

RECENT MILITARY HERITAGE: A REVIEW OF PROGRESS 1994-2004

A report for Research and Strategy

Summary

This short report outlines English Heritage's work on recent military heritage, 1994-2004, focussing on:

- 1 Commissioned work
- 2 Internal projects/programmes
- 3 Advice and influence
- 4 Management and protection
- 5 Research agenda
- 6 European and wider contacts
- 7 Outreach

Much of the commissioned work (s1, below) was undertaken in the period 1994-1999, prior to the creation of English Heritage's Military and Naval Strategy Group (MNSG) in 1999, and a policy head for military and naval heritage in 2001. Much of what is described in s2-7 (below) was undertaken through the influence and activities of MNSG. A series of annexes provide further details of commissioned work, in-house surveys, publications, conferences and MNSG membership.

Review, 1994-2004

1 Commissioned work (Annex 1)

Much original research has been commissioned by English Heritage since 1994, largely through its Thematic Listing and Monuments Protection Programmes. This has created a fuller understanding of twentieth century defence heritage than existed previously. For some subjects it contributed to, clarified or expanded upon previous studies (eg. Anti-invasion defences); for others the research was entirely new (eg. Bombing decoys of WWII). Commissioned projects have included: archive-based studies of most major classes of WWII monuments; aerial photographic studies documenting which sites survive; a study of post-medieval fortifications resulting in a set of seven Monument Class Descriptions; studies of aviation and naval heritage, barracks, ordnance yards and a scoping study of drill halls; and characterisation studies of specific key sites (RAF Scampton and the Royal Dockyards at Devonport and Portsmouth). A recently completed study provided a landscape-scale assessment of WWII defence areas; while a further study will provide a characterisation of army camps, 1858-2000. These studies will promote understanding, and inform their future management.

2 Internal projects/programmes

Within the context of a developing research agenda, disposals from the Defence Estate and in response to client needs, EH staff have contributed significant new research in this area. Work has been both thematic (eg. explosives manufacture, Cold War sites and PoW camps), regional (eg. surveys and synthesis of Salisbury Plain Training Area and Exmoor National Park) and site specific (eg. exemplary surveys at Dover Western Heights, Perranporth, Brixham emergency coast battery, Okehampton training area, and Spadeadam Rocket Establishment – the latter involving a contemporary artist). Some of this work predates 1994 and represents initiatives by RCHME. The work has been published as typescript reports or formal publications (eg. Annex 2). Many other military sites have also been documented as threatened buildings, while a large number of sites have been recorded from the air. The National Mapping Programme has also concentrated on recent military heritage in some projects, notably the Suffolk coastal project. A significant new study has been the Research Department's work at Bletchley Park, which has contributed to the development of an innovative analytical study by Characterisation Team aimed at providing a rounded view of context and character, which in partnership with the regional team, English Partnerships and others is informing the site's future management and use. Research projects have been established with partners in the UK and North America looking at the archaeology of Cold War peace camps.

3 Advice and influence

Although this cannot be easily quantified, expert advice is offered by English Heritage staff daily, whether through the Research Department, territories and regions, maritime, heritage protection and characterisation teams or – most often – through the channels of communication that exist between Defence Estates and the Government Historic Estates Unit (GHEU). Contacts typically involve local and unitary authority staff, specialist societies, university and other higher education institutions, and members of the public. Advice also circulates internally between those offering particular specialisms (and the post of Military Support Officer [Roger JC Thomas] was created to serve this demand). To give an example, 38% of Roger Thomas's advice is to internal colleagues, and 62% to external bodies.

Although separate, the HLF-Funded Defence of Britain Project was closely related to EH commissioned research, and EH staff sat on the DoB Project Management Group. The results of this study are available online, and have fed directly into EH's Defence Areas project, and scheduling recommendations for anti-invasion defences of WWII.

MNSG has also alerted internal EH colleagues and outside partners to the importance of the submerged military heritage. This has included Warship Sussex salvage in the international policy arena, the development control of dredge in Portsmouth Harbour where we are liaising closely with Defence Estate, and advice to the MOD's Protection of Military Remains Act management team.

