

(C)

# PLYMOUTH'S HISTORIC DEFENCES MANAGEMENT APPRAISAL

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SHEILA WESTON June 1995

## INTRODUCTION

Plymouth has an enviable heritage as a maritime city of key national importance. There surely must be a duty to conserve and utilise the best of the past. As Major F Woodward remarks in the foreword to 'Plymouth Defences' - there has been 'an apparent lack of any policy of conservation as far as the fortifications around Plymouth are concerned'.

This appraisal carried out for English Heritage follows the recent Plymouth Defences Assessment (Devon) by Andrew Pye and refers to the Caradon Assessment (in preparation). Work for Pt I was done from July-December 1994 & for Pt II from February-May 1995. Because of limitations of time it has necessarily been completed rapidly and in a comparatively superficial way; the aim is to complement the technical information for management purposes; to review the recent management and use of the more important fortifications around Plymouth Sound and to make recommendations for their future management etc. for the information of English Heritage, Local Authorities Estates Offices and especially Planners. Brief notes on all main sites are included and a proportion have been dealt with in more detail.

Facts have been provided by owners, occupiers and relevant local authorities. The purpose of this appraisal is to provide an initial stage in drawing up a forward strategy which may be developed by local authorities and other bodies such as the Fortress Study Group and English Heritage.

PART ONE - DEVON: CITY OF PLYMOUTH AND PART SOUTH HAMS

I BRIEF NOTES ON MAIN SITES

The following pages (1 to 13) are based largely on the recent Defences Assessment by Andrew Pye together with Plan K from Plymouth Defences by F Woodward.

The layout forms a brief gazetteer following the Defences Assessment format.

i.e. Name of site/Type of fortification/Date of building/Status  
(protected or not)/Owner and Occupier/Use (if any).

This is followed by notes on problems and recommendations.

THE NORTHERN AND EASTERN DEFENCES

ERNESETTLE BATTERY/Artillery Battery/1863-8/Pt

Scheduled Ancient Monument Devon 840/owned MOD/disused.

Problems/recommendations - A Pye

SAM should be extended as only ramparts/ditch and gorge wall scheduled. Main features, gun positions, barracks, magazine etc omitted also glacis to N and W and road and embankment to S. Section of bank as far as St Budeaux Church already SAM.

No access at present because site overlooks armament depot but this likely to be phased out therefore a suitable use may be found/approved to prevent unauthorised entry and vandalism. Glacis area should be protected to avoid housing development.

Site 53 on Plan K - Woodward.

AGATON FORT/Artillery Battery/1863-9/Pt SAM Devon 841/Owned Property

Holdings, Bristol/used as HGV Testing Station/Customs and Excise

Depot, Pt Glacis used Primary School.

Problems/recommendations - A Pye

SAM should be extended to include interior gun positions, remains of glacis, military road. Immediate works needed on stores and vegetation clearance. Problems are vandalism and unauthorised entry but daily use controls this to certain extent. Officers' quarters and cookhouse could be opened up and put to use such as offices.

Site 52 on Plan K

KNOWLE BATTERY/Artillery Battery/1863-9/Pt SAM Devon 842/Owned Devon CC,

lower floor guardhouse PCC(?)/used as primary school site but to S&E

Plymouth City recreation ground.

Problems/recommendations - A Pye

Protection should be extended to cover ditch, glacis, road & embankment also interior of battery. Guardhouse disused and damp and probably unsafe. Old swimming pool on roof adds to problems. The building could be repaired and used as part of the school, modern additions could be removed.

Site 51 on Plan K.

WOODLAND FORT/Artillery Fort/1863-70/most, including interior, is SAM 843 /owned Devon CC and Plymouth City/used as community centre and library, recreation area in surrounds.

Problems/recommendations - A Pye

Protection should be extended to include glacis, infilled ditch to S and remains of banking in Crown Hill Road. The cookhouse should be renovated vegetation growth checked and ideally the modern concrete additions removed. Present uses very suitable and could be extended with interpretation/info for public. There is some dumping in ditch area which should be cleared. Site 50 on Plan K.

Note: adjacent Woodland Wood Nature Reserve (PCC).

BOWDEN BATTERY/Artillery Battery/1862-70/PtSAM 844/owner Mr P Newton /used as garden centre.

Problems/recommendations - A Pye

Protection should be extended to cover whole site and glacis. Further levelling of ramparts and plan to flood mortar battery as pond must be discouraged. Guardroom now very damp probably because adjacent ditch infilled. ? plan for interpretation centre in co-op with Groundwork Trust. There is very little scope for allowing present business to expand. Site 49 on Plan K.

EGGBUCKLAND KEEP/Defended Barracks/1863-72/most SAM Devon 844/owner is Mr Aubrey Wilkinson/used as DIY & building store & health club.

Problems/recommendations - A Pye

Original tunnel link to Forder Battery should be protected & features in barrack block should be assessed and recorded. Further infilling of ditch should be prevented. There appear to have been some contraventions of regulations etc; any co-operation towards general improvement of appearance of site may be doubtful.

Site 47 on Plan K.

FORDER BATTERY/Open Battery/1893/not SAM or listed/BT & private owners also PCC /school wildlife area, radio station mast and car park.

Problems/recommendations - A Pye

Rampart, ditch, tunnel & counterscarp battery should be protected, vegetation cleared from gun positions and magazines thus providing a trail for local school use, St Edward's Primary. Most of southern section formerly in hands of Plymouth City sold to private developers and partly built over and damaged.

Site 46 on Plan K.

AUSTIN FORT/Artillery Battery/1863-9/not SAM or listed/owned Plymouth City/used as City Engineer's Depot with guardhouse as an Emergency CD Centre.

Problems/recommendations - A Pye

This should be protected to include infilled ditches, glacis where undeveloped, military road and embankment. Site has been much altered with various modern buildings with some sections derelict. With co-operation of Plymouth City further levelling should be avoided and possibly modern buildings removed. Site surroundings closely built up. Site 45 on Plan K.

EFFORD FORT/Artillery Fort/1865-9/not SAM or listed/owned by Showman's Guild/used for storage and residential caravans etc.

Problems/recommendations - A Pye

Needs protection as very important key position to include glacis, ditches, military road and embankment together with neighbouring batteries and emplacements - Laira and Deer Park (private ownership & PCC). Site semi-derelict and in places dangerous e.g. where infill

fronting officers' quarters threatens first floor frontage. Immediate work is needed to prevent collapse. Other features have been altered or removed and are subject to vandalism. Co-operation of occupiers necessary & Plymouth City?

Site 44 on Plan K

Note:- Efford Emplacement/Artillery Battery/1869/Not SAM or listed/part used by tenant Colony Farm. Should be protected with adjacent complex.

LAIRA BATTERY/Artillery Battery Fort/1865-71/not SAM or listed/owned Mugridge & Anderson Plant Hire for repairs, parking, storage.

Problems/recommendations - A Pye

Field works adjacent should be protected as still largely complete tho' northern rampart levelled and gateway demolished. Some stonework needs repair and features need recording. Vegetation clearance needed. Present use does not involve all structures therefore vulnerable to decay if not improved and put to use.

Site 43 on Plan K

Note:- Laira Emplacement/Artillery Battery/1869/Not SAM or listed/?private owner/public open space subject to use by tramps, also encroaching vegetation - should be protected but remain as open space with information board.

#### STADDON HEIGHTS DEFENCES & WEMBURY BATTERIES

Note:- Military roads, embankments and ditches in Staddon Heights area with linking earthworks - none are protected (Pye p.63/4)

STAMFORD FORT/Artillery Fort/? - 1869/SAM Devon 517/Owner Fort and Ditch - Mr Larson, glacis to W of road Plymouth Development Corporation (Pt SAM Devon 10506), rest of glacis housing estate/caravan site, country & squash clubs in fort; glacis to W leased to farmer.

Problems /recommendations - A Pye

Imposing site but much altered and converted/protection should be extended to include associated features. Owner needs convincing that more levelling or alterations must be avoided. Original features (Pye p102/3) should be assessed and retained. Main effort should be to stop any further works especially on the W and SW but problem as owner in dispute already re bungalow.

Site 42 on Plan K

STAMFORD HILL/Civil War Earthworks/1643-5/SAM Pt 10506/PDC/Open grassland and scrub with footpaths.

Problems/recommendations - A Pye

Scrub should be controlled to avoid masking features, footpath causing damage. Vegetation could be cleared, site suitable for interpretation, has wide view of whole Mountbatten Peninsula and to Plymouth City.

MOUNTBATTEN CASTLE/Artillery Tower/1645-60/GAM & listed/within 10506/  
MOD?Development Corporation/Open to public by arrangement, well  
maintained/should continue in same way.

Note:- Presence of possible remains below ground of C17 battery and  
other Civil War features. WWII battery and searchlight should be  
investigated and evaluated in view of probable development  
(Pye p108/113, fig.49/50).

Site 11 on Plan K

LORD HOWARD'S BATTERY/Artillery Battery/?1905/Not SAM or  
listed/MOD, leased Plymouth City/Park area/Battery position clear but  
mostly infilled.

Problems and recommendations - A Pye

Should be protected because of underground remains, to include  
Blockhouse at present used as store for Café. More information should be  
available re role of site and importance in chain of fortifications.

Site 20 on Plan K

STADDON FORT/Artillery Fort/1861-69/not SAM or listed/Owned MOD  
Navy/used as radio communications & electrical generation station.

Problems & recommendations - Pye

Site very important & in good condition, statutory protection needed  
a.s.a.p., especially as barracks & casemates by gate now empty. Ditch  
partly infilled, S section for horse riding & SW new stable block, Golf  
Club uses new building & area for car park. Glacis unaltered and open,  
building has many original features which may be lost through benign  
neglect. Protection should avoid further infill.

Site 41 on Plan K

WATCH HOUSE BATTERY/Artillery Battery/Pt 1860, Pt 1904/Pt SAM Devon 720  
/MOD owned/buildings leased to a Bristol school as Field Study Centre.

Problems/recommendations - Pye

Some remaining features will be lost failing immediate action. Wall in  
dry moat to E collapsing. A number of associated positions are  
deteriorating & could become dangerous. School use suitable but  
intermittent therefore vulnerable to vandalism.

Site 38 on Plan K

Note:- Brownhill, Frobisher & Staddon Heights batteries all overgrown &  
partly derelict but as important links in complex should be protected.

Sites 40,39 & 33 on Plan K

STADDON BATTERY/Artillery Battery/1780-85/Not SAM or listed/Owner  
Mr Forster/used as stores, workshop & domestic accommodation.  
Good example of occupation saving site from dereliction, should be  
protected. Several original features survive/guns from Saltram House  
with carriages in situ. Site 59 Plan K.

STADDON TARGET BUTTS/Practice Butts/N part 1860s, S 1872-94/Not SAM or listed/MOD/disused on edge of golf course: major feature of Plymouth landscape. Also Barrage Balloon site adjacent/WWII/disused/MOD. Both sites of interest.

Should be protected and marked with info.

STADDON POINT BATTERY/Artillery Battery/1844-47 c.f. Picklecombe & E Kings/Pt SAM Devon 719/MOD owned/leased to Plymouth Ocean Projects' Marine Centre used for diving centre & residential accommodation but pt derelict & liable to damp etc.

Site 35 Plan K

BOVISAND BATTERY (FORT)/Casemated Battery/1861-71/Pt SAM Devon 719 (as above)/MOD/leased to POP Marine Centre/used for storage, teaching rooms, diving school, restaurant etc.

Problems/recommendations

Associated features (Pye pps 71-78 & 88-9) should be protected. Damp penetrates modern additions (WWII) on roof but present use seems satisfactory. Disused areas need monitoring to avoid loss of original features. Detailed info should be made available to occupiers and visitors.

Site 37 Plan K

LENTNEY BATTERY/Artillery Battery/1905 c.f. Lord Howard's & Watch House/listed/owned MOD/shortly to be sold/is N of proposed housing development (approved with conditions - arch. assessment).

Area would involve training site. This also applies to:-

RENNEY BATTERY/Artillery Battery/1905-6(c.f. former Penlee W of Plymouth Sound)/listed/owner as Lentney above/planning allowed as noted, see p12.

Sites 69 & 68 Plan K

#### INNER DEFENCES

PLYMOUTH CASTLE/Castle remains/C15/SAM Devon 217/Plymouth City/Historic feature, gardens adjacent.

Present condition satisfactory, surrounding residential property probably masks other features. The historic status of the standing remains, supposedly the 'South Port' of the castle is questionable & needs further assessment.

Site 2 on Plan K

FIRESTONE BAY ARTILLERY TOWER/Blockhouse/C15 -C16/SAM Devon 176 & listed/Plymouth City, leased 99 years/restaurant.

Problems/recommendations.

New tenants, J & D Knowles. As one of oldest buildings in Plymouth & very early structure especially built for artillery should be utilised. At present in good condition. Site 3 Plan K

DEVIL'S POINT BLOCKHOUSE/Blockhouse/C15-C16 c.f. site above/SAM Devon 177/PDC, City licensed to occupy/empty - access possible from beach. Problems/recommendations - A Pye  
Condition of masonry needs attention. Structure partly blocked up, raised pathway adjacent masks features. Should be assessed and recorded & opened up with info available for public - in conjunction with site above.  
Site 7 on Plan K

STONEHOUSE WALL/remains of fortified wall/C15 -C16 c.f. blockhouses above/SAM Devon 180 & listed/owned Citroen Garage, PCC & adjacent properties/forms part boundary wall to Stonehouse Flats. Some vegetation clearance & stabilisation works done 1994. Needs full assessment of structure. Could be included in info for Stonehouse as one of earliest fortifications in Plymouth.

#### INNER DEFENCES: DEVONPORT & SEAFRONT

DEVONPORT LINES/bastion enceinte/1756-1780, 1853-63/not SAM, guardhouse only listed/north owned PCC, remains of bastions under housing, multi-ownership. S of Fore Street ground owned MOD, also part Mount Wise MOD. Problems/recommendations (AP)

All surviving parts & glacis should be protected, especially section S of Devonport Hill. Condition needs monitoring & demolition damage or masking should be avoided. Where public open space already developed, situation satisfactory but vegetation needs control. Notated walk could be created.

Bastion and Ditch: westernmost surviving to N of Lines, battered coursed limestone ashlar cut masonry, several sections near railway tunnel & car park. Not SAM or listed/MOD owned/should be protected & could be evaluated.

Gateway, N entrance to Morice Yard, probably 1860s/good condition/not protected but should be at least listed as one of historic features of Dockyard together with guardhouse adjacent.

Marlborough Bastion: part W wall and N wall with gun embrasures, truncated by building of Park Avenue. Recent housing development has caused alterations but has exposed part of parapet & scarp wall. Probably 1806-16, glacis is parkland. Part owned PCC, rest homeowners etc. Remains should be fully protected & cleared of vegetation, some information should be provided.

Granby Bastion: NE point of Lines, much demolished 1880s, later Ordnance reservoir & Park Lodge built. W face with gun embrasures, curtain wall to W & wall on N end of Granby St survive. High quality limestone ashlar facework. Exterior owned PCC, interior by owners of modern housing estate. NE part walled off for public park by Park Lodge & gardens. Should be protected to include ditch & glacis.

Sites - guardhouse, bridge & bastion, known positions as part of Lines E section should be noted on info, boards, leaflets etc although now demolished (pps 126-8 AP), should be protected & evaluated in event of proposed development.

Bridge Piers: site of bridge carrying access road thro' Lines from Plymouth and Stonehouse, probably 1853-68. Bridge & associated tunnels powned MOD & highway authority/should be protected.

Loop-holed Walls to W of bridge above still visible, not protected but listing should be extended to include this section of Lines

Military Earthwork: section of Lines between Devonport Hill and Admiralty House/probably 1861-68, E of cricket ground, musketry gallery at N overlooking road and Dock/owned MOD Mountwise. Should be protected & maintained as at present, some vegetation & scrub could be cleared.

Site of Earthwork/Ditch: original alignment of Lines through cricket ground, tennis courts & car parks/probably about 1853/linked to tunnels under road. Should be protected - nothing visible on surface.

Guardhouse & Earthwork: one storey building/possibly prior to 1838/on access road to Dock Town/Grade 2 listed/owned by local Health Trust.

Embankment in grounds/probably part of Lines/approx 1853-60. Not protected but should be included.

Ditch, Earthwork: originally extended to Admiralty House/probably 1853, rubblestone & ashlar walling/owned MOD/not protected/should be protected with rest of area & condition of stonework should be monitored. Used as footpath.

Earthwork & Bastion: part of original rampart of Lines/prior to 1838 /MOD Admiralty House garden. Bastion of coursed limestone ashlar/two gun embrasures/ditch etc./occupied by military buildings. All should be included in protected area. Further earthwork & ditch, bastion & walls/prior to 1780/later remodelled. Modern Command Centre/all MOD/unlikely to be available to public access.

Walls: N boundary Richmond Walk also N side of Granby St/probably early 19thC. Probably owned by Highway Authority/not protected but should be included as original rear & revetment walls of Lines.

CAVALIER BATTERY: site of artillery battery at W most bastion/ 1779-80/but demolished after 1896, now occupied by quay etc Morice Town Yard/unprotected/owned MOD. Should be subject to archaeological evaluation to define original alignment of Lines.

Note: further Redoubt recommended 1780 on WINDMILL HILL, now occupied Devonport Town Hall/1822/MOD owned. Investigations could confirm whether Redoubt ever constructed.

BUNKERS HILL BATTERY: site of battery referred to in 1808, no surface remains/now called Kings Hill, S Yard. Gazebo erected 1822/listed Grade 2/MOD.

PROPOSED REDOUBT AT KEYHAM: in Dixon's report 1780/site at top of slope where Herbert Public House situated, could be investigated in event of any further development.

PROPOSED REDOUBT AT SLOKE: Dixon's report 1780/on SE end of small spur to Mount Pleasant/overgrown former gardens - might be investigated as above.

#### MOUNT WISE FORTIFICATIONS

Lower Mount Wise Battery/1780, covered channel between Cremyll & Devil's Points & W approach to Dockyard & S end of Lines /not protected, owned MOD, part Admiral's garden. Protection recommended. Platform & parapet survive as only example of this date.

