

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT
FOR
Battery Point,
Portishead, North Somerset



ST: 465 775

Report No. ISRAEL 01/2009

Richard Israel

January 2009

Geophysical Survey Report
for
**BATTERY POINT,
PORTISHEAD, NORTH SOMERSET**

Centred on
N.G.R. ST 46500 77550
NS SMR: 307

Richard Israel
Report No. ISRAEL 01/2009

An SMR Enhancement Exercise
Submitted to the University of Bristol in candidacy for the
Master of Arts (MA) Degree in Landscape Archaeology

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Notes

Whilst great care has been taken to produce a comprehensive survey and summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

Abbreviations

NGR - National Grid Reference	a.O.D - Above Ordnance Datum (Sea Level)
UoB - University of Bristol	m – Meter
km – Kilometer	SRO – Somerset Record Office
OS – Ordnance Survey	BRL – Bristol Reference Library
mm – Millimeter	WW2 – World War Two
BGS – British Geological Survey	HER – Historic Environment Record
NS SMR – North Somerset Sites and Monuments Record	
pers. comm. – Personal Communication	
SifA – Student Member of the Institute of Archaeologists	

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Summary

In January 2009, 9 (20 x 20m²) geophysical RM15 Resistance Meter surveys were conducted at Battery Point, Portishead, North Somerset. This site according to documentary evidence has been occupied at least since the Elizabethan period, with successive fortifications constructed during the English Civil War, Napoleonic, Victorian, Edwardian and Second World War eras. The geophysical survey only located evidence of a ditch/path? probably dating from the construction of the 1903 battery. A photographic survey identified possible remains of a Second World War platform not noted on the SMR. Additions to current SMR's can be consulted in the Appendix X.

Figure 1

Location of Study Area

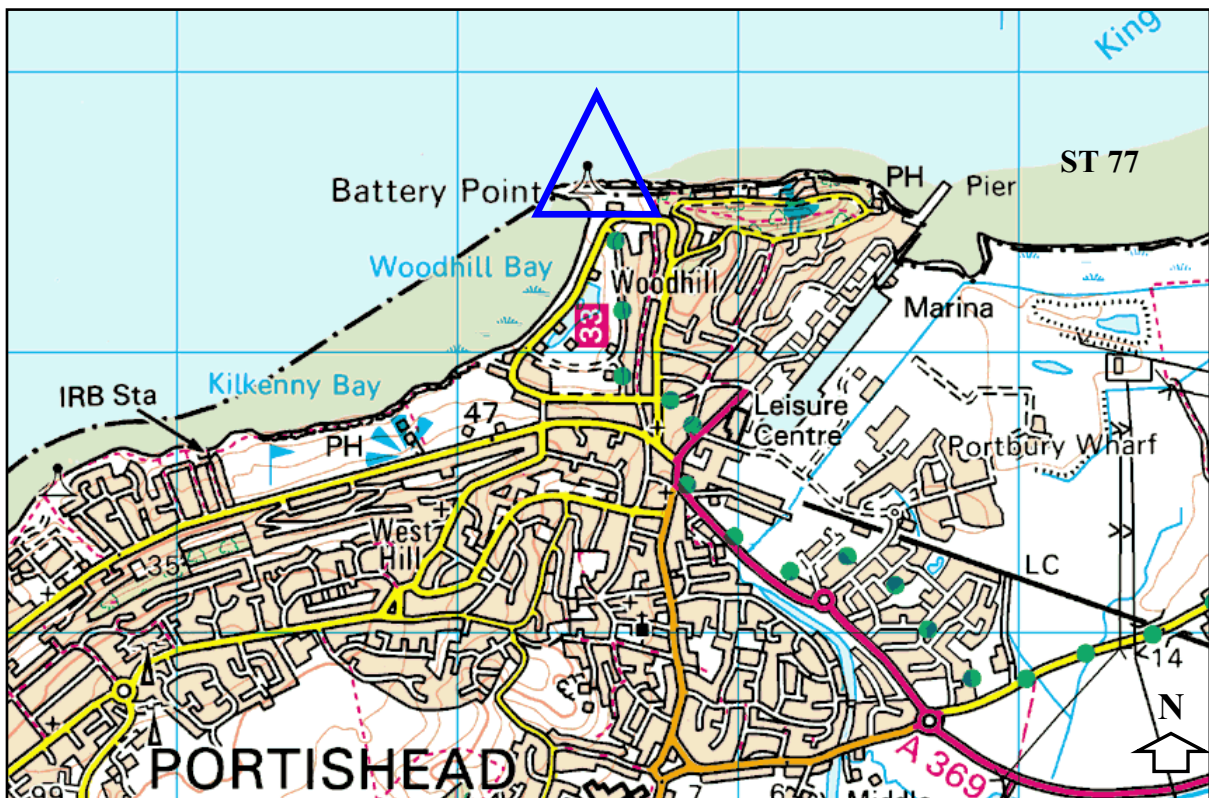
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Site Location indicated by: ●

Site Location indicated by: ▲



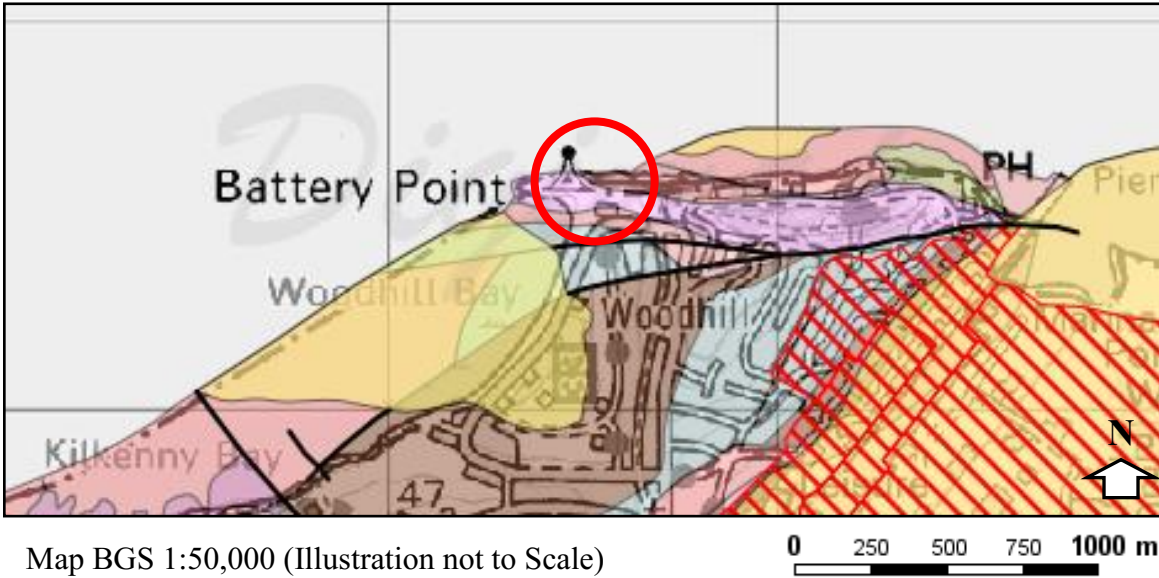
Map OS 1:50,000 (Illustration not to Scale) ST 46








Figure 2

Overview of Study Area's Geology (case area outlined in red)

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bedrock
 Avon Group (AVO)
 Black Nore Sandstone Formation (BLNS)
 Black Rock Limestone Subgroup (BRL)
 Mercia Mudstone Group (MMG)
 Mercia Mudstone Group (marginal Facies) (MMMMF)
 Pennant Sandstone Formation (PES)
 Portishead Formation (POB)







<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Superficial Deposits
 Glaciofluvial Deposits (GFDU)
 Head (undifferentiated) (HEAD)
 River Terrace Deposits, 1 (RTD1)
 Tidal Flat Deposits (TFD)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Artificial Ground
 Made Ground (undivided) (MGR)
 Worked Ground (undivided) (WGR)

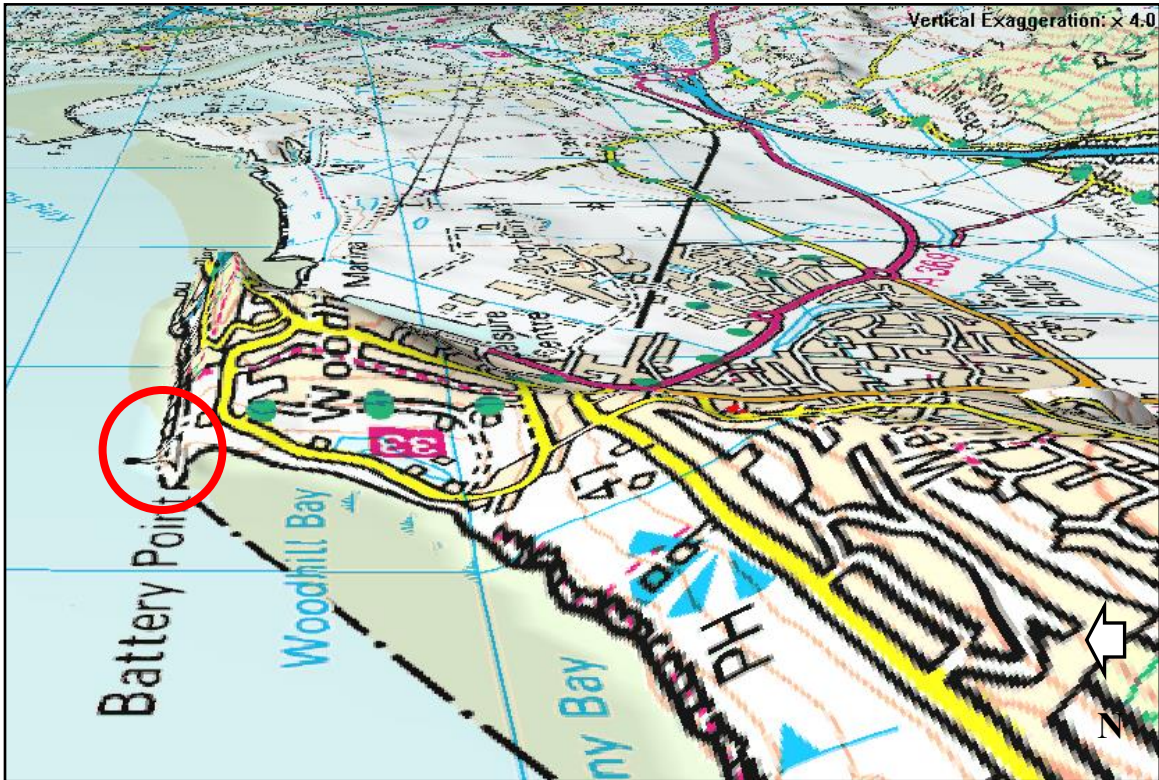
Figure 3

Local Topography of the Study Area (outlined in red)

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Map OS 1:50,000 (Illustration not to Scale)

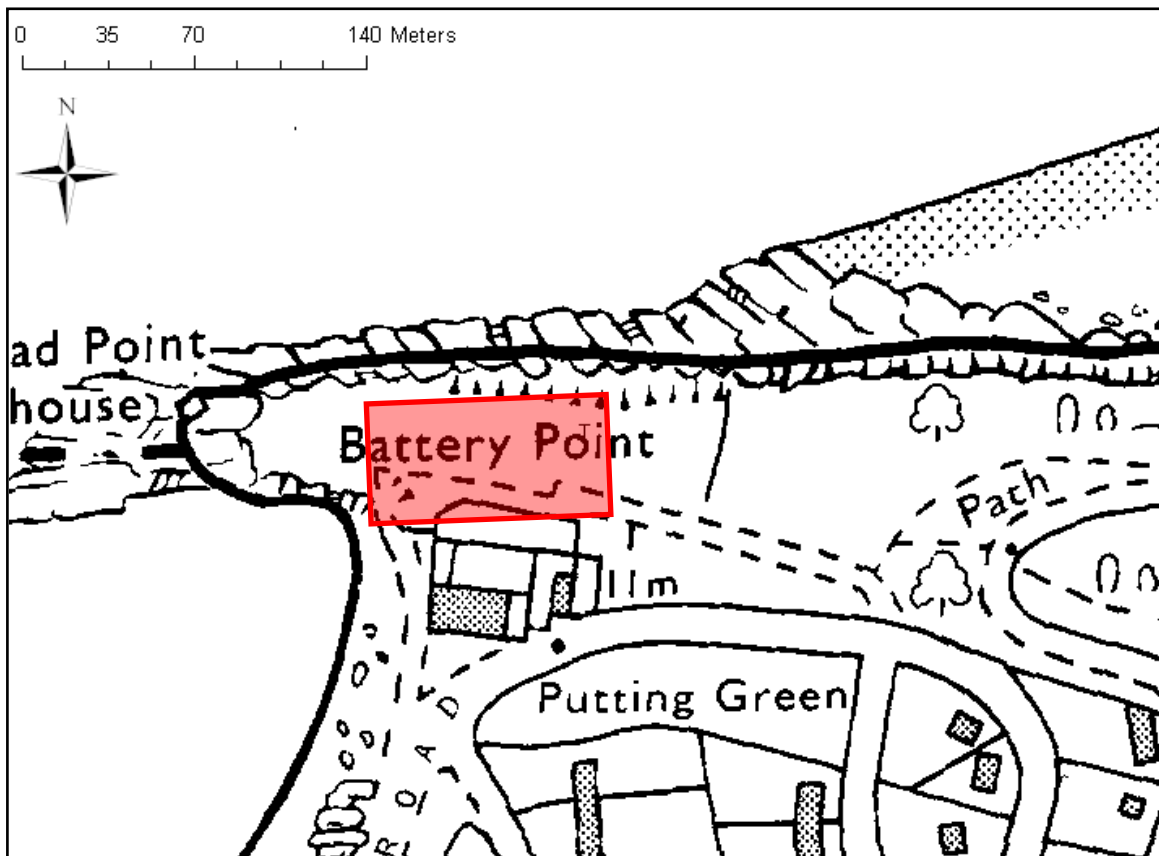
Figure 4

Approximate Boundary of Survey Area (shaded in red)

Modern OS Map (1981) 1:10000.

