

SURVEY OF WORLD WAR TWO DEFENCES IN THE BOROUGH OF COLCHESTER

PROJECT REPORT: NOVEMBER 2007

(2020 on-line edition)

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for
Colchester Archaeological Group
and
Essex County Council

Site Records

Section A: SMR 8913 – 10961



Boxted WWII Airfield

SMR No: 8913

NGR: TM 0143 3050

Description:

1996: Boxted airfield opened in May 1943, first with USAAF B-26 bombers and then various fighter units. The station closed in November 1946. <2> Boxted was a typical American wartime airfield equipped with three runways linked by a perimeter track, around which were placed 45 loop dispersals and six frying pan dispersals. The bomb stores were located on the east side on the site of two reservoirs, but twelve Nissen huts remain including three used for bomb fusing (TM 0200 3063), (TM 0192 3060) (TM 0208 3061). Two T-2 hangars were built on opposite sides of the perimeter at TM 0084 0142 and TM 0185 2988 both of which have been removed. The main technical site was located on the south side of the airfield along Lodge Lane; today a few Nissen huts may remain in agricultural use with a Blister hangar at TM 0154 2991.

The airfield is now cultivated and plantations; elements of the runways and the perimeter track remain at reduced width. The dispersed sites were built south of the airfield to Flood Lane. <3> Aerial photos <4>, <5>. Cropmarks of field boundaries shown on early O.S. maps, and cropmarks of the former runway. <1>

1996: SITE ASSESSMENT: A few buildings remain on the main site in an unknown condition. <2>

2006: Although the site has not been visited, aerial photographs taken in year 2000 show some of the bomb stores buildings still surviving on the east side of the airfield around TM 021 307. To the south, at the main technical site, a number of surviving buildings are apparent. These may include the Free Gunnery Trainer at TM 0154 2991, the Main Stores at TM 0178 2993, Crew Locker and Drying Room at TM 0169 2998 and Works Services Huts at TM 0170 2990. <6> <7>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ?

Sources:

<1> AP: SWBW27 - 4, , Rogers, P, , 1 frame

<6> AP: Millennium photo Survey - digital coverage of the whole of Essex, , UK Perspectives, 2000,

<7> Map: Boxted Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944,

<3> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,

<2> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,

<4> AP: 11-069 11-070 10-130, , , 1960,

<5> AP: 30-4712 30-4713 32-4604, , , 1990,

Pillbox Base, on beach at West Mersea

SMR No: 10019

NGR: TM 0159 1231

Description:

The concrete base of a pillbox stands on the beach 30 yards to the S of the garden wall of Shears Court. It is hexagonal, 22' x 23', with one longer side facing the beach. The original pillbox probably stood in the centre of this base as there are clear hexagonal wall markings, 11' x 13', with the entrance on the landward face. The undermining action of the sea, which reaches the base at high tide, has badly cracked the concrete.<1 > One photo of site.<2>

SITE ASSESSMENT: The base is being broken up by the action of the sea.

Grading: Essex Grading: ?

Sources:

<1> LIST: LIST by Wills, H, , Wills, H, 1993,

<2> Photograph: SMR, , N ash, F, , one frame



SMR 10019: In the construction of pillboxes, the concrete base was laid first and the main structure built on top. At West Mersea, although the base is now breaking up, the marks of the pillbox which stood on it can still be clearly seen.

Pillbox (destroyed), corner of Willoughby Avenue, West Mersea

SMR No: 10020

NGR: TM 0184 1240

Description:

War Time Contraventions 1968 states, "Waste land on N.E. corner of junction of Willoughby Avenue (S. of "The Bungalow"). Pillbox S.W. corner....".<1> During WWII, the entire area was a coastal artillery site having a battery of 4.7" guns made in Japan in 1918. The layout of the site can be clearly seen on a photograph of a hand-drawn plan, the original of which is held by the Public Records Office.<2> The pillbox stood on the plot now occupied by No. 17 Victoria Esplanade and is shown as "LG No.1" (presumably Lewis Gun Emplacement No. 1) on the plan. One photo of site. <3>

Grading:

Essex Grading 0

Sources:

<2> Photograph: SMR, , , , one frame

<3> Photograph: SMR, , Nash, F, 1993, one frame

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , , West Mersea

Pillbox (destroyed), E of coastal artillery site, West Mersea

SMR No: 10021

NGR: TM 0202 1240

Description:

Shown on the same plan as that referred to in Site Record No. 10020 is "LG No.2" - a pillbox in the SE corner of the coastal artillery site at West Mersea. This pillbox is recalled locally; the position is now occupied by a children's playground.<1> Wills lists this as a "destroyed, polygonal, brick and concrete pillbox at TM 020 123.<2> One photo of site.<3>

Grading:

Essex Grading 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , West Mersea

<2> LIST: LIST by Wills, H, , Wills, H, 1993,

<3> Photograph: SMR, , Nash, F, 1993, one frame

Pillbox on sea wall by Waldegraves Farm

SMR No: 10022

NGR: TM 0323 1253

Description:

Double-ended concrete pillbox built on two levels into the sea wall to the E of West Mersea town. The entrance and all loopholes have been covered by earth or concrete.<1> The lower level faces out to sea and the higher level appears to face inland. One photo of site.<2>

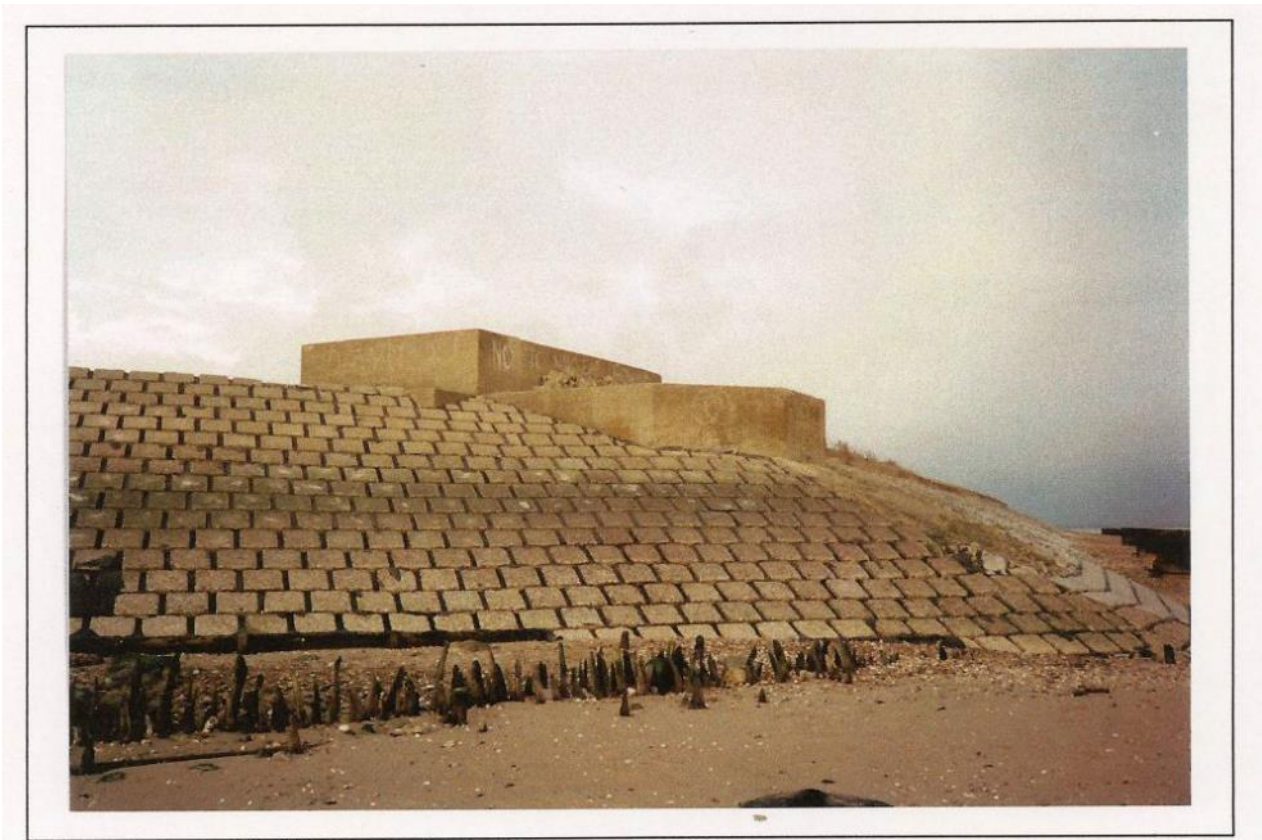
Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> LIST: LIST by Wills, H, , Wills, H, 1993

<2> Photograph: SMR, , Nash, F, 1993, one frame



SMR 10022: This particularly unusual pillbox was built not only across the seawall, to face both seaward and inland, but also on two levels.

Pillbox (destroyed), Youth Camp, Mersea Island

SMR No: 10023
NGR: TM 0406 1304

Description:

1993: Wills lists a destroyed pillbox at TM 041 130 <1> There are no further details. Although nothing was found this position is a logical location. One photo of site <2>

1996: An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows the possible outline of a pillbox on the beach at TM 0406 1304 and this is the NGR given above <3>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <1> LIST: LIST by Wills, H, , Wills, H, 1993,
<2> Photograph: East Mersea Youth Camp, , Nash, F, 1993,
<3> AP: 106G-UK 1447-6004, , RAF, 1946,

Pillbox (destroyed) at Hall Farm, East Mersea

SMR No: 10024
NGR: TM 0546 1398

Description:

ECC archives lists a pillbox at Hall Farm situated at Map Ref. (old) 501322. <1> It is recalled that an old plan of the estate showed a pillbox standing in the position indicated by the archives. <2> It stood in a hedge behind a boundary drainage ditch 20/30 yards from the edge of what is now the caravan park. From here it would have had a wide field of fire SE to the coast some quarter of a mile distant. Two photos of site.

Grading:

Essex Grading 0

Sources:

- <1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , West Mersea
<2> Verbal communication: PERS COMM by local resident, , local resident,
<3> Photograph: SMR, , Nash, F, 1993, two frames

Pillbox on beach by Coopers Beach Holiday Park

SMR No: 10025
NGR: TM 0564 1378

Description:

Hexagonal, concrete, type FW3/24 (source 1) pillbox standing on the sand at the foot of the sea wall by a holiday chalet park. It measures 14' x 12' with 16" walls. The entrance is on the slightly longer side which faces the sea wall. The machine gun apertures in each face are all open; inside the NE aperture is what appears to be a machine gun "pedestal" or table built of concrete with a V-shaped channel. The pillbox has now mostly filled with sand but otherwise is in surprisingly good condition <1> This pillbox originally stood on the sea wall <2> One photo of site <3>

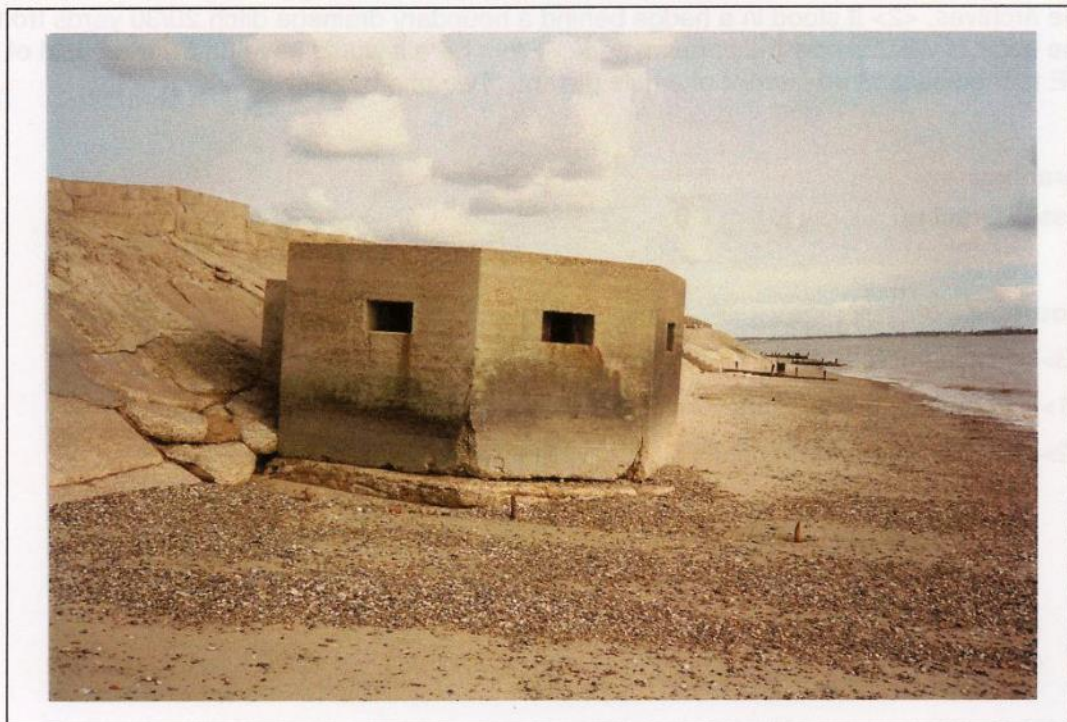
SITE ASSESSMENT: The pillbox tilts slightly seaward but appears to be in no immediate danger.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Pillboxes, , Wills, H, 1985, p31
- <2> Verbal communication: PERS COMM by local resident, , local resident,
- <3> Photograph: SMR, , Nash, F, 1993, one frame



SMR 10025: This infantry pillbox once looked out to sea from the top of the seawall. After sliding down many years ago, it now stands, still whole, on the sands at the back of the beach.

Pillbox at Cudmore Grove Country Park

SMR No: 10026

NGR: TM 0675 1469

Description:

1993: Sitting in a grassy field in Cudmore Grove Country Park, a hexagonal, concrete, 16' diameter pillbox. Each wall is 9'6" long x 16" thick and contains a rifle loophole with a 5/8" armoured steel surround, all of which are in situ. In the centre of the pillbox is a hexagonal well, open to the sky, with a central concrete post on which would have been mounted an anti- aircraft machine gun, probably a Lewis. The post is extant and in good condition. Around the sides of the well are ventilation holes from the interior chamber. This pillbox is a fine, well-preserved example in a picturesque setting on ECC recreational land. Three photos of site.<1><2>

2007:SITE ASSESSMENT:

During World War Two, what is now Cudmore Grove Country Park was a coastal artillery battery with two 4.7-inch guns, probably of World War One vintage. A Battery Observation Post was the central command position, horizontally-aimed searchlights swept the sea at night from concrete bunkers, and pillboxes guarded the perimeter against ground attack.

In 2007, two pillboxes still survive, both in good condition. The two gun casemates now lie as broken concrete on the sands but remain very recognisable from the large ring of gun-holding bolts, the holdfast. Similarly, the Battery Observation Post is now shattered concrete on the beach, as is one of the two searchlight emplacements, both recognisable from the distinctive shapes. The remaining searchlight emplacement survives as a concrete base on the cliff edge.

After 60 years, very few WWII 4.7-inch coastal artillery sites still survive in anything approaching significant form. All the remains at Cudmore Grove, including the extant pillboxes, the broken emplacements on the beach and the remaining searchlight base, are important features of WWII archaeology, part of the history and heritage of wartime Essex. The loss of any part would be a loss to the integrity of the whole.