Naval Reserve Batteries, No 2/prior 1789, W of Admiralty House, altered 1904 for new road, parts survive in public park/not protected, adjacent Scott Memorial (listed Grade 2) MOD leased to City.

No 3/prior 1838, demolished except main magazine (in Seymour House grounds), new road occupies rampart/remains may survive/not protected/PDC. Should be protected with adjacent works.

No 4 (Site of battery - dismantled 1896), demolished completely for new road/not protected/PDC/could be investigated if opportunity occurs.

No 5/possibly prior 1879/demolished 1950-60/below ground remains possible/PDC.

Mount Wise Redoubt/possibly 1756-63 to defend passage within Western Kings/not protected/PDC/originally octagonal - 5 sides survive with revetment walls etc. Interior was occupied by Onslow Ct (married quarters 1950-60 recently demolished). Glacis still survives in public park to SE, SW & S. Should be protected with remains of redoubt which is to be investigated archaeologically and some consolidation and reconstruction is planned. Information re Mount Wise area should be available in the public park.

BLUFF BATTERY/artillery battery/1779-80(rebuilt 1804)/to command Stonehouse Bridge & Creek/not protected/owners Mr & Mrs Shelvan, Bluff Battery, Devonport. Includes ashlar wall with rampart, loop-holed wall & embankment, also gun emplacements, one with granite platform visible. Rear of battery has deep rock-cut ditch/part occupied modern house (small extension allowed 1994), part garden, rest overgrown. Should be protected, probable survivals underground. Condition of visible stonework should be monitored/ consolidated. Further excavation should be controlled.

MOUNT PLEASANT REDOUBT (No 24 on Plan K)

Artillery redoubt/battery/probably 1779-84/to command valleys leading to Tamar & Stonehouse Creek from high ground, Dockyard only 800yds distant/listed Grade 2 but glacis not protected/owned Plymouth CC. Fine site with much detail remaining/glacis should be protected, brickwork needs monitoring, use of area as public park very suitable - interpretation panels & name plaques to be installed.

Note:- Stonehouse Redoubt intended to cover landward access to Dock from Plymouth/no remains except street named Battery Road/laundry & garage on site.

PASSAGE POINT BATTERY (No 20 on Plan K)

Site of artillery battery/1779-80/to cover ships rounding the Point, rebuilt later/not protected/S section in park,Plymouth CC; N section in Victualling Yard-Development Corporation. A level terrace survives with remains of a limestone rubble wall partly overgrown. Should be protected, cleared and recorded as it is part of a complex in this area.

DEVIL'S POINT BATTERY (Adjacent No 7 on Plan K)

Artillery battery/1901 just E of C15 Blockhouse/covers channel/not protected/in park owned Plymouth CC/ 2 gun emplacements visible with aprons and wall at rear - remainder infilled/should be protected as part of adjacent complex with info. board.

BOOM MOORING RINGS (On shore by No 7 on Plan K)

Probably WW I or II/four massive iron rings on shore S of Blockhouse/not protected/possibly owned Duchy of Cornwall. Should be protected as part of C20 defences & should feature in any info. board.

WESTERN KING MISCELLANEOUS (No 14 on Plan K)

TARGET BUTT, TERRACE & BUILDING & RESERVOIR/built to service the Victualling Yard/1826-1900/not protected/owned Plymouth Development Corporation. All should be protected as part of Western Kings Fortifications.

WESTERN KING REDOUBT (site of) probably 1756-63/to cover channels either side of Drake's Island, extended throughout C19 but little remains above ground/not protected/public park and car park owned Plymouth CC/PDC. Should be protected & provided with info. boards.

WESTERN KING BATTERY/artillery battery 1899 utilising earlier redoubt/not protected/owned PDC/well preserved with mounting plates (one with inscription)/should be given protection with info.

WESTERN KING WWII BATTERY/gun emplacements/1941 in front of 1899 battery, originally with storage areas and observation tower/not protected/Plymouth CC in public park. Should be protected together with Searchlight Engine-house sites & accompanying Search-light Buildings.

SEA WALL (E of No 3 on Plan K)/1826-35 (Rennie) incorporates Monumental Entrance & later Guardroom/listed Grade 2/probably owned Plymouth CC. granite entrance at SE end of Tunnel leading under road to Victualling Yard. Guard room 10 metres W of entrance. Both blocked though with some deterioration.

EASTERN KING BATTERY (No 18 on Plan K)/artillery battery, redoubt/4 phases 1779-80, 1849 (Prince of Wales Redoubt)-has earliest casemates in Plymouth, 1861-2 & 1900/PoW Redoubt & part 1861 battery are SAM Devon 946/MOD - under alterations at present. Fine buildings with monumental gateway, cantilevered stone stairway. Glacis extended to shore - not protected. Protection should be extended to cover all 1861/2 battery, ditches & glacis. Proposed demolition of 1849 & c.1900 magazines should not take place. Ideally arch. recording & photo record should be undertaken. Searchlight c.1900 should be included in protection.

MILLBAY(W) or EASTERN KING BLOCKHOUSE (No 6 on Plan K)/artillery tower/possibly C16 c.f. Devil's Point & Firestone Bay/listed Grade 2/probably Plymouth CC owned/only N. wall & part E. wall survive/stonework acts as retaining wall for modern bathing place. Should be recorded etc if affected by any local works.

WEST HOE BATTERY/site of artillery battery, adjoining entrance to Millbay/1779-80/not protected/built over by W. Hoe Terrace c.1890/below ground remains may survive, probably in gardens/should be noted & evaluated in case of works in the area.

MILLBAY EAST BLOCKHOUSE (No 5 on Plan K)/site of artillery blockhouse/C15 to C16 c.f. Devil's Point etc/Grade 2 listed/former octagonal dock police station on site/present occupied RNLI/further research useful.

FISHER'S NOSE BLOCKHOUSE (No 4 on Plan K)/polygonal limestone tower guarding entrance to Sutton Pool/C15 to C16 later part Lower Fort/ARP post WWII/Grade 2 listed with adjoining coast wall/owned Plymouth CC/top occupied by public pavement & viewing platform. Style of tower distinct from others. Info. board on local defence system desirable.

Note:- BULWARKS on HOE/from early C15/no visible remains due to later development & landscaping.

TOWN WALL/C15 & Civil War/no visible remains except C17 Resolution Fort revealed & consolidated during redevelopment in 1991.

BARBICAN (No 1 on Plan K)/blockhouse/C16/sited at S end of Southside Quay/no above ground remains.

HOE GATE/C16/at S end of Hoegate Street/no surface remains.

PLYMOUTH FORT (No 10 on Plan K)/artillery fort/1593-96/N section SAM Devon 446/Plymouth CC & MOD. Incorporated into Royal Citadel C17, lower section became Lower Fort/purpose to cover entrance to Catwater & S. Harbour/protection should be extended to include remains on water's edge.

ROYAL CITADEL (No 12 on Plan K)/artillery fort/1665-70/mainly SAM Devon 446, Gateway SAM 992/protection does not cover whole site & should be extended. Open to public for pre-arranged conducted tours/MOD occupied Commandos/outworks Plymouth CC. See A.P. pages 189/193.

Note:- QUEEN ANNE'S BATTERY (No 13 on Plan K)/site of artillery battery/C17/demolished late C19/not protected/under tarmac & buildings owned MDL Ltd. Possible underground remains.

DRAKE'S ISLAND (No 9 on Plan K)/Fortifications from C16 to C20 as late as WWII/owned Crown Agents/at present awaiting new occupants but well managed currently by Groundwork Trust. See AP pps.196-214 & Woodward 1991.

BREAKWATER FORT (No 58 on Plan K)/Artillery Fort/1860-70, used until WW2 SAM Devon 866/owned MOD/leased to Plymouth Ocean Projects as Diving Centre/ c.f. Bovisand Complex. See AP pps 65-68

#### MISCELLANEOUS WWII

SEATON BARRACKS/AA Battery/1940/not protected, within main barracks/owned MOD/should be protected/remains above & below ground/one of only three surviving (others Bere Alston & Down Thomas).

DOWN THOMAS/AA Battery/1940/not protected/owned John Andrews of Langdon Barton, Nr Wembury/best example remaining in Plymouth area with 4 octagonal emplacements, magazines, shelters & earth banks, also sunken command/observation post & magazine. Original guard house S of road, now called Princes Cottages. Site is 600 metres N of coast off access road to HMS Cambridge. Site almost complete & could offer potential for public access etc. if vegetation cleared & some safety work put in hand.

WOODFORD,PLYMPTON ST MARY/AA Battery/site of only/W side of Plym/c1943/not protected, grassland area & housing estate/no surface remains but possible gun positions could be traced.

RENNEY/LENTNEY TRAINING CAMP/lies between Lentney to N and Renney Batteries/blockhouse site dating from 1914/in use until 1991 by MOD/not protected/owned MOD but in process of sale back to R Giles, Home Farm, Wembury/at present subject of development with planning permission for housing (5 dwelling: 3 conversions of existing buildings & 2 new houses). Renney Battery likely to be within the curtilage of one of proposed properties. Planning permission subject to limited archaeological investigation during development.

HOOE HILL/Rocket Battery/c1941/not protected/owned J Rogers, Barton Farm, Wembury. Site & remains just E of Staddon Fort includes number of buildings in field adjoining Hooe Hill; also barrack building, guardroom & urinals within Gennyscombe Wood. Only known extant rocket battery in Plymouth area/if rubbish & vegetation cleared could form WWII example if general fortification trail established/should be protected.

BROWNHILL WWII SITE/possible Radar station as similar structure in Thames Estuary which is SAM/remains consist of concrete hut bases & tower with corridor below/not protected/tenant Mr Westlake of Staddon Heights Farm. Open access through tunnel/should be protected & researched. Could be interesting contrast to Staddon Fort & Brownhill Battery 1860s defences on information/trail.

Note:- CENTRAL PARK AA BATTERY/1942/not protected/Plymouth CC/in landscaped park/no remains.

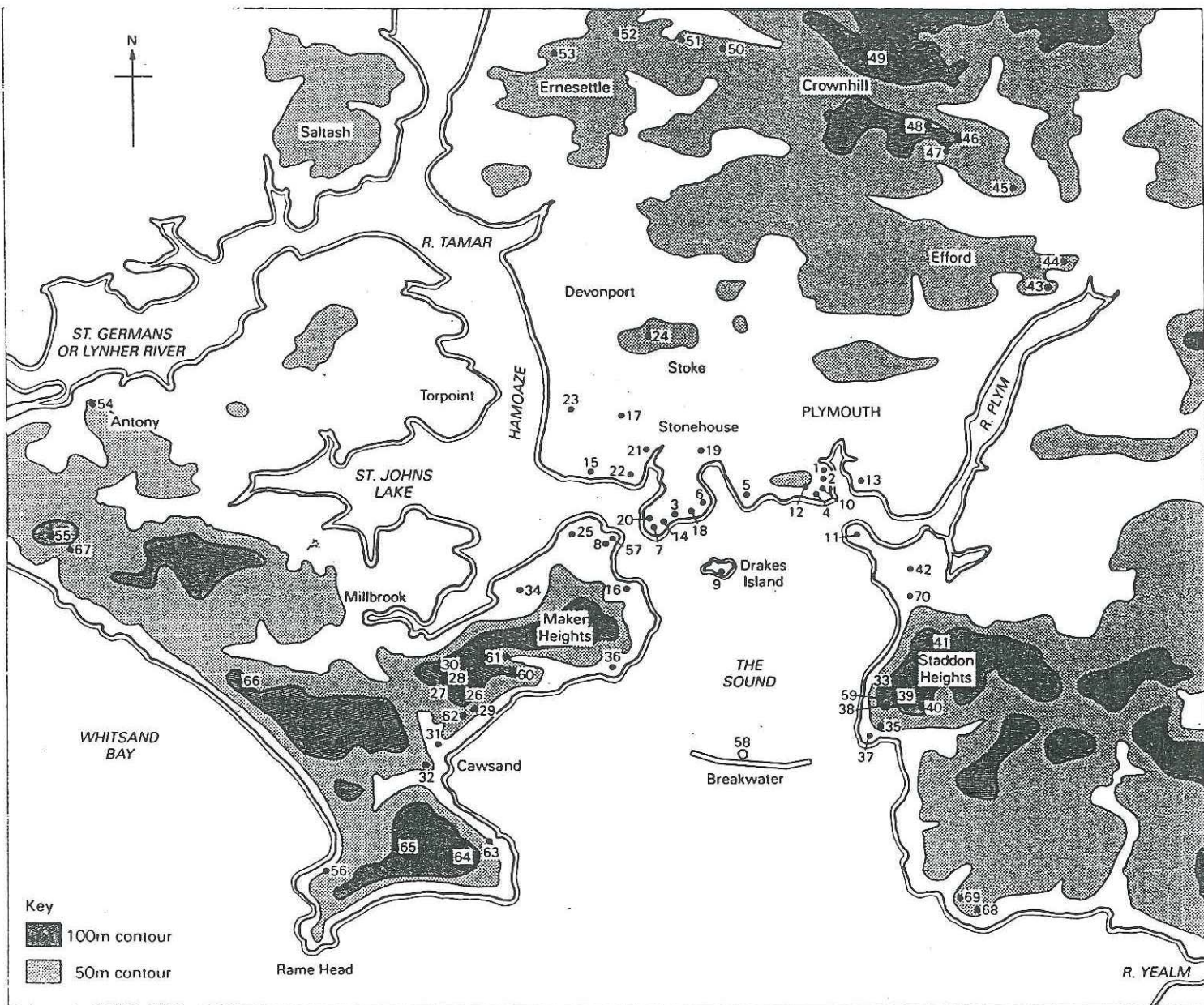
DEVONPORT DOCKYARD ROCKET BATTERY/site only/1941/ on quay to north of Moricetown/not traceable.

DEVONPORT COMMAND BUNKER/underground chamber with entrance from Moricetown Yard/WWII used but now blocked up under car park/immediately S of northern bastion of Devonport Lines & could be included if open & safe, in any trail of Dockyard and Lines.

Note (1) STADDISCOMBE PILLBOX & SENTRY POST/WWII/adjacent Staddon Heights installation/owner M Veale, Manor Farm, Staddiscombe. Should be protected as part of local complex.

(2) STADDON HEIGHTS BARRAGE BALLOON SITE/1940s/by C19 Rifle Butts/not protected/MOD cadet training area/should be protected as last known complete barrage balloon site in Plymouth (see previous notes on Staddon Heights Battery).

(3) See further sites & minor buildings referred to by AP pps 231/234.



Plan K. A numbered and contoured map of all the fortifications.

Source: F Woodward (1990)

## II ADDITIONAL NOTES AND COMMENTS ON SELECTED SITES

On the basis of material collected for Chapter II there follows  
(Pages 14 to 33) a slightly more detailed assessment of the use and  
current management of a sample of the sites.

This consists of mainly 19th century Palmerstonian structures and shows  
a geographical spread, differing types of present occupation and quality  
of management:-

Ernesettle Battery.....	Page 14/15
Knowle Battery....."	16/17
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Eifford Fort....."	20/21
Eifford & Laira Emplacements....."	22
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Staddon Fort....."	26/27
Devonport Lines....."	28/29
Staddon Point & Bovisand Batteries....."	30/31
Lentney & Renney Batteries....."	32/33

## PLYMOUTH DEFENCES - NORTHERN SECTION

## ERNESETTLE BATTERY (1863-8. pt. SAM Devon 840)

A key site which with neighbouring Agaton Fort commanded the approaches to Plymouth and Devonport. This remains in the ownership of Ministry of Defence; it was in use until WW2 and was a store until recent times but now disused.

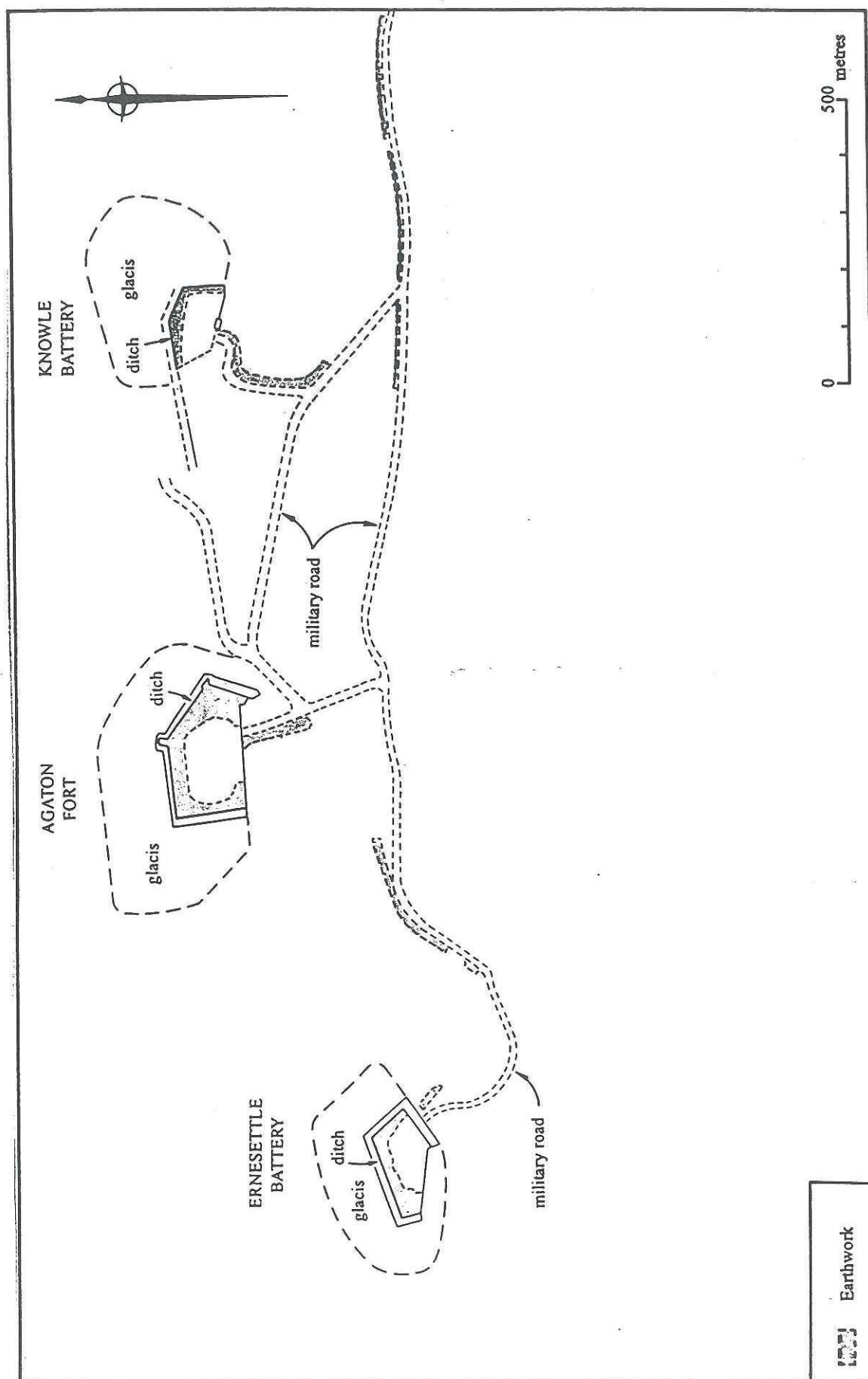
Externally the structure is good but several internal buildings such as the cookhouse are deteriorating rapidly. The ditch and front of the ramparts are overgrown and vegetation obscures other features. The glacis, although partly built over is mainly well preserved and a section is let out for pasture. Stretches of the original military road and protective embankment are still extant to the East. There is no public access allowed even to interested parties and the tunnels and other structures are closed, blocked or locked: a notice states 'Guard Dogs on Patrol'. In spite of these precautions there is a risk of vandalism.

