

Mont Chinchon Battery

17th - 19th Century Defences

21 Coastal Defence Battery

Mont Chinchon Battery was also known as Druids Altar Battery due to its proximity to Le Trepied dolmen. It was built towards the end of the 18th century as the threat of possible invasion from France increased during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars (1793 – 1815). It was one of over 60 coastal batteries in service in Guernsey at the time.

Records from 1801 show that the battery had two 20 pounder cannons which would have been manned by the Guernsey Militia. The cannons here today are of a similar design but are larger 32 pounders. They bear the crest of King George III indicating that they were cast between 1760 and 1820. The iron cannon barrels are mounted on reproductions of the original "Garrison" carriages which were used during this period. Each cannon and its carriage weighs just under 3 metric tons and would originally have needed a crew of 6 or more men to service it during action.

The battery was dismantled by the German occupying forces during the Second World War to make way for more modern defences. The construction of a cutting for a railway line also damaged the rear of the battery and the magazine. After the 1940's the battery fell into disrepair. In 2006 work began to restore the battery close to how it would have appeared originally, although we do know that the parapet would have been higher than it stands today.



The battery crew in action, circa 1805
Illustration by Brian Byron



The Battery before restoration, 2007
Sandy Hamilton



The Hardie family at the battery
courtesy of Mr John Hardie

Other Coastal Defence Batteries can be found along Guernseys coast line

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Clarence 1 | Perelle 22 |
| Becquet 2 | La Hougue 24 |
| Fermain 3 | Burton 27 |
| Bec du Nez 4 | Grandes Rocques 30 |
| Mont au Nord 5 | Portinfer 31 |
| La Moye 6 | Rousse 33 |
| Moulin Huet 7 | La Lochande 35 |
| Saints Bay 9 | Platon 36 |
| St Clair's 10 | Nid de L'Herbe 39 |
| Les Tielles 13 | Beaucette 43 |
| Narron 16 | Delancey 44 |
| Pleinmont 17 | |
| L'Eree 20 | |
| Mont Chinchon 21 | |



Welcome

This **registered Ancient Monument** is cared for by the Culture & Leisure Department
If you have any comments about it please telephone us on 01481 726518 or write to us at
Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery, Candie Gardens, St Peter Port, GY1 1UG

www.museums.gov.gg

CULTURE AND LEISURE
A STATES OF GUERNSEY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT

with the support of



CABLE & WIRELESS