

Verne Quarry High Angle Battery

<p>Commenced 1890? Completed 1892 Cost £ Map Reference SY 694732 Position Verne Quarry, South of The Verne</p> <p>Type High Angle Coast Defence Battery Ditch None Guns built for 8 Barrack Accom. None Present use Open site</p> <p>History Coast Defence</p> <p>Disposal Abandoned 1907 Condition Fair Access Open access all year round</p> <p>Sources FSG Fort supplement Vol. 9 1981</p>	<p>Armament</p> <p>1892 6 x 9-inch RML High Angle mounts</p> <p>1898 4 x 9-inch RML High Angle mounts</p> <p>Caponiers None</p> <p>Counterscarp galleries None</p> <p>Haxo casemates None</p> <p>Moncrieff Pits None</p>
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History and Description

Verne Quarry Battery was constructed to mount six 9-inch RML guns on High Angle mounts (70 degrees) to fire heavy projectiles down onto the decks of ships attacking the harbour of Portland and could engage moving targets to a range of ten thousand yards. The guns could traverse through 360 degrees and were directed by Position Finding Cells on either side, two at Priory Corner on West Cliff and four on East Cliff. Those on East Cliff still survive as empty roofless shells. The ammunition was stored in two magazines, one at each end of the battery, feeding the guns by a rail, delivering the shells at muzzle height. A date above one of the magazines gives the completion as 1892 whilst other magazines give different dates, suggesting that the battery was completed in stages. Between the magazines were bombproof troop shelters and a laboratory. Two store buildings were built to the rear. Pits for two more guns were added on the flanks sometime after 1898 but these were never fitted, instead they were used for observation points. Plans in the PRO Kew indicate that the Northern one was later converted for use as an Officers' latrine whilst the Southern one became a store. The H.A. guns were still in use in 1906 when Major Dalton inspected the battery. He suggested that it would be a pity to remove them but the Owen Committee recommendations were carried out in 1907, the battery then being abandoned.

The battery survives almost intact but has been suffering at the hands of vandals.

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