



Preliminary UXO Risk Assessment

Client	BWB Consulting Limited
Project	Land at Sandwich Road, Sholden
Site Address	Land at Sandwich Road, Sholden, CT14 9PG
Report Reference	PA13827-00
Date	09/07/21
Originator	HF

Assessment Objective

This preliminary risk assessment is a qualitative screening exercise to assess the likely potential of encountering unexploded ordnance (UXO) at the Land at Sandwich Road site in Sholden. 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	
<p>Site location and description/current use</p>	<p>The site is located in Sholden, Deal.</p> <p>Aerial imagery dated 2019 indicates that the site comprised a large area of open land in the form of fields. It is bordered by open land to the north and west. Sandwich Road lies to the north-east, while multiple residential structures and their associated garden areas lie to the south-east and south.</p> <p>The site is approximately centred on the OS grid reference: TR 35383 52208.</p> 
<p>Are there any indicators of current/historical military activity on/close to the site?</p>	<p>An in-house geo-data set indicated that a pillbox was located approximately 30m south-west of the site boundary. Additionally, evidence suggests that the junction of London Road and Church Lane, to the site's south-east, was identified as a key anti-invasion point at the outbreak of WWII.</p> <p>Reference has also been found to suggest that the PWD (Petroleum Warfare Department) established a 'defile flame trap' along the cemetery wall of St Nicholas Church.</p>
<p>What was the pre- and post-WWII history of the site?</p>	<p>Pre-WWII OS mapping dated 1938 indicates that the site comprised open land associated with <i>Sholden Downs</i>. It was bordered by further open land to the north and west. <i>Sandwich Road</i> lies to the north-east, while multiple residential structures and their associated garden areas lie to the south-east and south. <i>Brook Cottage</i> also lies to the west of the site.</p> <p>Post-WWII OS mapping does not indicate that there were any major changes to the site or its immediate vicinity.</p>
<p>Was the area subject to bombing during WWII?</p>	<p>During WWII, the majority of the site was located within the Municipal Borough of Deal. The north-east of the site was located within the Rural District of Eastry.</p> <p>Official Home Office bombing statistics indicate that Deal sustained an overall moderate density of bombing, with an average of 61 bombs recorded per 1,000 acres. This consisted of 175 high explosive bombs, and two parachute mines, over the 2,903 acres of the borough.</p> <p>Official Home Office bombing statistics indicate that Eastry sustained an overall low density of bombing, with an average of 13.4 bombs recorded per 1,000 acres. This consisted of 646 high explosive bombs, 14 parachute mines, 11 oil bombs, eight phosphorus bombs, 38 'fire pots', eight V1 pilotless aircraft bombs and one V2 long range rocket bombs over the 54,276 acres of the borough.</p> <p>Daily Kent bomb mapping records a number of incidents in the site's general vicinity. However, due to the small scale and poor quality of this source, it has not proved possible to accurately establish the location of these incidents at this preliminary stage.</p>
<p>Is there any evidence of bomb damage on/close to the site?</p>	<p>Whilst the structures in the south-west of the site area appear to survive WWII externally structurally intact, it has not been possible to accurately establish whether the site area sustained bomb damage during WWII at this preliminary stage owing to its open nature.</p>





To what degree would the site have been subject to access?	Generally, large areas of open land are not considered likely to have been subject to frequent access during WWII.
To what degree has the site been developed post-WWII?	The site does not appear to have been subject to major redevelopment since WWII.
What is the nature and extent of the intrusive works proposed?	Information provided by the client indicates that the initial scope of works will comprise ground investigation works.

Summary and Conclusions

During WWII, the majority of the site was located within the Municipal Borough of Deal. The north-east of the site was located within the Rural District of Eastry. They sustained an average of 61 and 13.4 bombs per 1,000 acres respectively. Daily Kent bomb mapping records a number of incidents in the site’s general vicinity. However, due to the small scale and poor quality of this source, it has not proved possible to accurately establish the location of these incidents at this preliminary stage.

Whilst the structures in the south-west of the site area appear to survive WWII externally structurally intact, it has not been possible to accurately establish whether the site area sustained bomb damage during WWII at this preliminary stage owing to its open nature. Additionally, large areas of open land are not considered to have been subject to frequent access during WWII. The acquisition of WWII-era aerial photography may aid in better assessing the wartime conditions on site.

It would also be worth looking further into any military activity or defences in the site’s wider area, given the references to a key anti-invasion point and a flame trap to the south-east of the site.

Recommendations

Further research is recommended in the form of a Detailed UXO Risk Assessment in accordance with CIRIA guidelines. This is recommended in order to better assess the wartime conditions within and around the proposed area of works. Further research would involve the acquisition of any available written local bombing records, WWII-era aerial photography and other archival material.

Prior to or in lieu of a Detailed Assessment, it is recommended that appropriate UXO Risk Mitigation Measures are provided for intrusive works proposed.

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

