

# Dagenham Borough Control Underground Bunker, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham A Historic Building Record

National Grid Reference: TQ 4962 8685

Project: 30088

2008



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

# Dagenham Borough Control Underground Bunker.

## London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

### A Historic Building Record

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Date of Record:	26-03-2008
Date of Report:	April 2008

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Draft/Final Report Stage: Date:

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## **Non-Technical Summary**

A programme of Historic Building Recording was carried out on a bunker of Cold-War date adjacent to the Civic Centre in Dagenham. The bunker was a control centre to monitor nuclear attack and fallout. Little appears to have altered since the construction of the building, and the internal layout of rooms little altered. Ravages of damp and mould are having a deleterious effect on fixtures, fittings and furniture. Historical artefacts from Valence Museum are currently stored there, and are now in need of conservation.

This report provides a detailed study of what was, until recently, a well preserved example of a Civil Defence structure.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 This document presents the results of a Historic Building Record of a Civil Defence Bunker at Dagenham Civic Centre, in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. The fabric of the building and its function are described, and there is a discussion of the building in relation to the Civil Defence of Britain.

## 1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The site is within fenced grounds immediately east of Dagenham Civil Centre, and west of Central Park. It is buried underground, with a low mound featuring ventilation pipes and a concrete access block at NGR TQ 4962 8685. Dagenham Civic centre is bound by Rainham Road North to the west, Wood Lane to the north, and Central Park to the south and east. The Civic Centre was established in the 1930s and expanded in the 1950s. It is Grade II listed.

## 1.3 Development Proposal

- 1.3.1 It is proposed that the Civic centre be extended eastwards. This is likely to have an impact on the Control Bunker. It is yet to be confirmed whether the bunker will be removed or backfilled. Extensions to the Civic Centre may require Listed Building Consent and further recording. This document solely regards the bunker.

## 1.4 Planning Background

- 1.4.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by David Divers of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 1.4.2 Planning permission is yet to be applied for to extend the Civic Centre. This recording has taken place in advance of planning permission, with an understanding on the client's behalf of the historic importance of Cold War archaeological remains.
- 1.4.3 The first stage in the planning process was creation of a Written Scheme of Investigation, detailing the methodology for recording, and including some background history of the bunker and the site.
- 1.4.4 The Civic Centre was listed Grade II in 1981. This text is taken from the English Heritage National Monuments Record, ©2007. Please note that the foundation stones give the date 1936, not 1956 as per the listing:

*Dagenham Main building and Council Chamber of Dagenham Civic Centre TQ 48 NE 3/9 II 2. Built in 1956. Architect E Berry Webber. Modern style. Built of mulberry coloured stocks laid mainly in English Bond with Portland stone dressings. Symmetrical facade of 3 storeys and semi-basement. Central Portland stone portico of higher elevation with 4 slim clustered columns and 3 reliefs with Civic Shield and personifications of some main industries of the area. Glazed staircase hall behind. The central staircase hall is flanked by wings of 13 bays each and further bay of 2 storeys; the whole having glazed semi-circular staircase projections at each end. Metal framed casements, the first floor windows having cornices and cast iron flower guards. Stone parapet, band and plinth. Cast iron guards to semi-*

*basement. Semi-circular Council Chamber to rear, behind central staircase hall. Some modern rear extensions do not detract from the original design.*

## **1.5 Methodology**

- 1.5.1 The building Record was made to correspond to 'Level 3' of English Heritage Guidelines (*English Heritage 2008*). This is an analytical record, and a systematic account of the buildings origins, development and use. A full drawn and photographic record was made in order to illustrate the bunker's appearance, structure and materials. Where suitable, medium format photography was used, supported by 35mm and digital images. Most of the information regarding the building is from the on-site records, but to set the results in a wider view, conclusions are reached which draw upon academic research into Cold War buildings.
- 1.5.2 The bunker has just one room with electric power. Torches were used to light the structure during the recording. The bunker has suffered from severe damp over the last few years, resulting in wet rot, which has encouraged forms of 'cellar fungus' *Coniophora puteana*. This has adversely affected wall finishes, original fabric, and furniture.

## **1.6 Topography and Geology**

- 1.6.1 The site is broadly flat, Central Park occupying a low plateau north of Hornchurch marshes. Beam River is two kilometres to the east, the River Roding 6 kilometres to the west. The British Geological Report indicates that the site occupies an extensive area of river terrace deposits: specifically Hackney Gravel. This drift geology is part clayey, part sandy and part gravelly.

## **2. Historical Background**

### **2.1 Civic Centre**

- 2.1.1 The Civic Centre (formerly Dagenham Town Hall) was designed in the early 1930s by E Berry Webber in the art deco style. The building was originally intended to be one of three buildings, together with a fire station and library. Although the fire station was built to the right of the Town Hall, the proposed library never came to fruition. Building began in 1936 and the Hall was formally opened in 1937. The building has an impressive front entrance and portico, some excellent art deco ceilings, and champagne coloured botticino marble stairs and foyer. The Council Chamber is walnut panelled with acoustic art deco ceilings. The Chairman's Room is panelled in Canadian betula veneer inlaid with sycamore and has specially designed walnut furniture.
- 2.1.2 The main structure of the building is in mulberry stock brick, with Portland stone portico and carvings, and metal 'Crittall' windows. Most of the doors of the building are mahogany with bronze furniture. As originally constructed the building had pylons at each end which illuminated lily ponds, known as the 'blue lagoons' by the locals. The lagoons were turned into gardens in 1953.

### **2.2 Bunker**

- 2.2.1 International crises after the end of the Second World War such as the Berlin blockade and the development of Soviet nuclear weapons encouraged the re-establishment of Civil Defence measures. The Civil Defence Joint Planning Staff laid down the basis for a new civil defence structure for Britain. In 1949 it was recommended that "protected control rooms with signal communications at local authority, zone, region and central government level" be provided. Initially, war rooms were only planned for Civil Defence Regions based on those used in World War II.
- 2.2.2 The Civil Defence Joint Planning Staff only considered sites in England and Wales, and decided to leave London out of its initial plans because its size and potential as a target meant it would have to be treated as a special case. The sites proposed were all in the same regional centres as their wartime predecessors. Building the War Rooms did not start until 1952. The London ones were all built by 1953.
- 2.2.3 The bunker at Dagenham was built in 1953 and was designated 51B2 reporting to the North East Group Regional War Room at Wanstead Flats (London Borough of Waltham Forest). It is a purpose-built underground bunker beneath a low mound, and is situated to the rear of the Civic Centre. The main access is a small concrete block with a wooden door surrounding the top of the stairway. There are reports of an aerial mast on top of the bunker, but this is no longer standing.
- 2.2.4 There is an emergency exit at the rear of the mounds and consists of an ROC type metal hatch. The internal rooms are accessed through the main entrance, and a long corridor with an airlock but no blast protection separates the operating rooms from the entrance.
- 2.2.5 The bunker was decommissioned around 1968 and apart from a the brief reactivation in the 1990's its only other use has been as a social room for the Emergency Planning staff and in recent years in has featured in various films and documentaries, such as 'Adolf and Eva' and 'Battle of the Atlantic'.
- 2.2.6 Civil defence remained a government concern into the 1980s and 1990s. A government leaflet from 1981 entitles 'Civil Defence – Why We Need It' (HMSO 1981) sums up the requirements with:



