

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Land adjacent to Imble Lane, Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire**

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment



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Report No. 1063

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## **Summary**

*In May 2012 Archaeology Wales carried out a desk-based assessment to determine the archaeological potential of a plot of land adjacent to Imble Lane, Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire. The land is located 1km to the south of the main settlement of Pembroke Dock, adjacent to housing estates and a sports pitch. The site lies within a landscape of known archaeological and historic significance, within the Milford Haven Waterway Registered Historic Landscape, with several Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed buildings located nearby. The local area also contains significant remains of WWII defences and military infrastructure. The site itself contains a number of undulations, most of which appear to be modern, and possible evidence for military activity. The archaeological potential of the site is considered to be high.*

## **1. Introduction**

In April 2012, Archaeology Wales was commissioned by RHL Architectural Design Solutions Ltd to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of a site of proposed development on land adjacent to Imble Lane, Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire (NGR: SM 9712 0278; fig 1). The work is being carried out pre-planning.

The proposed development comprises the construction of 80 dwellings, both houses and flats, and all associated infrastructure.

The site lies within the Milford Haven Waterway Registered Historic Landscape (RHL HLW (D) 3), an area renowned for its archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the twentieth century. These remains reflect the maritime history of the area and include several castles, fishing settlements, sea defences and WWII camps and shelters. There are a number of landed estates in the area together with remains of post-medieval industry and farming.

As a result, Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Heritage Management, in their capacity as archaeological advisers to the local authority, recommended that an archaeological desk-based assessment be undertaken to consider the archaeological potential of the site. The desk-based assessment involved an appraisal of all the documentary and cartographic sources pertaining to the site, a study of the aerial photographs held by the RCAHMS in Aberystwyth and a site visit. The work was carried out by Amelia Pannett in May 2012.

## **2. Site Description**

### **2.1 Location, Geology and Topography**

The site lies on gently sloping south-facing ground 1km to the south-east of the centre of Pembroke Dock, at around 47m AOD. The site is bounded to the south and west by Imble Lane, to the north by a cricket ground and to the east by hedgerows separating it from adjacent fields. The site is currently under pasture.

The south-eastern side of the site lies on Devonian Conglomerate whilst the north-western side lies on Silurian Sandstone.



## 2.2 Historical Background

The site lies within the Milford Haven Waterway Registered Historic Landscape, an area recognised for its extensive history of settlement, occupation, industry, agriculture and defence. The register summarises the landscape:

“The classic ria, drowned river valley and estuary in Wales, with an unsurpassed concentration of remains reflecting maritime conquest, settlement, commerce, fishing, defence and industry spanning the prehistoric to modern periods. The area includes: Iron Age promontory forts; Early Christian and Viking placenames; Norman coastal castle boroughs; medieval castles and later gentry residences; Milford and Pembroke Dock planned settlements; recent and modern quays, jetties and landing places, coal mines, limestone quarries, military and naval fortifications, oil terminals, jetties, refineries and power station.” (CCW 2012)

The site is within the Carew, Milton and Nash HLC character area of the registered historic landscape. This part of Pembrokeshire lay within the medieval Lordship of Pembroke and comprises land that once belonged to medieval manors. The landscape is characterised by large open fields and small nucleated settlements. The HLC listing describes it:

