

Defence of Britain Project

Site report form

Please complete the following fields as accurately and precisely as possible. Do continue on separate sheets and attach other documents, such as photographs or drawings, if you wish.

National Grid Reference (eg SU 3535 8785)	Square: <i>I J</i>	Easting: <i>493</i>	Northing: <i>730</i>
What scale map did you use to establish the above NGR? (eg 1:50,000)		<i>1: 25,000</i>	
What point on the site did you use to establish the above NGR? (eg centre, northern limit, corner of main building)			
<i>Centre of Airfield</i>			
Site name: <i>NEWTOWNARDS AIRFIELD</i>		Ref No: (Office use only)	
Location: <i>NEWTOWN ARDS</i> <i>CO DOWN</i> <i>NZ</i>			
County: <i>CO DOWN</i> (eg Rutland)		Parish:	
Date of construction: <i>1940 - 42</i> (where known)			
Type of site: <i>Defended Airfield Site</i> (eg coast battery, pillbox)			
Description:			

The airfield is on the eastern side of the town and is sited between the town and the tidal mud flats of Strangford Lough. Between 1940 and 1942 extensive defences were constructed both against an assault from the air onto the airfield itself, and against an attack from the sea. The airfield is still in use by the Ulster Aviation Society, but commercial and housing development and the reconstruction of the sea wall have all led to the possible loss of original defensive sites. In addition to the airfield itself (now slightly truncated) there are essentially 3 main groupings of defences:

The Westwinds Site: An area (200m x 100m) to the west of the airfield, and covering the approaches from the west. It consists of a Trench Strongpoint, two Seagull Trenches, one Angle Trench, four Air Raid Shelters and seven hut bases.

The Sea Wall Site: Located to the east of the airfield, along 800m of the sea wall, and covering both onto the airfield and the approaches from the sea. It includes a Pill Box, three Strongpoint complexes and two Seagull Trenches.

The Airfield Site: Which covers a number of isolated defensive locations scattered both within and around the perimeter. The majority cover onto the airfield itself. It consists of two Strongpoint complexes, a Trench Strongpoint, three Seagull Trenches and one Pill Box, as well as numerous associated airfield buildings.

Construction materials: —

Overall condition: Good Medium Poor Very Bad Uncertain Destroyed Unknown
Please circle one phrase.

Threats to the site: *Potential commercial development.*

Associated sites: —

Other written or graphical sources of information:

"Action Stations No 7"

David J Smith

1982.

Attached sheets of information:

- ① Map 1:25,000 showing main defensive lines*
- ② Extract from 13 RUF US Marine NOV '41 & Jan '42*

Site reference number:
(link to existing system)

SK-N-WW/AF/SW

Name(s) of recorder(s):
(with organisational affiliation
if appropriate)

Col SJ Krappes

Address of recorder(s):

Date(s) of field visit(s):

Feb 96