

HOW TO FIND THE FORT

Littlehampton Fort is situated on the South Coast of England, in West Sussex. The nearest large towns are Bognor Regis to the West, and Worthing to the East.

The Fort is located on the West bank of the River Arun in Littlehampton.

BY CAR

Follow the signs for the A259 Littlehampton, turn off for the Arun Yacht Club / Rope Walk / West Beach.

Follow the signs for West Beach leading towards the sea, and continue down the road to the car park.

Walk through the boardwalk which runs through the Dunes. The Fort is on the right.

BY BIKE OR FOOT

From Littlehampton, a footbridge just off Terminus Road can be found between two pubs; The Steam Packet and The Arun View. Head down Rope Walk and follow the directions mentioned above.

Littlehampton Fort
West Beach
Littlehampton BN17 5LH

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T: 07830 192195



We are looking for people who would like to be Fort Volunteers, or even just a Friend of the Fort.

Fort Volunteers don't need any specific skills as there are lots of different areas in which you can help out.

Friends of the Fort also play an equally important role, and is suitable for those who are unable to volunteer, or would just like to show support to the project and help promote the project and the various events that we hold. Contact us for further information and to get involved.

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THE FORT HISTORY IN BRIEF

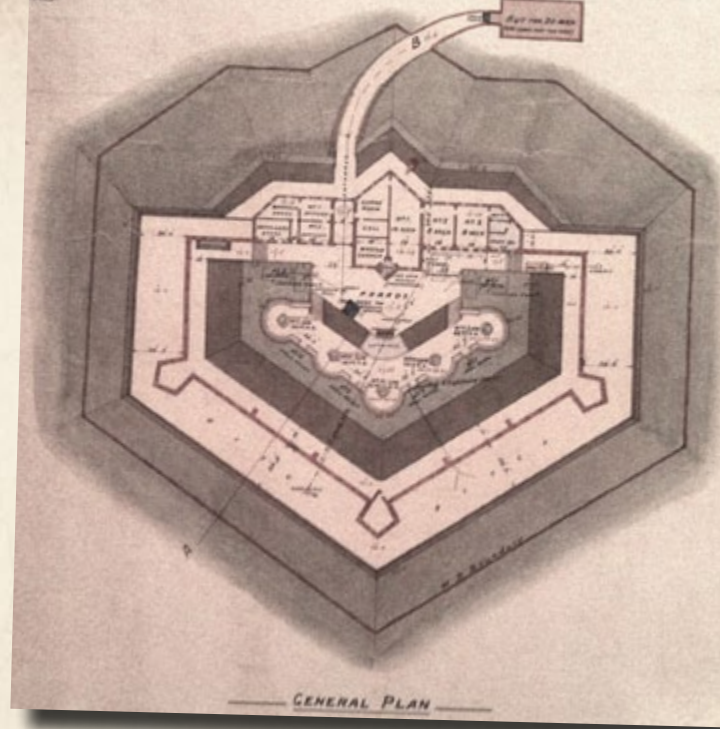
With the increasing fear of invasion from the French, Lord Palmerston ordered the construction of a series of Forts in order to protect Britain's coastline.

The War Office feared an enemy force capturing the harbour would enable them to use the quays to land and keep supplied an attacking group. They could then potentially attack our main port of Portsmouth from the rear, and then go on to attack our capital.

Littlehampton Fort was the Prototype, and the very first of Lord Palmerston's Forts constructed along our coastline. Lessons were learnt from Littlehampton directly contributed to improved developments of subsequent coastal fortifications. The flagship of these being Fort Nelson, one of the Portsdown ring Forts protecting Portsmouth harbour.

Builders Messrs Locke and Nesham were awarded the contract and construction started in February 1854. Local men were employed under supervision of Captain Fenwick of the Royal Engineers to construct the fort, and the Fort was completed in September 1854.

The Fort was armed with three 68-pounder guns and two 32-pounder, each of which



The Fort had two underground magazines, which were designed to house 126 barrels of gunpowder.

The Fort accommodated two Infantry Officers, one Master Gunner and 42 soldiers. Later, an external barracks was constructed just north of the Fort that billeted an additional 30 men.

The ramparts were built up high in order to command the shore and the low-lying marshy ground at the rear, and were surrounded by a ditch that was 26 feet wide. In the ditch, a 12ft tall Carnot wall stood, which was the first to be used in Britain. Incorporated within the wall were firing loops and three Bastions that enabled firing along the wall line.

THE FORT TODAY

Over the years, the sand dunes to the South of the Fort have provided a unique and natural protection to the Fort from the southerly winds and forces of nature. This means that much of the Fort is still in good condition. However, the Fort is under serious threat if left.

The Fort is currently overwhelmed by vegetation. The vegetation is causing damage to the remaining structure and is putting the whole future of the Fort at risk.

Under all that vegetation is an important part of our history. Help us preserve that history and stop it from crumbling away.

Without your help, this Fort will eventually disappear and will be lost forever.

OUR AIMS ARE:

1. Clear the Fort and prevent further damage occurring
2. Maintain and develop the Fort to its full potential
3. Secure the Fort for future generations to enjoy and learn about our history