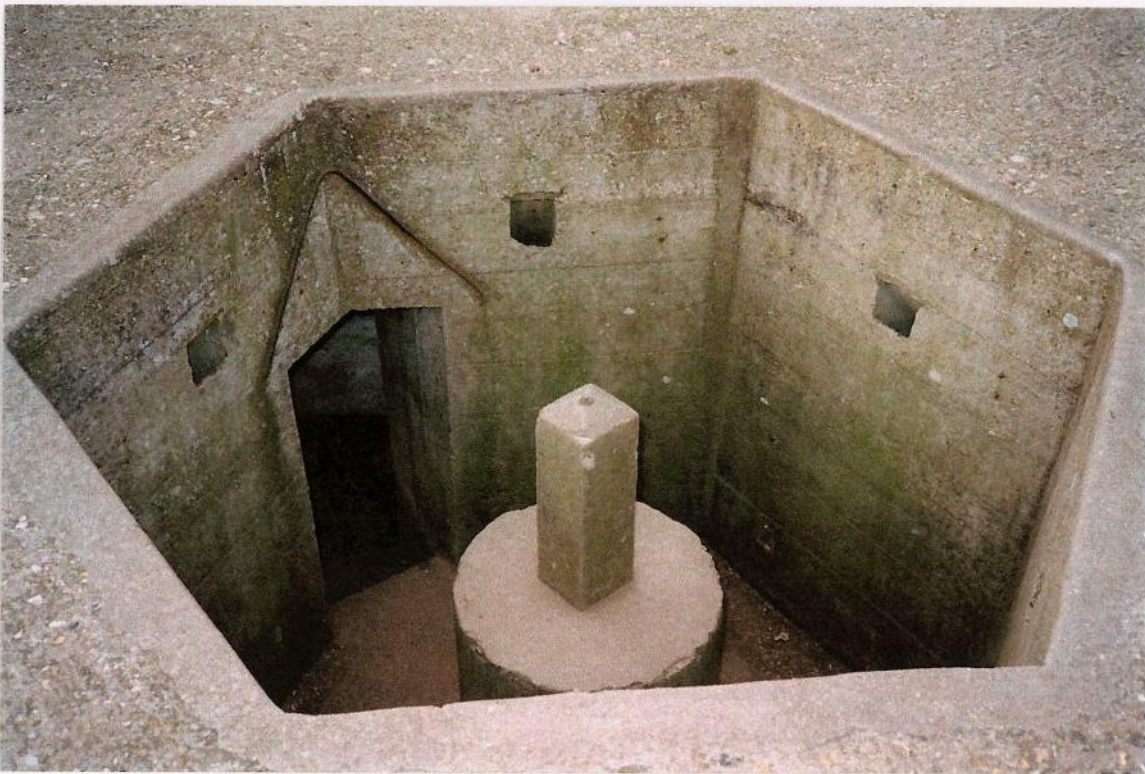
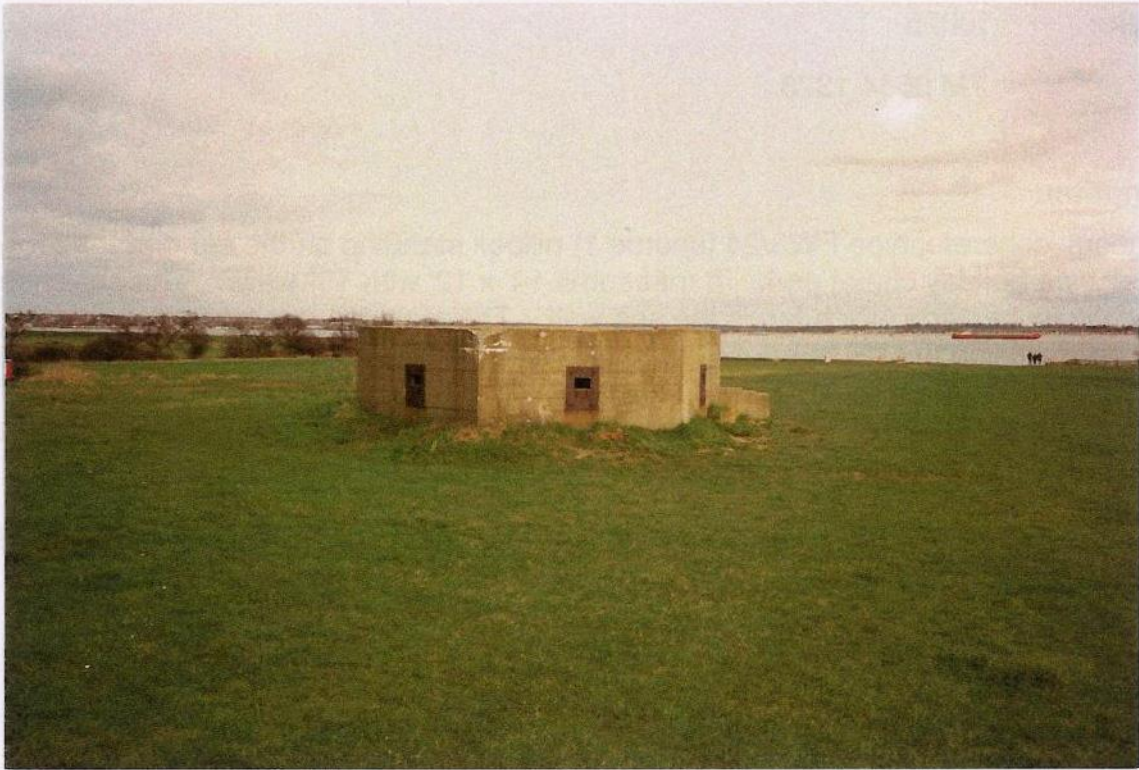
Grading:

Essex Grading: ****

Sources:

<1> Photograph: SMR, , Nash, F, 1993, three frames

<2> AP: SWBW15-5, 6, , Rogers, P, 1993,



SMR 10026: One of the two surviving pillboxes at Cudmore Grove Country Park. The central anti-aircraft machine-gun well would have been equipped with a World War One Lewis gun.

Pillbox at Cudmore Grove Country Park

SMR No: 10027

NGR: TM 0692 1486

Description:

1993: Hexagonal, concrete pillbox in scrub and thicket at the side of a field 50 yards from the sea shore at Cudmore Grove Country Park. The structure of the pillbox has been built into the ground with the machine-gun apertures only just above ground level thus showing a low silhouette to an attacker.. There is a central anti-aircraft well with a pedestal, originally formed by filling an upended 28" diameter sewage pipe with concrete, surmounted by a concrete post for holding the machine-gun. One photo of site. <1>

2007:SITE ASSESSMENT:

During World War Two, what is now Cudmore Grove Country Park was a coastal artillery battery with two 4.7-inch guns, probably of World War One vintage. A Battery Observation Post was the central command position, horizontally-aimed searchlights swept the sea at night from concrete bunkers, and pillboxes guarded the perimeter against ground attack.

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After 60 years, very few WWII 4.7-inch coastal artillery sites still survive in anything approaching significant form. All the remains at Cudmore Grove, including the extant pillboxes, the broken emplacements on the beach and the remaining searchlight base, are important features of WWII archaeology, part of the history and heritage of wartime Essex. The loss of any part would be a loss to the integrity of the whole.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ****

Sources:

<1> Photograph: SMR, , Nash, F, 1993, one frame



SMR 10027: Like its partner (SMR 10026), this anti-aircraft pillbox survives well at Cudmore Grove Country Park.

Searchlight emplacement at Cudmore Grove Country Park

SMR No: 10028

NGR: TM 0667 1449

Description:

1993: This searchlight emplacement was part of the East Mersea coastal artillery battery. It is shown on maps dated 1960 and photos taken in 1974. <1> <2> Now the remains lie as broken concrete on the beach after extensive damage by coastal erosion. One photo of site. <3>

2007:SITE ASSESSMENT:

During World War Two, what is now Cudmore Grove Country Park was a coastal artillery battery with two 4.7-inch guns, probably of World War One vintage. A Battery Observation Post was the central command position, horizontally-aimed searchlights swept the sea at night from concrete bunkers, and pillboxes guarded the perimeter against ground attack.

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Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Map: Reprographics, , , 1960, TM0614

<2> Photograph: SMR, , Hunter, John, 1979, two frames

<3> Photograph: SMR, , Nash, F, 1993, one frame



SMR 10028: One of the two coastal artillery searchlight emplacements which stood at the 4.7-inch gun battery at East Mersea. In 1974 it stood at the back of the beach. In 1993 it lies as broken, but still recognisable, concrete on the sands.

Battery Observation Post at Cudmore Grove Country Park

SMR No: 10029
NGR: TM 0678 1459

Description:

1993: This was the Battery Observation Post for the coastal artillery battery at East Mersea. It originally stood on the edge of the cliff and appears to have been approached via concrete steps. <1> <2> The remains now lie on the beach although the general shape of the base can still be made out. Two photos of site. <3> other reference <4>

2007:SITE ASSESSMENT:

During World War Two, what is now Cudmore Grove Country Park was a coastal artillery battery with two 4.7-inch guns, probably of World War One vintage. A Battery Observation Post was the central command position, horizontally-aimed searchlights swept the sea at night from concrete bunkers, and pillboxes guarded the perimeter against ground attack.

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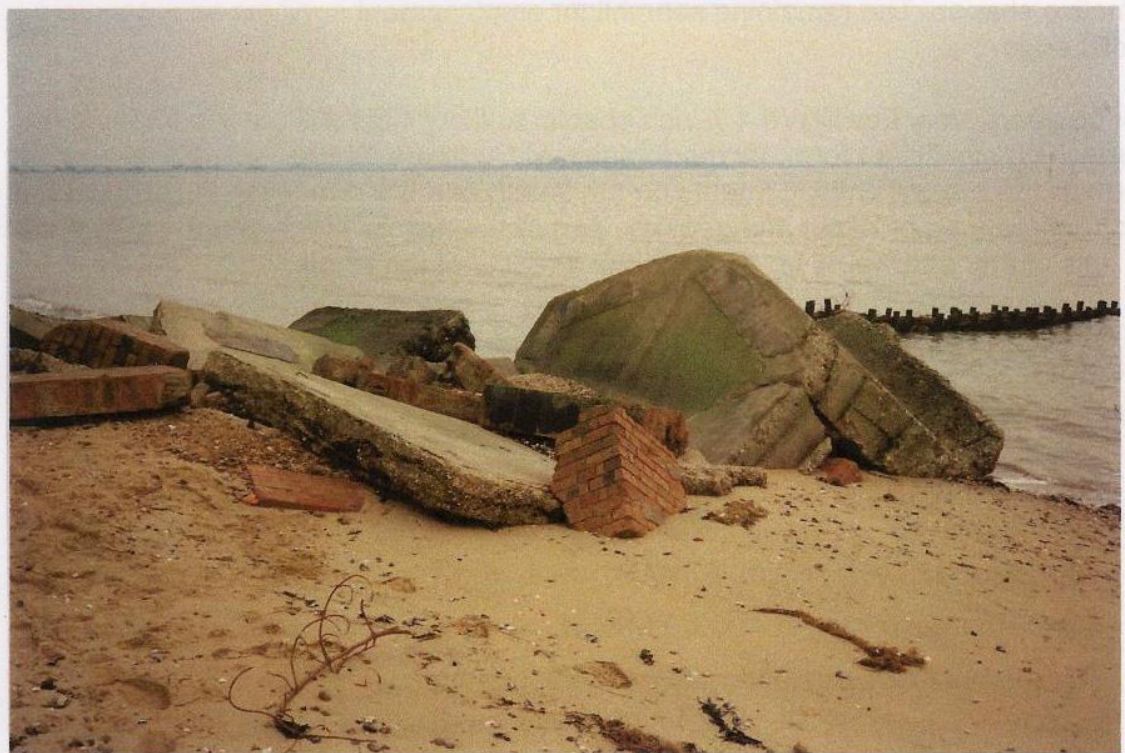
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Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

- <1> Map: Reprographics, , , 1960, TM0614
- <2> Photograph: SMR, , Hunter, John, 1974, two frames
- <3> Photograph: SMR, , Nash, F, 1993, two frames
- <4> AP: SW BW 15-5, 6, , Rogers, P, 1993,



SMR 10029: The Battery Observation Post at Cudmore Grove Country Park. As it looked in 1974, and nineteen years later in 1993.

4.7-inch Gun Emplacement at Cudmore Grove Country Park

SMR No: 10030
NGR: TM 0682 1464

Description:

1993: Cudmore Grove Country Park was, during World War Two, a coastal artillery site housing 4.7" guns. <1> There were two casemates. These are marked on maps dated 1960 and shown on photographs taken in 1974 - before their collapse on to the beach. <2> <3> Barbed wire, stakes, wheels, etc., which were dumped into a pit presumably when the site was closed down, are now re-appearing at the cliff face as a consequence of coastal erosion. Four photos of site.<4>

2007:SITE ASSESSMENT:

During World War Two, what is now Cudmore Grove Country Park was a coastal artillery battery with two 4.7-inch guns, probably of World War One vintage. A Battery Observation Post was the central command position, horizontally-aimed searchlights swept the sea at night from concrete bunkers, and pillboxes guarded the perimeter against ground attack.

In 2007, two pillboxes still survive, both in good condition. The two gun casemates now lie as broken concrete on the sands but remain very recognisable from the large ring of gun-holding bolts, the holdfast. Similarly, the Battery Observation Post is now shattered concrete on the beach, as is one of the two searchlight emplacements, both recognisable from the distinctive shapes. The remaining searchlight emplacement survives as a concrete base on the cliff edge.

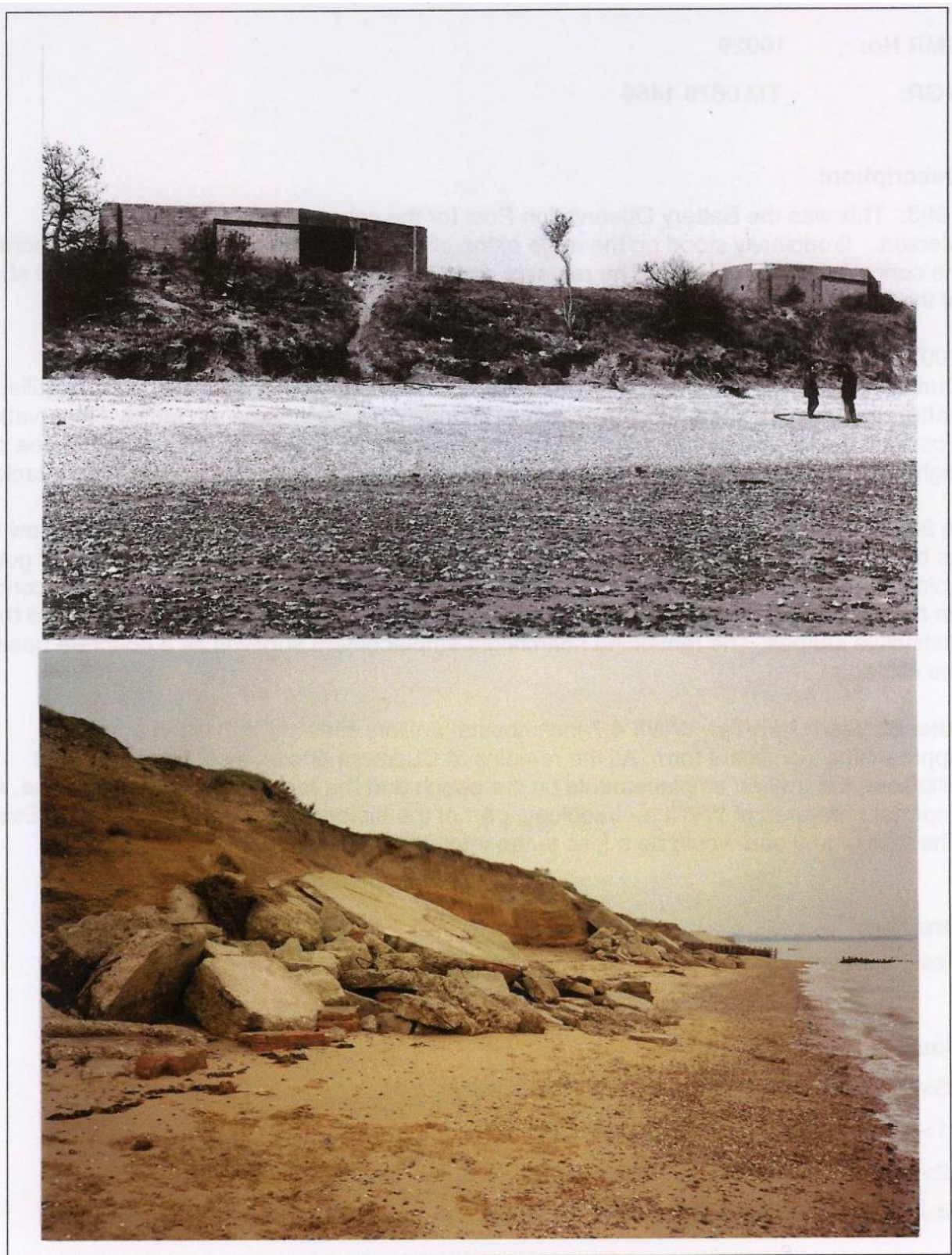
After 60 years, very few WWII 4.7-inch coastal artillery sites still survive in anything approaching significant form. All the remains at Cudmore Grove, including the extant pillboxes, the broken emplacements on the beach and the remaining searchlight base, are important features of WWII archaeology, part of the history and heritage of wartime Essex. The loss of any part would be a loss to the integrity of the whole.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Fortifications of East Anglia, , Kent, P, 1988, p65
- <2> Map: Reprographics, , , 1960, TM0614
- <3> Photograph: SMR, , Hunter, John, 1974, two frames
- <4> Photograph: SMR, , Nash, F, 1993, four frames



SMR 10030/31: In 1974 the two 4.7-inch gun casemates at Cudmore Grove Country Park still stood on the cliff edge. In 1993, they lie as immense slabs of concrete, the ring of gun mounting bolts clearly identifying them

4.7-inch Gun Emplacement at Cudmore Grove Country Park

SMR No: 10031

NGR: TM 0684 1465

Description:

1993: Cudmore Grove Country Park was, during World War Two, a coastal artillery site housing 4.7" guns. <1> There were two emplacements, which are shown on maps dated 1960 and photographs taken in 1974. <2> <3> Now they lie as broken concrete on the beach. Two photos of site. <4>

2007:SITE ASSESSMENT:

During World War Two, what is now Cudmore Grove Country Park was a coastal artillery battery with two 4.7-inch guns, probably of World War One vintage. A Battery Observation Post was the central command position, horizontally-aimed searchlights swept the sea at night from concrete bunkers, and pillboxes guarded the perimeter against ground attack.

