

= Pendennis Castle =

Pendennis Castle is an artillery fort constructed by Henry VIII near Falmouth , Cornwall , between 1540 and 1542 . It formed part of the King 's Device programme to protect against invasion from France and the Holy Roman Empire , and defended the Carrick Roads waterway at the mouth of the River Fal . The original , circular keep and gun platform was expanded at the end of the century to cope with the increasing Spanish threat , with a ring of extensive stone ramparts and bastions built around the older castle . Pendennis saw service during the English Civil War , when it was held by the Royalists , and was only taken by Parliament after a long siege in 1646 . It survived the interregnum and Charles II renovated the fortress after his restoration to the throne in 1660 .

Ongoing concerns about a possible French invasion resulted in Pendennis 's defences being modernised and upgraded in the 1730s and again during the 1790s ; during the Napoleonic Wars , the castle held up to 48 guns . In the 1880s and 1890s an electrically operated minefield was laid across the River Fal , operated from Pendennis and St Mawes , and new , quick @-@ firing guns were installed to support these defences . The castle saw service during both the First and Second World Wars , but in 1956 , by now obsolete , it was decommissioned . It passed into the control of the Ministry of Works , who cleared away many of the more modern military buildings and opened the site to visitors . In the 21st century , the castle is managed by English Heritage as a tourist attraction , receiving 74 @, @ 230 visitors in 2011 ? 12 . The heritage agency Historic England considers Pendennis to be " one of the finest examples of a post @-@ medieval defensive promontory fort in the country " .

= = History = =

= = = 16th ? 17th centuries = = =

= = = = Construction = = = =

Pendennis Castle was built as a consequence of international tensions between England , France and the Holy Roman Empire in the final years of the reign of King Henry VIII . Traditionally the Crown had left coastal defences to the local lords and communities , only taking a modest role in building and maintaining fortifications , and while France and the Empire remained in conflict with one another , maritime raids were common but an actual invasion of England seemed unlikely . Basic defences , based around simple blockhouses and towers , existed in the south @-@ west and along the Sussex coast , with a few more impressive works in the north of England , but in general the fortifications were very limited in scale .

In 1533 , Henry broke with Pope Paul III in order to annul the long @-@ standing marriage to his wife , Catherine of Aragon and remarry . Catherine was the aunt of Charles V , the Holy Roman Emperor , and he took the annulment as a personal insult . This resulted in France and the Empire declaring an alliance against Henry in 1538 , and the Pope encouraging the two countries to attack England . An invasion of England appeared certain . In response , Henry issued an order , called a " device " , in 1539 , giving instructions for the " defence of the realm in time of invasion " and the construction of forts along the English coastline .

The stretch of water known as Carrick Roads at the mouth of the River Fal was an important anchorage serving shipping arriving from the Atlantic and the Mediterranean . A small gun tower , called the Little Dennis Blockhouse , was built in 1539 overlooking the entrance , and plans were made to protect the anchorage further with five additional castles . In the event , only two of these were constructed , Pendennis and St Mawes Castle , positioned on each side of Carrick Roads and able to provide overlapping fire across the water . John Killigrew , a prominent member of the local Cornish gentry , probably oversaw the construction of Pendennis ; it was built on his land and he was appointed as its first captain . Pendennis Castle cost £ 5 @, @ 614 to construct .

===== Initial operation =====

The Killigrews controlled the castle for several decades , with John Killigrew 's son and grandson continuing in turn as the captain there until 1605 . The captains of Pendennis frequently argued with those of St Mawes and in 1630 a legal dispute broke out about the rights to search and detain incoming shipping : both castles argued that they had a traditional right to do so . The Admiralty eventually issued a compromise , proposing that the castles share the searching of the traffic .

Meanwhile , a lasting peace with France was made in 1558 and the initial invasion threat passed . The Spanish threat to the south @-@ west of England became more serious , however , and war broke out in 1569 . As a result , a defensive earthwork was constructed north @-@ west of the castle to protect it against an attack from the land , and an additional gun battery facing upriver was installed alongside the blockhouse . The levels of the garrison varied considerably during the period . Pendennis had a garrison of 100 men in 1578 , and could have mustered around 500 men in 1596 , while in 1599 it was reportedly guarded by 200 soldiers .

