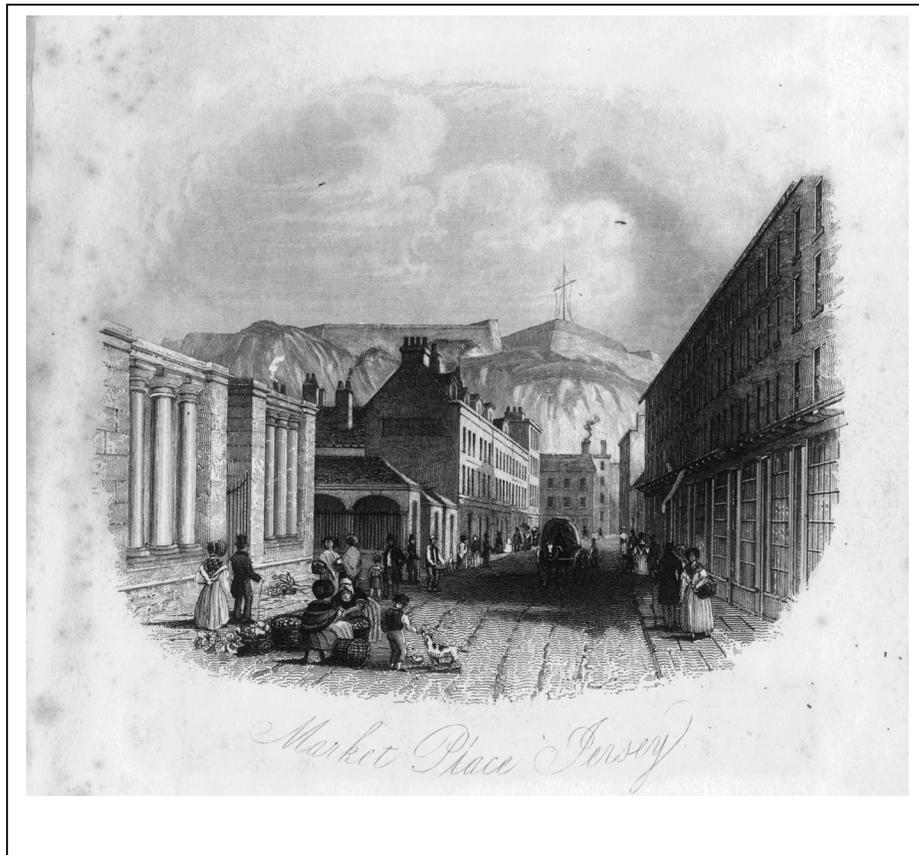


A CONSERVATION STATEMENT  
FOR  
**FORT REGENT**  
**JERSEY**



Prepared for  
EDUCATION SPORT & CULTURE  
September 2006

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 FORT REGENT: THE CONSERVATION STATEMENT

The need to consider issues of Fort Regent's future maintenance and use resulted in Education, Sport & Culture commissioning a Conservation Statement for the Fort in May 2003. Antony Gibb was appointed and a project initiation meeting was held at Fort Regent on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2003. Research began immediately and consultation letters were sent out in early July 2003. A draft of Part 1 (Understanding) was circulated in 2003/04 and a draft of Parts 2 & 3 (Significance and Policies) were circulated in August 2004. A final draft was presented to the Education, Sport & Culture Committee in May 2005 and was endorsed in January 2006 by the Minister for Education Sport & Culture.

## 1.2 THE STUDY AREA

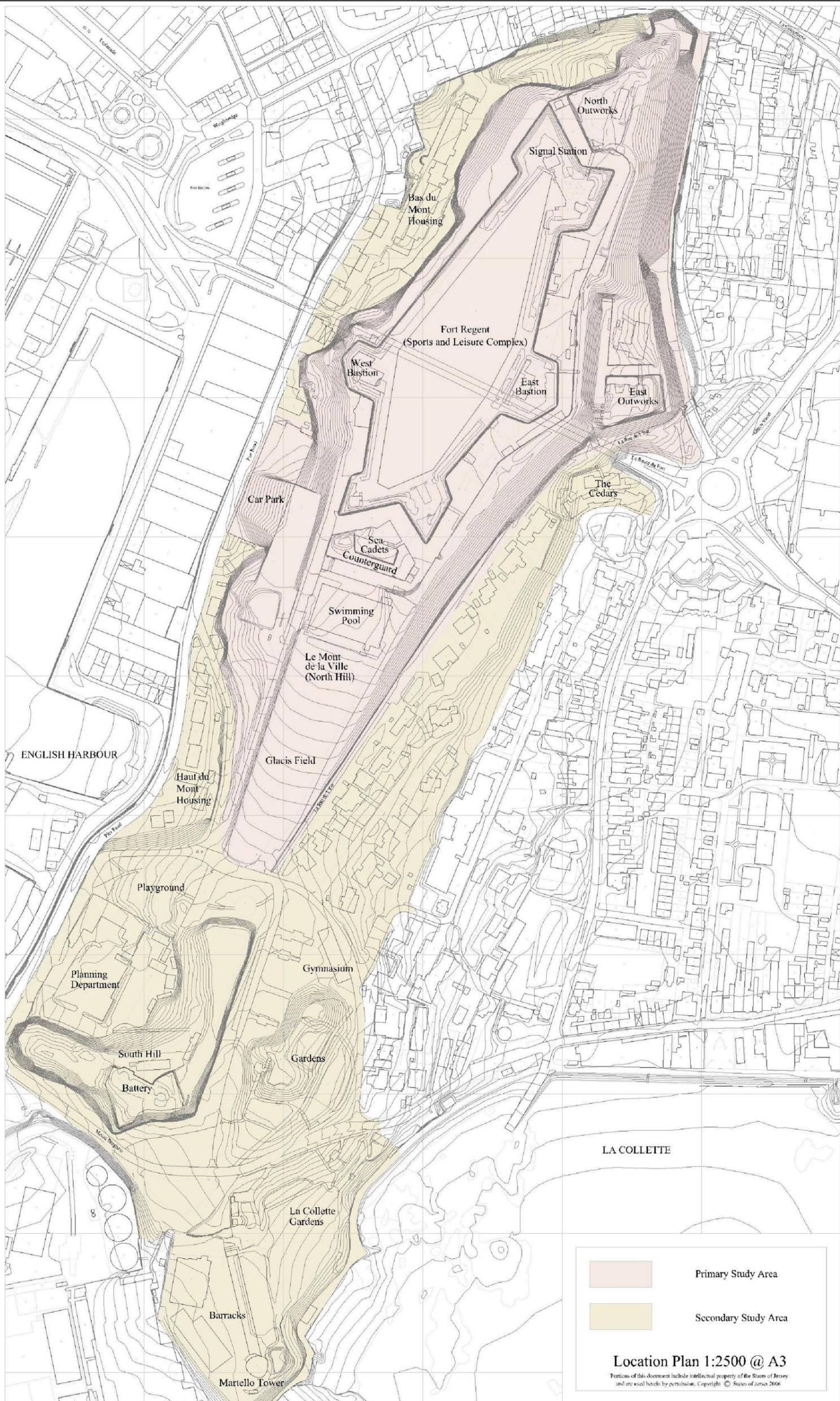
The primary area under consideration in this document consists of Fort Regent as constructed in the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including the Glacis Field (with swimming pool), the North-East Outworks and the Signal Station. The scarp area around the Fort is also included, as is Rue de l'Est. The wider area considered as part of the statement includes South Hill and La Collette gardens and barracks, both of which were traditionally part of the defensive arrangements above St Helier and its harbour, and are now an important adjunct to the Fort itself in ecological and amenity terms.

Some consideration of the wider landscape has been included because of the historical and scenic linkage between the core site and this wider landscape setting. This relates principally to key views of the Fort from various points.

Fort Regent is situated on the Mont de la Ville (Town Hill, sometimes also known as the Montagne de la Ville) and the Petit Mont de la Ville (South Hill), which rises above the town of St Helier to its south and east.

The area around Fort Regent is now built up where once it was primarily either rural (to the east) or foreshore (to the south and west). The views from South Hill have been altered significantly in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the construction of the power station chimney and subsequently the reclamation of the La Collette light industrial zone and area West of Albert from the sea.

An undeveloped corridor of land runs from the Mont de la Ville through South Hill/Mount Bingham and on to the sea through La Collette gardens. This provides some indication of the whole site as it might have been in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, prior to its use first for military purposes and later as building land to accommodate the expansion of St Helier in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The primary site comprises 8.9 hectares (22 acres or 50 verges) of land close to the heart of St Helier, and together with the wider site forms an area of approximately 13.5 hectares (33 acres or 75 verges).



### 1.3 NATURE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

A Conservation Statement, as the name implies, is concerned with the protection of our cultural and natural resources so that they can be sustained into the future. Statements are usually specific to a site or place, and seek to explain what it is, why it is significant, and whether there are any threats to it or areas where its significance is vulnerable. Policies are then established so that the significance can be retained, or even enhanced.

The Conservation Statement process involves a series of work stages, and these are reflected in the format of the report. Before a site's importance can be assessed and policies developed to protect it, it must be understood. This involves both an examination of the place - its fabric, features and landscape - and examination of sources relating to it. The latter may include primary records and archives relating to its history, archaeology, ecology etc, and secondary sources such as published books (site guides, histories, itineraries etc) and illustrations (maps, paintings, photographs etc). The process does not usually involve new research and in this respect the document has been helped by works previously published about the Fort (Davies 1971) and specific aspects of the Fort and environs found in the Bulletins of the Société Jersiaise, guides to St Helier, etc.

This is not a Condition Survey or Management Plan. It does not seek to provide detailed instructions on how the place should be looked after. Rather it is intended to determine what is important about the site and why, so that any threats to that significance can be identified. It then establishes policies for retaining (and where relevant enhancing) significance in the future.

### 1.4 STEERING GROUP

A Steering Group was set up to guide the production of the Statement and members were:

Vic Bourgoise ó Deputy Director, Education Sport & Culture  
(position taken over by Derek De La Haye, Assistant Director, Sport & Leisure)  
Peter Thorne ó Director of Planning, Planning & Environment  
Stuart Fell ó Assistant Director Design & Conservation, Planning & Environment  
(to June 2005)

### 1.5 CONSULTATION PROCESS

Consultation was carried out for each section of the Conservation Statement as it was produced. A list of consultees was discussed and agreed by the Steering Group, which included national and local amenity societies, States Departments, politicians and individuals with an interest in Fort Regent. A list of those consulted (not all of whom responded) can be found below:

Mike Freeman, Principal Ecologist, Environment Department  
Elizabeth Jeffries, Chief Executive, Jersey Tourism  
Donna Le Marrec, Jersey Tourism  
Captain Brian Nibbs, CEO Jersey Harbours  
John Richardson, Public Services Department  
Chris Sampson, Public Services Department

States of Jersey Property Services

Connétable Simon Crowcroft, Parish of St Helier  
John Stievenard, Assistant Director, Parish of St Helier  
The Chairman, Centre Ville Group

Michael Day, Jersey Heritage Trust  
Jonathan Carter, Jersey Heritage Trust  
Marcus Binney, Save Jersey's Heritage  
Charles Alluto, National Trust for Jersey  
Michael Ginns, Channel Islands Occupation Society

Francis Corbet, Société Jersiaise  
Chris Aubin, Société Jersiaise Archaeology Section  
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Neil Molyneux, Société Jersiaise Archaeology Section  
Jean Arthur, Société Jersiaise Archives Section  
Sue Hardy, Société Jersiaise Bibliography Section  
John Pinel, Société Jersiaise Botany Section  
Roger Long, Société Jersiaise Entomology Section  
Chick Anthony, Société Jersiaise Environment Section  
Paul Craig, Société Jersiaise Environment Section  
Dr. John Renouf, Société Jersiaise Geology Section  
Mary Louise Backhurst, Société Jersiaise History Section  
Frank Falle, Société Jersiaise History Section  
Bob Le Sueur, Société Jersiaise History Section  
M Dryden, Société Jersiaise Ornithology Section  
A Denton, Société Jersiaise Textile & Costume Section

Matthew Slocombe, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings  
Elain Harwood, English Heritage  
The Georgian Society  
Dr Richard Holder, The Victorian Society

John Oliver, Fort Users Group  
Pauline Paintin, Fort Users Group  
M. Newcombe, Regency House Residents Association  
Peter Rendle (formerly of Breakwell & Davies)  
Warwick Rodwell, Archaeologist  
Jonathan Segal, Modern Hotels

## 1.6 AUTHORSHIP

This document has been prepared by Antony Gibb, with additional material supplied by Linda Myers and Francis Corbet. Mike Freeman of the Environmental Services Unit (2006 Environment Department) has supplied information on the ecology of the site and John Renouf on its geology.

## 1.7 RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES & LEGISLATION

Reference has been made to the Island Plan (2002), which sets out policies that affect the place. These are:

General Policies	G11	Sites of Special Interest
	G12	Archaeological Resources
	G13	Buildings & Places of Archaeological & Historic Interest
	G14	Protection of Trees
Countryside	C3	Biodiversity
Built Environment	BE6	Action Areas
Tourism & Recreation	TR3	New or Extended Tourism & Cultural Attractions
	TR6	Land for Recreation
Wildlife Law		Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000

## 2 UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

This section of the Statement provides a description of the site, including geology, archaeology, history, architecture, ecology and management. The description forms the first step in defining the importance of the Fort and its setting. The text begins with a chronological summary of the site and landscape development.

### 2.2 GEOLOGY

The outcrop of rock on which Fort Regent is constructed (including South Hill), consists of a fine-grained, dull red granite, sometimes with small yellowish feldspar phenocrysts which is readily distinguishable from all other granite in the Island. The islet of Elizabeth Castle is of the same type of granite. The best general account is to be found in AC Bishop & G Bisson (1989).

Bishop (1964a, 1964b), HG Smith (1936), D Velde (1970) and GJ Lees (1975) are among those writing on the lamprophyre dykes occurring in the quarried faces of South Hill, while Renouf & Bishop (1971) described the geology of the road tunnel and linked it to extant exposures in the Parade Ground of the Fort.

Raised beaches are a feature of the perimeter cliffs of both Town Hill and South Hill. The lowermost beach within present tide levels is hidden beneath the Midland Bank premises in Hill Street (Renouf 1971). Of the two 18m beach exposures, one is hidden beneath ornamental gardens on the north side of the east tunnel entrance and the other appears as a smoothed wave platform remnant to the south of the south-west corner of South Hill on the far side of the road. The high beach at over 30m at South Hill (Naish 1919, Keen 1993) is of particular importance as being very rare in Armorica (Lower Normandy, Brittany and the Channel Islands). It is currently being researched by Drs John Renouf and Les James of Reading University as part of a wide ranging study of Channel Islands raised beaches and old sea levels.

Of substantial interest to the geology of the Town Hill are the results obtained from the construction of the Cavernø constructed beneath the North Hill in the 1990s as a holding tank to take drainage overflow and run-off in storm conditions. However, this data has not been used and much of it is now in files in the offices of the various contractors involved. A university department could usefully be encouraged to get an M.Sc. student to study and use the data.

The late Arthur Mourant investigated the use of Fort Regent granite in megalithic monuments in Jersey (Mourant 1963). The granite is found extensively in these monuments, such as the Hougue Bie where 18 major stones are in Fort Regent granite, and Ville ès Nouaux where the majority of the 100 or so stones are of Fort Regent granite.

For information about building stone see *Labour & Materials* Section 3.3.6.2.

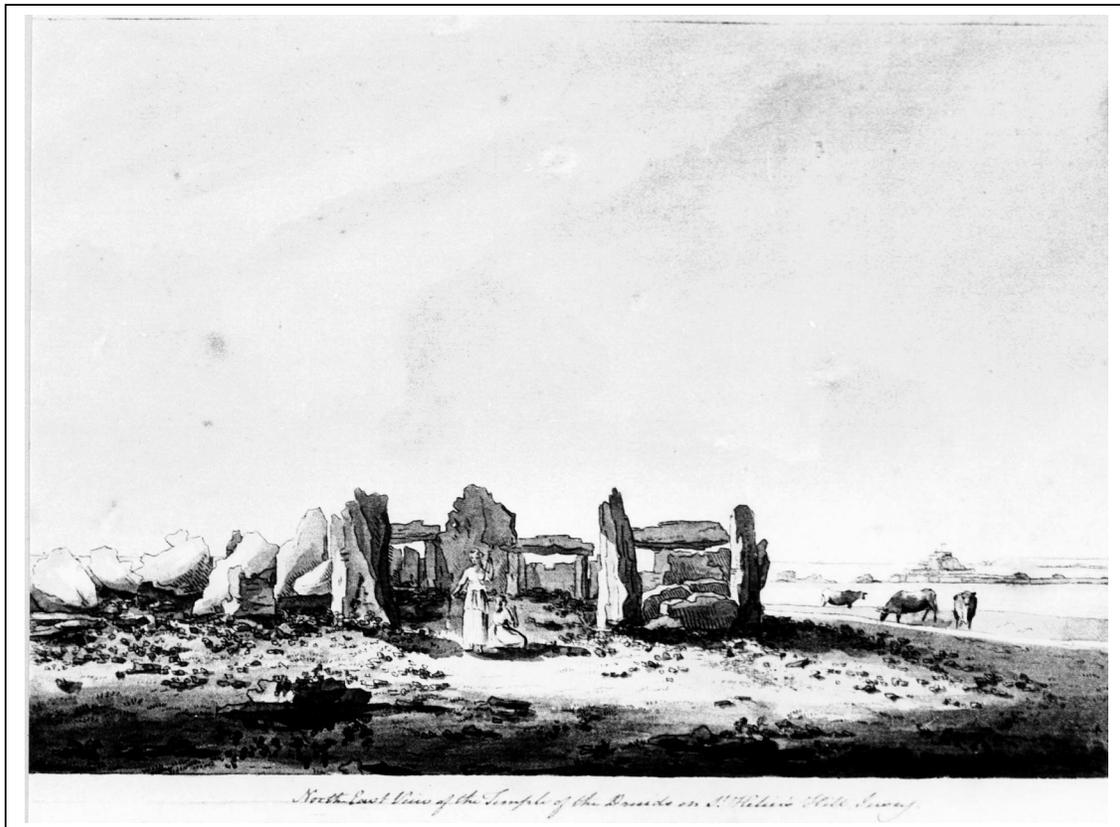
## 2.3 CHRONOLOGY

### 2.3.1 *The Pre-history of Le Mont de la Ville*

A megalithic monument, or dolmen, once stood on the Mont de la Ville. It seems that the dolmen may have been part of a complex ritual landscape with other groups of stones on or near the Town Hill which have now also been lost (Hibbs 1985).

Conway, who was Governor at the time (1772-1795), described the dolmen's discovery in 1785: "It then happened that the colonel of the St Helier's militia, wanting to level the ground for the exercise of his corps, the workmen soon struck on the stones, and the temple they discovered has afterwards been cleared as it now stands" (Conway 1787).

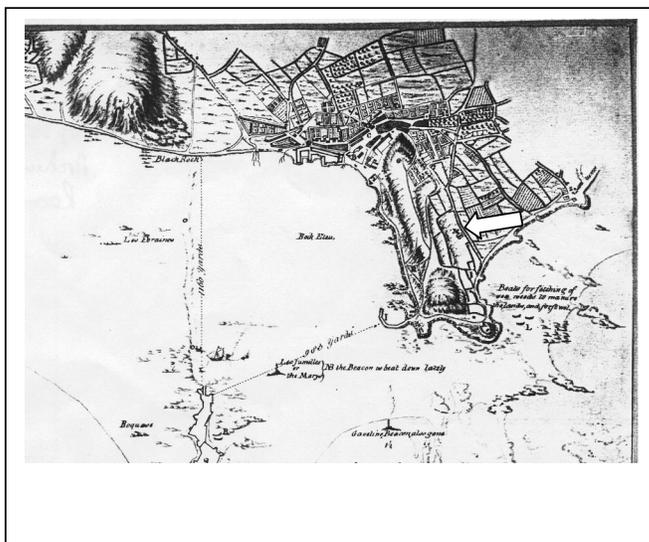
The monument engraved by Grose in his *Antiquities* in 1787 - was presented to Conway in recognition of his services to Jersey by the Vingtaine de la Ville. The Vingtaine met on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1787 and voted the gift, and the dolmen was re-erected at Conway's home at Park Place, near Henley on Thames. Not all the stones appear to have made the journey, however, and the re-construction includes some English sarsen sandstone blocks, but 46 are large Jersey stones and 29 are Fort Regent granite. Some of the dolmen stones were also incorporated into a bridge at Henley on Thames.



*The Dolmen on La Mont de la Ville*  
Courtesy of the Société Jersiaise

### 2.3.2 The Middle Ages, Late Middle Ages and later 16<sup>th</sup> century

The Mont de la Ville and Petit Mont de la Ville appear to have been common land for most of the Middle Ages. Few buildings encroached upon it. The Chapel of Notre Dame des Pas lay at its foot to the south-east and is shown on Peter Meade's map of 1737. It appears to the east of South Hill on a map of 1783, as do other buildings. The chapel was repaired and used as the Wesleyan's first chapel in Jersey from 1782, but was blown up by the Board of Ordnance in 1814, to clear the field of fire from the lines above. On a plan of 1822 its site was being quarried, let for that purpose by the Board of Ordnance.



*Peter Meade, 1737  
The Chapelle des Pas is arrowed  
Courtesy of the Société Jersiaise*

In 1254 a letter from Henry III to the Bailiff of Jersey challenged the Seigneur of Samares by what right he hunted rabbits on the Town Hill, but whatever rights had existed appear to have ceased by the late Middle Ages. In 1550 Edward VI ordained "Because on occasion of foreign invasion we be informed that you have no place of strength to retire unto, we require you to convey your Town unto the Hill above the same, which we are informed may, with little charge be made strong and defensible." (CGD)

The suggestion was met with little enthusiasm and the town remained at the base of the hill. In 1591 consent was given by the Procureurs of the Vingtaine de la Ville (Nicolas Lempriere, Pierre de Souslemont and Philippe Journeaux) to "alienate and bargain" in perpetuity a quantity and parcel of the Mont de St Helier from the point in the east called the Chambre es Dames to Rocquereuse for the employment of fortifications from here on without prejudice to the rest of the Vingtaine (JA L/F/22/E/1, 1591).

The document of a 1641 copy of an original dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 1591 refers to a promise from Elizabeth I in letters patent to fortify and rampart the height and summit of the Mont de la Ville for the good defence of the town. The document states that these actions should not be undertaken without the consent of the inhabitants of the Vingtaine, who have the special right

and usage of the common and pasture of the Montagne. Two years later it was suggested that the hill should be fortified by means of a bulwark of earth (14<sup>th</sup> May 1593 ETN).

Despite the clear intention to fortify the Town Hill, however, it is not clear if any works were carried out in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It seems likely that they were not: Mont Orgueil, which had been the principal fortress of the mediaeval period, was superseded by Elizabeth Castle from the later 16<sup>th</sup> century. Paul Ivy, one of the best known Tudor military engineers, visited Jersey in 1594 and carried out work at Mont Orgueil and designed Elizabeth Castle. Maps of the period also suggest that there were no fortifications on the Town Hill at this time. The 1545 Map of the Island shows St. Aubin's Fort only on the south of the Island and *Poppinjay's Platte* of 1563 shows Mont Orgueil, St. Aubin's Fort and the Abbey Church and St. Helier's Chapel quite clearly, but there is no indication of fortifications on the Town Hill.

### 2.3.3 The 17<sup>th</sup> century

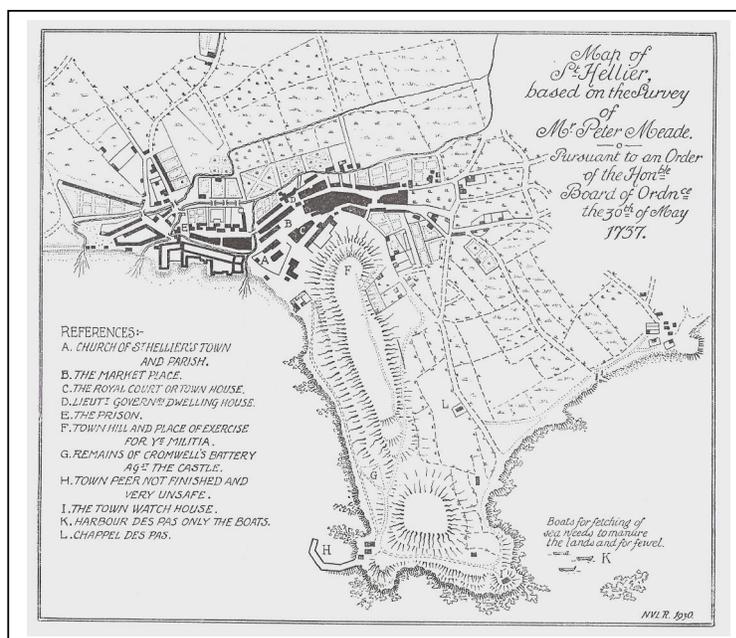
The 1606 Mercator Map of the Island shows St. Aubin's Fort, the then new Elizabeth Castle and Mont Orgueil but there is no indication of a fort on the Town Hill. The Dumaresq map of 1685 (*A New & Accurat Map on His Majestie's Island of Jersey Drawn from the survey of Philip Dumaresq Esq., Seigneur of Samares, by Tho. Lempriere Philomat*), again shows St. Aubin's Fort, Elizabeth Castle and Mont Orgueil only.

