

Re: V/2024/0587 – potential WW2 munitions store

Land adjacent to Omberley Avenue is thought to be a WW2 munitions store.

In 1966 a former member of the 'Home Guard' had notified the police when he had heard that land at Omberley Avenue was about to be developed. A one-day search was made by the RACC bomb disposal squad but was unsuccessful in locating the bombs.

The bombs contain white phosphorus floating in benzene. They look like small milk bottles, and once the cap is taken off, or the glass broken, the phosphorus ignites and sets fire to the benzene. The incendiary devices were issued to the Home Guard in case of an invasion. After the war they were buried in an undisclosed location, for security reasons.

A local 'Notts Free Press' report from 20 May 1966 gives some details of the bombs. There were 240 incendiary devices buried by the Home Guard on undeveloped land adjacent to Omberley Avenue. They were packed into 10 cases and buried about 8 feet from a hedge, at a depth of approx 2 feet. Old maps shows hedges which have since been removed though visible on Lidar maps.

The applicants have commissioned a preliminary UXO risk assessment by '1st Line Defence' and the report is shown in the ADC comments. The summary of the report states that the risk of encountering UXO is not considered significant enough to warrant further research. However, the plot shown on their assessment is **not** the whole of the development site. The report does not mention the Home Guard munitions dump.

It is the view of TSS Neighbourhood Forum that there is a potential threat to public safety which should be further investigated before any development takes place.