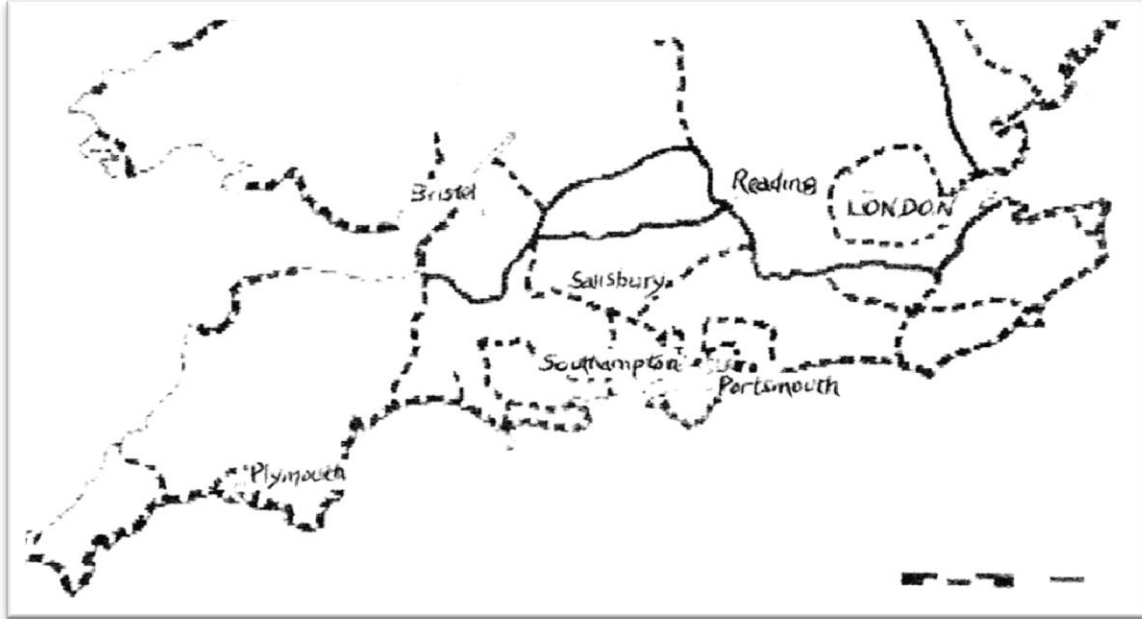


THE PILLBOX

This is the site of the pillbox which was erected here in 1941/42. At the beginning of the Second World War fear of a German invasion led the authorities to have lines of defences constructed across the country. Those in the southern half are shown on this map.



The idea was to divide the country into smaller areas which could be defended until reinforcements arrived. In the event of invasion those in the circle around London were to be manned by the army and all others by the Home Guard. The line of defences mainly consisted of pillboxes but there were also others like the tank trap across the river just below the railway bridge. Pillboxes were eight sided with the entrance in one and firing apertures in the other seven.

They had very thick walls to defend them against attack and a large brick centre pillar shaped to defend the occupants from bullets or grenades entering from anywhere other than the aperture they were manning. This pillbox was demolished around 1961 but a number of others are still to be seen in the locality.



THESE PHOTOS SHOW THE PILLBOX IN 1950 AND THE OUTSIDE AND INSIDE OF AN APERTURE SHOWING SPACE TO USE A WEAPON



THE TANK TRAP IN THE RIVER BEFORE THE RAILWAY BRIDGE

