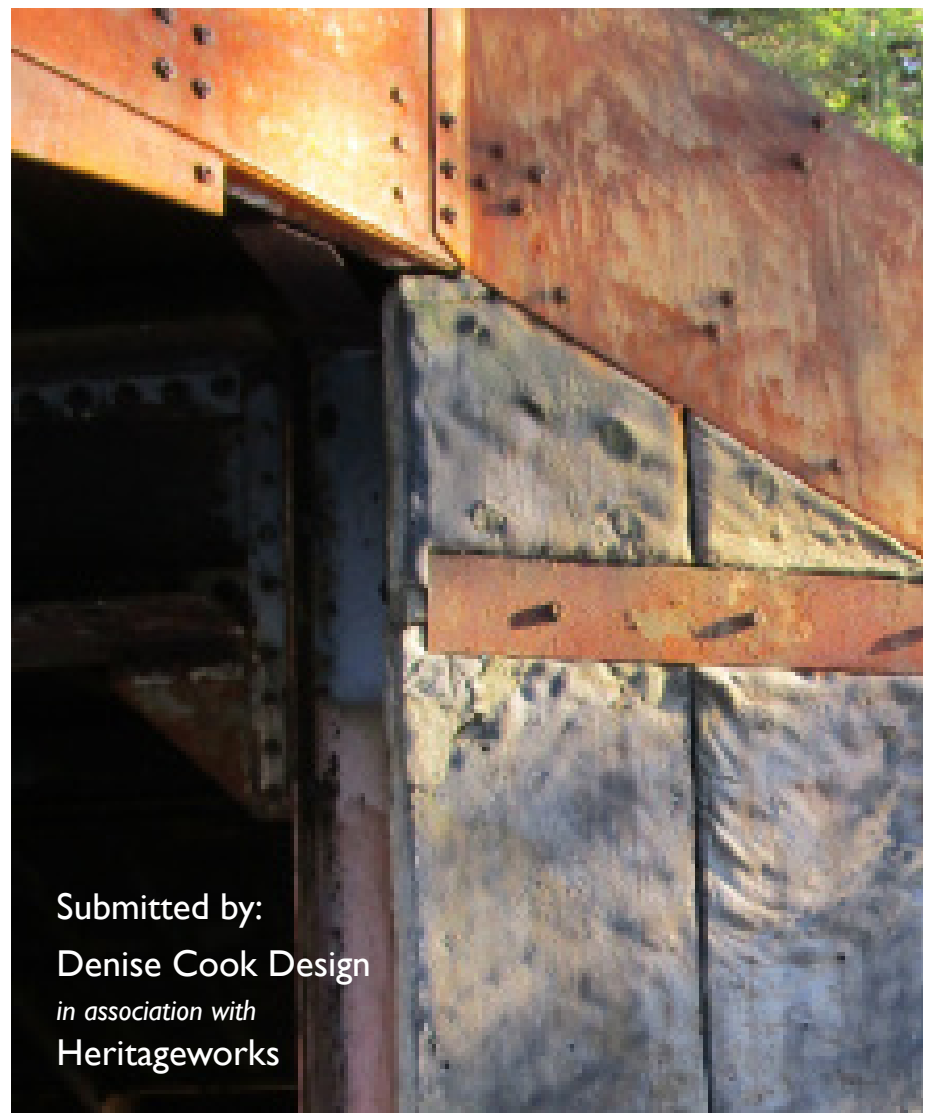




# Hənłəmd<sup>zi</sup> Məkola Yorke Island Conservancy Heritage Conservation Plan

March 2018



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*in association with*  
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This Heritage Conservation Plan is a technical document that informs the BC Parks Management Plan for Yorke Island Conservancy. The management plan will provide additional context and clarity regarding any implementation of the recommendations in this conservation plan.

The document was prepared by Denise Cook Design in association with Heritageworks for the exclusive use and benefit of the clients, the Vancouver Artillery Association under a Canada/150 Grant, with support from BC Parks. It represents the best professional judgment of the consultants based on the information available at the time of its completion and as appropriate for the scope of work. Services were performed according to normal professional standards in a similar context and for a similar scope of work.

The plan is to be used in conjunction with information found in the accompanying documents, the As-found Survey and Condition Assessment, prepared by Heritageworks.

The consultants would like to acknowledge the assistance and support of the Vancouver Artillery Association, the 85 Vics, volunteers, BC Parks and BC Heritage Branch.

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# 1.0 Heritage Conservation Context



## Key principles

The key principles guiding the conservation work on Yorke Island, through this current, and potential future, work are to:

- Retain the remarkable sense of place of the island through a conservation approach of minimal intervention
- Present honestly and with consideration of those who served here the key stories and significance of the place
- Provide guidance for ongoing future conservation work that continues to preserve the core heritage values of the site
- Reflect initial public input, discussions with stakeholders and BC Parks staff, and the historical and current context provided by the statement of significance for the site
- Provide direction for the ongoing monitoring, maintenance and interpretation of the site's heritage features

## 1.1 Project objectives

Yorke Island Conservancy has unique and impressive cultural and natural features. The island's shoreline is dominated by steep rocky cliffs and rock and gravel beaches in a coastal landscape in the wet maritime Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone. The steep rocky upland of the interior of the island is dominated by vegetation that includes Western hemlock, Western red cedar, yellow cedar, salal, sword and deer fern and lanky moss.

Within this classic west coast landscape are the remains of the Yorke Island Battery which includes cultural landscape and archaeological features, buildings, gun emplacement locations, trails, and other clues to the past use of the place.

Heritage conservation planning is a land-use decision-making process that takes into consideration the embodiment of values in its historic places. A heritage conservation plan is a statement of policy that informs the direction of conservation and stewardship decisions.

The two overarching project objectives are:

1. To inform the overall heritage conservation management planning for the Conservancy in the long term
2. To provide operational guidance regarding heritage conservation project aims in the short term

This conservation plan provides a range of approaches and strategies to guide heritage conservation, with an emphasis on the landscape features, buildings and structures on the island, along with a public understanding and messaging about the proposed heritage conservation.

The conservation plan is based on current best practice methodology as followed by BC Heritage Branch, accepted international guidance and the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

## 1.2 Planning context

### BC Parks Management Plan for Yorke Island

Used in conjunction with this conservation plan, the purpose of the management plan is to achieve the vision and guide the management of /Yorke Island Conservancy.

The management plan:

- Articulates the key features and values of the conservancy
- Identifies appropriate types and levels of management activities
- Determines appropriate levels of use and development

- Establishes a long-term vision and management objectives for the conservancy
- Responds to current and predicted threats and opportunities by defining a set of management strategies to achieve the management vision and objectives

The heritage conservation plan fits clearly into the BC Parks management plan. To date, the BC Parks management planning process has undertaken an initial round of public consultation and established the groundwork for heritage conservation on Yorke Island through the completion of the *Statement of Significance and Management Guidelines for the Military Cultural Landscape at Yorke Island Conservancy* in 2011. Further discussions with experts and community members and a review of background reports has led to the creation of a vision statement to guide both the development of conservation policy in the conservation plan and the BC Parks management plan.

The heritage conservation plan and the BC Parks management plan are complementary documents. The conservation plan informs the direction of the management plan and will serve as a tool to support operational decision-making for Yorke Island in the short and long term following the completion of the management plan. At the same time, any implementation of the conservation plan will be guided by the content and direction provided in the management plan.

The vision for Yorke Island states that:

*The national significance of Yorke Island's military history is recognized and shared with the public in a manner designed to protect heritage values and enhance visitor experience.*

*Visitors to Yorke Island experience a sense of discovery of the Island's stories from its years as an active military site which are presented for visitors in a subtle way, thus reflecting the mystique of the island that has emerged from its isolation and abandonment.*

*The island retains its ruggedness, with evidence of nature reclaiming the site, but with minimal interventions designed to stabilize priority structures and subtly reveal the military landscape.*

*The heritage values of the site are documented, priority structures are stabilized and priority landscape features are maintained to minimize negative impacts on heritage values and appropriately present Yorke Island's story.*

*Through the fostering of appropriate partnerships and paying careful attention to maintaining Yorke Island's sense of place and conserving its heritage characteristics, some minimal conservation on priority structures is explored to support a living history or other interpretive elements at the Fort or at other selected areas of the site.*

*The adjacent marine area is included to facilitate management of the island's cultural, historic and recreational value, including visitor access and the protection of important ecological values in the foreshore.*

*From its continuing cultural importance to First Nations, to European settlement*



*and timber harvesting, through its role as a national deterrent against naval attack, and now to its legacy as a provincial conservancy, Yorke Island remains a layered and dynamic entity whose narrative becomes richer with each generation.*

### **BC Parks Legislative and Policy Context**

The following policies, along with the conservation plan and the management plan together create the overall context for the ongoing conservation and management work on Yorke Island.

#### **BC Parks Zoning Framework**

Management planning in BC Parks uses zoning to assist in the planning and management of British Columbia's protected areas. In general terms, zoning divides an area into logical units to apply consistent management objectives for protection of protected area values. The zones reflect the intended land use, existing patterns of use, the degree of human use desired, and the level of management and development required.

Two zones applicable to Yorke Island include:

**Cultural Zone:** To protect significant cultural places and activities, including First Nations and non-indigenous traditional uses, cultural, spiritual and historic sites, features and areas.

**Nature Recreation Zone:** To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

#### **BC Parks Conservation Policy for Ecological Reserves, Parks, Conservancies, Protected Areas and Recreation Areas**

Provides guidance for the conservation of natural and cultural values on all lands within the provincial protected areas system.

#### **Protected Areas Of British Columbia Act, Park Act, Ecological Reserve Act**

Empower a Land Use Committee of Cabinet to ensure that all aspects of the preservation and maintenance of the natural environment are fully considered in the administration of land use and resource development. Government has used this provision to establish protected areas.

#### **Union Of British Columbia Indian Chiefs – First Nations Heritage Planning Toolkit 2013**

This First Nations Heritage Planning Toolkit is intended to assist First Nations in developing their own cultural heritage management policies and becoming proactive in the management of their heritage sites. The toolkit is designed to work within existing government processes and provides background information on the archaeological permitting system and archaeological process within B.C., together with an overview of the Heritage Conservation Act, other relevant provincial policy and legislative mechanisms currently available and the Permit Application Referral process.

#### **Partnerships and volunteers**

Partnerships are of considerable importance to the management of heritage resources and of protected areas in British Columbia. Partnerships are

particularly important in securing funding for heritage projects.

Engagement and cooperation with community groups, volunteers, corporate and other partners, including other government agencies, will be essential to the ongoing care for, and success of, heritage conservation at Yorke Island.

Currently, the Vancouver Artillery Association and other individual volunteers work closely with BC Parks on projects and programming at Yorke Island. The Artillery Association was instrumental in achieving the current work through their successful BC / Canada 150 grant application and their administration, support and contribution to the current project.

Local government and citizens from Sayward are important personnel with whom to form partnerships for the conservation and interpretation of Yorke Island.

BC Parks' current Partnership & Donation Program provides opportunities for corporations, non-governmental organizations, community groups and individuals to partner with BC Parks on mutually beneficial projects, or simply donate to a specific cause or park. Partnerships could be utilized for the following activities:

#### ***Improvements and installations***

- Using specified design and trail specifications, implement an annual or bi-annual volunteer maintenance and repair session.
- Seek corporations for in-kind partnerships, including materials provisions or technical expertise.
- Work with technical schools to conduct working sessions in building maintenance, construction, forest management, arbourists etc. providing an outdoor classroom in exchange for site improvements.

#### ***Interpretation and artifacts***

- Partner with university or school groups to provide on-site guides.
- Partner with design and print companies to produce hand-held brochure.
- Work with Vancouver Artillery Association and other military institutions to provide event re-enactments and other interpretive events.

#### ***Site maintenance***

- Work with community groups such as outdoors clubs, nature clubs, scouts and guides, art groups etc. to provide easy site maintenance.
- Using specified design and trail specifications, implement an annual or bi-annual volunteer trail maintenance session.

#### ***Fundraising***

- The Vancouver Artillery Association is willing to assist with fundraising for site specific project on the island.
- Enlist expertise in new and innovative fundraising ventures.

#### ***Volunteer recruitment***

- The Vancouver Artillery Association is willing to assist with volunteer recruitment for projects on the island.

#### ***Site documentation and condition assessment***

Work undertaken to document the heritage resources on Yorke Island and assess their condition has supported the development of conservation policies in

the heritage conservation plan.

The as-found survey and condition assessment of heritage assets at Yorke Island form parts of a larger project that aims to use the unique situation and circumstances of Yorke Island as an opportunity to create a working model for the management of heritage and cultural landscapes in BC Parks.

The as-found survey and condition assessment documents should be read in conjunction with the conservation plan for Yorke Island. The complete suite of planning documents consists of the following:

- Heritage Conservation Plan
- Condition Assessment & Record Drawings
- Implementation Plan
- Maintenance & Monitoring Plan
- BC Parks Management Plan

These technical documents are intended to provide guidance to BC Parks to assist them in operational decision making related to heritage conservation at the site, and to inform the BC Parks management plan for Yorke Island, which will provide additional context and considerations around implementation in the broader context of conservancy management.

Refer to As-found Survey and Condition Assessment reports for physical evidence and condition of the site's heritage resources.

### **BC Parks requirements**

The primary requirement is for BC Parks to manage Yorke Island as a public conservancy within the overall provincial park system. The heritage conservation plan is intended to complement the Yorke Island Conservancy Management Plan in terms of its approach to cultural heritage conservation.

With regard to heritage resources, BC Parks plays an important role in protecting and conserving cultural heritage in the province. Cultural heritage in British Columbia's protected areas system will be inventoried and assessed to define relative values and significance. A protected area, or a specified Cultural Zone within a protected area, may be established and managed to protect a cultural heritage feature with historical or cultural significance.

The BC Parks Conservation Policy For Ecological Reserves, Parks, Conservancies, Protected Areas and Recreation Areas provides guidance for the conservation of natural and cultural values on all lands within the provincial protected areas system including specific policies for wildlife, fire management and other issues which can be relevant to Yorke Island.

### **External factors and constraints**

Considers such factors environmental constraints, responses to climate action will have an impact on the values of the historic place or how increased visitation may impact the heritage values of Yorke Island.

#### **Ecological constraints**

Yorke Island has important natural terrestrial landscape and marine resources. The site's natural features and ecosystems may be a constraint to some



development which should be considered and mitigated during any conservation or development projects on the island.

### **Access to and use of foreshore**

BC Parks currently does not currently have jurisdiction of the foreshore.

BC Parks anticipates recommending the addition of the foreshore within their conservancy management plan. In order to include the foreshore in the conservancy, and install a mooring buoy, the management plan must be completed, and a boundary amendment prepared through legislative change.

### **Climate change**

Impacts of climate change on heritage buildings, structures and landscapes include shoreline erosion, increasingly extreme weather patterns and the potential for fires. There should be an overall communication and awareness of the impacts and mitigation of climate change on the island.

- Adapt responses to climate change into any new or existing thematic management plans, programming and events.
- Undertake monitoring and reporting to further assess vulnerabilities and understand the evolving degree of risk over time to inform management actions.
- Pay attention to vulnerable areas of the site particularly dry ecosystems and features near the shore, such as wood cribbing, searchlights and listening posts.
- Refer to UNESCO World Heritage Report 22, *Climate Change and World Heritage*.

## I.3 Conservation planning areas

For clarity and organization of conservation policy, the conservation plan groups identified heritage resources into a series of six areas. Each will fall under, or overlap with, BC Parks zoning framework identified for Yorke Island which includes the Cultural Zone and the Nature Recreation Zone.

**Area 1: Landscape and seascape** includes generally the island's cultural and natural landscape and ocean features.

**Area 2: Perimeter resources** includes the searchlights, listening posts, wharf, bulwark and any connecting trails.

**Area 3: Auxiliary services and infrastructure** includes island-wide systems such as circulation, drainage, water and electricity and their associated buildings, including the generator building, radio station etc.

