

Preliminary Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Risk Assessment

Project Name	32-36 Bournemouth Road, Eastleigh
Client	Elmcroft Construction Ltd
Site Address	Bournemouth Road, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh SO53 3ZL
Report Reference	PA21890-01
Date	7 th May 2025
Author	JA
Quality Assurance	HW

1st Line Defence

3 Maple Park, Essex Road, Hoddesdon. EN11 0EX

Tel +44 (0) 1992 245 020 Email info@1stlinedefence.co.uk

Web www.1stlinedefence.co.uk Company Reg No. 07717863



1ST LINE DEFENCE



Risk Assessment Considerations	
Site location and description/current use	The site is located in Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, north of Southampton. Recent aerial imagery shows the site to comprise a number of large commercial warehouse buildings, as well as associated hardstanding yard areas between them. School Lane borders the site to the north, while Bournemouth Road is located to the east. Additional commercial properties border the site to the east, south and west. The site is approximately centred on the OS grid reference: SU 4315820335.
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 recorded Heavy Anti-Aircraft (HAA) battery was situated approximately 1.7km south of the site. The range of a fired projectile can be up to 15km. The risk from Anti-Aircraft projectiles is homogenous to the risk from German aerial delivered ordnance (see below).
What was the pre- and post-WWII history of the site?	Pre-war OS mapping, dated 1939, shows the site to mostly comprise open, undeveloped ground. A <i>School</i> is situated in the north-east of the site, and two small structures are located within the centre of the site, although the nature of these buildings is not noted. The northern area of the site is labelled <i>Allotment Gardens</i>. School Lane borders the site to the north of the site, while residential properties situated along Bournemouth Road border the site to the east. Open ground is situated to the south and west. Post-war OS mapping, dated 1950, shows no changes within or bordering the site boundary.
Was the area subject to bombing during WWII?	During WWII, the site was situated within the Municipal Borough of Eastleigh. According to official Home Office bombing statistics, this borough was subject to an overall low density of bombing, with an average of 28.4 items of ordnance recorded per 1,000 acres. This consisted of 160 high explosive bombs, ten parachute mines, three oil bombs, and five V-1 pilotless aircraft bombs, totalling 178 incidents across 6,269 acres. No positive evidence has been found to suggest that the site was subject to any bombing. An anecdotal account of bombing in the area suggests that Chandler's Ford escaped "with only a few stray bombs" following far more severe bombing of Southampton.¹
Is there any evidence of bomb damage on/close to the site?	Given the lack of structures located across the majority of the site, it has not been possible to compare pre- and post-war OS mapping for signs of change that may be indicative of bomb damage within most of the site boundary, such as missing structures or buildings labelled 'ruin'. However, all structures situated within close proximity to the site appear unchanged.
To what degree would the site have been subject to access?	During WWII, the site was mostly occupied by undeveloped land, which is generally not considered likely to have been subject to regular access. The presence of allotment gardens in the north of the site, as well as a school in the north-east and two small structures in the centre of the site may have elevated access to the site somewhat.

¹ <https://chandlerfordtoday.co.uk/my-memories-of-the-war-years-in-chandlers-ford-1939-1945-doug-clews/>

To what degree has the site been developed post-WWII?	Since WWII, the entirety of the site has been paved over with hardstanding, and several large warehouse structures have been developed on site.
What is the nature and extent of the intrusive works proposed?	The exact nature and extent of proposed works was not known at this stage.

Summary and Conclusions

During WWII, the site was situated within the Municipal Borough of Eastleigh. According to official Home Office bombing statistics, this borough was subject to an overall low density of bombing, with an average of 28.4 items of ordnance recorded per 1,000 acres. No positive evidence has been found to suggest that the site was subject to any bombing. An anecdotal account of bombing in the area suggests that Chandler's Ford escaped "with only a few stray bombs" following far more severe bombing of Southampton.

All structures situated within close proximity to the site appear unchanged when comparing pre- and post-war OS mapping, suggesting that no bomb damage was sustained by any nearby structures. The presence of allotment gardens in the north of the site, as well as a school in the north-east and two small structures in the centre of the site may have elevated access to the site somewhat.

Recommendations

Given the findings of this preliminary report, the risk from UXO is not considered to be higher than the 'background risk' of finding UXO in this part of the country. 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 taken.

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.

This report has been prepared by 1st Line Defence Limited with all reasonable care and skill. The report contains historical data and information from third party sources. 1st Line Defence Limited has sought to verify the accuracy and comprehensiveness of this information where possible but cannot be held accountable for any inherent errors. Furthermore, whilst every reasonable effort has been made to locate and access all relevant historical information, 1st Line Defence cannot be held responsible for any changes to risk level or mitigation recommendations resulting from documentation or other information which may come to light at a later date.

This report was written by, is owned by and is copyrighted to 1st Line Defence Limited. It contains important 1st Line Defence information which is disclosed only for the purposes of the client's evaluation and assessment of the project to which the report is about. The contents of this report shall not, in whole or in part be used for any other purpose apart from the assessment and evaluation of the project; be relied upon in any way by the person other than the client, be disclosed to any affiliate of the client's company who is not required to know such information, nor to any third party person, organisation or government, be copied or stored in any retrieval system, be reproduced or transmitted in any form by photocopying or any optical, electronic, mechanical or other means, without prior written consent of the Managing Director, 1st Line Defence Limited, Unit 3, Maple Park, Essex Road, Hoddesdon EN11 0EX. Accordingly, no responsibility or liability is accepted by 1st Line Defence towards any other person in respect of the use of this report or reliance on the information contained within it, except as may be designated by law for any matter outside the scope of this report.

1st Line Defence

Unit 3, Maple Park
Essex Road, Hoddesdon
Hertfordshire EN11 0EX

Call +44 (0) 1992 245 020

Email info@1stlinedefence.co.uk

Web www.1stlinedefence.co.uk



1ST LINE DEFENCE