

La Platte Rocque, Grouville, Jersey Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

Commissioned by Mark Dennis
of Design Plus Ltd on behalf of
Mr and Mrs McIntosh



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Note

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Abbreviations and terminology

Archaeology

Taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. It is also used in this report as a means of describing physical remains (e.g. there is likely to be preservation of archaeology).

DBA

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

JD

Jersey Datum; used to express a given height above mean sea level related specifically to Jersey.

PROJECT SITE

Area of the proposed development site. This may include heritage assets and boundaries that will not be directly affected by development, but which by virtue of their proximity to the actual ground disturbance are important elements of the historic environment and which must be included in any assessment.

SEA LEVEL

Heights are to the nearest metre above sea level, based on the Bench Mark at the Harbour in St Helier of 9m.

UTM

Universal Transverse Mercator (Grid Zone 30 Central Meridian 3°W International Spheroid/European datum.)

Confidence ratings

Low

Archaeological activity is considered unlikely based on available information, but cannot be entirely discounted.

Medium

Likely survival of archaeological remains based on proximity to archaeological sites, associated finds and or literary and cartographic evidence.

High

Confirmed presence of archaeological features, preserved to a high level from which vital and important evidence could be obtained.

Channel Islands chronological table (for the purposes of this DBA)

Period	Date	Information
Prehistoric	250000 - 56 BC	Generalised period from the earliest human activity in the island to the official conquest of Gaul by the Romans.
Palaeolithic	250000 - 10000 BC	Defined by a number of key sites showing Neanderthal and Early Human activity, for example La Cote de St Brelade. Mobile groups, ephemeral habitation evidence, stone tool technology.
Mesolithic	10000 – 5000 BC	Period of major transformation in the European environment and landscape after the end of the last Ice Age and the beginning of the Holocene. Mobile hunter-gatherer communities, sophisticated tool technology and some semi-permanent settlement with evidence for the exploitation of the coastal zones of the islands. Example at Lihou Priory on Guernsey.
Neolithic	5000 – 2400 BC	The Channel Islands saw an earlier transition to the Neolithic than in Britain. Emergence of monumental architecture, first (potentially) with menhirs later by chambered tombs and subsequently gallery graves. Development of complex society, more sedentary lifestyles and more clearly defined symbolic behaviour.

Chalcolithic/Beaker phase	2400 – 1800 BC	Earliest introduction of copper to western Europe. Expansion of the pan-European Beaker phenomenon, including prestigious material culture and individual burials. Bell Beakers found throughout the archipelago including local emulations called Jersey Bowls. Cist-in-Circle monuments.
Bronze Age	1800 – 800 BC	The Introduction of Bronze as a material, used by the elite at first and later available to the populace more widely. Barrows/tumuli for the dead in the early stages replaced by a lack of monuments and the preponderance toward hoard deposition. Large quantities of bronze metalwork found throughout the islands and in Jersey in particular.
Iron Age	800 – 100/56 BC	Little change to domestic life in the islands. Return of monumental architecture in the form of promontory forts (at Catêl Rozel, Fremont etc) in the earlier periods, followed by warrior and horse burials in the Middle to Later stages (Guernsey only).
Gallo-Roman	100/56 BC – 400 AD	Used to describe a fusion of indigenous late Iron Age traditions in France and the Channel Islands with Roman culture. Represented by the identification of Gallo-Roman ceramics and roofing material recently excavated at Grouville Parish Church, confirming the first evidence of Gallo-Roman occupation in Jersey.
Early Medieval	400 – 973 AD	Represents the time from the end of the Roman period c.400 AD to the annexation of the Channel Islands as a region of Normandy under William Longsword in 973.
Medieval	973 – 1600 AD	Norman and post-Norman phases of Channel Island life. The islands remained loyal to the English crown despite the loss of territories in NW France under King John. Period of fortification building throughout the archipelago and in Jersey at Mont Orgueil and later at Elizabeth Castle. 1600 AD is an arbitrary date, but enables the separation of periods with more intensive industries.
Post-Medieval	1600 – 1900 AD	Period of rapid change in Jersey including the growing urbanisation of St Helier, the involvement of the island in the English Civil War and the Napoleonic Wars. Industrial activity did not impact the island as it did Britain and the rest of Europe.

Modern	1900 – 1950 AD	Radical alterations to the landscape during WWI and particularly WWII. Extensive defensive fortifications across the Channel Islands and forming part of Hitler's Atlantic wall.
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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Site Name: La Platte Rocque
Location: La Platte Rocque House, La Rocque, Grouville
UTM: 7042 4618
Type: Desk Based Assessment

In August 2010, Absolute Archaeology was commissioned by Mr M Dennis (Director, Design Plus Ltd), on behalf of Mr & Mrs McIntosh (the client), to carry out an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment on land within the grounds of La Platte Rocque House, La Rocque, Grouville. The documentary research has been carried out in advance of the proposed development of the site, to include a swimming pool and alterations to the existing buildings. In addition, the necessity to excavate a series of engineering test pits resulted in the monitoring of groundworks by Absolute Archaeology. No evidence for conflict archaeology (of the 18-19th centuries or of the Occupation phase) was located, but stratified prehistoric finds were recovered at a depth of c.1.2m.

1 INTRODUCTION AND THE STUDY AREA

1.1 In accordance with a brief for an archaeological desk-based assessment issued by the States of Jersey Planning and Building Services, Absolute Archaeology was commissioned by Mr M Dennis on behalf of the client, to carry out an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment ahead of the development to:

'Demolish structures to base of round tower. Construct ground floor extension to West elevation of main house, swimming pool and pool house to the North-West, garage and store to North-East. Hard and soft landscaping with tennis courts to North-West of site' (Planning and Environment Department, Planning Reference P/2010/0070) on the site known as 'La Platte Rocque, La Rocque, Grouville'.

1.2 In accordance with the brief, the aim of the desk-based assessment was to:

- Identify the potential of the Project Site to include archaeological deposits and to determine, where possible, their condition and likely survival;
- Define the scope and nature of the proposed development and any impact on the archaeological resource;
- Help identify any health and safety concerns (e.g. soil contamination);
- Address the potential of the Project Site to contain as yet unidentified military features of all periods, including any modifications to the Jersey Tower, in addition to considering the possible presence of archaeological deposits of other periods and themes;
- Consider and set out the context of the military features such that a full understanding of the significance may be achieved
- To raise the potential for, and nature of, further investigation, as required.

1.3 The assessment was carried out by Paul Driscoll (BA, MA) under the management of Paul Martin (BSc Hons, AIFA) and has been compiled in accordance with the terms of the brief.

1.4 The Project Site: Site Visit

The Project Site is located in the southeast of Jersey, in the parish of Grouville and within the Vingtaine de la Rocque (centred on UTM 7042 4618). The site occupies low lying land (< 10m above sea level) at the very southern tip of La Rocque, south of the coast road and immediately northeast of the pier at La Rocque (Le Harve de la Rocque) (**Fig 1**).

The Project Site is set within a grassed/landscaped area of land comprising a main house, a Jersey Tower, a podium with subterranean accommodation and a series of German Occupation fortifications (**Fig 2**). The site overlooks a public bay and the breakwater of La Rocque. The house, subterranean accommodation and Jersey Tower are accessed via a drive from the coast road. The military features are accessed by crossing the existing lawn (with one adjacent to the driveway entrance).

La Platte Rocque house is a private detached development, built in the late 19th century, although there is evidence for a structure existing on the plot in the earlier part of the 19th century.

The visually most prominent feature of the Project Site is the 18th century Jersey Tower. This tower formed one of a series of coastal towers designed by General Conway and built to hinder any French invasion. These Towers were first constructed in 1779, but the one at La Platte Rocque was not built by the time of the French invasion in 1781, although its neighbour at La Rocque was. It appears that the current Jersey Tower replaced an earlier fortification, which itself may have replaced an even earlier defensive structure.

