ARCHSITE
archaeological site recording scheme

Site Record Form

NZAA SITE NUMBER: P04/582

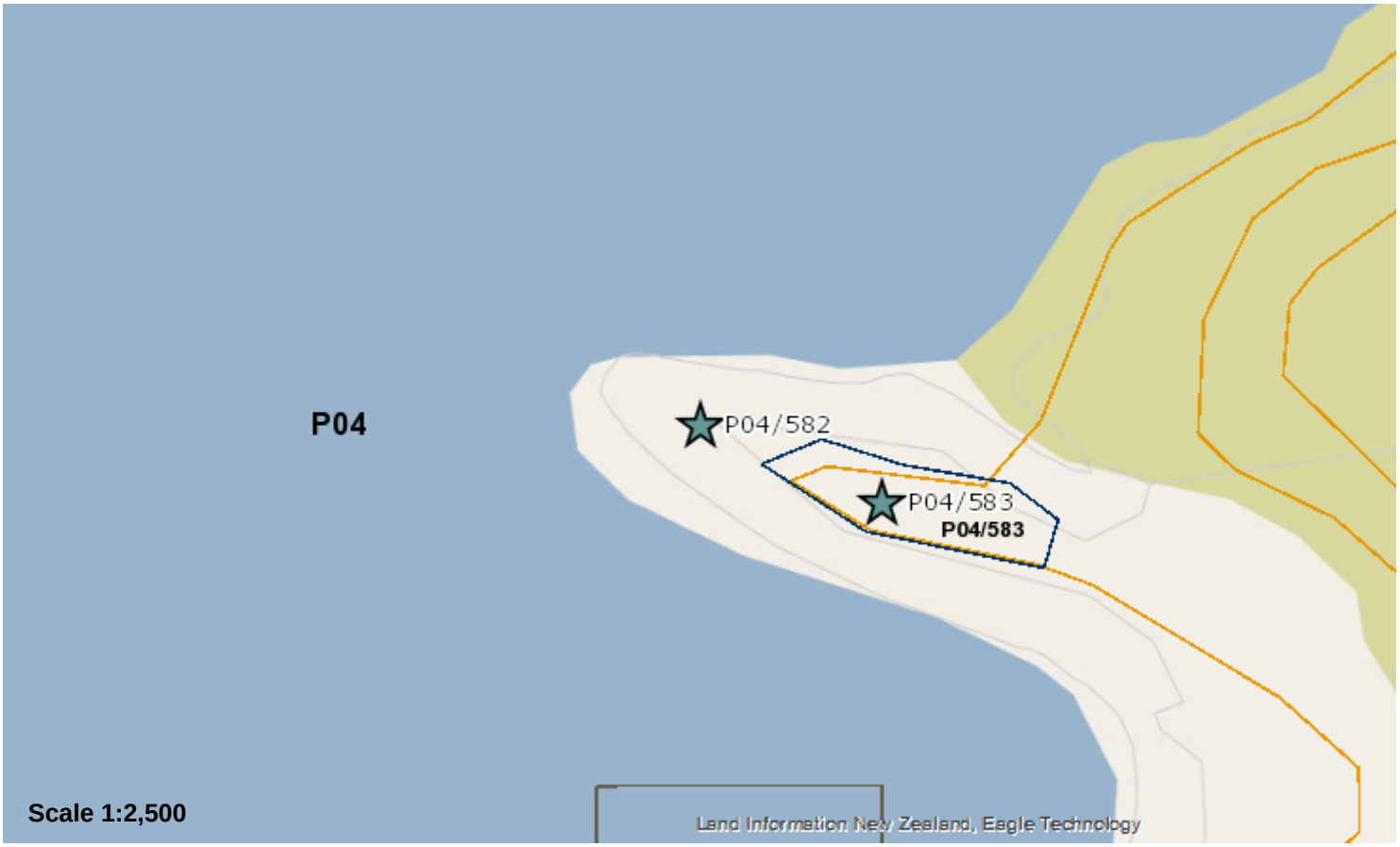
SITE TYPE: Military (non-Maori)

SITE NAME(s):

DATE RECORDED:

SITE COORDINATES (NZTM) Easting: 1668937 **Northing:** 6125452 **Source:** On Screen

IMPERIAL SITE NUMBER: **METRIC SITE NUMBER:** P04/582



Finding aids to the location of the site

The site is on the headland at the entrance to Kingfish Bay.

