



Walney Island

PHASE I CONSERVATION STATEMENT

Issue 4

October 2015



**MORECAMBE BAY
PARTNERSHIP**



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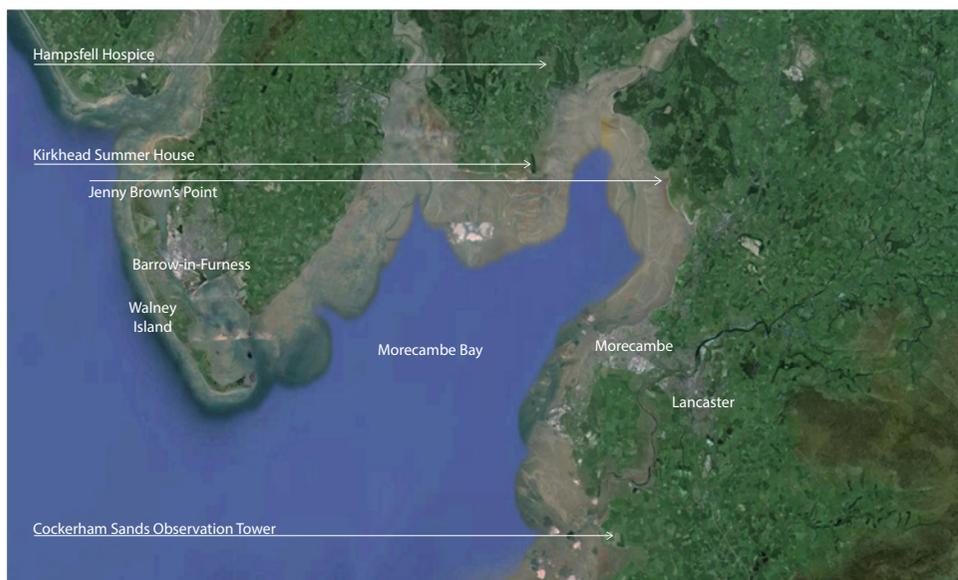
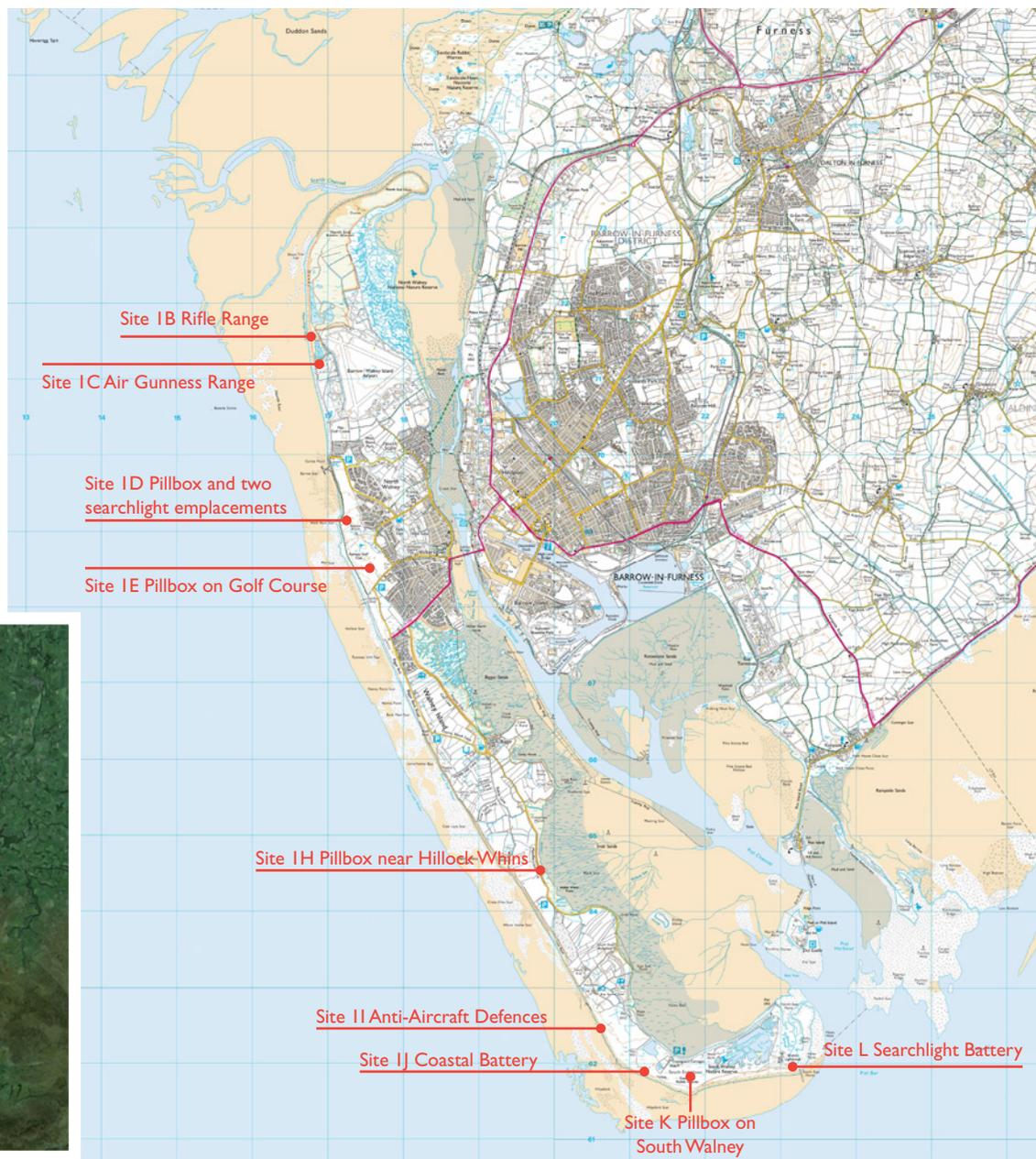
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Location of Walney Island sites. (Copyright Ordnance Survey. Mapping provided by Cumbria County Council for use by Morecambe Bay Partnership under licence 100019596)

