

Cliff End Battery

Commenced	1862	Armament	
Completed	1868	1886 - 1893	6 x 12.5-inch, 3 x 10-inch R.M.L.
Cost	£ 32714	1899 Mounted	6 x 12.5-inch, 3 x 10-inch R.M.L.
Map Reference	SZ 333890	Proposed	4 x 6-inch B.L. VII, 4 x 4.7-inch Q.F.
Position	Isle of Wight / West	1901	4 x 6-inch B.L. VII, 4 x 4.7-inch Q.F.
Type	Coast Battery	1903	4 x 6-inch B.L. VII on CP II, 6 x 4.7-inch Q.F. IIIB on QFIII mountings.
Ditch	None	1907	4 x 6-inch B.L. VII, 4 x 4.7-inch Q.F.
Guns	12	1910	4 x 6-inch B.L. VII, 6 x 4.7-inch Q.F.
Barrack Accom.	0	1929	2 x 6-inch B.L. 2 x 4.7-inch
Present use	Site used for holiday bungalows	1939	3-inch AA added
History	Coast Defence, Disarmed 1951	1944	3-inch replaced by 40mm Bofors
Disposal	1957	Caponiers	Two (for musketry)-
Condition	4.7-inch emplacements remain	Counterscarp galleries	None
Access	Possible	Haxo casemates	None
Sources	Precis of Correspondence - 1893, Solent Papers No 2, 1891 Armament book	Moncrieff Pits	None

