

Assessment and Outline Management Recommendations for Defence Structures



Historic Building and Landscape Assessment

oxfordarchaeology



southsouthsouth

August 2013

Client: Taylor Wimpey

Issue No: 1

NGR: SU 81220 50446



Client Name: Taylor Wimpey
Client Ref No:
Document Title: Assessment and Outline Management Recommendations for Defence Structures
Document Type: Evaluation Report
Issue/Version Number: 1
Grid Reference: Centred on SU 81220 50446
Invoice Code: CHCRBPBS

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
1	Jane Phimester Project Officer (Buildings)	Jon Gill Senior Project Manager	Ken Welsh Senior Project Manager	

Document File Location \\Server1\projects\Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church
Crookham\Building recording\Pillboxes work 2013\Report
Graphics File Location
Illustrated by Hannah Kennedy

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

© Oxford Archaeology Ltd 2013

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263800

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

f: +44 (0) 1865 793496

w: oxfordarchaeology.com

Oxford Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627



QUEEN ELIZABETH BARRACKS, CHURCH CROOKHAM

Assessment and Outline Management Recommendations for Defence Structures

Written by Jane Phimester

Table of Contents

Summary.....	4
1 Introduction.....	5
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	5
1.2 Aims and objectives.....	5
2 Methodology.....	6
2.1 Desk-based research.....	6
2.2 Site survey.....	6
2.3 Limitations of study.....	7
2.4 Report structure.....	7
3 Defence Structure Typologies.....	7
3.1 Introduction.....	7
3.2 Type 24 Pillboxes.....	7
3.3 Vickers Machine Gun Emplacements.....	8
3.4 Stop line.....	8
4 The Military Landscapes.....	10
4.1 History.....	10
4.2 Significance.....	11
5 Gazetteer.....	12
5.1 Format.....	12
5.2 Summary.....	12
Gazetteer.....	13
6 Outline Management Recommendations.....	25
6.1 Significance.....	25
6.2 Recording.....	25
6.3 Condition and Maintenance.....	26



6.4 Access	26
6.5 Outreach	27
7 Bibliography and References.....	29
Published Sources	29
Unpublished Resources.....	29
Websites.....	29
8 Appendix 1.....	30
English Heritage criteria used to assess significance of Defence Areas.....	30



List of Figures

- Figure 1 Site location
- Figure 2 Location of pillboxes and emplacements
- Figure 3 Aldershot Command map (1940) showing course (dark line) of GHQ line A (reproduced from Defence Areas Project)
- Figure 4 German map showing course of anti-tank ditch (dark line) to south-east of defence area (reproduced from Defence Areas Project)
- Figure 5 1945 aerial photograph showing the defence area (reproduced from Defence Areas Project)

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Type 24 pillbox (OA148)
- Plate 2 Type 24 pillbox, side elevation (OA152)
- Plate 3 Type 24 pillbox, entrance (OA141)
- Plate 4 Type 24 pillbox, embrasure (OA152)
- Plate 5 Type 24 pillbox, internal view showing anti-ricochet wall to left and embrasures to right (with hatch visible) (OA142)
- Plate 6 Type 24 pillbox, camouflage hook (OA152)
- Plate 7 Type 24 pillbox, hatch (OA147)
- Plate 8 Vickers gun emplacement (OA139) (taken in 2010 survey)
- Plate 9 Vickers gun emplacement, stepped embrasure (OA138) (taken in 2010 survey)
- Plate 10 Vickers gun emplacement, blast wall (OA 144)
- Plate 11 Vickers gun emplacement, internal gun table (OA144)
- Plate 12 Vickers gun emplacement, air vent in rear wall (OA144)
- Plate 13 Pair of Vickers gun emplacements (OA 138 and 139) (taken in 2010 survey)
- Plate 14 Type 24 pillbox, incorporated within a garden (OA153)
- Plate 15 Type 24 pillbox, showing exposed concrete core (OA152)
- Plate 16 Type 24 pillbox, showing exposed concrete core (OA136)



Summary

Oxford Archaeology carried out an assessment of defence structures within the SANGS area of development at the Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham. Taylor Wimpey are retaining these significant features of our national history dating from the Second World War within the landscape, including Type-24 pillboxes and four Vickers gun emplacements situated around two hilltop positions.

This assessment identified 18 structures, within this nationally significant defence area above Ewshot. This significance is a result of the condition, density and group value of the structures within a landscape which has little changed since the Second World War. This document sets out management recommendations to ensure a long-term sustainable future for the structures, and provides guidance for how they may be appreciated by the local community and military enthusiasts.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey (West London) to undertake a study of a number of defence structures at the development site of Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Hampshire. These pillboxes are not proposed for demolition and they will be retained within the SANGS (Sustainable Alternative Natural Green Space) part of the development. This covers an area of 400 acres to the south of the former barracks and development area, and is being left for recreational use by the local community (Fig.1).
- 1.1.2 This landscape has a rich military history, in which 18 defence structures (pillboxes and gun emplacements) dating from the Second World War have been identified (Fig.2). This heavily fortified landscape is centred around Riddings Copse, and the two hill top positions to the north-west of Ewshot. The structures will be retained within the landscape as significant features of our military history. This study provides an outline assessment of the significance of the area and military installations, as well as their condition and potential for reuse.
- 1.1.3 The SANGS area is located within the parish of Crondall, 3 miles north-west of Farnham, and 3.5 miles west of Aldershot. Church Crookham is recognised as the former home of the Gurkha Rifles from 1977, with the Regimental barracks situated between the village of Crookham and the larger settlement of Church Crookham, Hampshire. The land, which previously formed part of the MOD estate, was used by the Brigade of Gurkhas for training. Today, this enclosed landscape remains predominantly rural with fields and woodlands and lanes bordered by thick hedgerows.
- 1.1.4 OA has previously undertaken building recording and archaeological evaluation at the Queen Elizabeth Barracks site, also as part of the current Taylor Wimpey development.

1.2 Aims and objectives

- 1.2.1 The overall objective of the assessment is to guide and inform the future management of the defence structures. The aims are to:
- Describe the military history and significance of the landscape;
 - Identify and provide an outline record of the defence structures, and describe features of particular significance;
 - Provide summary management recommendations to ensure a sustainable future for the defence structures, including how this significance period of our national history may be communicated to a wider audience.



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desk-based research

2.1.1 The military history of the SANGS area was established using information collected through the Defence Areas project, which was commissioned by English Heritage (EH) and administered by the Council for British Archaeology (CBA). This work built on the 'Defence of Britain Project' (also administered by CBA) which was completed in 2002, and identified defence structures nationally. The purpose of the Defence Areas project was to undertake a national study of anti-invasion landscapes informing on surviving defence works in areas where coherent and often complete groupings could be identified with a common defence purpose. The project identified 67 defence areas nationally which are considered to be of significance; the defence landscape of Ewshot, which falls within the SANGS area, is one of this number.

2.1.2 This Defence Area project culminated in two key resources which have been heavily used within this study and form the basis for this assessment. These are:

- The publication of the book - '*Beaches, fields, streets and hills: the anti-invasion landscape of England, 1940*' (Foot 2006)
- The website of the Archaeology Data Service (www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk), which includes a searchable database of individual structures.

2.1.3 The location of the pillboxes was assimilated through three sources:

- OA's Environmental Statement (OA 2010) - this identified the location of pillboxes within the study area through documentary research and site survey. The statement drew very largely on a Desk-based Assessment prepared by Oxford Archaeology in 2004.
- Pillboxes identified by A.L.S Group Ltd.
- Pillboxes identified through the Defence of Britain Project and Defence Areas Project (discussed above).

2.2 Site survey

2.2.1 Site visits were undertaken to assess the defensive landscape within the SANGS area in June and July 2013. Digital photos were taken during assessment and hand-written notes taken. An assessment was made to confirm the type, location, key features and condition of each structure. The results of this work are detailed within Section 5 of this report, and further explained below.

2.2.2 The condition of each structure was determined using the criteria set out in the Defence of Britain Project to provide continuity and national comparison (Foot 2006). These are also the same categories used within OA's Environmental Statement (2010).

- Good – if the structure survives intact as a clear example of its type, is largely clear of vegetation, and is in reasonably good condition. Occasionally, structures that are more heavily overgrown area also rated as 'Good', where it can be seen that, with the removal of vegetation around them, they would appear clear and undamaged; in such cases the overgrowth has often acted as a protection.
- Fair – structure damaged or eroded and few original features survive.
- Poor – significant damage to structure and/ or no features evident.



