

**Site of National Interest**  
**Mobile Defence Cylinders**  
**(anti-tank)**



**The World War II archaeology can be seen at the entrance to Far Forest Society Sports Ground, Callow Hill, Rock, near where the A4117 connects to the A456, Bewdley to Tenbury Wells road.**



**The archaeology is in the form of one of the best sets of Mobile Defence Cylinders (M.D.Cs) in the county. (21 in total, including 2 conical topped versions).**

# WORLD WAR II DEFENCES

The threat of a German invasion, in 1940 and 1941, led to the construction of many defence structures throughout Great Britain. It was recognized by the Home Defence planners that important river crossings and their approach roads would need to be defended against enemy armoured columns and airborne troops. Therefore, amongst the many defences provided throughout Worcestershire to help protect the key armaments manufacturers in the West Midlands, a roadblock was provided at the Fingerpost, Rock, on the approaches to the bridge over the River Severn at Bewdley.

The first temporary roadblock at the Fingerpost was a large tree trunk, pivoted at one end with an old cartwheel attached to the other. When required, it would be rotated across the road and manned by Local Defence Volunteers (LDV). This rudimentary defence would probably have been supplemented by barbed wire structures known as "Kettle Kobs". Later, a collection of anti-tank cylinders was provided to create a more substantial block. Eighteen of the plain cylinders survive here at the entrance to the Far Forest Society Show Grounds, together with two conical-tipped versions. More of the latter would have been fixed into the grass verges, along with anti-tank mines, to prevent enemy vehicles and tanks moving around the barrier. The plain cylinders would have been rolled out and opened to close the road. It is possible that a vertical rail block set in sockets in the road surface also backed the barrier of cylinders.



Covering the roadblock was a mobile anti-tank gun emplacement near Rock Garage, operated by the 62nd Anti-Tank Regiment. The Home Guard (formerly the LDV) would have set up defence positions in the nearby properties and dug weapons pits, from which to rain down small-arms fire on the stationary enemy column. Their role was to delay the enemy for as long as possible, while a regular Army Counter-Attack column rushed to the position.



VERTICAL RAIL



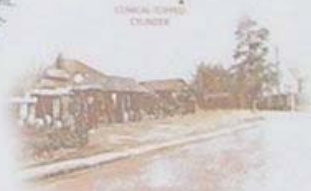
BARBED WIRE



MINES



CONICAL-TIPPED CYLINDER



ROCK GARAGE AND CAVE  
1-1/2 miles SE of Bewdley

Assisted by  
the local council  
where safety

worcestershire  
COUNCIL

Local Heritage Association

Severn Valley Trust

Severn Valley Trust

Severn Valley Trust

Worcestershire  
Museum

**An Interpretation Board alongside the M.D.Cs explain their use, had the intended invasion of Great Britain taken place.**

**Thanks to Oak Lands District History Society for photos and information**