

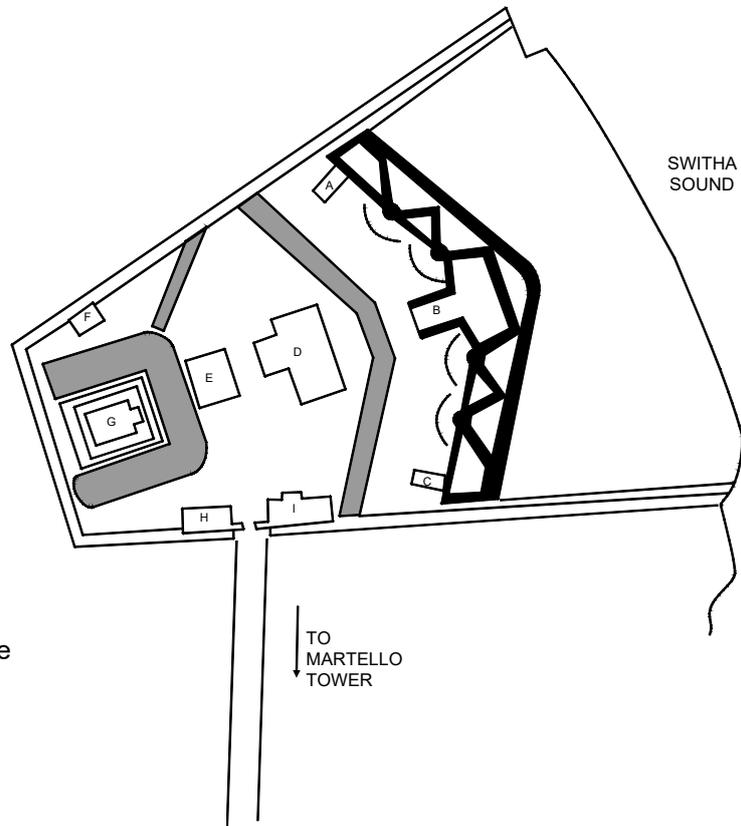
The Battery at Hackness

Commenced	1813	Armament	
Completed	1815 (reconstructed 1866)	Originally	8 x 24 pdr.
Cost	£ 11,812 2s 4d. (for all defences)	1866	4 guns
Map Reference	WD 338915	1888	x 80 pdr. R.M.L.
Position	Hackness Point, Longhope Sound Orkney Islands	1890	3 x 80 pdr. R.M.L.
Type	Coastal battery	C 1900	Disarmed
Ditch	None		
Guns	4	Caponiers	None
Barrack Accom.	C30	Counterscarp galleries	None
Present use	Private house	Haxo casemates	None
History	Coastal battery	Moncrieff Pits	None
Disposal Condition	Sold to private ownership after WWI As to be expected when used as a private home		
Access	Owner's permission required		
Sources	Various		

History and Description

The Battery was built as part of the defences for the anchorage at Longhope Sound at the southern end of the island of Hoy in the Orkney Islands, during the Napoleonic Wars when merchant ships engaged in the Baltic trade assembled there before sailing across the North Sea. Towards the end of the Napoleonic Wars the ships were escorted by warships to the Baltic in convoy due to the activities of privateers and warships of the United States navy after war had broken out with that country in 1812. The defences consisted of two Martello Towers at Cockness and Hackness on either side of the entrance to the Sound with the Tower at Hackness being supported by the Battery. As originally built the Battery mounted eight 24 pdr. guns firing en-barbette with a small barracks and a magazine behind them; the work was surrounded on three sides by a five-foot high wall and a ditch. About 200 yards to the east of the Battery, up a gentle slope, is Hackness Martello Tower which protects the rear and eastern flank of the Battery. Soon after construction was completed the Battery appears to have been disarmed and the garrison withdrawn. The Battery was reconstructed in 1866 for four guns mounted on traversing slides firing through embrasures, an expense magazine, acting as a traverse as well, was built in the middle of the Battery with side arms stores at either end. Behind the guns at a higher level was the old loopholed barracks. Four new buildings were added; a guardhouse and cells at one side of the entrance and officers' quarters at the other, latrines against the north wall and opposite the guardhouse, and behind the barracks a combined cook-house and store building. Towards the rear of the Battery, covered by a thick earthen parapet on three sides, was the magazine. Later a small shell store was built into the parapet facing the magazine entrance. During the reconstruction the ditch was filled in. Right to the end of its active existence the battery was considered suitable to be armed and manned in wartime, however by the turn of the century it was totally obsolescent so it was disarmed and abandoned. After the First World War it was sold to the grand-father of the present owner. Today the Battery survives complete except for the magazine which has been demolished to its foundations.

The Battery at Hackness



Hackness Battery

- A & C Side Arms Stores
- B Expense Magazine/Traverse
- D Barracks
- E Stores & Cookhouse
- F Latrines
- G Magazine
- H Guardhouse
- I Officers' Quarters