**Area 4: Camp** includes the remains of the camp infrastructure on the southwest part of the island.

**Area 5: Fort** includes Fort heritage resources located inside the boundary of the perimeter fence.

# 2.0 Understanding the historic place

## 2.1 Site inventory and description

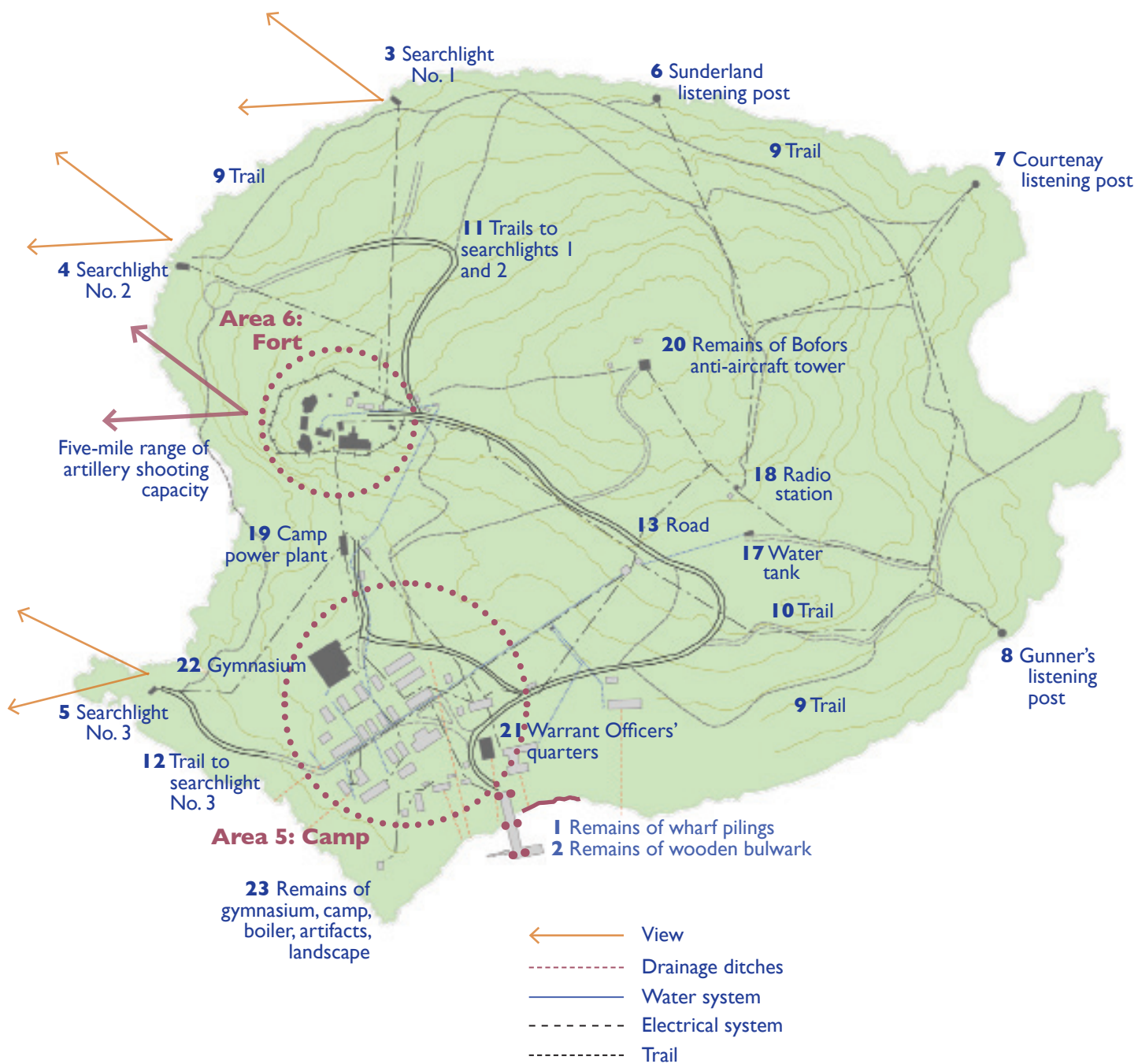
Constructed between 1937 and 1945, the Yorke Island Battery was part of a network of defences that formed the front line of defence on the west coast, developed as part of a national strategy for west coast artillery defence prior to and during the Second World War.

Identified as a strategic location for coastal defence, its primary purpose was to protect the key ports of Vancouver, Nanaimo and Victoria by deterring any enemy vessels that might approach from the north through Queen Charlotte and Johnstone Strait between Vancouver Island and the British Columbia mainland to the Strait of Georgia. Every vessel moving south between Vancouver Island and the mainland passed within 4000 metres of Yorke Island.

Today, the Yorke Island Battery consists of two concrete gun batteries and associated ancillary buildings and structures located on a high point of land known as the Fort. Below, there are the remains of buildings and structures that were part of the larger Camp area. Three searchlight structures and five listening posts are arranged around the perimeter of the island, and a series of trails criss-cross the island, connecting the battery features. An associated observation post structure is located to the north on the mainland of Vancouver Island.

The rocky island maintains a commanding position in the Inside Passage between Vancouver Island and the B.C. mainland. Adjacent landmarks are the community of Sayward and Hardwicke Island.

# Site-wide heritage features





### Area 1 Landscape and seascape

- Natural landscape of Yorke Island, foreshore and surrounding ocean
- Landscape features such as ditches, cairn, piles of rock, scattered artifacts and potential below-ground features
- Forward observation post (mainland Vancouver Island)
- Five-mile range of artillery shooting capacity



### Area 2 Perimeter resources

1. Wharf pilings
2. Wooden bulwark
3. Searchlight No. 1 and infrastructure
4. Searchlight No. 2 and infrastructure
5. Searchlight No. 3 and infrastructure
6. Sunderland listening post
7. Courtenay Bay listening post
8. Gunner's listening post (no photo)
9. Tertiary perimeter trails (no photo)



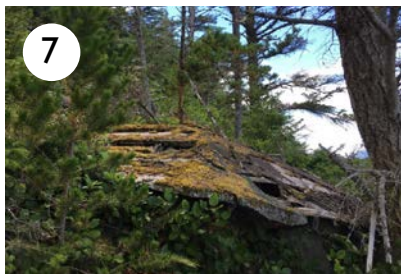
### Area 3 Infrastructure

10. Trail to radio station, water tank and gymnasium (no photo)
11. Trail to searchlights No. 1 and 2 (no photo)
12. Trail to searchlight No. 3 (no photo)
13. Road to Fort
14. Water distribution system (no photo)
15. Electrical distribution system (no photo)
16. Drainage ditches (no photo)



### Area 4 Auxiliary services

17. Water tank
18. Wireless telegraph station
19. Power plant
20. Bofors anti-aircraft tower (no photo)



### Area 5 Camp

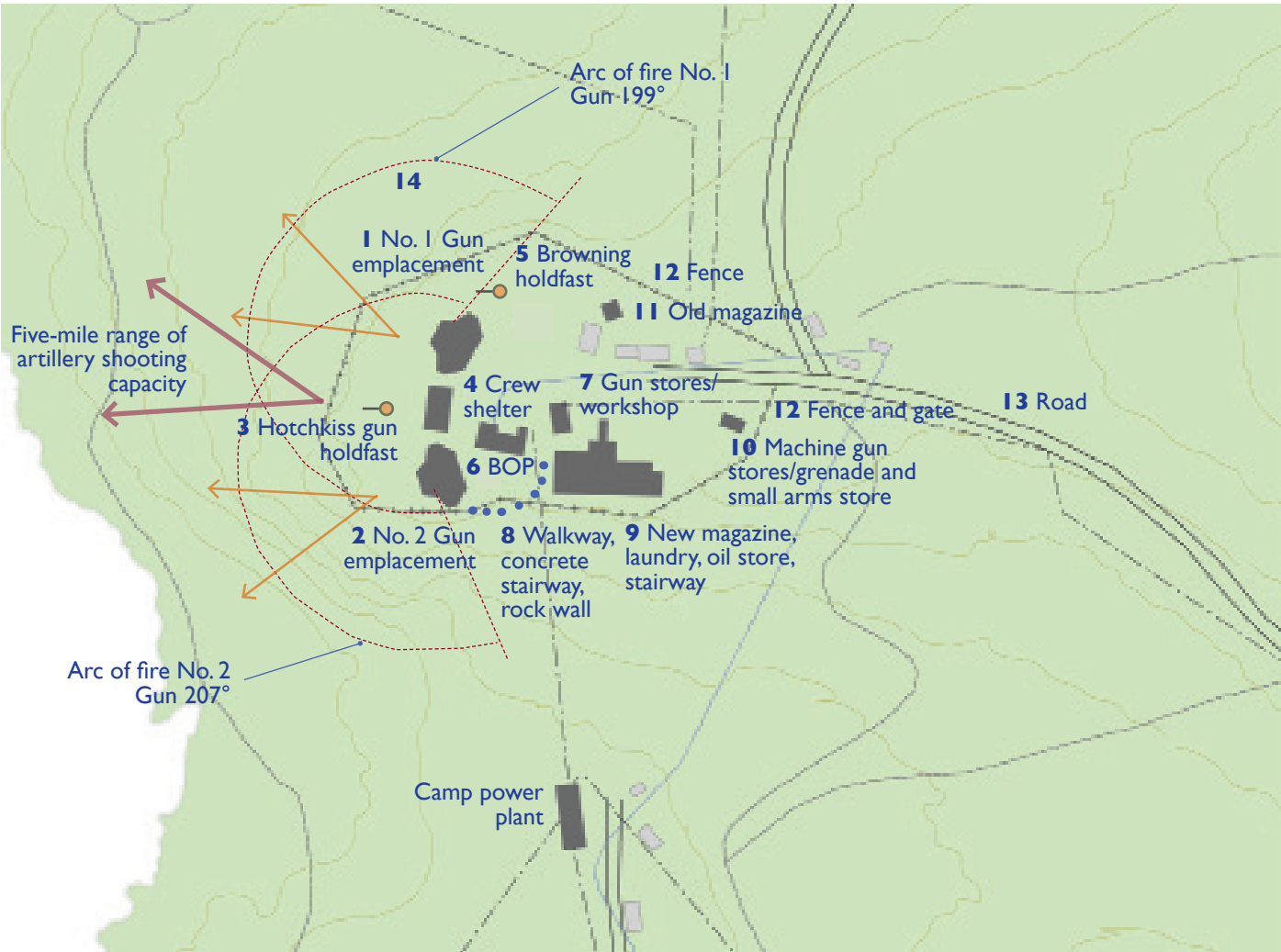
21. Warrant Officers' quarters
22. Remains of gymnasium
23. Remains of camp, remnant of boiler, artifacts, landscape features such as ditches, cairn, piles of rock, scattered artifacts and potential below-ground resources







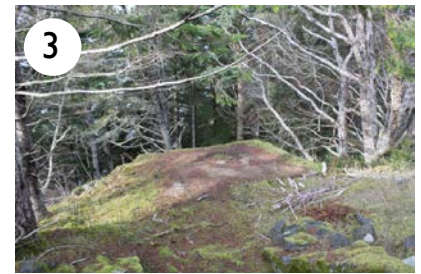
# Fort heritage features



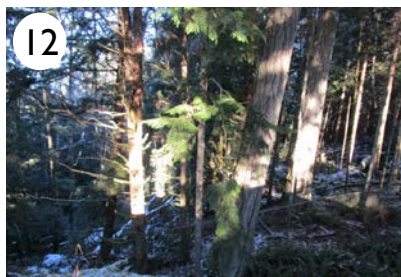
- ← View
- - - Drainage ditches
- Water system
- - - Electrical system
- ... Trail

## Area 6 Fort

1. No. 1 Gun emplacement
2. No. 2 Gun emplacement
3. Hotchkiss gun holdfast
4. Crew shelter and ammunition passage
5. .50 Browning AA gun holdfast
6. Fire command post: battery observation post, officer's shelter; searchlight directing station, naval signals station, electrical room, evidence of Bofors gun on roof
7. Gun stores and workshop
8. Walkway, concrete stairway and rock wall
9. New magazine and ammunition passage, laundry, oil store and stairway
10. Machine gun stores/grenade and small arms store
11. Old magazine
12. Remains of fence and gate
13. Road
14. Slit trenches associated with the Fort in various locations (no photo)







## 2.2 Historical chronology

Date	Historical event
1925	Logger pre-empted the island (Moogk, P. p85)
August 1926	Pre-emption inspector visited and noted logger not in residence. There was a shack, log and shakes, 8ft x 10ft, a shed, no sides, shake roof, 14ft x 20ft and one-tenth of an acre partly cleared. "... the buildings are evidently the remains of an old logging camp." (Moogk, P. pp85-6)
<b>Examination Battery Period September 1937 - June 1942</b>	
28 September 1937	OIC 1156/37 temporarily reserved Lot 1844, Range 1, Coast District (Yorke Is) and set apart for the use of the Department of national Defence for defence purposes. Privy Council Order 6777/43 (not viewed) refers. Provincial Lands File F0132128 contains the disposition correspondence. (Surveyor General's records LTSA)
Late 1937	Work on the battery began in late 1937 (Moogk, p87)
1938	Coast Defence Electric Lights on York Island British Columbia RG-24-C-1 – Library and Archives Canada
Early 1938	The battery was armed with two 4.7in Quick Fire (QF) guns (Directorate of History, National Defence HQ)
By July 1938	Two QF 4.7 in guns had been mounted and test firing carried out. The guns had been brought out from Halifax, where they had least been calibrated for wear of barrels in April 1914 Nova Scotia. (Moogk, p87)
	The provision of security and maintenance of the fort was assigned to a small detachment of Permanent Force gunners (5th Heavy Battery RCA (PF) and a signalman) from Esquimalt on a six month tour of duty. (Moogk, p87)
26 August 1939	85 Heavy Battery RCA CASF ordered to be ready to move to Yorke Island within 72hrs
29 August 1939	Manned by 85 Coast Battery. 3 officers and 52 men who arrived at the wharf on the island by minesweeper, HMS Comox. Infrastructure described as one barrack 18ft by 50 ft; a kitchen; a small hut 16ft by 16ft; radio signal hut; the caretaker's five room house occupied by the permanent staff detachment. A tractor had been sent to haul supplies. A launch, the York was dedicated for the fort use. 4.7 in ammunition was delivered that day by the Border Prince and moved up to the magazine in the fort area. Woodcutting parties were organised to supply fuel for the huts – a practice that continued for several years. (Moogk, pp87-8)
29 August 1939 cont.	The fort comprised the guns, the Battery Observation Post (BOP), magazine, war shelter, gun stores and powerhouse. (Moogk, p 89) Columbia Coast Mission padre Greene describes "it is good to sit for an hour in the darkness of the Battery O Pip and chat with three or four men who are on watch ..." (Moogk, p93)
	The Canadian Scottish Regiment from Victoria supplied the first infantry platoon whose role was to free up the gunners to defence against enemy landings. Sand to fill the sandbags at the listening posts and machine gun emplacements on top of the searchlights had to be brought to the island.
3 September 1939	Examination Service commences at Yorke. Comprises an unarmed examination vessel (X-Vic) backed up by a designated gun of the fort if the need arose. Vessel was HMCS Armentieres for a few days followed by small vessels of the Fishermans' Reserve ) privately owned fishing boats and pleasure craft – HMCS Van Isle, Allaverdy and West Coast all served at Yorke. (Moogk p88)

Date	Historical event
4 September 1939	No 1 gun ready for action. (Moogk, p88)
9 September 1939	No 2 gun ready for action. (Moogk, p88) The gun could fire a 45 pound projectile five miles. Submarine reported in Gulf of Georgia heading north.
10 September 1939	Canada declares war on Germany.
3 October 1939	Examination Services were in operation at Esquimalt-Victoria, Yorke Island, Vancouver, Steveston and Prince Rupert. The Yorke service began on October 3rd, 1939 (Directorate of History, National Defence HQ)
1940	RCN Wireless Telegraphy Station 1940 PA-146228 Library and Archives Canada
February 1940	Battery fires first 'stopping round' at vessel ignoring signals.
May 1940	Collapse of France in Europe. German occupation followed by Japanese interest in French-owned Indonesia. Yorke is manned by 1 officer and 30 men of the 2nd Battalion Canadian Scottish Regiment
October 1940	58th Battery from Point Grey rotated in to Yorke.
1941	Lands and Buildings – PF radio Station – York Island 1941 RG24-C-1-a: Library and Archives Canada
11 June 1941	Following an inspection of the defences by Colonel J. H. Cunningham, US Army, 14 Coast Artillery, Harbour Defence of Puget Sound, and colonel C.V. Bishop, Officer Commanding Victoria-Esquimalt Fortress Area on 11 June
11 June 1941 cont.	1941, a policy was created to adapt Yorke Island to a counter-bombardment role thereby closing Johnstone Strait to an enemy rather than maintain a striking force to the south.
Early 1941	The fort's three searchlights arrive with an effective range of 3500 yards. For the first two years, until they were absorbed into the 15th Coast regiment, the lights were operated by the 3rd Searchlight Battery (Coast Defence) of the 1st Searchlight Regiment, Royal Garrison Artillery.
May 1941	US Army Engineer vessel Cavanaugh ignored signals and was eventually stopped by five warning rounds from the 6-pdr and one from the 4.7 inch.
By December 1941	By December 1941, the only changes in the defences were the installation of three Canadian General Electric 60-inch searchlights and the mounting of one 6-pounder used as the stopping gun for the examination service, thereby serving to conserve ammunition for the heavier guns and reduce wear on their barrels. There were still no adequate anti-aircraft defences save for a few old War World war one Lewis machine-guns as token defence against low-flying aircraft. (Moogk, p91)
7 December 1941	Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour.
June 1942	Japanese occupy Attu and Kiska Islands in the Aleutian Group.
3 June 1942	Japanese bomb Dutch harbour Alaska
20 June 1942	Japanese submarine I26 fires 17 shells at Estevan Point wireless telegraph station and light.
<b>Counter-bombardment Battery Period June 1942 - August 1945</b>	
End of June 1942	Tension on Yorke was running high as the Japanese were now in a position to launch a hit and run raid on the West Coast of Canada. Orders were given to swap the Yorke guns for the two 6-inch guns at Ferguson Point in Stanley Park. (Moogk, p91) Defences under 15th (Vancouver) Coast Regiment RCA under Headquarters Vancouver Defences Pacific Command.