“This is a relatively large historic landscape character area lying to the south of the Milford Haven waterway and the Carew River, to the east and south of Pembroke Dock on undulating ground lying mainly between 20m and 50m above sea level. Mud flats, marsh and the rocky foreshore along the Milford Haven waterway are included in this area. It is an agricultural landscape of large, dispersed farms and large fairly regular fields. There are a large number of listed buildings within this area. Several of them are major houses including the ruinous medieval castle of Carew with its massive Elizabethan wing, Upton Castle with a disused chapel set in parkland and gardens, Cosheston Hall with its parkland, Bangeston Hall, Welston Court, Milton House, Holyland Hotel and the Fortified Rectory at Carew Cheriton. Clearly a vast date range and many building types are included within these structures, from medieval defensive sites through to Victorian mansions. They are united in providing an estate quality to large tracts of the landscape, with parkland, stands of deciduous woodland, lodges and home farms. Farmhouses on the home- and other substantial-farms are generally in the Georgian tradition, stone-built and cement rendered with slate roofs, associated with which are ranges of stone-built outbuildings, sometimes arranged semi-formally around a yard, with large modern agricultural structures nearby. Smaller farmhouses are also mainly 19th century and within the Georgian tradition. There is a dispersal of 19th century and 20th century houses close to the shore of the waterway, but Milton and Carew are the only significant nucleations. Milton comprises stone-built vernacular houses, cottages, a public house and farm buildings, on the outskirts of which is a late 20th century housing estate. Carew is essentially a linear village with a terrace of 19th century houses, a ‘Flemish’ chimney – the remains of a sub-medieval house –, a 19th century chapel and 20th century houses. Carew bridge, and the French Mill (an imposing Georgian building, but described as a ‘French Mill’ in 1541) and its dam, an early medieval high cross, together with the castle and the village represent an important assemblage of

structures within Carew. Carew Cheriton is a loose cluster of buildings, including the Fortified Rectory and an Old Mortuary Chapel, which is dominated by the St Mary's medieval church. The small church at Nash is also in this area, and a dovecote north of Monkton Priory. Agricultural land-use is improved pasture with a little arable. Fields are relatively large with boundary banks of earth topped with hedges. Hedges are generally well maintained, but some are overgrown and others support mature trees. These trees, together with woodland close to some of the large houses, in the parkland, on steep valley sides and along the banks of the waterway add to the estate character of the area. The main transport routes are narrow winding lanes, but both the A 477(T), to Pembroke Dock and the A 4075 cut across the area. There has been very little degradation of the historic landscape components where this area borders Pembroke and Pembroke Dock urban character areas. Archaeological sites are varied. The most numerous are World War 2 defensive structures – gun emplacements, searchlight batteries etc – followed by industrial sites, which are mostly quarries, and limekilns. Both coastal and inland kilns are present. Other sites include caves and find spots of prehistoric artefacts, bronze age standing stones and bronze age burnt mounds, a holy well site and several sites of mills.” (DAT 2012)

### **3. Desk-based Assessment Results**

#### **3.1 HER Data**

A study area was implemented, covering land within 2km of the proposed development site. The examination of archaeological and historical sites within this area would allow the site to be put into its local context (fig. 2).

A total of 743 features of archaeological significance are listed on the HER within the study area (see appendix I for listing). The majority of the sites are post-medieval or modern in date and relate to wartime defences and industrial activities in and around Pembroke Dock. The war time defences include 19 air raid shelters, two artillery towers, 23 military barracks, nine barrage balloon sites, three bomb stores, two firing ranges, three aircraft hangars, nine magazines, two messes, a number of assorted military buildings and a flying boat station. Five military sites are recorded in the vicinity of the proposed development site (fig. 2). These are: a radio station in the building now occupied by the cricket club, an adjacent air raid shelter, a military camp in a field 200m to the west, a barrage balloon site on Britannia Road and an emergency water supply.

The HER records a number of features of prehistoric date including Catshole cave, a site known to contain Palaeolithic, Mesolithic material, a Bronze Age hoard and medieval shell middens. Two Iron Age sites defended enclosures also exist within the study area. These features are all recorded on the southern side of the Pembroke River from the proposed development site. A series of findspots of Roman objects are also recorded on the southern side of the Pembroke River. There are 34 medieval sites within the study area, including houses, vaults, parish boundaries, corn and fulling mills, areas of ridge and furrow, chapels and a Church. The majority of these are located within and around Pembroke, 1.5km to the south of the proposed development area.

There are 294 listed buildings on the HER most of which are located in Pembroke

Dock, with some in Pembroke. The majority of the listed buildings are post-medieval in date and comprise dwellings, shops, railway stations, warehouses, walls, Churches, bridges, public houses, jettys, slip ways and quays. A terrace of houses on North Street, Pembroke Dock, 500m to the west of the proposed development site contains several listed buildings. There are five medieval buildings amongst the listed structures; these include a priory, a dovecote, a towerhouse, an outbuilding and a dwelling. All of these medieval buildings are located within the grounds of Monkton Old Hall, 1.3km to the south-east of the proposed development site (see below).

