

## Chapel Bay Battery

<b>Commenced</b>	1 January 1890	<b>Armament</b>	
<b>Completed</b>	31 October 1891	<b>1891-c1900</b>	3 x 10-inch RML
<b>Cost</b>	£ 11,779	<b>1901-1915</b>	3 x 6-inch BL Mk VII, 3 x 12pr and 4-3 x maxim MGs
<b>Map Reference</b>	SM 861035	<b>1917</b>	2 x 6-inch BL 3 x 12pr. QF 3 x Maxim MGs
<b>Position</b>	Angle	<b>1919</b>	2 x 12pr. QF
<b>Type</b>	Coast Defence battery	<b>1920</b>	Disarmed
<b>Ditch</b>	Dry on land sides	<b>Caponiers</b>	2
<b>Guns</b>	3	<b>Counterscarp galleries</b>	None
<b>Barrack Accom.</b>	7 officers 84 men (war) 15 (peace)	<b>Haxo casemates</b>	None
<b>Present use</b>	Private residence	<b>Moncrieff Pits</b>	None
<b>History</b>	Coast battery late RML era to BL era		
<b>Disposal</b>	Sold to Angle Estate 1932		
<b>Condition</b>	Restored		
<b>Access</b>	Museum and Fort open Easter to October weekends and Bank Holidays		
<b>Sources</b>	1858 & 1868 Committee Reports, Precis of Correspondence prior to 1893 National Archives.		

### History and description

As early as 1861 the Defence Committee considered a design by Colonel Jervois for a battery at Chapel Bay. The design was for a battery to mount six heavy rifled guns on Moncrieff mountings with a barrack for 3 officers and 60 men in the rear so disposed as to form a keep. The Committee approved the design except for the Moncrieff mountings as the parapet was 122 feet above sea level and it was decided to mount guns *en barbette*. The whole work to be surrounded by a ditch and wall flanked by caponiers. Although Chapel bay was to be the site of a battery it was not until 1891 that the Battery was built for three 10-inch RML guns, it was square shaped surrounded by a dry ditch that on the western and eastern sides stretched down to the shoreline; in the ditch were two concrete caponiers, one in the south-east corner and the other on the western side reached by underground tunnels from the battery. Two guns faced north over the Haven the third faced west. Underground shelters were provided in a horizontal traverse, there were two underground magazines serving the three guns and the DRF position was provided on a higher traverse; caretaker's quarters were built immediately inside the entrance to the Battery.

Between May 1898 and March 1899 a battery of three 12 pdr QF guns was built outside the Battery on its eastern flank at a cost of £2,222.8s.6d; from June 1900 to August 1901 the Battery was reconstructed to take three 6 inch guns, extra shelters enlarged magazines, living and office accommodation together with a number of other facilities at a total cost of £6,925.4s.11d. The three 6-inch guns replaced the two north-facing RMLs, the west facing RML position survives. There were a number of changes in the armament during the First World War that culminated in the last two 6-inch guns being dismounted and sent to East Blockhouse Battery and mounted there. The last guns left the Battery in 1920 when the remaining two 12pdr QF were dismounted and the site was sold in 1932. The battery has recently been purchased by a retired army officer, Major George Gear who now lives in it. He is actively restoring it and hopes to open it on selected occasions as a museum.

The Battery was used as an adjunct to a farm until it was purchased for conversion into a private residence. The 12pdr battery was used in the Second World War when a mining observation post was built on the eastern gun position; the battery survives though very overgrown.

# Chapel Bay Battery

**Chapel Bay Fort (1899 - 1930)**

- 1. Officers' Quarters
- 2. Skidding Shed
- 3. Telephone Room
- 4. M.G. Office
- 5. Oil & Paint Store
- 6. AA Workshop
- 7. Ablution Room
- 8. Cook House
- 9. Store
- 10. Master Gunner's Quarters
- 11. Machine Gun Shed
- 12. D.R.F. & B.C. Post
- 13. D.R.F. & B.C. Station
- 14. Men's Shelter
- 15. Officer's Shelter
- 16. Coal Store
- 17. Bridge
- 18. Shelter

