

Information Data Sheet

Category Abandoned Bombs

Description

Abandoned bombs are UXB that were not immediately dealt with during WWII due to their benign position, difficulty of access (such as in landfill sites, watercourses and graves) or lack of resources.

At the end of WWII, many of the abandoned bombs were either discredited or removed, whilst a few remained abandoned.

The Abandoned Bomb Register, held by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), was compiled from wartime MoD records. In 1996, the House of Commons published a list of the officially abandoned bombs in London at the end of WWII, comprising 74 locations. The remainder of the list for the UK remained classified for security purposes.

The Abandoned Bomb Register is retained by the DCLG but is not currently updated.



When using records of abandoned bombs caution is advised as the original MoD-maintained records held by the DCLG are now outdated. This means that a more recent UXB detection and disposal task may have removed some bombs previously recorded as abandoned.

Additionally, records held by local authorities were often not updated by the MoD. Consequently, a previously abandoned bomb may have been removed but this may not be reflected in the local authority records dating from WWII.

Corroboration of records for abandoned bombs is therefore essential.