Three Scheduled Ancient Monuments are located within the study area, Catsole cave, the medieval walls of Pembroke town and Pembroke Castle (fig. 2). All three are located around 1-1.5km to the south-east of the proposed development site.

Monkton Old Hall and Vicarage Gardens are included on the Cadw/ICOMOS register of parks and gardens of historic interest in Wales (Grade II\*). The gardens are located 1.3km to the south-east of the proposed development site (fig. 2). The site is known to have been founded as a Benedictine Priory in the eleventh century. The Priory is located close to Pembroke Castle, and on a pilgrim route to St Davids. The site was partly demolished following the dissolution, with one of the main buildings turned into a gentry house. The house and gardens have been modified and partly rebuilt, however elements of the walled garden are thought to be medieval in date.

### **3.2 Map Regression**

#### Tithe Map 1839

The Tithe map for Pembroke St Mary's Parish dated from 1839 is only available to view as photocopies in the National Library, Aberystwyth. Unfortunately, there is a gap in the photocopies exactly where the proposed development site is located and so no information about the field was available. The surrounding landscape comprises a patchwork of fields of varying sizes with isolated large houses and farms. To the east is Bush House, a large gentry house surrounded by woodland and bounded by an estate wall.

#### OS 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1:2500 Map 1866

The OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition map of 1866 (fig. 3) shows the proposed development site at the southern end of a large field. The field is bounded on the western and southern side by Imble Lane, on the eastern side by hedgerows and to the north by the road to Pembroke Dock. A spring is depicted towards the centre of the field, with a stream running down its eastern side. The surrounding landscape has changed little since the Tithe Map, with small fields and farms predominating. The town of Pembroke Dock has started to grow by this stage, with terraces of houses located less than 1km to the west of the proposed development site.

#### OS 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 1:2500 Map 1908

The OS map of 1908 (fig. 4) shows no change to the field containing the proposed development site or the landscape immediately surrounding it. The town of Pembroke Dock has expanded considerably, with further terraces of houses to the west.

#### OS Map 1953

By 1953, the OS map (fig 5) depicts the northern and western side of the site as occupied by a series of small buildings. The field immediately to the west is being developed for housing, with the street plan apparent but no houses yet built. It is possible that the buildings in the field proposed for development are military in origin, relating to WWII activities in the local area.

#### OS Map 1977

By 1977 the OS map depicts that the northern half of the field had been developed, with houses and the cricket ground and club house. The proposed development area appears much as today.

### **3.3 Aerial Photographs**

All the RAF and OS aerial photographs held by the RCAHMS in Aberystwyth depicting the proposed development site were examined. Photographs from 1946 (fig. 6) show the possible military buildings at the northern end of the field, together with what is now the cricket clubhouse and the remains of what is thought to have been a military camp in the adjacent field. In a photograph from 1959 (fig. 7) most of the buildings at the northern end of the field have been removed, and the cricket ground has been fenced off from the rest of the field. In the adjacent field a new housing development has been built.

No features of potential archaeological significance are shown on any of the aerial photographs.

### **4. Site Visit**

A site visit was carried out on 23<sup>rd</sup> May in sunny and dry conditions.

The site is located on a south-west facing slope and has extensive views towards Pembroke, with the castle clearly visible on the rock outcrop (fig. 8). The site is bounded on the southern and western sides by a relatively ancient hedgebank which runs alongside Imble Lane. To the north a steep bank (made ground) slopes up towards the cricket pitch, while to the east a line of scrubby woodland surrounding a stream separates this field from neighbouring fields. The south-eastern section of the site has been separated off and the vegetation allowed to grow (fig. 9).