A series of German military structures were constructed at La Platte Rocque during WWII. These formed one a series of coastal defence resistance points that were permanently manned. These resistance points comprised bunkers, machine gun emplacements, search light and flame-thrower emplacements and zig-zag slit trenches. Elements of this resistance point are still extant on the Project Site.

1.5 **Geology and Hydrology**

The site is defined by granite overlain by wind-blown sand, a feature typical of much of the island. The granite outcrops and the granite rock formations that have been an imposing element of maritime movement are clearly visible at low tide in the area.

1.6 **Site Visit and geotechnical monitoring**

Two site visits were undertaken, on Friday 20th August 2010 and the second in conjunction with the geotechnical monitoring of the site, on Monday 30th August 2010. In addition, a broader landscape assessment of the heritage assets associated with the site was undertaken. The results of these are treated separately below.

1.7 **Health and Safety**

No health and safety concerns were noted during the site visit. There is no reason to suspect ground contamination within the area.

2 LEGISLATIVE AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK

2.1 The Project Site is within an area of archaeological potential, particularly relating to multi-period defensive fortifications. Specifically the site is the location of a WWII Resistance Point (*Widerstandsnest*) and the more prominent Jersey Tower built in the late 18th century.

2.2 This assessment is contained within the legislative and planning framework related to the *Planning and Building (Jersey) Law 2002*, the *Island Plan 2002 (Policy G12)* and the *Supplementary Planning Guidance Planning Policy Note 1: Archaeology and Planning (January 2008)*.

2.3 The Island Plan 2002 states:

Paragraph 4.35: *“Archaeological remains constitute one of the principal sources of information about the people who have lived in Jersey during the last 250,000 years. A rich variety of archaeological sites survive in the Island ranging from the Palaeolithic cave site at La Cotte de St Brelade, through Neolithic ritual sites, Iron Age promontory forts and medieval field patterns, to water mills and post-medieval town streets. These sites contain irreplaceable information about our past, are essential to a knowledge of the history of humanity, contribute to a sense of place and have education, leisure and tourism value.”*

Paragraph 4.36: *“The Island’s archaeological heritage is increasingly at risk, particularly from development within the town of St Helier and changes in the countryside. However, the proposed development of a site can also provide opportunities for archaeological investigation.”*

Paragraph 4.37: *“The States of Jersey affirmed its commitment to the safeguarding of its archaeological heritage when it became a signatory to the ‘European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised), Valetta,*

1992' in September 2000. Some important sites are protected in Jersey Island Plan 2002 General Policies 4 – 13 law through designation as Sites of Special Interest, but many archaeological sites and areas are not designated and there is a need for them to be evaluated and protected, as appropriate, through planning policy."

Paragraph 4.38: *"Consideration of the importance of possible archaeological remains should be made before schemes for the development of archaeologically sensitive sites are approved and archaeological evaluations of potential development sites should therefore be sought as early as possible. Supplementary planning guidance on Archaeology and Planning will provide information about areas of known or potential archaeological interest and guidance about the requirements of archaeological evaluation."*

Paragraph 4.39: *"There is a presumption in favour of the preservation of important archaeological remains and there may be instances where archaeological remains will be of such significance to justify their preservation in situ. In most cases, however, mitigation measures (either through the design of development, through prior excavation and recording or an archaeological watching brief during development) will provide adequate protection."*

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 This assessment has been guided by the *Standards and Guidance for Desk-Based Assessments* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (revised 2008).

3.2 It conforms to the requirements set out in the document *Brief for an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment – La Platte Rocque, Application no. P/2010/0070*. In particular this DBA has addressed the specific of the project (for example those focussing on military archaeology) as outlined in the above brief.

3.3 The assessment, including the baseline survey involved consultation of readily available archaeological and historical information from documentary, cartographic and excavation archive sources. The primary repositories for information consulted comprised:

Société Jersiaise Coutanche Library

- Historic maps and documents;
- Register Sites of Special Interest and Buildings of Local Interest;
- Sites of Special Interest;
- Annual Bulletin of the Société Jersiaise

States of Jersey Planning Department

- Listed building designations for the study area.

Jersey Archive

- Historic maps, books and aerial photographs.
- Jersey Occupation Archive

3.4 Monitoring of the structural test pits was undertaken in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (revised 2008).

4 CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

4.1 General

Historic and Ordnance Survey maps held by the Lord Coutanche Library at the Société Jersiaise and the Jersey Research Centre were examined.

4.2 Cartographic observations

Key observations regarding features on the maps are recorded in Table 1 below.

Map	Observations	Fig No
Dumaresque/ Lemprière 1694	A house/structure is placed within the vicinity of La Platte Rocque. The nature of this building is not clear, nor can it be positively identified as being at La Platte Rocque.	3
Bellin 1755	No archaeological features are present on the map, but again a structure is located nearby. This appears to be in the same location as the building recorded on the 1694, but suggests that it is actually located further east.	4
Faden 1783	Coastal fortifications depicted, including the potential small fort at La Platte Rocque, although its mapped position is incorrect.	5
Richmond 1795	The Jersey Round Tower of La Platte Rocque is clearly extant and correctly positioned. Earthwork features are noted to the north, whilst seaward walls are noted to the south and east.	6
Bouillon 1799	Although other Jersey Towers are depicted the tower at La Platte Rocque is not.	7
Baker 1840	The Jersey Tower at Platte Rocque is depicted but the pier is not, despite it being completed in 1827.	8
Godfray 1849	Depicts both the tower and a house which existed prior to the current Victorian house	9
German defence sketch plan	Depicts a number of features relating to the defensive nature of the site, such as bunkers, artillery posts, searchlight placements and a flamethrower	10

Table 1: Summary of Cartographic observations

4.3 Discussion

It should be noted that the maps consulted can only offer a general guide to the potential archaeological resource of the site, as in a number of cases structural features which are recorded in various sources are either missing, or incorrectly

plotted. Nevertheless, they represent a useful appraisal of the potential archaeological resource and contribute to the historical assessment of the site.

The Dumaresque Map of 1694 is the earliest map to attempt to depict an accurate geographical representation of Jersey. This map clearly illustrates the presence of a building at La Rocque, however it is difficult to be precise about the position of this structure as the map itself is not entirely accurate. The site of La Platte Rocque is likely to be the spur of land beneath the wording "*V: de la Rocque 74*", whilst the structure depicted is occurring further to the east. Of course, this may be due to inaccurate positioning on the map, in order to facilitate the wording. The absence of a structure on the 1694 map is difficult to judge, as the documentary evidence suggests that a fortification had already been constructed there by this time. It is possible, considering the general inaccuracies of maps of this nature that the structure depicted may actually be at La Platte Rocque. However, it is more likely that the map does not represent a comprehensive illustration of development at this time.

The Bellin map of 1755 depicts a structure at La Platte Rocque, placing it once again to the east of the Project Site. Once again, there is an absence of structural features at La Platte Rocque, which is contrary to the documentary evidence, which suggests the existence of a fortification.

The Faden map of 1783 once again, does not record any structures within the area of La Platte Rocque. However, the documentary sources suggest that a building should be present. Documentary sources indicate that in 1781 the French captured the small fort at La Platte Rocque, the existence of which is recorded in both French and British contemporary accounts. However, the geographical accuracy of the Faden map is doubtful and therefore the structure depicted to the southwest of the site may be intended to be the fort described in the documentary evidence. If so, it is possible that this structure is also the one depicted on the Dumaresque and Bellin maps, although inaccurately positioned.

By the time of the 1795 Duke of Richmond map the Jersey Round Tower at La Platte Rocque has been built. The map was a survey started in 1787 and published in 1795, so it is not clear at what point within these eight years La Platte Rocque was surveyed. The French invasion of 1781 expedited the construction of Jersey Round Towers (although 30 were commissioned for building in 1779 only four were built by the time of the French invasion). The Richmond map shows that, in addition to the actual stone tower, likely earthwork fortifications were positioned to the north of the Round Tower, whilst a defensive wall formed an arc around the tower to the south and east. This is likely the existing granite sea wall (see **fig 7**).

