# Teignmouth faces fresh WWII bomb scare as coastal evacuations escalate in Devon



A UK seaside town has been thrust into the spotlight following the discovery of a suspected explosive in Teignmouth, prompting immediate safety measures, including the evacuation of a pier and nearby cafés. A police cordon has been established around the affected area, effectively closing off access to the seafront as local authorities assess the situation.

This incident is not isolated; Teignmouth and its surrounding areas have a notorious history with unexploded ordnance from World War II. In July 2018, scuba divers uncovered a significant 1,200 kg bomb near Teignmouth Pier, which necessitated the prompt intervention of the Royal Navy's bomb disposal team. Following a thorough evaluation, the explosive was safely towed away from the shore and detonated at sea, illustrating the region's ongoing struggle with remnants of past conflicts. Each instance serves as a stark reminder of the dangers posed by historical munitions, which continue to emerge in coastal areas.

More recently, in October 2023, a separate case in Dartmouth, Devon saw metal detectorists stumble upon another suspected explosive on Strete Gate beach. Similarly, authorities quickly dispatched a bomb disposal unit, underscoring the essential role of community vigilance in the face of such dangers. The diligence of the finder allowed for a swift response, ensuring public safety and the safe disposal of the threat.

Concerns about unexploded munitions extend beyond Teignmouth. In February 2024, Plymouth experienced one of the largest peacetime evacuations in British history when a 500 kg World War II bomb was unearthed in a residential area. This incident required the evacuation of over 10,000 residents, highlighting the scale of public safety measures that must be mobilised when historical hazards resurface. The bomb was later safely destroyed at sea, showcasing the extensive planning and cooperation necessary to manage such emergencies.

In various instances, from the shores of Beer Beach in August 2024 to the bustling coastal areas of Devon, the pattern remains consistent. The discovery of unexploded ordnance is often met with rapid response protocols involving military and civilian entities to mitigate potential threats. These incidents poignantly illustrate not only the latent dangers lurking beneath the surface but also the critical nature of public awareness and timely reporting.

As the situation in Teignmouth develops, local officials and the Royal Navy will continue to monitor the area closely. Authorities urge residents and visitors to remain vigilant, as the risks associated with unexploded ordnance are a continual concern along this historically rich coastline.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[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 2 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-44784001), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-england-devon-44722873)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2023-10-16/metal-detectorists-find-sparks-bomb-squad-callout-and-explosion), [[4]](https://apnews.com/article/britain-wwii-bomb-plymouth-f8118ef543c0a24917e3e6160089478e)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://news.sky.com/story/devons-beer-beach-evacuated-after-suspected-unexploded-bomb-washed-ashore-13203524)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://apnews.com/article/britain-wwii-bomb-plymouth-f8118ef543c0a24917e3e6160089478e), [[7]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-devon-44784298)

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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 World War II bomb was discovered near Teignmouth Pier by scuba divers. The Royal Navy bomb disposal team was called to the scene, leading to the evacuation of seafront properties. The device, weighing 1,200 kg, was safely detonated at sea after being towed away from the shore. The discovery prompted a significant response from local authorities to ensure public safety. The incident highlights the ongoing risks posed by unexploded ordnance from past conflicts in the region.
3. <https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2023-10-16/metal-detectorists-find-sparks-bomb-squad-callout-and-explosion> - In October 2023, metal detectorists in Dartmouth, Devon, unearthed a suspected unexploded ordnance on Strete Gate beach. The Royal Navy explosive ordnance disposal team was dispatched to the site. After examination, the decision was made to destroy the item on the beach. A cordon was established along the coast path to ensure public safety during the operation. The incident underscores the importance of prompt reporting and careful handling of potential explosives found in coastal areas.
4. <https://apnews.com/article/britain-wwii-bomb-plymouth-f8118ef543c0a24917e3e6160089478e> - In February 2024, a World War II-era bomb was discovered in Plymouth, leading to one of the largest peacetime evacuations in UK history. The 500-kilogram explosive was found in a residential backyard, prompting the evacuation of over 10,000 residents. The device was safely detonated at sea after being transported to a ferry slipway. The operation involved extensive coordination between military and civilian authorities to ensure public safety and the successful disposal of the ordnance.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-england-devon-44722873> - In July 2018, a World War II bomb was discovered near Teignmouth Pier by scuba divers. The Royal Navy bomb disposal team was called to the scene, leading to the evacuation of seafront properties. The device, weighing 1,200 kg, was safely detonated at sea after being towed away from the shore. The discovery prompted a significant response from local authorities to ensure public safety. The incident highlights the ongoing risks posed by unexploded ordnance from past conflicts in the region.
6. <https://news.sky.com/story/devons-beer-beach-evacuated-after-suspected-unexploded-bomb-washed-ashore-13203524> - In August 2024, a suspected unexploded bomb washed ashore at Beer Beach in Devon, leading to the evacuation of the area. The object was discovered by a camper who reported it to authorities. Police and coastguard teams secured the beach, and a cordon was established. The Royal Navy explosive ordnance disposal team was called to assess and safely dispose of the device. The incident highlights the ongoing risks posed by unexploded ordnance in coastal areas and the importance of public vigilance and prompt reporting.
7. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-devon-44784298> - In July 2018, a World War II bomb was discovered near Teignmouth Pier by scuba divers. The Royal Navy bomb disposal team was called to the scene, leading to the evacuation of seafront properties. The device, weighing 1,200 kg, was safely detonated at sea after being towed away from the shore. The discovery prompted a significant response from local authorities to ensure public safety. The incident highlights the ongoing risks posed by unexploded ordnance from past conflicts in the region.