2.3 Limitations of study

2.3.1 Some structures were difficult to interpret because of the dense vegetation surrounding them, in particular the Vickers emplacements OA138, OA139, OA143 and OA144 and pillbox OA137. To aid in assessment of these structures digital photos were used from the Environmental Statement (OA2010), which was completed in the autumn when vegetation was less dense.

2.4 Report structure

2.4.1 This report is set within the following format:

- *Defence Structure Typologies* - this provides a description of the defence structures identified within the SANGS area to provide a basis for understanding and limit repetition in description. The pillboxes and emplacements are of a standard type, and any significant features are described in the gazetteer (Section 5). The key attribute in each typology is cross-reference to a plate of the feature identified during the site visit.
- *The Military Landscape* - this describes the historic context of the period in the national and local context. It also identifies the key structures on the site (which are cross-referenced to the gazetteer by reference numbers), and explains the defensive context of the structures. Finally the significance of the structures and landscape is established.
- *Gazetteer* - this describes each structure according to the following criteria: reference number, type, location and access, features and condition. This is further described in Section 5 of this report.

3 DEFENCE STRUCTURE TYPOLOGIES

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The two types of structures identified within the SANGS area are: Type 24 pillboxes and Vickers Gun Emplacements. These are described below in order to provide context to the description of the military landscape (Section 4), and the Gazetteer of extant structures (Section 6). These structures were built to standard designs (with some local variations), the key features of which are detailed below. These features are cross-referenced to the structures identified within the landscape through plates, thus providing a clear understanding of the extant installations.

3.1.2 A key element of the defensive landscape which is no longer extant is GHQ Line A, which ran to the south of Ewshot. In order to provide context to the description of the military landscape (Section 4), this installation is also described below. The descriptions are taken from the work of the Pillbox Study Group (<http://www.pillbox-study-group.org.uk/>) and the Defence of Britain Project (Foot 2006).

3.2 Type 24 Pillboxes

3.2.1 Pillboxes are arguably the most readily identifiable 20th-Century military works in the English landscape. Standardised types of pillboxes were developed by the Directorate of Fortifications and Works of the War Office; those identified within the study area are Type-24 pillboxes, which are the most common type within southern England.

3.2.2 The key attributes of Type-24 pillboxes are:



- Shape: Irregular hexagonal (Plate 1)
- Five faces of 8ft (2.4m) in length externally and a rear face of 13ft (3.96m), with two rifle loops and an entrance 2ft (61cm) wide (Plate 2 and 3).
- Those with thinner walls (up to 15ins) have rifle embrasures built in; the thicker-walled version (up to 24ins) have pre-formed embrasures designed to accommodate light machine guns (LMG's) (Plate 4)
- Internally, there is a Y shaped anti-ricochet wall (with the top of the Y nearest the entrance), which also helps support the roof (Plate 5)

3.2.3 Additional noteworthy features associated with pillboxes are:

- External metal hooks used to keep camouflage nets in places (Plate 6)
- Hinged asbestos shutters over embrasures (Plate 7)

3.3 Vickers Machine Gun Emplacements

3.3.1 Vickers machine gun emplacements are thick-walled square pillboxes with a large main embrasure (sometimes two embrasures) for the fire of the Vickers medium machine gun.

3.3.2 The key attributes of Vickers gun emplacements are:

- Rectangular square plan about 14ft x 14ft with chamfered corners on front face (Plate 8)
- Built to shellproof specification with 51" walls
- Large stepped embrasure to accommodate a single mmg. (Plate 9)
- Doorway, normally on the left side (to line of fire), protected by a massive rectangular blast wall (Plate 10)
- Large internal concrete table to mount the weapon on its tripod (Plate 11).
- Air vent in rear wall (Plate 12).
- Up to 3 rifle/bren lmg loopholes on side and/or rear walls
- Normally sited in pairs as a section of 2 guns (Plate 13).
- On steep forward slopes, emplacements were often dug in with overhead earth camouflage cover.

3.3.3 Additional noteworthy features associated with gun emplacements are:

- External metal hooks used to keep camouflage nets in places
- Hinged asbestos shutters over embrasures

3.4 Stop line

3.4.1 A system of stop lines was established during the Second World War to contain enemy armoured forces in the event of a sea-borne invasion from continental Europe. These were in essence anti-tank lines with a continuous anti-tank obstacle either formed by a waterway, an artificial ditch, a line of concrete obstacles, or a railway embankment. The principal stop line was the GHQ (General Headquarters) Line running from the North Somerset coast, to the south and east of London, and then parallel with the east coast to Richmond and Yorkshire. The line was designed to protect London and the industrial midlands. It was vital to block access to roads and railways as these would provide a



rapid route for an armoured advance, as such stop lines were also designed to defend principal strategic targets. Anti-tank gun emplacements can be seen to cover road bridges and pillboxes grouped within anti-tank localities (or defended localities), which were also generally close to the vulnerable crossing points of the anti-tank obstacle. The stop line was prepared battlefield, its defences being infantry field fortifications including pillboxes, section posts, and fire trenches with anti-tank gun emplacements manned by the Royal Artillery at the principal crossing points of roads and railways.

4 THE MILITARY LANDSCAPES

4.1 History

National Overview

- 4.1.1 After the defeat of Dunkirk (1940), Britain was faced with the imminent prospect of invasion. To counter this, defences were rapidly constructed on the coast and then inland, the latter involving a complicated pattern of linear (stop line) defences and of area defence based on important communication points. The linear defences were formed of natural barriers such as rivers but supplemented by miles of machine-cut anti-tank ditches and rows of concrete obstacles. These were protected at their crossing points of road and railways by hardened weapon emplacements (pillboxes and gun emplacements).

Defence Area 34: Ewshot, Hampshire

- 4.1.2 From late June 1940 GHQ Line 'A' was constructed through the area of Aldershot Command running from a point south-west of Reading to Farnham (Fig.3). This defence line was then continued further south and east by GHQ Line 'B' (Defence Area 51: Chequers Bridge forms part of this which lies to the north of the study area). The principal anti-tank obstacle was a machine-dug anti-tank ditch, in front of which was a demolition belt (Figure 4). GHQ Line A was divided into sectors; within these No.3 Sector was further divided into 3 focal points, or defended localities made of pillboxes, military installations.
- 4.1.3 To the rear of GHQ Line 'A' at Warren Corner was a heavily defended area around the village of Ewshot, based particularly on two hill positions to its north-west, with defence works firing south-west, south, and south-east. This is Defence Area 34: Ewshot, which falls directly within the SANGS area, and was defended by the 1st Pioneer Battalion Royal Canadian Engineers (Fig.2). The defence area is centred on Riddings Copse, to the south-east of, which is an open area of grassland that slopes to the south-east towards the village of Ewshot. Running roughly north/ south to the west of Riddings Copse is Ewshot Lane, which turns east to the south of the Copse, turning into Tadpole Lane at Ewshot recreation ground. Here the road takes a north-east path until it meets Beacon Hill Road (B3013). Within each of the two hilltop locations, which are divided by a shallow valley and lane, are two Vickers machine gun emplacements surrounded by type 24 pillboxes. Riddings Copse appears to form a focus to these defences, for a purpose that is not clear.
- 4.1.4 Riddings Copse is a rectangular block of thick deciduous and coniferous woodland lying astride a ridge. There are various viewpoints centred on Riddings Copse that are backed by the ridge above Ewshot to the east. The wood was surrounded by type-24 pillboxes firing outwards, many of which were identified during the site assessment. Surrounding the wood but particularly on the south-east edge, 8 pillboxes were identified: nos. OA145 and OA147-OA152.
- 4.1.5 To the south-east of the wood situated on a hill position within open grassland are two Vickers gun emplacements: OA143 and OA144. These would have fired over ground to the south-west and south; aerial photographs show that their fire converged on an enigmatic earthwork that is possibly a First World War section trench. A second earthwork is also situated immediately to the north (Figs. 2 & 5). Surrounding Riddings Copse to the south-west, north-west and north-east would have been a line of barbed-wire which is no longer extant (detailed on Fig.2). A further line of barbed-wire was



situated to the south of Ewshot Lane and east of Seymour Farm, although this is outside the study area.

