

Flat Holm Island

Commenced	1866
Completed	1871 July
Cost	£ 12,844
Map Reference	ST 221 649
Position	Bristol Channel (Lavernock Point off Cardiff)
Type	Fortified island
Ditch	Dry
Guns	9
Barrack Accom.	50 approx
Present use	Nature reserve (Education)

History	World War II AA batteries and RADAR, Cholera Hospital -1896
Disposal	Army vacated 1901 & 1944
Condition	Fair - parts derelict
Access	Flatholm Project, Cardiff Council. D.H.Worrel & P.R.Surtees -Flat Holm Guide.
Sources	A History of Maritime Forts in the Bristol Channel 1866-1900 : Barrett

Armament

1881

Mounted 9 x 7-inch RML Mk III on Moncrieff Counterweight Pattern I WWII
 4 x 4.5-inch dual purpose guns on two sites (AA & close defence)
 2 x 40mm Bofors
 1 x twin Lewis, 4 x single Lewis

Caponiers None

Counterscarp galleries None

Haxo casemates None

Moncrieff Pits 9

History and Description

Flat Holm was fortified during the 1860s, along with fortifications on Brean Down, Steep Holm and Lavernock point. Together these fortifications provided a defensive line crossing the Bristol Channel, protecting the principle ports of Bristol, Cardiff and Newport. Flat Holm is an island of about 60 acres with an average height above sea level of 100 feet and as its name suggests the island is a low-lying slab-like structure. The fortifications on Flat Holm consist of four parcels of land which run around the western side of the island from north to south, with an average distance between each of 200 yards. Each gun battery has its own underground magazine for shells and cartridges and the batteries are served by barrack accommodation (now reinstated) located behind Lighthouse Battery in the southeast corner of the island. The barracks lie within a dry ditch and rampart and have an interesting rain water catchment facility built into the slope of the cliff face.

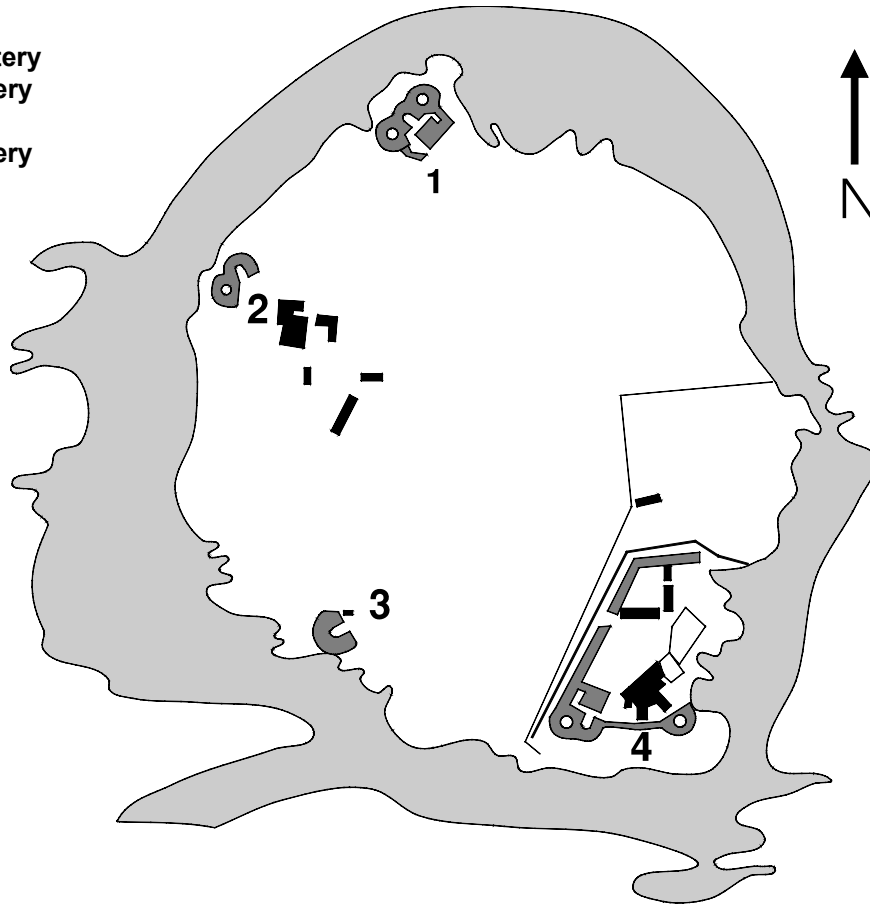
The Moncrieff pits have suffered from only minor damage caused by the re-fortification of the island during the Second World War and the removal of fittings by scrap dealers. The island has a number of 7-inch RMLs, although some have been cut up for scrap. The details of the gun batteries are as follows:-

Battery Name	Guns	Notes
Castle Rock Battery	3	Two full Moncrieff pits and one open-backed pit.
Farm House Battery	2	One full Moncrieff pit and one open backed pit.
Well Battery	1	One open backed Moncrieff pit.
Lighthouse battery	3	Two full Moncrieff pits and one open backed pit. A photograph of a mounted 7-inch RML in this position is shown in the guide books.

Access to the island is by organised party under arrangement with Flatholm Project, Cardiff County Council. The boat leaves from Barry Island.

Flat Holm Island

- 1. Castle Rock Battery
- 2. Farmhouse Battery
- 3. Well Battery
- 4. Lighthouse Battery



Lighthouse Battery