

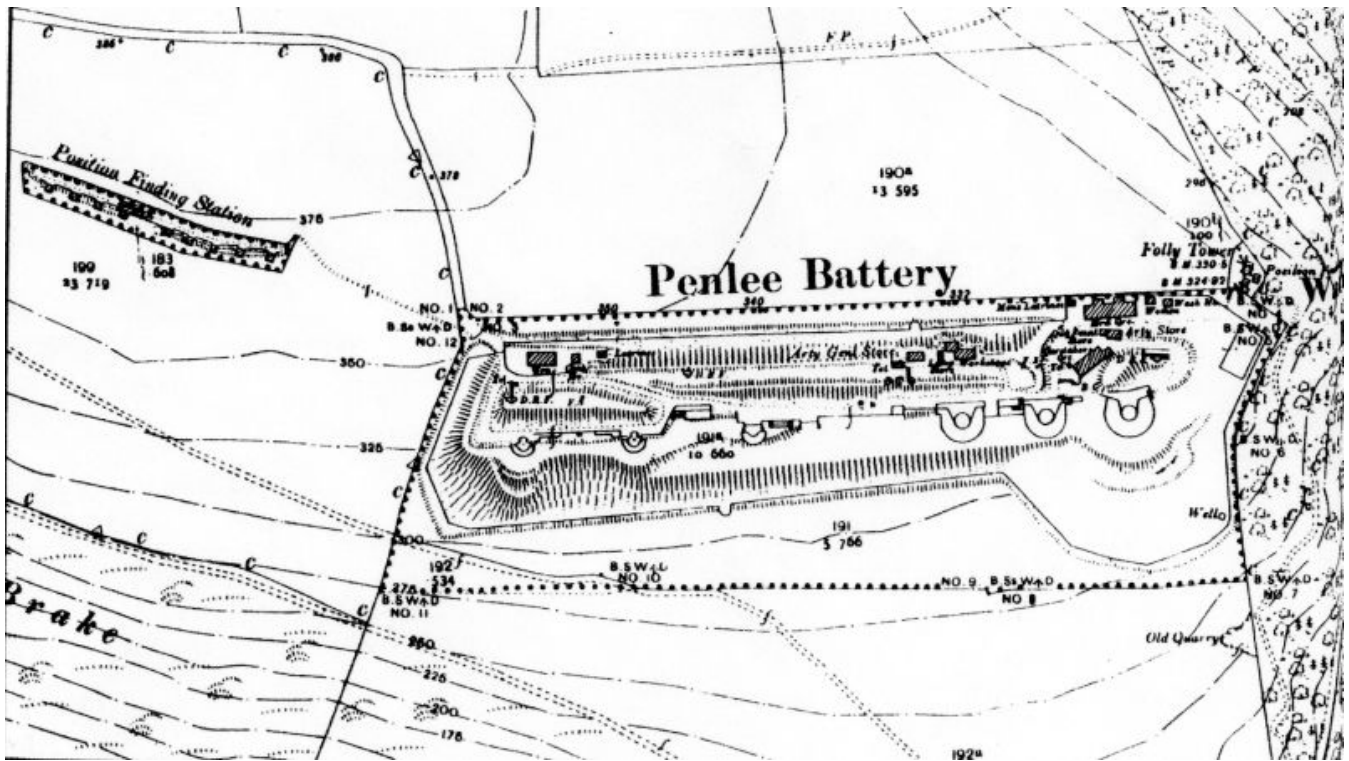
Penlee Point Battery

Commenced	1889	Armament
Completed	1892	
Cost	£ 74,160	1885 Proposed 2 x 67-ton 13.5-inch BL guns and 4 x 6-inch BL on Elswick HP mounts.
Map Reference	SX 438491	1892 2 x 6-inch
Position	Rame Point	1894 1 x 13.5-inch 2 x 6-inch BL
Type	Coast Defence	1898 3 x 6-inch BLs 1 x 13.5-inch BL
Ditch	Trench with unclimbable fence	1903 2 x 9.2-inch BLS 3 x 6-inch BLs 1 x 13.5-inch BL
Guns	5	1910 3 x 9.2-inch BLs MK X
Barrack Accom.	None	1818 3 x 9.2-inch BLs MK X
Present use	Filled in. Now a Nature Reserve.	1936 Proposed but may not have been mounted 3 x 9.2-inch on 35° long range mounts.
History	Coast defence experimental	1946 3 x 9.2-inch BL
Disposal	1956	
Condition	Filled in but recognisable.	
Access	Open access to site	
Sources	Historic Defences of Plymouth, Pye & Woodward	

History and Description

Plymouth had more than its fair share of unusual defence armament and this was the most unusual of all the sites. Constructed above Penlee Point it was first proposed in 1885 for two 13.5-inch BL and four 6-inch BL guns on Elswick disappearing mountings. In 1889 construction began for the 13.5-inch mounting and two six inch guns. The 6-inch guns were mounted by 1892 and the 13.5-inch was mounted by January 1894 in a large emplacement at the eastern end of the battery. The battery was defended by a trench and unclimbable fence on the Twydal principle. Underground magazines and stores with above ground quarters for the Master Gunner and accommodation for the gun crews were supplied. In 1898 two more 6-inch positions were added to the east of the original two. One was mounted by 1903. There is no record of the fourth being supplied. In 1899 two 9.2-inch BLs were proposed and were in place west of the 13.3-inch position by 1903. By 1910 the 13.5-inch BL had been replaced by a third 9.2-inch BL and the 6-inch BLs dismantled. By 1911 married quarters and workshops had been added. During WWI the three 9.2-inch guns remained in service but one was removed in 1920. By 1929 the third was remounted and the battery used for practice. By 1936 it was proposed to remount all three 9.2-inch BLs on long range 35° mountings with a maximum range of 35,000 yards but this may have not been done. The guns were removed in 1956 and the site was filled in the 1970s. All of the above ground buildings have been demolished but the gun aprons are identifiable with the western one of the 6-inch positions intact, together with its magazine and a DRF position.

Penlee Battery



John Manley



Steve Johnson