

Archaeology, Conflict and Heritage:  
Thoughts and Perspectives from  
the Northern Hemisphere

John Schofield

SCOPE:

Context

History of research

Framework

Methods

Values and importance

A wider network

Research



Responsible for promoting the historic environment of England

Similar separate bodies exist for the other parts of the UK

Non departmental public body sponsored by the department of Culture Media and Sport but works closely with other government departments

Overseen by a panel of 16 commissioners chosen by the government

# Roles and responsibilities

- **Main imperatives**
  - Conserve and enhance the historic environment
  - Broaden public access to the heritage
  - Increase people's understanding of the past
- **Actions**
  - Act as national and international "champion" for heritage
  - Award grants
  - Advise on presentation of historic environment
  - Maintain registers of England's most significant buildings, monuments and landscapes
  - Promote education and research
  - Care for over 400 historic sites and properties
  - Maintain the National Monuments Record



# Public support for the heritage

People care. MORI's survey of a representative 3,000 people in England found that:

98% think that all schoolchildren should be given the opportunity to find out about England's historic environment

96% think that the historic environment is important to teach them about the past

88% think that it is important in creating jobs and boosting the economy

87% think that it is right that there should be public funding to preserve it

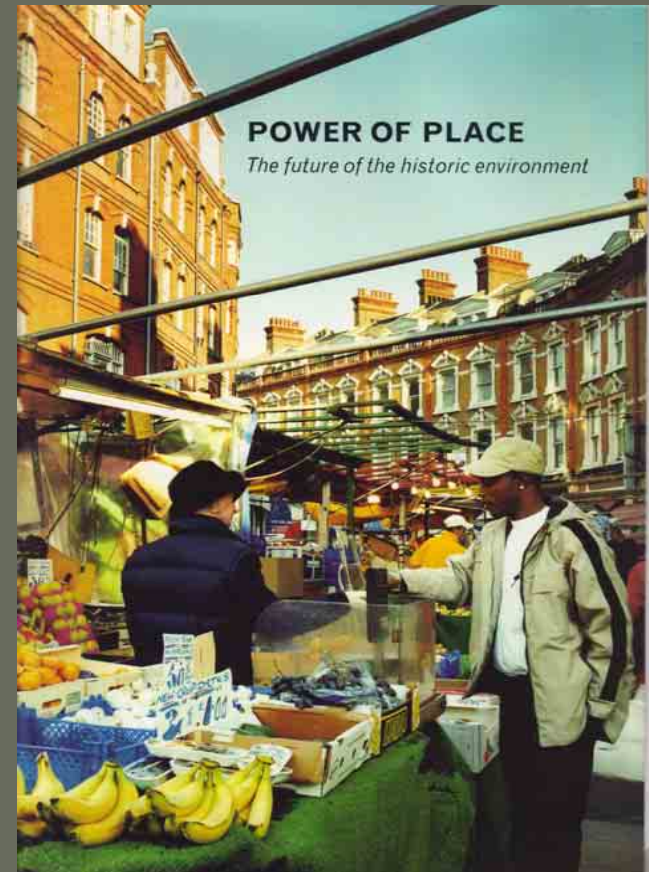
87% think that it plays an important part in the cultural life of the country

85% think that it is important in promoting regeneration in towns and cities

77% disagree that we preserve too much

76% think that their own lives are richer for having the opportunity to visit or see it

75% think that the best of our post-war building should be preserved, rising to 95% of the 16-24 age group



# Informed conservation

Some key points:

- understanding is the bedrock of conservation; without it, conservation is blind and meaningless
- understanding is the best basis for decision-making. We must understand buildings/monuments etc before we change them, not because we change them
- understanding can demonstrate ways to minimise destructive change, rather than necessarily preventing it

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# History of research

## ORIGINS & INTEREST:

Research into 'new' periods of history often begins with its military history

Popularity – often through personal connections, and family history

Challenging for those concerned with researching and managing its resources





# Emerging interest

## FIRST GENERATION

1960s-70s – emerging amateur interest eg. Henry Wills work

1970-80s – increased number of enthusiasts inspired by Wills, Andrew Saunders and others; formation of Fortress Study Group

Early 1990s – growing awareness of recent military heritage within heritage sector and academy

## SECOND GENERATION

1994ff – English Heritage and others commissioned studies of WWII and Cold War heritage.

