

Seaton Marshes

Local Nature Reserve



Seaton Marshes Local Nature Reserve is a grazing marsh, with scrapes, ditches and ponds that attract considerable wildlife interest, from wildfowl and wading birds in the winter to dragonflies and butterflies in the summer.

Before the Local Nature Reserve was established, there was no public access to the lower part of the Axe estuary, so very little was known of its value for wild birds. Now with the installation of a viewing hide and wheelchair-friendly paths, you are free to enjoy this beautiful area and its wildlife.



How to get there:

Take the A3052 towards Lyme Regis from Exeter. Ignoring signs for Seaton, proceed to the village of Colyford, turning right at the post office onto Seaton Road. Drive towards Seaton town centre for approximately two kilometres, taking the forth turning left into Hillymead. Bear left down the hill and park on the right hand side of the cul-de-sac, where there is enough space for four vehicles. Do not obstruct access to the water works. Alternatively, you can park in the Harbour Road Car Park next to the Tourist Information Centre and walk back up to the nature reserve along the cyclepath.

For more information about other Local Nature Reserves and a range of activities for you to enjoy in East Devon, please contact the Countryside Service.

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East Devon District Council LNRs

East Devon District Council manages a number of Local Nature Reserves, for the protection of wildlife and for public enjoyment.



*An East Devon District Council
LNR for you to enjoy*

Teal, R De Smet



Seaton Marshes

In the winter large numbers of ducks, such as teal and wigeon can be seen feeding on the grazing marsh.

Wading birds can be seen on the estuary mud, feeding on the rich harvest of animals with their specially adapted beaks. Curlews are large birds, with a long, down-curved beak for pulling animals like lugworms from deep down in the mud. Redshank are slightly smaller with bright red legs and shorter beaks. They feed on worms and crustaceans nearer the surface. And smaller again, common sandpipers bob restlessly around the estuary, picking morsels from the surface of the mud.



Wigeon



Redshank, C Wormwell



Kingfisher, R Guerrero



Dragonflies take over the skies in the summer, with common darters and black-tailed skimmers patrolling the paths and watercourses around the site. Nationally rare ruddy darters also breed in the ditches here.

Kingfishers are often seen fishing from a perch directly in front of the hide, and a bird table provides close-up views of birds that you wouldn't find on your garden table, like reed buntings and even perhaps a water rail.

Access:

A permissive path leads to a public bird hide, with facilities for wheelchair bird-watchers, overlooking the nature reserve and estuary. A second path runs from the reserve entrance to the bottom of Merchant's Lane. Please keep to the designated paths to minimise disturbance to the birds on the Local Nature Reserve.

