

Barton's Point Battery

Commenced	1889	Armament	
Completed	1895	1871	R.M.L.s
Cost	£	1889	2 x 9.2inch BL 2 x 6-inch BLHP
Map Reference	TQ 938748	1898	1 x 6-inch BL to be added
Position	Mouth of the River Medway at Barton's Point near Military Canal	1900	4 x 5inch BL Vavasseur 4 x 6-inch BL barbette 2 x 9.2inch BL 2 x 6inch BLHP
Type	Coast Defence Barbette	1913	2 x 12pdr QF for Practice
Ditch	Military Canal	1914	2 x 6pdr AA guns added
Guns	4	1914	partly disarmed
Barrack Accom.		1946	Training battery for Sheerness area
Present use	Mostly demolished. Inside a holiday camp.		
History	Coast defence with rifle range nearby. Training battery.		
Disposal			
Condition	Two pits remain but filled, together with magazines used for storage.		
Access			
Sources	National Archives : plans in WO78		

History and Description

A battery for RML guns was in existence at Barton's point in 1871 to defend the mouth of the River Medway. The battery was built on the sea front (north of the battery) adjacent to the military canal (south of the battery), which runs from Barton's Point to Westminster. Initially a fort was proposed for each end, but only Barton's Point Battery was built. In 1889 a new battery was constructed to mount two 9.2-inch B.L. guns Mk IX and two 6-inch B.L. guns on disappearing carriages. In 1898 an armament return shows that it was proposed to add another 6-inch BL to the battery.

Following a remodelling in 1900 two Hotchkiss guns were added. The eastern portion of the battery held the four BL emplacements, two 6inch BLs on Barbette mounts in No.I and No.II emplacements and two Mark IV's in emplacements III and IV. Further to the east was the 9.2inch BL battery mounting two 9.2inch BL guns in emplacements B1 and B2 and two 6inch BL on HP disappearing carriages in A1 and A2.

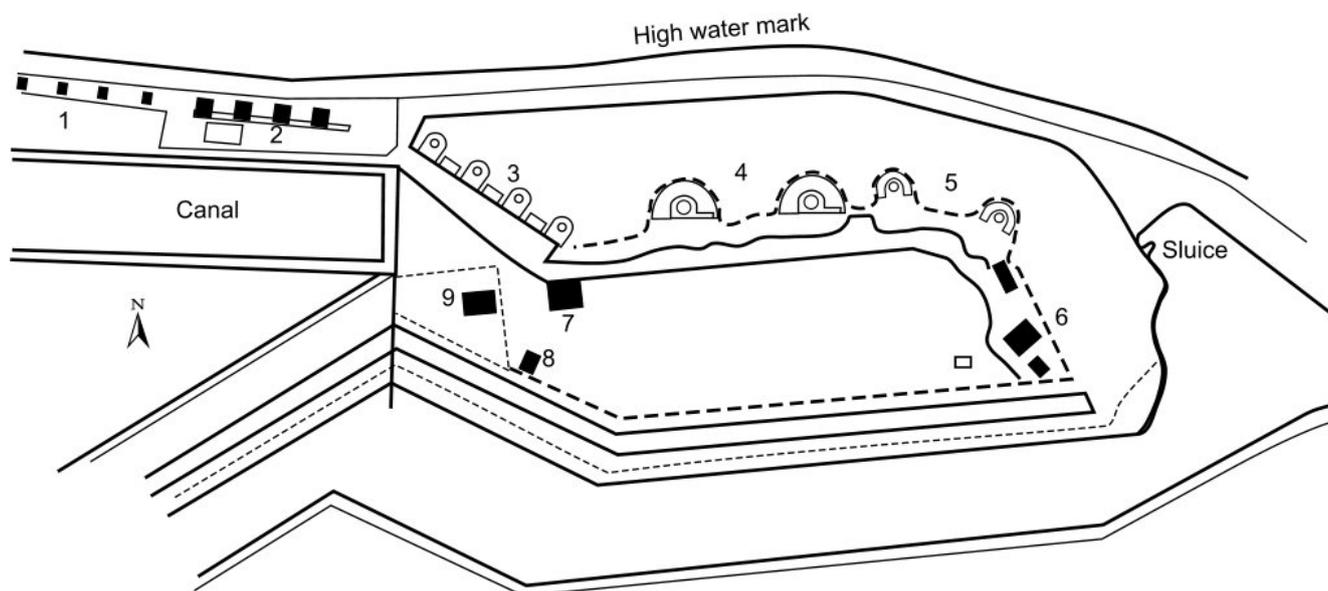
To the left (west) of the BL emplacements and outside the battery proper was a QF battery for 5inch BL guns on Vavasseur mounts. No.I and No.II emplacements mounted Vavasseur Mark I guns and No.s III and IV mounted Vavasseur Mark II guns. Position Finders for this battery were situated west of the gun line.

The battery had a Master Gunner's Quarters and guard room just inside the gate. A smith's and fitter's shop and a gun shed were located at the eastern end of the battery near a paint store, gun and tackle store, artillery general store and the master gunner's office. There was also an Officers' Mess room.

On 1 June 1899 the new Rifle Range at Barton's Point Sheerness was completed and handed over. The battery was described as 'partly demolished and obsolete' in 1914 but an armament return shows two 6dr QF mounted. The guns were removed in 1926. In WWII machine gun emplacements were built along the sea front, one close to the battery. By 1946 the battery had become the principal training battery in the Sheerness area. It became part of HMS Wildfire, the Navy's Nore Command Gunnery School. The Navy left in 1960.

Only two of the gun pits remain but converted to stores. The others have been filled in with concrete or earth. The magazines between the gun pits remain with two ammunition lifts and original lettering. An observation post remains on two of the gun emplacements from the 6inch training battery. The site is now surrounded by wooden holiday chalets.

Barton's Point Battery



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| 1. Position finding cells | 5. 6-inch HP emplacements |
| 2. 5inch B.L. Battery | 6. Smith's & Fitter's shop, & Stores |
| 3. 6inch BL Battery | 7. Guard Room |
| 4. 9.2inch BL emplacements | 8. Urinals |
| | 9. Master Gunner's Quarters |