1995ff – Defence of Britain Project

End of Cold War prompted recording projects elsewhere, eg Nevada Test Site

## THIRD GENERATION

c.2003ff – Research beginning to emerge through HEIs esp, and in wider range of geographical and political situations (eg Culture 2000 Landscape of War project)

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# Creating a Framework

Can best outline main themes by using a classification the military are familiar with:

## 1 The militarised landscape

eg. Military training

## 2 Research, development and manufacturing

eg. Technology, experimentation and research

eg. Munitions production

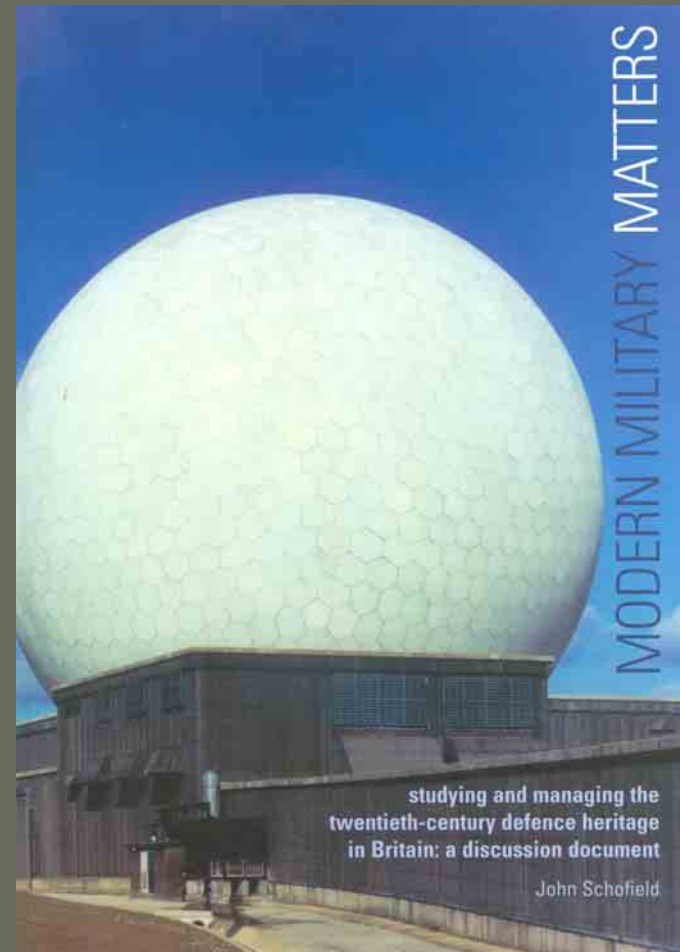
eg. Shipbuilding, aircraft manufacture etc.

## 3 Infrastructure and support

eg. Naval bases

eg. Camps

eg. Intelligence and Communications



cont'd

#### **4 Operations**

eg. Air defence

eg. Civil defence

eg. Coast artillery

#### **5 Commemoration**

eg. War memorials

eg. War cemeteries

eg. Military museums

(after Schofield 2004, *Modern Military Matters*)

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# Constructing a methodology

- 1 Archives/documentary sources
- 2 Aerial photography
- 3 Recording field remains
- 4 Community involvement
- 5 Representation
- 6 Landscape characterisation



# 1 Archives/documentary sources

Held at National Archives, Kew

For WWII records are:

Comprehensive

Accurate

Contextual and detailed

For most classes of monument records provide information on what was built where, when and why.

