

Jersey Heritage Trust

## Seymour Tower Conservation Statement



October 2006

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## **1 Introduction**

The Jersey Heritage Trust prepared this conservation statement for Seymour Tower June-October 2006, in consultation with the Conservation Advisory Group. The primary purpose of the statement is to draw together readily available existing information, to set down a chronology for the site, an overview of the key surviving elements, a statement of significance, the identification of major conservation issues and a set of outline policies. It also identifies key gaps in our knowledge of the site and the issues affecting it. The conservation statement is subject to further review and refinement.



## **2 Brief history of the site**

See sources and references on page 17 for further detailed reading on Jersey's coastal defences. See also Jersey Heritage Trust conservation statements for Archirondel Tower, Lewis's Tower, La Tour Cârrée, La Crête Fort, Fort Leicester and L'Etacquerel Fort.

### **2.1 Early history**

- Unsubstantiated local tradition links the rocky islet of L'Avarison with St Sampson – a Celtic saint who visited the Channel Islands in the sixth century.
- The Cours d'Héritage Register includes the following entry for 13 May 1540, "The Constable, Rector & Parishioners of Grouville wished to be freed from service at St Catherine and offered to build a defensive Tower in Grouville Bay on the shore or beach between La Rocque and the Castle. The offer was accepted as the bay was a recognised landing place and two Towers would be better then one" (translation by C Aubin) (appendix A.i).
- Two maps of Jersey published in 1757 – one by Jacques Bellin after the survey of 1755 by Captain Lempriere, and the other by Chevalier Jean de Beaurain – show a four-gun redoubt offshore near to La Rocque. The redoubt is located to the north of L'Avarison, nearer to La Petite Avarison (see appendix Aii & Aiii).
- Sir Henry Seymour Conway was appointed Governor of Jersey and Captain General in 1772. War in the American Colonies was overstressing British armed forces and made Britain vulnerable to invasion at home. Conway visited Jersey in May 1778 and proposed to defend the Island by building a chain of coastal defence towers. He submitted his proposal to Lord Weymouth on 20 May 1778 and obtained approval and funding from King George III on 5 July 1778.
- A handwritten notebook entitled 'Hints on state of fortifications' dated June 1778 includes the following entry, "The extent of Grouville Bay from the Point of La Rocque to Mont Orgueil Castle is about 2½ miles. No ship can come close to this shore so as to bear on the defences. A Tower and circular work should be erected at the point of La Rocque where an old Tower stood." (Jersey Archive ref: L/F/97/M2/30)
- A map of Jersey with a sketch of the batteries, redoubts and entrenchments raised along the coast for the defence of the Island, engraved by William Faden, Geographer to the King in 1781 shows a square redoubt due east of La Rocque (see appendix Aiv).
- In 1781, whilst the chain of coastal defence towers was still under construction (with only four completed) a French invasion force led by Baron de Rullecourt landed at La Rocque and marched on St Helier

only to end in failure. The invasion attempt spurred the construction of Seymour Tower the following year.

## **2.2 Seymour Tower and Battery**

- Seymour Tower was built in 1782 on l'Avarison islet, 1¼ miles south east of La Rocque. The islet provided a secure base and a practical location for early warning of any impending attack. It has been suggested that dressed stone from the nearby square redoubt was re-used in the construction of the tower. While this suggestion would explain the sudden disappearance of the four-gun redoubt, there are no known sources to justify this supposition.
- The Minutes of the Defence Committee, 24 November 1786, recommend which Guard Houses and Magazines should be repaired and maintained at the expense of the States and includes those of St Samson at the point of La Rocque (Jersey Archive ref: C/B/B1/1)
- The Duke of Richmond Map of Jersey (surveyed from 1787, published 1795) shows a square tower and battery on l'Avarison named Seymour Tower (there is no indication of any other offshore redoubt nearby). The tower was likely named after General Sir Henry Seymour Conway, or less likely after the sixteenth century Governor Sir Edward Seymour (an ancestor of Conway) – or perhaps in honour of the shared family name? (see appendix A.v).
- A report on the different batteries in the Island dated 28 August 1797 records that Seymour Tower requires repairs and has two 12-pounders under the charge of Ordnance (Société Jersiaise Library ref: M20/10)
- A letter from Earl of Balcarras to the Commanding Royal Engineer Jersey, 7 June 1797, instructs repair of the Lantern Room and supply everything necessary for the Signal Light on the top of Seymour Tower (Public Record Office ref: WO 607/425)
- In a letter, 16 May 1809, General Don wrote, "The Tower is situated on the right flank of Grouville Bay, two miles in the sea from high water mark, it commands the entrance into the Bay and is seen by all the sentries posted along the shore from Mont Orgueil Castle to Rocque Platte". "It was necessary to communicate by signals between the shore and the Tower and, for the purpose of giving notice to the posts that 'all was well', lights were ordered to be shown towards the Bay every half hour, on seeing of which the sentries in the above mentioned line passed the word 'All's well'". "When the lights are not regularly shown, measures are taken to discover the causes. It is found that twelve pounds of candles per month are necessary to make these lights, and I strongly recommend that this issue should be continued." (see appendix D - Ahier article)

- Letter from General Don to Lt Col. Sibbell, 23 September 1811, 'I beg you will enquire if the non-commissioned officers commanding at Seymour Tower and Archerondelle are in possession of spy-glasses' (see appendix D - Ahier article)
- The General Orders for Troops of the Line and the Militia, 1811 instructs 'Le Régiment de l'Est, au poste general d'alarme dans la baie de Grouville'. The third subdivision of the 1<sup>st</sup>, or East Division was responsible for the coast from Rocque Platte to Rocqberg (Jersey Archive ref: L/F/22/L/36)
- The North West Regiment Orderly Book, 1814, lists Seymour Tower as mounting 2 x 24-pounders (Société Jersiaise Library ref: M20/9)
- Map of Jersey engraved by Samuel John Neele from a survey carried out to illustrate William Plee's Account of Jersey, published in 1817 (see appendix A.vi).
- A letter from Lt Col Lewis & Lt Col Sinclair to the Secretary, Board of Ordnance, 28 October 1835, recommends that all foreign guns in Jersey be removed to Woolwich as they are not needed and differ in calibre with those in British service. The letter goes on to list the number and nature of guns and carronades required for the defence of Jersey - stating that Seymour Tower and Battery is armed with 2 x 24-pounders (Public Records Office ref: WO 44/76)
- A Return of Magazines by Lt Col Streatfield CRE, 20 December 1847, shows the magazine at Seymour Tower to be 5' x 5'10" and 6' to the spring of the arch, and with a capacity for 25 barrels of powder – its condition shown to be good (Public Records Office ref: WO 55/815)
- A Royal Engineers Office report on the general state of the defences of Jersey and the number of guns mounted, dated 15 February 1848, records 2 x 32-pounders at Seymour Tower and Battery (Public Records Office ref: WO 44/76).
- An inspection report of Ordnance by the CRA and CRE, 30 September 1848, has the following entry for Seymour Tower and Battery, St Clement's Bay, "At 1¼ mile from the shore, and can only be approached by land at certain times of tide. The Battery is calculated for two heavy guns on iron garrison carriages on the spot mounted (32 pdrs of 56 cwt). The magazine in the tower is dry and will hold 25 barrels of powder" (Public Records Office ref: WO 44/77)
- A handwritten book about Jersey's coastal fortifications, written anonymously in 1857 notes "Seymour Tower for musketry with a battery armed during the war with two 12lbs now withdrawn" and goes on to comment that the guns were "too light to do an enemy much damage" particularly as the Invalids manning the post "knew nothing of the great gun exercise" (Jersey Archive ref: L/F/97/M18/1)

### 2.3 Military obsolescence and later uses

- A memorandum by Col Le Couteur on the defence of Jersey, 14 January 1860, includes a map showing arcs and ranges of all proposed coast defences. The report was revised on 7 December 1868 with the words “too isolated to be of material use” added to the entry for Seymour Tower (Jersey Archive ref: A/D2/1 – see also appendix A.vii).
- A report by Major General Douglas re present and proposed armament of Jersey, 10 November 1860, states, “I concur with the proposed abandonment of Seymour Tower and Icho Tower batteries and of the smaller towers around the coast, replacing these with earthwork defences at a higher level. I think the recommendation to erect a powerful Battery of four long range guns at La Rocque Point most deserving of attention” (Jersey Archive ref: A/D2/1)
- A map of Jersey surveyed by Staff Commander J Richards RN in 1867 shows the soundings and rocks around Seymour Tower (see appendix A.viii)
- A report on the defences of the Island in 1870 by Sir John Le Couteur concludes that the Conway towers have become largely obsolete (Jersey Archive ref: A/D2/1).
- A letter from the War Office to the General Officer Commanding in Jersey, dated 30 April 1896, states, “I am to ask that you will consider and give an opinion as to whether it might not be convenient and of advantage to offer to hand over to the States the whole of the detached properties such as old detached Martello Towers and other antiquated works of Defence, which are in no sense at present, and so far as can be foreseen will never be required by the War Department for military purposes”. Enclosed with the letter is a list of properties probably available for disposal including Seymour Tower (Jersey Archive ref: D/AP/AD/7/68).
- Photographs of Seymour Tower dating to the early twentieth century show a man low water fishing and a group of ladies by the Battery (see appendix A.ix, A.x & A.xi)
- The States of Jersey purchased Seymour Tower in 1923 for £120.
- At an unknown date the tower is painted white as a navigation marker.
- A letter from the Platzkommandant, Major Heider to the Bailiff, 26 May 1944, orders, “Icho and Seymour Towers are herewith requisitioned and are to be evacuated by 30<sup>th</sup> May 1944. The keys of both towers are to be surrendered to the Chief of the unit La Rocque A” (Jersey Archive ref: B/A/W40/8/296)

- Post-war, Seymour Tower is leased to private tenants.
- Public Services Department plan of Seymour Tower (undated) showing high water mark (see appendix A.xii)
- Photographs of Seymour Tower 1989-2006 (see appendix A.xiii)
- South East Coast of Jersey is designated as a Ramsar site, November 2000 (see appendix B)
- Ordnance Survey Map of Jersey, 2003 (see appendix A.xiv)
- October 2006 – Seymour Tower is owned by the Public of the Island of Jersey under the management of the Jersey Heritage Trust.

### **3 Overview of the key surviving elements**

See appendix A.xiii.

Seymour Tower is built on a rocky islet 1¼ miles southeast of La Rocque. It has a square tower with a gun battery at the base. The tower is built of regular squared and well-tooled blocks of granite with dressed granite around openings. The tower walls taper externally. The tower is arranged on four levels.

The entrance door is raised above head height (originally reached by removable ladder). There is a finely carved keystone 'GR 1782' above which is a window opening with original iron bars in situ. A pair of timber doors opens inward into a small well area, from which an opening shows through into the magazine store below. There is a step up into the entrance level. The walls of the room are roughly squared granite with openings dressed with granite lintels and brick. There is a circuit of loopholes around the room designed for musketeers, above which are small windows. There is a fireplace in the southwest corner of the room, with an arched cast iron inset and mortar surround with late twentieth century graffiti.

There is an exposed joist timber ceiling that appears to be a later replacement with the original main beam surviving (from which hang timber storage racks). Access to the upper level is via a modern timber companionway stair.

The room has a brick floor with thin mortar finish, set into which is a hatchway. The wooden hatch door appears to be early and was repaired using a plank from a German WWII box – marked 'Reichs...' The hatchway provides access to magazine stores at lower basement level.

Wooden steps from the hatchway lead down into a 'lobby' area from which access is gained to a pair of magazine stores. The 'lobby' has granite walls and a brick ceiling. An original timber beam runs the length of this space (from which hangs an historic wrought iron lamp hook) At the east end of the 'lobby'

is an opening at head height, leading through to a well by the entrance doors into the tower.

There is a pair of brick vaulted magazine stores. Both stores are lined with brick with a pair of baffled ventilation slots with offset ducts to the exterior of the tower. The west magazine has a heavy timber door with full width iron strap hinges and sturdy iron bolt. There is an earthen floor. There are two sets of initials carved into the inside of the doorframe. The east magazine has a heavy timber door with later bronze door fittings. There is a timber plank floor laid on sand.

The upper level has walls of roughly squared granite with openings dressed with granite lintels and brick. There is a circuit of loopholes around the room designed for musketeers, above which are small windows. There is a fireplace in the northwest corner of the room – blocked with modern bricks. There is a wooden plank floor and exposed joist ceiling with a pair of iron beams supporting the roof platform. Access to roof level is via a modern timber companionway stair.

The stair up to the roof platform climbs into a small wooden cabin (now encased in fibreglass). The timbers of the cabin are covered with dates and the names of people who have visited the tower since the beginning of the twentieth century.

There is a granite parapet with mortar capping around the top of the tower. In the north east corner is a taller loop-holed niche set into the width of the parapet, overlooking the battery below. In the southeast corner is a rendered chimneystack with a Fareham ware pot. In the southwest corner is a rendered chimneystack without a pot. Between the stacks is a modern enclosure covering a water tank.

On the east side of the base of the tower is a battery. The battery has a D-shaped plan, low encircling defensive wall of squared granite with dressed granite copings, and granite paving. The north wall of the battery continues alongside the tower to provide access to the tower entrance and steps down onto the rocky islet. A granite step at the entrance to the battery is carved with a North orientation line.

The key elements of the site are:

- 1782 tower
- 1782 battery

## **4 Statement of significance**

### **4.1 Archaeological significance**

L'Avarison has a legendary link with St Samson who visited the Channel Islands in the sixth century. Dressed stone from an earlier fortification may be incorporated into the structure.

## **4.2 Historical significance**

Seymour Tower is an exceptional example of Jersey's unique form of coastal defence tower, developed by Sir Henry Seymour Conway. It is one of twenty-three Conway towers built between 1778 and 1801 - the only one to have a square tower and one of only three to be constructed with an integral gun battery.

Although built as part of General Conway's programme of fortification, its position indicates a somewhat different role from the others. The round towers were specifically built to support each other and the adjacent Militia Batteries in confronting infantry troops on landing through mutually supporting musketry fire. While Seymour Tower occupies the point of the Banque de Violet, which dries out at low tide and therefore is a practicable landing place for invading troops, and commands that landing place with musketry fire, the Gun platform is on the east of the tower commanding the entrance to Grouville Bay and must be directed at approaching ships rather than troops on landing.

Seymour Tower is important evidence illustrating the history of fortifications in Jersey and the development of defensive theory and design in the context of a changing military environment - including the perceived threat and opposing technology.

## **4.3 Architectural significance**

Seymour Tower substantially retains its completeness and architectural integrity as a late eighteenth century tower and battery with the buildings close to their original form and physical context. It is strategically sited and can still be read in terms of its strategic defence value as originally conceived.

Seymour differs from other coastal towers in that it is of square format – defying the deliberate concept of presenting curved walls to an enemy to minimise the battering effect of cannon fire. It was the first tower to be built with a gun battery at its base and therefore as artillery post, and not merely designed for musketry.

## **4.4 Ecological significance**

Seymour Tower is located within the site designated under the Ramsar Treaty as South East Coast of Jersey Channel Islands (see appendix B).

### **Birds**

In summary it is felt that there is low risk of disturbing breeding birds, but disturbance of roosting birds maybe an issue. Especially noteworthy is the peregrine roost. It was anticipated that the birds might have nested there. It is

recommended that access to the roof is forbidden or minimised during the nesting season, and that the proposed wind turbine is not installed.

## Plants

*Asplenium marinum* is growing at the top of the tower. This is a fern, which may be in decline since it was noted as locally frequent in the flora of 1984 (locally frequent means it is habitat specific). There should be no removal of any plants anywhere on the tower.

## Marine organisms

Overall the site is of high importance, not least for its isolation and special quality. Because there is limited detailed information on the site and because there is no equivalent site elsewhere, it is impossible to predict the effects of a possibly high level of use of the tower.

### **4.5 Other significance**

The most prominent post-military use of Seymour Tower has been as a navigation marker and as a short-term holiday home leased to private individuals. The large amount of signed graffiti indicates that visitors have a sense of achievement in reaching the offshore tower.

## **5 Identification of major conservation issues**

The following is an assessment of the way in which the significance of Seymour Tower could be vulnerable.

- Care must be taken to ensure that the significance of Seymour Tower is not eroded through neglect. The tower is in an exposed offshore location and ill-maintained structures will be subject to water ingress and salt laden deposits leading to damp conditions and damage from insect and fungal infestations as well as intrusive plant growth.
- Without proper maintenance and repair of the tower, there will be physical damage to the fabric and thereby to the significance of the tower.
- A potential problem is a lack of continuing and long-term interest in the tower and the subsequent reduction in resources to properly maintain it in years to come – especially if appropriate and successful new uses cannot be found for the site.
- Care must be taken to ensure that the significance of Seymour Tower is not eroded through inappropriate repairs and alterations. The use of inappropriate materials or methods of alteration and repair will be damaging to the character of the tower and will contribute to further decline in the integrity of the historic fabric and structure. Good quality



works are required that do not damage the integrity or durability of the historic fabric.

- A condition survey is needed to identify the range of problems throughout the tower e.g. whether there is water ingress through walls, roofs and windows, loose masonry or cementitious pointing.
- The significance of the site is potentially vulnerable to legislative and regulatory requirements that may be applied if a new use is found for it e.g. compliance with building byelaws or provision for people with special needs.
- There is a potential conflict between different types of significance at the tower, for example the requirements for repairing the structure against the need to protect habitats.

## **6 Statutory and policy framework**

### **6.1 International Conventions**

Since 1987, the States of Jersey has been a signatory to the *Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe* 1985 (Granada Convention). The Convention places broad obligations on member states to introduce legislative, policy and other measures to protect the architectural heritage. The States is also a signatory to the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*, 1992, (Valetta Convention) which imposes similar obligations in respect of the archaeological heritage.

There is also a series of multi-lateral environmental agreements for which ratification has been extended to Jersey:

- The *Convention on Biological Diversity* is concerned with the conservation of species and habitats.
- The *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (Bonn Convention) aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range.
- Jersey is an important migratory refuge to at least 50 species of ducks, waders, terns, gulls and geese listed in the *African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement*.
- The *Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats* covers the conservation and management of bats.
- The *Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats* (Bern Convention) aims to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats.

### **6.2 Planning and Building (Jersey) Law 2002**

- **Planning Permission** - will be required for change of use and for any works classed as development.

- **Sites of Special Interest** - under Articles 51 and 52, the Minister for Planning and Environment may designate as Sites of Special Interest, buildings and places of public importance by reason of special zoological, botanical, archaeological, architectural, artistic, cultural, geological, historical, scientific or traditional interest. Designation provides legal protection under Articles 54 and 55 against demolition and damaging alteration and control over other intrusive actions such as metal detecting, the defacing of the site and the removal of plants and animals. This equates to the type of protection that is afforded to Scheduled Ancient Monuments in England.

Seymour Tower is in the process of being designated as a Site of Special Interest (see appendix C). In the meantime, the Trust has agreed to treat the site as if it were already a designated Site of Special Interest. SSI Permission is therefore required before there is any physical intervention in the tower's site and structure.

