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UXO:

**THE DEVESTATING,
HIDDEN THREAT TO
YOUR PROJECT.**

**UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE
IN BRISTOL: WHY IT'S
THERE, WHERE IT CAME
FROM, AND WHAT YOU
CAN DO ABOUT IT.**

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THE BLITZ

Today's explosive legacy of WWII bombing in Bristol:

Bristol made a vital contribution to the British war effort and was of two-fold importance.

Firstly, it was situated on the west side of England where ports such as Bristol and Avonmouth played a crucial role in the Battle of the Atlantic. Secondly, during the twentieth century Bristol had developed as an engineering centre, including in aircraft production at neighbouring Filton.

As Britain's sixth largest provincial city, Bristol was the largest urban centre in the south-west of England. As the city was of strategic importance it was inevitably the focus for many enemy air raids and became the fourth heaviest bombed city in Britain.

Bristol was also singled out by the Luftwaffe for attack because of the high density of factories in the city that were manufacturing a variety of products for the Allied war effort. These products included aircraft and vehicle engines, vehicles and armaments. Reconnaissance mapping and photography show a number of Luftwaffe targets highlighted across the city.

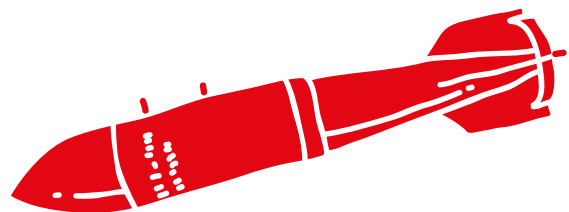
The first heavy attack on Bristol began on -

September 25th, 1940, with considerable damage and 131 fatalities inflicted during the raid on the Bristol Aeroplane Company's works at Filton. Several further raids occurred throughout the war, with at least 6 major raids occurring between 24 November 1940 and 11 April 1941, inflicting heavy damage to the city and its surrounding area.

A total of approximately 6,203 bombs of various types were dropped over the County Borough of Bristol during WWII.

Facts about the Bristol blitz:

- A common bomb type dropped was a canister containing numerous incendiaries (locally known as Goering's Breadbasket).
- 1,299 people were killed and 1,303 seriously injured.
- By the end of the main air raids, Bristol had suffered from at least 6,203 bomb strikes.





UXO'S LEGACY

The legacy of UXO in Bristol and how it affects projects to this day:

One of the legacies of this conflict is buried unexploded air-dropped bombs or anti-aircraft projectiles resulting from the failure of a proportion of the weapons to function as designed. It is commonly accepted that the failure rate of these munitions was approximately 10% and, depending on their shape, weight, velocity and ground conditions, many penetrated the ground and came to rest at depth.

Intensive efforts were made during and after the war to locate and render safe all UXO but, unsurprisingly, not all were found and dealt with. This is evidenced by the regular, on-going discoveries of UXO during construction-related intrusive ground works.

A sample of recent UXO finds in Bristol:

- An unexploded mortar was found in Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve, between Avonmouth and Portishead in February 2021.
- WWII 'firebomb' (likely an incendiary) found in a garden in Bristol in August 2019.

- Unexploded WWII ordnance found in Bristol city centre in October 2018.
- WWII unexploded incendiary bomb found in a house garden at Pensford, April 2018.
- 2 x WWII bombs found in Bristol Channel near Hinkley Point in August 2017.
- WWII shell found in a house garden in Bristol, June 2017.
- Buried WWII bomb found in a riverbank near Bristol in May 2010.

A sample of post-WWII bomb disposal officer clearance tasks:

- March 1950, 1,000kg bomb found in Bristol
- May 1951, 50kg bomb found in Bristol
- February 1965, 50kg bomb found in Bristol
- February 1973, 50kg bomb found in Bristol Port
- July 1974, operation to search for an abandoned bomb was conducted in Bristol
- September 1979, grenades found in area previously used by US military in WWII, Bristol
- May 1984, 4 x items of ordnance found in Bristol