Across the UK we know what was built where, when and why, for the following classes of site:

Anti-aircraft sites

Operation Diver sites

D-Day preparatory sites

WWII bombing decoys

Coast artillery

Radar

Airfield defences

Army camps

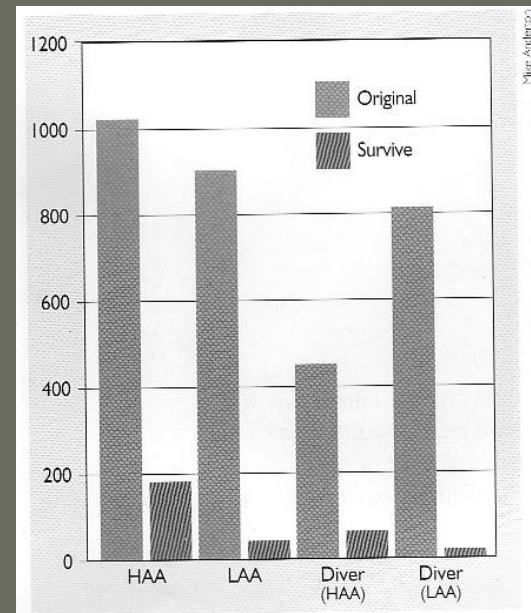
Prisoner of War camps

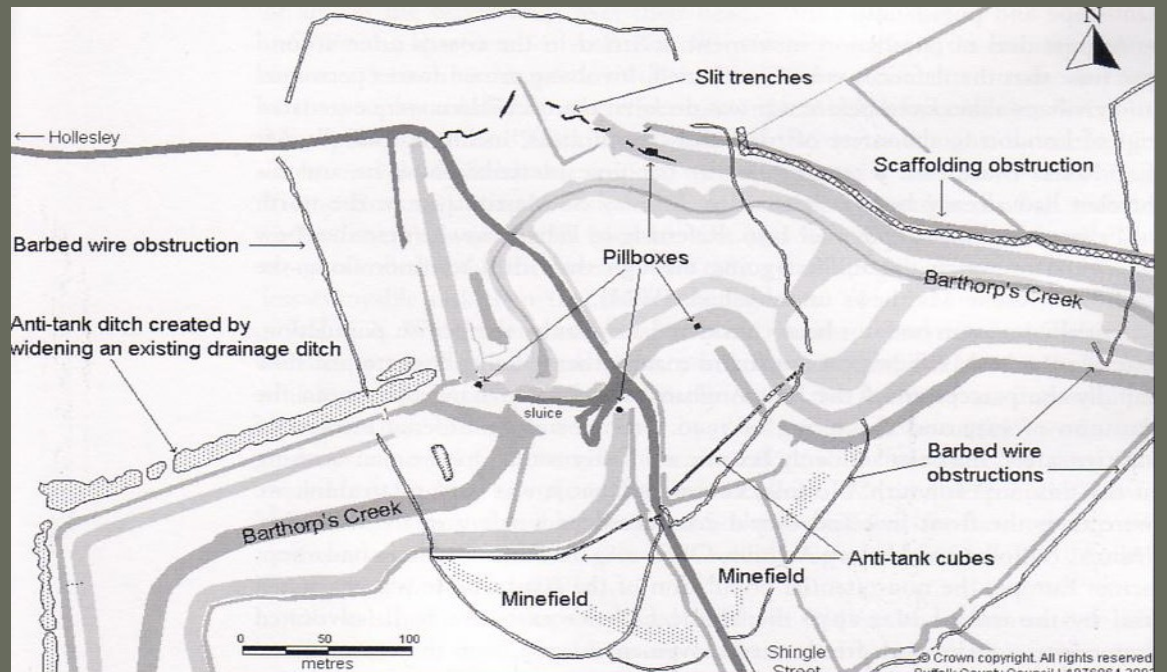
## 2 Aerial photography

Having established what was built, 1946 and modern aerial photographs were used to determine survival.

Class (for key see Radar, above)						
Type	1	2	3	4	5	Total
HAA	10	47	119	790	14	981
LAA	2	1	42	890	28	966
ZAA	0	0	0	51	0	51
<i>Diver</i>	1	8	72	966	32	1079
TOTAL	13	57	233	2699	72	3077

Table 2. Survival of World War II Anti-aircraft sites in England.





