3.0 Physical Evidence

3.1 Introduction

The physical survey of Point Peron “K” Battery site has been prepared with reference to the available documentary evidence and on an assessment of the existing fabric at the site. The objectives of the survey are to assess the extent of extant fabric and its condition and to determine the extent of conservation works required to safeguard these structures from further deterioration.

3.2 The Site

Point Peron “K” Battery is located atop of the Cape Peron headland which is approximately 5kms west of Rockingham City Centre. The area forms part of the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park which consists of a network of environmentally significant lands including coastal, wetlands and upland ecosystems. Cape Peron, or Point Peron as it is more commonly known, was originally an island which has progressively been connected to the mainland through sand accumulation and forms part of the Quindalup Dune System that extends from Dongara to Geographe Bay.

The site has undergone some alteration during the last 20 years through the removal of the former Barracks buildings on the north eastern side of the cape, the introduction of formal roadways, parking areas and walkways through and around the site. Despite these modifications, the site remains as a predominantly natural environment with only the remnant WW2 infrastructure placed at strategic points around the site.

Point Peron Camp School is located to the south east of the site and does not form part of the conservation management plan boundary. The approach to Point Peron is along a fairly straight country road, Point Peron Road, passing Mangles Bay Fishing Club, Rockingham Naval Club, Rockingham Volunteer Sea Rescue Group and holiday accommodation. Sparse development can be found to the south of Point Peron Road along Memorial Drive but much of this headland area remains as natural bush. The causeway leading out to Garden Island is accessed from the north of Point Peron Road and whilst this access way is outside the boundaries of the Point Peron reserve it forms part of the view from Point Peron.

Figure 46: **Site Plan**

3.3 Description of the Surviving fabric

Point Peron “K” Battery is a discrete WWII coastal defence station. From ground level only the upper sections of the Observation Tower can be seen. The other elements of the remaining infrastructure can only be seen from within the site and much is obscured by the natural undulations of the topography.

The visible and accessible elements of the extant infrastructure are:

- Observation Post
- Operations Bunker
- Gun Emplacement 1 (south) and associated ammunition bunker
- Gun Emplacement 2 (north) and associated ammunition bunker
- Concrete water tank (possibly from the former Barracks or later use of the same buildings)
- Remnant well
- Debris from the removed Barracks

The extant WWII infrastructure is all of the same construction methodology utilising a palette of brick and concrete expressed in a very functional and restrained manner. Many of the structures are partially submerged and have become susceptible to sand infill.

Figure 47: Site Plan with aerial photograph
Courtesy Nearmap 2015

3.3.1 Observation Post

The Observation Post is the first structure that the majority of visitors to the site come to. It accessed via a steep set of steps leading up from the car park at the foot of the site. The steps are not an original feature as earlier aerial views appear to show that the access was via a dirt path leading up from the base of the hill.

Figure 48: Observation Post and Operations Bunker
Courtesy Nearmap, 2015

Figure 49: Observation Post - East Elevation

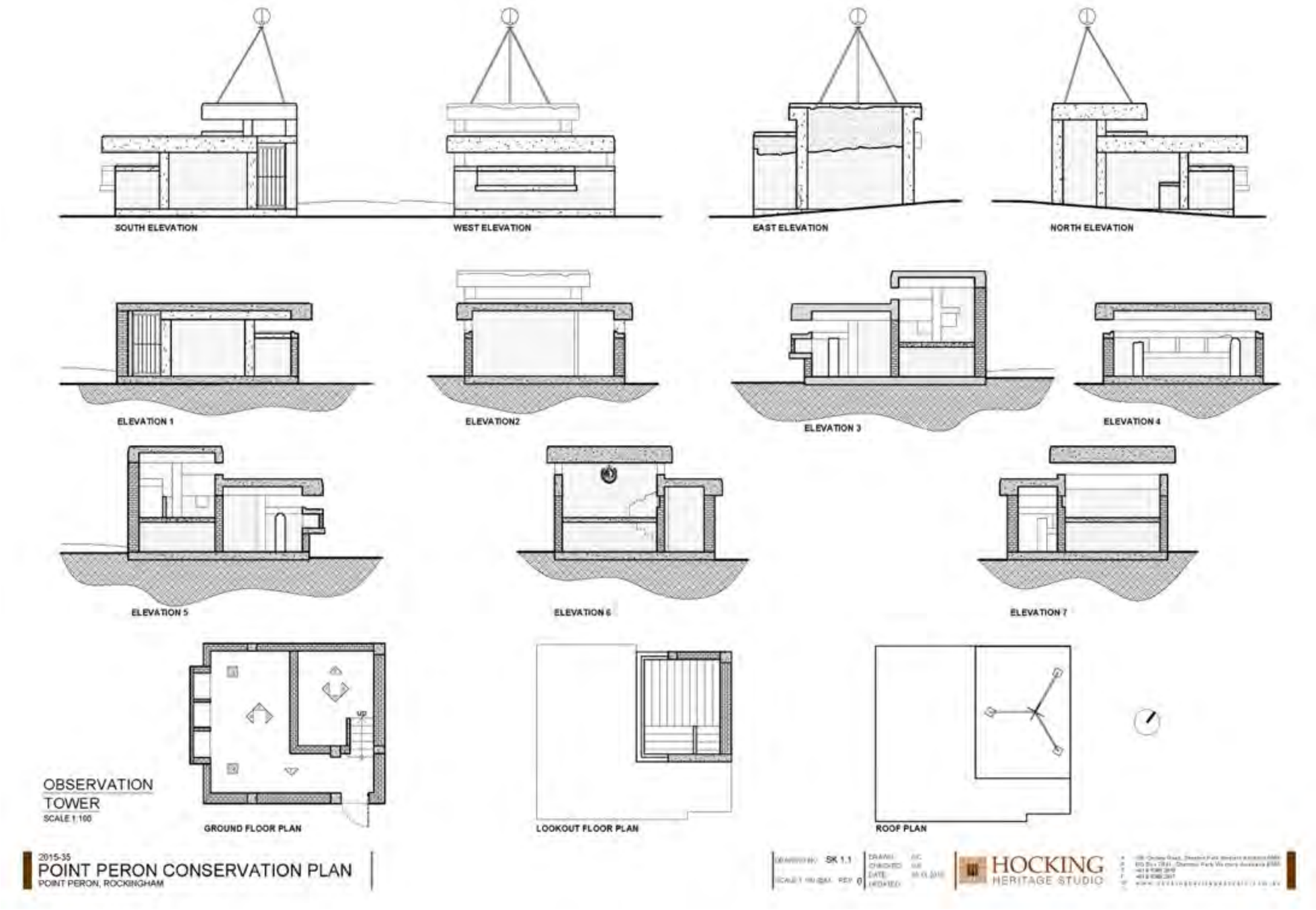

Figure 50: **Observation Post**
Hocking Heritage Studio, 2015

Figure 51: Steps leading from car park to Observation Post

The Observation Post is essentially a simple square building with a flat roof of brick and concrete construction. Originally the structure presented in its more natural form of unpainted finish as illustrated in the photographs below but has been subjected to graffiti on a regular basis which was harming the brick and concrete finish and has since been painted to try and reduce the impacts of graffiti.

Figure 52: Observation Post before being painted, c.2009
Courtesy: http://perthurbex.livejournal.com/2393.html

The Observation Post structure is constructed with a reinforced concrete frame with brick infill panels, concrete ledges and concrete flat roof. The internal floors and stairs are also of concrete construction.

Figure 53: Observation Post - East and North Elevations

When approaching the observation tower from the steps you are faced with the blank wall of the east elevation. The elevation has been painted green in an attempt to reduce the impact of graffiti which has served to obscure the differentiation between the construction materials. The two concrete columns supporting the roof structure are visible on closer inspection but the clear distinction between the materials has been lost. The upper section of this wall also contains remnant render which is not visible on any of the other elevations. The brickwork laid in English Garden Bond is visible under the paint finish.

Figure 54: Observation Post - East Elevation

Figure 55: English Garden Bond Brickwork

The east elevation is the rear of the structure and presents with no activation. The elevation is stepped in terms of roof height with the lower section corresponding to the ground floor area of the structure and the higher level being the stairs to the upper section. The upper section of the east elevation has been rendered at an earlier stage, with the brick and mortar below this level being in variable condition. The reinforced concrete framework is also showing signs of deterioration.

The south elevation contains the entrance and part of the open viewing window, known as an embrasure.

Figure 56: Observation Post – South Elevation

As is discernible from the east elevation, the land levels around the building alter, falling away towards the south resulting in a step up into the structure. The ground slab is reinforced concrete with the concrete frame and brick walls built on top. The flat roofs are constructed from concrete. The roofs have footprints pressed into the concrete. It is presumed the footprints belong to the infantry that helped construct the building in 1942.

Figure 57: **Entrance into Observation Post**

Figure 58: Observation opening

Figure 59: South Elevation

The south elevation is simply presented with few details breaking up the brickwork. The entrance into the building is located in the south east corner with metal grille gate recently added to prevent general access into the structure. The concrete slab overhang forming the roof to the ground level part of the structure extends around much of this elevation, projecting beyond the brick wall by approximately 15cms. The roof slab projects over the viewing window creating a sheltered narrow observation opening. A similar, but smaller, arrangement can be found on the upper level of the structure.

Figure 60: West Elevation - Observation Opening

The west elevation is the principal façade of the structure with clear observations over the coast line. The observation opening, embrasure, extends across the full width of the elevation before returning along the north and south walls. Immediately below the opening on the west elevation is a projecting storage area of brick and concrete construction which is in poor condition.

