



Figure 5: Pembroke Dock War Memorial, The Great War 1914-1918 thanks to www.pembrokeshire-war-memorial.co.uk

Ground Truthing

In order to assess the survival of some of the sites identified as part of the assessment and shown on the War Office map, an extract of which is shown in Figure 6, a site visit was undertaken to some of the defence line in the area around Llangwm on the north side of the Haven.



Figure 6: A site visit to the Infantry Redoubt and hut camp for 1 Battalion was undertaken

The War Office map of 1916 shows an infantry redoubt, shaded in red, indicating it was constructed, and High Wire Entanglements and the location of a Hut Camp at Hearson Farm.



Figure 7: Ed Davies examining some of the broken up hut bases which formed part of the camp at Hearson Farm Pembrokeshire



Figure 8: A 'Camp Coffee' bottle, a typical find for a First World War Camp.

No *in situ* remains were observed in these locations, however evidence of the hut camp was suggested in the southern perimeter of the field, where a large volume of concrete debris, brick, barbed wire and piping was observed. In addition artefactual material such as a glass bottle of "Camp" Coffee and Chicory lay amongst the debris.

The location of 'Fire Trenches' near Sardis village were also visited, and although overgrown, it seems likely that the location of the trenches are marked by self-seeded trees. Beyond the trenches, at the site of former hedgerows, the field boundaries were post and rail with an immature hedge. These findings suggest there is merit in further investigation.

RESULTS

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

An initial enquiry of the Historic Environment Record (HER) shows the difficulty of identifying sites which relate to the period of the First World War. There is a field within the HER in which to enter a specific date; however this is not a mandatory field and many older records do not have this filled in. Within the mandatory 'PERIOD' field 'Modern' can be selected and further enquiry of the HER is through the free text search within the 'Summary' field. Investigation of this searching for dates (1914-1918) and terms; 'WW1' 'First World War' returned 30 sites within Pembrokeshire. A full list is in Appendix B and a map of their distribution given below (Fig. 1). No additional sites dating to the First World War were identified on Coflein.

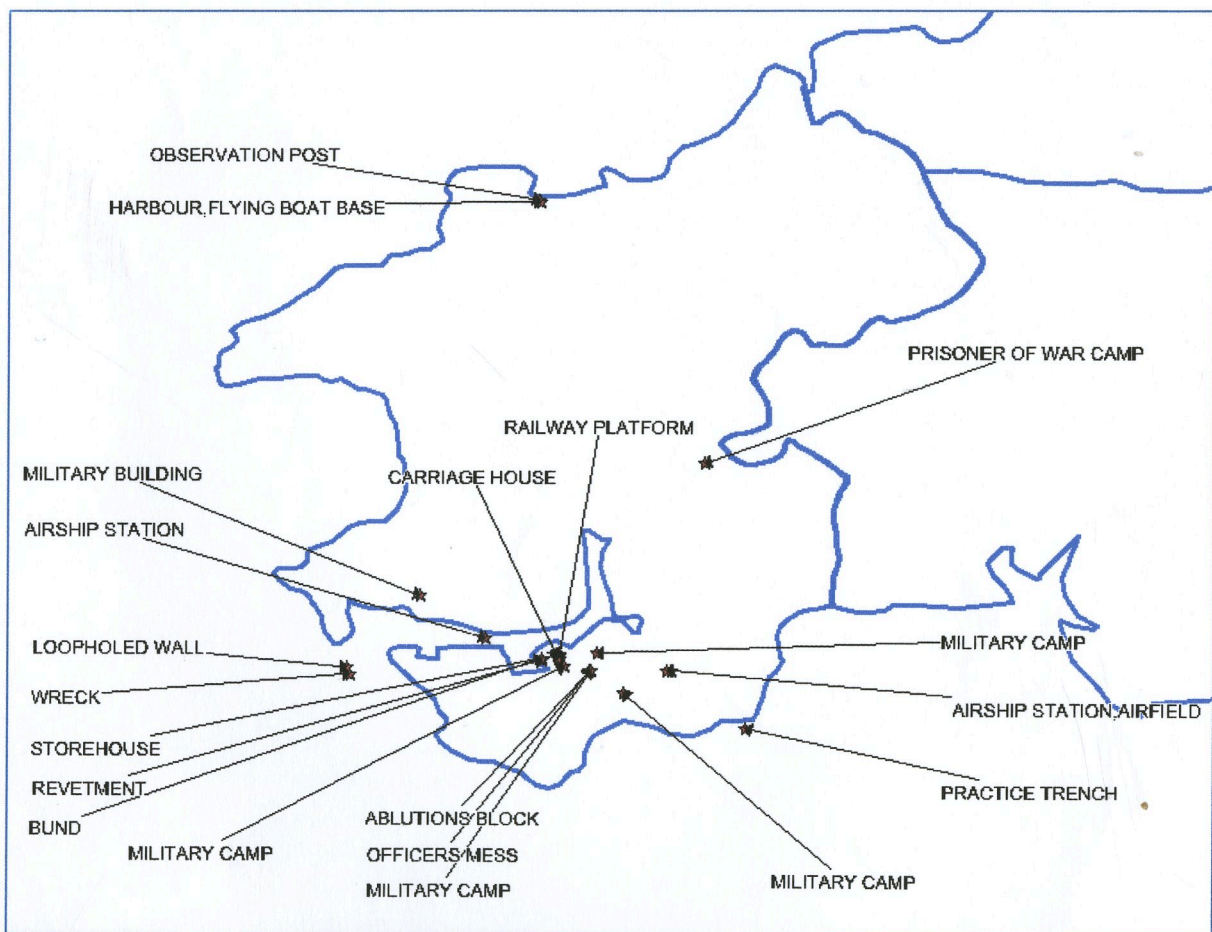


Figure 1: Map showing distribution of HER points relating to First World War sites and structures

