



1ST HORIZON

STAGE 01 PRELIMINARY UXO RISK ASSESSMENT (REF: SL01-R14)

Client: **Department for Education (DfE)**

Project: **Sandilands Community Primary School**

Date: **24/05/2021**



Document Name						
Project Code	Originator	Functional Breakdown	Spatial Breakdown	Form	Discipline	Number
SRP1034	1HZ	ZZ	XX	T	B	0008
Document Description					Document Status	
Sandilands Unexploded Ordnance Survey					S0 – Initial status	
Document Classification						
PM_30_40_92 Unexploded ordnance survey report						

STAGE 1 PRELIMINARY UXO RISK ASSESSMENT

1ST HORIZON

The Old Pop Factory, 88-90 High Street, Dodworth, Barnsley S75 3RQ



1ST HORIZON

INTRODUCTION

The Stage 1 Preliminary Risk Assessment is an initial screening assessment designed to highlight any sources of unexploded ordnance (UXO) with the potential to contaminate a given site.

The aim of the Stage 1 assessment is to identify or discount the need for further detailed research - a Stage 2 Detailed UXO Risk Assessment.

This desktop assessment has been researched and written by a dedicated Researcher / Risk Assessor and produced in accordance with the CIRIA C681 Guidelines: 'Unexploded Ordnance, a Guide for the Construction Industry' (published in 2009).

In preparation for this assessment, original wartime records, historic OS mapping and the *Brimstone UXO Sources Database* have been reviewed. The latter incorporates multiple datasets plotting the positions of a variety of domestic military sites and confirmed historic German bombing targets.

The Stage 1 Preliminary Risk Assessment considers the following:

1. The Proposed Works
2. Enemy Action during WWI and WWII
3. British / Allied Military Activity
4. Historic Site Occupancy
5. Risk Mitigating Factors

THE SITE

The Site (centred on the National Grid Ref: SJ 79567 89681) is located in Timperley, within the borough of Trafford, Greater Manchester, approximately 750m west of Moor Road railway station.

The northern section comprises a grass playing field associated with Sandilands School. The eastern section comprises a single storey day nursery and hard surfacing. The southern section comprises a large school building, a hard surfaced playground, car park and pathways, parcels of grass and other infrastructure associated with the school.

It is bound to the north by dense mature vegetation, to the east by residential properties on Washford Drive, to the south by Wendover Road and to the west by residential properties on New Forest Road.



THE PROPOSED WORKS

An SI is proposed, comprising windowless sampling to a depth of 5m bgl.

Development works comprise the construction of a single storey replacement school building. NB: the client has indicated that no further details are currently available.

ENEMY ACTION DURING WWI AND WWII

Potential Source of UXO	Significant?	Details	
WWI German Bombing	✗	No raids affected Manchester during WWI.	
WWII German Bombing	✓	British District Bombing Density Statistics	The Site is located on the border of the WWII-era County Borough of Manchester, which sustained 27 bombs / 1,000 acres, a low-to-moderate bombing density and the Municipal Borough of Altrincham, which sustained 29.1 bombs / 1,000 acres, a low-to-moderate bombing density.

		Evidence of bomb strikes / damage	No anecdotal evidence of bombing within 500m identified. No historically mapped evidence of damage within 500m identified.
		Local Bombing Decoy Sites	None within a significant distance of the Site. The closest was located approximately 4.7km south-east of the Site.
		Local German Bombing Targets	No confirmed primary Luftwaffe bombing targets in the vicinity. Anecdotal evidence suggests that Broadheath industrial estate, approximately 2.8km west of the Site, was targeted. Moor Road, Wythenshawe Park and Timperley railway stations in the Site's wider surrounds may have been identified as targets of opportunity.
WWII German Cross Channel Artillery Shelling	✗	n/a	