Research has shown that in similar structures, the ground level often came up to the bottom of these projection or slightly above providing support. Over time the ground level has eroded or has been manually removed to provide a flat walking surface around the structure which has removed all support for the projecting element. As a consequence, the weight of the projecting storage area is pulling the wall away from the rest of the structure which is evident in the cracking seen along the brick joints.

Figure 61: Underside of Concrete Overhang to Observation Opening

The construction of the concrete roof and framework is evident on the west elevation with the underside of the overhanging roof/ceiling projecting out above the observation opening. The concrete is beginning to erode resulting in small pieces breaking off and revealing the reinforcing steel underneath. The embrasure opening is strengthened by the reinforced concrete framework.

Figure 62: North Elevation

The north elevation is similar to the south elevation in terms of construction and presentation albeit with no entrance door. Again the concrete framework is visible with brick infill panels. A low level section towards the western end of the elevation has also been in filled. As the structures were decommissioned all the military equipment and installations were removed resulting in brick infill.

Figure 63: North Elevation – western corner being pulled away from the main elevation

The construction method of the structure is very basic, possibly reflective of the required haste in erecting these buildings. The basic form of the building comprises the reinforced concrete framework with the brick infill panels. The weakness being that the brick sections are not keyed into the concrete frame. Concrete slab top layers to the brick walls around the embrasure opening provide some structural strength but as the image above demonstrates, the weight of the projecting storage section to the west elevation is pulling the brickwork away and has caused cracking in the concrete top layer around the opening.

Figure 64: **North Elevation – brick infill panel**

Figure 65: North Elevation – concrete overhang to the roofs providing protection to the observation openings

Figure 66: **Non-original antenna**

Figure 67: Ground level interior

The interior of the Observation Post is equally simple in its presentation as the exterior. The walls are brick which has been painted though the concrete framework remains discernible. The concrete slab floor has been covered with square concrete pavers. The slab construction of the roof creates a panelled effect.

Remnant observation mounts remain extant in the north-west and south-west corners. The mounts are reinforced concrete columns positioned close to the walls but allowing enough room for movement of the instruments and for the operating personnel.

A three section storage section is incorporated into the west wall below the viewing opening. The storage area has a reinforced concrete top and bottom with brick divisions and brick outer walls.

Figure 68: **Concrete slab ceiling**

Figure 69: Stairs to upper level

Access to the upper level is via a set of six concrete steps positioned to the rear of the ground floor space.

Figure 70: Australian Engineers Insignia

The Australian Engineer’s insignia is painted onto the east wall. As the internal wall has been painted over during the decades, the insignia has also been painted to make the moulding and wording stand out.

The interior of the Observation Post is painted pale green but a bright pale blue can be seen under the green paint in places.

Figure 71: Reinforced concrete observation mounts

Figure 72: **Storage incorporated into the west wall**

Figure 73: Storage areas incorporated into the north wall of the upper level

The upper level of the Observation Post takes the same form as the ground level with the brick and concrete construction being painted and the concrete slabs creating a panelled look to the ceiling. The floor has not been covered with the concrete laid in long narrow slabs,

Small storage areas have been constructed into the north wall.

The entire space is full of debris and has been subjected to graffiti.

Figure 74: Concrete slab roof

3.3.2 Operations Bunker

Figure 75: Observation Post and Operations Bunker
Courtesy Nearmap, 2015

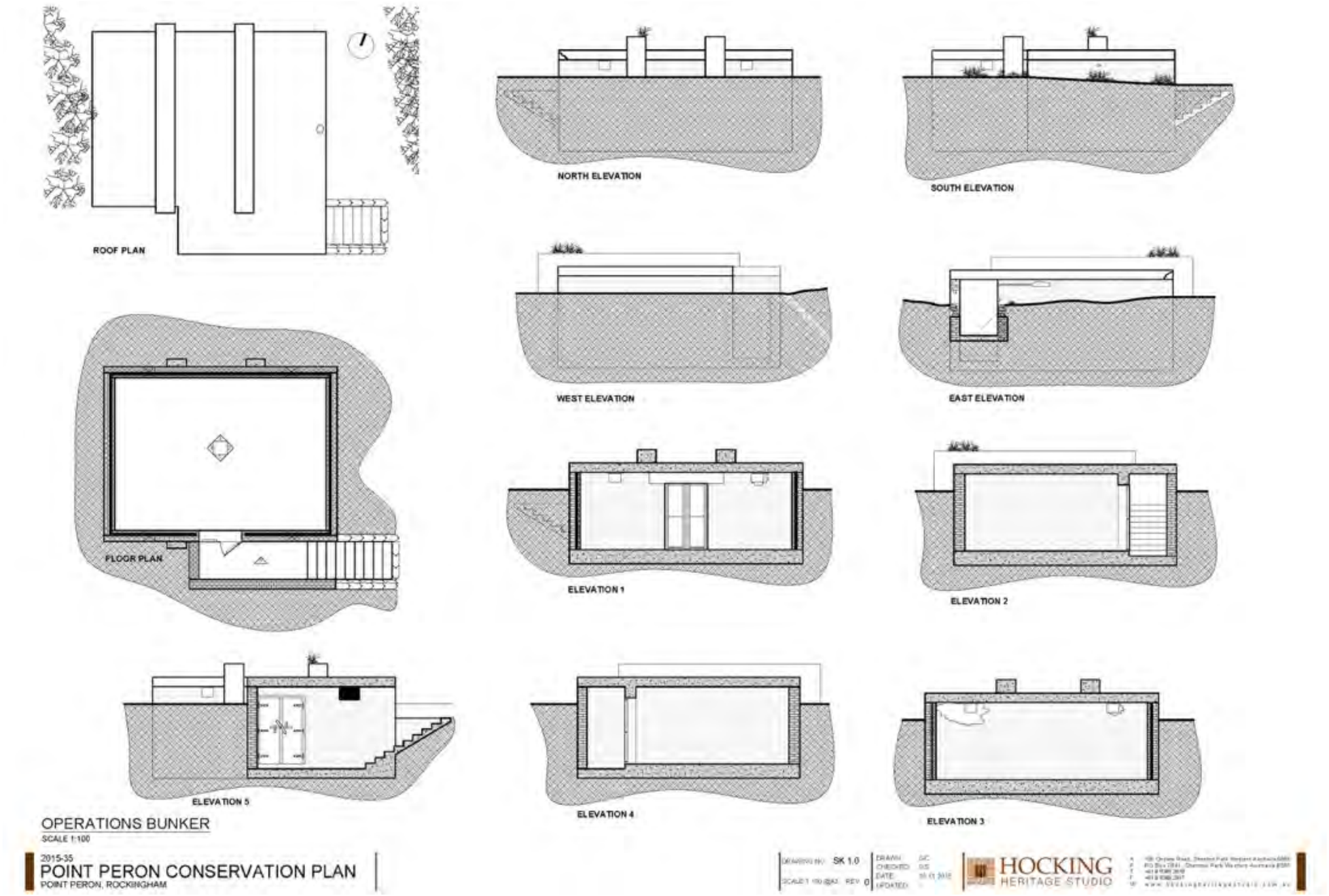

Figure 76: Operations Bunker Plans and Elevations

The Operations Bunker is located to the north east of the Observation Post, submerged in the topography of the sand dune landscape and is located to the west of the pathway and at a lower level than the path. A sandy track leads from the pathway to the structure.

Figure 77: Operations Bunker

As with all the structures remaining on the site, the Operations Bunker is of brick and concrete construction. Much of the walling is below ground level, providing the protection that these buildings required.

The Operations Bunker is principally a simple rectangular shape with a narrow projecting entrance to the south of the main structure.

Externally, the Operations Bunker is a plain and simple building with painted brick elevations and concrete roof with raised roof beams. There is little activation around the building apart from the submerged entrance on the east elevation.

Figure 78: Operations Bunker – steps down to the entrance

The entrance structure is located on the south of the Operations Bunker but accessed from the east. The actual entrance is located at the far end of the access tunnel, which in turn is accessed via a flight of brick and concrete steps. The tunnel and entrance have recently been cleared from sand accumulation with sandbags placed around the retaining walls and top step in an attempt to reduce the amount of sand that accumulates in the void.

A metal grille gate has been installed at the foot of the steps to prevent general access into the entrance.

Figure 79: Operations Bunker – Roof plan

The roof of the Operations Bunker is reinforced concrete slab with raised reinforced concrete beams extending across the roof in a north-south direction, across the main structure only.

The layered blocks of the concrete are visible in the reinforced beams, each being three slabs high with a roughcast concrete top layer. Sand accumulation around the base of the beams is allowing for grass growth along the beams.

Figure 80: **Operations Bunker – Roof plan**

Figure 81: **Operations Bunker – North wall**

Figure 82: **Operations Bunker – Reinforced concrete roof beam**

Figure 83: Operations Bunker – Roof inscription

A roof inscription has been incorporated into the top screed on the roof stating that the Operations Bunker was constructed by the 29th ?? Section.

Figure 84: Operations Bunker – west elevation

The majority of the walls have been painted in an attempt to hide existing graffiti and to try and reduce additional graffiti. The north and west elevations have not been painted and still present in the original brick and concrete form, again covered in graffiti.

The west elevation is largely submerged in the sand dune but the top ten brick courses are visible with an extensive crack extending along the full extent of the elevation, following the mortar joints. The crack is caused by the failure of the steel bar reinforcement in the brickwork which has rusted and expanded causing the brickwork to move and become loose. Brick from the north west corner are missing which will contribute to the continued deterioration of the brickwork and enlargement of the crack.