I INTRODUCTION

I.1 REASON FOR THE CONSERVATION STATEMENTS

Morecambe Bay Partnership has commissioned Purcell to undertake built heritage conservation statements for five areas/sites around Morecambe Bay. This programme of work will support the delivery of the Headlands to Headspace (H2H) Landscape Partnership Scheme Project 1 (Built Heritage and Lookouts), allowing for conservation and consolidation proposals of key built heritage sites to be taken forward.

I.2 HOW THE CONSERVATION STATEMENTS FIT INTO THE H2H SCHEME

The Conservation Statements will combine work already undertaken for H2H (principally the feasibility studies produced for the sites by Greenlane Archaeology) to detail the history of each site, significance and conservation issues.

The Conservation Statements will follow a two phase approach. The initial reports at the end of phase 1 will provide an assessment to determine which sites are significant enough and viable to be taken forward to phase 2. Phase 2 will involve the production of full Conservation Statements for those sites being taken forward, including accurate costed proposals for the potential conservation, consolidation and interpretation of the site.

By prioritising the sites and focusing on those that can be taken forward, the process will help to achieve the four key outcomes of H2H, which are to:

- Conserve and protect Morecambe Bay's rich natural and cultural heritage
- Involve the Bay's communities in all aspects of this scheme
- Provide significantly improved access for all audiences to the key natural and cultural heritage sites
- Provide training

I.3 AUTHORSHIP

This Conservation Statement has been prepared by Purcell, a firm of conservation architects and heritage consultants. Specifically it has been prepared by Nicholas Meny, MA (Hons), Heritage Consultant and Matthew Dyer, BA (Hons), BArch, ADPPA, RIBA, Senior Architect.

I.4 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This report will cover nine separate, but interlinked, sites on Walney Island. It will consider each structure/site in its own right, how it fits in with related sites and structures as well as the wider setting and remnants of First and Second World War structures across Walney. As a phase 1 report, it will provide a summary understanding of the structures, will discuss their setting in order to put them into their physical and historical context and will include an initial assessment of suitability with a commentary on condition and potential future uses. This will inform the conclusion as to whether it is appropriate to take the sites forward to the full conservation statement stage.

I.5 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The initial stages of the work involved gathering readily available information to present a background to the sites. This included site surveys where the structures were inspected and photographic evidence taken of each site. This physical evidence was supplemented by documentary evidence gathered at the Cumbria Archive Service's local archive centres in Kendal and Barrow-in-Furness and the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). The North West Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment (NWRCA), carried out between August 2007 and September 2009 by Archaeological Research Services on behalf of English Heritage and available online, was also consulted. Additional primary and secondary sources were provided by Louise Martin, Morecambe Bay Partnership and Louise Parkinson, Archaeological Consultant.