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Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> DESC TEXT: Fortifications of East Anglia, , Kent, P, 1988, p65

<2> Map: Reprographics, , , 1960, TM0614

<3> Photograph: SMR, , Hunter, John, 1974, two frames

<4> Photograph: SMR, , Nash, F, 1993, two frames

Pillbox (destroyed) at Cudmore Grove Country Park

SMR No: 10032

NGR: TM 0688 1467

Description:

1993: A type FW3/24 hexagonal, concrete pillbox is shown on a photograph dated 1974. At that time it lay on the beach although originally it stood on the cliff edge. <1> <2> <3> There is now no trace of it. <4>

Grading:

Essex Grading; 0

Sources:

<1> DESC TEXT: Pillboxes, , Wills, H, 1985, p31

<2> Photograph: SMR, , Hunter, John, 1974, one frame

<3> Map: Reprographics, , , 1960, TM0614

<4> Photograph: SMR, , Nash, F, 1993, one frame

Searchlight Emplacement at Cudmore Grove Country Park

SMR No: 10033
NGR: TM 0696 1475

Description:

1993: The base of a searchlight emplacement can be seen on top of the sea wall at Cudmore Grove Country Park. Originally it formed part of the coastal artillery battery. One photo of site. <1>

2007:SITE ASSESSMENT:

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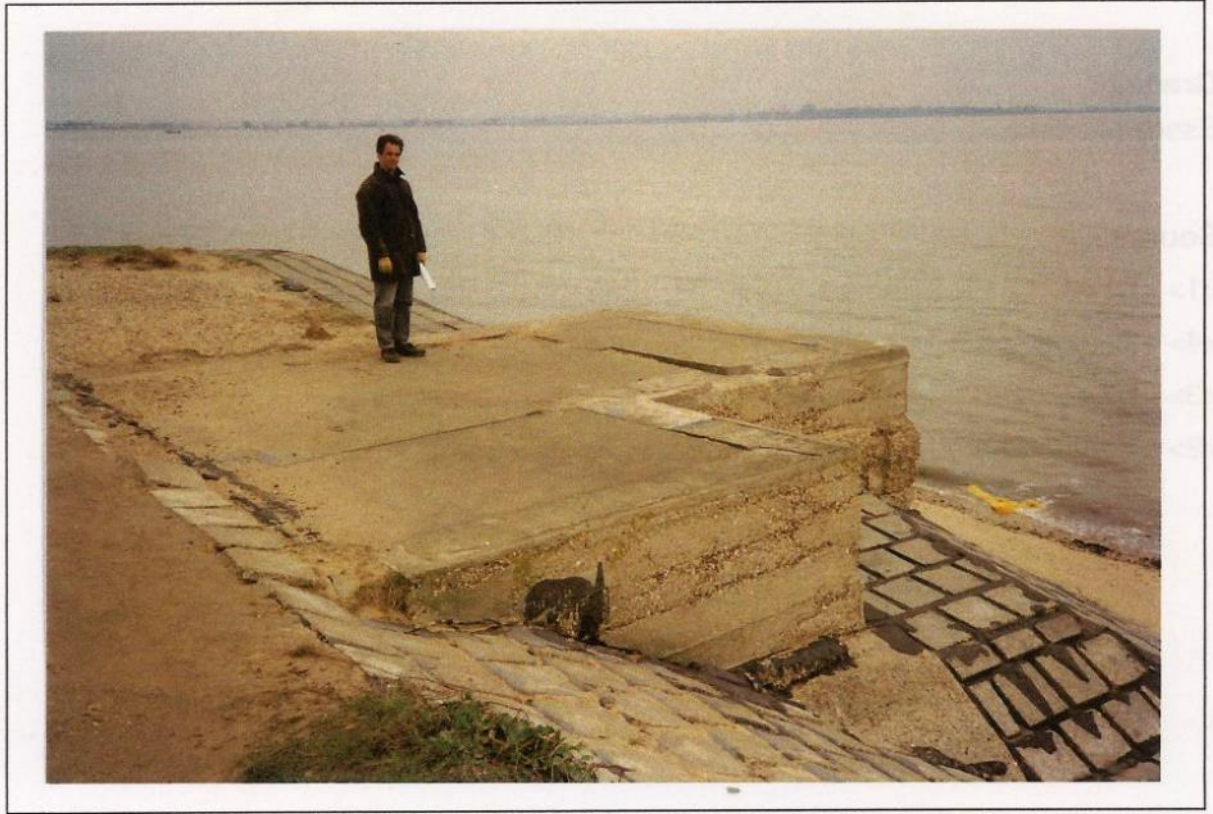
After 60 years, very few WWII 4.7-inch coastal artillery sites still survive in anything approaching significant form. All the remains at Cudmore Grove, including the extant pillboxes, the broken emplacements on the beach and the remaining searchlight base, are important features of WWII archaeology, part of the history and heritage of wartime Essex. The loss of any part would be a loss to the integrity of the whole.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

- <1> Photograph: SMR, , Nash, F, 1993, one frame
- <2> DESC TEXT: Country Parks Archaeological Survey of Cudmore Grove, , Sarah Gibson, 1994,



SMR 10033: The base of one of the two Coastal Artillery Searchlight Emplacements at Cudmore Grove Country Park still remains on the cliff edge.

Pillbox (destroyed) North-east of Cudmore Grove Country Park

SMR No: 10034
NGR: TM 0720 1500

Description:

Wills lists a "polygonal, concrete pillbox, facing S at TM 072 150". <1> No trace of this pillbox was found. Although in a logical position it is not listed in ECC archives or recalled locally. <2> <3>

Grading:

Essex Grading 0

Sources:

<1> DESC TEXT: Pillboxes, , Wills, H, 1985, p87

<2> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , , East Mersea

<3> Verbal communication: PERS COMM by local resident, , local resident, ,

Pillbox at extreme end of Mersea Island

SMR No: 10035

NGR: TM 0733 1543

Description:

50 yards from the end of the spit of sand and scrub at the entrance to the River Colne, a hexagonal, concrete pillbox is slowly sinking into the ground. There is only about 3'6" still visible. It is 19' across and has an unusual array of apertures. The W side facing the Colne and the SE side facing along the beach have exceptionally large machine-gun loopholes - 60" x 27" stepped down to 33" x 11" - the other four all having normal rifle apertures. The entrance is to the SW. In the centre of the roof is a 1" round brass peg used, it is believed, for triangulation purposes. One photo of site. <1> another photo <3>

SITE ASSESSMENT: The pillbox is sinking into the ground and may eventually disappear..

Observe to establish rate of disappearance <2> <4>

Grading:: Essex Grading ***

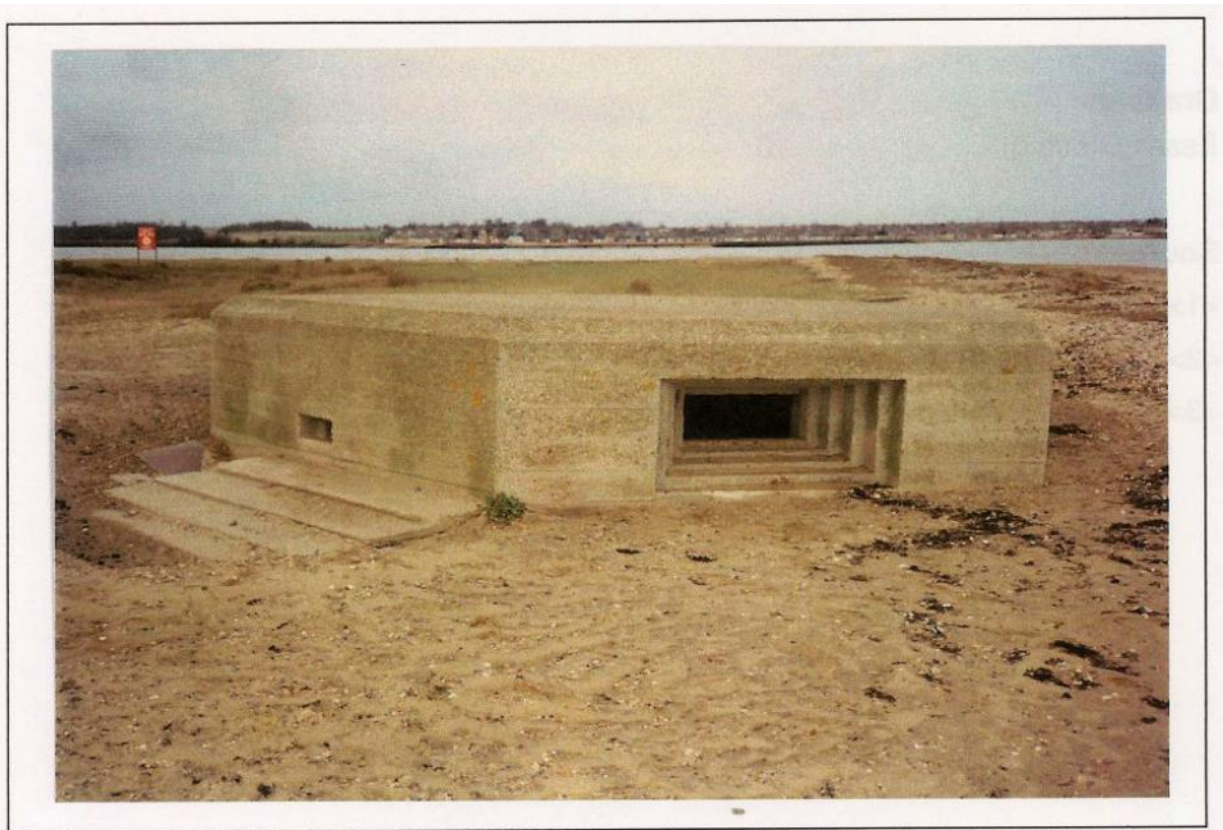
Sources:

<1> Photograph: SMR, , Nash, F, 1993, one frame

<2> DESC TEXT: Country Parks Archaeological Survey of Cudmore Grove, , Sarah Gibson, 1994,

<3> AP: BW/00/5/11, , Tyler,S, 2000,

<4> AP: BW/99/22/7, , D. Strachan, 1999,



SMR 10035: The unusual sight of a pillbox slowly disappearing into the sands

WWII Bombing Decoy, "BR2 East Mersea", Essex

SMR No: 10036
NGR: TM 0555 1560

Description:

A "decoy bunker" stands in a small spinney to the NE of Mersea Island. Built in this deserted area to house engines for pumping kerosene on to dummy buildings, it was hoped that these, when set alight, would persuade enemy bombers to drop their loads on this position. One photo of site. <1>

November 1999: Documented in contemporary records, "BR2 East Mersea" was a World War Two N Series (Naval) decoy controlled from Harwich. This class of decoy was designed specifically for the protection of naval installations - in this case the naval facilities at Brightlingsea, two miles to the E across the River Colne. Dobinson, 1996, records that the site was a QL/QF type - a type which not only attempted to draw night-time bombers away from the town with dummy lighting but also to continue the deception with fires from blazing "houses" and "factories". A wartime drawing by one of the camp guards, Hubert Inman, shows the layout of the East Mersea site. Some of the lighting arrays can be seen together with prepared Basket Fires and Boiler Fires <2> <3>

Site visit November 1999: The area of the decoy is on former marshland, now low-lying meadows. The contemporary Military Grid Reference, 98/499339, places the site 200 yards S of the sea wall.

400 yards E of the decoy site, the night shelter still survives in a thin band of trees leading from Shop Lane towards the sea wall. This bunker is almost completely covered in its protective earth banking. Surprisingly, the public footpath climbs one end of the bunker via steps cut into the earth, passes along its centre line and descends via steps on the other end! Its entrance, through sloping earth-retaining walls, is on the E side. The escape hatch is at the N end. Since the last survey visit in 1993, the outside blast wall across the entrance has been demolished, the entrance has been closed with a glazed wooden door, and the escape hatch has been covered with a raised "skylight". Survival or condition of the internal features is not known.

Five photos of site <4>. Report ref <5>

SITE ASSESSMENT: The pattern of the bunker is probably the same, or very similar to, those extant at "WRI Spinnels Farm" (SMR 20309) and "HA2 Kirby le Soken" (SMR 20310). All three were N Series (Naval) decoys controlled from Harwich. Subject to an internal inspection to assess the condition of the structure, every effort should be made to ensure the continued survival of this shelter. <5>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ****

Sources:

<1> Photograph: SMR, , Nash,F, , one frame

<2> DESC TEXT: Twentieth Century Fortifications in England - Vol III - Bombing decoys of WWII, , Dobinson, Colin, 1996, list pp116, 118

- <3> DESC TEXT: Twentieth Century Fortifications in England - Vol III - Bombing decoys of WWII, , Dobinson, Colin, 1996, pp 41-79
- <4> Photograph: WWII Bombing Decoy, "East Mersea", Essex, , Nash, F, 1999, five frames
- <5> DESC TEXT: World War Two Decoy Bombing Sites in Essex: Project Report March 2002, , Nash, Fred, 2002,
- <6> Photograph: WWII Bombing Decoy E.Mersea, , Tyler.S, 2002, 4 photos. 18th June 2002



SMR 10036: Pictured in 1993, the decoy bombing bunker at East Mersea has now lost its blast wall.

Searchlight Emplacement (destroyed) at West Mersea

SMR No: 10037

NGR: TM 0183 1236

Description:

1993: This searchlight emplacement was one of a pair on the beach at West Mersea — part of the 4.7" coastal artillery site. There is now no trace of it but its position can be seen on a photograph of a contemporary plan of the site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> Photograph: SMR, , , , one frame

Gun Emplacement No. 1 (destroyed) at West Mersea

SMR No: 10038

NGR: TM 0191 1238

Description:

1993: This emplacement, one of a pair on the Esplanade at West Mersea, housed a 4.7" 1918 gun made originally in Japan. <1> There is now no trace of it

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> Photograph: SMR, , , , one frame

Gun Emplacement No. 2 at West Mersea

SMR No: 10039

NGR: TM 0195 1238

Description:

1993: During WWII this entire area was a coastal artillery site with two 4.7" guns made in Japan in 1918. This emplacement, No. 2, still stands at the back of the beach but has been converted to "The Two Sugars" cafe. <1> One photo of site. <2>

2007: SITE ASSESSMENT:

During World War Two, there were two 4.7-inch coastal artillery batteries on Mersea Island, one at the east end of the island (SMRs 10026 – 10033) and one here, at West Mersea. Both comprised two guns, each in its own casemate, a Battery Observation Post, horizontally-aimed searchlights and pillboxes. At West Mersea, one of the gun casemates and a searchlight emplacement still survive.

4.7-inch gun casemates and their attendant coastal artillery searchlight emplacements are now very rare. This is the sole remaining gun casemate of this type in Essex. There are only four surviving coastal artillery searchlight emplacements in the county. In the top layer of WWII archaeology and an important part of the history and heritage of Essex, every effort should be made to ensure their continued survival, ultimately with statutory protection.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ****

Sources:

<1> Photograph: SMR, , , one frame

<2> Photograph: SMR, , Nash,F, , one frame



SMR 10039: The only surviving 4.7-inch gun casemate in Essex, the 'Two Sugars' beach cafe at West Mersea.

Battery Observation Post (destroyed) at West Mersea

SMR No: 10040

NGR: TM 0198 1241

Description:

1993: This Battery Observation Post was part of the coastal artillery site at West Mersea.. <1>
There is now no trace of it and the site is occupied by a public convenience.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> Photograph: SMR, , , one frame

Searchlight Emplacement at West Mersea

SMR No: 10041
NGR: TM 0209 1238

Description:

1993: This searchlight emplacement was part of the coastal artillery site at West Mersea. It still stands at the back of the beach and acts as an ice cream stall in the summer. <1> One photo of site. <2>

2007: SITE ASSESSMENT:

During World War Two, there were two 4.7-inch coastal artillery batteries on Mersea Island, one at the east end of the island (SMRs 10026 – 10033) and one here, at West Mersea. Both comprised two guns, each in its own casemate, a Battery Observation Post, horizontally-aimed searchlights and pillboxes. At West Mersea, one of the gun casemates and a searchlight emplacement still survive.