The field is in pasture and is evidently used for grazing horses, although no animals were present on the day of the visit. The field contains several undulations including a large oval mound on the eastern side of the field adjacent to the spring. This does not appear to be archaeological in origin. A number of the undulations are modern and are probably associated with horse jumping as they also contain tyres set on edge and sunk into the ground. A single upright stone was identified close to the tyres, surrounded by a number of large angular stones lying on the surface. The stone was firmly set into the ground but is not thought to be archaeologically significant. At the southern end of the field four square concrete settings with cut off metal poles sunk into the centre were identified. The concrete settings are arranged in a square and positioned 3m apart. The function of these features is not known although it is possible that they are associated with the military use of the area.

### **5. Discussion and Conclusions**

The desk-based assessment has revealed that the proposed development site lies within an historically and archaeologically significant area of Pembrokeshire. Sites dating from the prehistoric period to the modern day are recorded within 2km,

including a several Scheduled Ancient Monuments and a large number of Listed Buildings. Pembroke Castle, the most significant of the sites within the study area is clearly visible from the proposed development site.

The majority of the remains located within the immediate vicinity of the field proposed for development are modern in date, associated with the extensive World War II defences along the Pembrokeshire coast. A radio station was located immediately to the north of the site, now occupied by the cricket club, together with an air raid shelter. Less than 500m to the west are the site of a former military camp and the location of a barrage balloon and emergency water supply. The site is, therefore, located within the heart of the military operations in Pembroke Dock. The four concrete settings and some of the undulations identified in the field during the site visit could also be military in origin, although their function could not be ascertained.

The cartographic evidence suggests that prior to World War II the site had been in agricultural use, probably throughout the post-medieval period and perhaps even earlier. The relatively ancient hedgebank along Imble Lane, and the irregular, curved shape of the field suggests that it may be medieval in origin. There are a number of significant prehistoric sites within 2km of the proposed development site, and it is possible that this part of the landscape was also exploited during prehistory.

Given the large number of archaeological features within the local area, the proximity of several nationally significant prehistoric, medieval and modern sites and the possibility of military remains on the site, the archaeological potential of the proposed development site can be considered to be high.

## 6. Bibliography

CCW, 2012. The Milford Haven Waterway. <http://www.ccg.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/protecting-our-landscape/special-landscapes--sites/protected-landscapes-and-sites/sss/sss-sites/milford-haven-waterway.aspx> (accessed 24th May 2012)

DAT 2012. Carew, Milton and Nash Character Area, Historic Landscape Characterisation. <http://www.cambria.org.uk/> (accessed 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012)

The following sources were consulted during the desk-based assessment:

### Aerial photographs

106G/UK/1629 5136 08/07/1946  
58/2985 298 30/06/1959  
106G/UK/1425 4423 15/04/1946  
106G/UK/1629 4027 08/07/1946

### Cartographic Sources

1839 Tithe Map for Pembroke St Mary's Parish  
1866 OS 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1:2500 map  
1908 OS 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 1:2500 map  
1953 OS 1:10,000 map  
1977 OS 1:10,000 map

