

Eastney Battery East

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|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Commenced | 1861 | Armament | |
| Completed | 1863 | 1893 | 1 x 6-inch BL HP 3 x 64pr 58cwt. RML |
| Cost | £ 17,435 | 1898 - 1906 | South West Angle 1 - 64 pdr R.M.L. 1-12 pdr. Q.F. Sea face 1 - 6 inch B.L. 5 tons East Flank 2 - 64 pdr 58 cwt R.M.L. 1-12 pdr. Q.F. |
| Map Reference | SZ 666986 | 1907 Disarmed | |
| Position | Eastney Barracks / Sea Front | Caponiers | 1 + 2 x open bastions |
| Type | Coast battery / beach defence | Counterscarp galleries | None |
| Ditch | Dry | Haxo casemates | None |
| Guns | 12 reduced to 11 | Moncrieff Pits | None (1 x H.P.) |
| Barrack Accom. | 0 | | |
| Present use | In Museum grounds to be used for displays Continued military use / Radar use | | |
| History | | | |
| Disposal | To R.M. museum 1993 | | |
| Condition | Modified, being restored (2002) | | |
| Access | None at present | | |
| Sources | 1891 Armament book | | |

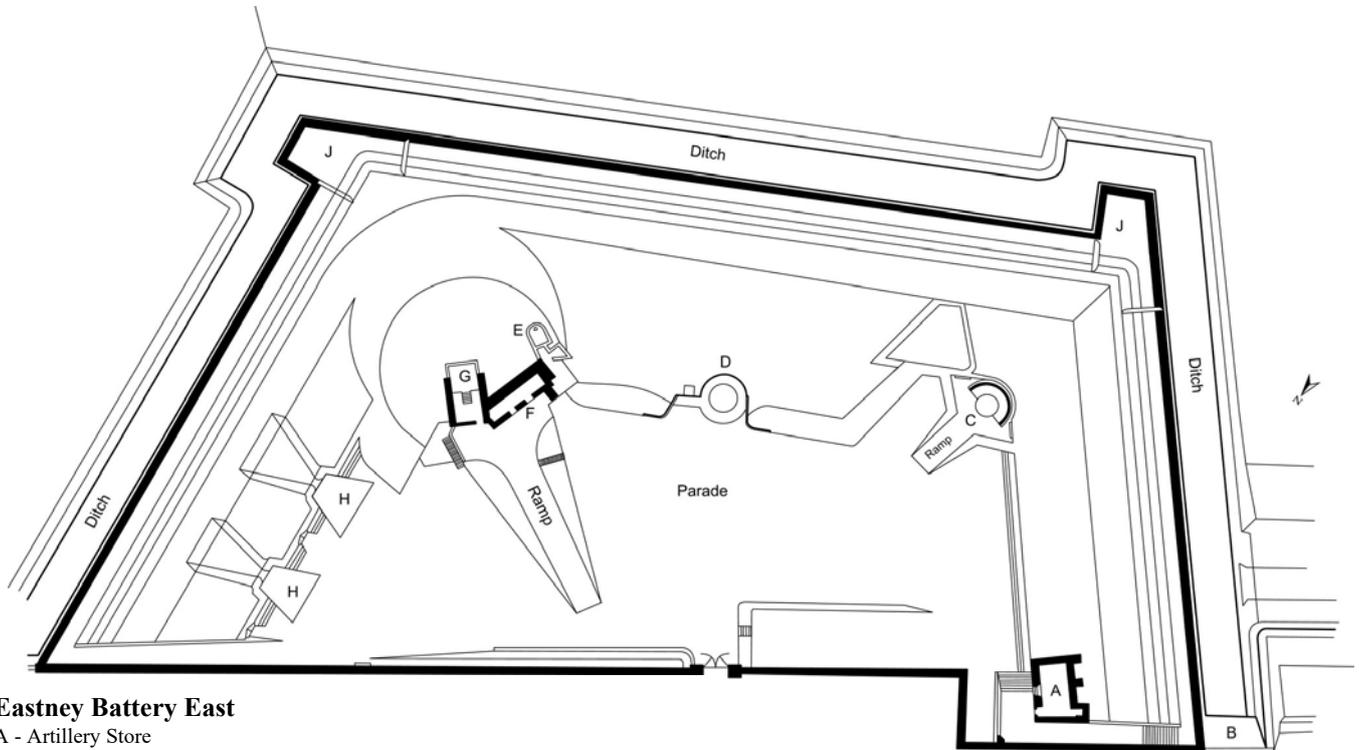
History and Description

The Eastney work was commenced in June 1861 and completed in March 1863 for the sum of £17,435. They consisted of two batteries connected by a parapet, in front of the barracks of the Royal Marine Artillery. They were intended to command the approach to Langstone Harbour and the water to the east of Horse Sand Fort. The face of each battery and of the connecting parapet was covered by a dry ditch and the gorge was closed by a loopholed wall three feet thick. Each battery was constructed with ten embrasures and two guns en-barbette. The 1869 report stated that the armament was five 7-inch breech loading guns and seven 8-inch smooth bore guns. The magazine accommodation was stated to be ..“ sufficient but the provision for artillery stores is scarcely adequate ”The report continued.... “ as these batteries are at a great distance from the channel leading into Spithead and have a large extent of shoal water in front of them, they would take but little part in an engagement with large ships, and their present armament seems to be sufficient to keep small vessels or boats at a distance. For this purpose they have been skilfully constructed.” Both batteries were to be manned in time of need by marines from the barracks. By 1907 the east battery had only its 6-inch BL remaining and this was removed in April of that year.

Little is known of its history from then on but it was occupied for some years up to the 1980s by the Royal Navy, who used it for training personnel on the use of RADAR. The site was festooned with many varieties of RADAR dishes and antennae with associated buildings constructed on the parade. The ditches were filled and the ramparts slowly became overgrown and neglected. The magazine is still intact underneath the cavalier which was altered in the early 1900s to contain a Battery Command Post, chart room, observing cell and telephone room for the six inch gun.

It is now part of the Royal Marines Museum complex and all of the buildings on the parade have demolished to allow room for exhibitions and visitor facilities. The southeast bastion has been partly demolished where the main seafront road encroaches on the site. The NW caponier and SW bastion are covered by the infilling of the moat to the top of the Carnot wall. In 2002 the PFS began restoring some of the gun positions to their original profile.

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- A - Artillery Store
- B - Caponier
- C - 64pr 58cwt RML on Parapet Slide
- D - 6-inch BL HP
- E - Battery Command Post and Telephone Bunk
- F - Telephone Room
- G - Fire Commander's Post with Observing Cell and Chart Room
- H - 64pr. 58cwt RML on Standing Carriage