Discussion continued, however. Orders in Council and Acts of the States show that in June 1621 there was an order approving a report in respect of the fortifications of the island. (Book 5 p196 PRO). In December 1627, the Calendar of State Papers shows that in response to a threat from the French, notes were made and addressed to Viscount Conway showing the danger to the Island of Jersey and making proposals for its defence. The notes include the suggestion that an engineer be sent over to superintend the entrenchments upon the hill opposite Castle Elizabeth.

Again it is not clear whether an engineer was sent, or whether entrenchments were constructed at this time and the next known use of the Mont de la Ville for military purposes was during the Civil War.

In 1651 Colonel Heane, the Parliamentary commander, tackled Mont Orgueil - which opened its gates to him and then moved on to Elizabeth Castle. George Carteret, loyal to the Crown, had retreated there. Heane saw the taming of the castle as gunners' work and he built batteries at the end of the bridge in the churchyard and on the Town Hill. Apparently the Rector of St Helier, Pierre D'Assigny, visited the homes of pro-Parliamentary supporters on 30 September 1643 and bade them immediately after Communion on Sunday afternoon bring spades to the Mont de la Ville, and build a fort to bombard the Castle that was bombarding the Town (Balleine p627). The distance to the castle from these batteries was such that Heane had to send to Portsmouth for larger cannon. Three large mortars were installed at the foot of the Town Hill, the largest taking a bomb containing 40lbs of powder. The third shot of this mortar landed on the old Abbey Church at the castle, destroying not only the church but also the castle's store of powder, leading to the eventual surrender of the castle. The location of the Town Hill battery is noted on Peter Meade's map of 1737 as the remains of Cromwell's

Battery against the castle and is probably where States housing on Pier Road exists today (Haut du Mont), and is the former site of the military hospital.



Meade, 1737  
Copied by Rybot 1931

Heane's battery was positioned to minimize the distance to Elizabeth Castle for his guns and would not have been anything other than a temporary structure. Certainly fortifications on the Mont de la Ville are not mentioned by Peter Heylyn in his *Survey of France with an account of the Isles of Guernsey, and Jersey* of 1656, nor are they shown in the *West Prospect of Elizabeth Castle in Jersey* published with Falle's *History of Jersey*, first published in 1694.

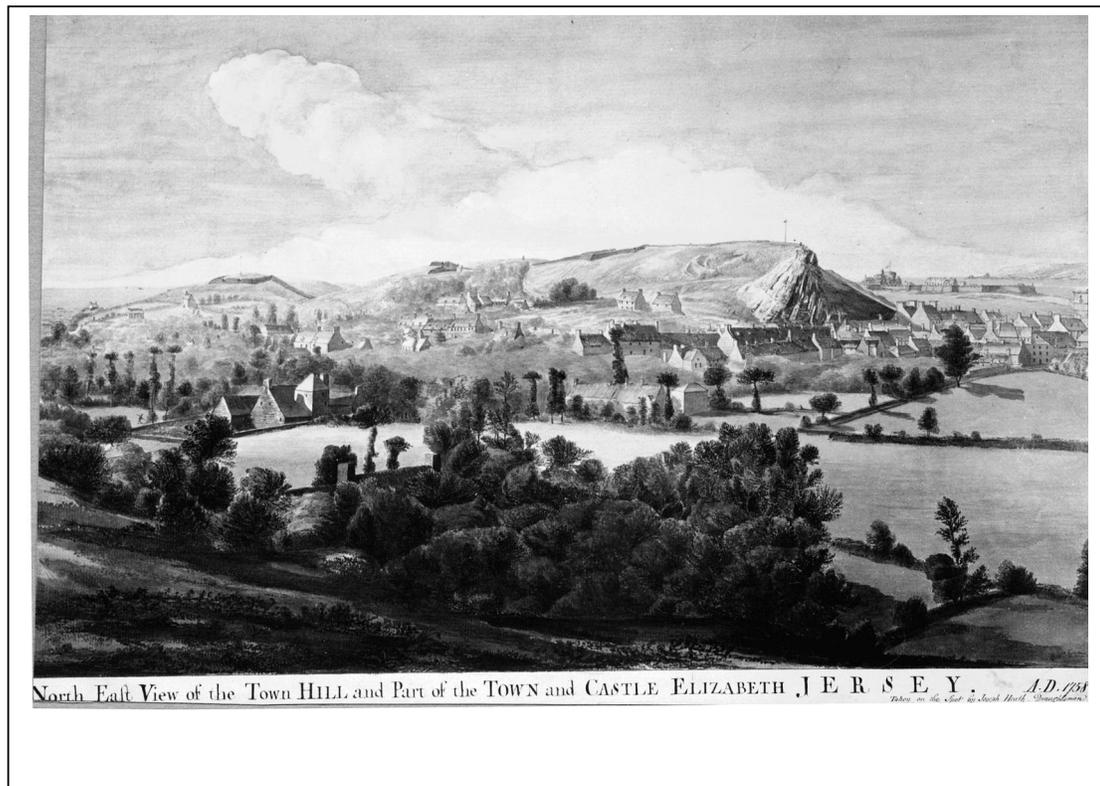
### 2.3.4 The 18<sup>th</sup> century Lines

During the 18<sup>th</sup> century there was increasing concern about the threat of French invasion.

It appears that although there had been talk of the need for further fortifications against invasion, little was undertaken until the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Falle's *History of Jersey* describes the Town Hill not in military terms but 'As it is common, it should be beneficial for the sake of herbage, and to the gentlemen and ladies it affords a lovely walk with a most extended prospect on all sides.' Meade's map of 1737, prepared 'pursuant to an order of the Honble. Board of Ordnance' shows only the use of the Town Hill as a 'place of exercise' for the Militia, with no defensive structures. Grazing probably continued until the construction of the fort: cattle are shown in Grose's view of the Dolmen in 1795, and even allowing for picturesque composition, this was a likely use of common ground.

In 1756, though, an engineer, James Bramham, was commissioned to prepare a further plan of the Town Hill by the Board of Ordnance. At this time the French were threatening invasion of England and Bramham's visit would have been part of the Board of Ordnance's response. His plan shows ditches and intrenchments running along the east side of the Town Hill and South Hill. The walls are of earth rather than stone and Bramham's plan gives sections of the proposed lines at various points. Bramham noted that the chief problem with the Montagne de la Ville was the provision of sufficient water.

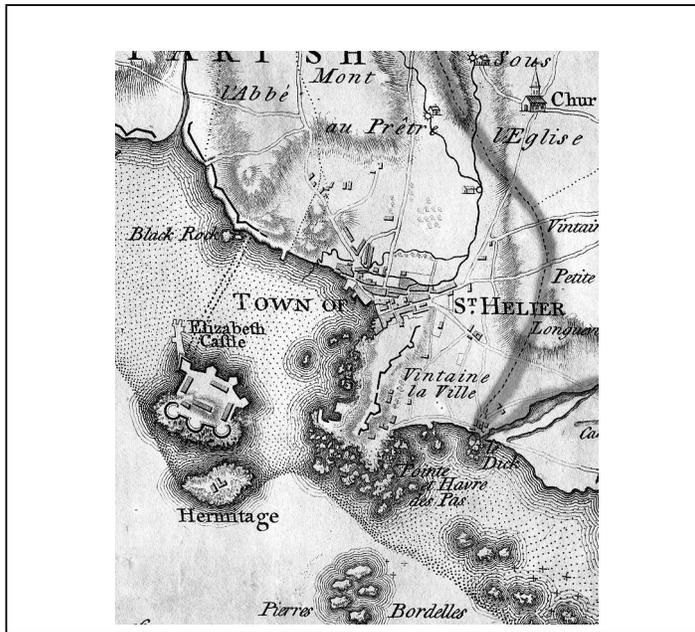
In 1758 an Order in Council included proposals from the Board of Ordnance for the defences of the Island noting that "whereas it has been this day humbly represented to His Majesty that the poverty of the inhabitants of the Island is as to render them unable to finish at their expense the Lines (a connected series of fieldworks) upon St. Helier's Hill" The order in Council goes on to say that the lines should be completed by the Board of Ordnance and the necessary cannon and stores for them "sent thither" The lines are shown on a view of St Helier of 1757 (*The Town of St Helier from the NE*, by J Heath) which also shows some intriguing earth structures on the east side of the hill below the summit, which are unidentified.



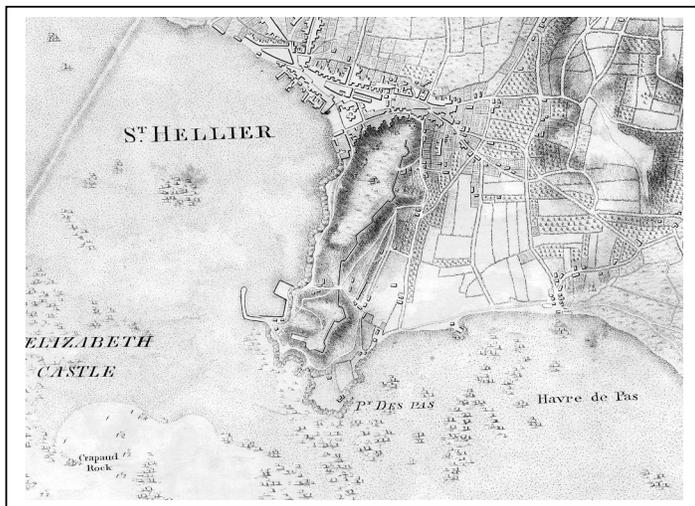
*The Town of St Helier from the NE, J Heath 1757*  
 Courtesy of the Société Jersiaise

Subsequent plans show the defensive lines in place. The 1782 plan by "An Officer" (*A Plan of the Island of Jersey with a sketch of the batteries, redoubts and intrenchments raised along the coastal defence of the Island by an officer* published William Fayden, Charing Cross 2<sup>nd</sup>

Edition 1/9/1783) depicts the lines not in the manner of stone batteries, such as that at La Coupe, suggesting that the lines were indeed earthworks. The Richmond Map, published 1795 but actually surveyed in 1787 (*An accurat survey and measurement of the Island of Jersey surveyed by order of His Grace the Duke of Richmond FMC, Master General of the Ordnance Eng. John Warner 1795*) also shows a wall or intrenchment, but in greater detail. The dolmen in the centre of the Mont de la Ville is also shown. The map indicates the topography of the site particularly well and it is easy to see where the Glacis Field was later to be situated.



*'An Officer', 1782*  
 Courtesy of the Société Jersiaise



*Richmond, 1795*  
 Courtesy of the Société Jersiaise

The Town and South Hills were further mapped in 1806. On the 14<sup>th</sup> May that year Lieutenant-Colonel John Humfrey - who was placed in charge of the new fort's construction - prepared a *Plan of the Ordnance, Land and Buildings adjoining the Town Hill of St Helier, shewing also the new works carrying on and the way it is proposed to form the ground lately purchased.* (PRO WO 55/2322). The drawing is in two parts: a plan of the entire complex extending from Snow Hill to La Collette (Pointe des Pas) showing the then current state of the defences and an overlay showing Humfrey's proposals for the fort.

The plan as existing shows a redoubt dominating Snow Hill linked by earthworks to the original field fort at the northern end of the fortifications. The complex was approximately 400ft long and 180ft wide and contained a battery of four cannon directed eastwards in much the same position as the current mortar battery in the Northern Redoubts. It is possible that the earth bank present today is a remnant of the earlier field fort as the bank appears to have been made up of wind blown loess and rubble and is not a natural feature. Infantry lines extended south from the field fort along the ridge of the hill leading to two redoubts on the north and south slopes of South Hill. The main defences faced eastward, showing that Humfrey's predecessors believed that an attack would come from the east, the west being defended by cliffs. The tower on the end of the Pointe des Pas is clearly shown beside the Artificers Barracks (now the TA) along with barracks on the South Hill site where the Planning Department & Public Services buildings now stand and a hospital on the site of Heane's battery.

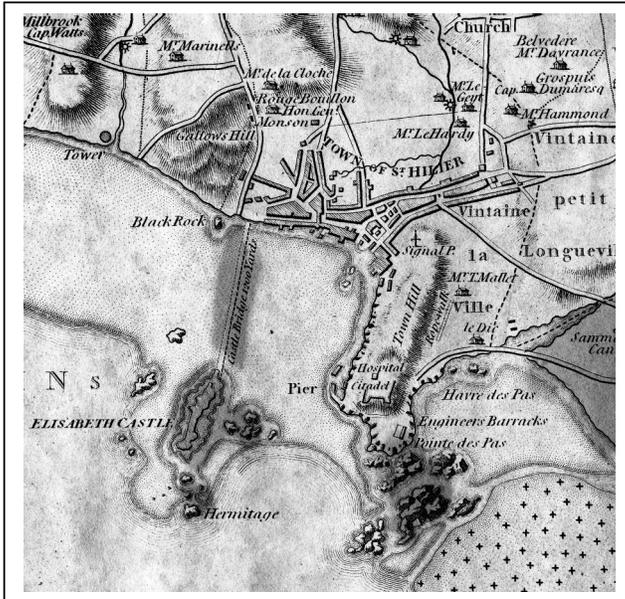
The 1806 plan shows not only the main complex but also the surrounding area, the houses on Pier Road, the boundary of Ordnance Land, the road around South Hill, the English and (now called) French Harbours, and on the east side of the complex, Green Street and the Rope Walk with its ancillary buildings.

### 2.3.5 Other Works of Fortification Before 1806

The fortifications on the Town Hill had been improved since the lines were first constructed in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1772 General Conway was appointed Governor of Jersey. 1779 was again a year of crisis, with invasion by the French expected throughout Britain; 5,000 French troops under the Prince of Nassau did indeed invade Jersey in May that year. The systematic use of gun towers for beach defence in the Channel Islands was the novel military response. Conway had proposed the towers in a report in May 1778, but by 1779 only four had been built. Twenty-two of the thirty-two planned were built by 1794. The inadequacies of Elizabeth Castle as the main military stronghold of the Island had been demonstrated by the French invasion of 1779 and second invasion of 1781 and Conway, working initially with the officer in charge of engineering, Mulcaster, and later with Captain John Eveleigh (First Commanding Officer Royal Engineers OCRE), started improving the fortifications on South Hill in the 1780s. The Bouillon Map of 1799 by James Stead (*To his Serene Highness the Prince of Bouillon, Captain in the Royal Navy. This map as a testimony of gratitude for favors conferred, His Most Humbly Dedicated by His Highness's Most Obligated and Obedient Servant*) shows a Citadel at the south end of the site, demonstrating that at this time South Hill was still

considered the principal fortress, rather than the Town Hill, which is named as such. The Signal station (=Signal P') and the hospital on the site of Cromwell's battery are also shown.



*Bouillon, 1799*  
 Courtesy of the Société Jersiaise

When work started on Fort Regent nearly 20 years later, the principal decisions on its form and location had already been made. Conway's work was not wasted, however, and the two redoubts on South Hill formed an integral part of the defensive complex. The southern redoubt is shown on the Le Gros plan of 1834 (JA L/F/120/A/103) - still exists at the southeast corner of South Hill. The northern redoubt was probably lost to quarrying at South Hill. It had already been demolished by April 1822, when a plan showing alterations of the Ordnance Ground near St Helier's carried out since 1806 was prepared by Major Fanshaw, the Commanding Officer of the Royal Engineers (WO 44/74/7). Its removal probably improved the field of fire down the Glacis, and the flat lawn of the gardens above the turning area today probably represents a remnant of the redoubt's interior.



*Le Gros, 1834*  
 JerseyArchive L/F/120/A/103  
 Courtesy of the Jersey Heritage Trust

It also appears that the walls at the south-western extremity of South Hill (now over-looking La Collette) pre-date the fort proper and may even pre-date Conway's work at South Hill. In a view of the Town of St Helier by Heriot of *circa* 1781 the south-west walls appear and in a view of South Hill and Old Harbour dated 1770 a fort stands above the harbour on South Hill, although the attribution date of the painting may be incorrect.



*View of the Town of St Helier, 1781*  
*Heriot, Courtesy of the Société Jersiaise*

### 2.3.6 *The Construction of Fort Regent*

The threat of invasion did not abate in the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. On 17<sup>th</sup> November 1806, Lieutenant-General Don (Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey 1806-14) wrote to the Board of Ordnance saying 'This Island is still in a very defenceless state and from the great progress of the enemy on the continent I must expect to be attacked (in) the ensuing spring' (PRO ó WO 55/808).

The network of towers around the coast initiated by Conway provided the Island with a first line of defence against an invader, and Don continued the programme of construction. These were soon to be supplemented by the 'place of strength' on the Town Hill first proposed by Edward VI 250 years before, and finally determined upon by the Board of Ordnance in 1787.

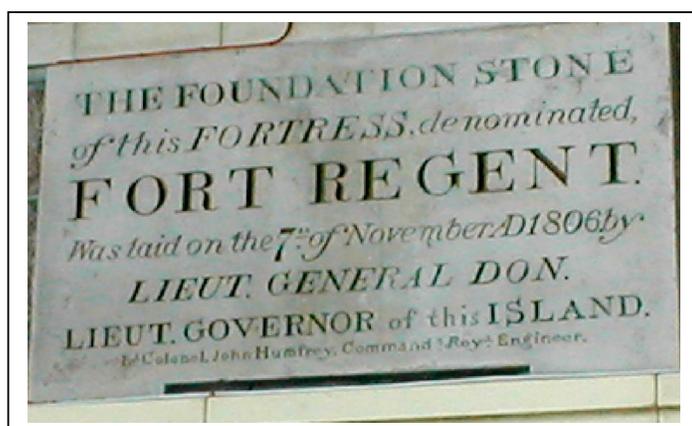
The earliest known plans for the new fortress are dated August 1787 (PRO MPH/160), and although it was John Humfrey who took them forward to construction, it seems likely that Lieutenant-Colonel John Evelegh was responsible for some of its design. Evelegh, the Commanding Royal Engineer for Portsmouth, was responsible for the reconstruction of Fort Cumberland at the entrance to Langstone Harbour from 1794, which he may also have

designed. Fort Cumberland was the last self-contained, fully bastioned fortress to be built in England. Fort Westmoreland in Cork Harbour and Fort Regent were both begun a few years later, and marked the end of this type of fortress in the British Isles and Ireland.

Eveleigh had worked on fortifications in Jersey from the late 1780s and through the 1790s and had also estimated the relative costs of fortifying the North and South Hills for the Board of Ordnance. John Humfrey, then a Captain in the Royal Engineers, was appointed to Jersey in 1800, and it seems unlikely that he would not have known earlier plans, or have been influenced by them. It appears that Humfrey was working on plans of Fort Regent as early as 1803, but his 1806 plan (by which time he had been promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel) shows his own proposals for the fort, straddling the Mont de la Ville and the Petit Mont de la Ville.

Humfrey's 1806 plan was not followed completely: at the southern end of the fort, Humfrey proposed a ravelin rather than the counterscarp and glacis that were eventually built. The redoubts already present on South Hill were also to be replaced by two towers, but these were never constructed. Fanshaw's 1822 plan shows the Glacis in much the same state as it is today, and also quarrying at South Hill, but there is no sign of the two towers proposed by Humfrey. Two further towers appear on Humfrey's plan located between the fort and houses in Hill Street: these too appear never to have been built.

Fort Regent's bastioned design is clearly influenced by the work of Vauban, who dominated thinking on fortification from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. The fort has two bastions and four redans giving complete cover to the entire outer wall. It is surrounded by a ditch and counterscarp on the eastern side, is protected by cliffs to the west (which were further improved by blasting) and by a vast cutting, over 600 feet long, on the eastern side. Outworks further protect the more vulnerable eastern side, the northern approaches and South Hill. The whole was designed to channel any attack up a glacis over 230 yards (210 metres) long, where troops would have been subject to withering fire from the Counterscarp. By the later 18<sup>th</sup> century military engineers were aware of some of the disadvantages of the bastion system and Fort Regent is consequently designed to suit the terrain, rather than being of standard shape but it represents the last of a type that had been in use for over 200 years.



*The Foundation Stone  
2006*

The fort was completed in 1814 and named after the Prince Regent. It has never been attacked and has consequently never proved its design in action. It is worth noting, however, that only 25 years after its completion a contemporary traveller doubted its capacity for sustaining a defence:

—A more modern fort frowns defiance against invaders upon a rising ground immediately to the South of St. Helier. This fort is well constructed; but, from its size, the proper defence of it would require a numerous garrison; and though strong towards the sea, it is much less so on the land side; there being heights there, within cannon-shot, which so completely command it, as that it could not hold out for any great length of time, unless at a great sacrifice. It, however, makes a splendid show of defence; and it is, at all events, desirable nothing else than this should ever again be wanted. (Mudie R, 1840).

### *2.3.6.1 Land Purchase*

Humfrey's initial plans for the site were submitted to the Inspector General's Office in 1803. In May that year the Board of Ordnance agreed that the land should be acquired, but the purchase of the land was not as straightforward as Humfrey would have liked. Field works had already been carried out on some of the land to be purchased and this alerted the owners to the fact that they could place the Government in a situation where their only option would be to purchase the land at an inflated cost.

Despite, or perhaps because of, the 1591 grant of land by the Vingtaine de la Ville, the Procureurs of the Vingtaine succeeded in having a case against the Government placed before the Royal Court on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1804. The Court demanded a Grande Vue de Justice, with 24 men visiting the site to determine the value of the land. The eventual cost was £11,280, rather more than Humfrey wished to pay, but less than the amount demanded by the Vingtaine.

The money awarded to the Vingtaine was invested and the revenues used for the benefit of the public in the Vingtaine, for example a contribution of £6,000 was made by the Vingtaine towards the cost of the multi-storey car park at Green Street and £1,500 was given towards the cost of the children's playground at South Hill. As part of the transaction with the Vingtaine a height restriction was imposed on Commercial Buildings, confining the building of store-houses to no greater height than the top of the bank and in that case they can be of no detriment to the Works or any obstruction to the bank itself (PRO WO 55/808). The restriction exists to the present day.

A drawing prepared on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1805 shows that Government eventually paid £31,071 for property purchased for the construction of Fort Regent.

### 2.3.6.2 Labour & Materials

Fort Regent was built using both local labour and men from the 8<sup>th</sup> Company of the Corps of Military Artificers. The company was divided between Jersey and Guernsey meaning that Humfrey had approximately 63 military tradesmen under his command, only some of whom were available for work in Jersey, as works of fortification were also underway at the time in Guernsey.

The scale of the fortifications and speed of the work meant that Humfrey had to employ men in considerable numbers. On 30<sup>th</sup> July 1806 he advised his Commander-in-Chief that he had employed; 22 carpenters, 6 sawyers, 5 wheelers, 1 cooper, 62 masons, 26 smiths, 97 miners, 334 labourers (PRO WO 55/808) on the scheme.

The numbers of local men working on the construction of Fort Regent grew in 1807 when on the 5<sup>th</sup> September the States adopted a *Règlement* which obliged all men to work at the defence of the Island. A list in Humfrey's handwriting dated 4<sup>th</sup> July 1806 (ref) shows that of a total 1,102 men needed, only 77 of these would come from England. Whilst it is unlikely that Humfrey was given all the manpower he requested, it is estimated that the labour force was an average of 800 men throughout the eight-year period of construction.

The main walls of Fort Regent are constructed primarily of granite from the south-west of Jersey, although the particular quarry is not known. Occasionally a greyer granite, possibly from the Minquiers, is found among the large blocks and it may be from this that the 19<sup>th</sup> century story of rock for the fort coming from Maitresse Ile recounted in Balleine's history of Jersey comes: apparently quarrying took place *until in 1807 the fishermen, fearing that their isle would be entirely destroyed, dropped the quarrymen's tools into deep water, and so stopped their work* (Balleine GR rev Stevens 1970). Fort Regent granite itself has been used extensively for rubble wall construction throughout the site, notably the inner face of the counterscarp, the walls of parts of the Northern Redoubts and the Glacis walls. It was probably quarried from the site as the Parade Ground was levelled, the ditches formed and external scarping created. An early 19<sup>th</sup> century account tells us that *"all the ashler was obtained from near the Icho Rock; the copings, &c., a, from Mount Madou, whilst the rock on the spot only afforded rough materials for coarse work."* (Nelson RJ, 1830. Note that a handwritten correction dated 1836 states *"after 'Icho Rock' read SE of Rocque Platte"*, so the exact source of rock remains unclear). Other stones are also found: diorites and sea-washed pebbles of various types in the rubble work, Mont Mado granite for the string course at the main entrance and carboniferous limestone (Portland Stone) below gun embrasures and around the small ventilation holes in the walls. Brick was also used and yellow stocks are found in the passage between the two still accessible lower batteries in the Northern Redoubts, and throughout for forming the arches of casemates, stairs and sally ports. A red brick has been used to form the embrasures in the East Outworks and in several places as paving.

Dressed ashlar has invariably been used on wall faces that may have expected to receive cannon fire, while those protected, such as the north face of the Counterguard, are of coursed rubble. Coigns are of granite, with the exception of the East Bastion, where there are coigns of carboniferous limestone from the Portland/Purbeck area, now weathered, but with strong tooling still visible.

The walls of the Northern Outworks are of Fort Regent rubble, with coigns of heavily weathered granite, suggesting an earlier date than the main fort, if only by a few years. The lintel over the steps from the Northern Redoubts down to the North Ditch is particularly deeply weathered. A feature of early 19<sup>th</sup> century granite is that the upper deposits (down to about 10 metres) were rapidly exhausted as military and civil building accelerated, resulting in better quality stone being quarried.

A book of letters to and from John Humfrey between 14<sup>th</sup> August 1809 and 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1810 exists at the Jersey Archive (JA L/F/96/A/1). It contains letters relating to the supply of materials (stone, lime, coals, paving stones) and labour (masons, bricklayers from England). Further investigation would reveal more information about the specific sources of materials.

