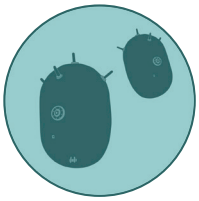
GUIDE: ORDNANCE & MUNITIONS

If you discover munitions – be careful! Despite long periods spent underwater, munitions can still be extremely dangerous and should always be treated with caution. The appropriate response when dealing with munitions is to report them to the police, coastguard or Ministry of Defence.

WHY ARE ORDNANCE AND MUNITIONS IMPORTANT?

- They can enhance our understanding of historical naval and aerial warfare
- They are indicators of the types of weapons deployed in past conflicts
- They may indicate the presence of the remains of a shipwreck or aircraft wreck



HOW COMMON ARE MUNITIONS?

Up to 10% of the bombs that fell on and around the UK during WWII failed to function and so far only a fraction of these have been recovered. In addition to these 'blind' munitions, ordnance from both world wars was dumped at sea and munitions on board sunken vessels are rarely salvaged.

RECORDING MUNITIONS

Always follow safe procedures when dealing with munitions. Before recording munitions via the MAS they must be made safe or identified as inert by the police or a military Explosive Ordnance Disposal Officer (EOD). Once the items have been confirmed as safe and suitable for handling they should be recorded as normal through the MAS.

There is a statutory obligation to report wreck to the Receiver of Wreck, part of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. Recovered material believed to be 'wreck' needs to be reported to the Receiver of Wreck within 28 days of the discovery.

For further information about the Marine Antiquities Scheme please visit: **www.marinefinds.org.uk**

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