2 SUMMARY UNDERSTANDING

2.1 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK AND STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS

None of the structures being considered here are listed or scheduled. As such, they can be considered as non-designated heritage assets. Local planning authorities may identify non-designated heritage assets. These are buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions but which are not formally designated heritage assets.

The National Planning Policy Framework identifies two categories of non-designated site of archaeological interest:

(1) Those that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments and are therefore considered subject to the same policies as those for designated heritage assets (National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph 139). They are of three types:

- those that have yet to be formally assessed for designation
- those that have been assessed as being nationally important and therefore, capable of designation, but which the Secretary of State has exercised his discretion not to designate usually because they are given the appropriate level of protection under national planning policy
- those that are incapable of being designated by virtue of being outside the scope of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 because of their physical nature

(2) Other non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest. By comparison this is a much larger category of lesser heritage significance, although still subject to the conservation objective. On occasion the understanding of a site may change following assessment and evaluation prior to a planning decision and move it from this category to the first.

Where an asset is thought to have archaeological interest, the potential knowledge which may be unlocked by investigation may be harmed even by minor disturbance, because the context in which archaeological evidence is found is crucial to furthering understanding.

South Walney is protected by a number of national and international natural heritage designations, including the South Walney & Piel Channel Flats Site of Special Scientific Interest, Morecambe Bay Special Protection Area and Ramsar Site.

NATIONAL AND LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

National planning policy relating to heritage is contained within Chapter 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework, which can be accessed via this link: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf.

Local planning policy is contained within the Cumbria County Council Plan 2014-2017. It can be accessed in full via the council's website at <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/ourfuture/councilplan.asp>.

The Barrow Area Plan 2014-2017 describes how the council's priorities will be delivered across the area. It can also be accessed via the council's website: <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/community/areaplans.asp>

2.2 MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE AND USE TODAY

The land use, ownership, management and maintenance varies across the island. In the north, the Duddon Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest is managed by Natural England, with the land being owned by BAE Systems. Furness Golf Course occupies a central position on the island, towards its western shores and the land is owned by the committee. The Pillbox near Hillock Whins sits on privately owned land just off Mawflat Lane. South Walney is owned by Holker Estate and the South Walney Nature Reserve is managed by the Cumbria Wildlife Trust.

The only structures still in use are the hide on South Walney (site K) and one of the Concrete Coastal Artillery Searchlights (site L), which is used for storage and has a movable hide on its roof, although this is now out of use for safety reasons.

Although spread out across rugged terrain, most of the sites are accessible to the public. The exceptions are those located on the golf course and Site IH, which sits on private land. The structures have not been maintained, are subject to natural processes and as such some are in dangerous condition.

2.3 LOCATION

Walney Island is an island at the western end of Morecambe Bay. The central part of the island incorporates part of the town of Barrow-in-Furness and is separated from mainland Barrow by Walney Channel. It is spanned by the Jubille Bridge.

2.4 SITE DESCRIPTION

Site IB - Rifle Range (HER No 19874): This site comprises two embankments with a gully in between. The southern of the two embankments has a concrete revetment along its north face. The northern embankment, immediately opposite is covered in dune grass. A wrought iron mechanism that raised targets on the northern embankment has been removed, with remnants of the bases of some of its post protruding from the ground.

Site IC - Air Gunners Range: The site consists of remnants of concrete platforms and walls set into a depression in the dunes near the beach. The deterioration of the concrete and encroachment of vegetation means that it is now particularly difficult to discern the original form and function of the site.

Site ID - Pillbox and two searchlight emplacements near Earnse Point (HER No 19876): An irregular hexagonal concrete pillbox is located adjacent to the 9th tee on the golf course. The south side of the pillbox is now obscured where a ramp has been grassed over and integrated into the golf course.

All of the apertures have been blocked up and therefore the interior is inaccessible. It is a Type 24 Pillbox, the most common type found in Britain. A Concrete Coastal Artillery Searchlight (CASL) emplacement to the north of the pillbox is typical of those found on Walney, with its cantilevered opening, which would have had metal shutters, now lost. To the south is its counterpart; this CASL emplacement is integrated into the golf course and its opening has been blocked up.

Site IE - Pillbox on Golf Course (HER No 19838): Further south on the golf course is another Type 24 Pillbox, with short section of detached flanking wall on its longer east side. Most of the openings have been bricked up and the interior could not be accessed, although a ricochet wall could be appreciated inside.

