

Rail Minister Officially Opens First Section of Dawlish Sea Wall



Rail Minister officially opens first section of Dawlish sea wall which will help protect vital rail link to the south west



Waves lashing the sea front at Dawlish Warren in 2014

On the 25th September, Rail Minister Chris Heaton-Harris officially opened the first section of the new Dawlish sea wall which will help protect the vital stretch of railway connecting Devon and Cornwall with the rest of the country from rising sea levels and extreme weather conditions. The structure forms part of an £80 million project in Dawlish to protect the vital rail artery for the next 100 years.

The Rail Minister took part in a socially distanced opening ceremony, beginning with a tour along the new 360m long promenade which runs for the entire stretch of the new wall. The new sea wall is 2.5m higher than the previous one and includes a new curved top to deflect the waves back towards the sea. The tour included a look towards the next section of the project - a 415m stretch between Coastguards and Colonnade breakwaters - which received planning approval from Teignbridge District Council in August, before the ceremony concluded with the unveiling of a plaque to mark the official opening of the first section.

Rail Minister Chris Heaton-Harris MP said: “Our investment in this new sea wall will provide a resilient railway for generations to come, delivering for the thousands of passengers that rely upon this vital link every day, and the residents whose homes and businesses must be protected. This rigorous set of defences forms part of our ambitious plans to deliver reliable, punctual journeys across Devon and Cornwall, improving connections between communities to help the South West build back better, boosting the local economy and tourism.”