

Fort Hubberstone (Battery)

Commenced	1860	Armament	
Completed	1863	1870 mounted	11 x 9-inch RML
Cost	£ 55,000	1886	
Map Reference	SM 890 054	Casemate Battery	9 x 9-inch RML
Position		Moncrieff battery	Nil
		Open Battery	1 x 10-inch RML 5 x 9-inch RML
Type	Coast Defence Battery	1898	
Ditch	Dry	mounted	1 x 10-inch RML 8 x 9-inch RML
Guns	28 - 32	proposed	3 x 6-inch BL VII
Barrack Accom.		1908	1 x 12pr QF
Present use	Private owner	Caponiers	1
History	British Army Camp and US Seabees base	Counterscarp galleries	2
Disposal	Sold 1932	Haxo casemates	none
Condition	Poor. Scheduled	Moncrieff Pits	8
Access	Private land		
Sources	1868 Committee Report FSG conference papers 1997		

History and description

Fort Hubberstone was approved by the Royal Commission of 1860 as part of the defences of Milford Haven. It was completed in that year as a nine gun installation. Work then began on the casemated battery, this being completed in 1863. as an eleven gun battery with a further eight guns on the terreplein and nine more in an open east flank battery. At the top of the site is a defensible barrack, approximately semi-circular with a high gorge wall. From the right hand corner of the barrack a sunken way runs around the terreplein down to the casemates. The ditch in front of the barrack is protected by caponiers and a counterscarp gallery, the entrance to the work being over a drawbridge.

In August 1868 plans were approved for the alteration of the work to replace eight of the guns on the terreplein with eight guns in Moncrieff pits. Despite the ridiculous application of this type of gun in such a position the work was completed by 1872. The main gun casemates were armed with eleven 12-ton RML guns by 1872. By 1881 the open battery was re-armed with 10-inch RML guns and the fort was complete. In 1884 the infantry garrison was removed. In 1885 the three remaining Moncrieff guns were removed. In 1908 its sole armament was one 12pr. QF gun in a practice battery. It was never upgraded with modern weapons and shortly after World War One it was abandoned.

It was sold in 1932. In 1939-45 it was used as a communal air-raid shelter, British Army camp and US Seabees base. From then on it deteriorated to the sorry state in which it can be found today although the new owners in 1977 sought planning permission to restore it and find a new use. The current owners are actively seeking a use for it which may include conversion to flats and retail units.

Fort Hubberstone