The Bouillon map of 1799 is perhaps the most surprising for its omission of the Jersey Round Tower at Platte Rocque. The other coastal fortifications are clearly depicted along the east coast of the island, but despite mentioning the landing of the French at La Rocque in 1781 ("*French landed here 6th Jan 1781*"), the La Platte Rocque Round Tower is not represented.

By 1840 the Jersey Round Tower forms part of a network of recognised coastal defensive structures. Strangely, the map does not depict the breakwater, which was apparently commissioned in 1826 in order to protect fishing boats and prevent fishermen from having to drag their vessel to shore for safety. Certainly additions to the pier were undertaken in the 1880's, but the original structure is not depicted on the 1840 map.

The 1849 Godfray map is significant for it depicts a building directly adjacent to the Jersey Tower. This building was owned by (?) M.J. Graudin and is likely the house represented in a drawing of 1870 by L Brucher (see section 6.9 and **fig 14**). What happened to this building is not clear, but it is certainly not the building that currently stands on the site.

The OS map of 1932, clearly depict the Round Tower and the house but little else of archaeological interest. Perhaps of greater interest is the 1958 OS map of Jersey, which although depicting the house and tower gives no indication of the German

trenches that once existed at the site. Whilst the more substantial military features were extant the 1958 map confirms that significant landscaping occurred to the area in the post-war period (likely to be a 90 day period in 1945 – see historical assessment below).

In addition to the above, a German sketch plan of the trenches, bunkers and artillery positions is available from a resource known as the Green Book (see fig 10). Regrettably this is a sketch and is not accurately plotted, which becomes clear when attempting to overlay the image onto existing aerial photos (see fig 11). However, the sketch plan does reveal a number of structures related to the occupation defences that are not visible on site today, notably a number of machine gun placements and bunkers as well as the slit trenches and underground tunnels.

5 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE (FIGS 12 & 13)

5.1 A search of the air-photograph collection held at the Jersey Archive was undertaken. Photographs were examined from the 1943, 1965, 1974, 1997 and 2003 collections.

5.2 1943 (L_C_14_B_8_2_11)

Regrettably the 1943 aerial photograph of La Platte Rocque, like much of the island, is not of great quality as it was captured as part of aerial reconnaissance by the allies during WWII (see **fig 12**). As Jersey formed part of Hitler's Atlantic Wall and was heavily defended, allied aircraft were required to fly at greater altitude and in different conditions to those that surveyed Britain at the same time. This is unfortunate for it is taken right in the midst of the occupation and could have provided important information regarding the fortifications at the site. The Germans constructed fortifications on the island during a two year period from 1941 to September 1943. It is therefore highly regrettable that the 1943 images are of poor quality as they were taken on 8th October 1943, one month after the Germans finished their building programme. However, there are a number of features that need highlighting.

The aerial photograph depicts a number of interesting features and which may represent WWII occupation features. A series of linear features (represented by white "scars") are extant and probably represent the slit trenches which formed part of the German fortifications. However, the clarity of the image is such that it is not possible to define them as zig-zag, nor do the features conform exactly to the sketch plan of the defences from the German Green books (see fig 10), although they are roughly equivalent.

1965 (D_W_E3_1_2278)

The clarity of the 1965 aerial photos is much better than that of 1943 (see fig 13), but there are no features of archaeological interest. There are some curving linear features just south of the tower and west of the house, which may be remnants of

the German fortifications and the bunkers. Elements of the artillery platforms are partially visible.

1974 (D_AL_B_24_W11)

There is little in the 1974 aerial photograph that is of archaeological interest. The surrounding landscape is also devoid of potential archaeological features.

1997 and 2003

The 1997 aerial photo shows little of archaeological significance. However, the 2003 aerial photo does appear to show a linear feature (south of the house) running between two extant bunkers in the area that the German slit trenches would have occurred. Like the 1943 AP these appear to be linear, rather than zig-zag, but this cannot be substantiated.

6 HISTORICAL ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 The historical accounts of La Platte Rocque are regrettably not consistent, but provide enough information to identify previously unrecognised archaeological features that may have once existed and which may be encountered through any ground disturbance. Documentary sources were consulted at the Société Jersiaise library and the Occupation Archive held at Jersey Archive.
- 6.2 The earliest historic source relating the site is the Cour d'Heritage of 1540, which suggests that the parish of Grouville was ordered to build a tower at La Platte Rocque. It is not clear if this was defensive or a form of lighthouse to warn incoming vessels. The rocks around La Platte Rocque are notorious for maritime movement, hence the petitioning of the States in 1825 to construct a breakwater to shelter fishing vessels.
- 6.3 The Privy Council of Prince Charles, during his visit to Jersey in 1646, ordered a fortification to be built at La Platte Rocque that would hold canon (Stevens 1980: 54). Interestingly, after the construction programme began, the workmen found the foundations of an earlier fortification (Anthony 2001: 299), perhaps the one commissioned in 1540. It is unclear to what extent the foundations of this fortification may still exist.
- 6.4 In May 1778 General Sir Henry Seymour Conway wrote to the Secretary of State, Lord Weymouth, to ask for finances to build a series of coastal defence structures to prohibit French invasion (Mayne 1981: 17). In July 1778 Conway received "*the King's pleasure for thirty towers*", which would cost £4680. By 1779 only four of the proposed 30 towers had been built. The delay appears to have been due to a lack of stonemasons and skilled workmen to carry out the job, unlike in Guernsey where building work began almost immediately (August 1778).
- 6.5 The date for the construction of the Jersey Tower at La Platte Rocque is disputable. It is almost certain that by the time of the French invasion on 6th January 1781, La Platte Rocque was the site of a somewhat dilapidated guardhouse, although the

Tower at nearby La Rocque was built by that point. However, the *Actes des États* (Acts of the States of Jersey) of 1780 describe both La Rocque and La Platte Rocque as magazines, whilst guardhouses were specifically mentioned at St Saviour and Rocberg (i.e. La Platte Rocque is not referred to as a guardhouse, but holds the same description as La Rocque). It appears that the landing of the French at La Platte Rocque went unnoticed by the nearby militia stationed at La Rocque. It transpired that these men had left their posts to engage in the Christmas/New Year festivities and were subsequently court-martialled. Rullecourt (the French commander leading the invasion force) had considered the area of La Platte Rocque to be of key strategic importance in capturing the island.

- 6.6 After landing without resistance, the French invasion force made their way to St Helier, leaving behind a detachment of 100 men. After the Battle of Jersey, the French retreated (supposedly) to La Platte Rocque, where a further engagement took place (Mayne 1981). The result of this engagement was the death of one officer, the wounding of another and the demise of 20 soldiers (all French), all of whom were apparently buried in the vicinity of the current house. The evidence for this is regrettably not secure and it is not entirely clear that this engagement actually occurred at La Platte Rocque, but caution must be raised for if correct then any ground disturbance at La Platte Rocque may encounter human remains from a hugely significant part of Jersey's history.
- 6.7 At what point after the invasion the Jersey Tower at La Platte Rocque was built is not clear. Certainly the invasion expedited Conway's programme of coastal defensive installations (see **fig 15**), but it seems it may have been a few years later that La Platte Rocque was completed. Some sources (e.g. Grimsley 1988) suggest that it was built in 1781-2, but the map evidence does not concur. The Faden map of 1783 (although likely surveyed earlier) depicts a smaller structure in the vicinity (although not precisely at La Platte Rocque) than the contemporary Jersey Towers at La Rocque and along the east coast. The Tower does appear on the 1795 Richmond map, but at what point after 1783 and before 1795 it was constructed is

difficult to ascertain. As previously mentioned the Richmond map was begun in 1787 and completed in 1795, but further clarity is not possible.

