

Dawlish sea wall residents' update

Heavy machinery arrives by sea ahead of work restarting



Large heavy machinery arrived by landing craft on 9 September ahead of work restarting on Dawlish sea wall

Heavy machinery landed at Dawlish beach on 9 September following the return to work on the new sea wall at Dawlish.

Further excavation equipment and dumper trucks joined the plant arriving by sea in the days after, enabling construction of the foundations for the new sea wall to recommence.

Focus for works at Dawlish

During September, work has focussed on the excavation of beach material at the toe of the existing sea wall between Boat Cove and Colonnade underpass.

Temporary bays have been created into which the new concrete foundations have been poured.

This work has been undertaken one bay at a time to ensure the integrity of the existing sea wall.

On completion, a 360-metre section of new foundations will provide a base for the installation of vertical anchors. These will be used to mount pre-cast concrete facing panels in front of the existing sea wall, which will then be backfilled with concrete.

Concrete casting continues

The team have been busy working on the construction of 96 pre-cast units of concrete at the Network Rail compound, Dawlish Warren.

So far, 82 have been completed, and are being moved, as required, from the compound to the beach.

These will be transported to Dawlish, when required, on the back of flat-bed trucks.



In total 96 concrete units will be transported to the beach when required

Dawlish sea wall residents' update

Last in series of beach cleans and sea wall clearing takes place



Workers from Network Rail, BAM Nuttall and Teignbridge District Council worked together in the summer to clean the beach and clear the sea wall

The last of a series of beach cleans involving Network Rail, Teignbridge District Council and our construction partners BAM Nuttall, took place in September.

Over the summer period, beach cleans took place on a total of 40 days, resulting in dozens of bags of rubbish being collected, containing everything from scrap metal to plastic bottles.

The team also undertook regular coastal path clearances beneath Dawlish railway station to keep it free of sand, gravel and debris.

As a result, users, and especially those with mobility scooters, wheelchairs, pushchairs and buggies, have been able to navigate the sea wall more easily. Clearances will continue when possible throughout the construction period.

School trips and art competition

Earlier this month, 60 GCSE students from Wellington School visited the Dawlish Warren compound to learn more about the new sea wall being built in Dawlish.

The Q&A session provided an insight into the works taking place along the sea wall, and the unique challenges of construction in a tidal environment.

In October, we hope to be joined by pupils from Orchard Manor School, giving them the opportunity to learn about how the works are progressing and how the new sea wall will protect both the railway line and Dawlish for generations to come.

Alongside other primary schools in Dawlish, the

children from Orchard Manor are being invited to participate in an art competition entitled 'What Dawlish means to me'.

Winning pictures will be used on the hoardings at Colonnade underpass to provide a brighter look to the sea-front during the works.

All children from the town are welcome to enter, and further details can be obtained by emailing SouthWestRRP@networkrail.co.uk



Wellington School visited Dawlish Warren to learn about the project

Keeping you updated

Letters outlining details of planned work on the new sea wall in Dawlish, and any potential disruption, 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.

In addition, the community information hub near Colonnade underpass remains open to keep residents, visitors and members of the general public informed of works at Dawlish.

However, please note that the hub is now slightly closer to the station. It remains in Colonnade underpass but in the middle section.

The move is so visitors can access the hub safely while workers use the furthest section of the underpass from the station to access the work site.

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 23 October from 5pm-7pm, giving commuters the opportunity to talk to the team after work.



The community information hub will be open on Wednesdays

Your questions answered



Frequently asked questions are answered 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.

Update on our plans in Holcombe

Earlier this year we held a number of public consultation events in the local area, including two events in Dawlish, regarding our planned resilience work between Holcombe and Teignmouth.

That consultation period ended in July and we are currently looking at all the comments we received to see how they can help shape our plans.

This autumn we will provide an update and announce when we will be hosting a second round of consultation. This will include public events in Dawlish.

The next consultation period and public event dates will be widely publicised.

Questions?

Why do you need to work at night?

Working at night is a necessary part of the project at Dawlish. We need to work around low tides, which occur twice a day.

Working during daylight hours alone would result in the works taking many more months to complete, extending disruption to residents, which we all wish to avoid.

We also have a duty to both the government and the taxpayer to be as efficient as possible. The limited budget for the sea wall means we need to avoid any unnecessary extension to the life of the project.

While our work can, at times, be noisy, we will continue to do what we can to minimise this and always work within strict regulations that set limits for noise on site. At all times we endeavour to work considerately.

Will it be possible to still walk along the sea wall and beach during works?

Unfortunately, not. Construction sites can be dangerous, so it is important to close off the beach and sea wall (from Colonnade underpass to Boat Cove) during the works to ensure the safety of both our staff and members of the public.

What works will we see over the coming months?

Between now and early spring 2020 we will be focussing on the following works:

Construction of concrete foundation;
Installation of vertical anchors; Construction of concrete foundation; Installation of the pre-cast concrete panels; Installation of the track drainage; Promenade surfacing work; Lighting and seating installation; Site clearance and demobilisation.

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 located on Marine Parade between 11am and 2pm on Wednesdays.

Our next monthly evening session will take place on 23 October from 5-7pm.

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

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

Facebook - @SouthWestRRP

Twitter - @SouthWestRRP

For more information visit: networkrail.co.uk/SouthWestRRP

When will we find out about what's happening between Holcombe and Teignmouth?

We are reviewing comments received during the first round of public consultation.

We will provide an update this autumn as we continue to develop our plans.