# Teignmouth evacuated again after suspected World War II bomb found near pier



In the picturesque seaside town of Teignmouth, Devon, a sense of alarm has gripped the community following the discovery of a suspected explosive device. Emergency services rapidly established a police cordon around the area, leading to the evacuation of nearby cafés and the bustling pier. This incident comes against the backdrop of a history of similar findings that have prompted extensive public safety measures in the coastal region.

Despite Teignmouth’s tranquil image, it has been no stranger to explosive remnants from World War II. In July 2018, a significant event echoed through the town when scuba divers identified a 1,200kg German SC1200 bomb near the pier. This potent discovery led the Royal Navy’s Southern Diving Unit to deploy, resulting in a 500-meter exclusion zone around the site. While local residents were advised to keep their windows open to avoid injury from potential glass shattering during the controlled detonation at sea, the incident illustrated the area’s ongoing vulnerability to such relics.

More recently, in October 2023, an alarming incident occurred when metal detectorists stumbled upon another suspected explosive device close to Strete Gate beach. Alerted by local finders, authorities once again established safety perimeters, underscoring the persistent risks posed by undetonated ordnance in the region. The Royal Navy responded decisively, conducting a controlled explosion on-site, thereby mitigating any immediate threat to public safety in a manner reminiscent of previous operations.

The history of unexploded ordnance in the UK coastal regions extends beyond Teignmouth. For example, in February 2024, a separate incident in Plymouth involved the discovery of a 500kg bomb within a residential area. This led to one of the largest peacetime evacuations since World War II, with over 10,000 residents affected as the authorities executed a carefully coordinated operation involving the British Army and Royal Navy to ensure the bomb’s safe removal and detonation at sea.

As these incidents unfold, residents of Teignmouth continue to grapple with the legacy of wartime history that lingers beneath their shores. While local officials assure the public of their commitment to safety, the recurring nature of these discoveries serves as a stark reminder of the past and the need for vigilance in safeguarding communities from the remnants of history. With the latest event still developing, the town holds its breath, waiting for the all-clear as emergency services work diligently to ensure the area’s safety and secure its scenic charm against the backdrop of potential threats.

The longstanding narrative of Teignmouth as a peaceful retreat is thus punctuated by these dramatic reminders, converting what many consider home into a space where vigilance remains paramount and the ghosts of history continue to influence the present.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059545/teignmouth-live-seaside-lockdown-explosive-pier), [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-england-devon-44722873)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059545/teignmouth-live-seaside-lockdown-explosive-pier), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-44784001), [[5]](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/unexploded-bomb-in-plymouth-safely-removed-during-complex-disposal-operation-and-major-evacuation)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2023-10-16/metal-detectorists-find-sparks-bomb-squad-callout-and-explosion), [[6]](https://www.itv.com/news/2024-02-24/ministry-of-defence-confirms-500kg-ww2-bomb-detonated-at-sea)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059545/teignmouth-live-seaside-lockdown-explosive-pier> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-44784001> - In July 2018, a 1,200kg World War Two bomb was discovered near Teignmouth Pier by scuba divers James Cunningham and his uncle James Brown. The Royal Navy's Southern Diving Unit identified the device as a German SC1200 bomb. Authorities evacuated seafront properties and established a 500-meter cordon. The bomb was safely towed out to sea and detonated in a controlled explosion. The incident led to train delays and local residents being advised to keep windows open to prevent injury from potential glass shattering. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-44784001?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2023-10-16/metal-detectorists-find-sparks-bomb-squad-callout-and-explosion> - In October 2023, metal detectorists Rob Sercombe and Karl Monk discovered a suspected explosive device on Strete Gate beach near Teignmouth. They alerted the authorities, leading to the establishment of a cordon along the coast path. The Royal Navy's explosive ordnance disposal team assessed the device and decided to destroy it on-site. The controlled explosion was carried out on the beach, ensuring public safety. ([itv.com](https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2023-10-16/metal-detectorists-find-sparks-bomb-squad-callout-and-explosion?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-england-devon-44722873> - In July 2018, a World War Two bomb was found near Teignmouth Pier, prompting a police cordon and evacuation of seafront properties. The Royal Navy's Southern Diving Unit identified the device as a German SC1200 bomb. Authorities established a 500-meter cordon, and residents were advised to keep windows open to prevent injury from potential glass shattering. The bomb was safely towed out to sea and detonated in a controlled explosion. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-england-devon-44722873?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/unexploded-bomb-in-plymouth-safely-removed-during-complex-disposal-operation-and-major-evacuation> - In February 2024, a 500kg World War Two bomb was discovered in a residential property in Plymouth. The British Army and Royal Navy conducted a complex operation to remove the bomb, involving over 100 personnel. A 300-meter evacuation zone was established, affecting approximately 10,320 residents. The bomb was safely removed and detonated at sea. This operation was one of the largest UK peacetime evacuations since World War Two. ([gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/unexploded-bomb-in-plymouth-safely-removed-during-complex-disposal-operation-and-major-evacuation?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.itv.com/news/2024-02-24/ministry-of-defence-confirms-500kg-ww2-bomb-detonated-at-sea> - In February 2024, a 500kg World War Two bomb was discovered in Plymouth, leading to one of the largest UK peacetime evacuations. The Ministry of Defence confirmed the bomb was successfully detonated at sea. The operation involved over 100 personnel from the British Army and Royal Navy, along with local authorities. Residents within a 300-meter radius were evacuated, and the bomb was safely removed and detonated at sea. ([itv.com](https://www.itv.com/news/2024-02-24/ministry-of-defence-confirms-500kg-ww2-bomb-detonated-at-sea?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/must-reads/sea-front-closed-trains-suspended-after-diver-finds-unexploded-ww2-bomb-on-sea-front-94598/> - In July 2018, a 1,200kg German World War Two bomb was discovered near Teignmouth Pier by diver James Cunningham. The Royal Navy's Southern Diving Unit identified the device as a German SC1200 bomb. Authorities evacuated seafront properties and established a 500-meter cordon. The bomb was safely towed out to sea and detonated in a controlled explosion. The incident led to train delays and local residents being advised to keep windows open to prevent injury from potential glass shattering. ([thelondoneconomic.com](https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/must-reads/sea-front-closed-trains-suspended-after-diver-finds-unexploded-ww2-bomb-on-sea-front-94598/?utm_source=openai))