Many of these sites derive from Roger J C Thomas's survey of Military Buildings of Pembrokeshire of 1993 which has been incompletely transferred into the HER. Search of the database of R J C Thomas revealed 50 sites in total dating to this period of which 27 have been allocated Primary Reference Numbers (PRNs) and incorporated into the HER. As can be seen from the distribution map (Fig. 2) the majority of these sites lie in south Pembrokeshire and in particular around the Milford Haven Waterway at Llanion Barracks and Pembroke Dock. For a full list see Appendix C.

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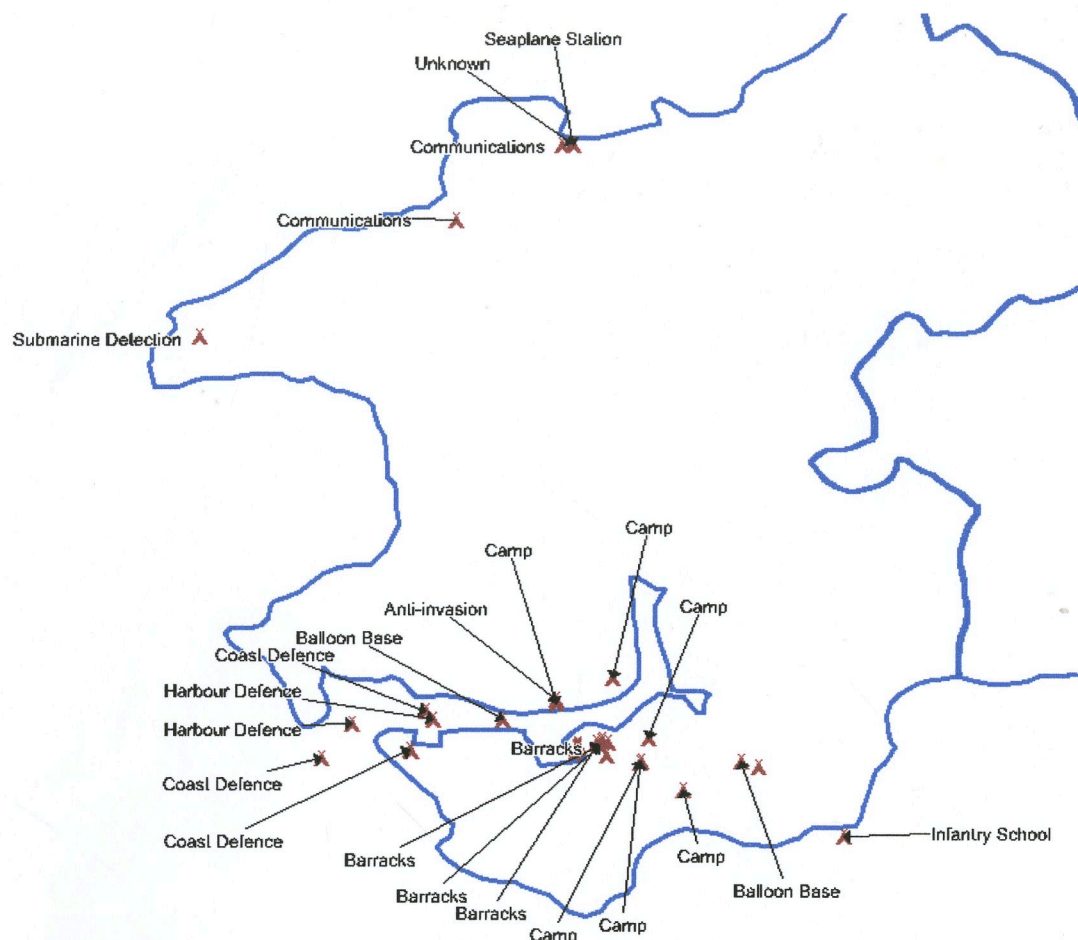


Figure 2: Map showing distribution of First World War sites in Roger Thomas's survey of 1993.

Each site has been allocated to the following categories:

CATEGORY

- Anti-invasion
- Balloon Base
- Barracks
- Camp
- Coast Defence
- Communications
- Dockyard
- Harbour Defence
- Infantry School
- Seaplane Station
- Submarine Detection
- Unknown

Further information supplied by Roger Thomas has shown that the National Archives at Kew have a series of maps dated 1916 which show a circle of defences surrounding the Royal Dockyard at Pembroke Dock which encompassed both the north and south sides of the Haven.

Rough Sketch Map
of Hearsen Camp

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High Hill Mountain Road

Hearsen
Mountain

Gate

Under
ground
Tunnel

Boundary

Exercise Area

P.T. etc

Road

EDGE

Knights Sand

Shorts Field

Maiden Bos

Ploughed

Army -

Officers Quarters

Recreation Hall

Road

Huts

Wash Rooms & Bath

Stables

Grind

Huts constructed on cement
Path

Hearsen
Farm