- 4.1.6 Further to the east on the hill-top above Ewshot village are two further Vickers gun emplacements also within grassland. To support their position as the landform slopes down to the east are a series of Type-24 pillboxes in close proximity: OA136-OA137 and OA140-OA141. Pillboxes are also evident situated directly along Tadpole Lane running roughly east/ west to the south of the installations: OA142, OA153-OA154. Pillbox OA154 is situated just outside the SANGS area but is included within this study because of its highly visible presence at the junction of a road, and because of its interesting secondary use (incorporated within the garden of a house) (Plate 14).
- 4.1.7 Further to the south of the lane further examples of military installations are thought to be extant, although these fall outside the Study Area. These include pillboxes, a line of barbed-wire (no longer extant) and the Army Headquarters for the 1st Pioneer Battalion Royal Canadian Engineers who were based in this area at Seymour Farm on Ewshot Lane.

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 The extensive research funded by the CBA and EH considering the anti-invasion landscapes of Britain (Foot 2006), identified discrete areas of good anti-invasion defence survival. An initial national list of 300 such areas were identified as being of significance and following further documentary analysis and field survey and by applying the English Heritage criteria (listed in Appendix 1) this was further reduced to 67 areas. Defence Area 34 is one of the chosen 67 defence areas, and therefore the area has been evaluated as being of national importance. An evaluation of the significance of the area states:

“In terms of its concentration of hardened field defences protecting the rear GHQ Line ‘A’ in the vicinity of Aldershot - one of the principal centres of the British Army - the defence area is very important. The sheer number of pillboxes and emplacements built, the concentration of which continues to the west, east and south, makes this one of the most densely defended anti-invasion landscapes in England. The area is also one with a high survival of defence works...largely untouched since the war.” (Foot 2006, 542)

- 4.2.2 The types of structures identified are not unique; Type-24 pillboxes are common (although this especially-deigned variant of Vickers gun emplacement is rare) but it is particularly unusual to find four in close proximity. It is the group value of the structures within a compact area however, which makes the landscape significant. The rural area and the military use of the land by the MOD has left the fields uncultivated, resulting in the unique preservation of the landscape and installations. Elsewhere these may well have been removed as encumbrances in a ploughed field.
- 4.2.3 The pillboxes and gun emplacements themselves survive in comparatively good condition, with little of the vandalism or graffiti often seen in such installations. If removed of their vegetation and given sympathetic repair, the landscape would appear very much as in its 1940s form. The defensive use of the landscape is easily understood and appreciated. We can learn much from the landscape about defensive strategy and from considering where the installations were placed, but it is only possible to do this if the pattern of the enclosed landscape is retained.



5 GAZETTEER

5.1 Format

5.1.1 The following is a gazetteer of the structures identified within the SANGS area and it is divided into the following sections.

- *Ref No* - the main OA reference number is given which is a continuation of the numbers allocated within the Environmental Assessments (OA2004 and OA2010). The reference number given in the Defence Areas project is also provided in brackets (e.g – 7865), as well as any known SMR or Defence Estate reference numbers
- *Type* - the typology of the structure is determined, and detailed descriptions are set out in Section 3 of this report.
- *Location and Access* - this provides the grid reference as well as a written description of the location of the structure. The accessibility of each structure is also described. The locations of the military structures are illustrated in Figure 2.
- *Features* - this details the main characteristics of each structure, as well as any significant features which enhances their value (for example camouflage hooks).
- *Condition* - this summarises the overall condition of the structure, and gives an external and internal assessment of condition. Finally, it identifies key threats.

5.2 Summary

5.2.1 In general the military installations within the SANGS area survive in good condition, and have not been subject to the vandalism often associated with structures of this era. The external face is clay brick, that has deteriorated in some examples more than others, largely because they were constructed from available stocks of bricks some of which have weathered better than others. Externally the chief threat has been vegetation, which inhibits interpretation and more importantly has impacted the structural integrity of the pillboxes and emplacements. Vegetation is evident growing on the roofs and surrounding the external brickwork, which has caused deterioration and in places exposed the inner concrete core (Plate 15). In some cases vegetation is evident growing between brickwork and the concrete core (Plate 16).

5.2.2 There has been some graffiti to the most easily accessed structures (OA137 - OA139 and OA141), although this is largely internal with the vegetation in this case acting as a protective cover. There has been very limited vandalism to the structures, with Vickers emplacement OA138 being the exception where an area of the concrete gun base is no longer extant. Significant features that survive in many of the installations are camouflage hooks and the asbestos hatch covers, the retention of the latter in particular is uncommon.

5.2.3 This report does not attempt to catalogue the structures in terms of best surviving example, but Section 7 of this report (Outline Management Recommendations), does to some extent discuss which structures may be identified as good examples for interpretation. in section 2, and then answer the questions posed with the results of the work.

GAZETTEER

Ref no.	Type	Location and Access	Features	Condition
OA136 (7865) Defence Estate SMR (ref: HACC23)	Type 24 pillbox	SU 81427 50432 Situated within the area sloping south-east towards Ewshot village. The pillbox is within a wooded area, in close proximity to Vickers emplacements OA138 and OA139. The pillbox is in close proximity to the footpath running between the barracks and Ewshot. It is close to a well-trodden path running directly in front of the pillbox.	Brick shuttered pillbox with reinforced concrete core facing south-west firing towards OA138, OA138 & OA139. Internal brick anti-ricochet wall. <i>Significant features:</i> camouflage hooks and hatch cover partially complete.	Overall Condition: Fair/ Good <i>External:</i> The brickwork survives in reasonable condition although in places the face of the brickwork has deteriorated. In particular on the north-west and rear faces the brickwork is in relatively poor condition. Here it is possible to see vegetation growing between the outer face of brickwork and the inner concrete face, resulting in the loss of a large section of brickwork. There is considerable vegetation growing on the roof of the pillbox (including ivy and scrubs), and scrubs evident immediately next to the pillboxes. This will ultimately compromise the structural integrity of the pillbox. <i>Internal:</i> very good. <i>Threats:</i> vegetation.

Ref no.	Type	Location and Access	Features	Condition
<p>137 (7862)</p> <p>Defence Estate SMR (ref: HACCC19)</p> <p>Hampshire SMR (ref: SU85SW 17)</p>	Type 24 pillbox	<p>SU 81404 50374</p> <p>Situated within the area sloping south-east towards Ewshot village. It is in very close proximity to the two gun emplacements situated at the top of the ridge (OA138 & 139).</p> <p>The pillbox is easily accessible from the footpath running from the barracks to Ewshot village.</p>	<p>Brick shuttered pillbox with reinforced concrete core facing south-west. Internal brick anti-ricochet wall.</p> <p><i>Significant features:</i> camouflage hooks and hatch cover partially complete.</p>	<p>Overall Condition: Fair/ Good</p> <p><i>External:</i> Considerable external vegetation growth compromising assessment. Some erosion of brickwork and graffiti to brickwork.</p> <p><i>Internal:</i> some internal vandalism.</p> <p><i>Threats:</i> vegetation and vandalism.</p>
<p>138 (7860)</p> <p>Defence Estate SMR (ref: HACCC17)</p> <p>Hampshire SMR (ref: SU85SW 15)</p>	Vickers MG emplacement (variant)	<p>SU 81393 50381</p> <p>Located on hilltop to northwest of Ewshot village. It is one of a pair with OA139, and associated with surrounding pillboxes.</p> <p>Easily accessed from a footpath running across the grassland linking the barracks to Ewshot.</p>	<p>Square medium gun emplacement dug into hill. Clay brick external with reinforced concrete core. External detached blast wall opposite entrance, with five steps leading down to entrance.</p> <p>Large embrasure facing south-west for Vickers gun, with field of fire sloping down to Ewshot Lane. Two side embrasures for lighter</p>	<p>Overall Condition: Fair</p> <p><i>External:</i> heavily overgrown with vegetation making assessment problematic. The brickwork surrounding the entrance has become dislodged exposing the concrete core on the main emplacement and blast wall. It is also possible to see that brickwork has become dislodged around the area of the main embrasure. Considerable vegetation including scrubs surrounding the structure, which may be impacting the emplacement's structural integrity. Grass only on the roof, which is evidently</p>

