

West Blockhouse Battery

Commenced	10 September 1900	Armament	
Completed	13 June 1902	1902-1907	2 x 9.2-inch BL Mark X 3 x 6-inch BL Mark VII
Cost £	29,295	1914-1917	3 x 6-inch BL withdrawn
Map Reference	OS 815035	1917	1 x 9.2-inch BL withdrawn
Position	Above West Blockhouse Point	1922	1 x 6-inch BL mounted
Type	Coast defence battery	1929	1 x 6-inch BL mounted
Ditch		1933	1 x 9.2-inch BL Mark X mounted
Guns	5	1937	2 x 9-inch BL Mark X 2 x 6-inch BL Mark VII
Barrack Accom.		1939	2 x 9.2-inch BL withdrawn
Present use	Vacant and partially buried	1956	Disarmed
History	Coast defence battery	Caponiers	None
Disposal	1956/7	Counterscarp galleries	None
Condition	poor	Haxo casemates	None
Access	With permission of Landmark Trust	Moncrieff Pits	None
Sources	1858 & 1868 Committee Reports, Precis of Correspondence prior to 1893 National Archives.		

History and Description

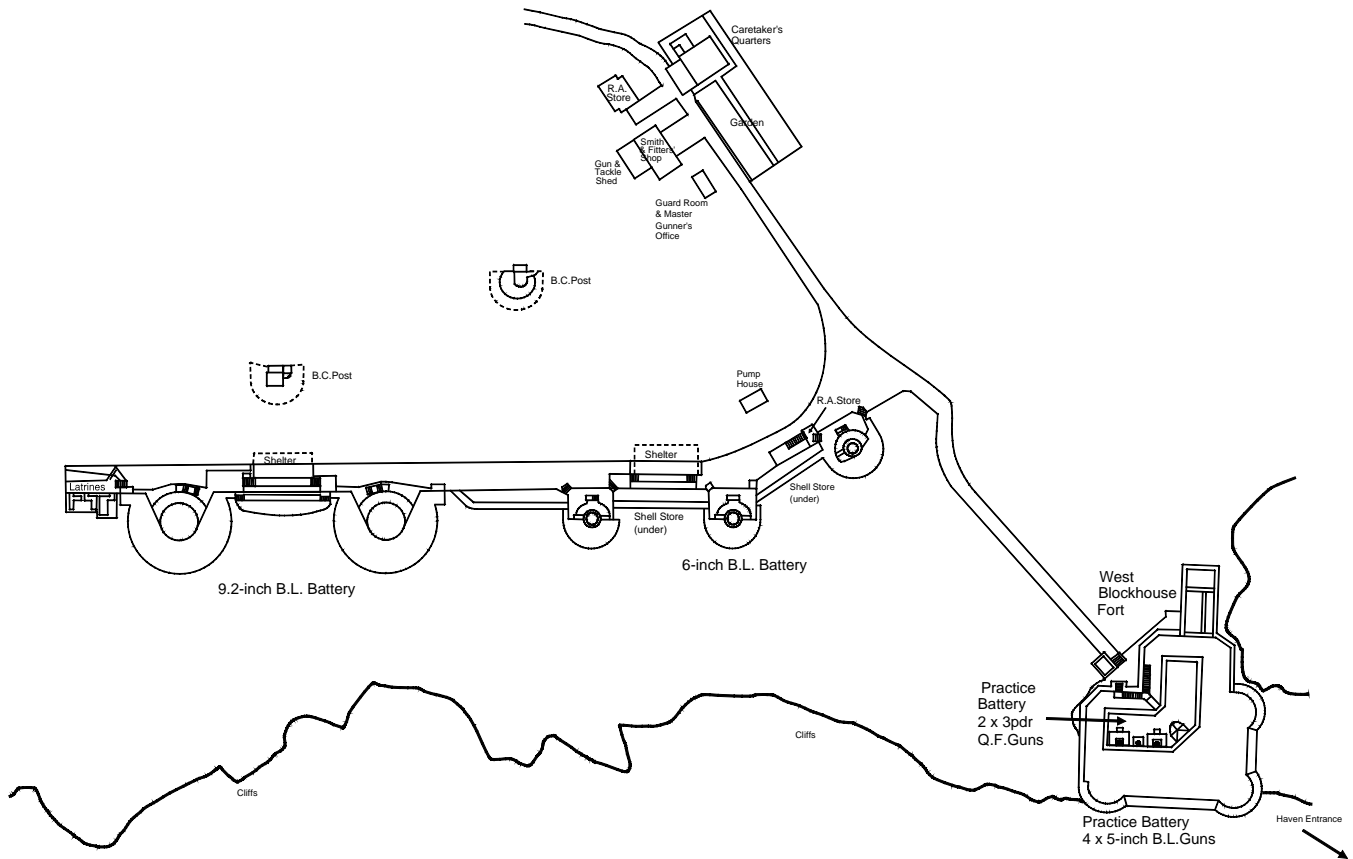
In 1887 it was proposed that a new battery be for 4 x 9inch RML guns be constructed near West Blockhouse Fort for defence of the entrance to the channel, however the Committee decided that: *despite the advantages of the site, it is inadvisable to place heavy guns in so isolated a position which would necessitate a self-defensible work with a considerable garrison.* The battery was not constructed.

The Battery at West Blockhouse was eventually built on the recommendation of the Montgomery Report to command the entrance to the Haven and cross fire with East Blockhouse Battery opposite. The five guns were in position by the time of the Owen Report which declared that the three six inch guns were not required; these guns were not dismantled immediately but remained in place as a practice battery for battle practice. In the First World War the three 6-inch guns were withdrawn at an unspecified date as was a 9.2-inch gun in 1917.

At a time after the war two 6-inch guns, probably from South Hook Fort, were mounted in the 6-inch battery followed by a 9.2-inch gun in 1933. An armament return of 1937 shows the 6-inch battery as the examination one and the 9.2-inch battery as mounted in reserve; just prior to the outbreak of World War II the 9.2-inch guns were withdrawn. The 6-inch guns probably remained in position until the dissolution of coast artillery in 1956 when they too were withdrawn.

The battery lies some 150 yards to the west of West Blockhouse Fort and at a higher level with a good view seawards and of the entrance to the Haven. The positions for the five guns can easily be made out with their concrete aprons, the 9.2 inch positions have been partially filled in as has one of the 6-inch positions. The underground parts containing the shelters magazines and stores have been buried. The two BC Posts appear to have been buried and are covered in vegetation. The hutted camp and other buildings that lay behind the battery have all been removed. A practice PF cell and a spigot mortar position survive at the site.

West Blockhouse Battery



West Blockhouse Battery 6-inch BL position