*The case for civil defence stands regardless of whether a nuclear deterrent is necessary or not. Radioactive fallout is no respecter of neutrality. Even if the UK were not itself at war, we would be as powerless to prevent fallout from a nuclear explosion crossing the sea as was King Canute to stop the tide. This is why countries with a long tradition of neutrality (such as Switzerland and Sweden) are foremost in their civil defence precautions.*

### **3 Building Record**

#### **3.1 Surface Features**

- 3.1.1 The location of the bunker is visible at ground level to the east of the Civic Centre as a low grassed mound c.0.30m high. At the northwestern corner of the mound is the main entrance to the bunker, a small concrete building with a door facing west, the east side slopes down to ground level. The entrance is constructed of concrete walls 0.62m thick. The walls appear to have been constructed within shuttering: above ground there are horizontal ridges along the concrete which indicate four layers of concrete, with a final layer laid at the same time as the precast sloping roof. All the exterior walls were painted dark green, presumably as camouflage. A small rectangular patch with no paint on the north wall indicates a lost sign. There is a second rectangular patch above the entrance, which presumably also held a sign (Plate 1).
- 3.1.2 The main door has been replaced in recent times by a metal door hung on an inserted steel frame. The original door survives, and is a panelled door with three rails. The door handle is bakelite and rounded, and the door was fixed with three hinges to a wooden frame. The internal floor at the entrance is 0.15m above current ground level. This may have helped to guard against flooding.
- 3.1.3 The emergency exit is visible on the surface as a square metal cover set within a larger spread of concrete. It is not possible to open this from the outside: it is secured with a padlock and chain.
- 3.1.4 A small metal housing northwest of the emergency exit is the location of an aerial mast. The mast is no longer extant. The housing measures 0.18m square and has been filled with concrete.
- 3.1.5 Two brick structures with concrete caps lie directly east of the entrance, and are outlets of the plant room within the bunker: outlets for exhaust fumes. Two other outlets are present: a small square pipe with a pyramidal top vents the lavatories; a round pipe with a curved top is the outlet from ventilation ducts.

#### **3.2 The Bunker**

##### **3.2.1 Entrance and Airlock**

- 3.2.2 The main entrance at ground level leads down fourteen steps to a lower landing, followed by three further steps which lead to an airlock door. The lowest part of the corridor is 3.42m below the surface. The stairway has walls 0.62m thick; the roof slab is 0.58m thick. This may not be strong enough to withstand a direct hit or even a near miss (Plate 2).
- 3.2.3 The corridor is lit by electric light, the lights being oval bulkhead wall lights of bakelite. No manufacturers name was visible: 'made in England' is present on the moulded case. The electricity supply runs along the centre of the stairway ceiling. The stairway has a handrail on each side of cast iron with a circular profile, attached by square brackets.
- 3.2.4 The airlock is a small room 2.29m by 1.22m. The outer door is at the end of the entrance corridor and the inner door allows access to the bunker proper. The doors are thick and heavy, and the hinges are attached to the walls rather than door frame; this is presumed to aid getting a tight seal. There had been gas seals around the doors, but these are now decayed, fragments of rubber lying

in small mounds at the foot of the doors. A seal was maintained at the base of the door by continuing the frame around all four sides.

- 3.2.5 The doors can only be opened from the inside of the bunker. They are closed by turning a latch into a horizontal position to engage with a catch. The catch has a round handle. The airlock is also lit by an oval bulkhead wall light. The rest of the bunker is lit by fluorescent strip lights, the light switches being bakelite.

### 3.2.6 General

- 3.2.7 Two main building materials form the bunker: concrete and light weight studs with panels that form partition walls. For the ceilings, studs are bolted to the ceiling and hardboard panels nailed atop. Many of the internal walls have hardboard or plasterboard applied on top and painted pale blue. The rooms are all the same height above the floor which is level: a height of 2.75m. Most floors are painted red. The soft wall finishes have become very prone to wet rot with blooms of grey 'cellar mould' rampant on most ceilings and walls.

### 3.2.8 Corridor: Room 2

- 3.2.9 A corridor runs north-south through the bunker, providing access to the operating rooms, welfare rooms and lavatories. The floor is painted red, the walls pale blue. It is lit by electric light. Metal ducting for ventilation runs along and crosses the corridor to the Plant Room. Two turns west off the main corridor lead to the ladies dormitory and lavatories, and to the men's dormitory and lavatories.
- 3.2.10 The corridor does not run straight, having an angled bend after the Plant Room, before running south again. There is no clear reason for this deviation from the straight; it is an ineffective blast protection, since there is unimpeded north-south access. The corridor is part of the original layout, the east side walls being concrete, and the west wall around the Plant Room is also concrete.

### 3.2.11 Plant Room: Room 3

- 3.2.12 The first room west of the main corridor is the Plant Room, and contains the machinery and operating systems for heat, power and ventilation. There is a standby diesel generator in the northeast of the room, manufactured by Lister, and installed in or around 1976, to judge by an instruction manual present within the room. It is a 2-cylinder engine, and its exhaust is enclosed in a lightweight metal duct which runs northwards out of the room at high level, across the entrance corridor and out to the open air via one of the capped brick structures. This is therefore not the generator present in 1953 (Plate 3).
- 3.2.13 The ventilation plant is also in this room, and consists of two three-phase motors set side by side and manufactured by Brook Motors Ltd of Huddersfield (BSS 170-1939). Each of these powers an air intake, and the intakes both have a manufacturers' label:

The Air Impellor and Engineering Co. IMPULSITOR FAN FAN no. 7872 Camden House Pratt St. London
---

The second fan is No.7870

3.2.14 The fans are both connected to a series of ducts which serve every room in the bunker except for the lavatories. The ducting in each room has a number of narrow grills which allow the air to be vented out. The used air is sucked in to the ventilation and expelled at surface level via a circular duct with a rounded end. Several of the pipes between the fans and the vent are open: they just end. This suggests that some plant has been removed from the room, possibly an air filter. The presence of the vent to the exterior indicates that used air was expelled. This begs the question of how the air intake into the bunker operated.