### **6.3 The Convention on Wetlands**

The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

Seymour Tower is located within the site designated under the Ramsar Treaty as South East Coast of Jersey Channel Islands (see appendix B)

### **6.4 The Jersey Island Plan, 2002**

The Jersey Island Plan, approved by the States in July 2002, contains policies specifically intended to offer protection for Sites of Special Interest and for archaeological resources. Policies G11 and G12 are of particular relevance. Policy G11 states, among other things, that there will be a presumption against development that would have an adverse impact on the special character of a Site of Special Interest, whilst Policy G12 makes provisions relating to the preservation, safeguarding and recording of archaeological remains, as appropriate. Policy G13 makes a presumption in favour of the preservation of the architectural and historic character and integrity of registered buildings and places. Policy TR3 presumes in favour of proposals for the development of new, or extensions to existing, tourism and cultural attractions, providing certain criteria are satisfied.

The Plan notes that Seymour Tower lies within the Marine Protection Zone (M1) and Ramsar Site (M6).

### **6.5 Supplementary planning guidance**

The Interim Policies for the Conservation of Historic Buildings were adopted by the Planning & Environment Committee in 1998 and will continue to

provide clarification on matters relating to the built heritage until new Supplementary Planning Guidance replaces it. Interim Policy HB12 is of particular relevance and states: 'There is a presumption in favour of the preservation of the fabric, internal structure, plan form, historic interiors and fittings, as well as the contribution to the townscape or countryside, of registered buildings that are designated as Sites of Special Interest; therefore permission will not normally be granted for the internal alteration ... of a designated SSI, or works to the exterior, if they would adversely affect its special interest or character'.

## **6.6 Building Bye-Laws**

Some work at the tower will have to comply with Building Bye-laws as required by the law.

## **6.7 Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law, 2000**

Work to and use of the tower must be compatible with the provisions of the Wildlife Law. This Law makes provision for the protection of specified wild animals, birds and plants and their habitats, including wall lizards. The law provides that the Minister for Planning and Environment may grant a licence authorising any person to do anything that would otherwise constitute an offence under Parts 2-4 of the Law. Licences may only be granted for certain reasons specified by the Law, and then only if the Minister is satisfied that there is no other satisfactory solution and that anything authorised by the licence will not be detrimental to the survival of the population concerned.

## **6.8 Health and Safety at Work (Jersey) Law, 1989**

Methods of repair work and the safety of staff and visitors will be subject to Health and Safety Legislation. It is a matter for property owners and those managing sites to ensure that relevant health and safety requirements are satisfied, under the provisions of the Health and Safety at Work (Jersey) Law, 1989.

## **6.9 Other relevant guidance**

The States of Jersey and the Jersey Heritage Trust are obliged to work within Jersey law, approved local planning policy and published advice. Any works proposed for Seymour Tower will have to comply with statutory and policy regulations outlined above.

Best current practice from other jurisdictions also provides valuable guidance. Other documents of particular value are mentioned below:

The Venice and Burra Charters. In formulating a policy for alterations it is useful to have an understanding of the internationally accepted standards for conservation. The Venice and Burra Charters are most useful and their acceptance and use in the UK makes their guidance appropriate in Jersey.

British Standard Guide to the Principles of the Conservation of Historic Buildings BS7913:1998. This is a valuable standard in that it sets out general conservation principles relating to historic buildings as well as providing definitions of terminology (see Appendix E).

## **7 Conservation policies**

Seymour Tower's original military role is now defunct. Potential new educational and recreational uses makes some change inevitable but any changes must always be subject to the constraint that the significance of the tower must not be materially damaged.

### **7.1 Policy for recording and mitigation strategies**

When any work is proposed to maintain, repair or alter Seymour Tower, the Jersey Heritage Trust will:

- carry out a full and detailed record in drawings and photographs sufficient to show the nature of the area affected with an assessment of the impact on the historic fabric
- draw up a brief in advance of any physical investigation or excavation in accordance with the Trust's archaeological protocol (see appendix F)
- obtain Planning permission, Building Bye-law permission and SSI permission to undertake the works
- carry out the work in accordance with the brief and any conditions attached to the above permissions
- make a full record of the work in progress and deposit the detailed written, drawn and photographic records at the Jersey Archive, followed by appropriate publication

### **7.2 Policy for maintenance and repair**

The priority for the Jersey Heritage Trust is to maintain the physical fabric of the tower to ensure its future survival by using traditional materials and construction methods appropriate to the site. Consideration should also be given to correcting past 'mistakes' that are damaging to the significance of the building.

In order to achieve this, the Trust will:

- carry out a quinquennial condition survey of the tower
- draw up an annual programme of works together with a phased maintenance schedule
- use contractors and specialists with appropriate experience of building conservation work to achieve the best possible craftsmanship and selection of materials

- carry out repairs under competent supervision and regular inspection including an archaeological watching brief if required

### **7.3 Policy for protecting the natural environment**

When any work is proposed to maintain, repair or alter Seymour Tower, the Jersey Heritage Trust will:

- ensure that work to and use of the tower is compatible with the provisions of the Wildlife Law, Ramsar site designation and other relevant Multi-lateral environmental Agreements for which ratification has been extended to Jersey.
- carry out a full and detailed record in drawings and photographs sufficient to show the nature of the area affected with an assessment of the impact on the ecology
- draw up a brief in advance of any physical investigation or excavation in accordance with an ecological mitigation strategy to be agreed with the Environment Department
- obtain SSI permission and appropriate licences to undertake the works
- carry out the work in accordance with the brief and any conditions attached to the above permissions
- make a full record of the work in progress and deposit the detailed written, drawn and photographic records at the Jersey Archive, followed by appropriate publication

### **7.4 Policy for reconstruction and alteration**

- consideration will be given to appropriate new uses for the tower to ensure that it continues to play a role in Jersey society whilst maintaining its character and significance
- reconstruction work may be justified where it is desirable for the maintenance of the structure and where it completes a damaged element; the work must be carried out harmoniously with the original whilst being, upon close inspection, distinguishable from it
- reconstruction work can only be carried out where there is evidence of the historic form of the structure through a detailed study of the building and its archaeology - reconstruction work should stop where conjecture begins
- consideration will be given to improving visitor interpretation and facilities at Seymour Tower only if this does not involve the loss of historic fabric or damage to the character and significance of the site; any new work should be easily identifiable and of the highest quality
- all reconstruction work and alterations must adhere to the principle of 'reversibility'

- consideration will be given to improving access (physical and intellectual) to the site for all people, including those with special needs
- consideration will be given to security provision at the tower to ensure that the significance of the site is not damaged through vandalism or other intrusive activities

## 7.5 Policy for service provision

The Jersey Heritage Trust will ensure that:

- the survival of historic fabric and below ground archaeology will take precedence over the installation of services;
- any services are to be installed with minimum intervention with historic fabric and in routes where they are accessible for future maintenance / renewal work;
- cables and pipes are surface mounted except where they can be laid within modern floor structures or in other accessible voids or ducts.

## 7.6 Policy for interpretation

Consideration should be given to the dissemination of knowledge about the tower, such as the production of a multi-lingual guidebook, resource material for educational visits and a programme of events that complement the tower and contribute to the understanding of its history.

## 8 Summary of proposed additional research and analysis

A condition survey to identify the range of problems throughout the tower.	To be undertaken by the Jersey Heritage Trust
Implement a quinquennial condition survey of the tower.	To be undertaken by the Jersey Heritage Trust
Draw up an annual programme of works together with a phased maintenance schedule.	To be undertaken by the Jersey Heritage Trust
Measured survey and recording of the tower.	To be undertaken by the Jersey Heritage Trust
Ecological mitigation strategy.	To be undertaken by the Jersey Heritage Trust - to be approved by the Environment division of Planning & Environment Department

Designation as a Site of Special Interest.	To be undertaken Planning & Environment Department with support of JHT
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## 9 Implementation and review

- The Jersey Heritage Trust has undertaken to produce a conservation statement for Seymour Tower according to current best practice (as set out in the English Heritage guidance 'Informed Conservation' 2001).
- In order to consult with other interested parties with relevant knowledge, the Jersey Heritage Trust has set up a Conservation Advisory Group to comment on and contribute knowledge to the structure and content of the conservation statement, and thereafter to monitor proposals for change, to ensure upstream consultation with relevant bodies on change, and to advise the JHT on matters relating to the conservation of Seymour Tower.
- The Conservation Advisory Group comprises representatives from the National Trust, the Société Jersiaise, the Channel Islands Occupation Society, the Planning and Environment Department's Historic Buildings Officer, an officer from the Environment Department and the project team from the Jersey Heritage Trust.
- The Jersey Heritage Trust Board of Trustees will formally adopt the conservation statement for Seymour Tower.
- The conservation statement will be regularly reviewed and refined every 3 years.

## 10 Sources and references

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Pocock H R S (1971) *Jersey's Martello Towers*, Société Jersiaise Annual Bulletin Vol.20

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Stevens C, Arthur J & Stevens J (1986) *Jersey Place Names*

Jersey Heritage Trust (Jersey Archive):

- Cours d'Héritage Register, 13 May 1540 (ref: D/Y/C1/3)
- Map of Jersey showing sands, rocks, soundings, oyster beds, fiefs, churches, major roads, valleys, moulins, manors, and defences published in 1757 by Jacques Nicolas Bellin after the survey of 1755 by Captain Clement Lempriere (ref: L/F/120/A/52)
- Map of Jersey showing major roads, reefs, manors and churches by Chevalier Jean de Beaurain (1696-1772) Engineer and Royal Geographer in 1757 (ref: L/F/120/A/49)
- Royal Jersey Militia Exercise book with statistics of artillery exercises and notes on the defences of Jersey - Hints on State and Fortifications of the Bays and Landing Places in Jersey, June 1778 (ref: L/F/97/M2/30)



- Map with a sketch of the batteries, redoubts and entrenchments raised along the coast for the defence of the Island – engraved by William Faden, Geographer to the King in 1781 after the chart by Louis Stanislas de la Rochette (ref: L/F/120/A/72)
- Minutes of the Defence Committee, 24 November 1786 (ref: C/B/B1/1)
- Duke of Richmond map of Jersey (surveyed from 1787, published 1795) (ref: D/AL/A2)
- General Orders for Troops of the Line and the Militia, 1811 (ref: L/F/22/L/36)
- Map of Jersey engraved by Samuel John Neele from a survey carried out to illustrate William Plee's Account of Jersey, published in 1817 (ref: L/F/120/A/100)
- Handwritten book about Jersey's coastal fortifications, written anonymously in 1857 (ref: L/F/97/M18/1)
- Report by Major General Douglas re present and proposed armament of Jersey, 10 November 1860 (ref: A/D2/1)
- Memorandum by Col Le Couteur on the defence of Jersey, 14 January 1860 - revised 7 December 1868 (ref: A/D2/1)
- Map of Jersey, surveyed by Staff Commander J Richards R N, 1867 including bays, soundings and rocks (ref: L/F/120/A/114)
- Report on the defences of the Island in 1870 by Sir John Le Couteur (ref: A/D2/1)
- Letter from the War Office to the General Officer Commanding in Jersey, dated 30 April 1896 (ref: D/AP/AD/7/68).
- Requisition of Icho and Seymour Towers, May 1944 (ref: B/A/W40/8/296)

Jersey Heritage Trust (other sources):

- Protocol for Archaeological Work, 2005
- Policies, codes of conduct, procedures and guidance for use of Seymour Tower

Société Jersiaise Library:

- Report of the different Batteries in the Island of Jersey, showing the state of Repairs and defence they are in; the number and nature of

guns mounted; and what Batteries are considered as in charge of the Ordnance; and which are under the care of the Island Militia, August 1797 (ref: M20/10)

- The North West Regiment Orderly Book, 1814 (ref: M20/9)

Société Jersiaise Photographic Collection:

- Seymour Tower with lady in Edwardian dress (ref: SJPA/008070)
- Seymour Tower including man with prawning net (ref: SJPA/008063)
- Seymour Tower (ref: SJPA/008062)

Public Records Office: (transcribed by Major M Lees 2005-6 unless otherwise stated)

- Letter from Earl of Balcarras to the Commanding Royal Engineer Jersey, 7 June 1797 (ref: WO 607/425)
- Letter from Lt Col Lewis & Lt Col Sinclair to the Secretary, Board of Ordnance, 28 October 1835 (ref: WO 44/76)
- Return of Magazines by Lt Col Streatfield CRE, 20 December 1847 (ref: WO 55/815)
- Royal Engineers Office report on the general state of the defences of Jersey and the number of guns mounted in January 1848, dated 15 February 1848 (ref: WO 44/76)
- Inspection report of Ordnance by the CRA and CRE, 30 September 1848 (ref: WO 44/77)

States of Jersey Planning and Environment Department:

- Historic Buildings Register (ref: GR0113)
- Ordnance Survey Map of Jersey, 2003
- Site of Special Interest draft designation
- Statement on ecological significance

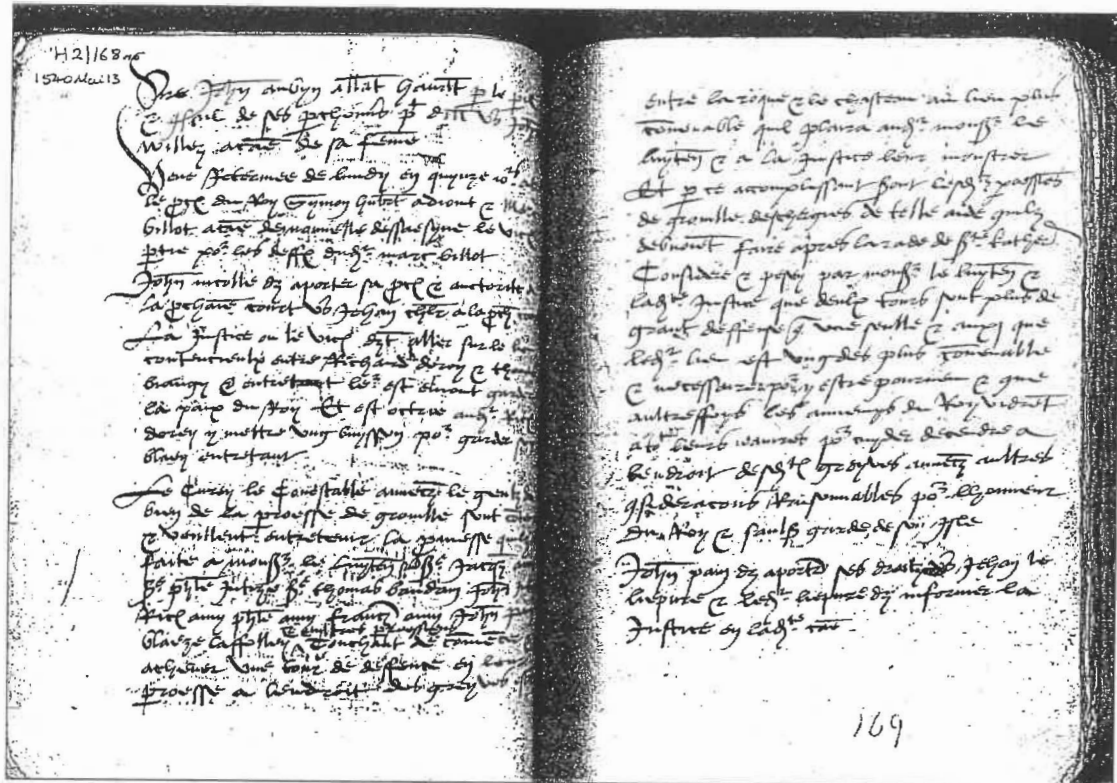
Statutory and policy framework references:

- Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 3.X.1985)

- European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised) (Valletta, 16.I.1992)
- International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (The Venice Charter) – 1964
- The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter)
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention)
- African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement
- Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats
- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)
- Planning and Building (Jersey) Law 2002
- The Building Bye Laws (Jersey), 2004
- The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), 1971: South East Coast of Jersey (ref: United Kingdom 3UK150)
- The Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law, 2000
- The Health and Safety at Work (Jersey) Law, 1989
- The Jersey Island Plan, 2002
- The Interim Policies for the Conservation of Historic Buildings, 1998 (States of Jersey Planning and Building Services Department)
- British Standard Guide to the Principles of the Conservation of Historic Buildings (BS 7913:1998)

**Appendix A**  
Documents, maps and photographs

Cours d'Héritage Register, 13 May 1540  
(Jersey Archive ref: D/Y/C1/3)



Le luey le constable avecq le gentz de bien de la procece de  
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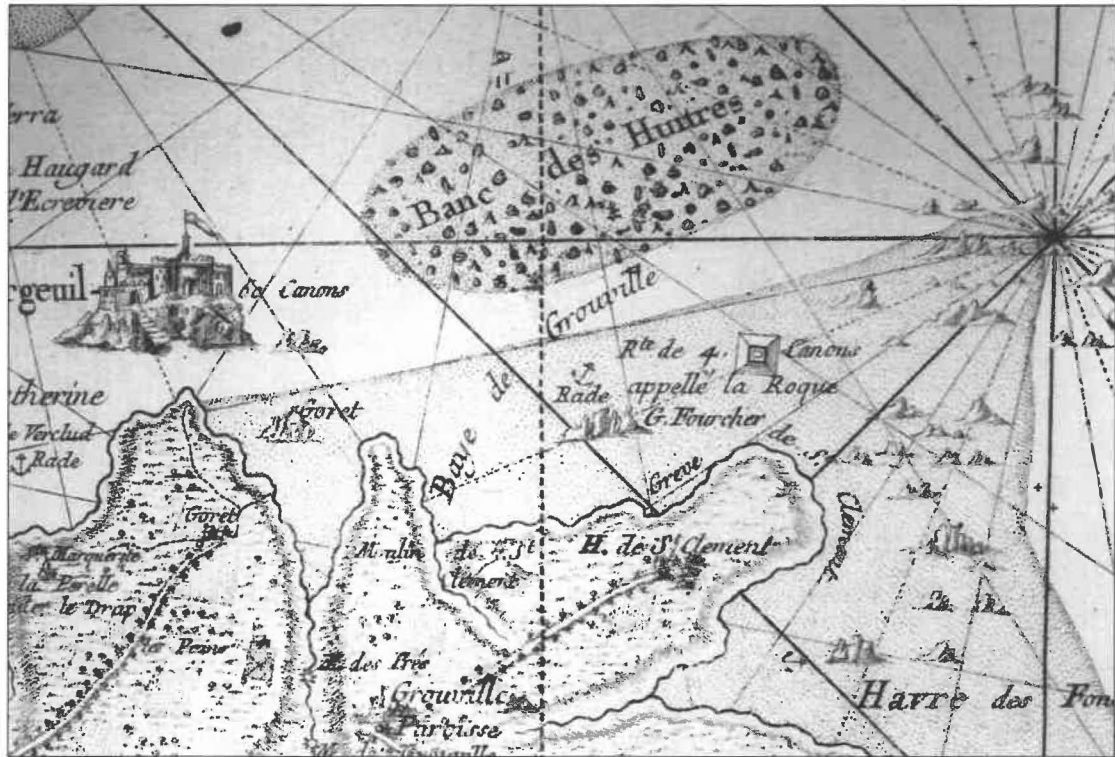
A.ii

Map of Jersey published in 1757 by Jacques Bellin after  
the survey of 1755 by Captain Clement Lempriere  
(Jersey Archive ref: L/F/120/A/52)



