

Little Tern Recovery Project - Crimdon site news - spring 2017

With its long stretch of golden sand Crimdon dunes and beach offers a very special spot to both wildlife and people. This special quality was recognised in 1985 when the area was registered as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Protection given by a SSSI ensures that both the dunes and nesting site of the little tern are protected.

Unfortunately, our dunes and little tern-nesting site are suffering from the pressure of increasing visitor numbers. Without our action and help, it is possible both these unique features could be lost.

Throughout 2017, we will be making some changes to prevent further deterioration to this Site of Special Scientific Interest.

What is planned?

- Installation of fencing to protect the little tern nesting site
- Monitoring of breeding pairs, eggs laid, fledglings and predation
- Reduce disturbance, by changing some of the beach access points close to the little tern-nesting site
- Make improvements to existing boardwalks
- Undertake dune restoration and
- Offer beach activities for children – pilot to run near Easter 2017.



Why the changes to paths?

The biggest threat little terns face is disturbance by people and dogs. Creating a buffer zone between your access point and the nesting site will reduce this threat.

Additionally, we will be able to help repair some of the dunes by fencing sections off to allow dune grasses to recover naturally. Our work will be started before the little terns arrive in May.

From May to September, physical work will stop but monitoring will take over, allowing the little terns to arrive from Africa and breed in peace. Once the young and adults head back to Africa in September, we will continue with any remaining work.

Will the boardwalks be repaired?

Yes. With the help of Durham County Council, repairs and improvements will be made to the existing boardwalks and steps.

Who is doing the work?

Crimdon is part of a national project led by RSPB but local contractors and volunteers will complete our site work where appropriate.



If you would like to know more:

Little Tern Recovery Project website:

<http://www.littleternproject.org.uk/>

Heritage Coast website:

<http://www.durhamheritagecoast.org/our-coast/>

Email:

heritagecoast@durham.gov.uk





Call:

03000 268 131

Durham County Council - IntraMAP



Key for path improvements at Crimdon 2017

-  Little tern nesting site, fence to be installed by May
-  Dune restoration and buffer zone
-  Dune restoration
-  Warden hut
- Path 1** repair of steps onto beach, installation of fencing for dune restoration
- Path 2** replacement of boardwalk, installation of fencing for dune restoration
- Path 3** removal of boardwalk, installation of fencing for dune restoration and buffer zone to reduce disturbance to the little terns.

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