4.7-inch gun casemates and their attendant coastal artillery searchlight emplacements are now very rare. This is the sole remaining gun casemate of this type in Essex. There are only four surviving coastal artillery searchlight emplacements in the county. In the top layer of WWII archaeology and an important part of the history and heritage of Essex, every effort should be made to ensure their continued survival, ultimately with statutory protection.

Grading:

Essex Grading *****

Sources:

<1> Photograph: SMR, , , , one frame

<2> Photograph: SMR, , Nash. F, . one frame



SMR 10041: Only a handful of Coastal Artillery Searchlight Emplacements survive in Essex. This one, at West Mersea, provided the night-time illumination for the 4.7-inch guns (SMRs 10038 & 10039) nearby.

Pillbox on sea wall North of Pyefleet Channel

SMR No: 10042

NGR: TM 0136 1522

Description:

A 26' x 15' double-ended pillbox on the N bank of the Pyefleet Channel. It is octagonal with two long sides bisecting the sea wall, made of concrete and is sited 80 yards from the Strood causeway. Machine-gun fire from the pillbox would have effectively swept the causeway denying it to an attacker. The original sea wall has been widened considerably as a result of tipping and thus only the roof of the N end of the pillbox can be seen, at ground level. The few exposed loopholes to the S are all blocked up.. Two photos of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: SMR, , Nash, F, 1993, two frames



SMR 10042: The through-the-seawall pattern of pillbox enabled the defenders to fire from loopholes at each end. Here, the landward side has been built up, covering the vertical face.

Pillbox on sea wall North of Pyefleet Channel

SMR No: 10043
NGR: TM 0149 1538

Description:

A 25' x 15' double-ended concrete pillbox bisecting the sea wall N of the Pyefleet Channel. It is octagonal with ten gun ports, five of which are open. Owing to a bend in the sea wall the pillbox generally faces E and W. It is possible to enter through the opening which is on the long N side. The far end of the Strood causeway can be seen through one of the loopholes and beneath this is what appears to be the remains of a concrete "pedestal" with a V-shaped channel, possibly for holding a machine-gun mounting.. One photo of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: SMR, , Nash, F, 1993, one frame



SMR 10043: Although the seawall has been built up, the entrance and loopholes are still clear on this double-ended pillbox.

Pillbox (destroyed), The Strood, Peldon

SMR No: 10731
NGR: TM 0105 1538

Description:

Contemporary records state, pillbox. 2 meadows opposite Strood Villa, Mersea Road. Map ref. 457338 (Mil. Ed.). <1>

This pillbox can be seen, overlooking Strood Channel from a position 50 yards W of The Strood, on an aerial photograph taken in 1946 but an aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows it to be no longer in existence by that date <2> <3>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,
<2> AP: 106G-UK 1367-5137, , RAF, 1946, April 1946
<3> AP: Runl9-104/-, , HSL, 1960,

Pillbox, sea wall, Langenhoe

SMR No: 10732
NGR: TM 0291 1644

Description:

A double-ended, octagonal pillbox, bisects the sea wall at this point. It is 26ft long x 15ft wide and is constructed of concrete. The seaward three loopholes are closed and the landward loopholes are open. The earthen sea wall has been built higher since WWII, across the centre of the pillbox, and a small concrete retaining wall has been built to hold the earth.

One photo of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading; ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: , , Nash, Fred, 1996,



SMR 10732: One of a number of double-ended pillboxes built across the seawall at Langenhoe

Pillbox, sea wall, Langenhoe

SMR No: 10733
NGR: TM 0353 1662

Description:

A double-ended, 'sea wall' pillbox, bisects the sea wall overlooking the Pyefleet Channel to the south and marshes to the north. The landward part is mainly under the earth as the sea wall has been built up since WWII. There is a central cross wall, constructed post-war, on the pillbox, to retain the excess earth. The seaward loopholes are closed.

One photo of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: , , Nash, Fred, 1996,



SMR 10733: The loopholes have been sealed since the end of the war to prevent flooding by the sea.

Pillbox, sea wall, Langenhoe

SMR No: 10734
NGR: TM 0423 1677

Description:

A double-ended pillbox originally bisected the sea wall here, but, although the landward end still survives under the built-up sea wall, the seaward end has been demolished leaving the central inner cross-wall exposed. It can be seen that there was an opening on each side of this wall to move from one end of the pillbox to the other and these openings have now been concreted up to prevent the sea from entering the landward end. The thickness of the walls and roof is 14in.

Two photos of site. <1>.

Grading:

Essex Grading

Sources:

<1> Photograph: , , Nash, Fred, 1996,



SMR 10734: This half-demolished double-ended pillbox provides an opportunity to see some of the inside construction

Pillbox, sea wall, Langenhoe

SMR No: 10735
NGR: TM 0505 1681

Description:

The sea wall has been much widened here and a double-ended pillbox which originally bisected the wall has been almost completely buried. Just 4ft of the landward end, with open loopholes, can be seen.

One photo of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: , , Nash, Fred, 1996,



SMR 10735: As the seawall gets built-up more so the pillbox slowly disappears beneath it.

Pillbox, sea wall, Langenhoe

SMR No: 10736
NGR: TM 0573 1634

Description:

A double-ended pillbox bisects the earth and grass-covered sea wall overlooking Pyefleet Channel to the south and marshes to the north. Approx. 6ft of each end projects from the bank with a small post-war retaining wall on the top. All the loopholes are closed. The concrete is coming off the face of the pillbox at each end.

Two photos of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: , , Nash, Fred, 1996,



SMR 10736: Before the seawall was built up to its present level, it would have been possible to walk along the roof of this pillbox from one end to the other. Now, just a small part of each end can be seen

Pillbox, sea wall, Langenhoe

SMR No: 10737
NGR: TM 0593 1634

Description:

A double-ended pillbox bisects the sea wall at this point. The earth and grass-covered wall has been built up since World War Two; just 6ft of the pillbox projects from the seaward side and 3ft from the landward. The top of the bank is now some 4ft above the pillbox and there is a post-war earth-retaining wall across the centre.

One photo of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: , , Nash, Fred, 1996,



SMR 10737: These double-ended pillboxes were entered from a side access halfway along. At Langenhoe these have long been covered

Pillbox, sea wall, Langenhoe

SMR No: 10738
NGR: TM 0586 1664

Description:

A double-ended pillbox bisects the sea wall overlooking South Geedon Creek to the north and the marshes to the south. The landward end is almost completely buried with just a small part projecting from the bank, but the seaward end is completely exposed and intact although the action of the sea is now undermining this end. The seaward loopholes are sealed. Across the top is a small post-war earth-retaining wall.

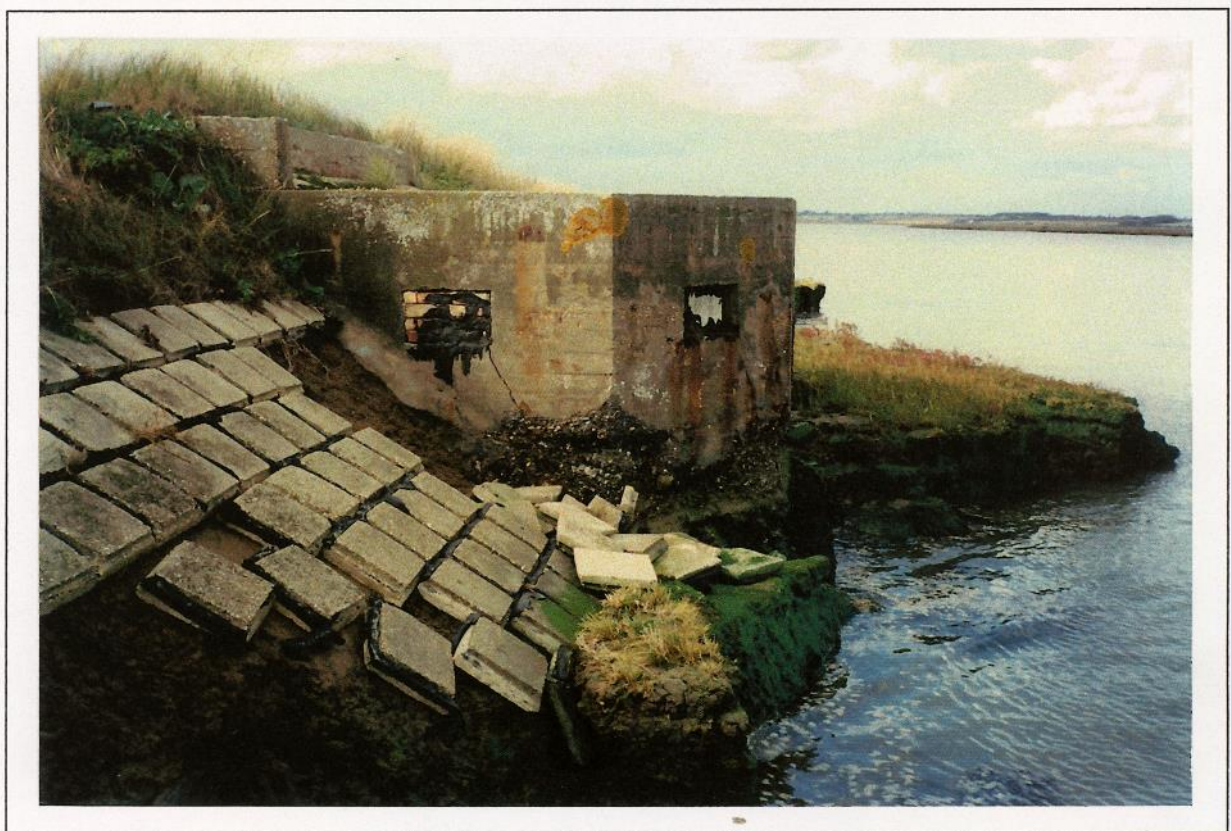
Two photos of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: , , Nash, Fred, 1996,



SMR 10738: Here, the action of the seawater is undermining the seawall, and the pillbox.

Pillbox, west bank of the River Colne, opposite Wivenhoe

SMR No: 10877

NGR: TM 0401 2127

Description:

On the west bank of the River Colne, facing across to Wivenhoe on the other side, is a concrete pillbox. It sits high on a tall platform of concrete built into the river bank and is unusually shaped. It is effectively 8-sided although two of the sides form an internal angle thus cutting out a quarter of the area of an otherwise octagonal pillbox. The sides, starting at the northeast and working clockwise measure 11ft 6in; 6ft; 3ft 3in; 10ft (angled towards the centre of pillbox); 3ft 9in (angled out from the centre); 4ft 3in; 7ft; and 7ft 6in. There are five loopholes. On the longest wall facing across the river there are two loopholes - one a normal 10in wide by 12in high with steel surrounds, and the other an unusual 7in wide by 12in slit. The concrete is 15in thick and the entrance is a drop-in well type on the outside of the 7ft wall.

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows that the unusual shape of the pillbox may be due to its having been built partly around a structure or building on its landward side. This had disappeared by 1960. <1> <2>

Four photos of site. <3>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<3> Photograph: , , Nash, F, 1997,

<1> AP: 106G-UK-1492-3363, , RAF, 1946,

<2> AP: Run 16-074, , HSL, 1960, June 1960



SMR 10877: The picturesque setting of this pillbox somewhat belies its more serious purpose. The drop-in entrance is very unusual; clearly designed to protect against flooding.

Pillbox (destroyed), W bank of River Colne, opposite Wivenhoe

SMR No: 10878

NGR: TM 0373 2135

Description:

An aerial photo taken in 1946 shows the indistinct shape of a pillbox on the seawall facing across to Wivenhoe on the other side of the river. An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows it to have been demolished by that date. <1> <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 3363, , RAF, 1946,

Pillbox (destroyed), Rowhedge Quay

SMR No: 10879

NGR: TM 031 2161

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows the distinct shape of an FW3/24 pillbox on the quay at Rowhedge. An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows the outline of its base. It is now a grassy seating area. <1> <2> <3>

One photo of site. <4>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G -UK 1492 - 3363, , RAF, 1946,

<2> DESC TEXT: Pillboxes, , Wills, H, 1985,

<3> AP: Run 16 - 074, , HSL, 1960,

<4> Photograph: Photograph of Pillbox 10879 site, , Nash, F, 1997,

Pillbox (destroyed), Hythe Marshes, Colchester

SMR No: 10880
NGR: TM 0281 2291

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows the distinct shape of a double-ended pillbox on the W bank of the R. Colne at Hythe Marshes. It sits across the bank of the earthen seawall with the entrance on the northern long face. <1>

No sign of it now remains.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G -UK 1492-3362, , RAF, 1946,

Pillbox (destroyed), Hythe Marshes, Colchester

SMR No: 10881
NGR: TM 0252 2320

Description:

A low-level aerial photograph taken in 1948 shows a small hexagonal pillbox, with its entrance on the S side, standing on the W bank of the R. Colne. <1>

Nothing now survives.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 58 - 69 - 5197, , RAF, 1948,

Pillbox (destroyed), Sewage Works, Hythe Marshes

SMR No: 10882
NGR: TM 0234 2337

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Pillbox and A/T ditch S.E. corner of Sewage Works, near Hythe Quay. Map ref. 471416". (Mil. Ed.). <1>

A low-level aerial photograph taken in 1948 shows an hexagonal pillbox on the W side of the track by the R. Colne at this point. The entrance is on the W side. <2>

This position is now grain silos.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , , Colchester

<2> AP: 58 - 69 - 5197, , RAF, 1948,

Anti-Tank Obstacles (destroyed), Sewage Works, Hythe Marshes

SMR No: 10883
NGR: TM 0235 2337

Description:

A low-level aerial photograph taken in 1948 shows two anti-tank blocks, one probably 3' square and the other 3' wide x around 8' long, across the track between the pillbox at TM 0234 2337 (SMR 10882) and the R. Colne. The smaller block is alongside the pillbox and the larger one fills the remaining gap to the edge of the river bank. The shadow cast by the 8' long block suggests that it tapered down to the ground at its river bank end. <1>

This location is almost certainly where the defensive line around the S side of Colchester joined the River Colne Eastern Command Line and thus these blocks formed the last element in this southern defence.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 58 - 69 - 5197, , RAF, 1948,

Pillbox (destroyed), Nr Malthouse Arms, Hythe

SMR No: 10884
NGR: TM 0219 2373

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Pillbox. Nr. Tower in Meadow nr. Malthouse Arms, Hythe. Map ref. 469421."(Mil. Ed.). <1>

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows a meadow on the S side of the Malthouse Arms beside the River Colne with what is probably the tower in its centre. The pillbox cannot be seen but may have been underneath a large tree some yards to the SE of the tower – this must have been a water tower as the owner of the meadow, given in War Time Contraventions, is stated as South Essex Waterworks Co. <2>

This meadow is now a woodyard.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , , Colchester

<2> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 3275, , RAF, 1946,

Pillbox (destroyed), near Malthouse, Hythe

SMR No: 10885
NGR: TM 0202 2390

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Pillbox. Land adjoining New Quay, Hythe, near Malthouse. Map ref. 468 422" (Mil. Ed.). <1>

An aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1946 shows an hexagonal pillbox on the W side of a bend in the road known as King Edward Quay. It overlooked the R. Colne just a few yards away and the entrance was on the SW side. <2>

The area is now the car park of a warehouse.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , , Colchester

<2> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 3275, , RAF, 1946,

Pillbox (destroyed), King Edward Quay, Hythe

SMR No: 10886
NGR: TM 0155 2425

Description:

A low-level aerial photograph taken in 1948 shows an hexagonal pillbox, with its entrance on the W face, standing on the W side of the road known as King Edward Quay just S of the junction with Haven Road. An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows it to have been demolished by that date.
<1> <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 58 - 69 - 5203, , RAF, 1948,
<2> AP: Run 14 - 062, , HSL, 1960,

Pillbox (destroyed), Hawkins Road, Hythe, Colchester

SMR No: 10887
NGR: TM 0158 2475

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Pillbox. O.S. No. 986, Allotments, Hawkins Road – nr Hythe Station. Map ref. 464429" (Mil. Ed.). <1>

A low-level aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1948 shows this pillbox standing on the E side of Hawkins Road just inside allotments. It was hexagonal, with its entrance on the W side, facing across the allotments to the railway line some 90 yards away. <2>

The area is now a car storage compound.