Figure 85: Operations Bunker – Openings in north wall

Small openings have been incorporated into the north wall, positioned one brick course below the concrete slab and are four bricks deep and approximately 1.5 bricks wide. Such holes often had a dual purpose of providing ventilation into the space but also to provide low level observations.

The brickwork immediately to the west of the opening, closest to the west elevation, is deteriorating. Bricks are missing with much of the damage being caused by the rusting and failing reinforcing steel. Previous repairs have been carried out with some evidence of localised repointing.

Figure 86: Operations Bunker – Openings in north elevation and remnant fabric

A further opening of the same dimensions is located towards the eastern end of the north elevation with much of the brickwork around the opening being in poor condition, with the faces of the bricks having spalled and fallen off and large chunks of brick have broken off from the around the opening. A three-sided brick element is laying on the ground adjacent to the opening. This element was originally attached to the north elevation around the opening allowing for ventilation to enter the building. This element was not keyed into the main structure, and was only attached by mortar which has failed over time and eventually resulted in the brick flue falling off.

The north elevation also incorporates two evenly spaced brick buttresses positioned approximately 1/3 points along the elevation. A corresponding buttress can also be found on the south elevation towards the western end of the building and adjacent to the projecting entrance.

Figure 87: **Operations Bunker – Remnant fabric lying close by the east elevation of the structure**

Figure 88: **Operations Bunker – Steps down to the entrance**

Figure 89: **Operations Bunker – Extant steel entrance doors**

The brick and concrete steps lead down into the entrance tunnel which is of brick construction with concrete floor and roof. The tunnel is about 3m long with the main entrance doors into the Operations Bunker being located at the far end on the south wall of the main building. The steel doors are the original heavy doors with each door being held in place with three hinges and locked by a pivot lock. The doors have been scratched and grafittied over time and are now presenting with surface rust.

Figure 90: Operations Bunker – Interior (west wall)

The internal space consists of one rectangular shaped room of simple presentation. The brick walls are the internal leaf of the cavity wall which have been painted white at an earlier stage and are now covered in graffiti.

Loose bricks have collected on the concrete slab floor from the north west opening.

Figure 91: Operations Bunker – Interior (south wall)

Figure 92: Operations Bunker – interior (north wall)

The bricks around the north west opening have become loose and fallen from the wall. This in part is due to the failure of the steel reinforcement in the brick wall but part of the damage can also be attributed to vandalism. The remainder of the wall around the opening appears to be in a stable condition.

The lower levels of the walls are showing some signs of damp, most of which is attributable to the build up of sand over the years and the inability of the fabric to breathe.

Figure 93: Operations Bunker – Ceiling plan

Figure 94: **Operations Bunker – Small opening in north wall with damaged brickwork**

Figure 95: **Operations Bunker – Graffiti scratched into entrance doors**

3.3.3 Gun Emplacement 1 (South)

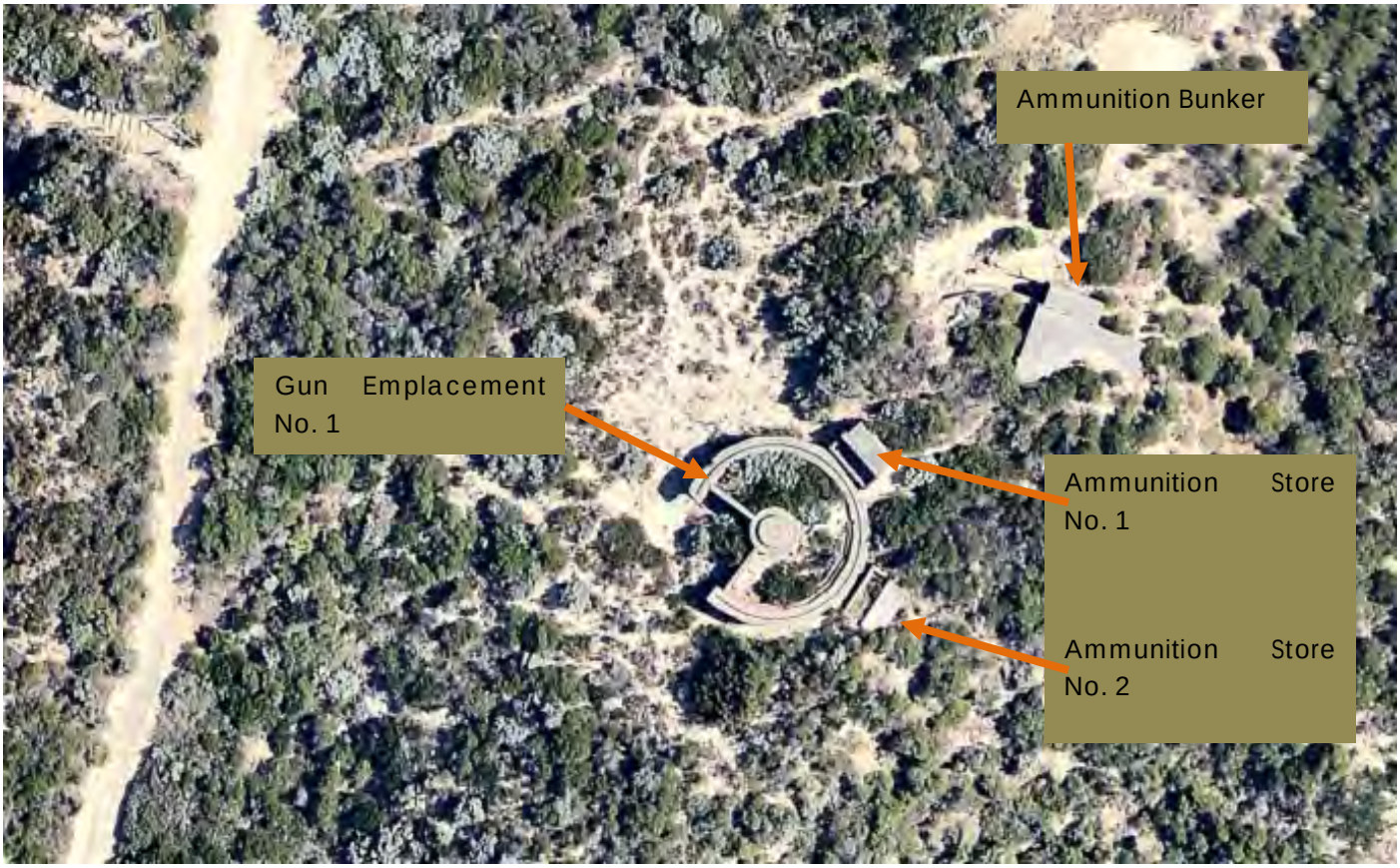

Figure 96: Gun Emplacement No. 1 and Ammunition Store
Courtesy Nearmap, 2015

Gun Emplacement No. 1, or Gun Position No. 1 as it is also known, is the southern most of the two gun emplacements on Point Peron. The main structure consists of a 270° built concrete structure with the remaining 90° segment being an open section allowing for the gun movement. To the north-east and south-east positions are the two ammunition stores. The ammunition bunker is located just to the north east of the gun emplacement.