The Spanish threat continued ; raiding parties destroyed the Killigrews ' family home at Arwenack in 1593 , and four Spanish ships attacked the towns along the coast in 1595 . In 1597 a Spanish fleet with 20 @, @ 000 men set out to assault Pendennis and invade England , only being prevented from landing by bad weather . The failed attack caused considerable concern inside government and the Privy Council were informed that the castle was not sufficient to prevent a Spanish landing along the coast . A subsequent review carried out by Sir Nicholas Parker , Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Ferdinando Gorges recommended that the castle 's defences should be significantly extended . The military engineer Paul Ive constructed an Italian @-@ styled ring of earthworks , embrasures , bastions and a stone @-@ revetted ditch around the original Henrician castle between 1597 and 1600 , using a team of 400 local workers , costing around £ 80 a week in wages .

In the early 1600s England was at peace and Pendennis was neglected ; reportedly the garrison 's pay was two years in arrears , forcing them to gather limpets from the shoreline for food . Nonetheless , a new Italian @-@ styled gatehouse was added to the castle , probably in 1611 . War with Spain broke out again 1624 and a new defensive line , with bastions and artillery , was built across the peninsula in 1627 .

===== English Civil War and Restoration =====

When civil war broke out in 1642 between King Charles I and Parliament , Pendennis and the south @-@ west of England were held by the Royalists . The growing town of Falmouth was a strategically important part of their supply route to the Continent , while Carrick Roads formed a base for Royalist piracy in the English Channel . As the war turned in favour of the Parliamentarians , preparations were made for Prince Charles to shelter there over the winter of 1645 ? 46 , as part of which the surrounding fortifications were improved ; in the event , Charles stayed in the castle only briefly in early 1646 .

Shortly after Charles left Pendennis for the Isles of Scilly on 2 March , Thomas Fairfax entered Cornwall with a substantial army . Almost all the other Royalist positions in England had by now fallen and St Mawes Castle surrendered immediately as Fairfax approached . Pendennis Castle , however , continued to hold out , defended by around 1 @, @ 000 soldiers under the command of Sir John Arundell . They were determined to hold out against the besiegers and Arundell announced that he would die rather than surrender . Two Parliamentary colonels , Fortescue and Hammond , directed the bombardment of the castle from the land , while Captain Batten , with a flotilla of ten ships , blockaded it by sea , preventing fresh supplies from arriving .

The garrison 's defences were supported with artillery fire from a Royalist warship that was deliberately run aground north of the castle to produce an additional gun platform . By July , food had begun to run short and some of the garrison unsuccessfully attempted to break out by sea to acquire supplies . Arundell agreed to an honourable surrender on 15 August , and around 900 survivors left the fort two days later , some terminally ill from malnutrition . Pendennis was the

penultimate Royalist fortification to hold out in the war .

Parliament maintained a garrison at the castle , but in 1647 it cut the levels of the armed forces across the country ; most soldiers who lost their posts were offered two months pay , but at Pendennis only one month 's pay was offered . The garrison , led by Colonel Richard Fortescue , mutinied , seized the visiting Parliamentary commissioners and refused to leave the castle until the additional pay was granted to them . Fearing a wider uprising , Parliament negotiated an end to the confrontation , paying off the garrison in full and offering Fortescue fresh employment elsewhere . A smaller , more reliable garrison was then installed . During the interregnum , the castle was used to imprison the radical pamphleteer William Prynne .

Just before the restoration of King Charles II to the throne in 1660 , the Royalist Sir Peter Killigrew became the new captain of the castle . Fears of an invasion continued , and an additional gun battery was constructed at Crab Quay , to the south @-@ east of the main fortification . At the end of the century , a new guard barracks and gate were constructed , probably emulating those being constructed in France .

= = = 18th ? 19th centuries = = =

Pendennis Castle continued in use through the 18th and 19th centuries under the command of successive captains , still operating in partnership with St Mawes . In 1714 , Colonel Christian Lilly carried out an inspection of the fortification , finding it to be " in a very precarious condition " and noting that " the body of the fort having been for many years neglected is now in a very ruinous condition " . The parapets had collapsed , the ramparts could easily be scaled and the ditches were filled with brambles . Little was done to remedy this , however , until the 1730s , when the castle was extensively modernised . The interior was redesigned , the ramparts were rebuilt and the castle 's guns were replaced , incorporating new 18 @-@ pounder cannons .