Ref no.	Type	Location and Access	Features	Condition
			<p>weapons.</p> <p><i>Significant features:</i> some camouflage hooks.</p>	<p>used by locals as a spot to appreciate the surrounding, views.</p> <p><i>Internal:</i> good. Layout different to standard type illustrated with large south-west facing Vickers gun embrasure and small embrasures for light weapons to front face and side face (opposite the entrance). Internal space has some graffiti and rubbish, some brickwork has been painted red. A section of the concrete base from the main embrasure appears to be missing.</p> <p><i>Threats:</i> vegetation and vandalism.</p>
<p>139 (7862)</p> <p>Defence Estate SMR (ref: HACC19)</p> <p>Hampshire SMR (ref: SU85SW 17)</p>	Vickers MG emplacement (variant)	<p>SU 81367 50405</p> <p>Located on hilltop to northwest of Ewshot village. It is one of a pair with OA138, and associated with surrounding pillboxes.</p> <p>Easily accessed from a footpath running across the grassland linking the barracks to Ewshot.</p>	<p>Square medium gun emplacement dug into hill. Clay brick external with reinforced concrete core. External detached blast wall opposite entrance, with five steps leading down to entrance.</p> <p>Large embrasure facing south-west for Vickers gun, with field of fire sloping down to Ewshot Lane. Two side embrasures for lighter weapons.</p>	<p>Overall Condition: Fair</p> <p><i>External:</i> heavily overgrown with vegetation making assessment problematic. The brickwork surrounding the entrance has become dislodged exposing the concrete core on the main emplacement and blast wall. It is also possible to see that brickwork has become dislodged around the area of the main embrasure. Considerable vegetation including scrubs surrounding the structure, which may be impacting the emplacement's structural integrity. Grass only on the roof, which is evidently used by locals as a spot to appreciate</p>

Ref no.	Type	Location and Access	Features	Condition
				<p>the surrounding, views.</p> <p><i>Internal:</i> good. Layout different to standard type illustrated with large south-west facing Vickers gun embrasure and small embrasures for light weapons to front face and side face (opposite the entrance). Internal space has some graffiti and rubbish. Some render surrounding the rear embrasure has deteriorated.</p> <p><i>Threats:</i> vegetation and vandalism.</p>
140 (6795)	Type 24 pillbox	<p>SU 81458 50329</p> <p>Situated within the area sloping south-east towards Ewshot village.</p> <p>The pillbox is located on the east edge of the ridge overlooking Ewshot, between pillbox OA141 and the two Vickers emplacements (OA138 and OA139). It is situated close to a well trodden path within a wooded area.</p>	<p>Sunken brick shuttered pillbox with reinforced concrete core facing north-east. It has been dug into the edge of the ridge with steps leading down at entrance. Internal brick anti-ricochet wall.</p> <p><i>Significant features</i> – camouflage hooks (7) to rear faces</p>	<p>Overall Condition: Fair/ Good</p> <p><i>External:</i> considerable external vegetation but the pillbox is readily accessible and visible. Vegetation is visible growing on top of the pillbox including scrubs. The brick skin has deteriorated considerably, the inner concrete core is visible.</p> <p><i>Internal:</i> very good</p> <p><i>Threats:</i> vegetation.</p>

Ref no.	Type	Location and Access	Features	Condition
141 (16930)	Type 24 pillbox	<p>SU 81553 50270</p> <p>Situated within the area sloping south-east towards Ewshot village.</p> <p>The pillbox is located directly above the recreation ground, and is easily accessible via the ground's car park.</p>	<p>Sunken brick shuttered pillbox facing south-west with reinforced concrete core. There are two steps down to internal space at entrance. Internal brick anti-ricochet wall.</p> <p><i>Significant features</i> – camouflage hooks (14), and internal hooks visible to recessed areas within embrasure.</p>	<p>Overall Condition: Fair/ Good</p> <p><i>External:</i> Considerable external vegetation, in particular ivy. The brickwork survives in reasonable condition, although the outer skin is no longer extant in the south-east corner, and it is possible to see the internal core beneath. Large tree growing in close proximity which ultimately will compromise the structural integrity of the pillbox. There is some graffiti to the front face, although this is limited and could easily be removed.</p> <p><i>Internal:</i> very good condition, although one embrasure has been damaged.</p>
142 (9819) Hampshire SMR ref: SU85SW 59	Type 24 pillbox	<p>SU 81454 50181</p> <p>Situated on a bank directly overlooking the road. It is on the north side of Dare's Lane, west of Ewshot village.</p> <p>The pillbox is visible from the road, but not easily accessible. It is situated behind a barbwire fence on the edge of the field,</p>	<p>Sunken brick shuttered pillbox facing south, with reinforced concrete core. Internal brick anti-ricochet wall.</p> <p><i>Significant features</i> – internal timber shelf. Two full and one half hatch covers to front embrasures.</p>	<p>Overall Condition: Good</p> <p><i>External:</i> considerable vegetation, particularly ivy, but the pillbox is visible from the road. Vegetation is growing on top of the pillbox including scrubs and a small tree that will ultimately impact the structural integrity of the pillbox. Currently the brickwork is in good condition, with only minor loss to the face of some bricks.</p> <p><i>Internal:</i> very good</p>

Ref no.	Type	Location and Access	Features	Condition
		with no paths running in close proximity.		<i>Threats:</i> vegetation.
143 (16741)	Vickers MG emplacement	<p>SU 81134 50536</p> <p>One of two emplacements (with OA144) adjacent to Riddings Copse. Close proximity to pillbox OA152 on the south-east edge of the copse.</p> <p>Located on hilltop position above Ewshot Lane.</p> <p>Access visible via grassland, but structure is so heavily covered in vegetation it is difficult to appreciate. The two emplacements are visible from Ewshot Lane.</p>	<p>Square medium gun emplacement sunk low in the ground facing south with detached blast wall. Clay brick external with chamfered edges, reinforced concrete core.</p> <p>Large embrasure facing west for Vickers gun, with field of fire converging with that of adjacent emplacement (OA144). Also converged on enigmatic earthwork (see Figs 2 & 5). Two side embrasures for lighter weapons.</p> <p><i>Significant features</i> - camouflage hooks on front face (more possible).</p>	<p>Overall Condition: Fair</p> <p><i>External:</i> Overgrown predominantly with nettles and brambles compromising external assessment. Brick erosion evident particularly at entrance and on blast wall with concrete core visible. Grass growing on roof.</p> <p><i>Internal:</i> very good. Layout different to standard type illustrated with large west facing Vickers gun embrasure and small embrasures for light weapons.</p> <p><i>Threats:</i> vegetation.</p>
144 (16742)	Vickers MG emplacement	<p>SU 81129 50530</p> <p>One of two emplacements (with OA143) adjacent to Riddings Copse. Close</p>	<p>Square medium gun emplacement sunk low in the ground facing south with detached blast wall. Clay brick external with chamfered edges,</p>	<p>Overall Condition: Fair</p> <p><i>External:</i> Overgrown predominantly with nettles and brambles but also some bushes, compromising external assessment. Brick erosion evident</p>

Ref no.	Type	Location and Access	Features	Condition
		<p>proximity to pillbox OA152 on the south-east edge of the copse.</p> <p>Located on hilltop position in grassland above Ewshot Lane.</p> <p>Access visible via grassland, but structure is so heavily covered in vegetation it is difficult to appreciate.</p>	<p>reinforced concrete core.</p> <p>Field of fire converging with that of adjacent emplacement (OA143). Also converged on enigmatic earthwork (Fig. 2 & 5)</p> <p><i>Significant features:</i> camouflage hooks on front face (more possible) and internal hook on embrasure evident.</p>	<p>surrounding emplacement but particularly at entrance and on blast wall. Concrete core visible beneath. Grass growing on roof.</p> <p><i>Internal:</i> very good. Layout different to standard type illustrated with large west facing Vickers gun embrasure and small embrasure for light weapons to north and east.</p> <p><i>Threats:</i> vegetation.</p>
<p>145 (7850)</p> <p>Defence Estate SMR (ref: HACCO8)</p> <p>Hampshire SMR (ref: SU85SW 43)</p>	Type 24 Pillbox	<p>SU 80956 50487</p> <p>Located at bottom south-west corner of Riddings Copse directly adjacent to path behind fence.</p> <p>Pillbox is clearly visible from adjacent path running along the southern edge of Riddings Copse.</p>	<p>Sunken brick shuttered pillbox facing south with reinforced concrete core. There are three steps down at the entrance. Internal brick anti-ricochet wall.</p> <p><i>Significant features:</i> two hatch covers.</p>	<p>Overall condition: Good</p> <p><i>External:</i> considerable vegetation growing on roof including scrubs, small trees and ivy. Surrounding vegetation has evidently been cleared, but small trees and vegetation remain next to external face. These will ultimately impact its structural integrity. Some erosion of outer brick skin, particularly below roof, but generally bricks survive comparatively well.</p> <p><i>Internal:</i> very good. Structure not flooded, but evidently has been subject to flooding.</p> <p><i>Threats:</i> vegetation and flooding.</p>