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Map OS 1:2500 (Illustration not to Scale)

1. INTRODUCTION (Figure 1)

1.1 The primary aim of this geophysical survey report is to enhance the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) of Battery Point, Portishead, (NS SMR 307) which has been undertaken for the module Methods and Theory in Archaeology, which forms part of the MA in Landscape Archaeology at the University of Bristol (2008-09).

1.2 The work has been carried out purely for research purposes, at the time of this report there is no evidence of any immediate threat to the archaeological resource. The author has consulted English Heritage guidelines where necessary (David *et al.* 2008).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Using a Geoscan RM15 Resistance Meter, 9 geophysical resistance surveys were conducted, based on analysis of aerial photograph and surviving archaeological features (**Appendix I**).

2.2 A copy of this report will be stored at the University of Bristol's Department of Archaeology and Anthropology and the North Somerset Historic Environment Record. This report is referenced in the North Somerset Historic Environment Record as 47485.

3. TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND CURRENT LAND USE

(see **Figures 2, 3, 4 and Cover**)

3.1 The site lies *c.* 16m a.O.D and is located 1.24 km north-west of the centre of Portishead, centred on ST 46500 77550.

3.2 The geology of the study area, Black Rock Limestone consists of "...thin- to thick-bedded, dark grey to black, foetid, fine- to coarse-grained skeletal [mainly crinoid] packstones with subordinate thin beds of shaly argillaceous skeletal packstone and mudstone..." (Digimap 2007), with a soil overburden to unknown depths

3.3 The study area contains free draining slightly acidic, loamy clay soil, (Cranfield University 2008, www.landis.org.uk) and the site currently comprises of a modern grass landscaped area.

4. HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA

Archaeological background

4.1 On the 12th November 2008, Sarah MacLean the North Somerset Historic Environment Record Officer provided the author with the HER data, which states that 14 records relate to Battery Point (NS SMR 307) (**Appendix X**).

4.2 An NMR enquiry was made by the author on 11th November 2008, with regards to any aerial photographs and archaeological records within a 500m radius of the site. The information supplied by Vaughan Roberts, revealed 13 Monument Long Reports, 1 archaeological intervention and 4 oblique and 26 vertical aerial photographs. A subsequent visit to view the aerial photographs and some documents in the NMR Library was made on the 9th December 2008 (**Appendix II**).

4.3 There has never been any geophysical and / or excavations conducted on the site.

Cartographic and Documentary Evidence

4.4 Studies concerning the history of Battery Point include Brown and Loosley (1982), Jones (1995) and Wigan (1932). The reader is referred to the above works for detailed information outside the scope of the study area.

4.5 Any documentation held by the SRO relating to Battery Point was requested by the author, of which data was supplied by the archivist Jane de Gruchy. The relevant documents (and others) were examined by the author at the SRO on the 5th December 2008 (**Appendix III**).

4.6 Portishead is referred to in the Domesday Book (1086) as *Porteshe*. William held the land for the Bishop of Coutances (William and Martin 2002, 235, 237, 1389).

4.7 The study area has been occupied since at least the Elizabethan period, when a watch tower (NS SMR 428) was present, although it is possible that there was a late medieval structure present (Jones 1995; Russett and La Trobe-Bateman 1999, 24).

4.8 During the English Civil War (1642-51) Portishead Fort (NS SMR 40030) was constructed to defend Kings Road anchorage and the City of Bristol. Its importance was due to its geographical location as it commanded the sea route into the City. The Royalists captured the town in 1643, and later Parliamentary records show that Thomas Chappell of Capenor manned the garrison in 1643-4. Manor Court records (1644) show that the fortification was expanded, using timber from the manorial wood. During the siege of Bristol in 1645, the garrison commanding the fort surrendered to Sir Thomas Fairfax on Thursday 28th August. As a result the Parliamentarians gained (among other things) 200 arms and 6 pieces of ordinance. The fort was then garrisoned with 400 men and the ordinance expanded to 16 pieces (Brown and Loosley 1982, 18; Jones 1995).

4.9 The earliest map of Portishead, surveyed by J Jacob de Wilstar in 1741 (SRO DD\PN/42) (not figured) does not show Battery Point.

4.10 Since the Civil War, the fortification was abandoned and it was noted on Donn's map (1769) as 'Ruins of a Fort' (**Figure 5**). Collinson (1791, 144) (as cited in Russett and La Trobe-Bateman 1999, 24) notes that "...only the foundations of the walls now remain".

4.11 The defences were repaired in 1798 as a response to the threat posed by Napoleon. The fort has been described as a 3 gun battery, trefoil, containing a central magazine, with a fourth gun guarding the beach. The site also contained barracks for 30 men, along with stores and officer quarters. This was protected by a bastion-resembling projection, from which access was allowed from the side (Pinsent 1983, 63).

4.12 The tithe map (1841) (SRO D\D/Rt/M/301) (**Figure 6**) is the first cartographic source that depicts Battery Point and the fort. The map denotes the study area as being plot 232, with the word 'Fort' also stated. The tithe apportionment (SRO D\D/Rt/A/301) notes that George Robbins occupied the plot described as 'House and Fort' and that James Adam Gordon owned the land. The NS SMR 307 entry notes that the fort was decommissioned in 1835 and that the site was converted into a garden, however there is no mention in the tithe apportionment that the fort landscape has been altered.

4.13 The fort that was built in 1798 (**Figure 7**) was described in 1865 as "formerly armed with four pivot guns, garrisoned until 1835 and then disarmed" (Pinsent 1983, 63). By 1849 only the wall foundations remained (Pinsent 1983, 63). The fort was re-opened in 1865, containing two guns (Russett and La Trobe-Bateman 1999, 31), which were 64pdr RMLs which were removed in 1899 (Dobinson 2000, 198). The 1884 National Grid OS Map labels the site as 'Flagstaff' (**Figure 8**).

4.14 Modifications occurred to the site again early in the 20th century (**Figure 9**), with a 1903 battery, work of which began in 1901 when it was re-fortified with two 6 inch QF Mk II guns, which were installed in 1902, however were removed 3 years later in 1905 (Dobinson 2000, 198). The 1915 National Grid OS Map labels the site as 'Fort (site of)' and 'Portishead Battery (Dismantled)' (**Figure 10**).

4.15 In 1940, at the start of the Second World War the site was armed with two 4.7 inch guns designed to attack enemy submarine boats, according to Brown and Loosley (1982, 93). However, Dobinson (2000, 200) notes that Portishead Point (as it was sometimes referred to as) was armed with 6 inch naval guns (see also NS SMR 9949 and 9950) (**Figure 11**). In 1962 the Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division noted that no evidence of any structures were visible (Russett and La Trobe-Bateman 1999, 24). In 1983, Pinsent notes that Battery Road lead to the site, however only aprons, cottage foundations and aprons were visible, with a swimming pool in the immediate vicinity (Pinsent 1983, 70) (**Figure 12**).

4.16 Despite the Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division noting that nothing from any of the fortifications survived, it is possible that they mistook what appears to be a casemate as a post war modern feature (Figure 12).

Figure 5

Extract of Donn's 1769 Map noting 'Ruins of Fort' (outlined in red) © BRL 29602.



Figure 6

Approximate Location of the Study Area (outlined in red)

Extract from the 1841 Tithe Map © Somerset Record Office (Not to Scale).

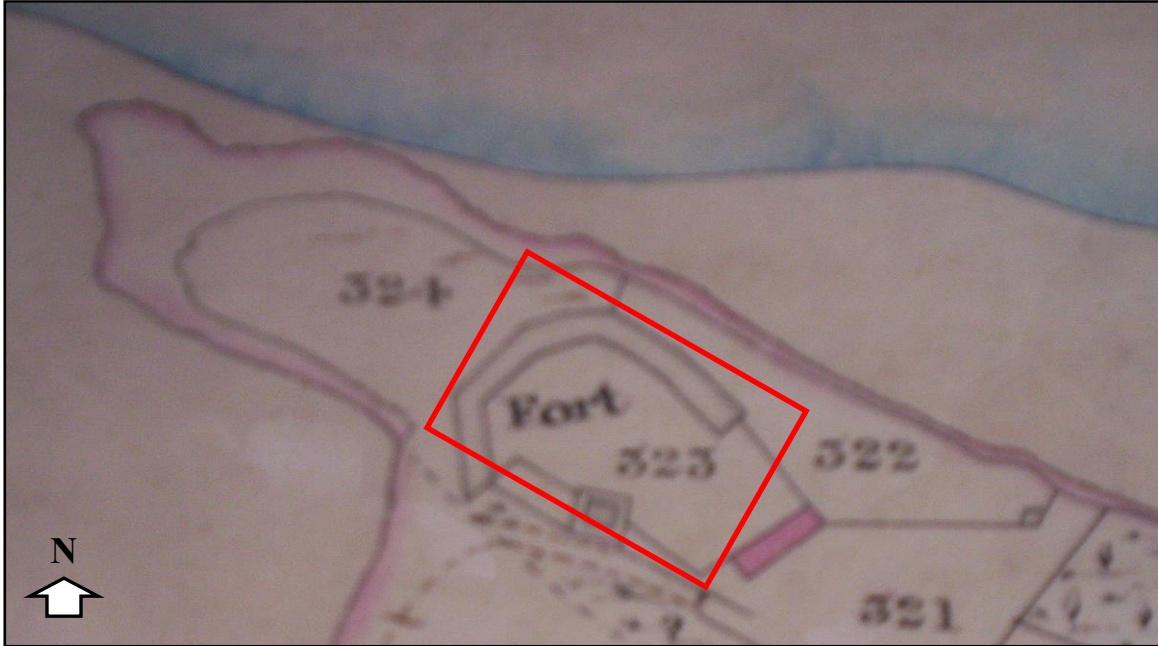


Figure 7

Plan for the 1798 Fort (Pinsent 1983, 65) (No Scale).

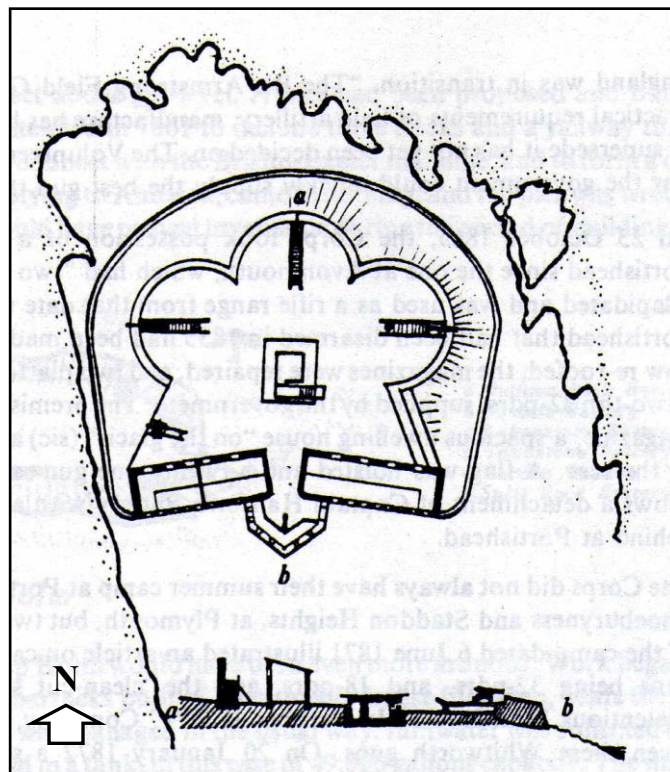


Figure 8

1884 1:2500 OS Map © Digimap - © Crown Copyright/database right 2007 – Ordnance Survey / Edina Supplied Service (Scale as per Illustration).

