

Dawlish Warren Beach Management Scheme

March 2017

Monthly project update

Phase 1 of gabion basket removal completed, revetment works begin, and groyne deconstruction underway

The first phase of work to remove the stone filled gabion baskets was completed this month. The existing stone filled gabion baskets were installed along the length of the dune face at Dawlish Warren. The baskets were failing in numerous places and preventing the dune from behaving naturally. Sand lizard translocation works were completed in 2016 to allow the first phase of removal works, from groyne 2 to groyne 8, to be completed with no risk to the internationally protected lizard species.



In order to minimise erosion of the dunes before the beach recharge in the summer, temporary protection measures have been put in place. Temporary sand filled bags have been placed in front of the dunes. These bags will be removed before the beach recharge. Wherever safe to do so, beach access points have been reinstated.

During the summer, the beach will be recharged with dredged sand. The higher beach levels will then protect the dunes, and allow them to behave naturally.



Some of the stone excavated from the gabion baskets is being used to create temporary platforms on site to allow other elements of work to proceed. Ultimately, all gabion stone will be removed from the beach and taken off site for re-use.



Deconstruction of old timber groynes 10 to 14

Work started this month removing the old groynes at the far end of the Warren. In order to avoid disturbance to overwintering birds present on the Warren September to March, works have only been undertaken during low tide.

Groynes 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 will be replaced with new groynes over the coming months.

New Revetment between groynes 2 and 3

Works began this month on the new revetment. Porous concrete units are being placed to form a new revetment from the steps at groyne 2 to east of groyne 3.

As part of the revetment works, later in the year new steps will be installed east of groyne 3, replacing those damaged by storms in February.



Upcoming Works (April)

- Dismantling of the old timber groynes from groyne 10 to groyne 14
- Installation of the new revetment between groyne 2 and 3 will continue
- Piling works will commence on the 27th March, installing the timber piles for the new groynes (G10 to G14) and groyne extensions (G6, G8 and G9)
- New timbers will be installed on all the groynes, topping up planking levels in preparation for beach recharge works

Plant Movements

There will be an increase in plant movements over the coming weeks. Please be aware of plant movements on the beach and the promenade. The project team would like to thank everyone for their cooperation during the works.

News about Dawlish Beach Management Scheme will be shared via:

- <https://www.facebook.com/DawlishWarrenBMS/>

Background to the project

The Exe Estuary Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy identified that the narrow part (or neck) of Dawlish Warren is at risk of being broken through (breached) as a result of sea level rise and storms. If this happened, it would increase the risk of flooding to the railway line and estuary communities such as Starcross, Lympstone and Exmouth.

The Strategy suggested that a range of works are needed at Dawlish Warren to allow the sand spit to continue to act as a barrier to storm waves. It will also improve the quality of the beach and allow the sand dunes to recover.

For further information about the Dawlish Warren Beach Management Scheme, your contacts are:

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