# Teignmouth pier evacuated after suspected WWII bomb discovery sparks renewed safety fears



Authorities in Teignmouth have evacuated a pier and several nearby cafes following the discovery of a suspected explosive device. A police cordon has been established to secure the area, emphasising the ongoing safety measures taken in response to potential risks associated with unexploded ordnance.

This incident echoes a significant event from July 2018, when a large World War II bomb was unearthed under Teignmouth Pier. It was found by two scuba divers who initially mistook the 1,200 kg device for a container. The explosive was identified as a German SC 1,200 model, which was subsequently confirmed to contain 631 kg of high-explosive material. The Royal Navy bomb disposal team was called in to handle the situation, necessitating the evacuation of parts of the town to ensure public safety. The bomb was eventually towed out to sea and detonated in a controlled explosion, a precautionary measure that highlighted the persistent dangers posed by remnants of the war, particularly along the UK’s coastlines.

Unexploded ordnance from World War II remains a pressing concern in densely populated areas. Just over a year later, in February 2024, a 500 kg bomb was unearthed in Plymouth, resulting in one of the largest peacetime evacuations in United Kingdom history, with more than 10,000 residents displaced as military personnel undertook a meticulous operation to safely remove the device. These incidents underscore the continuous challenge of managing unexploded weapons from the past, which often surface years later, presenting significant hazards to both public safety and local infrastructure.

The military's expertise in tackling such situations was previously demonstrated in Teignmouth itself, where strategic evacuations and cordons became crucial in mitigating risks when similar munitions were discovered. In 2018, a thorough response was facilitated by a meticulous Royal Navy team, which established a 500-meter safety perimeter while assessing and neutralising the threat. Such operations are not merely reactive but signify a broader understanding of the importance of preparedness in the face of historic explosives.

Additionally, in some cases, even smaller devices have triggered safety measures. For instance, a spigot mortar bomb found on Teignmouth beach in July 2018 led to the establishment of a 300-meter cordon around a popular seaside hotel while the device was deemed safe and removed. These discoveries serve as stark reminders of the wartime remnants that still lie beneath the surface, necessitating vigilance along coastal regions frequented by both residents and tourists.

As the operation continues in Teignmouth, the local community is left awaiting updates from officials. While the immediate threat is being addressed, the recurring emergence of these unexploded devices underscores the legacy of World War II and the necessity for ongoing vigilance in the region.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059545/teignmouth-live-seaside-lockdown-explosive-pier), [[4]](https://www.brimstoneuxo.com/uxo-news/teignmouth-seafront-evacuated-as-massive-german-bomb-is-found-beneath-pier/)
* 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)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://apnews.com/article/britain-wwii-bomb-plymouth-f8118ef543c0a24917e3e6160089478e), [[5]](https://metro.co.uk/2018/07/10/teenage-scuba-diver-finds-huge-bomb-takes-photo-7700760/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/07/10/teenager-stumbles-across-massive-world-war-two-german-bomb-scuba/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[7]](https://zeticauxo.com/news/spigot-mortar-bomb-found-on-devon-beach/)

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 1,200 kg World War II bomb was discovered near Teignmouth Pier by two scuba divers. The Royal Navy bomb disposal team evacuated parts of Teignmouth to safely tow the device out to sea and detonate it. The bomb was identified as a German SC 1,200 model, containing 631 kg of high-explosive material. The incident highlighted the ongoing risks posed by unexploded ordnance from the Second World War, especially in coastal areas. The controlled explosion was carried out at sea to ensure public safety and prevent any risk of detonation.
3. <https://apnews.com/article/britain-wwii-bomb-plymouth-f8118ef543c0a24917e3e6160089478e> - In February 2024, a 500 kg World War II-era bomb was discovered in the backyard of a residential property in Plymouth, leading to one of the largest peacetime evacuations in UK history. Over 10,000 residents were evacuated as military personnel safely removed the bomb and detonated it at sea. The operation involved more than 100 personnel from the British Army and Royal Navy, along with local authorities. The successful disposal underscored the ongoing challenges of managing unexploded ordnance from the Second World War in densely populated areas.
4. <https://www.brimstoneuxo.com/uxo-news/teignmouth-seafront-evacuated-as-massive-german-bomb-is-found-beneath-pier/> - In July 2018, a massive World War II German bomb was found beneath Teignmouth Pier, leading to the evacuation of parts of the seaside town. The 1,200 kg unexploded device was discovered by two civilian scuba divers. Royal Navy divers from Plymouth were deployed to tow the bomb to deeper waters, where it was destroyed in a controlled explosion. The incident highlighted the ongoing hazards posed by unexploded ordnance from the Second World War, particularly in coastal areas. The controlled explosion was carried out at sea to ensure public safety and prevent any risk of detonation.
5. <https://metro.co.uk/2018/07/10/teenage-scuba-diver-finds-huge-bomb-takes-photo-7700760/> - In July 2018, 19-year-old James Cunningham discovered a massive World War II German bomb while scuba diving off the Devon coast. Initially mistaking it for a container, Cunningham realized it was a bomb and contacted authorities. The 1,200 kg device was found just under a pier at a popular beach in Teignmouth. The Royal Navy bomb squad evacuated the Teignmouth seafront, and a 500-meter cordon was established. The bomb was eventually taken into the sea for detonation. The incident underscored the ongoing risks posed by unexploded ordnance from the Second World War in coastal areas.
6. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/07/10/teenager-stumbles-across-massive-world-war-two-german-bomb-scuba/> - In July 2018, 19-year-old James Cunningham discovered a massive World War II German bomb while scuba diving off the Devon coast. Initially mistaking it for a container, Cunningham realized it was a bomb and contacted authorities. The 1,200 kg device was found just under a pier at a popular beach in Teignmouth. The Royal Navy bomb squad evacuated the Teignmouth seafront, and a 500-meter cordon was established. The bomb was eventually taken into the sea for detonation. The incident underscored the ongoing risks posed by unexploded ordnance from the Second World War in coastal areas.
7. <https://zeticauxo.com/news/spigot-mortar-bomb-found-on-devon-beach/> - In July 2018, a spigot mortar bomb was found on Teignmouth beach in Devon, leading to a 300-meter safety cordon around a popular seaside hotel. The Royal Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team was called to the scene, where they declared the device safe and removed it. Spigot mortars were emplaced across the UK during World War II in anticipation of a German invasion. The Teignmouth discovery was likely a remnant from those defensive measures. The incident highlighted the ongoing presence of unexploded ordnance from the Second World War in coastal areas.