Grading:

Essex Grading 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Colchester
<2> AP: 58 - 69 - 5206, , RAF, 1948,

Pillbox, Hythe Station, Colchester

SMR No: 10888
NGR: TM 0157 2481

Description:

1997: Almost hidden by hoarding on the west side of the entrance to Hythe Railway Station is a concrete, FW3/24 pillbox. It has 10in wide x 12in high loopholes and the entrance is on the NW side away from the road. The walls are 15in thick. From this position the pillbox would have effectively covered the railway level crossing only 40 yards to the east. <1>

Two photos of site. <2>

2007: Visited in 2007, the pillbox has now been fenced around with high panelling and thus cannot be seen from the road. However, it appears to survive much as it has for the past 67 years.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<2> Photograph: Pillbox, Hythe Station, , Nash, F, 1997, 2 frames, April 1997

<1> DESC TEXT: Pillboxes, , Wills, H, 1985, plan, p.31



SMR 10888: During World War Two, Colchester was designated an 'anti-tank island' protected by a vast circle of pillboxes every 200/300 yards. This is one of the few surviving

Spigot Mortar Emplacement (destroyed), Hythe Hill, Hythe, Colchester

SMR No: 10889
NGR: TM 0119 2469

Description:

Contemporary records state "Spigot mortar position. Vacant site (formerly 51, Hythe Hill)". <1>

This emplacement can be seen on an aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1946, on the W corner of the E arm of St. Leonard's Road. <2>

This position is now paved over.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , , Colchester

<2> AP: 106G-UK 1492-3432, , RAF, 1946, May 1946

Pillbox, Bank of the River Colne, North of the Hythe

SMR No: 10890
NGR: TM 0130 2494

Description:

Standing on the south bank of the river Colne, north of the Hythe is a Type FW3/22 concrete pillbox. It faces NNE, measures 12ft 6in across and has walls 15in thick. The entrance porch has been demolished. Inside there is a central concrete pillar. There are six loopholes in total; five with the larger 10in x 12in aperture, and one on the rear face measuring 6.5in wide x 12.5in high. All have steel side surrounds. <1>

An aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1946 shows this area to have been a wharf, but shows no sign of this pillbox. However, in the exact position a long shed can be seen and it is probable that the pillbox was built inside the north end of the shed. An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows the shed to have been demolished and the pillbox revealed. <2> <3>

Two photos of site. <4>

Grading:

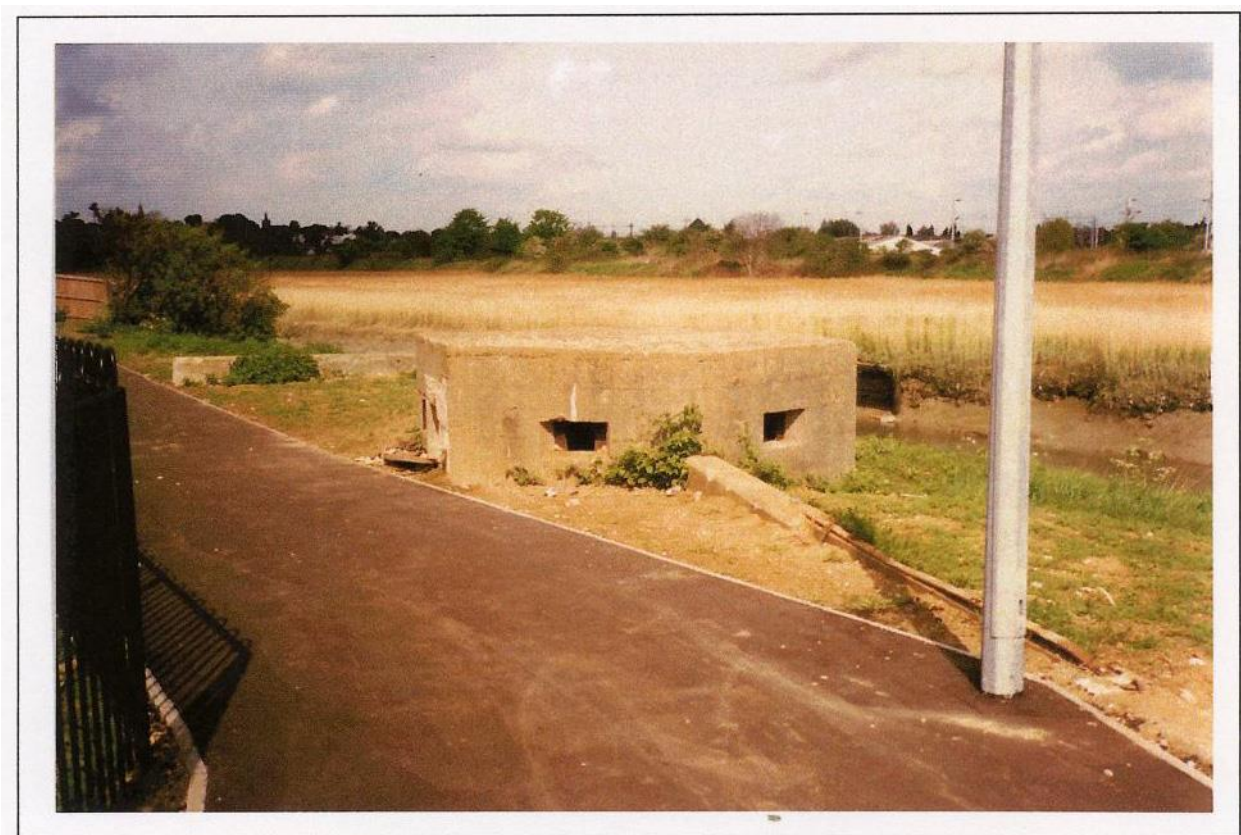
Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> DESC TEXT: Pillboxes, , Wills, H, 1985, plan, p28

<2> AP: 106G-UK 1492-3432, , RAF, 1946,

<3> AP: Run 14-062, , HSL, 1960, <4> Photograph: , , Nash,F, 1997,



SMR 10890: It appears that the entrance to this pillbox, one of the few surviving around Colchester town, has been demolished to make way for the footpath

Pillbox (destroyed), Moors Dump, Colchester

SMR No: 10891
NGR: TM 0089 2493

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Pillbox. Moors Dump rear of Council Schools, Barrack Street. Map ref. 457432" (Mil. Ed.). <1>

This pillbox can be clearly seen on an aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1946. It was hexagonal with the entrance on the NW side. <2>

This position is a high bluff overlooking the R. Colne some 70 yards away. **Grading:**

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Colchester
<2> AP: 106G-UK 1492-3432, , RAF, 1946, May 1946

Pillbox (destroyed), East Bay Mill, East Street, Colchester

SMR No: 10892
NGR: TM 0069 2526

Description:

Contemporary records state, "2 pillboxes, demolition of brick stores, diversion of roadway. East Bay House, East Bridge. Map ref. 455435" (Mil. Ed.). <1>

An aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1948 shows one of these to have stood on a small riverside piece of land immediately S of, and somewhat below the level of, East Bridge. It was an hexagonal pillbox with its entrance on the W side. An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows it to have been demolished by that date. <2> <3>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Colchester
<2> AP: 58 - 69 - 5138, , RAF, 1948,
<3> AP: Run 14 - 062, , HSL, 1960,

Pillbox (destroyed), Eastbay House, East Bridge, Colchester

SMR No: 10893
NGR: TM 0067 2526

Description:

Contemporary records state, "2 pillboxes, demolition of brick stores, diversion of roadway. East Bay House, East Bridge. Map ref. 455435" (Mil. Ed.). <1>

It is locally recorded that at the E end of the crenellated wall (SMR 10894) an artillery pillbox was built facing across the river to the E side of the bridge. The wall, or firing post, abutted to the NW near corner of the pillbox which was built across the current position of the road. This necessitated the temporary diversion of the roadway around the front of the pillbox. The gun is recorded as a WWI naval 6-pounder. This is the same calibre of gun which was mounted in the extant artillery pillbox on the Eastern Command Line at Chappel Viaduct (SMR 20001).

This and the other structure at East Bay House, (SMR 10892 and 10894) were built by Taylor Woodrow. In the 1950's East Bay House was a Youth Hostel and it is thought that a remaining part of this pillbox, left in the front garden, was demolished by youth hostellers during this period. <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Colchester

<2> CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from local resident concerning pillbox 10893, Local Resident, 1997,

Concrete Firing Post, Eastbay House, East Bridge, Colchester

SMR No: 10894
NGR: TM 0067 2526

Description:

Eastbay House stands on the S side of East Street overlooking East Bridge. Around part of the front garden is a 33' long crenellated wall built of concrete. It is 2' 3" thick and 5' high with 9" crenellations on top. A dog-leg in the wall allowed it to follow the corner around. On the side facing the bridge, three spaced-out battens are set into the concrete. Contemporary records state, "Concrete firing post. Grounds of East Bay House, East Hill. Map ref. 455435" (Mil. Ed.). <1>

It is probable that at that time a fence bordered the garden — now a wall each side of the crenellated wall — and that 33' of it was taken down, replaced by the firing position and the fencing re-secured to the outside using the battens to nail it on to. This would have effectively disguised the position.

Two photos of site. <2>

SITE ASSESSMENT:

Prepared rifle positions, whether they are loopholed walls or a triangular structure as SMR 10162 are very rare survivors. At the time of writing this is the only WWII crenellated wall of this type recorded in the county.

Grading: Essex Grading: ****

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Colchester

<2> Photograph: Photograph of gun emplacement 10894, , Nash, F, 1997,



SMR 10894: At the time of compiling this report, over 2,000 WWII sites have been recorded in Essex. This is the sole example of a surviving crenellated firing post

Pillbox (destroyed), Rose and Crown Hotel, East Street, Colchester

SMR No: 10895
NGR: TM 0080 2534

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Pillbox. East Street Pavement, near Rose & Crown. Map ref. 457436." and "Pillbox. Site of demolished houses Nos. 53, 54, 55 & 56, East Street." <1>

Although the pillbox cannot be seen on an aerial photograph taken in 1946 there is a large gap between No. 57 East Street and the Rose and Crown public house and the pillbox must have stood in this position from where it would have been facing the railway level crossing 100 yards eastward. <2>

The area is now a shrubbery.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Colchester

<2> AP: 106G-UK 1492-3432, , RAF, 1946, May 1946

Spigot Mortar Emplacement (destroyed), behind garage, East Hill, Colchester

SMR No: 10896
NGR: TM 0056 2532

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Spigot mortar position. Yard at rear of East Bay Motor Works, East Hill. Map ref. 455436" (Mil. Ed.). <1>

This emplacement can be seen on an aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1946, behind a garage 40 yards N of East Hill overlooking the river and bridge 100 yards away to the E. <2>

The area remains the same, the garage and yard still surviving.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Colchester

<2> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 4197, , RAF, 1946,

Pillbox (destroyed), North-east of recreation ground, East Street, Colchester

SMR No: 10897

NGR: TM 0063 2541

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Pillbox. O.S. No. 667, East Street (East Mills, moorings W. of river). Map ref. 454437" (Mil. Ed.). <1>

This pillbox can be seen on an aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1948 standing at the NE corner of the recreation ground facing across the river a few yards away. It was hexagonal with the entrance on the W side. <2>

There is now no sign of this pillbox

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , , Colchester

<2> AP: 58 - 69 - 5138, , RAF, 1948,

Pillbox (destroyed), St Andrew's Ave, Colchester

SMR No: 10898

NGR: TM 0093 2557

Description:

An aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1946 shows the clear shape of an hexagonal pillbox, with an anti-tank ditch some yards away around its S side, on the S side of St. Andrew's Avenue. The entrance is on the SW face. <1>

This site now straddles the wall of a Sainsburys Homebase and the grass verge outside.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 4197, , RAF, 1946,

Pillbox (destroyed), Ipswich Road, Colchester

SMR No: 10899
NGR: TM 0086 2567

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Pillbox. L.N.E.R. Allotment No. 6, Ipswich Road, near junction with By-pass. Map ref. 457440" (Mil. Ed.). <1>

This pillbox can be clearly seen on a low-level aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1948. It stands a few yards N of the roundabout on the W side of Ipswich Road, hexagonal with its entrance on the S side. An aerial photograph taken in 1946, although showing the pillbox indistinctly, shows an anti-tank ditch to have crossed from Colchester By-pass Road to Ipswich Road a few yards N of the pillbox. <2> <3>

The area is now the front of Orchard Gardens.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Colchester
<2> AP: Misc areal photograph of Colchester, , RAF, 1948,
<3> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 4197, , RAF, 1946,

Spigot Mortar Emplacement (destroyed), Ipswich

SMR No: 10900
NGR: TM 0086 2569

Description:

An aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1946 shows the clear shape of a spigot mortar emplacement 25 yards N of a pillbox (SMR 10899). It is on the W side of Ipswich Road and an anti-tank ditch runs behind it, between it and the pillbox. From this position it would have had a clear view of the approach to Colchester along Ipswich Road. <1>

The area is now the front of Orchard Gardens.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 4197, , RAF, 1946

Pillbox, Cowdray Avenue, Colchester

SMR No: 10901
NGR: TM 0053 2600

Description:

Standing in a meadow between Cowdray Avenue and the north bank of the river Colne is a large, 19ft 6in across, hexagonal pillbox. Originally it was shuttered with brick, but almost all of this has now fallen off. There is a small loophole on each of the six faces. The entrance is on the SE side and around this is a low L-shaped blast wall. Some of the concrete above the entrance and much of the top of the blast wall has been chiselled off, probably with a pneumatic drill, exposing the reinforcement rods. This was done just post-war in an abandoned attempt to demolish the pillbox. The walls are 3ft 6in thick. <1>

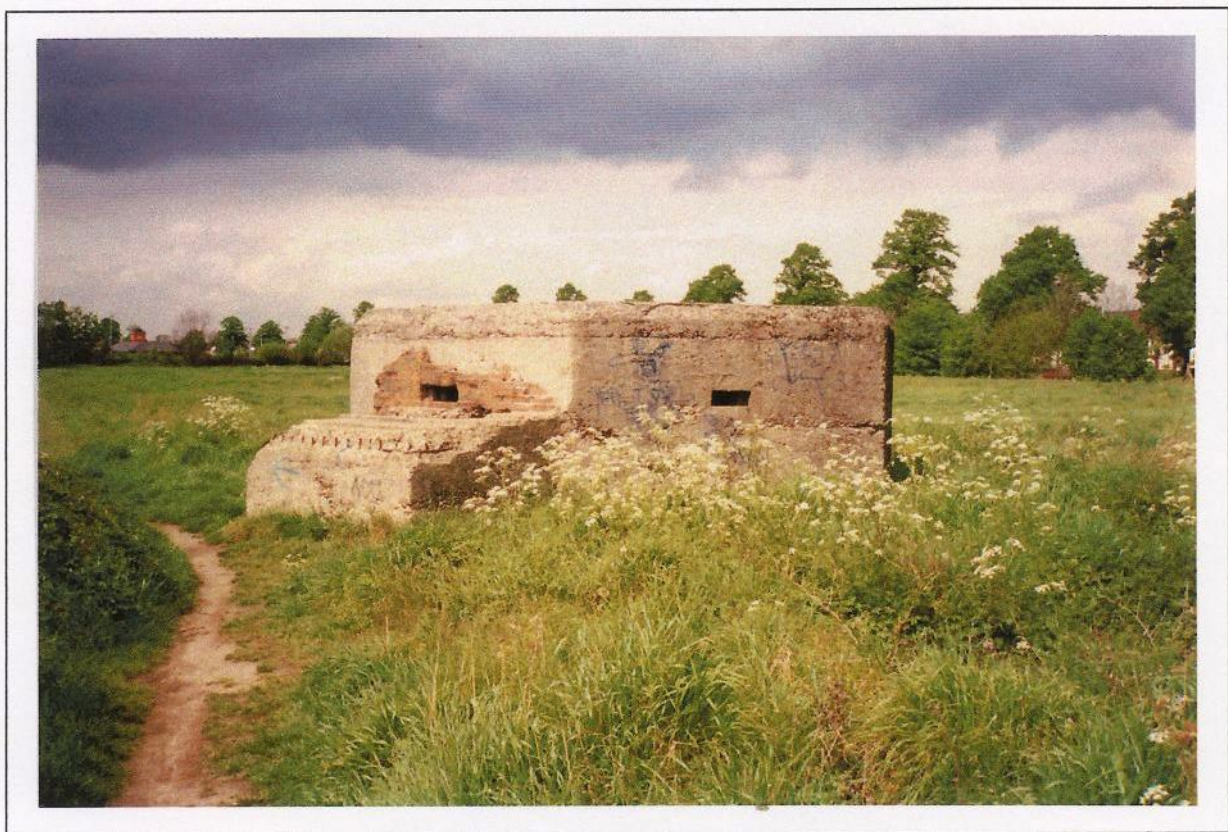
Three photos of site. <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading

Sources:

<1> PERSONAL OBSERVATION: , , Local Resident, 1997, <2> Photograph: , , Nash,F, 1997,



SMR 10901: Built to withstand hits from World War Two artillery shells, the heavy pillbox at Cowdray Avenue has also managed to survive a later attempt by a pneumatic drill.