- 6.8 In 1825, fishermen at La Platte Rocque petitioned the States of Jersey to build a pier to protect vessels and provide sheltered anchorage. Prior to this and during the medieval period, vessels were hauled above high water mark. The pier was completed in 1827, although further work occurred in the 1880's.
- 6.9 The date of the building of the current La Platte Rocque house is, like the Jersey Tower, not entirely clear. Dates on the windows of the house suggest a date of 1887. However, an image by L Brucher from 1870 depicts a house with a different architectural style of the current building (which is Victorian), adjacent to the Tower at La Platte Rocque (see fig 14). This is confirmed by the cartographic evidence. The Godfray map of 1849 clearly depicts a building at this location owned by (?) M.J. Graudin. What happened to the previous structure and how precisely it is positioned on the Godfray map is not known.
- 6.10 One of the most important documentary resources for Channel Islands in relation to the occupation phase is the "Green Books", so called because of their green covers. The *Taktische Übersichten der Festungsbereich Jersey 1944* (or *Tactical Review of Fortress Area Jersey 1944*) is a German military account of the occupation defensive structures. On liberation they were given to the Lieutenant-Governor and copies are now held in the Société Jersiaise library.
- 6.11 The Green Books provide important evidence relating to the German fortification of La Platte Rocque. They describe the type of artillery and defensive structures that existed and their position within a network of defences around the island. Furthermore sketch plans of the fortifications are also extant, but they are not detailed plans and have been difficult to match up with the aerial photos.
- 6.12 The Channel Islands were occupied for five years from July 1940 until their liberation in May 1945. Between 1941 and 1943 the Germans embarked on a programme intensive fortification building. Over 20% of the material that was to be

part of Hitler's Atlantic Wall, came to the Channel Islands to create the impressive WWII legacy still extant today (www.ciosjersey.org.uk/Intro1.htm).

- 6.13 German defensive structures in Jersey were comprised of three principle types: the strongpoint or base (*Stutzpunkt – STP*), which was the largest of the defensive structures, the *Widerstandsnest* (WN), or resistance nest which was the most numerous, and the *Einsatzstellung* (EIN) or operational position, which was an unmanned point used only during times of increased threat.
- 6.14 La Platte Rocque was fortified during the Occupation and is referred to as La Rocque A, forming one of two WN's (*Widerstandsnest*) at La Rocque (the other being La Rocque B, slightly to the northeast at La Nez de la Rocque and next to another Jersey Tower). These resistance points formed part of a communicating network of defence on the southeast of the island that offered formidable protection to the interior of the island (see **fig 16**). Operational positions (EINs) flanked both La Rocque A and B at Le Hocq and at Le Hurel. Each position was linked to its neighbour and were expected to join one another in the event of attack.
- 6.15 The *Widerstandsnest* artillery and defensive structures at La Platte Rocque consisted of a series of bunkers and artillery casements. The weaponry and equipment at La Platte Rocque is described thus: 3 x MG34 light machine guns (two equipped as heavy machine guns), 1 x French MG311(1) machine guns installed in a tank turret, 1 x 3.7cm French Puteaux gun KwK 144(f) mounted in a Renault FT17 tank turret with a machine gun (and emplaced at the end of the pier), 1 x 5cm Anti-Tank gun, 1 x medium flame-thrower, 1 x 30cm searchlight and 1 60cm searchlight. One of the MG34 machine guns was placed on top of the Jersey Tower. The WN was manned by 4 NCOs and 19 other ranks.
- 6.16 In addition, a series of bunkers and artillery stations, which have been retained, were linked via zig-zag slit trenches (which have been difficult to identify via aerial photographs). The entire site would have been contained by barbed-wire with discreet openings for movement to the machine guns on the pier and access to the coast road. A sketch plan of the fortifications of La Platte Rocque A is included in

the Green Books (see **fig 10**) and although it is not possible to directly correlate this with the APs the German fortifications, the plan suggests that certain military features (notably a bunker and machine gun placement) were located in an area of proposed ground disturbance. However, no German features were noted during the geotechnical monitoring.

- 6.17 On 19th June 1944, after the Normandy landings and D-Day a Lockheed Lightning Bomber, flying over La Platte Rocque was shot at by the German artillery stationed there and in retaliation the bomber dropped two bombs in the vicinity (Bryans 1977). No one was killed but the house known as Rockston, adjacent to the Project Site was destroyed. The other bomb landed on the beach. It is not clear whether other unexploded ordnance was dropped.
- 6.18 Perhaps as important as the construction of the fortifications, was their decommissioning. When the islands were finally liberated in May 1945, the Royal Engineers were charged with removing the German installations. This appears to have taken place over a 90 day period from May to August 1945. Letters held by the Jersey Archive (L/C/14/D/3), between the Lieutenant-Governor and the British High Command appear to have prioritised the removal of fortified sites with those affecting agricultural land given the highest importance, followed by slips and then barriers in St Helier. Regardless, the 90 day period of decommissioning seems to have radically removed substantial parts of Occupation period archaeology from the site.

7 BASELINE SURVEY

7.1 Archaeological context: Jersey and La Rocque

The archaeological evidence relating to La Rocque and its immediate hinterland is, to say the least, poor. In an overall island (and even inter-island) context, the area around La Platte Rocque is low in indicators for human activity and lacks any of the significant prehistoric and historic structures that have been found elsewhere in the island. However, the geotechnical monitoring that formed part of this assessment has revealed a potential prehistoric presence at the site, which adds considerably to our understanding of La Rocque. Due to the limited nature of archaeology in the southeast of the island, this baseline survey was extended to cover a 3km radius from the Project Site.

7.2 Palaeoenvironment

Palaeoenvironmental evidence for the area of La Rocque is limited. Environmental samples have been retrieved from Grouville Marsh, roughly 3km to the north and more closely at Marais à la Cocque, 1.5km to the north. The evidence from Grouville Marsh is perhaps too distant to be of value to La Platte Rocque, but within an area of historic and prehistoric activity the samples demonstrated that during the Neolithic this area was partly deforested and subsequently both arable and pastoral farming took place, followed by a decline in human activity during the Bronze and Iron Ages and the Roman period, before a resurgence of use in the post-Roman period (Jones *et al* 1990: 75-87).

At Marais à la Cocque (whilst no radiocarbon dating is available), it is clear that a more intensive arable economy than at Grouville Marsh occurred during the Neolithic, but like Grouville there was a drop in agricultural activity in the Bronze Age (Jones *et al.* 1990: 89-91). Interestingly, there are increased human induced changes to the environment during the Iron Age, when farming returned. According to Jones *et al* (1990: 120) the southeast of the island was not favoured

for settlement during the Bronze Age. However, the geotechnical test pits revealed Bronze Age activity.

7.3 **Palaeolithic-Mesolithic (250000 – 5000 BC)**

There is no evidence relating to the Palaeolithic or Mesolithic around La Rocque. However, this area was subjected to changes in sea level prior and during the Neolithic and therefore it is possible evidence has been lost.

7.4 **Neolithic (5000 – 2600BC)**

Evidence for Neolithic activity is meagre. The closest Neolithic site is Mont Ubé in St Clement, which is a Neolithic Gallery Grave, but there is nothing within the immediate landscape of La Platte Rocque.

7.5 **Chalcolithic (2600 – 2200BC)**

There is no evidence relating to the Chalcolithic at or around the Project Site.

7.6 **Bronze Age (2200 – 800BC)**

Although the southeast of Jersey was considered lacking in human occupation during the Bronze Age (see 7.2 above), Bronze Age activity is known at Icho Islet, an islet c.2km southwest of the Project Site. Excavations undertaken here in 1919, 1920 and 1929 uncovered prehistoric exploitation including fragments of Bronze Age pottery, bones of goat and pony, shells of limpet, oyster, scallop, winkle, whelk and ormer, along with crushed human bone, apparently also from the prehistoric horizon. The pottery is Early to Middle Bronze Age and is clearly reminiscent of vessels from the middens of La Pulente and Petit Port on the west coast of the island (Driscoll 2010). Whilst there is no direct connection to La Platte Rocque the monitoring of geotechnical test pits did find evidence relating to the Early Bronze Age exploitation of the area.

The closest potential Bronze Age site to La Platte Rocque is St Clement's churchyard (<2km) where excavations in the 1980's revealed Late Bronze Age pottery, although the exact nature of the prehistoric phase of this site has not been ascertained.