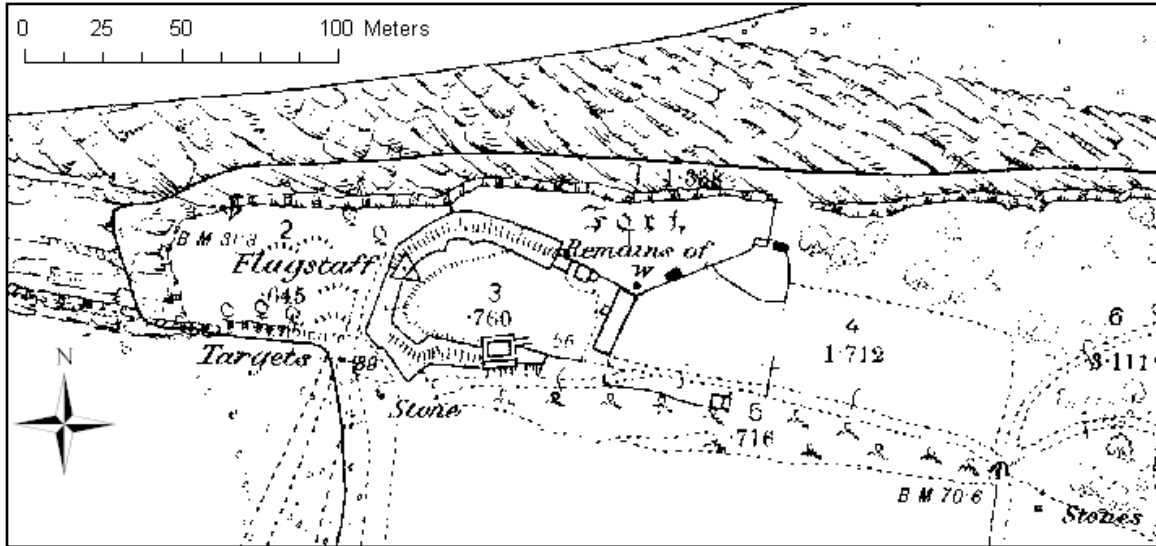


Figure 9

Proposed plan of the 1903 Fortification (Pinsent 1983, 71) (No Scale).

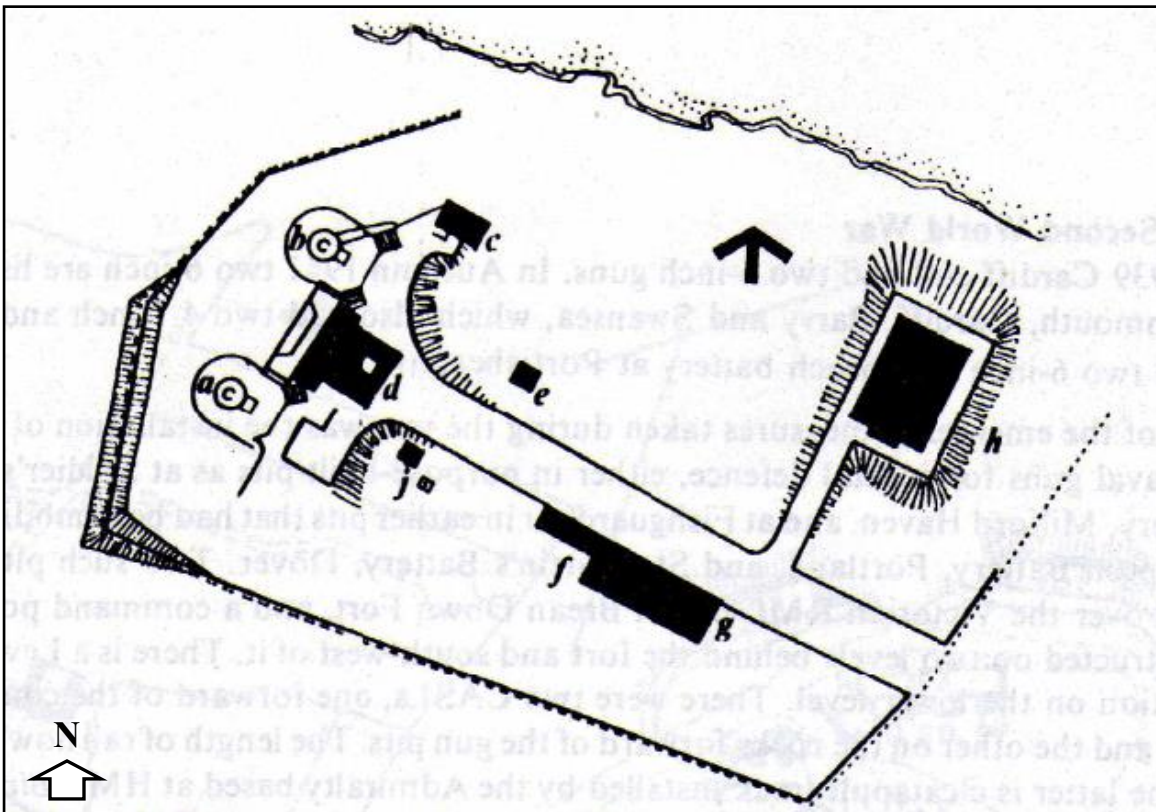


Figure 10

1915 1:2500 OS Map

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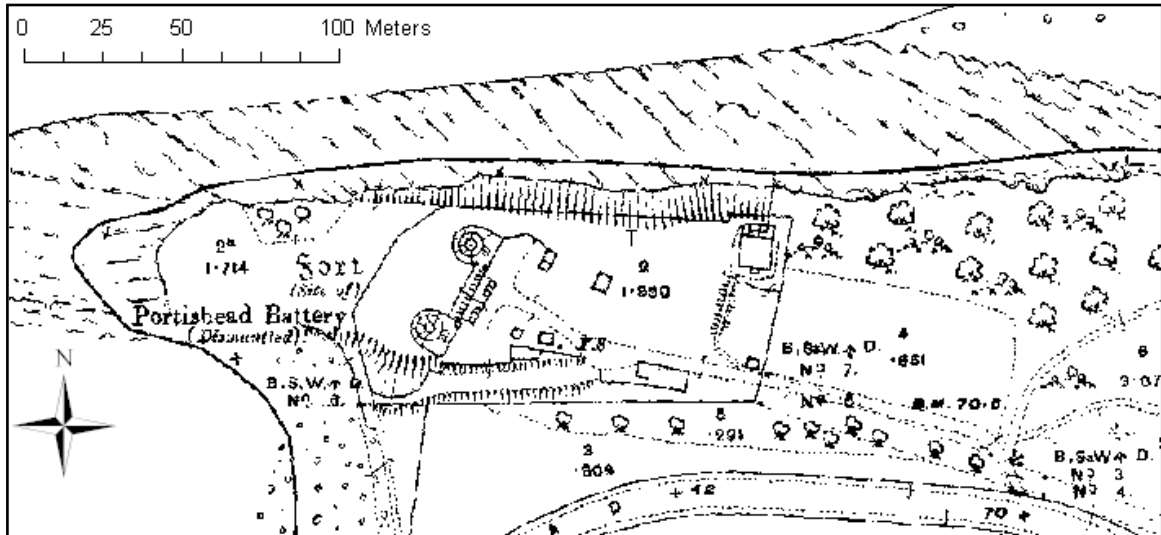


Figure 11

1940s Aerial Photograph © North Somerset HER (Scale as per Illustration).

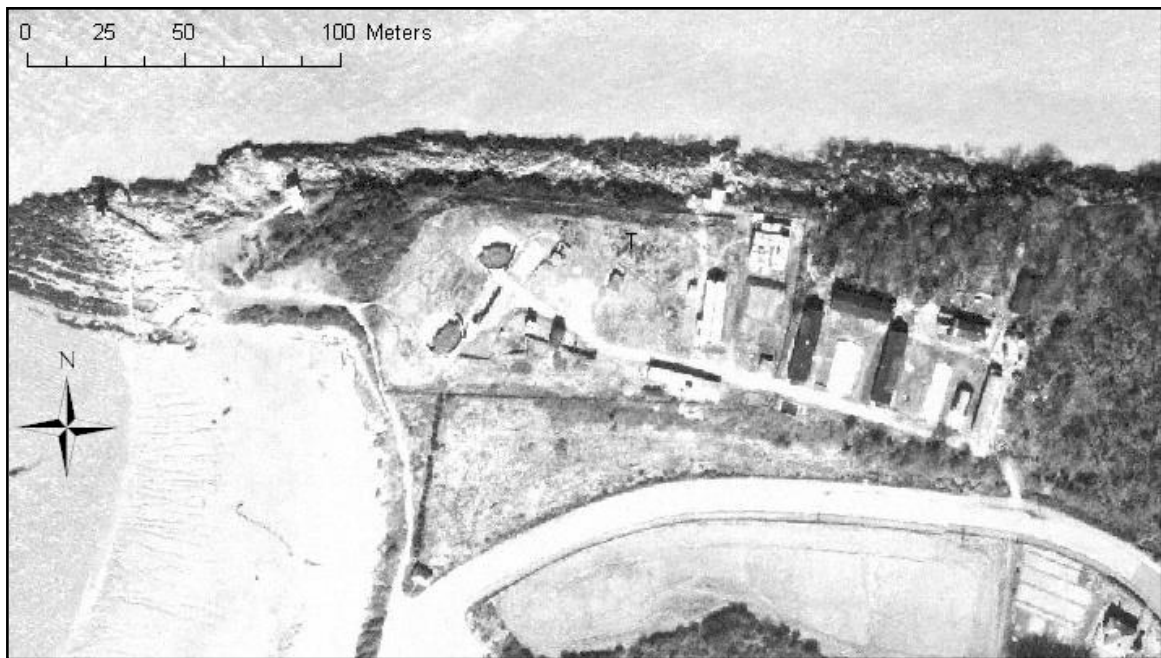


Figure 12

2005 Aerial Photograph © North Somerset HER (Scale as per Illustration).

Surviving casemate's (outlined in red)



5. RESULTS

Geophysical Surveys

5.1 Note: Whilst the greatest care has been taken in conducting the survey, the results are based on the accuracy of the equipment used and environmental conditions.

Instrumentation

5.2 Geoscan RM15 Resistance Meter This instrument involves measuring the electrical resistance of the earth via a system of four probes; two-spaced (twin probes) 0.5m apart known as the mobile probes, and two-spaced between c.0.5m-1.0m part known as the remote probes. Readings are taken in ohms with the mobile probes, which are subsequently compared to the 'static' remote probes readings. The mobile probes will send an electrical current down to a depth of c.0.75m; however, the local geology can affect this depth. The remote probes must be placed 30 times the distance between the mobile probes ($0.5 \times 30 = 15$). This means that the remote probes must be placed 15m

away from any survey point. If this guideline is not followed the mobile probes readings will 'feed' off the remote probes reading, thus causing inaccurate data.

5.3 The RM15 Resistance Meter was chosen for two fundamental reasons:

i) The historical and cartographic evidence reveals that the successive fortifications were of stone, masonry and concrete structures, and that these should reveal evidence of walls, rubble / hardcore anomalies as high resistance.

ii) The geology, Black Rock Limestone is a sedimentary rock; Gaffney and Gater (2003, 79) noted that "Nearly all limestones give good results". The acidic, loamy clay soil is free draining; meaning that in theory there should be no evidence of "puddling" (ibid. 27).

5.4 As all archaeological features are seen via a change in the background resistance reading, it is important to note the initial background reading as this can become an indicator of the contrast between what is archaeology and what is geology, for example. The initial background reading is affected by geology, soil, climate and topsoil for thickness among other aspects (Geoscan Research 1996, 6-1). The initial reading for Battery Point was 273.5 ohms, very high resistance, which is classified as Range C which approximately denotes the ground as having "Thin topsoil, less than 20cm, dry conditions, very good drainage due to geology, for example sandy and gravelly sites but with deep topsoil etc" (Geoscan 1996, 6-2).

5.5 The survey was conducted in January, a winter month, with some studies noting that if surveys are conducted in summer, higher resistance readings may occur due to water reduction (Geoscan 1996, 6-2).

5.6 **Figure 13**, notes the basic principles of a resistance survey, illustrating that high resistance should be expect over stone / wall foundations while low resistance should be expected when surveys are conducted over ditches, for example.

Figure 13

The basic principles of a resistance survey © Geoscan Research (1996, 6-3).

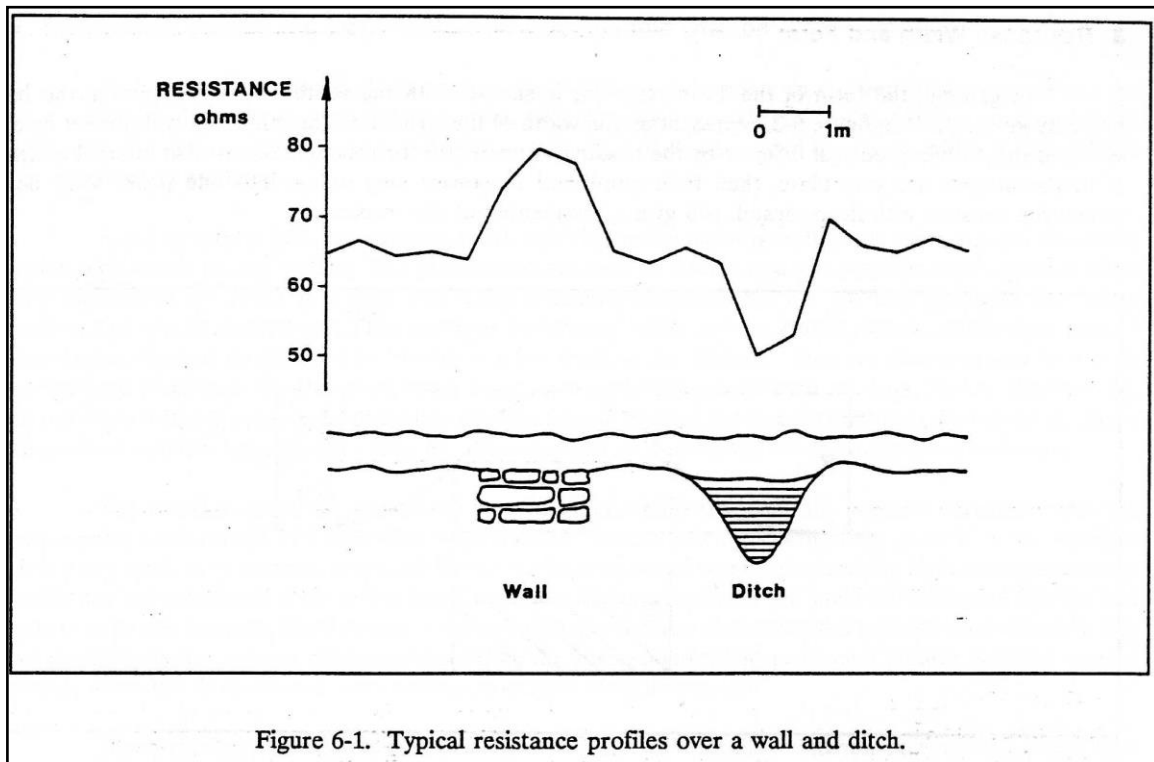


Figure 6-1. Typical resistance profiles over a wall and ditch.