The Corps of Artificers was finally incorporated into the Royal Engineers in 1856, a company frequently in attendance at Fort Regent during its history. The Engineers also have a more recent involvement with Fort Regent: the 8<sup>th</sup> Field Squadron of Royal Engineers, a direct descendant of the original 8<sup>th</sup> company, built the bridges that now span the moats in the East Outworks and the Covered Way.

### 2.3.7 Garrison

The number of men Humfrey intended to man the Fort is not easy to determine, however an anonymous source indicates that Humfrey saw the total capacity as 1,468 men.

It is clear that the total needed to defend the Fort would have been more than the 305 mentioned in a 1932 survey prepared by the Royal Engineers (JA D/AL/A2/55), as there are positions for more than 100 cannon alone. In any event, the Jersey Militia would have supplemented the permanent force at the fort. By 1832 the Militia numbered 6 regiments, with 24 light six-pounders and 2,500 men. In 1891 there were still 1,992 officers and men belonging to the Militia, despite the long years of peace.

### 2.3.8 Artillery

Artillery was a vital part of the defence of Jersey and the construction of Fort Regent altered the *status quo*. In May 1816 Captain (later Lieutenant-Colonel) Gosset of the Royal Engineers prepared a list of all the coast batteries in the Island giving the total number of guns or carronades in the Island as 287. The Captain recommended that 150 be dismounted as ~~Now~~ that there is so respectable a Fortress on the Island as Fort Regent, I entertain great doubts as to the policy of having so many heavy Guns on the coast, which might be brought against that Fortø (PRO WO 44/78).

The number of guns at Fort Regent varied throughout its life. A return of the guns at the fort dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 1810 gives the total number of guns as 55 and mortars as 6 (ref). By 1848 a return of garrison ordnance stated that, when completely armed, Fort Regent required 126 pieces of Ordnance, including 8 mortars. The then current figures were stated at; ~~Fifteen~~ 15 18lbs Guns, Five 12lbs Guns, Twenty-Nine 24 lbs Carronades ó Total 49 pieces.ø

Most of the early ordnance at Fort Regent was manufactured by the Carron Company, Falkirk, Scotland. The company's well-known Carronade was used successfully at Waterloo and Trafalgar.



*A Carronade  
Fort Regent, 2003*

During clearance work in 1970, three gun barrels were found at Fort Regent. Two gun carriages were also discovered more or less intact, a third cut into two pieces and a fourth also cut in two but with only one half remaining. The guns, dated 1863, are both rifled and breech loading and are among the earliest of this type used by the British Army. The guns are of the Armstrong pattern, manufactured at Sir W.G. Armstrong & Company's Elswick Works, near Newcastle upon Tyne. Breech loading guns were abandoned shortly after their introduction as being too unwieldy - it was actually quicker to fire and reload muzzle-loading cannon but were re-introduced from about 1880 after improvements to breech loading mechanisms.

Two of the guns are now on display at Fort Regent and one at Elizabeth Castle on over-hauled carriages, the wheels of which were newly made in the 1970s and remade within the last 10 years.



*Armstrong Pattern breech loader  
Fort Regent, 2006*

### 2.3.9 The Well

The construction of a well at Fort Regent was vital to ensure a supply of fresh water for the garrison. Bramham had noted the fact in 1756 and it seems likely that the absence of a water supply on the hill had been the principal reason for the town not having been moved there during the previous centuries.

Digging began in December 1806 and was completed in October 1808. The monumental task - using 2,148 pounds of gunpowder to blast through the granite - was carried out by 12 miners and cost a total of £2,599 8s 7d, exclusive of pumping gear. The well is reckoned to be 235ft deep. The pump house is located under the parade, about 40ft out from the magazine to the north of the East Bastion. The floor level of the pump house is 20ft below the parade and accessed through a sloping tunnel from a barrack room in the East Curtain. The base of the well averages 9ft in diameter and situated to the south are two rectangular casements with a capacity for 12,000 gallons of water.

The original beam engine, as illustrated on a drawing prepared by Humfrey in 1814 and countersigned by Maudsley and Company (MPH 447(2)), survives, at least in part. Men or horses would have driven the pump, which was 4ö in diameter, with brass bucket and valves, with -195ft of wrought iron rod, jointed every 10ft, and 18 ten-foot lengths of 5ö iron pipeø (REHS PRO Papers). A pivoted beam over the well worked the plunger and was activated by a connecting rod from a large wheel situated underneath. The power to drive the pump was obtained by simple machinery with two horizontal spars about 8ft long radiating outwards, which was geared to a driving shaft set into a channel to connect with the drive wheel at the head of the well. The effectiveness of the well and pumping gear is shown by Major Jonesø claim that -24 men working for two hours, without fatiguing themselves, can with ease pump into the cisterns 800 gallons of waterø (REHS PRO Papers). Whether the men considered the task so easy is doubtful: it is known from Government House correspondence of 1834 that defaulters from drill were put on pump fatigue every day of their confinement. The eventual cost of the pumping equipment was £667 15s 2d.

Towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century a Crossley gas engine was installed, parts of which (including a cooling chamber and diaphragm dish) still exist *in situ*.



*Maudsley Beam Engine  
The further beam is original as is much of  
the mechanism*

### 2.3.10 *The 19<sup>th</sup> century*

In 1815 Humfrey's successor, Lieutenant-Colonel Gossett, prepared plans for a further outwork or an Epaulement - to the west of Fort Regent, intended to cover the fort from any fire from Gallows Hill (Westmount). The position was to provide an arched casemate accommodating two 24 pounder Carronades, with a further battery of three on top. The plan was obviously abandoned, as Fanshawe's 1822 plan shows the rock formation as it exists at the present day. The initial workings can still be seen on the rock outcrop to the south of the upper level of the car-park.

Litigation, which was a key feature prior to the building of the Fort, seems to have continued in the years after the threat of war from France had abated. The Government was often called to answer cases relating to property in court. In 1813 the Government had purchased a piece of land close to the Regent Hotel, flanking Pier Road, to connect the Fort's drainage system into the main sewer on the public highway. The plan was eventually abandoned but in 1818 the Government was brought to court, as a condition of the sale of the land had been the connection of the Fort to the sewer. As this had not occurred the Government were required to pay £65 13s 4d.

A further dispute opened on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1823. A society called the Memorialists had been formed by merchants who wished to erect a new quay in the Harbour. A disagreement arose, which is summarised in a memorandum sent to the Board of Ordnance:

1. Encroachments made by the memorialists on the Public Road (that is, Pier Road)
2. Their having exceeded the limits to which the Act of Court of the 29<sup>th</sup> November 1804 restricted them in the height of their buildings
3. To be allowed to build a Parapet Wall above the level of the Road, with a right to carry their buildings to the same height, although by the Act of Court above quoted and by which Government came possessed of the Ground for the erection of Fort Regent, no building was permitted above the level of the said Road (PRO WO 44/74)

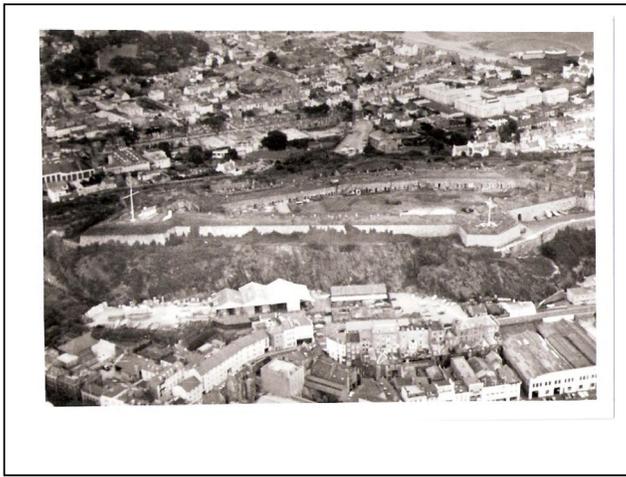
The Government allowed the Memorialists to encroach into the Ordnance land at Pier Road, and also allowed a uniform building height of 34' above the coping stones of the quay, even though the road varied in height above the quay from 30' 8" to 42' 3". The final request to build a parapet wall along the west side of Pier Road was unacceptable to the Board, although as there is a granite wall in existence today the Board must have conceded at some point.

### 2.3.11 *Quarrying*

Some blasting was carried out by the Board of Ordnance during the construction of the fort, but the Board also let the rights to quarrying both the Mont de la Ville and Petit Mont de la Ville.

Captain Fyers of the Royal Engineers proposed that quarrying could take place between the West Bastion and Signal Station, having the dual advantage of making the western scarp steeper and providing material for the significant amount of building work being carried out in the town at the time. By 1825 the Star Quarries, as they were named, were reported to have

been nearly cleared. In more recent times the quarry became Normanø builders yard, and is now the site of the Clos du Fort housing development.



*Fort Regent from the air, late 1960s. Normans Builder's Merchants, formerly the Star Quarries, can be seen below and to the right of the Signal Station.*

South Hill was quarried too. A point of rock in the vicinity of the Harvey monument had been used for repairing the Pier in 1822 (shown on Fanshawø 1822 map, PRO WO 44/74). Much of the stone for the new Victoria Pier ó named by Queen Victoria during her visit in 1846 - was also quarried from South Hill. Quarrying also formed the cut to the east of South Hill now used for parking practice and the path that leads towards La Collette gardens.

The quarrymen were found to be over-zealous in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, however. A letter of 12<sup>th</sup> June 1888 from the Commanding Officer of the Royal Engineers Jersey to the Bailiff points out that quarrying at South Hill had sunk below the level agreed by the War Office. This was to be carried out on a line -so as to form a continuation of the slopes of the Glacis of Fort Regentø(JA D/AP/V/39).

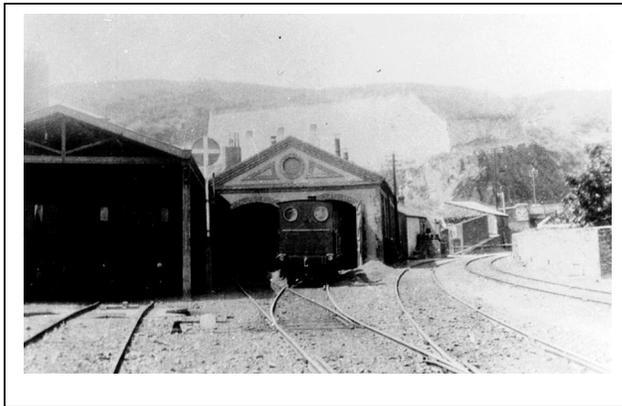
The South Hill workings were filled in during the 1930s and formed into gardens. A photograph in the Jersey Evening Post dated 27<sup>th</sup> February 1932 shows the Old Battery site, newly acquired by the Parish of St Helier and turned into gardens and a childrenø playground.

### *2.3.12 The Later 19<sup>th</sup> century*

Military buildings continued to be adapted for new uses. The barracks at South Hill became a military prison in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century ó it is recorded as the Provost Prison in 1879. The buildings were used as a prisoner-of-war camp, mainly for Americans and French Algerians, in the Second World War.

Married quarters for the Fort Regent garrison were constructed in 1878 in Green Street but were demolished in 1962 to make way for States Housing. Plans of the buildings exist at the Public Record Office (WO 78/3734).

Non-military uses for parts of the site also started in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1871 the Constable of St Helier presented a petition to the States of Jersey on behalf of the Jersey Eastern Railway Company, which intended to run a line between St Helier and Gorey. The plan included the construction of a terminus in Humfreyø cutting at Snow Hill. The terminus was formally opened on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1874 and was 300ft long, a third of the length of the cutting. The cutting was found to be too narrow for passengers, however, and in 1897 the eastern face of the rock was quarried back to Regent Road. The Jersey Eastern Railway Company was wound up in 1929 and by 1935 the Snow Hill terminus had reopened as a bus station. In 1964 the buses were moved and the cutting became the car park that it is today.



*The Jersey Eastern Railway  
Green Street Depot, showing the  
East Outworks & entrance to Snow  
Hill Station to the right  
Société Jersiaise Ref SJPA/013930  
Courtesy of the Société Jersiaise*

### *2.3.13 The Signal Station*

The Signal Station, which now seems so much a part of Fort Regent, in fact pre-dates it. The French attacks of 1779 and 1781 led to the establishing of Signal Stations to relay information about shipping movements around the Island. A report was submitted to the States on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1792 and the States subsequently approved the plan. Ten stations were constructed, including one on Le Mont de la Ville. Their use was discontinued following the Peace of Amiens in March 1802 but was quickly re-established after war was declared again on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1803.

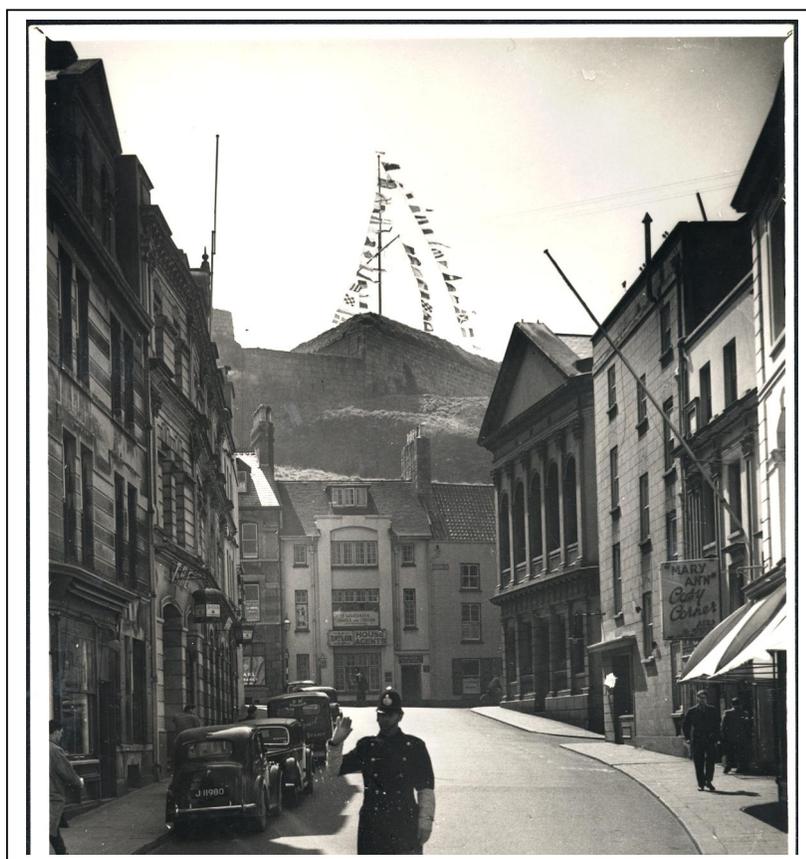
A flagpole is shown on the Town Hill in the Heath view of St Helier from the north-west ó it is not known whether this was a signal station.

In 1814, there was an application by the States to General Don to use the stations from La Moye to the Town Hill for the benefit of merchants and the Chamber of Commerce agreed to contribute £12.00 annually towards the stationø upkeep. During the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, responsibility increasingly became that of the States and between 1868 and 1878, the States paid £30 to £70 annually for the upkeep of Fort Regentø Signal Station while the War Department paid only £5 annually for the upkeep of instruments, flags, ropes, balls, etc.. Coal for the station was also supplied by the States of Jersey via the Harbour Master. The Signal Stations at La Moye and Noirmont remained in the ownership of the Admiralty until 1885

when the States asked the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for ownership to be transferred to the States.

Jersey was included in the first list of Stations compiled by Admiral FitzRoy when he devised the gale warning system in 1861 and following the laying of the Post Office's telegraph cable to Jersey in 1858. A plan of the 19<sup>th</sup> century station building exists in the Jersey Archive (JA, D/AL/A2/54). Dated 1867, it shows a simple building, 12ft square, with a chimney at one corner.

The Signal Station was retained by the Special Committee on War Department Properties in 1967 and is now under the administration of Jersey Harbours. Funding for the continued regular use of the signal station was withdrawn in 2004, and signals are now raised on an occasional basis by staff of the Jersey Heritage Trust and volunteers. Nonetheless the Signal Station remains one of the oldest in the British Isles and remains an impressive and well-loved landmark immediately above St Helier.



*Halkett Place looking towards Fort Regent*

*Not dated, Jersey Archive D/Q/S14/5*

*Courtesy of the Jersey Evening Post*

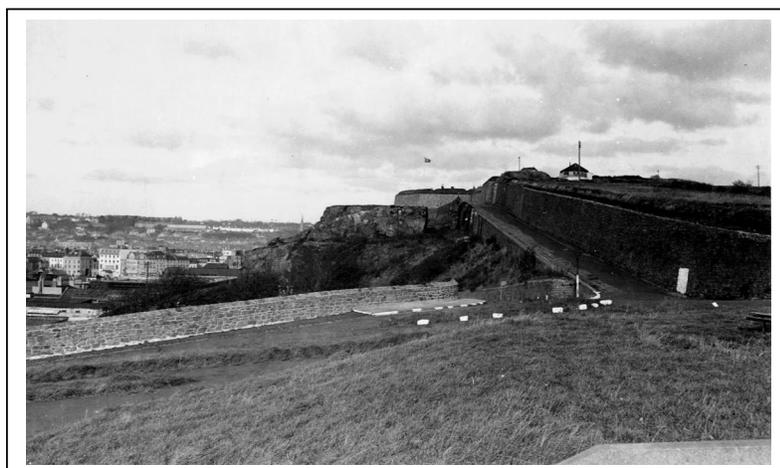
### 2.3.14 The 20<sup>th</sup> century

The military importance of Fort Regent declined steadily during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and it seems that it was used primarily as a barracks. An eyewitness speaking in 1971 (Davies 1971, 209-212) stated that the armament of the Fort in 1910-12 consisted only of .303 Lee-Enfield rifles and a machine gun, suggesting that the heavy ordnance had all been removed. Apparently the Eastern Outworks were not in use at this time and both they and the Northern Outworks are omitted from the detailed plan of the fort made in 1932 by the Royal Engineers (JA D/AL/A2/55).

The fort continued to adapt to the changing times, however. An attempt to modernise the sanitary aspects of the fort was made in 1914 when cement-rendered washrooms and lavatories were added to the barrack rooms. The 1932 Royal Engineers plan shows a Regimental Institute as well as other facilities that had been constructed in the East Ditch by that date: a school room, a sick bay, a tailor's shop, a RAMC reception station, a laboratory and proof shed, a ball court, some more latrines and an 'explosive testing hole'. The total garrison is listed as 305, comprising 6 Officers, 16 Sergeants and 283 NCOs and men.

Although Davies's eyewitness confirmed that the rolling bridge still spanned the ditch in the approach road in 1912, it was removed at some point in the next 20 years, as it does not appear on the 1932 plan. It was common to find 19<sup>th</sup> century features removed during the First World War to accommodate the substantially heavier traction engines and armaments then in use.

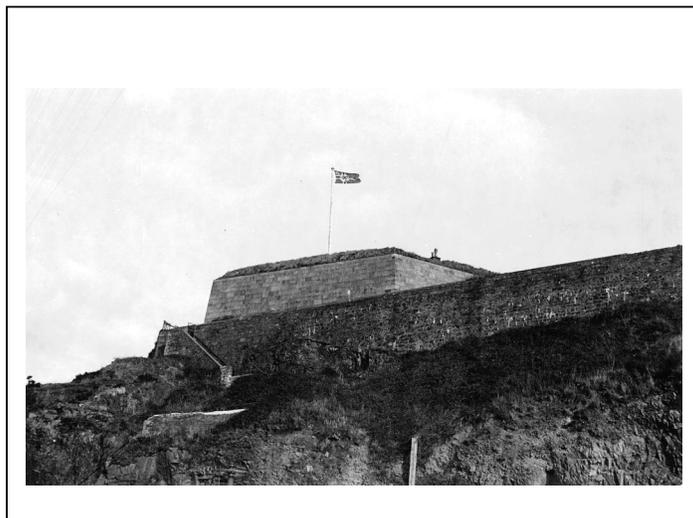
South Hill continued in active military use in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The battery there was fully manned during the First World War and the 60 guns were removed in 1929, following a War Office report on coastal defence requirements throughout Britain. Seven plans of this battery exist at the Public Record Office, but have not been examined. A Port Signal Station was also erected on the top of the Glacis during the First World War to relay information about shipping to the South Hill Battery in communication with other stations at Mont Orgueil Castle and Ronez. The Station is shown on the 1932 plan.



*Fort Regent Glacis Field showing the Port War Signal Station  
Société Jersiaise Ref S/JPA/01021  
Courtesy of the Société Jersiaise*

The British Army continued to garrison Jersey until 1932, From 1932-39 the Bisson School Boys Club used the fort as a holiday camp for under-privileged boys from England, although the Fort remained in military hands. The last duty of the Royal Militia of the Island of Jersey was to garrison the fort from September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1939 to June 1940. Although not obliged to serve overseas, the Militia volunteered to a man to do so at a parade at the fort on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1940, and many men sailed that evening.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1940 the Bailiff took down the Union Jack at the Signal Station, having refused to instruct the man on duty to do so. The occupying forces used Fort Regent during World War II, stationing an anti-aircraft gun and 5 other pieces of ordnance there (David Maindonald Research Collection JA, L/C/48/A/15). The replica gun now in place at the south-west corner of the main fort ramparts is set in the correct position, with identifying ranging marks still painted on the walls. The fort was also used as a barracks for troops and lead was removed from roofs to provide print materials for the Jersey Evening Post.. South Hill was armed with 2 machine gun and mortar positions, presumably due to its all round views of the south coast and approaches to St Helier's harbour. Conway's 18<sup>th</sup> century works were augmented with new concrete structures, demonstrating the logic of Conway's choice of position 150 years earlier.



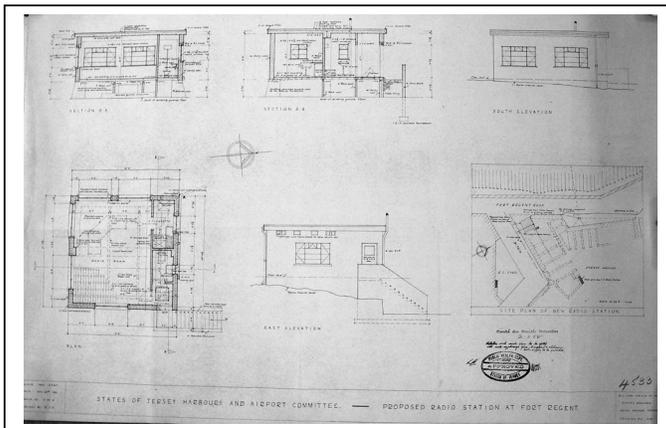
*The Nazi flag flying over Fort Regent*  
*Société Jersiaise Ref SJPA/010212*  
*Courtesy of the Société Jersiaise*

After liberation in May 1945, the parade ground at the fort was used to store all easily removeable guns during the de-commissioning of German ordnance by 135 Field Ordnance Dept. RAOC. About 170 pieces of larger German ordnance were despatched from Fort Regent by boat to be dumped in the Hurd Deep, north of Alderney, while over 200 smaller guns were put into a tunnel in St Peter's Valley and sealed up (*A Liberation Album* FHM Sargent, Major, RAOC JA, L/F/51).



*German Ordnance stored in the Parade Ground, 1945  
Jersey Archive L/F/51, Courtesy of the Jersey Heritage Trust*

In 1951 a new radio station was erected on the site of the observation post on the south-west corner of the Fort and on top of the World War 2 AA position.



*Radio Station Plans, 1951  
Jersey Archive D/AL/A4/2081, Courtesy of  
the Jersey Heritage Trust*

### *2.3.15 De-militarisation*

In 1952 the Army Council determined that with the changing face of warfare, the likelihood of Jersey ever serving in a useful strategic role again was remote. It was therefore decided to dispose of all War Department property in the Island. Fort Regent was by far the largest single

holding to be transferred to the States and it took six years of negotiations before the contract went before the Royal Court on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1958 for the sum of £14,500. The area included the fort itself, the East Outworks and the Glacis but not South Hill, giving a total of 22 acres or 50 vergées. A report or survey may have been drawn up prior to the decision to transfer the building, but has never been found.

A Special Committee on Former War Department Properties was set up under the Presidency of Deputy Ralph Vibert to decide on what to do with the fort. Its inaugural meeting was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1959, but by 1965 the fate of the fort had still not been decided. It was being used for temporary storage of derelict vehicles and accommodated a variety of companies storing coal, potatoes and wine (a plan exists in the Jersey Archive showing the various uses at this time).

Many possibilities for the eventual use of the fort were considered, including a public car park in the East Outworks with lifts to Snow Hill, a drive-in cinema, an annual musical drama, and an idea by W H Barrett who, in his report to the Natural Beauties Committee, (the predecessor of P&E) suggested a recreational centre. The Special Committee asked Barrett to develop his idea. The scheme was attractive but the building cost was estimated at £1,215,000. It was realised that the plan was not an economically viable proposition and that the fort would be a drain on the States economy.

The possibility of leasing the fort to a private enterprise was also seriously considered, especially as a proposal for a casino on the Island was being mooted at the time. However the commercial nature of such a development caused an alliance of those interested in the Island's heritage and religious groups to make a plea for both the preservation and maintenance of the complex to be kept in full public control.