Date	Historical event
25 June 1942	First 4.7-inch gun being dismantled – 25 anti-aircraft gunners arrive from the 6th Light Anti-Aircraft regiment 30th LAA Battery to provide the first real air defence with two Bofors 40mm guns.(Moogk, p 92)
26 June 1942	Fist 6-inch gun from Stanley Park arrives by scow and is unloaded at midnight on a rising tide .
28 June 1942	By 9pm the first 6-inch gun was mounted and ready for action. (Moogk, p 92)
1 July 1942	The second 6-inch gun arrived. (Moogk, p 92)
3 July 1942	Both 6-inch guns mounted and test fired.The fort now had weapons capable of firing seven 100 pound rounds per minute. (Moogk p92)
1942	24 hour manning of the guns and lights continued with regular practices. Mid 1942 85th Coast Battery continued manning Yorke including the coast defence searchlights, one coast battery Bofors 40mm light anti-aircraft section of two guns. (Falconer p172)
September 1942	Graffito in concrete skirting of war shelter "M.D.P Sept 42" (Heritageworks observation)
25 October 1942	Vice Admiral Percy W. Nelles, Chief of Naval Staff visiting the Royal Canadian Navy Port War Signal Station at York island, British Columbia, Canada. PA-145615 Image Library and Archives Canada.
Approximate date	Forward Observation Post for fortress system of ranging constructed.This date is conjecture, but such a structure would not have been required in an Examination Service capacity.
1943 - 1944	Secret and Confidential Subject Files – Army. Details of anti-aircraft construction York Island, British Columbia. Library and Archives Canada RG24-C-1
By February 1943	The first coast artillery radar sets had been introduced for counter bombardment batteries. Both Albert Head and Mary Hill were to receive this radar which provided an accurate alternative to the fortress system of ranging at longer ranges. (Lovett p131)
	Secret and Confidential Subject files – Army Radar – Operational CDX Equipment – York Island 1943-1944
March 1943	March 1943, Canadian war artist, Orville N Fisher's visit.
May 1943	US regains control of Attu Islands from Japanese occupation
June 1943	Japanese forces evacuate Kiska island – their last foothold in the Western Hemisphere.
13 September 1943	Coast and AA units begin to be withdrawn from Esquimalt-Victoria defences
30 October 1943	Graffito in threshold of signal station "30/10/43" over an intertwined 2 and 4 (Heritageworks observation) – symbol for Jupiter
31 December 1943	30th Anti-Aircraft Regiment disbanded (regimental history on-line)
1944	Surveys for siting coast artillery radar are carried out (Moogk, p92)
1 March 1944	85th Battery remained at Yorke Is while others were ordered to disband (Falconer; p163)
To 1945	Continuous improvements were made to quarters, messes and even some new buildings were added leading to a total of 62 buildings by the cessation of hostilities.
10 August 1945	24 hour manning of the guns and lights and practices ended.
14 August 1945	Japan accepted the general surrender.
26 August 1945	Examination Service ended



Date	Historical event
27 June 1945	Gunners relieved from their watches. Guns were put into maintenance.
17 October 1945	At 11:00 am, the last of the battery personnel left the island on Army Service Corps boat, General Mackenzie
26 June 1958	OIC 1512/58 - the reserve for national defense purposes was cancelled. Yorke Island reverted to the jurisdiction of the Province of B.C.
26 June 2008	OIC 483/08 Yorke Island Conservancy created pursuant to the Park Act - Park, Conservancy and Recreation Area Regulation

# 3.0 Evaluating Significance

## 3.1 Site-wide statement of values

Considered one of the principle post contact heritage sites on northern Vancouver Island, Yorke Island Conservancy has regional, provincial and national significance for its natural, historical, engineering and social/cultural values, in particular for its role in national defence prior to and during World War II.

Constructed between 1937 and 1945, the Yorke Island Battery was part of a network of defences that formed the front line of defence on the west coast, developed as part of a national strategy for west coast artillery defence prior to and during the Second World War. Identified as a strategic location for coastal defence, its primary purpose was to protect the key ports of Vancouver, Nanaimo and Victoria by deterring any enemy vessels that might approach from the north through Queen Charlotte and Johnstone Straits and Sunderland Channel between Vancouver Island and the British Columbia mainland to the Strait of Georgia. Every vessel moving south between Vancouver Island and the mainland passed within 4000 metres of Yorke Island.

The battery is important for its role in west coast artillery defences at a time when there was a distinct understanding of the weakness of the Canadian defences on the west coast. The construction of the Battery was a direct response to identified artillery requirements, as well as to the fear of Japanese invasion from the east, which became even more pronounced after the attack on Pearl Harbour in December of 1941, and exemplifies British Columbia's role in the Second World War.

Of additional importance in understanding the range and significance of Yorke Island in the west coast defences is the inclusion of a forward battery post located to the west of Yorke Island near the mouth of Eve River, and a geographical understanding of the five-mile range of artillery shots from the island.

The local geography of the small island, with its mountainous, treed slopes and rocky gravelled shoreline, presented a commanding location within a long stretch of the narrow Inside Passage. The island's topography also supported the design and location of the higher Fort emplacements, integrated into the north-facing rocky bluff and enabling key views to the north, and of the associated buildings and services of the camp on the lower gravelled flat land. The construction of the initial battery structure in a relatively short period of time overcame the challenges of the island's isolation, given that most construction supplies, drinking water and sand for sandbags had to be brought in by boat. Conversely, the island was also a plentiful source of native materials, including rock for walls and roofs and wood for construction and fuel.

The significance of the Yorke Island battery is expressed in the remaining buildings, structures and small-scale elements that remain in the landscape,

more completely preserved than others on the west coast due to the island's isolation. The defences constructed at Yorke Island over the period 1937 to 1945 are significant as one part of an overall system of west coast defence installations located at strategic points. While Yorke Island is representative of military engineering, technology and west coast defence installations equipped with long-range guns, the battery at Yorke Island is remarkable for its design and for its singular use of building materials. The gun emplacements and battery structures of the fort are integrated into native rock while sunken paths connect buildings. Brick, concrete, stone and wood are used practically for buildings and landscape features but maintain a distinct design sensibility. Of particular importance is the camouflage of the buildings and structures, accomplished by ingenious means such as painted patterns on exterior walls, the insertion of irregular pieces of rock into concrete roofs, and the use of plants, trees and feathered wire to incorporate structures into the landscape. Also significant are the remains of military use elsewhere on the island which reflects the integrated arrangement of the defences. Small scale elements such as electrical posts and wire and razor wire which defended the military works as well as larger installations such as the anti-aircraft gun tower on the highest point of the island reflect the use of the whole island in the defence works, as do identified potential post-contact archaeological sites.

The site is significant for its evolution over time in response to changing needs as World War II advanced. Originally designated as an examination service responsible for marine movement control and armed with 2 x 4.7" QF guns, the battery was ultimately equipped with two 6" Mark VII coast defence guns, one 6-pounder Hotchkiss gun and two Bofors light anti-aircraft machine guns during its military bombardment phase. Adjustments to infrastructure were made to accommodate the new equipment. The observation post was refitted to accommodate one Bofors gun on its roof, while the second was situated on top of a 24-foot tower at the island's highest point. Gun houses were constructed over the new 6" guns, which were of singular construction, both through their cladding of plastic armour and now rare as survivors of a response to the then-emerging threat of overhead aircraft fire.

The Yorke Island battery has a strong association with the shared experiences of the men of the 15th Field Regiment RCA and others, who served there. The isolation of the place is expressed in the stories of the men stationed on the Island and their attempts to alleviate the boredom. The YMCA and other service groups assisted by sending supplies and entertainment for the men. There continues to be social and cultural importance through associations with veterans, their memories of the place, and members of the community active in the conservation of the island and its structures, as well as in the documentation, photographs and sketches produced by artist Orville N. Fisher during the island's military tenure.

The site holds a number of intangible values, which can be found in the island's still existing connections between the island and the people who served there, and its recollection in poetry and photographs, and in sketches, such



those of Orville N. Fisher. It's value as a cultural landscape is seen in changes to the landscape over time, particularly the encroaching landscape reclaiming the human interventions, and the accessibility of the buildings, structures and landscapes to the public in their current state, with the resulting sensory experiences and overall sense of place.

## 3.2 Character-defining elements

### Site: Landscape and Seascape

- Location in Johnstone Strait, one of two water access routes to Vancouver, Nanaimo and Victoria
- Its presence as one of a series of coast artillery defences along the south coast of British Columbia
- Forward observation post on the mainland of Vancouver Island
- Five-mile range of artillery shooting capacity from the various guns on the island
- Geography of the island as a key aspect of its use as a military defence installation
- Arrangement of the two major groups of structures - the Fort and the Camp - on high and low ground respectively
- Key views, including those from gun emplacements and the battery observation post building at the Fort, from the location of the anti-aircraft site at the high point of the island, and from the searchlight locations
- Wharf pilings and bulkhead that represent the water-only access to the island and the defence site, and their location at an accessible point on the generally rocky shoreline
- Changes in vegetation relating to the use of the land as a military establishment
- Remains of circulation patterns including roads and trails
- Small-scale elements and structures in the landscape, including electrical equipment, ditches, trenches, fence remains, small tanks, razor wire, etc.
- Materials used in the development of landscape features related to site use, such as:
  - Concrete and native rock used in retaining walls and stairs
  - Vegetation used as a camouflage material
- Potential First Nations pre-contact archaeological sites
- Potential post-contact archaeological sites related to the island's early settlement, logging history and use as a WWII military installation
- Semi-overgrown state of some of the buildings reflecting the passage of time and any diverse ecological communities that have formed as a result

### Buildings and Structures: Fort

- Overall arrangement of buildings and circulation patterns, such as sunken walkways, stairs, platforms and corridors
- Gun emplacements No. 1 and 2, including their location, overall arrangement, circulation and interior details such as stairs, gun wells and munitions stores

- Officer's shelter and battery observation post
- Ancillary buildings including crew shelter, magazine, gun stores and ablutions room
- Integration of buildings into the native rock and topography of the island
- Particular use of materials in the buildings and structures, such as plastic armour on the exterior of the emplacements, lead, brick, wood and board framed concrete
- Use of rock, concrete, paint and vegetation for camouflage
- Steps and retaining walls with a design sensibility
- Holdfast for Bofors anti-aircraft gun on roof of battery observation post
- Evidence of changes to emplacements, particularly in the concrete, due to the mounting requirements of the new 6-inch guns

#### **Buildings and Structures: Site**

- Battery-related structures including:
  - Coast artillery searchlights at three locations on the shoreline
  - Water tank
  - Remains of officer's quarters
  - Remains of gymnasium
  - Radio station and radio tower footings
  - Power house, including interior
- Particular use of materials, including brick and concrete
- Camouflage painting and roof rock/vegetation on buildings
- Related structures remaining on Hardwicke Island and one observation post located on Vancouver Island near Eve River

#### **Intangible**

- The sketches of Yorke Island prepared by Oville N. Fisher
- Stories, oral histories and written memoirs related to Yorke Island, including the poem "Going Yorkey"
- Ongoing visits of veterans to the island to re-live their experiences while stationed there

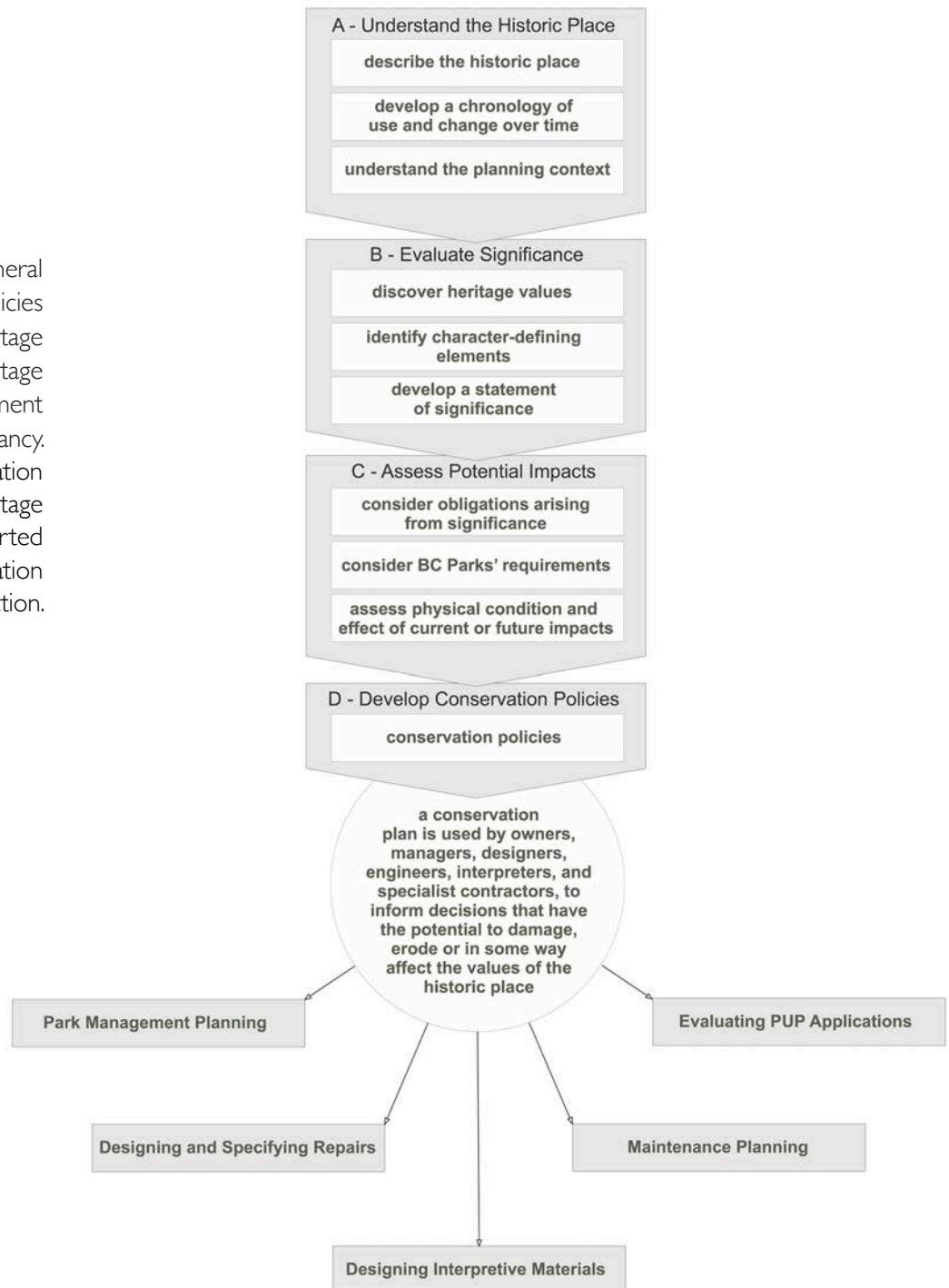
# 4.0 Heritage Conservation

## 4.1 Conservation planning process for parks with heritage resources



This section provides both general guidance and more detailed policies related to the protection of heritage values to inform the ongoing heritage conservation and overall management direction for Yorke Island Conservancy.

The as-found survey, documentation and condition assessment of heritage resources on Yorke Island has supported the development of conservation policies in this section.





## 4.2 Conservation approach

The overall site approach to conservation is one of minimal intervention, balancing the visitor experience to this important military cultural landscape with protection of its significant heritage resources.

This philosophy of minimal intervention allows visitors to have their own experience and discovery of the site's history and sense of place. Site development and signs are kept to a minimum, and designed to blend in to the landscape, reflecting the idea of camouflage that is so significant to the history of the place.

Based on initial community consultation and discussions with BC Parks, appropriate overall site conservation approaches consist of monitoring, maintenance, stabilization and minor preservation activities with consideration for further conservation such as rehabilitation for a new appropriate use or restoration of one or more buildings if economically feasible.

A key message around the proposed conservation opportunities for Yorke Island is that minimal intervention is an appropriate approach for the site, and that it respects its heritage value, while conveying the meanings the place has for its previous inhabitants and new visitors. It is significant that the public process identified a less is more approach in the conservation of the site, which can include ideas around safety, maintenance, stabilization, some preservation and possibly managed decline.

Emphasis can also be placed on the ecological values and the encroaching natural environment to the character of the site.

### **The importance of ruins**

Ruined structures, in the process of going back to the earth, are enjoyed everywhere for the emotional sensations they convey.<sup>1</sup> Part of the ongoing narrative of the site is its use as an important part of B.C.'s west coast defenses, now no longer needed, and the place as a demonstration of the process of a site constructed for a specific purpose and abandoned once that purpose has been fulfilled. While no longer used for its original function, the site is still a dynamic entity that continuously changes with each successive generation.

An approach calling for minimal intervention is an appropriate consideration for Yorke Island. The site is a highly significant military cultural landscape, part of the B.C. west coast defenses, consisting of an examination battery that controlled marine traffic in the northern Inside Passage and could challenge and hold any suspicious vessel under cover of its guns. It was created during wartime as a temporary military post, in use during the war and for a short time thereafter.

Today, the site is a layered landscape with a significant sense of place, shaped by the ongoing interaction between industrial / military activities, human communities and ecological processes. It can be considered an ephemeral cultural landscape,

### **Monitoring:**

The systematic and regular inspection or measurement of the condition of the materials and elements of a character-defining element to document behavior performance, and rate of deterioration over time.

### **Maintenance**

Routine, cyclical, non-destructive actions necessary to slow the deterioration of an historic place. It entails periodic inspection; routine, cyclical, non-destructive cleaning; minor repair and refinishing operations; replacement of damaged or deteriorated materials that are impractical to save.