This site must be steadily deteriorating, it is visited and inspected only very occasionally and the MOD do not hold the full technical details of the original structure. It is unfortunate that this fine site with considerable historic and interesting detail has to remain empty. At the very least MOD must be provided with the information needed to ensure proper conservation of what remains. Ideally if the Battery is

released by MOD, and this is not likely while the armament depot nearby is still in use, it would provide an excellent position for an interpretation centre and for community use. Resources might be generated by a partnership scheme between the local authority and some private developer. It might even be possible to contrive residential accommodation in part of the buildings. Any of these options would lead to better maintenance of the site.

For details see AP Defences Assessment P 15-18 plus diagrams (especially Fig.2).

See Groundwork Trust 'Heritage Trail Study'.



Source: A Pye (1994)

KNOWLE BATTERY (1863-9) Pt SAM Devon 842

This site was a link in the chain of forts to the north of the city and connected to Agaton to the west and Woodland Fort to the east by a military road. It was used as recently as WW2 as base for the barrage balloon system for Plymouth. Later released and acquired by Devon CC for the building of a primary school within the site, thus considerable alteration has taken place. The grounds are now landscaped but one gun emplacement is still clear. The glacis is partly built over to the north but banking is clear and the setting is impressive to view from the recreation ground and Ringmore Way.

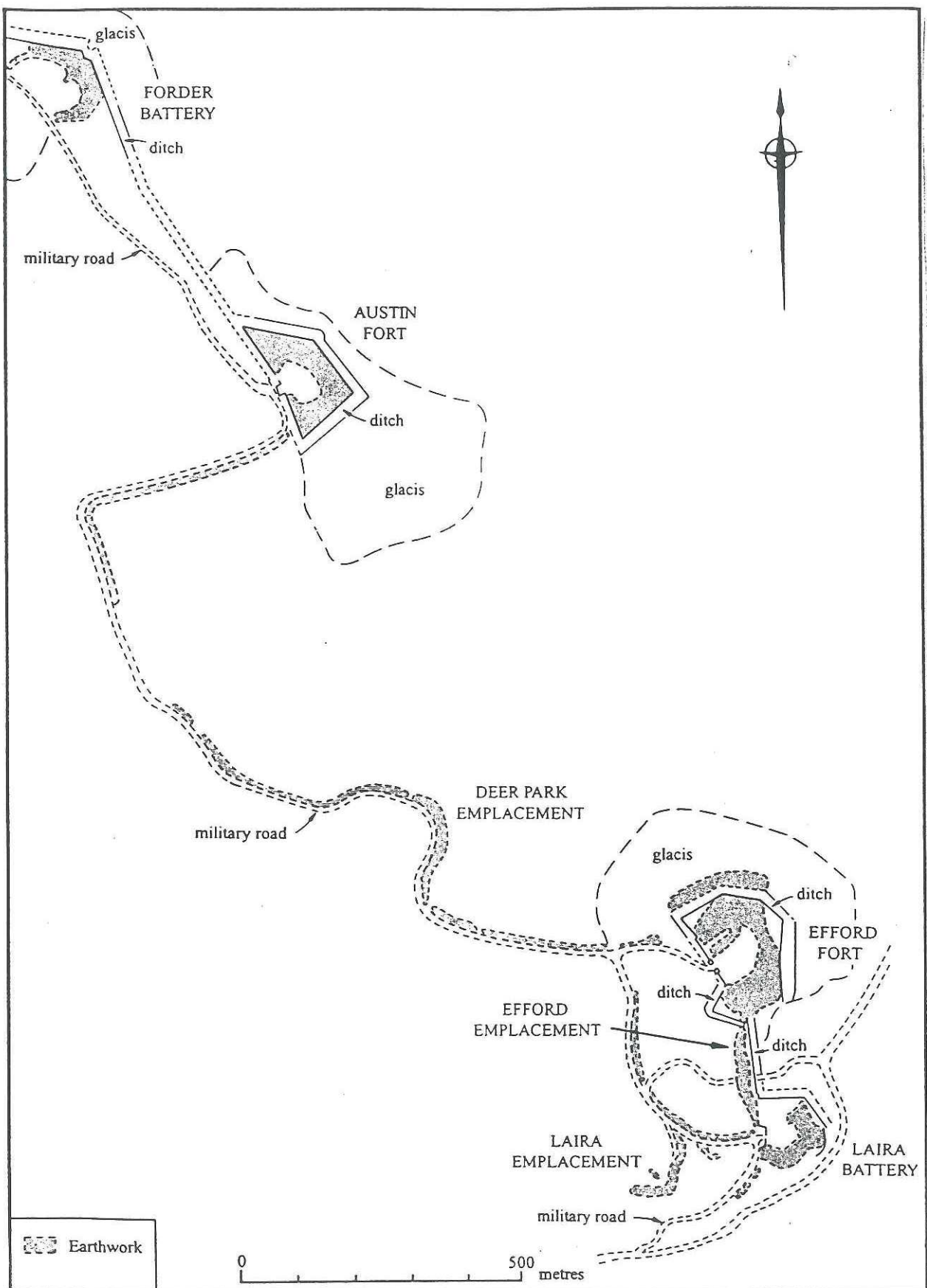
The guardhouse building is the main problem at this site, there are ugly concrete additions and a swimming pool, now disused, was built on the roof causing damp penetration through the building below. The whole structure is sealed off at the ground floor level which is in the recreation ground and was at one time used for changing rooms. It appears that Plymouth CC had a lease on this but it has not been possible in spite of numerous requests to Devon CC to clarify the situation. The upper floors have been used for storage for the school in the past.

Other interested parties have also been trying to ascertain who is now responsible for the guardhouse building as a community group are anxious to find accommodation for youth work. This project should be encouraged provided that funds could be made available for example from the Sports Council and Playing Fields' Association or similar bodies - some such use will ensure the building's proper preservation.

The whole site should be developed for its educational value and the owners and occupiers must be given full details of the original features.

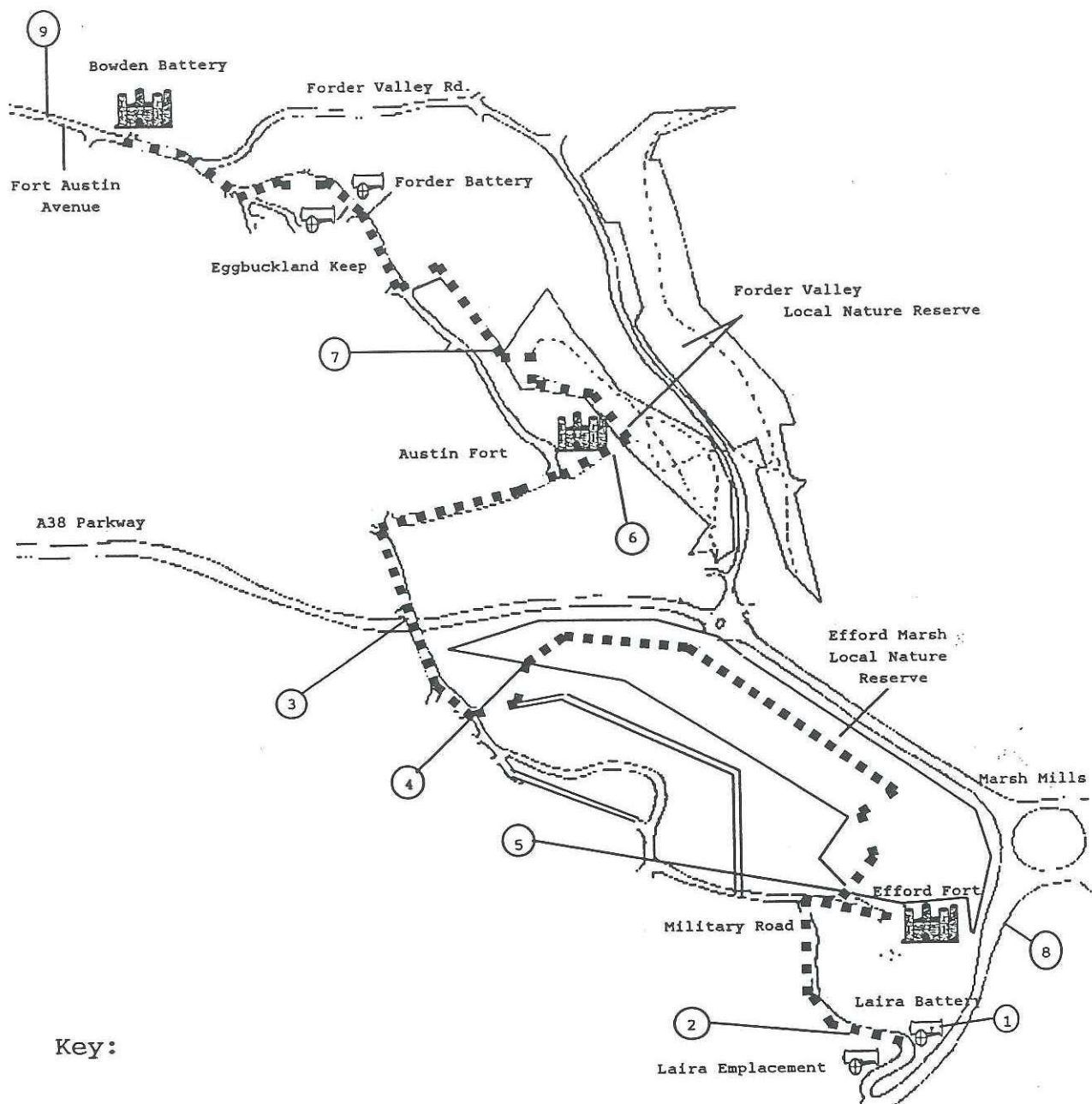
In a built-up area such as this every effort should be made to conserve the military road links and protective embankments.

For details see AP Defences Assessment P 23-27 & Groundwork Trust Trail Link proposals.



Source: A Pye (1994)

## Map 7) Trail Route (Foot) – Bowden Battery to Laira Battery



Key:

■■■■■ Proposed Route (foot)



Fort



Battery, Emplacement or Keep



Locations referenced in the text

Part of defences link between Bowden Battery and Fort Austin and connected to them by a military road and to Eggbuckland Keep to the rear via a tunnel which is still extant with entry possible from Eggbuckland end where a garrison and the main magazine were originally accommodated. Given up by MOD as early as 1900 and much neglected and even built over in places since then. Western section owned and occupied by BT who have high security no access area and who do not hold any details of the original historic aspects of the site - these should be provided. The eastern area held by Plymouth CC is much overgrown and empty although a neighbouring school uses part of the ditch for nature study. PCC have designated southern half of interior & part southern ramparts as a Local Park. Without regard to its interest the northwest rampart was removed in preparation for development and permission was given by the City in 1988 for a new house sited on the counterscarp area where there were casemates. The lack of protective status here has certainly allowed unfortunate deterioration. However a proposal to build a church hall and car park within the site has now been dropped. This proposal also included creation of the Park & restoration of some gun positions & magazines. The partners in this scheme pulled out on realising potential costs & limitations of dealing with the site as an historic monument. The interest shown by the local primary school should be encouraged. With controlled clearance of the ramparts and what is left of the parade ground for educational use the remains of the battery can take their place as part of a trail with information provided to show the importance of the site within the whole fortification concept of the City.

See AP Defences Assessment P 41-2 and Fig. 8.



KNOWLE BATTERY

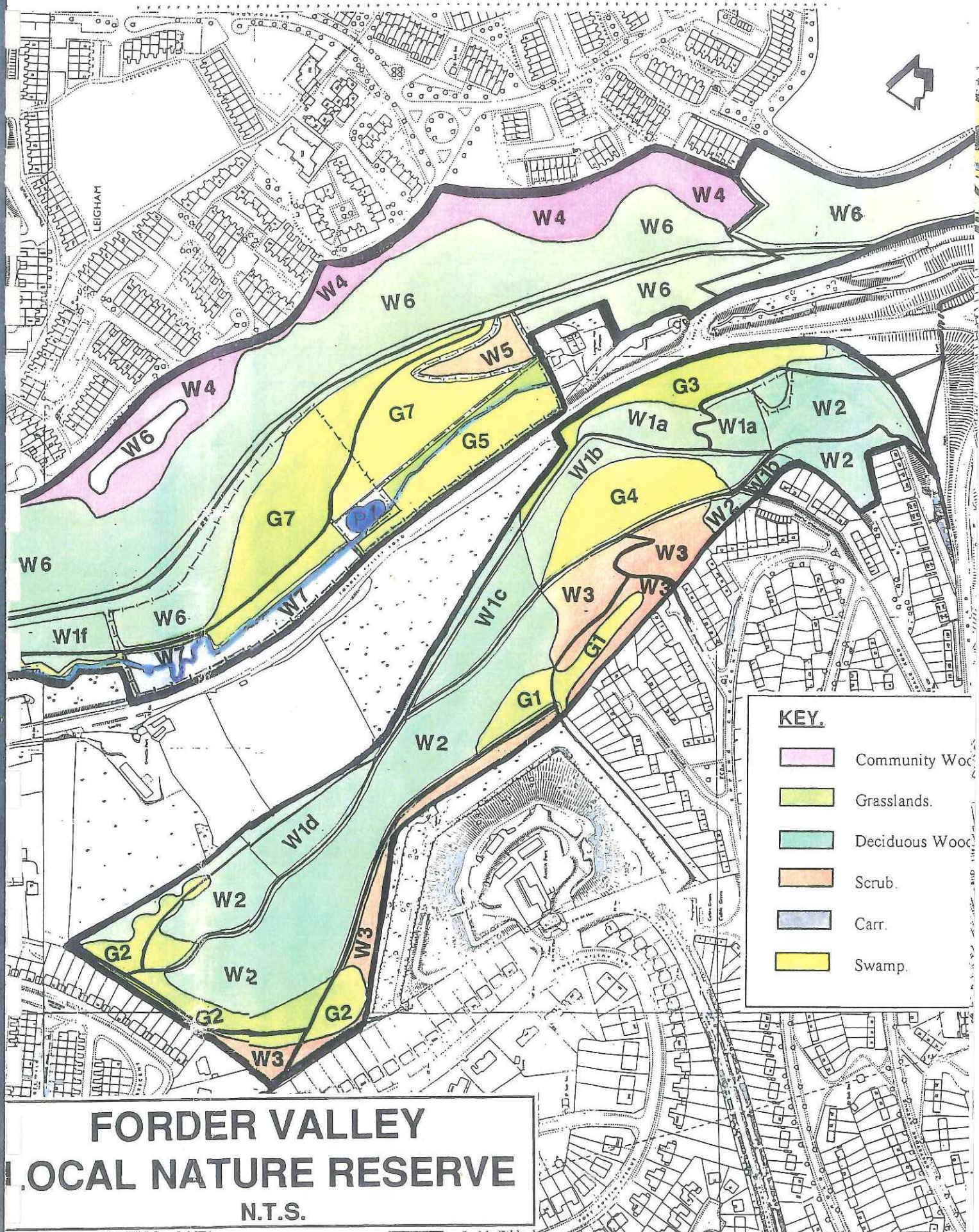


AUSTIN FORT, INFILLED DITCH AREA AND ASSOCIATED STRETCH OF MILITARY ROAD



Built to command the NE corner of the defences chain overlooking the Forder Valley area. In use by MOD until 1958, it housed the Devon and Cornwall Auxilliary Unit during WW2. Now owned by Plymouth CC where the main use is as a base and workshop for the City Engineers. Until recently an Emergency Civil Defence unit was housed on site.

Unfortunately there have been housing developments within part of the glaxis. The gorge ditch has been infilled and is now a car park and the original impressive gateway is disused with a modern entry created to one side. In spite of this use much original detail still remains and continual occupation has prevented some vandalism although the outworks are very vulnerable. Engineers on site do not have detailed knowledge of all the original features and these would be useful to them. Large sections of the buildings are empty and local people feel that they should have access to an area to make a community centre. If security is given for the Engineers' section, in view of the proximity of nature reserves and trails being developed at present by Plymouth CC, this would seem possible. At the entrance to the nature reserve just below the Fort there is an information board but it fails to mention the historic site. Paths will run quite close to the Fort and the public may be at risk unless the old gun positions and galleries on the perimeter are made safe e.g. by metal grids across the openings. There is an opportunity for whole community involvement here and possibly the Engineers' Dept might also assist in the project to enhance and interpret what is a fine site....For details see AP Defences Assessment P43-44, Nature Reserve Map and Groundwork Trust Map 7.



PLYMOUTH DEFENCES EASTERN SECTION

EFFORD FORT (1865-9 not SAM or Listed)

Once a very important key position in the chain of defences and originally linked by military road to Fort Austin and the northern section, Efford now virtually cut off by the modern road system has still signs of the old links in the vicinity.

