

Fort Grange

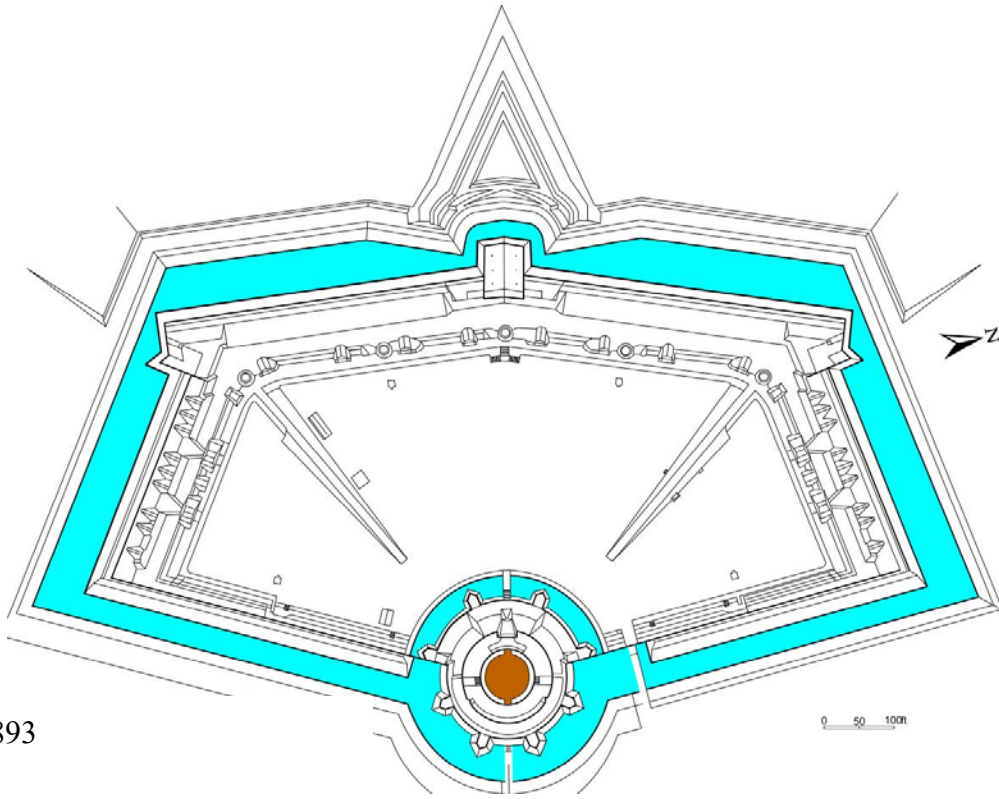
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|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Commenced | 31/08/1858 | Armament | |
| Completed | 20/01/1863 | | 53 guns on ramparts and in casemates, 30 guns keep and caponiers |
| Cost | £ 163045 | 1893 Approved | 8 x 7-inch RBL 9 x 64 pr RML |
| Map Reference | SU 591011 | | 2 x .45 MG |
| Position | Western Flank Gosport Advanced Lines | 1893 Mounted | 9 x 64 pr. RML 16 x 7-inch RBL |
| Type | Land Front Polygonal | | |
| Ditch | Wet | Caponiers | Two demi one full |
| Guns | 73 | Counterscarp galleries | None |
| Barrack Accom. | 300 men | Haxo casemates | Four (2 x double) + one on keep |
| Present use | Retained by Navy under D.O.E / H.M.S. Sultan | Moncrieff Pits | None |
| History | Army Barracks, R.A.F. Fleet Air Arm and Navy | | |
| Disposal Condition | Derelict in parts/much altered | | |
| Access | None. Can be viewed from Military Road | | |
| Sources | Solent Papers No 6 | | |

History and Description

One of a line of five forts to defend the western approaches to Portsmouth Harbour. It was designed, together with its sister forts, Brockhurst and Rowner, by William Crossman. It is an early example of the polygonal fort and features a circular keep of last resort at its gorge. Its main west rampart is built over a series of casemated barrack rooms. The central parade is divided into three sections by two long earth ramps for access to the terreplein. The shoulders of the fort house the main magazines whilst the north and south flanks provide accommodation for officers and NCOs as well as gun casemates for flank defence. The terrepleins of the flanks have two Haxo casemates each.

Grange served as an army barracks and was the H.Q. of the Gosport Sub District Royal Artillery. In 1914 the Royal Flying Corps was stationed at the fort and at nearby Grange airfield. It then became part of RAF Station Gosport in 1918. The RAF used the fort in the Second World War, it served as the headquarters for 7 Group Coastal Command from 1940 to 1945 and was known as 'Aeronautics Gosport'. It was incorporated into HMS Siskin in 1946 as a Naval Air Station, and was the home of first British Helicopter Squadron. It became part of HMS Sultan in 1956. All of the earth has been removed from the ramparts and the moat filled. Some casemates have been altered and two of the keep's caponiers have been removed. The fort is still owned and occupied by the Royal Navy as part of H.M.S. Sultan. The keep is occupied by the Sultan Volunteer Cadet Corps and the layout of many of its rooms have been altered.

Fort Grange



Top plan 1893

