

SURVEY OF WORLD WAR TWO DEFENCES IN THE BOROUGH OF COLCHESTER

PROJECT REPORT: NOVEMBER 2007

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for
Colchester Archaeological Group
and
Essex County Council

Site Records

Section B: SMR 10962 – 20511



Pillbox, Great Porters Farm, Fordham Heath

SMR No: 10963
NGR: TL 9391 2736

Description:

Standing in a meadow five yards from the River Colne is an hexagonal, concrete pillbox. It is 19ft 6in wide, has six loopholes and the low, 'porch-type' entrance - which is partly blocked with earth - is on the south side. Earth and grass have been piled onto the roof as a disguise.

One photo 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: , , Nash, F, 1997,

<2> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Fordham



SMR 10963: Early-designed pillboxes had much larger loopholes than these. The size was always a trade-off between visibility and vulnerability

Pillbox, Great Porters Farm, Fordham Heath

SMR No: 10964
NGR: TL 9350 2743

Description:

Standing in a meadow approx. 50 yards south of the River Colne is an hexagonal, concrete pillbox. It is 19ft 6in wide, has six small loopholes and the low 'porch-type' entrance - which is blocked with earth - is on the south side.

One photo 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: , , Nash, F, 1997,

<2> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1965, , , Fordham



SMR 10964: The low entrance was clearly less vulnerable than full height and gave more all-round defence.

Pillbox, Great Porters Farm, Fordham Heath

SMR No: 10965
NGR: TL 9347 2720

Description:

200 yards NW of Great Porters Farm buildings stands a concrete hexagonal pillbox. From this position, high on the hill-side, it has a commanding view north to the River Colne some 300 yards distant. It measures 22ft across and has an anti-aircraft well complete with concrete plinth and steel fittings on which to mount the machine gun. The low 'porch-type' entrance - covered with earth - is on the south side. There are six small loopholes.

One photo of site. <1>

SITE ASSESSMENT: Contemporary records show that Great Porters Farm had six pillboxes during WWII. 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



SMR 10965: Although hidden by the earth and grass, this is one of the anti-aircraft machine-gun type.

Pillbox, Great Porters Farm, Fordham Heath

SMR No: 10966

NGR: TL 9322 2735

Description:

Approximately 20 yards from a bend in the River Colne is an hexagonal, concrete pillbox. It is 19ft 6in wide, has small loopholes and the low 'porch-type' entrance is on the south side. Around the pillbox, three per side, are the remains of 1/2 inch steel rods. These are spaced out 20in from the top and may have originally been to secure a disguise or camouflage netting. The pillbox walls are 3ft 6in thick.

One photo 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: , , Nash, F, 1997,

<2> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Fordham



SMR 10966: Like all the pillboxes at Great Porters Farm, a finely-surviving example.

Spigot Mortar Emplacement, East of Fordham Bridge

SMR No: 10967
NGR: TL 9298 2712

Description:

On a bend of the River Colne, approximately 70 yards east of Fordham Bridge, is a Home Guard spigot mortar emplacement. On the grassy bank, the top of the concrete pedestal with its stainless steel pintle can be seen. Erosion of the river bank has revealed the side of one of the brick-built ammunition alcoves.

This emplacement is listed in contemporary records as 'Spigot Mortar position. Great Porters Farm, OS no. 286 - Meadow east of Fordham Bridge, on site of spoil. Map ref. 378456' (Mil. Ed.) <1>

Two photos of site. <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

- <1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , , Fordham
- <2> Photograph: Spigot Mortar Emplacement, E of Fordham Bridge, print, Nash, F, 1997,



SMR 10967: Most spigot mortar pedestals stood in the centre of a purpose-designed pit with ammunition alcoves around the sides. The pit is later often filled with earth, as in this example, leaving the top of the pedestal, with its stainless steel pintle, at ground level.

Anti-Tank Rails, Fordham Bridge

SMR No: 10968
NGR: TL 9293 2709

Description:

Lining the south bank of the River Colne, immediately east of Fordham Bridge, for approximately 30 yards is a concrete wall. It is generally 2 feet 6 inches high with its top level with, and becoming part of, a hard-standing area for vehicles beside the road. Set into the top, which is a minimum of 5 feet wide, 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 30 in a single row and 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 (EHCR 10939, 10946, 10952 and 10968) including those extant at Lexden Bridge (EHCR 10939).

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: Anti-tank rails (destroyed) Fordham Bridge, print, Nash, F, 1997,



SMR 10968: The river tends to silt-up at this point and the rails would have been erected here to prevent tanks crossing.

Road Barrier (destroyed), Fordham Bridge

SMR No: 10969

NGR: TL 9290 2711

Description:

Contemporary records state, 'Road Barrier. Fordham Bridge.' The River Colne formed part of the Eastern Command Line during World War Two and it is probable that every bridge which crossed the river was blocked by a concrete and steel road barrier. There are a number of different types of barrier and it is not known which type blocked Fordham Bridge. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

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

Pillbox, Fordham Bridge

SMR No: 10970
NGR: TL 9292 2707

Description:

From a meadow at the side of the road a type FW3/22 pillbox faces north towards Fordham Bridge just 50 yards away. It is hexagonal, built of concrete, and measures 12ft 6in x 7ft high. It has 15in thick walls and an internal 'Y-shaped' central pillar. The loopholes - one on each face - measure 10in wide x 12in high, although the rear loophole, beside the entrance, is a slit 6in wide x 13in high. The entrance is a 6ft high 'porch-type' with a 5ft high doorway. This is, unusually, concreted up to half its height, presumably to prevent flooding of the interior from the river nearby. At the rear of the porch, facing the entrance, the wall is serrated to prevent bullets ricocheting into the interior. <1>

Three photos of site. <2>

SITE ASSESSMENT: The pillbox has a distinct tilt to one side.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

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



SMR 10970: The focal point for a number of defences grouped around Fordham Bridge. This pillbox, and another close by, was supported by a road barrier, anti-tank rails, two spigot mortar emplacements and an ammunition shelter.

Pillbox (destroyed), North-west corner of Fiddler's Wood, Fordham Bridge

SMR No: 10971

NGR: TL 9287 2699

Description:

Contemporary records state "...Pillbox..... Fiddlers Wood, NW corner. Map ref 377455" (Mil. Ed.). <1>

Nothing of this pillbox remains although the ground is very disturbed in this corner of the wood. The close proximity of the infantry pillbox only 100 yards to the NE (SMR 10970) and Fordham Bridge only a few yards further suggests that this may have been an artillery pillbox - possibly Type FW3/28 - covering the bridge. <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

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

<2> DESC TEXT: Pillboxes, , Wills, H, 1985, p. 17

Spigot Mortar Emplacement, West of Fordham Bridge

SMR No: 10972
NGR: TL 9281 2713

Description:

One hundred yards west of Fordham Bridge, on the river bank, is a Home Guard spigot mortar pedestal surmounted by its stainless steel pintle. It measures 40 inches to the top of the pintle and is 3 feet 6 inches in diameter. The top of the concrete dome is badly damaged exposing the steel re-inforcement rods and the side of the pedestal, usually formed from a sewage pipe, is cracked. Overhanging the river is the base of one of the ammunition alcoves and in the river the capping stone of one of the alcoves can be seen.

Three photos of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> Photograph: Spigot Mortar Emplacement, W of Fordham Bridge, print, Nash, F, 1997,



SMR 10972: Less common than those set into a purpose-designed pit, this pedestal stands above ground. It is probable that the ground here was susceptible to flooding.

Pillbox, field junction south of Fordham Bridge

SMR No: 10973
NGR: TL 9272 2680

Description:

South of the River Colne at this point the ground slopes upwards and on the hillside, almost completely hidden in trees and bushes at a field junction, is a 21 ft 6in diameter, hexagonal, concrete pillbox. In the centre there is a hexagonal anti-aircraft machine-gun well with a central concrete pillar surmounted by its steel mounting fittings. The pillbox has small loopholes and the entrance is on the south side.

Three photos of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

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



SMR 10973: Hidden in the trees, this pillbox has been almost completely absorbed into the landscape.

Pillbox, South bank of River Colne, Fordstreet

SMR No: 10974

NGR: TL 9253 2712

Description:

By the bank of the River Colne, in the corner of a field, is an hexagonal, concrete pillbox. It has 11ft long walls and is of the 19ft 6in diameter type. The low 'porch-type' entrance is in the south side. The remains of steel rods can be seen on the faces of the pillbox - possibly retaining pieces for camouflage or netting. There are six small loopholes and earth and grass has been piled on the roof as a camouflage.

One photo of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

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



SMR 10974: There are many 19' 6" diameter pillboxes along the Eastern Command Line in Essex but, oddly, it is a type which occurs almost nowhere else in the county.

Pillbox, East of Fordstreet Hill

SMR No: 10975
NGR: TL 9225 2662

Description:

50 yards east of Fordstreet Hill, totally hidden in thick undergrowth is a type FW3/22 concrete pillbox. Almost all of it has been buried and is below ground and it can be identified only by the top of the front face and the one large-type loophole above ground. This face is 7ft 4in long, the loophole is 10in wide and the wall, through the loophole, is 15in thick. <1>

Grading: Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

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

Anti-Tank Ditch, Fordstreet

SMR No: 10976
NGR: TL 9199 2692

Description:

The Eastern Command Line followed the path of the River Colne from its estuary at Mersea Island to Wakes Colne during World War Two. However, at Fordstreet the line appears, unusually, to have left the river for a short distance. An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows the clear markings of a filled-in anti-tank ditch skirting the southern edge of the village from the river on the W side to the river on the E. It leaves the river at TL 9171 2698, crosses two fields southeastwards to the road at TL 9189 2674, and then crosses E round the side of Cummins Farm to TL 9214 2679 where it meets Fordstreet Hill road. On the E side of the road it skirts a small field before rejoining the river at TL 9228 2687. <1>

Contemporary records state, "A/T ditch & 6 pillboxes. Hill & Cummins Farms, Aldham, O.S. Nos. 50, 51, 64, 68, 69, 44, 42. Map ref. 370450" (Mil. Ed.) and "A/T ditch. The Old House, Fordstreet, O.S. No. 51 adj. S bank of R. Colne. Map ref. 366453" (Mil. Ed.). In addition, there are two records for the barriers where the ditch crossed the two roads (SMR 10977 and SMR 10978). <2>

On the ground, the rationale is very clear. Fordstreet is overlooked by a very high hill on its south side. The anti-tank ditch followed the foot of the hill, dominated by pillboxes, and presumably other defensive positions, on the hillside above.

Grading: Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-3133 + 3134. . RAF. 1946.
<2> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , , Aldha

Road Barrier (destroyed), Fordstreet Hill

SMR No: 10977
NGR: TL 9214 2679

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Road Barrier. Fordstreet Hill, Aldham. Map ref. 370450" (Mil. Ed.). The faint marks of a rail and socket anti-tank barrier can be made out on an aerial photograph taken in 1946 at the foot of Fordstreet Hill, where the anti-tank ditch (SMR 10976) crossed the road. On each side of the road anti-tank pimples, either cones or pyramids 2' high and 3' wide at their base, can be seen. There were three on the W side of the road and two on the E.

At the time of the site visit, in the corner of the field on the E side of the road there was an earth-covered slightly raised portion with large pieces of "typically WWII" concrete – possibly the remains of the demolished pimples.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Aldham
<2> AP: 106G-UK 1492-3133 + 3134, , RAF, 1946,

Road Barrier/Anti-Tank Pimple, New Road, Fordstreet

SMR No: 10978
NGR: TL 9189 2674

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Road Barrier. Dickroft Hill, Aldham. Map ref. 367452" (Mil. Ed.). This map reference is where the anti-tank ditch (SMR 10976) crossed what is now known as New Road. An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows the clear marks of the filled-in anti-tank ditch on each side of the road and several small white dots on the S side. These are now known to have been anti-tank pimples as one of them still survives. It is in the roadside hedge and is of the pyramid type of pimple 2' high, four sided, approx. 3' across at its base. <1> <2>

SITE ASSESSMENT: Although once very common, anti-tank pimples are now rare in Essex. All of the surviving examples so far recorded have been of the conical variety. This is the first of the pyramid type to be recorded.

Grading: Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Aldham
<2> AP: 106G-UK 1492-3133 + 3134, , RAF, 1946,

Pillbox (destroyed), West of Fordstreet Hill, Fordstreet

SMR No: 10979

NGR: TL 9217 2665

Description:

Aerial photographs taken in 1946 and 1949 show what was probably a pillbox in a field 30 yards W of Fordstreet Hill. Its shape is indistinct. In this position it would have been 90 yards NW of the pillbox at TL 9225 2662 (SMR 10975) and would have overlooked, from a high hillside, the former path of the anti-tank ditch (SMR 10976) and road barrier (SMR 10977) around the S side of Fordstreet 150 yards to the N. <1> <2>

An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows no sign of the pillbox. <3>

Each of the bridges across the R. Colne Eastern Command Line appears to have been covered by an FW3/28 artillery pillbox during WWII. One visible long, straight edge plus the very close proximity of the infantry pillboxes suggests that this may have been an FW3/28 sited to cover the road barrier on Fordstreet Hill where the Eastern Command Line followed the anti-tank ditch across the road.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-3133 + 3134, , RAF, 1946,

<2> AP: 58-304-5258, , RAF, 8:1949,

<3> AP: Run13 039, , HSL, 6:1960,

Pillbox, West of Fordstreet Hill

SMR No: 10980

NGR: TL 9202 2659

Description:

From a field edge 200 yards west of Fordstreet Hill an hexagonal, concrete pillbox faces north across a wide valley. It is 21ft 3in across, has small loopholes, a central anti-aircraft machine-gun well complete with concrete pedestal and steel mounting fittings. The low 'porch-type' entrance is in the south side.

Four photos of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

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



SMR 10980: Somewhat emblematic, the pillbox at the edge of the field of corn, merging into the countryside.

Pillbox (destroyed), South of New Road, Fordstreet

SMR No: 10981
NGR: TL 9186 2672

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows what may be a pillbox on the S side of New Road. Although it is very indistinct, this is a totally logical position overlooking the road barrier and anti-tank ditch approx. 40 yards to the NE. <1>

Contemporary records state, "A/T ditch & 6 pillboxes. Hill & Cummins Farms, Aldham, O.S. Nos. 50, 51, 64, 68, 69, 44, 42." This was field O.S. No. 64. <2>

Each of the bridges across the R. Colne Eastern Command Line appears to have been covered by an FW3/28 artillery pillbox during WWII. Although not facing the road barrier (SMR 10978) — it faces NNE across the ditch a long straight edge which is visible on the aerial photograph suggests that this may have been an FW3/28.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources

<2> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Aldham

<1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-3133 + 3134, , RAF, 1946,

Pillbox (destroyed), Bridge House, Fordstreet

SMR No: 10982
NGR: TL 9201 2706

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Pillbox at entrance. Bridge House, Fordstreet, Grounds in front of house." This pillbox can be seen on the triangle formed by the entrance from the road, on an aerial photograph taken in 1946. It is too indistinct for its type to be determined but, from its small size, may have been an FW3/22. <1> <2> <3>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

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

<2> AP: 106G-UK 1492-3133 + 3134, , RAF, 1946,

<3> DESC TEXT: Pillboxes, , Wills, H, 1985, measured plan p.28

Anti-Tank Pimples, Bridge House, Fordstreet

SMR No: 10983
NGR: TL 9196 2708

Description:

Contemporary records state, "a) Pillbox at entrance. b) Concrete pimples on bridge in grounds. Bridge House, Fordstreet, Grounds in front of house". Although the pillbox is no longer extant (SMR 10982) many of the pimples still survive. It can be seen from an aerial photograph taken in 1946 that there were originally 17, arranged in three rows, blocking access across the wide mill race bridge on the N side of Bridge House. The three rows were aligned W to E with six pimples in the outside rows and five in the inner. Ten pimples are still in situ, five to the W and five to the E, with the centre seven no longer extant. However, two of them do in fact survive although not in situ. They have been moved to a position flanking the entrance to the driveway and have been painted white. The pimples are of the conical variety, 2' high and 3' across the base. <1> <2> Eight photos of site <3>

SITE ASSESSMENT: Although once very common, anti-tank pimples are now rare in Essex. Although seven of the original 17 are no longer in situ, the remaining ten constitute the greatest concentration of pimples so far recorded in the County.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ****

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Aldham
<2> AP: 106G-UK 1492-3133 + 3134, , RAF, 1946,
<3> Photograph: 8 Frames by Nash, F, , SMR, 9:1997,



SMR 10983: Ten of the original anti-tank pimples still stand in their original position at Bridge House. Of the seven which are no longer there, two have been moved to a position each side of the entrance to the driveway.