The President of the Special Committee was in favour of the fort remaining in public hands and so put the matter to a vote. He was defeated 7 votes to 3 by his committee and subsequently resigned. Deputy Vernon Tomes, who favoured the development of the fort by a private concern, followed him as President and soon the Committee were in talks with the Burley Group of Companies. The Burley group proposed a Hilton Hotel on the Glacis with facilities for gaming rooms and a lease of 99 years. The proposal shocked those opposed to gambling and to the fort being leased to private hands and on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1964 an Act of the States referred to a petition by Deputy RR Jeune praying that the Assembly should refuse permission for the building of a Casino at Fort Regent.

The people of Jersey agreed with Deputy Jeune - an opinion poll in the Evening Post at the time found that 60% of the population was against the proposals and this was reflected in the States, where the Special Committee suffered a defeat by 34 votes to 15 on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1965.

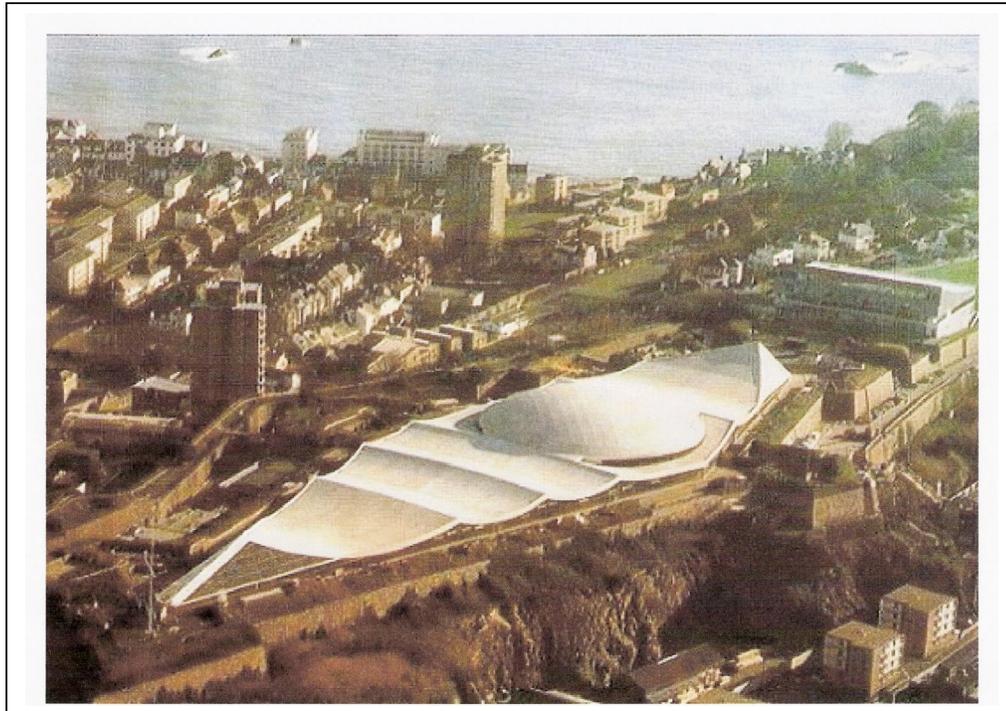
In 1966 the Island Lottery began to operate. An arrangement was approved by the States in April 1967 in which the profits from the lottery were to be used for the development of fort Regent. Deputy Tomes presented a new plan for the development of the fort, costed at £2,650,000, and the plan was unanimously approved by the States on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1967. The Special Committee's name was changed to the Fort Regent Development Committee and work commenced.

### 2.3.16 Reconstruction

Earlier in 1967, Sir John Wardlaw-Milne, who had lived in Jersey since his retirement, died and left £100,000 for the construction of a *kursaal* to provide wet weather facilities for visitors. He stipulated that the project had to start within 18 months of his death. The executors of the will decided that this money could be put towards the Fort Regent project and building started with the conversion of two casemates in the North-west Redan into a children's indoor play area on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1968. This was the first structural work to take place. A plaque commemorating Sir John's gift is located adjacent on the wall to the children's play area inside the fort.

Some clearance work and landscaping also started in December 1968 and the mini-golf course in the Northern Redoubts opened in July 1969. The same month, construction of the cable-car from Snow Hill started. This was opened in April 1970 and ceased to operate in 1991. The lower station has been demolished, but the upper station remains in place on the glacis to the north of the Eastern Outworks.

Work on other parts of the large leisure complex continued under the direction of the architects Breakwell & Davies. In 1972 the swimming pool on the Glacis Field was opened, although the bridge linking it to the fort was not constructed until 1978. The roof over the parade ground was completed in 1974. Built just before the oil crisis, it was the largest roof of its type in western Europe at the time and has few, if any, parallels. The Gloucester Hall was completed in 1978 and the Queen's Hall was opened in 1988. The present main reception was constructed in 1982.



*The Roof over the Parade Ground  
from the air, with Signal Station in the left foreground*

The Sea Cadet Headquarters was built on the Royal Engineer's yard to the north of the Counterguard in 1971. The building was also designed by Breakwell & Davies. Its quarter deck at the top of the Counterguard is now crossed by the access tunnel to the swimming pool and its view down the Glacis and out to St Helier harbour's southern approaches has been disrupted by the swimming pool.

William (Bill) Davies's own involvement in Fort Regent deserves mention as part of its history. He researched the fort extensively during the course of his firm's involvement in the project to refurbish it, and his appreciation of the place and his admiration for those who designed and constructed it is clear. Although some of the work carried out in the 1970s and 1980s may now appear dated, it is apparent that the strength of his own interest helped preserve both the spirit and much of the fabric of the fort. He wrote the only book on the fort - *Fort Regent, A History* (1971) - and also wrote a number of articles on various aspects of the fort, such as the construction of the well and the use of artillery there. With his colleagues he also provided Jersey with a roof structure that has become over the last 30 years a well-known part of the St Helier skyline.

## 2.4 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE TODAY

The following sections provide a brief description of the site. This starts with the fort and works outwards to the wider landscape.

### 2.4.1 *The Western Flank & Rampart*

Humfrey constructed an 18ft thick curtain wall on the edge of the natural cliff between the West Bastion and Northwest Redan to counter bombardment.

Alterations have taken place since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, mainly during the 1970s refurbishment. Three casemates on the south side of the West Bastion have been demolished and now form a yard and provide vehicle access to the Gloucester Hall through a new arch in the Bastion's south wall. This arch has a keystone dated 1806, which appears to be a reconstruction or casting of the original, which is still in place over the main pedestrian entrance to the fort. The casemates were originally demolished in order to construct a revolving restaurant with casino beneath, although the work was never completed. Unfinished reinforced concrete ring beams can still be seen and security fencing has been constructed around the top of the yard at rampart level.

The original pedestrian steps to the fort from Pier Road are still in use, but further steps were constructed leading to rampart level to the north of the West Bastion. These have now been closed off by locked gates, although it is possible to walk down the steps from the other side. At the top of the new steps, the rampart has been lowered to create a viewing platform. A new cement capping has recently been installed, and run-off is staining the granite walls below. An electricity sub-station, together with rubble, abandoned building materials, old cable, etc., sit below the modern stairs. Access to the sub-station is provided through a broken and unlocked

gate at the foot of the stairs. At present members of the general public can get to the area below the ramparts on the west side, and although interesting, it is also clearly unsafe.

Elsewhere along the west rampart the earth parapet has been dug away. On the external face this has presumably been carried out to allow access to the chimneys, some of which are now used as ventilation and other ducts. It should be reinstated both to provide protection for the structure beneath and in terms of understanding of the historic structure. Internally, the *terreplein* earth bank that butted up to the granite wall now forming the edge of the rampart walk has also been removed in part, although to the north of the Fort Regent North electricity sub-station, it has been turned into a flower bed. Coping stones are missing in places on the inner wall of the rampart, and this will be accelerating decay of the structure.

Small flower-beds have been built in the embrasures to the north of the viewing platform, making it difficult to relate the embrasures to their original use. The electricity sub-station is contained within a modern structure, whose granite quoins appear to have been cut from paving slabs from elsewhere in the Fort. It has recently been painted white, which does not lessen its visual impact.



*Flower bed in Embrasure  
2003*

#### 2.4.2 The Signal Station

The Signal Station now occupies the entire Northwest Redan, although it must originally have been smaller in size. Concrete blocks have been used to form a wall round the Station, which seems inappropriate to modern eyes. The remains of gun positions appear to exist within the Station in better condition than elsewhere and careful recording of these should be undertaken.

Some interpretation of the Signal Station has been provided on the granite wall to the east of the Signal Station itself. The Station is now also used by the States of Jersey Department of Electronics and Jersey Telecoms for a transmitter and receivers for cellular telephones and other radio systems. Recent construction work (August/September 2006) installing telecommunications equipment in the signal station has paid little regard to the historic fabric.



*Communication mast installation  
Signal Station, 2006*

A Campbell-Stokes sunshine recorder is in place on a modern masonry tower (2003), although this will be replaced in due course with a digital recorder (now in place 2006).

Within the Signal Station grounds is the entrance to the upper level of an ordnance store (marked as the Ordnance Office on the 1932 plan). It is heavily overgrown with bramble and ivy, which is likely to be affecting the stone-work beneath.

#### *2.4.3 The Northern Outworks*

To the north of the Signal Station an entrance leads to a modern bridge over the north ditch to the Northern Redoubts. The north wall of the Northern Ditch is simply of granite blasted away during construction of the fort, indicating that this area was the highest point of the Mont de la Ville. It appears that the position of the bridge is original as granite steps and a brick ramp - themselves old - exist on the northern side.

The Northern Outworks occupy the most northerly point of the complex, closest to the town: they can clearly be seen from Snow Hill. The outworks provide fire southwards along the eastern flank and to the south-west. These last cover a rough track that rises from Pier Road to the Mont de la Ville behind Hill Street. Humfrey blasted a ditch across the track only a few feet in front of the southerly cannon position to provide further protection from attack from this direction.

Landscaping work in 1968 revealed five paved areas on the south side of the outworks, which are likely to have been a mortar battery intended to hinder an approach from the east. It has been suggested (Davies 1971) that this mortar battery is a relic of the earlier field fort, as they are shown on Humfrey's 1806 plan, but this is not clear.

There are fine views over the town from the redoubt at the southwestern corner of the outworks, and it is this part of the fort with the Signal Station that is seen rising above Halkett Place. Trees and bracken now populate the slopes below between the fort and behind the buildings in Hill Street. Extensions have now been built on what were once terraced gardens behind Hill Street ó some of these gardens are visible on the 1757 view of the town and entrenchments.

Interpretation of the town would be extremely useful here. It appears that some may have been present but has now been lost from an abandoned pole. The mini-golf course that was opened in 1969 has also been abandoned, leaving a strange area of concrete paving and ornamental shrubs. A single-storey pavilion with cafe with a shingled roof also remains. The earth bank to the east of the mortar position is now heavily overgrown and a large tree (check species and age) has grown here. A granite-faced circular shaft has been constructed, venting the cavernø beneath.

Steps lead down to further parts of the outworks. The construction follows the topography of the ground and a covered passage has been constructed of London stock brick down to the lowest redoubt. From here stairs led down to the two casemates below, but these have now been blocked. Gun embrasures in the lower redoubts are now overgrown as are the two lower casemates.

#### *2.4.4 The East Outer Ramparts*

The East Outer Ramparts were landscaped during the 1970s refurbishment of Fort Regent. In general this has been successful, although some tree surgery could be undertaken to advantage to allow better views of the town and to explain better the original purpose of the fort.

Railings were erected at the time and have now been augmented with chain-link fencing to provide better security for small children.

#### *2.4.5 The East Outworks*

As the eastern section of the Town Hill was the weakest, it was in this area that a considerable amount of work took place. Firstly a deep gorge was blasted between Regent Road and the hill, running 600ft southwards from Snow Hill until it linked with a valley on the eastern side of the hill (now the entrance to the tunnel on the east side). The East Outworks were erected on a small granite spur with a glacis built to the north to a height of 50ft above the gorge, retained by a granite wall.

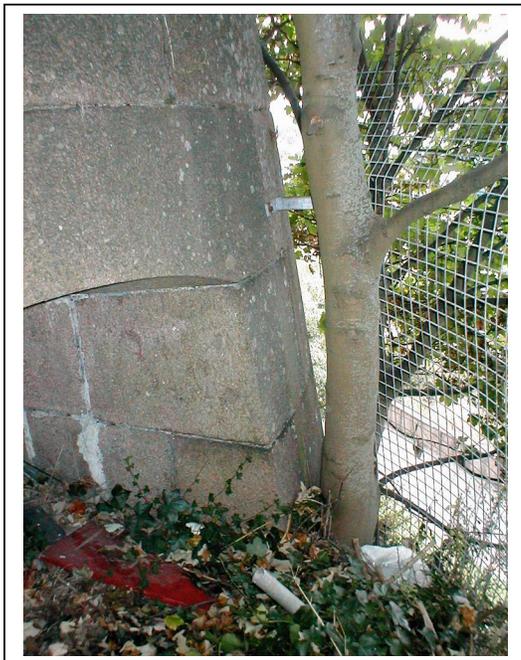
The outworks were isolated from the surrounding ground by two ditches, one running north/south, and the other east/west. Access to the outworks was by a form of rolling bridge, a remarkable Jersey innovation made by one John Le Sueur. The outworks comprised three batteries; the main with four casemated gun embrasures facing south, and two on the top of the casements, each with three cannon, directed north and south respectively.

From 1968 the East Outworks were adapted to create formal gardens. An ornamental pond was formed within the north/south ditch where there had been a rifle range in 1932. Fed by two concrete spouts at high level, it appears that historic granite fabric has been used to form the south end of the pond. In June 1970 a cabin lift from Snow Hill was officially opened. The upper cabin lift station remains in place, but is abandoned.



*The Upper Cabin lift Station  
2003*

Both ditches have now been blocked at their ends. A shelter has been constructed at the end of the north-south ditch and tree growth further obscures its once-open end. A door at the back of the shelter has been kicked out giving access to the area beyond, where a hole has been made in the protective fence. The end of the ditch is now being used as a dump for garden and other rubbish. A self-seeded sycamore tree obscures the very fine curved masonry on the south-west corner of the East Outworks. The east wall of the outworks (overlooking Snow Hill car park) is now almost completely overgrown with ivy.



*Self-seeded Sycamore  
East Outworks 2003*

The southern end of the south ditch has been blocked with a rendered wall, which terminates the gardens at this point.

The pond is now derelict and although the gardens are maintained, they are little used. A memorial stone in the ditch reads 'The budgerigars were a personal collection of the late Sir Billy Butlin and have been donated to the fort in his memory by the Butlin Family' and relates to the aviary that once stood in the garden. The memorial stands on its end next to a plastic rubbish bin. Some substantial and mature plants exist in this garden, however, and a proper assessment should be made as to which should be kept and which removed. Hedley Farrow A.R.I.B.A., A.I.L.A., was the landscape architect, although his associate Mrs Doris Roberts completed the work after Mr Farrow's accidental death in 1969.

#### *2.4.6 The East Rampart*

As on the western flank, earth once protected the top of the east wall of the fort. This has now been removed and a break in the construction of the wall flanking the rampart walk can clearly be seen with rough rubble beneath the previous ground level and dressed stone above.

The earth covering has been levelled the full width of the wall to form escape routes and viewing platforms. To the south of the East Bastion a platform has been cut through the earth cover and steps run down to the children's playground in the ditch beneath. A raised viewing platform exists adjacent to it. To the north of the East Bastion a platform forms part of an escape route which has been driven through the outer bank of the bastion. With rendered walls and concrete copings, the route breaks through into the East Bastion and out again to the east to a bridge to the outer ramparts. This is one of six bridges erected by 8 Field Squadron, 3 Division, Royal Engineers in July 1968 'as a military exercise in collaboration with the Fort Regent Development Committee'.

The earth covering has been levelled again further north, first by another viewing platform with a decorative positioned cannon, and then by another escape route leading to a staircase to the East Ditch.

The south west corner of the East Bastion has been destroyed to make way for a modern building with a large air conditioning vent on its roof. This area is separated from the rest of the bastion by a timber paling fence, which has partially collapsed. Four self-seeded sycamore trees have grown in the flowerbed between the gun embrasures on the east side.

#### *2.4.7 The Southeast and Southwest Redans*

A viewing platform has been cut into the north corner of the Southwest Redan 'this appears to pre-date the 1970s refurbishment. A flowerbed separates it from the south corner of the redan where a Second World War AA position sits, built in concrete on top of the earlier gun position and straddling the stonework beneath. The 1950s radio building was constructed on top of the AA position, and is clearly visible in photographs taken in the late 1960s. Modern steps now lead up to the gun position and beach worn pebbles form a decorative bank beneath it.

In the Southeast Redan, another Second World War concrete emplacement was constructed immediately on top of the Victorian earlier gun position, which is still visible beneath it. Four large brick chimneys or vents stick up in the middle of the redan and a flower bed has been constructed in the centre. A flight of 1970s concrete steps leads down to a bridge linking the redan to the outer rampart walk and steps to the ditch.

On the east corner of the redan, where it re-joins the main ramparts, some steps (? or an expense magazine) appear to have been blocked with London stock bricks, presumably early in the fort's life. The same blocked construction is also found in the Northwest Redan (Signal Station). Gun embrasures between the two southerly redans have also been blocked with the same brick. All this points to the continuing adaptation of the fort through time.

The 1978 access bridge to the swimming pool cuts across the rampart walk and runs along the west side of the Southeast Redan before turning to cross the ditch between the fort and the Counterguard. The bridge is particularly damaging to an understanding of the defensive arrangements of the fort at this point and the once fine view of the harbour approaches from this point is cut off by the swimming pool.

#### 2.4.8 The Parade Ground

The Parade Ground was roofed in 1974. The roof is supported on free-standing columns, partly designed by British Steel and partly by the Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Edwards & Blackie, it affects the structure of the fort remarkably little, as structural members in general stand within the Parade Ground and clear of the walls. Exceptions are the Ordnance Yard and part of the Parade Ground to the east of the West Bastion, which have been covered and paved to accommodate the form of the modern roof.

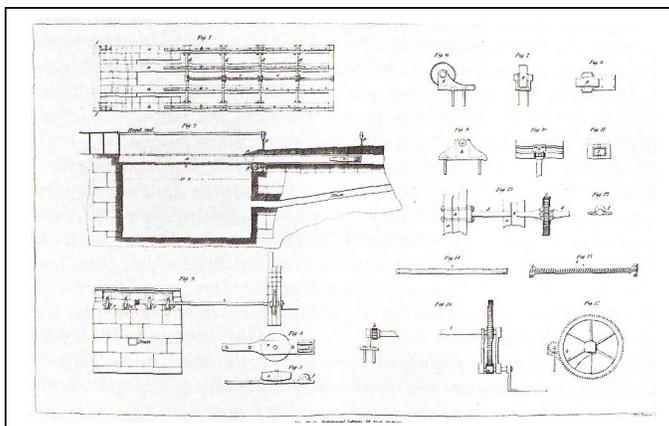
Although the sense of a pre-existing space having been covered is successfully retained at the north and south ends of the Parade Ground, once inside the Queen's Hall and Gloucester Hall this is entirely lost, as is an appreciation of the enclosing roof structure. The presence of glazed panels in the roof as the Parade Ground narrows at either end certainly helps the observer understand the relationship of roof to Parade Ground: there are none in either the Gloucester or Queen's Halls.

The modern roof appears structurally sound and well maintained. Water penetration problems relate to the flat roofed areas, notably to the south of the vehicle entrance to the Gloucester Hall.

#### 2.4.9 *The Glacis*

The Glacis, in conjunction with the Counterguard, was designed to prevent cannon fire from firing directly at the outer wall of the fort. It also provided no cover for advancing infantry and is an essential component of the defensive arrangements for Fort Regent.

At the top of the access road to the fort, at a point opposite the ditch at the northern limit of the Glacis, there was originally another ditch. This was spanned by a second rolling bridge, on a larger scale than that at the East Outworks and designed to support the heaviest guns or mortars. Also designed and constructed by John Le Sueur, the rolling bridge was described in a professional paper of the Royal Engineers in 1840 by Lieutenant Denison. The bridge, 9ft 2ö wide and spanning 17ø 6ö, weighed 6 tons 15cwt, 3qrs 10lbs and was constructed at a cost of £360. Davies (1971) states that relics of the bridge could still be found in the adjacent casemate in 1971, but it not known whether this is still the case as the doorways have now been blocked.



*John Le Sueur's Rolling Bridge  
Illustrated in the Professional  
Papers of the Royal Engineers, 1840*

The swimming pool now completely divorces the fort from its glacis. A wall has been built to the poolø east, blocking the view in either direction. The covered bridge that links the fort with the pool over the top of the Counterguard also minimizes any understanding of the relationship between the Glacis, Counterguard and fort.

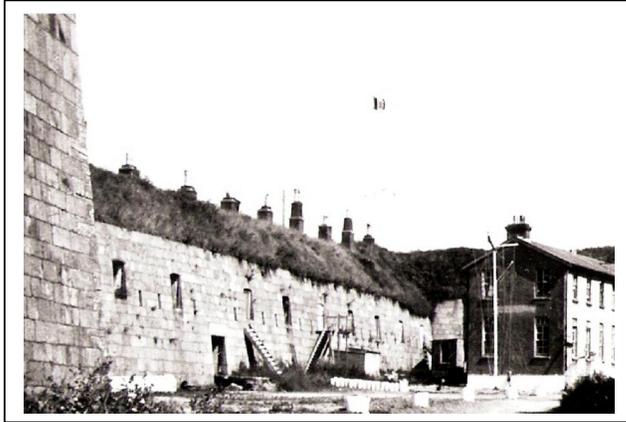
Services from the new swimming pool have been run in a granite-faced pier on the west side of the Glacis Field retaining wall.

A wall has been constructed at the bottom of the Glacis Field during road widening. It is too high to allow an understanding of how the Glacis Field worked. Early maps show a paling fence in this position. An access road to the Swimming Pool road runs up the east side of the Glacis Field and trees have been planted to its west. Again, these are at odds with the original purpose of the Glacis.

#### *2.4.10 The Ditches*

The ditches around the north, east and south sides of Fort Regent are now populated with structures of all kinds, making use (as the Armed Forces did before) of the space it offers. The shed now used by Tommy Day Nurseries, for instance, has been constructed on the site of the former Regimental Institute to the south of the Ordnance Yard, which was demolished in 1971. The Ditch is a defensive void, making design difficult, and the buildings have clearly all been built as temporary structures. The Sea Cadet building is a rare example of a building designed

for its site, and although in need of maintenance painting (including the car-park entrance gates), it sits well within the former Engineer's yard to the north of the Counterguard. It is a good piece of architecture, redolent of the sea and sympathetically sited, causing minimum interference with the architecture of the fort.



*The Regimental Institute  
Late 1960s*

An assessment of all the buildings in the Ditch has not been attempted here, but the question of how to best use the Ditch remains.

The Ditch is also used for parking. While entirely understandable, the resulting proliferation of signs is unfortunate and parking is always at odds with other potential uses. The control of cars in historic sites all over the developed world is one of the greatest difficulties encountered by those attempting to protect and enhance the historic built environment.

The northern end of the Ditch is blocked off as it was in 1932 - and is used by Education Sport & Culture for storage, although all that is there now is a derelict caravan and an abandoned five-a-side goal post (2006 or now used as an outdoor area for the gym). A blockwork building stands at the west end of the ditch between the fort and the Northern Redoubts behind which is a substantial security fence.

#### *2.4.11 The Approach to Fort Regent - The Main Entrance*

An entrance block has been constructed in front of the main entrance gate. First built in 1982, it has recently been altered and extended. The weather-proofing of the new entrance lobby and the fort is failing and there is damp penetration above the fort's main entrance.

Visually the entrance to the fort is cluttered. The utilitarian entrance block does not complement the powerful but simple architecture of the fort; parking runs randomly around the curtain wall and down the approach road to the Counterguard ditch; gun embrasures have been filled with un-matching windows and vent grills.

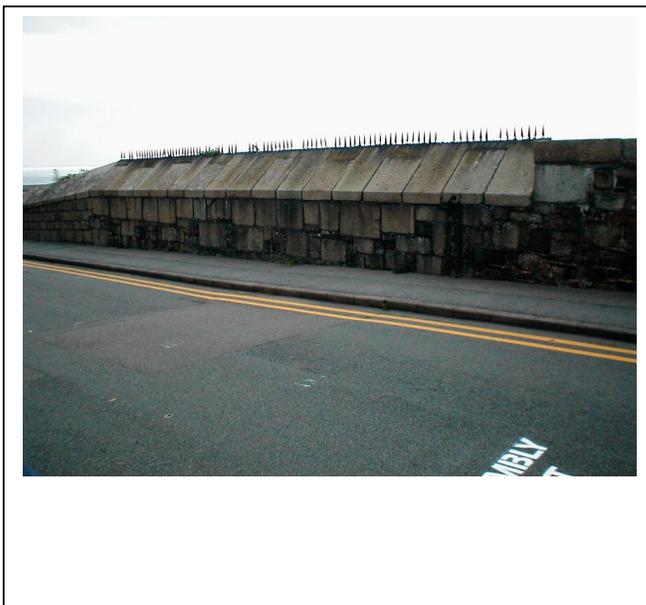
The presence of Pier Road car-park does not help. Various structures rise above the level of the car-park and introduce alien materials in to the streetscape. The car park lift towers and stairways are of concrete with tile. The entrance to the lift and escalator is of mass-produced brick. The escalator sides are of glass, and all these sit uneasily with the granite masonry of the retaining wall of the fort access road and of the fort behind. Further down the road an abandoned portacabin sits at the entrance to the car park and redundant barrier mechanisms are still in place in the centre of the slip road (2006 - portacabin and barriers now removed).