During the American Revolutionary War , France allied itself with the revolutionaries , causing war with Britain to break out in 1778 . The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars followed , during which period Falmouth became an important military depot . In 1795 , the Crown purchased the castle 's land from the Killigrew family , and reinforced the fortress to deal with the fresh threat of invasion . The government installed more guns and built a new gun position called the Half @-@ Moon Battery just outside the 16th @-@ century walls ; the landward defences of Pendennis were reinforced , and a new barracks and other ancillary buildings were built inside the fortress . At its peak , the castle was equipped with up to 48 artillery pieces . A new volunteer unit of artillery was formed in Falmouth to support the forts around the harbour , many of them carrying out training using Pendennis 's guns before then deploying elsewhere across Cornwall .

After the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 , Pendennis was neglected ; many of its guns became unserviceable and some buildings fell into ruin . The old post of captain of Pendennis Castle was abolished in 1837 , with the fortification commanded by a conventional military appointment . In the 1850s , renewed fears of a French invasion led to investment in new artillery at the castle , and nineteen 32- and 56 @-@ pounder (14 @.@ 5 and 24 @.@ 5 kg) guns were installed . Falmouth continued to be an important harbour , particularly for the Royal Navy . When new concerns about France emerged , an electronically operated minefield was laid across Carrick Roads in 1885 , jointly controlled from Pendennis and St Mawes . New 6- and 12 @-@ pounder (2 @.@ 7 and 5 @.@ 4 kg) quick @-@ firing guns , supported by machine @-@ guns for close defence , were assigned to the castle to deal with the emerging threat from enemy torpedo boats .

= = = 20th ? 21st centuries = = =

The 105th Regiment Royal Garrison Artillery took over the manning of Pendennis Castle in 1902 . A new barracks was built to house them , and a signal station was constructed on top of the old keep to coordinate operations with shipping , while the 16th @-@ century guardhouse alongside the keep was demolished . The castle was reinforced by territorial soldiers during the First World War and additional defences were constructed on the landward side . It continued to defend the harbour and

was also used for training purposes . After the war , Pendennis continued to be used for training gunners , but its 16th @-@ century buildings were placed into the guardianship of the Ministry of Works in 1920 , and by 1939 the fortification 's artillery had all been removed .

The castle was rearmed at the beginning of the Second World War . Twin 6 @-@ pounder guns and longer range artillery were installed , zig @-@ zag trenches dug for protection , and new buildings added across the site . The 16th @-@ century fort was used as the headquarters of Falmouth Fire Command , which managed the artillery across the area . New radar @-@ controlled , 6 @-@ inch (152 mm) Mark 24 guns followed in 1943 . Falmouth played an important role in supporting the D @-@ Day invasion of France in 1944 , and during the preparations for the invasion , the gun batteries at Pendennis were used to defend against German E @-@ boats . After the war , Pendennis was initially still used for training , but the castle was now obsolete and it was decommissioned in 1956 .

The whole of the Pendennis site was placed in the guardianship of the Ministry of Works and opened to visitors ; the Ministry focused its attention on the 16th @-@ century castle and many of the more modern buildings were destroyed . The barracks were used as a youth hostel between 1963 and 2000 . The heritage agency English Heritage took over control of the castle in 1984 , and placed a greater priority on the conservation of its more modern features . Extensive work was carried out across the castle in the 1990s to refurbish the fortifications and open new facilities for visitors , accompanied by archaeological surveys and excavations ; in the 2000s , the sergeant 's mess and the custodian 's house were converted into holiday cottages .

In the 21st century , the castle is managed by English Heritage as a tourist attraction , receiving 74 @,@ 230 visitors in 2011 ? 12 . It is protected under UK law as a grade I listed building and as a scheduled monument .

= = Architecture = =

Pendennis Castle is located at the end of a peninsula , overlooking Carrick Roads and the sea . It includes the original 16th @-@ century Device Fort , surrounded by a ring of outer defences , based on the Elizabethan ramparts and later adapted during the 18th , 19th and 20th centuries . Further gun batteries and a blockhouse are located closer to the shore . The heritage agency Historic England considers Pendennis to be " one of the finest examples of a post @-@ medieval defensive promontory fort in the country " , demonstrating a long history of different defensive approaches , and English Heritage describes the site as " one of the finest surviving examples of a coast fortress in England " .

