

17th - 19th Century Defences

Before Rouse tower was constructed around 1780 there was already a gun battery on the headland, close to the beach. By 1804 a new battery had been built adjacent to the east side of the tower, which you are now standing on.

By 1816 the battery had three 24 pounder cannon and two smaller 9 pounder cannon, replicas of which are seen here today. The larger guns were mounted on inclined platforms to resist the force of the recoil while the smaller guns were on flat platforms so that they could be manoeuvred to fire through the embrasure openings on the rear wall.

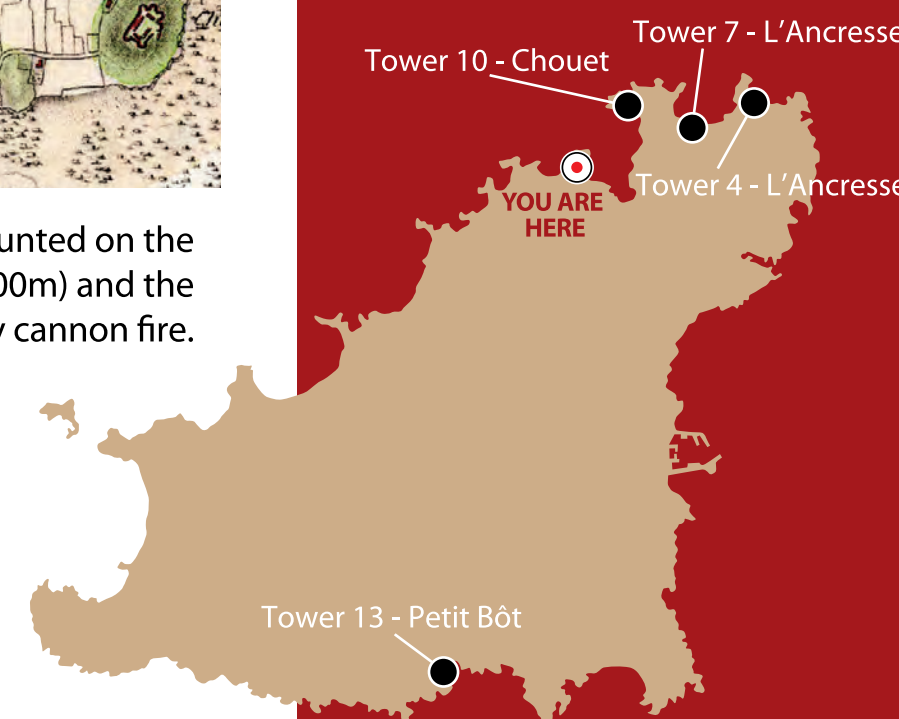
The stone used for the gun platforms was from Purbeck in Dorset and would have been imported especially for the construction of the battery.

Originally the parapet, or bank, which would have protected the militia from enemy fire, was formed with layers of turf and sand. However, there is archaeological and documentary evidence that suggests the parapet may have been later lined with bricks. Beginning in 2008 work was undertaken to reconstruct the battery to how it may have looked in the mid-nineteenth century.



Garland: The round iron shot was held on the Battery adjacent to the guns in a square iron frame or garland. The shot could be heated in a portable furnace before being fired onto the decks of the wooden ships.

Other Coastal Defence Cannon Batteries
can be found along Guernseys coast line



Duke of Richmond Map, 1787, showing the position of 8 loophole towers in the north of Guernsey. The range of the carronades, mounted on the towers, are shown in red (over 800m). The range of the 9 pounder cannons on Rousse battery is shown in blue (over 1500m) and the 24 pounder cannons in green (over 2000m). It is clear the whole of this section of the coastline was protected by cannon fire.

Welcome

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