*The Main Entrance Lobby  
2003*

Standard and does nothing to respect the historic posts appear to be unnecessary opposite the car-park entrance, the car park signage at the bottom of the access road is in poor condition, and the railings at the junction of the fort access road and Mount Bingham could also better reflect the quality of workmanship found in Fort Regent.

The access road retaining wall also needs attention. Copings along its entire length are being affected by roots, particularly ivy, and the original iron spikes that mark the position of John Le Sueur's rolling bridge opposite the Counterguard ditch are rusting and damaging the copings in which they are set.

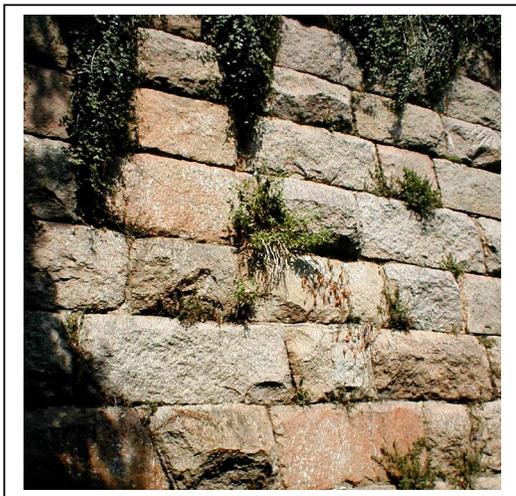


*Coping opposite the Rolling Bridge,  
2003*

#### *2.4.12 Rue de L'Est*

The Rue de l'Est runs to the east side of the Fort. Careful consideration should be given to protecting the scale and type of the buildings now built on the former East Glacis. The high-rise flats at the road's north end rise above the fort ó unfortunately - between the fort proper and the Swimming Pool when seen from Elizabeth Castle and are generally out of scale with the area. The general ambience of peace and quiet - which is now often missing in St. Helier ó should be recognized and protected.

The east wall of Glacis Field is of massive masonry populated with plants, some of which are small wall loving species, while others will be damaging the masonry. An assessment should be made of which should be left in place and which removed.



*Fort Masonry in the Rue de L'Est  
2003*

The Rue de L'Est offers fine views of the magnificent masonry of the fort's east wall. The random blocks of the Glacis change to regular and substantially sized rusticated blocks below the Fort. The stone work of the East Outworks is different again: here smooth random stonework is surmounted with dressed granite blocks from the course below the embrasures.

An electricity sub-station serving the block of flats (The Cedars) adjacent has been constructed next to the Fort wall at the turn of the road.

#### *2.4.13 South Hill*

South Hill was an integral part of Humfrey's original fort complex. Humfrey planned to encourage an army to attack from the south, up the Glacis, thus exposing them to cross-fire from the fort to the North and South Hill to the south.

There is no sign of the northern-most redoubt shown on the 1806 plan on South Hill, although the flat area at the top of now gardens may be a remnant of its levelled interior. The southern redoubt, built initially by Conway, remains, although it was substantially remodelled before the First World War to take British 60 guns. The concrete walls below the upper battery date from this period.



*Remains of Conway's late 18thC Redoubt, 2003*

The area now taken up by the practice reversing and parking area was quarried during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and it is probably this that was mentioned as being too low in correspondence noted above (2.3.11). The gardens to the east of the quarried cut-through have an air of pleasant dereliction. There is a German gun position at their northern extreme. The gardens provide a link with the formal gardens at La Collette. The South Hill Gym stands on South Hill next to the reversing area. It was originally built as a gym for the garrison in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although the original structure appears to have been replaced.

There are opportunities for linking South Hill, South Hill Gardens and La Collette to Fort Regent as part of a tourist trail and this has been acknowledged in the Island Plan. The crossing from the bottom of the path from the gardens across the road separating them from La Collette Gardens is dangerous.

On the seaward side of South Hill, masonry walls surmount the cliff face of Mount Bingham. The quality of stonework is variable, with large weep or putlog holes, although there are some fine dressed quoins at the south east corner which are late 18<sup>th</sup> century work (see the Heriot view on page 17 above). The walls are heavily populated with plants.

It is not now possible to get to some of the fortifications, which offer a fine view along the south coast of Jersey, and there is no interpretation of South Hill's role as part of the defensive

complex on the Mont de la Ville. At the very least there is a fine view north towards Fort Regent and St Helier over the array of buildings on the site of the former barracks below South Hill (now the Planning and Public Services Departments). It again demonstrates, however, how visually intrusive the swimming pool is.



*View of Fort Regent from South Hill with Planning & Transport & Technical Services Offices in foreground, 2003*

#### *2.4.14 La Collette Barracks & Gardens*

The barracks are still in the control of the Ministry of Defence and home to the Jersey Field Squadron, Royal Engineers. Again there is no interpretation explaining the historic link between these barracks and Fort Regent.

The view from the gardens in front of the barracks gives some idea of how the shore appeared before the development of the harbour, first to the west in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and then south on reclaimed land in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and why the residents of St. Helier used the Town Hill for promenading. A German gun emplacement was constructed beside the 18<sup>th</sup> century tower at the southeastern end of the barracks, and this now provides a fine view of the reclamation site and out to sea.

Formal gardens are shown on the site of the present gardens in both the 1822 Ordnance Plan and on the 1834 Le Gros map.

## 2.5 ECOLOGY

### 2.5.1 *The Core Area*

Mike Freeman of the Environment Department has briefly considered both the core area and also a secondary area which includes South Hill, La Collette gardens and the former East Glacis.

The core area includes La Rue de L'Est, which is a very valuable area for birds, nesting, roosting and feeding. Flocks of blue tits and sparrows are regularly seen as are robins, wrens, etc.. In late summer the road is alive with butterflies. The area is currently sympathetically managed, but some trees are starting to grow large, and management of these will soon be necessary.

The car park below Regent Road has at least one kestrel nest on the cliff, and the appearance of the habitat above is also very good from a distance.

The area above Hill Street is a unique piece of semi-natural cliff type habitat. It contains a young mulberry tree, which should be preserved. Right in the heart of St. Helier, the area's value is very high, and its importance will be stressed in the Environment Department's forthcoming Urban Biodiversity action plan.

The west face of the fort, overlooking Pier Road, is a good example of maritime cliff, complete with the range of plants one would expect to find and nesting seagulls. Seagulls also currently nest in the Northern Outworks and on the Eastern Ramparts.

### 2.5.2 *The Secondary Area*

South Hill/Mount Bingham is especially valuable. In this area a fine group of Autumn Squill (*Scilla autumnalis*) has been recorded, and juvenile green lizards have been seen in the Planning Department's car park, which indicates a possible wide presence of these creatures across the site.

The Environment Department has liaised with PSD Parks and Gardens in the past, and for several years now the management of the grassland area around South Hill has been managed in a fairly sensitive way, with consequent benefit to the diversity of the grassland. The cliff face along the edge of Mount Bingham is a very good example of its type, and in the past it has been used by a local events firm for abseiling, with the approval of the Environment Department.

The grass by the playground, and indeed throughout the area appears not to have been improved by fertilizer, weed killer, etc. so it supports an excellent range of plants. The cutting cycle is perhaps too frequent.

The whole area is pleasantly unimproved. An improvement plan was commissioned from a firm of consultants some years ago which proposed major ground works, knocking down the

low cliffs in the area behind the car training place and clearing and replanting. This type of invasive work would be to the detriment of both biodiversity and the areas *genius loci*.

The former East Glacis, including Avenue du Petit Mont and Rope Walk, is basically suburban, which has some value.

## 2.6 STRATEGIC VIEWS

19<sup>th</sup> century views of the recently completed Fort Regent show an austere and impressive fortification dominating the town of St Helier. The hill is entirely free of trees and vegetation, which had been cleared to ensure clear fields of fire in all directions.



*View of Fort Regent from the Northeast, Tobias Young c 1815-24  
Courtesy of the Jersey Heritage Trust*

The 1974 roof over the parade ground has added an undeniable presence to the fort and the structure is now a well-loved feature of the St Helier skyline. The substantial vertical feature originally intended to rise from the West Bastion is unlikely to have improved the skyline although it may have made sense of the upswing of the swimming pool roof, which in its absence stands somewhat uncomfortably at the top of the Glacis.



*The Proposed West Bastion 'Vertical Feature'*  
*Peter Rendle, 1970*

Fort Regent is highly visible in the distance from several key directions. These are:

- From St Aubin and the full length of the dual carriageway along St Aubin's Bay.
- From Elizabeth Castle (where The Cedars shows behind)
- From the St Clement inner road
- From the St Clement Outer Road
- From Mount Pleasant, particularly Victoria College
- From Westmount
- From South Hill

There are key views from St Helier's streets immediately below the Town Hill:

- From Snow Hill & Regent Road
- From Halkett Place
- From the Royal Square
- From Pier Road
- From the Weighbridge & Harbour

## 2.7 COLLECTIONS, ARCHIVES AND DOCUMENTATION

Collections, archives and documentation relating to Fort Regent are currently dispersed. Records relating to the purchase of the Town Hill by the Board of Ordnance, the construction of the Fort and its military use until 1958, are held at the Public Record Office. The Jersey Archive also holds documents relating to this period, particularly concerning dealings with the States and some individual letters and collections.

The Société Jersiaise photographic archive has numerous images of Fort Regent. The collection is in the process of being catalogued (2006 ó now catalogued).

The Jersey Heritage Trust picture library also holds paintings and prints showing the Mont de la Ville and later Fort Regent, often in landscapes, topographical paintings and in the background of genre scenes.

The bibliography lists known sources relating to Fort Regent.

### 3 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### 3.1 THE CONCEPT AND ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This section assesses the significance of the Fort Regent Conservation Statement area. Firstly, the background of statutory and other protection is examined. Then the key significance factors of the site are described; these are aspects of the place which can be recognised by specialist and popular audiences alike, and may include intangible concepts which are difficult (or even impossible) to define scientifically but which can be appreciated irrespective of this. Finally, the significance of the site is examined at various stages in its history, from the pre-historic landscape to the present day. Significance may reside in one or more categories such as architecture, archaeology, townscape, collections, ecology, society, and associated personalities. A number of factors have been used in defining significance, such as rarity, date/periods present, condition, extent, group value, user value and fragility. Many of these relate to guidelines currently in use for the evaluation of sites and monuments at national and regional levels. These provide appropriate mechanisms for achieving the aim of defining significance.

Significance is a hierarchical concept, and follows guidelines established by James Semple Kerr (*The Conservation Plan*, 1996), which have been adopted by the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage and others. The levels of significance are:

- *Exceptional* ó important at national to international levels. Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Grade I and II\* Listed Buildings in England would normally fall into this category as would Sites of Special Interest in Jersey.
- *Considerable* ó important at regional level or sometimes higher, e.g. Grade II Listed Buildings in England and Buildings of Local Interest in Jersey.
- *Some*, usually of local value only but possibly of regional significance for group or other value (e.g. a vernacular architectural feature).
- *Little*, of no more than local value.
- *Negative* or *intrusive* features, i.e. those which detract from the value of a site, for example a modern corrugated iron shed adjacent to an important medieval building.

A lower designation of significance does not necessarily imply that a feature is expendable. There are also instances where parts or aspects of the place currently perceived significance may be enhanced or reduced, especially where there is a lack of information or understanding at the moment.

#### 3.2 DESIGNATION: THE BACKGROUND TO SIGNIFICANCE

Designation provides an important reference point because a site can only be granted protection (especially at the statutory level of Site of Special Interest) if it meets certain criteria. Statutorily-protected sites are therefore inherently among the most significant examples of a type; they may even be unique. In England, Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), Listed Buildings (LBs), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), listed Historic Parks and Gardens (HPGs), and Conservation Areas (CAs) can be designated for a variety of reasons, but the criteria are usually subject-specific. The assessment of significance undertaken

for a Conservation Plan has the advantage of being able to use all relevant criteria across many specialist disciplines rather than concentrating on just one of them.

Fort Regent and its setting enjoy a mixed level of statutory designation. The site itself is a proposed Site of Special Interest, which encompasses all parts of the fort. The fort is part of Action Area 2 in the Island Plan 2002, although the Pier Road Car-Park, South Hill and Star Quarry site lie in Action Area 1. Mount Bingham, South Hill and La Collette gardens are designated 'Important Open Space' in the Island Plan. The important geology of the area has not been given statutory protection. There are no listings of flora, fauna, parks, gardens or landscape in Jersey, however flora and fauna are protected by the Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000.

### 3.3 STATEMENT OF KEY SIGNIFICANCE FACTORS

- The Mont de la Ville has been part of the life of the town of St Helier since it was first settled. The town hill was a centre for ritual in pre-historic times and its use as a place for recreation and promenading all mean that the site is of **considerable significance** as a resource to Islanders.
- Fort Regent is a key part of the history of Jersey in the island's struggle against French invasion and is of **exceptional significance** as the only substantial and best-preserved late Georgian fort in the Channel Islands.
- Fort Regent and its surroundings are part of **a landscape of considerable significance**, including South Hill and La Collette, leading to Havre des Pas.
- Fort Regent provides dramatic views over the town of St Helier, over the bay of St Aubin to Elizabeth Castle and over the newly reclaimed sites at La Collette and the Waterfront. It is a **place of peace and tranquillity** in the midst of the bustle of the commercial life of St Helier.
- Fort Regent's distinctive roof profile dominates the skyline of St Helier when seen from a distance, while the presence of the signal station immediately above the town underlines the importance of the **visual relationship** Fort Regent has with the town and the wider landscape.

### 3.4 SIGNIFICANCE BY PERIOD & TOPIC

#### 3.4.1 *Geology*

The raised beach of 35/40m on South Hill is the subject of inclusion in a list of important geological sites in Jersey submitted to the Planning and Environment Department. It is of ***exceptional significance*** and is the subject of on-going investigation by Dr Renouf and colleagues.

The 18m raised beach features, one near Snow Hill, one at the tunnel entrance and one on South Hill with another beyond it, are of ***some significance***.

The lamprophyre dykes that have been exposed by quarrying on South Hill are of ***some significance***.

#### 3.4.2 *Pre-history*

Although the Town Hill was clearly once a site of great importance to megalithic tomb builders, there is now little, if anything, left, as the site was comprehensively cleared and the topography altered during the construction of Fort Regent. The site is consequently of ***little significance*** to pre-history.

The dolmen that once stood on the Town Hill, however, is of ***considerable significance***, despite being erected in England. It is listed Grade II and stands in a Grade II\* (starred) Registered Historic Park. Its removal during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and transportation to Park Place is of ***some interest*** as an example of the acquisition of ancient monuments, although at the time its removal from Jersey was criticised by the Society of Antiquaries.

The possible existence of further graves near the site of the dolmen is currently of ***little significance***, although further work on the subject may ***enhance significance***.

#### 3.4.3 *Mediaeval & 16<sup>th</sup> century*

Further work on the use of Le Mont de la Ville and Petit Mont de la Ville as common land during the mediaeval period may ***enhance significance*** in the field of social history. It is currently of ***little significance***.

The demolished Chapelle des Pas was the only mediaeval building of note (excluding the town of St Helier) near the Town Hill. Its later use by the Wesleyans as their first chapel in the Island is of ***some significance***.

Proposals for fortifying the Town Hill are of some interest but are significant only in the context of later work on the hill.

#### 3.4.4 17<sup>th</sup> century

The first known military use of the Town Hill was during the Civil War, when Colonel Heane set up his battery against Elizabeth Castle. The existence of the battery on the site of the Haut du Mont Flats may have altered the topography sufficiently for the site to have been used later for a hospital and subsequently for housing, but the battery itself is of *little significance*.

#### 3.4.5 18<sup>th</sup> century

The Town Hill was increasingly used not only as common land for grazing, but also as a lovely walk with a most extended prospect on all sides (Falle). This use of the hill for recreation is typical of the increasing awareness of the beauty of nature during the period, particularly in the second half of the century. The Town Hill and South Hill (and La Collette Gardens) still afford fine views and a significant area of parkland close to the centre of St Helier, and the recognition of these qualities in the 18<sup>th</sup> century is therefore of *some significance*.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century also saw increasing military use of the Town Hill, with entrenchments constructed shortly after James Bramham's survey in 1756. Very little if anything is left of these entrenchments, with the possible exception of the Northern Outworks, some parts of which may represent the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century fort. The Northern Outworks themselves are therefore of *some significance*, but further research may *enhance significance*.

In addition to the Jersey Round Towers built from 1779, and before a new fortress was considered for the Town Hill, General Conway also improved the fortifications at South Hill in the 1780s. It seems that two redoubts were built, and these are shown on Humfrey's plan of the defences made in 1806. The northern redoubt no longer exists, although the flat surface of the gardens at the north end of South Hill may represent the level surface of the redoubt and some archaeology may remain below the surface. This is currently of *little significance*, but may be of *enhanced significance* if further research and possibly archaeological excavation is carried out.

The southern redoubt still stands, although it has been altered both by the British and by the occupying German forces in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is the most visible relic of the 18<sup>th</sup> century fortifications on South Hill above St Helier, and even without the later additions, is of *considerable significance*.

The signal station was established from 1792 in order to provide information about shipping movements around the Island, as a response to further possible French invasion following those of 1779 and 1781. The Town Hill station, together with other signal posts, were subsequently used for the benefit of merchants and remains a feature of St Helier today. The Signal Station and its location at Fort Regent is therefore of *some significance*.

### 3.4.6 *The early 19<sup>th</sup> century*

Fort Regent is part of the works of fortification carried out throughout the British Isles as a result of wars with France (and also the United States, Spain and Holland) from 1779 until 1815. The Duke of Richmond, Master-General of Ordnance from 1782, commissioned a report in 1787 that decided that the North Hill should be the site for a new fort and the earliest plan of the fort dates from August that year. The self-contained, bastioned form of the fort is old-fashioned for its completion date of 1814 and it is likely that Humfrey's plans for the fort are a development of those determined on by the Board of Ordnance in 1787.

In the other Channel Islands at this time Fort George was built in Guernsey between 1782 and 1812. Designed as a complex of batteries and other works around a nucleus of a bastioned fort (casemated throughout with barrack accommodation for 13 officers and 250 men), it has now been almost completely removed for modern housing, although fragments of batteries remain along the cliffs. Other batteries were constructed by Major-General Sir John Doyle, the Lieutenant-Governor, in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, but none was as substantial as Fort Regent.

In Alderney, late 18<sup>th</sup> century fortifications were re-modelled for artillery in the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but these - numbering ten in total, with no single major work - were in turn largely removed or substantially altered during the huge building campaign of the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. A series of forts were constructed - starting with Fort Grosnez in 1850 and concluding with the outworks of Fort Albert in 1858 - designed to protect a new harbour of refuge, which was never completed.

Fort Regent consequently remains the only substantial and best-preserved late Georgian fort in the Channel Islands, and is consequently of *exceptional significance* in this regard. It is also a key part of the network of batteries, towers, barracks and arsenals that were constructed to counter French aggression in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The two rolling bridges by John Le Sueur are of *considerable significance* in their own right. They were a novel arrangement in a fort that was otherwise somewhat old-fashioned and were sophisticated pieces of engineering, which were designed and built locally.

The Maudslay beam engine is one of the very few machines manufactured during the early days of Henry Maudslay's Lambeth Works to survive *in situ* anywhere (C Aubin pers com with Dr Langford, Secretary, Maudslay Society) and is consequently of *considerable significance*. Maudslay designed the time ball at Greenwich Observatory (manufactured 1833 after his death in 1831) and has been called the 'father of the modern machine-tool cutting industry'. The Crossley gas engine is also of interest, but can only be considered of *some significance* until further research suggests otherwise.

### 3.4.7 *The Victorian Period*

Following peace from 1815 there were three periods of popular alarm caused by possible French aggression: 1847, 1851-2 and 1859. Dramatic advances in technology brought steam-power to warships - completely changing naval tactics - and following the Crimean War, the range and accuracy of artillery was improved.

The abandoning of the proposed *epaulement* to the west of the Fort proposed by Lieutenant-Colonel Gossett is understandable in the light of Napoleon's exile to St Helena. Changes at Fort Regent following its construction were probably restricted to those in type of ordnance. The 1848 return of ordnance at the fort was probably prompted by the 1847 scare. It is not known whether the 129 pieces of ordnance recommended by the report were supplied at that time, but certainly new guns were supplied to the fort after 1863, the date of the three rifled, breech-loading Armstrong pattern guns found in 1970 during clearance work. Rifling had been adopted for muzzle-loading cannon by the French in 1842 and from then on the additional range and accuracy of rifled guns resulted in substantial changes in the design and positioning of forts. The three guns are among the earliest breech-loading guns in use by the British Army and their survival at the fort is of *considerable significance*.

By 1859, when a Royal Commission was set up to report on the Defences of the United Kingdom, Fort Regent was out of date. Strategically Jersey was no longer important so the Commission considered that fortifications should protect the Kingdom's most vital points: the royal dockyards, strategic harbours and, indirectly, London.

One recommendation of the Royal Commission is likely to have affected Fort Regent, however. During the 1860s, the allotment of 400 cubic feet for the common soldier in barrack rooms was increased to 600 cubic feet, reducing the number of men who could be accommodated by one third. Libraries, canteens, recreation rooms and schools were also added where possible and the origin of many of the buildings now in the ditch at Fort Regent may be found at this time.

Fort Regent continued to play an important role in the social life of the island throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The parade ground was regularly used and the garrison so both Catholic and Anglican so marched to church in St Helier every Sunday. Social interaction between the regular army garrison, the Militia and the population is of *some significance* although further research may *enhance significance*.



*Spectators above the Parade Ground, late 19<sup>th</sup> century*  
*Société Jersiaise Ref SJPA/032905*  
*Courtesy of the Société Jersiaise*

### 3.4.8 *The 20<sup>th</sup> century*

Although Fort Regent itself was effectively redundant as an artillery fort from the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, South Hill was re-armoured with 6ö guns for the First World War, although the exact date of the work is not known. Various committees in the early years of the century - the Owen Committee on the Armaments of the Home Ports (1905), the Wilson Committee (1912) and the Franklyn Committee (1913) recommended that three categories of port be defended by different sized guns. South Hill's 6ö guns suggest that St Helier was considered a Class C port, vulnerable only to light unarmoured vessels and consequently not needing more substantial armament. The guns were removed in 1929, but South Hill's continued use until that time is of *some significance*.

The garrisoning of the fort by the Royal Jersey Militia from 1939 to 1940 is of *some significance*. The Militia's final parade in June 1940 marks not only the end of the Militia in the Island, but also the effective end of the fort's use by local or UK troops.

The German additions to both South Hill and the Town Hill were slight and are of *some significance* as part of the Jersey defence sector, which comprised 13 strongpoints, 52 resistance nests with seventeen batteries of guns and 34 anti-aircraft batteries. They remain, however, only a small part of the substantial works throughout the Channel Islands and of Hitler's Atlantic Wall as a whole.

The use of the abandoned fort after 1953 for storage is of *little significance*.

### 3.4.9 *20<sup>th</sup> century Redevelopment*

The conversion of Fort Regent to a Leisure Centre is of *some significance* in the context of northern European holiday resorts' attempts to maintain market share in the face of the development first of Mediterranean and later long-haul destinations resulting from the advent of cheap jet travel. The fort's failure as a tourist destination in itself contrasts with its successful use for sport and entertainment.

The modern roof over the parade ground by Breakwell & Davies is a dominant feature of the St Helier skyline. It is of *considerable significance* as an example of late 1960s design, in a wave form which has been a feature of roof design in the later years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is seen at its best from the air. The supporting structure has been sensitively designed to minimize interference with the original building. The shuttered concrete steps and beams and steel columns respect the simple 19<sup>th</sup> century military architecture.

The roof is also unusual in having been constructed at a time when economic conditions (following 1974) affected building work throughout western Europe.

The Swimming Pool is of *little significance*, suffering from its location at the top of the Glacis and lacking a visual connection to the parade ground roof.

### 3.4.10 Fort Regent today

Fort Regent is widely used as a leisure and sports centre and has an active user group. This strength of local interest is of *some significance*.

### 3.4.11 Intrusive Features

A number of features could be considered *intrusive*, and detract from the fort:

- The Swimming Pool and covered passageway across the Counterguard.
- The pool access road and trees on the Glacis Field, which interfere with the open sweep of the Glacis.
- The main entrance lobby, which obscures the original main entrance gate.
- Internal fittings, fixtures and finishes throughout the fort, which interfere visually with the restrained military architecture.
- The removed sections of earth capping on the curtain wall, which alter the original form of the building.
- The partially demolished and unfinished West Bastion.
- The abandoned upper Cable Car station, which is constructed on the glacis to the north of the East Outworks.
- The Abandoned East Outworks pond.
- The upper levels of the Pier Road multi-storey car-park, which, although necessary, could be less visually intrusive.
- The standard street furniture and lighting throughout the site and access road.
- The varied and extensive signage and parking arrangements throughout the site.
- The use of ditches for random storage, and the construction of timber sheds at the west end of the northern ditch and south end of the East Outworks ditch and the wall at the end of the E/W ditch.
- The high-rise flats ó The Cedars - beside the tunnel (east).
- The accommodation units on South Hill.
- South Hill Planning Offices.
- The practise parking and turning area, which introduces vehicles into an environmentally sensitive area.
- The South Hill gym building, which encroaches on what would otherwise be an area of parkland.

### 3.4.12 Education

Studying Fort Regent might appear to present more difficulties than, say, a study of a parish church because of the size and complexity of the site. Such study, however, would re-pay schools with rich rewards, so long as the importance of the cross-site linkages are appreciated (with South Hill, the Harbour, La Colette). Future site interpretation will need to play its part in this. The site is of *considerable significance* for its educational value.

