

# Ardagh's Challenge



This is John Charles Ardagh. He designed Newhaven Fort.

Use this worksheet to explore the fort and discover as much as you can about its history.

The answers to the questions are all around you.

## Before the Fort

Believe it or not, this Fort wasn't always here on the clifftop, but this doesn't mean that nobody else had noticed what a good spot we have here for a fortification. To answer the following question you should watch the introductory film in the **Theatre** and visit **Before the Fort**.

When was the earliest fort built on Castle Hill?

- a. The Stone Age                      b. The Bronze Age                      c. The Iron Age

## How old is the Fort?

There are clues all round to help you work this out, but a good place to start is the **History of the Fort** exhibition. Look around in here to find the answers to these questions.

How old was Lieutenant Ardagh when he designed Newhaven Fort?

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In what year did building work on the Fort begin?

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Why was the Fort built?

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What materials were used in the construction of Newhaven Fort?

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Find this model of the Fort and listen as Lieutenant Ardagh talks you through his construction plans.



How was the fort defended from attack?  
(Hint - there is more than one answer to this question!)

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Read some of the panels on the wall. What year was the fort camouflaged to hide it from aeroplanes?

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Who was Harold Mason, and what year did he come to Newhaven Fort?

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When was Newhaven Fort bombed, and what type of aeroplane did the bombing?

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So, now you know some of the forts history, let's find out about life in the Victorian army. You'll find the answers to these questions in the **Life in the Fort** exhibition.

Can you find out what a 'barrack rat' was?

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Look out for the 1891 census list. This shows who was living in Newhaven Fort on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1891.

How many Gunners are on the list?

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Go look at the Faces of the Fort next to the census. What is a Gunner?

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What other ranks of soldiers were there?

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Are there any people who aren't soldiers? Who are they?

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Now it's time to explore some of the features of the fort that Lieutenant Ardagh was telling you about earlier. Have a walk up to the **Laboratory**. This was where gunpowder was weighed and bagged into propellant charges or into shells!

What was built opposite the Laboratory?

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Where did the gunpowder and empty shells come from when it was brought into the Laboratory?

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What happened in the shifting lobby?

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Why was it important to wear special shoes and what were they made from?

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What was the purpose of the lighting passage and why was it necessary?

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Now go to the clifftop and head into the **Battery Observation Post**

What was the Battery Observation Post (BOP) used for?

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The BOP was the first place in Newhaven to have which exciting new piece of technology?

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What were the musketry and counterscarp galleries originally used for? Go down the tunnel to the gate for the answer!

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What was the name of the secret plotting room in South Heighton that the BOP spent a lot of time talking to?

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When you've finished in the Battery Observation Post go outside and look for the **6-inch gun**. Guns like this one replaced the original guns that were installed during the Victorian times. In what year was this gun emplacement first built?

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How many people were needed to fire a 6-inch gun like this one?

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When you come back down from the clifftop you will find the entrance to the **Caponier** on one corner of the parade ground. Just inside the entrance you will find a board showing some original plans of the caponier.

Look for this feature on the plans.

What does this represent?

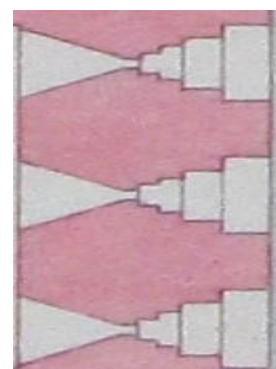
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How many of these are there?

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What are they for? *If you need help, try thinking back to the Hidden Fort film*

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The same board also tells you about the **Eastern Magazine**. What was this used for?

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The rooms above the Eastern Magazine are now our First World War display but what were they when the Fort was first built?

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