

Exe Shore Code

A guide for walkers, birdwatchers, anglers and day visitors to the Exe Estuary



Exe Estuary

The Exe Estuary is a vibrant place, its sheltered shores provide home to an array of wildlife and a wide range of recreational activities. The Exe is a beautiful area to explore, but please remember to give consideration to wildlife.

This guide is aimed at all shore-based visitors to the Exe, including walkers / dog walkers, birdwatchers, anglers, cyclists and any other day visitors.

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



Be Bird Aware

As you enjoy the wonderful sights and sounds of nature whilst you explore the Exe, remember to give space to birds and avoid disturbing them.

Disturbance is any activity or noise that could change the behaviour of an animal (such as feeding, resting and breeding).

When birds are disturbed they stop feeding, or worse still, fly away. Losing energy can affect their overall condition and survival rate.

As an easy guide: if birds become alert, move away!



Safety

o Be Safe

Don't put yourself or others at risk, be aware of the dangers from rising tides, soft mud, cliff edges and strong currents.

o Fish Wisely

Avoid waste, only take bait for planned trips, return unwanted fish and don't discard tackle.

Observe local regulations, such as minimum landing sizes and Bass Nursery Area (see map and www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk for more information).

o Observe Estuary Byelaws and Warning Signs

Always follow instructions provided on warnings and information signs around the estuary.

Never swim in the Navigation Channel or in the area marked by red flags.

o Be Considerate to other Estuary Users

Keep access points / slipways clear at all times and do not park on the foreshore.

Remember to 'Share This Space' by being considerate of other users of the Exe Estuary Trail and keep dogs under effective control on a short lead. More information can be found at www.traveldevon.info/cycle/safe-cycling/share-this-space.

o Fly Safely - drones, model aircraft, kites, gliders

Keep your aircraft at a distance from wildlife to avoid disturbance.

No drones at Dawlish Warren at any time.

Drone users should follow the Civil Aviation Authority "Dronecode" at www.dronesafe.uk.

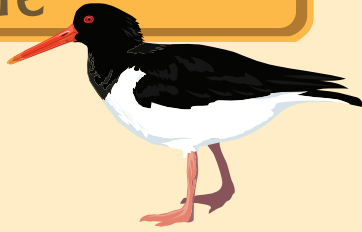
o Emergencies

In an emergency dial 999 and ask for the Coastguard.



Watch Out For Wildlife

The whole of the Exe Estuary is a nationally and internationally important site for wildlife, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Protection Area (SPA). During winter, tens of thousands of birds depend on the Exe to rest and feed on their long migratory journeys from areas as far away as Siberia.



Oystercatcher

Enjoy watching wildlife but keep a distance of 100m, to avoid putting birds to flight. Avoiding activities around the foreshore during 1 September to 1 April will help reduce disturbance to birds, allowing them time to feed and rest before they continue their migratory journeys.



Eelgrass



Black-tailed Godwit

To avoid disturbing birds and help care for this special place, please:

- ✓ Avoid voluntary Wildlife Refuges where safe to do so (see map).
- ✓ Keep noise to a minimum.
- ✓ Use dedicated access points and keep to paths.
- ✓ Please do not allow dogs to chase birds or wildlife and bag and bin your dog's poo.



Otter

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.



Want To Know More?

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 and Conservation Authority (D&SIFCA) 01803 854648
07740 175479

WILDLIFE

Dawlish Warren Visitor Centre 01626 863980
Exmouth Local Nature Reserve 01395 516551
Natural England – Devon Office 0300 060 3900
Injured marine mammals (BDMLR) 01825 765546
SEDHRP Mitigation habitatmitigation@eastdevon.gov.uk
Officers