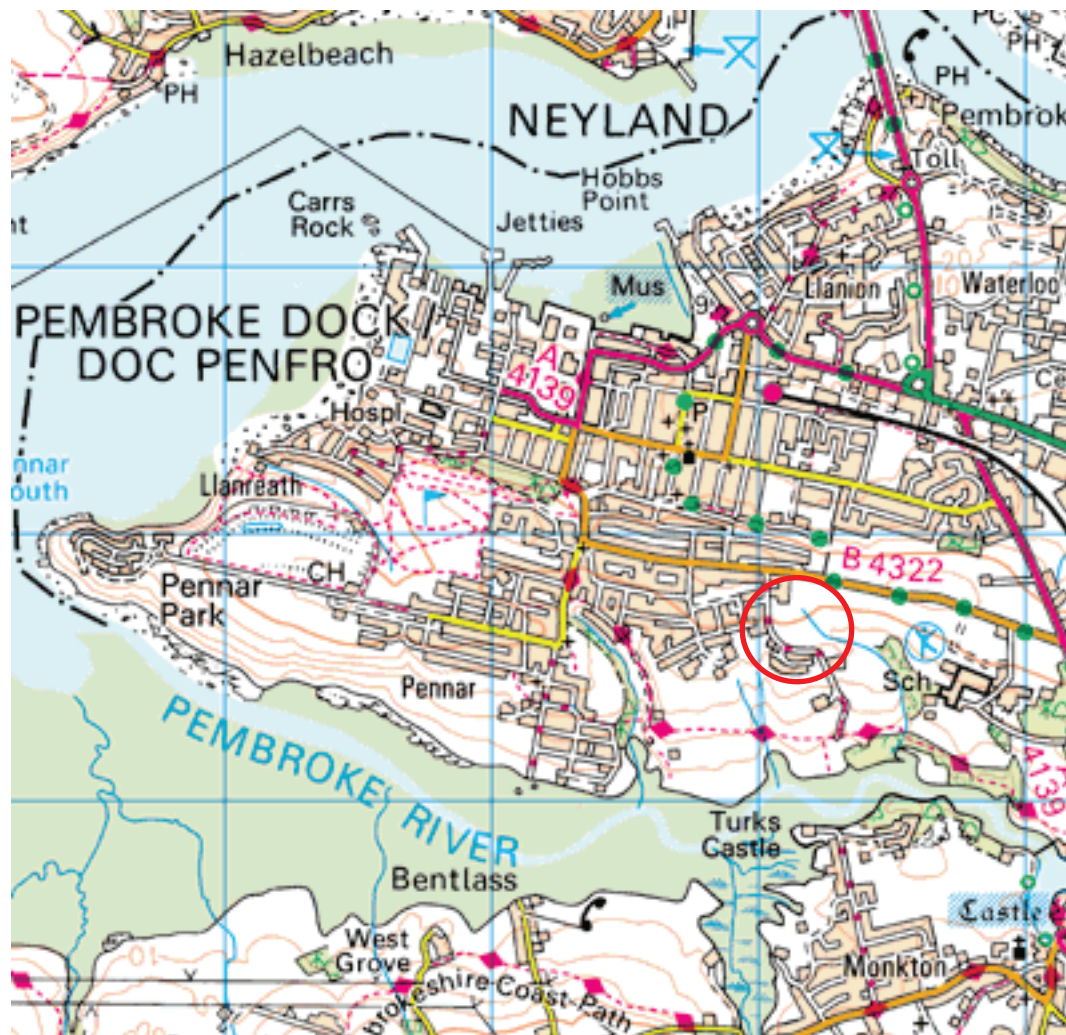
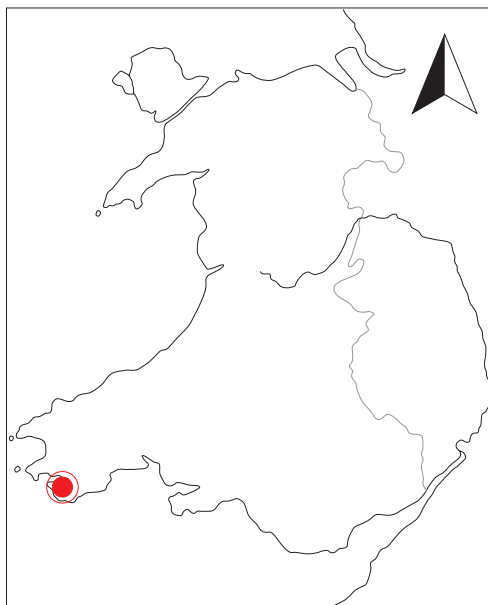
