

## Dale (Point) Fort

<p><b>Commenced</b> c1851  <b>Completed</b> c1856  <b>Cost</b> £ unknown  <b>Map Reference</b> SM 823051  <b>Position</b> Dale Point</p> <p><b>Type</b> Coast Battery with defensible barracks  <b>Ditch</b> Dry : Landward side  <b>Guns</b> Main battery 7  <b>Barrack Accom.</b> 3 officers and 62 men  <b>Present use</b> Field Studies Centre</p> <p><b>History</b> Trials of Zalinsky Dynamite gun</p> <p><b>Disposal</b> Sold by War Office in 1902  <b>Condition</b> Good  <b>Access</b> By arrangement with Field Study Centre</p> <p><b>Sources</b> 1858 &amp; 1868 Committee Reports, Precis of Correspondence prior 1893 National Archives, 'A Short History of Dale Fort' by S.L. Morrell</p>	<p><b>Armament</b></p> <p><b>1857-1869</b> 7 x 68pr.</p> <p><b>1870s</b> Disarmed</p> <p><b>Caponiers</b> None</p> <p><b>Counterscarp galleries</b> None</p> <p><b>Haxo casemates</b> None</p> <p><b>Moncrieff Pits</b> None</p>
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### History and description

A work (battery) was recommended for Dale Point since 1829 but nothing was done until General Sir John Burgoyne reiterated the need for such a work in 1850. During the 1850s the battery was constructed, no definite dates can be given as official records are silent but it had been completed by 1858. The battery was originally proposed to prevent an enemy making use of the anchorage at the mouth of the haven. In 1858 the main battery was criticised as being too close to the rock face behind it rendering it potentially untenable during a bombardment; perhaps the criticism stuck as in 1871 it was proposed that the battery at Dale Point be abandoned and its armament and stores withdrawn. In 1876 it was proposed that; *a few heavy guns should be placed at Dale Point Battery to co-operate with Thorne Island and the Battery at Dale Point be remodelled to receive them.* This was not carried out.

The Fort was the test site for the Zalinski Dynamite gun during 1890s in the event the gun was not adopted as technology had overtaken it. There were plans for a Brennan Torpedo establishment and a battery of 6-inch guns however nothing came of these either.

The War Office sold the Fort in 1902 to Lieutenant-Colonel Own-Evans (RE) who converted it into a private residence for himself and his family; he died in 1925 and the Fort was bought by a Miss Bland (later Mrs. Lee-Roberts). During the Second World War the Admiralty requisitioned the Fort for use as a de-gaussing and mine watching station. The Fort was returned to Mrs. Lee-Roberts by the Admiralty in 1946, she sold the Fort the next year to the forerunners of the Field Studies Council.

The Fort is situated at the end of the Dale peninsula and is cut off from it by a ditch that reaches down to the shoreline on either side of the peninsula.

The ditch is covered by a tiered loophole wall which at its highest point forms a plateau where a battery shaped like a Tudor bulwark, with embrasures for three guns projects out into the ditch covering it on both sides. Inside the Fort are separate soldiers and officers barracks stores and magazine; the gun battery is at the eastern end of the site, and is tiered in that the first four guns are at a slightly lower level than the last three, all fired en barbette; originally there was a small magazine behind the four gun battery but this has gone. Alterations over the years have been made, notably an accommodation block has been built on top of the main magazine. The Dynamite gun position survives outside the dining area together with the underground chamber.

# Dale Fort