3.2.15 Along the eastern wall of the room is the Switchgear. This controls the electrical network within the bunker and has interconnections between the various plant and power supplies for lighting, ventilation and desktop apparatus. The Switchgear has safety circuits and fuses to guard against electrical failure. Beneath the switchgear is an electricity meter.

3.2.16 The room also contains modern items that have no relevance to the bunker as a Cold War control centre: there are displays of Chubb and Yale locks, a random assortment of chairs are present, as well as boxes of paper records that do not relate to the bunker or its use.

#### **3.2.17 Liaison Officer, later Scientific Intelligence Officer: Room 4**

3.2.18 This almost square room is located in the centre of the western side of the bunker, and is lacking any fittings bar the ventilation duct, which contains two grills. The walls of the room are all stud walls with hardboard surfaces. The use of partition walls here instead of concrete walls suggests that the layout of the bunker was mutable within the initial framework. The use of this room by the liaison officer is an interpretation from the *Subterranea Britannica* group (2004). A Liaison Officer would co-ordinate information to and from the bunker.

3.2.19 The room contains a number of filing cabinets and metal shelving units, a blackboard and two local maps on the west wall, and a large sign on the east wall with the title: 'Young Citizen's Guild Commissioner' H. Day. B.E.M. This may post-date the Cold War usage of the bunker.

#### **3.2.20 Female Dormitory: Room 5**

3.2.21 This room is located at the end of a short stretch of corridor off the main spine of the bunker. It lies west of the Plant Room. It is stripped of all fittings and has no evidence of primary use. It is used for storage of beds and furnishings of recent date. The only original element apart from the structure itself is the grill in the south wall which is at the end of one ventilation duct.

#### **3.2.22 Female Lavatories: Room 6a**

3.2.23 This small room is adjacent to the female dormitory, and is formed of stud walls. It houses two sinks, two cubicles and a water heater. The sinks have the logo '*Bristol Compactus*' above the overflow, and are very small sinks. The lavatory bowls display the logo '*Trent Ware*'. A header tank for water lies at the south end of the cubicles, and serves all lavatories. The water supply is carried in lead pipes that rise from the floor. It is presumed that the lavatories feed into a cess-pit, which is vented by narrow pipe, the top of which is visible at the surface. Drain covers are present in the floor.

### **3.2.24 Male Lavatories: Room 6b**

- 3.2.25 This room is laid out almost identically to the Ladies Lavatory, except there is one sink, and a pair of urinals is on the west wall instead of basins. The lavatory bowls in this room are manufactured by Royal Doulton.

### **3.2.26 Male Dormitory, Room 7**

- 3.2.27 This small square room has the Male lavatories adjacent to it, and lacks most original fittings. Large pin-boards on the south and west walls may be original. There are sprung beds stored in this room, but it is not possible to determine whether these are a remnant from the use as a dormitory, or have become stored there. The room is filled with displays and items labelled from Valence House Museum which are beginning to suffer fungal infestation. One of the vent ducts has a terminus in this room.

### **3.2.28 Kitchen and Welfare, Room 8**

- 3.2.29 A water heater, Butler sink and draining board indicate the use of this room most recently as a kitchen. There are no other kitchen implements or white goods to confirm its use, but in the case of Nuclear Attack, it seems likely that food or water may have been required by the staff within. An enamelled metal bucket and basin in the room may be two items left from the Cold War period. The wall between this room and the male dormitory is a partition wall. All other walls are solid concrete (Plate 4).

### **3.2.30 Control Room, Room 9**

- 3.2.31 This is one of the principal rooms for the successful operation of the bunker as a control centre in the Cold War. It is the largest room, measuring 6.67m by 5.35m, and was the dampest of all the rooms in the bunker, with a puddle of water by a door which leads to the Emergency Exit. The damp has caused the growth of 'cellar fungus', and this has infested wall finishes, furnishings and maps that may have been in good condition until recently. On the east wall are two Ordnance Survey maps of the borough. On the south wall, a large notice board formerly entitled 'LOCATIONS BOARD' has been covered with a coloured A-Z map of the borough. A second board on the wall is entitled 'Special Advisors Display Board and two columns for date and 'to be seen by' (Plate 5).
- 3.2.32 There are two small hatches in the northern wall that open into the Voice Procedure Room (Room 13) and the Counter Room (Room 11). These would have been used for passing messages. Both hatches have small doors, so could clearly be closed for privacy or noise reduction.
- 3.2.33 The furniture in the room may even have been present during the 1950s: it is a fairly disparate group of tables of varying sizes: no piece matches another bar a pair of desks with curved fronts that may be part of a unit that could have formed a semi-circle. There is a chest of very small drawers, probably once holding card indexes. Metal cabinets are also present. Any paperwork in this room relating to the operating is now soft and in need of conservation. There are also a number of triangular naming blocks advertising job titles. These may be of Cold War date, or could be props from recent filming.
- 3.2.34 In the south east corner of the room is a door leading eastwards, with the title 'EMERGENCY EXIT' stencilled above in red paint. The door is of the same sort as the door at the airlock: heavy, wood, and hung from hinges attached to the masonry not a wooden frame. A seal round the door is grey

rubber 25mm thick and better preserved than the airlock door seals. This door can only be opened from the inside, and has an internal high level bolt.

### **3.2.35 Emergency Exit, Room 10**

3.2.36 The emergency exit is at the end of a corridor running east from the Control Room. The corridor rises slightly to the east, and may no longer be fully structurally sound, since rain water is finding its way in and encouraging mould. At the east end of the tunnel is a vertical iron ladder which leads upwards to a square iron 'drain cover'. The cover is currently secured with a padlock and chain, but there is evidence of a mechanism which probably dates to the 1950s: a bracket on the side of the hatch has a metal bar attached to it. The bracket pivots. The lower end of the bar has a slot which may once have fitted over a hoop to allow a padlock to be fitted, although no hoop was identified during the recording.

### **3.2.37 Message Room, Rooms 11 to 13**

3.2.38 This room, adjacent to the control room, has been partitioned to form three rooms, now an office (Room 12), a Counter Room (Room 11) and a Voice Procedure Room (Room 13). The office and counter room contain desks, cupboards and files, all suffering the effects of damp. A hatch in the south wall of the counter room provides contact with the control room. A hatch in the north wall of the office provides contact with the northern Messengers Room. The furniture and paperwork in the office is close to full decomposition. Various cards and report books were noted, as well as defence strategy documents.

3.2.39 The Voice Procedure Room has a long desk along the eastern wall that has a series of typewriters, computers and screens. There are telecommunication junction boxes and a Telex machine. This equipment is similar to that illustrated in the Home Office 1989 handbook (*Cockroft and Thomas 2002*) and is likely to be of similar date. This is the 'County Message Switch (CMX). In the north and south walls of this room are hatches, respectively allowing contact to the Messengers Room and Control Room. This room is less damp than the others (Plate 6).

