Victorian Forts Network
RESOURCES

Topic:	**Security**
Date of issue:	14th July 2025
Author:	Lewis Sharp - with information, illustrations and photos from Gary Baines of the Friends of Shoreham Fort.
Content:	Site Security on a Budget

1. Background

In February 2025, there was an evening video conference involving six members of the Victorian Forts Network who discussed the question of how to secure forts from the unwanted attention of vandals, burglars etc. The focus was on the particular problems of isolated forts with limited electrical and data infrastructure and limited funding. There were some interesting insights into how capable modern lower cost CCTV systems can be.

A recording of the meeting is available on the private area of the Palmerston Forts Society YouTube channel. This recording and others from other Victorian Forts Network meetings are only available to members of the network who have been sent the link.

Gary Baines of the Friends of Shoreham Fort presented on the particular problems faced in the management of Shoreham Fort and the innovative and successful solutions developed there.

2. Shoreham Fort

<u>The Problem</u>

Shoreham Fort is adjacent to housing and located in an area popular with walkers and joggers but the can become relatively isolated outside of busy times and has been vulnerable to vandalism and graffiti.

The vandalism has not been trivial and damage repairs have stretched the very limited manpower and financial resources of the Friends of Shoreham Fort.

Perimeter fencing installed by the site owners reduced but did not eliminate the problem.

An added complication is the lack of mains electricity on the site.

Shoreham Fort (Google Maps)

The Solution

A system of solar powered security cameras have been installed.

Camera arcs of visions are designed specifically to allay any fears of local residents about intrusion into their privacy. This is achieved by a combination of position and mechanical limits to the camera view. It is also possible to limit the field of view electronically.

Some of the cameras include software that enables them to be tuned to ignore animals and other spurious alerts.

Connectivity for monitoring is provided by 3 MiFi which costs £28/month

The system can automatically alert an intruder that they are being monitoring using a recorded message.

The system can alert mobile phones by an app-based system. The user of the phone can then address the intruder in real time.

The capture of video - including the intruders' reaction to an alert or warning - can be very useful for crime reporting.

Learning Points

The solar powered cameras now available are much better than those that were available a few years ago. Picture quality, battery life and software are much improved.

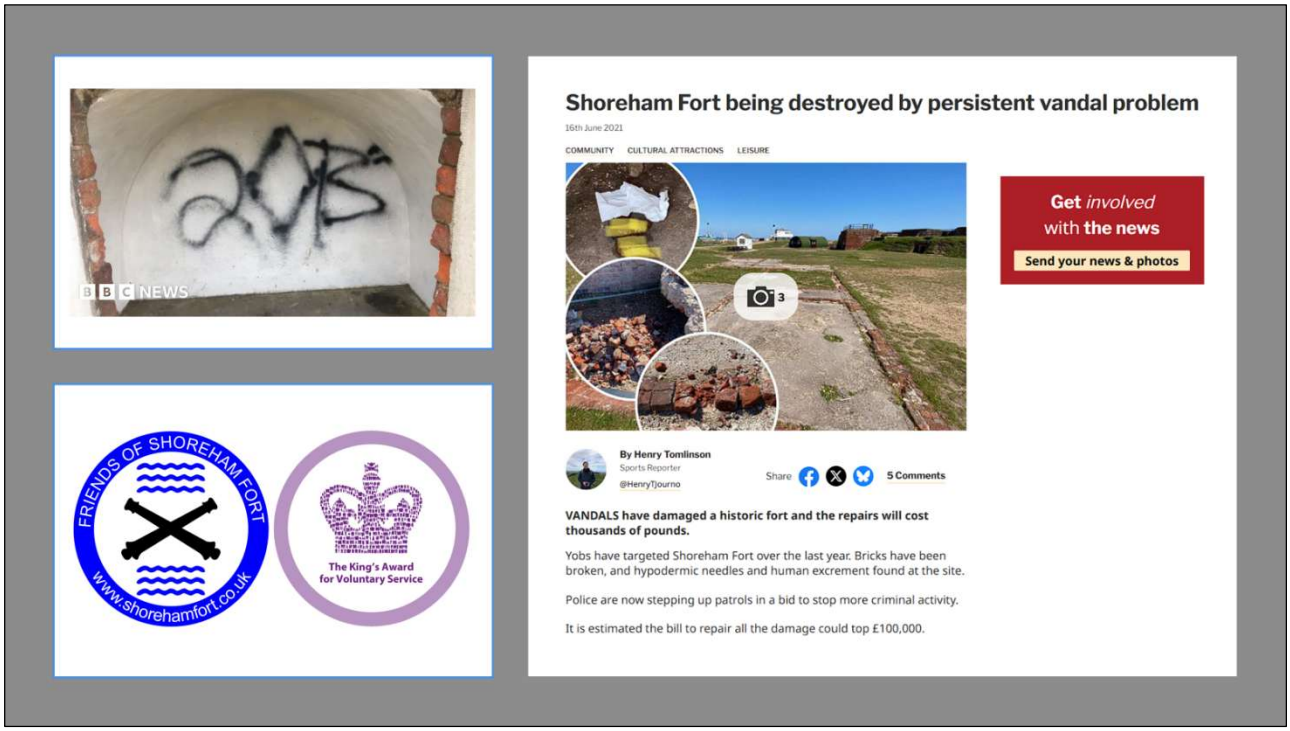
The facility to directly address an intruder is particularly effective in some cases.

