

# EXAMPLE- Site Recording Form

<b>Recorder Name*</b> : Chris Kolonko	<b>Date of survey*</b> : 01/08/2018
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Required information marked with a '\*'

## 1. Location

<b>Grid Reference (NGR)*</b> : TA 14759 75562	<b>NGR Location Point</b> : Centre of structure	
NGR Source:		
Handheld GPS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online/Mobile App <input type="checkbox"/>	Online App URL:	Map <input type="checkbox"/> Scale 1: _____ Date
<b>Site Name/Site Reference*</b> : RePB01		
Related Sites (With NGRs if known): N/A		
<b>Site Location/Directions*</b> : This pillbox is located on Middle Cliff in the North-Eastern boundary of Low Fields. Approximately 50m South-East of the Eastern extent of a nearby field boundary that runs West to East across Raincliff Ings. This pillbox can be found by following the path running East along the top of Middle Cliff		
<b>County/Unitary Authority</b> : North Yorkshire	<b>Parish/Borough/Community/Townland</b> : Reighton	<b>Postcode</b> : N/A
<b>HER/SMR No. (if known)</b> : MNY31514	<b>Other site references</b> : Defence of Britain Ref: S0002807	
<b>NMR No. (if known)</b> : 141881		
<b>Heritage designation</b> : N/A but site sits within a SSSI.		

## 2. Site Observations

<b>Site Type*</b> : Pillbox	<b>Date of Construction</b> : Circa 6 June 1940
<b>Unknown</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Source</b> : Aerial photograph HMRAF182524 & graffiti evidence
<b>Site Description/Observations*</b> : Second World War pillbox located above Middle Cliff, Speeton centred at grid reference TA 14759 75562. The structure sits on private property.	
<p>The pillbox is orientated to face North-East, with the entrance facing South-West, away from the expected avenue of attack.</p> <p>The pillbox is sub-hexagonal in plan and constructed to bullet-proof standard, with an integral blast porch projecting from the North-West facing wall, forming the South-West facing entrance. The North-West and South-East facing walls have been elongated to create the extended hexagonal shape of the pillbox's main chamber. The integral blast porch is rectangular in plan, with the top left corner chamfered so as not to impede the arc of fire of the nearby loopholes. The blast porch is integral to the pillbox's superstructure, covering the low entrance into the main chamber. An anti-ricochet wall, 3m in length, sits centrally within the pillbox's main chamber. A low lintel is present at the top of the doorway leading to the pillbox's main chamber.</p> <p>The walls, roof and internal anti-ricochet wall are 0.38m (15in) thick, the recommended thickness for bullet-proof standard for reinforced concrete walls at the time. The structure is constructed entirely from reinforced concrete.</p> <p>This pillbox features two types of embrasure (specially designed apertures that allow the firing of weapons from inside the structure) within its walls. A loophole design with a recess below the interior opening, possibly to accommodate the bipod of the Bren Light Machine Gun (LMG), are to be found in the pillbox's shorter, oblique walls (four in total). These LMG loopholes are orientated to the North, East, South and West in this example. The South and North facing loopholes also feature a squared hole located above that slopes from the interior to the exterior of the pillbox. The function of this feature is unknown. But could have been to vent gases from the LMGs while in use or used to drop grenades out of the pillbox. The latter, however is unlikely given how dangerous and rather impractical this would have been. Square recesses below the loopholes hold short sections of 'L' shaped metal bar, possibly to hold a now decayed wooden shelf.</p> <p>The longer, South-East facing wall contains four evenly spaced loopholes. These loopholes are different in design to the loopholes in the shorter oblique walls. Lacking the internal recess for an LMG bipod, it is assumed that these loopholes would have been used to fire a rifle. Two further rifle loopholes of this type are present in the shorter North-West facing wall, with a single rifle loophole located in the North-West facing elevation of the integral blast porch. Worth noting is that the external corner of the integral blast porch has been chamfered, possibly to increase the arc of fire from the rifle loopholes in the North-West facing wall. Each loophole would have provided an approximate 60 degree arc of fire.</p> <p>The rifle loopholes of the South-East facing wall are entirely obscured by the parados (rear protective earthwork) of an extant slit trench. Once the slit trench was constructed it would not be possible to fire rifles from the South-East facing loopholes. This could indicate that the pillbox was to be used only by the LMG team of the infantry Section while the riflemen took up positions outside the pillbox, which was common practice.</p> <p>A thick covering of turf sits on top of the pillbox to reduce the structure's shadow signature and hard outline from the air. The structure has also been deliberately sunk approximately 1m into the ground to reduce its silhouette; making the structure harder to spot on the ground from a distance.</p> <p>The pillbox appears to have been constructed in one phase, with no evidence of later construction or modification.</p>	