Brief description

Gun emplacement.

Recorded features

Gun emplacement

Other sites associated with this site

Printed by: 05/01/2020

SITE RECORD HISTORY	NZAA SITE NUMBER: P04/582

Site description

Updated: 13/04/2011 - NZTM E1668937/ N6125452 (On Screen).

The first promontory on the eastern shore inside the harbour is Oheia or Kingfish Point, named for the excellence of the fishing here.

On the end of Kingfish Point is the concrete gun emplacement of the Whangaroa Battery. Two 60-pound field guns were placed here as an immediate response to the invasion threat following the entry of Japan into the Second World War in 1941. A concrete emplacement for a six-inch gun was begun in May 1942 and completed by August 1942, though the gun was in place and test fired in July. The gun was crewed by the Royal New Zealand Artillery until November 1943, when the gun was removed.

There was no connection between the Army gun battery here and the Navy mine control station on the other side of the harbour entrance. Communication between the two was by telephone connected through Wellington (or by rowing across!)

Site viewed from boat on several occasions during 2008 and 2009. The gun emplacement, from c.50 m away, appears to be in good condition, athough it now has a navigation beacon attached to the top of the 'lid' of the emplacement. It is also said to be used by guests at Kingfish Lodge, the nearby resort, for skeet shooting.

Updated by: Park, Stuart.

Updated: 11/02/2013 - In Defence of Our Land:A tour of New Zealands Historic Harbour Forts - by Russell Glackin, 2009 pg 120 states that the battery was completed in August 1943, though acknowledges presence of a 6 inch Mk VII naval gun from 1942. Battery included a magazine, war shelters, observation post and an electricity generating plant, barrack accomodation and a landing jetty. All construction materials are said to have been barged on site due to lack of roads.