### A.iii

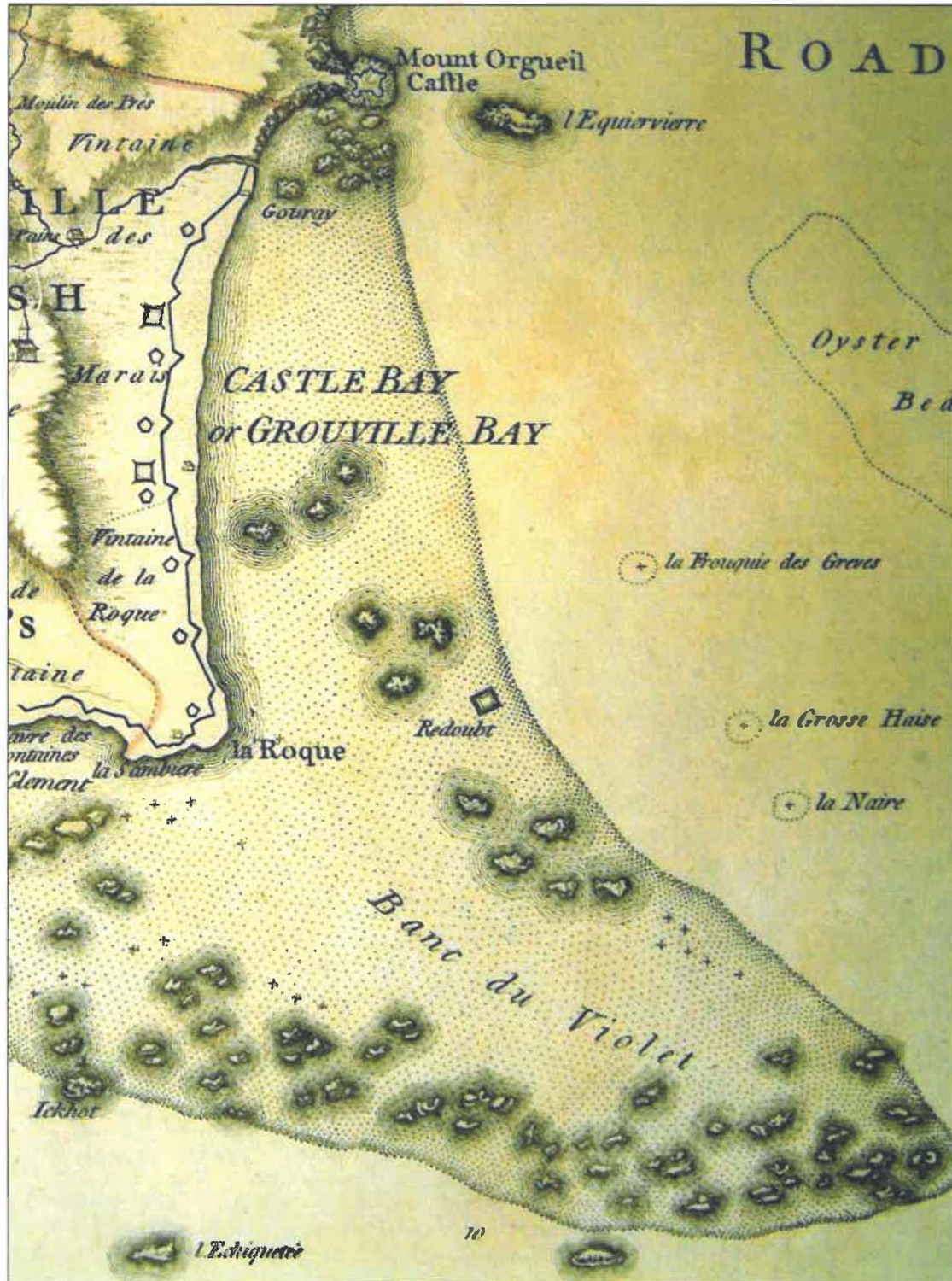
Map of Jersey by Jean de Beaurain, Engineer and Royal Geographer in 1757  
(Jersey Archive ref: L/F/120/A/49)





#### A.iv

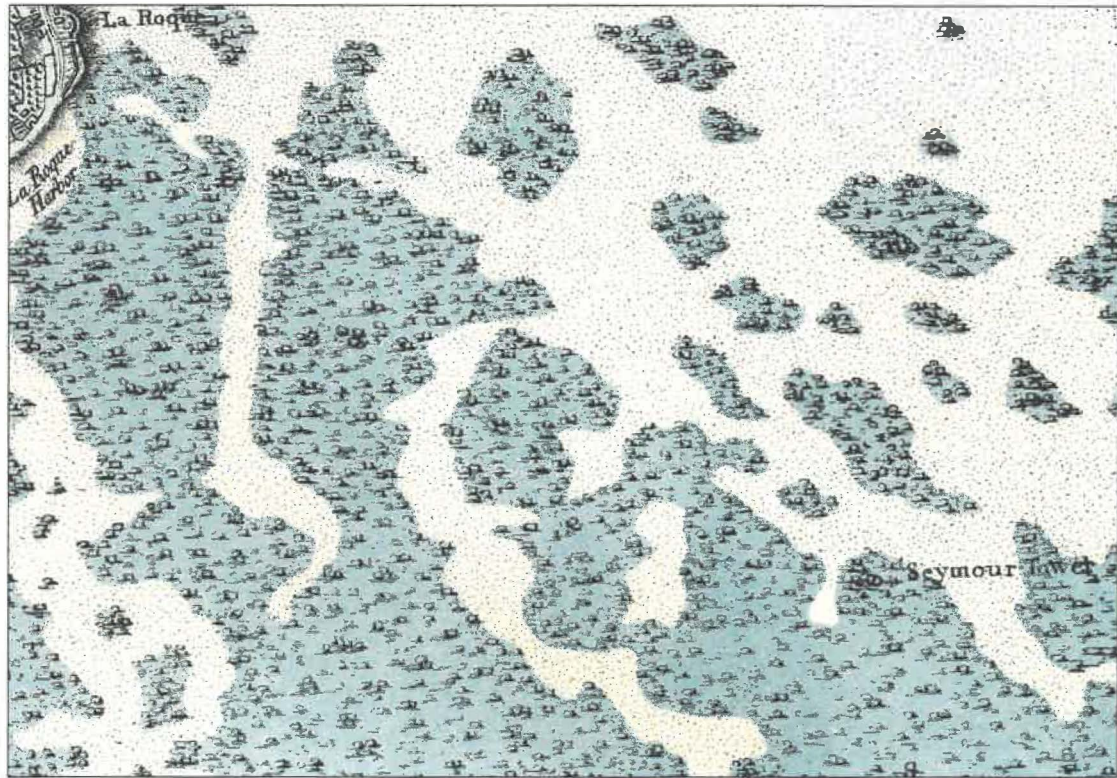
Map with a sketch of the batteries, redoubts and entrenchments raised along the coast for the defence of the Island - engraved by William Faden in 1781 after the chart by Louis Stanislas de la Rochette (Jersey Archive ref: L/F/120/A/72)





A.v

Duke of Richmond Map of Jersey (surveyed from 1787, published 1795)  
(Jersey Archive ref: D/AL/A2)



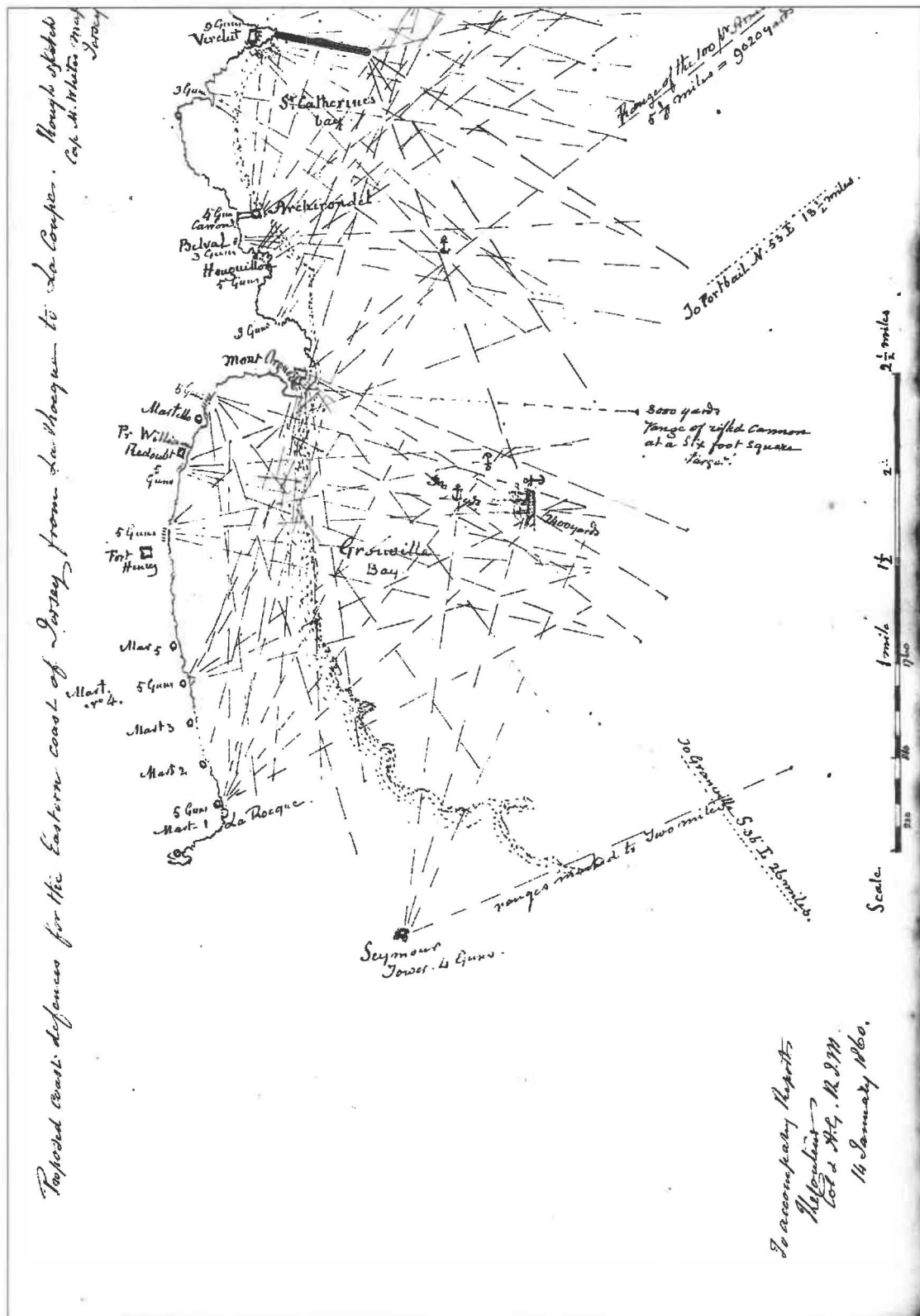
# A.vi

Map of Jersey engraved by Samuel Neele from a survey carried out to illustrate William Plee's 'Account of Jersey', published in 1817  
(Jersey Archive ref: L/F/120/A/100)





Plan of proposed coast defences accompanying Colonel Le Couteur's report  
on the defence of Jersey, 14 January 1860  
(Jersey Archive ref: A/D2/1)



A.viii

Map of Jersey surveyed by Staff Commander J Richards RN, 1867  
including bays, soundings and rocks  
(Jersey Archive ref: L/F/120/A/114)



**A.ix**

Seymour Tower including lady in Edwardian dress  
(Société Jersiaise Photographic Collection ref: SJPA/008070)



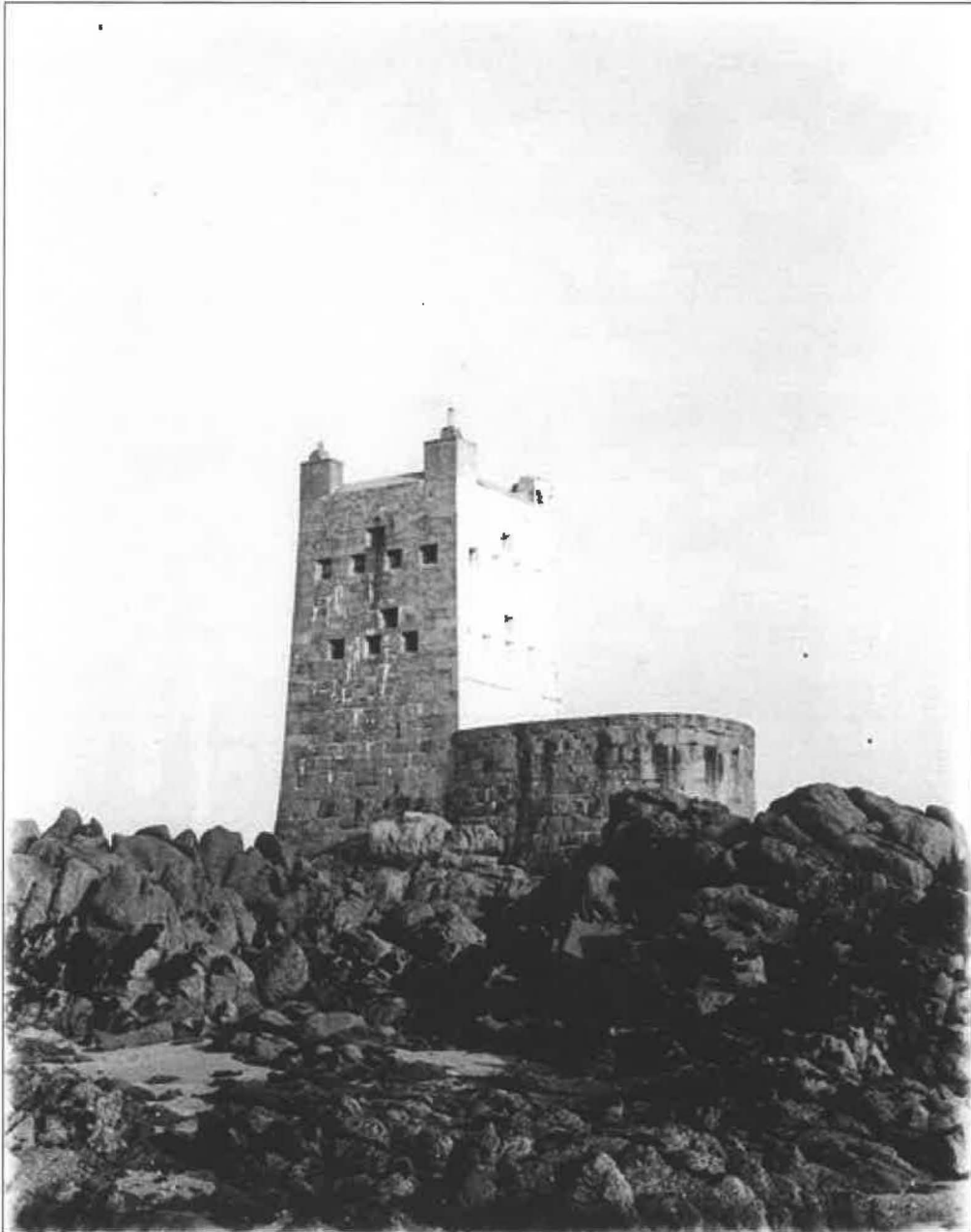
**A.x**

Seymour Tower including man with prawning net (undated)  
(Société Jersiaise Photographic Collection ref: SJPA/008063)



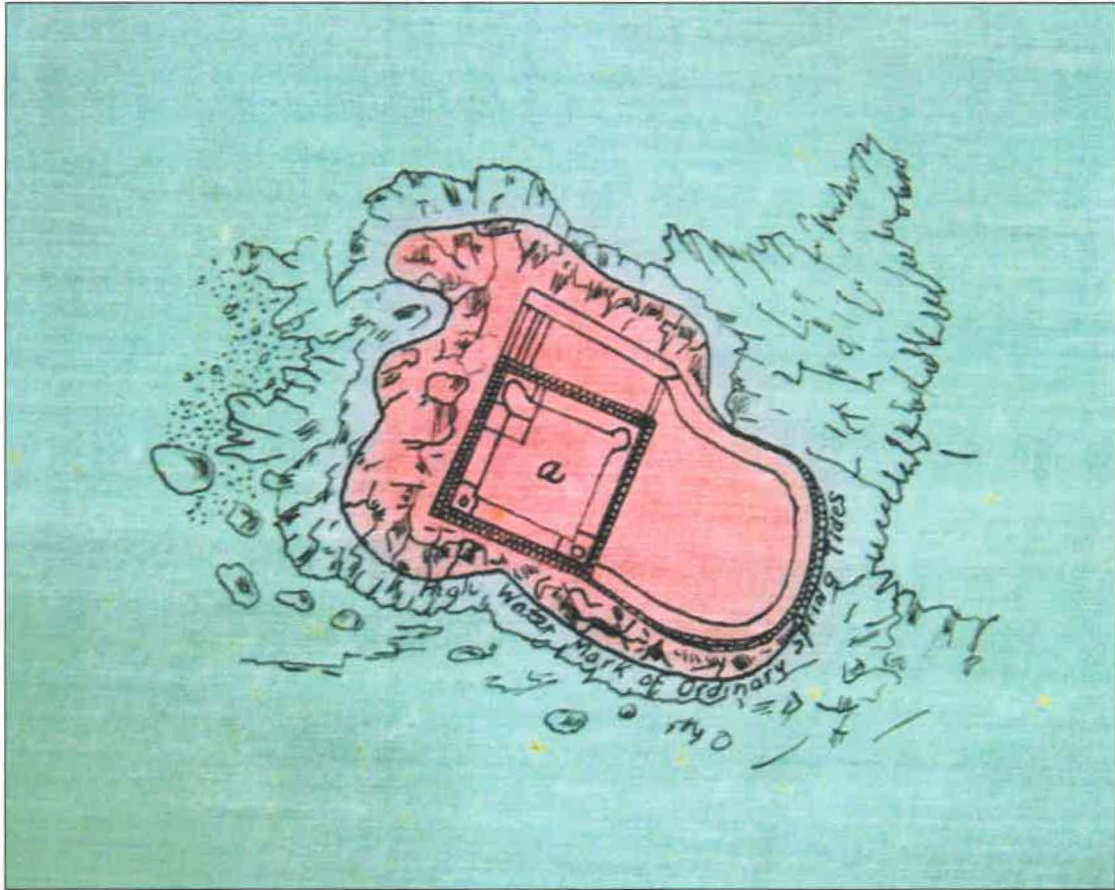
**A.xi**

**Seymour Tower (undated)**  
**(Société Jersiaise Photographic Collection ref: SJPA/008062)**



**A.xii**

Plan of Seymour Tower (Public Services Department - undated)  
(Jersey Archive ref: D/AL/A2/999)





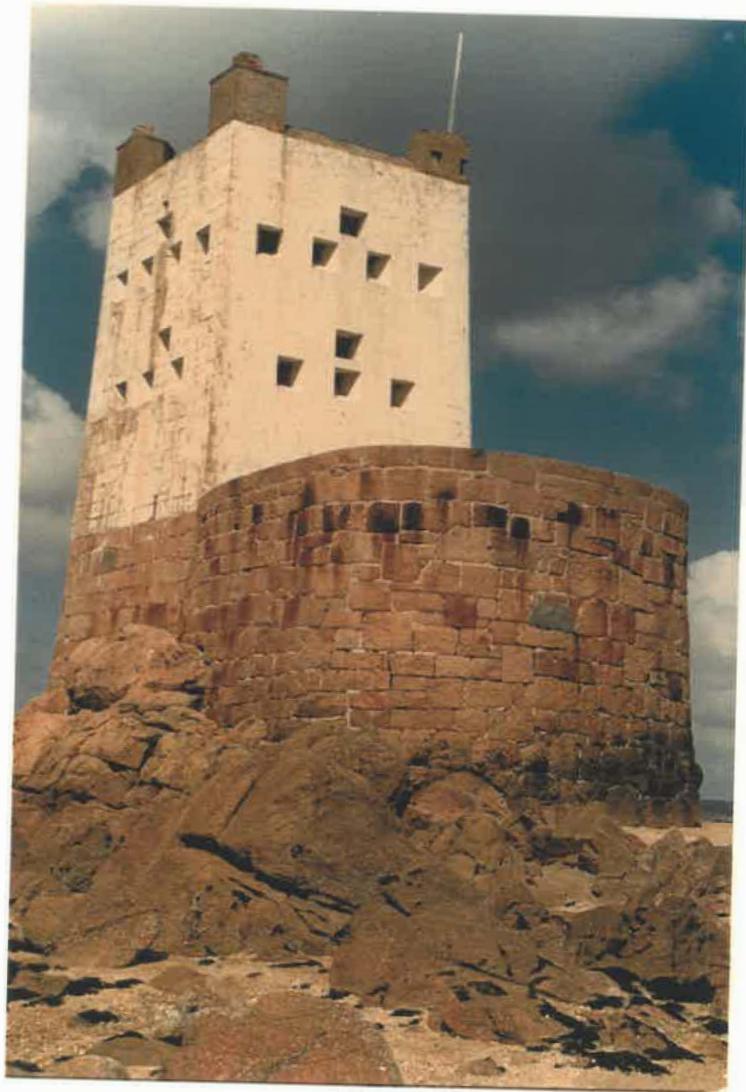
**A.xiii**

Photographs of Seymour Tower, 1989-2006  
(Historic Buildings Register ref: GR0113)

Seymour Tower.  
Groville.