Period graffiti survives on the roof of the pillbox, with several names clearly incised into the still wet concrete during construction. Some of this graffiti sits under the turf camouflage, indicating that either the camouflage was added after the concrete had fully cured, or that the turf has slumped. A total of six names and four dates can be found on the roof of the pillbox:

WALTER 1940  
French 1940  
E Gall  
E.J. MACKSON  
J.GRAY 1940  
Smitts 1940

This pillbox is one of three infantry pillboxes of this type sited on the cliffs above Reighton and Speeton beaches. These pillboxes were situated along the cliff to cover the beach, defend the viable beach exits, provide support to the pillboxes on the beach and also cover the rear of the beach front defences.

The pillbox is sited on the apex of gently rising ground that culminates in a cliff face. From this location the pillbox overlooks the beach 250m North-East, the cliffs to the North-East, and the surrounding fields that lead inland to the South and West. This provides the pillbox with an effective vantage point, allowing the occupants to cover the surrounding land and approaches to the position.

From this position the pillbox could also cover the following landscape features with effective fire: The beach up to the high-water mark, anti-tank blocks that run from East to West on the beach, the gently sloping cliffs that approach the position from the North. This pillbox could also provide mutual fire support in the direction of two further pillboxes located approximately 450m to the North-West and West (at Grid refs: TA 14510 75872 & TA 14329 75627).

The pillbox is also capable of covering the ground in an arc from the West to East, allowing the occupants to bring effective fire to bear on any infantry attempting to approach the position from the rear. This allowed the occupants of the pillbox to protect the rear of the defences on the beach front and also engage any enemy that managed to breach the beachfront defences attempting to attack the defences from the rear.

The paradox of a nearby slit trench limits the South-East facing arc of fire, but this area would have been covered by the occupants of the slit trench.

Aerial photographs reveal the pillbox was surrounded by a barbed wire obstacle. A single screw picket from this obstacle survives at Grid Ref: TA 14764 75576. This obstacle would have prevented enemy infantry from closing on the position and getting into grenade throwing range. The pillbox and supporting slit trench were both capable of covering this obstacle with fire.

#### **Basic Dimensions**

As mentioned in the description, the pillbox is an irregular hexagon shape in plan. See sketch plan below for overall form and basic dimensions.

The long wall of the South-East facing elevation is 4.30m (14ft 1in) in length, with oblique walls of approximately 1.90m (6ft 3in) making up the North, North-East, South and South-West facing elevations. An entrance and integral blast porch project from the South-West corner of the North-West facing elevation, with dimensions of 1.60m (ft) by 0.60m (ft), with a chamfered corner of 0.30m (1ft). This projecting entrance and blast wall leaves a North-West facing elevation of 2.50m (8ft 2in). Roof is 0.38m (15in) thick and all walls built to bullet-proof standard of 0.38m (15 inch) thick. An internal anti-ricochet is found within the pillbox's main chamber, with dimensions of 3m (9ft 10in) by 0.38m (15 inch).



### 3. Photographic Record

Photo Number	File Name eg DSC_2134	Description direction, feature in photograph, caption	Image
1	DSC_1000	General location and form of pillbox at time of survey. Image facing East, showing South-West and North-West facing elevations, and entrance.	 <p>A photograph of a circular pillbox with a grassy roof, viewed from an eastern perspective. The pillbox is situated in a field of tall grass with the ocean visible in the background under a blue sky with light clouds. A small black rectangular entrance is visible on the side of the pillbox. A copyright notice '© C. Kolonko (2021)' is centered in the upper part of the image.</p>
2	DSC_1001	General location and form of pillbox at time of survey. Image facing North, showing South and South-East facing elevations.	 <p>A photograph of a circular pillbox with a grassy roof, viewed from a northern perspective. The pillbox is situated in a field of tall grass with the ocean visible in the background under a blue sky with light clouds. A small black rectangular entrance is visible on the side of the pillbox. A copyright notice '© C. Kolonko (2021)' is centered in the upper part of the image.</p>
3	DSC_1002	Surviving extent of vegetation camouflage applied to roof of pillbox. Image taken facing North-East, showing entrance and South-West and South facing elevations.	 <p>A photograph of a circular pillbox with a grassy roof, viewed from a north-eastern perspective. The pillbox is situated in a field of tall grass with the ocean visible in the background under a blue sky with light clouds. A small black rectangular entrance is visible on the side of the pillbox. A copyright notice '© C. Kolonko (2021)' is centered in the upper part of the image.</p>

