

Information Data Sheet

Category Minefields and Mined Locations

Description Minefields were laid along the coast, in estuaries and along the banks of major rivers to deter infantry invasion. They were often surrounded by barbed wire entanglements to obstruct amphibious landings.

Hardened defensive positions, such as roadblocks and pillboxes, were often surrounded by anti-tank mines for further protection. These were usually buried in shallow sockets in an attempt to make them indistinguishable from the road layout.

Strategic points such as bridges and gaps in cliffs were often filled with explosives so that they could be destroyed in the event of an enemy invasion.



Typical WWII British land mine used as an anti-invasion defence

Hazard A wide variety of mines have been used on the land area of the UK. These can typically be separated into anti-tank and anti-personnel mines.

Most of the mined beaches and other land areas in the UK have been cleared by the MoD. Occasionally, wave action or activities such as bombing caused mines to become displaced and these may have been missed during past clearance activities. Therefore beaches that are known to have been mined need to be treated with respect.

Remnant mines are also sometimes found in the foundations of bridges and other infrastructure which has remained undisturbed since wartime.

More rarely, sea mines are washed up on beaches and shorelines along estuaries.