



Route des Laveurs, L'Etacq Hill St Ouen. Jersey C.I.



# ELVES REST REVISITED

a grave injustice in the  
aftermath of World War II  
remains unsolved almost  
eighty years after the facts.

# ELVES REST

Route des Laveurs, L'Etacq Hill St Ouen. Jersey C.I.



New bungalow, private permanent dwelling house

Built on parcel of land 134 ft frontage on the road, 182 ft at the back, deed May 4<sup>th</sup> 1932 Ogier & Le Cornu, 10 Hill St. St Helier signed by JF Le Cornu

Roofed with tiles, build of concrete blocks by WS Taylor (husband of May Mary Taylor, original owner)

Destroyed by occupation army 1940s

**Elves Rest.** 4<sup>th</sup> May 1932



# From Googlemap: site of ELVES REST, Route des Laveurs, L'Etacq Hill St Ouen. Jersey C.I

Google map [https://www.google.com/maps/@49.2321327,-](https://www.google.com/maps/@49.2321327,-2.2334191,3a,75y,343.02h,74.21t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1siK5zoJfGf9kSJU2QhjpXFQ!2e0!7i13312!8i6656)

[2.2334191,3a,75y,343.02h,74.21t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1siK5zoJfGf9kSJU2QhjpXFQ!2e0!7i13312!8i6656](https://www.google.com/maps/@49.2321327,-2.2334191,3a,75y,343.02h,74.21t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1siK5zoJfGf9kSJU2QhjpXFQ!2e0!7i13312!8i6656)



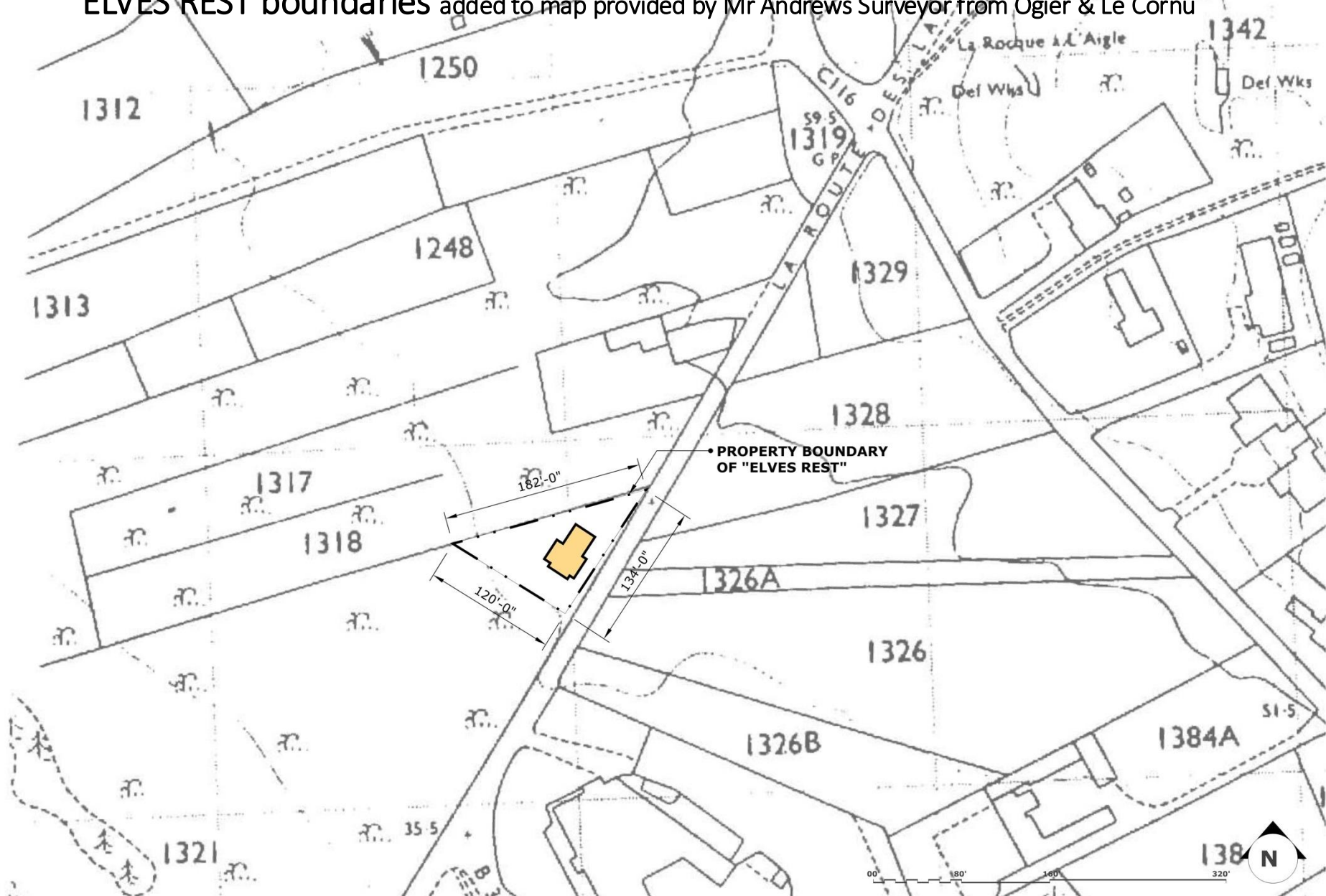


# ELVES REST boundaries added to Googlemaps: Route des Laveurs, L'Etacq Hill St Ouen. Jersey C.I





# ELVES REST boundaries added to map provided by Mr Andrews Surveyor from Ogier & Le Cornu



# Elves Rest reconstructed rendering by OUTDOOR STUDIO





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# Pauline Wersinger née Taylor: current owner