In 1999 the Military and Naval Strategy Group was established, to facilitate internal communication, to promote a research agenda for recent military heritage, and to ensure that research priorities and management needs were properly balanced. A policy head (Head of Military and Naval Evaluation Programmes) was established in 2001 to co-ordinate research and evaluation programmes and convene the Group, along with a Military Support Officer. An MNSG administrator [Danielle Devlin] provides invaluable support to the running of the Group. Although the MNSG's terms of reference have never been formally defined, the majority of our work covers the period of industrialised warfare, post 1850. The Strategy Group meets three times each year. Since 2001 the Group has met in regional offices, part of a concerted attempt to improve communication between centre and the regions, and gauge opinion on regional research and casework priorities and the relevance of strategic programmes. It is anticipated that this arrangement will continue for the foreseeable future, although the terms of reference, composition and name of the Group is constantly under review (Annex 3).

4 Management and protection

Management of military sites is a key concern of the Group, and one of the primary justifications for much of the work undertaken/commissioned over the past ten years. Much of the commissioned research into WWII and Cold War monument classes and building types has fed directly into the MPP and listing programmes, and now into the Heritage Protection review. Under MPP, some 160 sites were scheduled as a direct result of this work, while the thematic study of military aviation sites has resulted in protection being proposed for some 166 buildings on 32 sites. Within the context of Heritage Protection Reform, two sites with significant military components are included as pilot studies, at RAF Scampton and Foulness. Further, the recently completed characterisation studies of the Royal Dockyards and RAF Scampton are intended to assist with the development of guidelines for future management. A detailed investigation of the Cold War testing establishment at Foulness is also planned. Thematic guidance notes have also been produced, covering military aircraft crash sites, military wall art and historic military aviation sites. The approach to military aviation sites – of making designation sit within a rounded strategy for the management of key aviation sites - was developed at RAF Bicester, where management guidelines were agreed in 2001 in partnership with the local authority, Defence Estate and site managers. Finally, as a direct result of EH commissioned research and the related but separate Defence of Britain Project, most HERs/SMRs now routinely record twentieth century military sites, allowing them to be taken account of in development control and strategic planning contexts. A thesaurus of terms has also been produced by NMRC staff.

5 Research agenda

In 2000-4, and in collaboration with first the DoB Management Group, later the MNSG and finally a set of co-authors from a combination of the two, a recent military heritage research agenda was produced. The resulting

document (Modern Military Matters), published by CBA with EH grant-aid, was published in 2004. This provides a review of work undertaken to date, future research needs and priorities, several of which have now been addressed (eg. PoW camps, wall art). The document has relevance across the UK, and has been promoted within the UK as a good example of its type, and in Europe as a model for comparable thematic reviews. A revised version is anticipated in 2006-7.

6 European and wider contacts

Since the early 1990s contacts have been established with international heritage agencies, universities and special interest groups with similar interests and agenda. These have included: the Council of Europe (involvement with Europe-wide 'frontiers' project); the Raphael-funded Europe de l'Air project; European Archaeological Consilium (presentation in 2004), and the European Association of Archaeologists (Round Table on Cold War heritage in 2003). There are also projects with Interreg funding to study coastal fortifications in the SE, interpretation at Tilbury Fort, and Royal Arsenal Woolwich. Recent military contributions have also been made to other European projects, such as a Culture 2000-funded project to provide aerial photographic training for archaeologists.

Through conference presentations and sessions, links have also been made with the International Committee for the History of Technology, World Archaeology Congress and Maltese heritage authorities, for example as well as North American and Australasian agencies.

7 Outreach

Much has been achieved in the past ten years, details of which can be found in annexes 2 and 4. The main categories of activity are: books; academic articles; conference sessions and contributions; public lectures; teaching and media appearances. MNSG has also organised a series of recent military heritage seminars, of which there have now been four. There is now a page on the EH website which provides a bibliography, links to other sites, and summaries (with links) of all our major research programmes and studies [www.english-heritage.org.uk/military]. In 2003 English Heritage produced a thematic volume of Conservation Bulletin on Archaeology of Conflict.

Future Directions

As stated above, the composition and role of MNSG is under review, though a group of this type will continue, convened by the Head of Military Programmes, with the following amongst its list of objectives;

- To keep under constant review the MMM research agenda and framework.