= = = Ramparts = = =

The gatehouse to the castle is located on the western side of the ramparts and dates from around 1700 . It has a classical facade , with a mid @-@ 19th century stone bridge reaching across the external ditch . The ramparts are built from stone with protective ditches , and have angular bastions to provide overlapping fire , an innovative design in England when they were first constructed in 1600 . North of the gatehouse are the Smithwick and Carrick Mount bastions , the latter holding a quick @-@ firing gun battery from 1903 . Further around the ramparts , the East Bastion also has two emplacements for quick @-@ firing guns , dating from 1902 , and underground magazines , which were converted into a battery plotting room in the Second World War . Just to the south , the Nine @-@ Gun Battery was built in the 1730s and comprises a fixed line of nine gun embrasures .

In the south @-@ east corner of the ramparts is the One @-@ Gun Battery , which originally held a " disappearing gun " , designed to pivot back under a steel shield when fired . Built in 1895 , the approach proved unsuccessful and the gun was removed in 1913 , but the emplacement still remains and is a rare survival of this type of weapon . The Bell Bastion , the Ravelin , the Pig 's Pound Bastion and the Horse Pool Bastion protect the southern and western parts of the ramparts . A range of artillery and anti @-@ aircraft guns are on show around the defences , including 19th @-@ century carronades , and 20th @-@ century pieces such as a 155 mm (6 @.@ 1 in) Long

Tom field gun , a Quick Firing 3 @-@ inch 20 cwt (76 mm 102 kg) anti @-@ aircraft gun and two Ordnance Quick @-@ Firing 25 @-@ pounder (11 kg) howitzers .

= = = Inner castle = = =

At the heart of the castle is the 16th @-@ century Henrician fortification . Built of a combination of granite ashlar and rubble , it comprises a circular keep surrounded by a gun platform , entered through a bridge and a forebuilding . The keep has 3 @-@ 36 @-@ metre (11 @-@ 0 ft) thick walls and on in the inside is octagonal . The basement was originally a kitchen , cellar and larder for the castle . The ground floor was initially designed to be a gun room , complete with gun embrasures , but was altered during the initial construction project to form living accommodation for the garrison instead . Another gun room occupies the first floor , with seven gun embrasures , and is dressed to appear as it would have done in the 16th century . The roof has seven gun embrasures and a lookout turret .

The polygonal gun platform around the keep has 16 sides , with a total of 14 gun embrasures . The two @-@ storey forebuilding dates from the second half of the 16th century , with three rooms on each level linked by a spiral @-@ staircase , and was originally used to house the captain of the castle . Its entrance was guarded with a portcullis , and the roof was designed to be defensible with handguns . The stone bridge that stretches across the ditch that protects the castle dates from 1902 ; it would originally have been protected at the front by a rectangular gatehouse , but this was demolished at the start of the 20th century .

The rest of the interior of the fortress was , at various times , occupied by a range of different military buildings , but they have mostly been demolished and grassed over to form a large parade ground . Among the surviving buildings are the Royal Garrison Artillery barracks , located to the north of the parade ground . Built between 1900 and 1902 , it could hold 140 soldiers in 12 man barrack @-@ rooms . Alongside the barracks are bungalows , originally for the use of senior non @-@ commissioned officers , a storehouse dating from the Napoleonic Wars , and two guard barracks from 1700 , which form a very early example of this form of military architecture in England . Other buildings that have survived include a 19th @-@ century field train shed , and an 18th @-@ century gunpowder magazine , since converted into a shelter for gunners .

= = = External defences = = =

Three defensive positions are positioned outside the main ramparts of the castle . To the south , reached by an underground passage , is the Half @-@ Moon Battery , constructed in 1793 and redesigned in 1895 and 1941 . This has two camouflaged gun houses and 6 @-@ inch guns dating from the Second World War , when it held a team of 99 soldiers . Further south , near the waterline , is the Little Dennis Blockhouse , a D @-@ shaped gun position dating from 1539 , altered in the 1540s and then adapted to form part of a larger fortification covering the whole of Pendennis Point in the late 16th century . Built from Killas rubble , the exterior of the blockhouse and its lookout turret still survive intact . Just along the shoreline to the north @-@ east is the Crab Quay Battery , a set of defences originating in the 16th century , intended to prevent an amphibious landing on the headland , and modernised extensively in 1902 .