Pillbox (destroyed), R. Colne, North-east Colchester

SMR No: 10902
NGR: TM 0060 2562

Description:

1:1250 map no. TM0025NE dated 1971 shows the shape of an hexagonal pillbox with its entrance on the SW side standing on the W fringe of a wood facing the R. Colne a 100 yards to the NE. Part of this pillbox can be seen on an aerial photograph taken in 1970. <1> <2>

The area is now part of a housing development.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> Map: 1:2500 Post War National Grid (5th Epoch), , Ordnance Survey, 1945-present,
<2> AP: Run 101 - 2085, , HSL, 1970,

Pillbox (destroyed), R. Colne, North-east Colchester

SMR No: 10903
NGR: TM 0049 2581

Description:

1:1250 map no. TM0025NW dated 1952 shows the shape of an hexagonal pillbox with its entrance on the SW side. This pillbox can be seen on aerial photographs taken in 1946, 1960 and 1970 standing at the side of a meadow overlooking the R. Colne but it was clearly demolished when the housing development was built as it cannot be seen on a 1980 aerial photograph. <1> <2> <3> <4> <5>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> Map: TM0025NW, , OS, 1952,
<2> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 4273, 4274, 4275, 4276, , RAF, 1946,
<3> AP: Run13 - 030, , HSL, 6:1960,
<4> AP: Run 101 - 2084, , HSL, 9:1970,
<5> AP: 31-80-197, , MAL, 10:1980,

Pillbox (destroyed), R. Colne, North-east Colchester

SMR No: 10904
NGR: TM 0032 2584

Description:

1:1250 map no. TM0025NW dated 1952 and aerial photographs taken in 1946, 1948, 1960 & 1970 show an hexagonal pillbox with its entrance on the W side. It stood at the N edge of the original brickworks overlooking the R. Colne some 150 yards to the N but was clearly demolished when the present housing development was built as it cannot be seen on a 1980 aerial photograph. <1> <2> <3> <4> <5> <6>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> Map: TM0025NW, , OS, 1952,
<2> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 4273, 4274, 4275, 4276, , RAF, 1946,
<3> AP: 58-69-5141 + 5144, , RAF, 7:1948,
<4> AP: Run13 - 030, , HSL, 6:1960,
<5> AP: Run 101 - 2084, , HSL, 9:1970,
<6> AP: 31-80-197, , MAL, 10:1980,

Pillbox, River Colne, NE Colchester

SMR No: 10905
NGR: TM 0025 2597

Description:

On the south bank of the river Colne is a concrete, Type FW3/22 pillbox facing northwards across the river. Its walls are 15in thick, it has an entrance on the south side and there are six loopholes. The entrance is via a low, steel door. This is a recent addition, but may well have replaced an earlier one. The loopholes are generally 10in wide x 12in high, but there is one 'slit-type', 7in wide x 12in high, beside the entrance. The pillbox measures 12ft 6in across. <1>

Three photos of site. <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Pillboxes, , Wills, H, 1985, plan, p.28
- <2> Photograph: , , Nash, F, 1997,
- <3> DESC TEXT: Converting a Pillbox to a Bat Cave; a report on the environmental considerations and Project require, , British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, ,



SMR 10905: By the banks of the River Colne, it is hard to picture a more pleasant setting.

Pillbox (destroyed), R. Colne, NE Colchester

SMR No: 10906
NGR: TM 0019 2580

Description:

An aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1946 shows the shape of the base of an hexagonal pillbox, with its entrance on the S side, on the N boundary of the original brickworks. From this position it would have faced across open meadowland to the R. Colne some 100 yards away.
<1>

By 1960, a small hut had been erected in this position and by 1980 the present housing development had built over the site. <2> <3>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 4273, 4274, 4275, 4276, , RAF, 1946,
<2> AP: Run13 - 030, , HSL, 6:1960,
<3> AP: 31-80-197, , MAL, 10:1980,

Pillbox (destroyed), Gordon Works, Colchester

SMR No: 10907
NGR: TM 0019 2624

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Pillbox. Gordon Works. Cowdray Avenue, Colchester". This pillbox can be seen on an aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1946 on a field boundary a few yards to the NW of the original Gordon Works. <1> <2> <3> It was a hexagonal pillbox with its entrance on the S side.

The entire area has now been built over.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,
<2> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 4273, 4274, 4275, 4276, , RAF, 1946,
<3> Map: TM0026, , Ordnance Survey, 1953,

Spigot Mortar Emplacement (destroyed), East of Masons Arclight Factory, Colchester

SMR No: 10908

NGR: TM 0018 2627

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Spigot mortar position. Field adj. and to E of Masons Arclight Factory, Cowdray Avenue hedge approx. 220 yds E. of factory. Map ref. 445445." (Mil. Ed.). <1>

The site of Masons Arclight Factory is now The Cowdray Centre. An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows a field boundary and a pillbox (SMR 10907) c. 200 yards to the E. of the factory. <2>

The entire area has now been built over.

Grading:

Essex Grading 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,

<2> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 4273, 4274, 4275, 4276, , RAF, 1946,

Pillbox (destroyed), Castle Park boundary, South of R. Colne, Colchester

SMR No: 10909
NGR: TL 9999 2575

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Pillbox. Between O.S. Nos. 629, 631 adj. S. bank of river, Castle Park Grounds. Map ref. 448451" (Mil. Ed.). <1>

The fence that runs S from the R. Colne along the E edge of the castle grounds runs between OS Nos. 631 on the W and 629 on the E. The pillbox must have stood somewhere on this boundary possibly where there is a tarmac covered area between a path and the fence.

The map ref. is clearly incorrect and should have read 448441.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,

Pillbox (destroyed), Castle Park Grounds, South of R. Colne, Colchester

SMR No: 10910
NGR: TL 9986 2571

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows the clear shape of an hexagonal pillbox with its entrance on the S side, standing between the path and the river at this point. An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows it to have been demolished by that date. <1> <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 4273, 4274, 4275, 4276, , RAF, 1946,
<2> AP: Run13 - 030, , HSL, 6:1960,

Pillbox Base, junction of Northgate St/Maidenburgh St, Colchester

SMR No: 10911

NGR: TL 9975 2554

Description:

On the S side of the junction of Northgate St. and Maidenburgh St. overlooking the Castle Park at a lower level, is half the base of an hexagonal pillbox. The park is some 4 feet below the level of the road and the base is at road level. Three sides project into the park and the longest of these is 8' 4" long. In the top of the base the marks of the pillbox walls, 15" thick, can be seen and the ends of the re-inforcement rods are also visible. Contemporary records state, "Pillbox at junction of Northgate Street & Maidenburgh Street, Castle Park. Map of. 446438" (Mil. Ed.). <1>

Two photos of site. <2>

Grading: Essex Grading: *

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,

<2> Photograph: Two frames by Nash, F, , SMR, 5:1997,



SMR 10911: Documented in wartime records, it is not immediately obvious that this is a base on which a WWII pillbox stood. On closer inspection, the marks in the surface, the reinforcement rods and distinctive shape all give it away.

Anti-Tank Blocks, Castle Park Grounds, Colchester

SMR No: 10912
NGR: TL 9976 2563

Description:

1997: On the S. side of the R.Colne, just a few yards E. of Middle Mill bridge, are four concrete anti-tank blocks. They stand on the grass, in a rough area some 25 yards from one end to the other, running parallel to the river. Each of the blocks is 5' square, the minimum height is 2' and the maximum is 3' 6". On two sides of each of them, except the N side of the block nearest to the bridge, the remains of thick steel cables can be seen. Clearly, the blocks were anchorage points for a continuous anti-tank barrier. The cables, at two heights with the higher one at waist level, would have been stretched tight between the blocks as they set. An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows that the river, now a wide pool at this point, was heavily silted up at that time and tanks may have been able to cross it. To prevent this, the anti-tank barrier was erected from the corner of a building, which stood by the bridge, along the top of the bank as it then was, eastwards. <1>

Seven photos of site. <2>

2007: SITE ASSESSMENT:

Anti-tank blocks, built in their hundreds of thousands during World War Two, are now becoming surprisingly rare in Essex. This is particularly true of those which were linked by steel cable to provide a lengthy barrier without the need for blocks every few yards. Very few of these survive in the county; all others comprise a single block with the remains of rotted cable.

The configuration is therefore unique in Essex. In its own right, this relic from the 20th century conflict should be statutorily protected as a scheduled monument. Given the importance of Colchester during World War Two, the preservation and interpretation of this site with an appropriate information board would provide a fine complement to the more ancient history and heritage of the Borough.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ****

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 4273, 4274, 4275, 4276, , RAF, 1946,
<2> Photograph: 7 Frames by Nash, F, , SMR, 5:1997,



SMR 10912: Sitting like pieces of modern sculpture in Colchester Castle Park, for the casual observer it would be by no means easy to interpret the origin of these anti-tank blocks.

Pillbox (destroyed), Middle Mill Bridge, R. Colne, Colchester

SMR No: 10913
NGR: TL 9970 2566

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Pillbox. O.S. No. 635, at Choppings Mill, adj. Castle Park. Map ref. 445440" (Mil. Ed.). OS Field No. 635 is immediately N of Middle Mill bridge. In addition is the entry, "Pillbox. Footpath, Middle Mill Bridge". Map ref. illegible, possibly 445443. <1>

It is possible that these entries refer to the same pillbox which may have stood on the footpath immediately N of the bridge. However, there is no sign of it on an aerial photograph taken in 1946. <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,

<2> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 4273, 4274, 4275, 4276, , RAF, 1946,

Spigot Mortar Emplacement (destroyed), Cowdray Ave, Colchester

SMR No: 10914
NGR: TL 9978 2609

Description:

A low-level aerial photograph taken in 1948 shows a spigot mortar pit with central pedestal, four ammunition alcoves and an L-shaped trench on its W side. It stood on the grass verge on the S side of Cowdray Avenue immediately N of Jarmin Road. <1>

The area is now a grass verge E of the Fire Station.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 58-69-5141 + 5144, , RAF, 7:1948,

Pillbox (destroyed), Junction of North Hill & Northgate Street Colchester

SMR No: 10915
NGR: TL 9940 2549

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Pillbox. 29 North Hill, at junction of Northgate Street. Map ref. 442438" (Mil. Ed.) and "Pillbox. Pavement at junction of Northgate Street & North Hill". <1>

"Essex at War" written in October 1945, states, "Northgate Street was now blocked by a pill box at its junction with North Hill"

The pillbox in the process of being demolished by workmen, can be seen in a photograph taken in October 1944. It appears to have been built across the entrance to Northgate St. completely blocking access to this road. A pneumatic drill is being used and the pillbox can be seen to have been a square or rectangular type although much of it had been demolished, exposing the network of re-inforcement rods. <2> <3>

A comparative photograph taken in 1997 shows the background shop fronts to have greatly changed although the location is still recognizable from the first floor windows and the gable ends beyond St. Peter's Street. <4>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,

<2> DESC TEXT: Essex at War, p.25, , Benham, H,10:1945,

<3> Photograph: Essex at War, , Benham, H, 10:1945,

<4> Photograph: One Frame by Nash, F, , SMR, 5:1997,



SMR 10915: Some pillboxes, particularly in the towns, were demolished long before the end of the war. The scene on North Hill in October 1944 is difficult to reconcile with that in 1997.

Pillbox (destroyed), 3 Middleborough, Colchester

SMR No: 10916
NGR: TL 9940 2552

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Pillbox. Garden of 3, Middleboro' Street. Map ref. 442438" (Mil. Ed.). <1>

Aerial photographs show that the entrance to St. Peter's Street was considerably widened between 1960 and 1970 and No. 3 Middleborough, on the S corner of St. Peter's Street, was demolished.

A low-level aerial photograph taken in 1948 shows an hexagonal pillbox standing on this corner.
<2> <3> <4>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,

<2> AP: 58-15-5019, , RAF, 5:1948, <3> AP: Run 13-031, , HSL, 6:1960, <4> AP: Run 99 - 2051, , HSL, 9:1970,

Spigot Mortar Emplacement (destroyed), Junction Cowdray Ave & North Station Road, Colchester

SMR No: 10917
NGR: TL 9931 2605

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Spigot mortar position. Junction of By-pass & North Station Road. Map ref. 441443" (Mil. Ed.). <1>

There is no further information on this site.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,

Spigot Mortar Emplacement (destroyed), Albert Hotel, Cowdray Avenue, Colchester

SMR No: 10918
NGR: TL 9933 2608

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Spigot mortar position. Shrubbery at Albert Hotel, Cowdray Avenue. Map ref. 442444" (Mil. Ed.). <1>

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows a cleared area, with what may be a spigot mortar emplacement, in the shrubbery on the W side of the Albert Hotel – now The Albert public house. <2>

The shrubbery still remains but nothing could be found of the emplacement at the time of the site visit.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,

<2> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 4273, 4274, 42

Pillbox (destroyed), North Station Car Park, Colchester

SMR No: 10919
NGR: TL 9942 2642

Description:

Before its imminent demolition, this pillbox was visited in October 1995. Standing on high ground in the railway station car park, it was a brick and concrete type FW3/22 pillbox with its entrance on the SE face. In contemporary records it is listed a "Pillbox. O.S. No. 583, Allotment, near Station Garage, North Station, Map ref. 443447". (Mil. Ed.) <1>

The area is now an Asda Superstore development.

Three photos of pillbox taken in October 1995. <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,

<2> Photograph: Three Frames by Nash, F, , SMR, 10:1995,



SMR 10919: The pillbox at North Station car park, before its demolition in 1995.

Pillbox (destroyed), Railway Bridge, North Station

SMR No: 10920
NGR: TL 9927 2639

Description:

Contemporary records state "Pillbox. Pavement at Railway Bridge, North Station. Map ref. 441447." (Mil. Ed.) <1>

There is no further information on this pillbox.

Grading:

Essex Grading; 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,

Pillbox (destroyed), Colchester Station

SMR No: 10921
NGR: TL 9904 2638

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows the shape of a large, hexagonal pillbox at the W end of Colchester Railway Station. In the centre is what appears to be an anti-aircraft machine-gun well. <1>

It cannot be seen on an aerial photograph taken in 1960 and had clearly been demolished by that date. <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 4273, 4274, 4275, 4276, , RAF, 1946,

<2> AP: Run 13-031, , HSL, 6:1960,

Pillbox (destroyed), West of North Bridge, Colchester

SMR No: 10922
NGR: TL 9931 2565

Description:

Contemporary records state "Pillbox & dannert wire. O.S. No. 639 Wasteland (Days Meadow) W. side of North Bridge. Map ref. 441440." (Mil. Ed.) <1>

This pillbox can be seen on an aerial photograph taken in 1946. It stood on the S. side of the R. Colne 50 yards W of North Bridge. It was hexagonal probably a Type FW3/22 with its entrance on the SE face. <2> <3>

The area is now a multi-storey car park.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,
<2> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 4273, 4274, 4275, 4276, , RAF, 1946,
<3> DESC TEXT: Pillboxes, , Wills, H, 1985, measured plan p.28

Pillbox (destroyed), Colne Bank Avenue, Colchester

SMR No: 10923
NGR: TL 9906 2598

Description:

A low-level aerial photograph taken in 1948 shows an hexagonal pillbox, with its entrance on the NW face, on the S side of Colne Bank Avenue. This position is some 30 yards W of the bridge across the river. <1>

This area is now the junction of Colne Bank Avenue and Westway and a large roundabout has absorbed the position of the pillbox.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <1> AP: 58-47-5124, , RAF, 5:1948,

Pillbox/Gun Emplacement (destroyed), Colne Bank Avenue, Colchester

SMR No: 10924
NGR: TL 9901 2599

Description:

A low-level aerial photograph taken in 1948 shows what appears to be a large bunker on the N side of Colne Bank Avenue. This position is approx. 90 yards W of the bridge across the R. Colne. The structure is perhaps 25 feet square, with chamfered corners, and the entrance is on the W side. <1>

It is probable that this was an artillery pillbox covering the approach across the bridge.