The system, of course relies upon having someone available to respond to alerts on a mobile phone. The app can be shared across a number of phones.

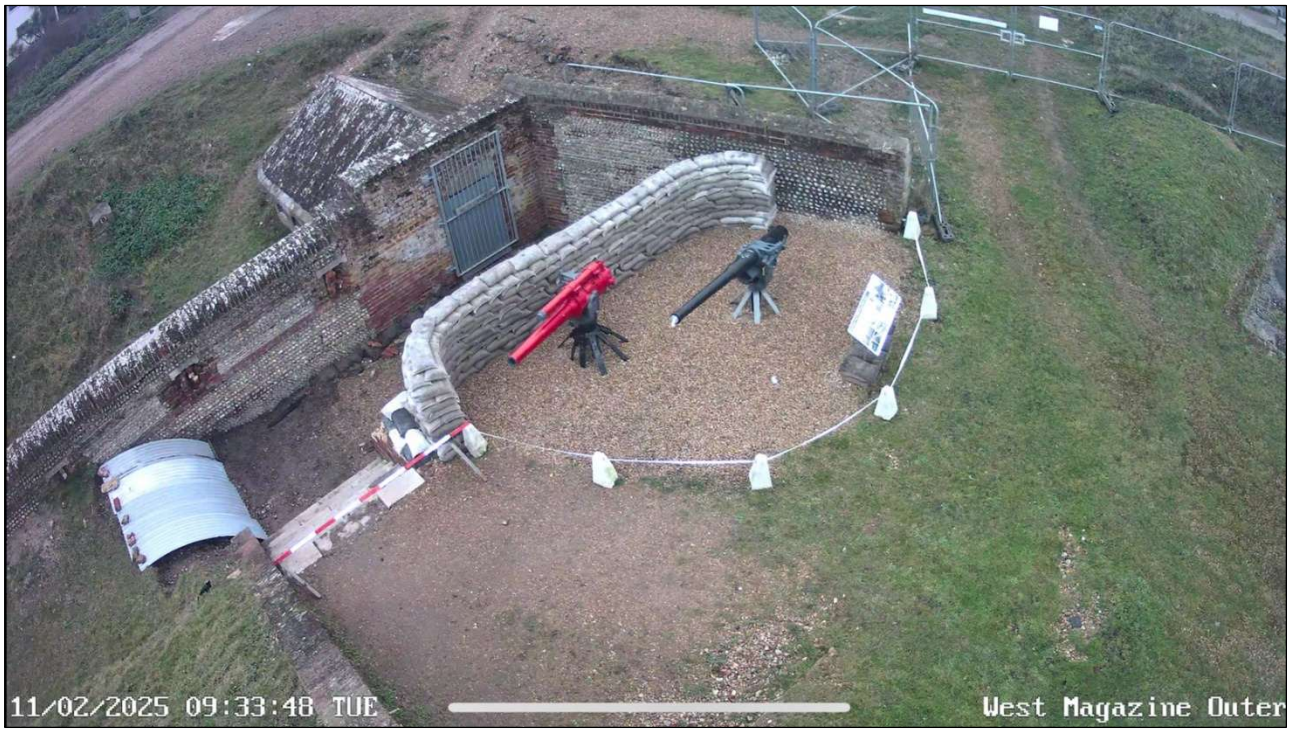
The system can be more complex with enhanced connectivity and recording - as is the case at Shoreham. For these systems a power supply is required, at Shoreham, this is achieved by a combination of solar panels and batteries.

