

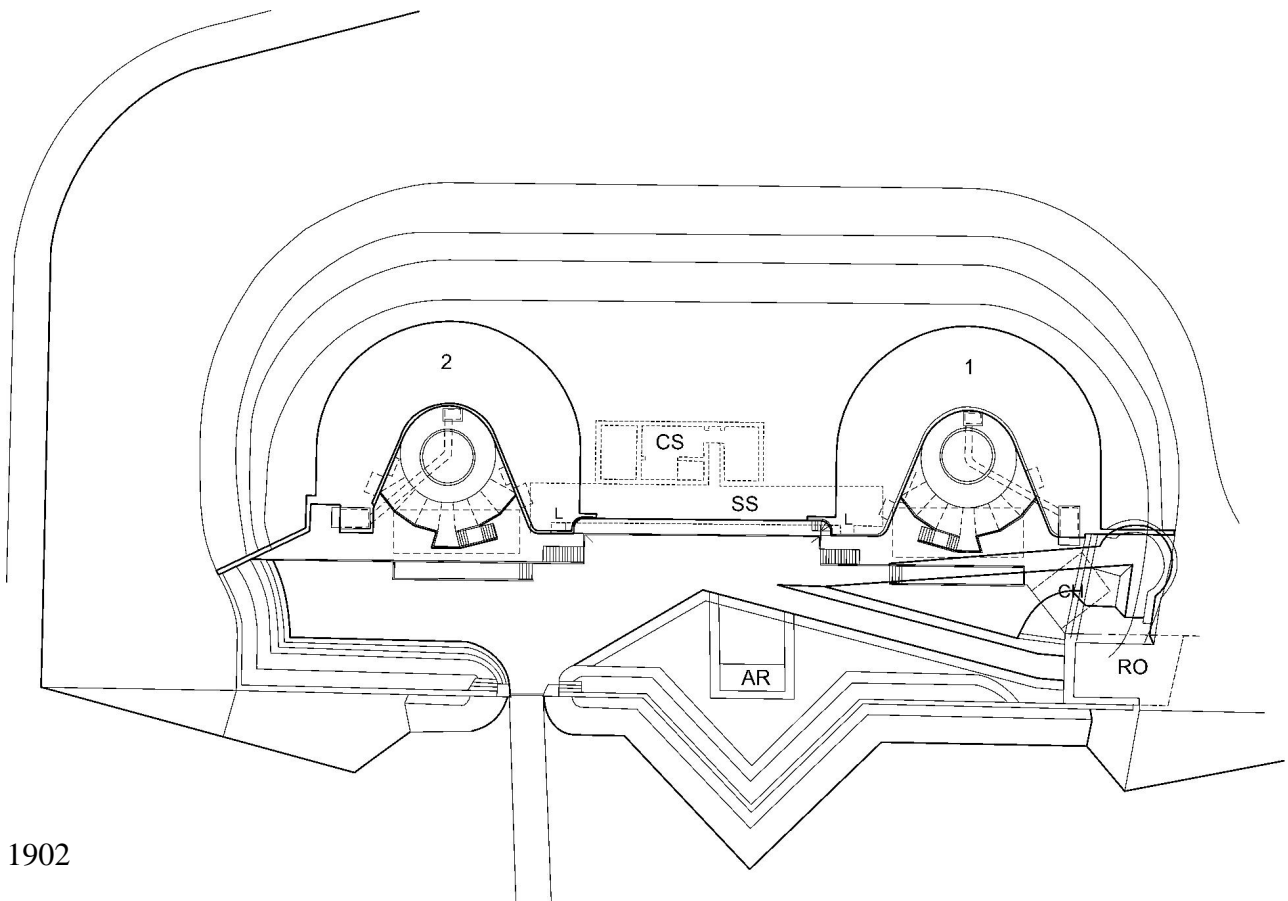
## Browndown Battery

<b>Commenced</b>	1888	<b>Armament</b>	
<b>Completed</b>	1889	<b>1888 -1901</b>	2 x 12.5-inch 38ton RML
<b>Cost</b>	£ 4,237	<b>1902</b>	1 x Maxim M.G. on parapet mounting
<b>Map Reference</b>	SZ 582989	<b>1904 -1906</b>	2 x 9.2-inch BL MkX on Barbette V mountings
<b>Position</b>	Gosport, Browndown Point, West end of Stokes Bay		1 x Maxim M.G.
<b>Type</b>	Sea Battery	<b>1907</b>	disarmed
<b>Ditch</b>	Dry, to seaward only	<b>Caponiers</b>	None
<b>Guns</b>	2	<b>Counterscarp galleries</b>	None
<b>Barrack Accom.</b>	2 officers	<b>Haxo casemates</b>	None
<b>Present use</b>	Under Military control (Browndown Camp)	<b>Moncrieff Pits</b>	None
<b>History</b>	Built on the site of one of two earlier batteries. Remodelled 1902.		
<b>Disposal Condition</b>	Fair condition.		
<b>Access</b>	By arrangement with Browndown Camp		
<b>Sources</b>	Stokes Bay Defences - D.Moore		

### History and Description

In 1852 two primitive batteries were built on Browndown Point at Stokes Bay. They consisted of prepared positions for movable guns behind earth parapets. According to an armament list of 1860 Browndown Battery East had positions for 3 x 68pr of 112 cwt. and 7 x 8-inch of 65 cwt. whilst Browndown Battery West had positions for 3 x 68pr. and 8 x 8-inch. Both batteries were heavily criticised by James Fergusson who proposed a system of moats and ramparts to defend Stokes Bay. As a result Major Jervois designed an alternative Stokes Bay Moat defence scheme. In 1888 the need for two heavy guns to protect the deep water anchorage off Browndown Point resulted in the demolition of Browndown Battery East and the rebuilding of the west one. It was extensively remodelled to mount two 12.5-inch 38 ton RMLs on the terreplein in open barbette positions. These were paid for at a cost of £6,000 under the Imperial Defence Loan. Underneath and between were the usual shell and cartridge stores with lifts to the gun positions. The rear of the battery was closed by a loopholed brick wall, the centre of which projected northwards (landwards) to form a redan. Shortly after completion a small barrack room for two officers and servants was constructed against the gorge wall. Soldiers to man the guns were quartered in nearby Fort Gomer. The guns were still in position in 1898 when the Montgomery Committee proposed to replace them with two 9.2-inch BL guns acting as a gun group with two 6-inch guns on nearby Stokes Bay No.2 battery. The new battery received its armament by 1904 but was declared superfluous by the Owen Committee in 1905. It is still within the perimeter of Browndown army training camp and until the 1990s was looked after by a volunteer workforce of army cadets. Browndown Battery has listed building status.

# Browdown Battery



1902