7.7 Iron Age (800 – 56/100BC)

There is no evidence of Iron Age activity within the Project Site or its landscape.

7.8 Gallo-Roman (100/56 BC – 400 AD)

Evidence for Gallo-Roman period exploitation is also meagre. St Clement's churchyard (less than 2km from the Project Site) appears to have been the location of some form of Roman activity and a bronze statue of Hercules was found there. Recent activity at Grouville Church has revealed a Roman presence beneath the church itself, but this is beyond the area of the current study.

7.9 Early Medieval (400 AD – 1600 AD)

There is no evidence for Medieval activity within the Project Site or its immediate hinterland.

7.10 Post-Medieval (1600 -1900 AD)

Evidence for post-medieval exploitation of the Project Site and its surrounding landscape is one of the more prolific. Much of this remains as above ground archaeology and is particularly emphasised through the building of late 18th century coastal defences. La Platte Rocque formed one of a series of Jersey Towers that protected the southern and eastern coast of the island in the period following the invasion of Jersey by the French. The importance of these has already been addressed above.

7.11 Modern (1900-1950 AD)

The modern impact on the Project Site has been dramatic. Most notable are the German fortifications that occupy La Platte Rocque and its immediate hinterland. La Platte Rocque, as explained above (see section 6.14 and 6.15) formed part of a series of communicating defensive installations and should not be treated as an individual entity. As a *Widerstandsnest*, or Resistance Point, it was paralleled 400m to the north east by another WN at La Rocque and was flanked by *Einsatzstellungen* at La Hocq and Le Hurel. WNs were permanently manned stations, whilst EINs were

only occupied during times of heightened threat. Communication between the points was imperative; as they were required to assist or defend the other if one should be breached, creating in theory a seamless defence of the coast. The WN at the Project Site, along with the WN at La Rocque would have comprised a series of bunkers, artillery areas for machine guns etc, a flame-thrower emplacement and search light facilities.

The bunkers are clearly still extant at the Project Site and impacts upon elements of the landscape can still be traced. The “cut” into the granite sea wall in order to install a machine gun can still be seen from the bay (see fig 17). Other elements relating to the German Occupation have not survived above ground. Notable are the flame-thrower and searchlight emplacements, the slit trenches and a number of smaller bunkers, which are represented on German sketch plans from the Green Books.

8 GEOTECHNICAL TEST PIT MONITORING

8.1 Due to the need to undertake structural engineering tests in advance of development, five geotechnical test pits (herein referred to as test pits) were dug within the area of development. The client allowed the excavations to be monitored and artefacts retrieved.

8.2 Current site conditions and test pit locations (see figs 18-21)

The site is currently comprised of a main house with associated outbuildings (subterranean annex), the Jersey Towers and extant WWII defensive structures, interspersed by a gravel drive and a well presented lawn.

Two test pits were positioned on the main lawn (TP1 & 2), one in the area of the current car park (TP4), one adjacent to the stairs descending to the subterranean annex (TP3) and (TP5) against the fabric of the current house.

The test pits measured < 2m (l) x 2m 9w) and were exposed using a 2m grading bucket to a depth of < 1.5m.

8.3 Results of the test pit monitoring

Test Pits 1, 2 and 4 revealed layers of humic wind-blown sand throughout. Test Pit 4 comprised windblown sand (> 1m deep), overlain by a rubble layer of broken granite and a dark greyish brown, humic sand matrix. No archaeological finds or features were identified in Test Pits 3 and 4.

Test Pits 1 & 2 revealed evidence of archaeological activity. In Test Pit 1 at a depth of 1.2m, an ovate worked flint scraper was located, along with a small fragment of prehistoric pottery. The flint has been identified as an Early Bronze Age example (Paul Martin pers. comm.) which corresponds to the date of the pottery (Paul-David Driscoll pers. comm.). The scraper was located in the lower, medium greyish brown humic sand layer, identified at the base of the trench (context (101)). No

archaeological feature was noted, however the small sample area would make any archaeological contexts difficult to see.

Test Pit 2 also revealed evidence for prehistoric activity, in the form of a fine flint thumb scraper, also recovered from a depth of 1.2m. A tapering U-shaped ditch [202], starting at 600mm below ground level and continuing to a depth of > 1.2m was identified (not sectioned and depth not fully recorded). It was approximately 600mm wide at the top and < 450mm wide at the base. The flint scraper was found adjacent to the ditch, but not from within the fill. The flint was identified within a medium greyish brown humic sand layer, Context (203), similar to context (100). The height of the top of the ditch and the nature of the fill (comprising a light windblown sand matrix, Context (201)) would suggest that the feature belongs to post medieval activity on the site.

The test pits revealed no evidence of German defences (e.g. slit trenches or bunkers), which are positioned on the German sketch plan of La Platte Rocque. Although it is possible that the information regarding the WWII landscaping of the site may be inaccurate, documentary and cartographic sources testify to the intense use of the site as a strategic military vantage point. Although it is possible that the sources are inaccurate, it is equally possible that the scale and location of the test pitting was not sufficient to properly assess the potential survival of these features.

Due to the nature of the investigation, there was limited opportunity to assess the extent and nature of the layers that contained the worked flint and pottery. Whilst it is noted that no archaeological features were identified as a result of the test pitting, it is entirely possible that features may be revealed in the event of further ground disturbance/investigation.

9 IMPACT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

9.1 The Proposal

The current development proposal involves the following: *'Demolish structures to base of round tower. Construct ground floor extension to West elevation of main house, swimming pool and pool house to the North-West, garage and store to North-East. Hard and soft landscaping with tennis courts to North-West of site'*. In order to address the impacts of this development on the potential archaeological resource, each element of the design is addressed separately. A drawing of the proposed development with the existing features can be found at the end (**fig 23**).

9.2 Demolish structure to base of round tower

The current tower is surrounded by a low granite wall at its base (see **fig 22**), currently in use as a flower bed. Although it was proposed to remove this outer walling and reduce the area down to the base of the tower, thus exposing the original historic fabric of the Jersey Tower, communication with Mark Dennis (Design Plus Ltd) suggests that this may no longer be carried out. However, should this part of the scheme be reintroduced, it may be worthwhile to monitor the work in order to record any earlier structures, the potential for which has been identified through the historical assessment (see sections 6.2 and 6.3).

9.3 Construct ground floor extension to West elevation of the main house, swimming pool and pool-house to the North-West

The extension to the west elevation of the main house is unlikely to affect archaeology as it will be built on an already existing area of hard standing (concrete) that leads to the subterranean accommodation. Any archaeology that existed in this area would have already been destroyed during the construction of this accommodation and landscaping.

The excavation of the pool will involve extensive ground disturbance. The area of the pool that will be in the vicinity of the subterranean accommodation and podium terrace does not pose a threat to extant archaeology. However, the proposed pool

will also involve ground disturbance of the lawn to the south and southwest of these existing structures. The German sketch plan of the Occupation defences would indicate that a bunker and slit trenches may be within this area. In addition, test pits 1 & 2 revealed evidence of prehistoric activity within the area. It is therefore proposed that any ground disturbance to the depth required for a swimming pool may have an impact on this resource.

Although the majority of the building will be constructed on existing hard standing, the foundations of the pool-house, although less intrusive, will disturb new ground. Within this area, test pits (1 & 2) produced evidence for prehistoric activity. Furthermore, according to the German sketch plan, the pool-house will be built in an area where a bunker and machine gun placement were positioned.

9.4 **Garage and storage to the NE**

No test pits were located in this area. The only potential archaeological feature of note would be the searchlight emplacement which is represented on the Green Book sketch plan. The extent to which this emplacement would have survived subsequent landscaping and the removal of occupation structures between May and August 1945 is not known.

9.5 **Hard and soft landscaping with tennis courts to the Northwest**

The location of the tennis courts and their associated landscaping is within and adjacent to the lawn area which revealed evidence of prehistoric activity. A searchlight emplacement and a bunker are documented within the area.