Spigot Mortar Emplacement, Bridge House, Fordstreet

SMR No: 10984
NGR: TL 9195 2709

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Spigot mortar position. Bridge House, Fordstreet, Sunken corner behind river wall." This emplacement still survives on the river bank a few yards N of the anti-tank pimples. (SMR 10983). The pit has, unusually, three ammunition alcoves probably necessitated by the immediate proximity of the river bank which would not have allowed for an alcove in that direction. The central pedestal is surmounted by the typically pristine stainless steel pintle. <1>

One photo of site <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Aldham
<2> Photograph: One Frame by Nash, F, , SMR, 9:1997,



SMR 10984: Sited on the river bank, the spigot mortar would have been able to bring down fire onto any armoured vehicles approaching Fordstreet bridge.

Pillbox, Mill Race Nursery, Fordstreet

SMR No: 10985

NGR: TL 9162 2693

Description:

A few yards south of the river bank in a picnic area attached to Mill Race Nursery is a concrete hexagonal pillbox. It is of the 19ft 6in across variety, has small loopholes, and a low entrance on the south side.

One photo of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

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



SMR 10985: Sited in a picnic area, this pillbox has become somewhat a feature of Mill Race Nursery.

Pillbox, South Bank of the River Colne, Fordstreet

SMR No: 10986

NGR: TL 9147 2699

Description:

Standing in a willow plantation on the south bank of the River Colne is a hexagonal, concrete pillbox. It has 11ft' long walls, is 19ft 6in across and the low 'porch-type' entrance is on the south-west side. Earth and grass have been piled on top as camouflage.

One photo of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

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



SMR 90986: It is perhaps surprising that the earth and grass piled on top of pillboxes during World War Two still remains on so many.

Pillbox, track, West of Fordstreet

SMR No: 10987
NGR: TL 9139 2686

Description:

150 yards south of the River Colne, by a track, is a concrete, hexagonal pillbox. It is almost entirely hidden in blackthorn and thicket and can only really be identified from a 1960 aerial photograph which shows it to be a 22ft type with a central anti-aircraft machine-gun well. <1>

One photo of site. <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> AP: Run 13-039, , HSL, 1960,
<2> Photograph: , , Nash, F, 1997,



SMR 10987: Some pillboxes have become so well hidden that now nothing can be seen of them.

Pillbox (destroyed), River bank, West of Fordstreet

SMR No: 10988

NGR: TL 9119 2725

Description:

Aerial photographs taken in 1946 and 1949 show a pillbox of the 19'6 hexagonal type standing on the river bank at this point. The entrance is on the SW face. An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows the area completely clear. <1> <2> <3>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-3133 + 3134, , RAF, 1946,

<2> AP: 58-304-5155, , RAF, 8:1949,

<3> AP: Run 13-042, , HSL, 6:1960,

Pillbox, River bank, West of Fordstreet

SMR No: 10989
NGR: TL 9102 2746

Description:

On the bank of the River Colne at this point is an hexagonal, concrete pillbox. It is of the 19ft 6in variety with its entrance on the SW face. However, one face - the eastern - has been completely demolished showing the interior of the pillbox and steel reinforcement rods projecting from the broken walls.

Three photos of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

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



SMR 10989: Hanging out into space, the steel reinforcement rods bear testament to the difficulty of removing pillboxes.

Pillbox (destroyed), North-east of Wick Farm

SMR No: 10990
NGR: TL 9097 2699

Description:

Aerial photographs taken in 1946 and 1949 show an hexagonal pillbox, with a central anti-aircraft machine-gun well, on the hill-side 300 yards SW of the R. Colne. An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows the area completely clear. <1> <2> <3>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-3133 + 3134, , RAF, 1946,
<2> AP: 58-304-5155, , RAF, 8:1949,
<3> AP: Run 13-042, , HSL, 6:1960,

Pillbox (destroyed), North-west of Wick Farm

SMR No: 10991
NGR: TL 9046 2713

Description:

Aerial photographs taken in 1946 and 1949 show an hexagonal pillbox, with a central anti-aircraft machine-gun well, standing on the hill-side 300 yards S of the R. Colne. An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows the area completely clear. <1> <2> <3>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-3133 + 3134, , RAF, 1946,
<2> AP: 58-304-5155, , RAF, 8:1949,
<3> AP: Run 13-042, , HSL, 6:1960,

Pillbox, North-east of Bacon's Farm, Chappel

SMR No: 10992
NGR: TL 9012 2737

Description:

20 yards south-west of a small brick-built bridge across the River Colne is an FW3/22 concrete pillbox. It has 7ft 4in long walls, is 12ft 6in across and has its entrance on the south-west side. The walls are 15in thick and inside there is a 'Y-shaped' pillar. In the entrance, the wall opposite the opening has been formed with serrated shuttering to prevent bullets ricocheting into the interior. <1>

Two photos of site. <2>

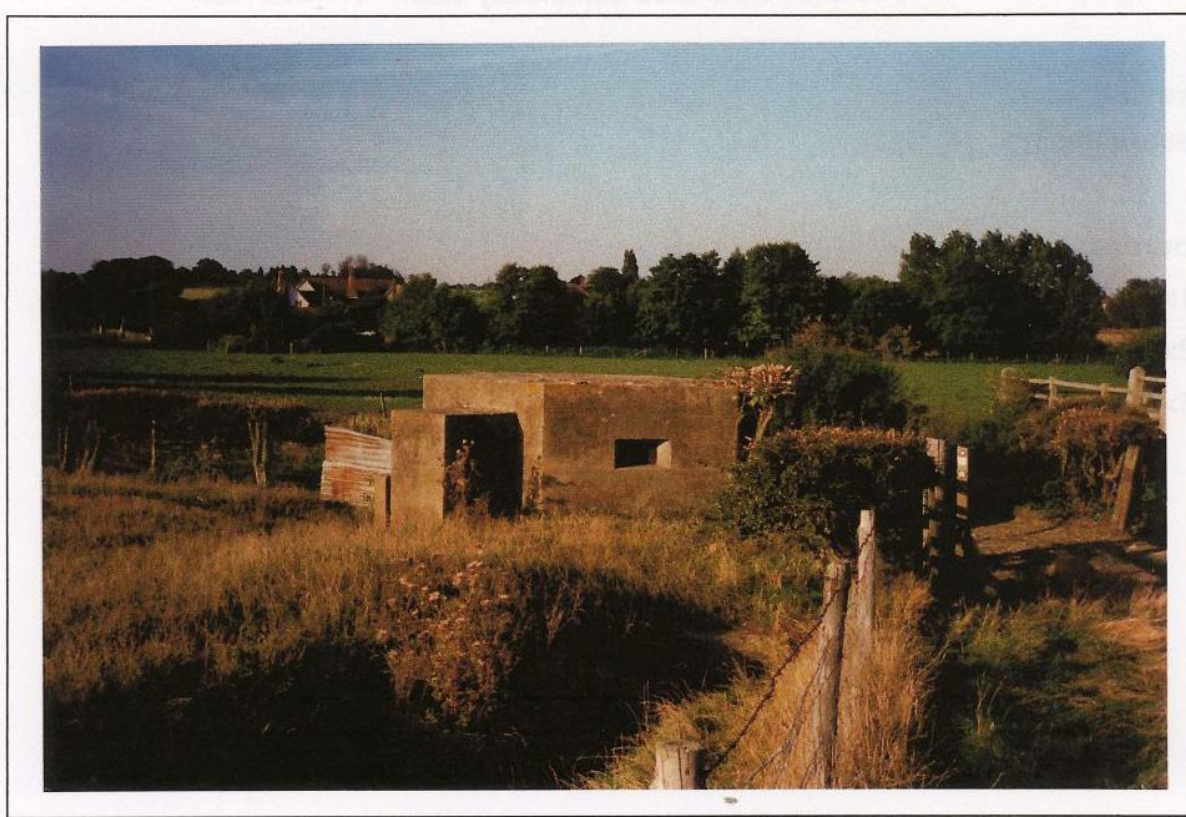
Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

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

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



SMR 10992: A typical FW3/22 pillbox. Being small, with thin walls, they were one of the cheapest to build.

Pillbox, Bacon's Farm, Chappel

SMR No: 10993

NGR: TL 8971 2745

Description:

High on a hillside, half buried in the thicket of a field boundary, a concrete, hexagonal pillbox looks out across the valley to the east. From this position, the view is particularly wide encompassing Chappel viaduct, the River Colne and Colchester Road on the east side of the river, to the high ground beyond the road. It is an anti-aircraft type with a central machine-gun well which retains its mounting pedestal and steel fittings. The pillbox measures approx. 21ft 4in across.

Three photos of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

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



SMR 10993: In the countryside, pillboxes tended to be sited along hedgerows where they could benefit from a degree of natural camouflage. Often they breached across the hedge such that they could fire in two directions.

Pillbox, Bacon's Farm, Chappel

SMR No: 10994
NGR: TL 8998 2781

Description:

Straddling the hedge of a field boundary approx. 50 yards from the west bank of the River Colne is a 19ft 6in wide concrete, hexagonal pillbox. It has small loopholes and a low entrance on the west side. Earth and grass has piled on the top in an attempt to camouflage the pillbox from the air. Immediately behind is a water-filled ditch which has necessitated a low concrete wall around the entrance to stop water entering into the interior.

Two photos of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

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



SMR 10994: One of the Bacon's Farm pillboxes, complementing the string of arches of Chappel Viaduct in the background.

Pillbox, Bacon's Farm, Chappel

SMR No: 10995
NGR: TL 8976 2810

Description:

From the NW corner of a grassy meadow, half buried in the hedge, an hexagonal, concrete pillbox faces across to the River Colne some 200 yards distant. It has small loopholes in each face and is of the anti-aircraft type with a central well fitted with machine-gun mounting pedestal and steel fittings.

One photo of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

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



SMR 10995: Many pillboxes still survive along this stretch of the River Colne approaching Chappel Viaduct.

Pillbox, South of the River Colne, Chappel

SMR No: 10996
NGR: TL 8977 2832

Description:

Just a few yards from the south bank of the River Colne and 150 yards east of Chappel viaduct is a 19ft 6in hexagonal, concrete pillbox. It is half-buried in dense thicket between a meadow on its east side and a sports field on its west. The low entrance is in the south-west face.

One photo of site. <1>

SITE ASSESSMENT: The quantity, diversity and survival of the WWII defences in the Chappel Viaduct area form a rare, inter-dependant, compound site. These include the four major types of pillbox on the Eastern Command Line (SMR 20000, 20001, 20004, and 20008), 28 concrete anti-tank cubes (SMR 20002 and 20005), three concrete anti-tank cylinders (SMR 20002) and two spigot mortar pedestals (SMR 10997 and 10998).

OCTOBER 2002: Site designated Scheduled Monument No 32447. This scheduled site is in seven parts. See also SMR's 10997, 10998, 20000, 20001, 20002, 20004, 20005 and 20008

Grading: Essex Grading: ****

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



SMR 10996: Chappel Viaduct was a vulnerable point along the Eastern Command Line and was consequently very heavily protected. This pillbox, now a Scheduled Monument, stands just 150 yards away.

Spigot Mortar Emplacement, Chappel Viaduct

SMR No: 10997
NGR: TL 8965 2838

Description:

Between Piers No. 15 and 16 of Chappel Viaduct, under the E edge of the arch, stands a Home Guard spigot mortar pedestal. It is 39 inches high, 43 inches diameter and is surmounted by a rusted steel pintle. This is unusual in that the great majority of pintles were made of stainless steel. This pedestal is not in good condition. The outer casing, a sewage pipe stood on end, is breaking away revealing the rough concrete interior. From this position, which would have covered an attack along the road to the NE, the crew would have been partially sheltered by the viaduct arch from air and mortar attack.

Two photos of site <1>

SITE ASSESSMENT:

The quantity, diversity and survival of the WWII defences in the Chappel Viaduct area form a rare, interdependent, compound site. These include the four major types of pillbox on the Eastern Command Line (SMR 20000, 20001, 20004 and 20008), 28 concrete anti-tank cubes (SMR 20002 and 20005), three concrete anti-tank cylinders (SMR 20002) and two spigot mortar pedestals (SMR 10997 and 10998).

OCTOBER 2002: Site designated Scheduled Monument No 32447. This scheduled site is in seven parts. See also SMR's 10996, 10998, 20000, 20001, 20002, 20004, 20005 and 20008.

Grading:

Essex Grading *****

Sources:

<1> Photograph: Two frames by Nash, F, , SMR, 9:1997,



SMR 10997: Spigot mortars were issued to the Home Guard in late 1941/early 1942. By then, linear defence was being discredited and the two emplacements under Chapel Viaduct, to counter an attack from either side, were sited to fire one in each direction.

Spigot Mortar Emplacement, Chappel Viaduct

SMR No: 10998
NGR: TL 8964 2839

Description:

Between Piers No. 13 and 14 of Chappel Viaduct, under the W edge of the arch, stands a Home Guard spigot mortar pedestal. It is 39 inches high and 43 inches diameter, surmounted by the more usual stainless steel pintle, unlike its neighbour under Piers No. 15 and 16 (SMR 10997). It is in good condition with only slight signs of the outer casing cracking. Sited under the W edge of the archway, almost alongside the river, this is a position from where it was clearly intended to fire against attack from the W side of the viaduct rather than the E. By 1942, when spigot mortars were supplied to the Home Guard, the concept of "Stop-lines" had been largely discredited in favour of nodal point defence and the siting of the two spigot mortars at Chappel Viaduct probably reflects this rather than an attempt to add further to the Eastern Command Line which ran from the E along the River Colne to the viaduct and then northwards along the railway.

Alongside the pier of the viaduct next to the pedestal are the remains of two ammunition alcoves side by side. There is a concrete capping stone measuring 7' x 2' lying on the ground with signs of brick-built walls which would once have supported it. It is probable that both pedestal and alcoves would have been protected by a low wall of sandbags during World War Two.

Three photos of site. <1>

SITE ASSESSMENT:

The quantity, diversity and survival of the WWII defences in the Chappel Viaduct area form a rare, interdependent, compound site. These include the four major types of pillbox on the Eastern Command Line (SMR 20000, 20001, 20004 and 20008), 28 concrete anti-tank cubes (SMR 20002 and 20005), three concrete anti-tank cylinders (SMR 20002) and two spigot mortar pedestals (SMR 10997 and 10998).

OCTOBER 2002: Site designated Scheduled Monument No 32447. This scheduled site is in seven parts. See also SMR's 10996, 10997, 20000, 20001, 20002, 20004, 20005 and 20008.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ****

Sources:

<1> Photograph: Three Frames by Nash, F, , SMR, 9:1997,



SMR 10998: Spigot mortar pedestals were made from sewage pipes, stood on end and filled with concrete. The pintle is attached to a web of steel rods within the pedestal.

Spigot Mortar Emplacement (destroyed), Watch House Farm, Wakes Colne

SMR No: 10999
NGR: TL 8951 2855

Description:

1997: Contemporary records state, "Spigot mortar position. Watch House Farm, Wakes Colne. Grass field N. of Main Road and W. of house. Map ref. 343469". (Mil.Ed.) <1>

March 2007: Watch House Farm lay on the NW corner of the Colchester Road/Station Road junction. The field can be seen on a 1946 aerial photograph and the most likely position for this spigot mortar emplacement is in its SE corner, close to the road. <2> This position is now the front garden of The Border House.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Chappel and Wakes Colne

<2> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4140, , RAF, 1946, May 1946

Birch WWII Airfield

SMR No: 14284

NGR: TL 9184 1959

Description:

1996: World War II airfield. <1>-<5> Photo ref <5>-<8> and <13>-<15>. Birch was the last airfield completed by the US Army for the 8th Air Force as a bomber base. It appears to have been unoccupied by May 1944 <9>. Birch followed the typical American wartime construction pattern, being equipped with 3 runways joined by a perimeter track, around which were 50 loop dispersals. Two T-2 hangars were built on concrete aprons at TL9130 1999, and at TL 9150 1917, around which was built the main technical site. Both hangars have gone along with the control tower (type 12779/41, 343/43) at TL9126 1947. The main site shows as approx. 35 hut bases and 3 upstanding Nissen huts in 1960 AP's. By 1990 only 1 hut remains at TL9141 1902 and the area has turned to wood/scrub cultivation. The brick operations block was located at TL9113 1898 flanked by 3 Nissen huts and a brick store - this is now cultivated.

The bomb stores were located on the east side of the airfield on land which is now being encroached upon by quarrying at Birch pit. On the opposite side of the airfield were the dispersed sites. <10> Aerial photos <11> and <12>.