An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows it to have been demolished by that date. <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 58-47-5124, , RAF, 5:1948,

<2> AP: Run 13-032, , HSL, 6:1960,

Pillbox (destroyed), North side of Cymbeline Way, Colchester

SMR No: 10925
NGR: TL 9892 2597

Description:

A low-level aerial photograph taken in 1948 shows an hexagonal pillbox, with its entrance on the SW face, standing on the N side of Cymbeline Way. An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows it to have been demolished by that date. <1> <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 58-47-5124, , RAF, 5:1948,

<2> AP: Run 13-031, , HSL, 6:1960,

Pillbox (destroyed), Cymbeline Meadows, Colchester

SMR No: 10926
NGR: TL 9868 2605

Description:

A low-level aerial photograph taken in 1948 shows an hexagonal pillbox facing N from the corner of a triangular field. The entrance is on the S side. The hedges of this field no longer exist. <1>
An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows the pillbox to have been demolished by that date. <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 58-47-5023, , RAF, 5:1948,
<2> AP: Run 13-031, , HSL, 6:1960,

Pillbox (destroyed), Sheepen Bridge, Colchester

SMR No: 10927
NGR: TL 9846 2594

Description:

A low-level aerial photograph taken in 1948 shows an hexagonal pillbox standing on the S side of the R. Colne by the Sheepen Bridge. The entrance is on the SE face. However, on an aerial photograph taken in 1946 it can be seen that the bridge had been demolished and contemporary records state, "Destruction of footbridge when river was widened as A/T ditch. Footbridge from Water Lane over River Colne. Map ref. 434444." (Mil. Ed.) <1> <2>

The site is now open ground.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 58-47-5023, , RAF, 5:1948,
<2> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4194, , RAF, 1946,
<3> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,

Spigot Mortar Emplacement (destroyed), East of Water Lane, Colchester

SMR No: 10928
NGR: TL 9859 2586

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Spigot mortar position. Field to E. of Water Lane opp. St. Helens School O.S. No. 611. Map ref. 433441." (Mil. Ed.) <1>

A low-level aerial photograph taken in 1948 shows what is almost certainly the pedestal between Field O.S. No. 611 on the E side of Water Lane and Cymbeline Way. <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,

<2> AP: 58-47-5023, , RAF, 5:1948,

Spigot Mortar Emplacement (destroyed), West of Water Lane, Colchester

SMR No: 10929
NGR: TL 9854 2583

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Spigot Mortar position. O.S. No. 612, Field W. of and adjoining Water Lane, By-Pass. Map ref. 433442." (Mil. Ed.) <1>

There is no further information on this site although a position along the hedgeline on the S side of the field, bordering Cymbeline Way, is perhaps the most likely.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , ,

Anti-Tank Obstacles/Road Barrier (destroyed), Cymbeline Way, Colchester

SMR No: 10930
NGR: TL 9841 2576

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows a complex of anti-tank pimples crossing the narrow part of a meadow from the R. Colne to Cymbeline Way. There are five rows, approx. 90 pimples in all. There are indications - marks on the roadway and on the S side - that this barrier continued across the road, almost certainly in the form of sockets and railway lines, and across the verge on the S side of Cymbeline Way to an embankment. Below this embankment was probably marshy ground, now a wide pond. This barrier would have effectively sealed off the approach to Colchester along Cymbeline Way. <1> <2>

This very band of anti-tank pimples can be seen clearly in the background of a wartime photograph of the Colchester Home Guard on exercises. It was taken in August 1942, on exercise 'Crack'. <3>

There are now no signs of the anti-tank obstacles. One photo of site. <4>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4194, , RAF, 1946,
- <2> Map: 1:1250 OS Post War National Grid, , OS, , TL 9825 NW, 1973
- <3> Photograph: H22528, print, Unknown, 1942, Aug 1942
- <4> Photograph: Site of anti-tank obstacles, Cymbeline Way, print, Nash, F, 2007, 1 frame, Nov 2007



SMR 10930: (Top) It is rarely possible to identify a particular defence site from a wartime photograph. This was one of a series taken by military photographers, captioned with the town and dated. 1940's aerial photographs, the countryside in the background and the path alongside Cymbeline Way did the rest. (Bottom) The spot today, the young trees hiding the view behind. (1942 photograph courtesy of the Imperial War Museum, London. H22528)

Spigot Mortar Emplacement (destroyed), South of Cymbeline Way, Colchester

SMR No: 10931
NGR: TL 9847 2569

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows the clear shape of a spigot mortar emplacement approx 60 yards S of Cymbeline Way. From this position the mortar would have covered the road barrier (SMR 10930) approx. 90 yards to its NW. <1>

The area is now thick undergrowth at the bottom of a steep embankment.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4194, , RAF, 1946,

Spigot Mortar Emplacement (destroyed), Hilly Fields, Colchester

SMR No: 10932
NGR: TL 9847 2553

Description:

A low-level aerial photograph taken in 1948 shows a spigot mortar emplacement in a field on Sheepen Farm. The pedestal plus three ammunition alcoves and an L-shaped trench can be seen.

Although apparently in open countryside in 1948 it is possible that this emplacement was in a hedge in 1942 as a map drawn in November 1941 shows that at that time there was a N/S hedge in, or close to, this position. <1> <2>

The area is now Hilly Fields nature area.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 58-47-5264, , RAF, 5:1948,
<2> Map: 62-24-SE Royal Engineers, , SMR, 11:1941,

Pillbox (destroyed), Hilly Fields, Colchester

SMR No: 10933

NGR: TL 9834 2547

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows the shape of a pillbox, probably hexagonal, standing in the middle of a field. The entrance can be seen to be on the SE side. An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows it to have been demolished by that date. <1> <2>

From its position the pillbox would have had a commanding view from the hillside of Sheepen Farm north to the R. Colne.

The area is now Hilly Fields nature area.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 4273, 4274, 4275, 4276, , RAF, 1946,

<2> AP: Run 13-032, , HSL, 6:1960,

Pillbox, Hilly Fields, Colchester.

SMR No: 10934
NGR: TL 9817 2530

Description:

On the south boundary of Hilly Fields nature area, by the SW entrance, is a type FW3/22 concrete, hexagonal pillbox. This is a very high position and from here, before the bushes on the hillside grew up, the view downhill and across the River Colne would have been almost a mile across. The entrance, on the southeast side, and the loopholes have been sealed although one loophole is now open. <1>.

Two photos of site. <2>

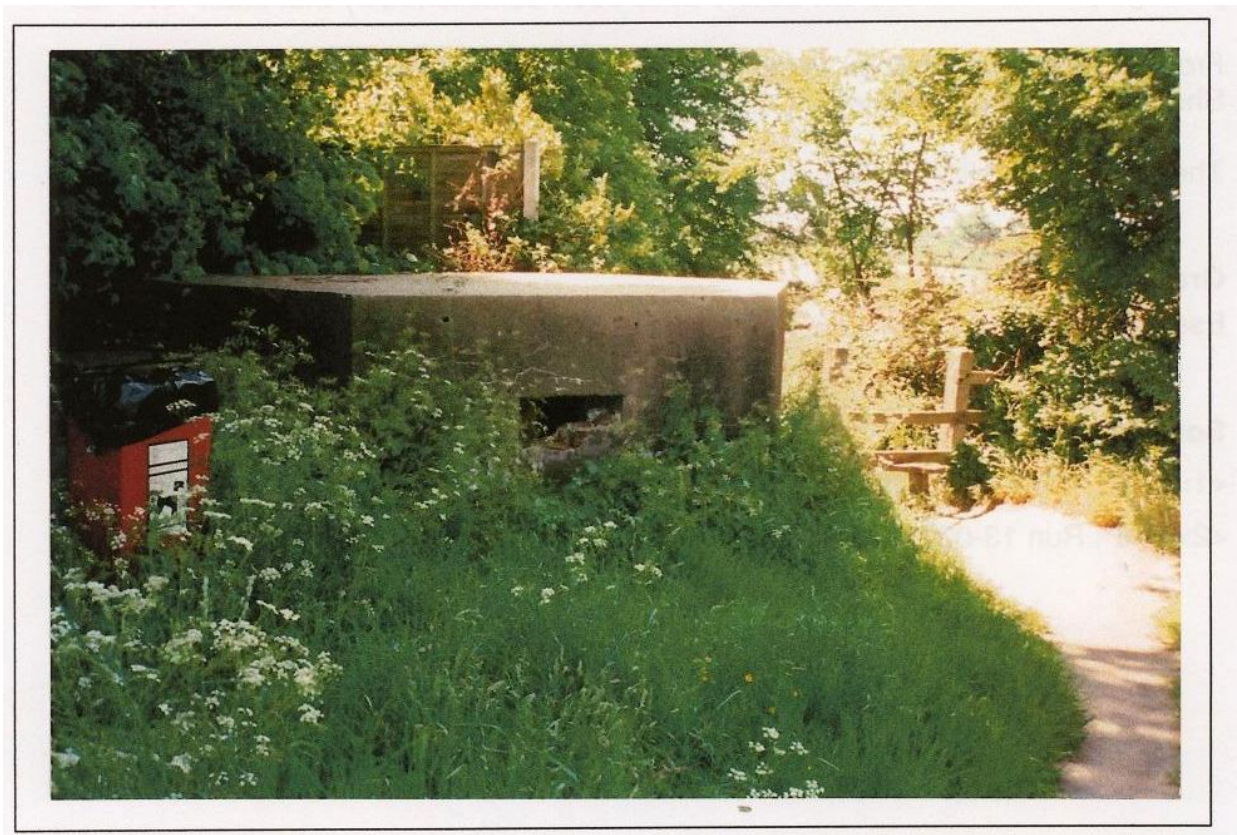
Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> DESC TEXT: Pillboxes, , Wills, H, 1985, plan, p.28

<2> Photograph: , , Nash,F, 1997,



SMR 10934: It is thought that this pillbox was one of those built to defend a subsidiary line of defence which left the River Colne at Cymbeline Way and ran across Hilly Fields and Lexden Road to Shrub End.

Pillbox (destroyed), South of Cymbeline Way, Colchester

SMR No: 10935
NGR: TL 9787 2555

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Pillbox & dannert wire. O.S. No. 494, Seed Nursery, Colchester Bypass. Map ref. 427438." (Mil. Ed.) <1>

A low level aerial photograph taken in 1948 shows an hexagonal pillbox with its entrance on the NW face standing in a field S of Cymbeline Way and E of Hubert Road. There is an anti-aircraft machine-gun well in its centre. An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows it to have been demolished by that date. <2> <3>

The pattern of the pillbox appears to have been the same as SMR 10945.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,

<2> AP: 58-47-5206, , RAF, 5:1948

<3> AP: Run 13-032, , HSL, 6:1960,

Pillbox (destroyed), Cymbeline Way, Colchester

SMR No: 10936
NGR: TL 9777 2582

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows an hexagonal pillbox, with its entrance on the S side, facing across the R. Colne from a meadow. <1>

Hedges which previously crossed this area have now been cleared and the area is now open meadowland between Cymbeline Way and the river. The pattern of the pillbox was apparently of the 19'6" wide type, as SMR 10948.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 4273, 4274, 4275, 4276, , RAF, 1946,

Pillbox, North of Cymbeline Way, Colchester

SMR No: 10937
NGR: TL 9761 2560

Description:

Between Cymbeline Way and the River Colne, in dense shrub and thicket, is an hexagonal concrete pillbox. The low entrance is on the south side and is approached down the concrete steps. Although possibly of the 19ft 6in type, to compensate for the slope of the ground down to the river the roof has been stepped and is on four levels.

Two photos of the site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: , , Nash,F, 1997,



SMR 10937: Difficult to see on the ground, this pillbox appears to have been built on a number of levels to accommodate the steep slope on which it stands.

Pillbox, North of Cymbeline Way, Colchester

SMR No: 10938

NGR: TL 9739 2551

Description:

On the north side of Cymbeline Way, 200yards east of the Spring Lane roundabout, is an hexagonal concrete pillbox in dense shrubbery. It is at a lower level than the road and concrete steps lead down the bank to the entrance on the south side. One of the walls measures 11 ft in length and the pillbox is of the 19ft 6in diameter type.

One photo of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: , , Nash,F, 1997,



SMR 10938: Over the years, this pillbox has become so covered in thicket that it cannot be seen from only a few feet away.

Anti-Tank Rails, Spring Lane, Lexden

SMR No: 10939

NGR: TL 9726 2567

Description:

1997: On the W side of the River Colne, a few yards N of Lexden Bridge, the embankment is lined with a concrete wall, c. 5' high up to the level of the meadow behind. Projecting from the top of the wall are 9+ anti-tank rails, each 3-4' high and probably made from cut lengths of RSJ. The river at this point is very shallow and these would have been put into this position to prevent tanks crossing the river bed. A low-level aerial photograph taken in 1948 shows the wall, plus three anti-tank cubes between it and the W end of the bridge. The site of the rails has not been visited but they can be clearly seen from the bridge. <1>

It is thought that Lexden Bridge marked the junction of the Eastern Command Line around the N of Colchester and the anti-tank line around the S of the town.

One photo of site. <2>

1997: SITE ASSESSMENT:

Extant anti-tank rails are very rare. At the time of this entry most of the County's lines of defence have been surveyed and this is the first extant rails, as opposed to hairpins, which have been recorded.

2007: SITE ASSESSMENT:

With the greater part of Essex's World War Two defence sites now visited, over 2,000, no other instances of as many as nine intact rails have been discovered. As a rarely-surviving example of this defence type, the Spring Lane rails should be statutorily protected.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ****

Sources:

<1> AP: 58-47-5755, , RAF, 5:1948,

<2> Photograph: One Frame by Nash, F, , SMR, 7:1997,



SMR 10939: During World War Two, hundreds of anti-tank rails were concreted into the banks of the River Colne in places where it was thought that armour might be able to cross. All, except these, have fallen beneath the oxy-acetylene cutter.

Pillbox (destroyed) West of Spring Lane, Lexden, Colchester

SMR No: 10940

NGR: TL 9714 2567

Description:

A low-level photograph taken in 1948 shows a square structure, with chamfered corners and an entrance on the NW face, in a field to the W of Spring Lane. It appears to be around 20/25' square and was almost certainly a Type FW3/28 artillery pillbox positioned to cover the anti-tank barrier at Lexden Bridge 120 yards to the E. See FW3/28 pillbox at Chappel Viaduct. (SMR 20001). <1><2>

Contemporary records state, "O.S. No. 457, 458 2 pillboxes, iron A/T barriers . Meadows off Spring Lane. Map ref. 420440" (Mil. Ed.). This field was O.S. No. 458. <3>

An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows no indication of the pillbox <4>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 58-47-5155, , RAF, 5:1948,

<2> CORRESPONDENCE: , , , ,

<3> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,

<4> AP: Run 13-034, , HSL, 6:1960,

Pillbox (destroyed), Malting's Farm, Lexden, Colchester

SMR No: 10941

NGR: TL 9692 2571

Description:

A low-level aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1948 shows an hexagonal pillbox, with a central anti-aircraft machine-gun well, standing at the southern corner of a field N of Maltings Farm. By 1960 it had been demolished and by 1970 the A12 roadway had been built, the site being immediately alongside the N carriageway. <1> <2> <3>

Its pattern was apparently the same as SMR 10945.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 58-44-5312, , RAF, 5:1948,

<2> AP: Run 13-034, , HSL, 6:1960,

<3> AP: Run 97-0419, , hsl, 9:1970,

Pillbox, South of the River Colne, Baker's Lane, Lexden

SMR No: 10942

NGR: TL 9714 2592

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1980 and 1:1250 map dated 1994 show a hexagonal pillbox with its entrance on the WSW side standing in a meadow approx. 40 yards from the west bank of the River Colne. It is possibly of the same 19ft 6in wide pattern as SMR 10948. <1> <2>.

The site has not been visited, but the pillbox can be seen from Baker's Lane.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> AP: 31-80-200, , MAL, 1980,

<2> Map: TL9725NW, , Ordnance Survey, 1994,

Pillbox (destroyed), R. Colne North of Malting's Farm, Lexden, Colchester

SMR No: 10943

NGR: TL 9699 2605

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows an hexagonal pillbox at a field edge on the S side of the R. Colne N of Maltings Farm. <1>

It still survived in 1960 but by 1980 the A12 roadway crossed this position and the pillbox was clearly demolished and this section of the river re-routed. <2> <3>

The pattern of the pillbox was possibly of the same 19'6 wide type as SMR 10948.

Grading: Essex Grading 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G - UK 1492 - 4273, 4274, 4275, 4276, , RAF, 1946,

<2> AP: Run 13-034, , HSL, 6:1960,

<3> AP: 31-80-200-202, , MAL, 10:1980,

Pillbox, River Colne, North of the A12, Lexden

SMR No: 10944

NGR: TL 9656 2597

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1960 and a 1:1250 map dated 1994 show an hexagonal pillbox with its entrance on the SSW side standing on the south bank of the River Colne approx. 40 yards SW of a small bridge. It is possibly of the same 19ft 6in type as SMR 10948. <1> <2>.

