

Charmouth Parish Council

Council Office The Elms St Andrew's Drive Charmouth Bridport Dorset DT6 6LN



Telephone (01297) 560826 E-Mail charmouth@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

Unexploded Ordnance Policy

1. **Introduction**

This policy statement refers to any unexploded ordnance found on land owned by Charmouth Parish Council.

2. **Unexploded Ordnance Procedure**

The Facilities Manager shall maintain an up to date standard operating procedure (SOP) describing detailed processes and health and safety assessments. The Manager will ensure that all staff working on Parish Council land are aware of this policy statement as well as the SOP and will ensure that staff familiarise themselves accordingly so that when unexploded ordnance is found on Parish Council land or that staff receive reports of unexploded ordnance on Parish Council land they know what to do.

3. **History**

During the Second World War there was a bombing range between Charmouth and Church Cliff, Lyme Regis. Bearing this in mind, it is possible that in extreme weather and high tides unexploded ordnance from that period could be washed ashore.

Also, the Royal Navy still conduct exercises off the coast involving the use of flares and man overboard markers that sometimes do not expend themselves completely, and are not always recoverable.

4. **Actions to be Taken**

Any reports or finds of unexploded ordnance are to be reported without delay to the appropriate Emergency Services.

Parish Council staff are to be instructed that they are not to touch, investigate disturb or tamper with any items that they suspect might be unexploded ordnance. This includes making any attempt to move the item to a safe location.

Parish Council staff are to instruct any members of the general public not to investigate disturb or tamper with any items that the staff suspect might be unexploded ordnance.

If possible, cordon off the location with easily to be seen tape or barriers, and warn the public to keep a safe distance. For larger pieces of ordnance (BOMBS, SHELLS and TORPEDOES) the recommended safe distance is a minimum of 200 meters. Shelter behind available buildings where possible.

The detailed arrangements will be in the SOP.

Adopted by Council: January 2020
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