Condition of the site

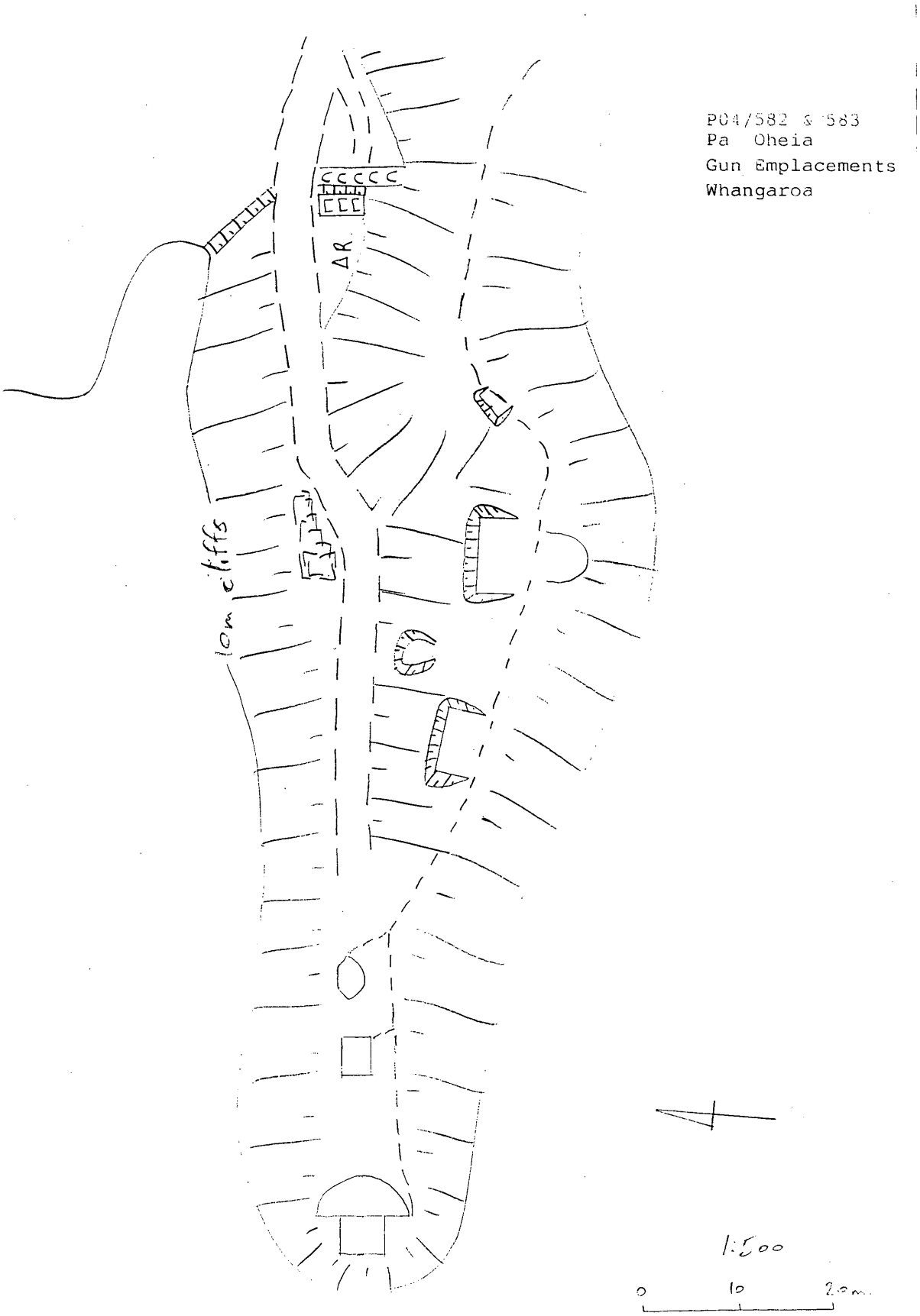
Statement of condition

Current land use:

Threats:

SITE RECORD INVENTORY	NZAA SITE NUMBER: P04/582

Supporting documentation held in ArchSite



NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

SITE DESCRIPTION FORM

Map Number m P04
Map Name Whangaroa
Map Edition 1st 1984
Grid Reference 798874

SITE NUMBER P04/582

SITE NAME: MAORI / OTHER Kingfish Point

SITE TYPE Gun Emplacement

On the end of Kingfish Point, 15m asl, a concrete gun site has a 200° field of fire, looking NE out the harbour entrance, W to Pekapeka Bay and upharbour to the SW. A concrete roof covers the inner part and recess which has a series of lockers built into the rear wall.
10m East is a concrete observation post, interior 4 x 3m. This is sunk 1.5m into the point and has a 300mm deep windows looking out.
4m further East is an open gun site with no roof or shelter. The floor is sunk a metre into the point. It measures 4 x 3m with a circular gun footing.
A foot track along the southern side of the point links these sites to two sheds and continues to the bay and jetty.
The western shed stood in a 6 x 3m terrace, dug 3m deep into the slope. The eastern shed stood in a 7 x 4m terrace and its concrete floor, 6 x 3.5m, survives. Both these sheds show on a 1953 Whites Aviation oblique of Kingfish Lodge. Between the sheds is a rough terrace/hole, about 4 x 4m and dug 4m deep into the steep slope.

The 1948 aerial shows a jetty and 2 or 3 buildings in the bay and a vehicle track from the bay to the gun emplacements. There is a concrete weir in the stream behind the lodge, presumably the WWII water supply.

Believed to have been built by Mr Watts of Gray Watts & Beca, civil engineers.

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

SITE RECORD FORM (NZMS 260)

NZMS 260 map number P04
NZMS 260 map name Whangaroa
NZMS 260 map edition 1st 1984

NZAA METRIC SITE NUMBER P04/582
DATE VISITED 4 July 97
SITE TYPE Gun Emplacement
SITE NAME: MAORI / OTHER Kingfish Point

Grid References Easting 2,5 7 9 8 5 , 0 Northing 6,6 8 7 4 0 , 0

1. Aids to relocation of site *(attach a sketch map)*

The end of Kingfish Point, by walking track from Kingfish Lodge in the bay South of the point.

2. State of site and possible future damage

The concrete survives in good condition. Slight erosion of soil from behind some of the concrete work.

3. Description of site *(Supply full details, history, local environment, references, sketches, etc. If extra sheets are attached, include a summary here)*

Site description forms attached.
Plan
Photos.

