

Night lights and new seating complete first section of Dawlish sea wall

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The first section of new sea wall at Dawlish has been completed with the installation of new seating and lighting.

The new low energy LED lighting and concrete seating along the sea wall means visitors can enjoy sea views from the promenade into the evening.

Construction of this first section of new bigger sea wall – which stretches along Marine Parade west of Dawlish station – started in May 2019 and was [completed last July](#) before being [officially opened by the Rail Minister](#) a year ago tomorrow (25 September).

Work on the [second section of the new sea wall](#) – which is 415m in length and stretches between the Colonnade breakwater west of the station to the Coastguard breakwater east of the station – [began last November](#) and is continuing to progress well.

143 concrete wall panels have now been [successfully installed](#) and the curved wave returns that sit on top of the wall panels are continuing to be added.

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Construction of this £80m government-funded upgrade is expected to be finished by 2023 and once complete will provide greater protection to the railway and town of Dawlish from rising sea levels and extreme weather for generations to come.

The new sea wall at Dawlish is part of Network Rail's ongoing efforts since 2014 to improve the resilience of the railway between Dawlish and Teignmouth in Devon, known as the [South West Rail Resilience Programme \(SWRRP\)](#).

Ewen Morrison, Network Rail senior programme manager for the Dawlish sea wall project, said: "It's pleasing to see the remaining finishing touches to the first section of sea wall have now been completed.

"The lighting will undoubtedly brighten up the promenade and enable people to safely use the sea wall in the evening, particularly as the darker winter nights fast approach.

"Every time I'm in Dawlish I'm struck by the stunning views of the English Channel and I'm delighted residents and visitors to Dawlish will be able to enjoy these views with an ice-cream or cup of coffee while relaxing on this new seating."

Anne Marie Morris, MP for Newton Abbot, commented: The rail resilience works are so important to protecting Dawlish and our vital railway line from the sea for decades to come, and I warmly welcome the tens of millions of pounds of government investment into our area that this project represents."

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