

Forder Battery

Commenced	1863 (contractor failed 1866)	Armament	
Completed	by engineers 1869/70	1875	proposed 12 x 7-inch RBL 6 x SB guns
Cost	£ 16,443	1885	mounted 6 x 7-inch RBL
Map Reference	SX502582	1893	mounted 4 x 64pr. RML 1 x 7-inch RBL 2 x 32pr. SBBL
Position	North East Defences, Right Flank		required : additional 2 x 32pr. SBBL
Type	Land Front, polygonal	Caponiers	None
Ditch	Dry	Counterscarp galleries	1 (reverse caponier)
Guns	16	Haxo casemates	None
Barrack Accom.	None	Moncrieff Pits	None
Present use	Heavily overgrown and derelict. One half under housing.		
History			
Disposal	1900		
Condition	Very poor. Gun positions destroyed		
Access	Difficult due to undergrowth		
Sources	1868 report : Precis of Correspondence relating to the Defences of Plymouth 1893. Historic Defences of Plymouth by A. Pye and F. Woodward		

History and Description

Forder Battery stands on a spur below Egg Buckland Keep, at a height of 344 feet above sea level. It was constructed for an armament of 16 guns with 5 expense magazines in traverses. Its terreplein was completely swept by fire from Egg Buckland. The front of the fort from Bowden to Austin is covered by a ditch flanked at its salient by a double caponier (reverse caponier or counterscarp gallery) communicating with Forder Battery and Egg Buckland by a tunnel. Forts Bowden and Austin provide flanking fire along each end of the ditch. It needed no barrack accommodation which was provided in Egg Buckland Keep.

The west part of the parade is now under housing, whilst the east half is overgrown and the gun positions largely destroyed. All of the expense magazines survive, together with three of the 64pr. RML emplacements. The scarp of the ditch to the front of the battery survives but the counterscarp has been removed and the ditch filled. The caponier has been built over with a house occupying the site, although the lower level and its access tunnel from Egg Buckland remain.

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