May 2006: Birch was one of the last airfields built during WWII; an airfield which was destined to be among the least used of any in Britain. It was constructed by the 846th US Engineer Aviation Battalion in 1943 and was considered to be ready for occupation by the Spring of 1944. It was equipped with three runways, perimeter track, 50 loop disposals, two T2 hangars, bomb stores and no fewer than 14 dispersed accommodation and domestic sites in the woods and fields nearby. However, at that late point in the war there was little need for another airfield and the site lay redundant for almost all of the remaining year. During that time it was earmarked as a Reserve Base for the Eighth Air Force, Third Bomb Division, then handed to the British 6th Airborne Division where it saw its only operational use as a base for the Dakotas and Horsa gliders used in "Operation Varsity", the crossing of the Rhine.

Visited in May 2006, virtually nothing now remains of the airfield. The much-reduced-in width runways can still be made out, two of them as straight concrete tracks through the fields of corn and the third as a now-public road, Blind Lane. Some parts of the perimeter track remain as does one or two loop dispersals. Only one building still stands on the airfield, the main Technical Stores, a Nissen hut at TL 9141 1902.

Five photos of site <16>. See SMR 16489-16497, Dispersed Sites.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***



SMR 14284: The Main Technical Stores at Birch Airfield.

Sources:

- <1> AP: 106G/UK/1367/5367-5370, , RAF, 1946,
- <2> AP: 106G/UK/1492/4340-4341, , RAF, 1946,
- <3> AP: 542-152-0175, , , ,
- <4> AP: OS-66-227-117, , Ordnance Survey, ,
- <5> AP: TL9119-2-48, , Ordnance Survey, ,
- <6> AP: TL917196, , NMR, 1979,
- <7> AP: MAL/22/81/108, , MAL, 1981,
- <8> AP: F21/543/RAF/2326/201-202, , RAF, 1963,
- <9> DESC TEXT: The Mighty 8th War Manual, , Freeman, R A, , pp. 261 & 305
- <10> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <11> AP: 17 - 046, 17 - 047, 17 - 048, 18 -017, , , 1960,
- <12> AP: 20 - 5305, 20 - 5306, , , 1990,
- <13> AP: 106G/UK/1367/5328-5330, , RAF, 1946,
- <14> AP: HSL/70/162/91/0516, , Hunter Surveys Ltd, 1970,
- <15> Map: NMP Cropmark Plot - 1:10,000, , Ingle, CJ; Strachan, D; Tyler, S; Saunders, H, 1993 - 2002, TL91 NW
- <16> Photograph: Birch WWII Airfield, , Nash, F, 2006, 5 frames, May 2006
- <17> Map: Birch Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944,

Wormingford WWII Airfield

SMR No: 14383

NGR: TL 9207 3049

Description:

1996: Wormingford opened in late 1943 for the US 9th Airforce 362nd Fighter Group and subsequently the 55th Fighter Group flying bomber escort missions and low level attacks. The RAF moved in and used the airfield until 1947 but it was not sold until the 1960s. <6>

Wormingford was typical of American built wartime airfields, equipped with 3 runways, joined by a perimeter track around which were placed 50 loop dispersals and bomb stores. Two T2 hangars were built at opposite sides of the airfield both of which have gone but the concrete hardstanding of one remains at TL919 311. The site of the second hangar (TL9252 3013) is now under cultivation as is all of the main technical site was built along this eastern side with the control tower (type 12779/41, 343/43) at TL9275 3050. The SHQ/Ops has also been removed (TL9300 3037). Dispersed sites were located to the east of the airfield. Aerial photograph references. <1> <2>

1996: SITE ASSESSMENT: The airfield has reverted to agricultural use with large open fields. The perimeter track and 2 runways remain at reduced width which clearly show the airfield in the landscape. Only 2 aircraft dispersals survive, at TL929 306. All the airfield buildings have been destroyed. Buildings are extant on 5 of the dispersed sites closest to the airfield and public highway, but in an unknown condition or use.

1996: THREATS: Poor maintenance leading to deterioration in building fabric.

1996: SITE MANAGEMENT: The condition, completeness and alteration of buildings on the dispersed sites is unknown and first needs to be determined. An RCHME Level 1 record should be carried out before development occurs. <3> An RFC First Class night landing ground of 78 acres, operational from 1916 to 1919. The site was swallowed up by the construction of RAF Wormingford, a USAF air base, in 1942. <4> The site is once again back in agricultural use and part of the WWI field boundaries can still be traced, although partly crossed by the remains of the WWII runway and perimeter track. It is unlikely that anything more of the WWI period of use remains. <5>

MARCH 2006: Originally the site of a World War One landing ground for the Royal Flying Corps, Wormingford was reconstructed during 1943 as an American fighter and fighter/bomber base. It was equipped with three runways, perimeter track; 50 loop dispersals and bomb stores. Two T2 hangars were built on opposite sides of the airfield. The main technical site lay along the eastern perimeter. In the fields to the east of the airfield were dispersed sites with over 300 huts and domestic facilities. From November 1943, the base was manned by 362nd Fighter Group with P-47Ds, followed by the 55th Fighter Group equipped with P-38 Lightnings. In mid-1944, these were becoming outdated and were replaced by P-51 Ds. The station's final operation was on 21 April 1945. After the war, the airfield was used by RAF Training and Technical Training Commands until January 1947. It was eventually sold off for agricultural use in the 1960's.

Visited in March 2006, the site is now used, with runways very much reduced in width, by a glider club. Virtually all of the airfield buildings have been destroyed. Just three of the bomb

store huts of TL 924 314 remain. Photos were taken of these. The hard standing for one of the T2 hangars at TL 919 311 still remains as does a ramp in the same area. See SMR 16669 — SMR 16681 Dispersed Sites. <10>



*SMR 14383: Very little now remains of the wartime buildings at Wormingford.
Pictured are two of the Bomb Stores huts.*

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

- <1> AP: 58-542-P11-5204, , RAF, 1950,
- <2> AP: SLB-RAF-2326-0306, , RAF, 1963,
- <3> DESC TEXT: Fields of the First, , Paul A Doyle, 1997, p.77-79
- <4> DESC TEXT: WWI airfield management recommendations and archaeological potential, , Nigel Pratt, 2001,
- <5> Map: Wormingford Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1945, May 1945
- <6> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <7> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979, p.221
- <8> AP: US-7PH-GP-LOC186-5045, , , 1944,
- <9> AP: 30-4703, 30-4704, 30-4705, , Essex County Council, 1990,
- <10> Photograph: Wormingford Airfield, , Nash, F, 2006, 5 frames, Mar 2006

WWII HAA Gun Site "C6 Colchester: Fridaywood Farm", South of Colchester

SMR No: 16477

NGR: TL 9825 2115

Description:

March 1996: A WWII anti-aircraft battery appearing extant on an early RAF vertical photograph. <1 ><2>

July 1998: Documented in contemporary records as "C6 Colchester: Fridaywood Farm", a WWII Heavy Anti-Aircraft gun site, S of Colchester. Equipment and manning at the site is documented at various dates (Dobinson, 1996):

Date	Guns	Radar	Manning	
			Regt	Bty
20 May 1942	4 x 3.7"(m)	GL Mk II	71	229
22 Jun 1942	4x3.7"(m)	GL Mk II		

An aerial photograph taken in March 1945 shows four square gun emplacements, each with four internal ammunition recesses, W of Fridaywood Farm. They are on the S side of a bend in the track and are in a rough semi-circle facing S. There is no sign of the command post.

The fields to the N and W are criss-crossed with anti-landing ditches but no accommodation hutting can be seen. <3>-<5>

Site visit August 1998: The area of the gun emplacements is now a rough meadow of gorse and grass with some of the concrete bases of the emplacements still visible. At the site of the easternmost emplacement at TL 9832 2119 part of the pattern of holdfast fittings can be seen. These are the acceptance ring for the mounting plate locating spigot flanked by four of the levelling nuts which are screwed onto the holding-down bolts (Dobinson, 1996, Vol 1.1, p124). On one of the levelling nuts the letters "F.Y.T.", "4.5", "H.A." and "1942" are clearly engraved. For a comparative photograph showing the layout of the holdfast fittings see top of p.54, "20th Century Defences in Britain", Lowry,B, 1995. Three photos were taken of the site. <6>

1998: SITE ASSESSMENT: The lettering on the levelling nut is historically interesting but otherwise too little of the site remains to be of significance. <7>

2007: ESSEX GRADING: The Essex Grading of "C6 Colchester" has been amended from one to two - star.

Grading:

Essex Grading: **



SMR 16477: Although most of the lettering on the levelling nut is self-explanatory, it is not known what F. Y.T.' means.

Sources:

- <1> AP: 106G-UK-555-3069, , RAF, ,
- <2> Map: TL92SE, , NMP, , 1: 10 000 plot
- <3> DESC TEXT: Twentieth Century Fortifications in England - Vol I - Anti-aircraft artillery 1914-1946, , Dobinson, Colin, 1996, Vol 1.3 pp 342-343
- <4> AP: 106G- LA-170- 2010, , RAF, 1945, March 1945
- <5> AP: 106G- LA-167- 1041, , RAF, 1945, March 1945
- <6> Photograph: C6 Colchester: Fridaywood Farm, print, Nash, F, 1998, 3 frames, Aug 1998
- <7> DESC TEXT: World War Two Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gun Sites in Essex, , Nash, F, 1998,

Anti-tank Ditch and Defence Line, Lexden Bridge to Hythe marshes, West and South Colchester

SMR No: 16485

NGR: TL 9805 2295

Description:

March 1996: A linear feature appearing as a back-filled ditch on early vertical photography (RAF). A WWII date for the feature is likely as it breaks through existing hedgerows and field boundaries and also appears to loop around pill boxes. The site looks similar to the tank trap which was built around Chelmsford. The site has subsequently been destroyed by residential development. <1 >-<5>

Update August 2002: During World War Two Colchester was encircled by considerable defences against attack by enemy armour. It became, in effect, an anti-tank island. The Eastern Command Line followed the path of the River Colne around the town's eastern and northern flanks, protected by around 60 pillboxes and anti-tank barriers. To guard against an attack from the west and south the ancient ramparts of Lexden Dyke were used and when this petered out an anti-tank ditch was dug, 3.5 miles long.

The defence line probably rose from its junction with the Eastern Command Line on the River Colne at TL 9746 2555. Heading southwards across Cymbeline Way and Lexden Road, the line is reported to have used the ramparts of Lexden Dyke as a ready-made anti-tank barrier <6>. This is supported by the siting of known pillboxes and the existence of surviving anti-tank blocks in Lexden Park, although no pillboxes have been traced between those at Cymbeline Way (SMR 10938) and Bluebottle Grove (SMR 20525). The line then followed Bluebottle Grove to its S end at TL 9762 2428 where the main construction of the anti-tank ditch began. The ditch was probably up to 20 feet wide and 8/12 feet deep.

Heading south-eastwards, the line crossed Shrub End Road via a road barrier at TL 9793 2391. Continuing southwards to TL 9793 2367 and then TL 9807 2287, it crossed Layer Road via another road barrier. Turning eastwards, Berechurch Road was crossed at TL 9919 2278 and, nearly a mile further on, Mersea Road was crossed at TM 0050 2297. Like many of the road crossings, this junction was heavily defended by pillboxes and spigot mortars. The ditch then continued across Middlewick Ranges to Old Heath Road which it crossed at TM 0162 2301 just N of The Bell public house. From here to its junction once more with the River Colne the path followed drains, water courses and finally the sludge lagoons of the sewage works which lay alongside the river.

Throughout the length of the line, some 4.5 miles, pillboxes were sited every 200 / 300 yards. 24 have been traced by the World War Two Defences in Essex project although there were undoubtedly more.

In addition to those along the main defence line, around half a mile outside the line eleven pillboxes have been traced covering the major road approaches into the town.

Coming off at a tangent from the main defence line, research has revealed a subsidiary line

which stretched northwards from the junction of Shrub End Road and what is now Norman Way, at TL 9794 2392. This ran to the former Sheepen Farm Estate to join the river further eastwards than the main line. A continual run of pillboxes and road barriers has been recorded along this stretch. It is clear that no anti-tank ditch was dug but contemporary records list "tubular steel scaffolding", a commonly-used anti-tank fencing barrier. <7>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G-UK-555-4066-8, , RAF, ,

<2> AP: 58-47-PIII-5159 to 5264, , RAF, ,

<3> Map: TL92SE, , NMP, , 1: 10 000 plot

<4> AP: 58-69-PI-5116,7, , , ,

<5> AP: 106G-UK-595-4110,1, , RAF, ,

<6> DESC TEXT: A Guide to Colchester, , Martin, G.H., 1959, p.96

<7> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , , Colchester

Birch WWII Airfield - No. 3 Dispersed Site

SMR No: 16489
NGR: TL 9060 1858

Description:

1996: Dispersed site associated with WW2 airfield; single building extant in unknown condition. <2> Aerial photos. <3> <4>

May 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Birch Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Dispersed Site No 3 as the Mess Site with 18 buildings and other structures. This site, SW of the airfield, is now an open field with just one semi-derelict building surviving. This was the CO's Quarters, a brick built single storey building with Crittal windows. Described on the plan as being constructed of "temporary brick", viewed from a distance the structure is now deteriorating with large cracks up the walls. One photo of site. <5> <6>

Grading:

Essex Grading: **

Sources:

- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <3> AP: 17 - 046, 17 - 047, 17 - 048, 18 -017, , , 1960,
- <4> AP: 20 - 5305, 20 - 5306, , , 1990,
- <5> Map: Birch Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944, Dispersed Sites Nos. 2-14
- <6> Photograph: Birch WWII Airfield - no. 3 Dispersed Site, , Nash, F, 2006, 1 frame, May 2006



SMR 16489: The C.O.'s Quarters at Birch Airfield, No. 3 Dispersed Site.

Birch WWII Airfield - Dispersed Site No. 5

SMR No: 16490

NGR: TL 9029 1898

Description:

1996: Dispersed site associated with WW2 airfield; no longer extant. <1> and <2> Aerial photographs. <3> and <4>

May 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Birch Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Dispersed Site No 5 as comprising 31 buildings and other structures. The site is now an open field with nothing surviving. <5>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> DESC TEXT: Airfields of the Eighth, , Freeman, R, 1978, p.261, p.301

<2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, S Thorpe, 1996,

<3> AP: Birch WW2 airfield - dispersed sites, , , 1960,

<4> AP: Birch WW2 Airfield Dispersed sites, , , 1990,

<5> Map: Birch Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944, Dispersed Sites nos. 2-14

~ ~ NOTE: End of the original 2007 Volume 1 ~ ~

Birch WWII Airfield - No. 6 Dispersed Site

SMR No: 16491
NGR: TL 9017 1881

Description:

1996: Dispersed site associated with WW2 airfield; no longer extant. <1> <2> Aerial photographs <3> and <4>

May 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Birch Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Dispersed Site No 6 as comprising 31 buildings, and other structures. The site, NE of Harborough Hall Lane, is now an open field with just one feature remaining. This is a concrete base with brick sides, apparently an "M & E Plinth" according to the plan. One photo taken of site. <5> <6>

Grading:

Essex Grading: **

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Airfields of the Eighth, , Freeman, R, 1978, p.261, p.305
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: Birch WW2 airfield - dispersed sites, , , 1960,
- <4> AP: Birch WW2 Airfield Dispersed sites, , , 1990,
- <5> Map: Birch Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944, Dispersed Sites No. 2-14
- <6> Photograph: Birch WWII Airfield – No 6 Dispersed Site, , Nash, F, 2006, 1 frame, May 2006

Birch WWII Airfield - Dispersed Site No. 7

SMR No: 16492

NGR: TL 9036 1871

Description:

1996: Dispersed site associated with WW2 airfield; no longer extant. <1> - <4>

May 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Birch Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Dispersed Site No. 7 as comprising 39 buildings and other structures. The site is now an open field with nothing surviving. <5>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Airfields of the Eighth, , Freeman, R, 1978,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996, <3>
AP: Birch WW2 airfield - dispersed sites, , , 1960,
- <4> AP: Birch WW2 Airfield Dispersed sites, , , 1990,
- <5> Map: Birch Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944, Dispersed Sites
Nos. 2-14

Birch WWII Airfield - No. 2 Dispersed Site

SMR No: 16493
NGR: TL 9105 1883

Description:

1996: Dispersed site associated with WW2 airfield; no longer extant. <1> <2> Aerial photographs. <3> <4>

May 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Birch Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Dispersed Site No 2 as the Communal Site with 11 buildings and other structures. The site, SW of the airfield, is now an open field with just one feature surviving. This is a concrete base measuring 17' x 7' with the ends of 12 steel rods protruding from the surface. On the plan this is an untitled structure next to the Standby Set House (a generator building). It is thought that the base probably supported a fuel tank for the generator. One photo of site. <5> <6>

Grading: Essex Grading: *

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Airfields of the Eighth, , Freeman, R, 1978,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: 17 - 046, 17 - 047, 17 - 048, 18 -017, , , 1960,
- <4> AP: 20 - 5305, 20 - 5306, , , 1990,
- <5> Map: Birch Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944, Dispersed Sites Nos. 2-14
- <6> Photograph: Birch WWII Airfield – No 2 Dispersed Site, , Nash, F, 2006, 1 frame, May 2006



SMR 16493: It is probable that this base supported a fuel tank for the generator alongside.

