

## **Q&As Milk Street, Frome**

### **Who needs to evacuate their homes/businesses?**

Anyone within a 150m cordon area of the property in Milk Street will need to evacuate their home/business during the extraction on Wednesday 6 August. Streets affected are parts of: Milk Street, Selwood Road, Dyers Close Lane, Hodders Close, Whatcombe Road, The Mint, Trinity Walk, Welshmill Lane. All affected residents have been contacted directly by letter.

### **What evidence do you have there is an incendiary device?**

Avon & Somerset Constabulary received credible intelligence that about 60 years ago a device was buried within the garden of a property in Milk Street.

Two full surveys of the garden have been conducted using ground penetrating radar and a magnetometer to identify buried items. The results show there is evidence of a ferrous item and further investigation is therefore required. We are establishing a cordon and asking people to evacuate their homes purely as a precaution.

### **Who will be extracting and removing the device?**

The operation to excavate and identify the device will be carried out by a globally recognised civilian contractor, BACTEC, who specialise in this kind of operation. They advise the device is not an immediate threat to people or property as it is buried at some depth.

BACTEC has many years' experience in investigation, detection and clearance of explosive remnants of war (ERW). If required, disposal and removal of the device will be carried out by a Ministry of Defence Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team.

### **It's been buried for at least sixty years, why are you doing this now?**

After receiving credible information of the buried device, we have a duty to remove it.

Conscious of the possible disruption to the two schools located close by, the decision was made to carry out this operation after the schools have closed for the summer holidays. It is important to reiterate that this decision to delay the operation was made because until the device is uncovered and exposed to air, it presents no threat or risk to people or property.

### **How long will I have to leave my home/business?**

It is hoped that with work already carried out that the device will be located, identified and prepared for disposal/removal in a relatively short time period

(within the day). However, we have to plan for the worst options and residents are advised that they may be away from their properties for up to 48 hours.

**A member of my household will need help to evacuate.**

If you need help to evacuate your home, please get in touch with Somerset County Council on 0845 345 9155 as soon as possible who will arrange for help and support in preparing for the evacuation and on the day. Although no deadline, we would appreciate knowing requirements by Friday 1 August 2014.

**I am concerned about my vulnerable neighbours, what do I do?**

If you are concerned about your neighbours and their ability to prepare for and evacuate their homes, please get in touch with Somerset County Council on 0845 945 9155. They will get in touch with your neighbours to discuss options and to put in place appropriate support.

**After 7.30am on Wednesday 6 August, will I be able to return to my home?**

Once the cordon has been established to allow the operation to start, it will not be possible to cross it and return to properties until it is declared safe to do so. Avon & Somerset Constabulary will be patrolling the area and staff will be located at the cordon.

**Where can I go during Wednesday 6 August?**

Ideally, you will know someone to stay with whilst the operation is occurring. However, we know that this is not always possible. We are therefore providing a 'Place of Safety' (Rest Centre) set up by Mendip District Council at **Oakfield Academy** and open for use of displaced residents from **6.30am**.

Light refreshments and meals will be available throughout the day and it is hoped that residents will be able to return home by the evening of the same day. Should it be necessary for residents to be accommodated overnight, arrangements have been made for this.

If you have friends or family outside of the cordon area that you'd prefer to stay with, that is fine, but we would appreciate knowing that you have made alternative arrangements and ask you to complete the enclosed questionnaire.

**How can I get to the rest centre?**

Free transport will be provided to the Rest Centre. It will be available from the shops near Milk Street with staff available to assist from 6.30am.

If you find on the day you need help arranging transport, please contact 079 20138 208 from 6.30am on Wednesday 6 August.

Parking will be available for those wishing to use their own vehicles.

**What should I take with me when I leave?**

It is expected the extraction and disposal of the device will be completed within the day. However, we have to plan for the worse, so please prepare and pack items in case you are away from your home/business for a 48 hour period.

**I have to take prescription medicines, what do I do?**

Remember to carry any prescription medicines you are taking with you. A fridge is available at the rest centre, if required. Please ensure all medicines are clearly labelled with your name.

**I have a special dietary requirement, what arrangements will be made for me at the Rest Centre?**

Please complete and return the attached questionnaire to advise us of any specific dietary requirements you may have. We can then arrange suitable refreshments that meet your needs.

**I have young children, what facilities are available at the Rest Centre?**

There will be a selection of toys at the Rest Centre for young children to enjoy and staff trained to look after children will be on hand. There will be baby changing facilities as well as access to a microwave. If you need to bring bottles, please clearly label them. Please also bring items you may need such as nappies, baby food, and sterilising equipment. There will be a limited number of travel cots available.

**My neighbour's away at the moment, what do I do?**

If you know your neighbour is away and not back until just before Wednesday 6 August, please either contact them (if you have their contact details) so they are aware or inform us on 0845 345 9155. If they are not back until after Wednesday 6 August, they should not need to be informed.

**I'm expecting visitors or a delivery that day?**

Please advise any visitors or deliveries you are expecting that they will not be able to access any properties whilst the extraction is taking place.

**What about my pet(s)?**

Please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire to advise us if you are planning to bring pets to the rest centre. This will enable us to plan accordingly and meet your pet(s) needs. However, please bring with you to the Rest Centre appropriate carriers, leads, muzzles, food bowls and food for your pet(s).

**What about my post?**

Royal Mail is aware of the operation and will resume normal delivery as soon as possible. However, if you'd prefer not to wait, affected properties will be able to collect their mail on Wednesday 6 August from the Royal Mail Sorting Office (Frome Delivery Office, Unit C, Vallis Mills Trading Estate, Robins Lane, Frome, BA11 3EW).

**What about the security of my home/business whilst I'm away?**

Road blocks will be put in place from 7.00am on Wednesday 6 August and Avon & Somerset Constabulary will be preventing anyone from entering the cordon area after this time. Officers will be on site, if you have any concerns.

### **How will I know when I can return to my home/business?**

Tune in to local radio stations (BBC Somerset) or Frome FM.

Alternatively, follow Somerset County Council on Twitter @somersetcouncil #MilkStreet or check out [www.somerset.gov.uk/milkstreet](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/milkstreet) on the day for latest developments and when you can return safely to your home.

There will also be an Avon & Somerset Constabulary mobile information point located near the cordon as well as an information point set up at the rest centre at Oakfield Academy.

You can also contact Somerset County Council on 0845 345 9155.

### **I can't make the public meeting, how do I learn more?**

If you are unable to attend the public drop-in session on Thursday 31 July, and the above questions and answers do not answer your concerns, contact Somerset County Council on 0845 345 9155.

### **Need more information?**

- Come along to the public drop in session and public meeting at Holy Trinity Church Hall on 31 July from **3pm until 7pm at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Trinity Street, Frome**. This will be followed by an open public meeting for residents from **7pm until 8pm**.
- Phone Somerset County Council on 0845 345 9155
- Contact Avon and Somerset Constabulary by telephoning 101
- Contact Mendip District Council on 0300 303 8588
- Email: [civilcontingencies@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:civilcontingencies@somerset.gov.uk)
- This information is also available on Somerset County Council's website at [www.somerset.gov.uk/milkstreet](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/milkstreet), Avon & Somerset Constabulary at [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk) and [www.mendip.gov.uk/milkstreet](http://www.mendip.gov.uk/milkstreet)

#### During the day of extraction:

Information will also be available:

- On Twitter @SomersetCouncil, @ASPolice, and @MendipCouncil
- Information Centres set up in the rest centre at Oakfield Academy
- Mobile police community information point will be located near the cordon area