



UXO RISK: LOWER THAMES CROSSING

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE
BREAKING GROUND

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The Lower Thames Crossing corridor spans historically significant WWII and post-war industrial zones. Areas nearby were heavily militarised, bombed or used for wartime logistics. UXO has already been discovered during other major infrastructure works across the South-East. The risks span urban brownfield, greenbelt, riverbanks and former MOD land. Early UXO risk mitigation means minimal costs for massive risk reduction.

Who should be concerned?

- Tier 1 infrastructure contractors
- Civil engineering
- Ground investigation
- Local developers and utilities
- Environmental & archaeological consultants

If your project involves groundworks, piling or intrusive investigations, UXO must be considered.

Why is UXO still an issue here?

The Lower Thames region has a complex legacy:

- WWII bombing raids targeted key infrastructure around Tilbury and Gravesend.
- Military training areas and munitions storage, testing and disposal left unexploded devices in fields and waterways.
- River-based and anti-aircraft defences led to heavy ordnance deployment.
- Rapid post-war development sometimes built over sites without proper clearance.

Even today, buried unexploded ordnance is found along road and rail corridors, including bombs, grenades, mortars and projectiles.

Source: Essex Archives



What can go wrong?

- Safety incidents or near misses
- Evacuations and emergency response
- Costly delays to critical infrastructure timelines
- Rejected insurance claims due to unassessed UXO risk
- Reputational damage and regulatory scrutiny

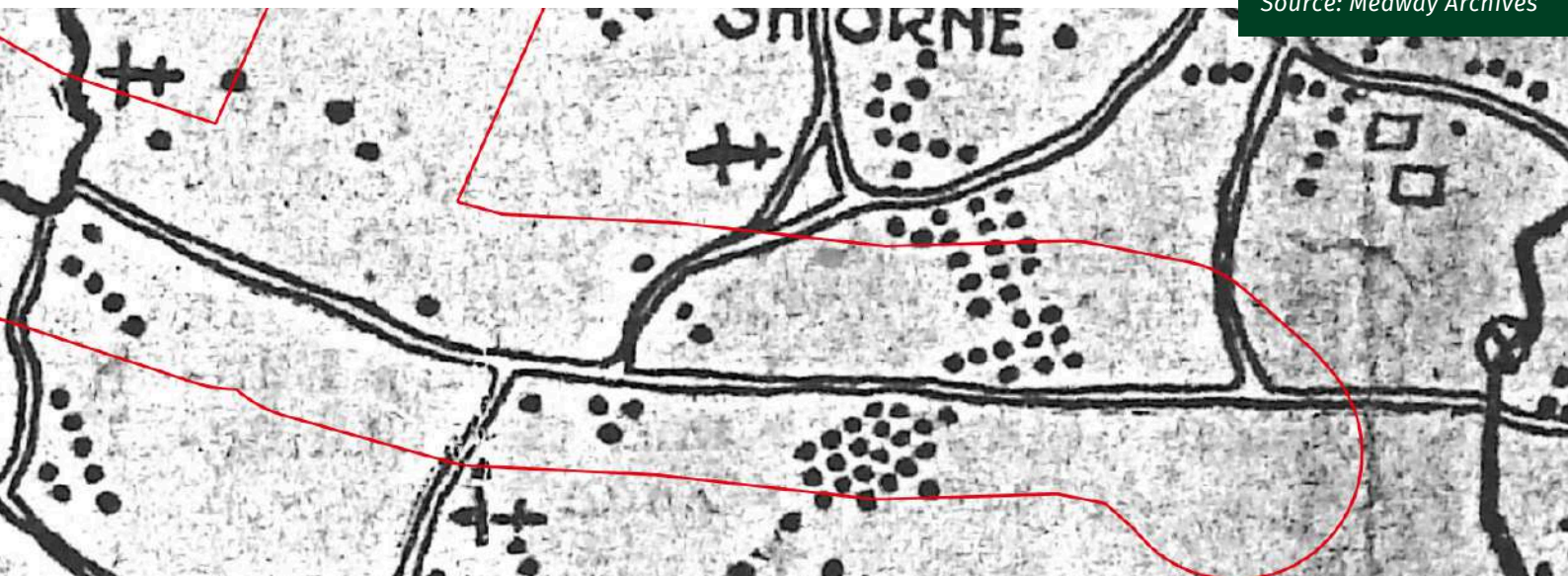
Source: UKNIP

How Igne supports Lower Thames Crossing Contractors

We help manage UXO risk across major UK infrastructure projects, offering:

- Desk-based historical UXO risk assessments
- Magnetometer surveys (intrusive and non-intrusive)
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal Engineer services
- UXO awareness training and consultancy services
- Explosives removal and demolition
- Fully insured, licensed and compliant
- Based in Kent, allowing fast turnaround

Source: Medway Archives





Source: Essex Police

Key examples:

In the years after the Second World War, UXO has been uncovered in the area on numerous occasions. Some examples include:

- *May 2025*: a WWII artillery shell was uncovered by a member of the public on the riverbank in Gravesend.
- *November 2024*: German airdropped 250kg HE bomb was found at a construction site in East Tilbury, Essex (pictured above). **This was found within close proximity of the proposed LTC route.**
- *May 2023*: a WWII artillery shell was found at Lodge Lane, Grays, Essex.
- OSPAR also record two items of “conventional” ordnance (non-chemical) found within the River Thames in proximity to the route, one in 2005 and another in 2021.

What’s on the Front Cover?

Igne’s UXO risk map shows:

- Regional bombing density
- The locations of recorded bombing incidents
- Defensive fortifications and military sites that could present a risk from UXO
- The locations of post-WWII UXO discoveries

This map is being continuously updated as more data comes in. It is used in part to ensure appropriate risk mitigation measures are recommended in any areas deemed an elevated risk.

**YOU HAVE
QUESTIONS?
WE HAVE
ANSWERS!**

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