# 3 Recording field remains

## Eg. Defence of Britain Project

National public (HLF-funded) research project to document WWII anti-invasion defences.

2000 volunteers participated

20,000 sites were recorded, some 16,000 of which survive; 13,777 of the total are anti-invasion defences





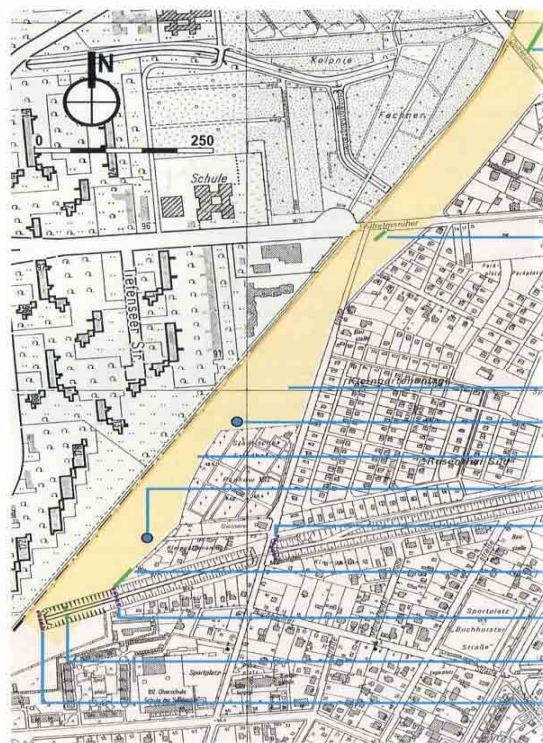
Axel Klausmeier

Leo Schmidt

## Wall Remnants – Wall Traces



### Berlin - Pankow



### Kilometres 1 - 4

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| BW1   | Underpinning for border Wall to span the Tegeler Fliess  |
| HW1   | Hinterland fence: remains of pillars on bridge   |
| PT1-2 | Patrol track   |
| PT3-4 | Access road to death strip   |
| PT5   | Patrol track: wide area for passing oncoming vehicles  |
| PT6   | Access road to border strip with traces of entrance gate in hinterland Wall and signalling fence |
| PT7   | Patrol track: remains of the bridge over the Nordgraben  |
| WT1-2 | Foundations and traces of an older watchtower  |
| WT3   | Foundations and traces of a BT9 watchtower   |
| WT4   | Foundations of a command post  |
| R1    | Obstacles in the water   |
| R2    | Obstacles at the mouth of the canal  |
| AO1   | Advanced perimeter defence: blocked opening in a wall  |
| AO2   | Advanced perimeter defence: medium-height metal pillars  |
| AL1   | Advanced perimeter defence: lamps  |
| AF1   | Advanced perimeter defence: fence  |
| HT1-2 | Hinterland road  |
| M1    | Marker posts of restricted area  |
| T1    | 'Checkpoint Qualitz' memorial with block elements of first generation border Wall                |
| T2    | Emptiness of former death strip  |
| T3    | Emptiness of graveyard area evacuated for the border layout                                      |

This section is not directly accessible by Underground or S-Bahn. The best way to get to Lübars is to take the S1 (S-Bahn) to Waidmannslust and then change for Bus 222 to Lübars. If you start your visit in the south of this section take Bus 221 from Wittenau.



## 4 Community involvement

### DOCKERS

**Explore the last remains of London's docks and wharfs with the people who used to live and work along the river**

Take a two hour self-guided audio walk along the most dramatic riverside path in London. The journey is packed full of interviews with dockers who worked in the world's busiest port.

CDs, maps and personal stereos are available from Greenwich Tourist Information Centre.

After experiencing a Memoryscape, you will never see the River Thames in the same way again.