There is a sad history of deterioration here. Having been occupied by the MOD until 1961 the Fort was then taken over by Plymouth CC but given no protective status and seems to have suffered much vandalism.

The Showman's Guild were encouraged by Plymouth City to move from another site in order to provide them with an 'out of the way' base for their caravans and other rather untidy paraphernalia. As a result Efford was leased to the Guild for 10/12 years for their winter quarters.

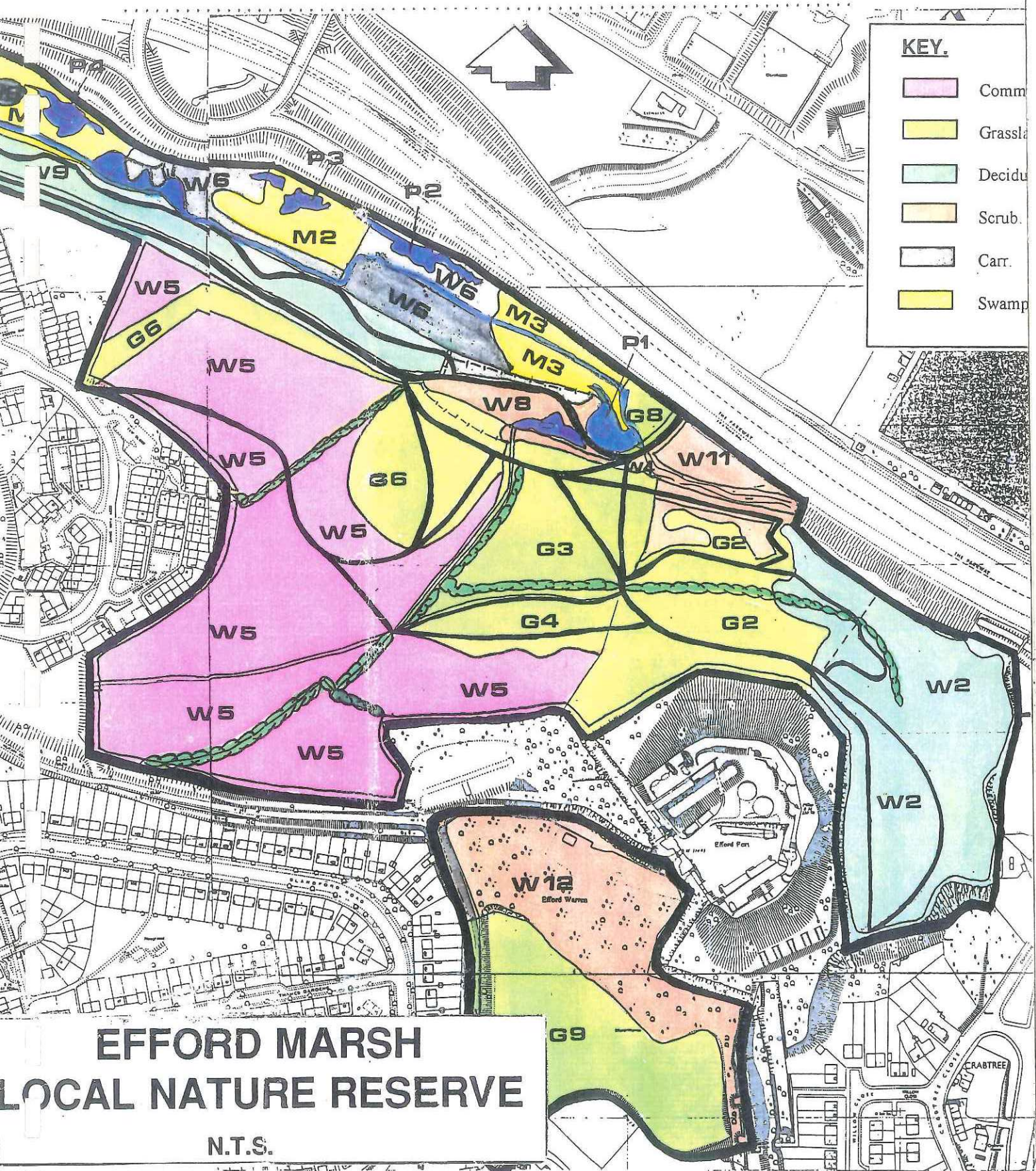
Their actions on site do not appear to have been monitored by the City authorities and what control the City may have had seems to have ended when the Showman's Guild finally purchased the Fort some 20 years ago for a very, very small sum (described as a 'peppercorn sale').

27 families now make their homes in caravans etc within the walls and there are more vehicles in the infilled ditch area outside. Three families remain on site all year whilst the others are 'on the road' from March to October. There are 9 dogs for security and definitely no public access although the outer works are vulnerable to intruders.

The gate arch has been demolished and several of the buildings have been allowed to become semi-derelict and in some cases quite unsafe. The occupiers have no knowledge of the historic details of the site and its

surroundings and show no interest in acquiring any. Some of the buildings are kept in use as repair shops for showmen's gear. The general impression here is very depressing and Plymouth CC must surely now regret the sequence of events which have led to such a fine site reaching this condition. In spite of its present state the fort and its surroundings should be given some type of protection as the main structures and features are still possible to define. Some work is urgently needed to make safe the officers' quarters and the barrack block and some safety or warning notices should be placed in the area of the outworks. Further decay seems inevitable unless the structure of the accommodation buildings is made safe and usable. The occupiers are unlikely to carry out such work themselves but should the opportunity arise for Plymouth CC to have any further involvement, maintenance of the buildings at risk should be the priority. It may be that they could eventually provide residences for the older members of the Guild and the site could be tidied up during the summer season when the mobile equipment is off site. An arrangement to release the outer works should be sought so that the nature reserve nearby can be extended with paths to view the Fort and overgrown areas cleared. This local nature reserve and others in the City area were designated in 1990 under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 which empowered local authorities to create such reserves on their land; there will be management plans to conserve wildlife, woodlands, streams, ponds etc and to provide access for the community. Guides are to be produced for the public and it may be possible therefore to make reference to the nearby historic sites. The Plymouth City ecologist concerned is Dr A Stevens.

PART PLYMOUTH CITY NATURE RESERVE PLAN - A STEVENS



#### EFFORD EMPLACEMENT AND MILITARY ROADS

As part of the whole eastern defence system this area should be cleared of vegetation and included in a conservation, open space scheme.

Plymouth CC should be approached about this area and also that of the LAIRA EMPLACEMENT which is already an open space used by the public but needs safety measures implementing to make former magazine sites safe and inaccessible to vagrants etc. This latter area is in the hands of Executors following the death of the previous owner. Plymouth City Council hope to acquire the site according tot their Land and Properties' Section.

For details see AP Defences Assessment Ps 48-52 and 56-58 also Fig 8.  
Groundwork Trust Map 7.



EFFORD FORT, ENTRANCE

N.B. There is a photograph in existence showing the complete gateway  
(Major F W )



LAIRA BATTERY, ENTRANCE

LAIRA BATTERY (1865-71 Not SAM or Listed)

Part of eastern complex of defences overlooking Plym estuary etc and closely linked with Efford Fort and surrounding emplacement. Used by MOD until 1961 and then sold at auction. It was bought by the firm of Mugridge and Anderson (Plant Hire) although the City still control the surroundings. Much of the battery remains though in very mixed condition. The gateway has been demolished but other features are recognisable. Only a small part of the building is in use and vegetation is encroaching. Mr Mugridge states that he goes to ordinary planning for any works proposed but lack of protective status has been to the disadvantage of this site. He seemed interested to have full details of the original structure but does not wish to be involved in any expense. The surroundings are subject to vandalism and the owner showed interest in the Nature Reserve being created in the vicinity, perhaps some extension could be arranged to clear the encroaching vegetation and allow the public to view the site. It is situated on a good section of the old military road and the whole area needs protective or conservation status.

For detail see AP Defences Assessment P 54.

Groundwork Trust Trail Study Map 7.

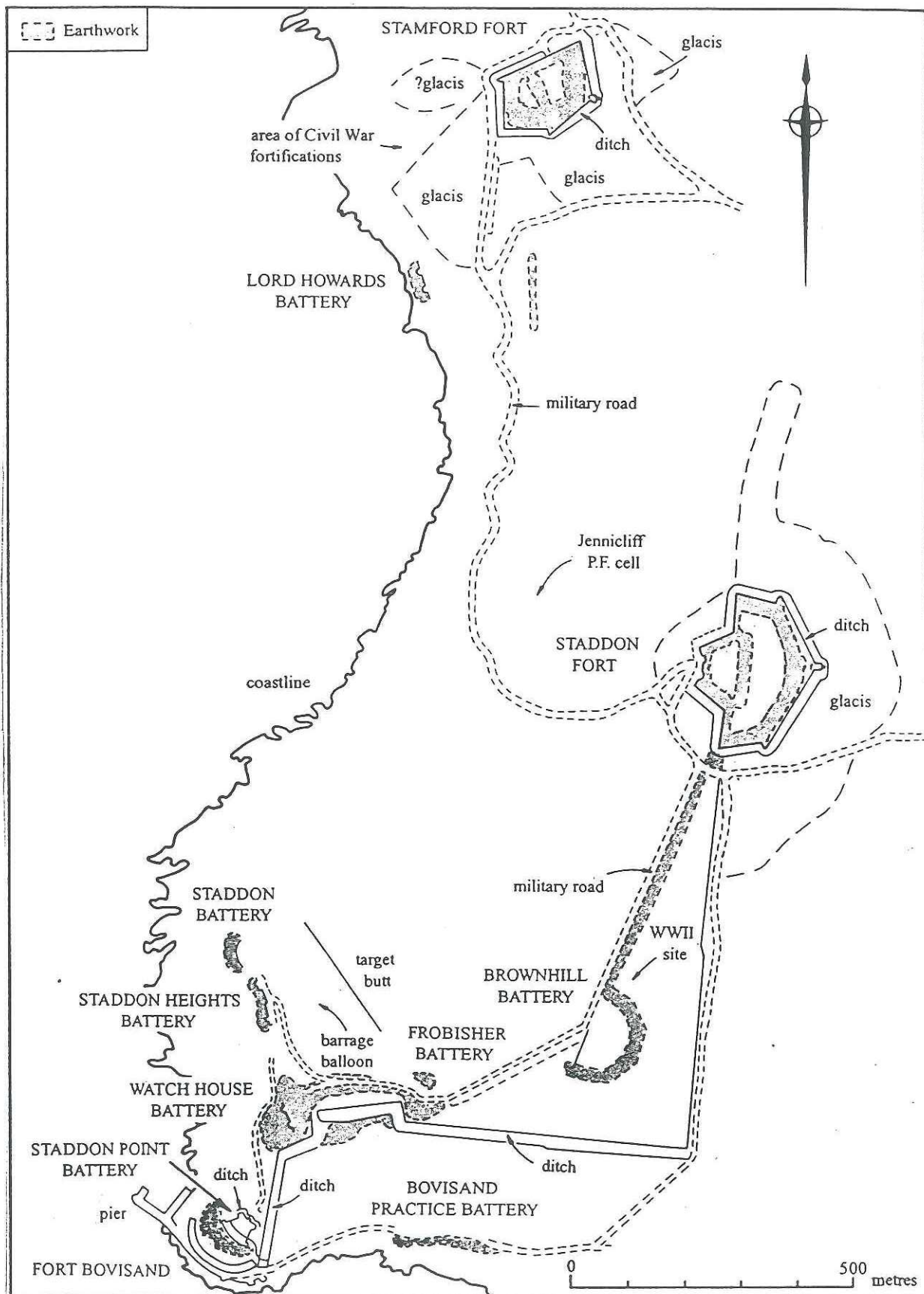
PLYMOUTH DEFENCES SE SECTION

STAMFORD FORT (c1869 pt SAM 517)

One of the principal features of Plymouth defences overlooking Cattewater and Jennycliff. Used by MOD until 1963 and unfortunately since that time has suffered gradual erosion of some features although still an imposing structure externally. It was leased to Mr Larson for some 20 years by Plymouth CC; it seems that no conditions were imposed and no conservation policy established under the terms of the lease. Subsequently the Fort was sold to Mr Larson 10 years ago. During the whole period the site has been developed in various ways: as a squash and swimming club with a new building sited in the original ditch, as apartment accommodation and as a caravan park, involving a large number of mobile homes, some apparently permanently occupied.

This latter development has involved much levelling of original earthwork features and removal of details on the gun emplacements etc. The owner states that he has always complied with planning and other regulations, however on occasion Scheduled Monument Consent has not been applied for. The owner has not so far been given the full historic technical details so that it is possible that he might claim ignorance of any damage caused.

There is a massive maintenance commitment; the impression is that the owner feels that he is constantly up against bureaucracy and is unwilling to accept the advice that is available. It will be necessary in future to develop some sort of partnership scheme at such complicated sites involving commercial ventures in order to avoid unsuitable and



Source: A Pye (1994)

ad hoc improvements which may be indeed carried out in ignorance. An easier relationship with City planners and conservation bodies could lead to more regard for historic detail in future. Within the buildings there are numerous details which must be preserved if possible. This will not be achieved unless the owner is given some sort of incentive such as a partnership or management agreement. Business and other rates must be heavy; is it not possible for some rebate to be negotiated for conservation work achieved? In any case the owner must be given full details of the historic features and this may prove to encourage his interest and that of his tenants.

In the matter of allowing public access e.g. for a heritage trail, the owner does not feel it would be possible but there are viewing points outside where numbered markers or information boards relating to leaflets could easily be placed. A small parking area could be created opposite so that visitors could view both the fort and the whole of the Mountbatten Peninsula from the high ground which is part of the glacis. The military road and embankments in the area should be preserved.

For details see AP Defences Assessment p102 and Fig 30.

STADDON FORT (1861-9 not SAM or Listed)

This is the main fort of the eastern defences, sited at the highest point in the area and linked by military roads to the other defences in the SE section. It is still occupied by MOD and considered to be in very good condition with many important historic details in the interior. However a considerable section of the buildings is now not used and MOD must be encouraged to continue at least basic maintenance. Lack of protected status has led to several developments such as infilling of the ditch for a golf club car park at the front and north and for new stable blocks to the S. This kind of change should be controlled more carefully in future.

MOD do not hold the full technical description of the historic features and in fact they do not always follow ordinary civilian planning procedures. Internal alterations may not even be referred to the Land Agents, furthermore it is even possible for MOD to achieve 'self certification' for some developments. There is need for some listing or conservation status at sites such as this and the full details of buildings, emplacements and interior fittings should be held by those responsible. A partnership situation could be developed with a Conservation advisor.

However this site is a good example showing the retention of much that was original achieved by constant occupation and use: as the level of use decreases the future situation may be less secure. It is a very fine site with much of the original glacis complete and should be given protected status as soon as possible so that MOD are made aware of its importance.

Although no public access can be allowed at present the site can be seen from outside and from there the old target butts and the sites of Brownhills and Frobisher Batteries could be indicated.

For details see AP Defences Assessment p 98 and Fig. 30.

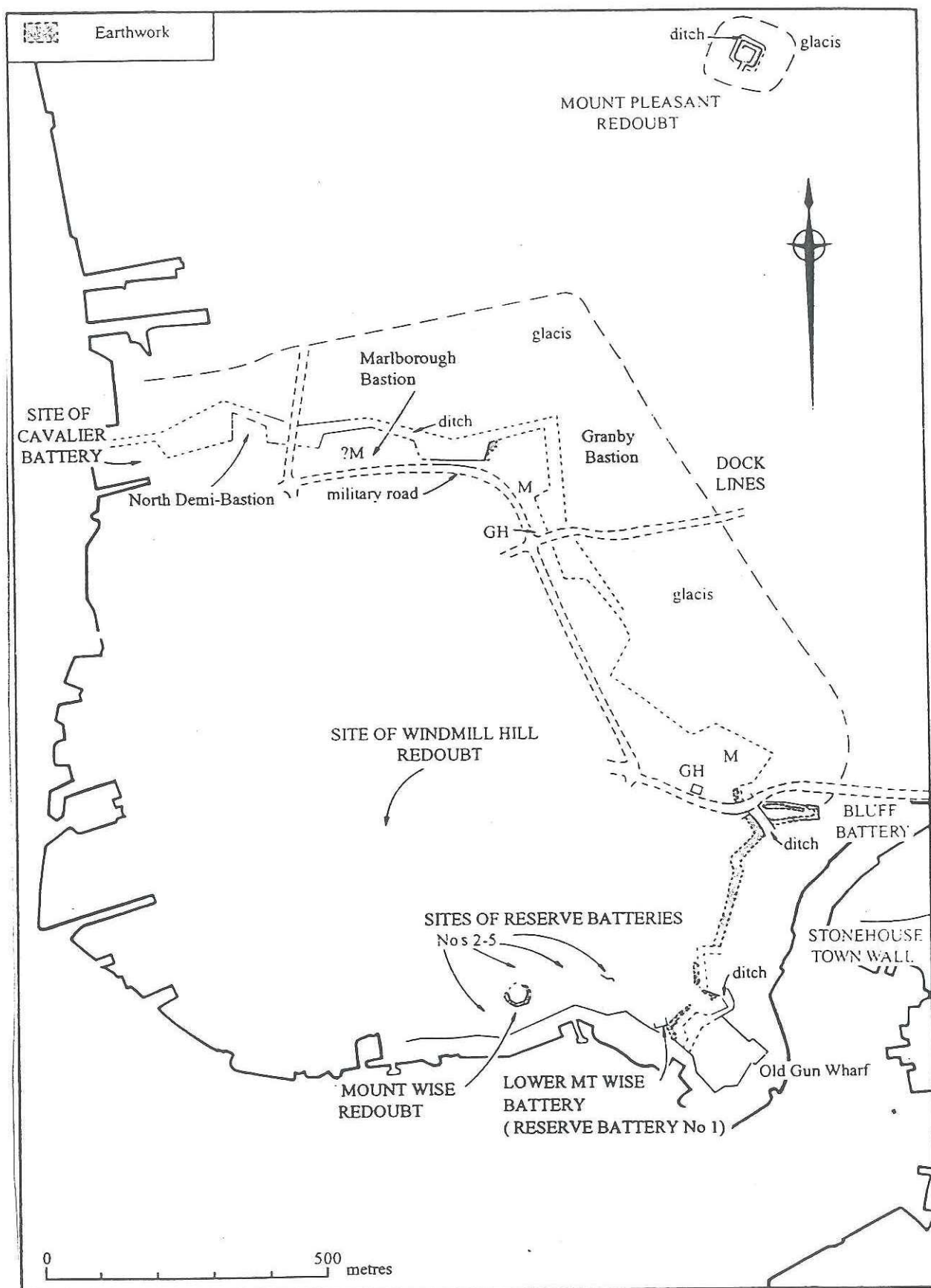
DEVONPORT LINES (1757 onwards/not statutorily protected).