Display

5.7 The most common display is greyscale, where white dots indicate low resistance, with higher areas of resistance becoming greyer, until eventually black. Other displays commonly used are X/Y trace plots and dot density.

Complicating factors

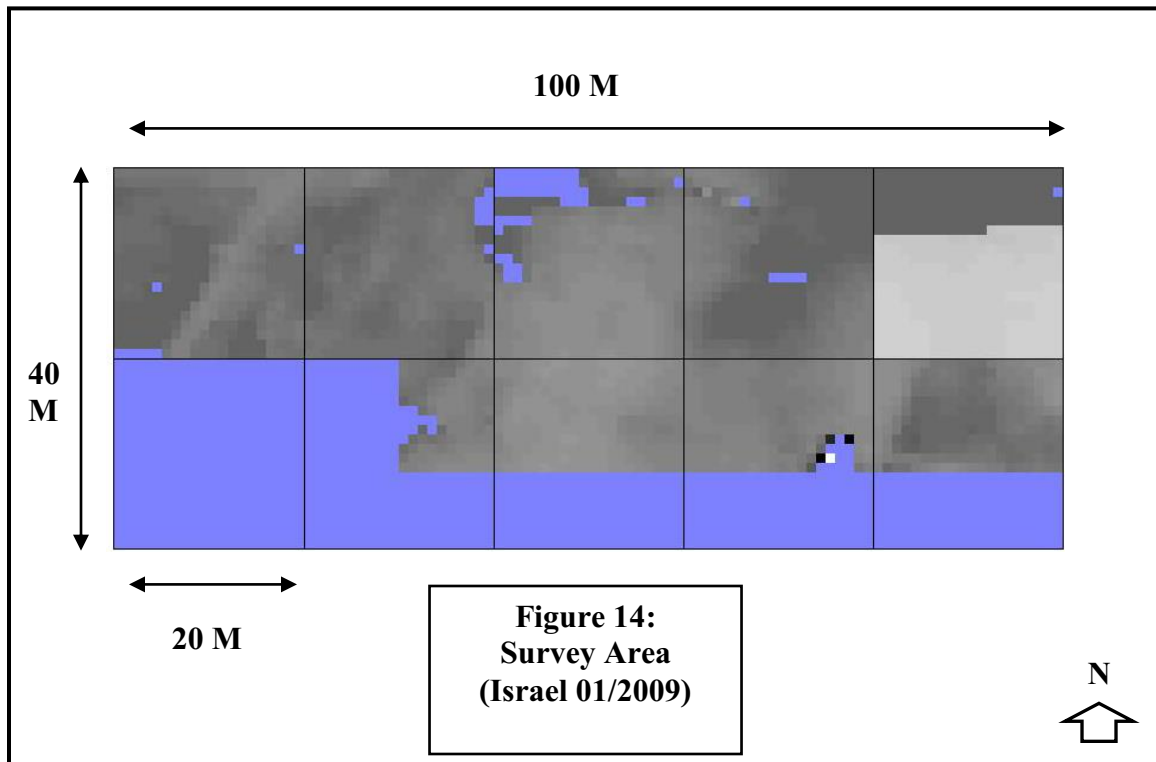
5.8 The ground was gently undulated, (**Cover**) with some concrete structures (casemates) inhibiting grid set-up procedures on occasions.

Geoplot Results (Greyscale) – RM15 Resistance Meter – Israel 01/2009

Survey Area

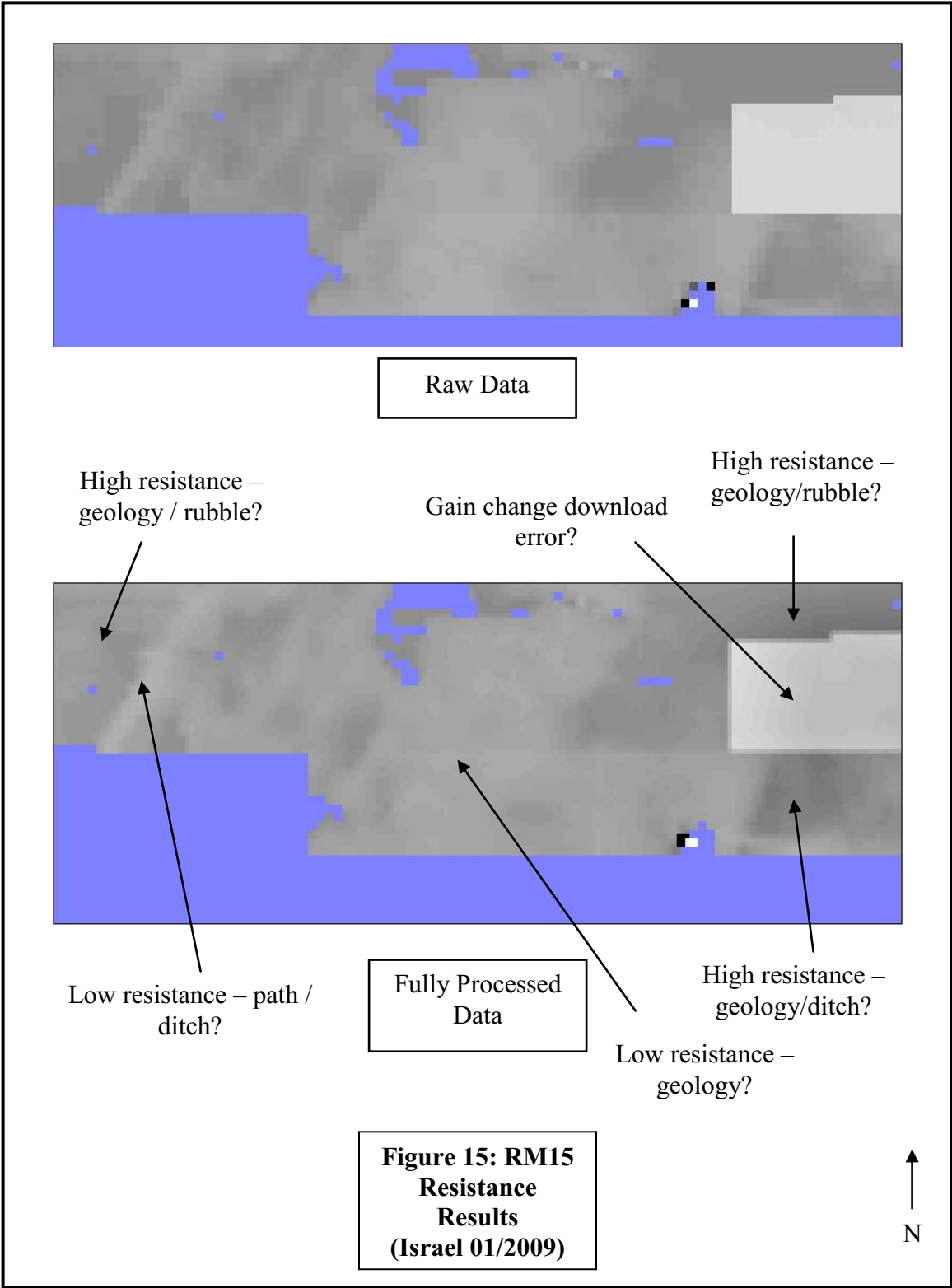
5.9 A Geoscan RM15 Resistance survey (9 x 20m²) was conducted over a 100m x 40m grid area (**Figure 14**).

5.10 Set out by Richard Israel, with the assistance of Philip Rowe (UoB) and Nick Gough, the grids were measured in using taped offsets from a baseline running in west-east direction. The 100m baseline was surveyed into the current Ordnance Survey grid system by Philip Rowe, using a Lecia GPS 1200 System which has an average accuracy of <5mm (**Appendices IV, V, VI, VII, VIII**).



Description

5.11 Areas of extremely high resistance were located in the north-east, north-west and the south-east of the study area. These areas, particularly in the north-east were dummy logged, because the resistance meter indicated 'over-range'. Over-range refers to areas where resistance was above the meter's threshold, meaning it was unable to record an individual value for that area. Areas of low resistance were located in the centre and north-west of the study area. The block white area to the north-east is an error in the data download, as the gain on the resistance meter was changed, because all the other readings in the grid beforehand were over-range and no useful data was being recorded (**Figure 15**).



Interpretation

5.12 The areas of high resistance in the north-east, north-west and south-east are indicative of one or both of the following:

i) Geology: there is little top-soil and sub-soil above the Black Rock Limestone, meaning that when the mobile probes are inserted into the ground, the electrical current passed through the ground is probably only centimetres from the local geology.

ii) Rubble: when the Second World War Battery was demolished (NS SMR 41855) sometime after the end of the war, the material was reduced, with a thin layer of soil and grass deposited on top, with the geophysical data producing the same result as if it were a natural geological formation.

5.13 The consistent high readings collected, suggests that the ground is very compact. This suggests a small depth in soil over the bedrock.

5.14 The area of low resistance in the centre of the study area is probably further evidence of geological deposition, perhaps evidence of colluvial deposits. The areas of high and low resistance are probably evidence of either geological formations or modern anthropogenic deposits.

5.15 The area of low resistance in the north-west of the study area is either a ditch or path relating to the Battery constructed in 1903, which can be seen on the 1915 Ordnance Survey Map (**Figure 16**) probably constructed to protect the battery guns, situated to the east.

5.16 Map regression analysis does not note the ditch / path? on the 1884 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, therefore it can be inferred that the feature was constructed, during the building of the 1903 Battery, with analysis of the 1940s aerial photograph shows a tree line where the feature once was (see **Figure 11**). The ditch/path can also be seen in Plate 1.

Figure 16

Raw Resistance Data overlaid on 1915 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Map

(Scale as per Illustration).

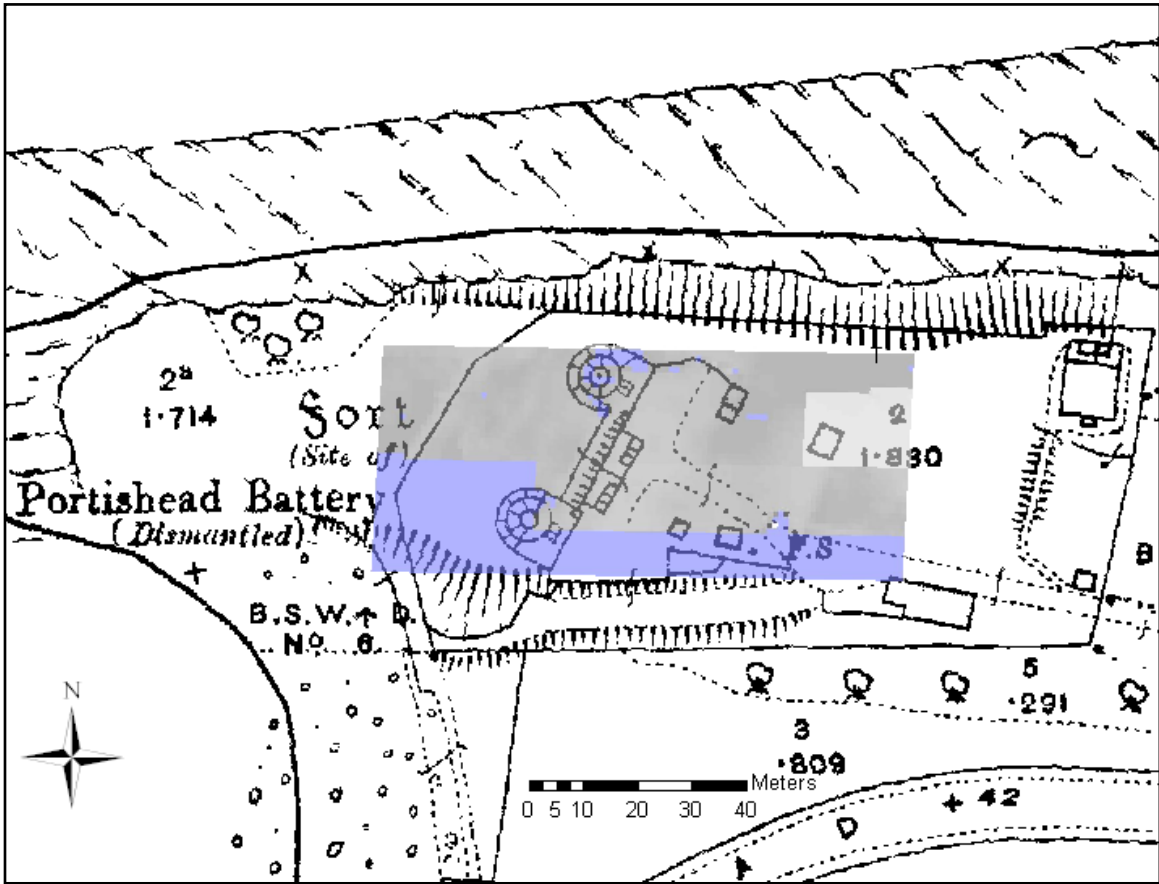


Plate 1

The ditch/path? relating to the 1903 Battery (facing North).



