

# FELLOWS

The UXO risk management experts

Part of the Optima Group



## Preliminary Unexploded Ordnance Risk Assessment

In Accordance with CIRIA Report C681

FIL Reference: 2252

Client: Campbell Reith

Project: Rochester Airport

Site Location: Rochester Airport, Chatham, ME5 9SD

Report date: 29 January 2019





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## Document Control

Version Date	Version	Author	Reviewer	Comments
29 Jan 19	1.0	Nathan Oakes BSc (Hons), GradIEMA	Emily Osborne	Original

## Document Approval

	Reviewed by	Approved by
Signature		
Print Name	Emily Osborne	Andrew Ward MIEpE
Date	29 January 2019	30 January 2019

## Distribution

Date	Copy No.	Recipient	Format
30 Jan 19	1	Campbell Reith	PDF
30 Jan 19	2	FIL Office	PDF

## 1. Introduction

The sites are situated at Rochester airport, approximately 1.5km south of Rochester and 3.5km south west of Chatham town centre. The area surrounding the sites is mainly of commercial and industrial use and the sites occupy an area of approximately 15.5 and 2.8 hectares for the north and south site respectively.

The purpose of this Preliminary UXO Risk Assessment is to establish the likelihood of encountering UXO on site. If a UXO risk is identified, risk mitigation recommendations can be provided to allow the client to make an informed decision as to future procedures which will reduce the UXO risk to as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP).

## 2. Enemy Bombing Activity

Throughout WW2, Luftwaffe bombing raids were primarily focused on military and industrial targets. Major infrastructure was another key target and train stations, major road links and docks were frequently bombed throughout the war. As the war progressed, general urban bombing became frequent. The majority of air raids were conducted against major cities due to the concentration of industry and high population density.

## 3. Bombing activity around the site

Rochester Airport was heavily bombed by the Luftwaffe in 1940, putting the production of aircraft within the area back by over a year. This led to the distribution of production around the country to shadow factories in order to prevent this from occurring again.

## 4. British Defensive Positions (AA Sites, Airfields & Decoy Sites)

### Anti-Aircraft Artillery

There were 4 British Anti-aircraft emplacements within 5km of the site. These are tabulated in table 1 below:

Location	Distance from Site
Fort Borstal [Site Code TS7]	1.1km NW
Burham [Site Code TS24]	2.4km SW
Burham [Site Code TS24]	3.9km SW
Gibraltar Farm [Site Code TS6]	4.1km SE

Table 1. Showing anti-aircraft emplacements within 5km of the site.

AAA sites in close proximity of the site give rise to a risk from unexploded fall-to-earth AA projectiles.

## Decoy Sites

Decoy sites were used to draw enemy air raids away from civilian and military targets by mimicking these legitimate targets through the use of fire, mirrors and mock buildings.

There was a decoy site located approximately 3.5km to the southeast of the sites, designated QF223. This was designed to draw enemy attention away from Rochester, Rochester Airport and Chatham.

## **5. Military land usage**

Military encampments and areas of military training are often at risk of encountering UXO through buried or abandoned munitions.

With the sites being a part of a former military airfield and manufacturing plant, there is significant use of the surrounding area for the purpose of both military industry and transportation of items. Rochester and Chatham both had a significant military presence throughout WWII.

## Military Airfields

Military airfields were primary Luftwaffe targets. They were often raided to prevent the RAF from gaining air superiority by destroying the aircraft, hangers and runway.

The site area was a former military airfield and production facility, specifically making Short Stirling bombers.



