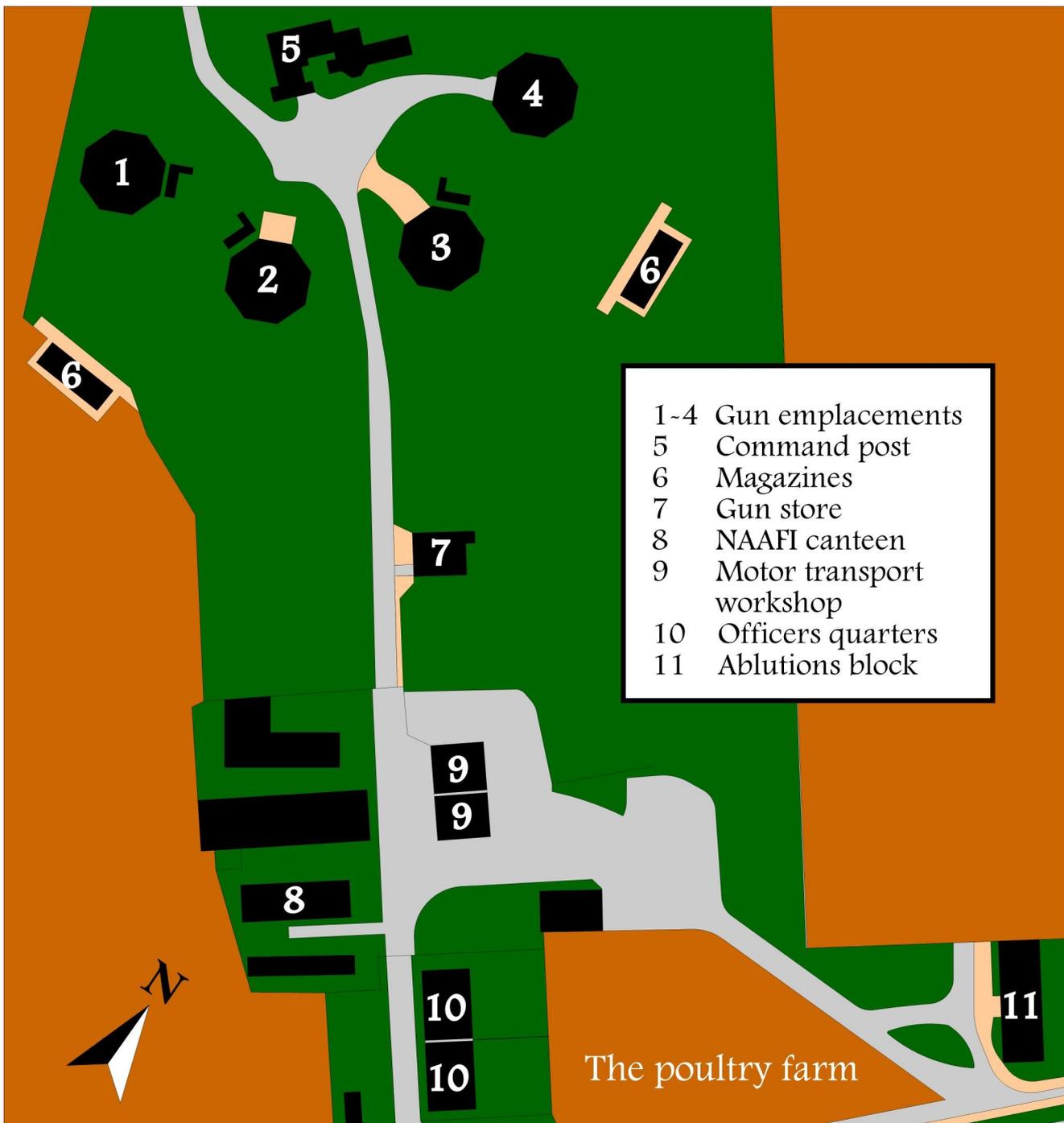




BOLDON CAMP HERITAGE GROUP

Red Barns Farm Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery “Tyne D” (HER1796)



Red Barns Farm Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery designated “Tyne D”

In 2008, the Newcastle City Council Tyne & Wear Specialist Conservation Team’s document “A guide to the Archeology of the Twentieth Century Defence Sites of Tyne & Wear” classified Red Barns farm Heavy Anti-

Aircraft Battery at the junction of Mill Lane and the A194 near Whitemare Pool Roundabout as an **Important site**, one of the few Munich Crisis batteries to survive, it was designated “Tyne D”.

The 1937 defensive plan by Sir Thomas Inskip located an anti-aircraft gun battery here, one of a number of batteries to be sited between the Tyne and the Tees. In total there were to be 64 Anti-Aircraft Guns installed at a number of battery locations. However, by the time war arrived there were only 9 anti-aircraft guns protecting the Tyne, four of which were at Red Barns Farm.

The armaments at Red Barns Farm changed and developed throughout the war. The original deployment was four 3.7inch guns however in 1942 these were replaced with four 4.4 inch guns which, after a short period of time were changed back to 3.7 inch guns plus two 40mm Bofor quick firing guns and a searchlight.

The battery site had a number of buildings which included a command post, two ammunition magazines, a gun store, canteen, shower block, garage, motor transport workshop and officers’ quarters (see plan).

The location of the battery site was probably chosen to provide anti-aircraft fire to protect the industrial complexes in that area south of the Tyne, namely Hawthorn Leslie, A.R. Reyrolle and the Monkton Coke Works site to name but a few. All vital industries supporting the war effort.

Up until approximately 2010 the main structures of the battery site were still in existence. However, around this time the four concrete gun positions, command post, gun store and ammunition magazines were demolished and the area turned over to grazing land.

In 2017, the quarry that is adjacent to the site expanded its operations for the extraction of brick clay and the remaining buildings which were the officers’ quarters (used as bungalows), motor transport workshop, canteen and ablutions block (all used as storage outhouses) were all demolished and the quarry site increased to include the remaining land that the battery had occupied.

The Boldon Camp Heritage Group believe that Boldon Camp would have been the depot to supply ammunition to the anti-aircraft guns located at the Red Barns Farm Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery. Research is ongoing.