4. Owner [redacted]
Address

Tenant/Manager
Address

5. Nature of information *(hearsay, brief or extended visit, etc.)* Visit

Photographs *(reference numbers, and where they are held)* Attached.

Aerial photographs *(reference numbers, and clarity of site)* 1861/28-29, 1948, clearly
Whites Aviation oblique, 1953, clearly.

6. Reported by [redacted]
Address

Filekeeper [redacted]
Date 25/7/97.

7. Key words 2 gun emplacements, observation post, tracks, sheds.

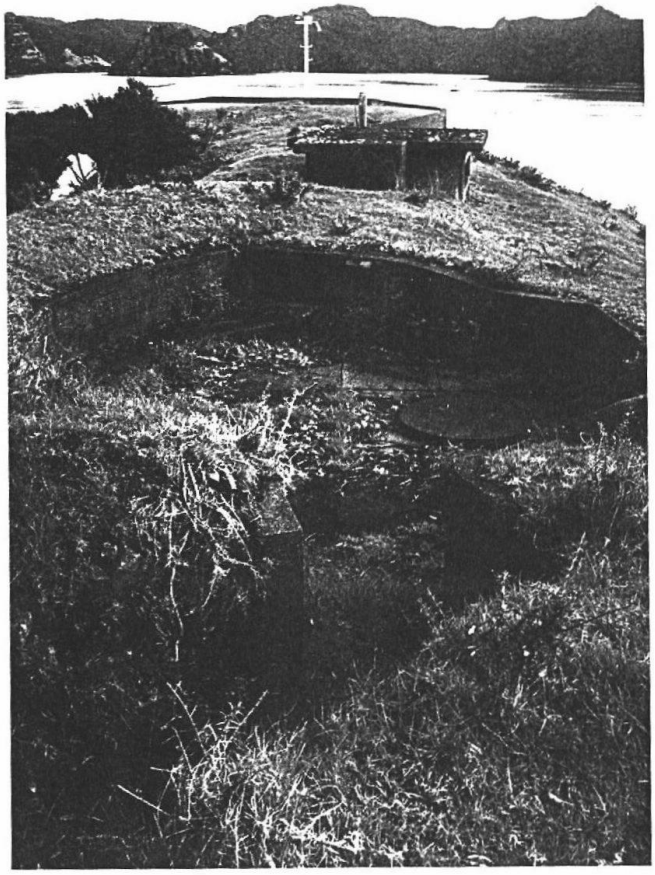
8. New Zealand Register of Archaeological Sites *(for office use)*
NZHPT Site Field Code