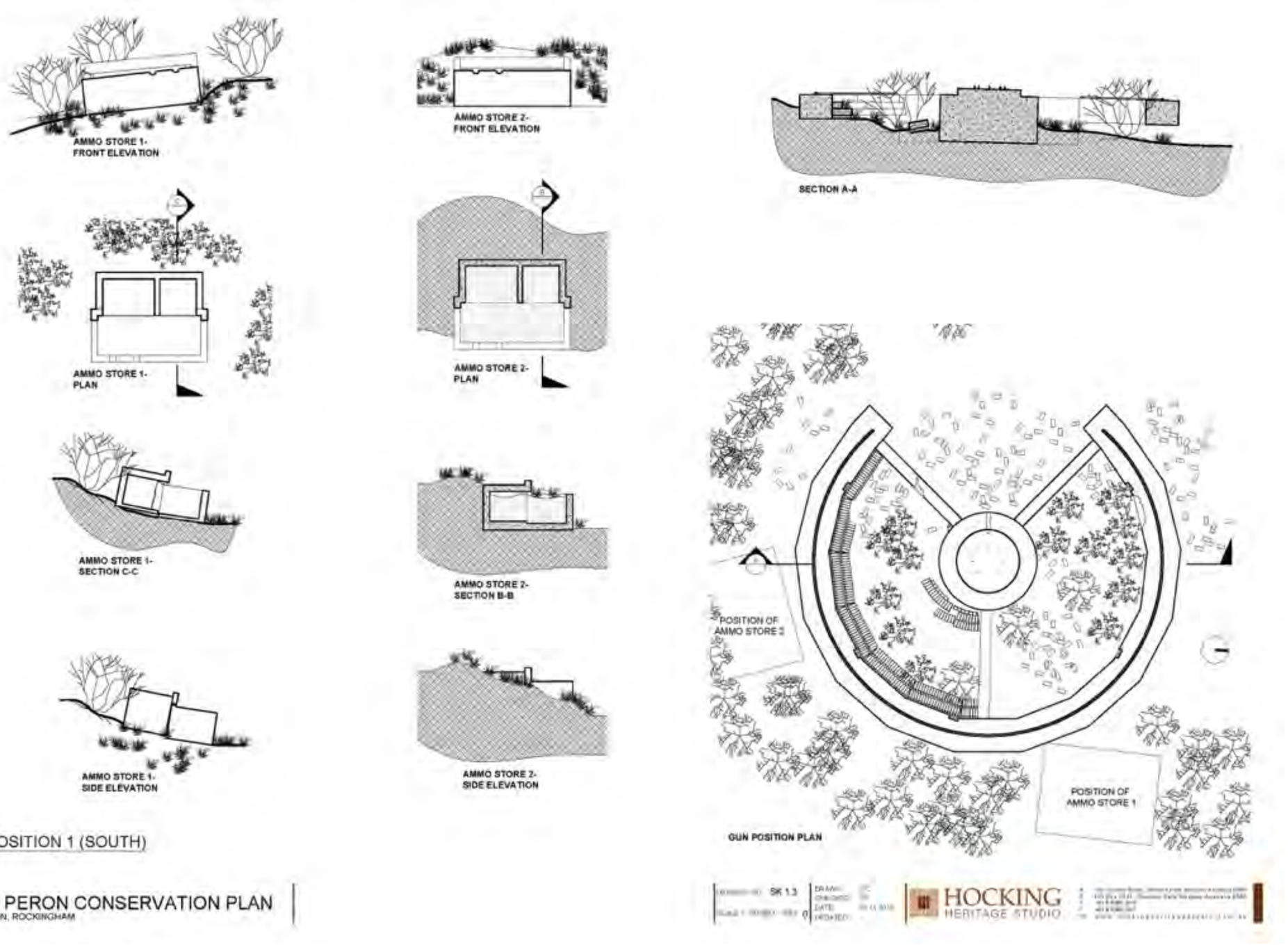

Figure 97: **Gun Emplacement Plans and Elevations**

Figure 98: Gun Emplacement

Gun Emplacement No. 1 is not in a good condition, clearly demonstrating how the instable land formation has impacted on the structural stability of the gun emplacement. Over time, the ground levels have changed with much of the sand being eroded revealing the structure of the gun emplacement and eventually undermining its stability as the land has moved away. Much of the original fabric remains in and around the structure but a full understanding of the planning of the gun emplacement and its related structures and functions is no longer clearly visible.

Figure 99: Gun Emplacement

The gun emplacement is principally a ¾ circular reinforced concrete structure that was originally submerged. The external and internal sides of the concrete wall consist of 13 straight sided segments. The sunken nature of the emplacements allowed the central concrete gun mount to have clear view over the waters the gun was protecting. A steel rail extends around the top of the concrete walls as part of the remnant fabric.

Brick steps extend around the internal side of the concrete structure, leading to a brick paved floor and to the central gun mount. The brick elements have become displaced and no longer full extend around the internal space of the gun emplacement. Sand has accumulated and bushes grown in the internal area, further obscuring the planning of the gun emplacement.

Figure 100: Gun Emplacement

The central gun mount and the concrete walls are all constructed from reinforced concrete. Sections of the concrete have blown due to the rusting of the reinforcements displacing chunks of concrete.

The steel gun mount remains extant on top of the central concrete mount with the gun track running around the top of the concrete perimeter walling.

Figure 101: **Gun Emplacement - rusted steel reinforcements causing chunks of concrete to blow and break off**

Figure 102: Gun Emplacement

The external structure of the gun emplacement is not meant to be visible but due to the erosion of the sand, the construction method is now visible which provides some understanding of how the structures were erected.

Figure 103: Gun Emplacement

As the underlying ground has moved, the fabric of the gun emplacement has become dislodged and loose. Much of the loose brick fabric appears to be collected on the ground and in the sand underneath the structure.

There is some evidence of concrete cancer in the main structure with elements of concrete breaking off and the reinforcing steel rusted and blown. The movement of the ground and the subsequent displacement of the fun emplacement has also resulted in severe cracking in the concrete structure. Whilst there is no practical reason for the gun emplacement to be reconstructed, the structure must be secured and stabilised as soon as possible.

Figure 104: **Gun Emplacement - underside of the concrete structure**

Figure 105: **Gun Emplacement No. 1 – gun track**

Figure 106: Gun Emplacement - Ammunition Store No. 1

The two ammunition stores are located to the north east and south east of the gun emplacement and are identical in form and construction, though both are in varying states of deterioration. As with the main gun emplacement structures, the two ammunition stores have also suffered as a consequence of the ground shifting. Store No. 1 which is located to the north east of the gun emplacement has moved forward and slipped into the retaining wall of the gun emplacement.

Figure 107: Gun Emplacement - Ammunition Store No. 1

Whilst the structure has remained predominantly in one piece, cracks have occurred in the concrete and the floor of the two store rooms has become displaced. Despite the movement, the concrete walls have remained in tact.

Figure 108: Gun Emplacement - Ammunition Store No. 1

The entire Store is now sitting on the sand rather than being partially submerged. Sections have been painted but the majority of the structure remains in the natural concrete state, clearly illustrating the layered slab construction.

Figure 109: Gun Emplacement - Ammunition Store No. 1

Internally, the Ammunition Store consists of two storage areas to the rear of the structure, one marginally larger than the other and an open roof less space to the front. The two stores are separated by a concrete wall. Remnant timber and nails are affixed to the walls.

Figure 110: **Gun Emplacement - Cracking in the framework of Ammunition Store No. 1**

Figure 111: Gun Emplacement - Ammunition Store No. 2

Ammunition Store No. 2 is positioned to the south east of the gun emplacement and looks to be in, or close to, its original position. The structure has become largely submerged in the sand with the majority of the structure being obscured from view. Sand has accumulated on the roof and internally resulting in the growth of vegetation which will ultimately contribute to the deterioration of the concrete structure.

As far as can be determined, Ammunition Store No. 2 appears to have remained in tact with no obvious signs of cracking or displacement of the elements.

Figure 112: **Gun Emplacement - Ammunition Store No. 2, sand in fill with vegetation growth**

3.3.4 Ammunition Bunker No. 1

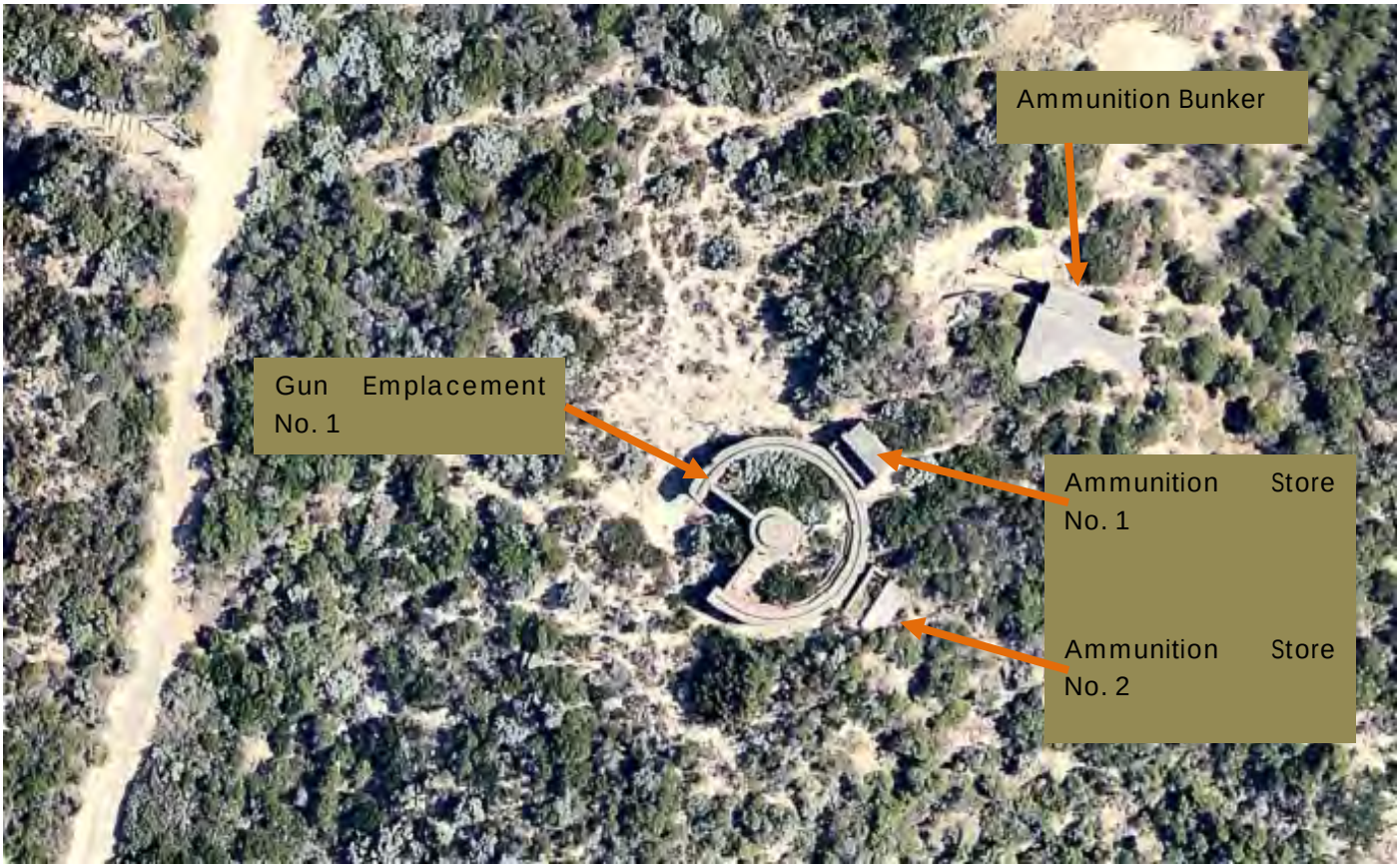

Figure 113: Gun Emplacement No. 1 and Ammunition Bunker No. 1
Courtesy Nearmap, 2015