(1)

10c. Ref. -



neg 122.

'89

Seymour Tower.  
Grooville.

(1)

10c. Ref. —



neg 122

'89

Seymour Tower  
Grouville.

(1)

100. Ref. —



neg 122.

'89

SEYMOUR TOWER  
GROUVILLE

PSSI

P & E REF:



July 1996

Neg G1/27



July 1996

Neg G1/28



Sennour Tower  
Ghazouie  
PSSI  
SEPT '96



Neg G16/7A



Neg G16/8A

Seymour Tower  
Albanyville  
PSSI  
Sept '96



neg G6/33



neg G6/34



SEMINAR TOWER  
 GRANDE  
 PSSI  
 SEPT '96



neg 96/10A



neg 96/11A



Seymour Tower Groville

PSSI



neg 46 / 4A



neg 46 / 2A

Semour Tower  
 Groove  
 PSSI  
 SEPT '96



neg G6/3A



neg G6/6A



SEYMOUR TOWER  
LA RUE DU Puits MAHAUT  
REF 1/9/35



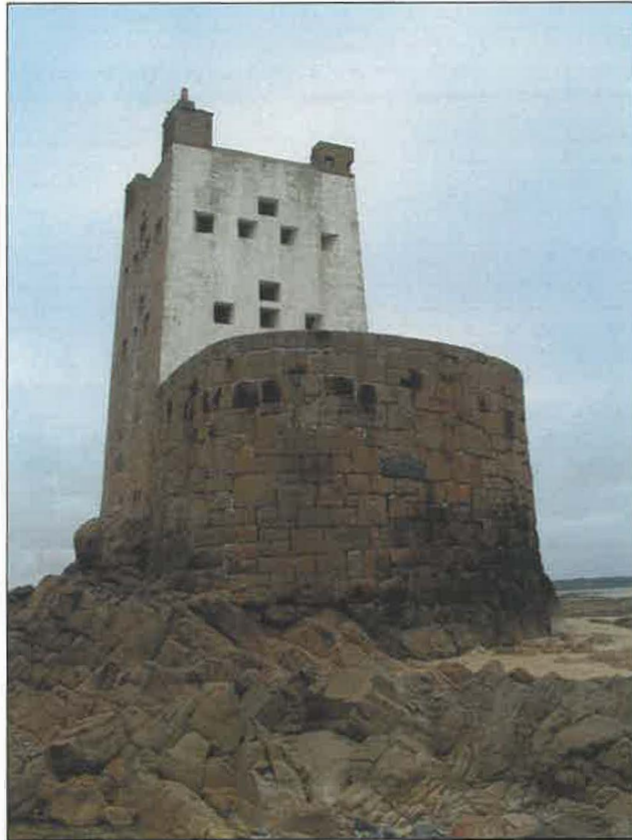
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8/2

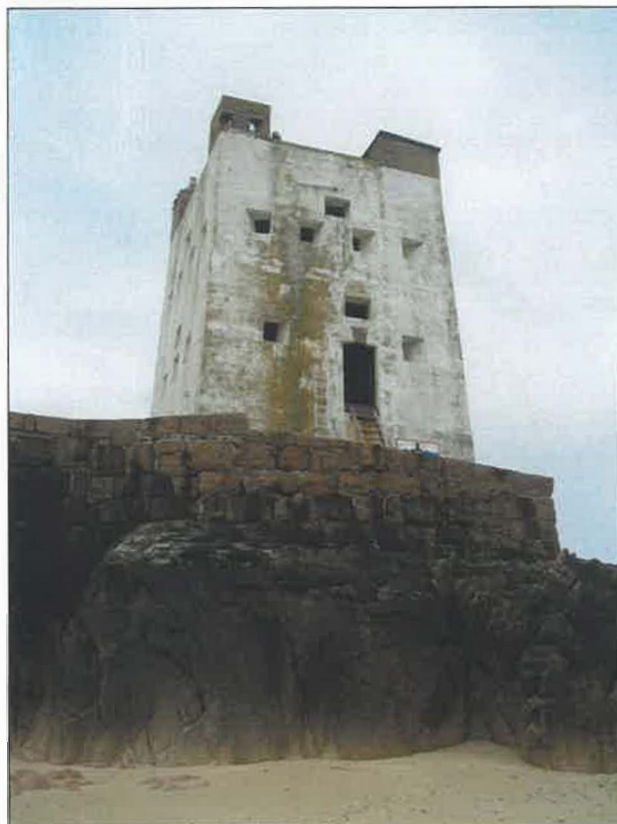


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8/4

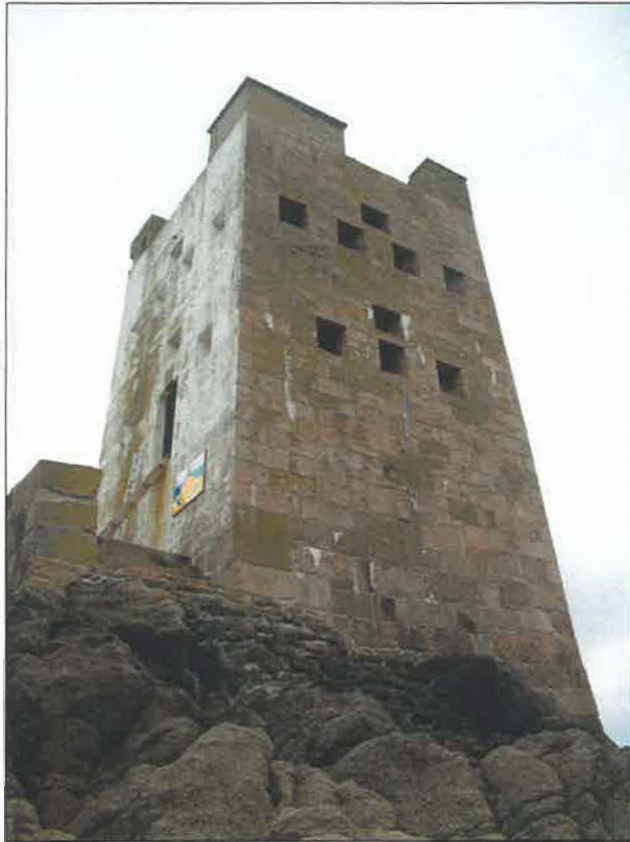


East face of tower with battery at base

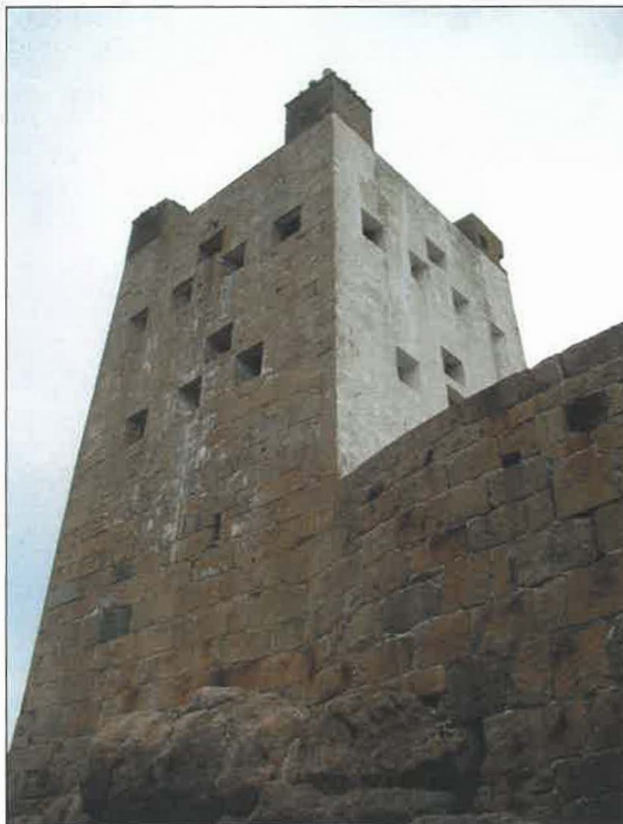


North face of tower showing entrance door

21 June 2006



West face of tower with stairs from beach



South face of tower with battery to right

21 June 2006





Battery



View of battery from top of tower

21 June 2006





**Entrance onto battery from tower steps**



**Looking back to tower steps from battery**

21 June 2006



Entrance into tower showing 1782 keystone  
and original iron bars to window opening



Entrance to battery showing N orientation line carved into step



Entrance level



Entrance with barred window above and well by doors



Entrance well with window / access into magazine below

Entrance level



Looking north-east with entrance on right



Looking north-west showing musket embrasures  
and triangular hearth stone of fireplace above

21 June 2006

## Entrance level



Looking south-west showing fireplace and window



Looking south-east showing steps to upper level

21 June 2006



Entrance level



Original timber beam with storage rack and replacement timber floor to upper level



Brick floor with mortar finish (top of brick vaulted rooms below)

Entrance level



Entrance hatch to magazine on lower level  
(detail of German repair to hatch door)

21 June 2006



Entrance level



Detail of late 20<sup>th</sup> century graffiti on fireplace



Example of historic wrought iron fittings

21 June 2006

Lower level - magazine



Lower level showing magazine stores to right and window/access to well by entrance doors



Lower level showing timber beam and underside of brick floor



Lower level - magazine



West magazine / storeroom showing original timber door and ironwork



West magazine / storeroom showing brick vault

Lower level - magazine



West magazine / storeroom showing earth floor



Detail of historic graffiti inside doorframe of west magazine / storeroom



Lower level - magazine



East magazine / storeroom showing later metal fittings



East magazine / storeroom showing brick vault

21 June 2006

Lower level - magazine



East magazine / storeroom showing softwood floor laid on sand



Detail of ventilation slot on interior of magazine and on exterior of tower

21 June 2006



Lower level - magazine



Detail of original wrought iron lamp hook



Example of historic iron fittings in the tower

21 June 2006

## Upper level



Looking south-east showing musket embrasures  
and stairs from entrance level



Looking north-east showing stairs to roof level

21 June 2006

Upper level



Looking north-west showing fireplace



Looking south-west showing musket embrasures  
with windows at higher level

21 June 2006



Upper level



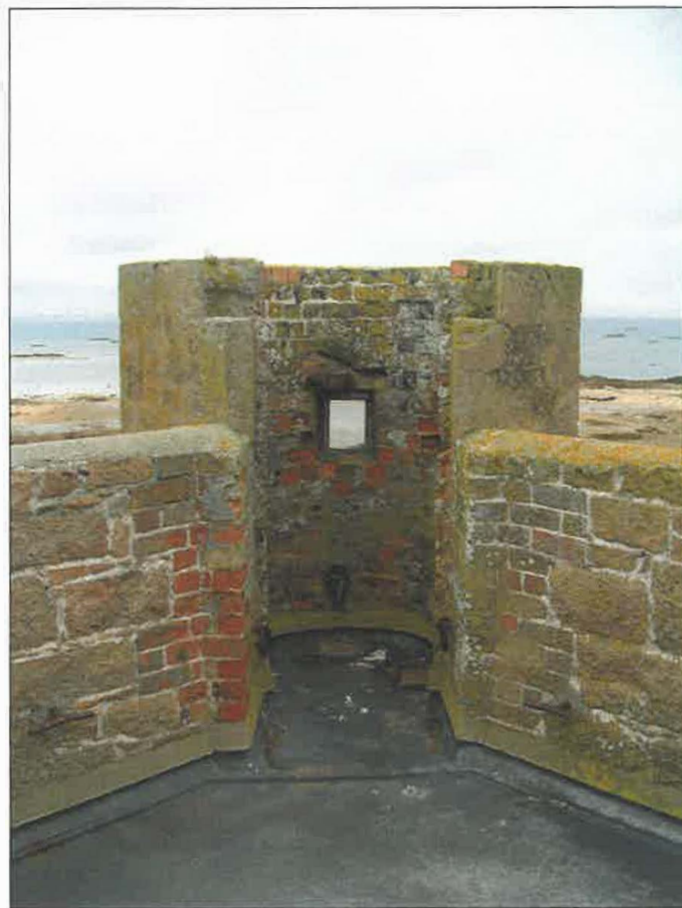
Underside of roof platform

21 June 2006

Roof level



Looking north-west showing stair cabin



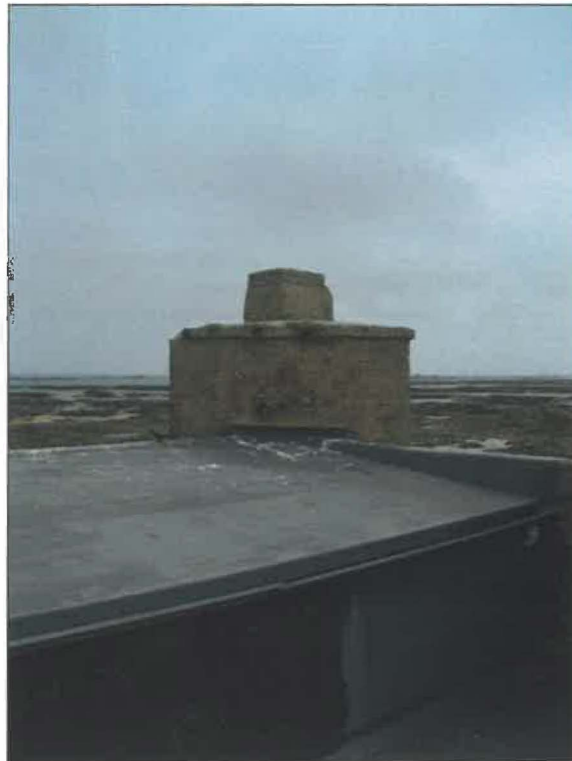
Looking north-east showing loop-holed niche

21 June 2006

Roof level



Looking south-east showing chimneystack  
with Fareham ware pot



Looking south-west showing chimneystack  
and modern enclosure for water tank



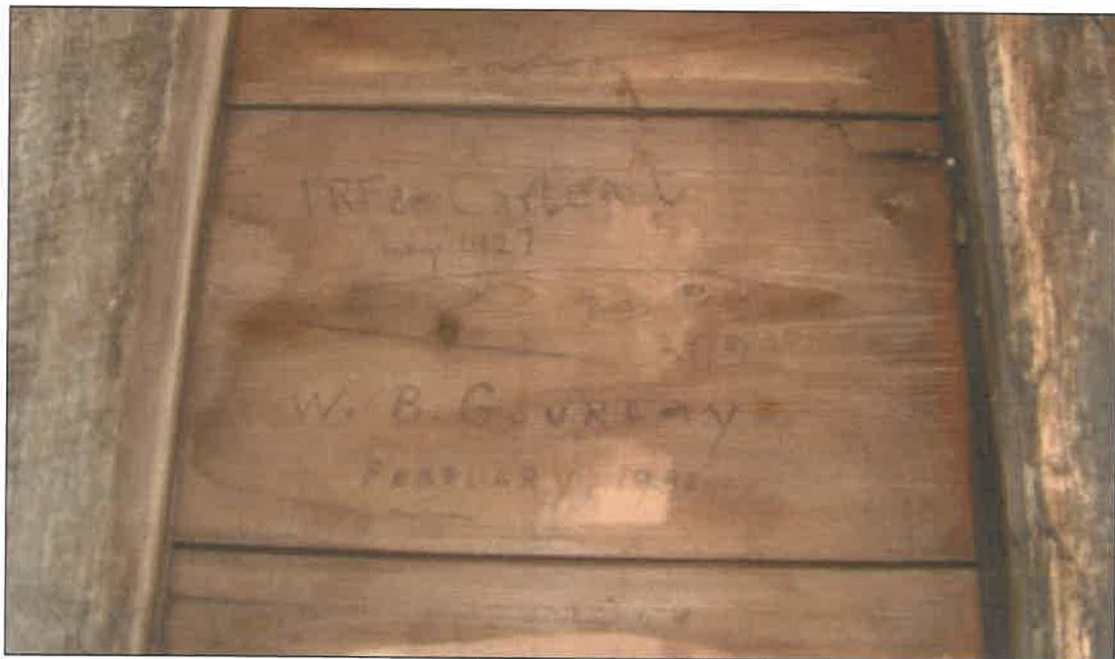
Roof level



Interior of stair cabin showing steps from upper level

Roof level

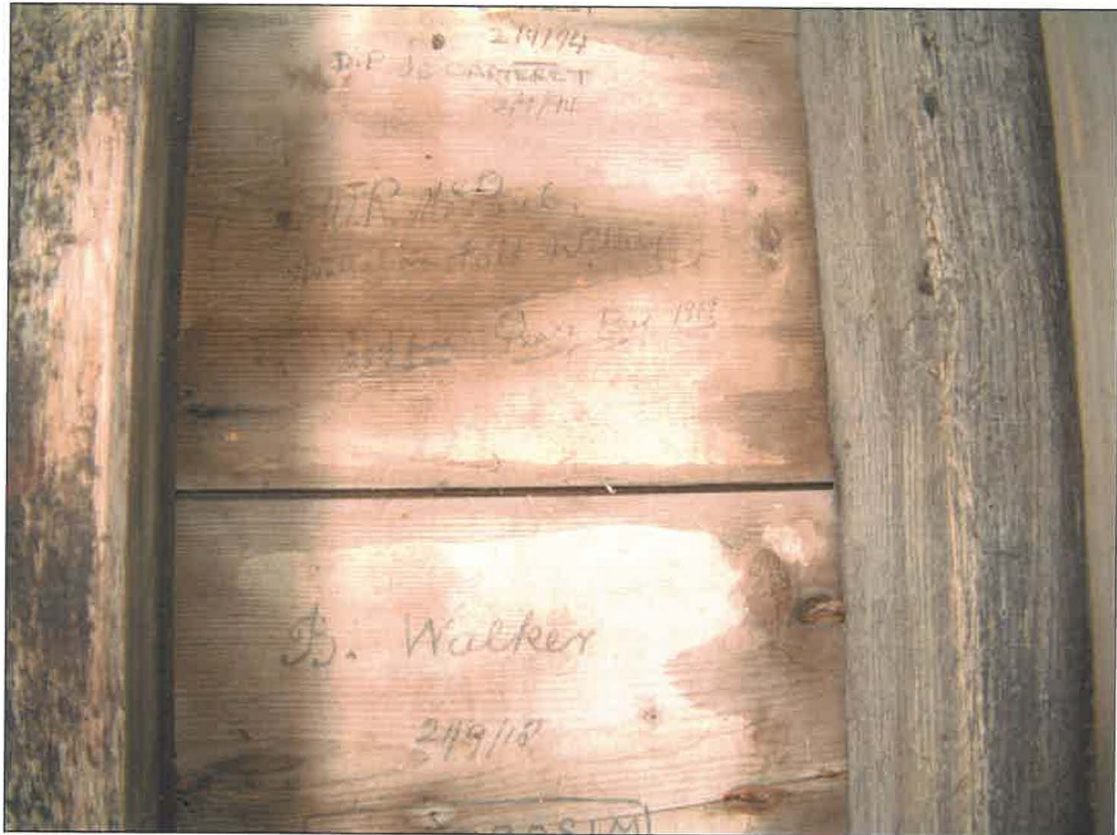
Interior of stair cabin with examples of 20<sup>th</sup> century graffiti