3.2.40 There is no evidence for the original use for this room, but it is reported (*ibid*) that this was the 'Message room' and would have had acoustic booths along one wall. Presumably, the messages received in this room were passed to the Control Room, and messages from the control room relayed via telephonic equipment and the aerial mast to the North East Group Regional War Room at Wanstead Flats.

### **3.2.41 Messengers Room, Room 14**

3.2.42 This small room is the northernmost room on the eastern side of the Bunker, and has two hatches in its south wall to the former Message Room. Presumably, messages were passed to the Message Room, although the exact procedures of information relay appear somewhat tortuous: if the messengers give information to the Message Room, and the Control room passes messages to and from the Message Room, there is no real need for the Messengers Room. This room is bare of fittings bar the ubiquitous striplights.

### **3.3 The Furniture**

- 3.3.1 The furniture within the bunker appears to derive from many sources, and is of undetermined provenance. There are reports that the bunker has been used for filming television programmes, so any or all of the furniture could have been introduced by film-makers. There is also a collection of historic items from Valence House, including lanterns, cupboards and a wooden memorial plaque to First World War casualties. These important items will soon be lost to wet rot.
- 3.3.2 The control room has four large tables of various sorts, as well as a pair of tables with curved fronts and swivel chairs with metal stands. These may have been used during the working life of the bunker. The wooden furniture and non metal parts of the chairs have severe wet rot, characterised by festoons of white powder, and Health and Safety considerations prevented more detailed recording other than photographs. The Counter Room and Voice Procedure Room also have furniture, not quite in as poor condition as the control room, but clearly suffering from damp with blooms of cellar fungus. The female and male dormitories both have parts of metal-framed beds, which may be original fittings. However, the female dormitory is filled with modern bedding and the male dormitory with countless stored furniture approaching mouldy oblivion.

### **3.4 Paperwork and Forms**

- 3.4.1 The majority of the paperwork in the bunker is suffering from damp and mould. Three items were recorded that indicate some of the defence organisation during the last days of the bunker's defence use. These are a Dispersal Travel Pass, an Identification Card for the Councils' Major Emergency Plan, and a booklet of Emergency Evacuation Cards. These documents are reproduced as Appendix B
- 3.4.2 The Dispersal Travel Pass is defined as being for the 'priority classes', which would presumably mean members of Civil Defence Units and Emergency Services. The Identity card entitles the holder to carry out duties in accordance with the Emergency Plan. The Evacuation Card provides logistic information for the Emergency Control centre: numbers evacuated to Rest Centres, priorities for assistance, information for the Police, and the location and numbers of 'distressed' persons. The Evacuation Card Form contains the evacuees' address, number in household, and number of missing members of the household.



