

Fort Fareham

Commenced	1861
Completed	1864
Cost	£ 104,567
Map Reference	SU 572049
Position	Western Approaches / Fareham Gap
Type	Land Front / Polygonal
Ditch	Wet
Guns	41
Barrack Accom.	210
Present use	Parade and casemates used as industrial Estate
History	Used mainly as a barracks
Disposal	Sold to Fareham Council 1965
Condition	Overgrown, parts derelict & neglected
Access	Ramparts and moat free. Rest difficult but possible
Sources	"Fort Fareham, a Brief Story" David Moore

Armament

1886

Approved	Mounted	Proposed
64 x 7 inch R.B.L.		
5 x 40 pdr. R.B.L.	1 x 7 inch R.B.L.	
5 x 64 pdr. R.M.L.	2 x 6.3 inch R.M.L.	15 x 7 inch RBL
15 x 32 pdr. S.B.B.L.	3 x Rifled Howitzers.	

Armament about 1892. (all probably 7 inch R.B.L.)

10 guns in the emplacements on the south rampart.

5 guns in the Disappearing Gun Pits.

Armament 1898

10 movable guns.	4 x 4 inch B.L.
	6 x 40 pdr. R.B.L.
	15 x 7 inch RBL

Caponiers 1 full 3 demi

Counterscarp galleries None

Haxo casemates 7 (for 17 guns)

Moncrieff Pits 5

History and Description

The 1859 Commission on the 'Defences of The United Kingdom' recommended that an outer line of three forts be built between Fareham and Lee Farm two miles in advance of the Fort Elson to Fort Gomer line of works, with an average interval of 1 mile. Of these three forts only Fort Fareham was built. The Defence Committee approved its design in December 1860 and referred it to the Special Committee appointed for the examination of plans of all new works proposed by the Royal Defence Commission. It was often referred to as the 'Fort near Newgate' as it stood a mile below the town of Fareham at Newgate. Another name for it was the Fort at Black House after a nearby farm. It is 3,500 yards in advance of Fort Elson which is the most northerly fort of the Gosport Advanced Lines. Fort Fareham forms the link between this line of Forts and those on Portsdown Hill. It is visible from Fort Wallington which is 2,500 yards to the North and East. Fareham town and creek lie in between the two. Fort Fareham was also to provide protection for the rail (completed 1842) and road links from Gosport to the Portsdown Forts. It secured the ground from which the works on the left of it could be subjected to a reverse fire. Its position made an attack on the Gosport Lines very hazardous without it first being captured or disabled. Work commenced in 1861, the first contract being for the sinking of five wells to a depth of 135 feet. These were finished in July 1861 but no water was found. A fresh contract for sinking them to 200 feet was made and completed in September 1861. The total cost for them was £2,384. In 1863 the Committee approved of closing the gorge of Fort Fareham by a wall, omitting the casemated keep as first designed, due to the provision of sufficient bombproof accommodation under the terreplein of the work. A smaller outlying work to the north of the railway was to be provided as the railway embankment prevented the ground between the fort and the village of Fareham from being seen from the main work. The next contract was for the construction of the fort which was begun in October 1861 and completed in September 1864. Some failures were made good at a small cost and in February 1867 a contract was made for fitting up casemates and laying on water. This was finished in April 1868.

The fort now contains a business park on its parade and most of the casemates have been let out as industrial units. The ramparts are overgrown and the rest of the fort, including the mortar battery and caponiers, is neglected and in danger. Fareham Council put the fort up for sale in 2002 and sold it to London and City Estates, who now manage it.

Fort Fareham

Fort Fareham 1892

- C1 South Caponier
- C2 South West Caponier
- C3 West Caponier
- C4 North Caponier
- E Expense Magazine
- H Haxo Casemate
- N Mortar Battery

