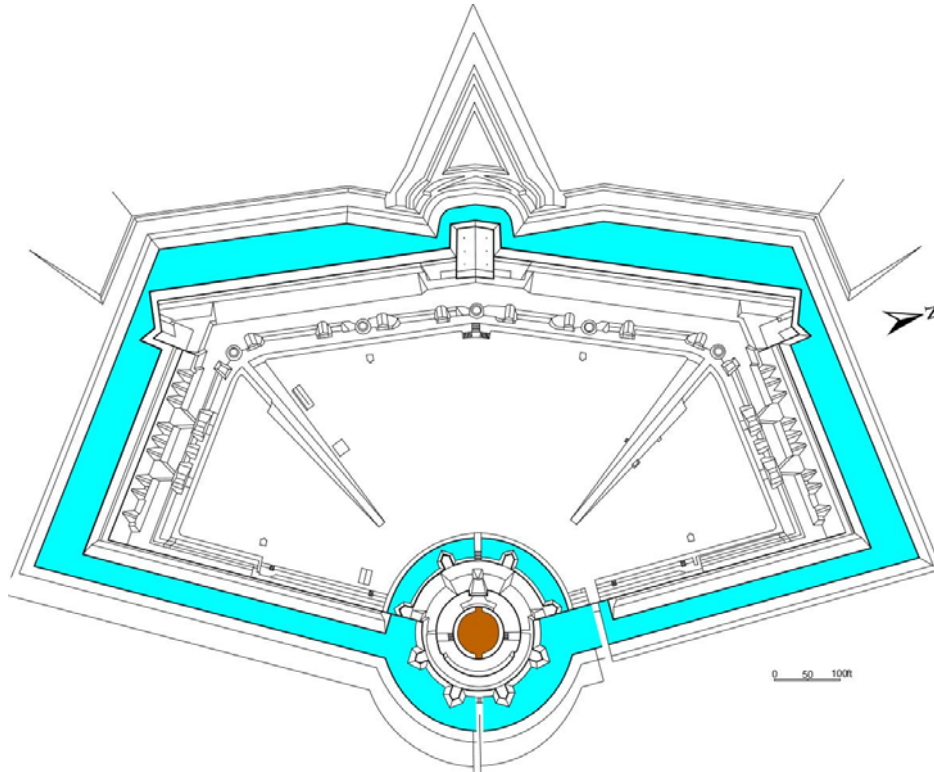
History and Description

One of a line of five forts to defend the western approaches to Portsmouth Harbour. It was designed, together with its sister forts, Grange and Rowner, by William Crossman. It is an early example of the polygonal fort and features a circular keep of last resort at its gorge. Its main west rampart is built over a series of casemated barrack rooms. The central parade is divided into three sections by two long earth ramps for access to the terreplein. The shoulders of the fort house the main magazines whilst the north and south flanks provide accommodation for officers and NCOs as well as gun casemates for flank defence. The terrepleins of the flanks have two Haxo casemates each. Brockhurst was the discharge depot where the periodical drafts of men, whose time of service had expired while abroad, were kept until the details incident to their discharge were completed.

Brockhurst was a recruitment centre and served as a demobilisation centre in 1918. It was the depot and headquarters for a variety of regiments from the 1900s onwards. This included the 4th. Medium Regiment, the Royal Warwicks and finally 245 Armament Battery.

The fort was in use by the army until 1957. It was sold in 1962 and English Heritage acquired it in 1984. It has now been refurbished as a museum and has workshops and a training facility for the English Heritage Craftsmen. The south Haxo contains a 64 pr. 64cwt RML on a traversing carriage. The old Regimental Institute building in the centre of the parade has been converted for storage of artefacts from English Heritage properties across south east England. The fort is not open to the public, except by arrangement with E.H. and the majority of rooms beneath the ramparts now serve as a storage facility.

Fort Brockhurst



Top Plan