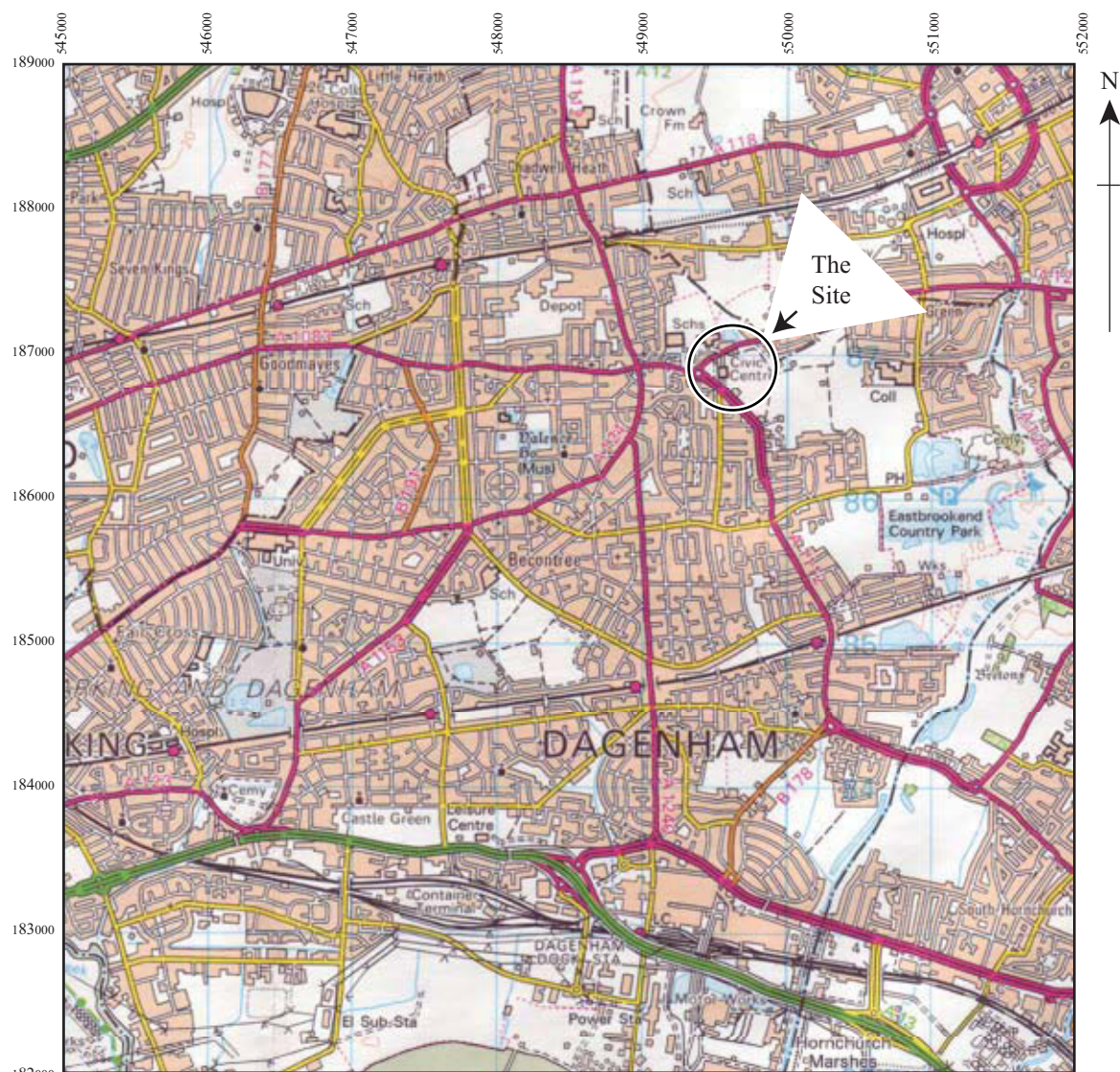
## 4 Conclusions and Interpretation

- 4.1.1 The bunker at the Civic Centre in Dagenham was a good example of local defence measures undertaken in the early 1950s, emergency planning being devolved to borough level. The poor condition of the furnishings and the presence of wet rot are rapidly diminishing the value of the building. The surviving evidence appears to show facilities typical of those around other county controls. The main room of the bunker is the Control Room, where officials would coordinate their activities in response to information supplied from the Message Room. The Control Room would have had its own external telephone lines, as well as contacts to the Message Room and messengers Rooms. The 'County Message Switch' (CMX) in the Message Room contains a layout of telecommunication similar to that displayed in the Home Office 1989 handbook (*Cockcroft and Thomas 2002*).
- 4.1.2 The bunker is designed to contain all useful items in the event of nuclear attack beyond the essentials of the Control Room: the plant room provides emergency power, ventilation and filtration. The facilities for basic human needs are also present; a kitchen, dormitories and lavatories for men and women. This was not a bunker for Council management, but an operating shelter to help defend the realm.
- 4.1.3 It is understood that the bunker was staffed by Council employees rather than full-time military personnel, supplemented by radio amateurs. The purpose of such a bunker was limited to administration in the immediate aftermath of a strike. With limited supplies of fuel and food it would have soon become untenable if not re-supplied. This semi-professional outlook may be reflected in the irregular furniture used: there are few pieces that match, and those that do may have been second hand.
- 4.1.4 The usefulness of this bunker in a Cold War scenario may have been limited, particularly in the later stage of the Cold War. Whilst self-contained, the prospects for staff within the bunker in the event of nuclear bombing and fallout appear low. A close hit would have been fatal: even if the structure survived, there is no real blast protection. There is gas protection, as proved by the airlocks and ventilation system, but the effectiveness of the filter may have been limited regarding fallout. Domestic advice is given in the famous government leaflet –Protect and Survive (HMSO 1976) –but Civil Defence Teams may have had more realistic advice:
- The danger from fall-out is greatest in the first forty-eight hours. During that time you must stay in the fall-out room and as far as possible within your inner refuge. If you leave the room to dispose of waste or to replenish food or water supplies, do not stay outside it for a second longer than is necessary.*
- 4.1.5 The current condition of the shelter varies. The basic concrete structure is very solid, with walls over 0.62m thick. The weak points are the entrances, which allow water in, which has contributed to damp. The interior wall finishes are suffering wet rot, particularly partition walls, boarded surfaces over concrete and ceiling panels. Any wooden or rubber element has an advanced state of mould. Maps and soft furnishings have degraded.



## 5 Bibliography

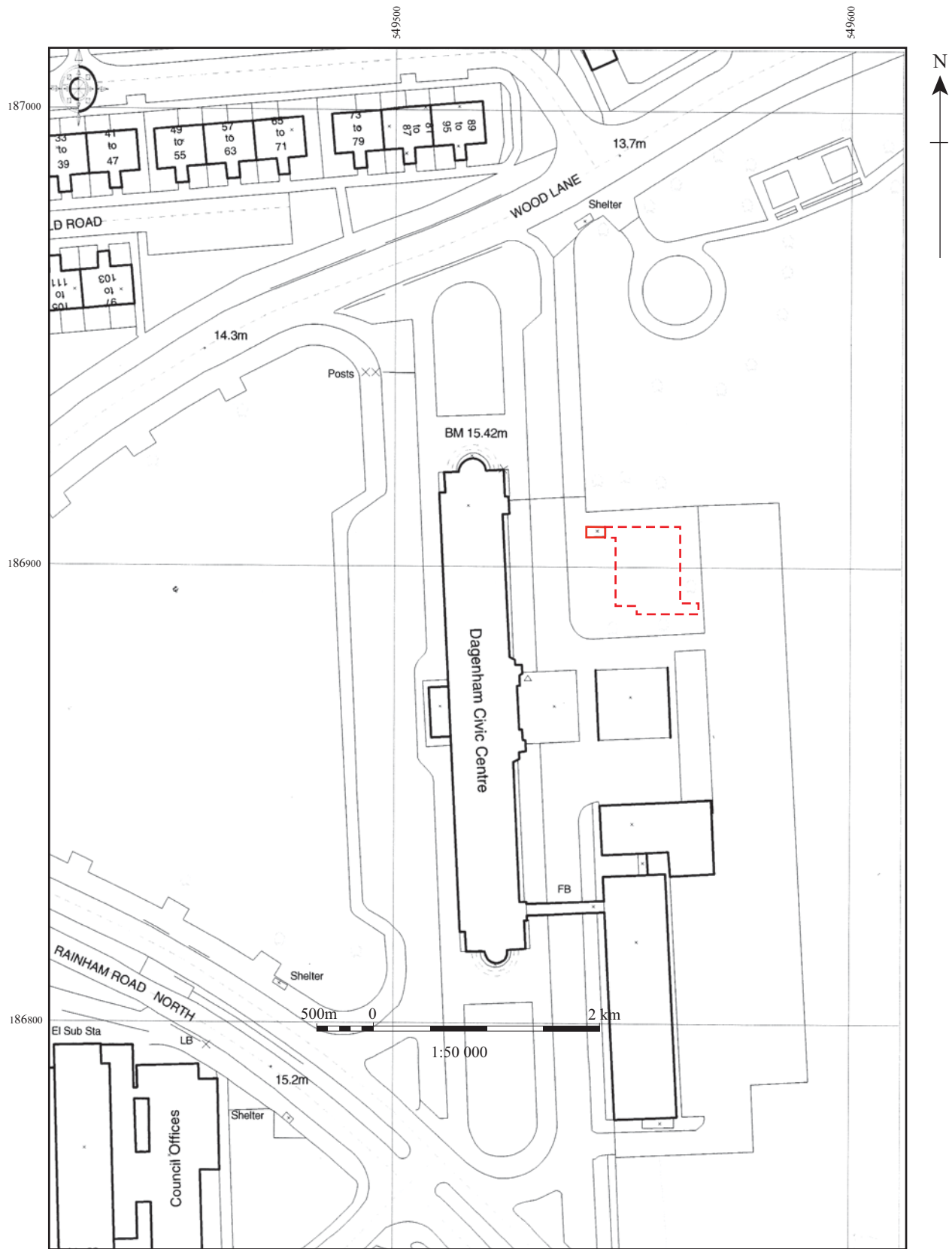
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Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 2004  
with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,  
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500m 0 2 km  
1:50 000

**Figure 1:** Site Location



Based on the Ordnance Survey's Digital map of 2008  
with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,  
© Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 1000 16114