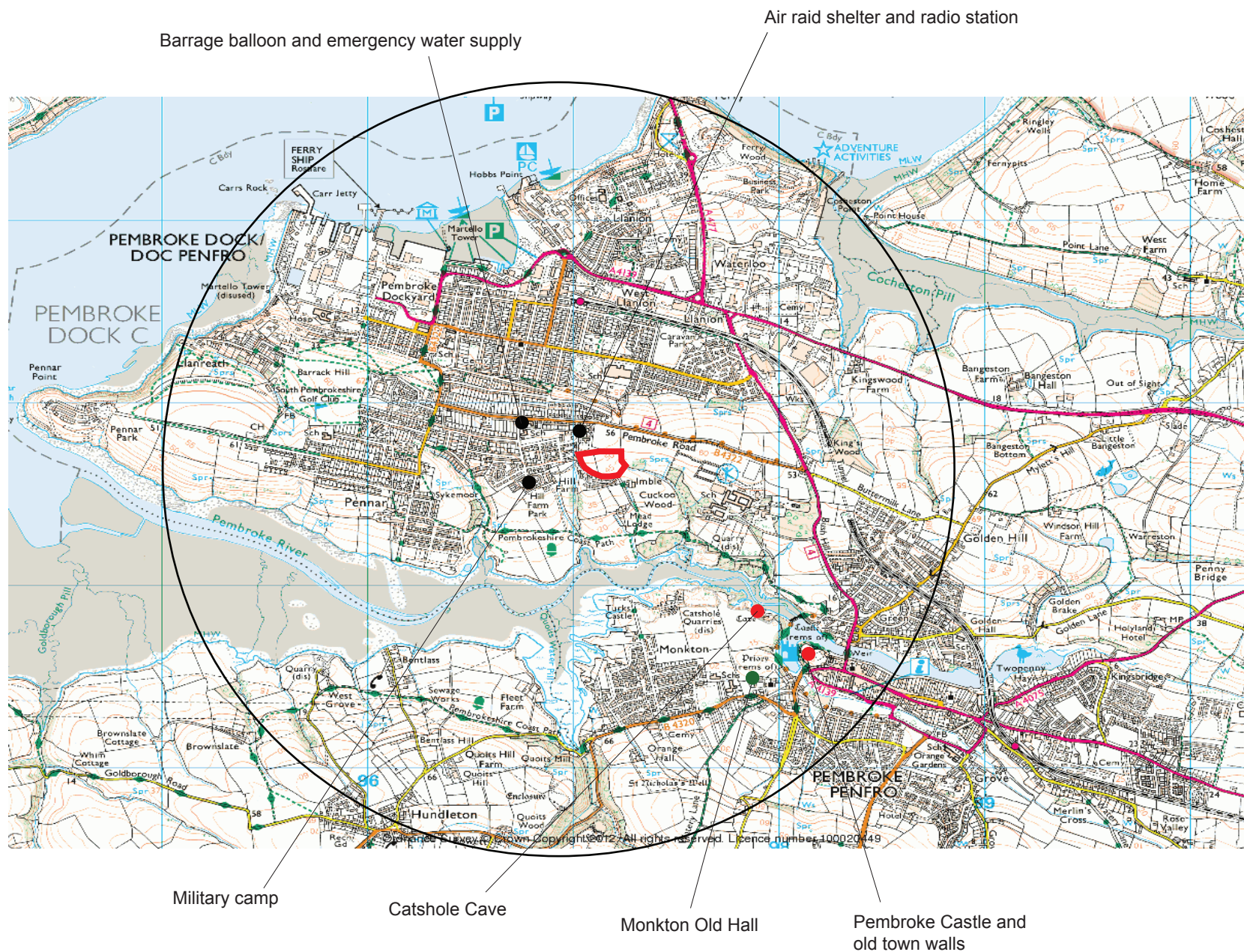


