

# Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

## Effecting positive behavioural change: Appendix B

# Dawlish Warren

Welcome to beautiful Dawlish Warren, a popular seaside holiday resort and one of the most important and sensitive wildlife sites in Europe.

**Species Information**

- Dark-bellied Brent Goose & Oystercatcher**  
Thousands of winter & wildfowl like Oystercatcher and Brent Geese breed in the far north but winter on the Exe.
- Marsh Hallowberry & Southern Marsh Orchid**  
Coloured Southern Marsh Orchid and Marsh Hallowberry are found in damp meadow pure daisy from May to July.
- Auroras Lady's-tresses & Sand Crocus**  
Sand Crocus and Auroras Lady's-tresses are species of dry grassland. Sand for Warty crocus flowers from March to late April. Auroras Lady's-tresses are newbies from August.
- Sea Bindweed, Marram grass & Sand Usard**  
Sea Bindweed, Marram grass and Sand Usard are found in areas of eroding dunes. Marram grass plants a vital part in building the dunes that make Dawlish Warren so special. Sand Usard can be seen looking from as early as March.
- Sandwich Tern & Common Scoter**  
Sandwich Terns are summer visitors that winter around the coast of Africa with rainforests building in July and August while Common Scoter can be seen in groups, called rafts, offshore throughout the year.
- Wasp Spiders & Great Green Bush-crickets**  
The Warren is home to spectacular invertebrates like Wasp Spiders and Great Green Bush-crickets.

**Wildlife Refuge**  
Dawlish Warren has been identified as one of two areas on the estuary that are particularly vital for protected birds. These areas are known as wildlife refuges. In winter, thousands of birds rest and feed on the mudflats and eelgrass beds of the Warren, during their long migratory journeys.

**For dog owners**  
All users are asked to avoid the wildlife refuge where safe to do so, all year round at all tidal states, due to its importance as a High Tide resting area. Please note there is an existing byelaw in place for statutory exclusion of dog walkers anywhere past groyne 9 and in the refuge area.

**Warren Point**  
All visitors are asked to avoid the beach past groyne 9 for approximately three hours either side of high tide on certain days during September to March (check on-site signage). In summer, from 1 April to 31 August, this area can be fished at any time.

**Behavioral Rules:**

- No BBQs or fires
- Don't pick flowers or collect driftwood
- No drones
- No camping
- No cycling
- No launching/landing of watercraft
- Don't dig up plants
- Metal detecting only on beach
- Bag it and bin it

**Site of Special Scientific Interest**  
The Warren is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and forms part of the Exe Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site. It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb the wildlife in a SSSI or to damage or disturb land known to be an SSSI. It is also an offence to take down, damage or obstruct a SSSI notice or sign. These offences carry a fine of up to £20,000.

Codes of conduct for Dawlish Warren and many of the activities to be enjoyed on the Exe are available from the Visitor Centre, local libraries and online at [www.southeastdevonwildlife.org.uk](http://www.southeastdevonwildlife.org.uk) or [www.exe-estuary.org](http://www.exe-estuary.org)