Site IH - Pillbox near Hillock Whins (HER No 19872): A large brick structure with flat roof is located just off Mawflat Lane. It has an opening in its west elevation and an apparently more recent flanking wall surrounds the concrete stairs to the south. There is an opening on top, which appears to have had a metal shutter. The interior of the building was inaccessible due to flooding. The structure is described in the North West Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment as a decoy control building. This is consistent with the presence of what was a bombing decoy site to the south, on the shore, which would have mimicked known target sites and drawn enemy fire.

Site II - Anti-Aircraft Defences (HER No 19858): Further research is required to clarify the form and function of these loose concrete blocks set into the beach. They appear to be holdfasts, to which anti-aircraft guns were fitted. They have iron edging and fixings in each corner, which may have been used to secure the guns. Various loose tool bits to secure and fixings were found in the vicinity of the blocks.

Site IJ - Coastal Battery (HER No 19875): The only remaining upstanding structure in the coastal battery is in very poor condition and consists of a concrete building, comprising four bays which were ammunition lockers, surrounding a large octagonal gun platform. It formed a battery of four such structures, two of the other gun platforms remain on the shoreline. There was a command building the centre of the battery but this has been demolished for safety reasons.

2 SUMMARY UNDERSTANDING

Site K - Pillbox on South Walney (HER No I9847):

Although initially included in this study as a pillbox, this structure was in fact never designed or used as a pillbox. This square building with flat roof is now used as a hide. It is of brick construction, in English garden-wall bond has two long thin openings in its south elevation, which overlook the bay. The east and west elevations have modern UPVC windows and the door is located on the north side. A tall flag pole is situated just to the north east of the building. This structure appears to have been an Observation Post similar to the one found at the centre of the golf course and was subsequently reduced to its single storey height.

Site L - Searchlight Battery (HER No 19861): The searchlight battery at the very southern tip of Walney consists of a pair of CASL emplacements consistent with those found on the golf course. The southernmost emplacement is the only one in this study that still retains its metal shutters.

2.5 SUMMARY OF SETTING AND SITE CONTEXT

The Rifle Range (IB) and Air Gunners Range (IC) in North Walney are secluded in or near dunes and are not easily found by the casual passer-by. They are probably part of a larger training facility which may have First World War origins.

Sites ID and IE are much more visible, although are now completely surrounded by the well managed golf course overlooking tees, greens and fairways.

Sites I, J, K and L are all within the South Walney Reserve and accessible to the public albeit across rugged or coastal terrain. They are part of a relatively wild landscape and subject to its natural processes.

2.6 SUMMARY HISTORY OF THE SITE

Shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War, the North End of Walney Island was requisitioned by the War Ministry, to be used as a training area for the RAF. The rifle range and air gunners range were part of a large camp that included houses, nissen huts and shelters. A large unit of the Royal Airforce was based at the airfield.¹

The pillboxes, observation posts, coastal batteries and searchlights that are spread across the island were all constructed to defend the highly significant Vickers shipyard and engineering works in Barrow-in-Furness against the Luftwaffe and possible seaborne invasion. Barrow was one of the most successful shipbuilding centres in Europe, for example the aircraft carrier HMS Indomitable was launched from there in 1940 and many submarines were constructed at the shipyard.