Fig. 1  
Location of  
site





- HER data point
- Registered Park and Garden
- Scheduled Ancient Monument
- Study area

Fig. 2  
Study area and pertinent sites. Proposed development site is shown in the centre of the study area





Fig. 3  
OS 1st Edition  
map of 1866  
showing location of  
proposed  
development site



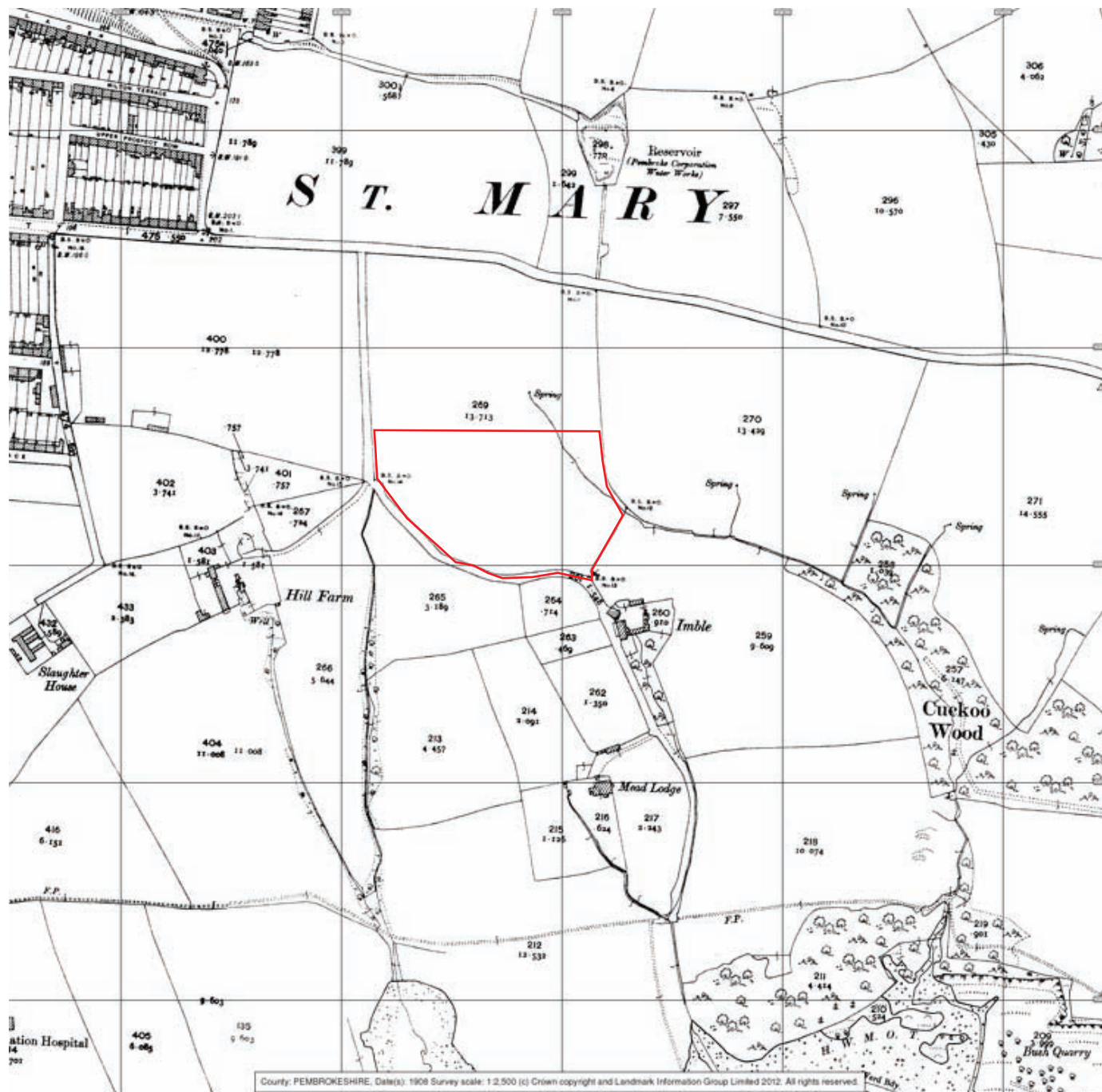


Fig. 4  
OS 2nd Edition  
map of 1908  
showing location of  
proposed  
development site

