

Institute *of* **Physics**

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION **Secret Nuclear Bunker on 10th September 2008**

This visit has been organised by Roger Voles.

Built in great secrecy in 1952 and functioning until 1992, the purpose of this underground bunker was to accommodate a devolved central government and military command in the event of a nuclear attack on the UK.

It consists of a concrete shell 3 m thick, reinforced with tungsten rods and enclosed in a wire mesh Faraday cage. It contains 3 floors and stands on a 6 m layer of gravel shock absorber 30 m below ground. It could house 600 people, including the Prime Minister, and provide filtered-air and water, food and power for 3 months while sealed-up. When the bunker was sold to the present owners in 1994, almost all the contents were left in place.

The bunker is outside the village of Kelvedon Hatch, about 7 km north west of Brentwood on the A128. Off the motorways, the nearest exits are J28 from the M25 and J7 from the M11. The nearest train stations are Brentwood and Shenfield and the nearest tube stations are Debden, Theydon Bois and Epping, from all of which taxis are apparently available.

The visit to the bunker will be self-guided using the very good audio-guides provided at the entrance but staff members will be available to answer questions.

We shall assemble at 12:00 – 12:30 for lunch at the “Eagle” public house in Kelvedon Hatch as marked on the appended Google map. This is a decent pub which offers a wide range of light snacks as well as more substantial meals. There are plenty of tables and parking spaces.

After lunch, at about 13:30, we shall drive to the Nuclear Bunker. This is correctly shown on the OS Map 167 at 562995 – but is not marked at the correct position by Google on their on-line map or satellite image. Access is by a farm track which is not shown on either map but which can be discerned on the satellite image. However, the entrance to the track is clearly signposted off the A128 some 800 m to the north of the pub. The car park is an asphalted area on a slight slope and the entrance to the bunker is signed along a path through the wood to the north.

After parking, there will be no need for us to group together – and, indeed, some members may prefer to join the party at the bunker rather than at the pub.

The phone numbers of the pub and the bunker are 01277 373472 and 01277 364883, respectively.

The cost of the visit is £7 per person. Lunch is at cost.

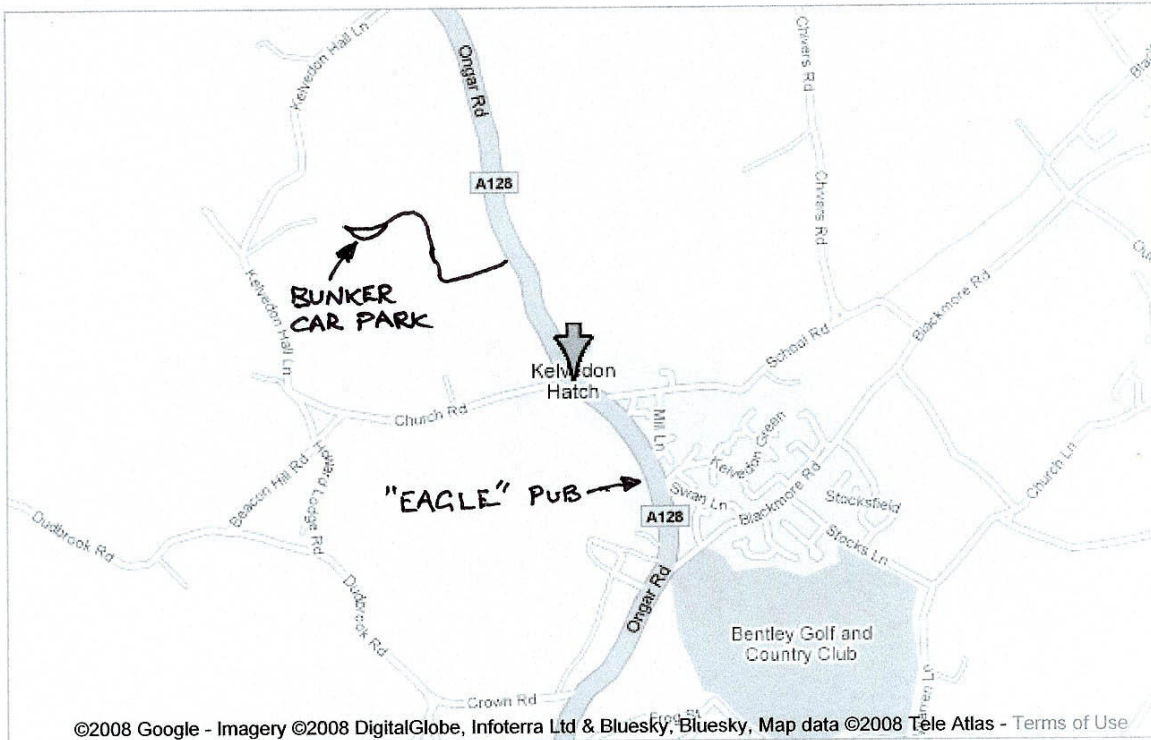
Contact

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mobile: 078013 41245 (on the day of the visit)

Google
Maps UK

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