

North Clyde Archaeological Society
Military Project 2015 >
On going report updated as work commences

Rosneath Home Farm Military Installations
Tam Ward. September 2016



Frontispiece. Illustration from Mugdock Park HAA gun site.

Abstract

*The remains of Heavy Anti Aircraft gun batteries (HAA) along with control rooms and ancillary buildings, surviving in the area of operations of the NCAS are currently being researched, surveyed and recorded by photography as part of NCAS **Military Project**. This report deals with the site at Rosneath Home Farm, near the village of Rosneath on the Gareloch.*

Introduction

The River Clyde Estuary contains the largest number of HAA and other military coastal defence sites in Scotland. The heavily defended site of Scapa Flo in Orkney comes second in numerical terms to that of the Clyde.

North Clyde Archaeological Society (NCAS) are engaged in a Military Project to record the surviving remains of all periods in their area of interest, and to compile research on such sites with a view to publishing the results more fully in due course. The sites consist principally of former gun installations with ancillary buildings, although hospitals, POW camps and other sites also existed in the area.

Rosneath Home Farm SURVEY Centred NS 2635 8185
OS Explorer Map 1:25,000 Series. Loch Lomond South. No 347

Report

Nothing remains of the HAA gun installation of Rosneath Home Farm where interestingly, a well preserved Cold War HAA gun site (Fig 1) also exists (Maidment 2015).

However the site is entirely known from aerial photographs flown by the RAF and now held by the Royal Commission for the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS). The images given in this paper are poor quality screen shots but these will be improved for future reports.



Fig 1. Location at southern tip of Rosneath Peninsula, showing both WW II and Cold War HAA gun sites.



Pl 1. Showing WW II HAA camp and guns location



Pl 2. Showing WW II radar mat area with radar mount and also guns and Command Post locations.

Camp site. Pl 1.

The camp area consists of at least thirty eight buildings most of which appear to be the standard size huts, however one double Nissen type building on the west side is much longer and a large flat roofed building lies beside the bend in the road. The buildings are arranged in a rather ad hoc manner but a central one is surrounded by six others. A possible water cistern lies between the camp and the gun area.

Neither the four gun positions nor the central Command Post are well defined in the photograph but at least their position can be appreciated.

Radar mat area. Pl 2.

The radar mat area is similarly easily discernable in the photograph and shows some interesting details. The typical hexagonal layout is seen and a central base for the radar equipment is also visible, interestingly it does not have a ramp and does not appear to have been equipped with one, the access road to it does not run directly to it as is seen at other sites where a radar van would be pulled up a ramp and onto the raised platform. The road turns at a right angle near the platform and this suggests that a fixed radar installation may have been installed here, and it is possibly shown in the photograph.

The entire area was chicken wire supported of fence posts about five feet above ground, hence the need for the radar to be elevated above the mesh. The photograph clearly shows the grid arrangement of stobs supporting the wire mesh.

The cottage in the photograph still exists allowing for easy site recognition on the ground. The site was previously improved agricultural ground and has been efficiently returned to that purpose.

References

Maidment N 2015. *North Clyde Military Installations Project (Interim Report, Rosneath Farm Cold War HAA gun site)*

www.spanglefish.com/NorthClydeArchaeologicalSociety.com