

Fort Hubberstone (Battery)

Commenced 1860
Completed 1863
Cost £ 55,000
Map Reference SM 890 054
Position

Type Coast Defence Battery
Ditch Dry
Guns 28 - 32
Barrack Accom.
Present use Private owner

History British Army Camp and US Seabees base
Disposal Sold 1932
Condition Poor. Scheduled
Access Private land

Sources 1858 & 1868 Committee Reports, Precis of Correspondence prior to 1893 National Archives. FSG conference papers 1997

Armament

1870 Mounted 11 x 9-inch RML
1885 Mounted 3 x 7inch RML Moncrieff

1886
 Casemate Battery 9 x 9-inch RML
 Moncrieff battery Nil
 Open Battery 1 x 10-inch RML
 5 x 9-inch RML

1893 Approved 3 x 10inch RML 5 x 9inch RML
 Mounted 14 x 9inch RML
1898 Mounted 1 x 10-inch RML 8 x 9-inch RML
 Proposed 3 x 6-inch BL VII
1908 1 x 12pr QF

Caponiers 1

Counterscarp galleries 2

Haxo casemates none

Moncrieff Pits 8

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 on the roof were removed as armament of salient for works at Portsmouth. In 1886 it was decided *The casemated battery should be treated in the same manner as recommended for Popton Point, the casemates to remain armed being Nos II, IV, VI, VIII and X. In the open battery 2 x 10inch RML should be added and all the 9inch RML removed; the 10inch guns should be mounted for high-angle fire to assist South Hook in the protection of Freshwater bay. The magazines and cartridge stores behind the casemates are unsafe.* 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 next owners are actively seeking a use for it which was to include conversion to flats and retail units. In early 2019 it was reported that the fort was to be restored for use as 'Camp Valour', C.I.C Veteran Transition Centre.

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