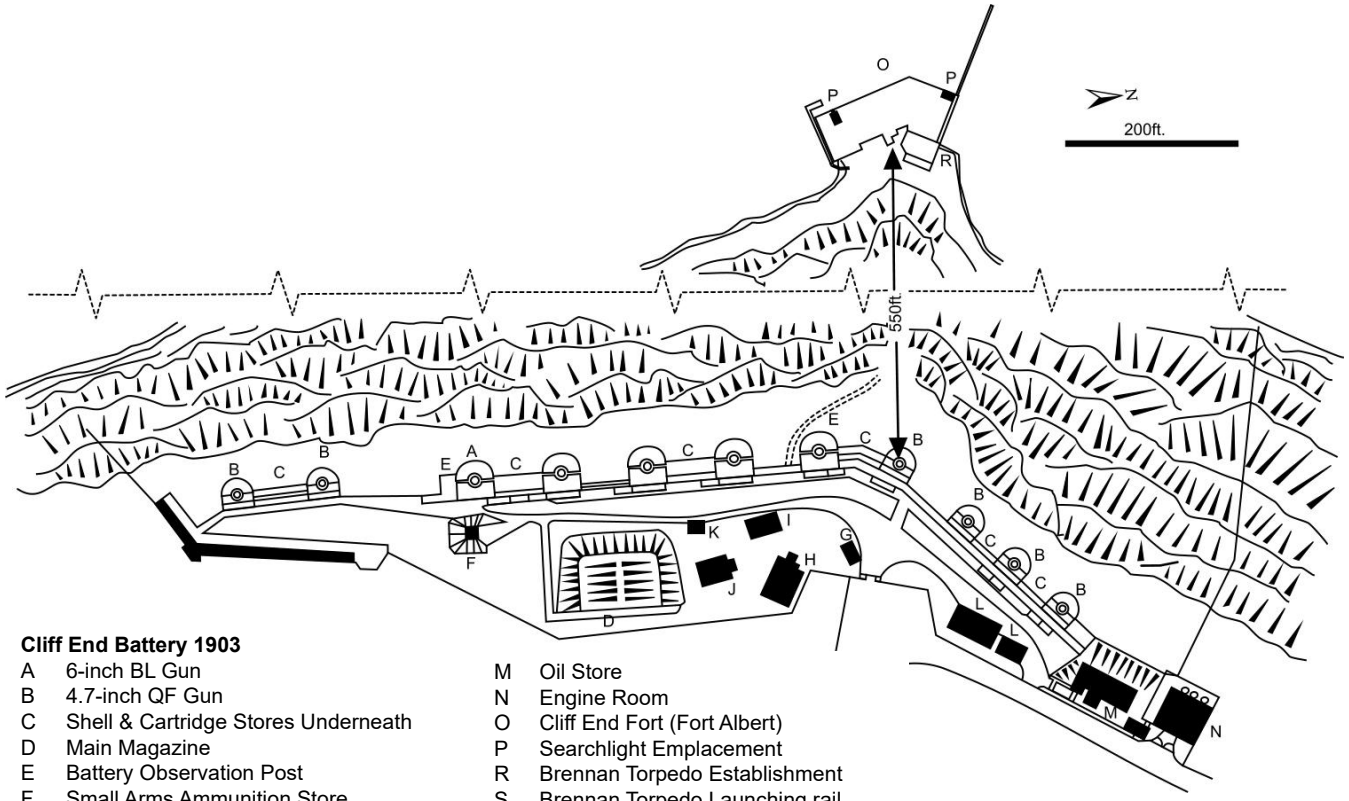
History and Description

As a result of the recommendations of the Royal Commission of 1859 the battery was constructed on the cliffs overlooking Fort Albert. It was designed to protect the ship canal between Hurst Castle and Cliff End it was original proposals were for a twenty-gun barbette battery, but the cliff proved to be unstable. No guns were mounted until 1877. The first armament was supposed to be 9-inch R.M.L. guns but more powerful 10 and 12.5-inch guns were fitted instead. In 1880 it was reported that the battery was complete and armed but it would be desirable to strengthen it with slight gorge defences. These consisted of a loopholed brick wall with caponiers at each end. A bombproof magazine was constructed behind the 12.5-inch gun positions. An old guardhouse of a former battery remained behind the 10-inch gun positions until about 1896. A tunnel through the ramparts gave access to Fort Albert below the cliffs.

In 1886 a bombproof engine room and submarine mining test rooms were added into the northern flank and five position finding cells were built to the north. In 1889 some experiments were carried out at the battery with searchlights, a 6pr. QF gun and machine guns. In 1898 a searchlight emplacement was built each side of the battery. In 1899 it was proposed to remove the R.M.L. guns and to fit four 6-inch B.L. Mark VII guns and four 4.7-inch Q.F. guns. These were in place by 1901. Another two 4.7-inch guns were added by 1903. In 1905 the Owen Committee report recommended the retention of the 6-inch guns for use against unarmoured vessels approaching through the western entrance at night. The 4.7-inch QF guns were considered suitable for use against torpedo craft.

By 1907 the number of 4.7-inch guns was reduced to four again. By 1910 it was back to six once more. In 1917 a 6pr. (Naval) was temporarily mounted for examination service duties. The battery received a series of guns through the ensuing years including experimental Mark XXI 6-inch B.L.s. The site was put into care and maintenance after WWII and the remaining 6-inch guns were transferred to Bouldnor Battery in 1951. The site was released in 1957 and was eventually sold for a bungalow development, which is its present use. Only the eastern 4.7-inch emplacements now remain, together with two of the 4.7-inch gun aprons on the extreme west end of the battery.

Cliff End Battery



Cliff End Battery 1903

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| A 6-inch BL Gun | M Oil Store |
| B 4.7-inch QF Gun | N Engine Room |
| C Shell & Cartridge Stores Underneath | O Cliff End Fort (Fort Albert) |
| D Main Magazine | P Searchlight Emplacement |
| E Battery Observation Post | R Brennan Torpedo Establishment |
| F Small Arms Ammunition Store | S Brennan Torpedo Launching rail |
| G Guard House | |
| H Barracks | |
| I RA Store | |
| J Workshop | |
| K Fire Station | |
| L Officers' Quarters | |