A defensive ring was built around (Plymouth) Dock with barrack blocks at points on the perimeter to house troops, at first only a shallow ditch and rampart but with several redoubts associated, such as Mount Pleasant overlooking and protecting the docks. The Lines were further strengthened after 1779 with several batteries and later improved with stone faced ramparts and a ditch which was given greater depth and re-alignment as late as the 1850s.

At New Passage Hill where the 1850s stone-lined ditch had been filled in by MOD in the 1960s to create a car park, the importance of surviving sections of the wall was drawn to the attention of PCC and EH by DCC. PCC had acquired the area in the 1980s for possible industrial development. Despite some representations, a series of industrial units which obscure the sight of the walls from the north have since been built. However the development was monitored archaeologically and damage to the walls avoided.

Proposals to redevelop Cumberland House on Devonport Hill were subject to assessment and evaluation in 1993/4. This traced the remains of a musketry keep of the 1850s which will be further investigated prior to building construction work on site.

There are various visible remains of this little known aspect of Plymouth's history and it would be quite a feasible exercise to create walks which reveal the main features. From the historic Morice Town Gate via the Devonport Park, following the E side of the Brickfields Recreation Ground (MOD at present), to the area of Bluff Battery by



Stonehouse Bridge and along Richmond Walk below Mount Wise there are numerous points of historic interest. The Parks and Amenities Dept are very interested in arranging interpretation of Plymouth's heritage; there is already a leaflet available outlining a walk from Central Park to Mount Wise. A conservation policy to protect the remains of this defensive feature should be implemented and further investigations may be possible during building and other works.

For details see AP Defence Assessment pps 123-145.



PART DEVONPORT LINES \_ RAMPARTS



BLUFF BATTERY FROM RICHMOND WALK



MOUNT WISE REDOUBT

## STADDON POINT &amp; BOVISAND BATTERIES (1844-7 &amp; 1861-710 Pt SAM Devon 719)

This complex including associated defences is a well known and prominent feature of the defence of Plymouth Sound and was also a link in the land defences until after WW2. Owned by MOD and in use until the 50s the site was semi-derelict when Plymouth Ocean Projects took on a lease which is a fully repairing one renewed not long ago for 99 years. A very successful enterprise has been developed occupying most of the buildings for training (Underwater Centre), storage and accommodation. Although they were semi-derelict when POP took over much work has been done to maintain the structure whilst adapting it for current commercial use. Alan Bax, the director, is interested in the detailed history. There is a constant battle against the ravages of damp penetration, original details such as the ventilation grids above the casemates are gradually decomposing but in general the condition is good.

Visitors would be most interested if some information were to be made available at this site where the view across the Sound and to the Breakwater and its Fort is splendid.

The Groundwork Trust has suggested an interpretation centre with public access; this could be inconvenient in the Upper Battery as special arrangements would be needed. However a recent proposal is to create such a centre at the new accommodation block at the quayside.

WATCH HOUSE BATTERY - on the hill above is leased from the MOD by Speedwell School, Bristol as a study and field centre. The lease has been held for 20 years and the school hope to renew shortly. It is occupied most of the time from June to September and intermittently at other times of the year.



STADDON FORT



BOVISAND BATTERY



RENNEY BATTERY, SOME OF DETAIL OF GUN EMPLACEMENT

Although it is somewhat run down and outside features are deteriorating, it is an excellent educational base and the school would benefit from some guidance in maintenance and some financial help. A well planned interpretation centre nearby at Bovisand Quay would be a splendid resource for both local and visiting young people. Speedwell School know about AP's recent survey and would like to have a copy of the relevant section.

THE STADDON & STADDON HEIGHTS BATTERIES should be included in any information for walkers, as they are visible from the coastal path as is Watch House and it may eventually be possible to create a footpath along the military road, linking the complex to Staddon Fort, passing the Brownhill and Frobisher emplacements. This track is not at present open to the public but the aim should be to gain access on foot when MOD are not using the training area. MOD should be encouraged in a conservation scheme to put in hand work e.g. on long walls in Scheduled Ancient Monument to E of Watch House and also to make safe any dangerous sections.

For details see AP Defences Assessment ps 69-80 and Fig. 30.

LENTNEY & RENNEY BATTERIES (1905 Listed status)

These two important batteries have been released by MOD and are in process of being sold. They are now at risk of damage either by vandals or by a housing development which may begin as soon as the sale is completed. This will be in the old Training Camp area which lies between the two batteries.

In accordance with the policy of obtaining the best price when disposing of land MOD themselves applied for planning permission for this prime coastal site and this was passed in spite of protests by county and local conservationists. It will involve some demolition and alteration of the existing modern stone buildings on site.

The batteries N and S of the proposed building site are at present in a relatively good and complete condition. Renney is unique in form as its counterpart W of the Sound at Penlee has been filled in. Lentney to the N also has original features of historic interest.

The South Hams Environmental Trust are putting forward a scheme for the substantial training camp buildings as an educational centre with residential accommodation. This would be an excellent solution if funds can be found. Children would study the S Hams coastal area from Dartmouth to Plymouth in some depth and would have the benefit of a panoramic view of the whole of the Sound, Drake's Island and sites such as Fort Picklecombe in Cornwall.

Action must be taken to protect the batteries before vandalism takes over. Already the site is a popular area for local residents to walk through as all fencing has been removed and listing does not give day-to-day protection.

The site being very near the coastal footpath could be indicated if suitable protective measures are taken. Full details of the latest survey should be sent to the S Hams Conservation Officer and the Environmental Trust - the sites will need monitoring if building takes place. A condition of planning permission was that there should be an archaeological watching brief. The agents (Bettisons of Plymouth) appear to be under the impression that they will be capable of that undertaking.

For details see AP Defence Assessment ps 118-120.

NOTE:- South Hams District Council do not have a specific policy with regard to historic sites. Most should be covered by the Local Plan which gives protection to coastal sites and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

### III CONCLUSION

The main problems affecting the condition and management of Plymouth's historic fortifications have been:-

1. The number and size of the defensive structures of several different periods.
2. The variety of occupants and owners.
3. The lack of any co-ordinated conservation strategy.
4. The varying status of each site.
5. The absence of any detailed information and survey until recently.
6. The lack of motivation on the part of most of those concerned.

A number of sites are still owned and used by MOD and these as it will be shown have on the whole been better maintained, retaining many original features. Where structures have been left unoccupied or only partly utilised they have fared less well, but in some cases semi dereliction has been overcome by careful re-use, making the buildings suitable for modern usage. Leased properties have in some cases been well looked after but other sites have suffered a great deal.

Private owners find general maintenance a great burden and cannot deal with all the problems. Many of the large Palmerstonian forts and surrounding lands came into Plymouth City ownership in the 1960s and were virtually given away for unsuitable uses while the surrounding land was kept in hand and is now actively managed for nature conservation. Until recently the City authority has not faced up to the very extensive conservation problem. Properties were leased and then sold for next to nothing. Much of the damage occurred in the late 60s and 70s when the

powers of conservation now held by English Heritage did not exist. There were however local planning powers but the vision to apply them sensitively was lacking.

In considering a selection of the fortified sites, in no case has the occupier been confident that he has full knowledge of the details for proper conservation of the most important features. Even MOD Land Agents are asking for detailed plans and these must be provided for all concerned. Detailed information has now been given for many sites (see Appendix).

Essential information must be available for planners, engineers, development officers and so on. Even where there was archaeological knowledge in the past it was not made widely available. Each relevant department within the City should have access to data on the historic sites so that co-ordination can be achieved and damage to sensitive areas may be avoided. There is for example an excellent scheme to put in hand a parks' audit thus giving the Leisure Dept information about vulnerable areas. There does not even appear to have been knowledge of Scheduled Ancient Monuments held in each department at one time. There are frequent personnel changes and factual references should be available to those new to certain posts. Relevant details from the recent archaeological survey are being sent as part of this project to those owners/occupiers who have expressed any interest.

It should be noted that intensive enquiries to Local Authorities etc did not always produce clarification of ownership/extent of sites, e.g. Knowle Battery & Woodland Fort, both thought to be Devon County Council.

With the appointment of an archaeological officer for Plymouth City and the completion of an in-depth assessment of the Plymouth Defences, the future management should improve steadily. Unfortunate planning decisions should be avoided from now on if the information now available is used; a valuable procedure now is the provision of information briefs for the planning committees.

There is a move towards creating trails and nature reserves, the City itself is achieving progress and several nature conservation areas are in the vicinity of the C19 fortifications but the emphasis here so far has been entirely on ecology. There is an ideal opportunity here to work towards an integrated study of nature and history which should not be overlooked. This should involve some public access where safety standards can be met, alternatively viewing points with information could be made available. The Groundwork Trust Heritage Trail study has some useful ideas which could be incorporated and implemented stage by stage. A City walks leaflet already indicates points of historic interest from Central Park to Mutton Cove. It is good that a start has been made on interpretation schemes but a holistic approach to conservation especially to include standing structures is essential.

It is expected that Plymouth Development Corporation will now proceed with a comprehensive and sensitive interpretative strategy for Western King as part of its development proposals.

Plymouth City Policy EV12, when ratified, should set the standard for the future:

'The City Council in consultation with relevant bodies will seek not only to protect but to enhance and promote suitable sites or monuments of archaeological or historic importance'

para 3.51.....'through positive management action.....'

para 3.52.....'post medieval sites without parallel in Britain...resist unsuitable or harmful schemes....encourage schemes which support interpretation'.

Policy EV13 stated that the City would not normally approve development proposals and works which would adversely affect the character and setting of ancient monuments. As revised in the Local Plan First Alteration 1995/6 the wording for consideration is strengthened to... such 'development proposals and works .... will not be permitted'. Policies relevant to listed buildings are EV 14 to EV 18, those relevant to conservation areas are EV 19 to 21.

The Proposals Map for the Local Plan (First Alteration) shows Devonport Lines, Staddon Fort & the Efford complex as 'nationally important but unscheduled'. Several other areas are also designated on that map as 'non-urban historic landscape', included are remains of historic defences such as those in Devonport Park, the Hoe, Beaumont Park & Freedom Fields.

It is to be hoped that the City will indeed be sensitive to its past and meet the challenges to come.

## PLYMOUTH'S HISTORIC DEFENCES MANAGEMENT APPRAISAL

### PART TWO - CORNWALL: CARADON DISTRICT

#### I BRIEF NOTES ON MAIN SITES

The following pages (38 - 45) are based largely on the recent Defences Assessment by Andrew Pye together with Plan K from Plymouth's Defences by F Woodward.

The order and content may not be the same as in the final version of the Defences Assessment by Andrew Pye as the full version was not available at the time of completion of the work for this report (May 1995)

The layout forms a brief gazetteer in the following format:

Name of site/Type of fortification/Date of building/Status  
(protected or not)/Owner and Occupier/Use (if any).

This is followed by notes on problems and recommendations.

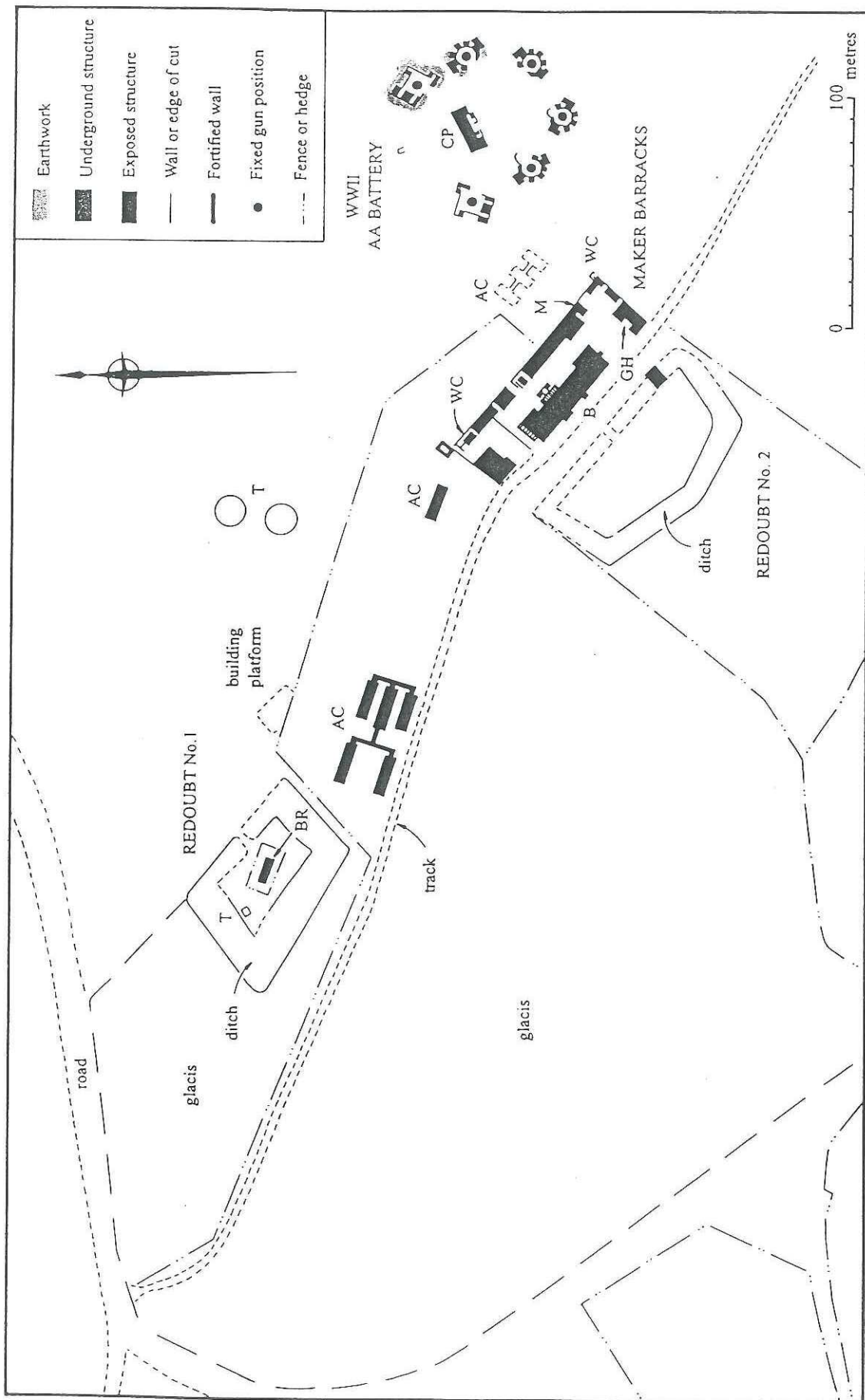
MAKER REDOUBT NO 1 / Redoubt/1782/Scheduled Ancient Monument  
Cornwall 832c/owned Mount Edgcumbe Estate/tenanted Mr Martin, Home Farm/  
grassland, bunker WW2 water tank support/ditches largely overgrown.  
Problems/recommendation - some dumped material in gorge ditch should be  
cleared. Protection should be extended to cover the glacis to N and W  
and site of known earlier building. Site important as part of extensive  
integrated system of defence on Maker Heights which could form a good  
resource for public presentation.  
Site 26 on Plan K.

MAKER BARRACKS / Barrack block, guardhouse, magazine etc/1804-8 - much  
extended later up to WW2/ part listed Grade 2 (guardhouse & N and E  
sections of enclosure wall only) - buildings not protected/ owned Mount  
Edgcumbe Estate/ main building unoccupied although until recently leased  
to Devon CC as school camp/ some outbuildings let as stores/light  
industry.  
Problems/recommendations - whole complex should be given protection.  
Some buildings need immediate attention, original features need  
recording/ the whole is vulnerable to vandalism. The main block which is  
for sale at present (Michelmores of Totnes) is in reasonable condition  
and would make a good position for an interpretation centre if purchased  
by a local authority/conservation body.

