

# AROUND THE RESERVE

There is open access to most of the Reserve, including the bird hide, at all times. However, there is no public access to the golf course and mudflats. Dogs must be on a lead over most of the Reserve and are not allowed in some areas. Admission to the Reserve is free, although there are car parking charges. Also please avoid the bird resting area on the beach at sensitive times (please see map and signs on site for further details).



## VISITOR CENTRE

The Centre has displays about the Reserve and stocks a number of leaflets and other publications. The Wardens are based here and most events start from here. The Centre is open most days from April to September and on weekends only from October to March. Usual opening is 10.30am to 5pm (closed from 1-2pm for lunch). The Centre is also closed when in use for groups or when Wardens are working on site.

It is always best to ring in advance if you are making a special trip. If you are bringing a group to the site or Centre it is important to book in advance.

## BIRD HIDE

The hide offers excellent views, particularly of wading birds and wildfowl in winter. Viewing is best 2-3 hours either side of high tides. Access requires some walking on soft sand. Beware of golf balls when you approach the hide.

## TOILETS

Sorry, there are no toilets at the Visitor Centre or on the reserve. There are toilets on the resort area. (Please see map overleaf for details).

## DISABLED ACCESS

A route from the main car park to the promenade and the Visitor Centre is available for those with wheelchairs and push-chairs. Much of the rest of the site has soft sand which makes access difficult.

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

The Wardens offer an exciting programme of guided walks and children's activities. We also offer guided events for schools and colleges. For more information call in at the Visitor Centre or contact the Wardens at the address below. If you are interested in volunteering at the reserve we would love to hear from you.

## CONTACT US

The Wardens  
Dawlish Warren NNR  
Teignbridge District Council  
Forde House, Brunel Road  
Newton Abbot TQ12 4XX  
Tel: 01626 863980/01626 215754  
[www.teignbridge.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/countryside)

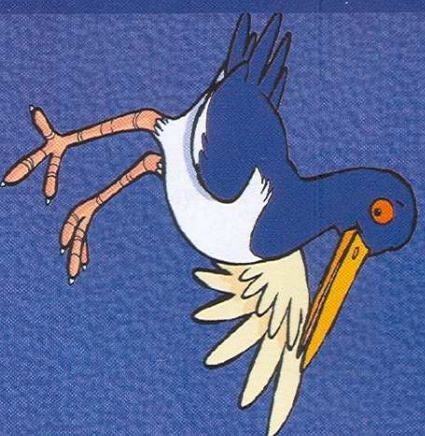


The Reserve is owned by Teignbridge District Council and Devon Wildlife Trust. Devon Wildlife Trust owns the golf course and mudflats. Teignbridge owns and manages the rest of Dawlish Warren and provides the wardening service and Visitor Centre.



# DAWLISH WARREN NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

## Visitor Information



# ABOUT THE RESERVE

Dawlish Warren National Nature Reserve is an area of sand dunes, mudflats and beach that lies at the mouth of the River Exe.

Dawlish Warren is an important holiday resort and is visited by thousands of people each year.

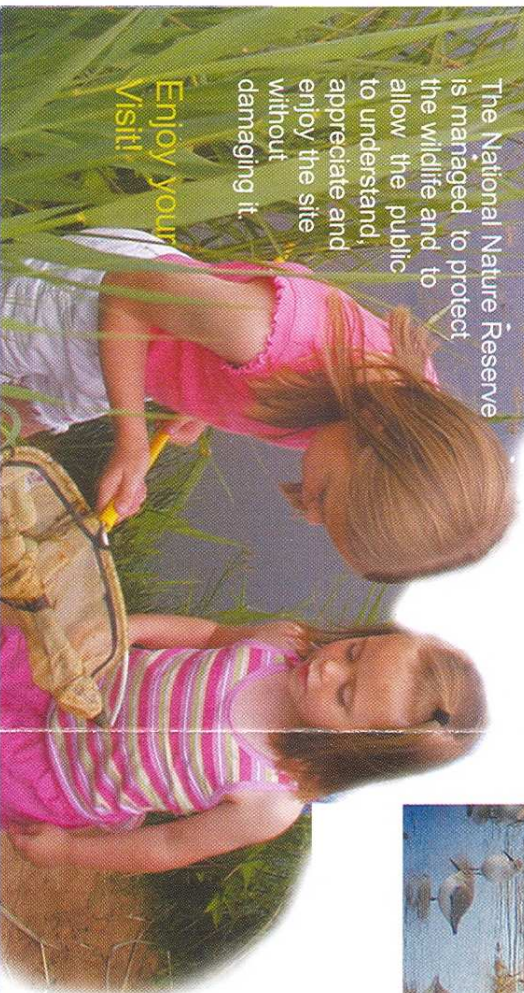
As part of the Exe Estuary it is one of the most important places for wildfowl and wading birds in the whole of the South West. Thousands of birds come to feed, on migration, or to spend the winter here.

