

Watch House (Brake) Battery

Commenced	1864	Armament	
Completed	1865 - new battery 1901/04	Watch House Brake Battery	
Cost	£ 25,768 (including Brownhill)	1875	3 x 64pr R.M.L.
Map Reference	SX 488509	1885	3 x 64pr R.M.L.
Position	Staddon Heights south west of Brownhill Battery	1893	2 x 64pr R.M.L.
Type	Coast Defence Battery	1899	2 x 64pr R.M.L. Proposed 2 x MG
Ditch	none	1900	disarmed
Guns	2	Watch House Battery	
Barrack Accom.	None. War Shelter provided	1901	2 x 6-inch BL
Present use	Used by a School for holiday centre	1918	2 x 6-inch B.L. VII
History	Coast defence to 1956	Caponiers	None
Disposal	1956	Counterscarp galleries	None
Condition	Fair	Haxo casemates	None
Access	Can be easily viewed from outside	Moncrieff Pits	None
Sources	Précis of Correspondence relating to the Defences of Plymouth prior to 1893		

History and Description

Watch House Brake Battery was built as a small pentagonal earthwork redoubt on the high point which overlooks Bovisand Battery and enfiladed the ditch running south down to Bovisand. It had emplacements for five guns with an expense magazine.

In 1875 the Defence Committee recommended 3 x 64pr R.M.L. guns for the battery at Watch House Brake.

In 1887 the Inspector General of Fortifications submitted a detailed statement of necessary services for the defence of Plymouth. In it he proposed to mount 2 x 64pr R.M.L. guns at Watch House Brake overlooking Bovisand Fort. In 1890 Watch House Brake Battery was renamed Watch House Battery.

In 1901 the battery was reconstructed for two 6-inch BL guns and completed by 1903. Its purpose was to cover the seaward approaches to the Sound. It was armed during WWI, the guns remaining through WWII. They were stood down in 1946 and dismantled in 1956. The gun emplacements, magazines and associated buildings remain in good condition and are used as holiday accommodation for a school.

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