Birch WWII Airfield - Dispersed Site No. 12

SMR No: 16494

NGR: TL 9137 1871

Description:

1996: Dispersed site associated with WWII airfield, no longer extant. <1> - <4>

May 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Birch Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Dispersed Site No 12, the Sick Quarters, to have comprised 7 buildings and other structures. It lay N of the B1022 Maldon Road, immediately W of a track. Visited in May 2006, the site is now an open field with nothing surviving. <5>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <5> Map: Birch Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944, Dispersed Sites Nos. 2-14
- <1> DESC TEXT: Airfields of the Eighth, , Freeman, R, 1978,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: 17 - 046, 17 - 047, 17 - 048, 18 -017, , , 1960,
- <4> AP: 20 - 5305, 20 - 5306, , , 1990,
- <5> Map: Birch Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944, Dispersed Sites Nos. 2-14

Birch WWII Airfield — Dispersed Site No. 8

SMR No: 16495

NGR: TL 9043 1814

Description:

1996: Dispersed site associated with WWII airfield; no longer extant. <1> - <2> Aerial photos. <3> - <4>

May 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Birch Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Dispersed Site No 8 as comprising 27 buildings and other structures. The site is now woodland on the S side of the B1022 Maldon Road. Beneath the trees, half-covered in leaf mould, a great many of the concrete bases of the buildings still survive. One photo of site. <5> <6>.

Grading: Essex Grading: **

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Airfields of the Eighth, , Freeman, R, 1978,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: 20 - 5305, 20 - 5306, , , 1990,
- <4> AP: 17 - 046, 17 - 047, 17 - 048, 18 -017, , , 1960,
- <5> Map: Birch Airfield Record Site Plan. Air Ministry, 1944, Dispersed Sites Nos. 2-14
- <6> Photograph: Birch WWII Airfield – Dispersed Site No 8, , Nash, F, 2006, 1 frame, May 2006



SMR 16495: At Dispersed Site No. 8 many of the concrete bases still lie beneath the trees.

Birch WWII Airfield — Dispersed Site No 11

SMR No: 16496
NGR: TL 9106 1829

Description:

1996: Dispersed site associated with Birch airfield; no longer extant. <1> - <2> Aerial photographs. <3> - <4>

May 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Birch Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Dispersed Site No 11 as comprising 39 buildings and other structures. It lay on the S side of the B1022 Maldon Road. Visited in May 2006, the site is now woodland and beneath the trees, half-covered in leaf-mould, many of the concrete bases of the buildings still survive. One photo of site. <5> <6>

Grading: Essex Grading: **

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Airfields of the Eighth, , Freeman, Fi, 1978,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996
- <3> AP: 17 - 046, 17 - 047, 17 - 048, 18 - 017, , , 1960,
- <4> AP: 20 - 5305, 20 - 5306, , , 1990,
- <5> Map: Birch Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944, Dispersed Sites Nos. 2-14
- <6> Photograph: Birch WWII Airfield — Dispersed Site No 11, , Nash, F, 2006, 1 frame, May 2006



SMR 16496: The site is now woodland, but beneath the trees many of the concrete bases still survive.

Birch WWII Airfield — Dispersed Site No 14 (Sewage Works)

SMR No: 16497
NGR: TL 9042 1918

Description:

1996: Sewage Works associated with WW2 airfield; no longer extant. <1> - <2> Aerial photos.
<3> - <4>

May 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Birch Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Site No 14 to have been the Sewage Disposal Works with six buildings and other structures. Nothing of it now survives. <5>

Grading: Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: 17 - 046, 17 - 047, 17 - 048, 18 -017, , , 1960,
- <4> AP: 20 - 5305, 20 - 5306, , , 1990,
- <5> Map: Birch Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944, Dispersed Sites Nos. 2-14

Boxted WWII Airfield — Dispersed Site No. 4 (Sick Quarters)

SMR No: 16508
NGR: TM 0204 2948

Description:

1996: Sick Quarters site associated with WWII airfield; no longer extant. <1> <2> Aerial photographs. <3> <4>

2006: An Air Ministry plan of Boxted Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Dispersed Site No. 4, the Sick Quarters, standing in fields south of Lodge Lane. It comprised nine buildings and other structures. An aerial photograph taken in 2000 shows nothing now surviving. <5> <6>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: TM11-069, , , 1974,
- <4> AP: 30-4712 30-4713 32-4604, , , 1990,
- <5> Map: Boxted Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944,
- <6> AP: Millennium photo Survey - digital coverage of the whole of Essex, , UK Perspectives, 2000,

Boxted WWII Airfield - Dispersed Site No. 5

SMR No: 16509
NGR: TM 0141 2934

Description:

1996: No.5 Dispersed site associated with WW2 airfield; no longer extant. <1> - <3>

2006: An Air Ministry plan of Botted Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Dispersed Site No. 5 north of Flood Lane, south of Salary Brook. It comprised 44 buildings and other structures. An aerial photograph taken in 2000 shows the site to now be part of the A12 and a link road from the A120. <4> <5>

Grading:

Essex Grading 0

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: 11-069 11-070 10-130, , , 1960,
- <4> Map: Botted Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944,
- <5> AP: Millennium photo Survey - digital coverage of the whole of Essex, , UK Perspectives, 2000

Boxted WWII Airfield - Dispersed Site No. 6

SMR No: 16510

NGR: TM 0206 2908

Description:

1996: No. 6 Dispersed site associated with WWII airfield; no longer extant. <1> <2> Aerial photographs. <3> <4>

2006: An Air Ministry plan of Boxted Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Dispersed Site No. 6 standing alongside, to the west of, the old A12 Ipswich Road. It comprised 35 buildings and other structures. The site is now a hotel alongside the A12/A1232 interchange. <5>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

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

<2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,

<3> AP: TM11-069, , , 1974,

<4> AP: 30-4712 30-4713 32-4604, , , 1990,

<5> Map: Boxted Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944,

Boxted WWII Airfield - Dispersed Site No. 7

SMR No: 16511

NGR: TM 0168 2879

Description:

1996: No. 7 Dispersed Site associated with WWII airfield; no longer extant. <1> <2> Aerial photographs. <3> <4>

2006: An Air Ministry plan of Boxted Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Dispersed Site No. 7 standing to the south of Flood Lane. It comprised 37 buildings and other structures. The site is now part of Colchester Business Park. <5>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

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

<2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,

<3> AP: 17 - 046, 17 - 047, 17 - 048, 18 -017, , , 1960,

<4> AP: 20 - 5305, 20 - 5306, , , 1990,

<5> Map: Boxted Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944,

Boxted WWII Airfield - Dispersed Site No. 8

SMR No: 16512

NGR: TM 0129 2907

Description:

1996: No.8 Dispersed Site associated with WWII airfield; no longer extant <1> <2>. Aerial photographs. <3> <4>

2006: An Air Ministry plan of Boxted Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Dispersed Site No. 8 standing in fields north of Flood Lane, south of Salary Brook. It comprised 46 buildings and other structures. The site is now a rough meadow between Flood Lane and the A12 road. <5>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

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

<2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,

<3> AP: TM11-069, , , 1974,

<4> AP: 30-4712 30-4713 32-4604, , , 1990,

<5> Map: Boxted Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944,

Boxted WWII Airfield — Dispersed Site No.3 (Mess Site)

SMR No: 16513

NGR: TM 0178 2916

Description:

1996: Mess site associated with WW2 airfield; no longer extant.

2006: An Air Ministry plan of Boxted Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Dispersed Site No. 3, the Mess Site, in fields north of Salary Brook. It comprised nineteen buildings and other structures. An aerial photograph taken in 2000 shows the site to now be part of the A12 highway, its verges and adjoining meadow. <5> <6>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: TM11-069, , , 1974,
- <5> Map: Boxted Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944,
- <6> AP: Millennium photo Survey - digital coverage of the whole of Essex, , UK Perspectives, 2000,

Boxted WWII Airfield - Dispersed Site No. 2 (Communal Site)

SMR No: 16514

NGR: TM 0175 2951

Description:

1996: Communal Site associated with WWII airfield; no longer extant.

2006: An Air Ministry plan of Boxted Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Dispersed Site No. 2, the Communal Site, standing in woods to the south of Lodge Lane. It comprised seventeen buildings and other structures. Survival at the site is not known.
<5>

Grading:

Essex Grading:

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: TM11-069, , , 1974,
- <4> AP: 30-4712 30-4713 32-4604, , , 1990,
- <5> Map: Boxted Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944,

Boxted WWII Airfield - Dispersed Site No. 9

SMR No: 16515

NGR: TM 0114 2889

Description:

1996: No. 9 Dispersed Site associated with WWII airfield; no longer extant. <1> <2>. Aerial photographs. <3> <4>

2006: An Air Ministry plan of Botted Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Dispersed Site No. 9 alongside, to the south of, Flood Lane. It comprised 38 buildings and other structures. The site is now part of Colchester Business Park. <5>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

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

<2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,<3> AP: TM11-069, , , 1974,

<4> AP: 30-4712 30-4713 32-4604, , , 1990,

<5> Map: Botted Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944,

Boxted WWII Airfield - Dispersed Site No. 11 (W.A.A.F. No. 1)

SMR No: 16517
NGR: TM 0155 2912

Description:

1996: No. 11 Dispersed Site associated with WWII airfield; no longer extant <1> <2>. Aerial photographs. <3> <4>

2006: An Air Ministry plan of Boxted Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Dispersed Site No. 11, W.A.A.F. Site No. 1, standing in fields north of Flood Lane, south of Salary Brook. It comprised 32 buildings and other structures. The site is now the junction of the A12 and A120 roadways. <5>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: 11-069 11-070 10-130, , , 1960,
- <4> AP: 30-4712 30-4713 32-4604, , , 1990,
- <5> Map: Boxted Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944,

Boxted WWII Airfield - Dispersed Site No. 12 (W.A.A.F. Site No. 2)

SMR No: 16518
NGR: TM 0149 2896

Description:

1996: No. 12 Dispersed Site associated with WWII airfield; no longer extant, <1> <2>. Aerial photographs. <3> <4>

2006: An Air Ministry plan of Boxted Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated November 1944, shows Dispersed Site No. 12, W.A.A.F. Site No. 2, alongside, to the north of, Flood Lane. It comprised eleven buildings and other structures. The site is now part of Colchester Business Park. <5>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: 11-069 11-070 10-130, , , 1960,
- <4> AP: 30-4712 30-4713 32-4604, , , 1990,
- <5> Map: Boxted Airfield Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1944,

Wormingford WWII Airfield - Mess Site

SMR No: 16669
NGR: TL 9326 2995

Description:

1996: Mess site associated with the WWII airfield; possible buildings still extant. <1> <2>. Aerial photos <3> <4>.

March 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Wormingford Airfield and its Dispersed Sites dated May 1945, shows the Mess Site as having 16 buildings and other structures. <5> This site, on the E side of Fordham Road, is now a Works area at its N end and an open field at its S end. In the SE corner of the field, the C.O.'s Quarters still survives as a private bungalow.

Aerial photographs from May 1946 show that in addition to the 16 listed structures there was at least one Stanton shelter, which still survives. Also, there were no fewer than eight open-topped blast shelters (see SMR 16679) at least one of which still survives, immediately E of Fordham Road. <6>.

One photo of site. <7>.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: US-7PH-GP-LOC186-5045, , , 1944,
- <4> AP: 30-4703, 30-4704, 30-4705, , Essex County Council, 1990,
- <5> Map: Wormingford Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1945, May 1945
- <6> DESC TEXT: British airfield buildings of the Second World War, , Innes, G, 1995, photo pp 96-97
- <7> Photograph: Mess Site at Wormingford WWII Airfield, , Nash, F, 2006, 1 frame, Mar 2006

Wormingford WWII Airfield - Communal Site

SMR No: 16670
NGR: TL 9333 3027

Description:

1996: Communal site associated with WWII airfield; possible buildings still extant <1> <2>. Aerial photos <3> <4>.

March 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Wormingford Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated May 1945, shows that the Communal Site had 15 buildings and other structures. <5>.

This site, on the E. side of Fordham Road, is now a works area and private house and garden. Little appears to survive of the original buildings although aerial photographs taken in May 1946 and September 1990 suggest that the flat-roofed Standby Set House still survives in the N.E. corner of the Works area.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: US-7PH-GP-LOC186-5045, , , 1944,
- <4> AP: 30-4703, 30-4704, 30-4705, , Essex County Council, 1990,
- <5> Map: Wormingford Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1945, May 1945

Wormingford WWII Airfield - Sick Quarters

SMR No: 16671
NGR: TL 9297 2976

Description:

1996: Sick Quarters site associated with the WWII airfield; possible buildings still extant <1> <2>. Aerial photos <3> <4>

March 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Wormingford Airfield and its Dispersed Sites dated May 1945, shows the Sick Quarters had seven buildings and other structures <5>. This site, to the W of Fordham Road, is now a private house and garden. From aerial photographs taken in May 1946 and September 1990 it appears that two Nissen-type huts may survive, the Ambulance Garage/Mortuary and part of the Sick Quarters.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: US-7PH-GP-LOC186-5045, , , 1944,
- <4> AP: 30-4703, 30-4704, 30-4705, , Essex County Council, 1990,
- <5> Map: Wormingford Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1945, May 1945

Wormingford WWII Airfield - No.2 Dispersed Site

SMR No: 16672

NGR: TL 9318 2970

Description:

1996: No.2 dispersed site associated with the WWII airfield; possible buildings still extant <1> <2>. Aerial photos <3> <4>.

March 2006: An Air Ministry Plan of Wormingford Airfield and its Dispersed Sites dated May 1945, shows Dispersed Site No. 2 as having 44 buildings and other structures. <5>.

This site 200 yards to the E of Fordham Road, is now an open field. Aerial photographs from May 1946 show that in addition to the 44 structures listed there were at least two Stanton shelters, both of which still survive. Also, there were two blast shelters (see SMR 16679) again which still survive. These appear to be the only extant structures. <6>.

Two photos taken of site. <7>.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: US-7PH-GP-LOC186-5045, , , 1944,
- <4> AP: 30-4703, 30-4704, 30-4705, , Essex County Council, 1990,
- <5> Map: Wormingford Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1945, May 1945
- <6> DESC TEXT: British airfield buildings of the Second World War, , Innes, G, 1995, photo pp 96-97
- <7> Photograph: Wormingford Airfield - No 2 Dispersed Site, , Nash, F, 2006, 2 frames, March 2006



SMR 16672: One of the two surviving blast shelters at Wormingford, No. 2 Dispersed Site.

Wormingford WWII Airfield - No. 8 Dispersed Site

SMR No: 16673
NGR: TL 9346 3056

Description:

1996: Ancillary site associated with the WWII airfield

March 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Wormingford Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated May 1945, shows Dispersed Site No. 8 as having 22 buildings and other structures. <5>.

The area, on the N side of Packards Lane, is now an industrial works. Little, if anything survives of the wartime site, perhaps one or two buildings in the N corner. On the S side of the road within the same dispersed site, the hard standing of the Fuel Compound is still extant on waste ground.

Two photos of site <6>.

Grading:

Essex Grading: *

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: US-7PH-GP-LOC186-5045, , , 1944,
- <4> AP: 30-4703, 30-4704, 30-4705, , Essex County Council, 1990,
- <5> Map: Wormingford Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1945, May 1945
- <6> Photograph: No 8 Dispersed Site, Wormingford Airfield, , Nash, F, 2006, 2 frames, Mar 2006

Wormingford WWII Airfield - Unused Dispersed Site

SMR No: 16674

NGR: TL 9368 3018

Description:

1996: Unused Site associated with the WWII airfield; no longer extant <1> <2>. Aerial photos <3> <4>.

March 2006: This site, 300 yards S of Packards Lane, was an open area, unused except for a small latrine bucket emptying compound, and unnumbered. It is now open fields. <5>.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: US-7PH-GP-LOC186-5045, , , 1944,
- <4> AP: 30-4703, 30-4704, 30-4705, , Essex County Council, 1990,
- <5> Map: Wormingford Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1945, May 1945

Wormingford WWII Airfield - No.1 Dispersed Site

SMR No: 16675
NGR: TL 9375 3041

Description:

1996: No.1 dispersed site associated with the WWII airfield; no longer extant, <1> <2>. Aerial photos <3> <4>.

March 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Wormingford Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated May 1945, shows Dispersed Site No. 1 as having 35 buildings and other structures. <5>.

