

Safety Alert

Environmental surveys

30 April 2021

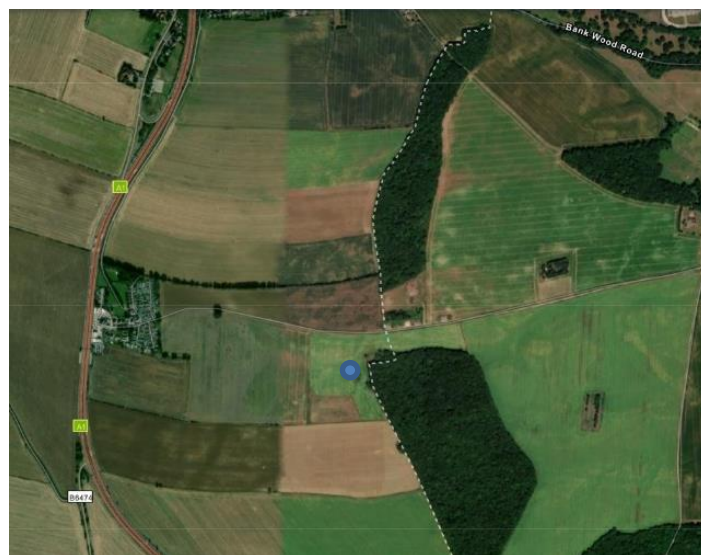
Background information

During a non-intrusive environmental walkover survey on private land, someone unseen, started shooting in the vicinity. The survey team had been in the area for a period of time prior to any gunfire being noted. The surveyors left immediately, away from the direction of the noise through an area of rising ground until they considered they were shielded from the source. Once in a position of safety, they arranged to leave the site through their original access point, in accordance with the SHE plan for the site visit. No individuals were harmed in this incident.

An investigation is currently ongoing, but initial investigations with the landowner have confirmed that he has an arrangement for licenced pigeon shooters (who were operational at the time) to undertake pest control on an 'ad-hoc' basis within his land holding.

A specific risk in relation to shooting was not identified in the SHE plan. However, the plan did recommend that wherever possible contact should be made with the landowner/tenant before entering the land, and that should the surveyors feel threatened or the working conditions are considered not to be safe, they should stop work, leave the site or retreat to a safe location.

The landowner had not highlighted any particular hazards during correspondence received.



● Location of incident

Lessons Learnt

The investigation is ongoing. Initial recommendations include the following:

- Eliminate the risk: assess if access to the land parcel is essential to the assessment work in the current stage.
- If the significant risk cannot be avoided or eliminated it should be assessed and recorded. Include 'shooting rights' risk in any hazard logs / SHE plans etc.
- If access is essential identify mitigation: phone the landowner/tenant and ask if there are specific hazards on the land to be aware of, including permitted shooting. We have a list of closed questions, designed to prompt landowners
- Could a remote technique (such as aerial photography/drones) be used to obtain a similar outcome.