# MEMORYSCAPE

[www.memoryscape.org.uk](http://www.memoryscape.org.uk)

*Audio walks*



# 5 Representation

Increasingly for purposes of understanding, artistic representation is used.

applications include esp: photography, film-making



# 6 Landscape Characterisation

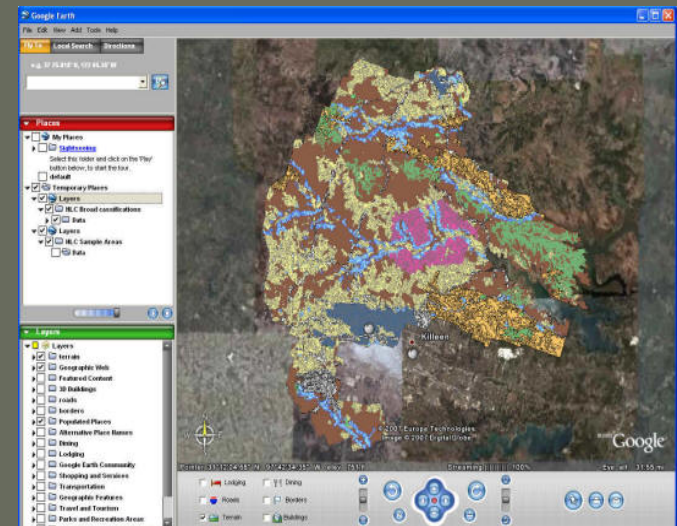
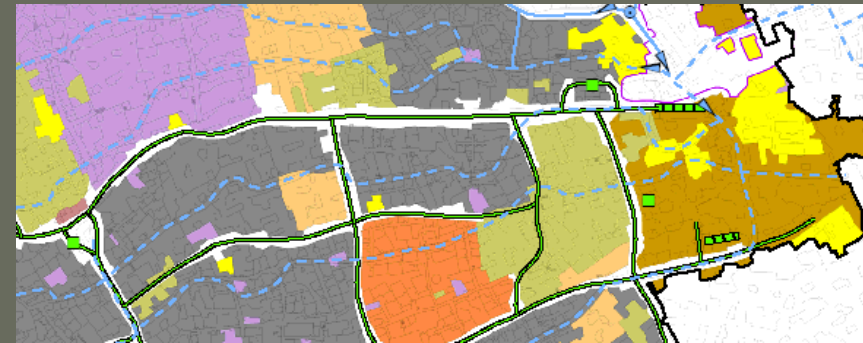
Holistic – no gaps

Value-free

Concerns the contemporary landscape and historic influences upon it

An approach to managing change, not preventing it

Now used for several extensive, complex and multi-layered militarised landscapes



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# Values

Values are social values, a set of standards against which other things are compared. But they're not universally held or constant – they are always being renegotiated and changed.

Key values for archaeology are:

Archaeological remains should be preserved, not destroyed.

Archaeological resources bring economic rewards.

It is better to have archaeological remains than not to have them

Etc.

## Some eggs

### ECONOMIC

Popular interest; tourism eg. battlefield tourism

### AESTHETIC (?)

Early fortifications, but not necessary so for recent eggs. But some eggs by virtue of their remote location or aspects of landscape character eg. SPTA, Orford Ness

### ASSOCIATIVE/SYMBOLIC

Historic events; memory eg. Battle of Britain

### INFORMATIONAL

Archaeological and architectural historical information – less developed than other values



# Importance

Here the focus isn't so much the place of archaeology as a contemporary academic and political theme, but on particular pieces of reality: is this site more or less important than that one?

Two approaches to this: **quantitative** and **qualitative**.

**Quantitative** scoring systems eg. scoring

**Qualitative** approaches eg. landscape characterisation

Categories	Monument classes
Air Defence	Radar Royal Observer Corps Anti-aircraft guns Surface to air missiles Fighter interceptor airfields
Nuclear Deterrent	V-bomber airfields Nuclear weapons stores Thor missile sites
United States Air Force	Airfields Cruise missile sites
Defence Research Establishments	Aviation Naval Rockets, guided weapons Nuclear Miscellaneous
Defence manufacturing sites	Defence manufacturing sites
Emergency Civil Government	Early 1950s War Rooms Regional Seats of Government Sub Regional Headquarters Regional Government Headquarters Local Authority Emergency Headquarters Civil Defence structures The utilities Private nuclear shelters
Emergency Provisions Stores	Grain silos Cold stores General purpose stores Fuel depots
Communications	Underground telephone exchanges Microwave tower network
Miscellaneous	The peace movement

Table 4.2. Typology for Cold War monuments (after Cocroft 2001).