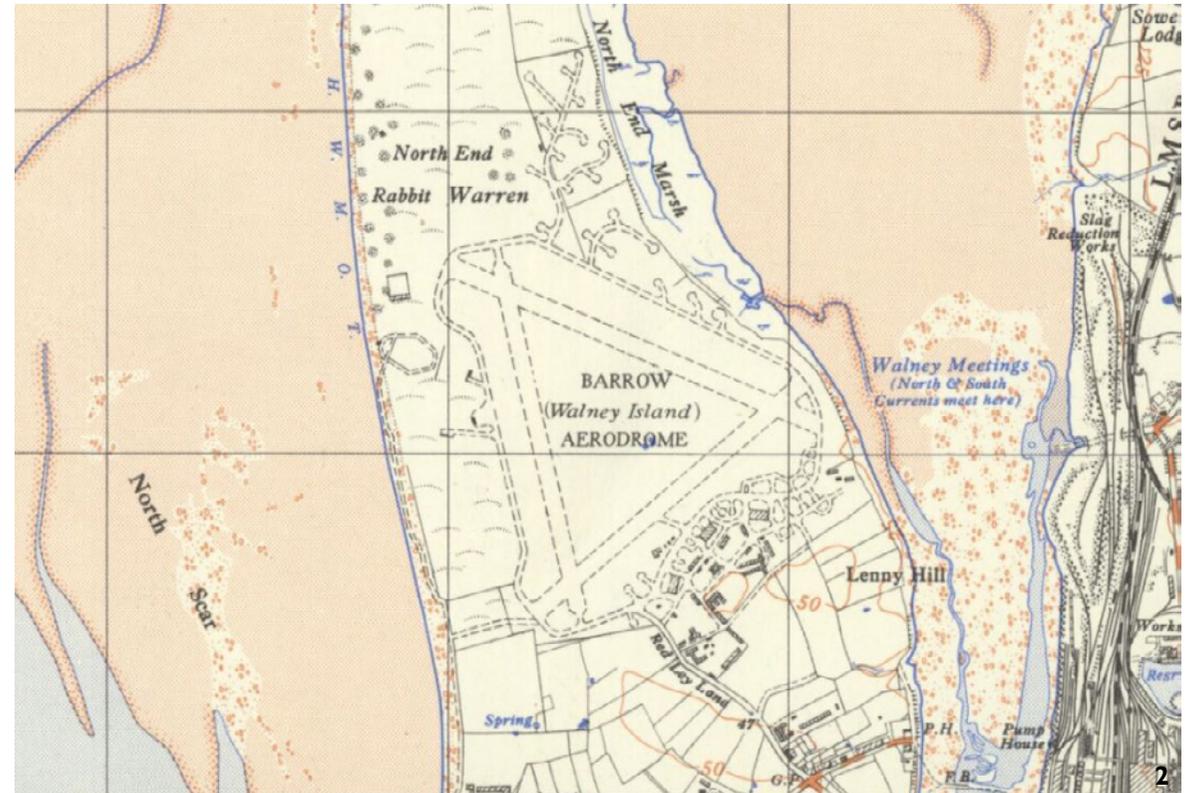
The searchlight emplacements may date from the First World War, when two forts were established on the island, Fort Walney to the north and Hilpsford Fort to the south. It is possible that they were modified for use during the Second World War and operated in conjunction with the rebuilt coastal batteries.² All that remains of the battery that was situated at the centre of what is now the golf course and operated in conjunction with the nearby CASL emplacements (site ID) is the prominent Battery Observation Post (latterly a coast guard lookout). The then decommissioned battery encampment can be seen in a photo of Walney taken in 1963. Following the war, the structures were largely abandoned and although BAE still own part of North Walney, they are now largely unmaintained and part of the nature reserves and golf course on the island.

1 Documentary Research, Building Survey and Watching Brief, Oxford Archaeology North (2007)

2 <http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~rwbarnes/>



- 1 Aerial photo of Walney Island, 26 July 1963 from RCAHMS National Collection of Aerial Photography
- 2 Walney 1952 OS and South Walney 1952 OS



3 INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The landscape of Walney Island has a great many structures that are a legacy of its wartime heritage and the strategic importance of the Barrow shipyards. Each individual site or structure is not highly significant in a national context – similar searchlight emplacements can be found around the coastline of the UK for example at Whitehaven, Workington, Langdon Bay near Dover, the Pembrokeshire coast and at Lossiemouth in Scotland and the Type 24 Pillbox is the most common type in the UK with more than 1700 recorded as being extant.¹ However, they have high local historic value and should be considered in relation to one another, given how observation post, searchlights and batteries operated together. They are part of the cultural landscape of Walney and are of high communal value, with local people and visitors able to appreciate tangible reminders of the military history of the area.

Overall the sites constitute a regionally significant group. They are the most heavily concentrated wartime defences around Morecambe Bay and provide examples of related and interlinked structures (rather than the sporadic individual pillboxes and structures found elsewhere e.g. pillboxes on the vicinity of Grange-over-Sands).

¹ The Defence of Britain Project: <http://www.archaeologyuk.org/cba/projects/dob>

4 ASSESSMENT OF SUITABILITY FOR PHASE 2

4.1 EXISTING CONDITION

Site IB - Rifle Range

The Rifle Range features a monumental dune grass covered stop butt which could easily be mistaken for a natural dune feature to the casual passer-by. Whether there is an underlying built structure to the stop butt was not assessed. This was the receiving end, where shots were fired into the bank.