**Figure 2:** Detailed Bunker Location

-  Bunker Entrance Location
-  Bunker Outline

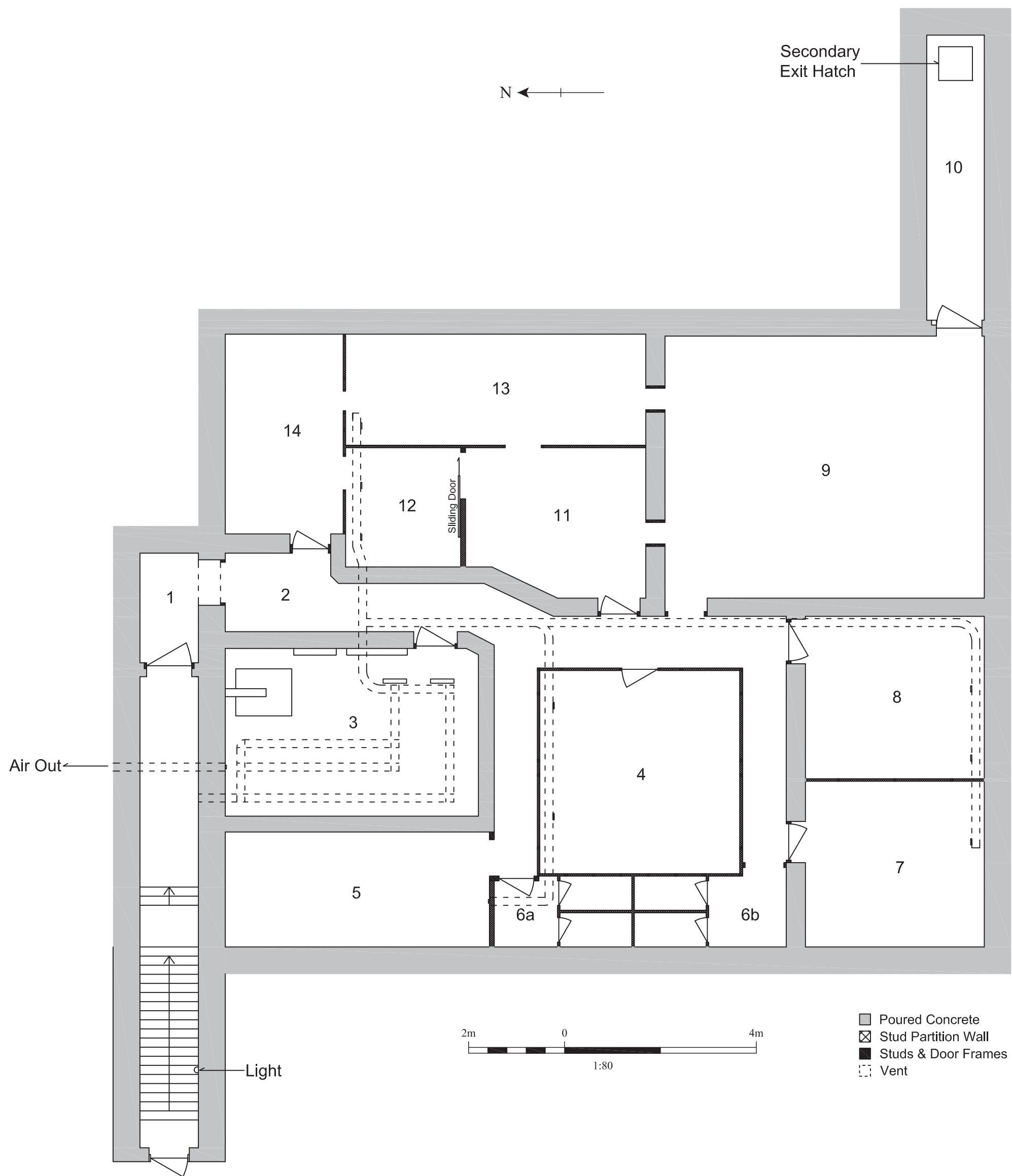


Figure 3: Internal Bunker Plan



## Plates



*Plate 1: The entrance to the bunker*



*Plate 2: Bunker entrance stairs*



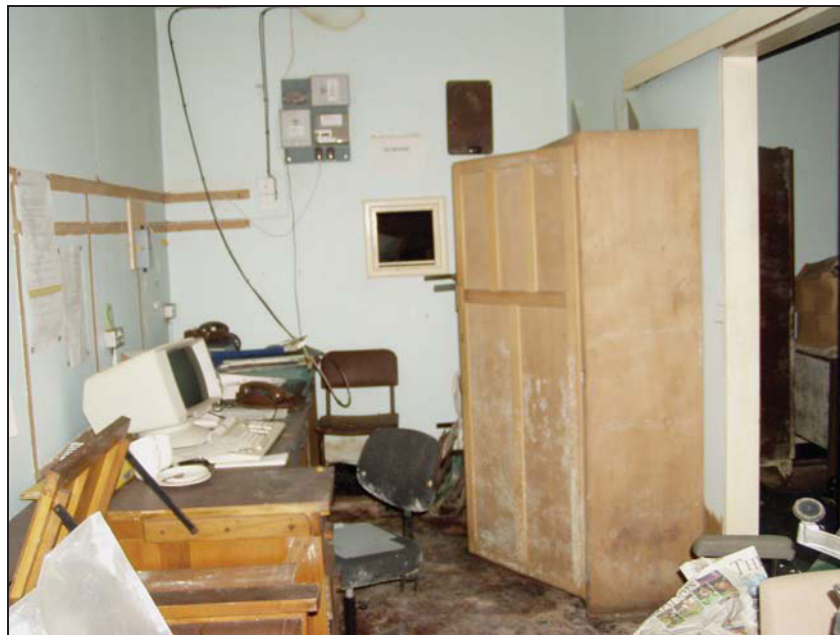
*Plate 3: Plant Room 3, Diesel generator*