21 June 2006



Roof level



21 June 2006

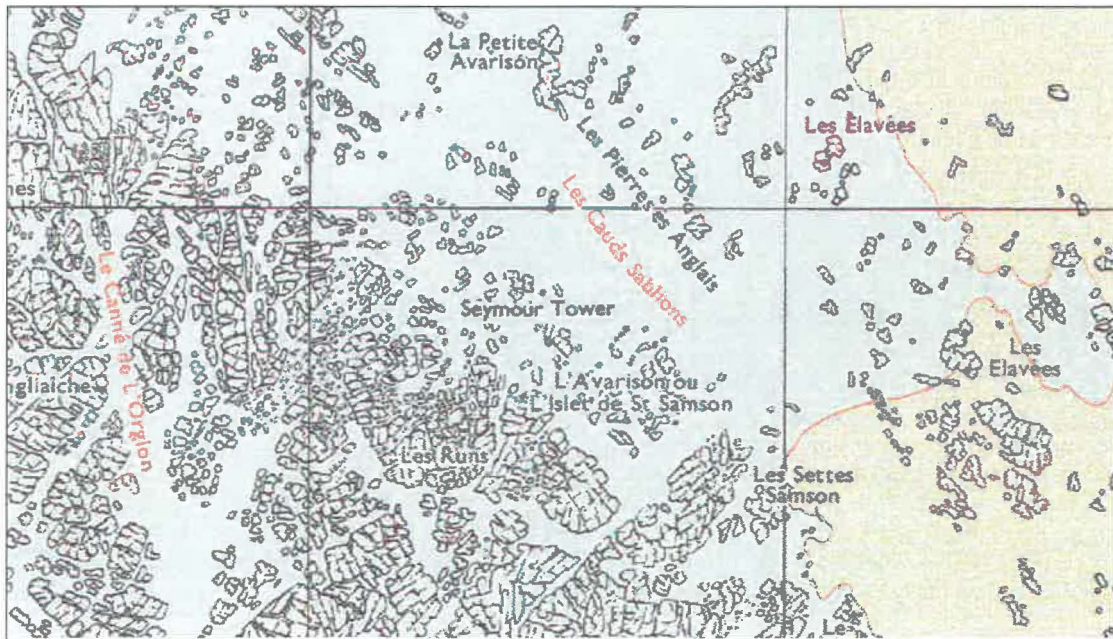


Roof level



#### A.xiv

### Ordnance Survey Map of Jersey, 2003 (Planning and Environment Department)



## Appendix B

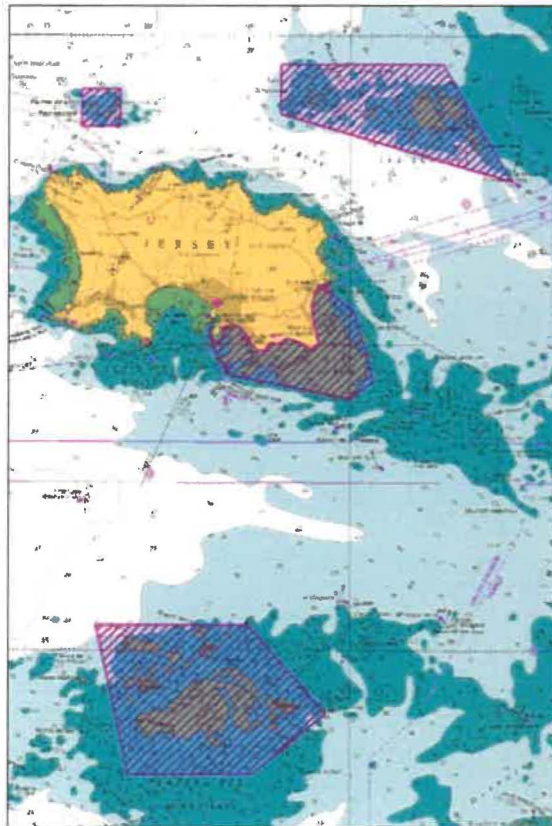


### Ramsar Sites

The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international co-operation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. There are presently 146 Contracting Parties to the Convention, with 1,458 wetland sites, totaling 125.4 million hectares, designated for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

Jersey has designated four Ramsar sites:

- [South East Coast of Jersey](#)
- [Les Écréhous & Les Dirouilles](#)
- [Les Minquiers](#)
- [Les Pierres de Lecq \(the Paternosters\)](#)





## *A Directory of Wetlands of International Importance*

### UNITED KINGDOM 3UK150

<b>Site:</b> South East Coast of Jersey, Channel Islands	<b>Designation date:</b> 10-11-2000	
<b>Coordinates:</b> 49°09'N 002°02'W	<b>Elevation:</b> 14 m - 14 m	<b>Area:</b> 3,210 ha
<b>Location:</b> The site encompasses the south and east coasts of the Channel Island of Jersey, from the port of St. Helier on the south coast to Gorey harbour on the east coast. The island is situated in the English Channel, 22.4 km west of Normandy (France) and 136 km south of Weymouth (England).		
<b>Criteria:</b> 1 ,2 ,3 ,4 ,7 ,8		
<b>Importance:</b> The site has one of the largest tidal ranges in the world; it can exceed 12 metres. Its shallow waters are relatively warm due to the influence of the Gulf Stream and surrounding oceanic conditions. These factors combine to produce a site considered to have great ecological value due to the diverse range of habitats, communities and species found in a comparatively small area. Species include <i>Haliotis tuberculata</i> , normally associated with waters of southern Europe, and the beadlet anemone <i>Actinia equina</i> normally associated with colder waters. The extensive rocky shores found within the site are identified as being of priority for conservation at an international level due to the rarity and perceived threat to this type of habitat and its associated faunal and floral communities. <i>Zostera</i> spp. beds occur in the shallow waters and are of great importance to a wide range of vulnerable species in their early life stages. One of the largest British Isle breeding groups of bottle-nosed dolphins <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> , regularly inhabits the site.		
<b>Wetland Types:</b> J ,G ,E ,D ,B ,A (dominant types shown in bold)		
The site comprises reefs, boulder fields, mud, sandy and shingle shores not covered by water at low tide, shallow tidal lagoons, seagrass beds and a constellation of outlying reefs.		
<b>Biological/Ecological notes:</b> Extensive mud and sandflats, and pools stretching into shallow waters support extensive beds of <i>Zostera noltii</i> and <i>Z. marina</i> (both internationally important species). Intertidal rocky platforms bear luxuriant growth of Furoid species (algae). Stands of <i>Laminaria</i> species (kelp) also occur. Intertidal rock pools contain dense colonies of the introduced alga <i>Sargassum muticum</i> , first recorded in Jersey in 1980. At times, <i>Ulva lactuca</i> is abundant. Nationally important species include the molluscs <i>Modiolus modiolus</i> , <i>Ostrea edulis</i> , <i>Haliotis tuberculata</i> , <i>Gibbula pennanti</i> and <i>Macra glauca</i> . Crabs include <i>Pisa tetraodon</i> and <i>Thia scutellata</i> . The extensive areas of shallow water and huge numbers of intertidal pools found within the site provide habitat for many species of fish such as <i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i> and <i>Gobius cobitis</i> .		
<b>Hydrological/Physical notes:</b> The geology of the site is acidic and alluvial, and contains boulders, granite, sandstone, gravel, pebbles, clay, sediments and peat.		
<b>Human Uses:</b> Functional jurisdiction resides with Bailiwick of Jersey. The site is partly national property, partly owned by an NGO and partly owned by the local municipality. The surrounding area is partly privately owned and partly public land. Large-scale on-site activities include tourism, sport fishing, aquaculture and the gathering of shellfish. Small-scale activities include nature conservation, research, commercial fishing, provision of industrial water supply, mineral exploration and urban development. The site is also used as a harbour and as a transport route.		



**Conservation Measures:** A Marine Protection Zone was established in 1995. This presumes no development between mean high water mark and the seaward extent of Jersey's territorial seas, other than for fish farming purposes. Major developments now require a full environmental impact assessment under the Island's planning laws. A range of sea fisheries regulations apply and are enforced across the site. An Oil Spill Contingency Plan is in place. Alterations to the Island Planning Law and the development of the Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 1999 afford the potential for enhanced legal protection of the site. A management plan has been proposed. A Coastal Zone Management Strategy is in preparation.

**Adverse Factors:** No adverse factors currently reported.

**Site Management:** States of Jersey Planning and Environment Committee, States Offices, South Hill, St. Helier, Jersey C. I., JE2 4US, UK. Tel: +44-1534-25511.

**External Link:**

Based on the 2000 Ramsar Information Sheet and the 2002 National Report to the Ramsar Convention.

## PLANNING AND BUILDING (JERSEY) LAW 2002

### ANNEX to NOTICE OF INTENTION

#### Seymour Tower

In amplification of the requirement of;

- Article 51 Paragraph 3(a) to show in relation to each site included on the List which one or more of the special interests set out in paragraph (2) attaches to the site;
- Article 51 Paragraph 3(b) to describe the site with sufficient particularity to enable it to be easily identified and;
- Article 51 Paragraph 3(d) to specify any activity, referred to in Article 55 Paragraph (1), which may be undertaken on the site without the Minister's permission;

the following description supports the Minister for Planning and Environment's view that the site known as **Seymour Tower**, which building is situated in **Grouville Bay in the Parish of Grouville** is of special **architectural, archaeological and historical** interest, where there are no activities, specified by Article 55 Paragraph (1), which may be undertaken without the Minister's permission.

**Abbreviated Description:** Square tower with gun battery at the base, built 1782 on an islet with historical associations dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century.

**Expanded Description:** Seymour Tower is built on the rocky islet of L'Avarison southeast of La Rocque. There is a tradition that the islet is linked with St Sampson – a Celtic saint who visited the Channel Islands in the sixth century. A defensive structure is thought to have been first built on the islet circa 1540.

Seymour Tower is an exceptional example of Jersey's unique form of coastal defence tower, developed by Sir Henry Seymour Conway. It is one of twenty-three Conway towers built between 1778 and 1801 - the only one to have a square tower and one of only three to be constructed with an integral gun battery.

The tower is square and built of regular squared and well-tooled blocks of granite with dressed granite around openings. The tower walls taper externally. The tower is arranged on four levels.

The entrance door is raised above head height (originally reached by removable ladder). There is a finely carved keystone 'GR 1782' above which is a window opening with original iron bars in situ. A pair of timber doors opens inward into a small well area, from which an opening shows through into the magazine store below. There is a step up into the entrance level. The walls of the room are roughly squared granite with openings dressed with granite lintels and brick. There is a circuit of loopholes around the room designed for musketeers, above which are small windows. There is a fireplace in the southwest corner



of the room, with an arched cast iron inset and mortar surround with late twentieth century graffiti.

There is an exposed joist timber ceiling that appears to be a later replacement with the original main beam surviving (from which hang timber storage racks). Access to the upper level is via a modern timber companionway stair.

The room has a brick floor with thin mortar finish, set into which is a hatchway. The wooden hatch door appears to be early and was repaired using a plank from a German WWII box – marked ‘Reichs...’ The hatchway provides access to magazine stores at lower basement level.

Wooden steps from the hatchway lead down into a ‘lobby’ area from which access is gained to a pair of magazine stores. The ‘lobby’ has granite walls and a brick ceiling. An original timber beam runs the length of this space (from which hangs an historic wrought iron lamp hook) At the east end of the ‘lobby’ is an opening at head height, leading through to a well by the entrance doors into the tower.


There is a pair of brick vaulted magazine stores. Both stores are lined with brick with a pair of baffled ventilation slots with offset ducts to the exterior of the tower. The west magazine has a heavy timber door with full width iron strap hinges and sturdy iron bolt. There is an earthen floor. There are two sets of initials carved into the inside of the doorframe. The east magazine has a heavy timber door with later bronze door fittings. There is a timber plank floor laid on sand.

The upper level has walls of roughly squared granite with openings dressed with granite lintels and brick. There is a circuit of loopholes around the room designed for musketeers, above which are small windows. There is a fireplace in the northwest corner of the room – blocked with modern bricks. There is a wooden plank floor and exposed joist ceiling with a pair of iron beams supporting the roof platform. Access to roof level is via a modern timber companionway stair.

The stair up to the roof platform climbs into a small wooden cabin (now encased in fibreglass). The timbers of the cabin are covered with dates and the names of people who have visited the tower since the beginning of the twentieth century.

There is a granite parapet with mortar capping around the top of the tower. In the north east corner is a taller loop-holed niche set into the width of the parapet, overlooking the battery below. In the southeast corner is a rendered chimneystack with a Fareham ware pot. In the southwest corner is a rendered chimneystack without a pot. Between the stacks is a modern enclosure covering a water tank.

On the east side of the base of the tower is a battery. The battery has a



D-shaped plan, low encircling defensive wall of squared granite with dressed granite copings, and granite paving. The north wall of the battery continues alongside the tower to provide access to the tower entrance and steps down onto the rocky islet. A granite step at the entrance to the battery is carved with a North orientation line.

**Additional  
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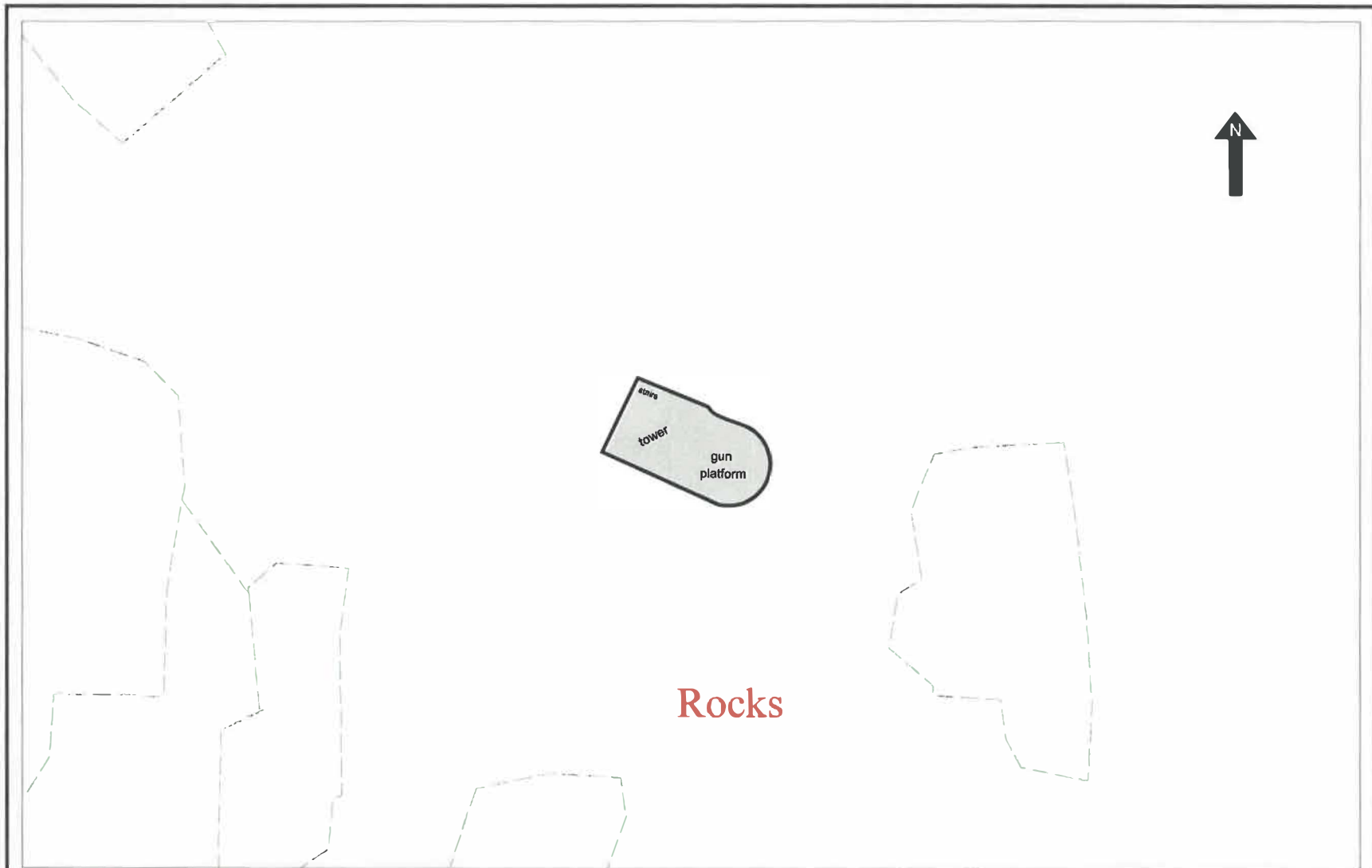
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**Owner:**

The Public of the Island of Jersey  
c/o Minister for Treasury and Resources  
Property Holdings  
23 Hill Street  
St Helier  
JE2 4UA

19 July 2006





**Seymour Tower, Grouville Bay, Grouville**  
**Site of Special Interest**

Scale:	1:500
Date:	09:09:05
Drawing No:	

**Appendix D**  
**Miscellaneous articles**

## Seymour Tower and its Surrounding Area

A talk given at the Tower on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1991 by  
R W Le Sueur to a group of walkers being led by Mr Mike  
Stentiford and Mrs Sue Hardy.

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La pecherie a vraic:

Before reaching the tower, we had looked at four of the Payn vraic marks, the fifth disappeared when the tower was built and we looked at the sixth on the way back to La Rocque. This is the most difficult of the surviving to find: the first is at the rock with a metal post called La Petite Avarison, the second is nearby at Les Perrots, the third is at Le Nez Courant at the end of the line of rocks known as Les Grunes running SSE from La Petite Avarison. The fourth is on a free-standing rock called Les Settes Samson about 400 yards east of the tower and the sixth is about 1,000 yards north-west of the tower to the east of the main route back to land and about 300 yards WSW of La Petite Avarison.

For centuries until the outbreak of the Second World War, the gathering of seaweed was closely controlled and the opening of the gathering season in late September was traditionally a kind of family picnic with the women baking the currant 'vraic' buns and everyone going down to the shore in carts, the men wading out into the sea with long forks to gather it in and others taking a special sickle to gather it from the rocks.

