



Department
for Environment
& Rural Affairs

Extreme Risks

Evidence and policy challenges of a hostile attack using a chemical weapon

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Forestry Commission
England



NATURAL
ENGLAND



Environment
Agency

Defra's LGD role

We are
required to:

- prepare for handover from response to recovery
- coordinate recovery efforts cross government coordination and oversee decontamination operations
- produce a national level recovery plan
- coordinate national level communications on recovery to the public and media
- ensure effective interface between government and local Recovery Coordinating Groups
- account to Parliament for the recovery process

Salisbury incident

4 March 2018

Mr and Miss Skripal

DS Bailey

DSTL detect Novichok nerve agent

OPCW verified 12 April

All 3 survived



Amesbury incident

Saturday 30 June

Major Incident declared by Wiltshire Police 4 July

Ms Sturgess died 8 July

Mr Rowley recovered

Response disrupted decontamination operations in Salisbury area

More sites into Recovery process

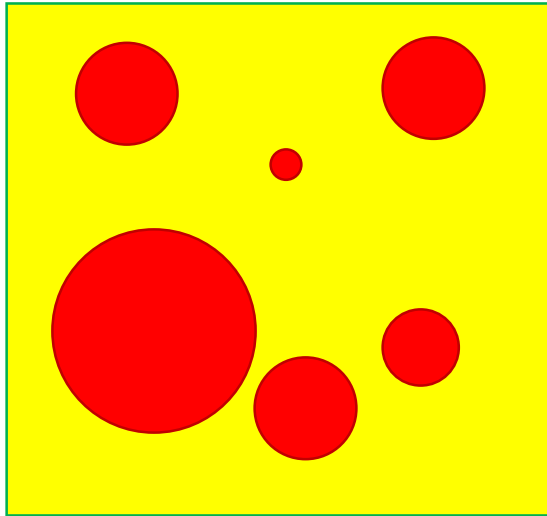
DSTL confirm presence of Novichok

OPCW again verified (4 Sept)

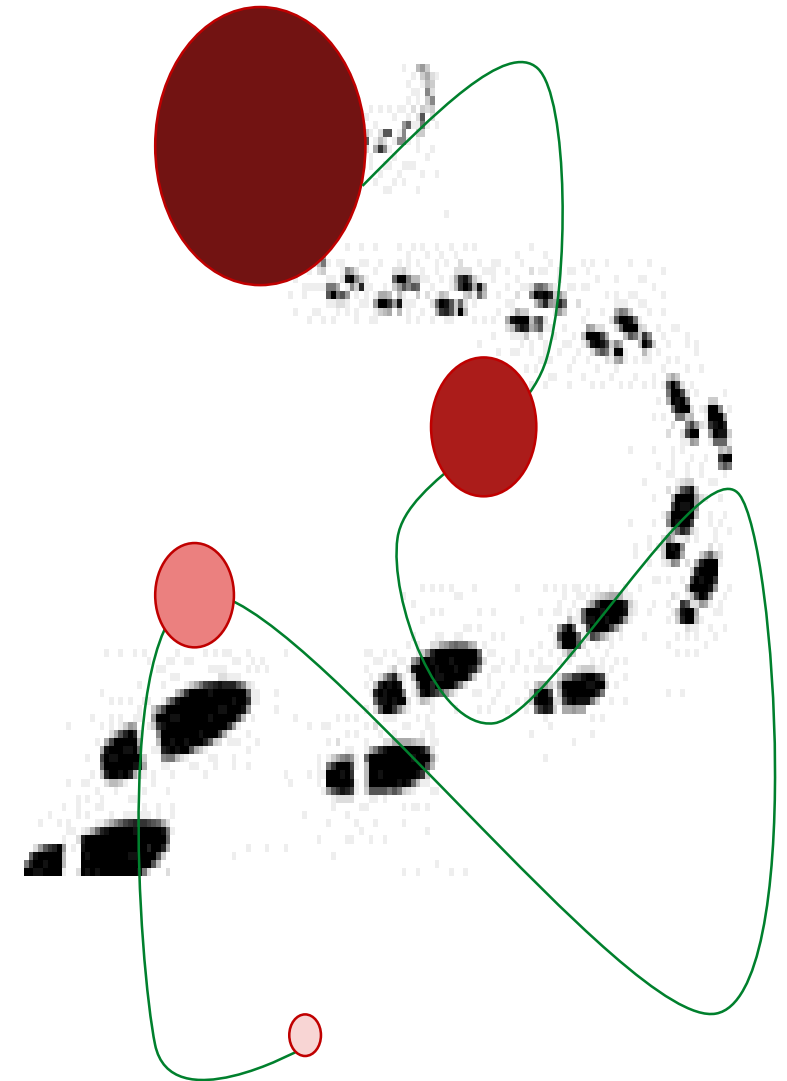


Spread of potential novichok contamination

- Contamination takes form of liquid drops (or streaks) on surfaces.
- Spread by contact transfer
- Potential spread by contaminated people and objects
- Salisbury: single primary source, initially spread by 2 individuals
- External environment & interior surfaces