10 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

10.1 Prehistoric(250000-100/56 BC)

Evidence for Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic activity must be considered *low*. However, Bronze Age potential should be considered *medium* based on the results from the test pitting. Iron Age potential should be considered *low*.

10.2 Gallo-Roman (100/56 BC – 400 AD)

There is no evidence to suggest a Gallo-Roman presence at the site. Potential is therefore *low*.

10.3 Medieval (400 – 1600 AD)

There is limited evidence from the immediate landscape around the Project Site for a medieval activity. It therefore suggested that the potential for archaeology relating this period be considered *low*.

10.4 Post-Medieval (1600 – 1900 AD)

Evidence relating to the construction of the tower and its antecedents is not clearly defined. Historic evidence points towards the existence of a fortification prior to the guard tower that was present before the Jersey Tower. If alterations to the foundations of the Jersey Tower are to go ahead then the potential for the retrieval of evidence relating to the post-medieval period should be considered *medium - high*.

10.5 Modern (1900 – 1950 AD)

The occurrence of WWII activity in the Project Area should be considered *high*. Despite the absence of evidence from the test pits, the primary focus of German fortification structures (derived from the sketch plan) would be within the main area of the lawn, part of which will form the proposed swimming pool. It should be noted that test pits were not excavated within the main area of proposed activity.

11 CONCLUSION/MITIGATION

- 11.1 The nature of the redevelopment of the site is extensive and involves the excavation of foundation trenches and a substantial amount of ground reduction (to accommodate the swimming pool), alongside a regeneration of existing structures and the potential exposure of historic fabrics.
- 11.2 The historical evidence (documentary and cartographic) highlights the potential for extensive archaeology relating to the conflict history of Jersey, from the 17th century through to the WWII occupation. Although the engineering test pits did not reveal evidence relating to this part of the sites history, it is considered that the proposed groundworks have a high potential to reveal evidence relating to excavated features resulting from historic landscaping.
- 11.3 The test pits did, however, reveal evidence for Bronze Age activity within the development area. Although, once again, associated features were not identified as a result of the test pitting, the potential for the development to reveal associated archaeology is considered as medium.
- 11.4 It is considered that, in light of suggested alterations to the development strategy, regarding excavation within the region of the Jersey Tower, that there is a low risk to the fabric of the historical building. Should future plans incorporate excavation within the region of the footings of the structure, then the potential to add to the archaeological record within this area of the site should be considered as medium.
- 11.5 It is therefore suggested that, should further archaeological investigation be agreed, a trench evaluation take place prior to the commencement groundwork. It is proposed that archaeological evaluation trenches should be excavated to target areas of ground disturbance where modern development has not previously caused the removal of potential archaeology. This is to include the area in the vicinity of the foundation of the Tower, should plans be altered to include excavation within this area of the site.

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13 FIGURES

Fig 1: Project Site location

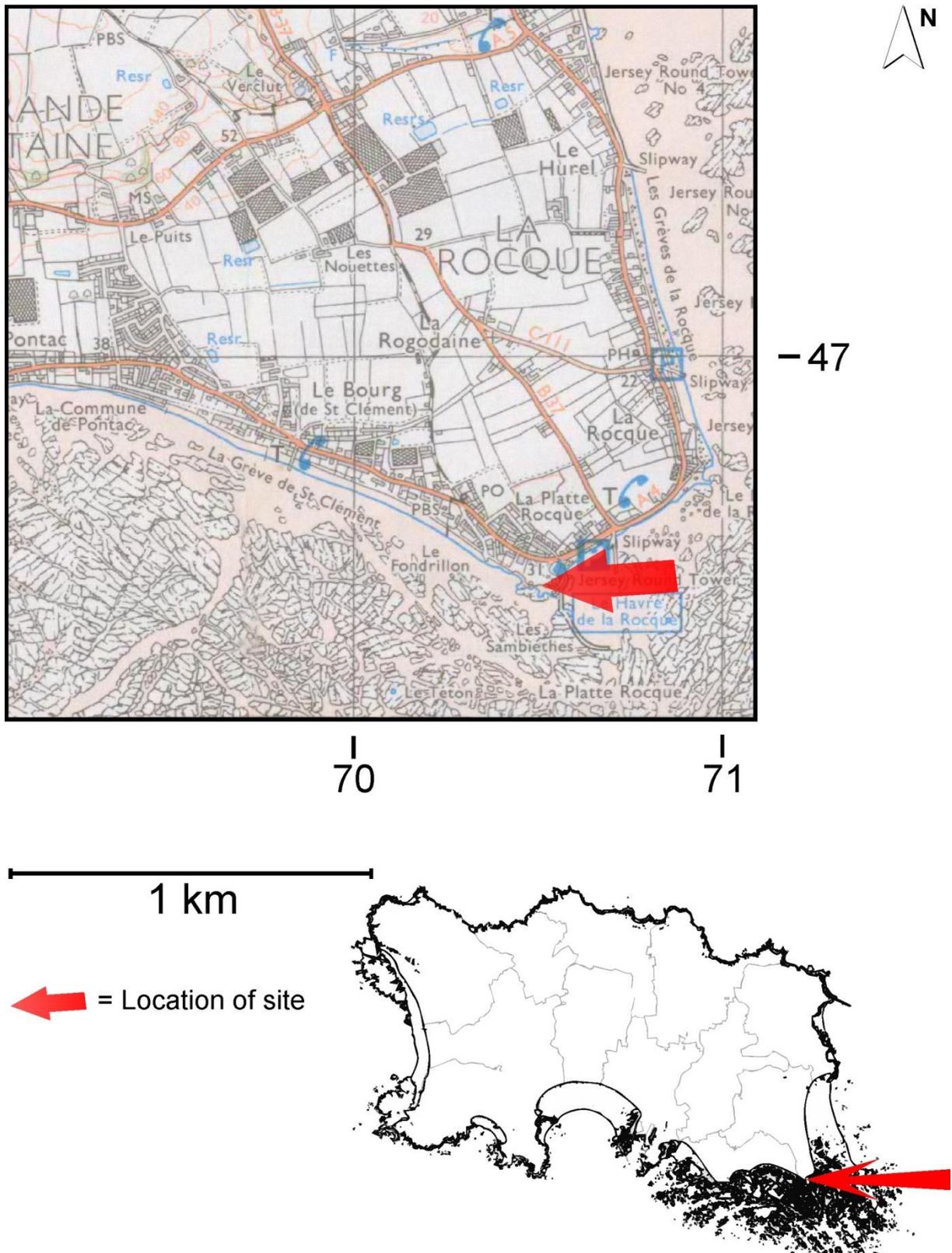


Fig 2: Project Site plan (© Design Plus)

