

## Fort Hubberstone (Battery)

<b>Commenced</b>	1860
<b>Completed</b>	1863
<b>Cost</b>	£ 55,000
<b>Map Reference</b>	SM 890 054
<b>Position</b>	
<b>Type</b>	Coast Defence Battery
<b>Ditch</b>	Dry
<b>Guns</b>	28 - 32
<b>Barrack Accom.</b>	
<b>Present use</b>	Private owner
<b>History</b>	British Army Camp and US Seabees base
<b>Disposal</b>	Sold 1932
<b>Condition</b>	Poor. Scheduled
<b>Access</b>	Public access proposed
<b>Sources</b>	1858 & 1868 Committee Reports, Precis of Correspondence prior to 1893 National Archives. FSG conference papers 1997

### Armament

<b>1870</b>	Mounted 11 x 9-inch RML
<b>1885</b>	Mounted 3 x 7inch RML Moncrieff
<b>1886</b>	
Casemate Battery	9 x 9-inch RML
Moncrieff battery	Nil
Open Battery	1 x 10-inch RML 5 x 9-inch RML
<b>1893</b>	Approved 3 x 10inch RML 5 x 9inch RML Mounted 14 x 9inch RML
<b>1898</b>	Mounted 1 x 10-inch RML 8 x 9-inch RML Proposed 3 x 6-inch BL VII
<b>1908</b>	1 x 12pr QF
<b>Caponiers</b>	1
<b>Counterscarp galleries</b>	2
<b>Haxo casemates</b>	none
<b>Moncrieff Pits</b>	8

### History and description

Fort Hubberstone was approved by the Royal Commission of 1860 as part of the defences of Milford Haven. It was completed in that year as a nine gun installation. Work then began on the casemated battery, this being completed in 1863. as an eleven gun battery with a further eight guns on the terreplein and nine more in an open east flank battery. At the top of the site is a defensible barrack, approximately semi-circular with a high gorge wall. From the right hand corner of the barrack a sunken way runs around the terreplein down to the casemates. The ditch in front of the barrack is protected by caponiers and a counterscarp gallery, the entrance to the work being over a drawbridge.

In August 1868 plans were approved for the alteration of the work to replace eight of the guns on the terreplein with eight guns in Moncrieff pits. Despite the ridiculous application of this type of gun in such a position the work was completed by 1872. The main gun casemates were armed with eleven 12-ton RML guns by 1872. By 1881 the open battery was re-armed with 10-inch RML guns and the fort was complete. In 1884 the infantry garrison was removed. In 1885 the three remaining Moncrieff guns on the roof were removed as armament of salient for works at Portsmouth. In 1886 it was decided *The casemated battery should be treated in the same manner as recommended for Popton Point, the casemates to remain armed being Nos II, IV, VI, VIII and X. In the open battery 2 x 10inch RML should be added and all the 9inch RML removed; the 10inch guns should be mounted for high-angle fire to assist South Hook in the protection of Freshwater bay. The magazines and cartridge stores behind the casemates are unsafe.* In 1908 its sole armament was one 12pr. QF gun in a practice battery. It was never upgraded with modern weapons and shortly after World War One it was abandoned.

It was sold in 1932. In 1939-45 it was used as a communal air-raid shelter, British Army camp and US Seabees base. From then on it deteriorated to the sorry state in which it can be found today although the new owners in 1977 sought planning permission to restore it and find a new use. The next owners are actively seeking a use for it which was to include conversion to flats and retail units. In early 2019 it was reported that the fort was to be restored for use as 'Camp Valour', C.I.C Veteran Transition Centre. In September 2020 the fort was purchased from the Port of Milford Haven by Pembroke Dock town councillor Guy Anderson who plans to open it to the public as a 'Living Ruin'.

# Fort Hubberstone