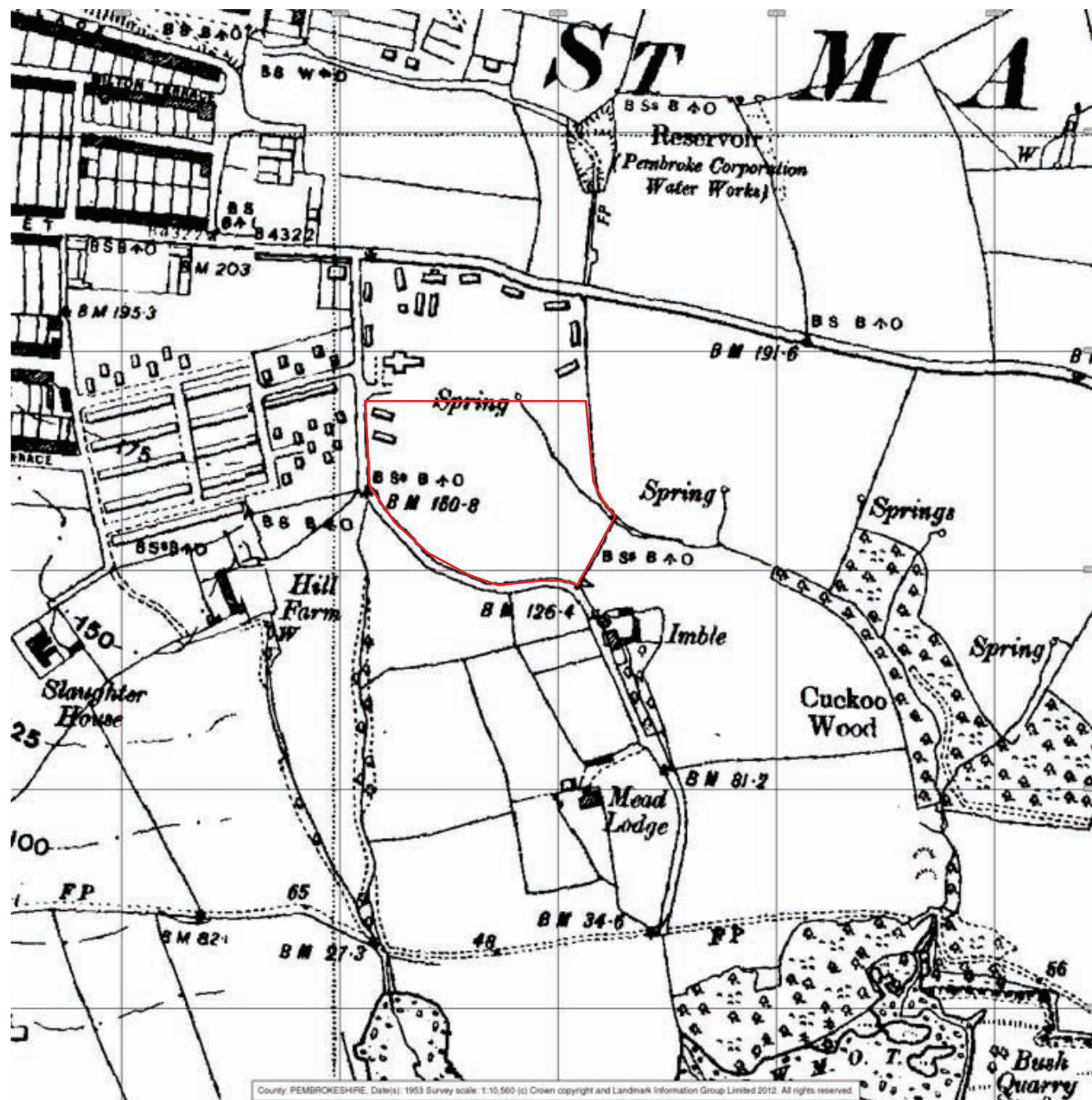


Fig. 5  
OS map of 1953  
showing location of  
proposed  
development site





Fig. 6  
RAF Aerial  
photograph from  
1946 showing  
proposed  
development site



Fig. 7  
RAF Aerial  
photograph from  
1959 showing  
proposed  
development site



Pembroke Castle



Fig. 8  
Views across the  
proposed  
development site  
towards Pembroke  
Castle



Looking NW

Looking N towards Cricket club



Looking NE

Fig. 9  
Views across the  
proposed  
development site





Earthfast stone (centre) with stones on surface



Tyres set in the ground



Square concrete features

Fig. 10  
Features within  
the proposed  
development area

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