

# Dawlish sea wall residents' update

## Construction of new sea wall enters new phase of the build



Network Rail has entered its third month of works since the project resumed in September

Construction of the new sea wall from Colonnade underpass to Boat Cove has now entered its third month since works re-started at the beginning of September, with a wide variety of activities taking place.

Work has focused on the excavation of beach material at the toe of the existing sea wall, and the creation of temporary bays within which concrete has been poured to create foundations for the new sea wall.

The 360-metre section of new foundations, completed last month, will provide a base for the new sea wall at Dawlish.

So far, 18,800 hours have been worked since we returned on 9 September.

## Installation of concrete units

Following completion of the new foundations, the team have been busy working on the installation of 98 pre-cast units throughout October and November.

These will be used to mount pre-cast concrete facing panels in front of the existing sea wall, which will then be filled with concrete.

Each unit weighs approximately six tonnes and will have three dowels tying it to the concrete foundations below.



The majority of pre-cast units were installed last month

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### Hoardings get a facelift ahead of children's artwork being added



The current hoardings have been redesigned and will soon have children's art work added

The hoardings which form the perimeter to the work site in Dawlish have been given a facelift to match the same colours and branding as the Community Information Hub.

The hoardings will remain in place until the new sea wall is finished although they will be updated again with local children's artwork on one section.

Network Rail asked Dawlish schoolchildren to take part in an art competition based on the theme 'What Dawlish means to me'.

The designs have been submitted with the best set to be added to the hoardings as soon as possible.

David Lovell, senior programme manager for Network Rail, said: "We invited pupils to share what they love about Dawlish and the entries have been brilliant.

"We now have a tough job to choose those that will be designed onto one section of the hoardings.

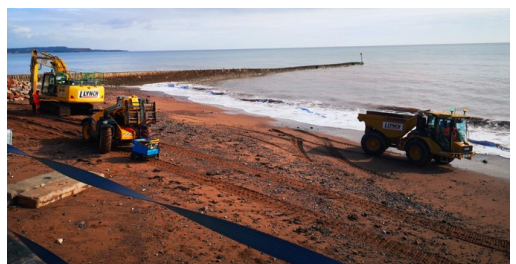
"We thank schools for their involvement."

### School site trip for Dawlish pupils

Local schools are being invited to visit the site at Dawlish to learn more about how the works on the new sea wall are progressing.

David Lovell, programme manager for Network Rail, said: "We're encouraging local schools to join us for a question and answer session, giving inquisitive children the opportunity to find out more.

"They'll discover all about the sea wall work, why it is so important and allow them to see what is currently happening."



Pupils are invited to learn about works currently being carried out

## Follow us on social media



Updates on works are featured on our social media channels

Over the last few weeks, we've posted a number of videos on social media that help to address common questions.

So far, we've addressed: measures being taken to stop flooding along Marine Parade during severe storms; the impact works will have on parking along Marine Parade; what the public can expect to see during our works; and access to the beaches of Dawlish during our works.

If you've not had the opportunity to see these films, you can find these both on our Twitter and Facebook pages @SouthWestRRP

## Future works

As with all big construction projects the work you see will change over the course of the project.

The project is entering a key phase with foundations being put in place ahead of the front facing panels arriving from early December.

Once they arrive the size and look of the sea wall will be clearer to see. We will continue to keep you updated with our progress

## Keeping you updated

Letters outlining details of planned work will continue to be sent out fortnightly to those living closest to the railway.

Our regular newsletter will also appear monthly, providing news and updates.

Since our last newsletter, the Community Information Hub near Colonnade underpass has moved to a new location, closer to Dawlish Station.

Network Rail staff will be on hand to answer questions or to discuss the project each Wednesday from 11am-2pm. Our next monthly evening session will take place on 27 November from 5pm-7pm, so that commuters have a chance to talk to the team too.



The Community Information Hub will be open on Wednesdays

## December residents' newsletter

The December issue will arrive slightly later in the month and will be available after the General Election.

That is because, as a public organisation, we are restricted by how much we can say during a pre-election period.

If you have any questions, issues or concerns please email [SouthWestRRP@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:SouthWestRRP@networkrail.co.uk)

## Questions?

### **How did you work around high tide when the concrete foundations were being poured?**

Only small sections of the sea wall were exposed at any one time, ready for concrete to be poured into specially prepared bays. The concrete we use can be poured despite the presence of water. As the concrete rises it forces the water out of the top of the excavation due to its density.

Excavations were back-filled before the tide returned, ensuring that the base of the sea wall remained unexposed and protected.

### **Why don't you place boulders at the bottom of the sea wall? It works well for Dawlish Warren, which has heavier storms than Marine Parade.**

This is an extremely effective type of coastal protection however it is not the best solution for Dawlish.

Rock armour requires a large footprint to allow the boulders to be piled up and break the waves before they reach the seawall – this would result in most of Dawlish beach being covered in boulders.

Clearly this would not be acceptable as it would have an impact on Dawlish's tourist industry.

Also, rocks that are sufficiently sized and suitable for use as primary armour have limited availability and would contribute a significant

cost increase that would not fall within the available budget set aside by the government for the sea wall at Dawlish.

### **Why is concrete being used rather than other materials?**

The sea wall defences at Dawlish are being created with a 100-year lifespan.

The materials have been selected to perform in this harsh coastal environment and the use of concrete has been selected as it is less susceptible to erosion than other materials.

Finishes in different textures and colours have been proposed to provide visual interest. Elements of natural stone surfacing are also being used, where feasible.

### **How can we get in touch with you?**

If you have any questions or comments regarding the new sea wall at Dawlish or the South West Rail Resilience Programme, please visit the Community Information Hub between 11am and 2pm on Wednesdays.

Our next monthly evening session will take place on 27 November from 5-7pm.

Alternatively, please call our dedicated 24-hour National Helpline on: 03457 11 41 41 or email [SouthWestRRP@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:SouthWestRRP@networkrail.co.uk)

For news and updates follow the SouthWest Rail Resilience Programme's social media pages:

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