- To continue to provide advice and guidance to internal colleagues, external partners and others, to cover both the identification and assessment of military sites, their sensitivity to change and their future management needs. Much of this has built on thematic work and will take place within the Research Department, characterisation, GHEU, territorial and regional teams.
- To continue to work with colleagues and partners to develop the study and understanding of recent military heritage, for academic and informed conservation reasons. In particular, to ensure the relevance of modern military heritage studies to corporate agenda, the corporate research strategy, and local development issues.
- To continue to forge and strengthen links with the university sector, especially trans-disciplinary contacts that will benefit and contribute to the further informed study of recent military heritage. The 2004 MNSG seminar on art and conflict is an example of what can be achieved through such trans-disciplinary contacts.
- To begin to integrate recent military heritage studies more fully within the wider study of twentieth century heritage.
- To continue to develop links with international partners, perhaps through EAC. The EAA Cold War round table is likely to meet again in 2006.

John Schofield
Head of Military Programmes
3rd November 2004

List of Annexes

- 1 Details of commissioned work
- 2 Publications
- 3 MNSG membership
- 4 MNSG and other conferences

Annex 1 – Details of key commissioned work and internal programmes
(indicative only)

1994-2000 Twentieth century fortifications in England project (archives)

Undertaken by Colin Dobinson

Bombing decoys of World War II
Anti-aircraft artillery, 1914-46
Operation Diver
Anti-invasion defences of World War II
Operation Overlord preparatory sites
Airfield themes
Airfield defences in World War II
The Cold War
Acoustics and radar
Coast artillery, 1900-56
Civil defence of WWII
Experimental and training sites (annotated handlist)
Searchlight sites of World War II (sample list)

1999-2001 Aerial photographic assessment of surviving sites

Undertaken by Mike Anderton

Bombing decoys of World War II
Anti-aircraft artillery, 1914-46 and Operation Diver
Radar (WWII) and Rotor (Cold War)
Coast artillery, 1900-56

2002 Study of surviving airfield defences

Undertaken by Paul Francis

2000-2003 Naval heritage

Undertaken by David Evans

Ordnance yards
Steam Navy

Other studies

Douet and Listing Team report on Naval Dockyards (1998)
Douet and Listing Team report on Barracks (1998)
Characterisation of Portsmouth and Devonport dockyards (2001-2) Wessex
Archaeology
Thematic Study of Military Airfields, Listing Team, 2000 (updated May 2003)
Typological Study of Military Airfields, Paul Francis (2003)
Characterisation of RAF Scampton (2004) Atkins Heritage
Army camps thematic characterisation (2004-5) David Evans
WWII defence areas (2002-4) William Foot and CBA
Bletchley Park assessment and survey (2003-4) David Evans,
Characterisation Team, Cambridge Office
Drill Halls scoping study (2003) David Evans

Analytical surveys by Research Department and predecessors

For over a decade the Research Department field investigation sections have been at the forefront of recording and analysing modern military sites. A selection of the most significant surveys are listed below, while many other sites have also been recorded in lesser detail as part of other recording projects. Typescripts reports for most of these have been deposited with the NMR; some later reports are still in production. The dates listed here refer to the date of investigation.

Atomic Weapons Establishment, Foulness, Essex, desk top report (2004)
Beacon Hill, Essex, multiperiod gun battery (1997)
Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire (2003-4)
Bowaters Farm, Essex, anti-aircraft battery (1994)
Bullsand Fort, East Riding of Yorkshire (1999)
Brixham Battery, Devon (2002)
Cliffe Fort, Kent, Brennan torpedo slipways (1993)
Cold War project, 20 detailed site reports (1997-2000)
Dunstanburgh radar station, Northumberland (2003)
Dover Western Heights, Kent (1998-2004)
Fort Clarence, Napoleonic fort (2002)
Grain redoubt and fortifications, Kent (1998)
HMS Forward, Newhaven, Sussex, underground tunnels (2003)
Kingswear, Devon, wartime emergency battery (1992)
Landguard Fort, Suffolk, batteries and outer defences (2002)
Merchant Taylor's School, Hertfordshire, pillbox (1995)
North Weald, Essex, Victorian mobilisation centre (2000)
Queensborough Lines, Kent (2000)
Purfleet magazine, Essex (1995)
RAF Chicksands, Bedfordshire, Cold War monitoring station (1996)
RAF Perranporth, Cornwall
Royal Arsenal, Woolwich (1994)
Stow Maries, Essex, First World War airfield (1998)
Sheerness, Kent Battery (1993)
Sheerness, Kent, Musketry wall (1993)
Sheerness, Kent, Dockyard, defences and Bluetown (1995)
Sheernes, Kent, Barton's Point battery (2001)
Spadeadam Rocket Establishment, Cumbria (2003-4)
Tilbury fort, Essex (2004)

Annex 2 – Publications (indicative list)

Anderton, M. and Schofield, J. 1999. Anti-aircraft gunsites – then and now. *Conservation Bulletin* 36, 11-13.