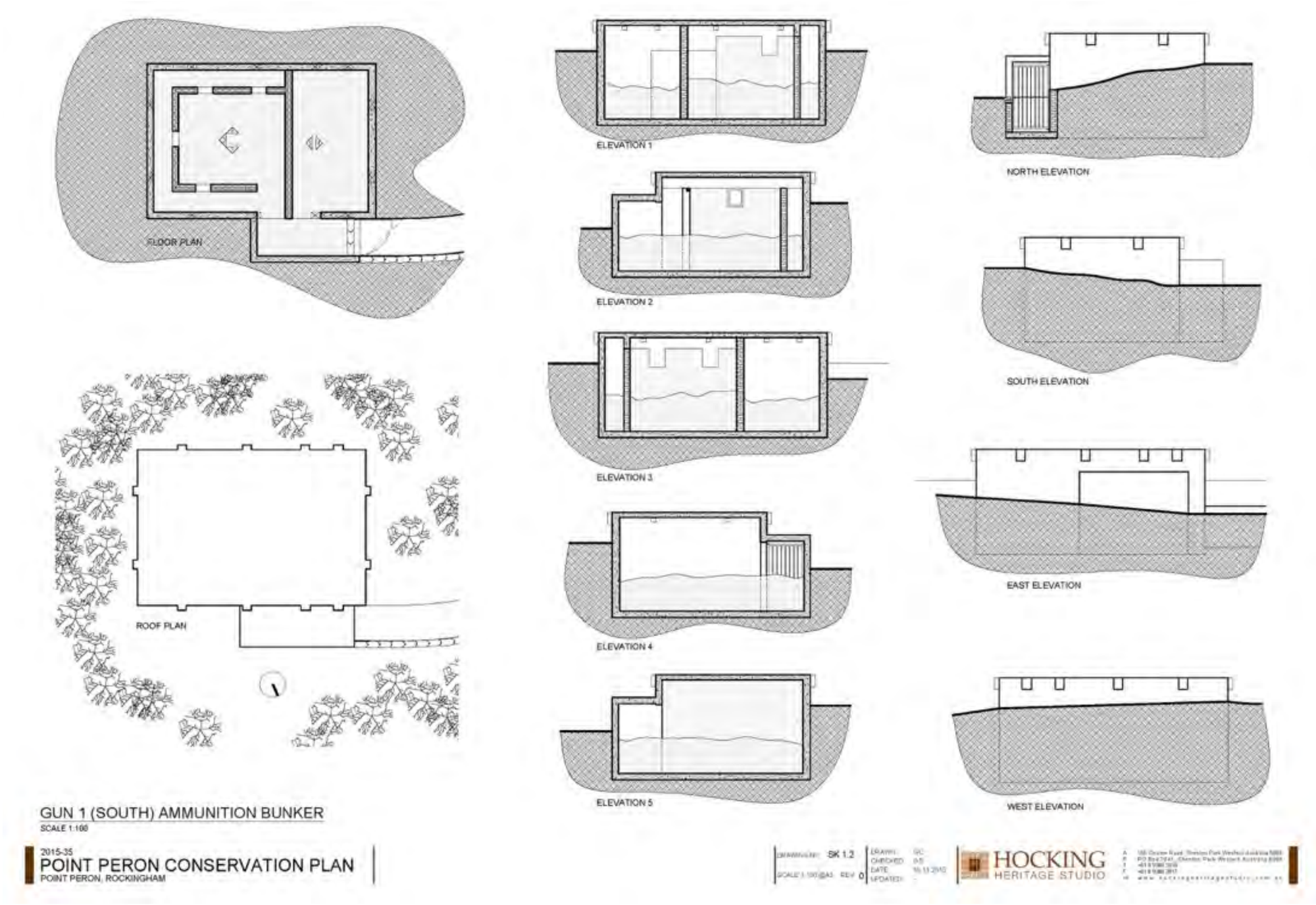

Figure 114: **Ammunition Bunker No. 1 Plans and Elevations**

Figure 115: Ammunition Bunker

Ammunition Bunker No.1 which is associated with Gun Emplacement No. 1 is located to the north east of the gun emplacement, and cannot be clearly seen from the gun structure. Access is via a sand dune to the rear of the ammunition stores or from an informal pathway leading through the bush to the north of the bunker. Two curved brick retaining walls form the pathway to the entrance of the bunker, which has recently been cleared out with sandbags placed on the walls to try and reduce the amount of refill.

Figure 116: Ammunition Bunker - entrance

A metal grille gate has been installed across the entrance into the building, again to prevent general access into the Bunker. Sandbags have been placed directly behind the gate in an attempt to prevent further sand accumulation in the entry tunnel.

Figure 117: Ammunition Bunker – East elevation

Much of the Ammunition Bunker is submerged in the sand dune with only the east elevation and roof being partially visible.

Figure 118: Ammunition Bunker – view across the roof

The Ammunition Bunker is a simple structure bearing similarities to the plan form and construction method of the other structures around the site. The external walls are of reinforced concrete construction with the roof being a reinforced concrete slab. Projecting vent shafts are placed at regular intervals around the building, level with the roof and extending down to approximately two concrete slab courses. One of the shafts on the north elevation has fallen off revealing a small opening in the wall.

Figure 119: Ammunition Bunker – roof to entry tunnel

Figure 120: Ammunition Bunker

The interior of the bunker is accessed via an entry tunnel with the doors to the two rooms having been removed at an earlier date. The entrance is of concrete construction to walls, floor and roof, partially painted and covered in graffiti and filled to half height with sand. The two rooms branch off to the right side of the entry.

Figure 121: **Ammunition Bunker – entry tunnel**

Figure 122: Ammunition Bunker – Room 1

The first room is a small rectangular space with no natural light flowing into the room. The three external walls are of concrete construction, the floor (under the cover of sand at the time of writing) is concrete and the roof is also reinforced concrete. The fourth wall, the west wall, is a double leaf brick load bearing wall.

The walls are a dusty white with graffiti with damp staining and possible fire scorch marks.

Figure 123: **Ammunition Bunker – graffiti in Room 1**

Figure 124: Ammunition Bunker – Room 2

Room 2 is almost double the size of Room 1 but has been made smaller due to the internal brick wall that has been constructed approximately 500 cms from the external concrete wall.

Bunkers were constructed to deflect the wave of nearby explosions and were therefore constructed to withstand enormous pressures. The majority of bunkers were constructed below, or partially below, ground of reinforced concrete with steel blast doors and ventilation openings.

The brick wall that has been constructed around the perimeter of Room 2 was constructed as a blast wall to protect the inhabitants in the event of bombings. The reinforced concrete should be able to withstand the blast but in case damage was caused to the exterior of the bunker, the internal brickwork should provide enough protection.

Ventilation windows are placed high up on the three perimeter walls looking out towards the concrete wall allowing the air to float around the space.

Figure 125: Ammunition Bunker – brick perimeter wall

Figure 126: **Ammunition Bunker – blast corridor between outer concrete wall and inner brick wall**

3.3.5 Gun Emplacement 2 (North)

Figure 127: Gun Emplacement No. 2 and Ammunition Stores
Courtesy Nearmap, 2015

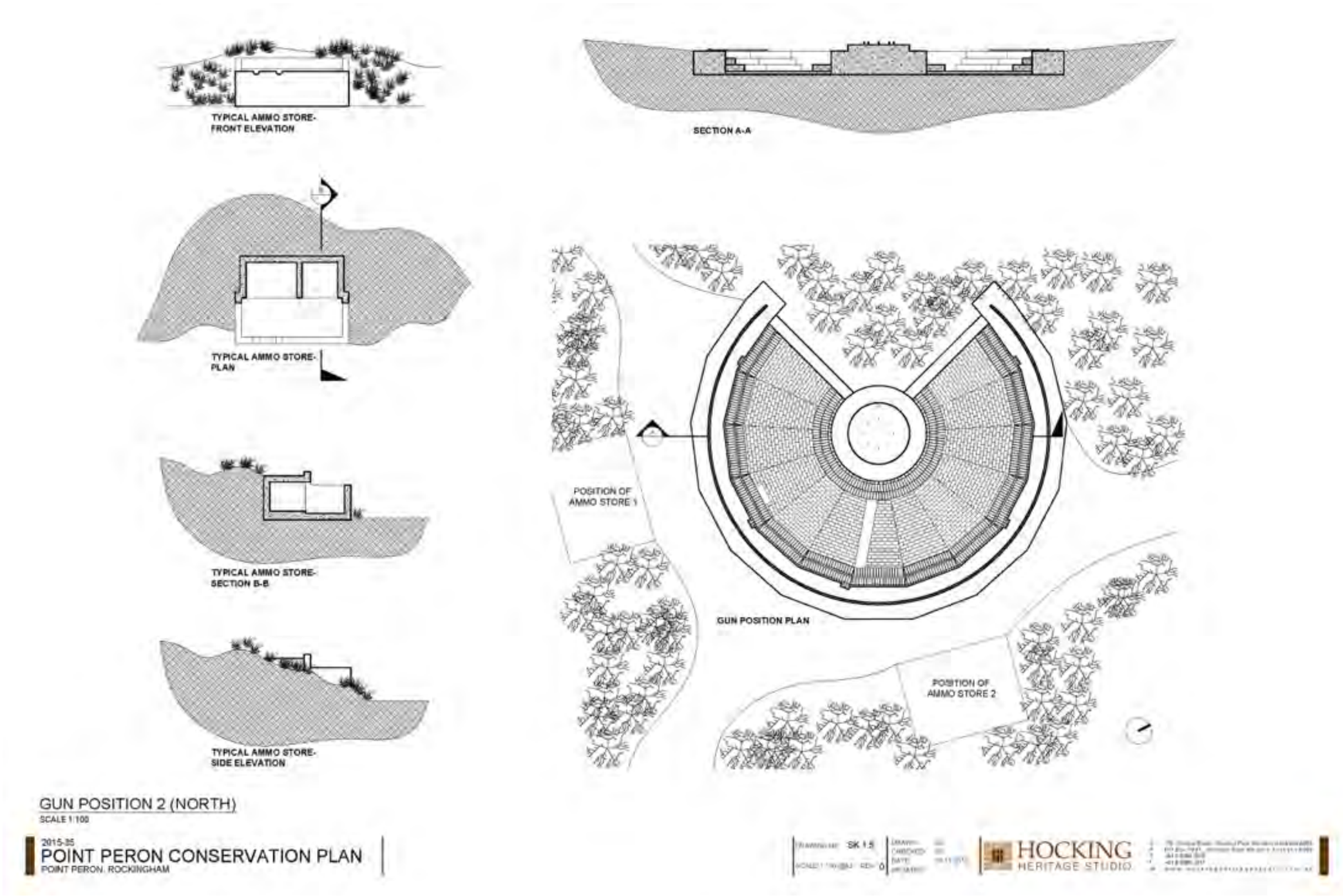

Figure 128: **Gun Emplacement No. 2 – Plans and Elevations**

Figure 129: Gun Emplacement No. 2

Gun Emplacement No.2 is exactly the same as the Emplacement No. 1 apart from its condition. Gun Emplacement No. 2 is intact and presents as originally constructed which aids understanding of the form and function of the structure.