Across the gully, on the opposite side of the butt is the markers' gallery, which takes the form of a cast concrete revetment wall, the south elevation of which is also covered in dune grass. The impression of the timber formwork is very clearly visible on the exposed face. The casting to the top of the wall shows that a corrugated roof covering once covered the markers' gallery. The remnants of protruding steel bases for the target mechanism are still present in the adjacent ground. There is a clear constructional break in the casting of the revetment wall to the east and west.

The concrete floor of the markers' gallery is present to the west of the gallery and may still exist beneath the dune grass to the full length of the gallery should clearance take place.

The main central section of the markers' gallery revetment wall is in good condition, despite some graffiti, which could be cleaned as necessary to fulfil future proposals. It is unclear whether the gallery was always masked to the south, or whether the dune grass has accumulated over time. Beyond the two constructional breaks the wall has subsided; there is a risk of wholesale collapse should consolidation not take place.

The remnants of the steel target mechanism housing protrude from the ground in such a way that they pose a trip hazard. Being cut just above the existing ground level, there is risk of serious injury should someone fall onto one and they should be removed.

Site IC - Air Gunners' Range

The site at present consists of little more than concrete platforms and walls set into the dunes. The concrete has decayed and exposed reinforcement is corroding. There is potential for additional below ground archaeology associated with the site.

Site ID - Pillbox and Searchlight Emplacements near Earnse Point

The pillbox is a simple cast in-situ concrete structure with an irregular hexagonal plan form. All apertures have been infilled. The structure externally is in good condition with no evidence of failure or spalling to the concrete. Day joints in the construction of the pillbox are clearly visible.

The two searchlight emplacements are constructed in reinforced concrete and steel. They are small flat roofed rectangular buildings set into the dunes each with a cantilevered semi-circular projection to the seaward elevation which would have provided a 180° clear span for the searchlight. Each has a doorway accessed from a reinforced concrete stair from the landward end. Large openings of curving section, which would have originally housed metal shutters, sit under the cantilevered projection. The cantilevers would have been supported by heavy girders, half round in plan.

4 ASSESSMENT OF SUITABILITY FOR PHASE 2

The girder has corroded to the point of complete loss to the northernmost emplacement. To the southern emplacement corrosion to the girder has caused loss of fabric to the point that it provides little support to the slab. Corrosion to the steelwork in both emplacements has caused serious jacking to the adjacent concrete walls and roof slab. Additional steel lintols which support the rectangular section of roof internally have also suffered from serious corrosion. There are isolated areas of exposed reinforcement to the underside of the floor slab. The roof slabs should be temporarily supported, pending a full repair programme.

To both emplacements, the cast floor slab has subsided beneath the cantilevered opening. The southern emplacement has now been blocked up internally and warning signs painted on the roof to prevent access by golfers.

Site IE – Pillbox on Golf Course

This pillbox is of the same type as at Site ID. Although some of the apertures have been bricked up, one of the embrasures provides a view to the interior where a ricochet wall can be noted. The pillbox is generally in good condition, with the exception of an area of cracking near the open embrasure relating to corroding metalwork. This cracking would be arrested on treatment of the corrosion. What could be viewed of the interior appeared to be in good condition.

Site IH – Pillbox near Hillock Whins

This pillbox is a large brick structure with a flat cast in-situ concrete roof. The structure is single storey with the internal floor level approximately 1.5metres below ground. The interior is accessed by an external concrete stair to the south of the building. There is a single round aperture to the west elevation and an opening in the concrete roof deck which appears to have housed a metal shutter.

The roof has remnants of a bituminous roof covering. Parts of the east and south elevations have remnants of a rendered finish. Structurally the building appears to be sound, however much of the brickwork face has spalled, most likely due to the high water table and rubbing of livestock who shelter around the building. Internally the structure has flooded making it inaccessible. The remaining structure viewed through the rounded aperture is in good condition.

Site II – Anti-Aircraft Defences

A number of loose rectangular concrete slabs cast in iron trays are located on the beach to the south of Walney Island. These may either be holdfasts or remnants of temporary pontoons. The slabs are in fair condition. The iron fixings are set into the corners of the slabs have some minor corrosion and have seized up due to presence of salts and sand.

Site IJ – Coastal Battery

The octagonal cast concrete gun platform is in good condition. The ammunition lockers are constructed in concrete blockwork with concrete floor slabs cast between the blockwork partitions. The flat roof is cast in concrete in a single slab, however the interior soffit demonstrates that both timber and corrugated sheet formwork were utilised, with very little quality control. The concrete block partitions do not appear to have foundations.