Liquid droplets spread under gravity (image is for illustrative purposes only)



Sites transferred to Recovery phase from Salisbury incident

1. Policeman's House

2A. Salisbury Ambulance Station

2B. Amesbury Ambulance Station

3A. Cemetery: London Road Cemetery

3B. Park: The Maltings

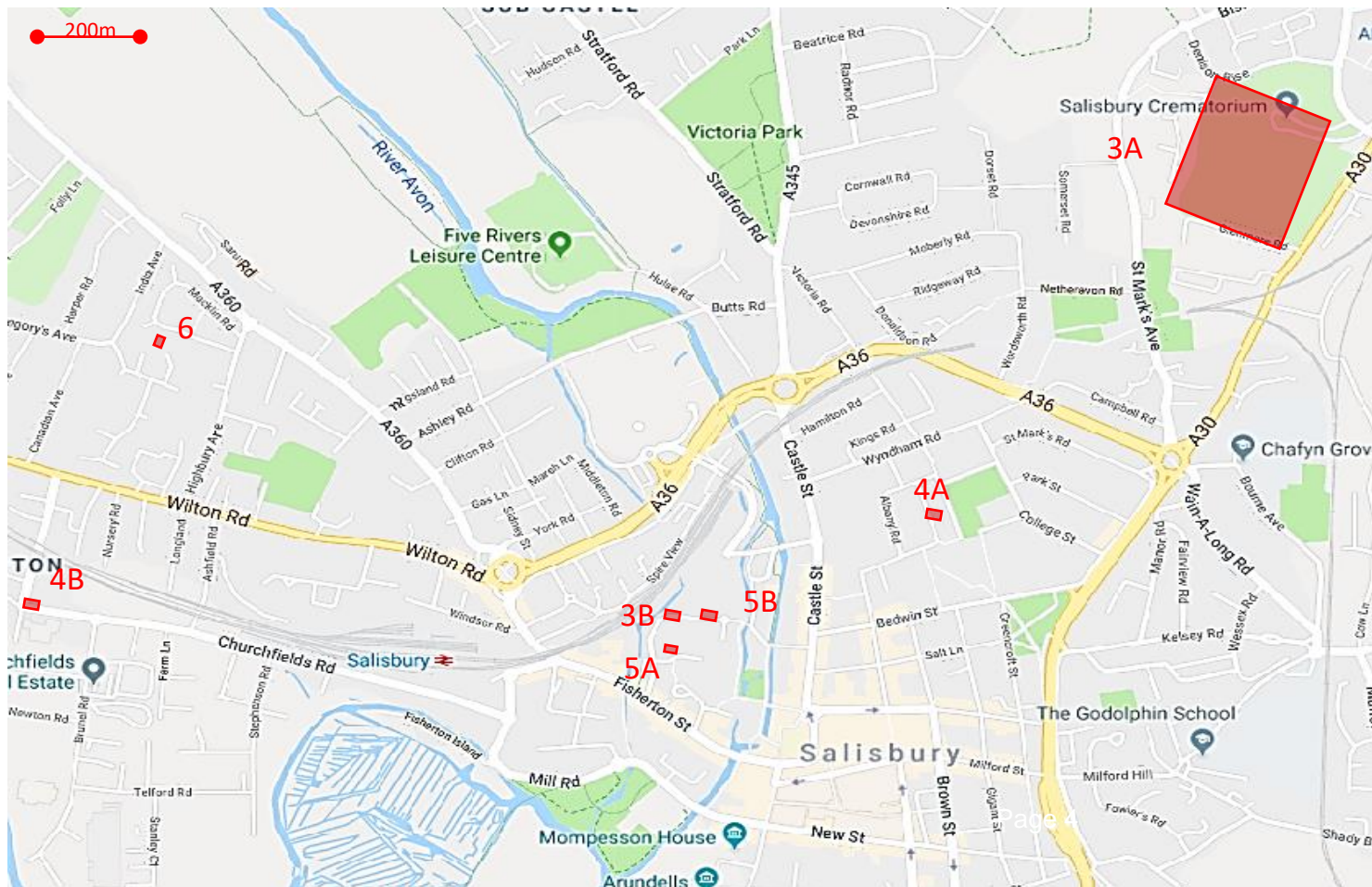
4A. Bourne Hill Police Station

4B. Ashley Wood Vehicle Recovery

5A. The Mill Pub: 7 The Maltings

5B. Zizzi's: 1/3 Castle Street (released as at 8 April).

6. Home Address: 47 Christie Miller Road, Salisbury



Locations 1, 2A and 2B not shown on map

Decontamination challenge

The nature of Novichok – high toxicity.
persistent

Number and variety of sites and surfaces
within each site

Approach to decon – sample, decon, sample
(repeat)...release

Scientific advice & assurance

Physically conducting the work

Disposal of waste



Decontamination Process

- The **objective** of the decontamination process was to make the contaminated areas safe and return the affected areas back to normal
- **Sample** (characterise the spread & level of contamination)
- **Decontaminate**
- **Resample** (assurance- is the site safe to release?)
- **Governance** to provide advice & assurance