*Plate 4: Room 8, Kitchen showing wet rot*



*Plate 5: The Control Room, Room 9*



*Plate 6: Voice Procedure Room, Room 13*

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## Appendices

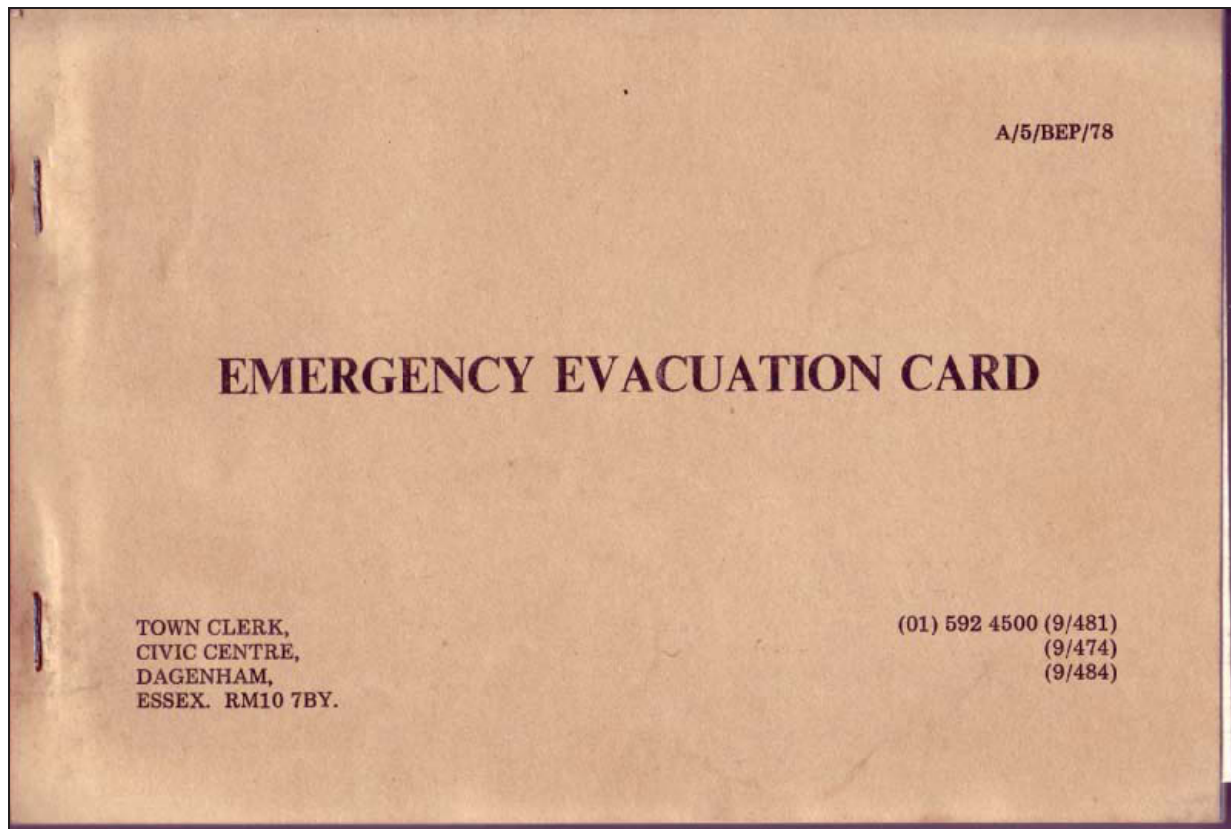


## Appendix A, Photographic Register

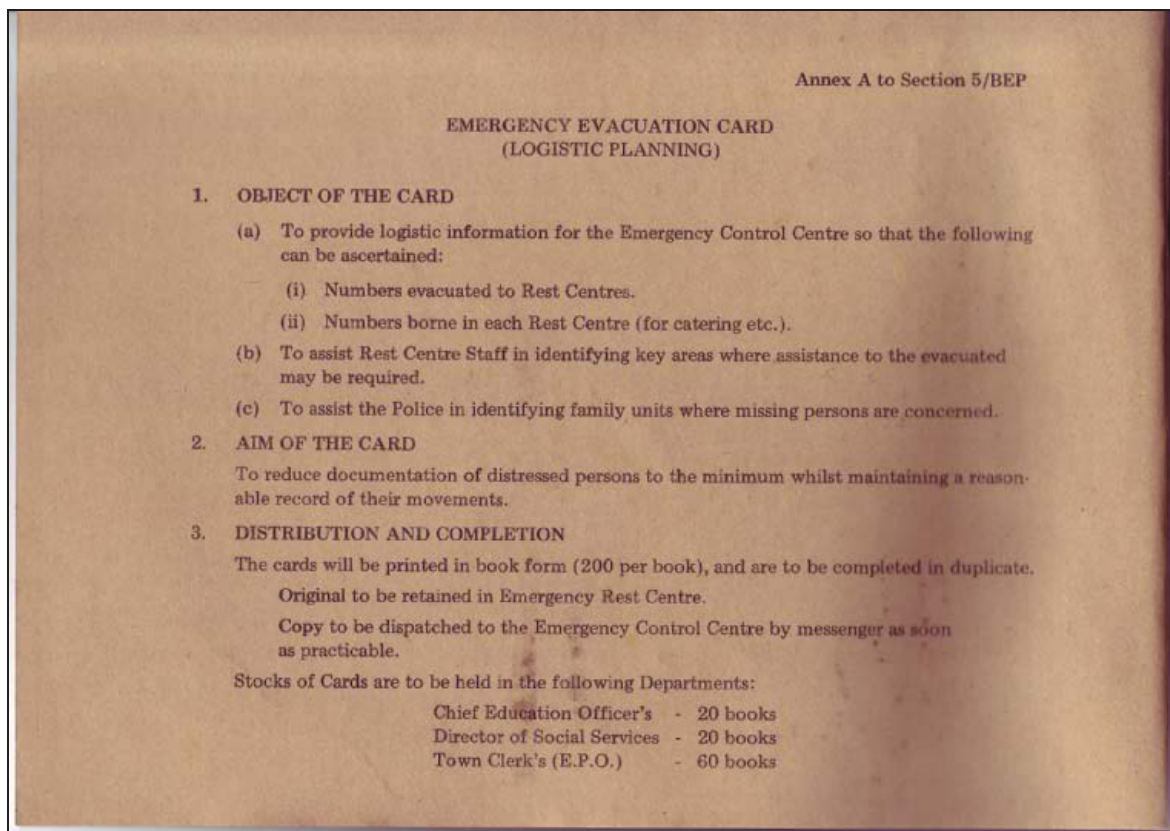
Image No.	Description	View	Digital	Colour	B/W
1	Surface entrance	SE			
2	Entrance	E			
3	Entrance	SW			
4	Surface Vents	SE			
5	Surface Vents	SE			
6	Surface	W			
7	Setting	W			
8	Bunker Mound	SW			
9	Bunker Mound and entrances	NW			
10	Emergency Exit	N			
11	Bunker Mound	NW			
12	Emergency Exit	W			
13	Setting	W			
14	Vents	W			
15	Doorway	NW			
16	Doorway	SW			
17	Door	W			
18	Door	W			
19	Door Handle	-			
20	Door Handle	-			
21	Entrance Corridor 1	E			
22	Entrance Corridor 1	E			
23	Entrance Corridor 1	E			
24	Entrance Corridor 1	E			
25	Door to airlock	N			
26	Door to airlock	NW			
27	Light in corridor	-			
28	Main door, handle	-			
29	Main door handle	-			
30	Main door handle	-			
31	Plant Room 3, diesel generator	N			
32	Ventilation ducts, Room 3	W			
33	Ventilation plant, Room 3	SW			
34	Corridor 2	S			
35	Towards ladies WC	W			
36	Ladies WC	S			
37	Gents WC	W			
38	WC pipework	-			
39	Lavatorial pipework	-			
40	Room 7	S			
41	Room 7	S			
42	Room 8	W			
43	Room 8	SW			
44	Room 8	SW			
45	Room 9	SE			
46	Room 9	-			
47	Room 9	S			
48	Room 9	Se			
49	Room 9	E			
50	Mould on Emergency Exit	N			
51	Emergency exit Room 10	E			