This site, on the N. side of Packards Lane, has been completely cleared and is now open fields.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: US-7PH-GP-LOC186-5045, , , 1944,
- <4> AP: 30-4703, 30-4704, 30-4705, , Essex County Council, 1990,
- <5> Map: Wormingford Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1945, May 1945

Wormingford WWII Airfield - No.4 Dispersed Site

SMR No: 16676

NGR: TL 9406 3022

Description:

1996: No.4 Dispersed site associated with the WWII airfield; no longer extant <1> <2>. Aerial photos <3> <4>

March 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Wormingford Airfield and its Dispersed Sites dated May 1945, shows Dispersed Site No. 4 as having 44 buildings and other structures. <5>.

This site, on the S. side of Packards Lane, has been completely cleared and is now open fields.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: US-7PH-GP-LOC186-5045, , , 1944,
- <4> AP: 30-4703, 30-4704, 30-4705, , Essex County Council, 1990,
- <5> Map: Wormingford Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1945, May 1945

Wormingford WWII Airfield - No.5 Dispersed Site

SMR No: 16677
NGR: TL 9413 2995

Description:

1996: Dispersed site associated with the WWII airfield; no longer extant <1> <2>. Aerial photos <3> <4>.

March 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Wormingford Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated May 1945, show Dispersed Site No.5 as having 43 buildings and other structures. <5>

This site, some 400 yards S. of Packards Lane, has been completely cleared and is now open fields.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: US-7PH-GP-LOC186-5045, , , 1944,
- <4> AP: 30-4703, 30-4704, 30-4705, , Essex County Council, 1990,
- <5> Map: Wormingford Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1945, May 1945

Wormingford WWII Airfield - Sewage Works

SMR No: 16678
NGR: TL 9424 2976

Description:

1996: Sewage Works associated with the WWII airfield; no longer extant <1> <2>. Aerial photographs <3> <4>.

March 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Wormingford Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated May 1946, shows the Sewage Disposal Works Site as having six buildings and other structures. <5>.

This site, W. of Highfield Farm, has been completely cleared and is now open fields.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: US-7PH-GP-LOC186-5045, , , 1944,
- <4> AP: 30-4703, 30-4704, 30-4705, , Essex County Council, 1990,
- <5> Map: Wormingford Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1945, May 1945

Wormingford WWII Airfield - No.3 Dispersed Site

SMR No: 16679
NGR: TL 9349 2975

Description:

1996: No.3 dispersed site associated with the WWII airfield; no longer extant <1> <2>. Aerial photos <3> <4>.

March 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Wormingford Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated May 1945, shows Dispersed Site No. 3 as having 45 buildings and other structures. <5>

This site, 400 yards E. of Fordham road, is now a wood, mainly of fir trees. Aerial photographs from May 1946 show that in addition to the 45 structures listed there were three Stanton shelters, all of which still survive. Also, there were two open-topped blast shelters which still survive. These take the form of upright brick walling. 6' high, enclosing four "rooms". Earth is heaped up to the outer walls. Sloping-walled entrances allow access from two sides. <6>

Four photos taken of site. <7>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: US-7PH-GP-LOC186-5045, , , 1944,
- <4> AP: 30-4703, 30-4704, 30-4705, , Essex County Council, 1990,
- <5> Map: Wormingford Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1945, May 1945
- <6> DESC TEXT: British airfield buildings of the Second World War, , Innes, G, 1995, photograph pp 96 - 97
- <7> Photograph: Wormingford WWII Airfield – No 3 Dispersed Site, , Nash, F, 2006, 4 frames, Mar 2006



SMR 16679: This inside view of one of the Stanton shelters shows the preformed concrete panelling bolted together to form the chamber.

Wormingford WWII Airfield - No.6 Dispersed Site

SMR No: 16680

NGR: TL 9351 2998

Description:

1996: No.6 dispersed site associated with the WWII airfield; no longer extant <1> <2>. Aerial photos <3> <4>

March 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Wormingford Airfield and its Dispersed Sites, dated May 1945, shows Dispersed Site No. 6 as having 37 buildings and other structures. <5> .

This site, 300 yards E. of Fordham Road, is now a wood. Aerial photographs from May 1946 show that in addition to the 37 listed there were a number of other structures. Namely, three Stanton shelters, all of which still survive, and two blast shelters (see SMR 16679) one of which still survives. <6>

Three photos taken of site. <7>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: US-7PH-GP-LOC186-5045, , , 1944,
- <4> AP: 30-4703, 30-4704, 30-4705, , Essex County Council, 1990,
- <5> Map: Wormingford Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1945, May 1945
- <6> DESC TEXT: British airfield buildings of the Second World War, , Innes, G, 1995, photograph pp 96 -97
- <7> Photograph: Wormingford WWII Airfield — No 6 Dispersed Site, , Nash, F, 2006, 3 frames, March 2006 -



SMR 16680: The outside of one of the Stanton shelters at Wormingford, No. 6 Dispersed Site.

Wormingford WWII Airfield - No.7 Dispersed Site

SMR No: 16681
NGR: TL 9375 2992

Description:

1996: No. 7 dispersed site associated with the WWII airfield; no longer extant <1> <2>. Aerial photos <3> <4>

March 2006: An Air Ministry plan of Wormingford Airfield and its Dispersed Sites dated May 1945 shows Dispersed Site No. 7 as having 11 buildings and other structures. <5>

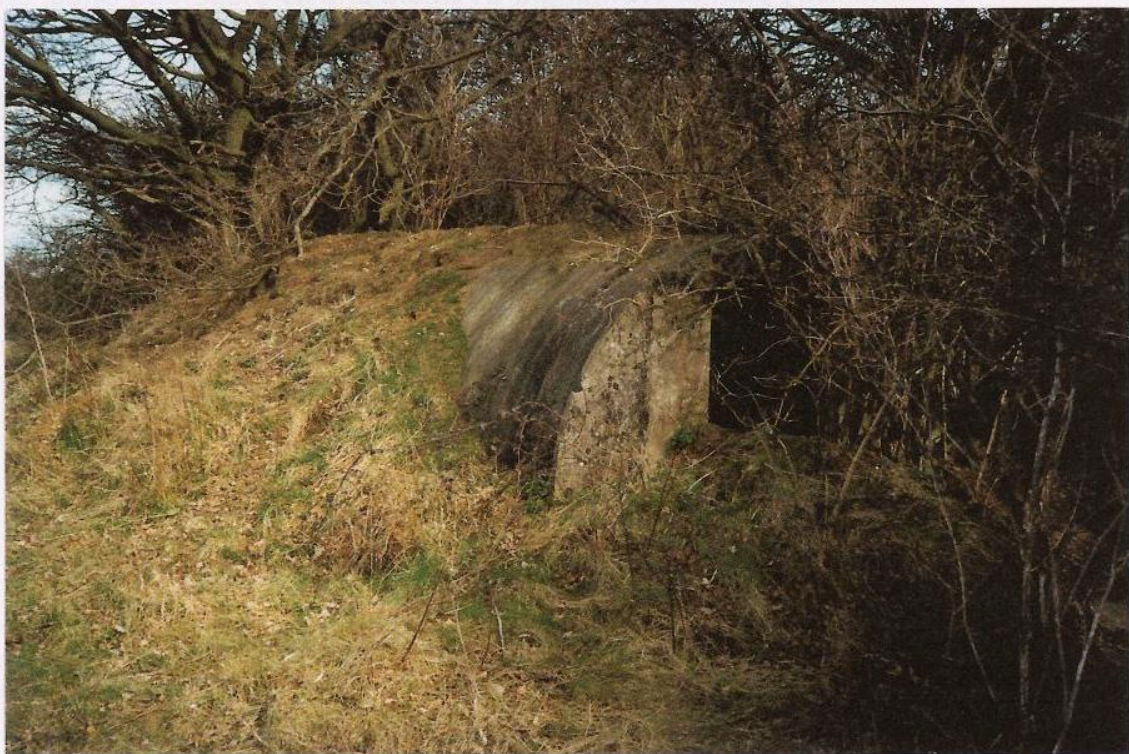
This site, some 600 yards S. of Packards Lane, is now a small spinney. On the W. fringe is a surviving Stanton shelter. It is in good condition, c. 30' long, half covered with earth. <6> No other buildings survive. Two photos were taken of the shelter. <7>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Action Stations: Military Airfields of East Anglia Vol.1, , Bowyer, Michael J, 1979,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Military Airfields in Essex during WWII, , S Thorpe, 1996,
- <3> AP: US-7PH-GP-LOC186-5045, , , 1944,
- <4> AP: 30-4703, 30-4704, 30-4705, , Essex County Council, 1990,
- <5> Map: Wormingford Record Site Plan, , Air Ministry, 1945, May 1945
- <6> DESC TEXT: British airfield buildings of the Second World War, , Innes, G, 1995, photograph p.96
- <7> Photograph: Wormingford WWII Airfield — No 7 Dispersed Site, , Nash, F, 2006, 2 frames March 2006



SMR 16681: A Stanton air raid shelter at Wormingford, No. 7 Dispersed Site.

Pillbox, Chappel Bridge

SMR No: 20000
NGR: TL 8952 2847

Description:

In trees alongside the south-west corner of Chappel Bridge is an FW3/22 pillbox. It is hexagonal, has 10in loopholes with steel side supports and is constructed of 15in thick concrete. The entrance is in the south-west face and anti-ricochet shuttering has been used to form the wall facing the opening. <1> In common with other FW3/22's in the Colchester area, this variation has a 'slit-type' loophole in the same face as the entrance.

Two photos of site. <2>

SITE ASSESSMENT: The quantity, diversity and survival of the WWII defences in the Chappel Viaduct area form a rare, inter-dependant, compound site. These include the four major types of pillbox on the Eastern Command Line (SMR 20000, 20001, 20004, and 20008), 28 concrete anti-tank cubes (SMR 20002 and 20005), three concrete anti-tank cylinders (SMR 20002) and two spigot mortar pedestals (SMR 10997 and 10998).

OCTOBER 2002: Site designated Scheduled Monument No 32447. This scheduled site is in seven parts. See also SMR's 10996, 10997, 10998, 20001, 20002, 20004, 20005 and 20008

Grading:

Essex Grading

Sources:

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

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



SMR 20000: The pillbox by Chapel Bridge. Note the anti-ricochet walling just inside the entrance

Pillbox, South of Colchester Road, Chappel Viaduct

SMR No: 20001
NGR: TL 8966 2841

Description:

During World War Two the Eastern Command Line followed the River Colne from Mersea Island around Colchester to Chappel Viaduct before heading northwards along the railway embankment to Bures, where it joined the River Stour. Each of the bridges along the River Colne was probably covered by an artillery pillbox, although all of them have now been demolished - with the exception of the one at Chappel Viaduct.

This is an FW3/28 pillbox standing on waste ground on the north bank of the river immediately east of, and partly underneath, the arches of the viaduct. It was built to face and cover the road approach from the east and coupled with the other pillboxes, spigot mortars and anti-tank blocks in the immediate area, would have formed a powerful defensive position.

The pillbox is built of 3ft 6in concrete, it is 20ft square with 'chamfered' corners and the entrance is on the west side underneath the arch between Piers No. 11 & 12. Beside the entrance the letters 'A5' have been stencilled in white paint. The entrance is low, L-shaped with an anti-ricochet wall facing the opening. Inside there are two machine-gun loopholes, (west and south walls) and two rifle loopholes (north-east and south-east corners). The flared inner walls of the two latter loopholes have been widened by hand to allow greater access. Oddly, the view from the north-east rifle loophole is totally blocked by the anti-tank cube on the outside.

The main firing aperture measures 9ft x 3ft 3in on the outside, stepping down to 3ft 6in x 2ft 10in on the inside. The mounting pedestal for the gun measures 25in high with a circular metal plate in the top with nine bolts around it. The gun would have been a six-pounder Hotchkiss gun from the First World War, a gun which was mounted on the MKIV 'male' tank during the earlier conflict.

The pillbox is in good condition with little sign of deterioration. Immediately outside, the massive anti-tank blocks of SMR 20002 radiate out from the pillbox to the road. <1>

Nine photos of site. <2>

SITE ASSESSMENT: FW3/28 pillboxes, (FW3/28a pillboxes had a separate bren-gun chamber), are rare in the county, only two of them having been recorded at the time of this entry, (SMR 10412 and SMR 10414). The other two were designed to house a two-pounder anti-tank gun rather than the Hotchkiss six-pounder. It is thought that probably all of the bridges across the River Colne - the Eastern Command Line - from Mersea to Chappel were once covered by artillery pillboxes. This is the sole remaining example.

The quantity, diversity and survival of the WWII defences in the Chappel Viaduct area form a rare, interdependent, compound site. These include the four major types of pillbox on the



SMR 20001: Beneath the pillars of Chappel Viaduct a massive artillery pillbox stands. This type could house either a 2-pounder anti-tank gun or, as in this case, a 6-pounder. Just inside the main firing aperture is the pedestal with its ring of nine bolts onto which the gun would have been mounted.

Eastern Command Line, (SMR 20000, 20001, 20004 and 20008), 28 concrete anti-tank cubes, (SMR 20002 and 20005), three concrete anti-tank cylinders (SMR 20002) and two spigot mortar pedestals (SMR 10997 and 10998).

OCTOBER 2002: Site designated Scheduled Monument No 32447. This scheduled site is in seven parts. See also SMR's 10996, 10997, 10998, 20000, 20002, 20004, 20005 and 20008.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ****

Sources:

<1> DESC TEXT: Pillboxes, , Wills, H, 1985, p17

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

Anti-Tank Blocks, South of Colchester Road, Chappel Viaduct

SMR No: 20002
NGR: TL 8967 2842

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows a large formation of anti-tank blocks both north (SMR 20005) and south of the road which passes under Chappel Viaduct. On the south side they can be seen to have stretched, in two converging rows, from the road to the pillbox (SMR 20001) and many of these blocks still survive.

The westernmost row stretched in a straight line from TL 8967 2844 to TL 8966 2842 immediately alongside the E of the viaduct. There were nine in total arranged in three groups of three blocks, each group blocking the entrance to one of the archways. Six of the blocks in this line have survived and are still in situ. If the original blocks were numbered 1-9 from the roadway to the pillbox then numbers 1, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 still survive.

The second row stretched from a position about 25 yards further E along the road. It was a straight line of 12 blocks stretching from TL 8968 2843 to TL 8966 2841. Nine of these still survive. If the original 12 were numbered 1-12 from the road to the pillbox then numbers 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 still remain (1)

On the SE side of the pillbox there is a further block bridging the gap between the pillbox and the river.

All of these blocks are very large, measuring 5' square and 4/5' in height.

In addition to the two rows of square blocks there are three "cylinders" on the NE side of the pillbox in front of the southernmost blocks of the second (East) row. Each of these is a massive anti-tank obstacle made from a 6' x 6' "well cylinder" filled with concrete. They lie on their sides in an irregular line, the southernmost almost entirely blocking the view from the main firing aperture of the pillbox. These originally stood in a chevron formation with the centre block a yard or two further E than the other two, in the bed of the river directly beneath the E edge of the overhead viaduct arch. This placement would have prevented enemy tanks from using the river bed to break through the defence line. (2)

It has not been possible to determine the reason for the double row of blocks. With the addition of a road barrier, the western row would have maintained an unbroken line of defence from the river via blocks and pillboxes to the anti-tank ditch at TL 8969 2849. The eastern row of blocks end at the road. There is no indication that an anti-tank line continued on the N side of the road for a road barrier to connect to although the row of blocks do, in fact, line up with the one block known to have stood on the SE corner of Viaduct Cottages (SMR 20006)

Five photos of site. (3)

SITE ASSESSMENT:

The quantity, diversity and survival of WWII defences in the Chappel Viaduct area form a rare, interdependent, compound site. These include the four major types of pillbox on the Eastern Command Line (SMR 20000, 20001, 20004 and 20008), 28 concrete anti-tank cubes (SMR 20002 and 20005), three concrete anti-tank cylinders (SMR 20002) and two spigot mortar pedestals (SMR 10997 and 10998).

OCTOBER 2002: Site designated Scheduled Monument No 32447. This scheduled site is in seven parts. See also SMR's 10996, 10997, 10998, 20000, 20001, 20004, 20005 and 20008

Grading:

Essex Grading

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4140, , RAF, 1946, May 1946

<2> PERSONAL OBSERVATION: Local Resident, , , 9:1997,

<3> Photograph: Five frames by Nash, F, , SMR, 9:1997,



SMR 20002: Some of the huge concrete blocks which fan out from the artillery pillbox. Note the 'well cylinders' which originally stood in the river bed alongside the pillbox.