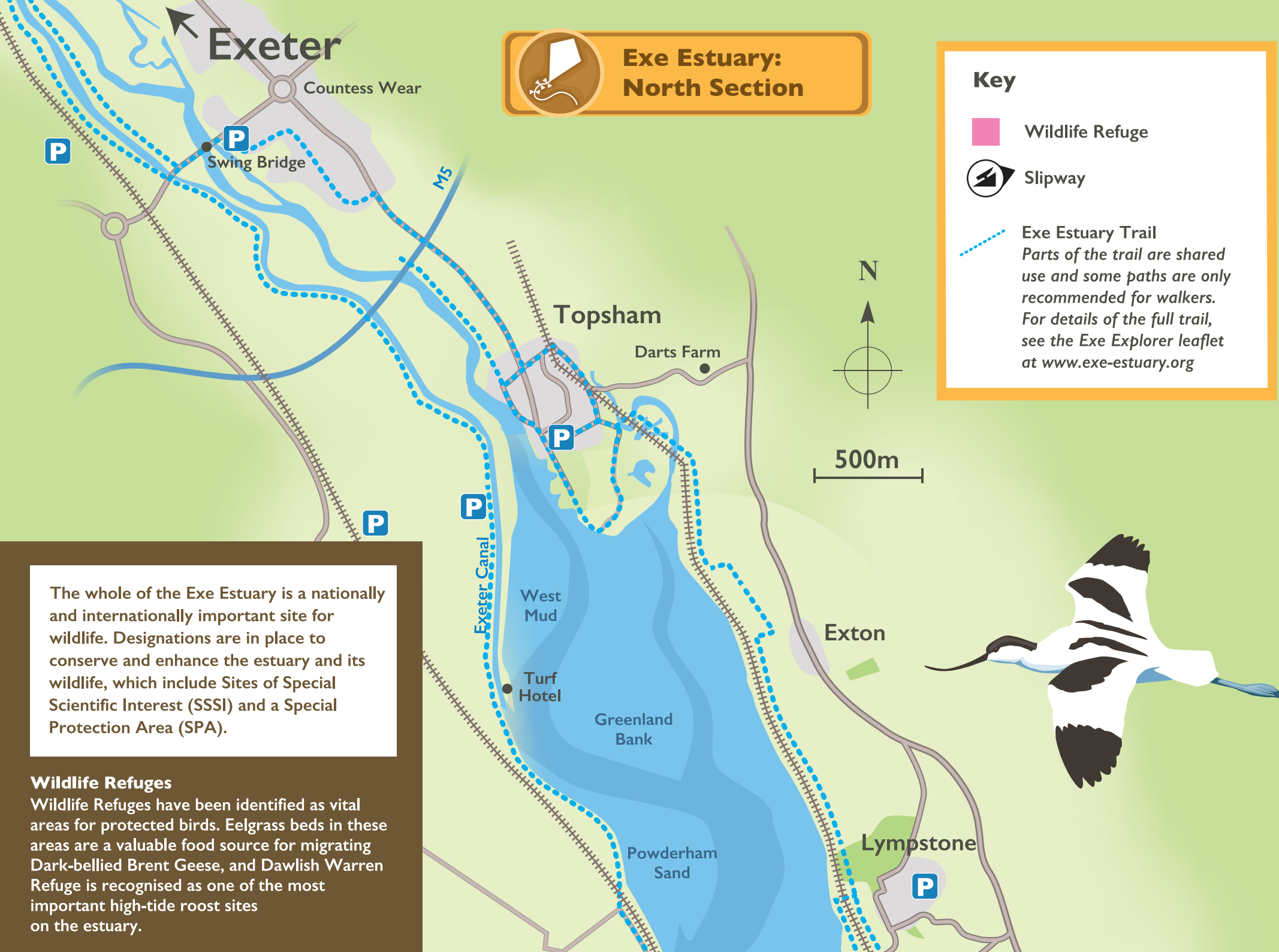
For further information, Exe leaflets and other codes of conduct, visit the Exe Estuary Management Partnership website at www.exe-estuary.org or contact the Exe Estuary Officer at exeestua@devon.gov.uk.



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



**Exe Estuary:
North Section**

Key

- Wildlife Refuge
- Slipway
- Exe Estuary Trail
Parts of the trail are shared use and some paths are only recommended for walkers. For details of the full trail, see the Exe Explorer leaflet at www.exe-estuary.org

The whole of the Exe Estuary is a nationally and internationally important site for wildlife. Designations are in place to conserve and enhance the estuary and its wildlife, which include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Protection Area (SPA).

Wildlife Refuges
Wildlife Refuges have been identified as vital areas for protected birds. Eelgrass beds in these areas are a valuable food source for migrating Dark-bellied Brent Geese, and Dawlish Warren Refuge is recognised as one of the most important high-tide roost sites on the estuary.



Disturbance is any activity or noise that could change behaviours of an animal, which can impact on survival of migrating birds.

We ask visitors to avoid entering Wildlife Refuges where safe to do so, to allow wildlife space to feed and rest.

Exmouth Wildlife Refuge:

- When accessing the shore from the Imperial Recreation Ground slipway, please turn left to avoid the Refuge.
- Wildfowling takes place on the Exe during their permitted season, including within Exmouth Wildlife Refuge. This activity is agreed through consent with Natural England who grant lease agreements and regulated by Devon Wildfowling and Conservation Association.

Dawlish Warren Wildlife Refuge:

- Dogs are not allowed in this area, due to an existing byelaw (see Dawlish Warren Code for more information).
- For other shore activities, such as angling and bait digging, please stay north of the line between 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 bylaw and Bait Collectors' code of conduct.

Why is it important to prevent bird disturbance?

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. Disturbance can cause extra stress because birds can be forced to visit areas which don't have as much food available.



Exe Estuary: South Section

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. Not to be used for navigation: the channel is susceptible to change over time, for up to date information on navigation contact the River and Canal Office.