

SITE

Name: Dawlish Warren

Parish: Dawlish

Local Authority: Teignbridge

National Grid Ref: SX 985 793

OS Sheets: 1:50K, 192, 1:10K, SX97 NE, SX98 SE

Locality Description: Dawlish Warren lies at the mouth of the Exe Estuary on the South Devon coast.

Nature and Status of Site: Large sand spit formation. It is [Site of Special Scientific Interest](#) (SSSI), a [National Nature Reserve](#) and also forms part of an internationally designated conservation site.

Summary of Geological/Geomorphological Interests: The site consists of a large sand spit with adjoining tidal land at the mouth of the Exe Estuary. It provides an excellent venue for the study of coastal process (such as sand dune formation) as well as the uneasy relationship between natural changes and man-induced impact in a dynamic, coastal environment. Of additional interest is the wide variety of wildlife habitats which can be seen here, including saltmarsh, sand dune, dune grassland and heath, scrub and freshwater marsh. For further information visit the [Teignbridge District Council](#) website.

Safety Considerations: The sea wall between Dawlish and the Warren can be dangerous at high tide and it has a high unprotected drop to the beach below.

Educational Age Groups: Primary, Secondary, College/6th Form, University.

Parking and Access: There are good public transport links to Dawlish Warren with frequent train and bus services from Exeter. For timetable details, visit www.traveline.org.uk. It is also possible to cycle, with much of the journey being off road.

If travelling by car, use the car park at Dawlish Warren train station; an 8'6" railway tunnel restricts access to the seaward car park. Charges apply. There is open public access over much of the Warren, with the exception of the Inner Warren which is leased to the golf club. However a booking system operates for educational use of the site and all educational groups must have permission before visiting. Groups will be accepted where the site can accommodate them, but teachers will need to be flexible about visit dates where the site is already at capacity for educational use. Dune transect work is not normally allowed and access to the Warren Point shore is restricted over certain high tides due to the presence of roosting birds.

Rangers offer introductory talks and walks when available, although a charge is made for this service. A visitor centre holds valuable educational resources for projects and can be used by groups by arrangement.

A visit to Dawlish Warren can be combined with a visit to the adjacent Dawlish Cliffs site. See separate site listing in Register.

The area forms part of an important conservation site of note for its plant communities and its wading and sea birds. Please observe any restrictions in place at the time of your visit.

Contact: Phil Chambers, Dawlish Warren National Nature Reserve Ranger, Leisure and Green Space Section, Teignbridge District Council, telephone the visitor centre on 01626 863980.

References:

Keene, J, 1997. Dawlish Warren Ecology Trail. Thematic Trail Guides. School of Social Sciences. Oxford Brookes University.

Devon County Council. 1998. The Exe Estuary Management Plan. The Exe Estuary project.

May, V J & Hansom, J D (2003). Coastal Geomorphology of Great Britain. *Geological Conservation Review Series 28* (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough, 2003)

Motteshead, D. (1986). Classic landforms of the South Devon Coast. *Classic Landform Guides 5*. The Geographical Association, Sheffield, 41-46.

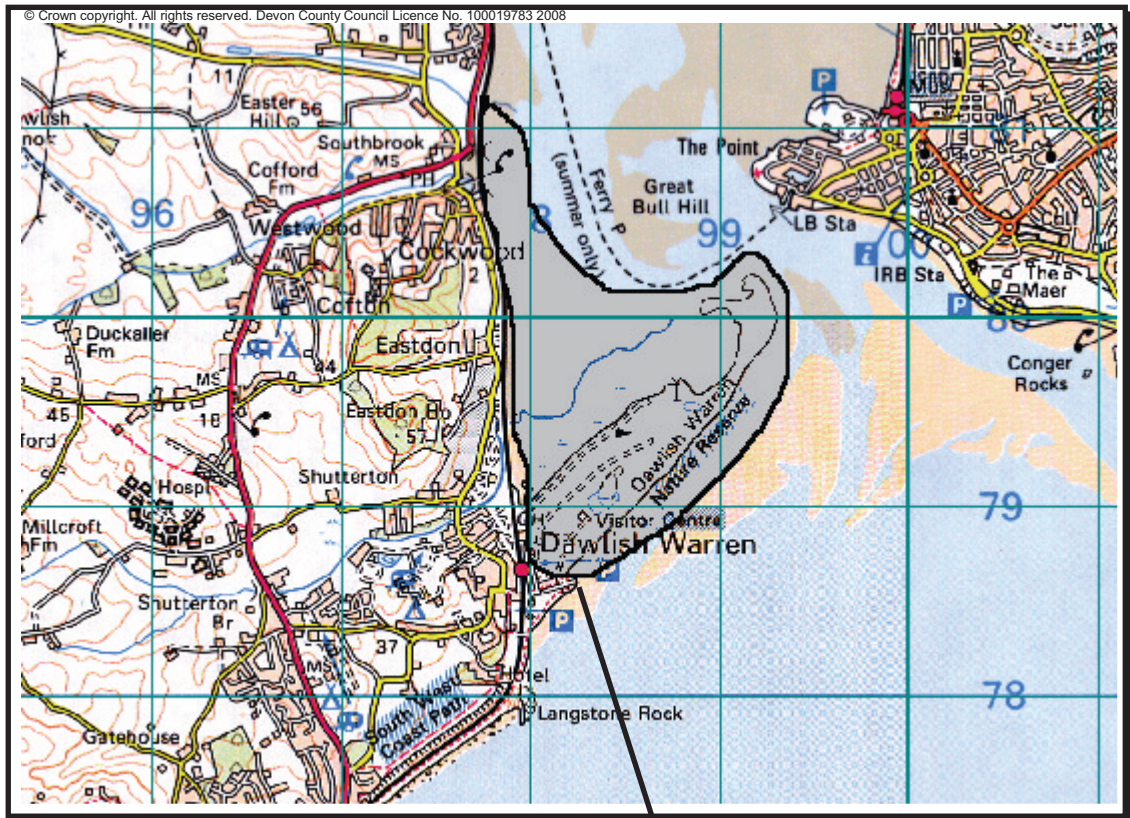
Selwood, E.B., Edwards, R.A., Simpson, S., Chesher, J.A., Hamblin, R.J.O., Henson, M.R., Riddolls, B.W. and Waters, R.A. 1984. Geology of the Country around Newton Abbot. *Memoir of the British Geological Survey*, Sheet 339 (England and Wales).