### **Stabilization**

A minimum amount of work done to safeguard a resource from the elements and/or destruction and to protect the public from danger. This work may involve emergency structural reinforcing, cabling (with trees), protective coverings, or hoardings. Stabilization is often undertaken to preserve the character-defining element for future heritage conservation work.

### **Rehabilitation:**

The action or process of making possible a continuing or compatible contemporary use of a historic place or landscape, or of an individual component, while protecting its heritage value. Rehabilitation makes possible an efficient contemporary use while retaining those portions and features which are significant to the resource's heritage values.

### **Restoration:**

The process of accurately revealing, recovering, or representing the state of a historic place or of an individual component, as it appeared at a particular period in its history, as accurately as possible, while protecting its heritage value.

### **Preservation**

The action or process of protecting, maintaining, and/or stabilizing the existing materials, form, and integrity of a historic place or of an individual component, while protecting its heritage value.

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<sup>1</sup> Kevin Lynch. *What Time is the Place?* p.44.

a description that captures the transient nature of places such as Yorke Island created for a specific purpose during a particular time, and abandoned when no longer necessary for that purpose. Current ephemeral aspects of the landscape, include processes such as changes in the weather, the passing of seasons, gradual encroachment of vegetation and other phenomena that play an important role in the experience of Yorke Island.

There is currently a growing interest in ruin site ecology. Ruins which are remote and which have little maintenance can revert to a natural state, becoming sites with a diverse ecology and which can evoke considerable interest in the dichotomy between the human-built structure and the natural features of the site.

There is an aesthetic loss to be avoided, through creating a too-sterile environment, and through potential 21st century restoration activities that can obscure the essential qualities of Yorke Island's semi-permanent remains.

The retained ruggedness of the site and its features can contribute to an understanding of the challenges faced by those stationed there, such as potential warfare, isolation and lack of water. The ongoing theme of camouflage using vegetation and other means is an intriguing aspect to explore at Yorke Island, and which has been integrated into designed site features and signs.

### **Heritage policy approach**

The focus of approaches to the conservation of heritage resources is to provide policy direction as a way of effectively managing the currently understood heritage values and character-defining elements of resources that can be adapted to a wide variety of circumstances. Due to its unique character and diverse types of heritage features, heritage conservation on Yorke Island will be multi-faceted, using a combination of conservation approaches at different levels and scales.

The historical, cultural and ecological importance of Yorke Island is at this time not fully understood. Ongoing research into the site ecology, geology, buildings, cultural landscape, buried archaeological deposits and First Nations values and uses will continue to reveal new aspects of the history of the place. As well, perceptions of value and significance can vary among generations, groups, institutions and individuals.

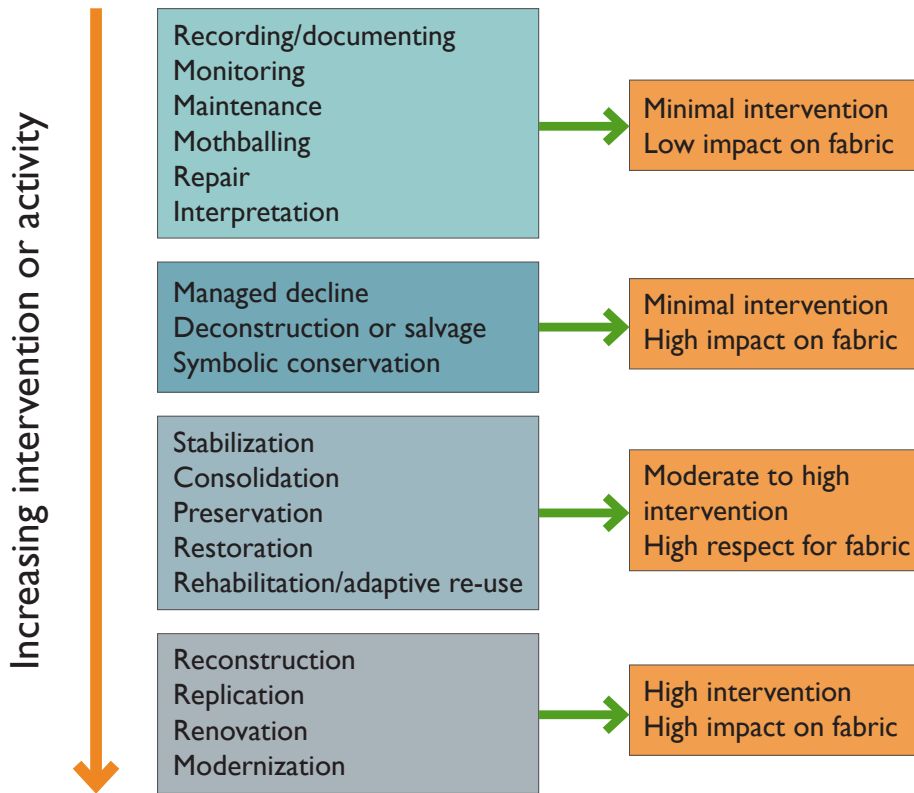
The conservation policies in this plan seek to highlight the currently understood values of the historic place and encourage their conservation and presentation.

### **Mix of conservation approaches**

The conservation of heritage resources includes a wide continuum of possible approaches and combinations of approaches for each heritage place. Most heritage conservation projects, by necessity, involve a combination of approaches. An understanding of the various approaches is included to facilitate informed current and future conservation projects.

The diagram below illustrates a continuum of heritage conservation measures, arranged generally from minimal intervention to maximum activity. Detailed descriptions of each of the approaches can be found in Appendix B.

## Hierarchy of conservation approaches



## 4.3 Heritage conservation policies for Yorke Island

This document provides general guidance policies for the wider cultural landscape of Yorke Island, and more detailed policies for individual site-wide heritage resources in each identified conservation area. Heritage policies are intended as over-arching guidance for the mitigation of any current and future potential impacts with the intent of:

- Sustaining and presenting the site's significance
- Mitigating the effects of change of use or other physical intervention on the character-defining elements
- Facilitating the beneficial, sustainable use of the historic place as a BC Parks conservancy

## 4.4 General conservation policies

### G1 Respect for multiple values

**Issue:** The cultural landscape at Yorke Island is multivalent, possessing a wide range of heritage values.

**Objective:** Document, consider and respect the range of heritage values present on the site.

**Conservation policy:**

- While the focus of the heritage conservation on site is of the military landscape, a precautionary principle will be undertaken with respect to the site's many other heritage values, such as ecological and First Nations values.
- Maintain a balance between the protection and presentation of multiple values.
- Clearly understand and articulate that other values may be identified in the future, and that relationships between people, the landscape and the heritage resources are different than they were in the past and will likely change over time.

### G2 Protecting the sense of place

**Issue:** The overall significance of Yorke Island, and the attributes that give it a singular sense of place, need to be protected.

**Objective:** To ensure that the values, sense of place and significant physical features at Yorke Island are protected in perpetuity.

**Conservation policy:**

- Throughout the site, balance heritage conservation interventions with the protection of Yorke Island's sense of place. Limit any changes and interventions, including vegetation removal, to allow visitors to Yorke Island to experience a sense of discovery of its stories from its years as an active military site. These stories shall be presented to visitors in a subtle way, reflecting the mystique of the island that is emerging from its former isolation and abandonment.
- Document the heritage values of the site, stabilize priority structures and protect significant landscape features to minimize any impacts on the heritage significance of the site and provide the means to accurately and appropriately present Yorke Island's story.
- Take a precautionary and minimal intervention approach to the conservation of Yorke Island's heritage due to the potential for new discoveries and the revealing of new information. When in doubt about a course of action, or if the human or monetary resources are not available to properly undertake actions related to the conservation of the site, heritage features should be left in-situ and further planning undertaken for their treatment or other future actions.
- While protecting heritage value and sense of place, allow minor changes that may make Yorke Island sustainable by maintaining its value for use as a park, and allowing its ongoing use by the community. This could include making parts of the island universally accessible, installing park services or creating

opportunities for camping, gathering or events.

### G3 The conservation plan and accepted standards

**Issue:** There must be a clear and agreed-upon direction for the conservation and treatment of Yorke Island's heritage values and its considerable heritage features.

**Objective:** Use the policies contained in the heritage conservation plan in conjunction with accepted standards for natural and cultural heritage to guide appropriate decision-making for the heritage resources on Yorke Island.

#### Conservation policy:

- All heritage conservation work is guided by *The Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*, particularly Section 4.4, Guidelines for Engineering Works Including Civil, Industrial and Military Works.
- Natural heritage conservation is guided by BC Parks Standards, the provincial *Ecological Restoration Guidelines for British Columbia*, and Parks Canada's *Principles and Guidelines for Ecological Restoration*.
- Conduct a regular review of the conservation plan and conservation policies. Update the conservation plan at regular intervals, including the integration of new research, documentation and updated interpretation and programming.

### G4 Consultation with First Nations

**Issue:** Yorke Island has significance to First Nations in the region, whose values have not yet been identified and documented. Hənəmdʒi Məkola is located in the asserted traditional territories of the K'ómoks, We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum and Xwemalkwu First Nations.

**Objective:** Retain the significance of Yorke Island and its continuing cultural importance to First Nations, and present this significance to the public if appropriate.

#### Conservation policy:

- Establish a framework for ongoing engagement with First Nations according to BC Parks policy and other protocols.
- Work with First Nations to inventory cultural heritage values and document values, stories and significant features to add to the knowledge about Yorke Island to further influence its understanding, protection and presentation.
- Add to conservation policies as required in a supplementary companion document based on this knowledge and information.
- Develop interpretation opportunities, where appropriate, that emphasize the importance of the area to First Nations but respect the sensitivity of cultural values. Encourage First Nations contribution to interpretation.

### G5 National Historic Site application

**Issue:** Yorke Island's significance in Canada's west coast defences has a local, provincial and national level of importance.

**Objective:** To recognize the national importance and achieve national historic

### Stabilization

A minimum amount of work done to safeguard a resource from the elements and/or destruction and to protect the public from danger. This work may involve emergency structural reinforcing, cabling (with trees), protective coverings, or hoardings. Stabilization is often undertaken to preserve the character-defining element for future heritage conservation work.

### Consolidation

The physical addition or application of adhesive or supportive materials to ensure continued durability or to protect the structural integrity of the heritage resource. Consolidation is most frequently undertaken when structural elements have deteriorated to a point where the future of the resource is jeopardized.

site status for Yorke Island. Recognizing Yorke Island as a National Historic Site increases the national and international awareness of this culturally significant protected area, creates opportunities for tourism and business, and brings a renewed sense of spirit and pride of place. Designation does not add any more specific requirements other than the commitment to retain the heritage values for which the site was designated. Sites are typically marked by a federal plaque.

**Conservation policy:**

Actively pursue the designation of Yorke Island as a national historic site through the preparation of an NHS application. Convene a working group to prepare and submit the application.

**G6 Routine monitoring and maintenance**

**Issue:** The value and physical evidence of landscapes and buildings can be quickly obscured or lost if long-standing management and maintenance regimes are discontinued. The current ad hoc approach to the ongoing monitoring, maintenance, trail clearing and general repair of the buildings and landscape at Yorke Island can result in the loss or deterioration of landscape features, structures and artifacts. Regular maintenance is required for built features and the landscape and should be undertaken on a regular cycle.

**Objective:** To implement a regime of regular monitoring, maintenance and repair to ensure that values, building fabric and landscape features are retained into the future.

**Conservation policy:**

- Have regular monitoring inform the continual improvement of planned maintenance and identify the need for periodic repair or renewal as an early step in the implementation of the conservation plan.
- Establish a written and accessible program for monitoring, maintenance and documentation.
- Create a monitoring and maintenance manual to record work being done by Parks staff and volunteers.
- Use the manual to determine what work is required and to allocate specific tasks on a yearly basis.
- Undertake planned periodic repairs or renewal of buildings or landscape feature, such as recovering a roof or removing vegetation, to prevent loss of fabric, and while retaining heritage values.

**G7 Ongoing recording and documentation**

**Issue:** Yorke Island is a significant heritage site that can convey information and understanding about First Nations, early land use, settlement in the area, and B.C.'s role in World War II through the layout and arrangement of its heritage resources. An approach to the ongoing understanding and documentation of the physical and intangible aspects of the site will ensure that details and stories are not lost.

**Objective:** To ensure a continued and deeper understanding of the details and physical aspects of the site.



**Conservation policy:**

- As appropriate, continue with ongoing recording, monitoring and measurement of heritage features, such as the Camp, for example, to add to the understanding of the site
- Document any changes to the site over time.
- Building upon the initial documentation of the site, continue to apply appropriate and current best practices, standards and methods of documentation.
- Make this information accessible to decision-makers, researchers, volunteers and the interested public to add to the overall understanding of the site, leading its care and sustainability.

**G8 Visitation management and access**

**Issue:** Public knowledge of the site and visitation to it is increasing. Increased use and varying types of use could have a potential impact on heritage values and physical elements, leading to an erosion of the site's sense of place and its tangible heritage values.

**Objective:** Ensure visitation levels and types of uses are not negatively impacting the site's natural and cultural values.

**Conservation policy:**

- Since site access is by water only, consider the installation of a mooring buoy to accommodate boaters and avoid environmental disturbance from boat landing and launching.
- Improve pedestrian access from beach to trailhead and sign portal.
- Consider the appropriateness of various measures to manage visitation numbers and activities on the island, such as:
  - Limiting visitor numbers through a pass system or create an annual pass.
  - Providing visitor education through an online application or brochure regarding the heritage resource types, their condition and their importance to ensure enjoyment of the place without destruction of its assets.
  - Working with partners to provide guided tours by qualified groups or individuals, as a way of protecting the heritage resource.

**G9 Emergency, fires, site and human safety**

**Issue:** The Yorke Island site is an abandoned military landscape, and some of the structures are in a state of disrepair. Unsafe situations on the site include but are not limited to:

- Unstable floor systems in partially standing buildings
- Structural failure of supporting posts and beams
- Ground depressions
- Rusty barbed wire still in place in some locations which may cause injury or preclude access

Emergencies on the island may require the need for rescue operations and there is always the chance of fire. Proactive measures can ensure site safety without damage to the heritage resources.

**Objective:** Maintain public safety and emergency preparedness on the island while reducing impacts on heritage value and sense of place.

**Conservation policy:**

- Develop an emergency planning and preparedness program that takes into account the vulnerability of the heritage resource.
- Identify such aspects as muster points, emergency notification and provide clearings or areas for landing.
- Undertake ongoing inspection and monitoring of all site buildings and implement repairs and other safety measures that respect the heritage values of the site.
- Implement Firesmart BC recommendations to reduce the risk of fire.

**G10 Building access**

**Issue:** Part of the experience of Yorke Island is the ability to enter and explore the existing buildings but this may be damaging to the buildings, require additional engineering monitoring, and may be a public safety and liability issue.

**Objective:** Continue to allow access to buildings while mitigating damage to the heritage resource and danger to visitors.

**Conservation policy:**

- Provide ongoing monitoring and maintenance to limit safety factors that could avoid the closure of buildings. Buildings should only be closed as a last resort as a means of balancing safety and experiential qualities.
- Allow access and use of buildings for special events.
- Implement measures to deter visitors from climbing on building roofs.
- Use other means such as public education to avoid closure.
- Use education or monitoring to discourage overnight use of buildings as camping sites.
- If temporary exclusion of the public to a building or part of a building is needed, use a barricade method and materials that is appropriate to the site and its military history.
- For more permanent closures, use a method and materials that could be considered as part of the military operation at the site (eg. no yellow fencing etc.)
- Consider dense or prickly vegetation, allow paths to become overgrown or direct visitors to distinct pathways to avoid such buildings.

**G11 New construction**

**Issue:** New construction on the site may have a negative impact on the heritage values and sense of place of Yorke Island. It should be ensured that new design is in keeping with the character and history of the site.

**Objective:** To ensure that any new construction is compatible with the heritage values and physical appearance of the site.

**Conservation policy:**

- Guard rails, ancillary buildings, gates, fences, outhouse, signs, benches and other new construction should be situated and designed to lessen the

physical or visual impact on existing heritage resources.

- Design and materials should be compatible but distinguishable from existing structures.
- Consider a design aesthetic inspired by the military history of the island through form, materials, camouflage etc.
- Consider sitelines, views, topography and existing circulation patterns when siting or installing any new construction.

## **G12 Materials**

**Issue:** One of the key character-defining elements of Yorke Island is the variety and juxtaposition of building materials. It is likely that during routine maintenance, general deterioration or wear and tear from increased visitor use, the various materials will require repair.

**Objective:** To ensure that materials are monitored and treated according to current standards before they are beyond repair.

### **Conservation policy:**

- Establish a system for ongoing monitoring and maintenance for site materials.
- Develop conservation or repair plans for materials on a particular building or structure as identified during monitoring.
- While maintaining materials, retain the patina (accumulated changes in surface texture and colour as a result of age and exposure) that has accumulated over time and use.
- Protect and repair masonry (stone walls, brick), concrete, wood and other materials according to accepted standards.
- Yorke Island has one of the most extensive remaining sites in Canada with this type of protective fortification. It is generally composed of small, evenly sized aggregate in a matrix of bitumen. Ensure protection and repair of plastic armour.
- Painted camouflage and early graffiti on buildings are significant elements of the site. Use interpretation and education to assist in the protection of camouflage and graffiti. Investigate appropriate repair, protection and methods and treat camouflage and graffiti as necessary for its conservation.
- Monitor any hazardous materials in buildings and implement a remediation plan for removal.