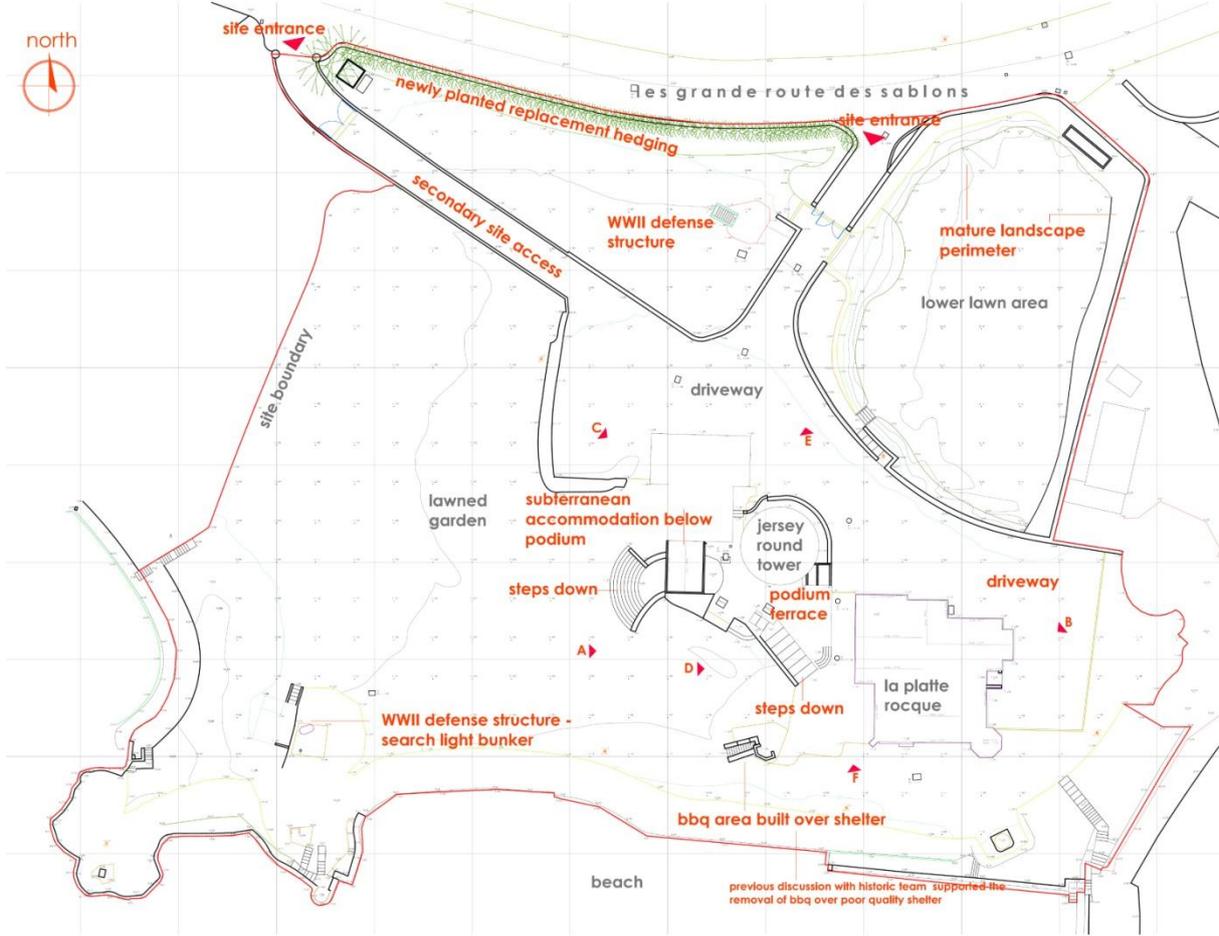


Fig 3: Dumaresque Map of 1694



Fig 4: Bellin Map of 1755



Fig 5: Faden Map of 1783

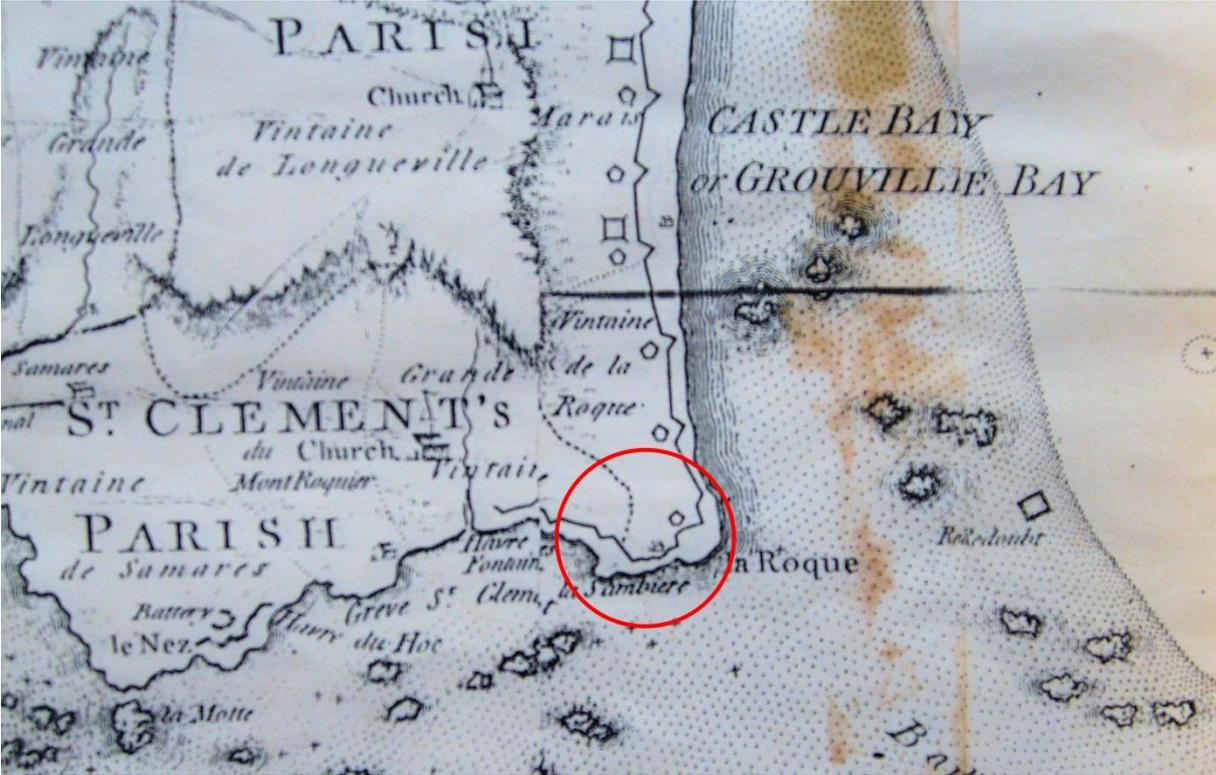


Fig 6: Richmond Map of 1795



Fig 7: Bouillon Map of 1799



Fig 8: Baker Map of 1840



Fig 9: Godfrey Map of 1849



Fig 10: German sketch plan of La Platte Rocque Widerstandsnest

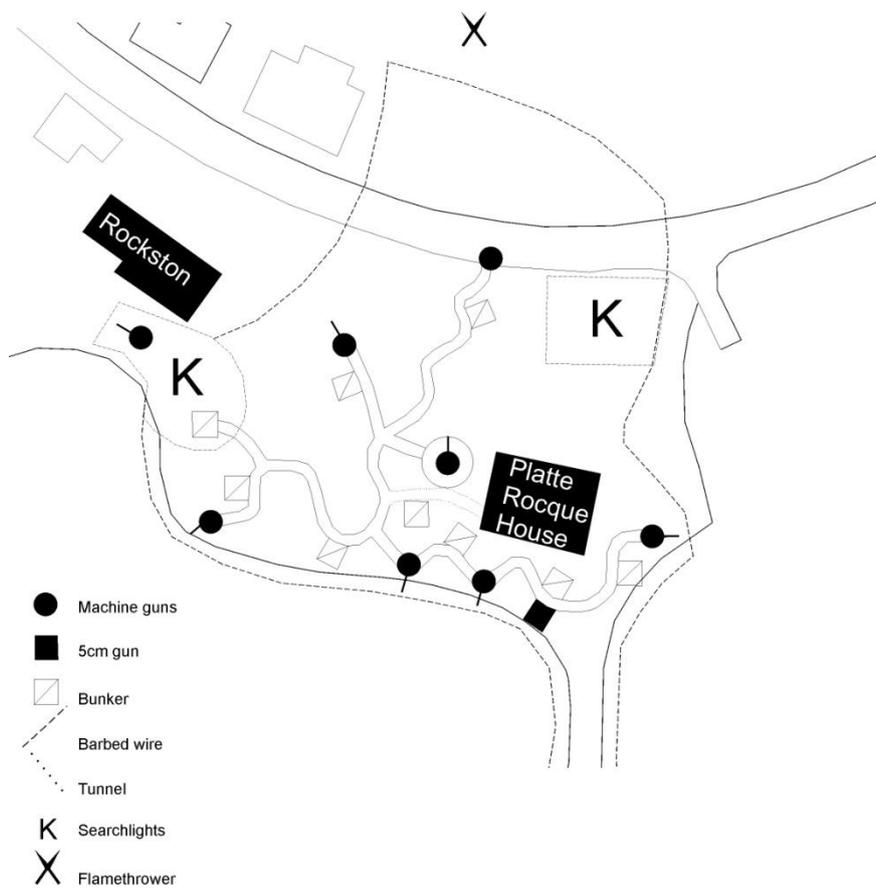


Fig 11: German sketch plan overlaid on modern map (note this is approximate only)

