

Lavernock Point Battery

Commenced	1865	Armament	
Completed	1870	1881	Mounted 3 x 7-inch RML Mk III on Moncrieff Counterweight Pattern I
Cost	£ unknown	1895	Mounted 4 x 7-inch RML Moncrieff
Map Reference	ST 188681	1903	2 x 6-inch BL Mk VII on CPII
Position	Lavernock Point near Barry	Caponiers	None
Type	Coast defence	Counterscarp galleries	None
Ditch	Dry	Haxo casemates	None
Guns	4	Moncrieff Pits	4
Barrack Accom.			
Present use	Holiday Camp		
History	One RML loaned to Bovisand		
Disposal			
Condition	Little remains.		
Access	With permission		
Sources	A History of Maritime Forts in the Bristol Channel 1866-1900 : Barrett.		

History and Description

Lavernock Point Battery was part of the defence scheme for the Severn Estuary. It was to defend the channel between Barry Island and Flat Holm. It was an enclosed work on the north east shore of the channel at Lavernock Point near Cardiff. It was constructed for four 7-inch RML on Moncrieff counterweight carriages. Three 7-inch RMLs were mounted in 1881 and four by 1895. The 1880 plans of the battery show a bridge across the ditch, some barrack quarters for two married soldiers, four gun pits, a laboratory, a magazine and powder store.

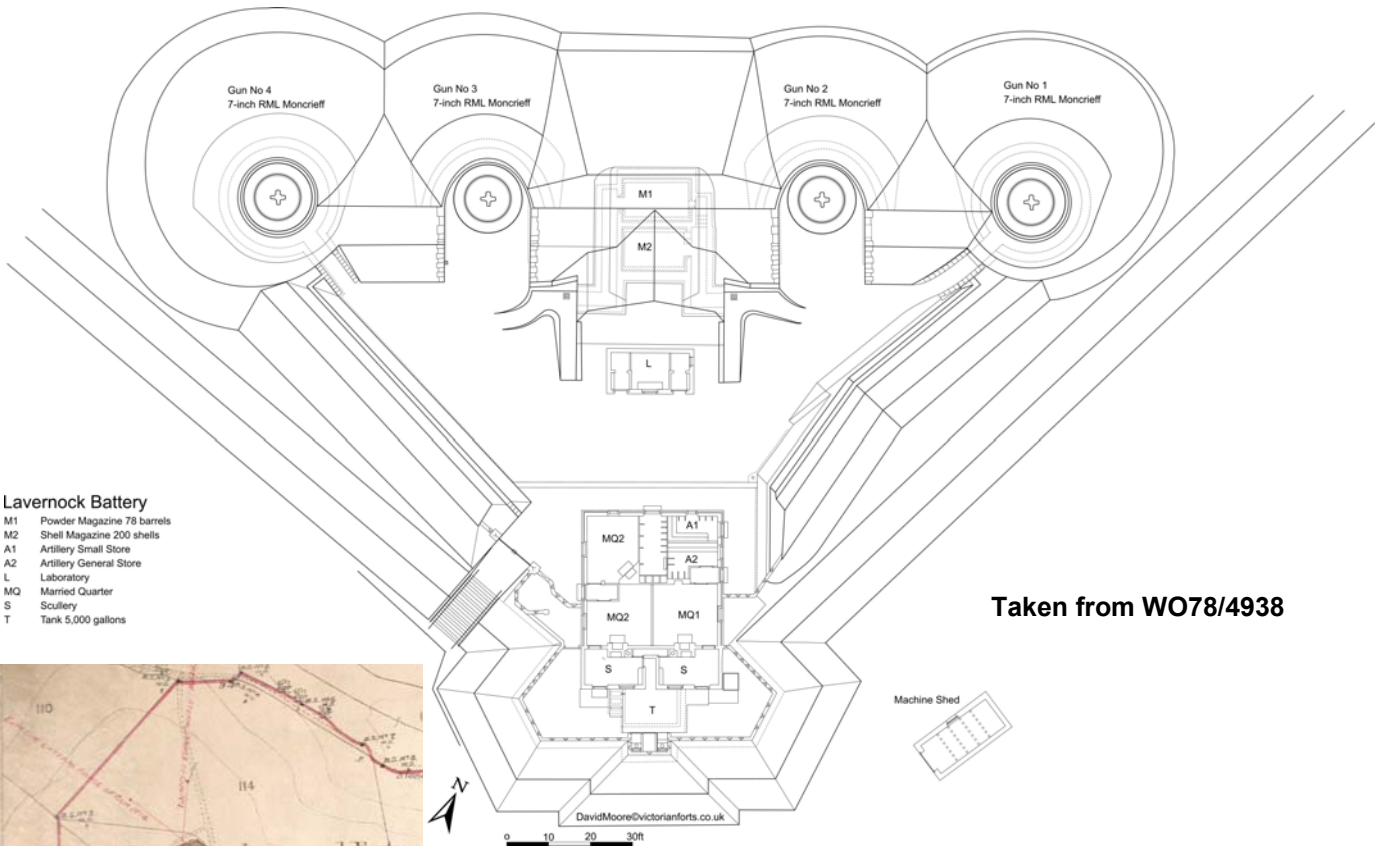
The 1889 plans show the modifications for two 6-inch BL guns.

In 11th. May 1897 Marconi and Kemp exchanged the first message by wireless telegraphy between Lavernock, Brean Down and Flat Holm. By 1903 Lavernock was armed with two 6-inch BL guns mounted at right angles to each other, one firing up the Channel and one towards Flat Holm.

The site is now occupied by a caravan and holiday chalet park. The ditch is filled and most of the battery has been demolished. The access road is still there. In 1983 the magazines for the 6-inch BLs were still visible but the gun pits were filled with earth and rubbish. One magazine had a swimming pool built over it. One Moncrieff pit was also identifiable.

See *'The Defence of the Bristol Channel in the last two Centuries'* Margaret Pinsent : Fort 11 1983.

Lavernock Point Battery



Lavernock Battery

- M1 Powder Magazine 78 barrels
- M2 Shell Magazine 200 shells
- A1 Artillery Small Store
- A2 Artillery General Store
- L Laboratory
- MQ Married Quarter
- S Scullery
- T Tank 5,000 gallons

Taken from WO78/4938



**SEVERN DEFENCES
LAVERNOCK BATTERY**

SCALE 10 feet = 1 inch (25.4m)