Ref no.	Type	Location and Access	Features	Condition
<p>147 (7849)</p> <p>Defence Estate SMR (ref: HACCO7)</p> <p>Hampshire SMR (ref: SU85SW 52)</p>	Type 24 pillbox	<p>SU 80875 50587</p> <p>Located at top south-west corner of Riddings Copse. It is set back c.5m from path running along southern edge of Copse, it is therefore less visible than other examples situated along the Copse's edge.</p>	<p>Sunken brick shuttered pillbox facing south-west with reinforced concrete core. There are two steps down to internal space at entrance. Internal brick anti-ricochet wall.</p> <p><i>Significant features</i> : one hatch cover.</p>	<p>Overall condition: Fair</p> <p><i>External:</i> considerable vegetation growing on roof including bushes, small trees and ivy compromising the pillboxes structural integrity. In particular a tree growing on the roof has caused considerable root damage, causing dislodging of bricks. Elsewhere structural cracks are visible on the brickwork. Small trees and vegetation remain next to external face, which will also impact the pillbox.</p> <p><i>Internal:</i> very good. Structure not flooded, but evidently has been subject to considerable flooding.</p> <p><i>Threats:</i> vegetation and flooding.</p>
<p>148 (7845)</p> <p>Defence Estate SMR (ref: HACCO3)</p> <p>Hampshire SMR (ref: SU85SW 48)</p>	Type 24 pillbox	<p>SU 80965 50687</p> <p>Situated roughly centrally on the north-west edge of Riddings Copse, adjacent to field.</p>	<p>Sunken brick shuttered pillbox facing south with reinforced concrete core. There are two steps down to internal space at entrance. Internal brick anti-ricochet wall.</p> <p><i>Significant features:</i> all hatch covers remains <i>in situ</i> and some camouflage</p>	<p>Overall condition: Good</p> <p><i>External:</i> vegetation growing around pillbox and on roof, although mostly brambles and grass. Bricks in good condition, with limited degradation.</p> <p><i>Internal:</i> very good. Structure not flooded, but evidently is subject to flooding.</p>

Ref no.	Type	Location and Access	Features	Condition
			hooks (5).	<i>Threats:</i> vegetation and flooding.
149 (7848) Defence Estate SMR (ref: HACC06) Hampshire SMR (ref: SU85SW 51)	Type 24 pillbox	SU 81074 50786 Situating on the north-west edge of Riddings Copse at the north corner, adjacent to path and field. It is one of three pillboxes situated along this line (with OA150 and OA151).	Sunken brick shuttered pillbox facing south with reinforced concrete core. There are two steps down to internal space at entrance. Internal brick anti-ricochet wall. <i>Significant features</i> – camouflage hooks (6+).	Overall condition: Good <i>External:</i> vegetation growing around pillbox and on roof, including some scrub and ivy. Bricks in good condition, with some degradation around roof level. <i>Internal:</i> very good. Structure not flooded, but evidently is subject to flooding. <i>Threats:</i> vegetation and flooding.
150 (7846) Defence Estate SMR (ref: HACC04) Hampshire SMR (ref: SU85SW 49)	Type 24 pillbox	SU 81088 50780 Located on the north-east edge of Riddings Copse just below the north corner, adjacent to path and field. It is one of three pillboxes situated along this line (with OA151 and OA149).	Sunken brick shuttered pillbox facing north-east with reinforced concrete core. There are two steps down to internal space at entrance. Internal brick anti-ricochet wall. <i>Significant features</i> – camouflage hooks (6+).	Overall condition: Fair <i>External:</i> considerable vegetation growing around pillbox and on roof, including some ivy. This has evidently been cleared in recent past, but has caused bricks to become dislodged exposing concrete core beneath. The ground level evidently naturally built up around the pillbox, with large trees growing in close proximity. <i>Internal:</i> did not enter <i>Threats:</i> vegetation and flooding.

Ref no.	Type	Location and Access	Features	Condition
<p>151 (7847)</p> <p>Defence Estate SMR (ref: HACC05)</p> <p>Hampshire SMR (ref: SU85SW 50)</p>	Type 24 pillbox	<p>SU 81142 50721</p> <p>Located roughly centrally on the north-east edge of Riddings Copse, adjacent to path and field. It is one of three pillboxes situated along this line (with OA150 and OA149).</p>	<p>Sunken brick shuttered pillbox facing north-east with reinforced concrete core. There are two steps down to internal space at entrance. Internal brick anti-ricochet wall.</p>	<p>Overall condition: Fair</p> <p><i>External:</i> considerable vegetation growing around pillbox and on roof, which is mostly brambles and ivy. This has been cleared in recent past with a large tree stump evident along the external face. The outer brick skin is no longer extant in places below roof level, with the concrete core visible beneath. The ground level has evidently naturally built up around the pillbox, with large trees growing in close proximity.</p> <p><i>Internal:</i> very good.</p> <p><i>Threats:</i> vegetation and flooding.</p>

Ref no.	Type	Location and Access	Features	Condition
152 (7851) Defence Estate SMR (ref: HACC09) Hampshire SMR (ref: SU85SW 60)	Type 24 pillbox	SU 81090 50582 Located at the south-east edge of Riddings Copse immediately behind fence. Faces south-east along edge of wood. Clearly visible from the path running immediately to the south-east, and close to Vickers Emplacements (OA143 & 144). Vegetation has been cleared surrounding pillbox allowing easy access.	Brick shuttered pillbox with reinforced concrete core. Internal brick anti-ricochet wall. <i>Significant features</i> - camouflage hooks extant on front face. Concentration of fire would have been the same as Vickers Gun emplacements (OA143 & OA144) trained on earthwork (Fig.2 & 5)	Overall condition: Fair/ Good <i>External:</i> Bricks are friable particularly below roof level. In places bricks are no longer extant and it is possible to see the internal concrete core of the structure. Vegetation growing on top of the pillbox including ivy and scrub. <i>Internal condition:</i> very good. Structure not flooded, but evidently has been subject to flooding. <i>Threats:</i> vegetation, flooding.
153 (7863) Defence Estate SMR (ref: HACC20) Hampshire SMR (ref: SU85SW 18)	Type 24 pillbox	SU 8160 5018 This pillbox is outside the SANGS area, but as been included because of its very visible location for interpretation. The pillbox is built into the bank at the junction of Church and Tadpole lanes. A modern house has been built above it, which has incorporated	Brick shuttered pillbox facing west, with reinforced concrete core. The rear of the pillbox is within the garden and has presumably been covered with top soil <i>Significant features</i> – the pillbox is of interest as a quirky secondary use of such structures, and its retention reflects an appreciation of the	Overall condition: Poor <i>External:</i> only the front elevation survives with an embrasure overlooking the road. A small section of the side elevation survives with part of an embrasure visible, although the brickwork is truncated by a layer of concrete. The surviving brickwork appears to be in good condition. <i>Internal condition:</i> poor. The rear of the pillbox has been incorporated within the garden. The rear and internal space may

Ref no.	Type	Location and Access	Features	Condition
		<p>the structure into the garden.</p> <p>The pillbox is very visible at the junction of two roads, but no accessible on private land.</p>	<p>architecture and function.</p>	<p>survive buried below the garden top soil.</p> <p><i>Threats:</i> the face of the pillbox is clear of vegetation. There are flowers growing within the garden but these are unlikely to damage the surviving pillbox.</p>
154 (not identified as part of the Defence of Britain project)	Type 24 pillbox	<p>SU 481850 150457</p> <p>The pillbox is built into the bank directly facing Tadpole Lane, but it is quite sunken and overgrown and not easily visible from the road.</p>	<p>Sunken brick shuttered pillbox facing Tadpole Lane with steps leading down. Reinforced concrete core, with internal brick anti-ricochet wall.</p>	<p><i>External:</i> the pillbox is overgrown, with trees growing in close proximity that will ultimately undermine the structural integrity of the pillbox. The brickwork appears to survive in good condition. The surrounding earth level appears to have heightened since construction. There is also vegetation growing from the roof including scrubs.</p> <p><i>Internal condition:</i> not entered entirely because debris (timber etc.) has been dumped on the floor. Initial inspection however suggests its in very good condition.</p> <p><i>Threats:</i> vegetation.</p>



6 OUTLINE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Significance

- 6.1.1 The defensive landscape of Ewshot should be considered to be of national significance. This is in part attributed to the important defensive role of the area in the Second World War, in particular its relationship to Stop Line A, as well as the survival of the defensive structures. The condition, density and variety of military installations within the area are exceptional and the landscape survives much as it did during the 1940s. The area communicates its defensive use, and the relationship between the structures is easily understood. It is this quality, rather than the individual significance of the structures, which chiefly determines the national significance of the area.
- 6.1.2 The types of structures identified are not unique; Type-24 pillboxes are common especially in southern England. The especially-designed variant of Vickers gun emplacement is rare however and it is particularly unusual to find four in close proximity. The structures generally survive in very good condition, often with surviving features such as hatches, which commonly are no longer extant.

