

Landguard Fort

<p>Commenced 1872</p> <p>Completed 1875</p> <p>Cost £ unknown</p> <p>Map Reference TM 283 319</p> <p>Position Mouth of River Orwell & Stour</p> <p>Type Pentagon with Bastions</p> <p>Ditch Dry</p> <p>Guns 12</p> <p>Barrack Accom. unknown</p> <p>Present use Listed building - English Heritage. Ravelin block used for museum</p> <p>History Barracks batteries and submarine mines</p> <p>Disposal</p> <p>Condition Fair</p> <p>Access Parts open for tours in Summer plus museum in Ravelin.</p> <p>Sources 'Landguard Fort' D.A.Wood 'History of Landguard Fort' - Major Leslie</p>	<p>Armament</p> <p>Fort Only</p> <p>1876 on site 4 x 9-inch RMLs</p> <p>1886 on site</p> <p>Keep 4 x 12.5-inch 38 ton RMLs 3 x 10-inch 18 ton RMLs</p> <p>Casemates 2 x 10-inch RMLs 1 x 12.5-inch RML</p> <p>Caponiers</p> <p>Counterscarp galleries</p> <p>Haxo casemates</p> <p>Moncrieff Pits</p>
---	--

History and Description

The present Landguard fort is the last in a long line of defences built on the point protecting the natural harbour of Harwich. The site appears to be first occupied in the 1500s. Another significant fort was constructed on the site in 1588 followed by others in the 1600s. The first true Landguard Fort is considered to be that of 1626-28 consisting of a square bastioned trace with unrevetted ditch. This was improved in 1667 and replaced in 1717. Landguard Fort II consisted of a closed lunette, a sea battery or a brick redoubt, as it has been variously described. It had no bastions but instead employed a caponier and counterscarp galleries. Landguard Fort III of 1744 may have incorporated parts of the previous fort and consisted of a bastioned pentagon with a ditch, covered way and glacis enclosing a large barrack block and Governor's house. It was heavily criticised and therefore modified. In 1853 General Burgoyne looked at the fort and suggested that it be destroyed. Nothing was done until 1871-72 when radical changes had already begun. The interior was replaced by a semi-circular defensible barracks, the main face and centre bastion were replaced by a casemated front of granite for seven RMLs fronted at ditch level by a caponier. The remaining bastions and walls were rebuilt for RML guns and howitzers. In 1877 a controlled minefield was allocated to the defences. A ravelin block containing a Submarine Mining Establishment was constructed together with a pier and ancillary buildings with magazines and cable ponds. Search lights were then added. The area surrounding the fort was used for a substantial complex of additional sea batteries. The Fort is now open to the public under the control of English Heritage. The Ravelin Block to the rear of the Fort, is now a museum. Darrell's Battery, and the Left and Right Batteries may be visited by arrangement with the Fort.

Landguard Fort

