

Fort Wallington

Commenced	1861	Armament	
Completed	1874	1876	Approved 28 x 7-inch RBL; 8 x 64 pr. RML; 6 x rifled Howitzers; 16 x SB flank guns
Cost	£ 100,569	1893	Mounted 10 x 7-inch RBL; 4 x 64 pr. RML; 2 x 40 pr. RBL; 3 x 8-inch RML Howitzers; 1 x 6.3-in Howitzers.
Map Reference	SU 589069		Required to complete 6 x 40 pr. RBL ; 10 x 32 pr. SBBL; 2 x 6.3-inch How.
Position	Portsmouth Hill / Northern Approaches	1898	to be added 10 x MG Disarmed 1907
Type	Land Front / Polygonal	Caponiers	2 demi
Ditch	Dry	Counterscarp galleries	1
Guns	17	Haxo casemates	none
Barrack Accom.	172	Moncrieff Pits	4
Present use	Private industrial estate / 80% demolished		
History	Army barracks and training camp		
Disposal Condition	Sold, demolished 1961 - 1962		
Access	Part redan & gorge wall remain		
	Can be viewed from the outside		
Sources	Solent Papers No 3 Garry Mitchell		

History and Description

Fort Wallington was constructed at the extreme western end of Portsdown Hill on a small hill overlooking Wallington village. Because of its vulnerable position as the hinge between the hill forts and the Gosport western defensive line Wallington had to be designed to repel an attack from all sides. It was to have had a scarp gallery along its entire enceinte but this failed due to the nature of the ground. It was a six sided work and was the smallest of the hill forts. Protected by two double storey caponiers and one counterscarp gallery the ditch was revetted in concrete where the scarp galleries had failed. A single mortar battery for six 13-inch mortars was sited at the North East shoulder. The caponiers and mortar battery were serviced by tunnels through the chalk from the rear barrack block and redan sited in the centre of the gorge. Wallington was the only one of the Portsdown forts to have its magazine separate from the tunnel complex. In this case it was sited to the left of the upper entrance to the fort, under the rampart, halfway along a tunnel that was originally to serve the scarp gallery. Like the other Portsdown Hill forts the entrances were on two levels, each crossing over the gorge ditch by a Guthrie rolling bridge. The fort was upgraded in the 1890s with four Moncrieff pits and the usual 64 pr. RML and 7-inch RBL positions.

During World War Two Wallington served as an annexe to the nearby Victualling Depot. The fort was sold by the Crown in April 1961 to Mr. J. Sullivan for £12,500. He demolished most of the fort, retaining the outer wall of the redan and the guard room, coal store and cells section only. This is all that now remains of the fort, the parade and site being occupied by an industrial estate.

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