The battery is currently fenced off, being in a poor state of repair. The end walls of the two outer lockers have collapsed and due to subsidence the remaining walls are in the process of collapse. It is unlikely that the concrete roof slab contains any reinforcement and will in due course follow suit.

Site K – Pillbox on South Walney

The asphalt roofing has come away around the eaves and should be removed due to risk of falling. The asphalt is badly cracked on the upper face of the concrete slab with vegetation present; the asphalt should be renewed. There are remnants of a steel framework on top of the roof slab, indicating that historically a roof mounted structure or mast was present.

The brick facades are largely in fair condition with no spalling to the brickwork, however a crack is present adjacent to the entrance on the north elevation related to corroding fixings. The fixings should be removed and the crack repaired. There are open joints generally at high level associated with the loss of asphalt at the eaves and repointing is required.

Four of the six apertures to the east and west elevations have been enlarged and provided with uPVC windows. The remaining two openings retain timber framed windows, however the east opening requires reglazing. To the south elevation, the long horizontal openings are provided with timber shutters and used for bird watching over the bay. The entrance door requires redecoration.

Internally the building is maintained and provided with some interpretation. There is evidence of damp to the soffit due to the failure of the asphalt externally. At low level there is a small amount of rising damp.

The concrete floor slab falls to the south slightly, however this is most likely associated with poor construction rather than subsidence. The hide would benefit from natural cross ventilation being maintained when the building is not in use. Adjacent to the pillbox is a flag pole, the top half of which has been taken down and is lying on the ground. The pole requires full repair if reinstatement is intended.

Site L – Searchlight Emplacement

- The searchlight batteries at South Walney are of the same type as those found at Site ID.
- To the southernmost emplacement shifting dunes have caused the battery to have become largely buried, however this appears to have protected the metalwork somewhat and although corrosion is present this is not as advanced as at the previous site. As at the previous sites, reinforcement to the concrete roof slab is exposed and requires treatment. The original metal shutters are intact, although corrosion has rendered them inoperable at present. Given the amount of original material present, consolidation of the existing metalwork is feasible rather than full replacement, potentially complemented by some strengthening works as recommended by a qualified Structural Engineer.
- At the time of the survey, a temporary timber hide had been placed on the roof of the emplacement; it was recommended that this is removed given the weakened state of the structure. It is also unlikely that the roof was designed to support additional dead or live loads.
- The northernmost emplacement remains largely exposed retaining a relationship to the sea, although the coastline has moved away slightly. The structural metalwork is still present however corrosion is more advanced than that of the southern emplacement, particularly to the cantilevered roof lintol. Expansion of the metalwork has caused cracking to the concrete downstand at the perimeter of the cantilever as well as through the roof slab. Jacking is also present to the walls adjacent to embedded metalwork. Reinforcement to the concrete roof slab is exposed and requires treatment. The original metal shutters which housed the searchlight have been lost. A steel doorset is present to the rear of the structure. Despite some corrosion, the frame, rails, stiles and ironmongery are largely intact. However, the fields are heavily corroded with the remaining fragments fragile.

Vegetation is present both around and on the roof of the structure and the revetment wall which extends from the emplacement requires some consolidation works. Partial consolidation of some of the metalwork, combined with new components and concrete repairs would be required to bring the building into beneficial use. It is recommended that due to the cracking to the concrete downstand that public access is prohibited pending strengthening and consolidation works.

4.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Undertake consolidation works or partial underpinning to Markers' Gallery revetment wall flanks.
- Record and remove remaining target mechanism ground protrusions.
- Record structures deemed to be at risk from further deterioration/decay loss of information.

Sites IB and IC

Following a programme of stabilisation works, the sites have potential for interpretation and creative re-use. Although the Air Gunners Range has less remaining fabric, given its proximity and shared history with the Rifle Range, joined up interpretation could be undertaken. This could include permanent low key interpretation as well as re-enactment or recreations.

Sites ID and IE

- Although the searchlight emplacements are located at the perimeter of the golf course, public access is possible from the beach. In the short-term temporary supports should be provided to the roof structure (i.e. acrow props) and the sites should be fenced off from public access.
- Remove existing rusting steel lintols to roof and steel girder remnants embedded within walls.