Latitude S

E	D	Type of site
–	–	Local environment today
A	H	Land classification

Longitude E

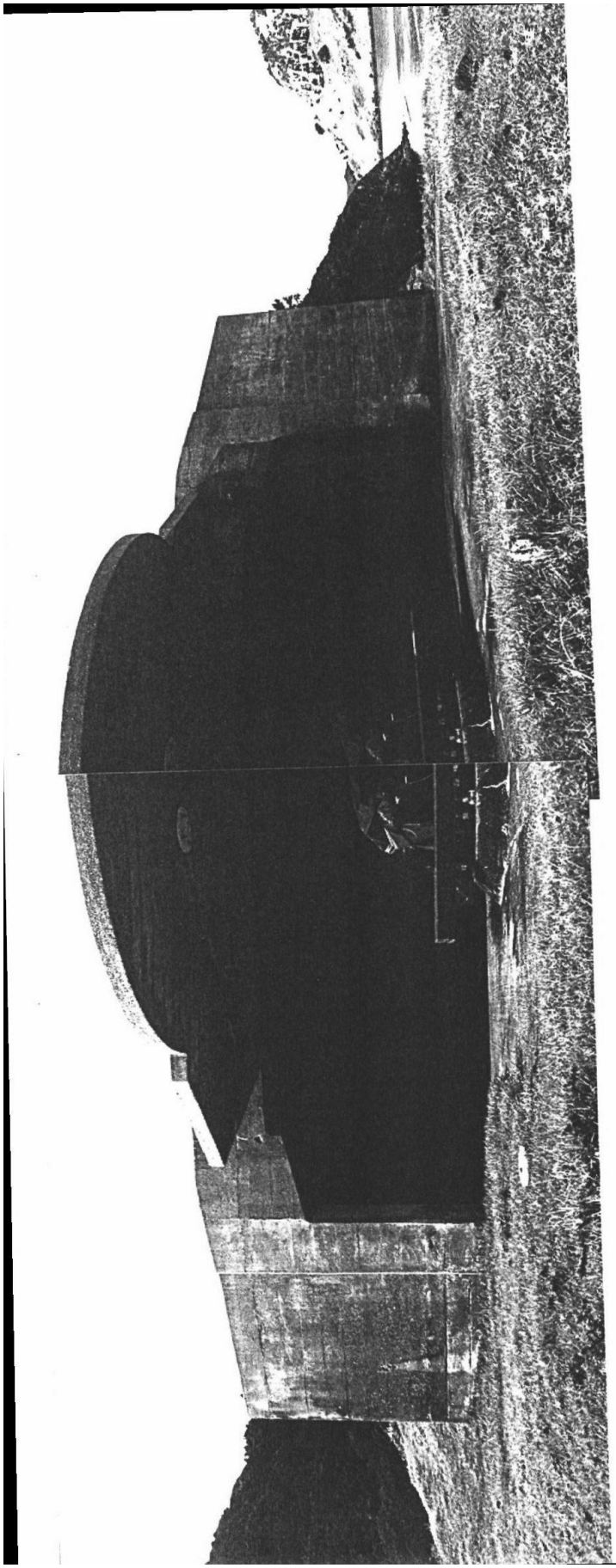
A	A	Present condition and future danger of destruction
–	–	Security code
M	A	Local body



P04/582
Gun emplacements

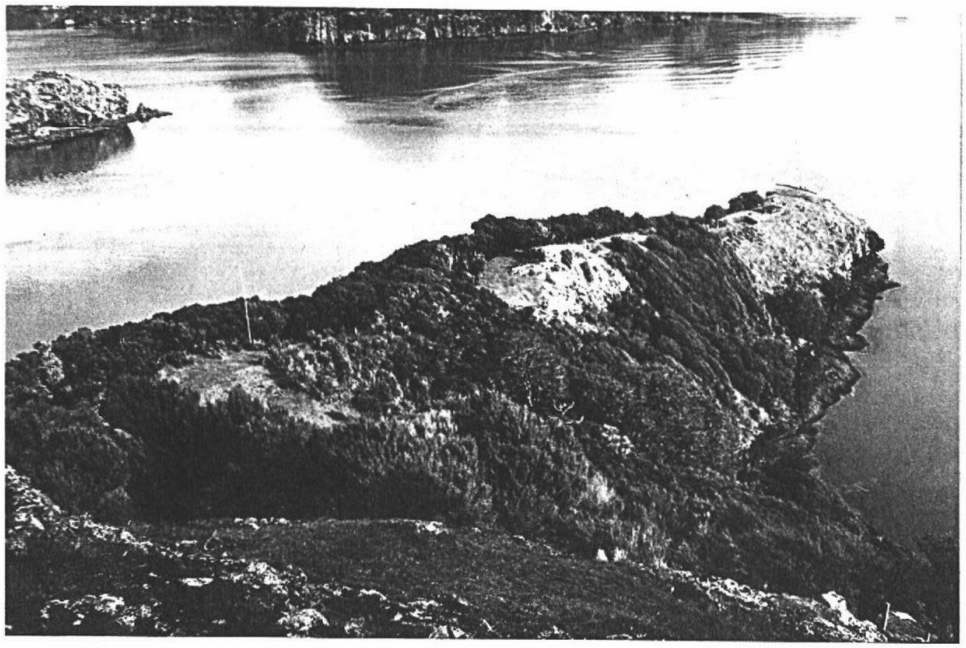
Looking West along the point,

closest the smaller emplce-
ment
middle the observation post
far the roof of the largest
emplacement
distant Pekapeka Bay