The concrete retaining wall is fully submerged with only the top being visible. The two brick steps fully extend around the internal side of the structure with a brick paved floor and brick step to the centrally placed gun mount.

As with Gun Emplacement No. 1, the concrete retaining wall extends to approximately 270° of the circle with the final 90° being open for gun clearance. The concrete retaining wall is terminated by two reinforced concrete radial walls that are level with the top of the perimeter wall and the second tier of the gun mount. A third concrete wall is located half way around the submerged structure and is flush to the brick paved flooring.

Figure 130: **Gun Emplacement No. 2 – brick paving**

Figure 131: **Gun Emplacement No. 2 – brick steps**

Figure 132: **Gun Emplacement No. 2 – terminating concrete wall**

Figure 133: Gun Emplacement No. 2

The gun emplacement is a three tier element. The broadest part of the structure is the brick base which is approximately 50cms high, followed by a narrower and deeper reinforced concrete tier and topped with a shallow reinforced concrete and steel gun mount with extant steel mounting points.

Figure 134: Gun Emplacement No. 2 – Ammunition Store 1

The associated ammunition stores are located to the east and south of the gun emplacement. Both are in their original positions and look down into the gun emplacement.

Both are in good condition and clearly demonstrate the plan form of the structures. Both are partially obscured by the sand around the sides and the rear of the structures but not to any great detrimental effect.

As with the ammunition stores associated with Gun Emplacement No. 1, these ammunition stores are divided into two store areas towards the rear of the structure with a roofless space to the front. Two cut-outs to the top of the front wall provided resting places for the ammunition.

Though generally in good condition, the concrete is beginning to show early signs of concrete cancer in places, especially to the edge of the roof slab where chunks of concrete have broken away and the rusted reinforcing steel is visible.

Figure 135: **Gun Emplacement No. 2 – Ammunition Store 1**

Figure 136: **Gun Emplacement No. 2 – Ammunition Store 1**

Figure 137: **Gun Emplacement No. 2 – Ammunition Store 1 Memorial to a Local Man**

Figure 138: **Gun Emplacement No. 2 – Ammunition Store 1 Detail of Memorial to a Local Man**

The number "13" made from two green plaques placed on the rear roof lip to the ammunition store is a memorial to a local man, Max Hardidge, who died in 2002. It is unknown what his connection to the place was.

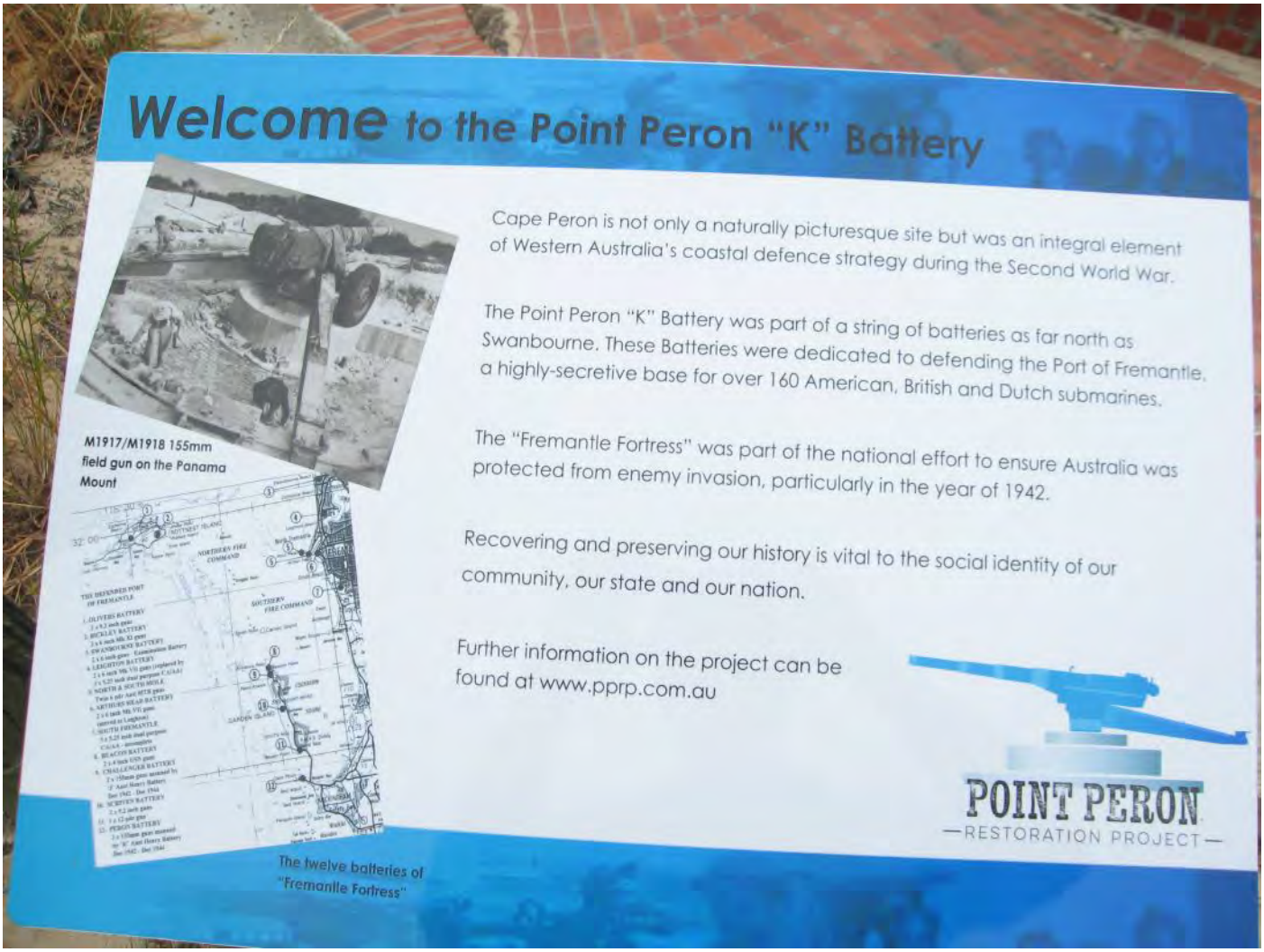

Figure 139: Gun Emplacement No. 2 – Recent Interpretation

The site generally is not explained to the visitor. For those who do not know the site, there is no mention of any WWII infrastructure in the car parks and once the various sites are happened upon, again there is no signage that explains what the buildings are and why they are there. The one and only interpretative signage was erected at Gun Emplacement No. 2 in November 2015, which provides a brief explanation of the Point Peron "K" Battery site and its relationship with the Fremantle Fortress.

3.3.6 Ammunition Bunker No. 2

Figure 140: Gun Emplacement No. 2 and Ammunition Bunker
Courtesy Nearmap, 2015

Ammunition Bunker No. 2 is located to the east of Gun Emplacement No. 2 at the end of the pathway and is surrounded by dense bush.

