

Redcliff Battery

<p>Commenced April 1861 Completed September 1863 Cost £ 4,776 Map Reference SZ 638855 Position South Wight, west of Culver Cliff, East of Yaverland Type Coast Defence Battery Ditch Dry Guns 4 (later 3) Barrack Accom. None (3 in a small guard room) Present use Nothing substantial remains</p> <p>History Subject to slippage into the sea</p> <p>Disposal Abandoned Condition Nothing remains Access Site destroyed by land slippage</p> <p>Sources Precis of Correspondence - 1893, Solent Papers No 1891 Armament book</p>	<p>Armament</p> <p>1869 to c1879 4 x 7-inch R.B.L. c1879 to 1892 4 x 64pr. R.M.L.s 1892 to 1897 3 x 64pr. 58cwt. R.M.L.</p> <p>Caponiers 2</p> <p>Counterscarp galleries None</p> <p>Haxo casemates None</p> <p>Moncrieff Pits None</p>
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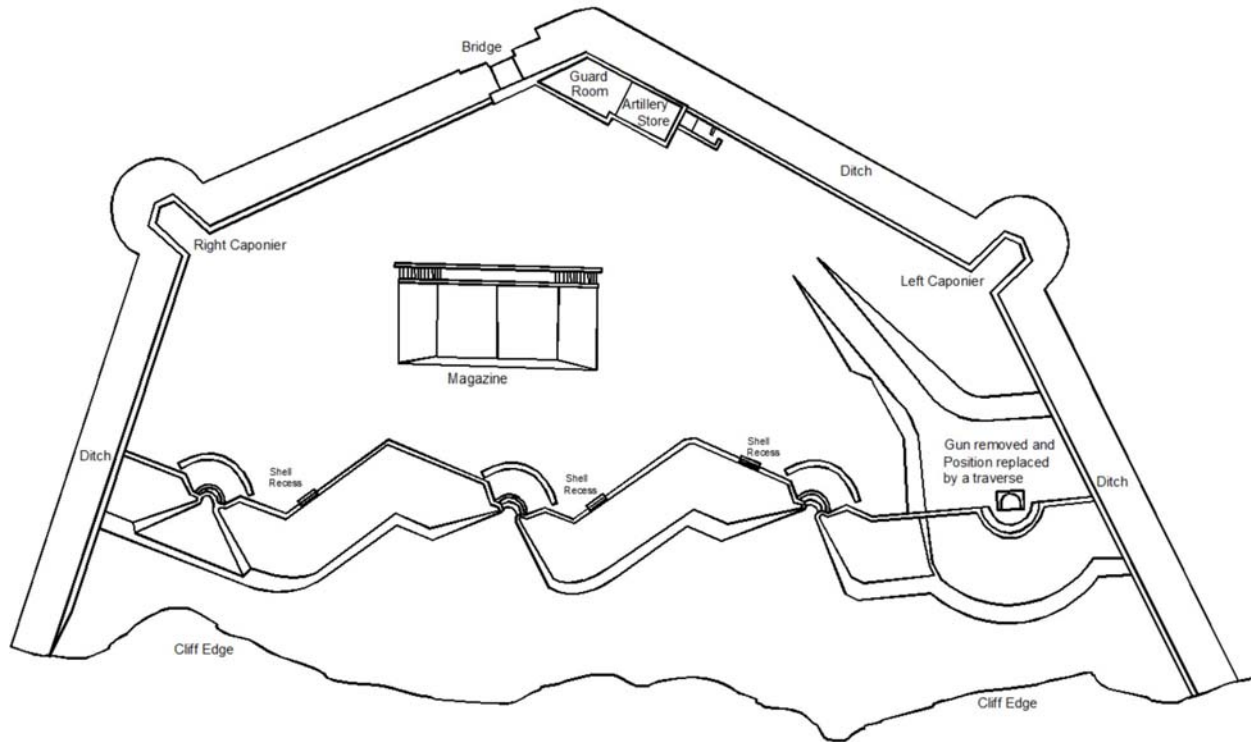
History and Description

This battery was built close to the edge of a cliff to the west of Culver Cliff, about 1,000 yards to the east of Yaverland Battery and 150ft. above the sea. Problems with slippage were evident right from the start. Its original armament was four 7-inch R,B.L. guns. The four guns faced seawards and behind no.2 gun was the main magazine for 190 barrels of powder. Beside the first three guns were shell recesses. A ditch and Carnot wall surrounded the battery and reached to the cliff edge on either side. Two musketry caponiers covered both ditch and the line of the Carnot wall. The entrance to the battery was on the north west side over a drawbridge and immediately inside was a single building which contained guardroom and an artillery store. Its purpose was to assist Yaverland and Sandown Fort in preventing a landing in Sandown Bay. On the left flank part of the cliff began to give way in 1867 and in 1868 it fell into the sea. In 1887 it was decided to remove one 64pr. from the the left flank of the battery, no 4 gun, and to construct a traverse instead to prevent ships from enfilading the battery from the Culver Cliff area. The remaining 64prs. were to be blocked up on 6ft. parapet slides.

By 1891 Redcliff was being slowly eroded by the collapsing cliff and it was decided to abandon it. The landward ditch was filled and all structures demolished.

In 2008 a few vestiges of the concrete gun positions were visible in the collapsing cliff.

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Redcliff Battery : Below: The site in 2008

