

Bouldnor Battery

Commenced	1937	Armament	
Completed	1938	1938	2 x 6inch BL Mk VII
Cost	£	1944	40mm Bofors added
Map Reference	SZ 379902	1947	Disarmed
Position	East of Yarmouth	1951	2 x 6-inch BL Mk VII from Cliff End battery
Type	Coast Defence Battery	1956	Stood down and disarmed
Ditch	None		
Guns	2		
Barrack Accom.			
Present use	Water storage		
History	Examination battery for East of Yarmouth	Caponiers	
Disposal	Armament removed 1947	Counterscarp galleries	
Condition	Derelict but Fair	Haxo casemates	
Access	Exterior views only. Fenced off.	Moncrieff Pits	
Sources	Solent Papers no.2 Anthony Cantwell		

History and Description

This battery was built in 1937-8 to cover the new Examination Anchorage east of Yarmouth. It was armed with two 6-inch BL Mark VII guns and had a battery observation Post west of the guns. An engine room for three Crossley oil engines was situated to the right of the battery. Two searchlights stood to the north of the battery, close to the seashore. Between the gun emplacements was a concrete shelter for the gunners, sunk into the ground. Each emplacement had its magazines below ground on its flank. In 1939-40 a number of huts were built behind the battery to accommodate the garrison.

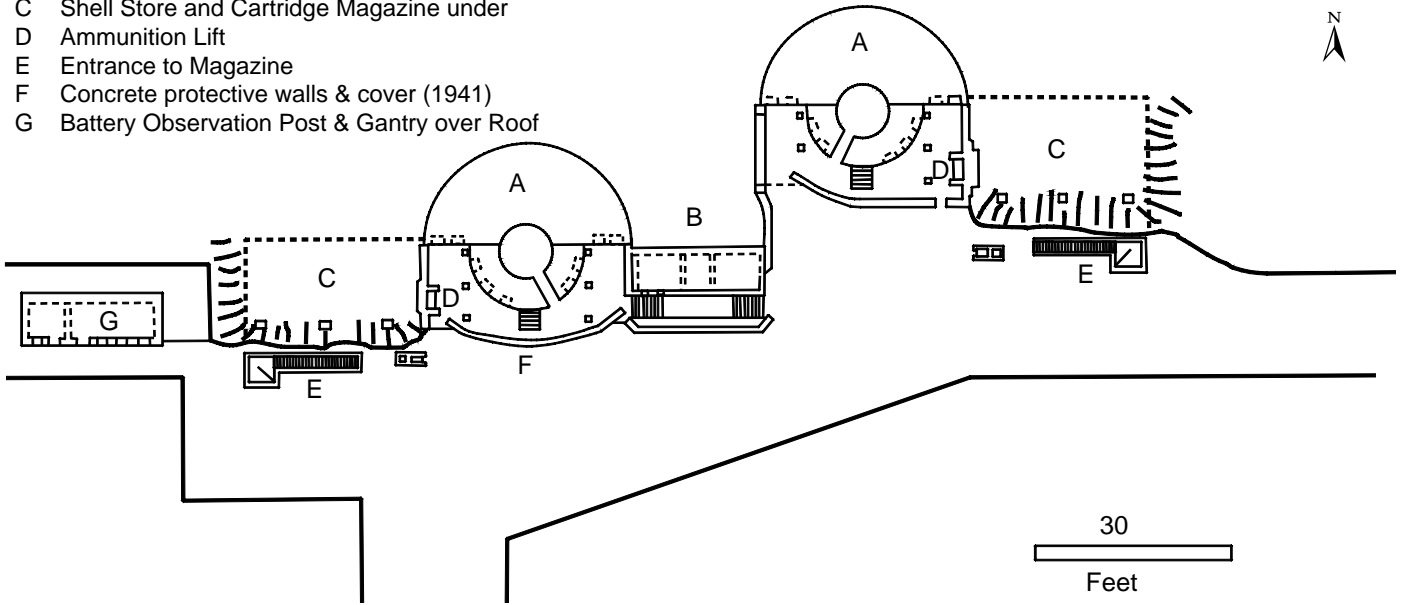
In 1939 an indicator loop was laid across the channel east of the battery. An anti-submarine boom and controlled minefield was added in mid 1940 at Hamstead point, east of Bouldnor, both operated by the Royal Navy. A rough concrete cover was added over each gun emplacement in 1940 to protect against straffing. In July 1941 the two MK VII guns were replaced with re-lined barrels. The battery was built on blue slipper clay and the two searchlights began to slide into the sea. Because of this the battery was stood down in December 1942 but a 40mm Bofors AA gun was added in 1944.

The battery was put into care and Maintenance in 1945 and the Bofors gun was removed. The guns and searchlights were removed in 1947. In 1951 the battery was re-activated when two 6-inch Mk VII from Cliff End Battery were installed. The eastern searchlight was built into a new wooden structure and the western one rebuilt in its old emplacement. Three Lister diesels were fitted into the engine room. Gun practice was carried out at the battery until November 1955 but hand operated hoists for ammunition supply from the magazines were used as the electric ones had been stripped out in 1948. When coast defence was disbanded in 1956 the battery was disarmed and everything was removed for scrap. The site was used for a while as a Naval Adventurous Training facility. In 1995 it was used as an innovative training facility by a company called SOL. The battery is still relatively intact although the overhead cover is in a dangerous condition and the magazines and crew shelters flooded for use as static water tanks by the Forestry fence which prevents access to them for safety reasons.

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- A 6-inch BL Mk VII CP
- B Troop Shelter
- C Shell Store and Cartridge Magazine under
- D Ammunition Lift
- E Entrance to Magazine
- F Concrete protective walls & cover (1941)
- G Battery Observation Post & Gantry over Roof



A gun emplacement in 2007