Fort Regent provides an excellent focus for a range of historical studies, and teachers visiting the fort would be able to organise their course to address the requirements of the National

Curriculum. They would be likely to consider studies looking to the pre-history of the site, medieval world, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century history involving Elizabeth Castle, the wars with France and local history.

#### 3.4.13 Ecology

The core area includes La Rue de L'Est, which is a very valuable area for birds, nesting, roosting and feeding. The area is currently sympathetically managed and is consequently of **some significance**.

The east face of the fort is of **some significance** as it has at least one kestrel nest on the cliff.

The area above Hill Street is a unique piece of semi-natural cliff type habitat and is of **considerable significance** particularly to urban biodiversity.

The west face of the fort is a good example of maritime cliff, albeit man-made, and is of **some significance**.

The current underuse of the external areas of the fort is of **some significance** ecologically as it results in a relatively undisturbed habitat. Seagulls nest on the west face of the Fort as well as in the Northern Outworks and on the eastern ramps.

The Secondary Area of South Hill/Mount Bingham is of **considerable significance**, as it harbours a fine group of Autumn Squill (*Scilla autumnalis*) and green lizards. The cliff face along the edge of Mount Bingham is a very good example of its type, and in the past it has been used by a local events firm for abseiling, with the approval of the Environment Department.

The grass throughout the area has not been improved by fertilizer, etc. and supports an excellent range of plants. This maintenance regime is of **some significance** in maintaining biodiversity.

The former East Glacis, including Avenue du Petit Mont and Rope Walk, is suburban and is of **little significance**.

The site has not been thoroughly studied and there is consequently scope for **enhancement of significance** throughout the primary and secondary areas.

## 4 ISSUES & SENSITIVITY AND POLICIES

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

Fort Regent and its environs offer many attractions, of which the fort as sports centre and entertainment venue is only one. The mix of uses within the confines of the site is part of its interest. The proposed highest level of statutory designation for the fort buildings themselves will afford the standing structures protection, but the natural environment and the wider area as a whole, encompassing South Hill and La Collette Gardens is not all protected to the same degree, nor is it covered as one entity by any protective legislation.

Statutory and non-statutory instruments cannot conserve people's strength of feeling for a place, however. Such instruments are in any case often viewed by many as unnecessary infringements on their freedom, and are treated with suspicion as a result. A positive and co-operative approach is required between all those with an interest in Fort Regent if the significance of the place is to be retained and enhanced.

The site and its significance are vulnerable in a number of areas. These issues have been grouped together under generic headings in the following pages, with policies that relate placed immediately after. A consolidated list of policies is provided in the subsequent section.

### 4.2 BACKGROUND TO THE SITE

#### *4.2.1 Ownership and management*

Ownership and management responsibility for the wider site, which were once the sole responsibility of the War Office, is now split between a number of bodies.

Education Sport & Culture is responsible for the fort itself and for the South Hill Gym, although Jersey Harbours manages the Signal Station. Planning and Public Services (2006 - renamed Transport & Technical Services) has responsibility for the La Collette Gardens, and the area around Mount Bingham: the car-parking practise ground and the park to its south south-east. It also maintains Snow Hill car-park and the site of its own offices on South Hill. The Parish of St Helier owns and maintains the children's playground, adjacent car-park and the raised area of South Hill, including the dwellings and fortifications there. The Parish also maintains the road (South Hill) that runs through the site. The Housing Department manages the Clos du Mont and Bas du Mont housing developments on the west of the fort and The Cedars to its east. The Rue de L'Est is partly in private ownership and partly managed by the Housing Department.

This multiplicity of ownership explains the lack of a co-ordinated approach to the running of the wider site, including the anomaly of it not being clear who has responsibility for maintaining the upper levels of Pier Road car-park used by the fort.

Aspects of the Island Plan 2002 suggest there is awareness of some of the possibilities, however, which include the creation of a linear parkø from Snow Hill to La Collette, the enhanced use of the area for walks for residents of St Helier, the use of the area for historical and geological tours, the use of the fort for an orientation tour of St Helier and the south coast and the development of linkages with Havre Des Pas.

*Policy A1: The owners of all parts of the site should form a working group to discuss greater integration between all parts of the site.*

#### 4.2.2 Use

Fort Regent alone covers an area of 8.9 hectares (22 acres or 50 verges). With the rest of the defensive complex (South Hill and La Collette) the area is 13.5 hectares (33 acres or 75 verges). Although not all of this is available for use or is even useable, there is still considerable scope for using areas that are currently under-used.

*Policy A2: Explore the means of promoting greater use of and more broadly-based access across the site.*

Although much used as a sports centre and as an entertainment and conference venue, the Fort buildings themselves are not a major visitor attraction. The views from the fort over St Helier and out to sea are magnificent but are enjoyed by relatively few people.

*Policy A3: While maintaining the existing uses of Fort Regent by and for the local community ESC should enlarge the user group by promoting the fort as a heritage attraction.*

The question of whether parts of the fort could be used for alternative purposes should also be addressed. Debate is required to determine guidelines for appropriate uses for parts of the Fort - such as the East Outworks or North Outworks ó so that opportunities for enhancing the use of the site can be taken.

*Policy A4: ESC should initiate debate with stakeholders on the use of the fort for events which are appropriate to the site as a whole. Establish guidelines for the use of the site which ensure that the timing of events and the use of the parts of the site do not offend sensibilities or damage the monument.*

South Hill was extensively quarried and the flattened area is now partly used as a practise turning and parking area for cars. Those walking from the fort or South Hill to La Collette have to walk through the practise area or along the road. The removal of cars from this area of parkland would improve its amenity value and enhance the habitat.

The South Hill Gym is a simple single storey building to the east of the practise ground. The building stands alone in an otherwise open area and, as with the practise ground, its removal would improve the area's amenity value and enhance the habitat. Any redevelopment of the building should take into account potential future uses of the wider area and reflect the historical importance of the site.

*Policy A5: The use to which all parts of South Hill are put should be appropriate to the site and should not detract from the existing sense of place.*

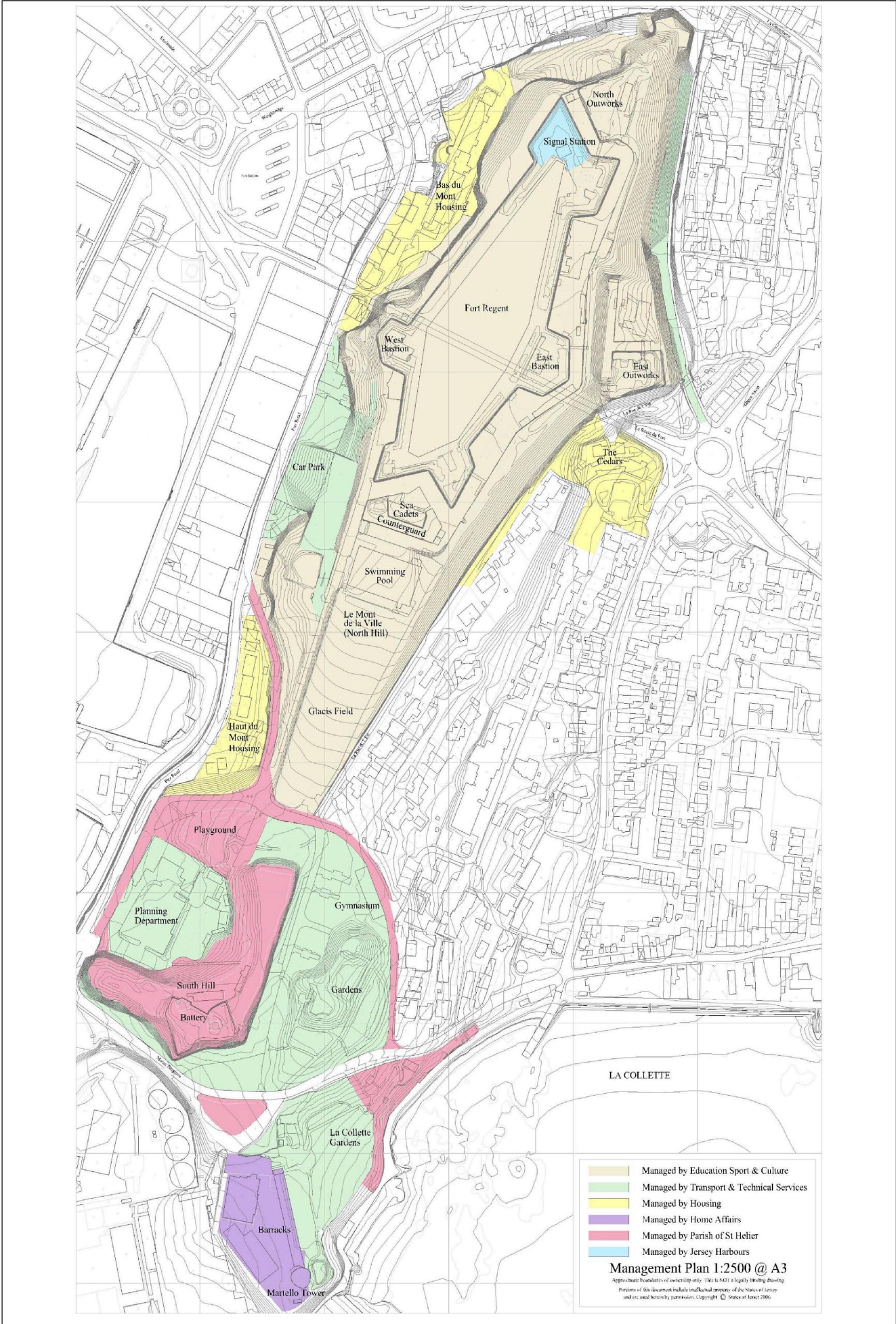
South Hill/Mount Bingham is currently under-used as a resource. Parts are closed to the public and its interesting history and relationship to Fort Regent is not explained in any way. The spirit of improvement that turned part of the hill to public gardens and a children's play ground in the early 1930s has not developed the public use of the rest of the hill.

*Policy A6: In discussion with other stakeholders, the Parish of St Helier should consider the potential for opening further parts of South Hill/Mount Bingham to the public and linking it with other parts of the site.*

The Planning & Public Services (now Transport & Technical Services) Department site is zoned for future States housing in the Island Plan 2002. The design of any new buildings on the site should respect the site: The Cedars is an example of how a building can affect the wider environment, visible as it is above Fort Regent's skyline from Elizabeth Castle.

*Policy A7: Any future use of the Planning and Public Services Department site should respect the historic importance of South Hill as part of the defensive complex above St Helier and should also respect the existing skyline of South Hill and Fort Regent.*

- Infrastructure issues such as vehicles, visitor movements and parking are dealt with below under Access.



### 4.3 UNDERSTANDING

Very few historic sites are fully understood, even where they have been the subject of extensive academic research. The Town and South Hills have both been investigated, but there remain areas where knowledge is poor. Some aspects where knowledge is lacking or inadequate are listed below.

Little is known about the mediaeval and early post-mediaeval periods. The rights to grazing, catching rabbits and fishing on the foreshore were granted to seigneuries. It appears that the right to construct fortifications on the Town Hill was granted to the Crown by the Vingtaine de la Ville in 1591, although work was not undertaken until the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

*Policy B1: Understanding of the mediaeval and early post-mediaeval use of the Town Hill should be improved through further research.*

It is likely that the north-eastern extreme of the North Outworks dates from Humphrey's time, although the northern wall and part of the mortar battery may represent the only remains of the earlier fort. Our knowledge on the extent of the lines and fortifications that existed prior to the construction of Fort Regent remains limited, however.

*Policy B2: Undertake research into the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century lines and the extent of the field fort existing prior to the construction of Fort Regent.*

Conway undertook an amount of work on the Petit Mont de la Ville in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. It seems likely that the remains of one redoubt still exists on Mount Bingham, but further research should be undertaken to establish when work was undertaken and how much was completed. The re-arming of South Hill for the First World War should also be researched to establish dates for the work, the type of armament, number of the garrison, etc.

*Policy B3: Undertake research into the extent of Conway's work on South Hill in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, and on the First World War rearming of South Hill.*

A book of letters to and from Colonel Humphrey exists at the Jersey Archive, which records amounts of men and materials used during the construction of Fort Regent. This should be examined to improve our knowledge of the construction of work in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Policy B4: Undertake research into material at the Jersey Archive to establish further details of the labour and materials used in the construction of Fort Regent.*

The Maudsley beam pump and its successor, the Crossley steam engine, are both little understood and of considerable interest. The steam engine is a rare survivor in the Channel Islands, while the beam engine is one of the very few items surviving *in situ* anywhere that was manufactured during the early days of Henry Maudsley's Lambeth works.

*Policy B5: Undertake research into both the Maudsley pump and the Crossley gas engine to establish their significance.*

#### 4.4 INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION

A site of Fort Regent's importance deserves the best interpretation and presentation so that visitors can enjoy and appreciate it. In some parts, such as the fort itself, information signage that was once present is now missing. Elsewhere across the wider site there is none and only a small A4 gatefold leaflet is available for visitors to read. A number of policies arise:

*Policy C1: Directional signage should be considered at a number of points within the landscape. Paths through the landscape or circular walks could be valuable elements in the visitor's discovery and appreciation of the area.*

*Policy C2: A guide book for the area would be beneficial. This could be a new guidebook for the whole site, or could be stand alone documents for individual parts that would link with those for other parts of the site. ESC could take the lead on this as a positive example of progressing together.*

*Policy C3: Suitable display/interpretation panels should be provided throughout the site, linking La Collette, the barracks and South Hill with Fort Regent. Signs should also be provided to explain the fine views from the fort in all directions.*

Schools do not currently regularly visit Fort Regent except as a sports centre, although Fort Regent and the surrounding area is rich in Island history.

*Policy C4: Fort Regent should be developed as an educational resource. Interpretation at the site will need to recognise an educational dimension and link the fort to the wider historic context.*

Interpretation can best be helped by careful maintenance and repair of the original fabric and landscape of a place. This may be achieved by removing intrusive features (see 'Intrusions' below), but also by reinstating missing ones. The earth banks that once surmounted the outer ramparts have been removed at various points around the fort and could be reinstated both to protect the fabric beneath and to better explain the original use of the fort. Areas now closed may also be opened to the public to enable greater understanding. Examples would be the Signal Station and the Well.

*Policy C5: Reinstate missing parts of the structure and open areas now closed where possible to improve understanding of the fort.*

#### 4.5 CONDITION OF THE FABRIC

Fort Regent is maintained by ESC using in-house staff supplemented by some outside contractors. The fort is not inspected quinquennially as is common with most historic buildings in the UK.

*Policy D1: Introduce a quinquennial system of inspection at Fort Regent, employing an appropriately qualified building professional to carry out the work.*

Fort Regent retains many original features. Some original doors remain *in situ* and should continue to be maintained and repaired. Other original components (doors, engineering items possibly related to the rolling bridge, and an iron portcullis) have been stored in the ditch between the Counterguard and Glacis Field. The original beam engine and parts of the later Crossley gas engine survive in the Pump Room. These will continue to decay over time, and should at least be recorded for future reference. The original breech of one of the Armstrong pattern guns un-earthed in 1970 was noted stored in the generator room in the West Bastion in 2003, in a manner which may lead to its accidental loss (2006 now restored).

*Policy D2: A schedule of original features, including cannon, at Fort Regent should be prepared and deposited at the Jersey Archive and care should be taken to keep as much original material in situ as possible.*

Once Fort Regent is designated as a Site of Special Interest, consent will be required for any work that affects the fabric of the building. Maintenance staff and those commissioning any work at the Fort will need to understand the consent system in order to comply with planning law. (2006 ó damaging work carried out in the Signal Station underlines the need for this approach to be taken).

*Policy D3: In discussion with the Planning Department, ESC should start to introduce a system of application for SSI consent for any work at Fort Regent in advance of designation. This will enable staff responsible for maintenance to understand the system for protecting historic fabric.*

#### *4.5.1 Masonry Decay*

Although Fort Regent is built primarily of granite, often using massive blocks, even these will not withstand the pressures of tree roots over time. Self-seeded sycamores have taken root in the East Outworks and the East Bastion. They should be controlled in order to avoid long-term damage to historic masonry.

*Policy D4: Plant growth should be monitored on all parts of Fort Regent. Small wall-loving species may be left in place, but deeper rooting species should removed in a manner which will not damage the masonry itself and subject to archaeological recording where necessary.*

The use of hard, cement-based pointing is evident across the site and should be removed if failing or leading to water ingress or stone damage. Some hard re-pointing of the Glacis Field wall has been carried out and although this is not of concern in terms of damp penetration, it precludes plant species from populating the wall.

*Policy D5: Examine the structure of all buildings at Fort Regent for repair materials and techniques which may be damaging the structure and remove them when and where*

*possible. As with all historic buildings, repair should always be on a 'like for like' basis, using the same materials as the original.*

The complex of fortifications on South Hill, which were an integral part of the defensive complex of Fort Regent, is not maintained to the same standard as those of the fort.

*Policy D6: In discussion with other stakeholders, ESC and the Planning Department should encourage all work carried out across the wider site to be to a standard appropriate to the historic importance of Fort Regent.*

#### 4.5.2 Safety

During 2003 the gate to the west face of the fort below the curtain wall was not locked, allowing visitors, if they wished, to gain access to an unsafe area. This has now been rectified, but indicates how safety provision in a site as extensive as Fort Regent must constantly be monitored.

Railings were erected during the 1970s refurbishment of the castle. Externally these have been supplemented with chain-link fencing in places, presumably to provide better security for small children. It is not clear whether the railings are really necessary and a review of safety barriers and signage at Fort Regent should be carried out.

Across the wider site, the Parish of St Helier maintains chain-link fencing around South Hill and Public Services are responsible for other areas. Each organisation responsible should continue to monitor safety provision for the areas in its care.

*Policy D7: A safety audit should be carried out, reviewing existing safety measures at Fort Regent and identifying the need for barriers and warning signage where necessary. Safety audits should also be carried out by those responsible for other parts of the wider site.*

#### 4.6 ACCESS

Historic properties can be extremely difficult for the disabled, partially-sighted and blind, and other groups such as families with pushchairs. Surfaces are often uneven, levels may vary by several metres in short distances and by far more across a site. Fort Regent suffers some of these problems externally ó typically due to steps linking parts of the original fort - although the interior has adequate provision for the disabled.

*Policy E1: Commission an access audit, with a view to improving access and facilities for disabled visitors to Fort Regent.*

Pedestrian access to the fort is limited, via escalators and steps from Pier Road. The majority of those using the fort arrive by car. Tourism remains an important part of the local economy, however, and every effort should be made to encourage pedestrians to enjoy the diverse attractions of the fort and environs. The Saville Jones Architects *Proposed Redevelopment of*

*Fort Regent* document of 1997 identified access as the key to the future success of Fort Regent and recognized that Snow Hill offers an access route that is closest to the town centre.

*Policy E2: Examine pedestrian routes to and from Fort Regent and re-examine access from Snow Hill as the closest point of the fort to St Helier. Consider all pedestrian routes in the context of proposals for the wider use of the area (Policy A1 above) and circular routes (Policy E3 below).*

Existing footpaths could be extended or better linked to introduce a number of circular routes around Fort Regent, South Hill and La Collette.

*Policy E3: Relevant stakeholders should discuss the potential for making existing public footpaths into one or more coordinated circular routes around Fort Regent.*

Parking facilities are restricted and not capable of significant extension without unacceptable intrusion into the landscape. The provision of parking at historic sites is always difficult and particularly the provision of signage can be damaging to the environment.

*Policy E4: Review parking provision at Fort Regent in the light of possible future developments. Discussion with the Planning & Public Services Committee will be required over use of the road, access etc.*

South Hill and Fort Regent are separated by a road initially constructed for troops moving between La Collette Barracks and the defensive positions on the Town Hill and South Hill. The road is currently used not only for vehicular access to the Fort and properties to the east of it, but also as a cut-through for east-bound traffic avoiding travelling around Mount Bingham. This through traffic separates South Hill from the Town Hill and diminishes the amenity value of the area.

*Policy E5: An assessment of vehicle movements through the site should be carried out in conjunction with Public Services and proposals made to manage vehicular traffic in order to improve the amenity value of the area in line with proposals for the use of the wider site.*

#### 4.7 PROTECTION

As a proposed SSI Fort Regent enjoys *de facto* statutory protection. The areas and buildings covered, and the levels of protection (eg listing grades) appear to vary, however, across the site. This will be addressed in time by the on-going review of the historic buildings register, but in the interim all stakeholders should be aware that buildings in their care have significance as part of the whole defensive complex on and around the Town Hill which may be greater than the significance these buildings would have on their own.

*Policy F1: Planning & Public Services should check the current listings for buildings in the wider area. Further archaeological and architectural evaluation may be necessary, particularly of the fortifications on South Hill.*

Geological features are not protected under the current system in Jersey. Representations have been made to the Planning Department on this matter and it would undoubtedly be a loss if the rare raised beach on South Hill was removed during, say, re-landscaping. The beach would also be an asset in any tour of the area and adds to the already considerable interest of the Town and South Hills.

*Policy F2: Consideration should be given to providing statutory protection for rare geological features, such as the raised beach features on South Hill and to the east of the fort.*

#### 4.8 LANDSCAPE

Fort Regent is a significant outdoor space close to the heart of St Helier. It links with the gardens at La Colette and South Hill and ranges over an area of 13.5 hectares (33 acres or 75 verges). This landscape element of the fort and environs should be recognized, protected and nurtured. At present more emphasis is placed on the interior spaces at Fort Regent ó sports centre, conference and concert venue ó than on outside space, despite these spaces amounting to less than third of the total area.

*Policy G1: The landscape element of the fort and environs should be recognized, protected and nurtured.*

Fort Regent has a particularly impressive setting. The roof over the parade ground dominates St Helier's skyline from a distance and the fort is a dramatic backdrop to the townscape throughout the town of St Helier. The views from Fort Regent and South Hill over St Aubin's Bay and over the roofscape of the town are also magnificent. The Cedars is a reminder, however, of how new building can adversely affect even a place the size of Fort Regent, breaking as it does the skyline of the Town Hill when seen from Elizabeth Castle. Development in the town itself can also affect the fort ó rooftop plant and machinery needs to be carefully designed and screened if it is not to damage views of the town from the Fort.

*Policy G2: Views of the Town Hill and Fort Regent from both near and far should be protected and new development should respect the existing skyline.*

*Policy G3: The visual impact of new development on the roofscape of St Helier as seen from Fort Regent should be take account by the Planning Department.*

The Planning & Public Services Department site is zoned for future States housing in the Island Plan 2002. The design of any new buildings should respect the site.

*Policy G4: Any future use of the Planning and Public Services Department site should respect the historic importance of South Hill as part of the defensive complex above St Helier and should also respect the existing skyline of South Hill and Fort Regent.*

Balancing landscape issues and the long-term maintenance of historic buildings is always difficult. Originally the fort would have had little or no vegetation around it (as shown in early paintings) in order to maintain clear fields of fire for guns. Now some areas have been

landscaped while others have been left untended, resulting in self-seeded plants and trees starting to damage historic fabric.

*Policy G5: A landscape policy should be developed which controls plant and tree growth at Fort Regent, enabling visitors both to understand the original use as a fort and enjoy landscaped areas in their own right.*

#### 4.10 ECOLOGY

Probably the most significant ecological issues concern the wider landscape (see below). However the primary area ó the fort itself ó is significant from the point of view of the substantial areas of cliff and grassland around the curtain walls and ramparts. The Environment Department has only been able to carry out a limited survey of both Fort Regent and the wider area and consequently a fuller study should be commissioned as a matter of priority. Inadvertent damage to rare species may be caused during building or landscaping works by ignorance of their existence. For instance swifts, which previously used the south wall of the Glacis for nesting in considerable numbers, are now deterred from doing so by grounds maintenance and weeding being carried out at nesting time (C Aubin, pers com). Knowledge will allow habitats for a diverse range of plants, animals and insects to be maintained to the benefit of biodiversity.

*Policy H1: Commission an ecological survey of both Fort Regent and the wider area.*

Built structures can support a diverse assemblage of plants and animals, many of which are particularly associated with such habitats. As well as being of ecological importance they give colour, texture and character to what might otherwise be stark constructions.

*Policy H2: Benign plant growth at Fort Regent should be accepted, but any harmful deep-rooted vegetation should be controlled or removed, while respecting legally-protected species using the buildings and walls for shelter, breeding or hibernation. (See also Policy D4)*

Co-ordination between Education, Sport & Culture and the Environment Department, Public Services department and the Parish of St Helier is needed to manage the environment across the wider site. Although the composition of the grassland on Fort Regent, the Glacis Field, South Hill and La Collette appears to be unexceptional, the green ‘corridor’ running from the sea at La Colette/ Havre des Pas through South Hill to the Town Hill is significant. There are opportunities to create and maintain a more diverse sward throughout the site.

*Policy H3: ESC, the Parish of St Helier and PSD should seek the advice of the Environment Department in creating and maintaining a more diverse sward throughout the site and managing the whole site as one environmental unit.*

#### 4.10 INTRUSIONS

There are a number of things that represent intrusions at Fort Regent. Some are, of course, necessary for the running of the fort and it will not be possible to remove or change them in the short term. It is possible, however, to recognize that they may not benefit the fort for various reasons. Parking signage, for instance, introduces visual clutter where it would be preferable if there were none. The swimming pool obscures the original purpose of the fort by introducing a substantial building where there was none and also significantly alters the skyline of the Town Hill. Decisions to remove intrusions or minimize their impact can be taken once it is understood how they affect Fort Regent's significance.

