

Redcliff Battery

Commenced	April 1861	Armament	
Completed	September 1863	1869 to c1879	4 x 7-inch R.B.L.
Cost	£ 4,776	c1879 to 1892	4 x 64pr. R.M.L.s
Map Reference	SZ 638855	1892 to 1897	3 x 64pr. 58cwt. R.M.L.
Position	South Wight, west of Culver Cliff, East of Yaverland		
Type	Coast Defence Battery		
Ditch	Dry		
Guns	4 (later 3)		
Barrack Accom.	None (3 in a small guard room)		
Present use	Nothing substantial remains		
History	Subject to slippage into the sea	Caponiers	2
Disposal	Abandoned	Counterscarp galleries	None
Condition	Nothing remains	Haxo casemates	None
Access	Site destroyed by land slippage	Moncrieff Pits	None
Sources	Precis of Correspondence - 1893, Solent Papers No 1891 Armament book		

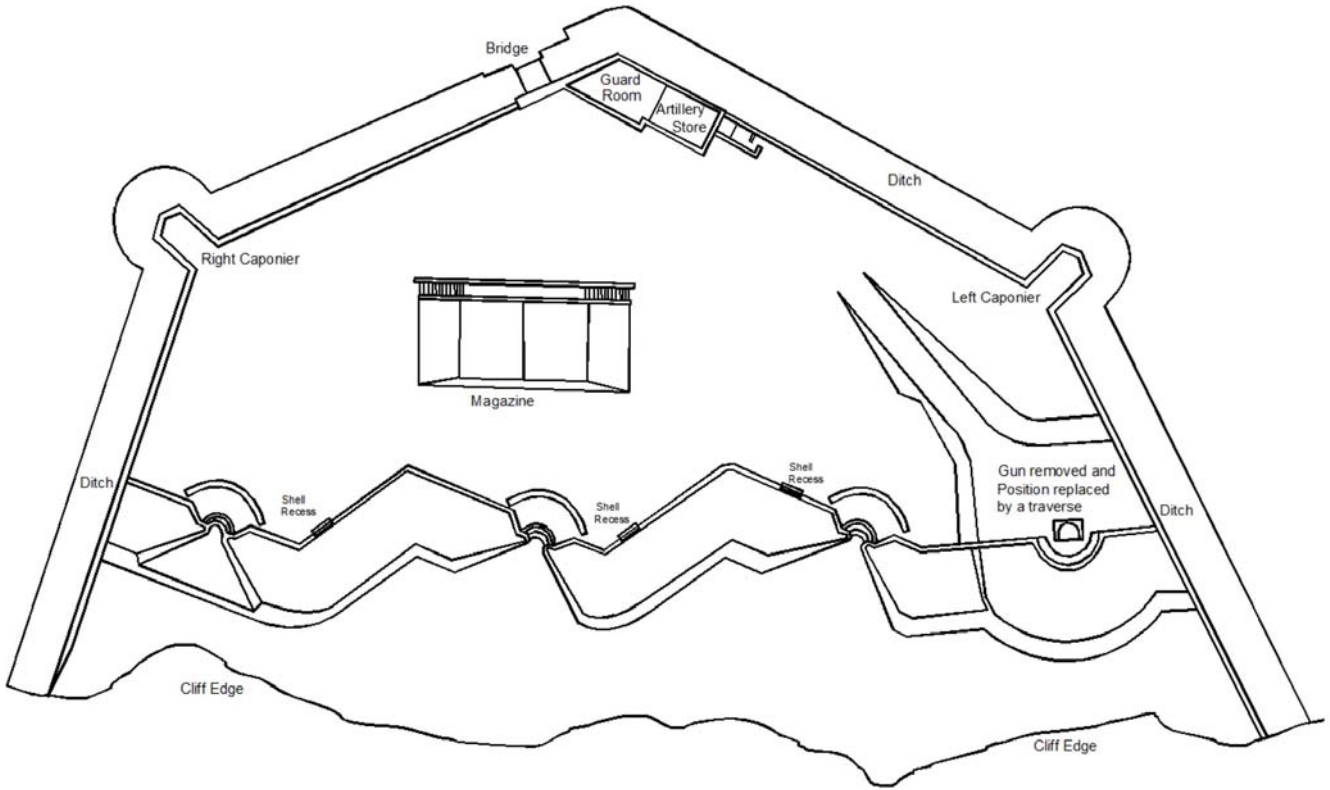
History and Description

This battery was built close to the edge of a cliff to the west of Culver Cliff, about 1,000 yards to the east of Yaverland Battery and 150ft. above the sea. Problems with slippage were evident right from the start. In a question to Paliamen in 1860 it was mentioned '*The only part of the island where an enemy could land, at the east end, is Sandown Bay, and a fort called Redcliff is being built there. The site is said to be an overhanging precipice, and the foundation very dangerous. The report is that the guns of the fort will be utterly unable to sweep the beach so as to prevent an opposing force from landing.*' Its original armament was four 7-inch R,B.L. guns. The four guns faced seawards and behind no.2 gun was the main magazine for 190 barrels of powder. Beside the first three guns were shell recesses. A ditch and Carnot wall surrounded the battery and reached to the cliff edge on either side. Two musketry caponiers covered both ditch and the line of the Carnot wall. The entrance to the battery was on the north west side over a drawbridge and immediately inside was a single building which contained guardroom and an artillery store. Its purpose was to assist Yaverland and Sandown Fort in preventing a landing in Sandown Bay. On the left flank part of the cliff began to give way in 1867 and in 1868 it fell into the sea. In 1887 it was decided to remove one 64pr. from the the left flank of the battery, no 4 gun, and to construct a traverse instead to prevent ships from enfilading the battery from the Culver Cliff area. The remaining 64prs. were to be blocked up on 6ft. parapet slides.

By 1891 Redcliff was being slowly eroded by the collapsing cliff and it was decided to abandon it. The landward ditch was filled and all structures demolished.

In 2008 a few vestiges of the concrete gun positions were visible in the collapsing cliff.

Redcliff Battery



Redcliff Battery : Below: The site in 2008