The site has not been visited although its thicket-covered shape can be seen from the A12 roadway.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> AP: Run 13-035, , HSL, 1960,

<2> Map: TL9625NE, , Ordnance Survey, 1994,

Pillbox, Seven Arches Farm, Lexden

SMR No: 10945
NGR: TL 9625 2571

Description:

Partly in thicket on the eastern edge of a wide field is a concrete, hexagonal, pillbox with an anti-aircraft machine-gun well. It measures 22ft wide with 12ft long walls, the entrance is down steps on the south side and at the time of the site visit the pillbox was partially flooded. The central well is hexagonal, 6ft across, with 6 ventilation holes and a low access entrance from the interior. In the centre is the concrete, circular pillar on which the machine-gun would have been mounted. It has a diameter of 25in, is 4ft high and on the top is a square concrete mounting piece 11 in x 6in x 6in. This in turn has a steel cap with a steel rod projecting vertically. The rod is 6in long with a hole in the top. The machine-gun would have been bolted on through this hole. The total height of the pillar is possibly 5ft 6in, but earth in the pit makes it difficult to be exact.

Five photos of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: , , Nash, F, 1997,



SMR 10945: The central well of the pillbox at Seven Arches Farm. The pedestal, with its steel mounting rod, would probably have held a Lewis gun from the First World War.

Anti-Tank Rails, Seven Arches Farm, Lexden

SMR No: 10946
NGR: TL 9633 2600

Description:

At Seven Arches Farm the River Colne flows beneath a high railway viaduct. On the S side of the viaduct the river is shallow and it was clearly thought that tanks could cross at this point as the remains of a large number of cut-off steel anti-tank rails can be seen in the ground covering a distance of 60/70 yards along the river bank.

From TL 9633 2600 there is a 6'6 high concrete wall built into the embankment up to the level of the grass. This is perhaps 30 yards long x 4'6 wide. In this, the cut-off ends of c. 50 RSJ's can be seen in two rows. There is then a gap of a few yards with the remains of concrete on the river bank. The third section is sloping grass embankment for some 27 yards to the viaduct pillar. In this, the concrete footings and crop marks of a large number of cut-off anti-tank rails can be seen. These are in four or five rows comprising about 100 rails and covering a depth of perhaps seven yards. It is not known if the gap between the first and third section comprised a continuation of the wall which has now collapsed or more rails in individual footings in the grass.

Five photos of site <1> <2>

SITE ASSESSMENT: Remains of anti-tank rails are rare in Essex. Along the Eastern Command Line four sites have been recorded (SMR 10939, 10946, 10952 and 10968) including those extant at Lexden Bridge (SMR 10939). This site is particularly unusual for its large number of cut-off rails

Grading: Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: Nash, F-five frames, , SMR, 7:1997,
<2> AP: Seven Arches Farm, Colchester, , Sally Gale, Jan 1999



SMR 10946: The cut-off remains of around 100 anti-tank rails can be counted in the concrete, and in the grass embankment, at Seven Arches Farm

Pillbox, under viaduct, Seven Arches Farm, Lexden

SMR No: 10947

NGR: TL 9625 2602

Description:

At Seven Arches Farm the River Colne flows beneath a railway viaduct - with 7 arches. Underneath the westernmost arch, with its entrance hard against the western buttress, is a hexagonal concrete pillbox. It measures 19ft 6in across with each wall 11 ft in length. It is 3ft 6in thick and there are five small loopholes with steel side framing - no loophole in the western side facing the buttress.

From this position the pillbox could fire each side of the viaduct - north across the river to the meadows beyond or south in support of the anti-tank obstacles on the river bank, while being itself protected from air attack by the viaduct.

Five photos of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: , , Nash, F, 1997,



SMR 10947: Protected from air attack, this pillbox was particularly well-sited.

Pillbox, West bank of the River Colne, Seven Arches Farm, Lexden

SMR No: 10948

NGR: TL 9601 2640

Description:

Facing across the River Colne from a meadow on its west bank is a concrete, hexagonal pillbox. It measures 19ft 6in in width with 11ft long walls and has a low entrance porch, which is partially blocked, on its SW side. There are six small loopholes, one in each face. Earth, which has now grassed over, has been piled on top of the pillbox as a disguise against air attack.

One photo of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: , , Nash,F, 1997



SMR 10948: Like many pillboxes, this example, after so many years, has become part of the rural scene.

Pillbox (destroyed), Seven Arches Farm, Lexden

SMR No: 10949
NGR: TL 9587 2627

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1947 shows an hexagonal pillbox standing on the E side of a N/S hedgeline to the W of the River Colne. It can be seen to have had a central anti-aircraft machine-gun well and was almost certainly of the same type as SMR 10945. Although it can be seen on a 1970 aerial photograph, an aerial photograph taken in 1980 shows it to have been demolished by that date, the area being an open field. <1> <2> <3>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: CPG-UK2302-5037, , RAF, 9:1947,
<2> AP: Run 97-0419, , hsl, 9:1970,
<3> AP: 31-80-200-202, , MAL, 10:1980,

Spigot Mortar Emplacement, East of New Bridge, Seven Arches Farm, Lexden

SMR No: 10950
NGR: TL 9567 2663

Description:

On the S bank of the R. Colne, about 70 yards E of New Bridge, is a spigot mortar pedestal. It is partly built into the bank which almost covers its rear. It is 3'6" in diameter and, unusually, has a steel pintle which is now rusty. Normally, pintles were made of high-grade stainless steel which remain, to this day, in pristine condition.

The spigot mortar would have been emplaced in this position to guard the eastern approach to New Bridge.

Two photos of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: Two frames by Nash, F, , SMR, 7:1997,



SMR 10950: With less than 50 extant spigot mortar emplacements recorded in the county so far, it is probable that many more lie hidden in the fields and hedgerows, unrecognised for what they are.

Pillbox (destroyed), New Bridge, West Bergholt

SMR No: 10951

NGR: TL 9559 2662

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1947 shows a small hexagonal pillbox apparently a Type FW3/22 standing on the S side of the road junction a few yards S of New Bridge. The entrance was on the S side. An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows it to have been demolished by that date. <1> <2> <3>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: CPG-UK2302-5037, , RAF, 9:1947,

<2> DESC TEXT: Pillboxes, , Wills, H, 1985, measured plan p.28

<3> AP: Run13-035, , HSL, 6:1960,

Anti-Tank Rails, New Bridge, West Bergholt

SMR No: 10952
NGR: TL 9560 2667

Description:

Lining the S bank of the River Colne immediately W of New Bridge and following a curved length for approximately 33 yards is a c.6 foot wide concrete wall. It is approximately 3' high and its top is level with the meadow behind.

Set into the top are the cut-off ends of anti-tank rails which probably projected vertically or angled towards the river – possibly 3 or 4 feet high. They number 42+, in two rows, although the wall is now partly grass covered and there may be significantly more than this. The rails would have been originally cut from lengths of RSJ or railway line.

Two photos of site <1>.

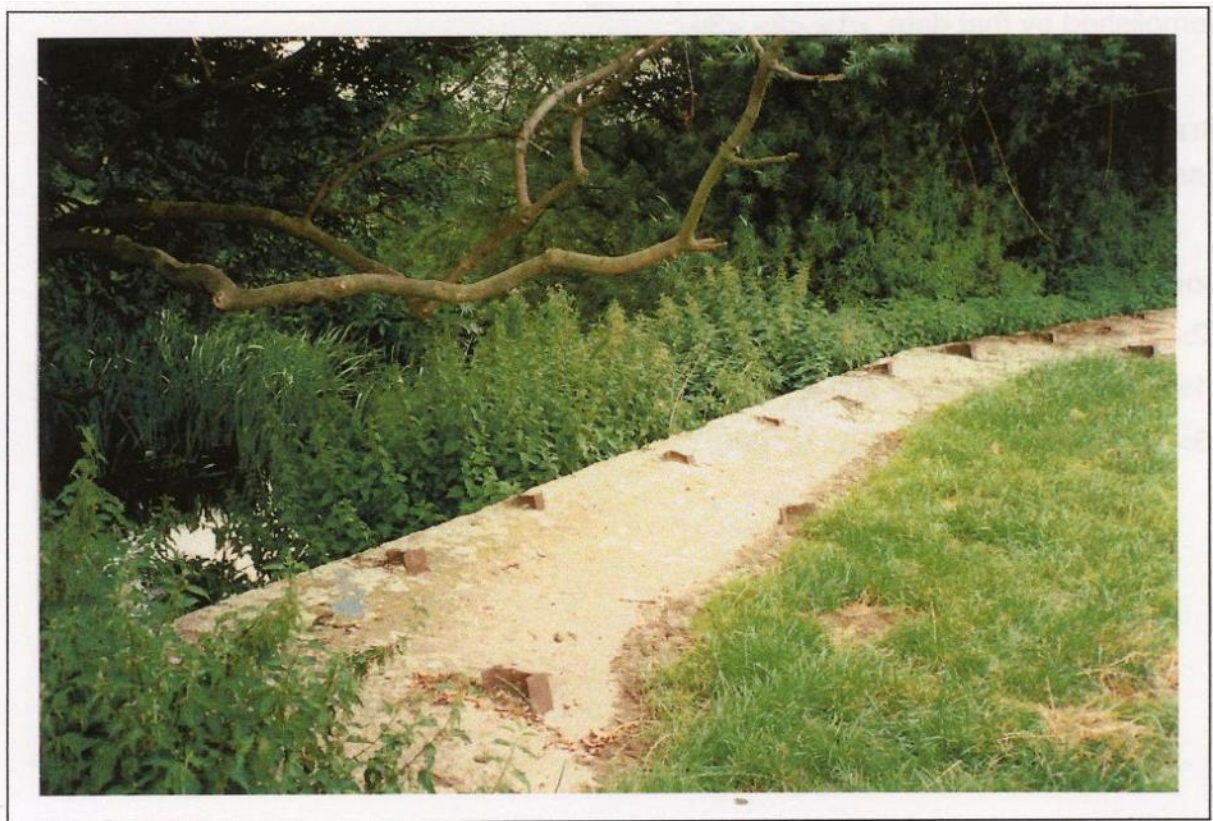
SITE ASSESSMENT: Remains of anti-tank rails are rare in Essex. Along the Eastern Command Line four sites have been recorded (SMR 10939, 10946, 10952 and 10968) including those extant at Lexden Bridge (SMR 10939).

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: Two frames by Nash, F, , SMR, 7:1997,



SMR 10952: These cut-off anti-tank rails are particularly easy to see and recognised.

Pillbox (destroyed), West of New Bridge, West Bergholt

SMR No: 10953
NGR: TL 9551 2665

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1947 shows a square structure perhaps 20/25' across standing on the N side of Argents Lane. It can be seen to have had chamfered corners and an entrance on the SW face. It was almost certainly an FW3/28 artillery pillbox facing and covering New Bridge some 110 yards to the ENE. The pillbox, with a large aperture, is confirmed locally. See FW3/28 pillbox at Chappel Viaduct (SMR 20001). <1> <2> <3>

An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows it to have been demolished by that date, the area being an open field. <4>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: CPE-UK 2302, , RAF, 9:1947,
<2> CORRESPONDENCE: , , , ,
<3> PERSONAL OBSERVATION
<4> AP: Run13-035, , HSL, 6:1960,

Spigot Mortar Emplacement (destroyed), West of New Bridge, West Bergholt

SMR No: 10954
NGR: TL 9551 2666

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Spigot mortar position. Newbridge Farm, Chitts Hill, At side of stackyard and adj. Buildings. Map ref. 404450" (Mil. Ed.) <1>

The stackyard and the former existence of the spigot mortar emplacement is confirmed locally as having been on the S side of the R. Colne immediately N of Argents Lane. The stackyard, buildings and mortar position have now been cleared and the area is an open meadow. <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,
<2> PERSONAL OBSERVATION: Local Resident, , , 7:1997,

Pillbox, West of New Bridge, West Bergholt

SMR No: 10955
NGR: TL 9543 2683

Description:

At the edge of a meadow on the south side of the River Colne is a concrete hexagonal pillbox. It has 11ft long walls, is 19ft 6in across and it has small loopholes with steel side pieces. The entrance is on the south side.

One photo of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: , , Nash, F, 1997,



SMR 10955: Along this stretch of the River Colne, many of the wartime pillboxes still survive.

Pillbox, West of Newbridge, West Bergholt

SMR No: 10956
NGR: TL 9508 2679

Description:

A few yards from the south bank of the River Colne, at the side of a meadow, is a concrete hexagonal pillbox. Its walls are 11ft long, it is 19ft 6in across and has small loopholes. Its low 'porch-type' entrance is on the south side and above this the letters 'S19' can be seen painted in white.

Two photos of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: , , Nash, F, 1997,



SMR 10956: During the war, pillboxes were individually identified with a number, often painted on the wall. Rarely, after 60-odd years, can this still be seen.

Pillbox, Argents Lane, Eight Ash Green

SMR No: 10957
NGR: TL 9501 2661

Description:

On a high bank on the north side of Argents Lane is a concrete hexagonal pillbox. It has 12ft long walls, is 21 ft 6in across, and has a 6ft wide hexagonal anti-aircraft machine-gun well in the centre. The mounting pillar, together with its steel fittings, remains extant in the middle of the well. The pillbox is entered through a low entrance from the roadway. The walls are 3ft 6in thick.

From this high position there is a commanding view down fields to the river, some 170 yards to the north.

Four photos of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

Photograph: , , Nash, F, 1997,



SMR 10957. The anti-aircraft machine-gun well of the Argents Lane pillbox. The pin on the top of the mounting would have held a World War One Lewis gun.

Pillbox, North of Argents Lane, Eight Ash Green

SMR No: 10958
NGR: TL 9475 2661

Description:

Half-buried in the middle of a field north of Argents Lane is an concrete hexagonal pillbox. It has 3ft 6in thick walls, is 22ft across and has a 6ft wide anti-aircraft machine gun well. In the centre of the well the mounting plinth, together with its steel top fittings, is still extant. The entrance, almost completely buried, is in the south side. From this position the pillbox looks down the open field to the river some 200 yards to the NE.

Four photos of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: , , Nash, F, 1997,



SMR 10958: Earth and grass on top of a pillbox is not a natural result of wind and weather but was a deliberate attempt, at the time of construction, to camouflage it against air attack.

Road Barrier (destroyed), Cook's Mill, Fordham Heath

SMR No: 10959

NGR: TL 9477 2703

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Pipe mines & Road Blocks. Cooks Mill, Fordham." 30 yards to the E of the pillbox at Cook's Mill a bridge crosses the R. Colne. It is probable that a road barrier blocked this bridge. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , ,

Pillbox, Cook's Mill, Eight Ash Green

SMR No: 10960
NGR: TL 9474 2703

Description:

Thirty yards west of the bridge which crosses the River Colne at Cook's Mill is a concrete, hexagonal, FW3/22 pillbox. It is on the north side of the driveway and the entrance, sealed with corrugated iron sheeting is on the west side. The walls are 7ft 3in long x15in thick and there are six loopholes, each 10in wide x12in high with steel side pieces. <1> Inside there is no central pillar, the ceiling has been fibre-boarded over and electric fittings and wiring have been installed.

One photo of site. <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> DESC TEXT: Pillboxes, , Wills, H, 1985, plan, p.28

<2> Photograph: , , Nash, F, 1997,



SMR 10960: The FW3/22 was one of the smallest of the pillbox designs during World War Two. Its 15-inch walls were intended to be bullet-proof rather than shell-proof.

Pillbox, Great Porters Farm, Fordham Heath

SMR No: 10961
NGR: TL 9437 2735

Description:

From a meadow south of the River Colne, a hexagonal concrete pillbox faces north. It is of the 19ft 6in wide type with a small loophole on each of its faces, although the south loophole cannot be seen as, together with the low entrance 'porch', it is covered by earth and grass.

One photo of site. <1> Aerial view of site. <3>

SITE ASSESSMENT:

Contemporary records show that Great Porters Farm had six pillboxes during World War Two. Unusually for such a quantity, all of them have survived. <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources

<1> Photograph: , , Nash,F, 1997,
<2> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , , Fordham
<3> AP: CP/96/3/11, , Strachan, D, 1996,



SMR 10961: The pillboxes of Great Porters Farm are a rare example of 100% survival, all in good condition. This is the 19' 6" infantry type.

Pillbox, Great Porters Farm, Fordham Heath

SMR No: 10962
NGR: TL 9401 2712

Description:

From a high position on a hillside a 22ft wide, hexagonal concrete pillbox looks north towards the River Colne 240 yards away. In the centre is an anti-aircraft well equipped with concrete mounting plinth and steel fittings on which to mount the machine gun. Around the sides of the pillbox the remains of 1/2 inch iron rods project - 4/5 per side. The purpose of these is unknown, perhaps to hold disguise or camouflage netting. The low entrance, blocked with earth, is on the south side.

Two photos of site. <1>

SITE ASSESSMENT: Contemporary records show that Great Porters Farm had six pillboxes during World War Two. Unusually for such a quantity, all of them have survived. <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: Pillbox, , Nash, F, 1997,
<2> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Fordham



SMR 10962: The hooks, more usually found around the top of a pillbox, were probably to hang camouflage netting