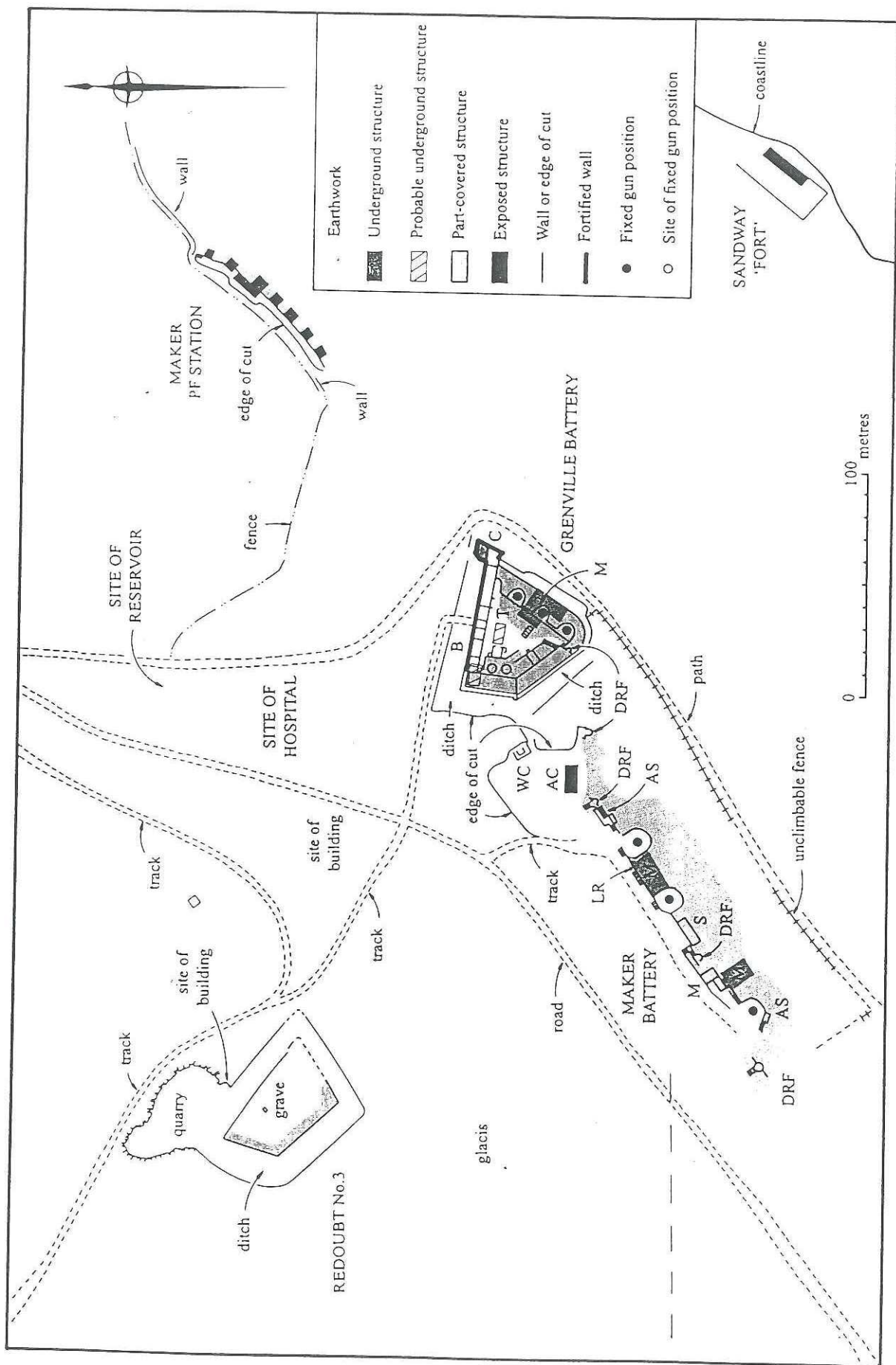
MAKER REDOUBT NO 2 / Redoubt/1782/SAM 832b Cornwall (Rampart, NW and S  
Ditches only) - owned Mount Edgcumbe Estate/until recently formed part  
of school camp area/at present unused.  
Problems/recommendations. Vegetation & dumped materials should be  
cleared/stonework needs consolidation/ protected area needs extending to  
include interior, glacis etc. Could form part of interpretation scheme.  
Site 27 on Plan K.

MAKER REDOUBT NO 3 / Redoubt/1782/SAM 832a Cornwall /owned Mount  
Edgcumbe Estate/ no current use.  
Problems/recommendations. Ditch and adjacent quarry infill could be  
cleared & protection extended to cover glacis and known site of  
building/could be opened up to controlled public access to form part of  
an interpretation scheme.  
Site 28 on Plan K.

MAKER REDOUBT NO 4 /1782 - 1791/remodelled 1887/ renamed GRENVILLE  
BATTERY 1899 /SAM 831 Cornwall/ owned Mount Edgcumbe Estate/ parts let  
to Mr M Taylor as boat store but rest derelict.  
Problems/recommendations. A fine site forming S end of line of defences  
on Maker Heights/ very vulnerable to vandalism & heavily overgrown.  
SW Coast Path adjacent/information board could be useful here but public  
access would have to be restricted as much of the structure is high &  
unsafe.  
Site 29 on Plan K



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MAKER (HEIGHTS) BATTERY/ Battery/1886-7 /not protected/owned Mount Edgcumbe Estate/ no current use except for fishermen's stores/ sited immediately W of and adjoining Maker Redoubt No 4, Grenville Battery. Problems/recommendations. Much dumping of rubble etc which masks features/parts heavily covered with vegetation/retaining wall to W leaning outwards. There should be some clearance and monitoring under archaeological supervision/whole site should be given protection. It is important as a transitional site type in 1890-1900 - traversing rails, shell lifts etc. Original plans in Public Record Office. Should form part of an interpretation scheme of Maker fortification complex. Site 62 on Plan K

MAKER REDOUBT NO 5 / Redoubt/ 1782-3/ strengthened 1787-91/SAM 833 Cornwall/ barrack structure Listed Building Grade 2/ owned Mount Edgcumbe Estate/tenanted Mr Charles Martin of Home Farm, cattle use ditch as shelter. Northern flank defence of Maker area/much of structure intact apart from drawbridge/rock cut ditch to S and E/landscape glacis to S and W/steep slope to N/ original access embanked trackway. Problems/recommendations. The barrack structure is in a bad state/vegetation clearance is needed on most of site. However the Redoubt is very little altered and could form an interesting feature of a presentation scheme if cleared and safe access provided. The protection should be extended to include the glacis and access track. Site 30 on Plan K

MAKER REDOUBT NO 6 (EMPACOMBE) / Redoubt/1808-11 /boundary walls and buildings protected as Listed Grade 2 / owned Mount Edgcumbe Estate/ used as 4 separate living units. Problems/recommendations. Parts of ditch infilled or overgrown/most of site well maintained because occupied. However alterations for gardens etc or to structure should be discouraged. Residential use is satisfactory but as this is part of Maker Defence system, commanding the N flank, overlooking Millbrook Lake, some controlled public access/interpretation could be useful. Site 34 on Plan K

MAKER HOSPITAL / hospital/1804(?)/not protected/owned Mount Edgcumbe Estate/no use at present/very much overgrown/sited to rear of No 4 Redoubt (Grenville) - buildings and enclosure wall razed to just above foundations/under scrub. Problems/recommendations. Scrub could be cleared to reveal remaining stonework. Whole area of site should be protected (possibility of underground remains). Should form part of interpretation scheme.

MAKER HEIGHTS RESERVOIR/ 1896 & 1911(?)/ not protected/ owned Mount Edgcumbe Estate. No use of site or small building (possibly connected) Problems/recommendation. Site only visible as a terraced area about 30m. N of Hospital. Area overgrown; small building needs consolidation/recording. Should be protected as part of Maker complex.

MAKER WW2 ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTERY/AA battery/1941/not protected/owned by Mount Edgcumbe Estate/tenanted for agriculture, walls etc used as stock shelters

c.f. St Winolls/ 6 gun positions/see Down Thomas, Devon.

Problems/recommendations. Partly overgrown but could be open to public access after recording. Site 80m NE of Maker Barracks & could thus form part of any presentation of the complex as the most recent of the defence systems and should be included in the protected areas.

MAKER POSITION-FINDER STATION/P-F Cells (7)/late 1880s/not protected/owned Mount Edgcumbe Country Park/open and derelict. Problems/recommendations. Site interesting as not altered for WW1 or 2 but used with Maker, Hawkins & Raleigh Batteries. Structures deteriorating and overgrown. Difficult to include in any interpretation scheme because of lack of access and need for safety provisions. However should be protected as part of the defences.

HAWKINS BATTERY / Battery/1892-3/in use until 1946/not protected/owned Mount Edgcumbe Estate/tenanted by the Hawkins Battery Residents'

Association - E Williams/ 22 sub-tenants.

Problems/recommendations. Structure of Battery almost complete but there are problems connected with rusting metalwork within the walls/ moat overgrown/some dumping. However many original features extant but these could be vulnerable. Residents have problems with damp penetration but the use as holiday accommodation seems suitable. Some tidying and clearing of site could be recommended and technical advice offered. The Battery is of special interest as a transitional base from RML guns to BL guns.

Site 61 on Plan K

RALEIGH BATTERY / Battery 1890-3/held by MOD until 1946/not protected/owned Mount Edgcumbe Estate/ tenanted by Charles Martin, Home Farm/ open and derelict but gun emplacements house bee-hives/rest of site used to pasture cattle.

Problems/ recommendations. A very important site/virtually complete with much original detail/may be a unique example of a battery originally armed by 29 ton breech-loading guns. At present not maintained/should be cleared and recorded. Arrangements could possibly be made to allow controlled public access.

Site 60 on Plan K

SANDWAY BATTERY/Battery/mentioned Dixon Report 1779/not protected/owned Mount Edgcumbe Park/probable site fully overgrown/no remains identifiable so far. Any major clearance work should be monitored on site.

SANDWAY FORT/Fort or battery possibly sited directly below Maker Redoubt 4 /no definite dating, maybe evidenced by brick buildings above Sandway Fish Cellars/ much overgrown. Monitoring could identify function during any work on buildings. No protection/ in Mount Edgcumbe Country Park.

BARN POOL BATTERY/Battery/C17/not protected/Mount Edgcumbe Country Park/use as park area

Possible site indicated on map of 1643. No other evidence or remains.

Site should be investigated if opportunity arises.

Site 16 on Plan K

MOUNT EDGCUMBE BATTERY/battery/C18 restored 1747 but demolished during construction of Garden Battery described next/site protected (see below)/by 1800 a private 21 gun saluting battery/later re-mounted.

GARDEN BATTERY/ Battery/1862-3/listed Grade 2/owned Mount Edgcumbe Country Park/use - empty at present, occasionally used during events in Park.

Problems/recommendations. Site uses placement of earlier battery. Present structure recommended by 1860 Royal Commission to defend channels round Drake's Island. Under MOD until 1946. Sited on foreshore and in good condition apart from damp penetration; some original details. Structure needs monitoring and although not normally open to public except by arrangement, could prove to be of considerable interest if made safe and damp controlled. On roof, from which superb view of Plymouth Sound, is ornamental saluting area (see Earl's Battery below). Site 57 on Plan K

EARL'S BATTERY/ Battery/1871/listed Grade 2 together with Garden Battery/owned Mount Edgcumbe Country Park/open as public viewing area. Problems/recommendations. Three French guns from the earlier battery remain out of the original twenty-one. Condition of guns and their carriages should not be allowed to deteriorate. Present use very suitable....additional information/interpretation could be desirable.

BOWLING GREEN BATTERY/ ?Battery/possibly site mentioned Carew 1599 or battery constructed Vice Admiral Killegrew 1690/not protected/owned Mount Edgcumbe Country Park/level grassy area bounded by large hedge on one side and sea wall on other/no visible remains/site not confirmed.

MOUNT EDGCUMBE BLOCKHOUSE/ blockhouse/C16/SAM Cornwall 315 & listed Grade 2\*/owned Mount Edgcumbe Country Park/open with free access to public but roof closed.

Problems/recommendations. All masonry needs constant checking, especially the roof level and crenellations. Played a part in Civil War/information additional to that on the existing plaque might best be made available in a general publication explaining the historical defences of Plymouth, other blockhouses etc.

Site 8 on Plan K

REDDING POINT BATTERY/battery/probably 1750s/not protected/owned Mount Edgcumbe Country Park/grassy area crossed by Coast Path with walling on E side.

Problems/recommendations. Site uncertain but probable/E of Milton Temple at S end of Barn Pool, covering the anchorage. Consists of level area with masonry walling to N and E. To N of modern Raveness Point. Should be protected as most likely siting - based on old charts. Could be investigated if masonry repaired.

BOOM MOORING RINGS /2 large iron rings/WW 1 or 2/not protected/possibly owned Duchy of Cornwall/on open foreshore. Southern ring has chain attached.

Problems/recommendations. As with corresponding rings at Devil's Point on Devon side, where there are 4 mooring rings, the site should be given some protection. Condition of iron needs checking/adjacent concrete ramp being worn by sea. Boom/net placed between the two shores May 1941 to November 1943 and may also have been in position during WW1. Information should be included in any literature.

MUSKETRY LINES/RETREAT BATTERY/ Battery/1779-80/not protected/W area owned Mount Edgcumbe Estate, tenanted Mr Martin, Home Farm/ E area - part removed by quarry, rest private properties, some public footpaths/use is W section - pasture/rest overgrown, glacis forms back gardens/lines and gabion battery originally occupied low ridge extending W from Cremyll Point towards Obelisk Redoubt.

Problems/recommendations. Much of musketry lines etc have been quarried away but part of ridge remains towards Obelisk Redoubt; this area of lines should be protected. The glacis slope to the E should be retained if possible. The name 'Retreat Battery' appears to be modern.

OBELISK REDOUBT/ Redoubt/1779-80/not protected/owned Mount Edgcumbe Estate & tenanted Mr Martin, Home Farm/used as sheep pasture area. Site is near public footpath but no right of way at present to Redoubt. Forms raised area with level top in corner of field, steep slopes to S & E partly overgrown, W slope partly cut away for oil storage tank; no surface remains but possibility of underground features.

Problems/recommendations. Site should be protected with the adjoining areas of musketry lines. Vegetation should be controlled; current sheep pasturing suitable.

Also known as Cremyll Battery. Site 25 on Plan K.

PICKLECOMBE BATTERY/Battery & barracks/1845-48 c.f. Staddon Point Battery/used MOD to 1956/ barrack & walls listed Grade 2/owned developer & within area owned by Fort Picklecombe Management Company/ empty and derelict.

Problems/recommendations. Barracks listed but surrounding area should be protected. Proposed restoration 1991/2 not carried out. Original details, joinery etc now much at risk & vulnerable to vandalism. Very suitable for conversion to residential use as planned. If possible should be included in any information available on the area.

FORT PICKLECOMBE/Casemated battery/proposed 1858-60, completed 1867/listed building Grade 2 /Fort Picklecombe Management Company/ occupied by private flats constructed in 1970s/outerworks disused. Problems/recommendations. The original structure which superceded the earlier battery formed a major facet in the post Royal Commission C19 forts with as many as 42 casements, iron shields etc. In use by MOD until after WW2. Guns dismounted 1956. In spite of conversion and additions the structure is still impressive. However many original details seem to have been lost. Searchlight positions & battery commander's post have not been maintained at all and should be given protection together with the pier. If some public access with information could be arranged in co-operation with the residents, the site could take its place in the general interpretation of the defences. Site 36 on Plan K

SUBMARINE MINING ESTABLISHMENT & P.F.STATION/1896/not protected/probably Fort Picklecombe Company, P.F.Station in Mount Edgcumbe Park/vaults of mining establishment used as stores etc./should be protected if not already within listed building area. P.F.Station demolished.

PICKLECOMBE C16 BULWARK/proposed 1586-88 on site of later defences but no evidence or remains.

REDDING POINT P.F.STATION/1890s/NE of Fort Picklecombe/not protected/owned Mount Edgcumbe Country Park/demolished and levelled/site within pine plantation (now felled)/possibility of underground remains only.

CAWSAND BATTERY 'A' / battery/probably C17, garrison proposed C16/sites not certain/ no visible remains.

CAWSAND BATTERY 'B' / battery/1779/within later fort SAM Cornwall 991/ owned Peacock Properties/open communal grassy area.  
Problems/recommendations. Two exposed granite gun platforms facing E. No change suggested but could feature in general information.

PEMBERKNOWSE 'FORT' / Battery/1779 on possible site of C17 & C18 batteries/not protected but site now occupied by listed chapel/owners ? United Reformed Church /still in use.  
Problems/recommendations. The site is on a rocky area dividing Kingsand from Cawsand & overlooking both beaches. No clear visible evidence although seawall and stretches of crenellated masonry may represent fortification. There is a half-buried cannon by the slipway and this should be properly investigated as it may have formed part of the armament and if so could be suitably presented together with some information on the history of the site.

CAWSAND FORT / Fort/completed 1858-63/SAM Cornwall 911/structure also listed Grade 2/owned Peacock Properties & other private owners/used as domestic accommodation, gardens & green communal areas.  
Problems/recommendations. Protection should be extended to cover glacis which is subject to dumping and to the military road. It appears that it is difficult to ascertain what changes were made during development as no complete records were made. Main structures are sound but features such as magazines are neglected, barrack blocks in poor state. Recording should be carried out prior to further works if they are to be allowed. Some magazines in use as stores/studios. Glacis area semi-derelict. Any further development should be resisted. Information about history etc should be made available.

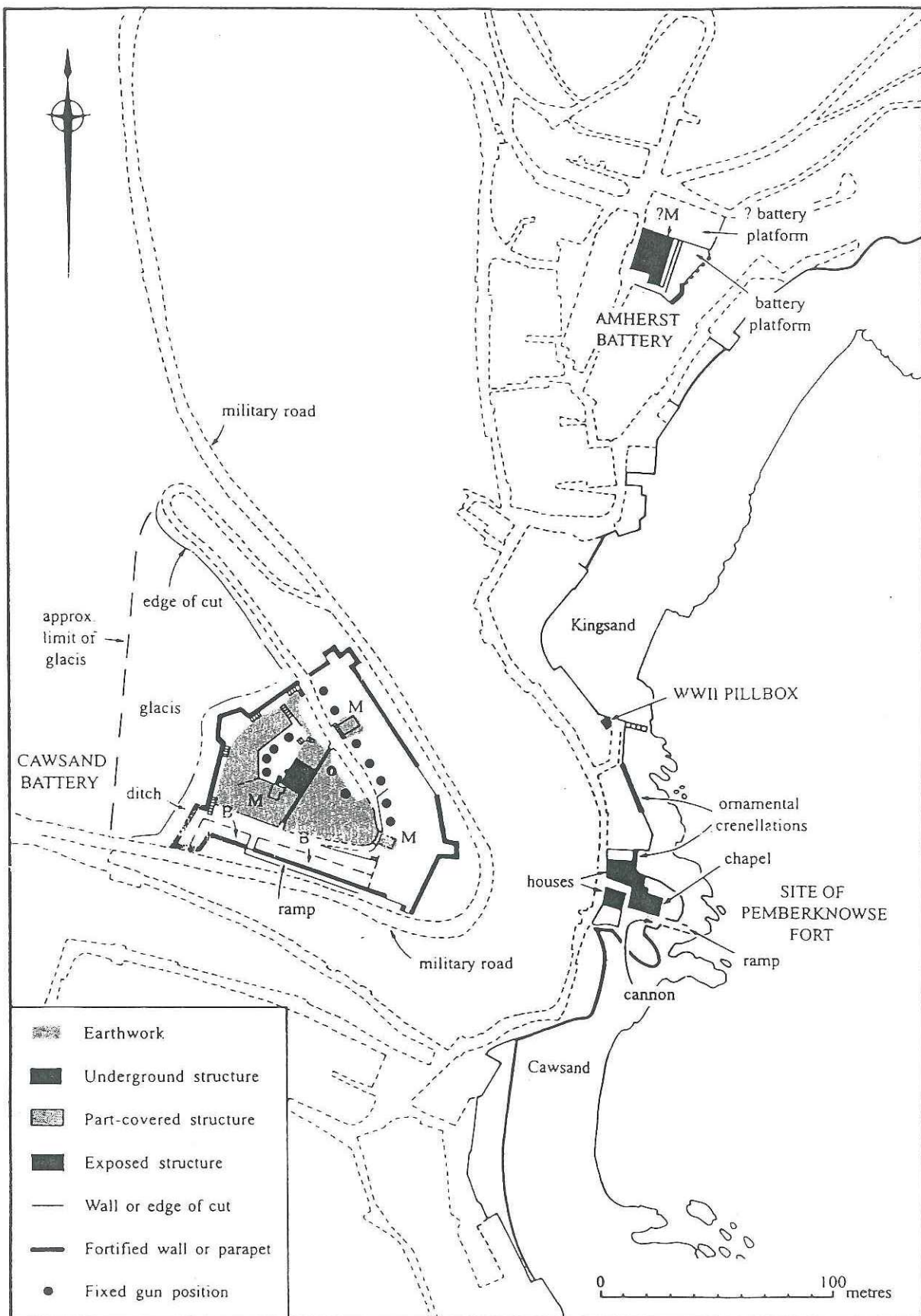
Site 32 on Plan K

AMHERST BATTERY/Battery/1750s?/in garden of listed building (Grey House & Minadew Brake Cottage)/private owners/terrace area with buttressed rubble stone wall & demi-bastion, also earlier retaining wall to N.  
Possible powder magazine in basement of house.  
Problems/recommendations. Protection should be extended to N. Recording and suveying should be done where possible.

