# Emergency services evacuate Newcastle suburb over suspected unexploded device amid wider safety concerns



Residents of a suburb in Newcastle were met with anxiety and disruption as emergency services acted swiftly to evacuate properties following reports of a suspected unexploded device. The incident occurred around 12:20 pm on Friday at an address on Swinhoe Road, located in the Great Park area of the city. A spokesperson for Northumbria Police confirmed that officers attended the scene and initiated a cordon as a safety precaution. An Explosive Ordnance Disposal team has been deployed to assess the situation, urging anyone with concerns to approach on-duty officers for assistance.

The seriousness of this incident is emblematic of a broader issue regarding the presence of unexploded ordnance in residential areas across the UK. Previous instances, such as the discovery of explosive devices in Newcastle and other regions, have raised alarms over public safety. In June 2014, for example, Vladimir Aust, a then 19-year-old Russian student, was apprehended at Newcastle University after creating highly explosive chemicals. His activities prompted campus evacuations and a controlled explosion was eventually carried out to neutralise the hazardous materials. Such incidents underscore the potential dangers that can arise from homemade explosives and highlight the necessity for vigilance in educational environments.

In addition, the persistent threat posed by unexploded devices is not unique to Newcastle. In May 2015, a separate incident in Dublin required the intervention of an Irish army bomb disposal team. An improvised explosive device discovered outside a property led to the evacuation of nearby homes, and the team reported dealing with several viable devices that year alone. This context serves to illustrate the ongoing challenges that authorities face in managing threats from explosives, both historical and contemporary.

Moreover, a similar scare in April 2023 in Rothbury further spotlighted the prevalence of unexploded ordnance from World War II and its implications for modern communities. A World War II bomb was found in a river, necessitating the evacuation of surrounding homes and businesses. Local police established a significant cordon, and experts were called in to remove the volatile device. Such incidents not only reinforce the need for safety protocols but also exemplify the historical relics that continue to pose risks in the UK.

In light of these events, it is critical for residents to remain informed and vigilant. The authorities' proactive approach in handling the current situation demonstrates a commitment to public safety, but it also calls attention to the need for community awareness regarding the potential dangers posed by unexploded ordnance and the importance of immediate reporting of suspicious items.

These events collectively remind us of the critical balance between vigilance and preparedness in the face of ongoing threats to public safety.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2062261/newcastle-bomb-scare-live-suspected), [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-27873290)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2062261/newcastle-bomb-scare-live-suspected), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-29663275), [[5]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-29146837)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-33165251), [[7]](https://www.brimstoneuxo.com/uxo-news/rothbury-wwii-bomb-scare-homes-shops-evacuated/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.itv.com/news/topic/bomb-hoax)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2062261/newcastle-bomb-scare-live-suspected> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-29663275> - In June 2014, 19-year-old Russian student Vladimir Aust was arrested after highly explosive chemicals were found in his Newcastle University accommodation, leading to campus evacuations. Aust admitted to manufacturing hexamethylene triperoxide diamine (HMTD), a volatile substance, and was sentenced to two years in prison. The chemical was destroyed in a controlled explosion on Newcastle's Town Moor. The case highlighted the risks associated with homemade explosives and the importance of vigilance in university settings.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-33165251> - In May 2015, an explosive device was safely neutralised in south Dublin. Discovered outside a property in Newcastle, Dublin, the device prompted evacuations of nearby homes. An Irish army bomb disposal team examined the improvised explosive device, declaring the area safe at 05:45 local time. The Irish Defence Forces reported dealing with 18 'viable devices' that year, underscoring ongoing concerns about unexploded ordnance in the region.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-27873290> - In July 2014, a teenage student was charged with manufacturing an explosive substance after suspicious items were found at Newcastle University. The campus was closed off on two occasions following the discoveries. Two 18-year-old Russian students were arrested; one was charged with manufacturing the explosive and possessing a bladed article in a public place. The other remained on bail pending further inquiries. Police conducted controlled explosions on the substances found, ensuring public safety.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-29146837> - In June 2014, Russian student Vladimir Aust admitted to making an explosive substance after bomb alerts led to evacuations in Newcastle city centre. Aust, 18, was arrested in London following the evacuation of a bus station and a language school at Newcastle University. A controlled explosion was carried out on the recovered substance. Aust was charged with making hexamethylene triperoxide diamine (HMTD), a volatile explosive, and was scheduled for sentencing the following month.
6. <https://www.itv.com/news/topic/bomb-hoax> - ITV News provides comprehensive coverage on bomb hoax incidents, including recent events such as a man being jailed for sending a false bomb threat at a football match in September 2023. The coverage highlights various cases where individuals have been prosecuted for bomb hoaxes, emphasizing the legal consequences and public safety concerns associated with such offences. The reports also detail the circumstances of each incident, the actions taken by authorities, and the outcomes of legal proceedings.
7. <https://www.brimstoneuxo.com/uxo-news/rothbury-wwii-bomb-scare-homes-shops-evacuated/> - In April 2023, homes and shops in Rothbury were evacuated after an unexploded World War II bomb was discovered in a river. Police established a 100m cordon around the site, closing the main bridge to traffic and pedestrians. The bomb was removed by disposal experts from Catterick, and all roads reopened. The incident underscores the ongoing presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) across the UK and the importance of careful management when such devices are found.