

New Isle of Grain Battery

Commenced 14th March 1900
Completed 21st June 1901
Cost £ 7,427
Map Reference TQ 890764
Position 200 yards west of Wing Battery

Type Sea Defence Barbette battery
Ditch None
Guns 3 planned then 6
Barrack Accom. 2 Shelters 24 men each, 4Offs 4NCOs
Present use Filled in

Armament

1905
 4 x 6-inch B.L. Mk VII
1918
 3 x 6-inch B.L. Mk VII
1935-6
 Disarmed

History Coast Defence

Disposal Abandoned

Condition Nothing left

Access open access to site

Sources Gulvin, 'Chatham's Concrete Ring' R. Crowdy,
 'Medway's Island Forts' P. MacDougall 'Victorian
 Forts of the Medway' RCHME survey report

History and Description

In a report dated 1888 it is stated that the 3 x 12.5-inch guns at Garrison Point Fort are to be transferred to a new battery to be built between Grain Fort and Grain Battery, subsequently Grain Dummy Battery. This presumably was to cover the minefield between the two forts. It is doubtful if this new battery was ever commissioned in this form, although preparatory building and excavation work may have taken place. Again in a report of 1891 it is proposed that the new Isle of Grain site should be equipped with six 10-inch R.M.L. (70 degree mountings). It is very unlikely that this was done but it does appear to indicate that some site preparation had taken place.

By 1905 four 6-inch B.L. Mk7 guns were approved for the site and PRO sources indicate that the battery was constructed between 1900 and 1901 at a cost of £7,427. Built on flat ground facing south-west, it consisted of an earthen mound with the four gun emplacements in a line on the terreplein. The guns were arranged in pairs with linked by a continuous covered way at terreplein level. Each pair of guns was supplied with ammunition from magazines beneath the mound by lifts. A ditch with unclimbable fence protected the battery at the front and ends. The fence continued around the rear. A service road entered the site from the north and ran alongside the rear of the emplacements. Two war shelters for 24 men each were provided behind the gun emplacements. To the east of the service road were ancillary buildings consisting of a latrine block, a cookhouse and ablution room and a combined BC post and DRF telephone room. Although probably still in commission at the end of WWI it was disarmed by 1935-6. The magazines and gun emplacements were filled with earth between 1961 and 1966. All buildings were removed and little remains on the site today.

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