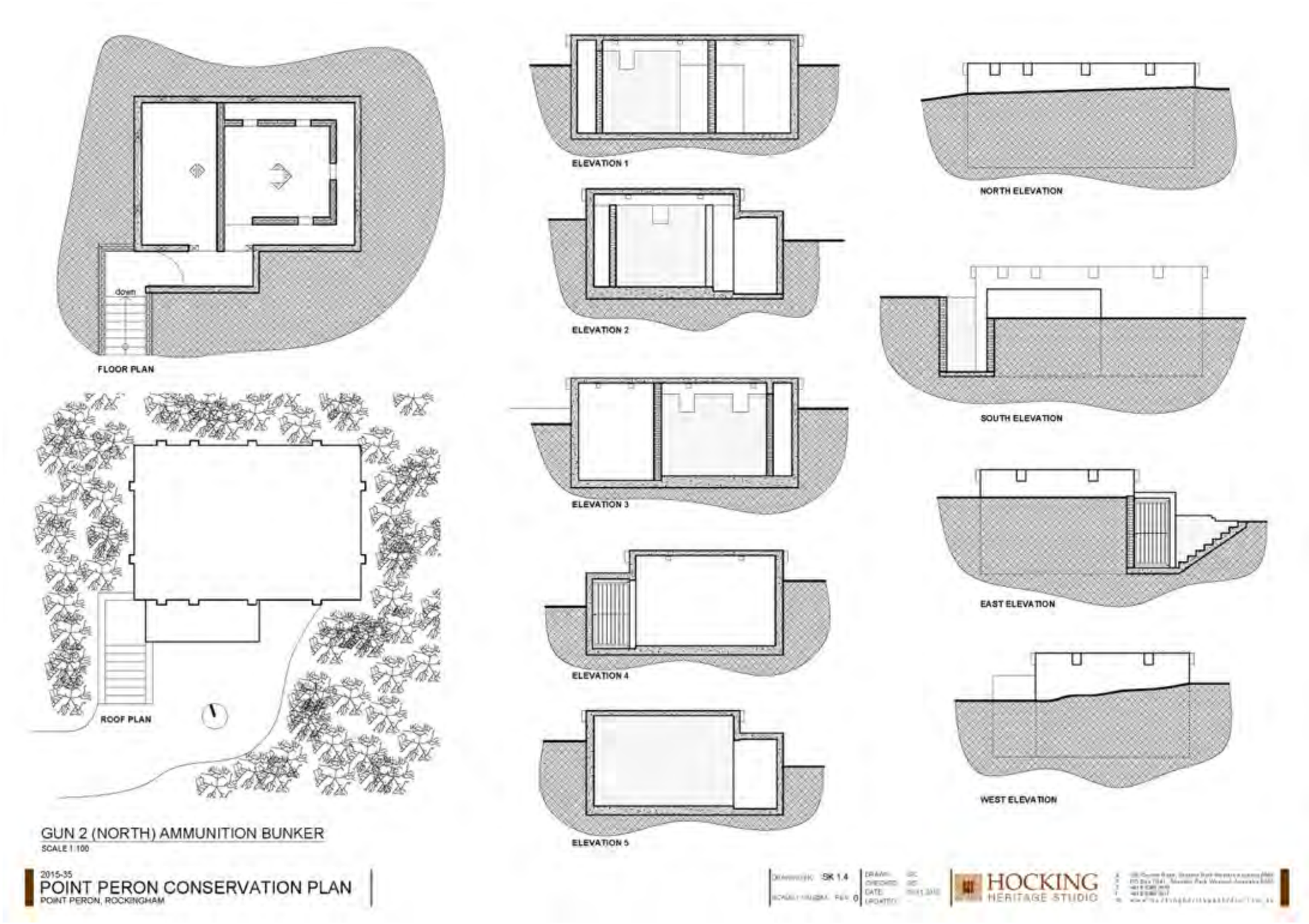

Figure 141: **Ammunition Bunker No. 2 – Plans and Elevations**

Figure 142: Ammunition Bunker No. 2 – south-west elevation

Ammunition Bunker No. 2 is similar to its counterpart Ammunition Bunker No. 1 near Gun Emplacement No. 1 albeit with a different arrangement to the entrance tunnel.

Figure 143: Ammunition Bunker No. 2 – Entrance

The entrance is located on the south-west elevation with the concrete steps projecting out from the main building line of the structure, before doglegging to the right and accessing the Bunker. The steps are protected by twin brick retaining walls, the majority of which have been painted with only the lower brick courses remaining in the natural state. Sand accumulation prevented the walls being painted fully to ground level. The brickwork is laid in English Garden bond consisting of three stretcher courses followed by a header course. The terminating brick wall at the foot of the steps abuts the concrete frame of the bunker structure and has not been keyed in.

Figure 144: Ammunition Bunker No. 2

The roof to the Ammunition Bunker is completely visible and is a flat concrete element with a roughcast screed level to the top level. As with Ammunition Bunker No. 1 ventilation shafts are positioned at regular intervals around the building.

Figure 145: Ammunition Bunker No. 2 – Ventilation shafts

Only the front elevation of the Ammunition Bunker is clearly visible. The remainder of the structure is obscured by dense native plantings and access to the three elevations is also made difficult due to the topography of the site around the bunker. Immediately to the rear of the structure, the land drops away but the rear, north-east, elevation is not visible due to the planting.

Figure 146: Ammunition Bunker - Room 1

Internally, the bunker has the same plan form as Bunker 1 with the main space divided into two rooms plus an entry tunnel. The smaller room, Room 1, has three external concrete walls with a fourth double leaf loading bearing brick wall dividing Room 1 from Room 2. The concrete to Room 1 has been painted white which is wearing off and has been covered in graffiti. Small ventilation holes are positioned directly below the ceiling. The sand has been removed but the walls are showing slight signs damp at lower level which may dry out now the sand has been cleared.

Figure 147: Entry tunnel leading to the two internal rooms

The entry tunnel extends along the south western edge of the building providing access into the two rooms to the left of the passageway. The floor is concrete with a slight concrete step up into the two rooms. The walls are painted concrete with graffiti.

Figure 148: **Ventilation openings in Room 2**

Room 2 is approximately double the size of Room 1 again made smaller due to the internal brick perimeter blast wall. Ventilation openings are positioned within the three brick walls to allow the air to float through from the vents in the external concrete walls.

The brick is laid in English bond with alternate rows of stretcher bricks and header bricks, painted a dusty white and does not reach to the concrete ceiling. Evidence suggests that an internal ceiling may have existed but it is unknown what form this may have been.

