

Monument Name	World War II Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gun Site "TN2 Butlers Farm", Sutton
SMR Number	14872
Summary	WWII anti aircraft battery on vertical photography.
Media	None Available
Associated Media	None Available
Description	<p>WWII anti aircraft battery on vertical photography. The two square gun emplacements were removed before 1970.</p> <p>JULY 1998: Documented in contemporary records as " TN2 Butlers Farm", a WWII Heavy Anti-Aircraft gun site N of Southend-on-Sea. Equipment and manning at the site is documented at various dates (6th AA Div, 1940; Dobinson, 1996):</p> <p>Date Guns Radar Regt Bty  30 Apr 1940 unmanned  2 Jun 1940 4 x 3.7" 167  20 May 1942 4 x 3.7"(s) none 104 329 22  Jun 1942 4 x 3.7"(s) none  9 Dec 1943 184(M) 617  15 Jan 1946 - -</p> <p>An aerial photograph taken in May 1946 shows the site in open fields. There are four octagonal or circular gun emplacements in a semi-circle facing E. The design of these appears to conform to that shown diagrammatically as "probably to DFW 55414" (Dobinson, 1996, Vol 1.1, p119) - an emplacement with seven external integral ammunition recesses and two external integral shelters. At each end of the semi-circle there is a further square gun emplacement. These each have four internal ammunition recesses. The rectangular command post - conforming to that shown diagrammatically as type DFW 55402 (Dobinson, 1996, Vol 1.1, p127) - is in the centre of the semi-circle of gun emplacements. Approximately 200 yards to the W, on the E side of Shopland Road, at least 30 huts and structures of the accommodation site can be seen.</p> <p>SITE VISIT OCTOBER 1998: On an area of scrub and thicket between the fields of Butlers Farm, the four octagonal emplacements still remain, providing the sole surviving examples of this type in Essex. The inner part of the emplacements, where the gun stood, is almost circular and measures c. 27' across. Scraping the accumulated earth away at the centre of the northernmost emplacement, a holdfast of four steel girders embedded in the concrete base in a square pattern can be seen. These are 9" wide with 5'8" between opposite sides. There are signs of stud or bolt holes. For a comparative photograph of this type of holdfast see bottom of p.54, "20th Century Defences in Britain", Lowry,B,1995.</p> <p>Each emplacement has seven ammunition recesses measuring 6' square and some of these retain lettering, "A" to "G", in white paint. On the wall of one of the ammunition recesses in emplacement no. 3</p>

	<p>(counting from the N), the letters "SHRAP" can be made out - clearly the remains of "SHRAPNEL". On opposite sides, between the ammunition recesses, there are two small chambers which lead to the shelters. These are external but integral with the main structure and measure 15'6" x 8'. The construction of each emplacement is of concrete blocks; it is 6' high with an outer diameter of 42' from the rear of opposite ammunition recesses. There is some cracking in places but essentially they remain in good condition. At the site of the command post there is a huge pile of soil which is completely overgrown with high brambles. There is some broken brick and concrete around and in the ground but it is impossible to tell whether the command post has been demolished or whether it remains extant beneath the heaped-up earth. Nothing remains of the accommodation site. Eleven photographs were taken of the site.</p> <p>SITE ASSESSMENT OCTOBER 1998: The four emplacements survive in good condition as the only remaining examples of their type in the county. As such they are important historical structures which provide a pattern both for study and as a physical record of similar emplacements now demolished elsewhere. The possibility that the command post survives intact or semi-intact beneath the soil remains a potential bonus.</p> <p>Site visited as part of the MPP programme. 15 photos of site.</p> <p>Site subsequently scheduled. MAY 2003: A wartime aerial photograph taken on 13 February 1943 shows that the accommodation buildings were, in the main, to the south of the track which leads to the gun emplacements. At least ten can be seen in a broad swathe paralleling Shopland Road. Only three can be seen north of the track. A 1:7700 aerial photograph taken after the war, on 13 September 1948, shows the site in great detail. By that time the accommodation site had grown to six buildings north of the track and approximately 28 south of it.</p>
Monument Type(s)	(HEAVY ANTI AIRCRAFT BATTERY) (Dated 1939AD to 1945AD)
Monument Class(es)	EARTHWORK
Period	1939AD to 1945AD modern
Status	Scheduled Monument
Administrative Area	SUTTON
National Grid Reference	Square: TQ88NE Ref: 897889
Finds	None listed
Events	Survey of WWII HAA Gun Sites in Essex
Sources	Aerial Photo : 106G-UK-1445-3073 (RAF) Aerial Photo : 58-121-PI-5078 & 9 (RAF) Aerial Photo : 73-49-003 & 4 (MAL) Aerial Photo : V82-RAF-708-PII-0273 (RAF) Map : TQ 88NE (Strachan, D) 1:10,000 NMP PLOT

	<p>LIST : Location List (HQ, 6th AA Division) Dated : 1940 Aerial Photo : HLA-655-6006 (RAF) Dated : 1943 Aerial Photo : 106G-UK 1496-3361 (RAF) Dated : 1946 Aerial Photo : 58-121-5078 (RAF) Dated : 1948 Desc Text : Twentieth Century Fortifications in England - Vol I - Anti-aircraft artillery 1914-1946 (Dobinson, Colin) Vol 1.3, pp 469-472 Dated : 1996 Desc Text : World War Two Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gun Sites in Essex (Nash, F) Dated : 1998 Photograph : WWII HAA Gun Site "TN2 Butlers Farm", Sutton (Nash, F Photo/ECC/SMR/Nash,F/10/1998/ - /eleven frames) Dated : 1998 Photograph : WWII HAA Gun Site "TN2 Butlers Farm", Sutton (Tyler, S) Dated : 1999</p>
--	--

