ABANDONED BOMBS

Abandoned bombs are Unexploded Bombs (UXBs) that were not immediately dealt with during World War Two (WWII). This could be due to their benign or unknown position, difficulty of access, or lack of resources.

At the end of or shortly after WWII, many abandoned bombs were investigated, and either removed or discredited. Some remained abandoned.

The Abandoned Bomb Register, held by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), was compiled from wartime Ministry of Defence (MoD) records. This register is retained by the MHCLG but not currently updated.

In 1996, the House of Commons published a list of the officially abandoned bombs in London at the end of WWII. The remainder of the list for the UK remained classified for security purposes.

UXB recovered in Oxshott, Surrey, 1940

1,800kg UXB recovered in Knowle, Bristol

1,800kg UXB recovered in Wimbledon

Hazard

The presence of an officially abandoned bomb is a significant Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) hazard. By their nature, abandoned bombs are often buried at significant depth or in areas that are difficult to access.

Whilst grid references are given on the Abandoned Bomb Register where possible, the exact location of an abandoned bomb was often not known. The conversion from Cassini to modern OS grid references may also have led to some slight inaccuracies in the recorded location. Therefore, corroboration of records for abandoned bombs is essential.

Every effort has been made to identify the original source of images. Any breach of copyright is unintentional. If you are the proven originator of any image, we would be happy to remove the image on request.

Tel: 01993 886682
Email: uxo@zetica.com
Web: www.zeticauxo.com

Zetica House
Southfield Road, Eynsham
Oxfordshire, OX29 4JB