

Woodlands Fort

Commenced	1863 (contractor failed 1866)	Armament	
Completed	by engineers 1869/70	1875	
Cost	£ 27,973	proposed	12 x 7-inch RBL 6 x SB flank guns.
Map Reference	SX471593	1885	
Position	North East Defences Left Flank	mounted	8 x 7-inch RBL
Type	Land Front polygonal	1893	
Ditch	Dry	mounted	2 x 7-inch RBL 3 x 64pr. RML (plus 2 x 7-inch dismantled)
Guns	18	required	4 x 32pr. SBBL
Barrack Accom.	100	Caponiers	1
Present use	Devon C.C. library, parade for a market and car park	Counterscarp galleries	1
History	Mainly accommodation for various units.	Haxo casemates	2
Disposal	1920	Moncrieff Pits	None
Condition	Ramparts and ditch overgrown		
Access	All year		
Sources	1868 report : Precis of Correspondence relating to the Defences of Plymouth 1893. Historic Defences of Plymouth by A. Pye and F. Woodward		

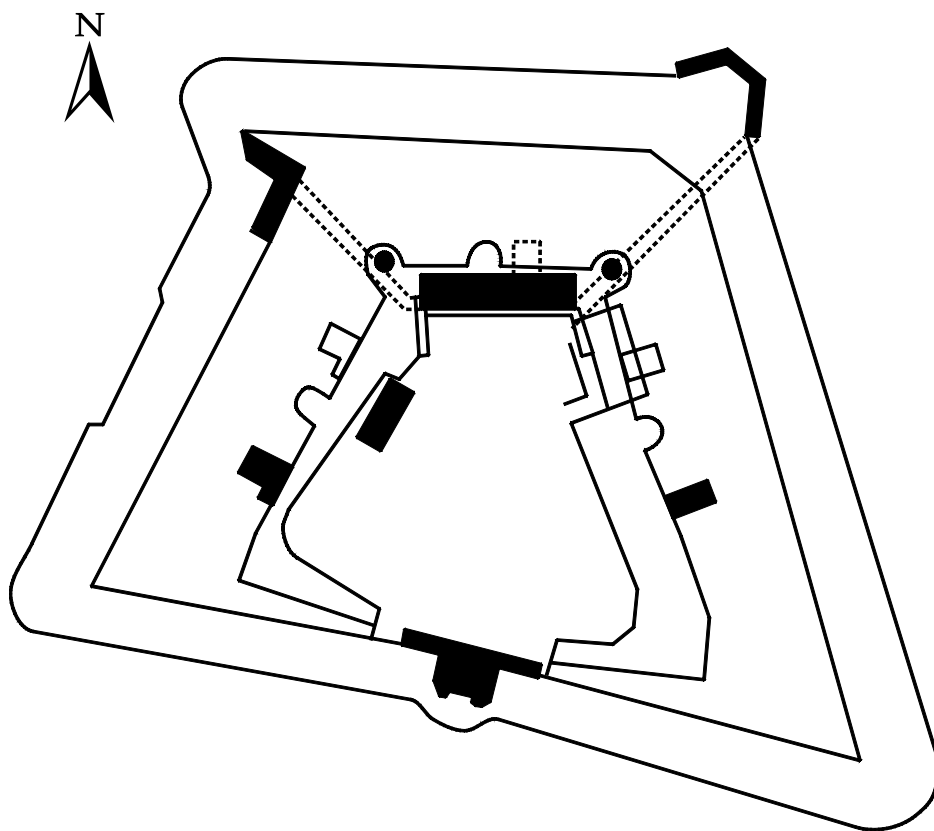
History and Description

Woodland(s) Fort occupies a site on the ridge half way between the villages of St. Budeaux and Knacker's Knowle at an elevation of 230 feet above the sea. It was intended to mount 18 guns, two of which were in Haxo casemates on the flanks. The ditch is the same as that at Agaton, flanked by guns and musketry. It has a defensible guard room and barracks for 100 men with additional room in the caponiers and flanking gallery. The single caponier flanks the west ditch whilst the north and east ditch was flanked by a counterscarp gallery connecting with the main work by a tunnel under the rampart and ditch. The two storey barrack block consists of four vaulted casemates on each floor, with a first floor balcony and a parapet at roof level. Tunnels at each end lead to the caponier and counterscarp gallery. The main magazine is situated at the east end of the barracks and consists of three casemated chambers opening onto the parade and a larger casemate behind. The cookhouse still survives within a builder's yard on the west of the parade.

The fort received the usual 7-inch RBLs and 64pr. RMLs by 1895 but was disarmed shortly afterwards. Three expense magazines under traverses on the terreplein separate the concrete 64pr. RML C pivot emplacements at the N and NE salients and the two 7-inch A pivot emplacements in Haxos at the centre of each flank. A third open position is to be found in the centre of the front face. It was used mainly for accommodation during WWI and was sold by the MOD in 1920. It was again occupied by the military in WWII.

Devon County Council used the barracks as a library and community centre for many years. The fort is now a Community Resource Centre (1012). The ramparts are overgrown, although some clearance was undertaken in 2003, and the guardhouse disused and blocked up. The Jubilee Bar intend to open up the basement magazines, tunnels, counterscarp gallery and caponier. A derelict builder's yard with the fort's original cookhouse occupies the west part of the parade.

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Barrack Block Woodlands Fort