More Details

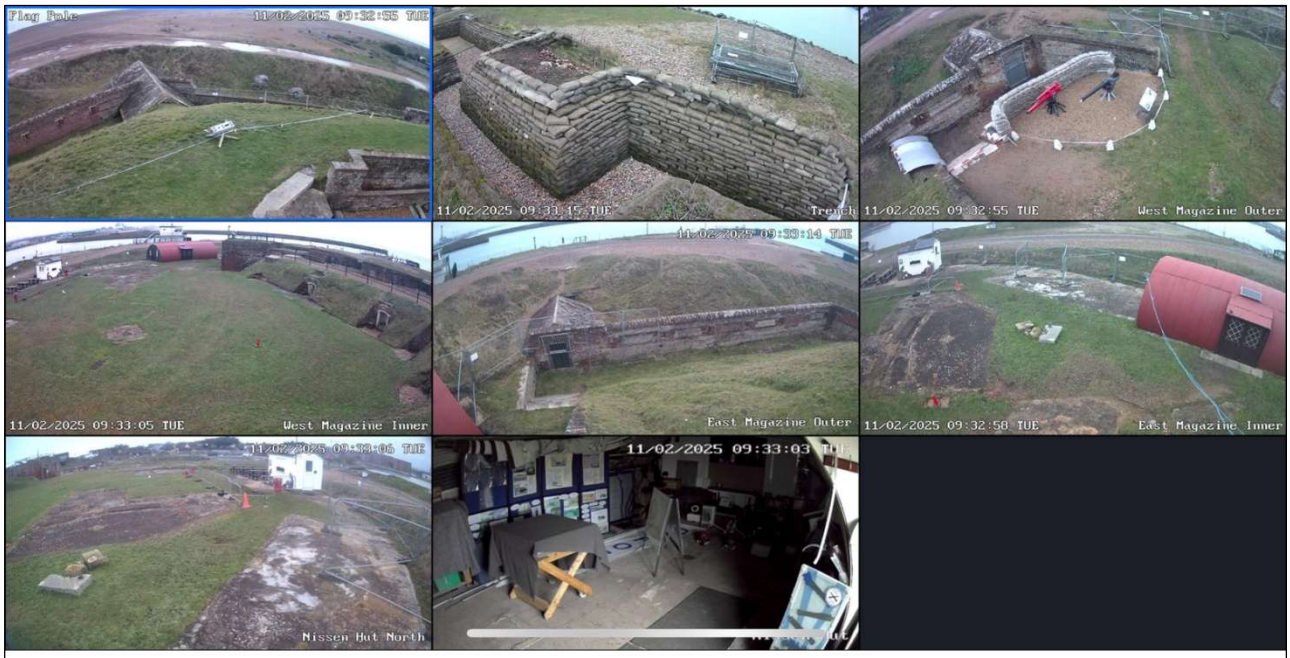
You can get more details on the products and techniques used by contacting Gary at Shoreham Fort or via: enquiries@palmerstonfortssociety.org.uk