Road Barrier (destroyed), Colchester Rd, by Chappel Viaduct

SMR No: 20003

NGR: TL 8968 2845

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Road Barrier. Colchester - Halstead Road, by Viaduct. Map ref. 345468." (Mil. Ed.) {11

There is no further information on either of the form or exact position of this site.

Grading: Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , , Chappel and Wakes Colne

Pillbox, North of Colchester Road, Chappel Viaduct

SMR No: 20004

NGR: TL 8967 2846

Description:

On the north side of Colchester Road, half underneath the side of the arch formed between piers 6 and 7 of Chappel Viaduct, is a 19ft 6in type infantry pillbox. It is hexagonal, constructed of concrete, has small loopholes and the low entrance is on the west face underneath the arch. From this position, raised above the road, the pillbox would have had an uninterrupted view of the approach down the road from the east, the expected line of attack, and would have complemented the artillery pillbox, (SMR 20001), on the south side of the road.

Two photos of site. <1>

SITE ASSESSMENT: The quantity, diversity and survival of the WWII defences in the Chappel Viaduct area form a rare, interdependent, compound site. These include the four major types of pillbox on the Eastern Command Line, (SMR 20000, 20001, 20004 and 20008), 28 concrete anti-tank cubes, (SMR 20002 and 20005), three concrete anti-tank cylinders (SMR 20002) and two spigot mortar pedestals (SMR 10997 and 10998).

OCTOBER 2002: Site designated Scheduled Monument No 32447. This scheduled site is in seven parts. See also SMR's 10996, 10997, 10998, 20000, 20001, 20002, 20005 and 20008.

Grading: Essex Grading: ****

Sources:

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



SMR 20004: The infantry pillbox, tucked beneath the arches on the north side of Colchester Road.

Anti-Tank Blocks, North of Colchester Road, Chappel Viaduct

SMR No: 20005
NGR: TL 8968 2849

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows large formations of anti-tank blocks both N and S (SMR 20002) of the road which passes under Chappel Viaduct. Although indistinct on the 1946 aerial photograph, an aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows the blocks on the N side more clearly. It appears that there were, and still are, 12 anti-tank blocks in a line immediately alongside the E of the viaduct stretching from the N side of the infantry pillbox (SMR 20004) up the steep embankment to a position at TL 8969 2851 which is near the top. They are arranged in four groups of three blocks, each trio blocking one of the arches, the lowest arch being between Piers 5 and 6 and the highest between Piers 2 and 3. Each group of three blocks is arranged in a chevron pattern with the middle block positioned to the E of the other two. They are generally 5' square although the higher blocks are taller to allow for the steeper slope. <1>
<2>

Two photos of site. <3>

SITE ASSESSMENT:

The quantity, diversity and survival of the WWII defences in the Chappel Viaduct area form a rare, interdependent, compound site. These include the four major types of pillbox on the Eastern Command Line (SMR 20000, 20001, 20004 and 20008), 28 concrete anti-tank cubes (SMR 20002 and 20005), three concrete anti-tank cylinders (SMR 20002) and two spigot mortar pedestals (SMR 10997 and 10998).

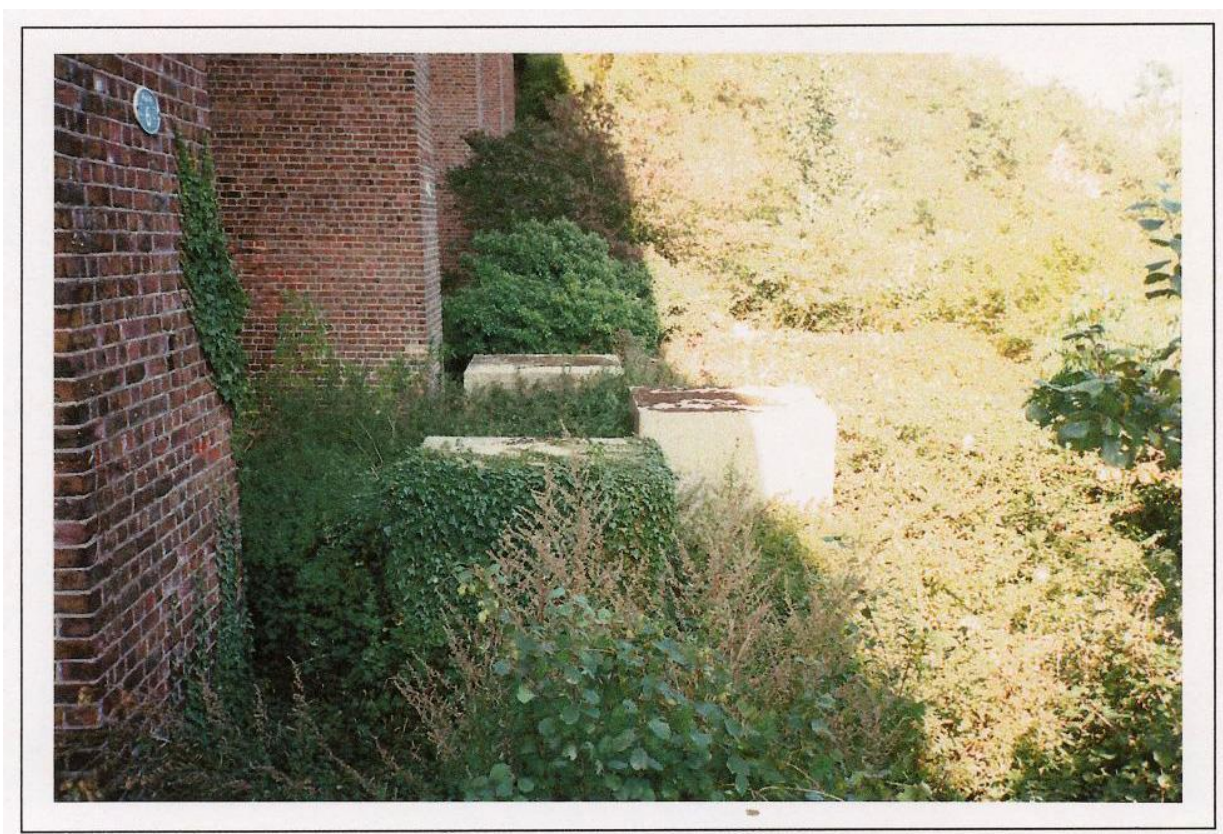
OCTOBER 2002: Site designated Scheduled Monument No 32447. This scheduled site is in seven parts. See also SMR's 10996, 10997, 10998, 20000, 20001, 20002, 20004 and 20008.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ****

Sources:

- <1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4140, , RAF, 1946, May 1946
- <2> AP: Run 12-053, , HSL, 5:1960,
- <3> Photograph: Two frames by Nash, F, , SMR, 9:1997,



SMR 20005: Just one of the groups of three anti-tank blocks, which march up the embankment on the north side of Colchester Road.

Anti-Tank Block (destroyed), Viaduct Cottages, Wakes Colne

SMR No: 20006
NGR: TL 8971 2846

Description:

Contemporary records state, Concrete block. Wakes Colne, 3 Viaduct Cottages. Front garden. Viaduct Cottages stood on the piece of ground E of the viaduct and N of Colchester Road. They were in a block of six, lying back from the road, three facing S and three (back to back) facing N. They numbered 1, 2 and 3 W to E facing the road and 4, 5 and 6 E to W facing away. Thus No. 3 was on the SE corner and the concrete block stood at the N end of the garden close to the front of the house, by the corner. An aerial photograph taken in 1949 shows the clear shape of this block. <1> <2> <3>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Chappel and Wakes Colne
<2> PERSONAL OBSERVATION: Local Resident, , , 9:1997,
<3> AP: 58-304-5037, , RAF, 8:1949,

Anti-Tank Ditch, Eastern Command Line, Chappel Viaduct to Bures

SMR No: 20007
NGR: TL 9014 3112

Description:

During World War Two the Eastern Command Line followed the River Colne from Mersea Island around Colchester to Chappel Viaduct. It then headed northwards along the railway embankment to Bures where it joined the River Stour to Sudbury and Suffolk. Between Chappel and Bures, not only was the railway embankment or cutting used as an anti-tank obstacle but an anti-tank ditch was dug paralleling the railway along this entire length.

At Chappel Viaduct the ditch started by the anti-tank blocks at TL 8969 2849 (SMR 20005) and curved its way along the base of the embankment on the E side of the railway behind Viaduct Cottages (SMR 20006). It followed the bottom of the embankment northwards across Spring Gardens Road via a road barrier (SMR 20013) to a position SW of Thornfield Wood. Within this half mile or so, five pillboxes stood on, or at the base of, the embankment overlooking the ditch immediately on their E side. (SMR 20008, 20009, 20012, 20015 and 20016). At Thornfield Wood the ditch stopped and re-continued on the W side of the line via a railway barrier (SMR 20017). It continued northwards with pillboxes (SMR 10018 and 20019) flanking its W edge. These overlooked both the ditch and the railway line which along this stretch is much lower than previously. Crossing Janke's Green Road immediately W of the railway bridge via another road barrier (SMR 20020), the ditch continued northwards. After passing in front of the pillbox immediately N of the bridge (SMR 20021), for perhaps one mile, the railway line is in a very deep cutting with steep embankments on each side. Although apparently unnecessary, contemporary records, supported to some extent by 1946 aerial photographs, state that the ditch continued, apparently along the top of the steep embankment. As the pillboxes along here (SMR 20022, 20023, 20024 and 20026) are on the very edge of the embankment they may have punctuated the line of the ditch rather than have been behind it.

After crossing the road to the W of Nortons Railway Bridge, the ditch stopped at a position E of the Thatcher's Arms when the railway emerged from the cutting. Crossing again to the E side via a railway barrier (SMR 20028, 20029 and 20030) the ditch continued northwards. It passed to the E of two pillboxes (SMR 20031 and 20032) before crossing Old Barn Road and Hall Road with a pillbox on the fork (SMR 20038). It continued to parallel the embankment until it reached Cambridge Brook at TL 9063 3311 whereupon it turned NE along the brook to a road barrier at Colchester Road bridge (SMR 20039). On the other side of the road it continued with the brook for about 70 yards before branching off NNW across the field, with a pillbox on its W side (SMR 20041), to join the River Stour at TL 9082 3351. <1> - <9>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Chappel and Wakes Colne
- <2> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Bures
- <3> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4140, , RAF, 1946, May 1946
- <4> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4020, , RAF, 1946,
- <5> AP: 106G-UK 1492-3021, , RAF, 1946,
- <6> AP: 106G-UK 1635-1074, , RAF, 1946,
- <7> AP: 58-304-5365, , RAF, 8:1949,
- <8> AP: 106G-UK 1635-1075, , RAF, 1946,
- <9> AP: US-7PH-LOC-185-5032, , , 2:1944,

Pillbox, East side of Railway Embankment, North of Chappel Viaduct

SMR No: 20008
NGR: TL 8971 2851

Description:

In dense wood and thicket almost at the foot of the embankment on the east side of the railway is an hexagonal, concrete pillbox. The entrance is on the west, uphill, side and a high concrete retaining wall around the entrance prevents soil falling and blocking access into the interior. In the centre is an anti-aircraft machine-gun well and although the entire top of the pillbox is covered in ivy the mounting pedestal and steel fittings can be seen to be extant.

One photo of site. <1>

SITE ASSESSMENT:

The pillbox is difficult to access in dense wood and thicket. The quantity, diversity and survival of the WWII defences in the Chappel Viaduct area form a rare, interdependent, compound site. These include the four major types of pillbox on the Eastern Command Line, (SMR 20000, 20001, 20004 and 20008), 28 concrete anti-tank cubes, (SMR 20002 and 20005), three concrete anti-tank cylinders (SMR 20002) and two spigot mortar pedestals (SMR 10997 and 10998).

OCTOBER 2002: Site designated Scheduled Monument No 32447. This scheduled site is in seven parts. See also SMR's 10996, 10997, 10998, 20000, 20001, 20002, 20004, and 20005

Grading:

Essex Grading: ****

Sources:

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



SMR 20008: Difficult to see in the undergrowth is this anti-aircraft type pillbox.

Pillbox, East side of Embankment, Chappel and Wakes Colne Station

SMR No: 20009

NGR: TL 8980 2880

Description:

Aerial photographs taken in 1946 and 1960 show an hexagonal, anti-aircraft pillbox standing halfway up the embankment on the east side of the railway line. With the addition of extra tracks to the sidings at this point, the embankment - covered with scrub and thicket - has been widened but the pillbox is reported to survive within the embankment. <1> <2>

One photo of site. <3>

Grading:

Essex Grading; ***

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4140, , RAF, 1946, May 1946

<2> AP: RUN 12-053, , HSL, 1960,

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

Pillbox (destroyed), Meadow West of Chappel and Wakes Colne

SMR No: 20010

NGR: TL 8967 2881

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Pillbox. Wakes Colne, 2.5 acre meadow adj. The Tavern & W. of The Station. Map ref. 345473." (Mil. Ed.). This pillbox can be seen on an aerial photograph taken in 1946 standing at the S end of a meadow on the N side of the station entrance. It was an hexagonal, anti-aircraft type. An aerial photograph taken in 1949 shows it to have been demolished by that date. <1> <2> <3>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Chappel and Wakes Colne

<2> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4140, , RAF, 1946, May 1946

<3> AP: 58-304-5037, , RAF, 8:1949

Road Barrier (destroyed), opposite Chappel and Wakes Colne Station

SMR No: 20011
NGR: TL 8967 2889

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Road Barrier. Wakes Colne, opp. Station. Map ref. 346475" (Mil. Ed.) <1>

There is no further information on the form or location of this site.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Chappel and Wakes Colne

Pillbox (destroyed), South of Spring Gardens Road, Wakes Colne

SMR No: 20012
NGR: TL 8987 2901

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows an hexagonal pillbox, with a central anti-aircraft machine-gun well, standing on the W side of a meadow S of Spring Gardens Road. Soil marks stretching to the N and S of the pillbox show the former path of the anti-tank ditch which paralleled the railway embankment with the pillboxes facing eastwards from the W side of the ditch. An aerial photograph taken in 1949 shows the pillbox to have been demolished by that date. <1> <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4140, , RAF, 1946, May 1946

<2> AP: 58-304-5162, , RAF, 8:1949,

Anti-Tank Block (destroyed), Spring Gardens Road, Wakes Colne

SMR No: 20013
NGR: TL 8988 2905

Description:

The anti-tank ditch of the Eastern Command Line paralleled the E side of the railway embankment from Chappel Viaduct northwards, at a distance of zero to 40 yards from the foot of the embankment. At this point it crossed Spring Gardens Road. An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows what is almost certainly an anti-tank block between the end of the ditch on the S side of the road and the road itself. It is probable that this block was the remaining element of a road barrier which crossed the road immediately E of the junction by Station Cottages before the ditch continued northwards. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4140, , RAF, 1946, May 1946

Pillbox (destroyed), Oldhouse Farm, Wakes Colne

SMR No: 20014
NGR: TL 8981 2915

Description:

Contemporary records state, "a) Pillbox. Old House Farm, Wakes Colne. O.S. No. 293a, W of & adj. farmhouse. Map ref. 347475." (Mil. Ed.) <1>

Field O.S. No. 293a was on the E, not the W, side of the farmhouse but there is no further information on this site.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

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

Pillbox (destroyed), E of Railway Embankment, North of Spring Gardens Road

SMR No: 20015
NGR: TL 8990 2920

Description:

An aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1946 shows an hexagonal pillbox, with a central anti-aircraft machine-gun well standing in a field 30 yards E of the railway. The entrance is on the W face. Soil marks on the E side of the pillbox show where the anti-tank ditch passed across its front from N to S. An aerial photograph taken in 1950 shows the pillbox to have been demolished by that date.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4140, , RAF, 1946, May 1946
<2> AP: 58-463-5393, , RAF, 6:1950,

Pillbox (destroyed), East of Railway Embankment, South-west of Thornfield Wood

SMR No: 20016
NGR: TL 8993 2941

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows an hexagonal pillbox, with a central anti-aircraft machine-gun well, standing in a field 20 yards E of the railway embankment and just outside the SW corner of Thornfield Wood. The entrance is on the W face. The path of the anti-tank ditch can be seen to have run from N to S on the eastern side of the pillbox. An aerial photograph taken in 1950 shows it to have been demolished by that date. <1> <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4140, , RAF, 1946, May 1946
<2> AP: 58-463-5393, , RAF, 6:1950,

Railway Barrier, South-west of Thornfield Wood, Wakes Colne

SMR No: 20017
NGR: TL 8993 2946

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows that the anti-ditch of the Eastern Command Line crossed at this point from E of the railway embankment to W before continuing northwards. The ditch can be seen to meet the SW corner of Thornfield Wood. From here a staggered line of 6+ anti-tank blocks can be seen leading to the E side of the railway line. On the ground, in 1997, none of these staggered blocks have survived, but the continuation of the line of blocks across the railway line does. There is one concrete block on the E side of the line and a further four in a straight line on the W side leading down the steep embankment, in thick wood and thicket, to a deep ditch — the continuation of the anti-tank ditch northwards. Each of the blocks is 5' square.