Cocroft W D 1996 'The Munitions Industry' in Guillery P ed *Thames Gateway. Recording Historic Buildings and Landscapes on the Thames Estuary* RCHME 89-97

Cocroft W D 1996a A methodology for recording complex industrial/military sites; the example of RCHME's survey of the Royal Gunpowder Factory Waltham Abbey, Essex 367-77 in Coulson, M & Baldwin, H eds 1996 *Pilot Study on Defence Environmental Expectations* University of Wales Swansea NATO CCMS Report No.211

Cocroft, W.D. 2000. *Dangerous energy: the archaeology of gunpowder and military explosives manufacture*. English Heritage: London.

Cocroft, W.D. 2001. *Cold War monuments: an assessment by the Monuments Protection Programme*. English Heritage: London (typescript report, available also on CD Rom).

Cocroft, W.D. and Thomas, R.J.C. 2003. *Cold War: building for nuclear confrontation 1946-89*. English Heritage: London.

Cocroft, W D forthcoming 'First World War explosives manufacture – the British Experience' in Macleod, R and Johnson, J (eds) *The Chemist's War 1914-23* Australia

Cocroft, W D forthcoming 'Defining the national archaeological character of Cold War remains' in Cocroft, W D and Schofield J (eds) *A Fearsome Heritage*. London: UCL Press

Cocroft, W D forthcoming 'Assessing England's Cold War Heritage' in Schmidt, L *On both sides of the Wall: Preserving Monuments of the Cold War*. University of Cottbus

Dobinson, C. 2000. *Fields of deception: bombing decoys of World War Two*. Methuen: London.

Dobinson, C. 2001. *AA Command: Britain's anti-aircraft defences of the Second World War*. Methuen: London.

Dobinson, C., Lake, J. and Schofield, J. 1997. Monuments of war: defining England's twentieth-century defence heritage. *Antiquity* 71, 288-99.

Douet, J. 1998. *British barracks: their architecture and role in society*. The Stationery Office: London.

- English Heritage, 1998. *Monuments of War: the evaluation, recording and management of twentieth-century military sites*. English Heritage: London.
- English Heritage, 2002. *Military aircraft crash sites: archaeological guidance on their significance and future management*. English Heritage: London.
- English Heritage 2003. *Twentieth-century military sites: current approaches to their recording and conservation*. English Heritage: London.
- English Heritage 2003. *Historic Military Aviation Sites: conservation management guidance*. English Heritage: London.
- English Heritage 2003. *The archaeology of conflict*. Conservation Bulletin 44.
- English Heritage, 2004. *Military wall art: guidelines on its significance, conservation and management*. English Heritage: London.
- Evans, D 2004. *Building the Steam Navy. The Royal Dockyards and the Victorian Battle Fleet*. Conway Maritime Press: London.
- Foot, W. 2003. *Public archaeology: defended areas of World War II*. Conservation Bulletin 44, 8-11.
- Foot, W. 2004. *Defence areas: a national study of Second World War anti-invasion landscapes in England*. English Heritage.
- Holyoak, V. 2001. *Airfields as battlefields, aircraft as an archaeological resource: British military aviation in the first half of the twentieth century*. In Freeman, P. and Pollard, A. (eds), *Fields of conflict: progress and prospect in battlefield archaeology*, 253-64. BAR International Series 958.
- Holyoak, V. 2002. *Out of the blue: assessing military aircraft crash sites in England, 1912-45*. *Antiquity* 76, 657-63.
- Holyoak, V. and Saunders, A. 2004. *Who owns our dead?* *British Archaeology* 75, 10-15.
- Lake, J. and Schofield, J. 2002 *Conserving the remains of The Battle*. In J. Crang and P. Addison (eds), *The Burning Blue: a new history of The Battle of Britain*, 229-42.
- Lake, J. 2003 *Historic airfields: evaluation and conservation*. In Schofield, J., Johnson, W.G., and Beck, C.M. (eds), *Matériel Culture: the archaeology of twentieth century conflict*, 172-88. Routledge. *One World Archaeology* 44.
- McOmish, D., Field, D. and Brown, G. 2001. *The field archaeology of Salisbury Plain Training Area*. English Heritage: London.
- Nieke, M. and Nieke, R.H. 2003. *Harperley PoW Camp: memories and monuments*. Conservation Bulletin 44, 22-25.