6.2 Recording

- 6.2.1 To ensure a record of the structures is made for posterity, it is recommended that the structures are recorded to Level 2 in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (EH 2006). This programme of recording should also consider the wider landscape in which the structures are set, and their defensive role within this. It should investigate the relationships between structures, areas and key features such as the GHQ lines and anti-tank ditches. It should also consider the relationship of the area to the surrounding military landscape, in particular the defensive landscape of Chequers Bridge.
- 6.2.2 This programme of recording should entail field survey and desk-based research to gain a more in-depth understanding of the landscape, and resolve outstanding research questions. Desk-based research should be undertaken using aerial photographs, cartographic and documentary sources at appropriate record offices (for example the National Archives, the National Monuments Record Centre and local archives). A programme of oral testimony might enhance understanding of the landscape during the time of use. The 1940/1 anti-invasion defences are an area of Second World War military construction where knowledge of the form and purpose of these works seems to have been lost most quickly. An oral history account where information relating to the construction of the military installations, how the locals felt about them etc. would be of value.
- 6.2.3 Particular outstanding research questions which the programme of recording should seek to resolve include:
- The role of the defensive landscape - although various Operation Instructions and Defence Schemes for the South Aldershot Sub-Area survive for 1940-1941, there is no reference within them to the defence of these areas north-west of Ewshot and in rear of GHQ Line 'A'. They are neither allocated to the Field Army or the Home Guard as defended localities. It is likely that the defence works were, in fact, constructed later in 1941 and 1942 for the greater protection of the barracks a short distance to the north at Church Crookham. Riddings Copse was defended on all sides, and appears to have had an important role within Aldershot Command, although what that is at present is not understood.

- The role of the earthworks located to the north-east of Riddings Copse - the line of fire of Vickers emplacements OA143 and OA144 converges on these earthworks but the reason for this is not understood.

6.2.4 The research should also consider military structures within the broader landscape, which are not directly related to the defensive area, but will provide an holistic understanding of the landscape during the Second World War. Features that have been identified but not recorded as part of this study include the air raid shelters on Naishes Lane and the possible training trenches within a wooded area close to Naishes Lane. This features should be further investigated and also recorded at Level 2 (EH 2006). The air raid shelters survive as truncated earthworks but preliminary investigations suggest the main layout and the entrance to the shelters are evident. A programme of oral history research would also greatly enhance understanding of the use of the shelters, and the experiences of the local community during this period of our national history.

6.3 Condition and Maintenance

6.3.1 The threats identified to the structures include: vegetation, flooding and vandalism, of these vegetation is the most pressing threat. Many of the installations are overgrown which is inhibiting interpretation and, more importantly, causing significant damage to the fabric of the structures. Vegetation should be cut back surrounding the pillboxes and on the roof. Shrubs and trees growing in close proximity to the external face of the structures should also be removed which may impact the foundations of the structures. Such vegetation is evidently causing the deterioration of brickwork, in particular where it has grown between the external brick face and the inner concrete core. It is important following initial removal of vegetation that regular clearance is continued. It is recommended that a management programme should be established to ensure that a maintenance programme is set in place.

In many structures, the concrete core of the structures has been exposed where the brickwork is no longer *in situ*. This vulnerable brickwork needs to be consolidated to prevent further deterioration, and ensure the structures do not present a risk to visitors. This consolidation may involve the rebuilding of dislodged brickwork and consolidation of deteriorated areas with original bricks found on the floor, or rebuilt using bricks of a similar type. A second option would be to consolidate the brickwork as existing leaving the concrete core exposed. This has the advantage of showing the construction of the defence structures, which may be related to an interpretation board if appropriate.

6.3.2 Many of the structures are sunken which has led to flooding and, although there is little that can be done to prevent this, visitors should be made aware of the issue and encouraged to visit during summer months.

6.3.3 Vandalism of the structures is relatively minor, but is most evident within those that are more accessible. These include the two Vickers emplacements (OA138 and OA139), and the pillbox close to the recreation ground (OA 141). Existing graffiti and debris should be removed, and the removal of graffiti should be included within the programme of maintenance discussed above.

6.4 Access

6.4.1 The structures are situated within a fairly populated area and therefore they are likely to be visited by reasonable numbers of people from the local community, and easily accessible by others. The field survey showed that the pillboxes are regularly visited, even those that are less easily accessible in Riddings Copse had obvious paths. The



most visited structures are those above Ewshot which are easily accessed from the public footpath running between the former barracks and Ewshot. Ideally the local community and those with an interest in our military history should continue to be able to access and appreciate the structures.

- 6.4.2 Internal inspection of the pillboxes greatly aids understanding as one is able to appreciate lines of sights, the defensive relationship between structures and the landscape as well as envisage their military use. Structures should therefore remain open for investigation if possible. An alternative would be to install bars over openings to prevent access, but ensure they are open and ventilated. A policy whereby some structures are left accessible and others not could also be adopted and in this event those structures that remain open should be good examples which are easily accessible (see interpretation section below). If all structures are made internally inaccessible a policy should be adopted whereby pillboxes and emplacements should be made open on designated and publicised dates, so that those with a particular interest may fully appreciate their functionality.

6.5 Outreach

- 6.5.1 Defence Area 34 is of established significance and of evident interest to the community. The density, good condition and accessibility of structures provides an excellent opportunity to communicate the defence role of this landscape in the local and national context. It is recommended that interpretation boards are placed in key places to enable interpretation of the landscape and structures; these should be placed at key viewpoints and outside key structures or groups of structures. The location of these boards should be given consideration taking into account significance and accessibility; there is little value placing a board outside a significant but inaccessible structure.
- 6.5.2 The area directly to the north-west of Ewshot meets the criteria of being accessible and significant. The Vickers emplacements are of established significance, and any interpretation should include these features. Those above Ewshot have the advantage of being easily accessible from the public footpath, as well as having group value with pillboxes in close proximity. Pillbox OA137 is immediately next to the emplacements and pillboxes OA136, OA140 and OA141 are close and easily accessible from established paths. OA136 in particular survives in good condition, and OA141 is directly above the recreation ground and very accessible. Suggested locations for interpretation boards are: the recreation ground car-park, a key viewpoint looking up to the defensive structures within the village, outside a pillbox and next to the emplacements.
- 6.5.3 The area around Riddings Copse is of equal significance and interpretation boards should also be placed within this area. The local community have established a path running between the Vickers emplacements, and an interpretation board would also be well placed at this key point. In close proximity to the emplacements are pillboxes OA152 and OA145, which are very visible from the path running adjacent to Riddings Copse and have group value with the two Vickers emplacements. OA148 is arguably the best surviving example of a pillbox in the area, however it is less accessible.
- 6.5.4 A 'pillbox trail' could easily be established within the two areas, which could link in with the interpretation boards. The trail could be downloadable as a PDF from a webpage that also explains the history and significance of the area. The use of mobile apps is becoming an increasingly popular method in interpretation, and this option should also be explored.
- 6.5.5 There has been discussion over the potential to create a 'time-capsule' by putting items within a pillbox and burying it for future generations. Whilst the idea of placing items for



the discovery of future generations is an attractive one, and would facilitate involvement of the local community, particularly schools, the pillboxes should be retained as a visible presence in the landscape. Each structure has a connection with other defence structures, and the visible retention of the structures facilitates understanding of their defence role within the landscape. A time-capsule box could be dug into the earth, within close proximity to one of the structures, for future generations to enjoy.