## **G13 Overnight camping and general public use**

**Issue:** Currently visitors to the Island are setting up camp in some of the buildings at the Fort and potentially in other sensitive areas of the site. Camping activities such as setting up tents, collecting firewood, making fires and disposing of garbage can have a negative impact on the site's values and affect other visitors' experience.

**Objective:** Allow overnight camping and use of the site without damage to the heritage resource.

### **Conservation policy:**



- Highlight appropriate places and uses on the island (hiking, picnicking etc.) as a way of avoiding less acceptable uses such as unauthorized camping in the buildings or lighting fires.
- Designate the Crew Shelter at the Fort as the building to be used for overnight stays by volunteers. Establish rules and monitor use.
- Provided a designated camping area that meets the needs of kayakers. Avoid the entryway to the site as a way of maintaining the important sense of arrival.
- There is interest in building a small bunk house/cabin near the Fort for overnight stays. The building should be designed to be visually minimal (camouflaged) and discretely located out of direct sightlines from the Fort. Also see G11 for policies on new construction.
- Educate the public about ecological and heritage sustainability, avoidance of damage to buildings and landscape, garbage removal and leaving no traces behind.
- In later phases of site development, provide garbage receptacles designed to fit into the military or camouflage theme and provide seasonal removal.
- Provide rustic fire pits near authorized camping areas.

#### **G14 Photographs and archives**

**Issue:** Photographic and documentary evidence about Yorke Island is held in various places and may be at risk of being lost. It is important to protect photographs and documents as an archival record and as an information source for ongoing research and interpretation. Currently, photographs and documents are held by several institutions and individuals.

**Objective:** To consolidate photographic and documentary information about Yorke Island so it is protected, and make it available for research purposes.

##### **Conservation policy:**

- Compile all, or copies of, photographs, videos, documents and other resources and research material related to Yorke Island into a single, agreed-upon location.
- Pursue in-kind contributions of photographs but consider allocation of budget for the purchase of photographs from certain sources to ensure a complete archive.
- Identify and contact individuals and groups who may have photographs to share. Ask about the identity of other institutions and individuals who may have documentation.
- Create a system of collation and storage for ongoing document collection.

#### **G15 Interpretation**

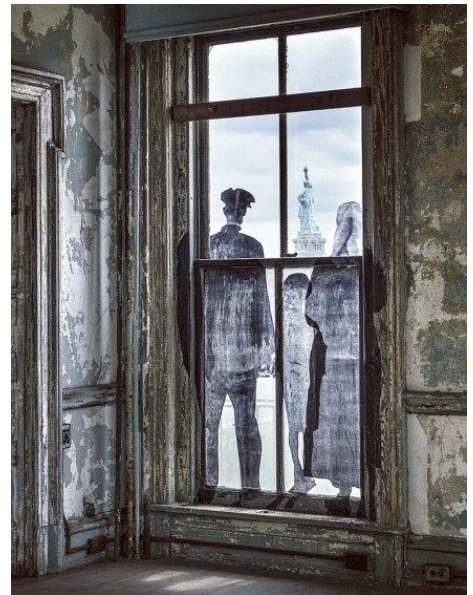
**Issue:** The presentation of Yorke Island's history and all of its heritage values is an important part of the experience of the site. Interpretation must be done in such a way as to respect the site's sense of place and be singular to Yorke Island. A separate interpretive plan is being developed as part of the conservation project.

**Objective:** To foster a sense of stewardship and visitor appreciation at the site,

help protect heritage values and appropriately present Yorke Island's story. There is the potential to possibly support living history or other interpretive elements at the Fort, at one searchlight, or at other selected areas of the site while retaining the site's heritage values.

#### **Conservation policy:**

- Create an overall framework with themes, proposed interpretive methods, sign types etc. into which any collected information can be integrated during detailed design and implementation.
- Design a phased approach to interpretation that reflects levels of visitation.
- While the interpretive focus will be on the military operations including the three distinct phases of military use, interpretation should touch on all aspects of the site's history as context, including its ecology and geology, early settlement and land use, First Nations values and use and.
- Consult others for stories and information which can be incorporated into a phased interpretive program.
- Identify a range of methods that may be appropriate, focusing on evoking and extrapolating on the site's resources, encouraging the use of imagination by creating an image in the observers' minds eye and striving for moments of discovery.
- Balance the experience of the site's current sense of place with an understanding of the island as a complex hive of military activity with built features and physical landscape that changed over time.
- Create as large an impact doing as little as possible to preserve the site's sense of mystery and discovery.
- Develop and test interpretation in one or more buildings, such as the fire command post, one of the gun emplacements and one of the searchlights.
- Utilize trails as carriers of interpretive information.
- Develop a program of off-island interpretation.





## 4.5 Area-specific policies



Kelp beds.



Beach.

### 4.5.1 Area I Landscape and seascape

Area I is identified as the wider cultural landscape, the foreshore, ocean and seascape of Yorke Island. It includes features such as the natural forested landscape, vegetation, geography and geology surrounding ocean, many identified and as-yet unidentified landscape features such as ditches, cairn, piles of rock, scattered artifacts, slit trenches and potential below-ground features. It also includes the evidence of use by the military on Hardwicke Island, the forward observation post (on mainland Vancouver Island) and the five-mile range of artillery shooting capacity.

#### L1 General policy for cultural landscape features

**Issue:** The site has important relationships between its elements that reflect its past military use, and these relationships should be maintained.

**Objective:** To retain the heritage value of cultural landscape resources within a regime of monitoring, maintenance, repair and limited conservation.

#### Conservation policy:

- Preserve and interpret the important relationships between cultural landscape resources, such as the location of the Fort at the top of the bluff with the remains of the camp below, the location of gun batteries overlooking the sea and the orientation of the searchlights and guns to the north.
- Preserve the setting of Yorke Island's cultural landscape, defined as the immediate and extended environment that is part of, or contributes to, its significance and distinctive character.
- Preserve features showing landscape manipulation such as grading, rock piling, ditches and trenches. Conduct selective clearing to reveal these features and interpret them.
- If detailed restoration work is considered, prepare a conservation plan for individual landscape features based on use, condition and conservation objectives.

#### L2 Forest, seascape and foreshore ecosystems

**Issue:** Yorke Island's forested areas, seascape and foreshore have considerable ecological values that could be at risk through increased use of the site, or potentially through efforts to protect cultural heritage features.

**Objective:** To protect the important terrestrial and marine ecological values of the forest and foreshore and include the adjacent marine area in the management of the island's cultural, historic and recreational value.

#### Conservation policy:

- Use education and interpretation to promote an understanding of the importance of terrestrial and marine ecosystems including its overall relationship to the heritage of Yorke Island.
- Identify and maintain specific areas for site access to avoid impacting areas

of ecological importance.

- Prepare an impact assessment and undertake mitigation measures if there is the potential for damage to terrestrial or marine ecosystems during conservation or construction work.
- Ensure that construction, conservation, use or other actions respect the primary importance of marine and foreshore ecological processes and the maintenance of ecological integrity.
- Restrict access to certain areas of the site if necessary to protect significant ecosystems.
- Maintain a balance between the protection of ecological and heritage values, such as the habitat values of vegetation or moss growing on a building and the long-term protection of building fabric.
- Consult BC Parks management plan and conservation policy for guidance as required.

### L3 Management of significant off-island features

**Issue:** Yorke Island's significance lies in part in the wider cultural landscape that extends well beyond the island itself. This landscape includes structural remains on Hardwicke Island, a forward observation post and the five-mile range of artillery shot.

**Objective:** Include the values off-island features that are part of Yorke Island's cultural landscape in its conservation and management regime.

#### Conservation policy:

- Actively pursue the acquisition of the Forward Observation Post near Eve River on the mainland of Vancouver Island and appropriate associated lands as part of the Yorke Island conservancy as an important complement to its full military history.
- Continue to explore the potential for off-island features related to Yorke Island's history. Consider all aspects and features of the wider cultural landscape in management and interpretive decisions.
- Develop a program of off-island interpretation.

### L4 Views

**Issue:** Viewscapes are an important aspect of the functioning of Yorke Island history as a military fort during both the examination and counter-bombardment phases and need to be managed and maintained. They include views from buildings out to sea, internal views within building complexes and views of the landscape. Managing and re-creating views needs to be balanced with the conservation of ecological values and the island's sense of place.

**Objective:** To manage the island's internal and external views as part of the heritage conservation of the site and for interpretive purposes, while retaining the purpose and value of each significant view.

#### Conservation policy:

- Conduct careful planning for tree limbing and minimal removal to enhance historical viewscapes.
- When re-creating views from buildings and structures, begin with a



Wharf pilings near Hardwicke Island.  
(Ross Keller)



Forward observation post. (Heritageworks)



Vegetation on the water tank.





Volunteer fruit tree near the fire command post.



Gardens near buildings at the Camp.  
(Vancouver Gunners)



Artifacts in the Camp area.

minimal intervention approach and balance the value of the viewscape with maintaining the context of the structure, ecological conservation and the site's sense of place.

- Conduct minimal vegetation removal or limbing to maintain or open up key views on a case-by-case basis throughout the site.

## L5 Vegetation

**Issue:** Overgrown and encroaching vegetation can be damaging to buildings, but it provides considerable heritage and aesthetic value as part of the site's sense of place and as representative of the historical use of vegetation for camouflage. There is also evidence of culturally modified trees on the island.

**Objective:** To safeguard and manage natural and cultural vegetation features and maintain a balance between the protection of structures, the use of planting for interpretation, and an approach of minimal intervention with vegetation features.

### Conservation policy:

- Continue documentation of trees and other vegetation, understanding how it contributes to the heritage value of Yorke Island's cultural landscape.
- Continue ongoing monitoring of vegetation, consistent inspection and tree assessment procedures.
- Undertake careful planning when removing trees to enhance views.
- Undertake regular ditch clearing to ensure adequate site and trail drainage.
- Selectively remove damaging vegetation from buildings particularly around foundations which can reduce water retention near sills.
- Interpret vegetation from various use and aesthetic perspectives, such as military, domestic, camouflage and ecological significance.
- Where there will be no damage to the structures, retain vegetation on the roofs and walls of buildings as part of the history of camouflage, as evidence of nature reclaiming the site, and for evolving ecological values.
- Undertake vegetation management that balances the value of the vegetation on or around the buildings with selective removal to prevent deterioration and ensure stabilization and maintenance of the buildings.
- For interpretation purposes, re-establish areas of camouflage, ornamental or food planting, or other significant vegetation features using physical, documentary and oral evidence while retaining heritage value.
- Inventory and document culturally modified trees referring to guidance and regulations found in Archaeology Branch documents *Bulletin 27 – Culturally Modified Tree Guidelines* and *Culturally Modified Trees of British Columbia* and consult with First Nations as necessary to understand their significance. Protect, maintain and interpret culturally modified trees.

## L6 Scattered artifacts

**Issue:** The site contains many exposed or partially buried artifacts, such as equipment, fence remains, concrete foundations, razor wire, small water tanks and vessels and potentially many others as yet undiscovered. Some artifacts have already been removed from the site.

**Objective:** To protect as-yet undocumented artifacts from damage or removal

so they are available for future research and interpretation.

**Conservation policy:**

- Undertake a program to locate, map and document the site's artifacts.
- Retain artifacts in-situ, and use education and interpretation to protect them and ensure public safety.
- Observe a precautionary principle by leaving artifacts in place, removing only if they represent a particular hazard or if the artifact is in danger of damage or loss.
- Undertake mission-oriented archaeology as required to support conservation and presentation.
- Identify ways to retain and present relocated artifacts on-site such as using them for interpretive purposes or locating them in open storage in the ammunition storage in gun emplacements #1 and #2.
- Work with partners to relocate previously removed artifacts.
- Work with partners such as the Campbell River Museum to properly store and care for artifacts that are to be removed from the island.

**L7 Buildings and structures**

**Issue:** The buildings and structures scattered throughout the site have high heritage value and are in various condition, stages of disrepair and decline. Ongoing impacts of water encroachment and other physical elements can accelerate the deterioration of buildings. The as-found survey and condition assessment document clearly outlines the recommended repairs for the site's heritage resources.

**Objective:** To retain the heritage value of buildings and structures site-wide within a reasonable regime of monitoring, maintenance, repair and limited conservation appropriate for each. Reduce rates of deterioration through removal of sources of moisture, or other agents that are damaging a heritage resource.

**Conservation policy:**

- The best means of ensuring the continued conservation and maintenance of a historic building is to keep it in active use. While possible in the future, it is unlikely that in the near term the buildings at Yorke Island will be rehabilitated for adaptive re-use, therefore, monitoring and maintenance will likely be the primary actions. Buildings should be maintained according to a clearly specified maintenance program. See also policy G6, routine monitoring and maintenance.
- Install protective roofs if necessary to prevent water saturation of the roof structures of standing buildings and reduce the opportunity for rot.
- Regrade ground surface to slope away from building walls to allow water to flow away from buildings.
- Any necessary additions to the original fabric should be distinguishable but retain their context and scale and be composed of compatible materials.
- In general, repair and maintenance is preferred to restoration or rehabilitation unless specifically identified for a particular building or structure. Reconstruction of disappeared buildings and structures should be avoided unless there is a compelling reason to do so. See also policy



Brick found near beach.



Radio station building.





View from wharf to buildings at site entry.  
(Vancouver Gunners)

GII for new construction.

- Develop plans for further detailed conservation work for individual buildings and structures if required in future, based on proposed use, condition and general conservation guidance.

#### 4.5.2 Area 2 Perimeter resources

Area 2 consists of those heritage resources that are located around the perimeter of the island, such as the wharf remains, searchlights and listening posts.

##### P1 General policy for perimeter resources

**Issue:** The perimeter resources have value through their location in the landscape and connection to each other based on type of use, such as historical access to the island or surveillance purposes.

**Objective:** To retain the significance of perimeter resources and stabilize them to reveal their association with the military landscape.

##### Conservation policy:

- Document and interpret the relationships of the collection of perimeter resources to their function, the cultural landscape and to each other as part of their heritage value.
- Conserve the heritage value of the perimeter resources. Do not replace or substantially alter their character-defining elements, or move them as their current locations are character-defining.

##### P2 Site entry

**Issue:** The current entry to the site has changed and in its present form does not reveal the original relationship of the wharf, stairs and Warrant Officers' building.

**Objective:** To re-establish the experience of the original site entry and arrival by sea and land.

##### Conservation policy:

- Fully document the location and relationships between the wharf, stairs, road, landscape, existing and disappeared buildings and other features of the site entry based on physical, documentary and oral evidence.
- Use this information to undertake planning, vegetation clearing, road and trail re-alignment and other measures to re-establish the original site entry and circulation while retaining heritage values.

##### P3 Wharf pilings

**Issue:** The remaining wharf pilings have an association with the original site access by boat or ship to bring soldiers and supplies to Yorke Island prior to and during World War II. They are subject to deterioration due to age, ocean waves or shoreline erosion and sea level rise occurring as a result of climate change.

**Objective:** Retain in-situ as a cultural landscape feature and undertake minimal intervention designed to stabilize the structure and subtly reveal the military landscape.

##### Conservation policy:



Remains of wharf pilings.



Original wharf. (Vancouver Gunners)



Remains of wooden bulwark.



- Understand and interpret the physical and visual relationship of the wharf pilings to the original wharf and its use in sea transportation of men, equipment and materials.
- Preserve, stabilize as needed and monitor for deterioration and site safety.

#### P4 Wooden bulwark

**Issue:** The wooden bulwark has an association to the stabilization of the foreshore to permit access for soldiers and supplies to Yorke Island prior to and during World War II. They are subject to deterioration due to age, ocean waves or shoreline erosion and sea level rise occurring as a result of climate change.

**Objective:** Retain in-situ as a cultural landscape feature and undertake minimal intervention designed to stabilize the structure and subtly reveal the military landscape.

##### Conservation policy:

- Understand the physical and visual relationship of the wooden bulwark as a feature of landscape manipulation to stabilize and fortify the slope near the beach.
- Preserve, stabilize as needed and monitor for deterioration and site safety.

#### P5 Searchlights and related infrastructure

**Issue:** The searchlights are important for their role of illuminating sea and sky to search for enemy approaches as part of guarding Yorke Island and the coastline from enemy military attack. They have scientific value for the application of sophisticated technology at the time. Localized fortifications facing the ocean, such as stone walls, trenches and wire provide context and evidence of landscape manipulation for military support at the searchlights.

**Objective:** To stabilize and minimize negative impacts on the searchlights while allowing visitor use, and possibly undertake minimal conservation in support of living history or other interpretive strategies or actions.

##### Conservation policy:

- Preserve searchlights as highly significant components of military operations at the Fort and protect the significant relationships among its parts.
- Undertake repairs identified in the as-found survey and condition assessment document for each searchlight, along with ongoing maintenance and monitoring for any further deterioration.
- Conduct tree limbing or minimal selective tree removal to re-establish significant views from the searchlights.
- Implement an interpretive program for Searchlight 1, selected for its condition, the still-existing shutters and doors, and ease of accessibility by trail from the Fort.
- Rehabilitate the trail from the Fort to Searchlights 1 and 2 and to Searchlight No. 3 and connect them all to the perimeter trail.
- Consider more detailed conservation measures for Searchlight 1 such as a combination of interior and exterior rehabilitation, restoration and the installation of appropriate furnishings and artifacts for enhanced



Searchlight. (Vancouver Gunners)



View from searchlight. (Vancouver Gunners)



Sunderland listening post. (Heritageworks)



Courtenay listening post. (Heritageworks)

interpretive purposes. Restore and replace shutters, doors and other features to working order to aid in interpretation.

