



Preliminary UXO Risk Assessment

Client	Dogs Trust
Project	Dogs Trust Merseyside
Site Address	Whiston Ln, Huyton, Whiston, Liverpool L36 6HP
Report Reference	PA17541-00
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Quality Assurance	AT

Assessment Objective

This preliminary risk assessment is a qualitative screening exercise to assess the likely potential of encountering unexploded ordnance (UXO) at the Dogs Trust Merseyside site. The assessment involves the consideration of the basic factors that affect the potential for UXO to be present at a site as outlined in Stage One of the UXO risk management process.

Background

This assessment uses the sources of information available in-house to 1st Line Defence Ltd to enable the placement of a development site in context with events that may have led to the presence of German air-delivered or Allied military UXO. The report will identify any immediate necessity for risk mitigation or additional research in the form of a Detailed UXO Risk Assessment. It makes use of 1st Line Defence's extensive historical archives, library and unique geo-databases, as well as internet resources, and is researched and compiled by UXO specialists and graduate researchers.

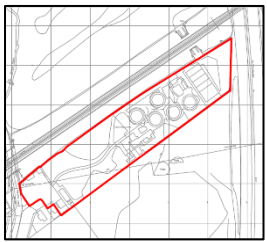
The assessment directly follows CIRIA C681 guidelines "Unexploded Ordnance, a Guide for the Construction Industry". The document will therefore assess the following factors:

- Basic Site Data
- Previous Military Use
- Indicators of potential aerial delivered UXO threat
- Consideration of any Mitigating Factors
- Extent of Proposed Intrusive Works
- Any requirement for Further Work

It should be noted that the vast majority of construction sites in the UK will have a low or negligible risk of encountering UXO and should be able to be screened out at this preliminary stage. The report is meant as a common sense 'first step' in the UXO risk management process. The content of the report and conclusions drawn are based on basic, preliminary research using the information available to 1st Line Defence at the time this report was produced. It should be noted that the only way to entirely negate risk from UXO to a project would be to support the works proposed with appropriate UXO risk mitigation measures. It is rarely possible to state that there is absolutely 'no' risk from UXO to a project.





Risk Assessment Considerations	
Site location and description/current use	The site is located within the Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley in Merseyside. According to recent aerial photography, the site is currently occupied by a combination of structures, hardstanding ground and undeveloped land. Bordering the north of the site are railway lines, bordering the east and west of the site are the M57 and Whiston Lane, respectively and south of the site is undeveloped land. The site is approximately centred on the OS grid reference: SJ 45897 91320. 
Are there any indicators of current/historical military activity on/close to the site?	No information could be found in-house to indicate that the site location has any former or current association with any military features. No features such as WWII defensive positions, encampments or firing ranges are recorded to have been located at the site. In addition, no information on ordnance being stored, produced, or disposed of within the proposed site boundary could be found. The closest recorded Heavy Anti-Aircraft (HAA) battery was situated approximately 1.2km to the north-west of the site. The conditions in which unexploded anti-aircraft ordnance may have fallen unrecorded within the proposed site are generally analogous to that of German aerial delivered ordnance - see below for further information.
What was the pre- and post-WWII history of the site?	Pre-WWII OS mapping of the site indicates that the site was predominantly occupied by undeveloped land with a couple of small structures occupying the west of the site. The north of the site was bordered by railway lines, the west of the site was bordered by Whiston Lane and the east and south of the site were bordered by undeveloped land. Post-WWII OS mapping of the site records no significant changes to the composition of the site or its immediate vicinity.
Was the area subject to bombing during WWII?	During WWII, the site was situated primarily within the Urban District of Prescott. According to official Home Office bombing statistics, this district sustained an overall very low density of bombing with five items of ordnance recorded to have fallen within the district. This consisted of five high explosive (HE) bombs, creating an average of 5.7 items of ordnance per 1,000 acres. The site was also partially located within the Rural District of Whiston, which also received a very low density of bombing, with an average of 9.5 items of ordnance per 1,000 acres. No positive evidence of bombing could be found on site at this preliminary stage.
Is there any evidence of bomb damage on/close to the site?	Low-resolution post-WWII aerial imagery of the site does not show any obvious indications of bomb damage on site.





To what degree would the site have been subject to access?	As a large undeveloped area, the site is not likely to have been accessed frequently during the war.
To what degree has the site been developed post-WWII?	There has been significant redevelopment across the site post-WWII, including the construction of the Dogs Trust Merseyside structures which currently occupy the site.
What is the nature and extent of the intrusive works proposed?	The nature and extent of works proposed was not available at the time of writing.

Summary and Conclusions

During WWII, the site was situated primarily within the Urban District of Prescot. According to official Home Office bombing statistics, this district sustained an overall very low density of bombing with five items of ordnance recorded to have fallen within the district. This consisted of five high explosive (HE) bombs, creating an average of 5.7 items of ordnance per 1,000 acres.

The site was also partially located within the Rural District of Whiston, which also received a very low density of bombing, with an average of 9.5 items of ordnance per 1,000 acres.

No positive evidence of bombing could be found on site at this preliminary stage. There are no obvious indications of bomb damage on low-resolution post-WWII aerial imagery of the site.

Recommendations

Given the findings of this preliminary report, the risk from UXO is not considered to be significantly elevated above the 'background risk' of finding UXO in this part of the UK. Whilst it would be possible to conduct a Detailed UXO Risk Assessment for this site, it is not anticipated that any further findings would significantly alter the risk of encountering unexploded ordnance within the site. It is therefore recommended that **no further research** is undertaken.

If the client has any anecdotal or empirical evidence of UXO risk on site, please contact 1st Line Defence.

It should be noted that although the risk from unexploded ordnance on this site has been assessed as low/minimal, this does not mean there is 'no' risk of encountering UXO. This preliminary report has been undertaken with due diligence, and all reasonable care has been taken to access and analyse relevant historical information. By necessity, when dealing with historical evidence, and when making assessments of UXO risk, various assumptions have to be made which we have discussed and justified within this report. Our reports take a common-sense and practical approach to the assessment of UXO risk, and we strive to be reasonable and pragmatic in our conclusions. As referenced, it would be possible to undertake further research into this site, but based on the evidence to hand, this is not deemed strictly necessary, and no reasonably justifiable requirement for proactive on-site mitigation has been identified.

It should however be stressed that if any suspect items are encountered during the proposed works, 1st Line Defence should be contacted for advice/assistance, and to re-assess the risk as necessary. Furthermore, we would recommend that ground personnel are always made aware of the potential for encountering UXO, what to look out for and what to do in the unlikely event that a suspect item is encountered, and that a UXO Risk Management Plan is put together for the proposed works. We would be happy to provide a template and guidance for this – contact us on 01992 245020. Should the scope of works change or additional works be proposed, 1st Line Defence should be contacted to re-evaluate the risk.