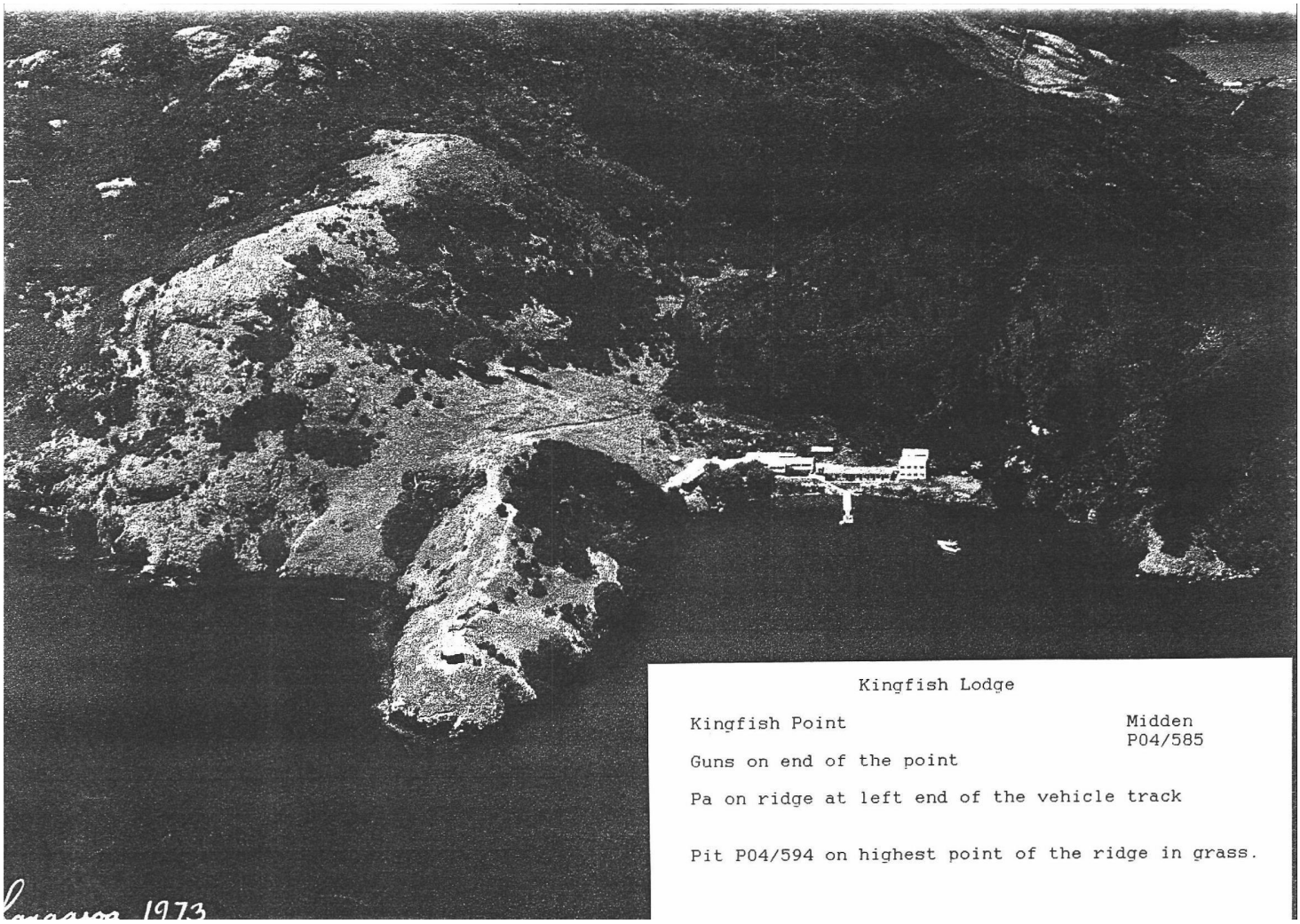
P04/582

The largest gun emplacement right at the end of the poin looking into it.



for P04/582 and 583

Kingfish Point from 80m asl.
The gun emplacements are among the grass at the end of the point. The ditch/bank of the pa is in the left hand patch of grass, to the left of the radio mast visible against the teatree.


Kingfish Lodge
Kingfish Point
Midden
P04/585
Guns on end of the point
Pa on ridge at left end of the vehicle track
Pit P04/594 on highest point of the ridge in grass.