

Nodes Point Battery

Commenced	16 August 1901	Armament	
Completed	20 April 1904	1904-1909	2 x 9.2-inch Mk X BL 1 x 6-inch Mk IX BL 1 x 6-inch Mk X BL
Cost	£ 21,654	1909 - 1954	2 x 9.2-inch Mk X BL
Map Reference	SZ 635898	1918-1928	1 x 4.7-inch QF
Position	St Helens Point/Nodes Point; Isle of Wight	1932-1956	2 x 6-inch Mk VII BL
Type	Coast defence battery	Caponiers	None (4 blockhouses)
Ditch	Dry with wire entanglement	Counterscarp galleries	None
Guns	4	Haxo casemates	None
Barrack Accom.	None	Moncrieff Pits	None
Present use	Holiday Park		
History	Coast defence		
Disposal	Sold off for development 1956		
Condition	Drill hall and guardhouse survive		
Access	With permission		
Sources	Nat. Archives WO33, WO78, WO192 CAB7 CAB18		

History and Description

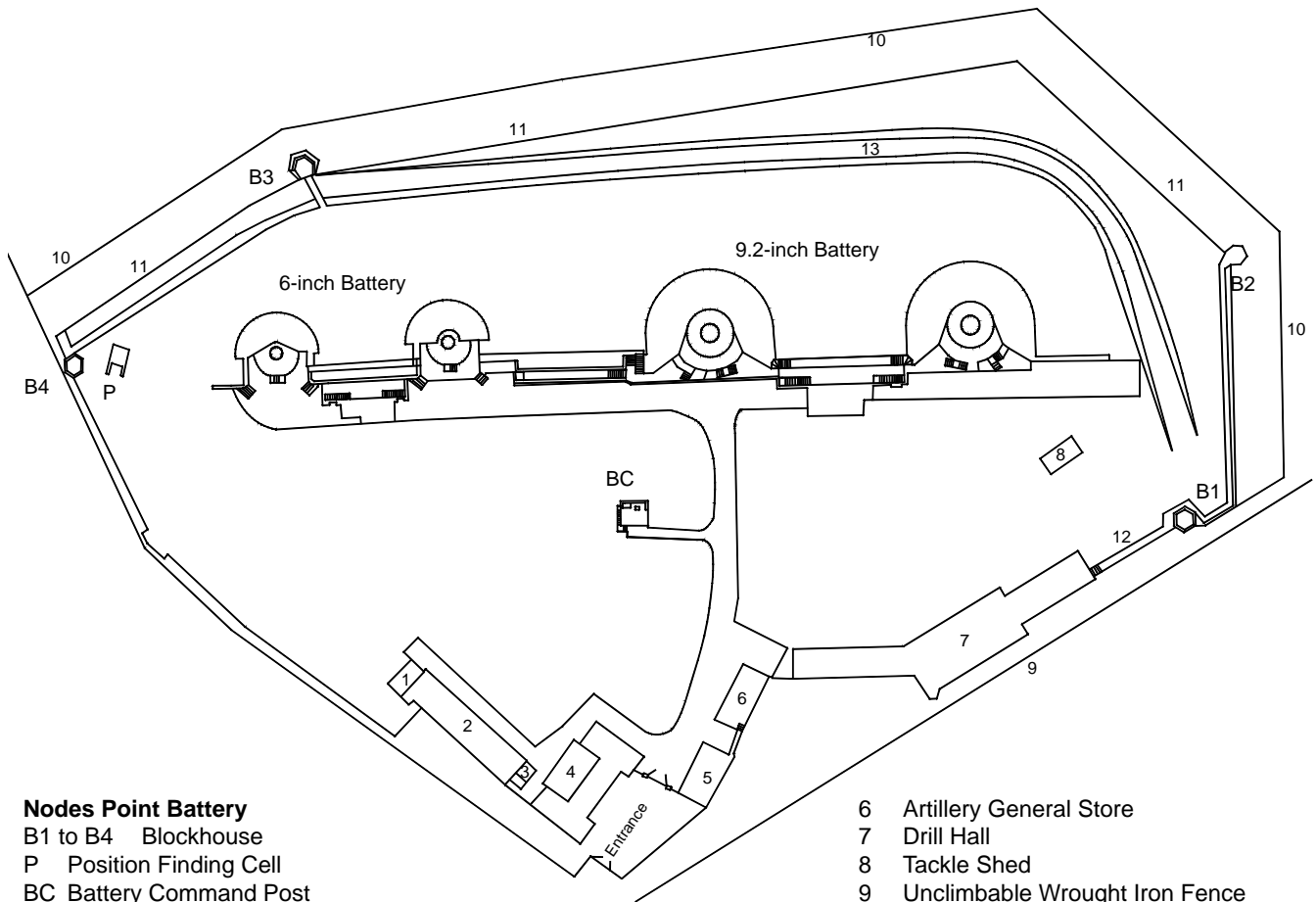
The idea for the battery was contained in the Royal Commission Report of 1860 when it was proposed to build a fort at St Helens Point to prevent a landing between Nettlestone Point and Bembridge; the fort was never built as it was eventually replaced by St Helens Fort. In 1899 the Montgomery Committee recommended that there should be an extra battery of 9.2 inch guns to cover the area off the north-east coast of the island not covered by other guns. Between 1901 and 1904 the Battery was built and mounted two 9.2 inch and two six inch guns. The Owen Report of 1905 decided that only the 9.2 inch guns were necessary, in a counter bombardment role, and that the six inch guns could be removed; they were withdrawn in August 1909. During the First World War the examination anchorage was transferred to St Helens Roads, however it was not until June 1918 that a 4.7 inch QF gun was sent from Southsea Castle as an examination gun and was mounted in the left-hand six inch emplacement; it remained until 1928.

St Helens Roads became the designated examination anchorage after 1928 so an examination battery was required; by September 1932 two six inch Mark VII guns were mounted in the vacant six inch emplacements. The Battery was operational ten days before the outbreak of the Second World War. In 1940 aerial protection mantlets were built for the six inch guns and the 9.2 inch guns received steel covers giving them a turret effect. The Battery was placed into care and maintenance in February 1945.

From 1949 the 6-inch battery was activated for Territorial Army training and practice; at the dissolution of coast artillery in 1956 the guns were scrapped and the site sold off. Two years before the 9.2 inch guns were scrapped on site between July and October.

The battery is now the Nodes Point Holiday Park; the gun emplacements have been either buried (9.2 inch) or demolished (6 inch) but their position is easily recognisable. The guardhouse and drill hall survive, the former is the reception area for the holiday park whilst the latter, considerably altered, is the dining and recreation area. The ferro-concrete wall survives to its full height and virtually its full length; the PF cell is extant and has been converted to residential use, the adjacent blockhouse (No 4) is derelict.

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- B1 to B4 Blockhouse
- P Position Finding Cell
- BC Battery Command Post
- 1 Latrines
- 2 Shelter
- 3 Coal
- 4 Guard House 7 Quarters
- 5 Workshop

- 6 Artillery General Store
- 7 Drill Hall
- 8 Tackle Shed
- 9 Unclimbable Wrought Iron Fence
- 10 High Wire Entanglement
- 11 Steel Pallisade Fence
- 12 Ferro Concrete wall (10 feet high)
- 13 Ditch with Wire Entanglement



The ferro-concrete wall (thanks to Debs at <http://www.fortsandbatteries.co.uk/>)