The dunes and grassland have a host of special plants. Over 600 different types of flowering plants have been recorded on the Warren. This varied Reserve has many different habitats including salt marsh, fresh water ponds, wet meadows and woodland.

The Warren is so important that it is protected for its wildlife by both national and international law.

The National Nature Reserve is managed to protect the wildlife and to allow the public to understand, appreciate and enjoy the site without damaging it.

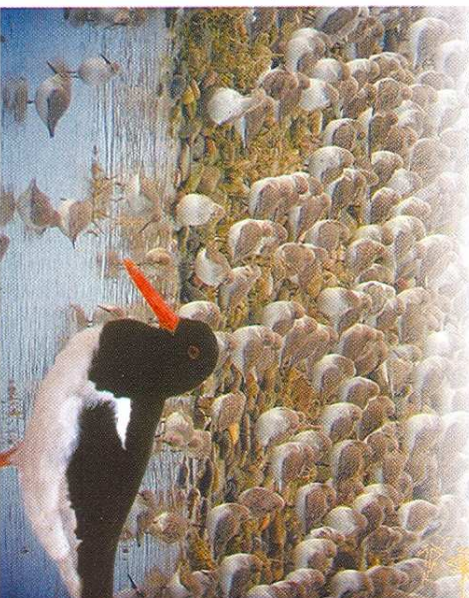
Enjoy your Visit!



## BIRDS

Each autumn up to 23,000 wildfowl and wading birds travel to the Exe Estuary from the far north to escape the cold. They start arriving in August and stay until late March. The Warren is vital for their survival providing the main roosting (or resting) place on high tides.

For about 3 hours before and after high tide several thousand birds gather on the Warren's shores. These include important flocks of Dunlin, Grey Plover, Bar Tailed Godwit and Oystercatcher. Brent Geese, Wigeon and Teal also shelter in inshore waters.



OYSTERCATCHER

Sandwich Terns arrive in summer to feed their young on Sand Eels. Birds such as Skyarks and Linnets are found breeding in the dunes.

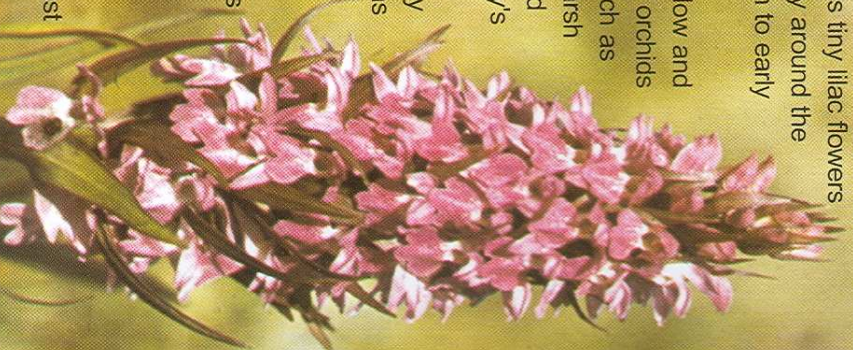
## PLANTS

The Warren has a warm sunny climate and low rainfall. This allows some rare plants to grow here that couldn't withstand colder, wetter parts of Britain.

The Warren or Sand Crocus grows amongst the drier short dune grassland. Its tiny lilac flowers appear briefly around the end of March to early April.

In wet meadow and dune slacks, orchids are found such as Southern Marsh Orchards and Autumn Lady's tresses.

In 1997 a tiny Petalwort was found. Not much bigger than a pin head, it looks like a miniature lettuce! It is one of Europe's most threatened plants and is internationally protected.



SOUTHERN MARSH ORCHID