Site 31 on Plan K

MINADEW BRAKE BATTERY/Battery/1779 c.f. Cawsand and Sandway  
Batteries/not protected/edge Mount Edgcombe Country Park/garden terrace only indication of site, very overgrown.  
Problems/recommendations. Should be protected but site needs clarifying by clearance and survey.

# CAWSAND BATTERY



WRINGFORD DOWN PICKET POST & ROAD BLOCK/Defence barrier/1779/  
SAM Cornwall 980/owned Wringford Manor Hotel/road block walls consist of overgrown stonework. Loophole walls act as boundaries to field and buildings.

Problems/recommendations. Road block vulnerable to traffic or highway works & loopholed walls have been and will be vulnerable to any building development.

KINGSAND WW2 PILL BOX/Pill box/WW2/not protected/private ownership/used as garden shed.

Problems/recommendations. Should be protected, details such as armoured shutters should be retained & recorded. Commands landing steps and S end of Kingsand Beach and is of interest for public presentation as the most recent feature of the historic fortifications of Cawsand Bay.

POLHAWN BATTERY/1861-63/main building listed Grade 2\*/owned

Mr John Wickstead/holiday accommodation & private residence.

Problems/recommendations. Protection should be given to military access road, ditches and glacis. Building well maintained with many original details and fittings but outside areas of masonry etc should be monitored. However this site proves that with goodwill, co-operation and advice from conservation bodies, a satisfactory result can be achieved. Even at such a site with reasonable alternative use some sections of earthwork have been removed.

Site 56 on Plan K.

TREGANTLE FORT/1858-65/SAM Cornwall 648/MOD/has been in continuous occupation by the military. Now barrack accommodation etc for troops in training.

Problems/recommendations. Very important position in W defences of Plymouth, built with Scraesdon to command W approaches. Massive structure 360ft above sea level, includes a keep, barrack casemates, ditches, caponiers, musketry galleries etc. Many original features still in place. Keep and caponiers unused and derelict. Some refurbishment being done. Protection needs extending to the glacis which is not SAM. Extant fixtures and fittings should be recorded. Present officer i/c properties proposes to set up a conservation committee. See section on management.

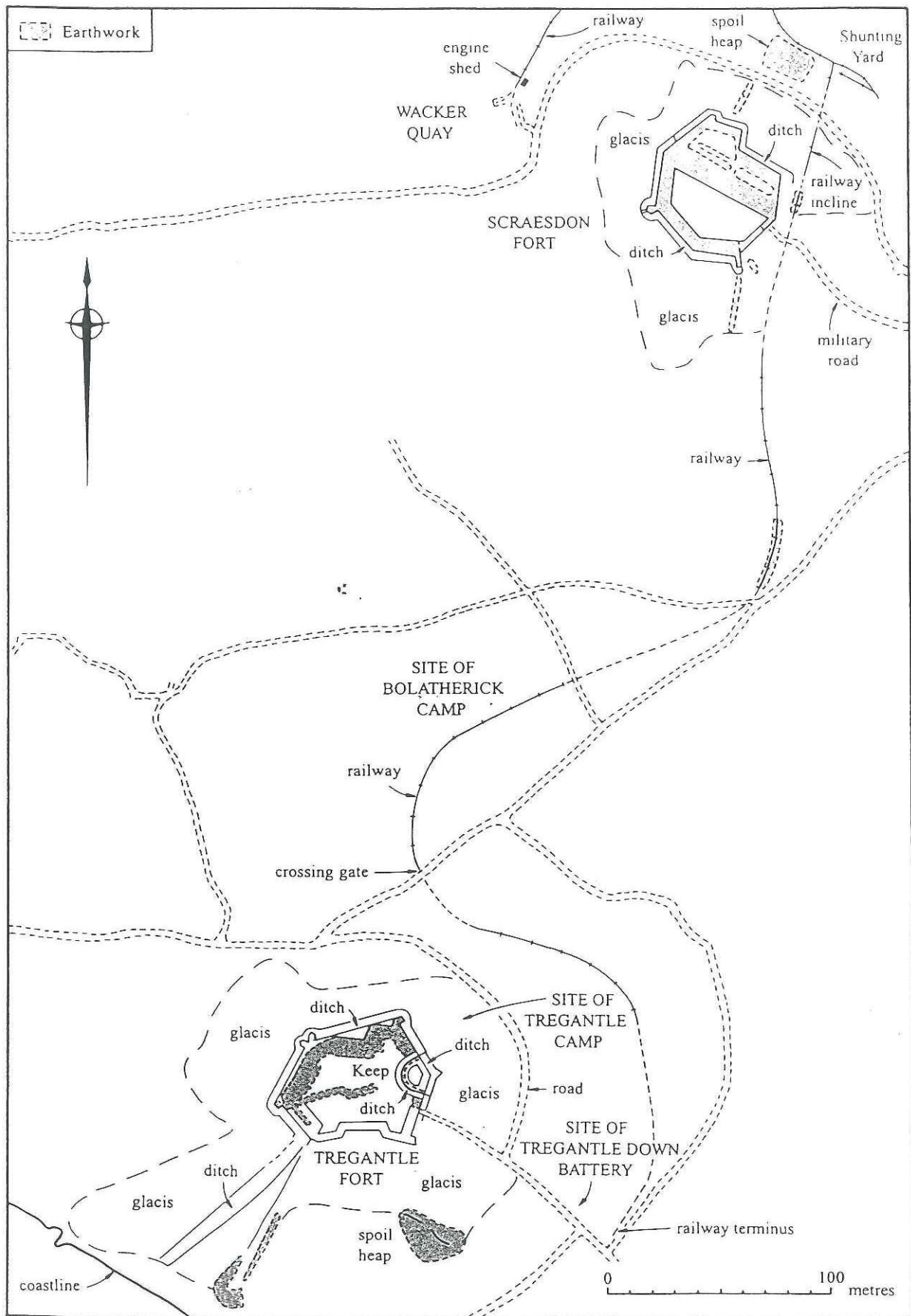
Site 55 on Plan K

SCRAESDON FORT/1859 onwards/SAM Cornwall 649/MOD/used for exercises. Part of Antony Line together with Tregantle. Designed to mount guns facing N & NW up the St Germans river.

Problems/recommendations. Has been subject to vandalism in past but now closed and with warning notices displayed. Stonework massive with deep moat. Smaller features deteriorating, parts including ditch very overgrown though 1976 aerial photos show relatively small areas of vegetation at that time. Moat subject to dumping.

Note: Linking railway was built from Wacker Quay via Scraesdon Fort to Tregantle Battery - route distinguishable in places but few remains. Groundwork Trust hope to put information at Quay when practicable.

Site 54 on Plan K



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## II

### ADDITIONAL NOTES AND COMMENTS ON MANAGEMENT AND FURTHER SECTIONS ON SELECTED SITES

On the basis of material collected for Section I there follows (pages 46 to 55) a slightly more detailed assessment of management by MOD, the Mount Edgcumbe Country Park and the Mount Edgcumbe Estate. In addition there are further comments on the use and management of a sample of sites:-

MOD Properties.....	Page 46
The Mount Edgcumbe Country Park.....	Page 47
The Mount Edgcumbe Estate.....	Page 48
Hawkins Battery.....	Page 49-50
Picklecombe Battery.....	Page 51
Cawsand Fort.....	Page 52-53
Whitesand Bay Battery.....	Page 54-55

MOD PROPERTIES

There are two large forts which are scheduled, Tregantle and Scraesdon, both still in use, as well as some smaller properties in the area.

A scheme is being developed by the Officer i/c Properties

(Lt Col A Clark) that will establish a Conservation Group for the area.

Under Col Clark's chairmanship the Group will include representatives from nature conservation bodies, the local authorities,

English Heritage, MOD Land Agents and the Fortress Study Group. The aim will be to achieve maintenance, preservation/conservation bearing in mind the historic buildings and their natural setting.

This arrangement is to be much welcomed; there is a considerable amount of work needed at Tregantle, at the Keep in particular, and Scraesdon Fort is in a very poor state. It is to be hoped that a positive outcome will be achieved by this conservation initiative.

## THE MOUNT EDGCUMBE COUNTRY PARK

The Country Park is administered by a joint committee of representatives from Cornwall CC and Plymouth City Council which meets three times a year and any work is funded by the two authorities. Qualified staff are based at Mount Edgcumbe House and this is to the advantage of conservation.

There are a number of known historic defence sites within the area which are routinely checked and there is the possibility of confirmation of others. Clearance and restoration work is continuing within the formal gardens and parkland and this has already revealed a stone building believed to have been constructed as a Powder Store, probably to serve the known batteries nearby.

The management emphasise the historic aspects of the Park in their explanatory walks' leaflets and guides. Unfortunately for safety reasons the access to the roof of the C16 blockhouse has had to be closed. For the same reason the Garden Battery is also closed to visitors except on occasions such as the Heritage Days; it is hoped that in the future further conservation may allow more open presentation at this fine viewing position.

In addition to the park area surrounding the formal gardens the administration extends along the coastal strip to Kingsand and from S of Cawsand round as far as Rame Head. Beyond Polhawn Fort the area extends along the coast almost as far as Whitesand Bay Battery. Thus the joint committee and the staff of the Park have a number of other defensive sites in their care.

### Main known historic sites:-

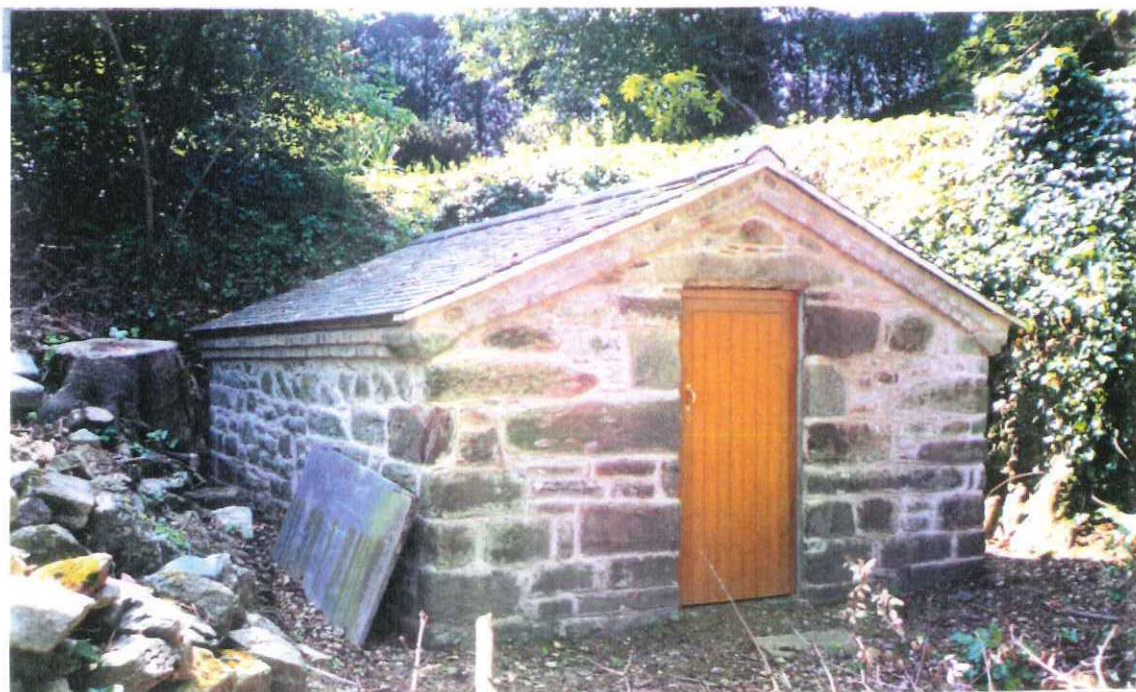
- Mount Edgcumbe Blockhouse
- Garden Battery
- Earl's Battery
- Sites of Mount Edgcumbe Battery & Bowling Green Battery
- ? Civil War Battery on Barn Pool
- Redding Point Battery
- Minadew Brake Battery
- Maker Position Finding Station
- Sandway Fort and Battery
- Redding Point Position Finding Station
- Middle Barton Position Finding Station
- Rame Church Battery
- Trenninow Position Finding Station



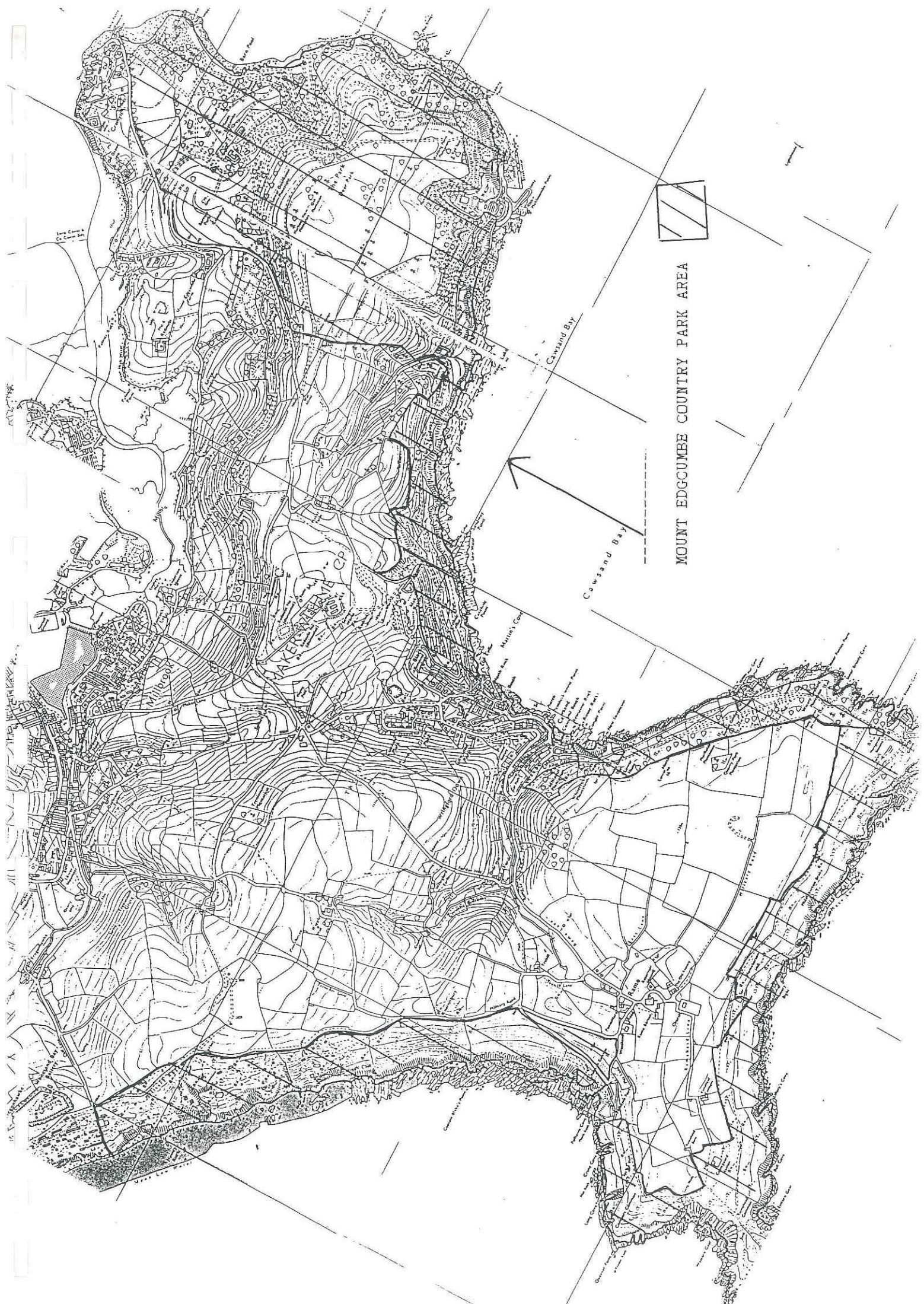
EARLS BATTERY - MOUNT EDGCUMBE COUNTRY PARK



GARDEN BATTERY - MOUNT EDGCUMBE COUNTRY PARK



PROBABLE POWDER STORE - MOUNT EDGCUMBE COUNTRY PARK



MOUNT EDGUMBE COUNTRY PARK AREA

Cawsand Bay

Cawsand Bay

THE MOUNT EDGCUMBE ESTATE

This covers a large area of the Rame Peninsula and includes a number of historic defence sites, several of which are scheduled or listed. The administrators, on behalf of the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe are Michelmore Hughes of Gate House, Totnes. As will be seen from the brief notes on the sites the policy has been generally to establish tenancies and leases, either for agricultural, storage or residential use. Most of the tenants appear to be sympathetic to the preservation of the historic features and are aware of their importance; these arrangements have given most sites a fair amount of security and protection although the maintenance of some sites has been negligible.

