

Pater Battery

Commenced	c1817	Armament	
Completed	c1840	1844	22 x 24pr SB
Cost	£ unknown	1880	10 x 8-inch SB 6 x 32pr SB
Map Reference	SM 956039	1886	4 x 3pr SB 5 x 64pr RML
Position	At Pater Point, extreme N.W. end of former dockyard.	1893	6 x 64pr RML Drill & practice
Type	Coastal Battery	1895	6 x 64pr RML Drill & practice 2 x 9-inch RML Drill & practice
Ditch	none	1901	armament withdrawn
Guns	22	Caponiers	None
Barrack Accom.	2 Officers and 36 men	Counterscarp galleries	None
Present use		Haxo casemates	None
History	First of Milford Haven defences Transferred to R.N. 1902	Moncrieff Pits	None
Disposal	Demolished		
Condition	Little remains		
Access	Secured area 1858 & 1868 Committee Reports, Precis of Correspondence prior to 1893 National Archives.		
Sources	PRO WO33, 44 & 155		

History and Description

When the Pembroke Dockyard was built in 1813 the Royal Navy also built a gun battery in the north-western corner facing down the estuary; in the eighteen twenties the battery was transferred to the Board of Ordnance who consolidated the structure and closed the gorge with a wall and a defensible guardhouse. A bombproof magazine was built that could contain 272 barrels of powder. A report of 1844 noted that there were twenty-two 24 pdrs mounted but went to state that the guardhouse was uninhabitable due to a faulty roof and that the wall on the right flank had bulged and needed to be taken down and rebuilt.

In 1886 it was decided by the Defence Committee that the 4 x 32pr SB guns should be removed and the 64pr RML be retained for practice.

The battery was superseded when the other forts and batteries were built along the shores of the Milford Haven estuary; the armament steadily decreased until only eight guns remained for drill and practice. All the guns were withdrawn in 1901 and the next year the battery was dismantled and transferred to the Royal Navy who demolished most of it to construct a jetty.

Only a few pieces of the outer wall remain of the first battery of the Milford Haven defences today and these are within a secured area.

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