

Dawlish Warren Code

A guide for visitors to Dawlish Warren



Dawlish Warren

Welcome to Dawlish Warren, a beautiful part of the Devon coast and an internationally important site for wildlife.

The Warren is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and forms part of the Exe Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site. It includes the main roosting area for the Estuary's birds and has over 600 types of British wild plant.

A variety of water activities take place around the Exe Estuary. Without great care some activities can disturb wildlife.

**Prevent litter:
Bin it or take it home**



Wintering Birds

Dawlish Warren is important for birds all year round as a feeding, resting and breeding area. In winter thousands of birds escape the cold of the arctic to spend the winter on the Exe. In spring and autumn, the Warren is a vital resting area for birds travelling between Africa and the Arctic Circle. Birds also use the beach for nesting in the summer.

Why is it important to prevent bird disturbance?

Disturbance is any activity or noise that could change behaviours of an animal. When birds are disturbed they are prevented from resting and eating, which can mean they have to use lots of scarce energy. It can be a matter of life and death for the birds, who may already be exhausted from flying 3,000 miles or even more.

Visitors are welcome at the Warren, but all users are asked to avoid the most important areas for birds. Please keep a distance of 100m from birds, especially during winter. Details of areas to avoid, including the Wildlife Refuge, can be found on the enclosed map.



Local Wildlife

Ringed Plover

Identified by their black mask and necklace.



Eelgrass

The primary feeding ground for wintering wildfowl on the estuary.



Sand Lizard

A legally protected reptile that thrives on sand dunes.



Wigeon

Can be identified by their round chestnut head and small bill.



Avoid disturbing wildlife and ensure any dogs are kept on leads (dogs are not allowed anywhere on the Warren mudflats).





How You Can Help

To make sure the site can be enjoyed by future generations please:

- Follow this code and observe Nature Reserve byelaws and signage.
- Talk to the Rangers when you visit – they can help you make the most out of your trip.
- Use dog-friendly areas: dogs are welcome on the beach between groyne 3 and 9 all year round, but restrictions are in place in other areas.
- Always keep pets under effective control.
- Always bag and bin your dog's poo – it can affect water quality and is not pleasant for other visitors. Any litter bin will do!
- Keep noise to a minimum.
- Use dedicated access points and keep to paths – please do not climb fences.
- Leave driftwood on the beach - it is a protected habitat in its own right.
- Don't light fires or barbecues anywhere on site, fire is a great danger to people and wildlife.
- Only use the designated landing area on Warren Point, from 1 April – 4 September, no launching or landing elsewhere.
- Fish wisely: avoid waste, return unwanted fish and don't discard tackle. Observe local regulations, such as minimum landing sizes (for more information, visit www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk).

No drones are permitted at Dawlish Warren without written consent.

Permission is needed from Teignbridge District Council to hold any organised activities on Dawlish Warren and many require Natural England consent.

Please be aware that it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb the wildlife in an SSSI or to damage or disturb land known to be an SSSI. It is also an offence to take down, damage or obstruct an SSSI notice or sign.

For further information, Exe leaflets and other codes of conduct, visit the Exe Estuary Management Partnership website at www.exe-estuary.org or contact the Exe Estuary Officer at exeestua@devon.gov.uk.



Join Devon Loves Dogs!

It's free to join and as a member you'll receive a FREE welcome pack and be the first to hear about events for you and your dog. www.devonlovesdogs.co.uk



Want To Know More?

The Nature Reserve is jointly owned by Teignbridge District Council and Devon Wildlife Trust. Teignbridge Rangers manage the Reserve on a day-to-day basis.