- Consider the use of Searchlight No. 1 for monitored overnight stays.
- Clear vegetation as needed to reveal trenches and small fortifications such as stone walls and undertake repairs and rehabilitation as needed to present their function.

## **P6 Listening posts**

**Issue:** The log-constructed listening posts are important for their role and location on the island's perimeter as positions in advance of the primary defensive line established for the purpose of listening to detect enemy movements. Two of the original three posts remain. Sunderland post is in good condition for rehabilitation while Courtenay post is in a state of disrepair and collapse.

**Objective:** Retain, stabilize and interpret the listening posts as key heritage infrastructure related to military surveillance activity.

### **Conservation policy:**

- Retain Sutherland listening post in-situ as an interpretive feature and connect with perimeter trail.
- Rehabilitate the remaining exterior and interior elements of the structure, including a new floor and roof.
- Undertake repairs identified in the as-found survey and condition assessment document for Sunderland Post, along with ongoing maintenance and monitoring for any further deterioration.
- Apply a policy of managed decline to Courtenay Post and monitor and document its demise.

## **P7 Perimeter trail**

**Issue:** The location of the perimeter trail can be located on maps and its remains found in the field. It has significance as a footpath that connected the various surveillance structures around the perimeter of the island.

**Objective:** Rehabilitate the perimeter trail for recreational and interpretive purposes.

### **Conservation policy:**

- Document and map the location of the original trail.
- Plan for the rehabilitation of any remaining vestiges of the original perimeter trail and undertake new construction where needed to create a route around the island, connecting the searchlights and listening posts.
- Retain the original width, surface and character of the trail.

## **4.5.3 Area 3 Auxiliary and Infrastructure Systems**

Area 3 consists of Yorke Island's infrastructure systems which include the circulation system of roads and trails system, including a domestic fresh water system and saltwater system for fire-fighting, electrical distribution systems and drainage ditches, all of which were critical to the functioning of the military site. This area also includes buildings associated with site infrastructure systems, primarily located in the interior of the island, including the water tank, radio station and power plant for the Camp.

The remains of the Bofors anti-aircraft tower located at the high point of the site is related to the military defences at the Fort but included here due to its location.

## **A1 General policies for auxiliary features and infrastructure**

**Issue:** Resources related to auxiliary features and infrastructure have value through their location in the landscape, their integration as site systems, and their connection to each other based on historical functionality and use, such as site circulation, the production and transmission of electricity and the provision of water.

**Objective:** To retain the significance of auxiliary features and infrastructure and stabilize them to reveal their association with the military landscape.

### **Conservation policy:**

- Preserve and interpret the relationships of the collection of auxiliary features and infrastructure to their function, the cultural landscape and to each other as part of their heritage value.
- Conserve the heritage value of auxiliary features and infrastructure. Do not replace or substantially alter their character-defining elements, or move them, as their current locations are identified as character-defining.
- Investigate appropriate repair, protection and methods and treat camouflage and graffiti as necessary for its conservation. It is particularly important to understand the change in colour and pattern of camouflage depending on the location and setting of the building or structure.

## **A2 Water and electrical distribution systems**

**Issue:** The remaining evidence of the water and electrical distribution systems, including excavated rock trenches for burying pipes and electrical cables, hydrants and other features in the landscape is important for understanding the extent, complexity, construction and critical nature of utility systems to the operation of the military site.

Maps of the island show these distribution systems and their connection to the water tank and electrical generator building and to the Fort and the Camp.

**Objective:** Retain to enable an understanding of these complex systems developed in the remoteness of Yorke Island.

### **Conservation policy:**

- Preserve in-situ the full extent and arrangement of water and electrical distribution systems on the island and their relationship to their respective functional buildings.
- As appropriate in future, consider the removal of vegetation and clear and stabilize features as needed so they are evident as a functional infrastructure feature for interpretive purposes.
- Continue to monitor as needed.

## **A3 Water tank**

**Issue:** The concrete water tank is significant for its critical use on an island without its own water supply, and for its scale and capacity to hold 50,000 gallons of fresh water for the domestic use of the military operation personnel. There



Water tank.



Generator shed and power plant.

is potential for deterioration due to site use or vegetation encroachment.

**Objective:** Retain the building in its location and setting as part of the site's utility system.

**Conservation policy:**

- Maintain and document the water tank's relationship to the wider water distribution system.
- Undertake repairs identified in the as-found survey and condition assessment document along with ongoing maintenance and monitoring for any further deterioration of materials.
- Develop a method of allowing visitors to climb the ladder and look into the tank safely.

#### **A4 Generator shed and power plant**

**Issue:** The generator shed and power plant is representative of the overall sophistication of the electrical system that provided power for building illumination, equipment, heating and enough power to operate the searchlights.

**Objective:** Retain the building in its location and setting as part of the site's utility system.

**Conservation policy:**

- Maintain and interpret the power plant's relationship to the wider electrical distribution system.
- Undertake repairs identified in the as-found survey and condition assessment document along with ongoing maintenance and monitoring for any further deterioration of materials.
- Identify methods of interpretation in the building interior that assist in understanding the science and technology of its function.
- Allow vegetation to re-establish itself on the new roof reflecting the earlier use of vegetation as camouflage.

#### **A5 Drainage and ditches**

**Issue:** Drainage ditches, their location, arrangement and associated landscape are important for their association with site manipulation for defensive measures undertaken by soldiers on Yorke Island during World War II. They may be impacted by deterioration due to site use or vegetation encroachment.

**Objective:** Retain in-situ as interpretive feature.

**Conservation policy:**

- Preserve the full extent and arrangement of drainage ditches on the island.
- Remove vegetation, clear and stabilize features as needed so they are evident as a military landscape feature and can properly function as a site drainage system.
- Continue to monitor and maintain ditches as needed.

#### **A6 Service trenches**

**Issue:** Service trenches, their location, arrangement and associated landscapes are important for their relationship to site manipulation for defensive measures undertaken by soldiers on Yorke Island during World War II. They may be impacted by deterioration due to site use or vegetation encroachment.



Radio station



**Objective:** Retain in-situ, monitor and manage as interpretive feature.

**Conservation policy:**

- Understand, document and preserve the full extent and arrangement of service trenches on the island.
- Remove vegetation and stabilize features as needed so they are evident as a military landscape feature.
- Control access to avoid deterioration.

### **A7 Wireless telegraph station**

**Issue:** The wireless telegraph station housed an important utility for providing radio communications both within Yorke Island and to the outside world.

**Objective:** Retain the building in its location and setting as part of the site's utility system.

**Conservation policy:**

- Understand and maintain the telegraph station's relationship to the wider communications system.
- Undertake repairs identified in the as-found survey and condition assessment document along with ongoing maintenance and monitoring for any further deterioration of materials.
- Identify methods of interpretation in the building interior that assist in understanding the science and technology of its function.
- Allow vegetation to re-establish itself on the new roof reflecting the earlier use of vegetation as camouflage.

### **A8 Bofors anti-aircraft tower**

**Issue:** The location of this tower at the high point of the island is significant for its association with the overall system of defences and as the site of a Bofors gun to be used as defence against aerial bombardment.

**Objective:** To retain the vestiges, location and setting of this aircraft defence that complemented the gun defences below.

**Conservation policy:**

- Further understand and interpret the role of anti-aircraft defence against aerial bombardment.
- Construct a trail to the hill summit to view the site of the anti-aircraft tower and surrounding significant views.
- Consider the installation of a Bofors gun at the summit for interpretive purposes.

### **A9 Trails and site circulation**

During the military occupation of Yorke Island, buildings were linked by a network of primary roads. From these primary roads, secondary tracks provided access to other parts of the battery, and the entire island was crossed and encircled by footpaths. The proposed trail plan utilizes existing trails which generally coincide with still-intact circulation systems dating from the period of military occupation.

These systems are part of a proposed trail system which also functions as a



Main road to Fort.



## Proposed hierarchy of trail types

### Primary trail

- Main route to link site arrival to the Fort, follows existing road, and which will be used by most visitors
- Self-guiding
- Wide surface and good standard of trail maintenance
- Potentially accessible
- Site entry sign with map at beginning of trail

### Secondary trail

- Provides routes off primary trail to site features including gymnasium, power house and water tank
- Moderate use
- Narrower surface
- Establish trailblazer along route

### Tertiary trail

- Provides a more adventurous access from the Fort to the searchlight emplacements
- Provides an alternative route to Fort entry
- Low to moderate use
- Narrower surface, less maintenance
- Future circular perimeter trail connecting searchlights and listening posts
- Establish directional/interpretive marker, such as a trailblazer, at intervals along route for continued guidance along the trail

key interpretive feature. Perimeter features are key destinations along the trail network which consists of a hierarchy of three trail types based on the original circulation system.

**Issue:** Trails, hiking and walking are an important part of the recreational experience on Yorke Island. They are also useful for ensuring the protection of heritage resources. Some trails are overgrown.

**Objective:** To provide a pleasurable and informative walking experience on Yorke Island and to protect natural and cultural heritage resources.

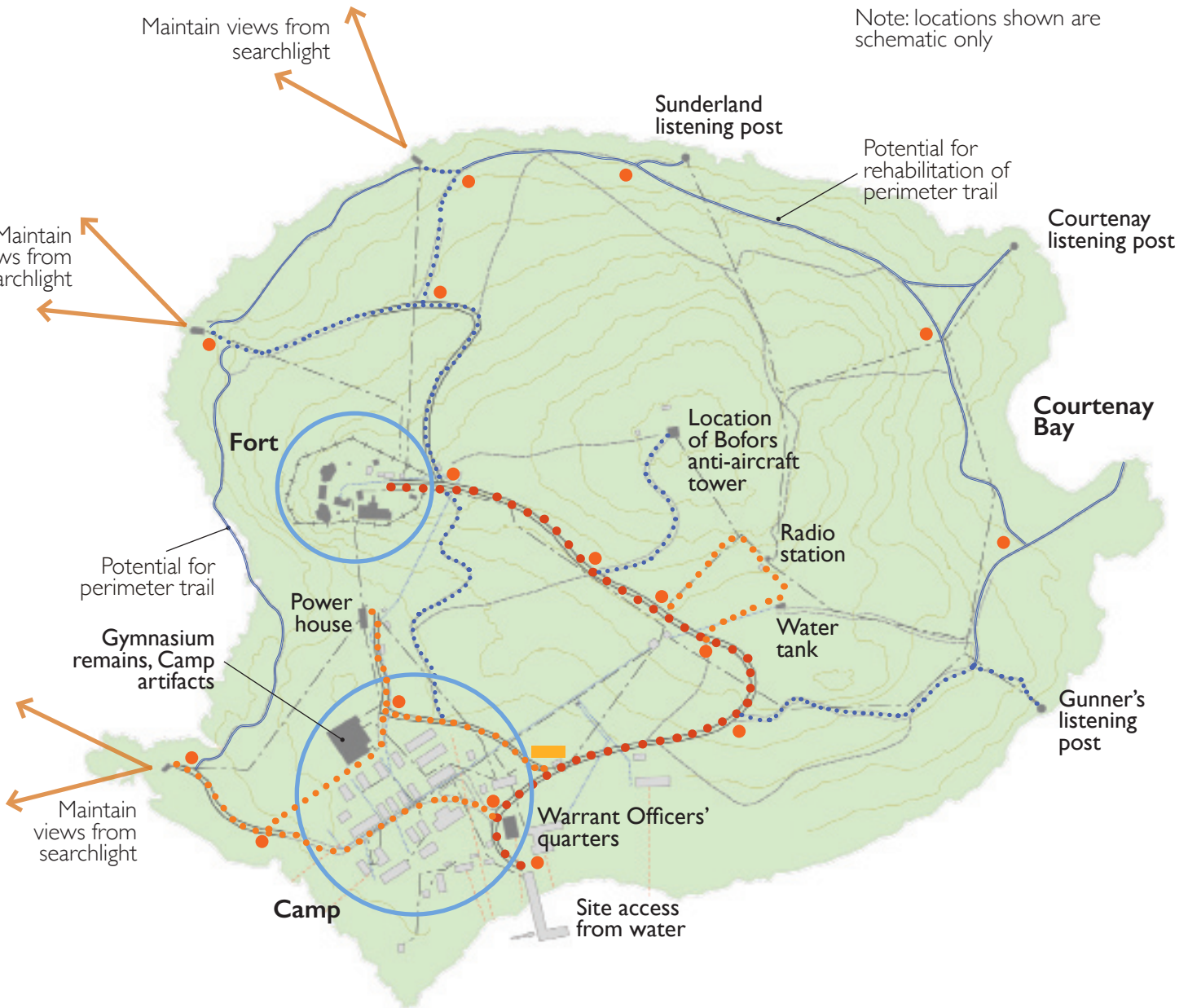
### Conservation policy:

- In addition to a recreational experience, allow trails to play a role in interpreting and reading the still-existing cultural landscape. Based on physical and photographic evidence, of form, detailing and alignment, selectively clear or widen trails to demonstrate the original circulation patterns and character existing during the use of Yorke Island during World War II.
- Trails should allow access to individual buildings but follow already existing road and trail patterns. While free exploration of the island may be desirable, visitors should be encouraged to stay on the trails to avoid trail widening and damage to artifacts, vegetation and landscape features.
- Decommission trails in areas where visitor access to a sensitive landscape or to a particular building (for conservation or safety reasons) is undesirable by letting them become overgrown or actively installing planting or boulders to discourage use.
- Implement a hierarchy of proposed trails based on original and existing trail patterns, site visitation and use, the provision of a variety of experiences, and as part of the interpretation of the site.
- Clearly define and mark the trail system in a manner in keeping with the character of the site to encourage intuitive visitor use.
- Locate and design any new trails so that they do not impact cultural features. Any trails that currently impact cultural features should be rerouted.
- Trails should maintain similar grades and be developed to their original widths and materials for interpretive purposes.
- Avoid excessive clearing to retain heritage values and sense of place.
- Trails should have maintenance conducted on a regular basis to ensure public safety and ease of use.
- Plan and construct new trails based on original circulation patterns, materials and attributes, such as a perimeter trail connecting heritage features and a trail to the site of the Bofors gun tower at the summit of the island.
- Consider naming trails based on the site's history or investigate if original names existed and can be discovered.

# Site-wide trails and markers

- Previously mapped trail
- Primary trail (original road)
- Secondary trail
- Tertiary trail
- Future tertiary trail
- Entry/information sign
- Trailblazer/information marker

Note: locations shown are schematic only





Views of the Camp.

#### 4.5.4 Area 4 Camp

Area 5 consists of the Camp and its surroundings, significant as an area where the majority of non-military activity occurred and as the place for living quarters and general functioning of the military site.

The Camp represents one of the most intriguing areas on the site, due to its mystery, sense of discovery and inherent sense of place. It is important for the buried and partially buried remains of this former densely constructed and active part of the camp, and the potential information the site may reveal in future.

The Camp has important relationships between its elements and the surrounding landscape that reflect its military evolution and use, and these relationships should be maintained.

#### CI Camp, artifacts and landscape features

**Issue:** The Camp is the site of important resources, including buried artifacts, that could be removed or damaged through increased site use.

**Objective:** To allow visitors to experience a sense of discovery of the Camp and its activities, function and stories while retaining evidence of nature reclaiming the site and retaining its heritage values.

#### Conservation policy:

- As a future project, consider developing a fuller understanding of the Camp, its use and activities through documentary research, local knowledge and on-site investigations.
- As a future project, document the spatial organization of the Camp, including its orientation, alignment, size, configuration and relationships between both its component parts and the rest of the island.
- Preserve the Camp as a as significant cultural landscape and stabilize as necessary its in-situ physical elements.
- Identify and retain evidence of landscape manipulation and use, such as topography, excavations, ditches, cairn, piles of rock, organization and circulation. Consider careful and limited clearing to expose these features for interpretive purposes.
- Continue a process of exploration and recording for as-yet undocumented or undiscovered features related to the Camp through limited mission-based archaeology.
- Protect the Camp site and its character-defining elements from disturbances through site planning, physical means such as encouraging visitors to stay on trails, and a program of education and interpretation.
- Remove and store artifacts if it presents a particular hazard or if the artifact is in danger of damage or loss.
- Interpret the Camp in its current state by subtly revealing its past use, form, activity and people, embedding revelation and discovery in the interpretation.
- Consider the potential for future conservation activities for the Camp as new information and evidence is revealed.
- Explore ways to indicate the extent and complexity of the Camp, for example, by using markers in the landscape to define its extent, while retaining heritage value.



## C2 Warrant Officers' quarters

**Issue:** The warrant officers' quarters is important for understanding uses, activities and function of the Camp as the residential and services centre of the military operation. Its location is also useful in orienting and understanding the extent of the Camp operation. The structure is in a state of partial collapse and has trees fallen on it, but its state of disrepair serves to reveal the materials, methods and structural elements of its construction.

**Objective:** Retain the remains of the building in situ as a ruin and for interpretive purposes, reflecting the mystique of an abandoned building.