Clearly there would have been a means of closing the line between the blocks, but, at the time of writing, this is not apparent. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4020, , RAF, 1946,

Pillbox (destroyed), West of Railway Embankment, Wakes Colne

SMR No: 20018
NGR: TL 8991 2959

Description:

After the anti-tank ditch crossed the railway line, via the railway barrier (SMR 20017), it paralleled the railway northwards a few yards from its W side. An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows an hexagonal pillbox, with a central anti-aircraft machine-gun well, standing in a field 20 yards W of the ditch. The entrance is on the W face. An aerial photograph taken in 1950 shows it to have been demolished by that date. <1> <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4140, , RAF, 1946, May 1946
<2> AP: 58-463-5393, , RAF, 6:1950,

Pillbox (destroyed), West of Railway Embankment, Wakes Colne

SMR No: 20019
NGR: TL 8995 2976

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows an hexagonal pillbox, with a central anti-aircraft machine-gun well, standing in a field a few yards W of the path of the anti-tank ditch. The entrance is on the W side. An aerial photograph taken in 1950 shows it to have been demolished by that date. <1> <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4020, , RAF, 1946,
<2> AP: 58-463-5398, , RAF, 6:1950,

Road Barrier (destroyed), Janke's Green Railway Bridge, Wakes Colne

SMR No: 20020
NGR: TL 9004 2996

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Road Barrier. Jankes Green Railway Bridge. Map ref. 349484". (Mil. Ed.) The anti-tank ditch of the Eastern Command Line crossed the lane a few yards W of the bridge. A road barrier would have connected the ends of the ditch N and S of the road, and an aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows the ditch on the N side of the road with two white marks, possibly anti-tank blocks, beside the road between the ditch end and the roadway. <1> <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Chappel and Wakes Colne
<2> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4020, , RAF, 1946,

Pillbox (destroyed), Janke's Green Railway Bridge, Wakes Colne

SMR No: 20021
NGR: TL 9003 2998

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows an hexagonal pillbox, with a central anti-aircraft machine-gun well, standing in the SE corner of a field just NW of Janke's Green railway bridge. The entrance is on the NW fence. An aerial photograph taken in 1950 shows it to have been demolished by that date. <1> <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-4020, , RAF, 1946, <2> AP: 58-463-5398, , RAF, 6:1950,

Pillbox (destroyed), W side of Railway Embankment, North of Janke's Green Railway Bridge

SMR No: 20022
NGR: TL 9025 3040

Description:

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows an hexagonal pillbox, with a central anti-aircraft well, standing on top of the embankment W of the railway line. 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 1492-4020, , RAF, 1946, <2> AP: Run 10-143, , HSL,

Pillbox, West side of Railway, North of Janke's Green Railway Bridge

SMR No: 20023
NGR: TL 9042 3066

Description:

Towering high above the railway, almost at the top of the embankment on the west side of the deep cutting, is a hexagonal pillbox. From this position it looks out across the cutting to the fields on the east side. It is constructed of concrete which has been shuttered with brick, all of which still survives. The embankment is very steep at this point and to compensate for this the front of the pillbox stands on a high brick base. Thus the front is 14ft 8in high while the rear, on top of the embankment, is 7ft 9in high. In the centre of the roof is an anti-aircraft machine-gun well complete with mounting pedestal and steel fittings. Each side of the well, lying horizontally across the roof, is a 14ft long steel rod fixed at each end (two rods in total). It is thought that the purpose of these rods is to hold a sliding well cover.

The width of the pillbox is 17ft 10in; the walls are, surprisingly, 19in thick. This is in contrast to the 3ft 6in walls of the anti-aircraft pillboxes further south along the Eastern Command Line. Perched as it is, the weight factor may have necessitated this. There are six loopholes, each of them with a large steel surround with a 9in x 6in firing aperture.

The low entrance is on the west side. Inside, the pillbox is very clean and there are remains of the shelf brackets beneath the loopholes.

Six photos of site. <1>

SITE ASSESSMENT:

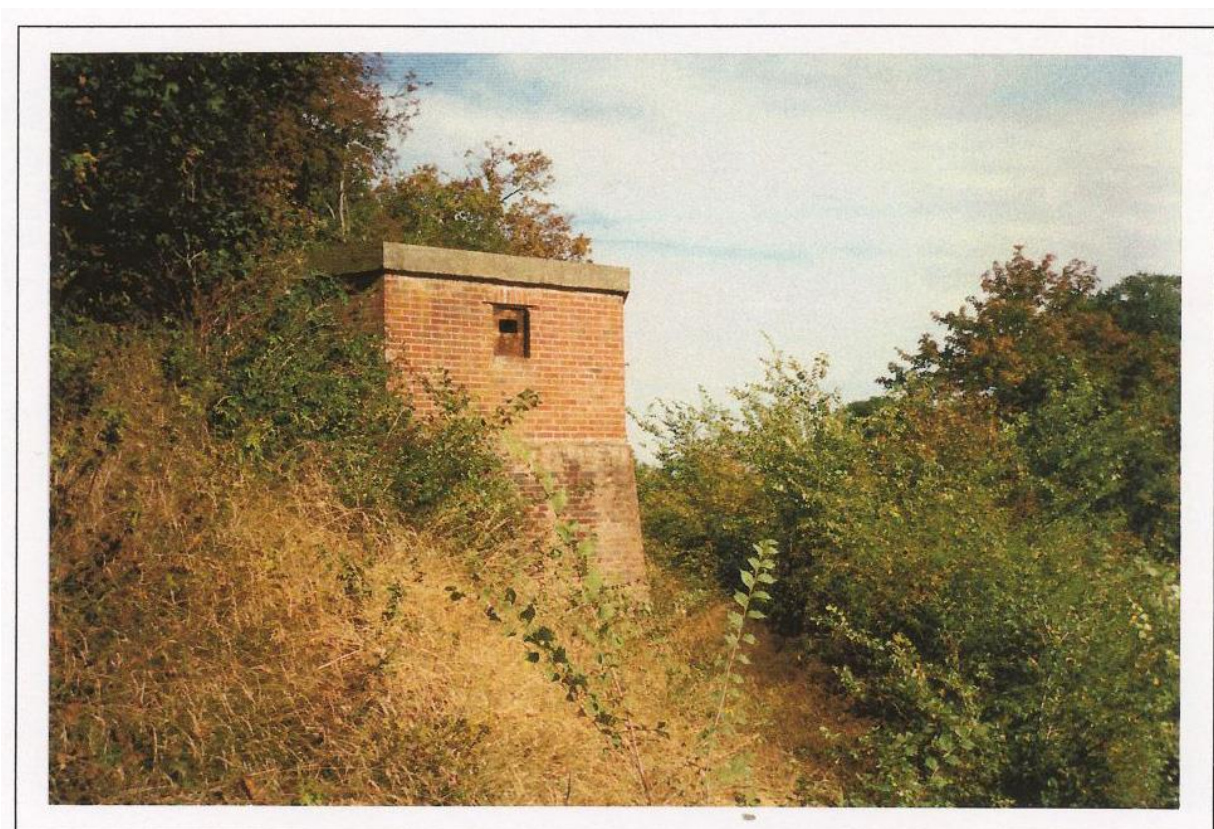
Standing as it does, high above the railway line on its brick plinth, the Janke's Green pillbox is particularly impressive. It has survived well, with a number of interesting extant features. Every effort should be made to ensure its continued survival.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

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



SMR 20023: The problem of siting a pillbox on a steep slope was solved very impressively at Janke's Green.

Pillbox, West side of Railway, North of Janke's Green Railway Bridge

SMR No: 20024
NGR: TL 9056 3098

Description:

High on the railway embankment, overlooking the deep cutting on its east side, is a brick and concrete hexagonal pillbox. It effectively overhangs the embankment and such are the steep sides that the front faces have been built on top of a brick-built platform which continues the shape of the pillbox down to the ground. Thus these front faces - from the top of the pillbox to the ground - are some 15 ft high, while the rear stands on the top of the embankment. Although the rear is in dense hedge and thicket the pillbox appears to be of the same type as that 350 yards to the south (SMR 20023) with steel surrounds to the loopholes and a central anti-aircraft machine-gun well.

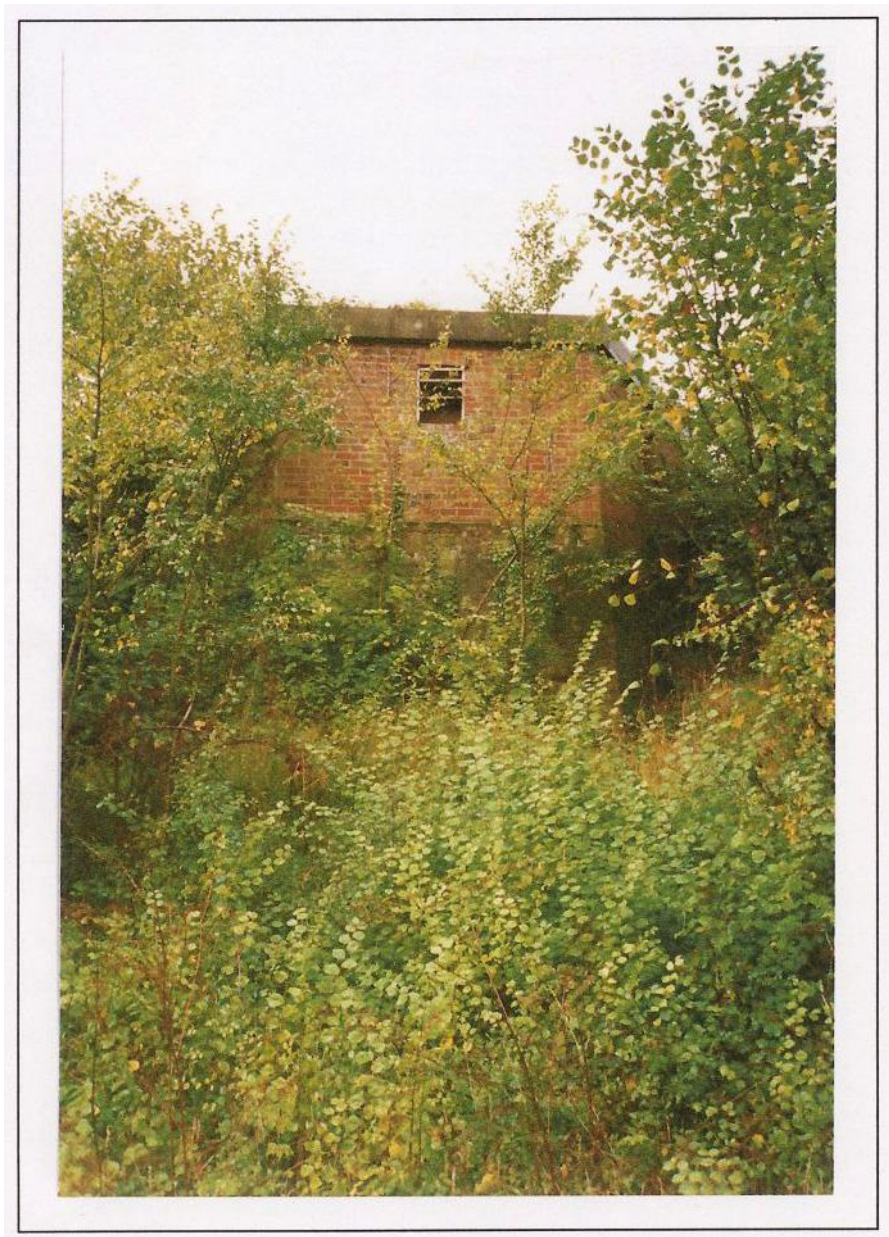
One photo of site. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

Photograph: , , Nash, F, 1997,



SMR 20024: Although not as easy to see as the Janke's Green pillbox (SMR 20023) it appears to be of the same impressive construction.

Pillbox, South of Nortons Railway Bridge, Mount Bures

SMR No: 20025
NGR: TL 9063 3120

Description:

Aerial photographs taken in 1960, 1970 & 1990 show an hexagonal pillbox, with a central anti-aircraft machine-gun well, standing on the west side of the railway on the line of the former WWII anti-tank ditch, approx. 150yds south of Nortons Railway Bridge. Although the site has not been visited, this pillbox can be clearly seen from the train. It stands high on the embankment and is of the same brick-faced, very tall type with steel loophole surrounds, as that at TL 9042 3066 (SMR 20023). <1> <2> <3>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

<1> AP: RUN 10- 143, , HSL, 1960,
<2> AP: RUN 91 - 0527, , HSL, 1970,
<3> AP: RUN 32 - 4613, , AEROFILMS, 1990,

Road Barrier (destroyed), Nortons Railway Bridge, Mount Bures

SMR No: 20026
NGR: TL 9067 3134

Description:

Contemporary records state," Road Barrier. At Nortons Railway Bridge, Mount Bures. Map ref. 354498." (Mil. Ed.). <1>

The anti-tank ditch ran along the top of the embankment on the W side of the railway line at this point and the road barrier would have maintained the integrity of the anti-tank defences between the ditches to the N and S of the road.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

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

Pillbox, West Side of Railway, North of Nortons Railway Bridge

SMR No: 20027
NGR: TL 9070 3151

Description:

Aerial photographs taken in 1960, 1970 and 1990 show an hexagonal pillbox, with a central anti-aircraft machine-gun well, standing on the west side of the railway on the line of the former WWII anti-tank ditch , approx. 180 yards north of Nortons Railway Bridge. Although the site has not been visited, this pillbox can be clearly seen from the train. It stands high on the embankment and is of the-same brick-faced, very tall type with steel loophole surrounds, as that at TL 9042 3066 (SMR 20023). <1> <2> <3>

Contemporary records refer to this pillbox as no. S.63. <4>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

- <1> AP: RUN 10 - 143, , HSL, 1960,
- <2> AP: RUN 91 - 0527, , HSL, 1970,
- <3> AP: RUN 32 - 4613, , AEROFILMS, 1990,
- <4> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Bures

Anti-Tank Blocks, East of Thatcher's Arms, Mount Bures

SMR No: 20028
NGR: TL 9077 3178

Description:

Beside the W side of the railway line at this point are eight, 5' square, concrete blocks in a staggered pattern. This is where the anti-tank ditch of the Eastern Command Line ended on the W side of the railway to continue northwards on the E side. This was necessitated by the changed lie of the railway line. S of here it ran in a cutting but N of here it was on a raised embankment. An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows there to have been a ninth block standing slightly NE of the extant northernmost block and the railway lines. <1>

Two photos of site. <2>

SITE ASSESSMENT: These blocks, coupled with the rare pillbox (SMR 20031) and hairpins (SMR 20030) form a compound site of three different defence types, each supporting the others.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ****

Sources:

- <1> AP: 106G-UK 1492-3021, , RAF, 1946,
<2> Photograph: Two frames by Nash, F, , SMR, 10:1997,



SMR 20028: This dramatic picture shows two of the anti-tank blocks which bridged the gap between the anti-tank ditch and the railway lines. Across these, there would have been a removable cable barrier, or something similar, to more fixed obstacles on the other side

Railway Barrier (destroyed), East of Thatcher's Arms, Mount Bures

SMR No: 20029
NGR: TL 9078 3178

Description:

Between the anti-tank blocks on the W side of the railway (SMR 20028) and the hairpins on the E side is a distance of perhaps 20 yards which would have been bridged by anti-tank obstacles. Across the line itself, moveable obstacles would have maintained the integrity of the defences although it is not known at the present time what form these took. However, an aerial photograph taken in 1949 shows two parallel rows of small white dots smaller than cubes bridging the gap between the railway line and the position of the hairpins (SMR 20030). There were perhaps 9 or 10 dots in each row, many close together. It is not known what these were, perhaps pimples although these were usually in a staggered formation or the concrete footings of upright lengths of railway line. <1>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> AP: 58-304-5364, , RAF, 8:1949,

Anti-Tank Hairpins, East of Thatcher's Arms, Mount Bures

SMR No: 20030
NGR: TL 9079 3178

Description:

Just inside a wide field 15 yards from the E side of the railway line and seven yards from a pillbox (SMR 20031) are five anti-tank hairpins, lengths of railway line, bent, with each end concreted into the ground. They stand up to 4'4" high with a 5'9" spread, the total area of the site being approx. 12' x 8'. These are documented in contemporary records, "A/T ditch & 5 angle irons. Grass field S of .. O.S. No. 72. Mount Bures Hall Farm. Map ref. 353508." (Mil. Ed.) These hairpins would have stood at the S end of the anti-tank ditch which stretched northwards to Bures. The ditch, extant at that time, can be seen on an aerial photograph taken in 1946. <1>
<2>

Three photos of site. <3>

SITE ASSESSMENT: Anti-tank hairpins are rare survivors in Essex. These have the added distinction of being documented as complete, and in company with the concrete blocks (SMR 20028) and the pillbox (SMR 20031) this compound site contains three different defence types, each supporting the others.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ****

Sources:

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

<2> AP: 106G-UK 1635-1074, , RAF, 1946,

<3> Photograph: Three Frames by Nash, F, , SMR, 10:1997,



SMR 20030: There are few surviving anti-tank hairpins in Essex. These have the distinction of being documented in wartime records and complete in their survival

Pillbox, East of Thatchers' Arms, Mount Bures

SMR No: 20031
NGR: TL 9078 3179

Description:

Just a few yards from the railway line, on the east side, is a concrete, hexagonal pillbox. This position is where the anti-tank ditch of the Eastern Command Line 'crossed' from west to east before continuing on its path towards Bures. The pillbox stood between the railway and the ditch. It is an unusual type, 19ft 2in across, 3ft 6in thick, with its entrance on the west face. There are five small loopholes measuring 9 x 6 inches flaring out to 16 x 6 inches. But the east loophole, looking out across the former ditch and open fields, is very large 32in wide by 17in high flaring out to 59 x 26 inches. Beneath this, inside the pillbox, is a 6in thick concrete machine-gun table. This spans the complete width of the inner wall, 82in, tapering towards the centre of the pillbox to a width of 36in. Its depth from the wall is 32in. It is not positively known which type of machine-gun this pillbox was designed to house although the size of the table and its height below the level of the loophole suggests a Vickers heavy machine-gun.