<p><b>4</b></p>	<p>DSC_1003</p>	<p>Surviving extent of vegetation camouflage applied to roof of pillbox. Image taken facing North-East, showing entrance and South-West and South facing elevations. 1m scale</p>		
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p>DSC_1004</p>	<p>Image facing North-East showing South-West facing entrance.</p>		
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p>DSC_1005</p>	<p>Image facing North-East showing South-West facing entrance with 1m scale. Note thickness of the roof and wall.</p>		

7	DSC_1006	South-West facing elevation. Showing LMG loophole. Image taken facing North-East	 <p>A photograph showing the south-west facing elevation of a concrete bunker. The bunker has a dark, rectangular opening on the left and a smaller, square-shaped loophole in the center. The top of the bunker is covered in dry grass and some small plants. The background shows a clear blue sky and a distant horizon.</p>	
8	DSC_1007	South-West facing elevation with 1m scale. Showing LMG loophole. Image taken facing North-East.	 <p>A photograph showing the south-west facing elevation of a concrete bunker, similar to the one in the previous image. A vertical scale bar is placed to the right of the bunker for reference. The scale bar is white with a red section at the bottom. The bunker has a dark opening on the left and a square loophole in the center. The top is covered in dry grass. The background shows a clear blue sky and a distant horizon.</p>	
9	DSC_1008	South facing elevation with 1m scale. Showing LMG loophole. Image taken facing North.	 <p>A photograph showing the south facing elevation of a concrete bunker. A vertical scale bar is placed to the left of the bunker for reference. The scale bar is white with a red section at the bottom. The bunker has a dark opening on the left and a square loophole in the center. The top is covered in dry grass. The background shows a clear blue sky and a distant horizon.</p>	

<p><b>10</b></p>	<p>DSC_1009</p>	<p>South facing elevation. Showing LMG loophole. Image taken facing North.</p>	 <p>A photograph of a circular concrete bunker with a grassy top. A small, dark rectangular opening (the LMG loophole) is visible on the side of the bunker. The bunker is surrounded by tall, dry grass. In the background, the blue sea and a clear sky are visible. A small copyright notice '© C. Kolonko (2021)' is present in the upper right of the image.</p>
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p>DSC_1010</p>	<p>South-East facing elevation showing rifle loopholes and vegetation growth. Image taken facing North.</p>	 <p>A photograph showing a different angle of the concrete bunker. The top edge of the bunker is visible, showing several small, narrow rifle loopholes. The concrete is weathered and has some yellowish lichen or moss growth. The bunker is surrounded by tall grass and some green vegetation. The sea and sky are visible in the background. A small copyright notice '© C. Kolonko (2021)' is present in the upper right of the image.</p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p>DSC_1011</p>	<p>South-East facing elevation showing rifle loopholes and vegetation growth. Image taken facing North with 1m scale. (Note that the scale isn't properly vertical and is now bugging me)</p>	 <p>A photograph similar to the previous one, showing the South-East facing elevation of the bunker. A white and red scale bar is placed vertically in the foreground for scale. The bunker's concrete surface shows signs of weathering and vegetation growth. The sea and sky are visible in the background. A small copyright notice '© C. Kolonko (2021)' is present in the upper right of the image.</p>

13	DSC_1012	North-East facing elevation showing LMG loophole. Image facing West		
14	DSC_1013	North facing elevation showing LMG loophole. Image facing East		
15	DSC_1014	North facing elevation showing LMG loophole. Image facing East. With 1m scale		

<p><b>16</b></p>	<p>DSC_1015</p>	<p>North-West facing elevation showing pair of rifle loopholes with 1m scale.</p>		
<p><b>17</b></p>	<p>DSC_1016</p>	<p>North-West facing elevation of entrance showing single rifle loophole and chamfered corner with 1m scale.</p>		
<p><b>18</b></p>	<p>DSC_1017</p>	<p>Panorama showing the North-West view from the pillbox's North-West facing loopholes. Image taken facing North-West in direction of nearby secondary pillbox.</p>		