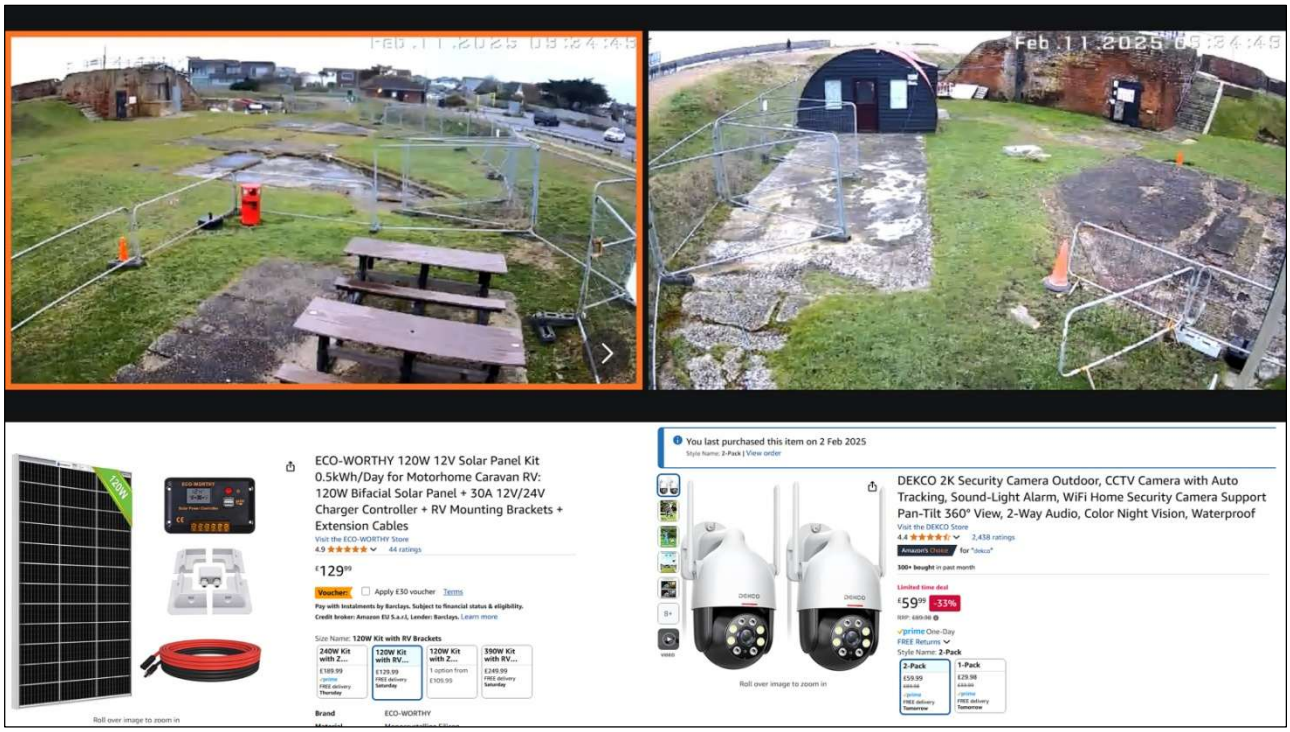

BBC NEWS
Shoreham Fort being destroyed by persistent vandal problem
16th June 2021
COMMUNITY CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS LEISURE
Get involved with the news
Send your news & photos
By Henry Tomlinson
Sports Reporter
@HenryTJourno
Share
5 Comments
VANDALS have damaged a historic fort and the repairs will cost thousands of pounds.
Yobs have targeted Shoreham Fort over the last year. Bricks have been broken, and hypodermic needles and human excrement found at the site.
Police are now stepping up patrols in a bid to stop more criminal activity.
It is estimated the bill to repair all the damage could top £100,000.
FRIENDS OF SHOREHAM FORT
www.shorehamfort.co.uk
The King's Award for Voluntary Service

4G+MiFi
Reolink 4K Solar Security Camera Outdoor Wireless, Argus PT Ultra+ 6W Solar Panel Outdoor Security Camera Kit, 360° Surveillance, 2.4/5 GHz Wi-Fi, Home Hub Compitable, No Monthly Fee, Smart Detection


11/02/2025 09:33:48 TUE
West Magazine Outer

Flag Pole
11/02/2025 10:32:53 TUE


Flag Pole
11/02/2025 09:32:55 TUE
11/02/2025 09:33:15 TUE
Trench
11/02/2025 09:32:55 TUE
West Magazine Outer
11/02/2025 09:33:05 TUE
West Magazine Inner
11/02/2025 09:33:14 TUE
East Magazine Outer
11/02/2025 09:32:58 TUE
East Magazine Inner
Nissen Hut North
11/02/2025 09:33:03 TUE


Feb 11 2025
ECO-WORTHY 120W 12V Solar Panel Kit 0.5kWh/Day for Motorhome Caravan RV: 120W Bifacial Solar Panel + 30A 12V/24V Charger Controller + RV Mounting Brackets + Extension Cables
£129.99
You last purchased this item on 2 Feb 2025
DEKCO 2K Security Camera Outdoor, CCTV Camera with Auto Tracking, Sound-Light Alarm, WiFi Home Security Camera Support Pan-Tilt 360° View, 2-Way Audio, Color Night Vision, Waterproof
£59.99 -33%