7 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Published Sources

Foot (2006) 'Beaches, fields, streets and hills: the anti-invasion landscape of England, 1940'

English Heritage (2006) *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*

Unpublished Resources

Oxford Archaeology (2004) *Queen Elizabeth Barracks: Desk-based Assessment*

Oxford Archaeology (2010) *Queen Elizabeth Barracks: Environmental Statement*

Websites

Archaeology Dataservice (accessed August 2013)
<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/dob/index.cfm>

Pillbox Study Group (accessed August 2013)

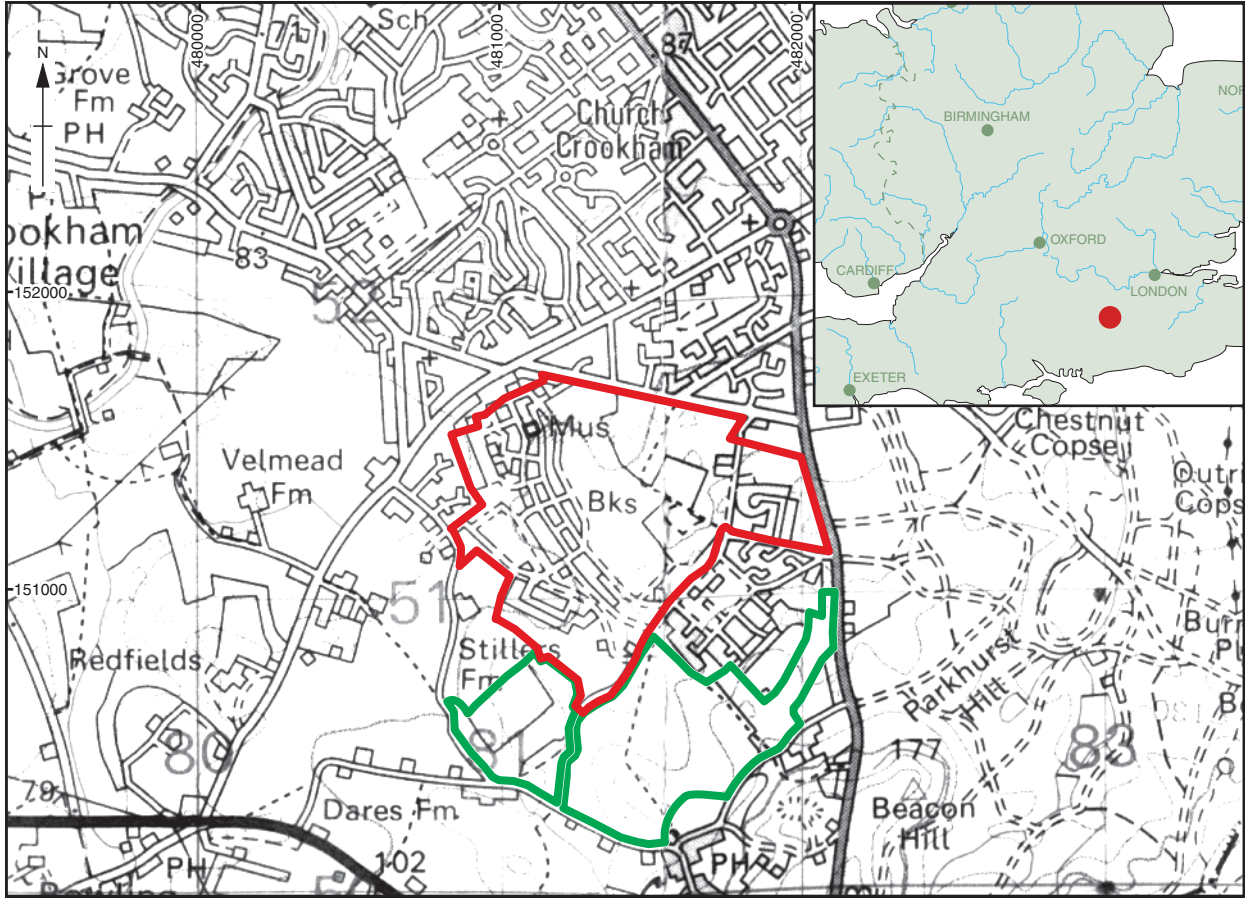
<http://www.pillbox-study-group.org.uk/>



8 APPENDIX 1

English Heritage criteria used to assess significance of Defence Areas

- Areas representing a particular coherent defence construction (e.g - the GHQ line)
- Areas with good surviving documentary (or published) sources
- Areas with good inter-visibility, where the defence works can be seen within clear viewsheds
- Areas with very good survival of defence works, enabling them to be understood easily within their landscape context
- Areas with differing types of defence works
- Areas including rare types of defence works
- Areas including rare types of defence works
- Areas representing the different strategies of anti-invasion defence.



Reproduced from the Landranger 1:50,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
© Crown Copyright 1988. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 100005569