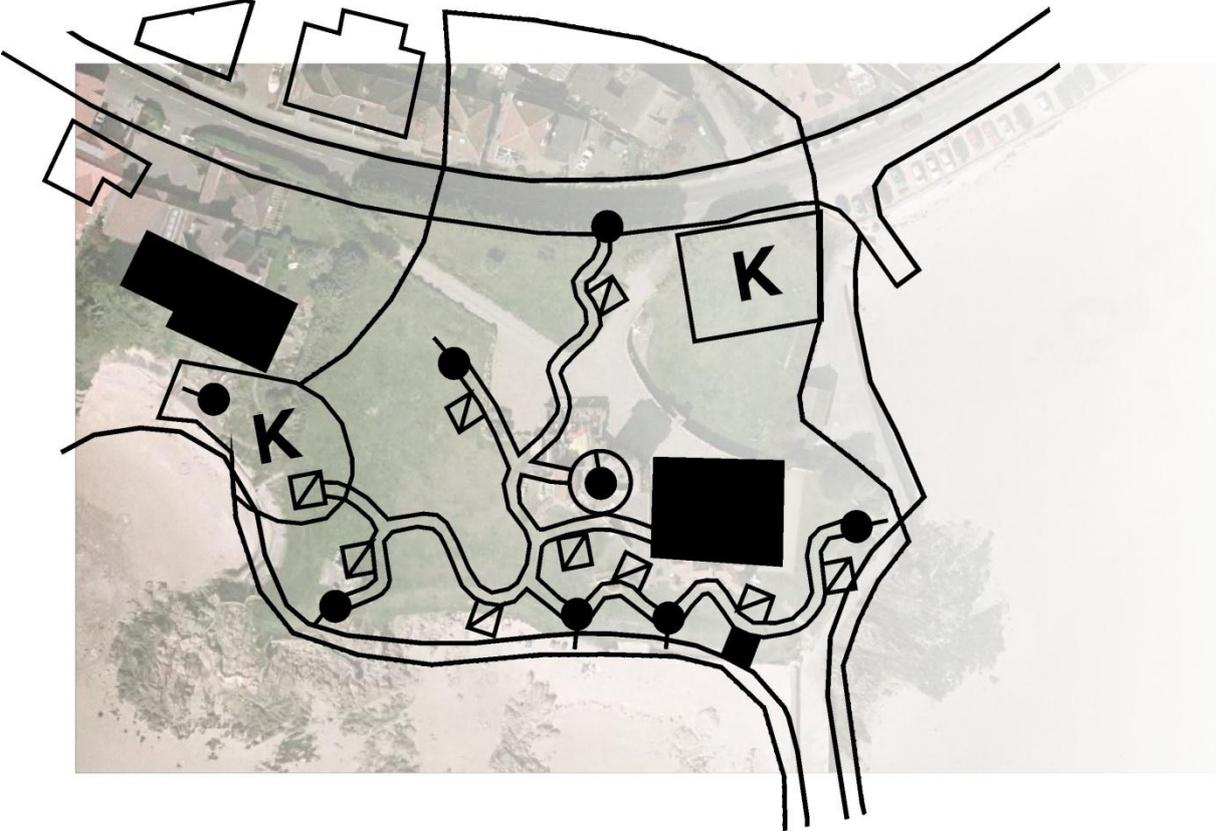


Fig 12: 1943 Aerial Photo (L_C_14_B_8_2_11)



Fig 13: 1965 Aerial Photo (D_W_E3_1_2278)



Fig 14: Brucher illustration of 1870



Fig 17: Granite wall showing German cut for machine gun placement



Fig 18: Test Pit locations (basemap © Design plus)

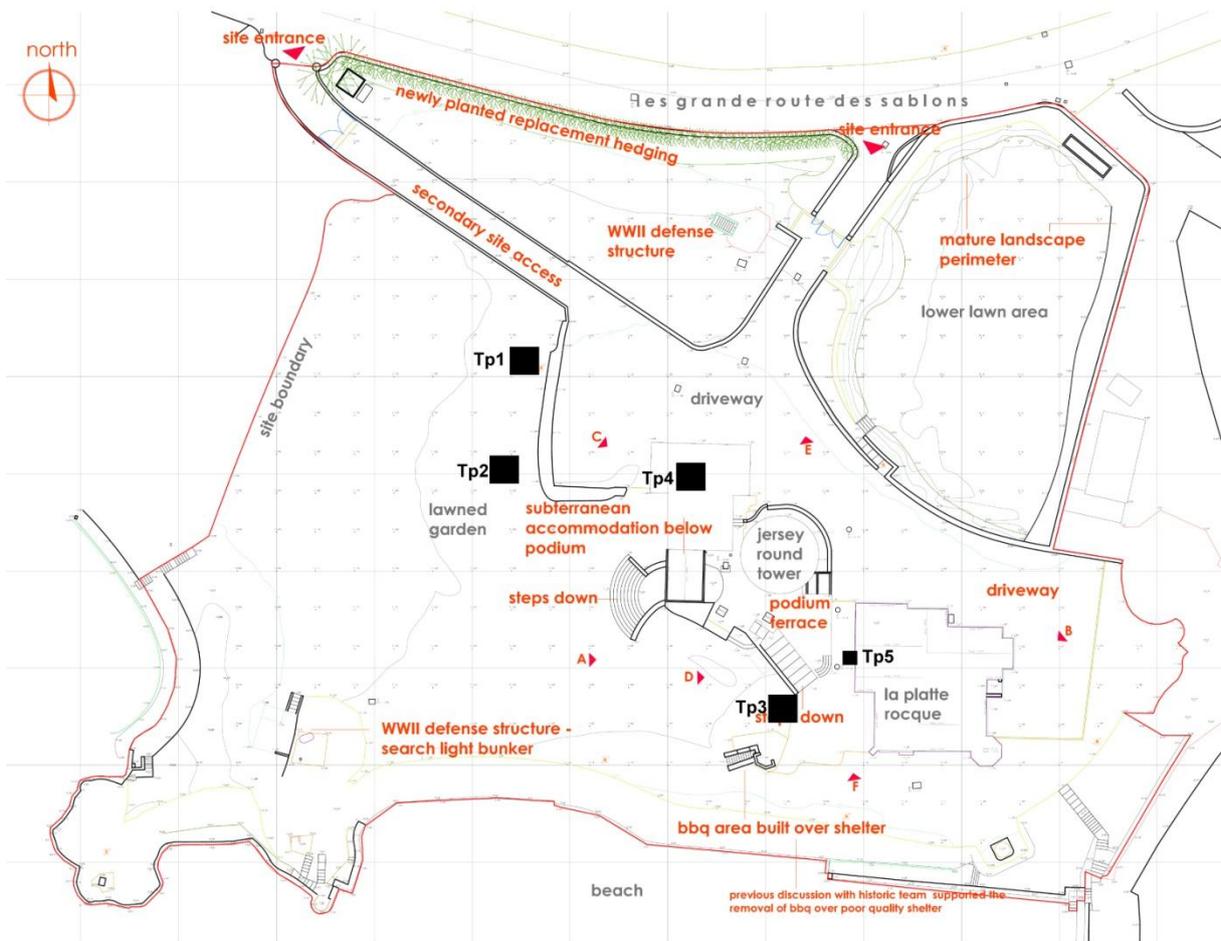


Fig 19: Image showing location of test pits 1 and 2



Fig 20: Photograph of section of TP1



Fig 21: Photograph of section of TP2 with U-shaped ditch



Fig 22: Lower walling of the Jersey Tower



Fig 23: The proposed development (© Design Plus)

