

Application Name: Bombing decoy bunker

Number: 1433320

Type: New

Heritage Category: Listing

Address:

On the south-west side of Carr Lane, Newton-cum-Larton, Grange, West Kirby.

County	District	District Type	Parish
	Wirral	Metropolitan Authority	Non Civil Parish

Recommendation: Reject

Assessment

BACKGROUND

Historic England has been asked to assess this bombing decoy bunker for listing. There is no immediate threat to the structure; however, it does stand within an area of land subject to pre-application discussions for a golf course. The structure does not stand within a conservation area and it is not recorded in the Defence of Britain archive.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

This is a Second World War Quartz Fire (QF) bombing decoy night shelter, used to protect the men who manned and operated a fire display decoy, to draw Luftwaffe bombing attacks away from Liverpool and Birkenhead. The site operated as a component of a system of fourteen bombing decoys protecting Merseyside. The site remained active until 1943 and by 1948, the area had been returned to agricultural use. Today there are no surviving traces of the associated decoy display and the night shelter itself has been buried under a mound of compacted earth. The applicant has provided three photographs of the interior of the structure prior to it being buried, but there are no images to show its external appearance, or a plan to show its internal layout. It is described as a single room with an entrance corridor and a former escape hatch, (no generator room), and a main entrance that has lost its blast wall. Grid covers for cables remain.

CONCLUSION

Based on the information provided and with reference to the Principles of Selection (March 2010) and our Listing Selection Guide for Military Structures (April 2011), this bombing decoy bunker, is not recommended for listing for the following principal reasons:

- * Selectivity: large numbers of bombing decoy sites survive throughout England and rigorous and informed selection of the very best examples is required;
- * Design: bombing decoy night shelters were built to standard designs, with some designs being rarer than others and it is unclear which design this example conforms to;
- * Completeness: it is incomplete having lost its original blast wall and most significant internal features, which would help to illustrate its original function; the loss of any evidence of the associated fire display features reduces its value further.