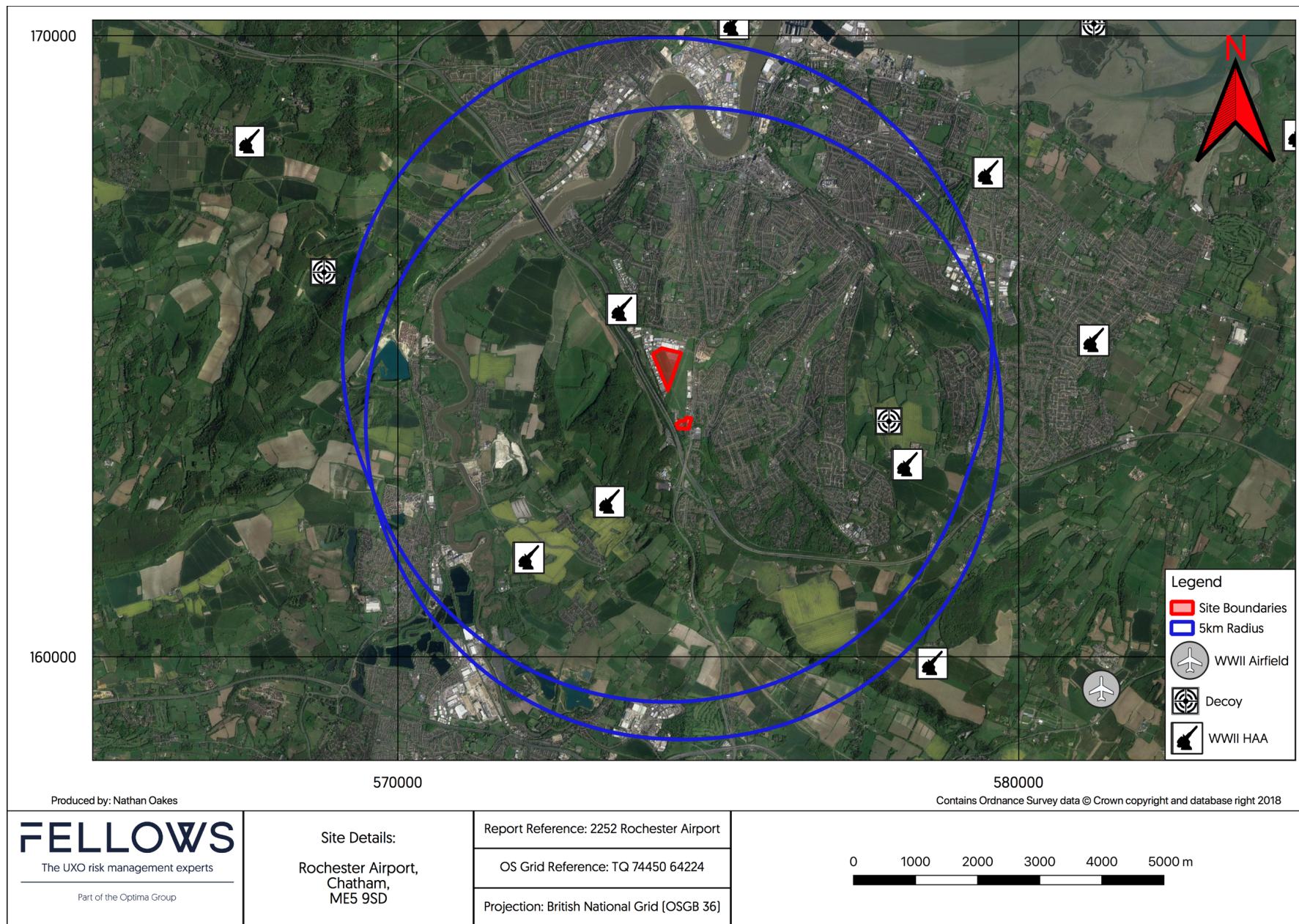


Figure 1. Showing the site in relation to Decoy Sites and Anti-aircraft emplacements. [Google, 2019]

## 6. Risk Assessment

There is evidence in the public domain that shows the site has been affected by military activity in the past, therefore the risk of encountering Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) has been assessed as:

UXO	RISK
German air dropped weapons	Medium
British Anti-Air defensive munitions	Medium
Other [Land service Ammunition / Home guard / Military Training]	Low

## 7. Summary and Risk Mitigation recommendations

The risk of encountering UXO has been assessed as medium and therefore in accordance with CIRIA 681, a Detailed UXO Risk Assessment is recommended to be conducted for this site.

Fellows International Ltd would be pleased to offer a proposal with quotation to undertake these works and any further UXO risk management required for this project.

A copy of this document should be kept within the projects H&S files.

This assessment has been produced for Campbell Reith and has been completed without the benefit of knowing the exact intentions of third parties and should therefore not be used by such organisations without prior consultation with Fellows International Ltd (Fellows).

Our assessment relies upon the accuracy of the information contained in the documents and resources consulted on the date of production. Fellows can in no way be held responsible for the accuracy of such information or data supplied or for any hazard encountered at the site due to import of materials after this date.

Fellows is recognised as one of the leading UXO Risk Management companies specialising in UXO Risk Assessments, Site Survey, Ground Investigation Support and UXO Awareness Training.

Conducting these operations requires not only the most experienced field staff, but also dedicated and experienced project management. Careful planning and co-ordination is needed from start to finish, backed up by detailed operational procedures. With many years' experience, Fellows has built up a reputation for reliability, whatever the risk. In recognition of its commitment to quality has been awarded ISO 9001-2015 accreditation.

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