Figure 149: Blast Corridor

3.3.7 Water Tank

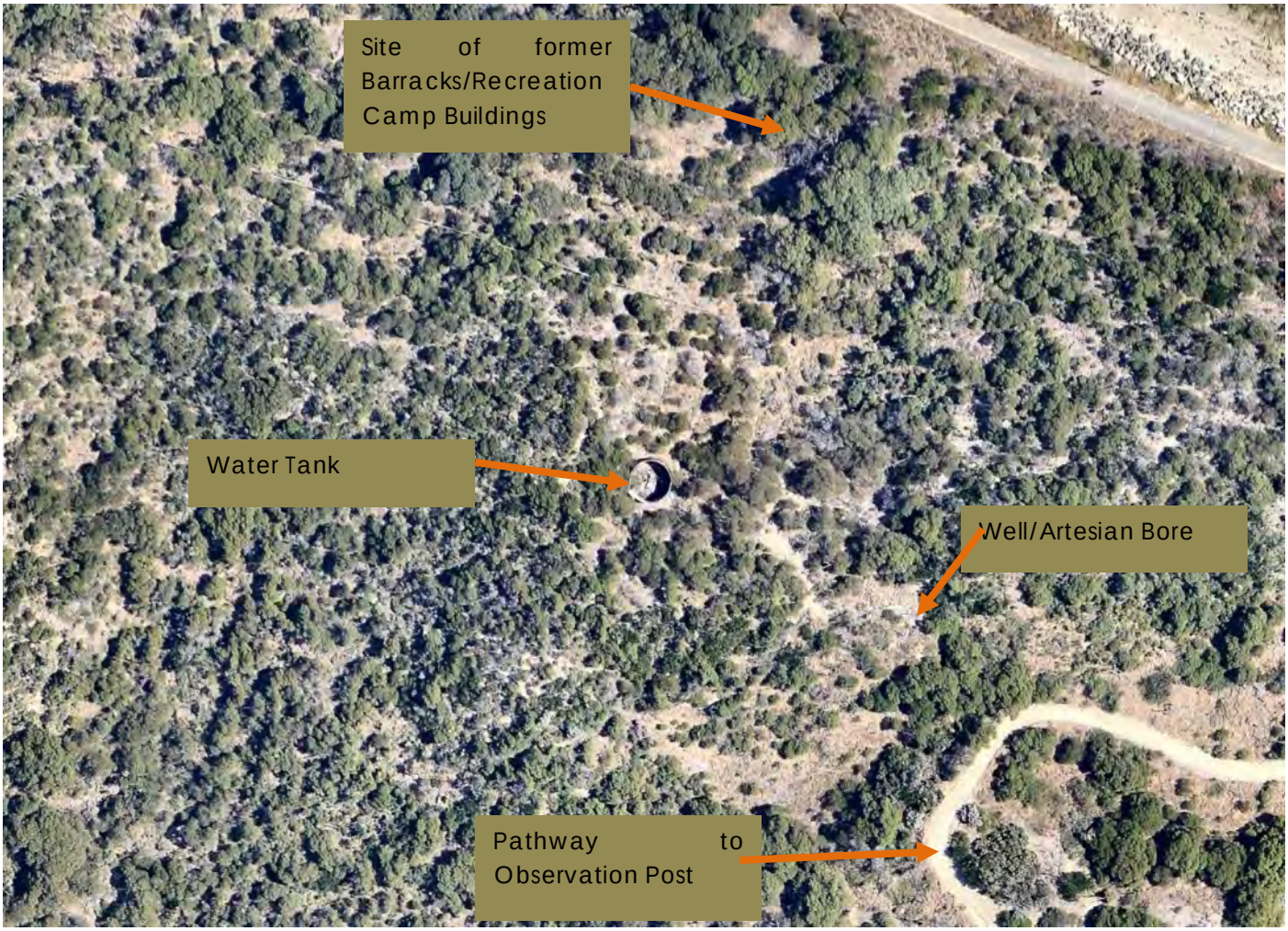

Figure 150: Water Tank
Courtesy Nearmap, 2015

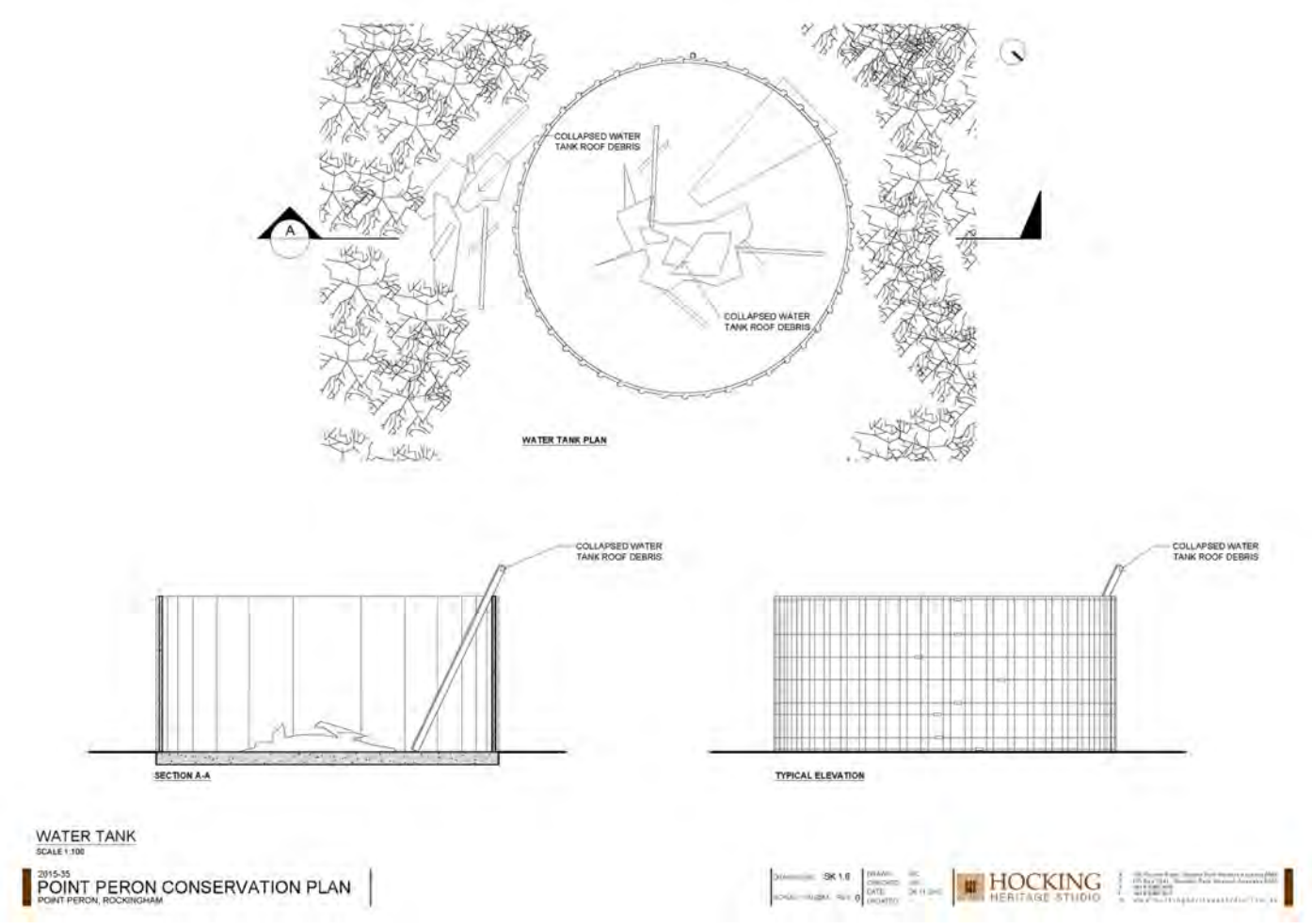

Figure 151: Water Tank – Plan and Elevation

The water tank was associated with the former barracks/recreation camp that were located along the north-western coast line of the headland. The barracks were removed in the late 1990s due to their condition and asbestos content leaving only remnant fabric scattered around the site. The water tank is the only remaining structure associated from these buildings.

The tank is circular, of reinforced concrete construction with steel bracing wrapping around the fluted sides at various positions up the height of the walls.

The roof is no longer extant with remnant corrugated iron and timber laying in the bottom of the tank and around the edges.

Figure 152: Water Tank

Figure 153: Water Tank

Figure 154: Water Tank – remnant roofing material

Figure 155: **Water Tank – interior of water tank with remnant roofing fabric**

Figure 156: Water Tank Interior

Figure 157: **Water Tank interior**

3.3.8 Well/Artesian Bore

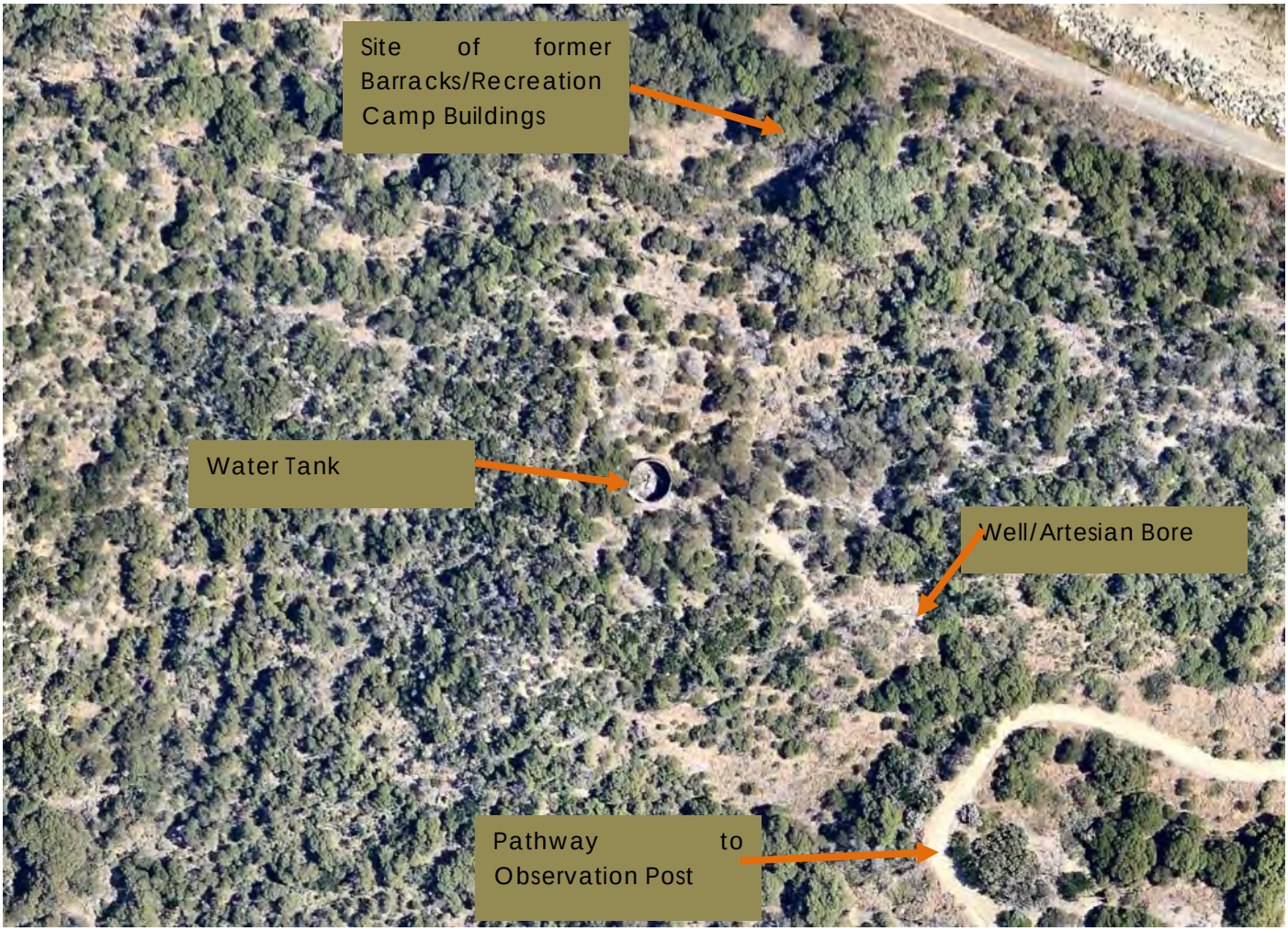

Figure 158: Well/Artesian Bore Location plan
Courtesy Nearmap, 2015

The site of the former well/artesian bore is just off the path that extends between the Observation Post and the main car park on the east side of the headland.

The remnants of the well consist of a circular stone lined void of indeterminable depth. Remnant corrugated iron sheets are laying in the well which may have formed part of the well lid. The well is now full of building debris, sand and weeds.

Figure 159: Well

Figure 160: Well lining and remnant covering fabric

Figure 161: **Former Well cladding**

3.3.9 Search Lights

Search lights were originally located at John Point and Mushroom Rock. Little evidence of the Sperry lights remains but the sites should be interpreted. John Point is fenced off due to the perilous condition of the cliff faces.

Figure 162: Mushroom Rock

3.3.10 Archaeological Sites

The archaeological potential of the site has not been investigated. Metal detectors have been used which have uncovered bullets and other military related artefacts which implies that there is the potential for more items to be discovered. The site is relatively untouched with the only building work being the WWII infrastructure. Older aerial maps clearly show an increased amount of infrastructure on the site and remnant fabric and footings may still be discoverable. Any future development in terms of providing increased visitor facilities is to take account of the archaeological potential and ensure the appropriate controls and processes are in place.

3.4 Condition

The condition of Point Peron “K” Battery is generally fair to good. General issues relate to the ever changing ground conditions and the evidence of concrete cancer in the structures.

A full assessment of condition can be found in the attached Building Condition Assessment attached at Appendix ..... of this report. The Building Condition Assessments are supplemented by the Engineer’s report and recommendations found at Appendix ……