

Fort Burgoyne

Commenced	June 1861	Armament	Originally for 29 guns on terreplein (including 6 in Haxos) and 26 in caponiers and scarp gun rooms, plus 9 on outworks
Completed	December 1873		1892 Approved 1 x 4-inch BL, 2 x 6.6-inch howitzers, 7 x 24pr carronades, 6 machine guns.
Cost	£ 86,361		West Outwork: 2 machine guns.
Map Reference	TR 324427		East Outwork: 1 machine gun
Position	North of Dover Castle		1892 Mounted 6 x 7-inch RBLs, 13 x 24pr carronades
Type	Land Front / Polygonal	Caponiers	One double, three demi
Ditch	Dry	Counterscarp galleries	None
Guns	55 plus 9 in outworks	Haxo casemates	Three double
Barrack Accom.	7 officers plus 270 men	Moncrieff Pits	None
Present use	Still in Army hands		
History	Army barracks, later store		
Disposal	Land Trust from 2014		
Condition	Under conservation		
Access	Open to visits on selected occasions		
Sources	Burridge, 'The Royal Commission Defences of Dover'		

History and Description

Fort Burgoyne, originally Castle Hill Fort but renamed after Gen Sir John Burgoyne, was the only wholly new work built in Dover as a result of the 1859 Royal Commission's recommendations. It was designed by du Cane and sited on the high ground to the north of Dover Castle. In plan the fort is very similar to those of the Gosport Advanced Line, with casemated barrack accommodation around a parade ground and gun ramps doubling as traverses for access to the terreplein. Fort Burgoyne, however, has its west flank extended along the crest of the hill, and it lacks the Gosport forts' "keep of last resort". It is an irregular hexagon in plan, about 280 metres from north to south, and 260 metres from east to west. It consists of a main north facing rampart, mounting the main armament of the fort on its terreplein, with two faces and a central double caponier flanking its ditch. The terrepleins of the two flanks provided covering fire to the east and west with an elongated extension to the west flank covering the Dover to Gunston Road which ran close by. A demi-caponier was situated to flank the ditch at each of the shoulders of the fort with another to flank the ditch of the elongated west rampart, giving one double caponier and three demi-caponiers in total. Training huts were built to the south of the fort and served as the precursor to the Connaught Barracks, which was constructed in 1912 and released by the Army for a housing development in 2007.

During WW1 the fort may have acted as a magazine for the adjoining Dover (Guston Road) Aerodrome and in WW2 a battery of 25pr field guns was mounted in reinforced concrete shelters.

Fort Burgoyne is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as it appears to the Secretary of State to be of national importance.

The fort was released by the Military in 2006. Various plans were put forward for the use of the site.

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) handed over the 42-hectares of land to the Land Trust in 2014, along with an endowment, of which half will be used to restore the site and half to maintain it in future years.

The Land Trust states 'The plans for Fort Burgoyne are still in the early stages. The underlying principle of all planning is that the site is there for community use as much as possible; to provide sustainable long-term solutions for land in order to benefit local people. At Fort Burgoyne, we aim to bring communities together to enable them to experience the benefits of outdoor spaces.'

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