

Modern Conflict Archaeology

Call for Papers.

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Project Zero

History and Learning from the Past / Experimental Airship Archaeology

Project Zero is commemorating the role of dirigibles deployed in Wales during 1916 to 1918 by the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS), based on Anglesey and Pembrokeshire .

E.T Willows , the ‘father of British airships’ first designed, built and flew his airships at Splot outside Cardiff and went on to design the SS type blimp adopted for military service by the RNAS.

It will tell the story of the remarkable men, women and machines that patrolled the waters around the British Isles in response to Germany’s ‘unrestricted submarine warfare campaign’ and recount the 200 lives lost in this forgotten service.

Three programs of work have been funded by a HLF Wales 'Our Heritage' grant to enable archive visits, record making, creation of digital and printed interpretative materials, training for volunteers, archaeological field work and presentations to schools, cadets and interest groups.

Project Themes

- Exploring the role of early 20th century technology in the development of flight, and lighter than air machines in Wales.
- Digital archives, online digital interpretation, scale models, story maps and 3d reconstructions.
- Experiential reconstructions and heritage interpretation with living history as a means to communicate the heritage tale and the learning of new facts and understanding about the First World War.

These programmes will enable the development of a 'pop up' museum and inform the planned reconstruction of a Zero class control car as a long lasting, visual, interactive commemoration of this forgotten conflict.