**Survival/condition**

- 1 Structural integrity and survival of original internal configuration, plant and fittings.
- 2 Re-use for another purpose. Time depth may add historic value to a structure.
- 3 Survival of contemporary setting, character, spatial relationships – group value in other words. An important component contributing to the character of these sites might be tree planting, which is found at some radar stations and missile sites.

**Period**

- 4 Representative of a particular phase of the Cold War. An example is the early 1950s anti-aircraft sites designed to counter attacks by manned piston-engined aircraft, but these were obsolete within a few years as jet aircraft and unmanned missiles emerged as the main threat.
- 5 Centrality to British/NATO defence policy. Features and structures associated with the British V-force for example, which was central to British nuclear deterrent policy from the late 1950s to the 1960s, or NATO cruise missiles during the 1980s.
- 6 Technological significance. As well as being Cold War structures, many sites are important monuments to post-war British achievements in science and technology.

**Rarity**

- 7 In nearly all cases individual monument types are rare. Many of the structures carried out unique functions, so are rare almost by definition. While rarity and uniqueness are criteria for protection, they will be supported by other usually technological reasons.

**Diversity**

- 8 Some site types exhibit a number of different structural forms, although designed to fulfil a similar function.

**Cultural and amenity value**

- 9 Sites will often be suited to a combination of education, understanding, tourism and public access.

Table 4.1. Criteria for assessing Cold War monuments (after Cocroft 2001).

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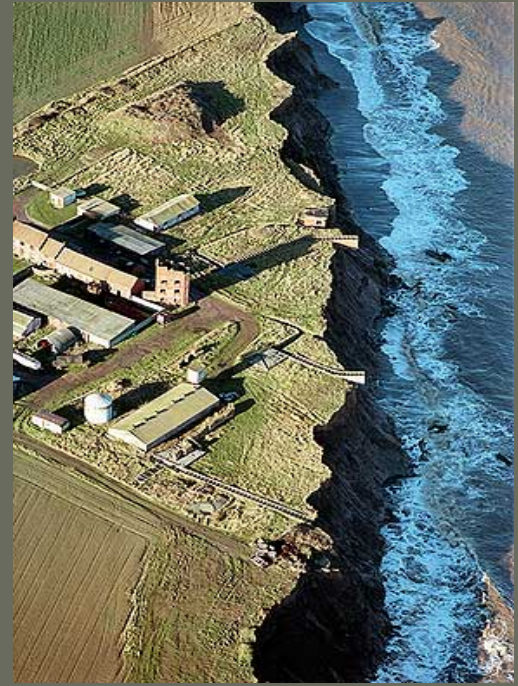
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# LANDSCAPES OF WAR







ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Fortifications and Military Heritage  
(ICOFORT - <http://icofort.googlepages.com/>)



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# Research

The Frascati Manual (The Measurement of Scientific Activities: proposed standard practice for surveys of research and experimental development) 2002 describes research activities as, for example:

BASIC research – to acquire new knowledge

APPLIED research – acquire new knowledge for a specific purpose

EXPERIMENTAL research – aimed at producing new materials, products or devices

## SOME IDEAS/KEY-WORDS

Mapping – GIS, predictive modelling, assessing site placement

Methodology: Excavation

Materiality and memory

Virtual worlds and digital media; gaming?

European contexts – information on bombing raids vs defence strategies and social impact

Material culture – toys, mementoes, 'playful warring after (and during) the real warring'

Representation and outreach

Community engagement



# Symmetrical archaeology

- Prioritises the multi-temporal and multi-sensorial qualities, the multiplicity, of the material world
- Implies multiple views and perspectives
- Begins with mixtures, not bifurcations
- Recognises that there is more to understanding than meaning
- The past is not exclusively past
- Humanity begins with things

(C. Witmore 2007)





















For more information:

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/military](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/military)