A major scheme which unfortunately has now come to an end was the development of an educational study and field centre at the Maker Barracks complex when it was leased to Devon CC. The buildings and the remains of Redoubt No 2 are now for sale with the possibility of conversion to residential or hotel use being allowed by the planning authority. In fact there is the opportunity here to establish an interpretation/education centre if a suitable sponsor or conservation body could be found. The buildings stand at the centre of a number of historic sites and could form the focus of marked trails etc., such as those shortly to be published by the Groundwork Trust although access would have to be fully negotiated and not put the sites at risk.

Main known historic sites:-

Maker Redoubts Nos 1 to 6, including Grenville Battery.  
Maker Barracks  
Maker Heights Battery  
Maker Hospital Site  
Maker Reservoir  
Maker WWII Anti-Aircraft Battery  
Knatterbury Position Finding Station  
Musketry Lines/Retreat Battery  
Obelisk Redoubt  
Hawkins Battery  
Raleigh Battery



MAKER BARRACKS - MAIN BUILDING



MAKER BARRACKS - GUARDHOUSE



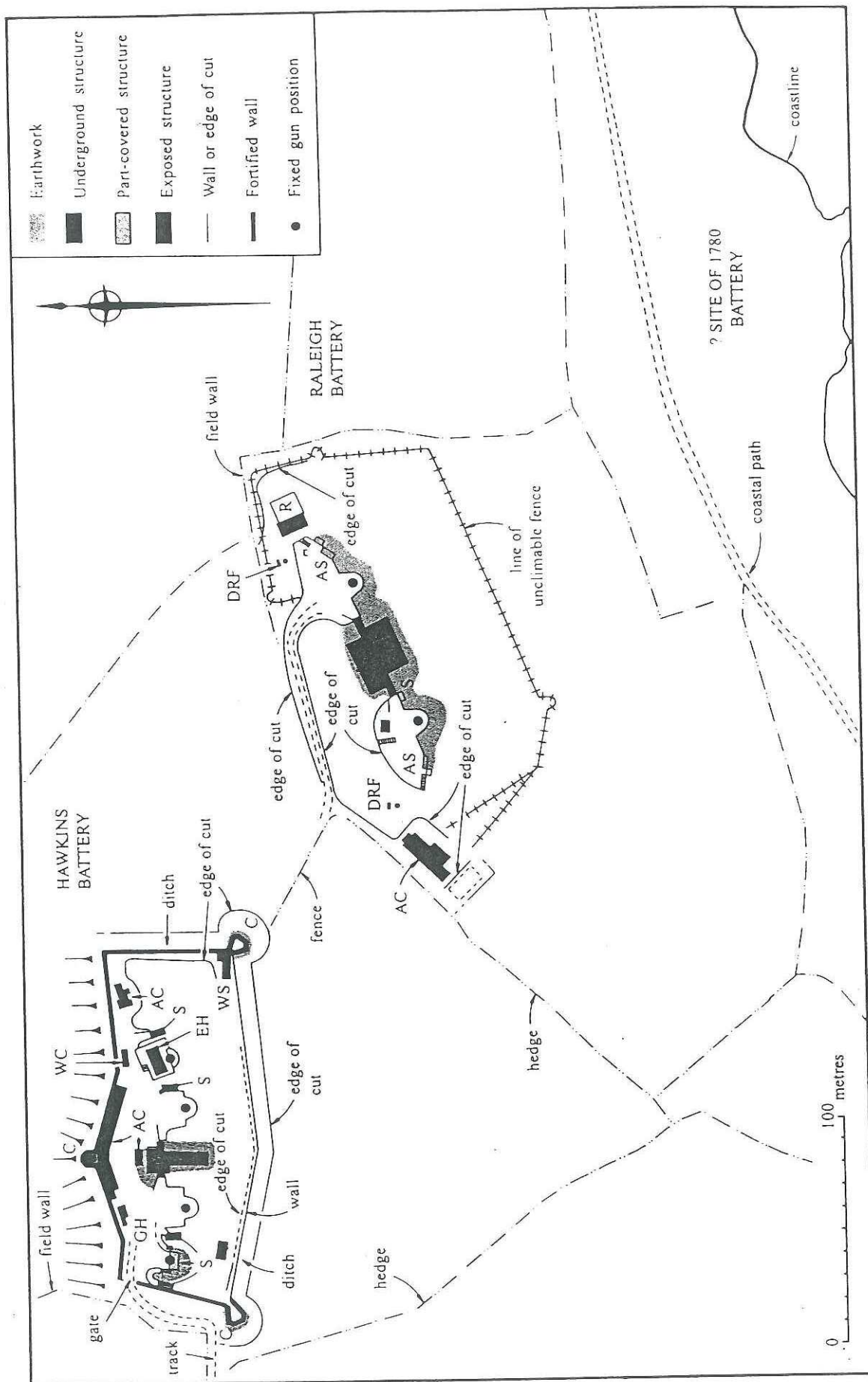
MAKER REDOUBT NO. 5 - VIEW FROM W.

#### HAWKINS BATTERY (1892-3) Not SAM or Listed

This battery sited just E of Maker Farm to fire direct on any enemy ships in order to prevent them attacking the dockyard, although first built in the 1890s, was rebuilt just before WW1. It is the last high-angle battery that survives in the area and as such is of considerable interest as the main features are virtually complete. The guns were dismounted by WWII but the buildings continued in use until abandoned by the MOD in 1946.

The Mount Edgcumbe Estate own the area and the site is at present occupied for holiday accommodation, a 15 year lease having been granted to the Hawkins Battery Residents' Association which has 22 members. There are chalets and caravans, some of which are sited on the gun emplacements, and use has also been made of the guardhouse, gunners' quarters and original accommodation blocks. This use has largely protected the battery from vandalism during the last few years. The tenants are extremely interested and well informed about the historic features of the site and put in considerable effort to ensure a certain amount of maintenance and security. There are numerous original fittings and structures although some ironwork features, such as the doors on ammunition stores etc, were largely removed by an earlier tenant who was a scrap merchant.

Some structures, such as the caponiers, are beginning to deteriorate and the moat which is mainly overgrown is also waterlogged in places. Some work should be put in hand to achieve the preservation of the concrete work etc as the site is worth conserving as fully as possible. The tenants are not likely to be able to undertake such a project though



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they would be co-operative. At the very least detailed recordings should be made as soon as possible.

The present use which provides a substantial amount of security would appear to be acceptable although ideally some resiting of the caravans etc would allow better viewing of the historic features. Occasionally interested groups have been shown round in the past but it was mentioned that intruders sometimes broke into the site almost immediately after such visits. This indicates the need for careful monitoring of public access to a battery which is not well known and somewhat hidden.

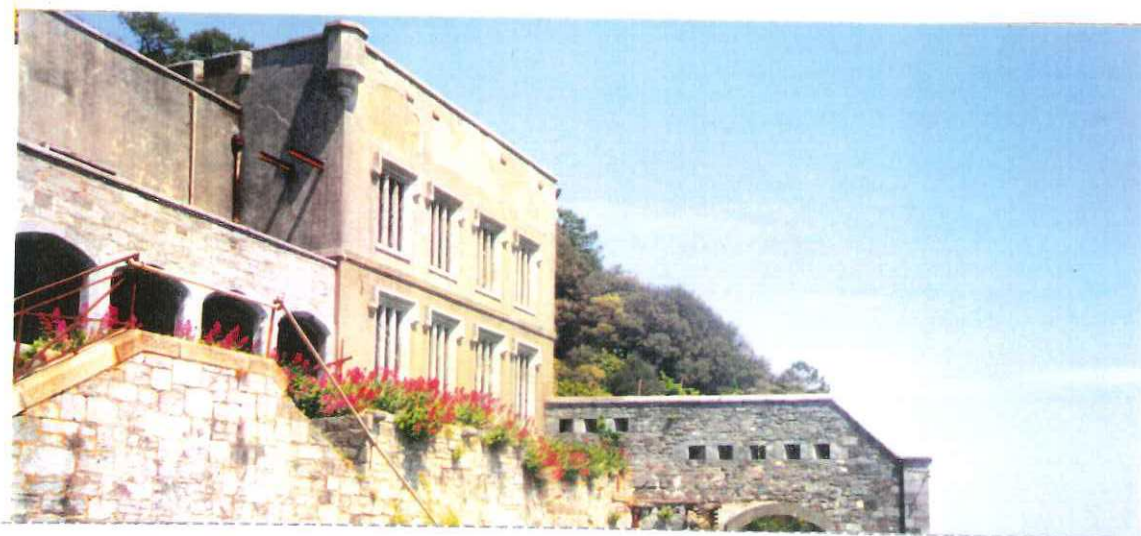
PICKLECOMBE BATTERY (1845-48) Barrack Building listed Grade 2.

This battery and barracks were built in order to protect the W approach to Plymouth Sound at the same time as Staddon Point Battery was being constructed to command the E approach. The battery was superseded and built over by the later Picklecombe Fort in the 1860s but the barrack building to the N survives with parts of the surrounding ditch and considerable original detail. It is a most distinctive structure built in medieval style, said to have been designed after Warwick Castle at the wish of the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, the landowner at that time. The main structure is largely complete although there are signs of deterioration in details such as the exposed ironwork.

Picklecombe Fort to the immediate S was sold and developed for apartments in the late 1970s. The barrack block stands empty and semi-derelict; although works were proposed some 3 to 4 years ago, they were not carried out due to the recession. However the owner, Mr Jessup, is now about to begin work to create residential accommodation. His intention is to retain the original outward appearance of the structure, working within planning conditions. This would seem to be a good solution for the future of the building and its surroundings, provided that as many original details as possible are retained and that full recording is carried out in advance of the work. If all possible co-operation between the local authority and the developer is maintained, the full potential of the building could be sensitively achieved.



PICKLECOMBE BATTERY - VIEW FROM N



PICKLECOMBE BATTERY - VIEW FROM S



GRENVILLE BATTERY (MAKER REDOUBT NO. 4)

CAWSAND FORT (1863) SAM Cornwall 911 Structure also listed Grade 2

The fort was built on the site of an earlier battery after recommendations in 1858 and is therefore contemporary with Tregantle and Scraesdon. Its purpose was to provide defences against ships entering the bay and to cover the shore line with fire. It continued to be occupied until the end of WW1 and was finally given up by MOD in 1926. Until recently when it was acquired by Peacock Properties the site and buildings were derelict. There has since been a major conversion programme, the barrack block has been refurbished and changed into modern accommodation and new houses, garages etc have been constructed along the top of the ramparts facing the sea. In spite of its changed appearance the fort is still largely complete. The central traverse with granite gun platforms and underground magazines with stairs and lifts is unchanged; there are also a number of original fixtures and fittings. Further gun platforms have been incorporated in the landscaping of the interior and several other gun positions have been retained. However the extensions and conversions have masked part of the original barrack block and some of the new housing involved the loss of sections of the rampart. Part of the ditch disappeared when garages were built and there has been further infilling and dumping of material in the glacis area W of the fort. During clearance work for building some of the earlier battery features were uncovered. This site is an example of development

which although it has had some advantages in preserving the structures was allowed to go ahead without any detailed recording although it had full scheduled status. Thus it is not known what features, fixtures and fittings may have been lost.



HAWKINS BATTERY - VIEW OF INTERIOR



CAWSAND FORT - INTERIOR VIEW FROM 1779 BATTERY POSITION



CAWSAND FORT - EXTERIOR VIEW FROM S.

WHITESAND BAY (or TREGONHAWKE) BATTERY 1890 SAM Cornwall 978

Built to prevent warships lying off the coast from threatening the dockyard with high-angle fire. Constructed in the form of a pentagon, it was enclosed by a ditch with caponiers reached by tunnels from the interior. It was also protected by earthworks; the site was 'invisible' on the cliff top and designed to provide plunging fire. The main battery was out of use by WW1 but a practice battery was established to the SW and this continued to be in use for training until the 1950s.

Some time in the 1970s a caravan and holiday centre was established by the previous owner and this has since been much developed by Mr Wintle, the present owner, causing considerable alteration to the site although essential features remain. The original entrance has gone, lengths of the ditch are infilled, earthworks have been disturbed and some permanent chalets constructed; these developments are very unfortunate considering the scheduled status of the site. However in recent years an application for more chalets was refused by the planning authority.

It is apparent that there has been a lack of willingness to co-operate with the various authorities and to fully respect the requirements of scheduling so that commercial aspects have taken priority, in spite of the owner reportedly being a member of the Fortress Study Group.

It was made clear that access to the site for the purposes of this appraisal was not convenient at this time and that the owner was not available as it was a very busy period for him. It is obviously a very popular holiday centre and well run for that purpose; if goodwill can be

built up with the owner it may be possible to prevent further unacceptable changes and even to encourage suitable presentation at the site for the benefit of its many visitors.

## CONCLUSION

The area includes land defences built to cover the peninsula between the St German's river and the sea, which might be called the Western Defences. These defences date from the late C16 (Mount Edgcumbe Blockhouse) but there were not numerous additions until the later C18 and again in the second half of the C19.

Many of these sites remain as visible and historic reminders of the importance of the area in the nation's past.

The problems W of the Sound are basically comparable to those on the Devon side of the Tamar e.g. the varying status of each site, the comparative lack of detailed information and survey until recently and the very slow development of a co-ordinated conservation strategy. However this area has not had to contend with the pressures of city development and density of population as elsewhere. The existence of the Mount Edgcumbe Estate and also the Country Park has been important in this respect.

With growing awareness of the need to conserve heritage areas and the development of tourism/leisure facilities it is not too late to encourage some low key presentation whilst preserving the rural setting of sites, which is so important in this area. The local authority, Caradon District Council, seem fully aware of the opportunities and the scope for such schemes and are holding a budget ready to use for interpretation projects. They are also investigating the possibility of applying for European Union funds specifically available for abandoned military sites.

The September 1994 Caradon Local Plan Policy CL26 states...'the District will support measures to preserve the Rame forts which provide interpretation and access where possible'. The Cornwall Archaeological Unit will be consulted on proposals for development within the designated Areas of Great Historical Value and under Policy CL27 priority will be given to the 'protection, preservation and enhancement' of SAMs and other historic sites. If development affects such sites there will be a 'presumption in favour of their preservation in situ' and developers may be required to arrange an evaluation 'before the planning application is determined'. The Council hope to extend their coastal conservation service to the Rame peninsula. The Groundwork Trust are also working to produce trails and information for the public. An interpretation/visitor centre seems to be a priority. With the co-operation of one or other of the site owners it might be situated at one of the defence structures but safety, security and other works needed are likely to be overwhelmingly expensive so that the possibility of a small purpose-built centre should be considered. Conservation bodies might be persuaded to provide volunteer stewards for seasonal opening. A holistic approach giving details of the local environment (fauna, flora etc) as well as the historic detail would seem very practical. The proposed MOD Conservation Group already anticipates this.

Some developments allowed in the past, though not ideal, have it must be admitted prevented major deterioration which has occurred at little used sites. Care must be taken in the future to record fully all extant detail in advance of any changes and statutory protection needs extending in many cases.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### DOCUMENTS:

PLYMOUTH DEFENCES ASSESSMENT 1994-5.....ANDREW PYE  
PLYMOUTH'S DEFENCES 1990.....F.W. WOODWARD  
PLYMOUTH LOCAL NATURE RESERVE PLANS 1994.....A. STEVENS  
PLYMOUTH DEFENCES HERITAGE TRAIL STUDY 1992.....GROUNDWORK TRUST  
CITY OF PLYMOUTH LOCAL PLAN FIRST ALTERATION 1992  
CARADON LOCAL PLAN DEPOSIT VERSION 1994  
Diagrams and plans, by permission, from the above.

### Information also provided by:-

Owners and occupiers of sites

Ministry of Defence Land Agents

Office of Flag Officer, RN Plymouth

Lt Col Clark i/c MOD Properties

Plymouth City Council: Planning Department, City Archaeological Officer,

Nature Conservation Officer, Land & Properties Section and

Parks & Amenities Manager

South Hams District Conservation Officer

South Hams Environmental Trust

Caradon District Planning Department

Caradon District Conservation Officer

The Groundwork Trust

Major F W Woodward

Michelmore Hughes for Mount Edgcumbe Estate

Mrs C Gaskell-Brown for Mount Edgcumbe Country Park

## APPENDIX

Appropriate detailed extracts from the Defences Assessment (A Pye) have been sent to the following owners, occupiers and interested parties:-

Ministry of Defence Land Agents.....	Ernesettle Battery Staddon Fort Staddon Point Battery Bovisand Battery Watch House Battery
Plymouth Ocean Projects.....	Staddon Point Battery Bovisand Battery
Office of Flag Officer RN Plymouth.....	Devonport Lines Mount Wise Defences
Knowle Primary School, Plymouth.....	Knowle Battery
British Telecom.....	Forder Battery
St Edwards Primary School, Plymouth.....	Forder Battery
Plymouth City Council Engineers.....	Austin Fort
Mugridge & Anderson.....	Laira Battery
Mr Larson.....	Stamford Fort
Speedwell School, Bristol.....	Watch House Battery
South Hams District Council.....	Lentney Battery Renney Battery
South Hams Environmental Trust.....	Lentney Battery Renney Battery

### Note:

As the second section of the Defences Assessment (Caradon) by Andrew Pye is still in preparation, detailed extracts will be sent to the appropriate owners/occupiers and interested parties when these become available.

CIRCULATION LIST

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL PLANNING DEPT  
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING DEPT  
CARADON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING DEPT  
PLYMOUTH CITY MUSEUM (S.PRICE)  
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL SITES AND MONUMENTS REGISTER  
CORNWALL COUNTY COUNCIL SITES AND MONUMENTS REGISTER  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE LAND AGENTS (E.GILES)  
EXETER ARCHAEOLOGY (A.PYE)  
FORTRESS STUDY GROUP SOUTH WEST (MAJOR F WOODWARD)  
PLYMOUTH GROUNDWORK TRUST (J.BRESLIN)  
LT COL A CLARK, DEV/COR SEATON BARRACKS  
MOUNT EDGCUMBE ESTATE  
MOUNT EDGCUMBE COUNTRY PARK  
PLYMOUTH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
ENGLISH HERITAGE FIELD MONUMENT WARDEN (C.VULLIAMY)