BRITISH / ALLIED MILITARY ACTIVITY

Potential Source of UXO	Significant?	Details
WWII Home Guard (HG) activity	✗/✓	Soldiers of the 1 st and 2 nd Cheshire (Altrincham) Battalions will have been active locally during WWII. The possibility that the site was accessed by armed HG troops on patrol cannot be discounted at this stage.
Site requisitioned for wartime military use	✗/✓	No such evidence found at this stage. However, the possibility that the Site was requisitioned for temporary wartime use cannot be ruled out entirely (e.g. tented military camp, LAA gun battery, searchlight battery, RAF barrage balloon site).
Existing or historic Army or RAF training area / weapons range	✗	n/a
Existing or historic military bases and other installations	✗	n/a
Existing or historic munitions or explosives factories	✗	n/a
Existing or historic military storage depots	✗	n/a
Existing or historic military defensive fortifications	✗	n/a
WWII light and / or heavy anti-aircraft (LAA and HAA) fire	✓	28 permanent HAA batteries were active within range of the Site during WWII. LAA guns likely defended vulnerable points within the city too. Luftwaffe activity in the region was relatively frequent. It is possible that an unexploded AA shell struck the Site.
WWII pipe-mined locations and beach minefields	✗	n/a

SITE HISTORY

What was the Site occupancy historically, especially during WWI and WWII?	During WWII, the the Site comprised undeveloped ground. A pond was situated in the south-west.
---	--

RISK MITIGATING FACTORS

Post-conflict ground works	By 1956, Sandilands County Primary School had been constructed in the south of the Site. Two additional structures had been constructed in the east. By 1989, the school building had been expanded in the west. Hard surfaced ground was laid in locations throughout the southern extent of the Site; the exact date of these small scale developments is unknown. Due to the low-rise nature of the developments, the associated excavations for foundations were likely to shallow depths. No deep excavations of WWII-era soil are likely to have occurred.
----------------------------	--

Likelihood of UXO remaining	The risk associated with (any) very shallow and shallow buried UXO will have been partially mitigated. The risk associated with (any) deep buried UXO will have almost certainly remain unmitigated.
-----------------------------	--

CONCLUSIONS

German UXO:

- Although Altrincham was never the subject of a large-scale concentrated air raid, the surrounding area experienced numerous smaller scale attacks, largely due to its vulnerable position close to Manchester which contained numerous Luftwaffe targets.
- Furthermore, anecdotal evidence suggests a Luftwaffe target was located within 3km of the Site. Therefore, it is quite possible that wayward bombs (potential UXBs) were dropped in the immediate vicinity of the Site.
- As the Site comprised open ground, any UXB strike falling on Site could have easily occurred unobserved and remained undetected, its entry hole obscured by vegetation. Any potential UXB strike to the pond could have immediately become lost beneath the waterline. This ground cover also indicates that the Site would not have been frequently accessed.
- Post-conflict ground works likely only disturbed soil to shallow depths. As such, the risk associated with (any) deep buried UXO likely largely remains unmitigated.

British / Allied UXO:

- No evidence of significant military activity specifically on Site has been found and none is likely to have occurred.
- It is quite possible that an unexploded British AA shell struck the Site during WWII and remained obscured in vegetation. Any such UXO incident could have been overlooked and remained in-situ.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

SI Works	A Stage 2 Detailed Risk Assessment is not considered necessary prior to ground works commencing. However, the possibility of shallow buried UXO remaining on Site cannot be completely ruled out at desktop stage. Therefore, a UXO Safety Awareness Briefing to all personnel conducting ground works would be considered prudent.
Development Works	A Stage 2 Detailed Risk Assessment is recommended to elucidate the risk to the proposed works.



1ST HORIZON

T: +44 (0)1226 766 446 **E:** office@1sth.co.uk **www.1sth.co.uk**

The Old Pop Factory | 88-90 High Street | Dodworth | Barnsley | S75 3RQ

Company Registration No: 5792353 | VAT Registration No: 886 5956 47