UXO STILL AFFECTS PROJECTS

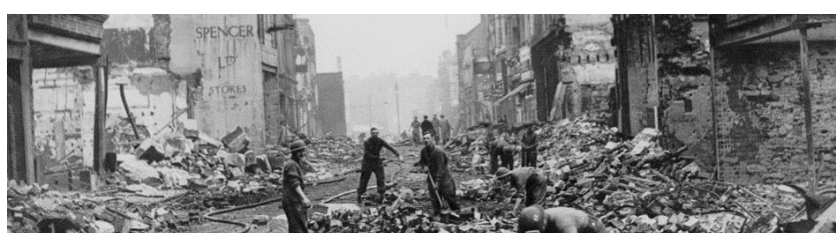
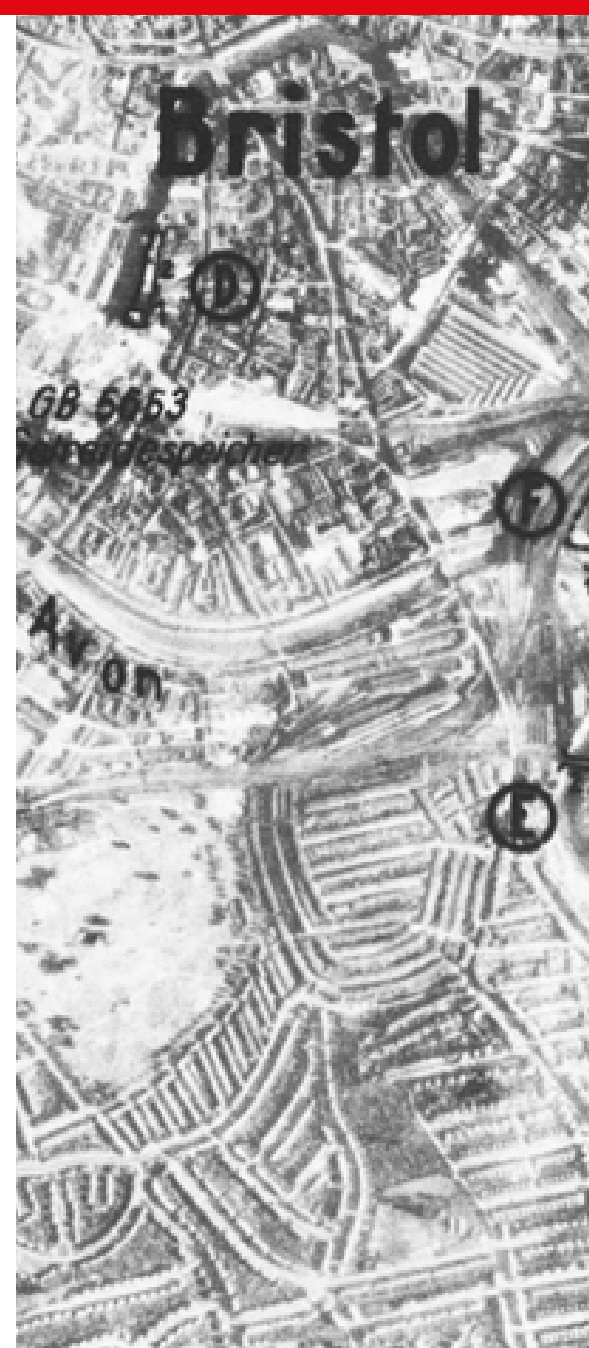
How unexploded ordnance continues to affect construction projects in Bristol – and what you can do to protect your development:

Unexploded ordnance (UXO) presents a significant risk to construction projects in parts of the UK because of enemy actions during the two 20th Century World Wars and historic British and Allied military activity.

As a result of a generally increased risk awareness amongst professionals involved in ground engineering works and proactive health and safety measures, the risk to life and limb from UXO has been minimised. However even the simple discovery of a suspected device during on-going works can cause considerable disruption to production and cause unwanted delays and expense.

Such risks can be more fully addressed by a better understanding of the site-specific risk and the implementation of appropriate risk mitigation measures.

The complexity of the risks required end-to-end support, which can be offered by SafeLane Global. With unswerving focus on the removal of risk for over 30 years and for 10,000+ clients, SafeLane Global protects against the threats of harm and commercial loss that unexploded ordnance continues to pose across the UK.



FIND YOUR SOLUTION TODAY
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