Certain manorial fiefs, however, had ancient rights which did not bind them to the regulations affecting ordinary folk. Such rights were held by the owners of Le Manoir de la Malletiere, the Malet family owning it in 1223, its first recorded mention; it passed by marriage to the Payn family in 1619 and then to the Le Maistres by sale in 1841, a remarkable story of only three families and only one sale in nearly eight hundred years. The owners had certain rights of fishing in an area to the north of Seymour Tower, then a rock known as l'Avarison and also rights to gather seaweed in the close season, rather like having the right to shoot grouse before August 12<sup>th</sup>.

Could this fact really not have been known to Thomas Labey, whose land adjoined that of Le Manoir de la Malletiere when, in March 1747 he found six employees of this neighbour, 'le Venerable home Francois Payn', blatantly gathering seaweed, presumably in broad daylight, in the close season? He had them arrested but a judgement of the Royal Court on April 28<sup>th</sup> 1747 dismissed the charge and clearly confirmed the rights of Francois Payn, something he and his family had long enjoyed. It was further decreed that the Court Viscount and other dignitaries should come down here, establish the precise limits and mark the bounds with clearly incised letters 'P', each of which faces outwards from the area, bounded by a circumference of about 1 – 1¼ miles. The owners of Le Manoir de la Malletiere were required to present their sovereign with three capons for this privilege; I gather it is some time since payment has been made in kind but the present Seigneur, Mr Alan Le Maistre, still makes an annual cash payment in order to preserve the centuries-old right attaching to his property. The letters 'P', as we have seen, remain to this day, or at least, five of the original six. The sixth was at the base of the rock on which Seymour Tower now stands and cannot now be found, presumably destroyed when the tower was built in 1782, thirty-five years after this Court case.

One must assume that lawyers' fees were no cheaper then, relative to other things than they are now and the fighting of this case in the Royal Court is evidence of how important vraicing rights were in the economy of the island.

## GEOLOGY

Geologists will know that there are three upper beach levels to be found around our coasts, the two lower ones most clearly seen in the three-level cave in the cove at La Gabourellerie to the east of Plemont Point and in some of the caves at the extreme western end of Plemont Beach. The third may be seen at South Hill on the face of the cliff above the area where learner drivers are taught to reverse and park.

It is not so generally known that a fourth, a lower beach level exists and is very occasionally visible at a point about 300 yards to the north-west of Seymour Tower and only when there has been a long predominance of south-west storms over those from the east, a phenomenon which will cause a movement in the sand banks.

It is these sand and gravel banks which make the area between the Tower and the shore so dangerous. Seymour Tower is not as far out from the shore as Icho Tower and it is an easier walk but deceptively risky precisely because of its undulating nature so that you can be deluded into thinking that the tide line is that sea lapping the beach no distance away on the shoreward side of you whereas, in fact, it has swept around the back of the bank and you are already surrounded. There have been more drowning tragedies and near-tragedies in the Seymour area than at Icho although it is not as far from the shore and there is a clear sandy walk to the Seymour Inn slipway.

## HISTORY

The original name of the rock on which the Tower stands is l'Avarison, the origin of which is vague. It could come from the word "l'avarie" – the disaster – or, more probably from "l'avallison", a flood or torrent.

There is a legendary link with St Sampson, the Celtic saint who is said to have visited the Channel Islands as a kind of recruiting sergeant during the Breton tribal wars of the sixth century. St Sampson was a missionary rather than a hermit and it seems unlikely that he would have attempted to establish himself on this rock which was even less habitable than the one chosen by St Helier. Possibly this was where his boat grounded, something which would have involved him in a patient wait until the tide rose. For whatever reason one of the rocks mentioned in the 1747 Court case is called Les Settes Sampson, the fourth marked stone in the circuit.

## FORTIFICATION

There is an unconfirmed story that a fortification of some kind was built on this rock as early as 1540 and named after Sir Edward Seymour, then Governor of the island, brother of Jane Seymour and later Duke of Somerset, hence the Somerset Tower at Mont Orgueil Castle. If this is true is inexplicably odd that no reference was made to a Seymour or any other tower here in the 1747 Court case. Reference is only made to the rock of l'Avarison or l'Avallison. In 1742 an Act of the States ordered repairs to the Boulevard of milieu in La Rocque Bay, a boulevard then being a rampart of a fortified place. Was it out here or could they have been referring to the fort which stood where the Boulevard flats at La Rocque now stand?

What is indisputable is that the present tower was built in 1782 in the governorship of Sir Henry Seymour Conway and it would seem probable that he caused the tower to perpetuate his second Christian name. This construction was a classic case of



locking the stable door after the horse had bolted because the previous year, on January 6<sup>th</sup> 1781, was the occasion when the French landed at La Rocque having come up the Violet Channel nearby.

It is not certain that a manned fort here would have made all that difference because the entire expeditionary force landed at Platte Rocque in the early hours of the morning and nothing was heard from the garrisoned fort at Le Boulevard about three hundred yards away!!! In fact, the place was empty. The sergeant, a local man, had told the guard that as it was Twelfth Night, old Christmas Day, they could all have the night off and celebrate with their families!!!

In March 1803 it was garrisoned by one subaltern, one sergeant, one drummer and 18 privates. At that time there was also a guardhouse on Pontac Common and when a sentry, Daniel Devitt absented himself when on duty, he was sentenced to 800 lashes with a cat-o-nine-tails.

By 1806 General Don was making sure the occupants did not all take nights off as half-hourly signals had to be sent to show all was well. 12 lbs of candles a month were necessary to produce the lights. In a report of 1809, General Don wrote:

"The Tower is situated on the right flank of Grouville Bay, two miles in the sea from High Water Mark; it commands the entrance into the Bay and is seen by all the sentries posted along the shore from Mont Orgueil Castle to Platte Rocque, an extent of about three miles."

His distance was wrong. It is a mere 2 kms or 1¼ miles from La Rocque Point but the La Conchière Beacon, which can be reached with difficulty on an exceptionally low spring tide, is 4 kms or 2½ miles, in a direct line and more as you walk it.

For the militarily minded, in 1812/17 as the Napoleonic Wars approached their end and in their immediate aftermath, Seymour Tower was equipped with two 24-pounder guns. In 1847, by when one would have thought any immediacy of a French threat might have been thought to have been over, there was a gun carriage and two 32-pounders.

In 1923, the Tower was bought by the States of Jersey for £120 and is now leased by the Defence Committee.

#### MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION ON THE AREA:

##### The 'Dorcas':

On December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1826 a cutter called 'Dorcas' was sunk and the bodies of three of the crew were picked up on March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year, three months later. Two men from La Rocque out fishing in their boat had heard the cries and had seen a fire on board, had assumed it was a supernatural apparition and had fled!!

##### Horses:

Fresh in our minds is the story of Mrs Barthorp and friend and their horses but that was not the first time a horse was up on the platform. In the early years of this century a Francis Nicolas, a carter, was sent for gravel, got bogged down and could not extricate the cart. He took the horse out of the shafts and led it up the steps and brought it down again the next day; possibly a cart horse was less neurotic than the more highly-bred riding horses.

#### Wartime tragedy:

Of the many tragedies in this area, one is particularly ironic. After the Normandy landings in 1944 and the subsequent liberation of the Cotentin Peninsula a number of people made their escape in small boats from the La Rocque area. The Germans became very strict on fishing and for some months all boats had to be brought up on shore and no one was allowed to put to sea. Seymour Tower was garrisoned by a small number of German soldiers and one group, after being relieved, set out rather late to walk back to shore. They were overtaken by the tide and clambered on to a high rock. The La Rocque fishermen could see them clearly and, although they were 'the enemy', could not stand idly by and see them drown in cold blood when the means of rescue were to hand. However the duty officer at La Rocque, doubtless fearful of higher authority, refused to let them launch the boat and the bodies were later picked up with full equipment at low tide.

#### Art:

This area has captured the imagination of several Jersey artists, in particular, in our own time, of Derek Crow and Michael Richecoeur. They have captured the sense of space and freedom of what is, at low tide, Jersey's largest wilderness, a place of rock, sand, of rushing water and magic. Will it every disappear as the land-hungry planners build dykes from La Collette to the Sambue Rocks, to the Icho Islet and then here? It is up to YOU as citizens to prevent them.



Into the rich storehouse of Jersey's history Mr. Phillip Ahler, well-known contributor to these columns, has delved once again, to throw light on another of Jersey's famous landmarks.

## The Story of Seymour Tower

One of the earliest descriptions of Seymour Tower is to be found in General Don's correspondence. On May 18th, 1809, he wrote the following memorandum to the Minister of War:—

"The Tower is situated on the right flank of Grouville Bay, two miles in the sea from High Water Mark; it commands the entrance into the Bay and is seen by all the sentries posted along the shore from Mont Orgueil Castle to Rocque Platte, an extent of about three miles."

This pen-picture could not be improved upon. The islet upon which it stands, its old designation and its modern name have presented difficulties to the student of Jersey topography. There are at least three problems associated with it:—

### Association with St. Sampson?

(1) What is the derivation of the word "L'Avarison," the name of the islet upon which the tower was built?

(a) It may be that it is derived from the French word *l'avarie*, meaning a disaster, suggesting that upon the rock there had been many shipping disasters.

(b) The spelling "Avallison" occurs in a case tried before the Royal Court in 1741. This word may be a corruption of "avalaison" meaning a flood or torrent referring to the sudden rushing of the sea water with the incoming tide.

It will be noticed that both suggested derivations suit equally well.

(2) How came it that the islet upon which the tower is built is associated with St. Sampson?

There was a tradition that St. Sampson was somehow or other connected with it, but how, no one definitely knows. From an almost contemporary life of the saint, written in Latin, it is said that he visited Jersey, apparently as a recruiting sergeant, during the trial wars which harassed the Bretons in the sixth century. Sampson's "protégé" for the head of the Bretons, one Judael, had been driven out of Brittany and the story goes that "Sampson set out for Lésia (Oureney) and Angin (Jersey), islands of the sea, and as he was well known to the men who dwelt there, they crossed to Brittany at his request and God gave the victory to Judael and overthrew the usurper."

The tradition remained for centuries, for, in 1747, when the Seigneur of La Motteville claimed the exclusive right to cut sea weed (wreck) on the rock called "Avallison," one boundary of his property was fixed at a certain rock called "Les Selles Sampson."

The tradition of St. Sampson's being associated with the rocky islet was known to the compiler of the Guide Book entitled "Séjour de Jersey" (1892, published by Messrs. T. Nelson and Sons), for on page 28, we read:

"Seymour Tower is built according to tradition, on the site of a hermitage inhabited once upon a time by St. Sampson. When a refuge for a world-weary disappointed or self-motified man this lonely hermit's crag must have effected!" The writer called the rock by the name of "The Isle of St. Sampson."

(3) When was the first Tower or redoubt built upon the rocky islet and after which Seymour is it named?

According to the late Mr. E. T. Nicolle, "the original tower was built about 1540 and named after Sir Edward Seymour, then the Governor of the island."



SIR H. SEYMOUR CONWAY

The painting by Gainsborough which hangs in the Royal Court. Photographed by Senett and Spears, with the Battif's permission.

### Henry VIII's Brother-in-law

Sir Edward Seymour, Viscount Beauchamp, Earl of Hertford, Duke of Somerset, was the brother of Jane Seymour, third queen of Henry VIII and was Governor of Jersey from 1537 to 1550, that is to say during the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI.

It is quite possible that Seymour did put up some sort of a redoubt upon L'Avarison, for he ordered additions to be made to Mont Orgueil, as witness the name of Somerset Tower. Seymour, as stated above, was the brother-in-law of Henry VIII, who, from 1542 to 1544 was the ally of the Emperor Charles V in his war against Francis I, King of France. If Henry VIII's support of Charles V was but of a lukewarm character, his brother-in-law made up for any deficiencies in this direction by concentrating upon the defences of Jersey.

In the *Acte des Etats* for October 22, 1742, there is an Order that the Guard House of the Boulevard du Milieu in La Rocque Bay be repaired similar to another one, while on the 28th

of January 1780, we learn that the Constable of Grouville (and the Parish) was deemed responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of Le Boulevard du Milieu dans la Baie de Grouville. A boulevard in those days meant a bulwark or rampart or a fortified place. Hence it is quite possible that Governor Seymour's fortification had lasted for over two hundred years.

But, on the other hand, the general opinion is that it was built by order of the States, as a result of Sir Henry Seymour Conway's visiting the defences of the island by the French under the Prince of Nassau in 1779 and was named Seymour Tower to perpetuate one of his christian names.

### Built to Repel French

"The late Mr. E. T. Nicolle's "Notes on the Forts and Fortifications" also contains the following:—

"It was supposed to have been built when Marshal Conway was Governor of Jersey in conse-

quence of the French having, in the preceding year, effected a landing near to it." This refers to Rullecours' ill-fated expedition of January 6th, 1781.

However, when the war with France had terminated in 1783, the States, on December 6, 1786, decreed that the upkeep of the newly erected Tower, along with many others, should be made a charge to the Island and not to the Parish of Grouville alone.

### VARIOUS NAMES

Since 1780 Seymour Tower has been known by various names:—

(1) La Hour Carrée from its square base.

(2) Le Boulevard du Milieu dans la Baie de Grouville, from the fact that it starts almost in the middle of the bay.

(3) Le Corps de Garde et Magasin de St. Sampson, (*Acte des Etats*, Dec. 6th, 1786) from its traditional association with the Saint.

(4) L'Avarison, mainly known as such by the fishermen of St. Clement and Grouville.

A report of the Board of Ordnance issued in 1797 reveals the fact, that the British Govern-

ment was responsible for its upkeep. It was then manned by two 12-pounder guns.

### Key Fortification

General Don recognized the importance of Seymour Tower as a key point in the fortification of the South of the Island during the second half of the war against Napoleon. How vital he considered it is shown in his own words which follow the description of the Tower given at the commencement of this article. Don then continued:—

"It was necessary to communicate by signals between the shore and the Tower, and for the purpose of giving notice to the posts that 'all was well' lights were ordered to be shown towards the Bay every half-hour, on the seeing of which, the sentries in the above-mentioned limit pass the word 'All well'."

### 12 LBS. OF CANDLES

"When the lights are not regularly shown, measures are taken to discover the cause. It is found that 12 pounds of candles per month are necessary to make these lights and for the reasons above assigned, I strongly recommend that this issue should be continued."

Later in the year, on August 13th, 1805, Don notified Colonel Humphrey that he had sent 2,000 ball cartridges and 200 flints to the sergeant in charge of Seymour Tower.

The gravity of the war situation was such that, we find General Don writing to Lieut-Colonel Sibbell on the 23rd of September, 1811, to this effect:—

"I beg you will enquire if the non-commissioned officers commanding at Seymour Tower and Archerdelle (sic) are in possession of spy-glasses." During the years 1812 to 1817, we learn from the Orderly Book of the NW Regiment of the Jersey Militia that Seymour Tower was manned by "two guns of 24 pounders each," an increase in size of cannon ball. Among the fortifications listed in the "Daily News" of March 2, 1847, we find that Seymour Tower possessed two 32-pounder guns and a gun carriage.

### FORTIFICATIONS

#### ABANDONED

At a later date, the British Government abandoned the idea of fortifying the Tower and it was leased to private parties, one being Mr. Walter T. Marcet, and ultimately taken over by the States of Jersey in 1923.

In the same way that L'ho Tower was the scene of snipping disasters and narrow escapes from drowning resulting from the rapidly rushing incoming tide, so we find almost parallel cases occurring at L'Avarison. —

## Wrecks

A cutter called Dorcas was sunk on the rocks at La Varison (another variant of the spelling) on the 23th of December, 1826. The bodies of three men were later picked up on March 31st, 1827. The story goes that two men from La Rocque heard the cries of the seamen and noticed a fire on board. The La Rocque men were overtaken with fright, imagining that what they had seen was something supernatural and sailed away quickly back to the haven at La Rocque.

On November 26, 1850, a wreck was observed near the Seymour Tower by the "South Western" steamer returning from France. The mast was about twelve feet above the water and had every appearance of a beacon. The mystery of this shipwreck was never solved.

### HORSE SPENT NIGHT THERE

Some time during this century (I have not as yet been able to get the precise date) Mr. Francis Nicolas, a carter employed by the firm of Le Mièrre, was sent to get

a load of gravel in the vicinity of L'Avarison when the cart became bogged in the gravel, and the horse could proceed no further. Mr. Nicolas untraced the horse and led it up to the parapet of the Tower where he stayed the night with the animal. Next day, when the tide had receded, Mr. Nicolas brought the horse back to the shore much to the relief of those who had witnessed the episode through their glasses.

The Rev. E. Durell in his "Historical Sketch of Jersey" (p. 147) wrote:—

### Joined to France?

"It is from this rock that a shoaly bottom is supposed to exist to France and that there is this place at which, if ever, Jersey was separated from France and the Continent.

"According to Capt. Robert White's chart, the soundings in the intermediate distance do not average more than six or seven fathoms."



SIR ED. SEYMOUR

Photograph of painting by Senett and Spears

## Mr. Ahier's Article

I always read Mr. Philip Ahier's historical articles with great interest and very rarely find any inaccuracies — his knowledge of most of the subjects on which he writes is far greater than mine — but I am afraid that in Thursday's articles on Icho Tower he slipped up once or twice.

### Surely It Was Seymour?

The first statement which I question was the report quoted from the "Jersey Times" about Mr. Le Gros and his three sons who had been sand-eeling in Grouville Bay and, cut off by the tide, had taken refuge on "Echo" Tower. Surely this would have been much more likely to be Seymour Tower if they were in Grouville Bay. I know that it was the "Jersey Times" report for which Mr. Ahier cannot be blamed but I would have expected him to query it.

### No Residents

Mr. Ahier mentions that the Germans took over the tower and removed the tenants who had to take away their belongings very hurriedly, giving the impression that people were living there, and says that the Germans occupied it in their stead. As far as I know the tenants were a few enthusiastic low-water fishermen who occasionally spent, and still spend a week-end at the tower for the purpose of setting nets and were told by the Germans that they had to discontinue the practice and bring their gear ashore. The Germans never, to my knowledge, occupied the tower themselves.

### The Drowned Germans

Re Mr. Ahier's story about two Germans who were cut off on their way back from Icho Tower and drowned. It was not Icho from which they were returning but Seymour Tower, and there were certainly more than two. If my memory serves me aright there were four of them and they were all drowned just as Mr. Ahier describes. At that time orders

had been given by the occupying authorities that all fishing-boats were to be brought ashore. In spite of several of the La Rocque fishermen, who couldn't stand by and see men drown before their eyes, pleading with officers at the nearest posts to be allowed to launch a boat, permission was refused. The bodies with full equipment, were picked up at low-tide at the foot of the rock on which they had stood.

### Occupation Story

There is one rather amusing story in connection with the low-water fisherman at the tower during that time. In spite of the German order that they could not continue their practice of spending week-ends on Icho, they did go down there a few times in ones and twos and all met at the tower. During the night they would set their nets and go to them on the following days and nights, returning to the tower afterwards. On one occasion when they were at the nets in the day-time the Germans chose that particular day to put in some artillery practice and used the tower and surrounding rocks as targets. There was nothing else for it but for the fishermen to make for the shore quickly.

### No Pants!

One of the party had left the tower attired in only his shirt and a pair of knee-boots. He wasn't fussy about his dress, as it was somewhat unusual to meet any of the opposite sex down among the rocks there at that time. On this occasion he regretted his scanty garb, for he had to cycle right back to Trinity just as he was. As a matter of fact he was lucky to have on as much as he had, for I have been down around Icho with him during the Occupation when the weather being rather hot, he discarded everything except his knee-boots and was to be seen searching for lobsters and congers among the rocks, looking, as he himself said, like Adam in gum-boots.