Data and Image Processing (Appendix IX)

5.17 Gaffney and Gater (2003, 102) note that any processing of data, changes the view of the original data and note the old adage “if it isn’t in the raw data it isn’t there”. They note (ibid. 102) that any processing should only be taken to improve the data before the task of interpretation is carried out, and to remove any flaws in that data. They also note a distinction between *data* and *image* processing. Data processing is steps taken to reveal more information, while image processing, makes the image easier for the eye to see (ibid. 103). For example, when examining a resistance survey, a high pass filter can be used to remove geological changes, to perhaps highlight the geological association with any archaeology present, an example of data processing. Image processing would take a greyscale image and “...in effect shine a light across the data to highlight the archaeology features” (ibid. 103).

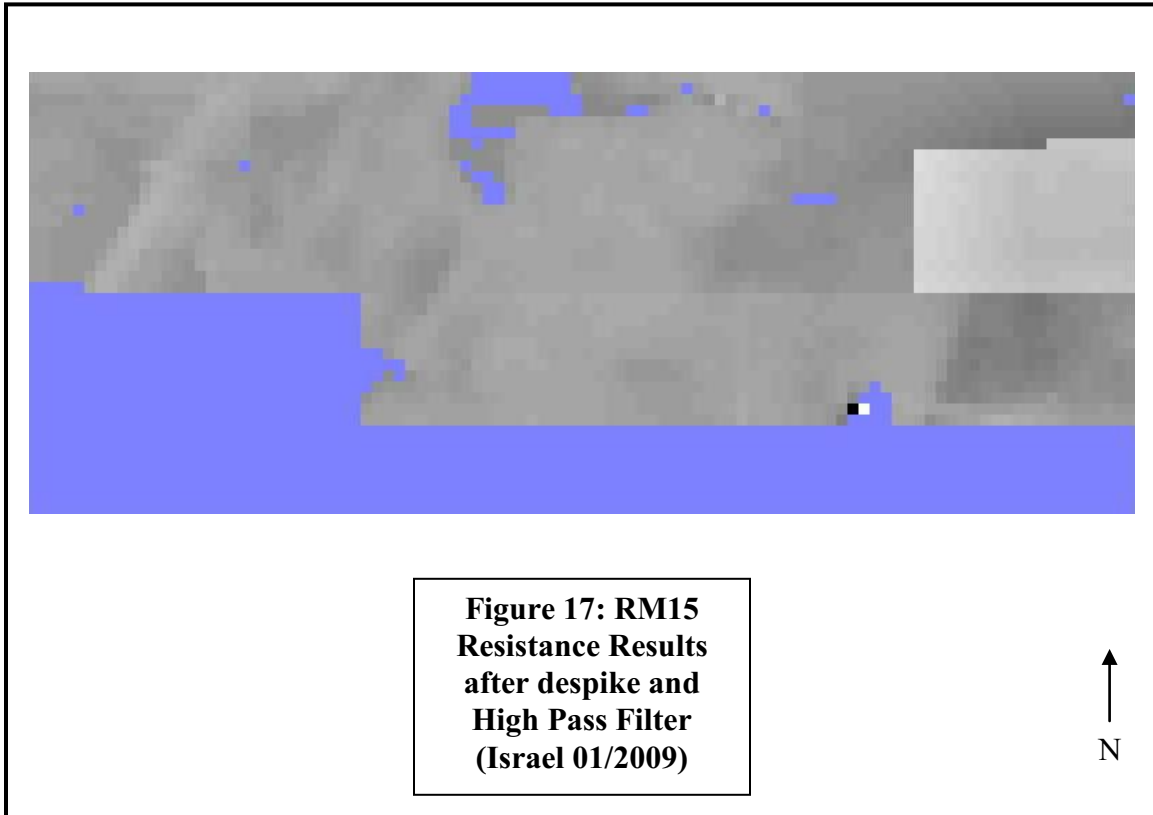
5.18 Noting the information in paragraph 5.10, limited data and image processing was conducted on the geophysical data from Battery Point. Only despiking, high pass filter and interpolation of the Linear Y and X axis's occurred. The Geoplot Manual briefly describes their functions below:

i) Despiking – “Automatically locates and removes random spurious readings present in resistance...” (Geoscan Research 2000a, A5).

ii) High Pass Filter – “Used to remove low frequency, large scale spatial data, typically a slowly changing geological “background” response commonly found in resistance surveys” (Geoscan Research 2000a, A5).

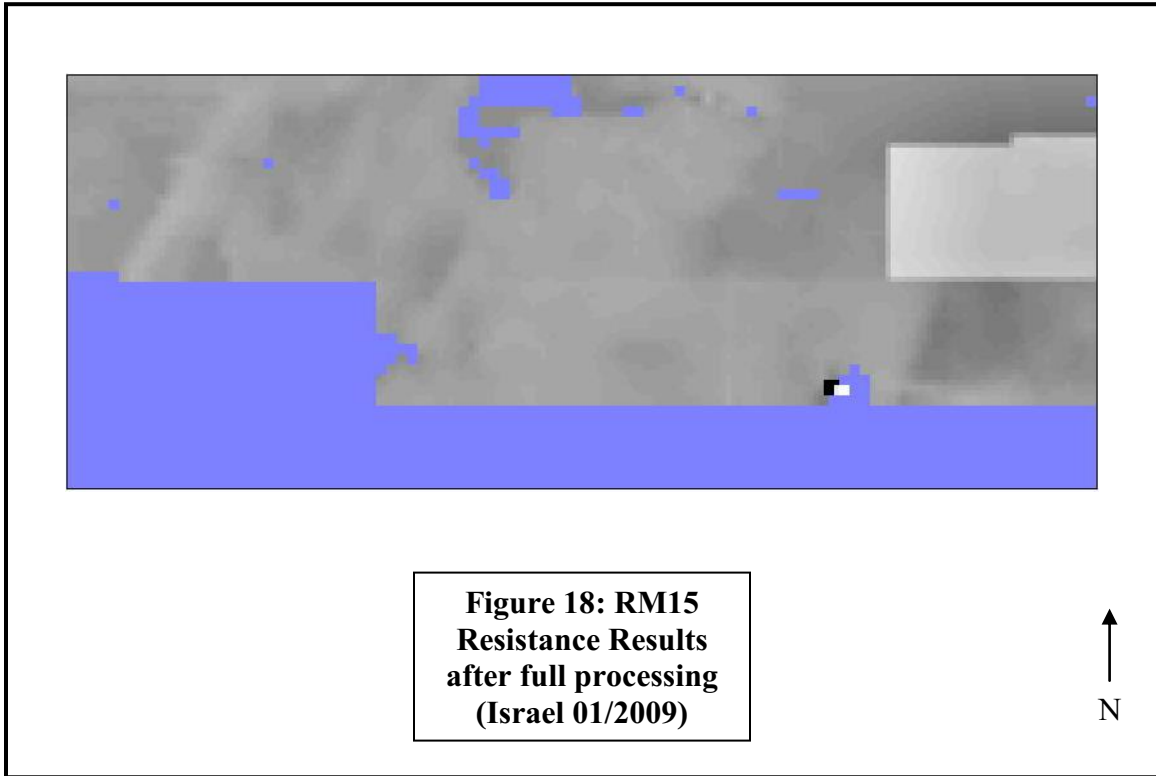
iii) Interpolate – “Increases or decreases the number of data points in a survey (linear or sin/x method). Increasing the number of data points can be used to create a smoother appearance to the data. Interpolate can also be used to make the sample and traverse intervals of differently sampled composites match, prior to combining them” Geoscan Research 2000a, A5).

5.19 In paragraph 5.12 ii) it was noted that no structural evidence was located during the survey, when examining the raw data. Therefore, a high pass filter the affect of which is noted in the previous paragraph was used after despiking the data. The high pass filter did not reveal any evidence of any intact foundations of any structures constructed inside the study area (**Figure 17**).



5.20 Previous geophysical surveys conducted by the author, after conducting despiking and high pass filter functions have then utilised the low pass filter, which “Removes high frequency, small scale spatial detail, useful for smoothing data, or for enhancing larger weak features” (Geoscan 2000a, A5). However, given recent advice (C. Gaffney pers. comm. 12th December 2008) the author decided against using the function.

5.21 The final stage in processing the data was to interpolate it. Previously other geophysical surveys conducted by the author were interpolated Y SinX, X SinX, Y Linear and X Linear, however based on recent advice (C. Gaffney pers. comm. 12th December 2008) only Linear Y and Linear X interpolation was conducted on this geophysical survey (**Figure 18**).

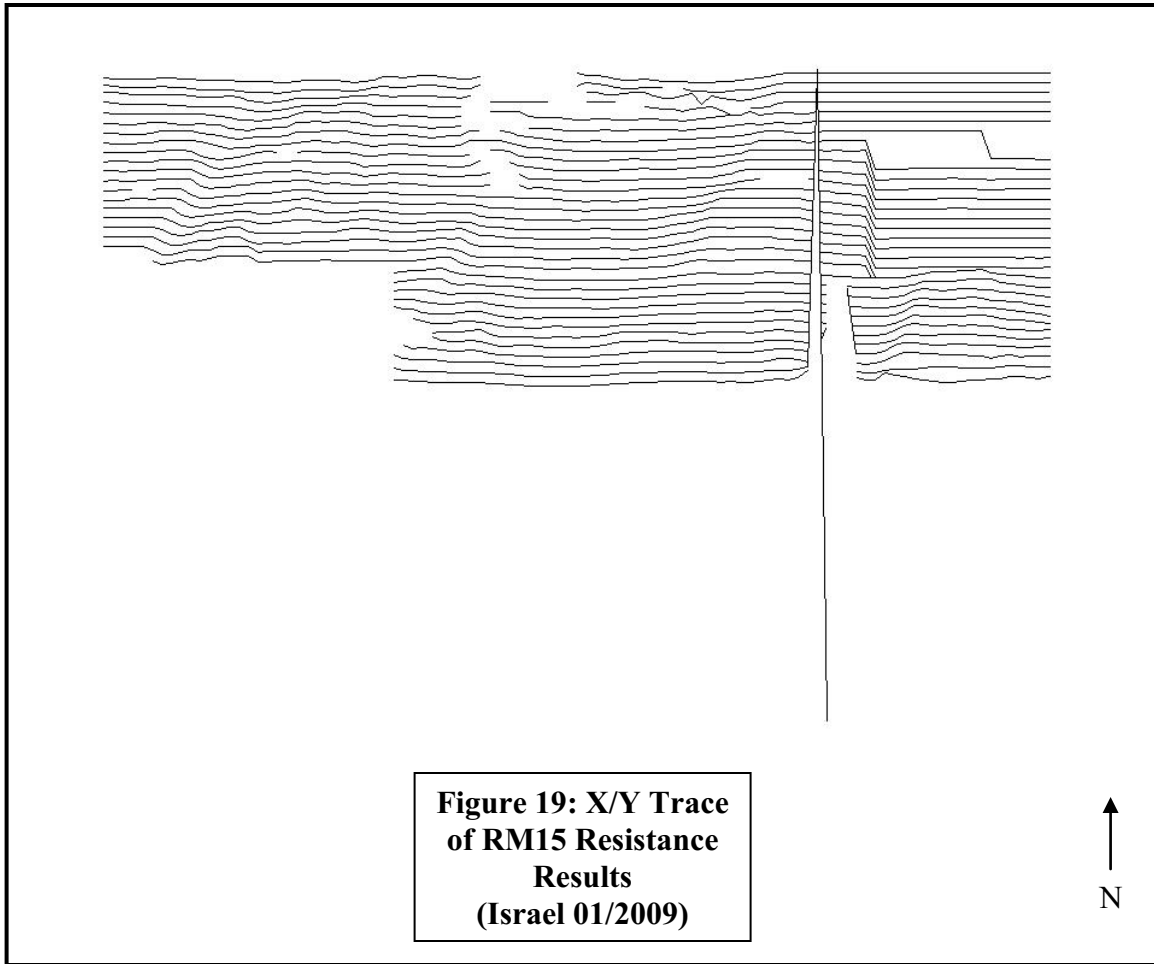


5.22 While it was recommended to only interpolate Linear Y and Linear X, the Geoplot Manual recommends using Sin(x)x for superior results, and that this method must be used in preference to Linear, because this function may “...emphasise the imperfections in the linear interpolation, rather than the archaeology...” (Geoscan 2000a, 5-17).

Geoplot Results (X/Y Trace Plot) – RM15 Resistance Meter – Israel 01/2009

5.23 As noted in paragraph 5.7 greyscale is the most common display method today, however, during the 1960s to the 1980s this was the most common display option. This system shows the viewer the full “...shape of the individual anomalies...” (Gaffney and Gater 2003, 107).