Some of the intrusions are listed below:

- The Swimming Pool on the Glacis and covered passageway across the Counterguard, which introduce buildings where there were none, block views both south from the Fort and north from South Hill and obscures the understanding of the Glacis and Counterguard as part of the defensive structure of Fort Regent.
- The pool access road and trees on the Glacis Field, which interfere with the open sweep of the Glacis.
- The main entrance lobby, which obscures the original main entrance gate.
- Internal fittings, fixtures and finishes throughout the fort, which interfere visually with the restrained military architecture.
- Modern paraphernalia such as cables and aerials affect the general ambience of any historic place.
- The partially demolished and unfinished West Bastion, which once provided the best views over the harbour and was the site of the fort's flagpole.
- The concrete block wall around the Signal Station in the northwest Redan.
- The abandoned upper Cable Car station, which is constructed on the glacis to the north of the East Outworks.
- The abandoned East Outworks pond.
- The abandoned mini-golf course and closed café in the Northern Outworks.
- The remains of interpretation signage throughout the site.
- The upper levels of the Pier Road multi-storey car-park, which could be less visually intrusive.
- The standard street furniture and lighting throughout the site and access road.
- The varied and extensive signage and parking arrangements throughout the site.
- The use of ditches for random storage, and the construction of timber sheds at the west end of the northern ditch and south end of the East Outworks ditch and the wall at the end of the E/W ditch.
- The portacabins and other temporary buildings in the East Ditch.
- The high-rise flats ó The Cedars - beside the tunnel (east).
- The portacabin accommodation units on the South Hill Planning and PSD site, which together with the offices themselves, have grown in an *ad hoc* manner over the years.
- The practise parking and turning area, which introduces vehicles into an environmentally sensitive area.

- The South Hill gym building, which encroaches on what would otherwise be an area of parkland.

*Policy II: Remove intrusive features, or reduce or minimise their impact throughout the site.*

## CONSERVATION POLICIES: CONSOLIDATED LIST

### OWNERSHIP & MANAGEMENT (4.2.1)

*Policy A1: The owners of all parts of the site should form a working group to discuss greater integration between all parts of the site.*

### USE (5.2.2)

*Policy A2: Explore the means of promoting more broadly-based access across the site. As a public building, the uses to which the fort and adjacent areas are put should be for the benefit of the island.*

*Policy A3: While maintaining the existing uses of Fort Regent by and for the local community ESC should enlarge the user group by promoting the Fort as a heritage attraction.*

*Policy A4: ESC should initiate debate with stakeholders on the use of the fort for events which are appropriate to the site as a whole. Establish guidelines for the use of the site which ensure that the timing of events and the use of the parts of the site do not offend sensibilities or damage the monument.*

*Policy A5: the use to which all parts of South Hill are put should be appropriate to the site and should not detract from the existing sense of place.*

*Policy A6: In discussion with other stakeholders, the Parish of St Helier should consider the potential for opening further parts of Mount Bingham and South Hill to the public and linking it with other parts of the site.*

*Policy A7: Any future use of the Planning and Public Services Department site should respect the historic importance of South Hill as part of the defensive complex above St Helier and should also respect the existing skyline of South Hill and Fort Regent.*

### UNDERSTANDING (4.3)

*Policy B1: Understanding of the Mediaeval use of the Town Hill should be improved through further research.*

*Policy B2: Undertake research into the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century lines and the extent of the field fort existing prior to the construction of Fort Regent.*

*Policy B3: Undertake research into the extent of Conway's work on South Hill in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, and on the First World War rearming of South Hill.*

*Policy B4: Undertake research into material at the Jersey Archive to establish further details of the labour and materials used in the construction of Fort Regent.*

#### INTERPRETATION & PRESENTATION (4.4)

*Policy C1: Directional signage should be considered at a number of points within the landscape. Paths through the landscape or circular walks could be valuable elements in the visitor's discovery and appreciation of the area.*

*Policy C2: A guide book for the area would be beneficial. This could be a new guidebook for the whole site, or could be stand alone documents for individual parts that would link with those for other parts of the site. ESC could take the lead on this as a positive example of progressing together.*

*Policy C3: Suitable display/interpretation panels should be provided throughout the site, linking, La Collette, the barracks and South Hill with Fort Regent. Signs should also be provided to explain the fine views from the fort in all directions.*

*Policy C4: Fort Regent should be developed as an educational resource. Interpretation at the site will need to recognise an educational dimension and link the fort to the wider historic context.*

*Policy C5: Reinstate missing parts of the structure and open areas now closed where possible to improve understanding of the fort.*

#### CONDITION OF THE FABRIC (4.5)

*Policy D1: Introduce a quinquennial system of inspection of Fort Regent, employing an appropriately qualified building professional to carry out the work.*

*Policy D2: A schedule of original features, including cannon, at Fort Regent should be prepared and deposited at the Jersey Archive and care should be taken to keep as much original material in situ as possible.*

*Policy D3: In discussion with the Planning Department, ESC should start to introduce a system of application for SSI consent for any work at Fort Regent in advance of designation. This will enable staff responsible for maintenance to understand the system for protecting historic fabric.*

*Policy D4: Plant growth should be monitored on all parts of Fort Regent. Small wall-loving species may be left in place, but deeper rooting species should be removed in a manner which will not damage the masonry itself and subject to archaeological recording where necessary.*

*Policy D5: Examine the structure of all buildings at Fort Regent for repair materials and techniques which may be damaging the structure and remove them when and where possible. As with all historic buildings, repair should always be on a 'like for like' basis, using the same materials as the original.*

*Policy D6: In discussion with other stakeholders, ESC and the Planning Department should encourage all work carried out across the wider site to be to a standard appropriate to the historic importance of Fort Regent.*

*Policy D7: A safety audit should be carried out, reviewing existing safety measures at Fort Regent and identifying the need for barriers and warning signage where necessary. Safety audits should also be carried out by those responsible for other parts of the wider site.*

#### ACCESS (4.6)

*Policy E1: Commission an access audit, with a view towards improving access and facilities for disabled visitors to Fort Regent.*

*Policy E2: Examine pedestrian routes to and from Fort Regent and re-examine access from Snow Hill as the closest point of the fort to St Helier. Consider all pedestrian routes in the context of proposals for the wider use of the area (Policy A1 above) and circular routes (Policy E3 below).*

*Policy E3: Relevant stakeholders should discuss the potential for making existing public footpaths into one or more coordinated circular routes around Fort Regent.*

*Policy E4: Review parking provision at Fort Regent in the light of possible future developments. Discussion with the Planning & Public Services Committee will be required over use of the road, access etc.*

*Policy E5: An assessment of vehicle movements through the site should be carried out in conjunction with Public Services and proposals made to manage vehicular traffic in order to improve the amenity value of the area in line with proposals for the use of the wider site.*

#### PROTECTION (4.7)

*Policy F1: Planning & Public Services should check the current listings for buildings in the wider area. Further archaeological and architectural evaluation may be necessary, particularly of the fortifications on South Hill.*

*Policy F2: Consideration should be given to providing statutory protection for rare geological features, such as the raised beach features on South Hill and to the East of the fort.*

#### LANDSCAPE (4.8)

*Policy G1: The landscape element of the fort and environs should be recognized, protected and nurtured.*

*Policy G2: Views of the Town Hill and Fort Regent from both near and far should be protected and new development should respect the existing skyline.*

*Policy G3: The visual impact of new development on the roofscape of St Helier as seen from Fort Regent should be taken account by Planning .*

*Policy G4: Any future use of the Planning and Public Services Department site should respect the historic importance of South Hill as part of the defensive complex above St Helier and should also respect the existing skyline of South Hill and Fort Regent.*

*Policy G5: A landscape policy should be developed which controls plant and tree growth at Fort Regent, enabling visitors both to understand the original use as a fort and enjoy landscaped areas in their own right.*

#### ECOLOGY (4.9)

*Policy H1: Commission an ecological survey of both Fort Regent and the wider area.*

*Policy H2: Benign plant growth at Fort Regent should be accepted, but any harmful deep-rooted vegetation should be controlled or removed, while respecting legally-protected species using the buildings and walls for shelter, breeding or hibernation. (See also Policy D4)*

*Policy H3: ESC, the Parish of St Helier and PSD should seek the advice of the Environment Department in creating and maintaining a more diverse sward throughout the site and managing the whole site as one environmental unit.*

#### INTRUSIONS (4.10)

*Policy I1: Remove intrusive features, or reduce or minimise their impact throughout the site.*

## A BRIEF GLOSSARY OF MILITARY TERMS

<i>Bastion</i>	A projecting strong point of a fortification, usually pentagonal in shape with its base in line with or a slight angle to the main works.
<i>Casemate</i>	A vaulted or arched chamber within the thickness of the walls of a fortress, with embrasures for cannon.
<i>Counterguard</i>	An outwork usually consisting of two faces only, constructed in front of another work of great importance, which it is intended to cover. Sometimes called a <i>Coverface</i> .
<i>Counterscarp</i>	The outer wall or slope of a defensive ditch adjacent to a fortified works, usually surmounted by a <i>Covered-Way</i> .
<i>Covered-Way</i>	Defensive lines for infantry situated atop the <i>Counterscarp</i> .
<i>Curtain</i> ( <i>Courtine</i> )	The plain wall of a fortified place connecting towers or strong points, such as <i>Bastions</i> .
<i>Embrasure</i>	The bevelling opening in a parapet or in the walls of a casemate for the placing of cannon.
<i>Enfilade</i>	Raking fire from the flanks, so placed as to be capable of sweeping a line of works or men from end to end.
<i>Epaulement</i>	A breastwork particularly used as a flank protection: a sidework, or work to cover sideways, to protect the guns or gunners from an enfilading fire.
<i>Field of Fire</i>	The horizontal arc through which guns can fire without obstruction.
<i>Glacis</i>	A bank or field sloping gently downwards from the <i>Counterscarp</i> of a fortified works, so related in height to the <i>Ramparts</i> of the Fort as to ensure the attackers are exposed to fire from the defences.
<i>Magazine</i> ( <i>Bomb-proof</i> )	A store for arms, ammunition, or supplies in time of war. A <i>Casemated Magazine</i> is a vaulted or arched chamber within the thickness of the walls of a fortress, usually with a protective ventilated passage all round.
<i>Mining</i>	The forming of a subterranean gallery in which to place explosives to blow up fortifications.
<i>Ordnance</i>	Any military stores or equipment but with particular reference to

cannon and ammunition.

<i>Outwork</i>	A defensive position detached from the main body of a fortified place.
<i>Ravelin</i>	An Outwork of two faces forming a salient angle outside the main ditch.
<i>Redan</i>	Strictly a work with two faces forming a salient angle. In the case of Fort Regent this definition is not entirely applicable and the term <i>Demi-Bastion</i> might be equally apposite.
<i>Redoubt</i>	An outwork, usually square or rectangular on plan and often casemated, without flanking defences.
<i>Sapping</i>	The formation of trenches to cover an assailants approach to besieged defences.
<i>Scarp</i>	The inner wall or slope of a defensive ditch (that is, the outer face of fortified works).
<i>Trajectory (of cannon)</i>	The path described in flight of a projectile fired from a cannon.

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### **3. DOCUMENTS LOCATED AT THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE**

#### **HO: Records created or inherited by the Home Office, Ministry of Home Security or related bodies**

HO 45/4024

Channel Islands (Jersey) Provisions for Fort Regent and Elizabeth Castle  
c.1841 ó 1871

MPH: Maps and plans extracted to flat storage from the records of the War Office, 1661 ó 1945

MPH 1/160

3 items extracted from WO/55/1549/5. Plans showing proposed works on Town Hills at St Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands. Scale 1 inch to 100 feet. Compass indicator. Endorsed: brought from the Tower 18 June 1803. The works were in due course named Fort Regent.  
1787

MPH 1/447

Drawing of a pump for a bomb-proof well under the parade at Fort Regent, St Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands. Reference table. Scale 1 inch to 6 feet. Drawn by Henry Maudley and Co, London 24<sup>th</sup> December 1814. Approved by J Humphrey, Maj Gen: his letter of 7<sup>th</sup> January 1815 to Lt Gen Mann refers.  
1814 ó 1815

#### **WO: Records created or inherited by the War Office, Armed Forces, Judge, Advocate General, and related bodies, 1568 – 1995**

WO 78/4907

Fort Regent, Jersey. Observation Post. 1 sheet. Site Plan, plan sections and elevations  
Not dated on catalogue

WO 78/5098

Jersey Fort Regent ó no further information  
1907; 1913

WO 78/2378

Fort Regent and Elizabeth Castle; St Helier  
1877

WO 78/2486/2

Site Plan, plan and sections of proposed advanced works near Fort Regent  
Not dated on catalogue

WO 78/2562/5

Fort Regent ó no further information

Not dated on catalogue

WO 78/2990

Fort Regent, Plans and Sections of Married Quarters and School House, Green Street  
1878

WO 78/3734

Fort Regent Plan of Station Hospital and Married Quarters  
1908

WO 78/4175

Fort Regent proposed look-out hut  
09/04/1910

#### **4. Selected Documents held at the Jersey Archive relating to Fort Regent, South Hill and La Collette**

##### **A Lieutenant Governor's Collection**

The Lieutenant Governor is responsible for defence within the Island; therefore his collection contains a considerable amount of correspondence with the English Government.

The collection includes the letter books of General Don, which are sure to contain references to Fort Regent in its construction period, 1806 - 1814.

Additional documents which shed light on the role of the Fort include:

1804

*Letter from Whitehall concerning Fort Regent (A/D1/M16)*

1870

*Correspondence concerning the appointment of a curate, Mr Williams, by the War Office to officiate for services at the Fort and Elizabeth Castle.*

1903-1909

Correspondence between the Bailiff and Lieutenant Governor concerning the storage of arms and equipment at La Collette, including damage done to the store roof and subsequent payment for repairs by the War Office in 1904 due to firing at South Hill. By 1906 the Lieutenant Governor was requesting permission from the Bailiff to store the company's clothing at La Collette. In 1909 there is a letter regarding the provision of office furniture for the Officer Commanding Engineer Company, Royal Militia at La Collette. It would seem that both the Medical Company and Engineer Company used La Collette for storage.

1919-1920

Papers relating to the firing of the noonday gun at Fort Regent, proving that this function was carried out at the Fort well into the 20th Century

1964 - 1973

The Lieutenant Governor's collection also includes correspondence from this period relating to the development of War Department Land, including Fort Regent.

### **B Bailiff's Occupation Files**

The Bailiff's occupation files cover the period 1940 - 1945 when the Bailiff was the chief liaison between the States of Jersey and the Feldcommandant. During this period the Bailiff also assumed the role of Lieutenant Governor. They shed some light on the uses of the Fort during the Occupation period.

Fort Regent appears to have been used in conjunction with the Town Arsenal as a storage area for a variety of commodities, in 1940 1000-1200 woollen blankets were stored at the Fort, in 1944 civil explosives were removed from the Fort to the Hotel Metropol. From 1940 we can see that arms and ammunition were being transferred from the Town Arsenal to the Fort.

#### **November 1940**

Detention cells were created by the German Authorities in the former military detention barracks at the Fort.

20/01/1942 - 18/04/1944

Correspondence relating to the German Order to remove the lead from the roof of Fort Regent to be used for type to print the Jersey Evening Post. The amount of lead removed was 2626 kilos.

#### **June 1945**

Correspondence with Miss A E Grandin, 7, Overseas Flats, Dicq Road concerning the preservation of the La Collette Walks

### **C States of Jersey Assembly**

The States Collection includes copies of the States of Jersey Minutes from the sixteenth century to the present day. An index to the minutes shows references to the Fort and the Mont de la Ville in the early 1800s.

The collection also contains the minutes of the Piers and Harbours Committee and the Defence Committee, which may be worth further investigation.

### **D/ap States Greffe Collection**

This collection covers a variety of subjects and papers that have been lodged au Greffe in the past 200 years. It includes a number of papers concerning the militia in the Island during the First World War period. These files would have to be searched individually for references to

the Fort. The collection does include the pay lists for the In lying Piquet and Detachment of the Royal Militia of the Island of Jersey at Fort Regent from 1916 - 1917.

1886

An Act providing for the establishment of a telegraph wire between the lighthouse at Corbiere and Fort Regent for the services of signals.

1907

An Act of the Piers and Harbours Committee concerning land situated near the Mont de la Ville, St Helier. This item includes a plan showing the encroachment on War Department Land by the States of Jersey for which it is proposed to charge 1s per annum, the land is in the area near Mount Bingham and the plan also shows South Hill including the redoubt at the South. The Act looks back to a contract of 1842 between the States and the Crown by which the States undertook to divert a portion of the Road encircling the hill, so as to improve the gradient from the Guard House to the Ordnance Office. The course of the new road lay through WD Land and the Contract provided for an exchange; the old road to be given over the W Department in exchange for the new.

1854

Letter from the President of the Committee of Piers and Harbours to the Royal Engineers Office dated 01/02/1854. The letter concerns the replacement of the Ordnance Boundary removed in the quarrying and formation of the approaches to the New Pier. The meeting of the Committee for Piers and Harbours which took place on the ground states that the -Boundary stones in question replaced without delay in their original positionøThis File gives proof that stone from South Hill was used for quarrying and that the boundary stones were replaced after quarrying.

1858

Petition to the Sewerage Committee asking for the building of drains in Green Street and Fort Regent.

1885 ó 1897

During the above dates there is a considerable amount of correspondence from the Piers and Harbours Department concerning the telegraph connection between the Fort and Elizabeth Castle.

1887 ó 1893

Piers and Harbours department correspondence relating to Fort Regent shows that the Signal Flagstaff at Fort Regent has no lightening conductor, though it was near one of the large magazines. The signal was struck by lightning in 1887 and damage done to the top of the staff and one of the gun emplacements of the bastion (Letter from C E Cumberland, Colonel, Commanding Royal Engineers).

During this period signalmen were also requesting a raise in pay from 9d to 1s per day each *'owing to the arduous nature of our duties which necessitated our having to provide ourselves with oilskins and extra clothing'*

The file also includes correspondence relating to telephones installed at Fort in 1893 between the Harbour Masters Office and Signalman's quarters at Fort Regent.

1888

There is evidence of a military prison at South Hill

1872 - 1898

A War Office Letter dated 17/06/1872 *'on the subject of proposals of Committee of Jersey Harbour Works to quarry off the portion of the South Hill'* states *'I am directed the Secretary of State to inform you that the quarrying may be allowed....'*

A memo signed George Bent Colonel Commanding Royal Engineer 13/07/1872 of a similar date states;

*'It would seem advisable that some responsible person on the part of the Harbour Committee become the tenant for a term of years or until the approaches to the Eastern Pier are constructed and pay the War Department a rental of £12 a year with the power to sublet such portions of the land as may be found convenient from time to time'*

By 1888 the excavation at the South Hill quarry by men employed by Harbours Department had reached a level below that named by the War Office, when the Secretary of State's permission was given for the excavation.

In 1898 the extent of the Harbour's Committee title to the land in the vicinity of South Hill is stated as being only the triangular portion of land at the east end of the margin in question purports to be dealt with showing that at this date the majority of land at South Hill still belonged to the War Office.

### **D/AU Treasury Collection**

1972 to 1978

The Treasury Collections includes passing sheets for the Fort Regent development. And Projets de Loi relating to the development.

### **D/Q Harbours Department**

The Harbours Department collection contains a number of aerial photographs from the 1970s of the Fort and also photographs of the Fort before the swimming pool and tunnel were built and before any land reclamation had taken place at La Collette.

### **D/Y Judicial Greffe**

The Archive holds a number of testaments including those listed below who had a connection with Fort Regent or South Hill.

Item Reference: D/Y/A/44/109

Item Description: Testament of Ralph Barrow, Provost Sergeant, South Hill Provost Prison, St Helier. Dated: 25/03/1879. Bequeaths to James Waterfield his Royal Arch Jewels apron and Gold Pastmasters jewel, presented to him by the Royal Sussex Lodge. To Patrick Kent, his Grand and Blue Lodge aprons, Mark Lodge Jewel and Good conduct medal. Codicil added: 02/03/1885

Dates: 12/03/1885Frenchpapers3

Item Reference: D/Y/A/86/60

Item Description: Will and Testament of Emile Jules Gallie, Fort Regent, St Helier, in the service of King George V. Dated 30 May 1917.

Dates: 23/04/1926Englishpaper1

### **D/Z Law Officers Department**

1940 ó 1945

This collection includes a list of privately owned firearms stored in the armoury at Fort Regent

L/C/48 David Maindonald Research Collection

Research into German Fortifications in the Channel Islands during the Occupation.

Item Reference: L/C/48/A/2

Item Description: File of research relating to the Observational Posts and Towers in Jersey at Corbiere, Les Landes, Plemont, Sorel Point, Rozel Mill, Nicolle Tower, St Ouen's Mill, Victoria Tower, Mont Orgueil, Grouville Mill, La Collette, La Moye, St Aubins, Elizabeth Castle, La Hougue Bie and Mont Cambrai. Contains: map showing the individual location of the Posts and Towers, specific details on each with additional plans and photographs.

Dates: 1940 - 1945

Item Reference: L/C/48/A/15

Item Description: File of research relating to the German fortifications in Jersey. Contains details about the fortifications, includes plans, photographs, and maps showing the position of the fortifications. Locations include South Hill, Fort Regent, Gorey, Ville es Novey, Ville au Bas, Victoria Tower, Fort Henry, La Corbiere

Dates: 1940 - 1945

### **L/D/25 Channel Islands Occupation Society Collection**

Item Reference: L/D/25/F1/1

Item Description: Green Books-Album 1. Includes photographs of the defences of Jersey in Defence Sector South which encompasses St Helier, the Harbour, Bel Royal, La Collette, the Esplanade, West Park, First Tower, Millbrook, St Aubin, Beaumont and Beau Rivage, Defence Sector North which encompasses Sorel, Bonne Nuit, Les Platons, Bouley Bay, Rozel, Fliquet and Archirondel and Defence Sector East which encompasses La Hougue Bie, Gorey, La Rocque and Rocqueberg

Dates: 1940 - 1945

Item Reference: L/D/25/L/55

Item Description: Talk by Major Frank Sargent of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps to the Channel Islands Occupation Society on the clearing Jersey of German relics after the occupation. Includes information about stores of German equipment at Beaumont, La Collette, Fort Regent, Springfield Stadium, The Esplanade, German Underground Hospital with lists of the amount of weapons, vehicles and equipment collected, a body known as the London Munitions Assignment Board being given first call on all usable German equipment, being told to destroy all German war potential with a wish to cleanse the island.

Dates: 19/10/1979

Item Reference: L/D/25/L/63

Item Description: An interview with Dr Newell Youngren, an American ex prisoner of war from Arizona, on BBC Radio Jersey. It is explained how First Lieutenant Newell Youngren was captured in the Granville Raid by the Germans, kept in Jersey as a prisoner of war for 11 months and how he is now making a tour of Europe of the places that he remembers. Whilst in Jersey he visited the one remaining building still in existence from the prisoner of war camp at South Hill and went into one of the cells.

### **L/F/08 Public Services Collection**

This collection includes a series of letters from W Mackenzie the depot adjutant at fort regent, 1836 ó 1837. A brief description of each letter can be seen below but looking at each letter might produce interesting information.

The collection also includes postcards of the Jersey Militia in camp at Fort Regent c.1906.

