

Dawlish Warren Beach Management Scheme

February 2017

Monthly project update

Work begins on gabion basket removal, concrete beam removal underway, and storms limit beach access

Work began this month removing the existing stone filled gabion baskets which are installed along the length of the dune face at Dawlish Warren. The existing gabion baskets are failing in numerous places and prevent the dune from behaving naturally. Sand lizard translocation works were completed in 2016 to ensure these work could be completed early in 2017 with no risk to the internationally protected lizard species.



The recovered stone is initially being used to form a temporary causeway between the slipway and groyne 1. This will allow a longer tidal working window and help the work to be completed in a timely manner. The steel mesh baskets and stone are being separated at source to allow the separate materials to be reused and recycled.

In order to transport materials off the beach, machinery including tracked dumpers, tractors and trailers need to pass along the promenade and through the rail underpass and car park. Plant movements will be accompanied by plant marshals to ensure public safety. Please be aware of plant movements in the area and respect the exclusion zones and signage displayed.



Plant Access Routes

The blue dashed line below indicates the route plant will be using to remove materials from the beach.



Upcoming Works (February)

- Work will continue removing the stone filled gabion baskets between Groyne 2 and 3, before working north to remove all stone filled gabion baskets up to Groyne 8. This activity is planned to be completed before Easter.
- Work will be completed dismantling the concrete capping beam and sheet pile wall between Groyne 3 and 4. Some large machinery will be required to complete this operation, which is planned to be completed by March. The equipment will park at the slipway at Groyne 8.
- Reptile fencing will be installed across the Warren, from Groyne 8 to Groyne 15. This will facilitate the safe capture and translocation of Sand Lizards later in the year.
- Work will begin on the proximal revetment between groyne 2 and 3. This involves some excavation through the dunes and the installation of dycel units (concrete blocks linked together) to protect the dune face.



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Beach Access

Following the recent storms the beach level at Dawlish Warren has dropped significantly, making many of the existing beach access steps unsafe for public access. The steps at groyne 3 were also damaged by the waves and have since been removed.

During low tide the steps closest to the RNLI can be used to access the beach. During higher tides the only safe access to the beach is through the dunes past groyne 4.

The condition of the beach will be constantly monitored, and existing accesses will be reopened if it becomes safe to do so. New steps will be installed at groyne 3 as part of the works which should be opened during April.

Please follow signage and be aware of the tide times.



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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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