Detailed Geology: See May in May and Hansom (2003) for a detailed description (also available from: www.jncc.gov.uk).

LOCATION PLAN

DAWLISH WARREN, SSSI DAWLISH, TEIGNBRIDGE

National Grid Ref: SX 985 793



Scale 1: 40,000



Site Locality

Use A379 then
follow tourist
information signs

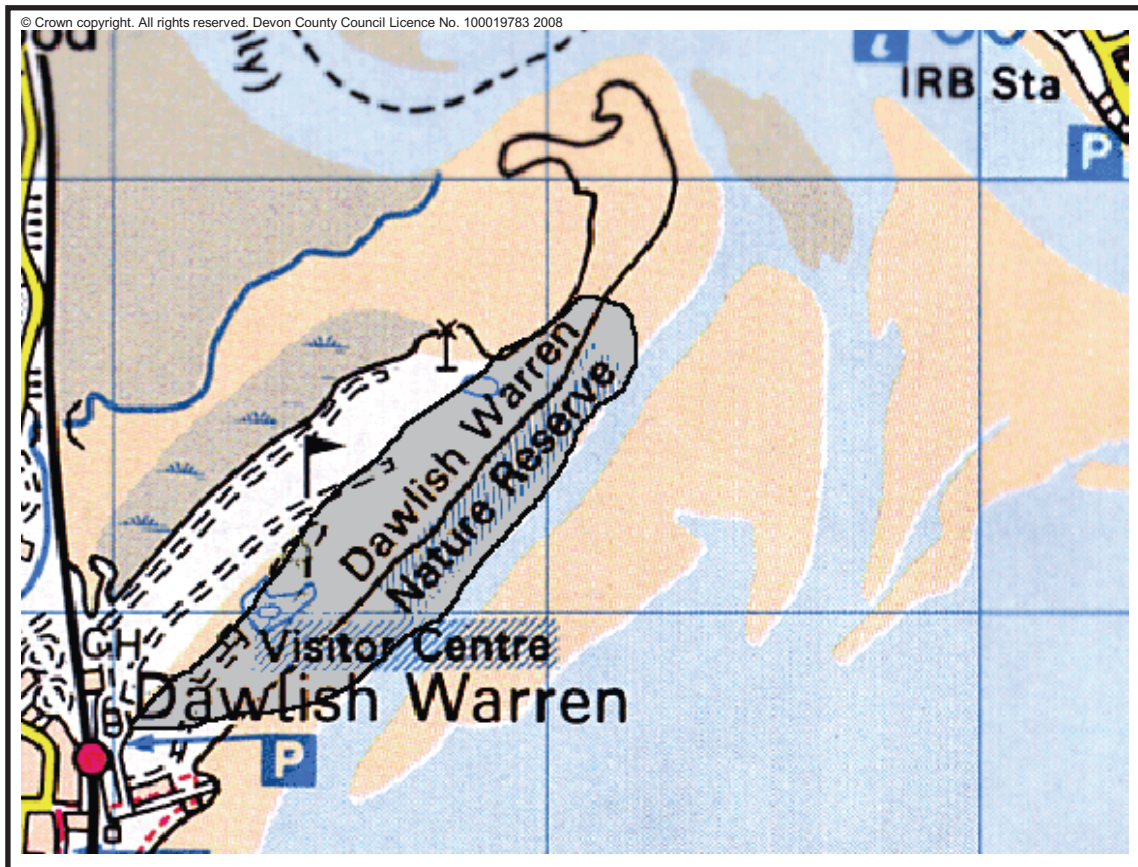
Parking and Access

- Good public transport links to Dawlish Warren by both train and bus. For timetable details, visit the [traveline](http://traveline.co.uk) website.
- Use car park at Dawlish Warren Station as an 8'6" railway tunnel restricts access to seaward car park. Charges apply. Open access (with the exception of the Inner Warren which is leased to the golf club) to dune and slack areas to the south of the site along paths and tracks. Access is also available along beach, subject to tides. Can form part of a linked site visit with Dawlish Cliffs.

SITE PLAN

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Key Focal Point



1 Kilometre

Main Points of Interest:

- Large sand spit showing west - east longshore drift across mouth of Exe Estuary.
- Sand dune formation.
- Estuarine alluvium on north side.

DAWLISH WARREN



General views of Dawlish Warren showing the sand spit structure.