

22nd Amelt
17/04/2009

later Rolling Way at Priddy's Hard (the original one being part of 'B' Magazine, (qv) formed part of the tramway system that from the 1860s was devised in order to link 'C' Magazine to the Laboratory and its associated shell-filling complex, and this section is an important surviving remnant that relates to the great expansion and important historical role of this site.

The case stores at Priddy's Hard are all grouped around the magazine complex that developed from the late 18th century around its small harbour. They all date from the second half of the 19th century and are associated with the introduction into naval service of shells, a type of ordnance which revolutionised both the operations of the key naval depots and the development of naval ships and fortifications. Each shell was individually packed into its own wooden box before being taken aboard ship.

The magazines and related structures at Priddy's Hard date from the late 18th century. The site's expansion from the mid 19th century was closely related to the development of land and sea artillery and the navy's transition from the age of sail, powder and solid shot to the Dreadnought class of the early 1900s. Priddy's Hard retains the best-preserved range of structures that relate to this remarkable history of continual enlargement and adaptation, one that encompasses that of Britain's dominance as a sea power on a global scale.

For further historical details on this site, see the description for 'A' Magazine.

500744

PRIDDY'S HARD
Quick Fire Shell Store,
approximately 19m W of 'A'
Magazine

GV

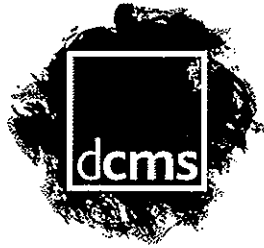
II

Quick Fire Ammunition Store. 1896/7. English bond brick with slate roof. Rectangular plan. Segmental header arches over all openings. South gable end has double-leaf central door flanked by casement windows which were deepened using the original sills in 1916. Outer clasping piers, with stone caps, to brick coped parapet. 10-bay side elevations with similar fenestration, each bay being recessed and articulated by brick pilasters.

INTERIOR has metal roof trusses.

HISTORY: This imposing range of 1896/7 is sited close to the main site entrance and 'A' Magazine. After an example at Bull Point, Plymouth, it is the most impressive surviving example of a structure for the storage of this important new type of naval ordnance, significant within the context of this site and its unique historical importance. The windows were sensitively deepened when it was converted into a carpenters' machine shop for the Experimental Mining Depot in 1915, when the opening of the depot at Bedenham had made its original function redundant.

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For further historical details on this site, see the description for 'A' Magazine

500735

PRIDDY'S HARD
Shell Store approximately 5m SE
of Shell Stores and Transfer Shed
(Building 303)

GV

II

Shell store. 1879, extended 1892. Brick in English bond, slate roof on metal trusses. A long freestanding gabled structure, built in 8 + 4 bays; the trusses carried on internal brick piers. The gable ends have a central framed plank door to brick segmental head, flanked by high-level arched windows in 12 large panes to voussoirs and stone sills, a similar central light with louvred lower section, and a small oculus at the gable peak. The long sides have seven pairs of evenly spaced 6-pane lights to segmental heads, and each pair to a continuous stone sill. All openings have three rows of brick headers as voussoirs, and all lights appear to have an inner armature or second window in small-pane format. The long E side has a central pair of doors and similar pair in the first bay from the S, with corresponding openings to the W (but one of these now blocked). The ridge carries 5 evenly spaced steel vents, added in the early C20.

INTERIOR: the original transit cranes have been removed, leaving only the metal trusses. The 1892 plan, at the time that the northernmost four bays were added, shows the rail transit system, which was in-situ at least until 1899.

HISTORY: This shell store was built in 1879, and enlarged to the north in 1892. Its construction related to a great expansion in the requirements of the British navy for shells, a type of ordnance which had a radical effect on the development of naval ships and fortifications. It is a solid and substantial building, the most significant surviving example of this key building type in any of the ordnance yards and whose plan and form clearly relate to its intended function in relationship to the site's transit system. The development of complex shell-filling systems at once differentiated Priddy's Hard from the other Depots, and the survival of such a complete complex is unique in a national context. An increasing amount of buildings (sited around the Camber) were required to house the store of empty cases in which shells were individually packed and supplied to the ships: there are seven of these stores, ranging from 1859 to the 1890s. The further redevelopment of Priddy's Hard began in 1860 with the construction of 'C' Magazine (Building 435). This was originally intended for the receipt of ammunition from ships, and formed the terminus of a transport system, linked to the Laboratory, that was to play a key role in the development in the 1860s of a shell-filling complex. This eventually necessitated the demolition of the east ranges of the Laboratory, converted for shell-filling purposes in the 1860s but without the capacity to meet the demand as shells replaced solid shot as the standard naval ordnance. Tramways connected the Powder Pier and new E