

## Fort Tregantle

<b>Commenced</b>	1858	<b>Armament</b>	
<b>Completed</b>	1865	<b>Recommended 1875</b>	
<b>Cost</b>	£ 136,505 (£189,000)	22 x 7-inch RBL	
<b>Map Reference</b>	SX 388533 Western Defences,	13 x 64 pr. RML	
<b>Position</b>	Anthony Position, left flank	5 x 8-inch Rifled Howitzers	
<b>Type</b>	Polygonal with bastions	24 x SB flank guns	
<b>Ditch</b>	Dry	<b>Mounted 1893</b>	
<b>Guns</b>	35 plus flanking guns	5 x 7-inch RBL	
<b>Barrack Accom.</b>	1,000	19 x 64 pr. RML (2 for drill) with	
<b>Present use</b>	Army training establishment	10 x 32pr SBBL proposed for the caponiers	
<b>History</b>	Barracks and training establishment	<b>Caponiers</b>	3 demi, 1 double + scarp galleries
<b>Disposal</b>	Not yet	<b>Counterscarp galleries</b>	1 (to the keep)
<b>Condition</b>	Fair but keep neglected and derelict	<b>Haxo casemates</b>	6 ?
<b>Access</b>	By arrangement with commanding officer	<b>Moncrieff Pits</b>	2
<b>Sources</b>	Skeleton record plan PRO		

### History and Description

Fort Tregantle was proposed before the Royal Commission sat and was judged by them to be satisfactory, with some alterations being necessary. Designed by Captains Crossman and DuCane, it is an enclosed work, roughly hexagonal in trace, about 360 ft. above sea level with ditches on the east, the north and west sides, with revetted scarps and counterscarps flanked by caponiers. The southern side facing the sea consists of casemated barracks which served as flanking positions for musketry and artillery. At the gorge is a masonry keep that has positions for guns to cover the inside of the fort. It has an earthen parapet on top and is surrounded by a ditch, revetted and flanked from galleries. The main magazine is within the keep. The terreplein is on two levels, separated by an earthen traverse or parados, with the lower one containing the barracks for 1,000 men and the upper one containing gun emplacements and Haxo casemates.

The fort was used as barrack accommodation for a coast artillery brigade of one officer and fifty men. By 1882 it was occupied by six garrison artillery gunners. In the 1890s it was used to test fire 32pr SBBL guns for flank defence and to evaluate alternative armament for caponiers.

In the early 1900s it became an infantry battalion HQ and became a musketry training school. It was abandoned after WWI and reopened in 1938 as the Territorial Army Passive Air Defence School, teaching fire fighting, gas precautions, rescue work and other air raid precautionary techniques. On the outbreak of the WWII it became the Army Gas School until 1942 when it was used as accommodation for the U.S. Army. After 1945 it reverted to the British Army and remains under their control, currently used by the Royal Corps of Transport.

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