



6 inch Gun Emplacements

017

Type	Battery
Period	1904-5



Description

Development: Two breech-loading 6 inch guns were placed on the Angled Battery in 1905, when the emplacements were cut through the majority of the Angled Battery 1868 emplacements, leaving just one at the east end (the remaining shielded emplacement). The guns were removed by the early 1920s, and replaced or two others placed in by 1930 for gun drills by the Territorial Army division. These were removed by 1937 and the emplacements were filled in, until the current two guns were acquired and placed c.1950 when presented to Gravesham Borough Council.

Description: The emplacements are set, one on the northern face and one on the east face of the Angled Battery. They all but obliterated the 1868 emplacements, which must have been filled in, save the shielded emplacement at the east end. The emplacements are concrete-lined and contain reproduction elements, such as the screens, to either side of the guns.

Significance

Evidential value: the emplacements survive from 1905 and are evidence of the continued role of the fort at that time, following the obsolescence of the 1868 guns.

Historical value: the emplacements were installed to provide the fort with updated artillery, following the development of breech-loading guns with extended range at the end of the 19th century. This development indicates that the fort was still seen as strategically important at the beginning of the 20th century.

Aesthetic value: the emplacements led to the removal of the majority of the 1868 emplacements, but are themselves impressive as remains of armaments from the early 20th century, that have been sympathetically restored.



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Communal value: the emplacements survive largely complete, with the installed 6 inch guns, providing a tangible link to the early 20th century fort.

Overall Significance: The emplacements are of considerable significance, and forms part of New Tavern Fort scheduled monument and its Grade II* listed structures, and is of national importance.

Specific Elements

Issues / Vulnerability

The emplacements are set into the embankment and will remain in good repair as long as the embankment and the 6 inch guns are also maintained.

The removal of the guns would reduce the understanding of the emplacements.

Specific Management Guidance

Retain the guns and monitor condition of emplacements.



Concrete emplacement of west gun, looking east



Replica shields of west gun and iron plate floor



Concrete floor of east gun emplacement



East gun and stores, looking north-west



Gun Stores on Angled Battery

018

Type	Store
Period	1904-5



Description

Development: The guns stores formed part of the emplacements of the 6 inch guns, installed in 1905. They may have been neglected prior to the installation of the current guns, but are currently in good repair.

Description: The gun stores are located in the emplacements set below the guns. They are closed with metal doors, which currently are reproductions. Lifts raised ammunition from the magazine below into the two gun stores. The doors could open and shells be loaded into the breech ends of the guns. The current doors are reproductions installed by the Thames Defence Heritage, to provide further understanding of the stores. Each store had three pairs of doors.

Significance

Evidential value: The presence of the gun stores indicates how ammunition could be quickly loaded into the guns, to provide rapid fire over the Thames.

Historic value: The gun stores formed part of the emplacements, which were installed to provide updated armaments to the fort in 1905.

Aesthetic value: The stores are a functional part of the emplacements and the current pairs of doors help to complete them.

Communal value: The gun stores form part of the emplacements which provide a tangible link to the early 20th century fort.

Overall Significance: The gun stores are of some significance, and forms part of New Tavern Fort scheduled monument and its Grade II* listed structures, and is of national importance.



Gun Stores on Angled Battery

018

Specific Elements

Issues / Vulnerability

The gun stores and emplacements are set into the embankment and will remain in good repair as long as the embankment and the 6 inch guns are also maintained.

The removal of the guns would reduce the understanding of the emplacements.

The replica doors add to the understanding of the gun stores.

Specific Management Guidance

Retention of 6 inch guns, for continued understanding of gun stores.

Upkeep of the replica doors to each gun store.



Doors on gun stores of east emplacement



East gun stores, looking west



West gun stores, looking north-east