



Devon Countryside Access Forum

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Resorts Department
Environment & Leisure Services
Teignbridge District Council
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8 February 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Dawlish Warren

The Devon Countryside Access Forum met last week. One of the items on the correspondence log was the consultation on the Dawlish Warren Beach Management Scheme that had been carried out by the Environment Agency which, the Forum understands, will replenish the beach and increase the area for people to enjoy. Members of the Forum agreed that a letter should be sent to Teignbridge District Council to request that the gates approaching the Warren are made more accessible for people with wheelchairs and tramper buggies who wish to access the beach and enjoy it, often as part of a family or group outing. The Forum welcomes current accessibility to the main seawall and visitor centre.

I attach a photograph indicating the difficulties the Forum's disabled access representative has experienced at Dawlish Warren. The Forum recognises there is a balance between improving access and ensuring illegal or anti-social activities do not take place but a larger kissing gate, or two way gate with a long handle and easy latches for opening, would be a great improvement and enable more people to appreciate this stretch of the coast. The Natural England gate trial, held in 2015 in Yorkshire, tested a variety of gates on different access user groups.

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4580441024102400>

The summary and conclusions indicate the types of gate that are most suitable for those with disabilities and suggest two way 1.5m gates, preferably with a push plate and a long handle or trombone handle, are best. The DCAF can provide more information if required.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum is a statutory local access forum under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, with a remit to give independent advice on



the improvement of public access to land for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment. Its sixteen voluntary members represent land owners/managers, access users and those with other interests such as conservation and tourism.

The Forum looks forward to receiving your comments.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

Hilary Winter
Forum Officer
Devon Countryside Access Forum

Letter sent on behalf of the Devon Countryside Access Forum

*Chair: Laura Leigh
Vice Chair: Chris*