

Report to the Environment Committee
from Mary Manastyrski, Resource Quality Officer

Munition Site Histories

1. Purpose

To present the results of a desktop investigation identifying former munitions sites in the Wellington Region.

2. Background

The Regional Plan for Discharges to Land identifies “*munitions and military equipment dumps*” as a category of potentially contaminated sites with a high priority for investigation.

These sites were identified as a priority because of the nature of the substances stored at the sites, and anecdotal evidence suggesting that equipment at these sites was buried when the sites were vacated at the end of World War II, particularly sites used by the US Marine Corps.

Opus Consultants Ltd were engaged in January 2000 to carry out a desktop investigation aimed at:

- Identifying sites within the Wellington Region where munitions and military equipment was stored or used;
- Developing site histories for these sites; and
- Prioritising these sites for further action or investigation.

3. Report Findings

The report identified 22 sites in the Wellington Region that are believed to have stored munitions and military equipment since 1940. These were:

- Kaiwharawhara Park
- Anderson Park

- Central Park
- Fort Dorset
- Shelly Bay
- Wright's Hill
- Fort Balance
- Hutt Park
- Trentham Army Camp and Kuku Valley
- Belmont Magazine Store
- Titahi Bay Camp
- Plimmerton Camp
- Pauatahanui Camp
- Judgeford Camp
- Judgeford Dumpsite
- Moonshine Road Dumpsite
- Paekakariki Camp/ Queen Elizabeth Park
- Camp Russell
- McKay's Crossing Camp
- Memorial Park, Masterton
- Solway Showgrounds, Masterton
- Church Street-Colombo Road, Masterton

Site histories have been developed for each site using the limited amount of information available, including anecdotal information.

The report identified the following eight sites as having a greater priority for further investigation:

1. Belmont Magazine area
2. Kuku magazine site, firing range and demolition area (part of the Trentham Army Camp)
3. Moonshine Road dumpsite
4. McKay's Crossing camp
5. Queen Elizabeth Park
6. Judgeford dumpsite
7. Fort Dorset
8. Fort Balance

This assessment was made on the best information available as to the former use and activities on site, the sensitivity of the surrounding environment, and the current landuse of the site.

4. **Where To From Here?**

The need for further investigation at these sites will be assessed using a comparative risk assessment technique. This assessment will consider all of the sites included in the database, including the munitions sites identified in this report. This approach ensures that our efforts are focussed on those contaminated and potentially contaminated sites that pose the greatest risk to the environment and to human health.

Information about the sites identified in this investigation will be included in the Council's database of contaminated and potentially contaminated sites.

5. **Communication**

This information will be made available to territorial authorities to fulfil their role in issuing land information memoranda (LIM's) and project information memoranda (PIM's).

This process is part of the on-going strategy for the management of contaminated sites and is the appropriate way for communicating the information to the territorial authorities and the site owners.

5. **Recommendation**

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

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Attachments: 1