

Preliminary
Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)
Risk Assessment

Project Name	Hawthorne GP Surgery, Manchester
Client	Darwin Group Ltd.
Site Address	Stanley Grove, Longsight, Manchester M12 4NH
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Assessment Objective

This preliminary unexploded ordnance (UXO) risk assessment is a qualitative screening exercise to assess the likely potential of encountering UXO at the Hawthorne GP Surgery site in Manchester. 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.

Site Boundary



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Risk Assessment Considerations	
Site location and description/current use	The site is located within the Longsight area of Manchester. Recent aerial imagery shows that the site occupies a section of a car park associated with an ASDA superstore. Verge and shrubbery lie to the north, whilst an access road runs to the east. Further car parking can be found to the south, with additional shrubs and verge situated to the west. The site is approximately centred on the OS grid reference: **SJ 86773 95783.**
Are there any indicators of current/historical military activity on/close to the site?	In-house records do not indicate that the site footprint had any former military use. No features such as WWII defensive positions, encampments or firing ranges are recorded to have been located at or in the immediate vicinity of the site. In addition, no information of ordnance being stored, produced, or disposed of within the proposed site boundary could be found. The closest Heavy Anti-Aircraft (HAA) battery was positioned approximately 1.35km south-west of the site. The range of a fired projectile can be up to 15km. The conditions in which unexploded anti-aircraft ordnance may have fallen unrecorded are analogous to that of aerial delivered German bombs.
What was the pre- and post-WWII history of the site?	Pre-WWII OS mapping (1935) indicates that the site occupied predominantly occupied residential properties on *Glebe Street*. Both *Glebe Street* and the adjoining *Wynford Terrace* run through the site. Further terraced properties and gardens lie to the north and east of the site. An alleyway adjoins the south, whilst terraced properties and *Glebe Street* continue to the west. Post-WWII OS mapping (1951) shows that the site footprint has not altered to any significant extent since the previous mapping edition. It continues to occupy various terraced properties and roadways. The *Mechanics Arms (Beer House, BH)* is now marked to the south-west. An area of cleared ground is located beyond this.
Was the area subject to bombing during WWII?	During WWII the site was situated within the County Borough of Manchester. According to official Home Office bombing statistics this borough sustained an overall low density of bombing with 738 items of ordnance recorded across the 27,255 acre borough, or an average of 27.1 items per 1,000 acres. This consisted of 712 High Explosive (HE) Bombs, 18 Parachute Mines, seven Oil Bombs, and one V-1 Pilotless Aircraft Bomb. Bomb mapping for the County Borough of Manchester does not provide any obvious evidence of bombing across the site, or indeed within this area of Longsight.
Is there any evidence of bomb damage on/close to the site?	WWII-era aerial imagery, dated 1946, shows no obvious evidence of wartime-era damage across the site. Across terraced properties and roadways such indicators would include rubble and debris. Whilst an area of cleared ground is visible to the south-west of the site, there is no reason to suggest this was a result of enemy action and subsequent damage.
To what degree would the site have been subject to access?	Had the residential terraced properties on site remained occupied throughout WWII, access and monitor of the site would have been frequent. Such levels of access reduce the likelihood of UXO going missing and unreported.
To what degree has the site been developed post-WWII?	The residential properties previously located on site were demolished and cleared in the 1970s to make way for a superstore and car park.

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What is the nature and extent of the intrusive works proposed?	Information provided by the client indicates that a temporary GP surgery is set to be constructed on site.

Summary and Conclusions

During WWII the site was situated within the County Borough of Manchester. According to official Home Office bombing statistics this borough sustained an overall low density of bombing with 738 items of ordnance recorded across the 27,255 acre borough, or an average of 27.1 items per 1,000 acres. This consisted of 712 High Explosive (HE) Bombs, 18 Parachute Mines, seven Oil Bombs, and one V-1 Pilotless Aircraft Bomb.

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As the site was occupied by apparently undamaged residential properties and roadways, access is anticipated to have been frequent. Good levels of access and monitor generally increases the likelihood of UXO being spotted, recorded, and dealt with.

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 Manchester. It is not considered likely that undertaking further study in the form of a Detailed UXO Risk Assessment would significantly alter the findings of low risk from UXO at this site. Therefore, **no further research** is recommended.

However, because the risk of encountering UXO can never be entirely discounted, particularly considering the nearby recorded bombing incidents, the following actions are recommended as a precaution:

- All ground operatives to be made aware of potential UXO risk, what to look out for, and what to do in the event that they encounter a suspect item. Utilise UXO Tool Box Talk attached with this report as a minimum, or contact 1st Line Defence to arrange a Site Specific UXO Safety and Awareness Briefing.
- Compile a UXO Risk Management Plan for the site. Similar to a Fire Risk Assessment, this document should outline site emergency response procedures, means of raising alarm, key contact details etc. Contact 1st Line Defence for a free template and guidance document.

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. Should the scope of works change or additional works be proposed, 1st Line Defence should be contacted to re-evaluate the risk.

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