### Conservation policy:

- Remove trees, debris, loose and unsafe building parts and vegetation around the building's foundation.
- Stabilize the structure through bracing or other means, and consolidate the structure, materials and finishes to make it safe for the public to enter.
- Examine for salvage any parts that are unsafe or cannot be consolidated or stabilized for interpretation or re-use.
- Develop exterior interpretation about the history, materials and construction of the structure. Consider interpretation in the interior such as markers and artifacts to physically understand the floor plan and the function of the building.
- Monitor for continued deterioration and to ensure its safety and stability.

## C3 Gymnasium

**Issue:** While the gymnasium building no longer exists intact, those features that do remain are important for establishing visually an understanding of the extent of the structure and its role and relationship to the Camp.

**Objective:** Retain the remains of the gymnasium in situ as a ruin and for interpretive purposes, reflecting the mystique of an abandoned and disappeared building.

### Conservation policy:

- Measure and document the visible features of the gymnasium, such as concrete footings, remains of posts in metal supports, wooden beams and other significant parts and artifacts.
- Undertake ongoing monitoring for any further deterioration and maintenance the landscape and its features in-situ.
- Install interpretive signs as needed to interpret the site of the Camp and its historical complexity.
- Consider limited archaeological investigations to further understand the structure and materials of the gymnasium. Balance investigations with the need to retain the building remains.
- Retain the relationship of the gymnasium to the landscape and ensure the preservation of its legibility within its forested setting.
- Consider the careful and selective clearing of encroaching vegetation in some areas to further reveal and interpret the structure and its relationship to the landscape.
- Balance this conservation measure with the requirement to maintain a patina of vegetation and the site's sense of place.
- Preserve as-is as significant cultural landscape and interpret to allow the visitor to imagine and see the building in the mind's eye.



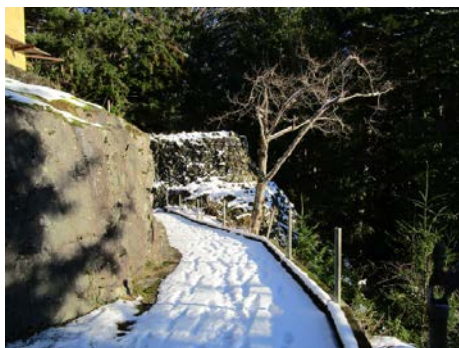
Warrant officers' quarters.



Remains of the gymnasium.



The Fort in the wider context of Johnstone Strait. (Heritageworks)



Internal views, materials, relationships and vertical configuration of elements at the Fort.



Mix of materials and patina of vegetation.

## 4.5.5 Area 5 Fort

Area 5 consists of the Fort area, significant as the key defence establishment at Yorke Island and with much of its landscape and many of its buildings intact and in good condition. Part of the Fort's value lies in the evidence of its construction over three phases of military development on the island.

These phases included the early mobilization phase beginning in 1937; the examination battery phase, in which any identified suspicious war vessel was made to anchor and be inspected under guard by the guns at the Fort; and the counter-bombardment phase when 6-inch guns were installed and the Fort was ready for active defence against the enemy.

The Fort is significant for its ability to allow the visitor to understand the purpose of the military structures and their design, fit and response to the topography and landscape of the carefully chosen location.

### FI General policies for the Fort

**Issue:** The Fort has important relationships between its elements and the surrounding landscape that reflect its military evolution and use, and these relationships should be maintained.

**Objective:** To retain the heritage value of the Fort's built and landscape resources within a regime of monitoring, maintenance and repair, while considering possible future rehabilitation or restoration.

#### Conservation policy:

- Continue to understand and document the key inter-relationships between the components of the Fort and the landscape, including their connection and change over time related to the three phases of military activity on the island. This includes larger-scale physical construction, such as the additions to the fire command post and details such as marks on concrete and changes in camouflage.
- Retain elements of site circulation, grade changes and building relationships at various elevations as key parts of conserving heritage value and for their contribution to the experience of the Fort.
- Understand the function and form of its cultural landscape, including the orientation, alignment, size and configuration of its buildings, structures, views, circulation patterns and vegetation.
- While retaining heritage value and understanding the encroachment of the landscape and changes to the Fort over time, plan for the maintenance, rehabilitation and selective restoration of cultural landscape features.
- Undertake repairs identified in the as-found survey and condition assessment document along with ongoing maintenance and monitoring for any further deterioration.
- Stabilize and consolidate any unsafe building parts, continue to monitor for deterioration and stabilize, clean up and consolidate as necessary.
- Ensure proper drainage from and within buildings to assist in deterring further deterioration.
- Manage encroaching vegetation and plant debris for negative impacts on the buildings, structures and walls while retaining the sense of nature co-existing with the built elements of the site.



- The variety, combination and ingenuity of use of materials - native rock landforms, piled rock, stone, brick, concrete, wood, cement, metal etc. - are key elements of the Fort. Continue to understand and interpret their function and evolution, monitor deterioration and make appropriate repairs.
- Investigate appropriate repair, protection and methods and treat camouflage and graffiti as necessary for its conservation. It is particularly important to understand the change in colour and pattern of camouflage depending on the location of the building or structure.
- Remove and store Fort artifacts only if a particular hazard or the artifact is in danger of damage or loss. Treat artifacts in such a way that they can be studied and displayed.
- For detailed preservation or rehabilitation work, prepare plans as required for individual features and structures based on occupation and use, condition, and conservation opportunities that conserve heritage values and reflect the expected level of quality.



Historical view from gun emplacement No. 1. (Vancouver Gunners)

## F2 Views and visual relationships

**Issue:** The ability to see, identify, visually communicate and understand the implications of approaching danger from a military perspective is a significant part of the heritage of the Fort in its defence of the surrounding ocean. The visual relationships between the structures of the Fort and other visual relationships are also important. Current views from the Fort have further aesthetic and recreational values.

**Objective:** To retain and rehabilitate key views and visual relationships that assist in understanding the various functions of the Fort and the activities of the soldiers as they undertook observations and communication.

### Conservation policy:

- Document the views, sitelines and visual relationships of the Fort, such as those from No. 1 and No. 2 gun emplacements and fire command post northwest up Johnstone Strait, from the from entry gate to the crew shelter; through windows in various buildings, between buildings, through passages, along roadways and walkways and others.
- Balance the restoration of views and sitelines with the maintenance of the site's sense of place, and with ecological values based on the site's role as a provincial conservancy.
- Selectively clear trees and vegetation from sitelines and views as a way of maintaining and experiencing views and visual connections during the time of military occupation, including the gun emplacements, the fire command post, the road approaching the Fort, walkways, trails and other areas as required.
- Use interpretation to demonstrate, explain and have the viewer experience past views and visual relationships with historical photographs.
- Undertake a visual impact assessment if any significant changes to the Fort are anticipated, such as the reinstatement of features, construction of a camping area or the siting of a new ancillary building.

## F3 No. 1 and No. 2 Gun emplacements



Gun well in No. 1 gun emplacement.



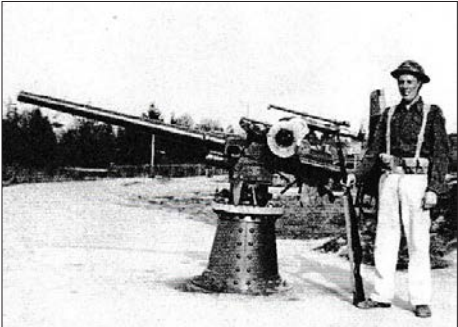
Artifacts within the ammunition storage area.



Gun emplacement. (Vancouver Gunners)



Plastic armour.



Six-pounder Hotchkiss gun.  
(Vancouver Gunners)



Hotchkiss gun holdfast.

**Issue:** The two gun emplacements at the Fort are highly significant military features, active during both the examination and counter-bombardment service, of singular design and construction, and both in good condition.

**Objective:** To stabilize and minimize negative impacts on the gun emplacements while allowing visitor use while considering possible future rehabilitation or restoration of No. 1 Gun emplacement in support of living history or other interpretive strategies or elements.

#### Conservation policy:

- Preserve both gun emplacements as highly significant components of military operations at the Fort and protect the significant relationships among its parts.
- Undertake repairs identified in the as-found survey and condition assessment document along with ongoing maintenance and monitoring for any further deterioration.
- Where possible within necessary roof repairs and long-term conservation, retain vegetation on the roof as a reflection of camouflage measures.
- Conduct selective tree limbing or limited removal to re-establish significant views from the gun emplacements.
- Consider implementing limited but more detailed conservation measures for No. 1 gun emplacement such as a combination of rehabilitation and restoration to allow parts of No. 1 gun emplacement to function as an area of enhanced interpretation.
- If re-instating railings as a safety measure use a design that is compatible with the military character of the structure and based on sound evidence.
- Consider covering ammunition storage with mesh and using as artifact display.
- Consider locating and re-mounting a 6" gun in its original location for interpretive purposes.

#### F4 Gun holdfasts

**Issue:** These two features are significant as reminders of the locations of the Hotchkiss gun and .50 Browning AA gun holdfasts and the methods used to secure them.

**Objective:** Retain as priority landscape features and maintain to minimize negative impacts on their heritage values.

#### Conservation policy:

- Preserve these elements as part of the cultural landscape.
- Undertake repairs identified in the as-found survey and condition assessment document along with ongoing maintenance and monitoring for any further deterioration of materials.
- Consider locating and re-mounting a Hotchkiss gun for interpretive purposes.

#### F5 Crew shelter and ammunition passage

**Issue:** The crew shelter is important for its use as accommodation for soldiers manning the guns. With the ammunition passage connecting to the adjacent gun shelters, it represents a direct and critical relationship between the

elements of the battery system.

**Objective:** Retain as a priority built feature within the Fort and maintain to minimize negative impacts on its heritage values.

**Conservation policy:**

- Designate the crew shelter as the place for authorized overnight stays by volunteers and other groups and establish protocols for its use. Prior to this use, establish the safety of the crew shelter for this use based on an engineering report.
- Preserve the building as part of the gun emplacement complex and its cultural landscape.
- Stabilize and consolidate any unsafe building parts.
- Undertake repairs identified in the as-found survey and condition assessment document along with ongoing maintenance and monitoring for any further deterioration of materials.
- Use interpretation to explore the function of and views through the small openings.

**F6 Fire command post**

**Issue:** The fire command post is a central and significant part of the Fort's defences. It consists of several of interconnected structures, each with its own, yet related, function. Its parts include the battery observation post, officers' shelter, searchlight directing station and naval signal communications station. A concrete apron and stairs, piled protective rock, and evidence of wooden staircases and Bofors gun on the roof are associated features. The interior of the command post had a concrete mount to hold the ranging instruments, telephones for communication and other technical equipment.

The relationships that exist between the individual parts and their functions to each other and to their surrounding landscape is a critical feature of the fire command post. Also important is the physical evidence of the command post's evolution over time.

**Objective:** To stabilize and minimize negative impacts on the fire command post while allowing visitor use, while considering possible future rehabilitation or restoration to be explored in support of living history or other interpretive strategies or elements.

**Conservation policy:**

- Preserve the fire command post as a highly significant component of military operations at the Fort and protect the significant relationships among its parts.
- Undertake repairs identified in the as-found survey and condition assessment document along with ongoing maintenance and monitoring for any further deterioration of materials.
- Restrict access to the roofs of the battery observation post and searchlight directing station while allowing non-damaging access to the roof of the naval signals station.
- Consider implementing limited but more detailed conservation measures such as a combination of rehabilitation and restoration to allow parts of the fire command post to function as an area of enhanced interpretation.



Orville Fisher sketch of scope inside searchlight directing station. (Vancouver Gunners)



Fire command post.



Interior of naval signals station. (Ross Keller)

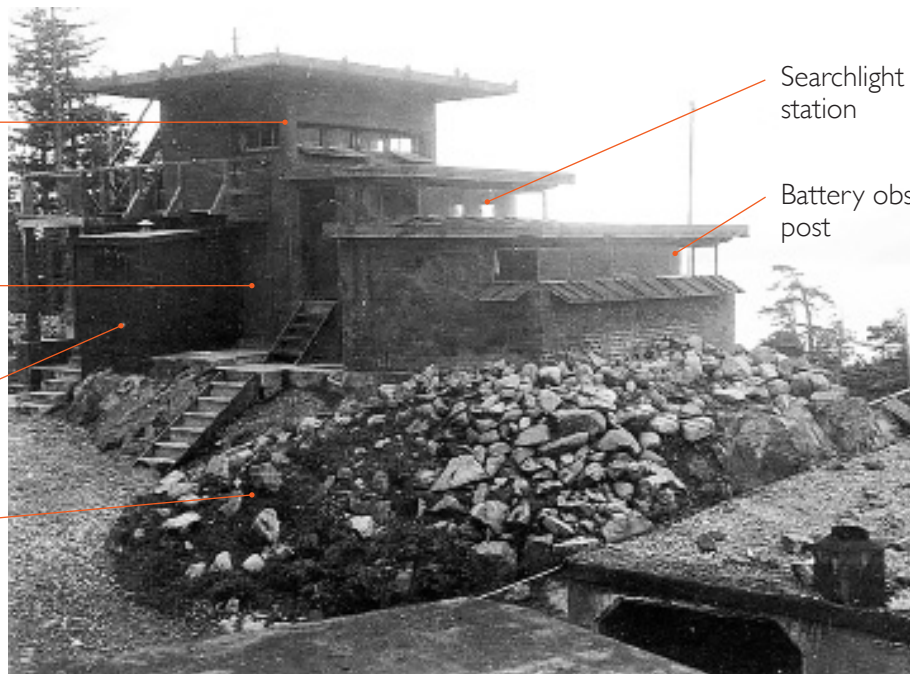


Naval signals station for communicating with ships at sea

Officers' shelter on lower level of signals station

Electrical room

Protective rock armour



Searchlight directing station

Battery observation post

Components of the fire command post. (Photo: Vancouver Gunners)

- Interpret interiors using imagery and artifacts such as the consolidated instrument panel or other features based on existing historical photographs and other information.
- Retain and conserve details such as instrument mounts, painted interiors and other character-defining materials and finishes.
- Retain evidence of the Bofors gun on roof.
- Replace barriers along the concrete apron using a design that is compatible with the structure and the wider cultural landscape and based on sound evidence.



Gun stores and workshop.

## F7 Gun stores and workshop

**Issue:** This building is important for its association with the earliest phase of construction at the Fort, for its brick building material and associated finishes.

**Objective:** Retain as a priority built feature within the Fort and maintain to minimize negative impacts on its heritage values.

### Conservation policy:

- Preserve the building as part of the Fort complex and its cultural landscape.
- Stabilize and consolidate any unsafe building parts.
- Undertake repairs identified in the as-found survey and condition assessment document along with ongoing maintenance and monitoring for any further deterioration of materials.



Walkway, magazine passage, concrete stairway and rock wall.

## F8 Walkway, magazine passage, concrete stairway, rock wall

**Issue:** These elements are important for conveying the way in which the Fort was designed to integrate into the rocky landscape and display internal views, materials, relationships, grade changes and the vertical configuration of elements adapted to the site.

**Objective:** Retain as priority landscape features and maintain to minimize negative impacts on its heritage values.

**Conservation policy:**

- Preserve these elements as part of the cultural landscape.
- Undertake repairs identified in the as-found survey and condition assessment document along with ongoing maintenance and monitoring for any further deterioration of materials.
- When re-instating railings as a safety measure use a design that is compatible with the military character of the structure and based on sound evidence.

**F9 New magazine, ammunition passage, laundry, oil store, stairway**

**Issue:** The new magazine and its associated ammunition passage and stairway have value as a substantial and functional building system related to military defence, while the adjacent laundry, oil store and stairway represent the day-to-day functioning of the military complex.

**Objective:** Retain as a priority built feature within the Fort and maintain to minimize negative impacts on its heritage values.

**Conservation policy:**

- Preserve the building complex, its connecting passages, stairs, materials and other features as part of the Fort complex and its cultural landscape.
- Stabilize and consolidate any unsafe building parts.
- Undertake repairs identified in the as-found survey and condition assessment document along with ongoing maintenance and monitoring for any further deterioration of materials.
- Replace mesh caps over shafts using a design that is compatible with the military character of the structure and based on sound evidence.
- Deter visitors from climbing and walking on the roof.
- When re-instating railings as a safety measure use a design that is compatible with the military character of the structure and based on sound evidence.

**F10 Machine gun store/grenade and small arms store**

**Issue:** This building is important for its association with the earliest phase of construction at the Fort, for its brick building material and associated finishes.

**Objective:** Retain as a priority built feature within the Fort and maintain to minimize negative impacts on its heritage values.

**Conservation policy:**

- Preserve the building as part of the Fort complex and its cultural landscape.
- Stabilize and consolidate any unsafe building parts.
- Undertake repairs identified in the as-found survey and condition assessment document along with ongoing maintenance and monitoring for any further deterioration of materials.

**F11 Old magazine**

**Issue:** The old magazine is important as a concrete structure purpose-built to



Laundry and stairs.



Interior of new magazine.



Machine gun store. (Heritageworks)





Soldier with dog in front of chain link fence.  
(Vancouver Gunners)



View of circulation through Fort.  
(Vancouver Gunners)



Circulation at the Fort.

store ammunition.

**Objective:** Retain as a priority built feature within the Fort and maintain to minimize negative impacts on its heritage values.

**Conservation policy:** Retain as a priority built feature within the Fort and maintain to minimize negative impacts on its heritage values.

