

## Wave Basin Battery

<b>Commenced</b>	1860's	<b>Armament</b>	
<b>Completed</b>	1860's	<b>1882-1897</b>	4 x 80pdr RML
<b>Cost</b>	£ Unknown	<b>1895 RA &amp; Re Works Committee</b>	
<b>Map Reference</b>	NZ 409581	Approved	4 x 80pr R.M.L.
<b>Position</b>		Mounted	4 x 80pr R.M.L. (drill) 1 x 3pr Q.F. 1 x M.G.
<b>Type</b>	Coast Battery	<b>1902</b>	4 machine guns
<b>Ditch</b>		<b>1904</b>	1 machine gun
<b>Guns</b>	4	<b>1906-1910</b>	2 machine guns
<b>Barrack Accom.</b>			
<b>Present use</b>			
<b>History</b>	Coast defence battery		
<b>Disposal</b>			
<b>Condition</b>	Extant - fair		
<b>Access</b>	With permission from the Port of Sunderland Authority		
<b>Sources</b>	Material in N. Archives in Classes CAB 3 & 18, WO 33 & 78		

### History and Description

The Battery is situated on a mole adjacent to the South Pier at the entrance to the River Wear, and the site was given to the War Office in 1860 by the River Wear Commissioners for defence purposes. No firm date can be given for its construction save to say that it was in the eighteen sixties. Since the Battery was built, Sunderland docks have been substantially extended so that it is now well inside the dock area.

The Battery is built of masonry with an adjacent firing parapet for infantry defence. The Battery was armed with four 80 pdr RML guns; two on central pivot mountings firing en-barbette with two guns in between them on front pivot mountings firing through embrasures. These were for drill and practice only. The 1895 R.A. and R.E. Works Committee reported in 1895 that in addition a 3pr Q.F. and a machine gun were mounted. Behind the gun positions were two buildings now demolished, one being the magazine the other probably a store with perhaps a small barrack. After 1897 the guns were removed and armament returns show a varying number of machine guns as the approved armament until just before the First World War. The Battery does not appear to have been operational in either World War.

The Battery still exists and can be visited with permission from the Port of Sunderland Authority, all visits are accompanied for security reasons.

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