# LA PÊCHERIE À VRAIC ET À POISSON PROCHE LA VARISON

by

A. LE B. MCGUGAN

The 1907 Annual Bulletin records the visits of members of the Société Jersiaise to a number of historical sites in the island including Le Manoir de la Malletière, also known as La Maison des Prés, where members of the Société were warmly welcomed by the owner Peter Charles Le Maistre.

The article recounts a history of the fief from 1223, when it belonged to the Malet family, to its passing by marriage to the Payn family in 1619 and its sale to Pierre Le Maistre in 1841.

## Une Pêcherie à Vraic et à Poisson

The Seigneurs de la Malletière had the privilege of 'une pêcherie à vraic et à poisson' situated near the rock called l'Avarison in the Bay of Grouville. The origin of this right

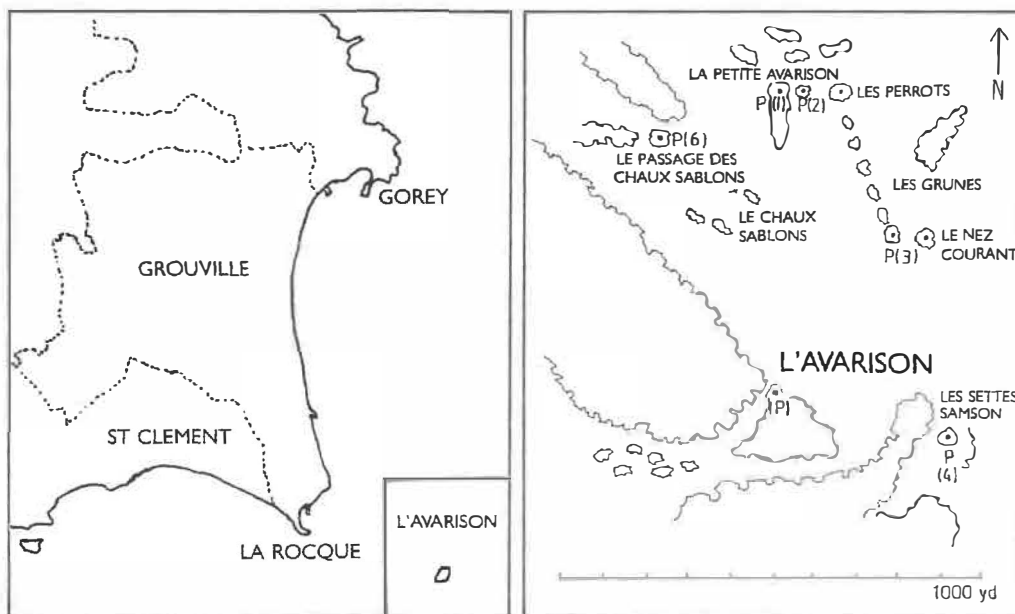


Figure 1 Map showing Location of L'Avarison south-east of La Rocque, Jersey



PLATE 1 Alan Le Maistre pointing to the first mark



PLATE 2 The second mark near L'Avarison



PLATE 3 The third mark at the end of Les Grunes



PLATE 4 With Edmond Le Clercq at Les Settes Samson

was not known but it was clearly established by a judgement of the Royal Court of 28th April, 1747. The owner of the manor had to pay to the sovereign "...trois chapons dus à cause de la pêche à vraic et à poisson proche La Varison (sic) telle qu'elle est bornée et limitée". The Royal Court confirmed the fishing and vraicing rights of the Vénérable Homme François Payn which he and his forebears had long enjoyed. In order to avoid future disputes it ordered the Vicomte and experts to repair to the place and there establish the limits with the Procureur du Roi, the Constable of Grouville and the Procureur du Bien Public of that parish.

The Député Vicomte recorded the meeting of 13th May, 1747 when the limits of the fishing and vraicing rights were specified. The Cour du Samedi ordered the ratification of the record of the Député Vicomte and the report of the experts. This report was particularly interesting as it gave the names of rocks in the area surrounding l'Avarison. The letter P on some of these rocks marked the area where the Payn family had the exclusive right to fish and cut vraic outside the dates allowed for the general public. In April, 1747, Thomas Labey, Centenier of Grouville and the Procureur du Roi, had brought an action in the Royal Court against Vénérable Homme François Payn, claiming that Clément Quérée and five others had been summoned to pay a fine "...pour avoir été au vraicq (sic) contre les ordres." Each January the dates for the *abandon des vrais*, that is, dates when the right to cut vraic was allowed to the general public, were decided in the Royal Court on recommendations from the parish assemblies, and corresponded with suitable tides in March and July. The honorary police of the parishes enforced the law and ensured that no one cut vraic outside these dates. The regulations did not however apply to the ancient rights of certain fiefs, and so the judgment of 1747 established that the holder of the fief was not bound by the regulations affecting the general public.

### L'Avarison 1988

The days of competition for cut vraic have long passed but the Le Maistre family of La Maison des Prés still take an interest in the ancient pêche à vraic. Each Good Friday they make an expedition to Seymour Tower in a tractor-drawn trailer. On a previous expedition they had found two rocks marked with a P, one at La Petite Avarison and the other on the rock near it mentioned in the 1747 ruling. On Good Friday, 1988, no further marks were found so a further expedition was made when it was hoped the local knowledge of Edmund Le Clercq would ensure greater success. Using the *Acte (Bull. Ann. Soc. Jersiaise 1907, 6(2), 216)* as a guide, and starting from La Petite Avarison and the rock to the east of it where the first two Ps are marked he identified the Charrière entre les Grunes which leads to the Ruel des Ronds Bancs to the west of the rock called Roches Forts or Perrots. Following the Ruel and keeping to the east of the Grunes des Sablons the last of these flat rocks is reached near to and to the north-west of a rock called Le Nez Courant, and on the last of the Grunes a P is clearly marked. Going south and across the curved bank surrounding La Fosse de la Pescherie (sic) and then south-eastward the rock called Les Settes Samson is reached. A P is marked on the side of it. A straight channel leads to the Charrière de l'Est where there should be a further mark on a boulder on the east side and near to La Grande Avarison. Unfortunately this P cannot be found and may have been effaced when Seymour Tower was rebuilt.





PLATE 5 Alan Le Maistre at Passage des Chaux Sablons with La Petite Avarison in the background

The Rocher à Mullet to the north-west and eight perches away from La Grande Avarison is easy to identify but it took a further expedition to find the sixth and last mark.

In the 1747 description Les Runs is placed north-west of Le Mullet where today's fishermen would say it was further to the south-west. There is a banc to the north-west from the foot of which the Charrière de Haut comes to a rock called le Passage des Chaux Sablons near to rocks called Les Tas de Pois. On the west side of Le Passage des Chaux Sablons a P is clearly marked. Le Banc de la Petite Avarison leads back to the start at La Petite Avarison completing a rough circle of about one and a quarter miles.

Today when we see only an occasional load of vraic it is difficult to imagine a time when there was intense competition to gather this rich fertilizer. The ordinary parishioners probably resented the rights of its fiefs and gave whole-hearted support to the Officiers des Vraics who were striving to ensure an equitable division of the harvest.

There is still much information, both written and spoken, to be obtained about vraicing round our coasts. Information, comments, stories and references and written material from any sources would be most welcome.

## **Appendix E**

### **Glossary of building conservation terminology**

Extract from section 4 of BS 7913:1998 *Guide to the principles of the conservation of historic buildings* (BSI, 1998):

NOTE. *The terms defined are those which can be regarded as having precise or technical meanings in the context of building conservation. No definitions are offered for such general terms as refurbishment, rehabilitation or renovation.*

#### **alteration**

Work the object of which is to change or improve the function of a building or artefact or to modify its appearance.

#### **archaeology**

Scientific study and interpretation of the past, based on the uncovering, retrieval, recording and interpretation of information from physical evidence.

NOTE 1. *Archaeological evidence in buildings is as likely to be visible or concealed in the superstructure as below the ground.*

NOTE 2. *Archaeological investigation can be destructive.*

#### **conservation**

Action to secure the survival or preservation of buildings, cultural artefacts, natural resources, energy or any other thing of acknowledged value for the future.

NOTE. *Where buildings or artefacts are involved, such actions should avoid significant loss of authenticity or essential qualities.*

#### **conservation area**

Area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance.

#### **conversion**

Alteration, the object of which is a change of use of a building or artefact, from one use or type to another.

#### **design**

Abstract concept of a building or artefact. It can exist in the mind or on paper and if realised, it can be represented in the building or artefact itself.

NOTE. *The design of a building can be original and unaltered, or it can be a composite made up of a series of successive designs.*

#### **fabric**

Physical material of which a building or artefact is made.

NOTE. *Its state at any particular time will be a product of the original design and of everything to which it has been subject in the course of its history, including deliberate alterations based on well considered secondary or subsequent designs, careless changes, the effects over time of weather and use, damage and decay.*

#### **intervention**

Any action which has a physical effect on the fabric of a building or artefact.

**maintenance**

Routine work necessary to keep the fabric of a building, the moving parts of machinery, grounds, gardens or any other artefact, in good order.

**preservation**

State of survival of a building or artefact, whether by historical accident or through a combination of protection and active conservation.

**protection**

Provision of legal restraints or controls on the destruction or damaging of buildings or artefacts, natural features, systems, sites, areas or other things of acknowledged value, with a view to their survival or preservation for the future.

*NOTE. Any intervention or work likely to affect the essential qualities of a building or its character, land or anything which is legally protected would normally require a consent to be obtained through a procedure established by the relevant legislation.*

**rebuilding**

Remaking, on the basis of a recorded or reconstructed design, a building or part of a building or artefact which has been irretrievably damaged or destroyed.

**reconstruction**

Re-establishment of what occurred or what existed in the past, on the basis of documentary or physical evidence.

*NOTE. The strength of this evidence determines how accurate or hypothetical the reconstruction is.*

**repair**

Work beyond the scope of regular maintenance to remedy defects, significant decay or damage caused deliberately or by accident, neglect, normal weathering or wear and tear, the object of which is to return the building or artefact to good order, without alteration or restoration.

*NOTE. Most repair work should be anticipated and planned, but occasionally it can be required in response to a specific event, such as a storm or accident.*

**replication**

Making an exact copy or copies of a building or artefact.

**restoration**

Alteration of a building, part of a building or artefact which has decayed, been lost or damaged or is thought to have been inappropriately repaired or altered in the past, the objective of which is to make it conform again to its design or appearance at a previous date.

*NOTE. The accuracy of any restoration depends on the extent to which the original design or appearance at a previous date is known, or can be established by research.*

**reversibility**

Concept of work to a building, part of a building or artefact being carried out in such a way that it can be reversed at some future time, without any significant damage having been done.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Appendix F</b> Jersey Heritage Trust protocol for archaeological work</p>
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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1** In the absence of statutory guidance the Jersey Heritage Trust has developed its own protocol for archaeological work.
- 1.2** The purpose of this document is to set out the methods to be employed and the standards to be achieved when undertaking works of an archaeological nature at JHT sites.
- 1.3** The protocol mirrors standard practice in England and encompasses the draft *Supplementary Planning Guidance – The Historic Environment*.

## **2. STATUTORY, POLICY AND ADVISORY FRAMEWORK**

### **2.1 The Island Planning (Jersey) Law, 1964 (as amended) Article 12 Protection of Sites of Special Interest**

Site of Special Interest Permission is required from the Environment & Public Services Committee for the following works to an SSI:

- the demolition of a building or its alteration or extension in any manner which would seriously affect its character;
- the use or operation of any device designed or adapted for detecting or locating any metal or mineral in the ground;
- the insertion of a probe into the surface of an SSI;
- the digging of any hole on an SSI;
- the excavation in an SSI;
- the removal of any sand, stone, gravel, earth or rock from an SSI.

The sites and monuments in the care of the JHT are either designated as Sites of Special Interest (SSI) or registered as proposed Sites of Special Interest (pSSI). Whichever the case all sites will be treated as designated.

### **2.2 Jersey Island Plan (2002) - Policies relevant to Archaeology**

- G11 Sites of Special Interest
- G12 Archaeological Resources
- G13 Buildings and Places of Architectural and Historic Interest

### **2.3 Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance – The Historic Environment**

The SPG provides support to the policy framework set out in the Jersey Island Plan 2002 and is intended to ensure that the historic environment, including the archaeological and built heritage, is a material consideration in planning decisions, that those decisions are informed and reasonable, and that the impact of development on the historic environment is sustainable.

### **2.4 International Conventions – Jersey has ratified the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1985) and**

the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised) (Valletta 1992).

The conventions place obligations on member states to introduce legislative, policy and other measures to protect the archaeological and architectural heritage.

- 2.5 **Other Guidance** – It is the intention of the JHT to take into account best current practice from other jurisdictions especially English Heritage, Institute of Field Archaeologists, Council for British Archaeology etc. (see bibliography).
- 2.6 **Conservation Plans** – Work must be considered in the light of policies set out in Conservation Plans which provide site-specific guidance.

### 3. **DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT (DBA)**

- 3.1 A programme of assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource. It consists of a collation of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource. This will inform the requirement for, and scope of, any non-intrusive or intrusive surveys.
- 3.2 On a large complex site like Mont Orgueil Castle a phased programme of evaluation is adopted, with each stage informing the next.
- 3.3 The DBA should be submitted to the Planning department who will decide whether further information is needed in order to make an informed decision regarding the archaeological resource.
- 3.4 All work should be carried out with reference to the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*.
- 3.5 **Consultation**  
The JHT aims to ensure involvement and support from those other organisations which have an interest in the project.
- 3.6 SSI permissions are automatically referred to the Archaeology Section of the SJ for comment.
- 3.7 Also consideration is given at this stage to seeking any additional academic guidance needed.

### 4. **MITIGATION PLAN**

- 4.1 This is required to demonstrate that primary consideration has been given to mitigating loss by the appropriate design of foundations and other interventions prior to determination.

- 4.2 Where archaeological remains are present but preservation *in situ* is not appropriate, we must make appropriate provision for the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the specification produced by the Planning Committee.

## 5. PROJECT DESIGN

- 5.1 Required to submit a project design to the planning department. This comprises a comprehensive document describing the background to the project, listing aims and objectives, describing the methodologies and resources to be employed and the form of reporting and archiving (EH 1991). The project design will also include appropriate risk assessment(s).
- 5.2 Project designs are to be produced for each stage of evaluation/mitigation works in response to a brief/specification produced by the planning department.

## 6. METHODS STATEMENT

- 6.1 The proposed data collection methods should be described, making clear why those advocated are the most appropriate and will best ensure that the data collected can fulfil the projects aims.

## 7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

- 7.1 Excavation will examine and record the archaeological resource within a specified area (usually areas that contain significant archaeological deposits, but do not warrant preservation *in situ*) using appropriate methods and practices. These must satisfy the stated aims of the project (Project Design) and detailed in the brief/specification produced by the planning department.  
It will result in one or more published accounts and an ordered, accessible archive.
- 7.2 A unique site code is issued by the JHT.
- 7.3 All work should be carried out with reference to the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (1995, revised 2001).

## 8. ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

- 8.1 In some cases where pre-determination evaluation has shown that archaeological remains are expected to be sparse, poorly preserved

and are not significant enough to require preservation *in situ* or by detailed investigation and record, the Planning department may still require archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The scale and scope of archaeological monitoring can vary according to circumstances and are subject to a brief provided by the department.

- 8.2 In certain circumstances remains found during a watching brief may require detailed investigation, analysis, publication and archiving.
- 8.3 On completion of the watching brief a programme of post-excavation will be undertaken, culminating in the publication of the results of the investigations and deposition of the site archive.
- 8.4 All work should be carried out with reference to the *IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (1994, revised 2001).

## **9. BUILDING INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING**

- 9.1 Preservation by record will be required by condition (planning) where features of interest are likely to be exposed during the works or where damage is unavoidable, or in the case of the removal or covering up of features.  
The mitigation will be a full written and graphic record of the investigation.
- 9.2 The work will be undertaken by properly experienced archaeologist/building investigators and conducted according to a brief agreed with the Planning department.
- 9.3 The product of the investigation and recording of the building will be an illustrated report and published account of any discoveries
- 9.4 All work should be carried out with reference to the *IFA Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*.

## **10. POST-EXCAVATION**

- 10.1 On completion of the fieldwork a programme of post-excavation will be undertaken, culminating in the publication of the results of the investigations and deposition of the site archive.
- 10.2 A post excavation assessment should be carried out after completion of the fieldwork and site archive to assess the potential for further analysis and publication.
- 10.3 Proposals for work to be carried out will be expressed as an updated project design



## **11. COLLECTION, DOCUMENTATION, CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL.**

- 11.1** All finds and samples should be treated in a proper manner and to standards agreed by the JHT.
- 11.2** JHT must make available a copy of its Acquisition Policy and Collection Management Plan. This will include recommendations on the content and presentation of the archive, the selection and retention of material, standards for documentation, packaging and conservation requirements, storage grants to be charged and arrangements for transfer of ownership and copyright issues.
- 11.3** The Curator of Archaeology to be responsible for all archaeological finds.
- 11.4** At the end of each investigation artefacts and samples to be taken off site by the Curator of archaeology – usually to La Hougue Bie.
- 11.5** The Curator of Archaeology to arrange for appropriate cleaning, marking and storage, with the assistance of the Société Jersiaise Archaeology Section.
- 11.6** The Project Archaeologist/Curator of Archaeology to inform the JHT Conservator of any conservation requirements.
- 11.7** All work should be carried out with reference to the IFA *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material*. Best practice is also represented in the UKIC Conservation Guidelines No 2 and English Heritage Centre for Archaeology Guidelines.

## **12. PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION**

- 12.1** Technical reports detailing the results of the various stages of evaluation will be required for approval by the Planning department. A programme of appropriate analysis and publication will form part of that requirement.  
This is likely to take the form of an Assessment report and updated project design. A summary of the result will be required for inclusion in the Heritage Environment Database.
- 12.2** The JHT will seek to ensure the prompt dissemination of all work. The project archaeologist is responsible for the analysis and publication of the data. While exercising this responsibility they shall enjoy consequent rights of primacy. However failure to prepare or publish the

results within 10 years of completion of fieldwork shall be construed as a waiver of such rights.

- 12.3 There is a presumption in favour of publication locally (*Ann. Bull. Soc. Jersiaise*).
- 12.4 Consideration will also be given to more wider publications, through the JHT website and exhibitions.

### **13. ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

- 13.1 JHT must make provision for the archival storage of artefacts retrieved during archaeological investigation together with associated written and drawn archives.
- 13.2 A copy of all reports should be deposited with the Planning department for the Heritage Environment Database, SJ Library and the SJAS library.
- 13.3 The archive must be treated and packed in accordance with requirements of the JHT Curator of Archaeology, Conservator and Archivist.

### **14. STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS**

- 14.1 All staff including volunteers must be suitably qualified and experienced for their project role.
- 14.2 All staff and volunteers must be fully briefed and aware of the work required under the specification and must understand the aims and methodologies of the project.
- 14.3 The site director should preferably be a corporate member of the IFA or equivalent.
- 14.4 The JHT Site Resource Officer will maintain a digital photographic archive of all works in progress.

### **15. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 15.1 All work is to be carried out in accordance with the latest Health and Safety legislation and good practice.