- Provide new lintols to underside of roof.
- Undertake concrete repairs to consolidate jacking adjacent to existing steel remnants.
- Provide new custom fabricated girders to support cantilever roof.
- Treat exposed reinforcement and undertake concrete repair to spalled and cracked concrete.
- Underpin front edges of emplacement.
- Treat corroded reinforcement and fill cracked concrete to arrest deterioration of the pillbox.

The pillboxes are located within the golf course providing little opportunity for interpretation or public facing projects. The searchlight emplacements, if sealed from the golf course provide great opportunity as seating areas with low key interpretation given their location overlooking the beach, interesting architecture and evocative views. Although there would be cost involved in procuring custom made steelwork to strengthen the structures, if this was combined with repair to the emplacements at South Walney, then the cost would be spread.

Sites IH- IL

Given the current condition of Site IJ, it is recommended that the battery is recorded and a process of managed decline commenced. The remaining sites of South Walney along with the remnants of the coast battery and other isolated structures linked with Walney's wartime history provide an exciting opportunity. The site as a whole is evocative and has incredible potential to engage with a wide range of user groups from history societies to school parties.

4 ASSESSMENT OF SUITABILITY FOR PHASE 2

The following works are recommended for Site K:

- Renew asphalt roof covering.
- The brick facades are largely in fair condition with no spalling to the brickwork, however a crack is present adjacent to the entrance on the north elevation related to corroding fixings. Remove corroded fixings and stitch repair cracked brickwork to north elevation.
- Patch repoint open joints to brickwork to match adjacent.
- Re-glaze east window opening.
- Redecorate external joinery generally.
- Repair flagpole.
- Consider trickle vents to windows to improve cross ventilation when hides are shut.

The following works are recommended for Site L:

- In the short-term temporary supports should be provided to the roof structure (i.e. acrow props) and the northernmost emplacement fenced off. To the northernmost emplacement vegetation should be removed from the roof to reduce loading and self-seeded trees to the perimeter removed and stumps grubbed out to prevent undermining the structure.
- Treat existing rusting steel lintols to roof and steel girders.
- Provide additional strengthening or replacement to steelwork following structural assessment.
- Undertake concrete repairs to consolidate jacking adjacent to existing steel remnants.
- Treat exposed reinforcement and undertake concrete repair to spalled and cracked concrete.
- Carry out conservation repairs to existing steel shutters and doors.

- Treat exposed reinforcement and undertake concrete repair to spalled and cracked concrete.
- Carry out conservation repairs to existing steel shutters.

Interpretation of the site is at present limited or non-existent. This could be dramatically improved with a site-wide interpretation plan which could then be developed as more elements of the site become accessible. A route could be developed with the wildlife reserve base as a starting point. The current entrance building would form the orientation point, where visitors can congregate, and understand the overall geography and basic parameters of the site. Detailed interpretation would be found en-route, as it is far more effective to be integrated rather than divorced from a particular element, building or process. A detailed interpretive strategy for the site will need to be developed, but in terms of the wartime story of the Island there are a range of interpretation types which could be employed to best convey the significance of the site during the war in an engaging manner for all visitors.

The site is quite exposed so interpretation outside the buildings will have to be limited to robust panels, artefacts etc.

Inside the buildings and the associated shelters there is great scope for the use of audio and visual media to bring the site to life, these might include;

- Oral histories be played in several of the historic buildings, and added to as more stories come forward.
- Multi-media and projection. This could bring to life the shelters in particular.
- Re-enactments. World War II re-enactments are increasingly popular and could play a role, especially on open days and if volunteers can be encouraged.

- Re-creations. Some of the smaller buildings such as the shelters would lend themselves to re-creations as they would have been during the war. Once the buildings have been repaired, this would be relatively cheap to do, as wartime austerity dictated cheap materials were used in the first place.
- The use of media and sound can also provide a suitable experience for those with visual or hearing impairments. Audio/visual guides could assist in this regard also.

It should be noted that these are suggestions only and that the wildlife reserve would need to be further consulted on any proposals.

4.3 ASSESSMENT OF SUITABILITY FOR PHASE 2

Given the need for further research into the history of the Walney Island structures and the opportunities that they present, a Phase 2 Conservation Statement would be appropriate. It would cover site IB, IC, ID, IE, IH, K and L, looking at them in more detail and necessarily deal with them in the context of the whole of Walney Island, examining the interrelationship between the structures. A Conservation Statement would also be a good basis for further community and stakeholder consultation.

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