DAWLISH WARREN VISITOR CENTRE 01626 863980

EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP Exe Estuary Officer 01392 382236

SAFETY/POLLUTION Coastguard 999 or VHF Ch16

HARBOUR AUTHORITY (River & Canal Office) Office hours 01392 265791 Out of hours emergency 0845 3511060

FISHERIES Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (D&SIFCA) 01803 854648 07740 175479

WILDLIFE Natural England – Devon Office 0300 060 3900 Injured marine mammals (BDMLR) 01825 765546 SEDHRP Mitigation habitatmitigation@eastdevon.gov.uk Officers



Safety At The Warren

Don't put yourself or others at risk, be aware of the dangers from rising tides, soft mud and strong currents. Do not swim or use inflatables anywhere beyond groyne 3 - the current here is very fast and there are water craft.

• In an emergency dial 999 and ask for the Coastguard

These codes have been produced by the Exe Estuary Management Partnership and South East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership, supported by local users and organisations.



SOUTH EAST DEVON HABITAT REGULATIONS PARTNERSHIP





Dawlish Warren

Dawlish Warren is a designated National Nature Reserve, established to protect some of our most important wildlife, habitats and

geology. It is a key feeding and high-tide roosting area for protected birds. Disturbance in this area means that birds may not survive, particularly in autumn and winter.

As well as being the most sensitive area for wildlife, Warren Point is the most valuable area of mobile dunes on the reserve. Fragile and rare plants like Sea Holly are found here.



While all reasonable care has been taken to ensure the information contained on this map is up to date and accurate, no warranty is given that the information contained on this map is free from error or omission. Any reliance placed on such information shall be at the sole risk of the user. Please verify the accuracy of the information prior to using it.

Dawlish Warren Wildlife Refuge

Dawlish Warren has been identified as one of two areas on the estuary that are particularly vital for protected birds. These voluntary areas are known as Wildlife Refuges. During winter, thousands of birds rest and feed on the mudflats and eelgrass beds of the Warren, during their long migratory journeys.

- All users are asked to avoid the Wildlife Refuge where safe to do so, all year round at all tidal states, due to its importance as a high tide resting area.
- For shore activities, such as angling and bait digging, please stay north of Cockwood Steps and the southern tip of the wreck.
- A limited number of crab tilers are permitted to carry out their activity within part of the Wildlife Refuge, in adherence to the D&SIFCA byelaw and Bait Collectors' code of conduct. More information can be found at www.exewildliferefuge.org.uk.
- Eales Dock are permitted to have continued access via Shutterton Creek by agreement.
- Please note that there is a byelaw in place for statutory exclusion of dog walkers on the mudflats of the Nature Reserve.

Warren Point


- All visitors are asked to avoid the beach past groyne 9 for approximately three hours either side of high tide on certain days during September to March (check on-site signage). In summer, from 1 April to 31 August, this area can be fished at any time.
- All craft are asked to try to avoid navigating close to Warren Point around high tide period (approx. three hours either side of high tide) all year round, except where safety may be affected. (The recommended distance for craft is around 100m from the high tide line).


Craft are welcome to land in the '**Defined Landing Area**' (Soft Sand Bay) between 1 April and 4 September only. All craft are requested to avoid landing outside this area or outside of these dates.

Where to Walk Your Dog at Dawlish Warren

Signs will show you where dogs can walk. There are also groynes (wooden structures) along the beach which will help to mark out different areas. Please note that these areas are in place through local byelaws, so penalties can be given out to owners who do not observe them.

Other Dog-friendly Areas:

 **Dawlish Countryside Park** is a 65 acre public open space with wild countryside walks. Opened in 2017, this offers an excellent exercise area for dogs off-lead and a free car park on site. The park can be found on the outskirts of Dawlish near EX7 0PA.

 **The Exe Estuary Trail** provides a fantastic scenic route around the entire Exe Estuary for a range of users. Always keep dogs under effective control on a short lead and consider those who are wary or nervous around dogs. Remember to 'Share This Space' by being considerate of other users of the trail, more information can be found at www.traveldevon.info/cycle/safe-cycling/share-this-space

Key for Paw Prints



Dogs welcome off lead



Dogs on lead or seasonal restrictions



Sorry – no dogs

