

## Fort Wallington

<b>Commenced</b>	1861	<b>Armament</b>	
<b>Completed</b>	1874	<b>1876</b>	Approved 28 x 7-inch RBL; 8 x 64 pr. RML; 6 x rifled Howitzers; 16 x SB flank guns
<b>Cost</b>	£ 100,569	<b>1893</b>	Mounted 10 x 7-inch RBL; 4 x 64 pr. RML; 2 x 40 pr. RBL; 3 x 8-inch RML Howitzers; 1 x 6.3-in Howitzers.
<b>Map Reference</b>	SU 589069		Required to complete 6 x 40 pr. RBL ; 10 x 32 pr. SBBL; 2 x 6.3-inch How.
<b>Position</b>	Portsdown Hill / Northern Approaches	<b>1898</b>	to be added 10 x MG Disarmed 1907
<b>Type</b>	Land Front / Polygonal	<b>Caponiers</b>	2 demi
<b>Ditch</b>	Dry	<b>Counterscarp galleries</b>	1
<b>Guns</b>	17	<b>Haxo casemates</b>	none
<b>Barrack Accom.</b>	172	<b>Moncrieff Pits</b>	4
<b>Present use</b>	Private industrial estate / 80% demolished		
<b>History</b>	Army barracks and training camp		
<b>Disposal</b>	Sold, demolished 1961 - 1962		
<b>Condition</b>	Part redan & gorge wall remain		
<b>Access</b>	Can be viewed from the outside		
<b>Sources</b>	Solent Papers No 3 Garry Mitchell		

### History and Description

Fort Wallington was constructed at the extreme western end of Portsdown Hill on a small hill overlooking Wallington village. Because of its vulnerable position as the hinge between the hill forts and the Gosport western defensive line Wallington had to be designed to repel an attack from all sides. It was to have had a scarp gallery along its entire enceinte but this failed due to the nature of the ground. It was a six sided work and was the smallest of the hill forts. Protected by two double storey caponiers and one counterscarp gallery the ditch was revetted in concrete where the scarp galleries had failed. A single mortar battery for six 13-inch mortars was sited at the North East shoulder. The caponiers and mortar battery were serviced by tunnels through the chalk from the rear barrack block and redan sited in the centre of the gorge. Wallington was the only one of the Portsdown forts to have its magazine separate from the tunnel complex. In this case it was sited to the left of the upper entrance to the fort, under the rampart, halfway along a tunnel that was originally to serve the scarp gallery. Like the other Portsdown Hill forts the entrances were on two levels, each crossing over the gorge ditch by a Guthrie rolling bridge. The fort was upgraded in the 1890s with four Moncrieff pits and the usual 64 pr. RML and 7-inch RBL positions.

During World War Two Wallington served as an annexe to the nearby Victualling Depot. The fort was sold by the Crown in April 1961 to Mr. J. Sullivan for £12,500. He demolished most of the fort, retaining the outer wall of the redan and the guard room, coal store and cells section only. This is all that now remains of the fort, the parade and site being occupied by an industrial estate.

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