Image No.	Description	View	Digital	Colour	B/W
52	Emergency exit Room 10	SE			
53	Emergency Exit	E			
54	Emergency ladder Room 10	E			
55	Emergency Exit hatch	-			
56	Emergency Exit hatch	-			
57	Emergency Exit Hatch	E			
58	Room 9 furniture	W			
59	Room 9	E			
60	Room 11 looking to 12 and 13	NE			
61	Room 13	N			
62	Room 13	S			
63	Room 9	N			
64	Room 9	N			
65	Room 9 ceiling	-			
66	Room 9	E			
67	Room 9	E			
68	Room 11	SW			
69	Room 12	N			
70	Room 14	SW			
71	Room 14	SW			
72	Room 1	E			
73	Room 4	SW			
74	Room 4	E			
75	Room 4	E			
76	Room 14	E			
77	Room 14	S			

## Appendix B, Emergency Documents



Emergency Evacuation Card Booklet: Front Cover



Emergency Evacuation Card, Inner page: instructions

STREET/ROAD				HOUSE No.	ECC	POL	HSP	SS	BIL	FEED	TNSP
NAME						INITIALS			MR. MRS. MISS		
No. FROM HOUSE at R.C.				No. UNACCOUNTED FOR				REMARKS			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4				
5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8				
9	10			9	10						
WILL YOU REQUIRE TEMP. ACCOMMODATION				AGED & INVALID							
YES                  NO											
TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS				DESTINATION				EMERGENCY CONTROL CENTRE			
BUS RAIL OTHER NONE											
REST CENTRE											
DATE/TIME											
RECORDER											

1/5/1.

Emergency Evacuation Card, Evacuation Form

Ministry of Housing and Local Government

**DISPERSAL TRAVEL PASS**

DAY  

.....(NAME)

is a member of the priority classes

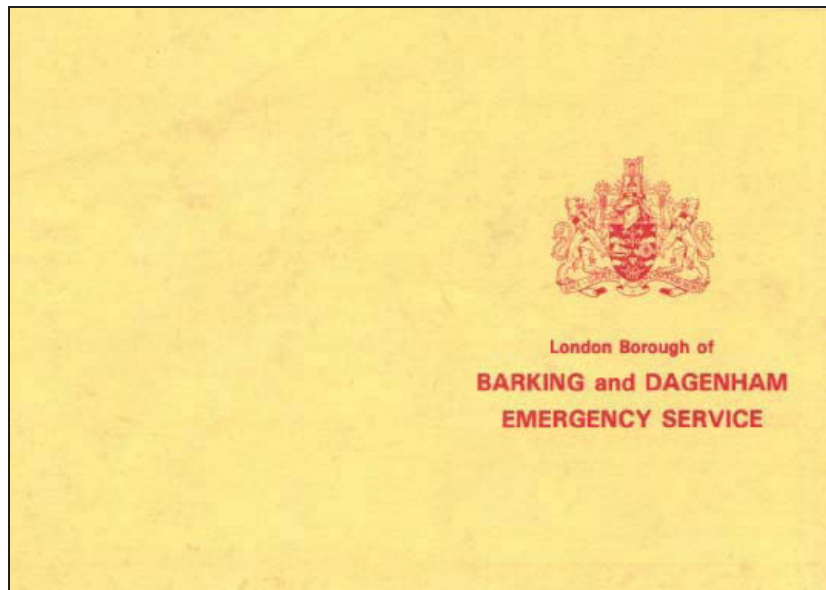
Report to.....

on.....at.....a.m./p.m.

Issuing authority.....

Mer. (7577)

Dispersal Travel Pass



Identity Card Cover

<p><b>NAME</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px; width: 200px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p><b>ORGANISATION</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px; width: 200px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p><b>EXPIRY DATE</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px; width: 200px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p><b>AUTHORISING OFFICER</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px; width: 200px;"></div>	<p>This Identification Card authorises the holder to carry out duties in accordance with the Council's Major Emergency Plan.</p> <p>This card does not give the holder right of access to any private property or premises and must be shown on demand by a Council Official or Member of the Fire, Police or Ambulance Service.</p> <p>The card is not valid after the expiry date.</p>
--	--

Identity Card Details.

## Appendix C, OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: aocarcha1-41115**

### Project details

Project name	Dagenham Control Bunker
Short description of the project	A programme of Historic Building Recording was carried out on a bunker of Cold-War date adjacent to the Civic Centre in Dagenham. The bunker was a control centre to monitor nuclear attack and fallout. Little appears to have altered since the construction of the building. Ravages of damp and mould are having a deleterious effect on fixtures, fittings and furniture.
Project dates	Start: 26-03-2008 End: 26-03-2008
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any project codes associated with reference codes	DUB08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	EMERGENCY PLANNING SHELTER Modern
Methods techniques	& 'Measured Survey','Photographic Survey'
Prompt	pre-application

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BARKING AND DAGENHAM DAGENHAM Dagenham Civic Centre



Postcode RM10

Study area 400.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 4962 8685 51.5601548874 0.158679475451 51 33 36 N 000 09 31 E Point

### Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology  
Organisation

Project brief Brief not produced  
originator

Project design AOC Archaeology  
originator

Project Les Capon  
director/manager

Project supervisor Les Capon

Type of Developer  
sponsor/funding  
body

### Project archives

Physical Archive No  
Exists?

Digital Archive Valence House Museum  
recipient

Digital Archive ID DUB08

Digital Media 'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Text'  
available

Digital Archive held at AOC until transfer  
notes

Paper recipient      Archive      Valence House Museum

Paper Archive ID      DUB08

Paper available      Media      'Correspondence','Photograph','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'

Paper notes      Archive      held at AOC until transfer

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type      Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title      Dagenham Borough Control Underground Bunker.

Author(s)/Editor(s)      Capon, L.

Date      2008

Description      31 pages, 3 figures, 6 plates

Entered by      les capon (les,capon@aocarchaeology.com)

Entered on      23 April 2008





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