

WHY IS DAWLISH WARREN SO SENSITIVE FOR WILDLIFE?

1. From mid-August to late March thousands of birds gather on the shores and mudflats around Warren Point for up to 2 hours either side of high tide. Walkers are asked to avoid roosting birds. Watercraft close to shore can also disturb the birds. If disturbed, the birds have nowhere else to go and use up valuable energy in flight. This can affect their survival!
2. Wading birds feed when the tide is low and sleep or 'roost' around high tide. The mudflats behind Dawlish Warren are the last feeding ground available before high tide and the first area uncovered as the tide falls. Over high tide ducks and geese sit on this sheltered water.
3. Divers, ducks and grebes feed in the rich waters of the Estuary mouth and around Warren Point. The Slavonian Grebe is threatened in Britain and just five birds represent a nationally important population.
4. In summer, these shores offer the only remaining breeding site in Devon for Ringed Plover, and Sandwich Terns arrive in nationally important numbers to feed their young on Sand Eels. The non-breeding wading birds also remain all year and roost with the terns at Warren Point.
5. The dunes and grasslands of Warren Point offer the most secluded breeding area on Dawlish Warren for Larks, Meadow Pipits and Linnets. This is also the least trampled and most valuable area of mobile dunes on the Reserve. Fragile and rare plants like Penny-royal are found here!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Follow this voluntary code and observe Nature Reserve bylaws.
- Don't light fires or have barbecues. Fire is a great danger so bring a picnic instead!
- Don't stray on to the mud flats - this can be dangerous and disturb wildlife.
- Take your litter home with you.
- Don't swim around Warren Point, the current is treacherous!
- Respect the site's dogs policy.
- Telephone the emergency services or the Wardens if you are worried about any activities you see.

Dawlish Warren National Nature Reserve

is jointly owned by Teignbridge District Council and Devon Wildlife Trust. Other than the Golf Course, Teignbridge Wardens manage the Reserve on a day-to-day basis.

For further information please contact:



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Guide for Water Use

DAWLISH WARREN NATURE RESERVE

Guide for water use

Welcome to this beautiful area, one of the most important wildlife sites in the whole of the South West!

The Warren is part of the Exe Estuary European Special Protection Area and Ramsar site. It includes the main roosting or 'resting' area for the Estuary's birds, has over 600 types of British wild plants, and harbours rare insects and other animals.

The site is also very popular with local people and holidaymakers. A variety of water activities takes place around the whole Estuary and nationally water sports are becoming more popular. Without great care some activities can affect wildlife, particularly in sensitive areas or at sensitive times.

This leaflet outlines a voluntary code for water use, developed in partnership with Estuary users over the last two years to meet the international obligation to safeguard the area.

Clubs and societies who undertake water activities on the Exe have agreed to adopt this code from April 2001 for a second year's trial.



VOLUNTARY CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MARINE CRAFT

1. **Craft are welcome to land in the 'Defined Landing Area'** of Warren Point, known as Soft Sand Bay, between 1 April and 4 September. This area is shown on the map and is signposted on site.
2. All craft are requested to **avoid landing outside of the 'Defined Landing Area'** of Soft Sand Bay.
3. Visitors are asked, in particular, **to avoid the Voluntary Exclusion Zone around the high tide period** when roosting birds may be disturbed, except in the case of an emergency or potential emergency. This zone runs from Warren Point south west to groyne 9 and is shown cross-hatched on the map.
4. In the **autumn and winter** (September 5 to March 31) all craft are especially requested to try to **avoid navigating close to the Voluntary Exclusion Zone around the high tide period**, except where safety might require a closer passage. The recommended distance for passing craft from the high tide line is around 100metres. This is expected to coincide, in the main, with the deeper water of the Western Way Approach Channel.
5. Enjoy your visit to Soft Sand Bay but please avoid exploring the dunes and grassland. Wildlife in this remote area needs to remain undisturbed.
6. Permission is needed from Teignbridge District Council to hold any organised activities on Dawlish Warren. When considering requests to hold activities, wildlife protection will be the priority but this will be reconciled with other uses where possible.



Thank you for supporting this Code

Code for Water Use at Dawlish Warren Nature Reserve

