

Fort Stamford

<p>Commenced 1861 or 1862 Completed 1869 Cost £ 70,359 Map Reference SX493527 Position Staddon Heights</p> <p>Type Land front, polygonal Ditch Dry Guns 26 Barrack Accom. 200 Present use Country Club and caravan park. Barrack converted to flats.</p> <p>History Disarmed by 1904</p> <p>Disposal Released by MOD in 1963 Condition Parts overgrown and disused Access With permission</p> <p>Sources 1893 Precis of Correspondence 1869 report, Historic Defences of Plymouth Woodward and Pye</p>	<p>Armament</p> <p>1875 Proposed 5 x 7-inch RBL, 4 x 64pr RML 3 x 8-inch RML howitzers 16 x SB flank guns Added 1880 2 x 10-inch RML SW face Revised 1885, Mounted 1893 2 x 10-inch RML, 1 x 7-inch RBL on Moncrieff 5 x 64pr RML, (required 8 x 32pr SBBL) Included by 1903 4 x 40pr. RBLs, 4 x 8-inch Howitzers</p> <p>Caponiers 3 (2 single, 1 double)</p> <p>Counterscarp galleries 1 for 2 guns</p> <p>Haxo casemates None</p> <p>Moncrieff Pits 1</p>
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History and Description

Originally called after Turnchapel over which it looked, Fort Stamford was designed by Captain Edmund Du Cane and constructed on the Staddon Heights position, 165ft. above sea level, between Jennycliffe Bay and Hooe Lake. It is a five sided polygonal work with three sides facing landwards and one seaward, the gorge overlooking the Cattewater. Its southern face was to command the Laira and merchant shipping anchorage in Jennycliffe Bay and at long range was to cooperate with the sea batteries to defend the Sound. Stamford was connected to Staddon Fort by a military road and embankment. The main armament was to deny the heights to an enemy and prevent bombardment of the city of Plymouth. The dry ditch is 50ft. wide at the front, 30ft. deep, as at Staddon, and is flanked by one double and two single caponiers with two tiers of guns and musketry, with a counterscarp gallery for two guns at the NE end to flank the gorge. The gorge wall is 45ft. high. A central traverse crosses the work for the purpose of defilading the communications but from the higher ground to the east some small portions of the escarp were not entirely concealed. The casemated barrack in the gorge of the work was for 200 men in 13 sets of barrack casemates on two floors, beside officers, NCOs and married soldiers. The west end contained the main magazine for the W and SW faces. The East magazine served the guns to the E of the Traverse. The ramparts held ten open barbette gun positions, five on the West and South West faces, four (one Moncrieff) on the South East and East land faces and one at the East end of the gorge covering the access road from the North East. The west rampart was originally to hold 7 x 9-inch RMLs to act in a coast defence role. Mortar batteries were constructed at the South West and South East salients.

The interior of the fort is currently used as a country club and caravan park. The main magazine is used as a gym. The barrack block has been converted to flats.

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