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/44

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie, Brook Lodge, Wrington, Bristol general account of the social activities, the races, a picnic at St Brelade's Bay, a concert at Government House and swimming in the sea

Dates: 13/08/1836Englishpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/45

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie, Brook Lodge, Wrington, Bristol description of his social engagements

Dates: 05/09/1836 - 15/09/1836Englishseal - applied1

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/46

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie, Brook Lodge, Wrington, Bristol account of preparations for a ball at a hotel in town, officers from Guernsey also invited and forthcoming Inspection at Gorey 'all the Island are to out looking at us'

Dates: 30/09/1836Englishpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/47

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie, Brook Lodge, Wrington, Bristol forthcoming ball in Guernsey, fellow officers being sent to Gibraltar, some description of his job as Depot Adjutant  
Dates: 04/11/1836Englishpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/48

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie, Brook Lodge, Wrington, Bristol the order came for the embarkation of the Draft been busy purchasing everything for them, they left for Southampton on the steamer, will not be able to get leave until the summer  
Dates: 19/12/1836Englishpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/49

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie, Brook Lodge, Wrington, Bristol levy at Government House 'one of the customs here, everyone in the Island goes', Company from Guernsey arriving shortly  
Dates: 01/01/1837Englishpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/50

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie c/o Mrs Cunningham 3 Princes Buildings, Clifton, Bristol comments on the weather and effect the direction of the wind has on the prices in the market, they are raised if the supplies come only from France, usual round of dinners and dancing, asks not to send any cherry brandy 'as it is so cheap here'  
Dates: 14/01/1837Englishpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/51

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie, Brook Lodge, Wrington, Bristol a few lines to tell her he had recovered from influenza  
Dates: 31/01/1837Englishpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/52

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie, Brook Lodge, Wrington, Bristol not many social engagements, hoping to get leave after Inspection in May  
Dates: 02/02/1837Englishpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/53

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie, Brook Lodge, Wrington, Bristol spending each day until 4pm in barracks, influenza not as violent as in England, sends a copy of the Jersey Times on every steamer  
Dates: 05/02/1837Englishpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/54

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie, Brook Lodge, Wrington, Bristol in a month there will be two steamers to France and constant communication with Southampton and Weymouth 'I wish I were out of the Island, the society the only thing that made it bearable is quite knocked on the head by Influenza'

Dates: 04/03/1837Englishpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/55

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie, Brook Lodge, Wrington, Bristol giving up the Adjutancy to go to Gibraltar, will send some carnations by the vessel sailing to Bristol next week, much confined to barracks by drilling, many young officers to be instructed, the only engagement since he wrote last was cancelled due to death of a near relative

Dates: 15/03/1837Englishpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/57

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie, Brook Lodge, Wrington, Bristol asks her to write to Colonel Loraine stating he wishes to go to India for the purpose of speedy promotion and saving money, going to Portsmouth the next day to provide evidence for a court martial, severe frost last night and snowing

Dates: 10/04/1837Englishpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/58

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie, Brook Lodge, Wrington, Bristol decided not to try to exchange Regiments, meant to be going to Portsmouth the next day

Dates: 13/04/1837Englishpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/59

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie, Brook Lodge, Wrington, Bristol stayed with the 68th in Portsmouth and was entertained in the 'handsomest manner', returned in time for one of the Assemblies which was very good but 'tired of Jersey and its inhabitants', originally enclosed with a scandalous sort of publication which has caused much offence from being so personal

Dates: 01/05/1837Englishpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/60

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie Brook Lodge, Wrington, Bristol cannot have leave until a decision made on a Court Martial, believes he is alluded to in the scandalous publication 'The Red Ribbons' not very happy at having to attend 'never ending parties' as one of the few officers allowed out

Dates: 15/05/1837Englishpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/61

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie, Brook Lodge, Wrington, Bristol all regiments to take their turn in the West Indies 'ours in two years time, then to Canada, then home to spend three years at each station', disgusted by the vulgar people on his last picnic, rejoicing for Princess Victoria's birthday, salute from Elizabeth Castle, tomorrow Anniversary of the Restoration

Dates: 28/05/1837Englishpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/62

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie, Brook Lodge, Wrington, Bristol granted two months leave from 1 July, 'employed all day proclaiming our new Queen'  
Dates: 23/06/1837Englishpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/08/A/63

Item Description: Letter from W Mackenzie, Fort Regent to his mother Mrs Mackenzie Brook Lodge, Wrington, Bristol safe journey back on the steamer from Southampton 'as usual a heavy swell', bought a gig for £25, 'Jersey as gay as ever' (not dated)  
Dates: 01/09/1837Englishpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/08/F/7

Item Description: Photograph of the entrance to Fort Regent, group waiting for the 21 gun salute to celebrate the Royal Visit of King George V and Queen Mary  
Dates: 21/07/1921

Item Reference: L/F/08/G1/5

Item Description: Blank postcards of Jersey Militia in camp at Fort Regent, photographer Albert Smith  
Dates: 01/05/1906Englishpostcards4

Item Reference: L/F/08/G1/13

Item Description: Blank postcard of the entrance to Fort Regent from the Beresford Series (not dated)  
Dates: 1900 - 1910Englishpostcard1

Item Reference: L/F/08/G1/31

Item Description: Blank postcard of Jersey Militia queuing up to provide written information individually, reason unidentified camp outside Fort Regent (not dated)  
Dates: 1914Englishpostcard1

Item Reference: L/F/08/G1/32

Item Description: Blank postcard of Militia soldiers packing up camp outside Fort Regent (not dated)  
Dates: 1914Englishpostcard1

### **L/F/22 Le Masurier Collection**

This collection includes a significant amount of records relating to the purchase of land from the Vingtaine and also an early document proving that the Hill was considered for fortifications and land was given over to the Crown in 1591.

Item Reference: L/F/22/E/1

Dates: 15/01/1641

Original document dated 15/01/1591 [1592 ó New Style] copied 15/01/1641

Before Jean Dumaresq, Bailiff at St Helier.

Present: Constable, Centenier, Vingtenier of St Helier with all the principle inhabitants of the Vingtaine de la Ville, St Helier.

Promise from HM Elizabeth I in letters patent to fortify and rampart the height and summit of the Mont de la Ville for the good defence of the Town.

The document states that these actions should not be undertaken without the consent of the inhabitants of the Vingtaine who have the special right and usage of the common and pasture of the Montagne.

Consent is given by Nicolas Lempriere, Pierre de Souslemont and Philippe Journeaux, procureurs who alienate and -bargaigner in perpetuity a quantity and parcel of the Mont de St Helier from the point to the East called the Chambre es Dames to Rocquereuse for the employment of fortifications from here on without prejudice to the rest of the Vingtaine.

Item Reference: L/F/22/E/2

Item Description: Extract from the minutes of the Vingtaine de la Ville concerning the building of fortifications on the Town Hill

Dates: 1781 - 1803Frenchgathering1

Item Reference: L/F/22/E/3

Item Description: Summons to the inhabitants of the Vingtaine de la Ville to meet to discuss the lease of Town Hill

Dates: 1784Frenchpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/22/E/4

Item Description: Summons to the proprietors of the Vingtaine de la Ville to meet to fix the boundary between the land of Mattieu Gosset and the Vingtaine

Dates: 1787Frenchpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/22/E/5

Item Description: Summons to meeting of the Vingtaine de la Ville to discuss the proposal disposal of lands belonging to the Vingtaine

Dates: 29/01/1794Frenchpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/22/E/6

Item Description: Notification of a meeting of the Vingtaine de la Ville concerning the disposition of vacant lands

Dates: 07/01/1796Frenchpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/22/E/7

Item Description: Minutes of meeting of the Vingtaine de la Ville concerning Thomas de la Garde's illegal quarrying.

Dates: 22/06/1796Frenchpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/22/E/8

Item Description: Notes of meetings of the Vingtaine de la Ville concerning the Crown's desire to build a fort on Town Hill  
Dates: 06/07/1796Frenchpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/22/E/9

Item Description: Printed minutes of the meeting of the Vingtaine de la Ville concerning the granting of the Town Hill to the Crown  
Dates: 06/07/1796Frenchpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/22/E/10

Item Description: Notification of a meeting of the Vingtaine de la Ville to discuss the demand to hand over Town Hill to the Crown  
Dates: 06/07/1796Frenchpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/22/E/11

Item Description: Notification of a meeting of the Vingtaine de la Ville to discuss the site of the proposed fort on the Town Hill  
Dates: 11/07/1796Frenchpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/22/E/12

Item Description: Notes from a meeting of the Vingtaine de la Ville concerning the transfer of Town Hill for building a Fort  
Dates: 20/07/1796Frenchpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/22/E/13

Item Description: Notification of a meeting of the Vingtaine de la Ville concerning the building of a troop hospital on Town Hill  
Dates: 16/09/1796Frenchpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/22/E/14

Item Description: List of those summoned to appear against the Procureur General and the Procureurs of the Vingtaine de la Ville  
Dates: 14/06/1797Frenchpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/22/E/15

Item Description: Summons to a meeting of the Vingtaine de la Ville to discuss proceedings against Philippe and Thomas de la Garde  
Dates: 11/07/1797Frenchpaper1

Item Reference: L/F/22/E/17

Item Description: Notes on initial meeting between the procureurs of the Town Hill Common and the engineer, Major Humfrey  
Dates: 1801Frenchpaper1

### **L/F/51 Liberation Album**

Item Reference: L/F/51/1

Item Description: Album of Liberation made by Major Frank H M Sargent (RAOC) of the 135 Field Ordnance Depot. A photographic and written account of the liberation of Jersey and subsequent disposal and destruction of the German ammunition and artillery. Photographs include: Brigadier Snow, the Bailiff of Guernsey Sir Victor Carey, Captain Harold Benest, Major Bolingbroke, St Peter's Tunnels, Les Landes, St Aubins Hill, La Corbiere, Fort Regent, Ecréhous, and the Officers mess. Also contains photographs of transport, collected ammunition and artillery, disposal of ammunition at sea by German officers and the destruction of the ammunition, the officers mess and the Armistice parade. Includes letter from the Lieutenant Governor of Jersey and a Evening Post article (23/02/1946) relating to the disposal of German ammunitions, a brief report by the Royal Ordnance Corps relating to the German Ground Equipment, and a Jersey Evening Post article (20/10/1979) relating to a return visit to Jersey by Major Frank H M Sargent.  
Dates: 1945 - 1979

### **L/F/97 Royal Jersey Militia**

Item Reference: L/F/97/M5/41

Item Description: Order from H Touzel, Inspector of Militia, by order of Sir Colin Halkett, Lieutenant Governor concerning the collection from HM Ordnance Storekeeper of the arms of the corps from Fort Regent and Elizabeth Castle  
Dates: 15/04/1826

Item Reference: L/F/97/M23/1

Item Description: Minor offence reports of the Royal Militia Island of Jersey stationed at Fort Regent  
Dates: 11/09/1939 - 15/06/1940

## **PLANS**

### **D/Al Public Services Collection**

The Public Services collection of plans and drawings is currently in the process of being transferred to the Archive. Therefore there may be more plans still at Public Services.

Item Reference: D/AL/A1/6108

Item Description: Fort Regent Tunnel Arch drawings  
Dates: 1969

Item Reference: D/AL/A2/54

Item Description: Plans of Fort Regent. Signal Station  
Dates: 1867

Item Reference: D/AL/A2/55

Item Description: Plans of Fort Regent. Record plan  
Dates: 1932

Item Reference: D/AL/A2/1962/1

Item Description: Plans of La Collette Works. Plan of harbours  
Dates: 1950

Item Reference: D/AL/A2/2020  
Item Description: Plans of La Collette Works. Reorganization plan Dates: 1950

Item Reference: D/AL/A2/2369  
Item Description: Plans of Caretakers Flat at South Hill Dates: 1963

Item Reference: D/AL/A2/2484  
Item Description: Plans of La Collette Walks. Remedial work Dates: 1967

Item Reference: D/AL/A3/2093  
Item Description: Plans of Fort Regent. Gates to entrance Dates: 1964

Item Reference: D/AL/A3/2129  
Item Description: Plans of Fort Regent. Civil defence HQ Dates: 1953

Item Reference: D/AL/A4/1503  
Item Description: Plans of La Collette Walks. Dates: 1945

Item Reference: D/AL/A4/1506  
Item Description: Plans of La Collette Works. Dates: 1950

Item Reference: D/AL/A4/1767  
Item Description: Plans of German Tunnel near La Collette. Dates: 1948

Item Reference: D/AL/A4/2081  
Item Description: Plans of Fort Regent Radio Station - plans Not Dated

Item Reference: D/AL/A5/169  
Item Description: Plans of La Collette Works-improvement to path Dates: 1897

Item Reference: D/AL/A5/344  
Item Description: Plans of La Collette works - proposed fence Dates: 1897

### **States Greffe Plans**

The following plans have been lodged au Greffe and form part of the States Greffe Collection.

Item Reference: D/AP1/A1035/4(415)  
Item Description: Plan of an area of land at South Hill to be ceded to the Parish of St Helier referred to in an act of the States. Dates: 21/11/1978

Item Reference: D/AP1/A1060/122/1  
Item Description: Plans of the Fort Regent Development referred to in an act of the States. Dates: 08/12/1970

Item Reference: D/AP1/A1060/122/1/2(29)

Item Description: Plans of the military museum at Fort Regent, St Helier referred to in an act of the States. Dates: 09/03/1971

Item Reference: D/AP1/A1060/122/1/2(49)

Item Description: Plans of the squash courts at Fort Regent, St Helier referred to in an act of the States. Dates: 09/11/1971

Item Reference: D/AP1/A1060/122/1/2(72)

Item Description: Plans of the aquarium development at Fort Regent, St Helier referred to in an act of the States. Dates: 18/03/1975

Item Reference: D/AP1/A1060/122/1/2(114)

Item Description: Plan of the footbridge and covered way at Fort Regent, St Helier referred to in an act of the States. Dates: 13/12/1977

Item Reference: D/AP1/A1060/122/1/2(134)

Item Description: Plan of the proposed extension to the main entrance at Fort Regent, St Helier referred to in an act of the States. Dates: 24/08/1982

Item Reference: D/AP1/A1060/122/1/2/2

Item Description: Plans of the project plan for development at Fort Regent, St Helier and reports on tenders from engineering firms for the roof over the parade ground. Dates: 1969

Item Reference: D/AP1/A1060/122/1/2/4(12)

Item Description: Plans of the proposed further development at Fort Regent, St Helier referred to in an act of the States. Dates: 18/06/1985

Item Reference: D/AP1/A1060/122/1/5(53)

Item Description: Plans of the piazza and east ditch areas at Fort Regent, St Helier referred to in an act of the States. Dates: 07/10/1975

Item Reference: D/AP1/A1060/122/1/5(55)

Item Description: Plans of the bistro extension at Fort Regent, St Helier referred to in an act of the States. Dates: 14/12/1976

Item Reference: D/AP1/A1060/122/1/8

Item Description: Plans of Fort Regent swimming pool. Dates: 00/06/1969

Item Reference: D/AP1/A1060/122/1/9

Item Description: Plans of the Sea Cadet head quarters at Fort Regent. Dates: 00/09/1969

Item Reference: D/AP1/A1060/122/1/9(1)

Item Description: Plans, Bill of quantities and Articles of Agreement for the Sea Cadet Headquarters at Fort Regent referred to in an act of the States. Dates: 04/11/1969

D/N Sport, Leisure and Recreation (Now ESC)

This collection contains nearly 1000 individual plans of the Fort from its redevelopment in the 1960s ó 1970s.

The collection contains drawings that relate to:

- Fort Regent Bridge Link, Swimming Pool to Piazza ó Muir Wilson
- Fort Regent Plans Piazza Design Drawings ó Edwards-Blackie, Ross-Gower, Muir Wilson and B/D
- Fort Regent MSCP and Escalators ó Muir-Wilson and B/D
- Fort Regent Swimming Pool ó B/D, Edwards-Blackie
- Fort Regent Gloucester Hall
- Fort Regent Cable Cars ó B/D, BR, Edwards-Blackie
- Fort Regent Sea Cadet HQ

Fort Regent Trades Fair/Exhibitions ó Norman Piette

## MAPS

Item Reference: L/F/70/A/85

Item Description: Map of St Helier Harbour and the area around La Collette, number 13/11

Dates: 1981

Item Reference: L/F/70/A/93

Item Description: Map of St Helier, Havre des Pas, Howard Davis Park and La Collette, number 13/12

Dates: 1981

Item Reference: L/F/70/A/122

Item Description: Map of La Collette, showing the Oil Storage Depot 13/16

Dates: 1981

Item Reference: L/F/120/A/103

Item Description: Geometrical Plan of the Town, Fort and Harbour of St Helier showing individual streets and properties. Engraved by C Cobley for Elias Le Gros, 1834. This copy is a re-strike from the original copper plate published by Société Jersiaise in the 1980's. Dimensions 78cm by 95cm

Dates: 1834

Item Reference: L/F/120/A/103a

Item Description: Geometrical Plan of the Town, Fort and Harbour of St Helier showing individual streets and properties. Engraved by C Cobley for Elias Le Gros, 1834. This copy is a re-strike from the original copper plate published by Société Jersiaise in the 1980's. Dimensions 78cm by 95cm

Dates: 1834

Item Reference: L/F/120/A/123

Item Description: Plan of St Helier Harbour from the 1962 survey with corrections to 1967. Shows the Harbour before land reclamation commenced at La Collette and west of Albert Pier.  
Dimensions - 52cm by 67cm  
Dates: 1967

## **PHOTOGRAPHS, POSTCARDS AND SKETCHES**

### **L/C/14 Brigadier Snow Collection**

1944 ó 1945

Brigadier Snow led Operation Nestegg ó the operation to retake the Channel Islands in 1945 after the Occupation. The collection includes aerial photographs which will show an aerial view of the Fort at this period.

Item Reference: L/C/14/B/8/16

Item Description: Aerial photographs of St Helier harbour, Howard Davis Park Fort Regent and Havre des Pas, St Helier

Dates: 18/04/1945

1977 - 1985

Set of Photographs of the maintenance, restoration and repair work of the fabric of the following fortifications in the Channel Islands; Fort Henry, La Crete Fort, Fort Regent, La Cotte, Kempt Tower Battery, Portelet Tower, L'Etacquerel Fort, Elizabeth Castle, St Marys Priory Chapel, and Old Fishermens/Quarrymens Cottages.

(C/B/K/C/3)

Item Reference: L/C/28/D/3

Item Description: Jersey Past & Present cigarette cards (second series). Packed with Ching & Co. Cigarettes. Pictures of Fort Regent & St Catherine's breakwater.

Dates: Englishpapers2

Item Reference: L/C/29/M/2/48

Item Description: Actual entrance to Fort Regent

Dates: 16/04/1931

Item Reference: L/C/29/M/2/49

Item Description: Looking towards the entrance to Fort Regent

Dates: 16/04/1931

Item Description: Photographic copy of photograph showing Peter and Bernard Halsall playing on a cannon at the entrance to Fort Regent. Peter is the boy on top, Bernard is on the bottom and they are aged 6 or 7. (not dated)

Item Reference: L/C/57/A/2

Item Description: Photographic copy of photograph showing Peter and Bernard Halsall playing on a cannon at the entrance to Fort Regent. Peter is the boy on the left and Bernard is on the right, they are aged 6 or 7. (not dated)

Item Reference: L/C/57/A/3

Item Description: Photographic copy of photograph showing Peter and Bernard Halsall playing on the sighting gun at the entrance to Fort Regent. Peter is the boy on the bottom and Bernard is on the top, they are aged 6 or 7. (not dated)

Item Reference: L/D/12/C/70

Item Description: Photographic slide of the Cable Cars at Fort Regent  
Dates: 1971

Item Reference: L/D/12/C/71

Item Description: Photographic slide of the swimming pool at Fort Regent  
Dates: 1971

Item Reference: L/D/12/C/72

Item Description: Photographic slide of the children's play area at Fort Regent  
Dates: 1971

Item Reference: L/F/02/5

Item Description: La Collette, view to the east (sepia)  
Dates: 1890 - 1910

Item Reference: L/F/04/B/2

Item Description: Souvenir Lettercard including views of Bouley Bay, St Ouen's Bay, La Collette and Bonne Nuit Bay  
Dates: 1950 - 1960

Item Reference: L/F/35/B/1/27

Item Description: Photocopy of the sketch by W G Walmesley drawn in 1821 of 'The town of St Helier with the fortified height of Mont de la Ville and the newly constructed Regent's Fort'  
Dates: 1821

Item Reference: P/09/A/327

Item Description: Photographic slide of a cannon on the ramparts of Elizabeth Castle, directed towards St Helier Harbour and La Collette - number 33  
Dates: 00/05/1975

Item Reference: L/F/59/F/4

Item Description: View from South Hill, St Helier. Published by J Harwood, 26, Fenchurch Street, London  
Dates: 05/04/1855paper1

Item Reference: P/09/A/408

Item Description: Photographic slide of an aerial view of Fort Regent, St Helier and part of St Helier Harbour in the 1960s - referenced J Job, St George's Preparatory School, 1982.

Item Reference: P/09/A/412

Item Description: Photographic slide of an aerial view of Fort Regent and the Weighbridge bus area in the 1960s, including an indication of where the tunnel is going to be built - referenced J Job, St George's Preparatory School, 1982.

Item Reference: P/09/A/624

Item Description: Photographic slide of a view across landscape towards La Collette and Fort Regent in the distance.

Dates: 1970 - 1990

Item Reference: P/09/A/826

Item Description: Photographic slide of an aerial view of Fort Regent and La Collette reclamation.

Dates: 10/06/1977

Item Reference: P/09/A/827

Item Description: Photographic slide of an aerial view of Fort Regent.

Dates: 10/06/1977

Item Reference: P/09/A/1089

Item Description: Photographic slide of a map of the north-eastern part of St Helier including Fort Regent, Don Road, Le Mont Millais and Victoria College.

Dates: 1970 - 1990

Item reference: P/09/A/2337

Item Description: Photographic slide of the Fort Regent, Mount Bingham and the South Pier of St Helier Harbour at high tide

Dates: 00/03/1983

Item Reference: P/09/A/3164

Item Description: Photographic slide of a view of Mount Bingham and Fort Regent

Dates: 1970 - 1990

Item Reference: P/09/A/3234

Item Description: Photographic slide of a view of Fort Regent and St Helier from Victoria College's science block

Dates: 00/07/1983

Item Reference: P/09/A/3282

Item Description: Photographic slide of lobster pots at St Helier Harbour, with Mount Bingham and Fort Regent in the background

Dates: 1970 - 1990

Item Reference: P/09/A/3283

Item Description: Photographic slide of lobster pots at St Helier Harbour, with Mount Bingham and Fort Regent in the background

Dates: 1970 - 1990

Item Reference: P/09/A/3302

Item Description: Photographic slide of a view from the sea of St Helier Harbour, Mount Bingham and Fort Regent

Dates: 1970 - 1990

Item Reference: P/09/A/3928

Item Description: Photographic slide of a section of a map detailing St Helier and key landmarks

Dates: 1970 - 1990

Item Reference: P/09/A/4137

Item Description: Photographic slide of the view over St Helier from Fort Regent

Dates: 1970 - 1990

Item Reference: P/09/A/4193

Item Description: Photographic slide of an aerial view of Fort Regent and the buildings behind it on its east side

Dates: 1970 - 1990

Item Reference: P/09/A/4194

Item Description: Photographic slide of the view along the ramparts of Fort Regent and across St Helier

Dates: 1970 - 1990

Item Reference: P/09/A/4195

Item Description: Photographic slide of the view over the Plaza area inside Fort Regent

Dates: 1970 - 1990

Item Reference: P/09/A/4196

Item Description: Photographic slide of the view over St Helier from a gun emplacement at Fort Regent

Dates: 1970 - 1990

Item Reference: P/09/A/4271

Item Description: Photographic slide of an arch just within the entrance of Fort Regent, with the foundation stone mounted above.

Dates: 1970 - 1990

## **Q Film Archive**

The Jersey Archive holds the following film footage of the Fort.

Item Reference: Q/05/A/14

Filmed by Andrew Belhomme in standard 8mm colour. Film shows Battle of Flowers 1969 (Jersey policemen in tropical whites). Fort Regent before the leisure centre, Weighbridge (Queen Victoria's Statue and double-decker buses) 0h 25m 03s.

Dates: 1963 - 1969

Item Reference: Q/05/A/68

Filmed by David Bishop in 8mm colour. The official opening of Fort Regent swimming Pool. Bishop family in Howard Davis Park. 0h 08m 27s

Item Reference: Q/05/A/74

Development of Fort Regent. Senator Philip Romeril Senior (Pres. L'Assemblee d'Jerriais). Also Jack Richard. Building work in progress. Army (3 division). Party camping and building bridge. Pan across St Clements and St Helier.

Dates: 1960 - 1970

Item Reference: Q/05/A/90

Filmed by Michael Ginns in 8mm colour using a hand-held clockwork camera. Film shows the winter of 1967/68. Jersey Motor Transport double deckers at the Weighbridge, then Snow Hill Car Park, Forum Cinema, St Clement's Inner Road. Diversion to laying of main drains between Green Island and Le Hocq. Opening of the Tunnel under Fort Regent in 1970 Dredging of St Helier Harbour (c.1970)

Item Reference: Q/05/A/105

1910 Film is in B&W and show activity at St Helier Harbour, charabanc outing, militia men on rocks at Plemont, guides in caves at Plemont, vraicing with horse and cart at Gorey. 1913 film (colour) show British Garrison Troops marching down to St Helier from Fort Regent, activity at St Helier Harbour. Footage accompanied.

Dates: 1910 - 1913

Item Reference: Q/05/A/130

Cargo boat. Sarnia (Mailboat). Condor 2 (hydrofoil). Sarnia near Elizabeth Castle breakwater. 1970s scenes showing St Helier Harbour. States Tug Duke of Normandy II dressed overall. At sea - tug off Corbiere using fire hoses (note de-salination plant in the background). At sea with original Duke of Normandy: approaching St Helier Harbour (note Fort Regent Swimming Pool but dome not yet constructed). Trip to minquiers with Duke of Normandy beached at low water. Sealink ship Falaise at sea in fog. Entering St Helier Harbour. Family scenes at Silverwynd, Portelet.

Dates: 1959 - 1979

## **R Sound Archive**

The Jersey Archive holds the following sound archive concerning the Fort.

Item Reference: R/05/A/1

Fort Regent - Modern Hotels want more facilities on the island and Fort Regent is the right place - idea of a dry skating rink.

Dates: 00/10/1975

Item Reference: R/05/B/28

June Gurdon taking a tour of Fort Regent with Director Peter Smith talking about the history of the fort, the development of the Fort as a sport and entertainment centre, looking at the rose gardens and the cannons, describing the aviary and the birds in the aviary, the old rifle ranges which are now fountains, the children's playground, the squash courts, table tennis rooms and archery and rifle ranges in the Gloucester Hall, skating, the piazza with shops, aquarium, museum and stage, an art gallery with an exhibition on and holding the States Collection, the swimming pools, a link being built from the swimming pool to the piazza and the escalators from the car park

Dates: 00/02/1979

### **S Microfilm/fiche**

The Jersey Archive holds the microfilm/fiche showing the census of Jersey from 1841 ó 1901. Included in these films will be lists of the men garrisoned at the Fort.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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A number of people helped locate and reproduce images of the fort. These include Linda Myers at the Jersey Archive, Louise Downie at the Jersey Museum and Gareth Syvret at the Société Jersiaise. Neil Molyneux also helped greatly with locating photographic images of the fort in the Société Jersiaise's collection.

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*Peter & Bernard Halsall playing on a cannon at the entrance to Fort Regent  
Not dated, Jersey Archive L/C/57/A/1  
Courtesy of Mr Halsall*