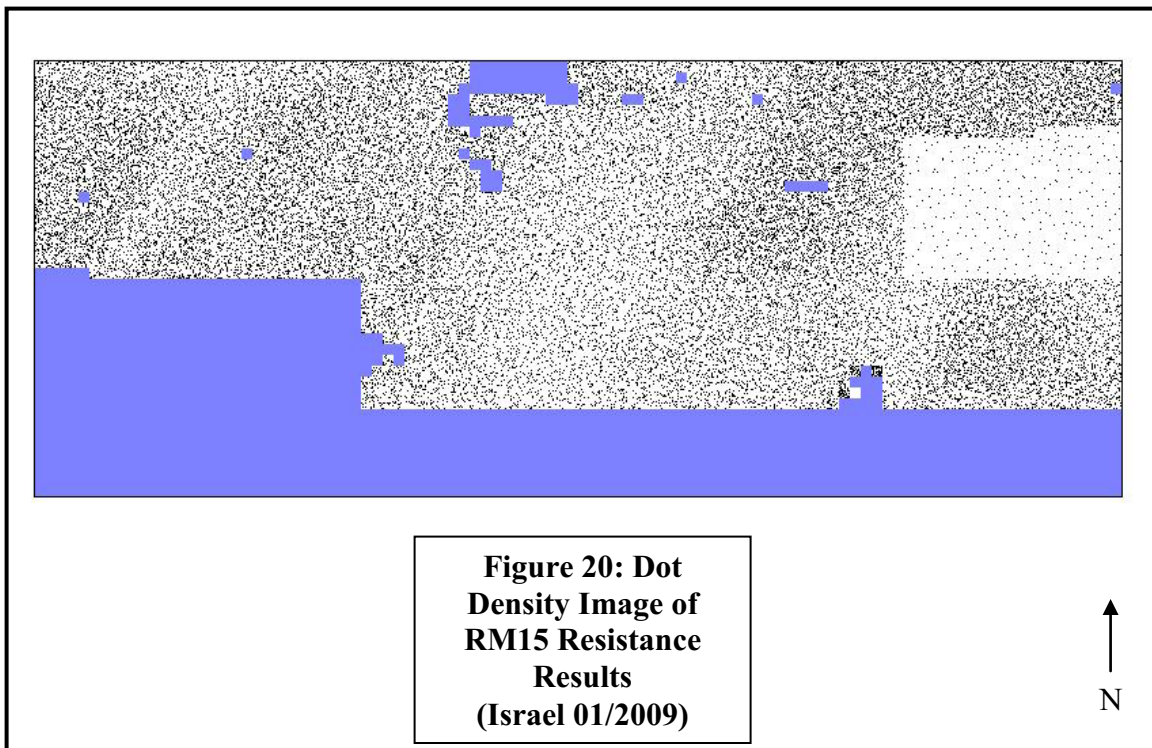
5.24 As **Figure 19** demonstrates the X/Y Trace does illustrate the ditch / path? and other data located in the greyscale image, however no further information can be gained from this display image.



Geoplot Results (Dot Density) – RM15 Resistance Meter – Israel 01/2009

5.25 Dot Density uses dots or pixels to depict geophysical data onto a plan, with the dots now representing the readings numerical value. This method was most commonly used in the 1960s, however because multiple editions have to be examined and because it is difficult to appreciate the strength of an anomaly without examining the raw data (Gaffney and Gater 2003, 107).

5.26 An examination of this display type (**Figure 20**) has revealed no more archaeological features than the standard greyscale image.



Photographic Survey

5.27 A photographic survey of the site was also conducted, which had the possibility of identifying any archaeological features not currently noted on the Sites and Monument Record and correcting current records.

5.28 The 1940s aerial photograph illustrates a Second World War searchlight (NS SMR 41897) cited at ST 4657 7758. By georeferencing the image into the Geographical Information System (GIS) programme ArcGIS 9.3, a new NGR reference can be given as ST 46583 77585. This searchlight emplacement is also not directly visible from the ground surface of Battery Point, as it is positioned down a slope onto the rocks below. The searchlight has a concrete surface which sits on top of a brick built structure, with the north facing wall of the structure missing (P. Rowe pers. comm. January 2009) (**Plate 2**).

Plate 2

The concrete surface of the Second World War searchlight (outlined in red)



5.29 To the east of this searchlight, there was evidence of another structure, possibly evidence of a platform between the two searchlights, noted on the 1940s aerial photograph (P. Rowe pers. comm. January 2009). Facing the structure and slightly to the right is possible evidence of concrete, suggesting a more substantial structure was once present. This feature is in poor condition (**Plate 3**).

5.30 Further evidence was found of what today are iron ‘spikes’ (**Plate 4**) protruding from the surface, suggesting that the structure extended further north, over the rocks at one time, possibly providing more evidence that the structure was once a platform, probably dating to the Second World War, which was not visible due to tree growth at the time the photograph was taken or had been dismantled.

Plate 3

Possibly remains a platform for moving between the searchlight and observation platform constructed during the Second World War? (facing South).



Plate 4

Remains of iron support structures for an extended platform? (outlined in red)
(facing South).



5.31 To the west of the remains of the cottage, is evidence of an approximately square earthwork in the landscape that cannot be identified on the 1940s aerial photograph, so it may predate, however there appears to be no evidence of this structure on the 1915 and 1884 Ordnance Survey maps, nor any of the plans relating to any of the battery's constructed. The date of this structure is currently unknown (**Plate 5**). It is possible that this earthwork relates to NS SMR 45048 and 45049 listed as “below Portishead Fort in old ammunition store, British restaurant”, and “below Portishead Fort in old ammunition store, used to grow m” respectively, as the earthwork is approximately square in shape. It is possible that it is the remains of an ammunition store that predates the Second World War battery, probably relates to the 1903 battery (see **Figure 9**), or the Victorian battery.

However, if the given grid reference of ST 4649 7756 noted in the SMR is correct, then this earthwork is neither of those structures, because the grid reference is too far away from the feature on the ground.

Plate 5

Earthwork of unknown date (note the cottage foundations at the top of the photograph) (facing East).



6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 No evidence of the Elizabethan, English Civil War, and Napoleonic fortifications were located in the geophysical survey, probably due to the historical evidence, stating that the site was transformed into a garden / recreational area during the reign of William IV in 1835.

6.2 No evidence of the Victorian fortification was located via the geophysical survey. However, the survey did find evidence of the construction of ditch/path, which was probably constructed during the building of the 1903 Battery. No additional evidence was located of the Second World War battery.

6.3 A photographic survey did identify structures not noted on the SMR database. The possible evidence of a platform between the searchlight emplacement and WW2 Observation platform (NS SMR 41898). it is therefore recommended that a new entry is created in the SMR.

6.4 An approximately square earthwork was located, of which there is no evidence to date the feature to the Second World War, as it is not noted on the 1940s aerial photograph. It is possible that the feature relates to the 1903 battery or the Victorian battery constructed on the site.

Further Work

6.5 Despite the poor geophysical data collected from this survey there is still much work to do. For example, a full geophysical survey of the site still needs to be conducted, as it could be the case that the surveyed area has undergone more landscaping than other sections of the site.

6.6 Because of a possible platform between the searchlight emplacement and WW2 Observation platform (NS SMR 41898) currently not noted on any SMR entries, it is therefore recommended that a new entry is created in the SMR, and that the features are archaeological recorded, due to its close proximity to the rocks below, as it is an important part of Britain's heritage.

6.7 It is possible that the earthwork noted in **Plate 5** is evidence of a Victorian / Edwardian ammunition store. In order to ascertain whether this is correct, it is recommended that an archaeological evaluation of the feature should be conducted.

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Digimap - © Crown Copyright/database right 2007 – Ordnance Survey / Edina Supplied Service to the University of Bristol.

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© Memory-Map - © Crown Copyright Ordnance Survey 2006 Licence No:
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63-78.

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1841 Tithe Map and Apportionment of Portishead (SRO D\D/Rt/M/301 and SRO D\D/Rt/A/301)

1884 Ordnance Survey Map 1:2500 Digimap - © Crown Copyright/database right 2007 – Ordnance Survey / Edina Supplied Service

1915 Ordnance Survey Map 1:2500 Digimap - © Crown Copyright/database right 2007 –
Ordnance Survey / Edina Supplied Service

1981 Ordnance Survey Map 1:10000 © Crown Copyright/database right 2007 –
Ordnance Survey / Edina Supplied Service

Appendix I:

Portishead Battery Point: Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation describes a geophysical survey to be undertaken at Battery Point, Portishead, as part of the Methods and Theory Sites and Monuments Enhancement project as part of the MA in Landscape Archaeology at the University of Bristol.

2. Site Location

- 2.1 The study area comprises of a modern grassed landscape 1.24 km north-west of the centre of Portishead, centred on ST 46500 77550.

3. Objectives

- 3.1 The overall objective is to define the probable extent, survival and significance of any archaeological remains in the study area; so that any archaeological implications for any proposed works can be assessed.

4. Methods

- 4.1 Before conducting the survey, a search of the published and unpublished documentary sources, maps, illustrations, aerial photographs and archaeological reports, at the North Somerset Historic Environment Record and the Somerset Record Office will be consulted, if necessary local reference libraries will also be consulted.

5. Staffing

- 5.1 The project will be conducted and managed by the author of this WSI.
- 5.2 The work will be carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2001) and *Code of Conduct* (2008a).
6. Reporting
- 6.1 The results will be presented in a report deposited in the North Somerset Historic Environment Record and the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Bristol.

Richard Israel
MA Landscape Archaeology Student
University of Bristol
December 2008

APPENDIX II: Trawl of the aerial photographic material held at the National Monuments Record.

33349 SV

ENGLISH HERITAGE : NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD

Air Photographs

Full single listing - Verticals, Standard order
Customer enquiry reference: 33349



Sortie number	Library number	Camera position	Frame number	Field	Centre point	Run	Date	Sortie quality	Scale 1:	Focal length (in inches)	Film details (in inches)	Film held by
RAF/CPE/UK/2026	622	V	5020	P	ST 463 776	2	26 APR 1947	A	4800	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/CPE/UK/2026	622	V	5021	P	ST 466 774	2	26 APR 1947	A	4800	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/54/3/2332	2166	1F21	95	P	ST 462 782	39	26 JUL 1963	AB	10100	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/54/3/2332	2166	1F21	96	P	ST 468 782	39	26 JUL 1963	AB	10100	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/54/1/553	2601	RS	4094	P	ST 466 769	8	04 JUN 1950	B	12000	20	Infra Red 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/54/1/553	2601	RS	4095	P	ST 462 778	8	04 JUN 1950	B	12000	20	Infra Red 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/54/0/644	3158	V	5074	P	ST 462 770	4	10 DEC 1951	C	9000	8	Black and White	MOD
RAF/54/0/644	3158	V	5075	P	ST 465 771	4	10 DEC 1951	C	9000	8	Black and White	MOD
RAF/54/1/549	6205	RS	4099	P	ST 467 771	10	05 JUN 1950	C	12000	20	Infra Red 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/54/1/549	6205	RS	4100	P	ST 465 777	10	05 JUN 1950	C	12000	20	Infra Red 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
OS/7/1121	11262	V	28	P	ST 461 770	5	01 MAY 1971	A	7050	12	Black and White 9.0 x 9.0	NMR
OS/60068	11611	V	86	P	ST 460 770	4	AUG 1960	AC	7775	12	Black and White 9.0 x 9.0	NMR
OS/60068	11611	V	107	P	ST 472 770	6	AUG 1960	AC	7775	12	Black and White 9.0 x 9.0	NMR
OS/69294	11620	V	21	P	ST 462 775	2	28 JUN 1969	A	7100	12	Black and White 9.0 x 9.0	NMR
OS/69294	11620	V	26	P	ST 470 768	3	28 JUN 1969	A	7100	12	Black and White 9.0 x 9.0	NMR
OS/89299	13556	V	280	P	ST 465 768	12	18 JUN 1989	A	8200	12	Black and White 9.0 x 9.0	NMR
OS/89299	13556	V	281	P	ST 458 768	12	18 JUN 1989	A	8200	12	Black and White 9.0 x 9.0	NMR
OS/78083	20684	V	60	P	ST 469 772	6	11 JUN 1978	A	10200	6	Black and White 9.0 x 9.0	NMR
OS/78083	20684	V	61	P	ST 461 769	6	11 JUN 1978	A	10200	6	Black and White 9.0 x 9.0	NMR
OS/78133	20687	V	110	P	ST 462 770	4	03 SEP 1978	A	10400	6	Black and White 9.0 x 9.0	NMR
OS/78133	20687	V	111	P	ST 472 773	4	03 SEP 1978	A	10400	6	Black and White 9.0 x 9.0	NMR
OS/78138	20688	V	171	N	ST 459 770	4	03 SEP 1978	A	10000	6	Black and White 9.0 x 9.0	NMR
OS/78138	20688	V	172	N	ST 468 772	4	03 SEP 1978	A	10000	6	Black and White 9.0 x 9.0	NMR

18 November 2008
Rep. 2.4a Ver. 2.0

Enquiry ref: 33349 - © English Heritage. NMR

APPENDIX II: (continued)

33349 SU

ENGLISH HERITAGE : NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD

Air Photographs

OS/79035	20694	V	261	P	ST 463 774	3	1	20 MAY 1979	A	10400	6	Black and White 9.0 x 9.0	NMR
OS/79035	20694	V	262	P	ST 453 771	3	1	20 MAY 1979	A	10400	6	Black and White 9.0 x 9.0	NMR
OS/96260	20751	V	174	N	ST 462 772	8	13	AUG 1996	A	5300	12	Black and White 9.0 x 9.0	NMR

Total sorties
Total images

14
26

+ 175005

(23)



ENGLISH HERITAGE : NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD
 Air Photographs

Oblique listing - Military obliques, Standard order
 Customer enquiry reference: 33349

Library and frame number	Photo reference (NGR and index number)	Original number	Date	Film type	Map Reference (6 figure grid ref)	What can you order?			
						Photocopy	Laser copy	Photographic copy	Digital copy
RAF 30206 / PSFO-0206	ST 4677 / 2	541/166	13 SEP 1948	Black& white	ST 467776	Y	Y	Y	Y
RAF 30206 / PSFO-0207	ST 4677 / 3	541/166	13 SEP 1948	Black& white	ST 466776	Y	Y	Y	Y
RAF 30206 / PSFO-0208	ST 4677 / 4	541/166	13 SEP 1948	Black& white	ST 464776	Y	Y	Y	Y
RAF 30206 / PSFO-0209	ST 4677 / 5	541/166	13 SEP 1948	Black& white	ST 462774	Y	Y	Y	Y
Total 4 records									

APPENDIX II: (continued)

Appendix III:

Our ref: JdG/78098/ENQ

Tuesday 18 November 2008

Dear Mr. Israel,

Thank you for your email, which we received on Tuesday 12 November, regarding Portishead Battery Point. You are right in thinking that, until 1974, Portishead came under the jurisdiction of Somerset.