Schofield, J. 1999. Conserving recent military remains: choices and challenges for the twenty-first century. In Baker, D. and Chitty, G. (eds), *Presentation and Preservation: Conflict or Collaboration*, 173-86. Routledge and English Heritage: London.

Schofield, J. 2001. D-Day sites in England: an assessment. *Antiquity* 75(287), 77-83.

Schofield, J. 2002a. Monuments and the memories of war: motivations for preserving military sites in England. In Schofield, J., Johnson, W.G. and Beck, C.M. (eds), *Matériel culture: the archaeology of twentieth century conflict*, 143-58. Routledge: London and New York.

Schofield, J. 2002b. The role of aerial photographs in national strategic programmes: assessing recent military sites in England. In R.H. Bewley and W. Rączkowski (eds), *Aerial archaeology: developing future practice*, 269-82. IOS Press: Amsterdam, in co-operation with NATO Scientific Affairs Division.

Schofield, J. 2003. Conserving legacies of the Cold War: an excavation in five parts. *Transactions of the Association for Studies in the Conservation of Historic Buildings* 26, 37-45.

Schofield, J. 2004. *Modern Military Matters: studying and managing the twentieth-century defence heritage in Britain: a discussion document*. Council for British Archaeology: York.

Schofield, J. and Anderton, M. 2000. The queer archaeology of Green Gate: interpreting contested space at Greenham Common Airbase. *World Archaeology* 32(2), 236-51.

Schofield, J., Beck, C.M. and Drollinger, H. 2003. The archaeology of opposition: Greenham Common and Peace Camp, Nevada. *Conservation Bulletin* 44, 47-9.

Schofield, J., Johnson, W.G. and Beck, C.M. (eds), 2002. *Matériel culture: the archaeology of twentieth century conflict*. Routledge: London and New York.

Annex 3 – MNSG membership (November 2004)

SURNAME	NAME	ROOM	ADDRESS
MNSG MEMBERS			
Barraclough	Philip	235	23 Savile Row
Beacham	Peter	240	23 Savile Row
Bewley	Bob	3/52	NMRC
Bowdler	Roger	202	23 Savile Row
Cherry	Martin	239	23 Savile Row
Cocroft	Wayne		24 Brooklands Ave
Devlin	Danielle	210	23 Savile Row
Everson	Paul	2/53	NMRC
Fairclough	Graham	208	23 Savile Row
Falconer	Keith	2/53	NMRC
Fiorato	Veronica	202	23 Savile Row
Giles	Colum		37 Tanner Row
Holborow	Will	102	23 Savile Row
Holyoak	Vince	416-418	23 Savile Row
Jeffery	Paul	202	23 Savile Row
Johnson	Alan	102	23 Savile Row
Kendall	Peter		Eastgate Court
Lake	Jeremy	202	23 Savile Row
Law	Robert	102	23 Savile Row
Olivier	Adrian	240A	23 Savile Row
Oxley	Ian		Fort Cumberland
Schofield	John	202	23 Savile Row
Sheldrick	Gillian	1/42	NMRC
Stamper	Paul	210	23 Savile Row
Thomas	Roger J C	S6	37 Tanner Row
Welfare	Humphrey	3/53	NMRC

CC INFORMATION

Bee	Steve	227	23 Savile Row
Carr	Tanya	210	23 Savile Row
Heath	David	315	23 Savile Row
Pyrah	Carol		44 Deringate
Taylor	Robin	3/60	NMRC
Stones	Sheila	102	23 Savile Row

Annex 4 – Conferences

MNSG conferences and their predecessors

Monuments of War (Society of Antiquaries, 1997)
Assessing Cold War sites (Public Record Office, 2001)
Modern Military Matters (Society of Antiquaries, 2003)
Art and conflict (London College of Fashion, 2004)

GHEU and other EH conferences

Conserving aviation heritage (Duxford, 2003)
Maritime Military seminar (Portsmouth dockyard, 2003)

Conference sessions on military archaeology

World Archaeology Congress (Cape Town, 1999) – published
Oxford, Department of Continuing Education (2000)
World Archaeology Congress (Washington DC, 2003) – being prepared for
publication
European Association of Archaeology conference (St Petersburg, 2003) –
Round table