

Fort Rowner

Commenced	Summer 1859
Completed	20/01/1862
Cost	£ 110,388
Map Reference	SU 594011
Position	Western Flank Gosport Advanced Lines
Type	Land Front Polygonal
Ditch	Wet
Guns	73
Barrack Accom.	300 men
Present use	Within navy establishment H.M.S. Sultan / fishing club
History	Army Barracks R.A.F. and Navy
Disposal	Soon?
Condition	Very over grown mostly derelict
Access	None. Can be viewed from Military Road
Sources	Solent Papers No 6

Armament

53 guns on ramparts and in casemates, 30 guns keep and caponiers

1893 Approved

8 x 7-inch RBL 11 x 64 pr RML 2 x .45 MG

1893 Mounted

11 x 64 pr. RML 15 x 7-inch RBL

Caponiers

Two demi
one full

Counterscarp galleries

None

Haxo casemates

Four (2 x doubles) +
one on keep

Moncrieff Pits

None

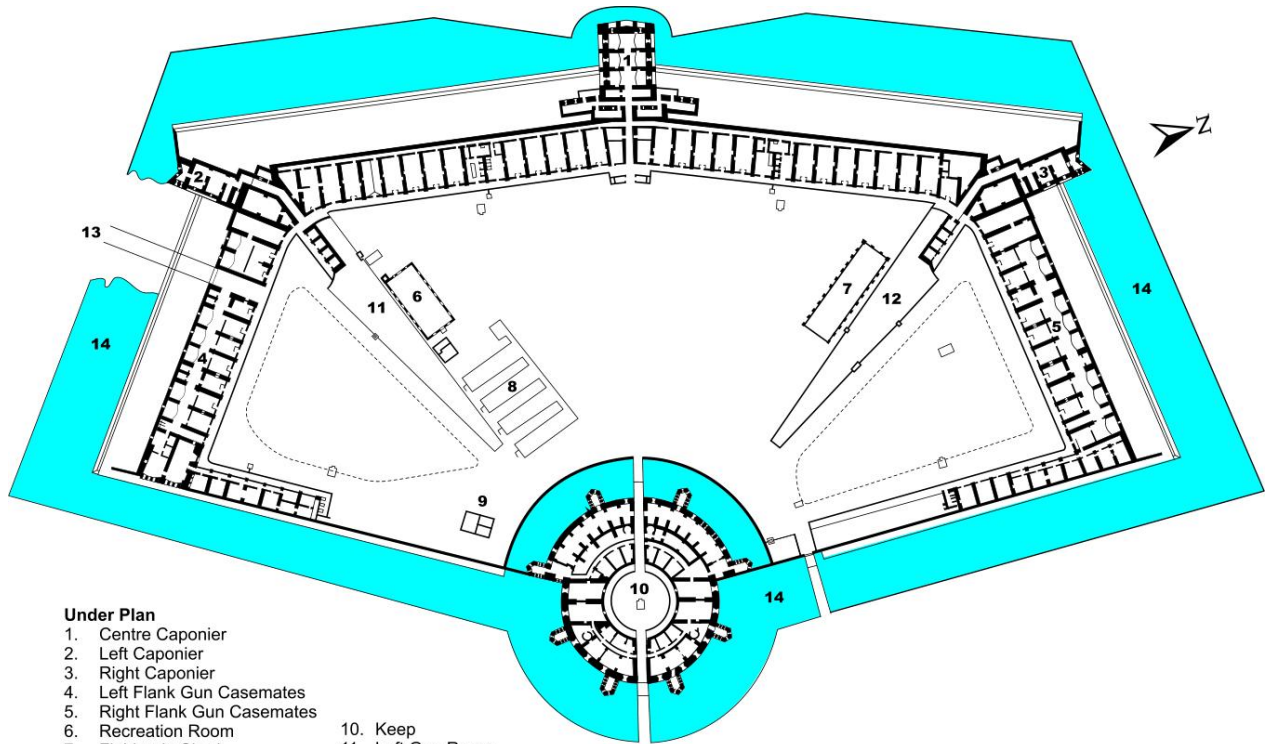
History and Description

One of a line of five forts to defend the western approaches to Portsmouth Harbour. It was designed, together with its sister forts, Grange and Brockhurst, 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.

Rowner served much of its life as an army barracks and was used to prepare troops for the Boer War. It was the H.Q. for the Auxiliary Artillery, Southern Division (Militia and Volunteers) as well as the Depot for that Division. It was used by the RAF during the Second World War. It was occupied until 1945 by 3502 Servicing Unit. It then became part of HMS Siskin in 1946 and HMS Sultan in 1956. It served for a period as a 'Degaussing Establishment' and as offices for various MOD departments. In 1991 the Degaussing Establishment moved and the fort became redundant. Post World War Two part of the southern section of the moat was infilled and a new entrance cut through the ramparts. to allow access from HMS Sultan

The fort is now largely unused although the Navy maintain a presence and the HMS Sultan Naval fishing club use its moats. The keep and flanking casemates are largely derelict. In 1994 work began to clear the ramparts of undergrowth and trees. The future of the fort is uncertain.

Fort Rowner



Under Plan

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Centre Caponier | 10. Keep |
| 2. Left Caponier | 11. Left Gun Ramp |
| 3. Right Caponier | 12. Right Gun Ramp |
| 4. Left Flank Gun Casemates | 13. New Entrance (post 1945) |
| 5. Right Flank Gun Casemates | 14. Wet Ditch |
| 6. Recreation Room | |
| 7. Field train Shed | |
| 8. Hutments (WW2) | |
| 9. Sling Wagon Shed & Bread and Meat Stores | |