### **16. REFERENCES**

- The Island Planning (Jersey) Law, 1964, as amended

- Island Plan Policies G11, G12, G13
- Supplementary Planning Guidance – The Historic Environment (draft)
- Granada Convention 1985
- Valetta Convention 1992
- Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 *Standards and Guidance, By-Laws*
- Institute of Field Archaeologists 1986 *Code of Conduct*
- Institute of Field Archaeologists *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*
- Institute of Field Archaeologists 1992 *Guidelines for Finds Work*
- English Heritage *Management of Archaeological Projects* 1991
- Museums and Gallery Commission 1992 *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections.*
- Society of Museum Archaeologists 1992 *Guidelines on the Selection Retention and Display of Archaeological Collections.*
- Society of Museum Archaeologists 1995 *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*
- Museum Documentation Association and Society Museum Archaeologists 2000 *Standards in Action : Working with Archaeology*
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation 1990 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage.*
- Association of County Archaeological Officers 1993 *Model Briefs and Specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations*
- Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers 1997 *Analysis and Recording for the Conservation and Control of Works to Historic Buildings*
- Clark, K 1999 *Conservation Plans in Action*
- Clark K 2001 *Informed Conservation*
- ICOMOS 1990 *Guide to Recording Historic Buildings*
- Museum of London 1990 *Archaeological Site Manual*
- Dixon, P & Kennedy, J 2002 *Mont Orgueil Castle Conservation Plan*
- Jersey Heritage Trust *Mont Orgueil Castle Development Strategy*
- Council for British Archaeology - *Various fact sheets*

## Appendix G



### States of Jersey Forts and Towers Project

## Seymour Tower

### Policies, Codes of Conduct, Procedures and Guidance 31 October 2006

#### 1. Background

**The aims of the Forts and Towers Project are to make Island heritage accessible to more people, to safeguard historic structures and to promote tourism by providing unique self-catering accommodation.**

Seymour Tower in the Royal Bay of Grouville is one of ten States-owned historic buildings that are being given a new lease of life by the Jersey Heritage Trust (JHT). The £800,000 project is being largely funded by £590,000 from the Tourism Development Fund. In addition Transport and Technical Services are undertaking £145,000 of stonemasonry work with the remainder being met from an estimated annual hire income of £96,000.

The purpose of this document is to inform interested parties and the public as to how the JHT intends to manage the use of the landmark tower in the heart of the eastern section of Jersey's 32.1 sq km Ramsar site – one of the largest intertidal reef sites in Europe.

It was compiled in consultation with public and private organisations and interested and experienced members of the public, including Transport and Technical Services, Jersey Harbours, Jersey Fire and Rescue, the States Police, the Health and Safety at Work Inspectorate, Jersey Tourism, the Environment Department, offshore tower users, fishermen, and leisure providers.

The isolated location of Seymour Tower, in an area of internationally-recognised environmental importance, is the major consideration in the uses deemed appropriate by the JHT.

During the highest spring tides of the year, the sea recedes almost as far from the tower as the tower itself stands from the Island. For the ill-informed and unprepared a low water expedition can be fraught with dangers, but for those



who make sure they are aware of tide times and the risks of leaving it too late to return to the shore, exploring the marine wilderness of Jersey's south-east coast is a safe and relaxing pursuit.

The Trust is also mindful of the tower's and the area's cultural and social significance for generations of Jersey residents. If Islanders have not personally enjoyed the delights of low water fishing they will know someone who has, as this activity has been a part of Island life since man first learned to fish.

The JHT recognises the difficulties and conflicts in the project but believes that with the assistance of other organisations and the help of key individuals in the community, access can be managed in such a way as to achieve the core aims of not only the Forts and Towers Project but also the JHT and those who care about Seymour Tower and the traditions of Island life.

Management issues are general to the offshore towers – in due course proposed public uses of Icho Tower will be considered – and as this document is designed to be a 'living' document – to be amended from the experiences of tower users - the JHT continues to welcome genuine input from interested parties to produce best practice operating procedures for each of these sites.

The JHT recognises that overuse and/or inappropriate use could threaten the environmental and cultural significance of the historic buildings entrusted into its care by the States. In developing access to sites such as Seymour Tower, the JHT is committed to promoting uses that are not detrimental to the shared values of the partners in the Forts and Towers Project and the public interest.

The JHT also recognises the public right of access in order to enjoy the area and the buildings, which are, after all, in public ownership.

In pursuing this project on behalf of the States, the Jersey Heritage Trust has the following aims:

- **To help people enjoy the buildings and the surrounding landscape.**
- **To ensure that access to the buildings is in principle open to everyone.**
- **To ensure that access to the buildings is safe.**
- **To ensure that use does not compromise the special quality of the place.**

## 2. Significance of the building

Seymour Tower is an exceptional example of Jersey's unique form of coastal defence tower, developed by Sir Henry Seymour Conway (appointed Governor in 1772). It is a square tower with a gun battery at the base.

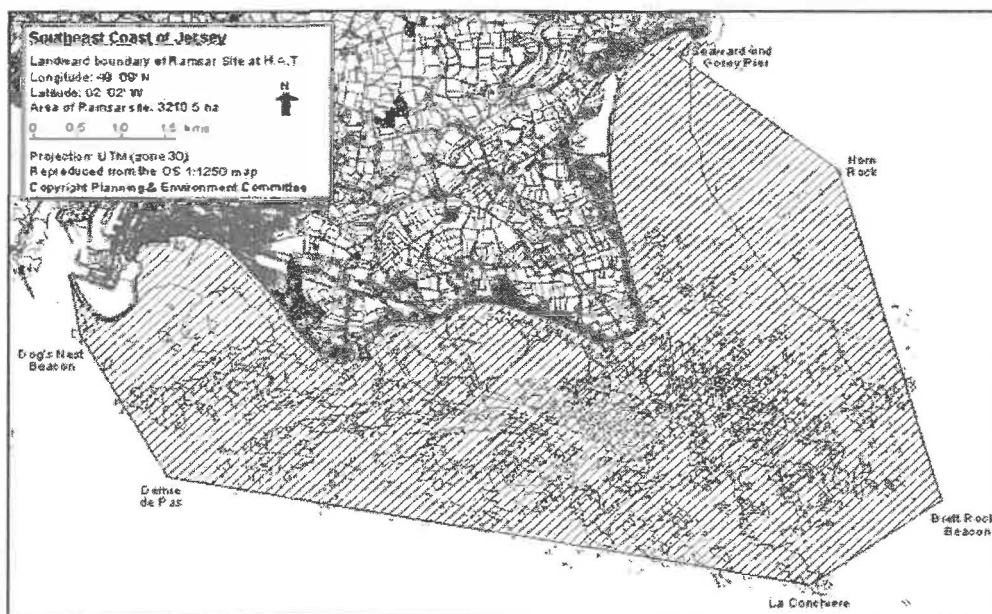
Seymour Tower was built in 1782 as a direct response to the failed French invasion a year earlier when Major Francis Pierson's men defeated Baron de Rullecourt's forces in the Royal Square.

To prevent a repeat of the events of January 1781, it was decided to build a tower on the high water mark on L'Avarison islet. Situated on the right flank of the Royal Bay of Grouville, it commanded the entrance to the bay and could be seen by all the sentries posted along the shore from Mont Orgueil Castle to Platte Rocque.

This document is informed by a conservation statement developed by the JHT's Conservation Advisory Group. That statement describes the significance of Seymour Tower and sets out policies for protecting the building. Membership comprises representatives of the Société Jersiaise, National Trust for Jersey, Channel Islands Occupation Society and Planning and Environment. Seymour Tower has been designated by Planning as a Site of Special Interest and any work undertaken by the JHT is in accordance with the relevant guideline and requirements.

### 3. Significance of the area

Seymour and Icho towers are contained within a Ramsar site. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international co-operation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. There are presently 152 Contracting Parties to the Convention, with 1609 wetland sites, totalling 145.8 million hectares, designated for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.



The following description of the area is taken from the designation documentation:

*'The site (total area 32.1sqkm) comprises various habitats; reefs, boulder fields, mud, sandy and shingle shores not covered by water at low tide, combined with shallow tidal lagoons, seagrass beds and a constellation of outlying reefs. One of the largest intertidal reef sites in Europe. A maximum spring tide range of 12 metres exposes in excess of 17.5sqkm of wave cut rock platforms, extensive areas of reef at varying elevations, expansive rocky shores and a complex system of soft substrate gullies. The area also features a large, shallow, depositing, soft sediment bay, containing Zostera (seagrass) meadows, which provide important winter habitat for nationally important populations of waders and wildfowl. These factors, combined with Jersey's biogeographical position produce great biodiversity, a rich and diverse range of biotopes and some uncommon species assemblages. The flora and fauna is characterised by limit-of-range species at the northern and southern margins of their distributions that are not present on shores either to the north or south respectively. Fishing within the site, is of great cultural, social and traditional importance to the population of Jersey. To the north of the site lies Gorey Harbour a small port used principally for recreational boating. To the west of the site lies St Helier, Jersey's capital and principal port with associated facilities and shoreline development. "*

#### **4. Policies for access**

Protecting the fabric of Seymour Tower and the outstanding marine wilderness in which it stands is paramount in the JHT's proposals. Anyone hoping to be marooned for a stag or hen night, or a rave can think again.

As tide and time waits for no man – as those who have been rescued from the incoming tide know – Seymour Tower, unlike other properties in the project, will not be available for approved use every day of the year. In the first year (2007) bookings will be taken only when the height of the tide allows safe and manageable access on foot or by kayak or canoe. Access by motor-powered vessels will be subject to further consultation. Also, for those hiring the venue, there will be strict safety procedures and rules.

##### **4.1 Supervision of access**

All those who hire Seymour Tower will have to be supervised by an accredited guide.

Jersey Heritage Trust, Jersey Harbours and the Fire and Rescue Service have developed a training course to validate guides. This incorporates appropriate knowledge of First Aid, communication, fire-safety, seamanship, and local area/tidal knowledge as well as experience of the towers themselves.

It is planned to train a number of specialist guides who know the area well and who in turn are known to the JHT. It is hoped that in time the opportunity to become an accredited guide will be open to all, but this can only follow an initial period of testing and development of the systems.

Accreditation will require the guides to be competent in First Aid, VHF communication and to successfully complete the Offshore Towers residential course including an overnight stay at Seymour Tower.

Ratios of group numbers to guides are set at 7:1 for overnight stays while the ratio for daytime visits will be at the discretion of the accredited guide.

## **4.2 Use as Holiday Lets**

While it is anticipated that Seymour Tower will mainly be used as a base for such activities as low water walks, bird watching, fishing and education - there will undoubtedly be a demand for short-term holiday letting. The JHT is also mindful that there could be tendency to block book the spring tides so as to enjoy an extended fishing trip, which would defeat the object of the project's core purpose: to open access to as many as people as possible within the natural limitations of the area.

To enable as many people as possible to experience a stay at Seymour Tower, and to avoid overburdening the guides who have to remain with their party from embarkation to the return to Seymour Slip, stays at Seymour Tower will be limited to two nights and only one booking per hirer in any calendar year.

The cost of hiring Seymour Tower per 24-hour period is £100. In addition the accredited guide is estimated at £100 for the same period, depending on the nature of the stay.

As demand increases to hire the tower, groups may wish to have an accredited guide from within their own number who will be responsible for making bookings. Training must be undertaken with the JHT and those taking part will be expected to pay a fee. This accreditation will last for three years before a refresher course will be required. Although such guides may be a part of a private group and not charge for their time, they will be obligated to observe the terms and conditions of the training and hiring the tower.

## **4.3 Scope of the managed area**

Public access to the surrounding rocks and the tower's platform will be maintained whenever the tower is in use. The JHT proposes to limit exclusive use to only the interior and roof. It is recognised that the rocks/platform surrounding the building are public spaces and it is not the intention of the Forts and Towers project to disrupt any customary access to these areas.

While it is accepted that exclusive access to these areas cannot be guaranteed, it is the JHT's intention to seek to accommodate groups of people who may wish to enjoy these areas as part of a celebration.

## **4.4 Appropriate forms of use**

In practice it is not possible to proscribe occasions on which the public may wish to visit the site as people may want to use the tower for uses outside the traditional pursuits of fishing, walking and bird watching. Seymour Tower could also develop as a base for school and youth organisations educational trips, as a venue for a birthday or anniversary party or a wedding – with the proviso that an accredited guide must be on the guest list and the journey to and from the tower must be undertaken on foot unless there are exceptional



circumstances. However, as the JHT recognises that issues of safety, the character of the area and the rights of other users of the shore to quiet enjoyment mean that there must be some constraints.

It is not the Trust's intention to ban alcohol, as we do not think that would be practical, but common sense and moderation must be applied. Those who have been fortunate to be invited to join the private fishing parties which have enjoyed sole use of Seymour Tower until last year, will know that nothing rounds off a hard day's fishing better than a beer or a welcome glass of wine. Muscadet, after all, is what shellfish were invented for!

Responsibility for individual groups will be down to the accredited guide who will have the right to refuse a member of the party if they are in possession of a large amount of alcohol.

The Policing of Beaches Regulations mean that permission (from the relevant Parish - in the case of Seymour Tower Grouville - and Jersey Tourism) will have to be obtained for holding any meeting on any beach at which any musical instrument or apparatus to transmit/reproduce sound, speech or images is used.

The Sea Rescue Centre at Jersey Harbours, the States Police, Fire and Rescue and Grouville Honorary Police will be notified when Seymour Tower is in use. To follow a long-held tradition to indicate that the tower is occupied, a Jersey flag must be raised on arrival and taken down on departure.

The accredited guide will undertake to inform the named authorities 24-hours before the booking date. This information will include the numbers in the party, sex, age and any medical conditions, the name of the accredited guide and the JHT Seymour Tower mobile phone and the name of the hirer.

#### **4.5 Levels of use**

Those who enjoy the isolation of a wander at low water, who fish the gullies, rake for sand eels and prawns and scavenge among the rocks for winkles and limpets, could fear that promoting public access will lead to 'over-use' of a fragile marine eco-system. The JHT believes that is unlikely because of the physical constraints of the site that impose such severe limitations on the capacity and frequency of use.

Like all beachcombers and fishermen, those using Seymour Tower and its environs will be expected to abide by legal controls administered by the States of Jersey fisheries section and not to dispose of line, hooks, bait etc until they return to shore. The legal controls pertain to the permitted minimum size of fish and shellfish, returning live surplus catch to the sea and returning all rocks to their original position. These regulations will be posted inside the tower and in the Guides Grab Bags.

Respect must also be shown in all activities for colonies of indigenous and migratory birds.

The Trust proposes to limit the potential for an adverse impact on the environs on this special area of the Royal Bay of Grouville by limiting the size of parties using the tower. The size of parties for daytime visits will be determined by the accredited guide, and no more than eight persons – including an accredited guide - will be permitted to stay overnight.

Notwithstanding, the JHT proposes to monitor opinion on this and all issues relating to the operation of Seymour Tower and the policies and procedures will be under constant review

#### **4.6 Transport**

It will be necessary to service the site by vehicle - as approved by the relevant parties – every three months. Normal passage to the tower for those using the site will be on foot at low water. However, as the tower is attracting interest from media within Jersey and overseas, there are likely to be occasions where transport will be required to carry camera and filming equipment to the tower.

Users will be advised that permission is required under the Policing of Beaches Regulations to drive any vehicle of the beach and that only vehicles owners licensed to drive in the Royal Bay of Grouville be employed. The JHT will discourage any significant increase in vehicles in the Royal Bay of Grouville.

#### **4.7 Awareness and Interpretation**

The JHT will seek to promote awareness of the cultural, social, traditional and ecological importance of the area through:

- Briefing notes for guides
- Resource material for educational visits
- Onsite interpretation of the area and history of the building
- Code of practice for shore gathering in the area
- Programme of events that complement the tower and contribute to the understanding of its history.

#### **4.8 Risk Assessment**

All users will be required to complete a risk assessment for their visit as part of the terms and conditions.

**IT WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HIRING GROUP LEADERS TO CONDUCT A RISK ASSESSMENT EXERCISE FOR THEIR GROUP AND TAKE ANY ACTION NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE GROUP.**

A model risk assessment will form part of the guide's residential course

#### **4.9 Children and Disabled Access**

The JHT regrets that because of the nature of the tower – steep steps leading to the platform, steep internal stairs and as a ladder is required to gain entry to the accommodation – it is not a suitable location for young children, dogs or the disabled.

#### **5. Codes of Conduct, Procedures and Guidance**

All users will be required to agree to the following codes as part of the terms and conditions:

##### **5.1 Accreditation of Guides**

All groups using Seymour Tower must include a nominated accredited guide registered with the JHT who has been able to demonstrate they are competent in:

- **First Aid**
- Guides must hold a valid First Aid Certificate. Seymour Tower will be equipped with a First Aid kit, hirers are reminded to bring any special medication that they may require.

##### **VHF**

Guides must be competent in using VHF equipment or hold a current VHF licence.

##### **Guide Training and Residential Course**

To be undertaken concurrently and organised by the JHT. The courses will cover **all** aspects of getting to and from and staying at Seymour Tower.

##### **5.2 Boats and Moorings**

The JHT does not propose to provide mooring facilities in the vicinity of the tower.

##### **5.3 Fires**

The fireplace may be used and logs are provided. Barbecues will not be permitted on the roof of the tower, only on the platform and disposable barbecues will be provided. No other fires will be permitted at or around the site.

##### **5.4 Safety equipment**

Inventory on site and wet bag will be provided.

### **5.5 First Aid Equipment**

The Tower will be equipped with a suitable First Aid kit, and guides will carry one as part of their standard equipment. Hirers must bring with them any special medication that they require.

### **5.6 Keys**

Keys for the tower will be held at Jersey Museum and should be collected and returned only by the accredited guide accompanying the visit.

### **5.7 Rubbish and cleaning**

Rubbish must be kept in the designated area and taken ashore by the hirer on departure. The tower must be left in the same condition as it was found, so all people in the party, under the direction of the accredited guide, will be required to undertake cleaning duties before departure. Tea towels and cleaning cloths will be provided.

### **5.8 Linen**

Unlike the other properties in the Forts and Towers Project, conditions inside Seymour Tower are basic. Washable mattresses are provided but people staying overnight must bring sleeping bags and pillows.

### **5.9 Toilet**

A chemical marine toilet, fitted with removable sealed cartridges, has been installed in the existing structure on the roof for essential use only. Each party will be required to bring used cartridges back to shore.

### **5.10 Swimming**

On no account should anyone, no matter how strong a swimmer or how knowledgeable of the tidal flow, attempt to swim or to wade ashore on an incoming tide. It is also dangerous to dive off the platform at high tide because of strong currents. The only time to swim on an incoming tide is in the man-made pool area at the base of the tower steps but only until the tide reaches the string of rocks before the bottom of the steps, and on an outgoing tide when the sandy area to the right of the main steps is uncovered. The accredited guide will advise on safe swimming practices.

### **5.11 Clothing and Footwear**

Groups are advised to wear appropriate footwear for walking at low water and to take warm waterproof clothing, especially when staying overnight. A change of clothing and footwear is also essential for overnight stays. The accredited guide will not allow people without the appropriate footwear and clothing to make the journey from shore.

### **5.12 Adverse Weather**

Groups are warned that in the event of extreme weather conditions, bookings may have to be cancelled at short notice at the discretion of the accredited guide.

### **5.13 Water**

Rainwater is collected in tanks on the roof and filtered through a system to the tap inside the tower. This water must is not suitable for drinking. Bottled drinking water will be provided and included in the hire fee and is to be used for drinking only. Used plastic bottles must be brought back to shore by returning parties.