Seven photos of site. <1>

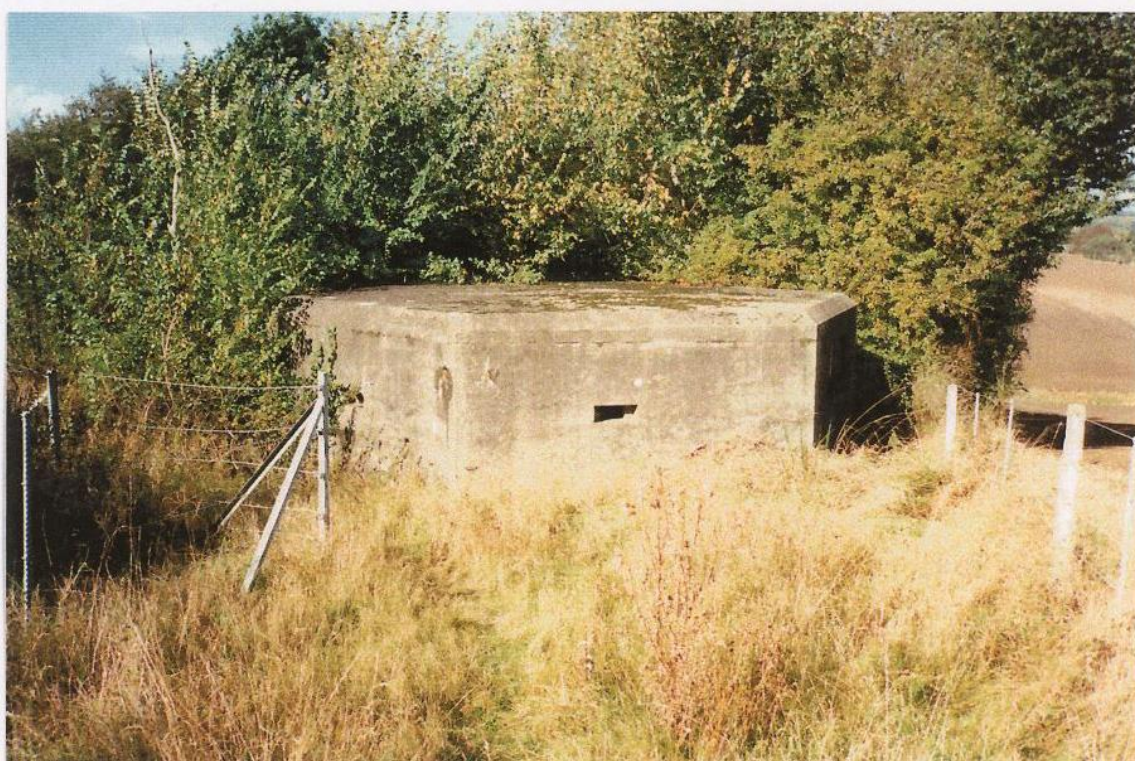
SITE ASSESSMENT: At the time of this entry, with over 1,000 WWII sites recorded, this design of pillbox is unique in the county. Coupled with the concrete blocks (SMR 20028) and 'hairpins' (SMR 20030) this trio forms a rare compound site.

Grading:

Essex Grading: ****

Sources:

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



SMR 20031: Just yards from the anti-tank hairpins (SMR 20030), the pillbox is thought to have been built to house a Vickers heavy machine-gun

Pillbox, East of Mount Bures Hall

SMR No: 20032
NGR: TL 9081 3224

Description:

At this point, the railway line runs along a high embankment and across a small bridge to allow a wide track to pass beneath. Beside the track, at the foot of the embankment on its east side, is an hexagonal, brick and concrete pillbox. It is 18ft across, 21 in thick, 7ft high and has a low entrance on the west face. There are large steel surrounds to the loopholes, each measuring 24in high x 18in wide with a 9 x 6 inch aperture. There is a 6ft diameter anti-aircraft machine-gun well with a concrete mounting pedestal although the steel fittings are missing. Contemporary records refer to this pillbox as no. S66. <1>

Four photos of site. <2>

Grading:

Essex Grading: ***

Sources:

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

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



SMR 20032: At this point the anti-tank ditch ran along the east side of the railway embankment, here protected by another of the anti-aircraft machine-gun pillboxes

Spigot Mortar Emplacement (destroyed), field South-west of Mount Bures level crossing

SMR No: 20033
NGR: TL 9065 3268

Description:

Contemporary records state, "a) Pillbox & spigot mortar position. Mount Bures Hall Farm. O.S. No. 76, arable field S.W. of and adj. railway crossing. Map ref. 353508." (Mil. Ed.) and "Spigot mortar position. in vegetable garden, Mount Bures, S.E. of road junction. Map ref. 355511." (Mil. Ed.) <1>

These two entries probably refer to the same site at Mount Bures Hall Farm. O.S. No. 76 is, or was, a field immediately SW of the level crossing now partly built over. The spigot mortar emplacement was probably sited between the field and a vegetable garden which bordered Hall Road and aerial photographs taken in 1946, 1949 & 1960 show, albeit indistinctly, what is probably this site. <2> <3> <4> <5>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Bures
<3> AP: 58-304-5365, , RAF, 8:1949,
<2> AP: 106G-UK 1635-1074, , RAF, 1946,
<4> AP: Run 9-113, , RAF, 6:1960,
<5> AP: Tyler - 12/6/86, , , 12/6/1986,

Pillbox (destroyed), field South-west of Mount Bures level crossing

SMR No: 20034
NGR: TL 9066 3270

Description:

Contemporary records state, "a) Pillbox & spigot mortar position. O.S. No. 76, arable field S.W. of and adj. railway crossing. Map ref. 353508." (Mil. Ed.) A 1:2500 map dated 1961 shows a hexagonal shape in the NW corner of this field on the S side of the road. An aerial photograph taken in 1949 shows the pillbox indistinctly, possibly an FW3/22 with its entrance on the NW face. <1> <2> <3>

Between 1960 and 1970 the bend in the road W of the level crossing was slightly straightened and the site of the pillbox is probably now in the roadway.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , , Bures
<3> AP: 58-304-5365, , RAF, 8:1949,
<4> DESC TEXT: Pillboxes, , Wills, H, 1985, measured plan p.28
<5> AP: Tyler - 12/6/86, , , 12/6/1986,
<2> Map: TL9032-TL9132, 1:2500, , Ordnance Survey, 1961,

Spigot Mortar Emplacement (destroyed), Broomfield Cottage, Mount Bures

SMR No: 20035
NGR: TL 9064 3272

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Spigot mortar position & concrete cubes. Broomfield Cottage, Mount Bures, Front garden. Map ref. 355511" (Mil. Ed.) <1> <2>

Broomfield Cottage stands on the N side of the bend in Hall Road, now re-routed some yards further S, but nothing more is known of this emplacement.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Bures <2> AP: Tyler - 12/6/86, , , 12/6/1986,

Anti-Tank Blocks (destroyed), Broomfield Cottage, Mount Bures

SMR No: 20036
NGR: TL 9064 3272

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Spigot mortar position & concrete cubes. Broomfield Cottage, Mount Bures, Front garden. Map ref. 355511." (Mil. Ed.) <1> <2>

Broomfield Cottage stands on the N side of the bend in Hall Road, now re-routed some yards further S, but nothing more is known of these blocks.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

<1> LIST: War Time Contraventions 1968, , , Bures
<2> AP: Tyler - 12/6/86, , , 12/6/1986,

Road Barrier (destroyed), near level crossing, Mount Bures

SMR No: 20037
NGR: TL 9072 3272

Description:

Contemporary records state, "Road Barrier. Near Level Crossing, Mount Bures. Map ref. 353510." (Mil. Ed.) <1>

This map reference is clearly incorrect and no further information is known of this road barrier. There would appear to be three possibilities. The anti-tank ditch passed from S to N along the E side of the railway, crossing Old Barn Road and Hall Road a few yards to the E of the pillbox. (SMR 20038). This entry could refer to a road barrier at either of these points. Or, combined with the concrete cubes at Broomfield Cottage (SMR 20036) there could have been a road barrier some 70 yards W of the level crossing although this seems a lot less of a possibility.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

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

WWII HAA Gun Site "CI Clacton: East Mersea," East Mersea

SMR No: 20117
NGR: TM 0525 1365

Description:

NGR: Gun Emplacements TM 0525 1365

Documented in contemporary records as "CI Clacton: east Mersea," a WWII Heavy Anti-Aircraft gun site at Military Grid Reference M499319 on Mersea Island. Equipment and manning at the site is documented at various dates (Dobinson, 1996):

Manning

Date	Guns	Radar	Regt	Bty
22 May 1942	unarmed	none		vacant
22 June 1942	unarmed	none		

Aerial photographs taken in 1940, 1941 and 1945 show holiday accommodation along the coastline but no sign of anti-aircraft gun emplacements or military hutting in the area. Without more identifying information, the NGR is the conversion from the documented Military Grid Reference. <1>-<5>

Site Visit: The area was visited as part of the WWII coastal survey in March 1993.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Twentieth Century Fortifications in England - Vol I - Anti-aircraft artillery 1914-1946, , Dobinson, Colin, 1996, Vol 1.3 pp342, 343
- <2> AP: 2D-BR251-B20, , RAF, 1940,
- <3> AP: S-346-14, , RAF, 1941,
- <4> AP: 106G-UK 593-4028, , RAF, 1945,
- <5> DESC TEXT: World War Two Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gun Sites in Essex, , Nash, F, 1998,

WWII Anti-Aircraft Rocket Site, "C10 Colchester", Lexden, Colchester

SMR No: 20135
NGR: TL 9770 2625

Description:

NGR: Rocket Emplacements TL 9770 2625 a

Documented in contemporary records as "C10 Colchester", a WWII Anti-Aircraft Rocket Site at Lexden, W of Colchester, at Military Grid Reference M424446. Equipment and manning at the site is documented in May 1942 (Dobinson, 1996):

Date	Weapons	Radar	Mat	Regt	Manning Bty
20 May 1942	6 x U9P	GL Mk I	No	84 HAA	171 ZAA

ZAA Bty is stated as being on temporary attachment to 84 HAA Regt. "Warmen Courageous", p246, states, "In Essex, the raising of rocket batteries was not bruited until June 4th, 1942, when the Lord Lieutenant wrote to General Charlton: "I have been asked to help in the creation of two batteries of Home Guard anti-aircraft artillery, one at Chelmsford and one at Colchester " and it was not until 7th July that Brigadier H.A.D. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., Commander 37 A.A. Brigade, received War Office authority for the formation of the batteries "on existing troops of 171/61 A.A. 'Z' Battery R.A.," a regular unit which was then deployed at Lexden Lodge and Writtle".

No other references to the Lexden Lodge site have been found and later text (p254) in "Warmen Courageous" refers to the site in December 1942 at the "Cavalry Riding School" and the "Cavalry Barracks" with at least 32 projectors. It is therefore thought that, as Writtle was the original training camp for the operational site in Central Park, Chelmsford, Lexden Lodge was the original site of the formation of the unit which operationally moved to Abbey Field, Colchester, in the autumn of 1942. No obvious signs of the site can be seen on an aerial photograph taken in May 1946. <1>-<4>

Site visit October 1998: No further information on the site has come to light.

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Twentieth Century Fortifications in England - Vol I - Anti-aircraft artillery 1914-1946, , Dobinson, Colin, 1996, Vol 1.3
- <2> DESC TEXT: Warmen Courageous; The Story of the Essex Home Guard, , Finch, P, 1951,
- <3> AP: 106G-UK 1492-3125, , RAF, 1946,
- <4> DESC TEXT: World War Two Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gun Sites in Essex, , Nash, F, 1998,

WWII Anti-Aircraft Rocket Site at Abbey Field, Colchester

SMR No: 20136
NGR: TL 9920 2414

Description:

NGR's: Rocket Emplacements TL 9930 2398 a Accommodation Site TL 9910 2430 a

It is thought that the rocket battery which was originally formed at Lexden in the summer of 1942, moved operationally to Abbey Field, Colchester in the autumn of that year. See WWII Rocket Site, "C10 Colchester, Lexden, Colchester" (SMR 20135). Equipment and manning at the site is documented at various dates, see text below, and is summarised as follows (Finch, P, 1951):

Manning

Date	Weapons	Bty
27 Dec 1942	32 projectors	{ 196(102 Essex Home Guard) Rocket AA
Feb 1943	48 projectors	{ 171 ZAA R.A.

"Essex at War", p104, states, "On Sunday, August 30, 320 men, most of whom were transfers from 8th Bn. (Colchester Home Guard), paraded on the Abbey Field, where the Lord Lieutenant spoke. The first directions by the Ministry of Labour from September 18 added 139 men, and enrolment took place in the Drill Hall, whilst 7, North Hill, was being requisitioned as battery office and stores." and "Sleeping accommodation was in the nearest block to the gun park."

"Warmen Courageous", pp252-253, records that the site was manned by 196(102 Essex Home Guard) Rocket A.A. Battery with men of 171 A.A. 'Z' Battery R.A. taken to form the Regular component. Page 254 states, "On 13th December, Brigadier Murray wrote in his War Diary: "Developments have now reached the stage when operational duties can be carried out. I accordingly authorised manning by a Half-Relief (i.e., 2 troops and 32 projectors each night) to commence on 27th December." No. 1 Relief had the privilege of beginning: "The parade was at 1900 hours in the Cavalry Riding School. Examination of equipment and training was carried out till 2100 hours, when supper was served Sleeping accommodation was in the nearest block of the Cavalry Barracks to the Projector Park, each man being provided with four personal blankets." and "By February, 1943, 48 projectors were being manned nightly.....".

Ordnance Survey maps show the Cavalry Barracks on the W side of Abbey Field at TL 9910 2430. Nothing positive can be seen on an aerial photograph taken in May 1946, but, on the S side of Abbey Field there are two rows of huts, 22 in total. Immediately N of these, on the field

at TL 9930 2398 (centre of the formation) there are what appears to be 30/35 rough elongated excavations in a block formation covering an area perhaps 150 yards x 75 yards. This may be the remains of the former rocket site but this is only conjecture and should be treated as no more than a possibility, particularly as this position is approximately 300 yards from the cavalry barracks. <1 >-<3>

Site Assessment: Wherever sited, it is virtually certain that nothing survives of the rocket bases - normally flagstones - or ammunition shelters. The 22 huts mentioned above have been demolished (1990 aerial photograph) although "the nearest block of the Cavalry Barracks" may still survive. <4>

Grading:

Essex Grading: 0

Sources:

- <1> DESC TEXT: Essex at War/p104, , Benham, P, 1951,
- <2> DESC TEXT: Warmen Courageous; The Story of the Essex Home Guard, , Finch, P, 1951,
- <3> AP: 106G-UK 1492-3278, , RAF, 1946,
- <4> AP: Run 24-5006, , , 1990,
- <5> DESC TEXT: World War Two Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gun Sites in Essex, , Nash, F, 1998, .