We have several documents and a number of maps that may be of interest to you:

DD\PN/42

Map of Weston in Gordano and Portishead.

'A Survey of the Manor of North Weston together with the Parish of Weston in Gordano in which Survey is Distinguished the lands belonging to the Chamber of Bristol from the several freeholds. By the Right Worshipful the Mayor Henry Combe, Esq. and the Worshipful the Aldermen their Commands.'

Surveyed by 'J Jacob de Wilstar'.

Showing the whole of the parish of Weston, excluding Weston Moor and the adjoining parts of Portishead. Attractive and detailed map in de Wilstar's distinctive style showing extensive strip holdings. Combes and bays marked and named. Key to land ownership by colour

16in to 1 mile.

Appendix III: (continued)

OS 1 SE; 2 SW.

1741

A\AKL/1

Photographic copy of map entitled 'Plan of the Manor of Portishead in the County of Somerset the Property of the Mayor, Burgesses and Commonalty of the City of Bristol', 1817.

Whole parish. Parcels numbered. Adjoining landowners named.

[Original in Bristol City Record Office. No book of reference found]

[1817]

Q/RDE/88

'Portishead Inclosure - Plan referred to by the Commissioner's Award - T and J P Sturge, Surveyors, 1822.' Watercolour on parchment; 27in x 35in; 16in: 1 mile.

Map of the parish.

1823

D\D/Rt/M/301

Tithe map: Portishead.

Appendix III: (continued)

Size: 6' 6" x 4' 10"[Rolled map]. State: Ink and watercolour on paper. Scale: 3 chains = 1". Surveyor: James Marmont, surveyor, Bristol. [Please consult the microfiche copy.]

The tithe map, with its accompanying key - called the award or apportionment - gives details of the landowners and occupiers of every piece of land in the parish. It also gives rough details of type of land, state of cultivation, etc.

1841

D\U\ptd/2

Portishead Urban District Council minute books, 1895-1974. (I checked this collection to see if there were any more specific documents, but there are not.)

A\BKZ/20/4

Board of Trade marine map showing Portishead Battery: construction of a beacon and cable.

[plan number 25393]

1930

A\AGA/294

Aerial photograph showing Portishead Battery.

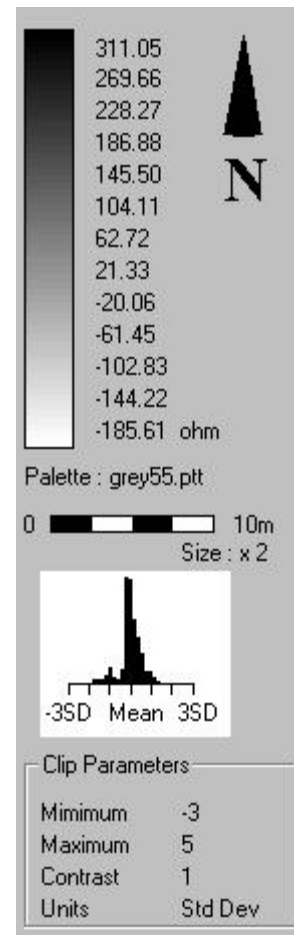
1969

Appendix IV: Data Processing Information

Details		Statistics	
Sitename:	battery	Mean:	0.6368147
Composite:	battery	SD:	62.08229
Date Generated:	05-01-2009	3 SD:	186.2469
Time Generated:	13:13:03	Minimum:	-2199.477
Dir. 1st Traverse:	E	Maximum:	1896.176
Composite Length (x):	100 m	Readings:	16000
Sample Interval (x):	.5 m	Dummy Value:	2047.5
Composite Width (y):	40 m	Dummies:	4984
Traverse Interval (y):	.5 m		
Survey Type:	Resistance		
Instrument:	RM15		
Units:	ohm		

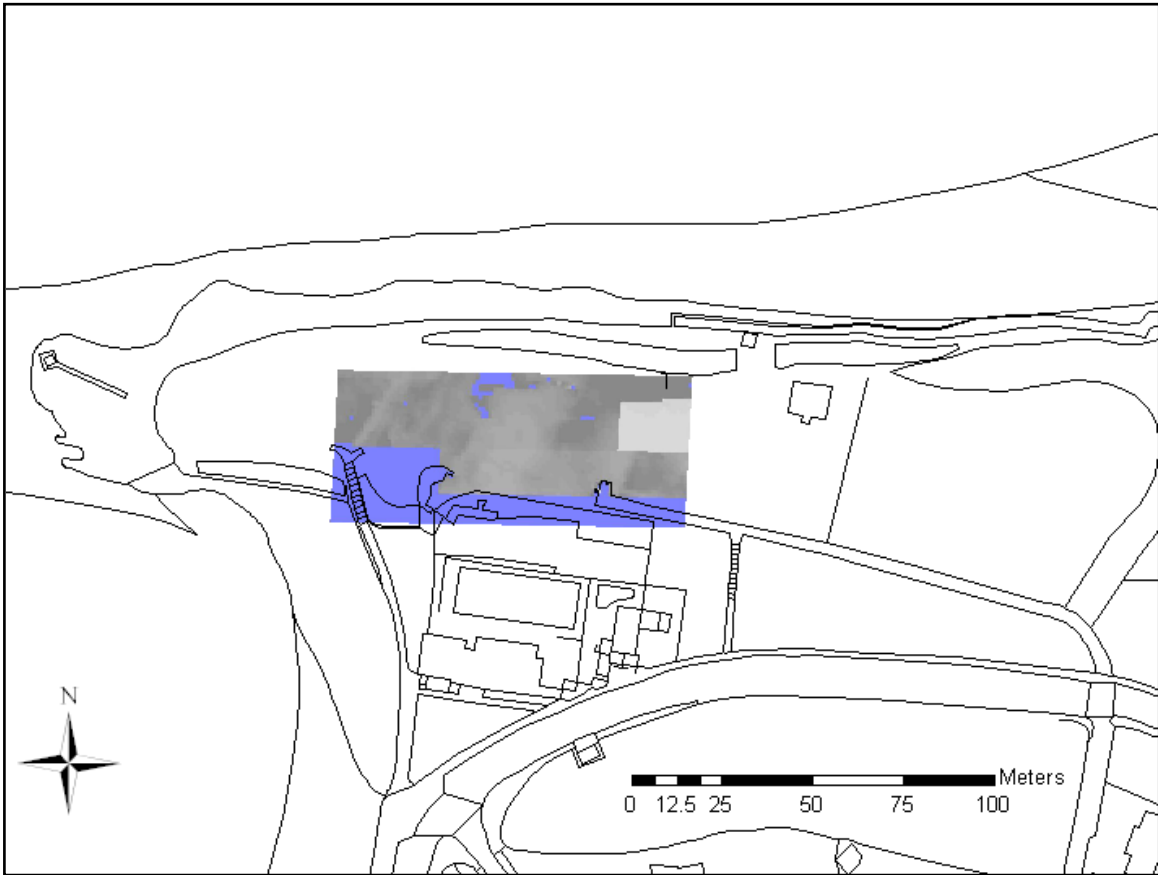
Generation History	
Source Grid Length:	20 m
Source Grid Width:	20 m
Master Grid:	battery
Bias Addition:	On

Latest History
Despike X=1 Y=1 Thr=3 Repl=Mean
HPF X=10 Y=10 Wt=U
Interpolate Y, Expand - Linear, x2
Interpolate X, Expand - Linear, x2



Appendix V:

Raw Data overlaid on site plan via Geographical Information System



Appendix VI:

Fully Processed Data overlaid on site plan via Geographical Information System



Appendix VII:

Fully Processed Data overlaid on 1940s Aerial Photograph via Geographical Information System © North Somerset HER (Scale as per Illustration).



Appendix VIII:

Fully Processed Data overlaid on 2005 Aerial Photograph via Geographical Information System © North Somerset HER (Scale as per Illustration).



Appendix IX:
Battery Point Site Results Summary

Geophysical Survey Report Number: ISRAEL 01/2009

NGR: ST: 46500 77550

Site Name: Battery Point, Portishead.

Site Type: Grassed landscape.

Description: The site is lying *c.* 1.6m a.O.D and is situated *c.* 1.24km north-west from the centre of Portishead.

Period: Late Medieval? – 20th century.

Geology: The geology of Battery Point is Black Rock Limestone with subordinate thin beds of shaly argillaceous skeletal packstone and mudstone.

Land Use: Landscaped recreational area (walking).

Survey Type: Resistance.

Method: Zig-Zag.

Instrument: Geoscan RM15.

Survey Area: 4,000²m

Sample Interval: 1m.

Traverse Interval: 1m.

Results Summary:

In January 2009, 9 (20 x 20m²) geophysical resistance surveys were conducted, attempting to locate any surviving remains of the various fortifications that were constructed on the site, however overall provided poor geophysical data.

Areas of extremely high resistance were located in the north-east, north-west and the south-east of the study area. With areas of low resistance were located in the centre and north-west of the study area. Only the low resistance located north-west of the study area noted an archaeological feature of a ditch/path? probably relating to the construction of the 1903 battery. The other areas of resistance probably relates to geological formations or evidence of the destruction of the Second War battery, sometime after the war.

Survey Date: 2nd January 2009.

Report Date: 5th January 2009.

Completed By: R. Israel / P. Rowe / N. Gough.

Report Author: Richard Israel.

Appendix X: additions noted in red

North Somerset Council Monument Full Report 09/01/2009

Number of records: 14

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
307 - MNS306	Coastal Defence Battery Battery Point	Monument

Monument Types and

GUN EMPLACEMENT (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)

Evidence DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

GUN EMPLACEMENT (Modern - 1901 AD to 2050 AD)

Evidence STRUCTURE

Description and Sources

Description

There was an Elizabethan Watch Tower on Battery Point (SMR 428). In the Civil War it became a six gun fort and was repaired in 1798. It was rebuilt in the C19 & C20 (1)(2) No remains of Civil War Battery. (3) "Ruins of a fort" (4) It was decommissioned in 1835 and converted into a garden but the site was reopened in 1865 to house 2 two-ton 32 pounders. It was again rebuilt in 1903 to hold a two-gun 6-inch battery {

A recent geophysical resistance survey has found no evidence of the Elizabethan Watch Tower, the Civil War battery, the Napoleonic fort, or the Victorian modifications. Evidence was located of a ditch/path? relating to the 1903 battery (6).

Sources

- (1) Monograph: 1911. Somerset -2. Victoria County History. 260
- (2) Document: Wigan E. 1950. The Tale of Gordano. 95
- (3) Document: Quinnell N. 1962. ST47NE3. -4
- (4) Cartographic material: Donn B. 1769. A Map of 11 Miles Around Bristol.
- (5) Document: Pinsent M. 1983. The Defences of Britain in the last two Centuries. Fort 11. 63-76
- (6) Unpublished Document: Richard Israel 2009, Geophysical survey report of Battery Point. Report No. Israel 01/2009.

Location

National Grid Reference

ST 4650 7755 (point) ST47NE

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Portishead, North Somerset

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References

Sites and Monuments Record - 307 Active

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes

Landuse (REP93) Recreational usage 01/01/1981

Related Monuments

428	Elizabethan Watch Tower (site of), Battery Point, Portishead	Functional Association
9950	Pill-box Battery Point	Functional Association
10529	Aircraft Factory	Functional Association

Finds - None recorded

MonFullRpt
1

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Page

SMR Number 307 - MNS306 **Site** Coastal Defence Battery Battery Point

Associated Events/Activities

ENS469 (Field Observation)

ENS938 The Portishead gun batteries (Event - Survey)

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

MonFullRpt
2

Report generated by HBSMR from exeGes SDM Ltd

Page

SMR Number 428 - MNS422 **Site** Elizabethan Watch Tower (site of), Battery Point, Portishead

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
428 - MNS422	Elizabethan Watch Tower (site of), Battery Point, Portishead	Monument

Watch tower built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I to guard the approach to Bristol. No physical remains of the tower are visible, but it is thought to have been situated in the area of the later gun batteries.

