# Teignmouth seafront evacuated after suspected WWII bomb discovery



The calm of Teignmouth, a beloved seaside town on the Devon coast, was shattered when a suspected explosive was discovered, prompting the evacuation of local cafés and the establishment of a police cordon. Authorities swiftly responded, ensuring the safety of residents and visitors amidst growing concern. Although specific details about the nature of the explosive are yet to be confirmed, this incident underscores the ongoing risks that such devices pose in coastal regions, particularly those with historical ties to World War II.

Teignmouth's beaches and adjacent areas have been no strangers to similar situations. In July 2018, a significant discovery was made by scuba divers James Cunningham and his uncle, who stumbled upon a massive 1,200 kg World War II bomb near Teignmouth Pier. The device, which had been lying undetected for decades, led to the immediate evacuation of seafront properties, as the Royal Navy bomb disposal team conducted a controlled explosion at sea to neutralise the threat. This incident not only highlights the unpredictable dangers of unexploded ordnance but also illustrates the pressing need for vigilance in these historically rich coastal areas.

The spectre of World War II-era explosives continues to haunt various parts of the UK. Just last year, a 500 kg bomb was uncovered in a residential backyard in Plymouth, triggering one of the largest peacetime evacuations in British history, affecting over 10,000 residents. The Royal Navy's quick action resulted in the successful detonation of the bomb at sea, averting potential catastrophe. Such occurrences serve as stark reminders of the remnants of wartime conflict that still lie hidden beneath the surface, requiring constant monitoring and awareness from local authorities and communities alike.

In light of recent events, residents in Teignmouth will undoubtedly be reminded of the historical legacy of explosives in the region, including earlier instances where the Royal Navy's Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams were called upon to manage threats, from large German bombs to more recently unearthed spigot mortar shells. These discoveries reinforce the historical narratives that interweave with the coastal landscape, sparking both concern and curiosity.

Today’s incident adds yet another chapter to the ongoing conversations about public safety and historical reclamation. As local authorities assess the situation and ensure community safety, the focus remains on understanding the extent of the threat posed by unexploded ordnance, and educating the public on how to respond in such emergencies. This vigilance is paramount, particularly as Teignmouth continues to welcome visitors who come to enjoy its picturesque views and rich heritage by the sea.

## 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), [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/07/10/teenager-stumbles-across-massive-world-war-two-german-bomb-scuba/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://apnews.com/article/britain-wwii-bomb-plymouth-f8118ef543c0a24917e3e6160089478e), [[6]](https://metro.co.uk/2018/07/10/teenage-scuba-diver-finds-huge-bomb-takes-photo-7700760/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-44784001), [[4]](https://www.brimstoneuxo.com/uxo-news/teignmouth-seafront-evacuated-as-massive-german-bomb-is-found-beneath-pier/), [[7]](https://zeticauxo.com/news/spigot-mortar-bomb-found-on-devon-beach/)

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## 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 scuba divers James Cunningham and his uncle. The Royal Navy bomb disposal team evacuated seafront properties and conducted a controlled explosion at sea to safely detonate the device. The incident highlighted the ongoing risks posed by unexploded ordnance from the Second World War in coastal areas. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-44784001?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://apnews.com/article/britain-wwii-bomb-plymouth-f8118ef543c0a24917e3e6160089478e> - In February 2024, a 500 kg World War II-era bomb was discovered in a residential backyard in Plymouth, England. The discovery led to one of the largest peacetime evacuations in UK history, with over 10,000 residents evacuated. The bomb was safely detonated at sea by the Royal Navy Bomb Disposal Team, ensuring public safety and preventing potential damage. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/britain-wwii-bomb-plymouth-f8118ef543c0a24917e3e6160089478e?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.brimstoneuxo.com/uxo-news/teignmouth-seafront-evacuated-as-massive-german-bomb-is-found-beneath-pier/> - A massive World War II German bomb, weighing 1,200 kg, was found beneath Teignmouth Pier in Devon. The discovery led to the evacuation of parts of the seaside town. Royal Navy divers from Plymouth were deployed to safely tow the device to deeper waters, where it was destroyed in a controlled explosion. The incident underscores the ongoing hazards posed by unexploded ordnance from the Second World War, especially in coastal areas. ([brimstoneuxo.com](https://www.brimstoneuxo.com/uxo-news/teignmouth-seafront-evacuated-as-massive-german-bomb-is-found-beneath-pier/?utm_source=openai))
5. <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 1,200 kg 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 Royal Navy bomb squad evacuated the Teignmouth seafront, and the device was safely detonated at sea. The incident highlights the ongoing risks posed by unexploded ordnance from the Second World War in coastal regions. ([telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/07/10/teenager-stumbles-across-massive-world-war-two-german-bomb-scuba/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://metro.co.uk/2018/07/10/teenage-scuba-diver-finds-huge-bomb-takes-photo-7700760/> - A teenager found a huge World War II bomb while scuba diving off the Devon coast. James Cunningham, 19, discovered the 1,200 kg bomb near a pier at a popular beach. Initially mistaking it for a container, Cunningham realized it was a bomb and contacted authorities. The Royal Navy bomb squad evacuated the Teignmouth seafront, and the device was safely detonated at sea. The incident underscores the ongoing risks posed by unexploded ordnance from the Second World War in coastal areas. ([metro.co.uk](https://metro.co.uk/2018/07/10/teenage-scuba-diver-finds-huge-bomb-takes-photo-7700760/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://zeticauxo.com/news/spigot-mortar-bomb-found-on-devon-beach/> - 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 declared the device safe and removed it. Spigot mortars were installed across the UK during World War II in anticipation of a German invasion. The discovery highlights the ongoing presence of unexploded ordnance from the Second World War in coastal areas. ([zeticauxo.com](https://zeticauxo.com/news/spigot-mortar-bomb-found-on-devon-beach/?utm_source=openai))