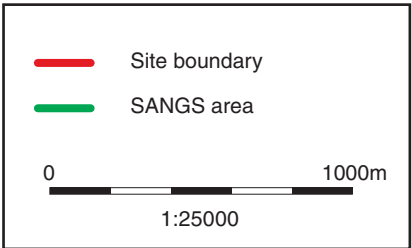


Figure 1: Site location

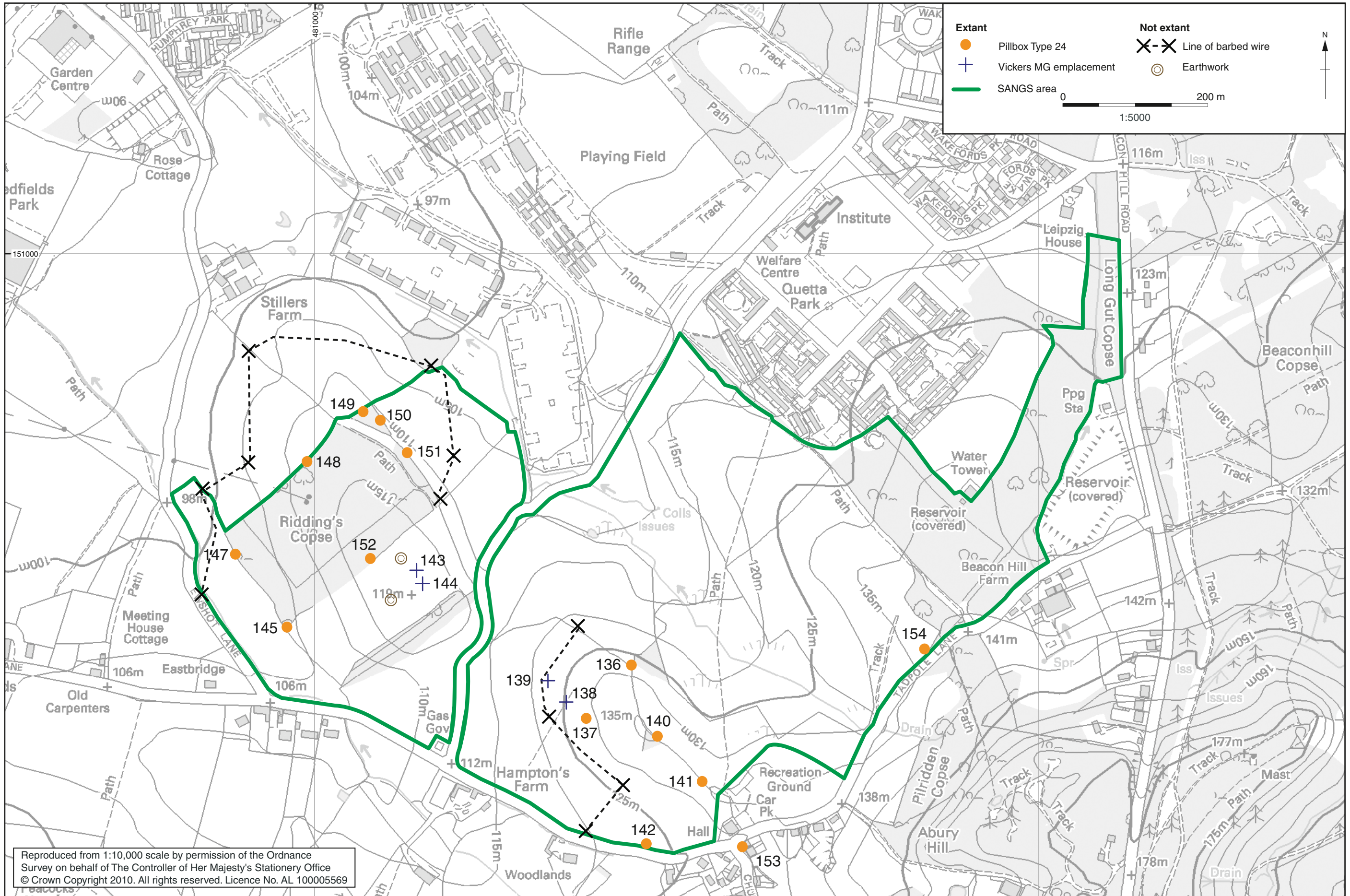


Figure 2: Locations of defence structures

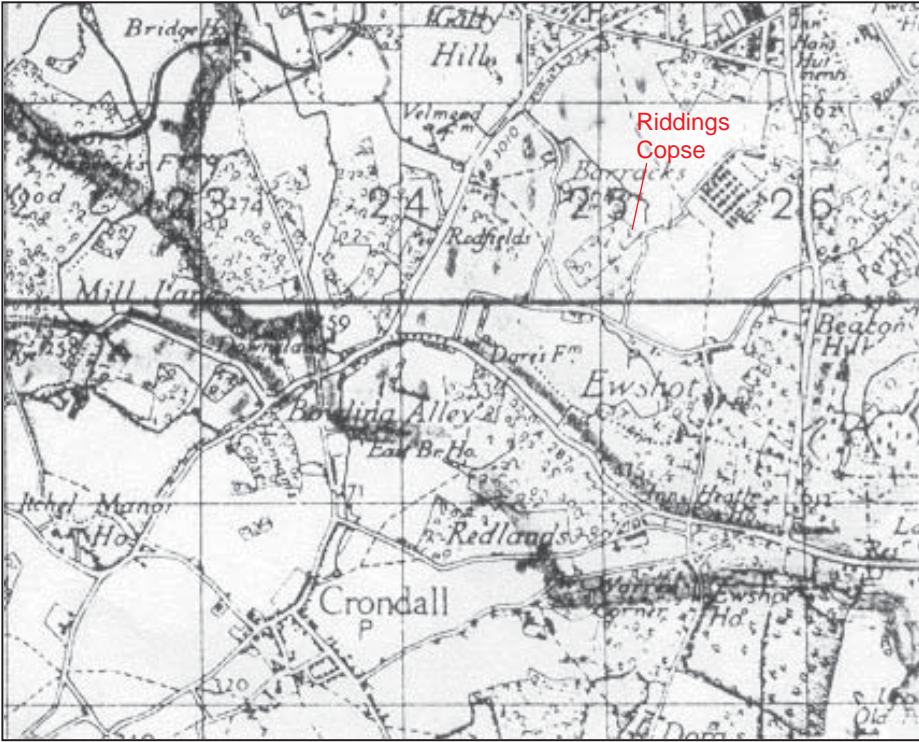


Figure 3: Aldershot Command Map (1940) showing course (dark line) of GHQ line A. (Reproduced from Defence Areas Project)

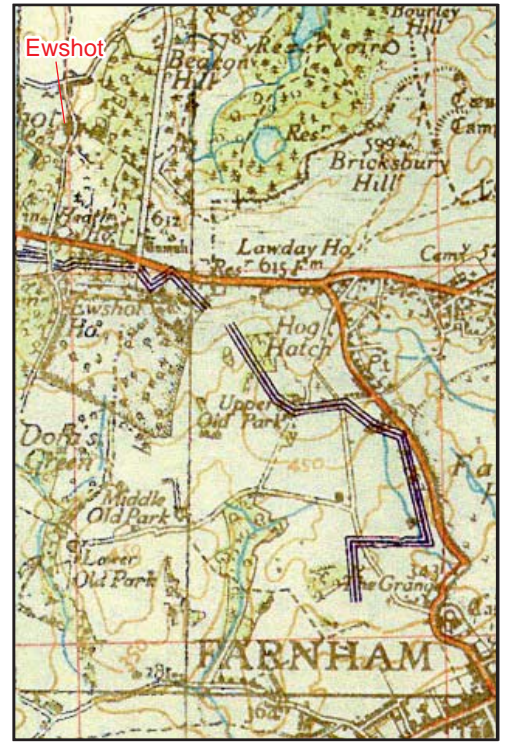


Figure 4: German map showing course of anti-tank ditch (dark line) to south-east of defence area. (Reproduced from Defence Areas Project)

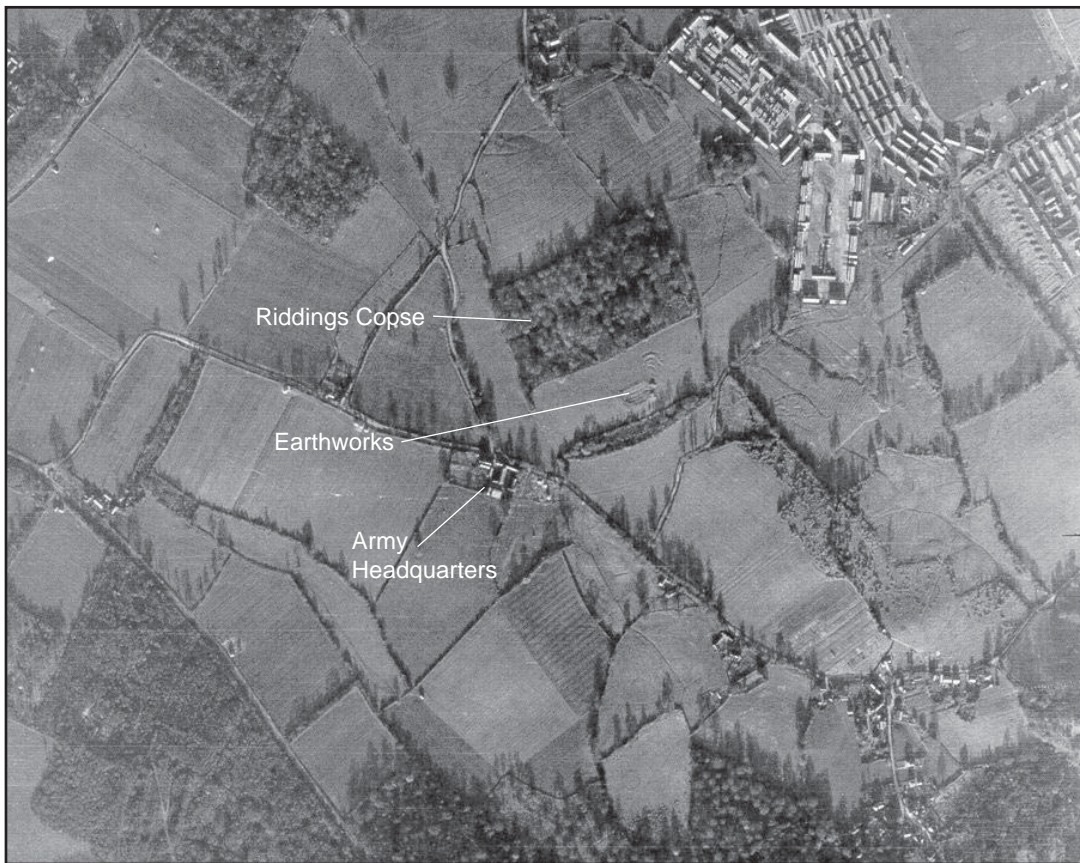


Figure 5: 1945 aerial photograph showing the defence area. (Reproduced from Defence Areas Project)



Plate 1: Type 24 pillbox (OA148)



Plate 2: Type 24 pillbox, side elevation (OA152)



Plate 3: Type 24 pillbox, entrance (OA141)



Plate 4: Type 24 pillbox, embrasure (OA152)



Plate 5: Type 24 pillbox, internal view showing anti-ricochet wall to left and embrasures to right (with hatch visible) (OA142)



Plate 6: Type 24 pillbox, camouflage hook (OA152)



Plate 7: Type 24 pillbox, hatch (OA147)



Plate 8: Vickers gun emplacement (OA139) (taken in 2010 survey)



Plate 9: Vickers gun emplacement, stepped embrasure (OA138) (taken in 2010 survey)



Plate 10: Vickers gun emplacement, blast wall (OA 144)



Plate 11: Vickers gun emplacement, internal gun table (OA144)



Plate 12: Vickers gun emplacement, air vent in rear wall (OA144)



Plate 13: Pair of Vickers gun emplacements (OA 138 and 139) (taken in 2010 survey)



Plate 14: Type 24 pillbox, incorporated within a garden (OA153)



Plate 15: Type 24 pillbox, showing exposed concrete core (OA152)



Plate 16: Type 24 pillbox, showing exposed concrete core (OA136)



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MIFA
*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*