- Preserve the building as part of the Fort complex and its cultural landscape.
- Stabilize and consolidate any unsafe building parts.
- Undertake repairs identified in the as-found survey and condition assessment document along with ongoing maintenance and monitoring for any further deterioration of materials.
- If the pathway is considered too dangerous for visitors, consider its decommissioning.

## F12 Remains of fence and gate

**Issue:** Much of the original chain-link fence and associated barbed wire that surrounded the Fort has collapsed and may present a site hazard. The fence is significant in defining the boundaries of the Fort, and the metal fence topped with razor wire is a very powerful physical image that evokes the critical nature of the Fort's defences.

**Objective:** To ensure that existing fence remains do not pose a hazard, and to utilize the fence and barbed wire imagery to define the Fort.

**Conservation policy:**

- Re-instate the remaining portion of the gate at the location of the entry to the Fort.
- Use interpretation to illustrate the extent and enclosure of the Fort.
- Consider the installation of distinguishable but compatible portions of the fence and safe wire coils as a non-sign way of clearly indicating the significance of crossing into the active defence precinct.

## F13 Circulation system

**Issue:** Site circulation features, such as the main entry road, various paths, passages, stairways and other elements are significant as a system of movement and connection between the various buildings and parts of the Fort, part of the spatial relationship between elements that is critical to its heritage value.

**Objective:** To physically expand an understanding of the Fort's circulation system and allow visitors to experience it.

**Conservation policy:**

- Clear vegetation and establish edges to restore entry road to its original configuration and width to give visitors a historical experience of arriving at the Fort.
- Preserve or rehabilitate historic paths, walkways, passages or stairs between buildings.
- Decommission any paths considered hazardous to visitors.

## F14 Slit trenches and manipulated landscape

**Issue:** Slit trenches, earth moving, piles of rock and other evidence of the

manipulation of the landscape at the Fort are important for understanding its defensive use, its design and methods of construction.

**Objective:** To reveal trenches and other landscape features and allow visitors to understand their functions and significance.

**Conservation policy:**

- Document and interpret the extent and arrangement of slit trenches and evidence of landscape manipulation at the Fort.
- Remove vegetation and stabilize, rehabilitate or restore features as needed so they are evident as components of the military cultural landscape.
- Control access to avoid deterioration.

# 5.0 Implementation

The following is a list of potential projects to take place on Yorke Island based on the as-found survey and condition assessment document and conservation policy. The schedule for the implementation of any project is contingent upon available resources.

## 5.1 Future projects

Time frame	Project
Immediate and ongoing	Develop a solid volunteer structure and recruitment strategy along with protocols to clarify the role and responsibility of volunteers and prepare a plan for their training, along with the use of Junior Rangers
Immediate to long-term	Undertake repairs identified in the as-found survey and condition assessment document based on the priorities outlined in that report and continue to use that document in conjunction with the conservation plan
Immediate to long-term	Pursue partnerships with museums, heritage groups, natural history groups, military organizations and funders as a way of continuing to achieve heritage conservation at Yorke Island by preparing a contact list and establishing an ongoing process of continuous contact
Immediate and ongoing	Monitor buildings, structures and landscape features for deterioration and site safety
Immediate	Develop protocol and plan for consultation with First Nations
Immediate	Undertake selective vegetation clearing to improve existing trails
Immediate	Design and installation of initial interpretive / acknowledgment sign
Short-term	Develop site access strategy to ensure visitation levels and types of uses are not negatively impacting the site's natural and cultural values
Short-term	Prepare a trail plan for the development of the future trail network
Short-term	Limbing or minimal selective tree removal to improve views
Short-term	Pursue National Historic Site designation
Short-term and ongoing	Prepare a list of potential future projects based on conservation policies and prioritize them based on need, available funding, staff and volunteers on a year-by-year basis
Short-term	Develop a monitoring and maintenance regime for buildings and landscape

Time frame	Project
Short-term	Improve access from beach arrival area including vegetation clearing, the relocation of the walkway and the repair of the concrete staircase
Short-term	Prepare phasing plan for interpretation based on available resources
Short to long-term	Detail design, fabrication and installation of interpretation in phases
Short-term	Undertake any repair or rehabilitation work to permit the crew shelter to be used for overnight stays
Short to long-term	General park improvements and amenities such as washrooms and site furnishings
Long-term	Stabilization and consolidation of Warrant Officers' Quarters
Ongoing	Salvage of materials as needed when repair work is being done on individual buildings and structures
Long-term	Rehabilitate fire command post for interpretive purposes
Long-term	Design and develop kayak campsite
Long-term	Install mooring buoy
Long-term	Archaeological investigation at the Camp
Long-term	Conservation of searchlight for interpretive purposes and potential overnight stays



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# Appendix A: Glossary of heritage terms

**Accessibility** The degree to which a historic place is easy to access by as many people as possible, including people with disabilities.

**Adaptive re-use** Conversion of a building into a use other than that for which it was designed, such as changing a power plant or warehouse into a gallery space or housing.

**Artifact** An object made by a human being, typically an item of cultural or historical interest.

**Biogeoclimatic Zone** A classification system used by the British Columbia Ministry of Forests for the Canadian province's many different ecosystems.

**Character-defining element (CDE)** The materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations or meanings that contribute to the heritage value of an historic place, which must be retained in order to preserve its heritage value.

**Conservation** All actions, interventions, or processes that are aimed at safeguarding the character-defining elements of a cultural resource so as to retain its heritage value and extend its physical life. This may involve preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, or a combination of these and other actions or processes.

**Consolidation** A treatment used to strengthen deteriorated materials to ensure their structural integrity or stabilizing degraded or weakened areas by introducing or attaching materials capable of holding them together.

**Cultural landscape** Any geographical area that has been modified, influenced, or given special cultural meaning by people.

- Designed cultural landscapes were intentionally created by human beings.
- Organically evolved cultural landscapes developed in response to social, economic, administrative, or religious forces interacting with the natural environment. They fall into two sub-categories:
- Relict landscapes in which an evolutionary process came to an end. Its significant distinguishing features are, however, still visible in material form.
- Continuing landscapes in which the evolutionary process is still in progress. They exhibit significant material evidence of their evolution over time.
- Associative cultural landscapes are distinguished by the power of their spiritual, artistic, or cultural associations, rather than their surviving material evidence.

**Demolition** is the systematic and deliberate destruction of a building (or fixture, chattel, and or equipment) or portion thereof. This includes not only removal of sections of buildings such as additions, wings and attached sheds but also integral design and structural components (both interior and exterior), surface finishes such as plaster or paneling, and design treatments such as store fronts, windows, and doors.

**Ecosystem** A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.

**Endangered species** Wildlife species facing imminent extirpation or extinction.

**Fabric** In conservation, fabric means all the physical material of a place that is the product of human activity.

**Habitat** (a) In respect of aquatic species, spawning grounds and nursery, rearing, food supply, migration and any other areas on which aquatic species depend directly or indirectly in order to carry out their life processes, or areas where aquatic species formerly occurred and have the potential to be reintroduced.

(b) In respect of other wildlife species, the area or type of site where an individual or wildlife species naturally occurs or depends on directly or indirectly in order to carry out its life processes or formerly occurred and has the potential to be reintroduced. (Canada Species at Risk Act)

**Heritage value** The aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social, or spiritual importance or significance for past, present, or future generations. The heritage value of an historic place is embodied in its character-defining materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses, and cultural associations or meanings.

**Indigenous** Native to a particular place.

**Inspection** A survey or review of the condition of an historic place and its elements to determine if they are functioning properly; to identify signs of weakness, deterioration or hazardous conditions; and to identify necessary repairs. Inspections should be carried out on a regular basis as part of a maintenance plan.

**Intangible Heritage** The practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills, as well as associated tools, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces that communities and groups recognize as part of their history and heritage.

**Integrity** Generally refers to material wholeness, completeness, and unimpaired condition of heritage values. In the case of natural heritage, ecosystem integrity relates to the completeness of an ecosystem in terms of its indigenous species, functions, and processes. An unfragmented and relatively undisturbed ecosystem has the most integrity.

**Interpretation, Interpretive Plan** A mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and meanings inherent in the resource, communicating messages and stories about cultural and natural heritage, and providing a wider understanding of our environment. (National Association for Interpretation)

**Intervention** Any action, other than demolition or destruction, that results in a physical change to an element of a historic place.

**Invasive Plant** A plant that is both non-native and able to establish on many sites, grow quickly, and spread to the point of disrupting plant communities or ecosystems.

**Landscape** An expanse of natural or human-made scenery, comprising landforms, land cover, habitats, and natural and human-made features that, taken together, form a composite.

**Maintenance** Routine, cyclical, non-destructive actions necessary to slow the deterioration of an historic place. It entails periodic inspection; routine, cyclical, non-destructive cleaning; minor repair and refinishing operations; replacement of damaged or deteriorated materials that are impractical to save.



**Mitigation** Conservation measures that can be implemented to eliminate or reduce a threat and its effects on a CDE, or to minimize the potential impact of a threat to a CDE. Site mitigation can involve avoiding the CDE through redesigning a proposed development or excavating only a percentage of the site.

**Monitoring** The systematic and regular inspection or measurement of the condition of the materials and elements of a CDE to document behaviour, performance, and rate of deterioration over time.

**Native** Wildlife species endemic (indigenous) or naturalized to a given area.

**Naturalized** A non-native species that does not need human help to reproduce and maintain itself over time in an area where it is not native. Naturalized plants often form the matrix for a novel ecosystem.

**Non-native** A species introduced with human help (intentionally or accidentally) to a new place where it was not previously found.

**Object** a discrete item that has heritage value and can be collected or conserved. See also Artifact.

**Scale** The sense of proportion or apparent size of a building or building element as created by the placement and size of the building in its setting.

**Sense of place** The feeling associated with a place, based on a unique identity and other memorable or intangible qualities.

**Site circulation** Movement patterns of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

**Species at risk** An extirpated, endangered, or threatened species or a species of special concern in Canada. (Canada Species at Risk Act) Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada (2nd edition, 2010 and any successors), Ottawa: Parks Canada.

**Statement of Significance (SOS)** A statement that identifies the description, heritage value, and character-defining elements of an historic place. A Statement of Significance is required in order for a historic place to be listed on the BC Register of Historic Places.

**Stewardship** Linked to the concept of sustainability, stewardship is an ethic that embodies responsible planning and management of cultural and natural resources.

**Streetscape** The visual elements of a street, including the pavement (dimensions, materials), sidewalks, adjoining buildings and open space frontages, street furniture, lighting, trees and plantings that combine to form the street's character.

**Sustainability** A group of objectives (economic, social, and environmental - the 'triple-bottom line') that must be coordinated and addressed to ensure the long term viability of communities and the planet.

**View or viewscape** What can be seen from an observation point to an object(s), particularly a landscape or building.

## Appendix B: Heritage conservation approaches

The following table defines range of possible heritage conservation approaches. For any heritage resource, one or a combination of approaches can be taken.

Conservation approach	Definition
<b>Recording / Documenting</b>	Objectively describing - through oral, written, graphic, photographic or other means - the present configuration and condition of an historic resource. This provides necessary basic data for the preparation of conservation research, analysis, design, and maintenance activities, as well as ensuring the historical or technical information contained in a site is not lost.
<b>Monitoring</b>	The systematic and regular inspection or measurement of the condition of the materials and elements of an historic place to determine their behavior, performance, and rate of deterioration over time. Monitoring is undertaken to ensure that adverse impacts on archaeological sites, buildings and structures, landscapes, and biological life-forms that could be evaluated prior to site alteration or construction activities are addressed. For archaeological sites, monitoring requires a licensed archaeologist; for other heritage resources, it should be carried out by appropriate heritage professionals.
<b>Maintenance</b>	The most primary form of conservation is a site and building maintenance program. It is the routine, cyclical, nondestructive actions necessary to slow the deterioration of an historic place. It entails periodic inspection; routine, cyclical, non-destructive cleaning; minor repair and refinishing operations; replacement of damaged or deteriorated materials that are impractical to save.
<b>Mothballing</b>	The temporary closure of a building or other structure to protect it from the weather and secure it from vandalism. It is intended to safeguard a character-defining element over an extended period until such time as it is decided to proceed with conservation.
<b>Stabilization</b>	A minimum amount of work done to safeguard a resource from the elements and/or destruction and to protect the public from danger. This work may involve emergency structural reinforcing, cabling (with trees), protective coverings, or hoardings. Stabilization is often undertaken to preserve the character-defining element for future heritage conservation work.
<b>Repair</b>	The process of returning a character-defining element to its prior condition when it has undergone changes attributed to failure, decline, wear, normal use, or abuse. A repair action does not alter or enhance the integrity, character, performance, or design intent of the heritage feature. Repair may include patching of existing components using technologically compatible materials and methods, limited replacement in-kind of components, complete replacement in kind of a component when the degree of change it has undergone precludes any other type of action.

<b>Conservation approach</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Preservation</b>	The action or process of protecting, maintaining, and/or stabilizing the existing materials, form, and integrity of a historic place or of an individual component, while protecting its heritage value.
<b>Restoration</b>	<p>The process of accurately revealing, recovering, or representing the state of a historic place or of an individual component, as it appeared at a particular period in its history, as accurately as possible, while protecting its heritage value.</p> <p>Restoration is considered the primary treatment when the significance of a particular place during a particular time period significantly outweighs the loss of existing character-defining elements from other periods, and if there is substantial evidence of its appearance at an earlier time.</p>
<b>Rehabilitation</b>	<p>The action or process of making possible a continuing or compatible contemporary use of a historic place or landscape, or of an individual component, while protecting its heritage value. Rehabilitation makes possible an efficient contemporary use while retaining those portions and features which are significant to the resource's heritage values. New work is designed to be physically and visually compatible with and distinguishable from, the original historic place. For landscapes, rehabilitation is the most common intervention, as it allows changes necessary to satisfy present-day demands upon the site.</p> <p>In continued use rehabilitation, changes are made to a historic place that continues to be used for its original purpose. In adaptive re-use, the historic place is converted to a new use.</p>
<b>Consolidation</b>	The physical addition or application of adhesive or supportive materials to ensure continued durability or to protect the structural integrity of the heritage resource. Consolidation is most frequently undertaken when structural elements have deteriorated to a point where the future of the resource is jeopardized.
<b>Reconstruction</b>	A building, site feature, or artifact that no longer exists is reproduced with new construction that exhibits the shape, material, and detailing (and often construction methods) of the resource as it once appeared. Good documentary information without conjecture is essential in order to justify a reconstruction. With landscapes, planning should consider the age and arrangement of vegetation, allowing for growth and maintenance to continue an appearance that replicates the historical period.
<b>Replication</b>	Making an exact copy of portions of an existing structure, feature, or artifact, usually to replace a missing or decayed component in order to maintain aesthetic unity and harmony. Replication is often used for cosmetic reasons in restoration work. If valuable cultural property is being threatened or damaged irretrievably by its environment, it may have to be moved to a more protected environment. A replica may be substituted in order to maintain heritage integrity and the unity of a site or building.

<b>Conservation approach</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Interpretation</b>	A process of communicating messages about cultural and natural heritage, or telling stories about a place, that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and meanings inherent in the resource. The presentation can relate to the way the place is now, has been, used, seen, touched, smelled and tasted, giving impact to evocative stories and meanings. The range of interpretive techniques is vast, and can include such things as interpretive signs, the retention of parts of buildings or structures, interpretive interventions designed into new construction, site furnishings, landscape design, planting, artifacts, features embedded into the landscape, public art, hands-on techniques, audio, video and many others.
<b>Renovation</b>	Occurs when extensive changes and/or additions are made to an existing building internally and externally in order to 'renew' the structure. Cultural landscapes can also be renovated. These changes are often made in response to the need for more space, repair, general improvements, or lifestyle considerations.
<b>Re-use or symbolic conservation</b>	Re-using or reinstalling components of deteriorated buildings, structures or landscapes in-situ, elsewhere on the site or in another location. Symbolic conservation refers to the recovery of unique heritage resources and incorporating those components into new development, or using a symbolic design method to depict a theme or remembrance of the past.
<b>Managed decline or ruinification</b>	Allows a character-defining element to remain on site and slowly degrade or deteriorate rather than be moved or demolished. Some heritage resources cannot be reused and the cost of repair cannot always be justified. The long-term solution for these is one of managed decline once the historic significance of the asset has been carefully recorded. Over the long-term the natural forces of nature are used to allow the site to become a historic ruin. The first phase of managed decline typically involves carefully documenting the character-defining elements and then removing but storing in situ salvageable or unsafe parts of the building or structure. Documenting the process of decline is an important component of site interpretation. It is managed through measures such as temporary scaffolding or supports using appropriate historical elements, and maintenance such as removal of leaves and debris, to prolong the life of the resource and celebrate its disappearance.
<b>Deconstruction or salvage</b>	<p>The process of retaining and protecting from deterioration historic fabric or elements that have been removed from their original context. Selected parts of a building or landscape are protected for renovation or reuse, consisting of actions to carefully dismantle and reassemble building, structure, or artifact; in situ if possible, but often ex situ on another site.</p> <p>This process is often undertaken out of structural necessity, for the protection of significant individual features from permanent loss, to repair deteriorated material, to observe historic construction techniques or protect materials for future re-use. The term also applies to natural heritage and landscape values such as plants.</p>



