

HALSTEAD INDUSTRIAL AIR RAID SHELTERS – Document created 2016

County	Essex
Town/village/ settlement	Halstead
Street	Off Factory Lane East
Post code	CO9 2JH
Lat/long or grid reference	Lat: 51.943691 Long: 0.637808 Grid ref: TL8139230515
Company	Courtauld & Co.
Product	Textiles – weaving artificial silk –included plain weave for the manufacture of parachutes during WW2
Number of employees	739 in 1938
Number of air raid shelters	16
People capacity	50 per shelter
Facilities eg: toilets, benches etc	Toilet cubicles for male and females (cubicles, doors and some toilets roll holders still present) Chemical toilets (no longer present) Benches (originally 3 per Costain shelter - now gone) Two main rooms plus cubicles in above ground shelter
Utilities eg: power, water	Electricity
Dimensions of air raid shelters	Costains: H 6'6" W: 6'6". L:24'
Style/structure/plan of air raid shelters	Laid out in two offset lines. Costain shelters: arced concrete segments Steps + main area + toilet cubicles (see diagram) Above ground: 2 large rooms + 2 cubicle areas
Underground, mid- ground, above ground	15 Semi sunken Costain shelters 1 above ground shelter – formerly believed to serve as a communications/radio room, First Aid post and ARP warden's post.
Material(s) of construction	Costains: Precast reinforced concrete Brick above ground
Entrances/escape hatches including doors/steps/etc	Steps Metal blastproof doors (extant) External wooden doors (gone) Escape hatches – most gone Escape ladders (several extant)
Access from the industrial place	Via the chimney path leading from the former canteen.
Constructed by	15 semi sunken believed to be designed by Richard Costain Ltd.(Plans available) Builder unknown
Frequency of use of shelters in WW2.	170 times
Current use	A few are still used informally for storage others have been used for fly tipping, some remain locked and unused
Future plans	Part of a larger site marketed for development by a consortium of approx. 6 vendors. The emerging Local Plan designates the site as a Comprehensive

	Development Area and planning policy permits demolition of up to 15 of the shelters
Listed building	5 or 9 ARSs are listed under curtilage to Grade II Factory Terrace 9 lie within Halstead Conservation Area. All unlisted ARSs were included on the Local Heritage List in 2017
Other points that could be useful	13 lie on land belonging to the Salvation Army Housing Association 3 lie on land belonging to Braintree District Council Although not in a public area, there are few physical barriers to prevent access to the site Most are overgrown with brambles etc. 3 are flooded Most show signs of water ingress All are at risk of damage due to growth of tree roots, water, arson, vandalism They are part of a wider group of Courtauld industrial buildings and structures in close proximity listed in Heritage Gateway as Monument 1447042 SEAX-Unlocking Essex's Past http://unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk/uep/custom_pages/search_index.asp?content_page_id=61 EHER reference 20822