

## Knowles Battery

<b>Commenced</b>	1863 (contractor failed 1866)	<b>Armament</b>	
<b>Completed</b>	by engineers 1869/70	<b>1875</b> proposed	
<b>Cost</b>	£ 19,562	9 x 7-inch RBL	
<b>Map Reference</b>	SX463596	3 x SB flank guns	
<b>Position</b>	North East Defences Left Flank	<b>1893</b>	
<b>Type</b>	Land Front	2 x 7-inch RBL	
<b>Ditch</b>	Dry	3 x 64pr. RML	
<b>Guns</b>	13		
<b>Barrack Accom.</b>			
<b>Present use</b>	In the grounds of a school		
<b>History</b>	WWII barrage balloon base	<b>Caponiers</b>	None
<b>Disposal</b>	Not known	<b>Counterscarp galleries</b>	None
<b>Condition</b>	Much altered or demolished	<b>Haxo casemates</b>	1
<b>Access</b>		<b>Moncrieff Pits</b>	None
<b>Sources</b>	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

Knowles Battery was designed by DuCane and constructed on a spur 190ft. High, slightly in advance of the general line and 800 yards from Agaton on the left and Woodlands on the right. It was to mount 13 guns in open battery, except for one in a Haxo casemate on the right flank. Three expense magazines were provided in traverses with a reserve magazine in the guard house with sufficient room for powder and shells. The ground in front of this work could be swept with fire from Agaton and Woodlands Forts but its ditch was devoid of any flank defence. The scarp of the ditch was cut from rock and presented a slope of one-half to one, twenty feet high. The gorge wall is thirty feet high and is flanked by positions for a gun and five loopholes on either side of the two-storied guardroom. This itself is protected towards the battery by an earthen parapet with a stockade at its foot. Underneath this lies the magazine with an ammunition lift supplying the guns in the guard house. The roof held a parapet with a firing step behind. The loopholed gorge wall contained a musketry gallery.

The main part of the battery is now a school site and all but one of the 64pr. gun positions have been removed. The guard house survives intact, the ground floor now unused changing rooms and the roof an empty swimming pool. The gateway may have originally been through the guardhouse but was later sited to the west.

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