Monument Types and

WATCH TOWER (Demolished ?, (at some time) 16th Century to Elizabethan - 1501 AD? to 1600 AD?)

Evidence DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Description and Sources

Description

An Elizabethan watch tower on Battery Point, Portishead, one of the recognised defences of Bristol. It became a civil war battery (SMR 307).(1-2)

No physical remains of the tower are visible, but it is likely to have been situated in the vicinity of the later gun batteries (3).

No evidence located via geophysical survey conducted in 2009 (6).

Sources

- (1) Monograph: 1911. Somerset -2. Victoria County History. 260
- (2) Document: Wigan E. 1950. The Tale of Gordano. -95
- (3) Unpublished document: Jones, Peter. 1995. The Portishead Gun Batteries: A Desk Top Study to Investigate the Documentary History and the Present Condition of the Gun Batteries.
- (4) :
- (5) Document: IAN JAMES.
- (6) Unpublished Document: Richard Israel 2009, Geophysical survey report of Battery Point. Report No. Israel 01/2009.

Location

National Grid Reference

ST 4650 7755 (point) ST47NE

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Portishead, North Somerset

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References

Sites and Monuments Record - 428 Active

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes

Landuse (REP93) Recreational usage 01/01/1981

Related Monuments

307 Coastal Defence Battery Battery Point Functional Association

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities

MonFullRpt

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Page 3

SMR Number 428 - MNS422
Point, Portishead

Site Elizabethan Watch Tower (site of), Battery

Additional references (4-5).ENS610 (Field Observation)
ENS938 The Portishead gun batteries (Event - Survey)

Associated Individuals/Organisations

Cakebread, Stuart - North Somerset Council
North Somerset Council

Compiler
Compiler

MonFullRpt

Report generated by HBSMR from exeGesIS SDM Ltd

Page 4

SMR Number 9949 - MNS2582 **Site** Pill Box Battery Point

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
9949 - MNS2582	Pill Box Battery Point	Monument

Monument Types and

PILL BOX (Early 20th Century - 1901 AD to 1944 AD)
Evidence EXTANT BUILDING

Description and Sources

Description

Noted in (1).

Sources

- (1) Document: Pillbox Study Group. 1994. JH/00087.
- (2) Document: AVON SMR/REW/MAC.

Location

National Grid Reference

ST 4641 7755 (point) ST47NE

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Portishead, North Somerset

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References

Sites and Monuments Record - 9949 Active

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes - None recorded

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

SMR Number 9950 - MNS2583 **Site** Pill-box Battery Point

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
9950 - MNS2583	Pill-box Battery Point	Monument

Monument Types and

PILL BOX (Early 20th Century - 1901 AD to 1944 AD)
Evidence DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Description and Sources

Description

A small semi-circular machine-gun nest built of stones into the rocks at Battery Point. (1) Noted in (2)

Sources

- (1) Document: Pinsent M. 1983. The Defences of Britain in the last two Centuries. Fort 11. 76
- (2) Document: Pill Box Study Group. 1994. JH/00507.
- (3) Document: AVON SMR/REW.

Location

National Grid Reference

ST 4643 7759 (point) ST47NE

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Portishead, North Somerset

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References

Sites and Monuments Record - 9950 Active

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes - None recorded

Related Monuments

307 Coastal Defence Battery Battery Point Functional Association

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

SMR Number 40030 - MNS2704 **Site** Portishead Fort (Site of)

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
40030 - MNS2704	Portishead Fort (Site of)	Monument

Coastal battery fort built in the early 17th century which saw action in the English Civil War. It seems to have remained in existence, if not in use, up to the late 18th century when it was re-equipped with four 36 pounders and a small garrison due to the French threat. It was decommissioned in 1835 and demolished in 1849. The site was built over by a larger Victorian fort (41855).

Monument Types and

COASTAL BATTERY (Demolished 1849, (at some time) Jacobean to 19th Century - 1620 AD? to 1835 AD)

Evidence DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Description and Sources

Description

Built sometime before the beginning of the English Civil War to defend the Kings Road anchorage and the city of Bristol, this was the first real defences built on the site. During the Civil War the battery was initially held by the Parliamentary forces, but fell to the Royalist in 1643 who held it until the 25th of August 1645 when the fort, along with six pieces of ordinance, was surrendered by its garrison to Sir Thomas Fairfax. The fort was then promptly occupied by a Parliamentary force of four hundred men and fourteen pieces of ordinance.

The next major period of activity at the fort was during the French Wars of the later 18th and early 19th centuries. Before this the fort seems to have gone through a long period of neglect, so much so that the city of Bristol petitioned for gunboats to be stationed off Portishead. In 1779 the fort was rearmed with four 36 pounders, three trained seawards and one covering the approaches to the breach. A second battery was also built at Avonmouth to cover the other side of the river Avon. At this time the fort consisted of officers quarters, a store and barracks for 30 men. In 1815 the 36 pounders were replaced with four pivot guns until 1835 when the fort was decommissioned. In 1849 the fort was demolished and the area turned into a recreational area. (1)

The 1841 Tithe map and apportionment notes the site as 'House and Fort' (3)

Additional reference(2).

Sources

- (1) Unpublished document: Jones, Peter. 1995. The Portishead Gun Batteries: A Desk Top Study to Investigate the Documentary History and the Present Condition of the Gun Batteries.
- (2) Document: AVON SMR/EVE WIGAN/RUTTER.
- (3) Unpublished Document: Richard Israel 2009, Geophysical survey report of Battery Point. Report No. Israel 01/2009.

Location

National Grid Reference

ST 4649 7756 (point)

ST47NE

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish

Portishead & North Weston, North Somerset

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References

Sites and Monuments Record - 40030

Active

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes - None recorded

Related Monuments

41855 Portishead Gun Battery Functional Association

Finds - None recorded

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SMR Number 40030 - MNS2704 **Site** Portishead Fort (Site of)

Associated Events/Activities

ENS938 The Portishead gun batteries (Event - Survey)

Associated Individuals/Organisations

Cakebread, Stuart - North Somerset Council
North Somerset Council

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SMR Number 41433 - MNS3858 **Site** ROC site 1953-56, Portishead

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
41433 - MNS3858	ROC site 1953-56, Portishead	Monument

Monument Types and

SITE (Modern - 1901 AD to 2050 AD)

Description and Sources

Description - None recorded

Sources

(1) Document: ATTACK WARNING RED/Long Ashton LHS.

Location

National Grid Reference

ST 4652 7758 (point)

ST47NE

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Portishead & North Weston, North Somerset

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References

Sites and Monuments Record - 41433

Active

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes - None recorded

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

SMR Number 41855 - MNS4279 **Site** Portishead Gun Battery

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
41855 - MNS4279	Portishead Gun Battery	Monument

Battery of two guns built in 1865 and in use periodically until the end of the Second World War. Some associated features remain although the battery itself was demolished after the war.

Monument Types and

COASTAL BATTERY (Abandoned, (at some time) Victorian - 1865 AD to 1889 AD)
Evidence STRUCTURE

Description and Sources

Description

After a Royal Commission into the state of Britain's coastal defences in 1859 it was decided to re-establish a battery of guns at Portishead on the site of an earlier battery fort (40030). The land was purchased in 1864 and work began on the battery in 1865 incorporating some of the existing features of the previous battery. Platforms were constructed for two 32 pounder BL (Breech Loading) Armstrong Guns, later two 7" RML (Rifle Muzzle Loading) guns, a bomb-proof magazine and caretakers house. It was decommissioned in 1889.

In 1903 two 6" BL guns were installed and the site reorganised.

With the outbreak of the Second World War the battery was armed with two 6" BL guns for anti-submarine defence, but were soon reclassified as an anti-aircraft battery due to the threat of aerial attacks on Bristol. At the same time the site was used by the local home guard who held practices at the battery and probably built a small semi-circular machine gun nest in 1940 located close to the main battery. In 1941, with the threat of invasion receding, the battery was stood down although the Home Guard continued to use the site. At some time after the war the battery was demolished. Little now remains above ground. (1)

Two casemate's (aprons) from the Second World War survive (2)

Sources

(1) Document: Eve Wigan. (2x6" QF guns at 1902):CBA.

(2) *Unpublished Document: Richard Israel 2009, Geophysical survey report of Battery Point. Report No. Israel 01/2009.*

Location

National Grid Reference

Centroid ST 4658 7754 (MBR: 219m by 88m) ST47NE Area

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Portishead & North Weston, North Somerset

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References

Sites and Monuments Record - 41855

Active

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes - None recorded

Related Monuments

40030	Portishead Fort (Site of)	Functional Association
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Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities

ENS938 The Portishead gun batteries (Event - Survey)

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SMR Number 41855 - MNS4279 **Site** Portishead Gun Battery

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

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SMR Number 41856 - MNS4280 **Site** Remains. of WW2 marine defence two 6" guns,
Portishead Point

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
41856 - MNS4280	Remains. of WW2 marine defence two 6" guns, Portishead Point	Monument

Monument Types and

SITE (Modern - 1901 AD to 2050 AD)

Description and Sources

Description - None recorded

Sources

(1) Document: Eve Wigan/CBA.

Location

National Grid Reference

ST 4648 7757 (point) ST47NE

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Portishead & North Weston, North Somerset

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References

Sites and Monuments Record - 41856 Active

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes - None recorded

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

SMR Number 41897 - MNS4321 **Site** WW2 search light base, N side Battery Point, Portishead

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
41897 - MNS4321	WW2 search light base, N side Battery Point, Portishead	Monument

Monument Types and

SEARCHLIGHT EMPLACEMENT (Modern - 1901 AD to 2050 AD)

Description and Sources

Description - None recorded

Searchlight has concrete roof, brick built structure, northing face wall missing, needs recording (2)

Sources

(1) Document: Robin E Wild.

(2) Unpublished Document: Richard Israel 2009, Geophysical survey report of Battery Point. Report No. Israel 01/2009.

Location

National Grid Reference

ST 4657 7758 (point)

ST47NE

ST 46583 77585 (2)

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Portishead & North Weston, North Somerset

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References

Sites and Monuments Record - 41897

Active

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes - None recorded

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

SMR Number 41898 - MNS4322 **Site** WW2 observation platform, north side Battery Point, Portishead

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
41898 - MNS4322	WW2 observation platform, north side Battery Point, Portishead	Monument

Monument Types and

SITE (Modern - 1901 AD to 2050 AD)

Description and Sources

Description - None recorded

Sources

(1) Document: Robin E Wild.

Location

National Grid Reference

ST 4658 7758 (point)

ST47NE

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish

Portishead & North Weston, North Somerset

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References

Sites and Monuments Record - 41898

Active

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes - None recorded

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

SMR Number 42214 - MNS4590 **Site** site WW1 2x12 pdr 'quick firing' guns,
Portishead Point
Battery

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
42214 - MNS4590	site WW1 2x12 pdr 'quick firing' guns, Portishead Point Battery	Monument

Monument Types and

SITE (Modern - 1901 AD to 2050 AD)

Description and Sources

Description - None recorded

Sources

(1) Document: C Dobinson/Coast artillery/KC.

Location

National Grid Reference

ST 4646 7757 (point)

ST47NE

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Portishead & North Weston, North Somerset

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References

Sites and Monuments Record - 42214

Active

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes - None recorded

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

SMR Number 43580 - MNS5832 **Site** Portishead Point, Portishead

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
43580 - MNS5832	Portishead Point, Portishead	Monument

Monument Types and

SETTLEMENT (Undated)

Description and Sources

Description - None recorded

Sources - None recorded

Location

National Grid Reference

ST 4639 7757 (point)

ST47NE

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish

Portishead & North Weston, North Somerset

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References

Sites and Monuments Record - 43580

Active

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes - None recorded

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

SMR Number 45048 - MNS7068 **Site** below Portishead Fort in old ammunition store, British restaurant

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
45048 - MNS7068	below Portishead Fort in old ammunition store, British restaurant	Monument

Monument Types and

SITE (Undated)

Description and Sources

Description - None recorded

Has possibly been located (2)

Sources

(1) Document: VR/Gordano Society.

(2) Unpublished Document: Richard Israel 2009, Geophysical survey report of Battery Point. Report No. Israel 01/2009.

Location

National Grid Reference

ST 4649 7756 (point)

ST47NE

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish

Portishead & North Weston, North Somerset

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References

Sites and Monuments Record - 45048

Active

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes - None recorded

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

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SMR Number 45049 - MNS7069 **Site** below Portishead Fort in old ammunition store, used to grow m

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
45049 - MNS7069	below Portishead Fort in old ammunition store, used to grow m	Monument

Monument Types and

SITE (Undated)

Description and Sources

Description - None recorded

Has possibly been located (2).

Sources

(1) Document: REW/ planning history files.

(2) Unpublished Document: Richard Israel 2009, Geophysical survey report of Battery Point. Report No. Israel 01/2009.

Location

National Grid Reference

ST 4649 7757 (point)

ST47NE

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish

Portishead & North Weston, North Somerset

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References

Sites and Monuments Record - 45049

Active

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes - None recorded

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

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