Pauline Taylor October 2022

- Born in St Helier on July 16th 1929, the sole survivor of a family with multi-secular roots in Jersey now living in a retirement home in Carantec in Brittany France.
- Lived in “Elves Rest” with her parents until 1936 when they moved to England.
- Her parents kept ownership of the house because they had every intention of returning to Jersey.
- She kept close ties with her family in Jersey, several died because of poor health during World War II, her grand father passed away in 1956 and her aunt in 1969
- Continuous correspondence with the Jersey planning authorities through the services of Ogier & Lecornu starting in 1946 until 1990 when she reluctantly decided enough money had been spent on this sad case.



# Pauline's childhood St Ouen 1932-1936



# Timeline of an injustice

- 1932, Wilfred and May Taylor build their new family's permanent home, "Elves Rest" a bungalow built with cement blocks on Route des Laveurs, Five Mile Rd near L'Etacq Hill in St Ouen.
- In 1936 move to England, with hope to return to Jersey so the property is left in the care of real estate agents.
- 1940s: the bungalow is destroyed by the occupying German forces.
- 1946: Wilfred, May and their daughter Pauline visit Jersey as soon as possible to discover the passing of several relatives, the terrible condition of the survivors and the complete destruction of their property.
- 1946: £450 offered by the States of Jersey Rehabilitation Committee to assist with rebuilding the bungalow valued in excess of £2000. Because of economic hardship caused by the war, they miss the window of opportunity to rebuild the bungalow and plans to move back to Jersey are further delayed
- 1950s: Attempts to obtain better compensation are unsuccessful. With relatives in Jersey now deceased or in very poor health, with a heavy heart plans to move back to Jersey dropped. Inquiries made about selling the land in 1956 result in firm offer to sell the land in 1960 but the application to rebuild is rejected by Natural Beauties Committee because "the proposal would constitute an undesirable form of development"
- 1960s -1990s: several attempts made with assistance of Ogier & Le Cornu by Wilfred and May and after their death by Pauline to obtain the right to rebuild the property or obtain just compensation. With heavy heart Pauline decides to stop her attempts to obtain justice



# Island Development Committee

## decision 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1966

Application 4/10/3788 described as “ the construction of a bungalow and garage”

PERMISSION REFUSED for following reasons:

1. The proposed work would involve an extension of building development in the countryside, contrary to the provisions of the Development Plan and would destruct from the beauty of the landscape and the countryside
2. The land is situated withing the Green Zone

The decision to ban the rebuilding of Elves Rest is very difficult to understand given the many structures that have been allowed such as Jersey Pearl only a few yards on the other side of Route des Laveurs





... and several high-end constructions much more intrusive than Elves Rest allowed to be constructed or redeveloped even right on the coast.



Elves Rest revisited

# Almost 80 years after the facts

Jersey, has recognized and helped all victims of World War II except its own citizens, whose property was destroyed by the occupying forces and who were not able to rebuild. The States of Jersey has shown no compassion towards victims of German occupation who suffered loss of property and did not have the resources to rebuild

- stating in 1947 that its scheme was only “concerned with assisting in restoring the economic life of the Island” not to compensate for the loss of property
- mischaracterization of requests to rebuild property as “an undesirable form of development” at the same time it was allowing commercial development just on the other side of Route des Laveurs from “Elves Rest”
- contempt towards exiled islanders without the means to repair their property, not once offering any assistance or showing any sympathy towards their plight
- prejudice against modest dwellings even built with concrete foundations but not strong enough to withstand destruction by the Germans during a World War!
- use the “beneficial” effects of an act of war to enforce new planning restrictions at the expense of the welfare of victims still alive. Had the War not happened, the bungalow would still be standing and available for my mother and her family



# What next?

Pauline is not a distant relative of an owner long departed. She is the direct victim of this injustice, a 95 year old widow who fondly remembers her childhood in Jersey but the love for the country of her birth where so many of her ancestors are buried is mixed with sadness because of a grave injustice

- Jersey, a prosperous successful island with a proud history has the moral duty and the ability to repair this injustice by either allowing rebuilding the destroyed property or offering suitable compensation
- Jersey has a duty to investigate the plight of all victims of WWII who have suffered a similar fate so they can be recognized by suitable displays in local World War II museums, historical landmarks and find their place in Jersey's history.