19	DSC_1018	<p>Panorama showing the North view from the pillbox's North loophole. Image taken facing North in direction of the beach and approaches to the position.</p>	 <p>A panoramic photograph showing a view from a pillbox's North loophole. The foreground is dominated by dense green vegetation. In the middle ground, a sandy beach stretches across the frame, leading to the blue sea under a clear sky. A small copyright notice '© C. Kolonko (2021)' is visible in the lower right of the image.</p>	
20	DSC_1019	<p>Panorama showing the North-East view from the pillbox's North-East loophole. Image taken facing North-East in direction of the beach and approaches to the position.</p>	 <p>A panoramic photograph showing a view from a pillbox's North-East loophole. The foreground is filled with green vegetation. The middle ground shows a sandy beach and the blue sea. The sky is clear with a few clouds. A small copyright notice '© C. Kolonko (2021)' is visible in the center of the image.</p>	
21	DSC_1020	<p>Panorama showing the South-East view from the pillbox's South-East facing loopholes. Image taken facing South-East in direction of the cliff edge and approaches to the position.</p>	 <p>A panoramic photograph showing a view from a pillbox's South-East facing loopholes. The foreground is dominated by tall, golden-brown grasses. In the middle ground, a cliff edge is visible, leading to the blue sea. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. A small copyright notice '© C. Kolonko (2021)' is visible in the lower right of the image.</p>	

<p><b>22</b></p>	<p>DSC_1021</p>	<p>Panorama showing the South view from the pillbox's South loophole. Image taken facing South in direction of Speeton, showing nearby pillboxes occupying high ground and approaches to the position.</p>		
<p><b>23</b></p>	<p>DSC_1022</p>	<p>Panorama showing the South-West view from the pillbox's South-West facing loophole. Image taken in direction of the high ground West of Speeton showing approaches to the position.</p>		
<p><b>24</b></p>	<p>DSC_1023</p>	<p>Panorama facing South-East centred on supporting pillbox 600m away on high ground to East of Speeton.</p>		

25	DSC_1024	Panorama facing South centred on supporting pillbox 680m away on high ground to West of Speeton	 <p>© C. Kolonko (2021)</p>	
26	DSC_1025	Panorama facing West centred on supporting pillbox 420m away within hedgerow to the West.	 <p>© C. Kolonko (2021)</p>	
27	DSC_1026	Panorama facing North-West centred on site of adjacent pillbox 409m away on cliff edge.	 <p>© C. Kolonko (2021)</p>	

28	DSC_1027	Panorama facing North showing beach 287m below with approaches to the pillbox.	
29	DSC_1028	Panorama facing North-East showing beach 380m below, overlooking anti-tank obstacle on the beach, with approaches to the pillbox.	
30	DSC_1029	Interior facing North, showing internal anti-ricochet wall and interior of North facing LMG embrasure.	

<p><b>31</b></p>	<p>DSC_1030</p>	<p>Interior facing South, showing internal South and South-West facing LMG embrasures. Note bar below loophole that once held a shelf.</p>	 <p>© C. Kolonko (2021)</p>
<p><b>32</b></p>	<p>DSC_1031</p>	<p>Detail of South facing LMG embrasure, showing recess for LMG bipod and vent above loophole.</p>	 <p>© C. Kolonko (2019)</p>

33	DSC_1032	Detail of graffiti on Northern extent of pillbox roof with 30cm photo scale.	
34	DSC_1033	In-situ screw picket in cliff face to the North of the pillbox at grid TA 14764 75576.	
35	DSC_1034	Parados of supporting slit trench obscuring view from South-East facing rifle loopholes. Image taken facing North-West with 1m scales.	

36	DSC_1035	Low lintel above doorway leading to pillbox's central chamber.	 <p>© C. Kolonko (2019)</p>	
37	DSC_1036	Rifle loopholes on interior face of South-East facing elevation. Note lack of recess for LMG bipod.	 <p>© C. Kolonko (2019)</p>	
38	DSC_1037	General location and form of pillbox at time of survey. Image facing North, showing South and South-East facing elevations.	 <p>© C. Kolonko (2021)</p>	

39	DSC_1038	Location of pillbox from approx. 200m North-West. Image facing South-East. Note effectiveness of vegetation camouflage scheme and elevated position.	
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