

## 6. Promoting Understanding of the Exe

Providing education opportunities for the people who use the Estuary is vital for the future sustainability of the Exe. It is important to promote a good understanding of the impressive ecosystems supported by the Estuary in order to raise local awareness of their value. Providing easy public access to information encourages people to feel a sense of ownership for their natural surroundings and take an active interest in their management.

### 6.1 Education and Interpretation

#### Education Centres around the Exe Estuary

At present there are two established education centres on the Exe.

The Exmouth Local Nature Reserve classroom is provided by East Devon District Council (EDDC). The classroom itself is a modest facility, but the Education Ranger takes full advantage of its position surrounded by the 'outdoor classroom' of the mouth of the Exe. The educational packages are designed to inspire enthusiasm and interest in the Estuary and the wide variety of life it supports.

Teignbridge District Council (TDC) manages a visitor centre on the Dawlish Warren National Nature Reserve which offers many interactive activities for both children and adults. Every year the Reserve Rangers organise an interesting programme of events and educational walks around the site to raise awareness of the invertebrates, birds and plants that can be found on Dawlish Warren.

#### Exmouth Local Nature Reserve

500 children were taken out on the Exmouth Local Nature Reserves between March and August 2004.



Image 6a: **Outdoor education at Exmouth LNR**  
Source: East Devon District Council



Image 6b: **Exploring Exmouth LNR**  
Source: East Devon District Council

### Dawlish Warren Visitor Centre

In 2004, the Dawlish Warren Visitor Centre underwent a successful renovation. The centre is a great asset to local communities and schools through its educational initiatives and access to information.



Image 6c: **Dawlish Warren Visitor Centre**  
Source: Exe Estuary Management Partnership



Image 6d: **Investigating the ponds at Dawlish Warren**  
Source: Dawlish Warren NNR

### Interpretation Material around the Exe Estuary

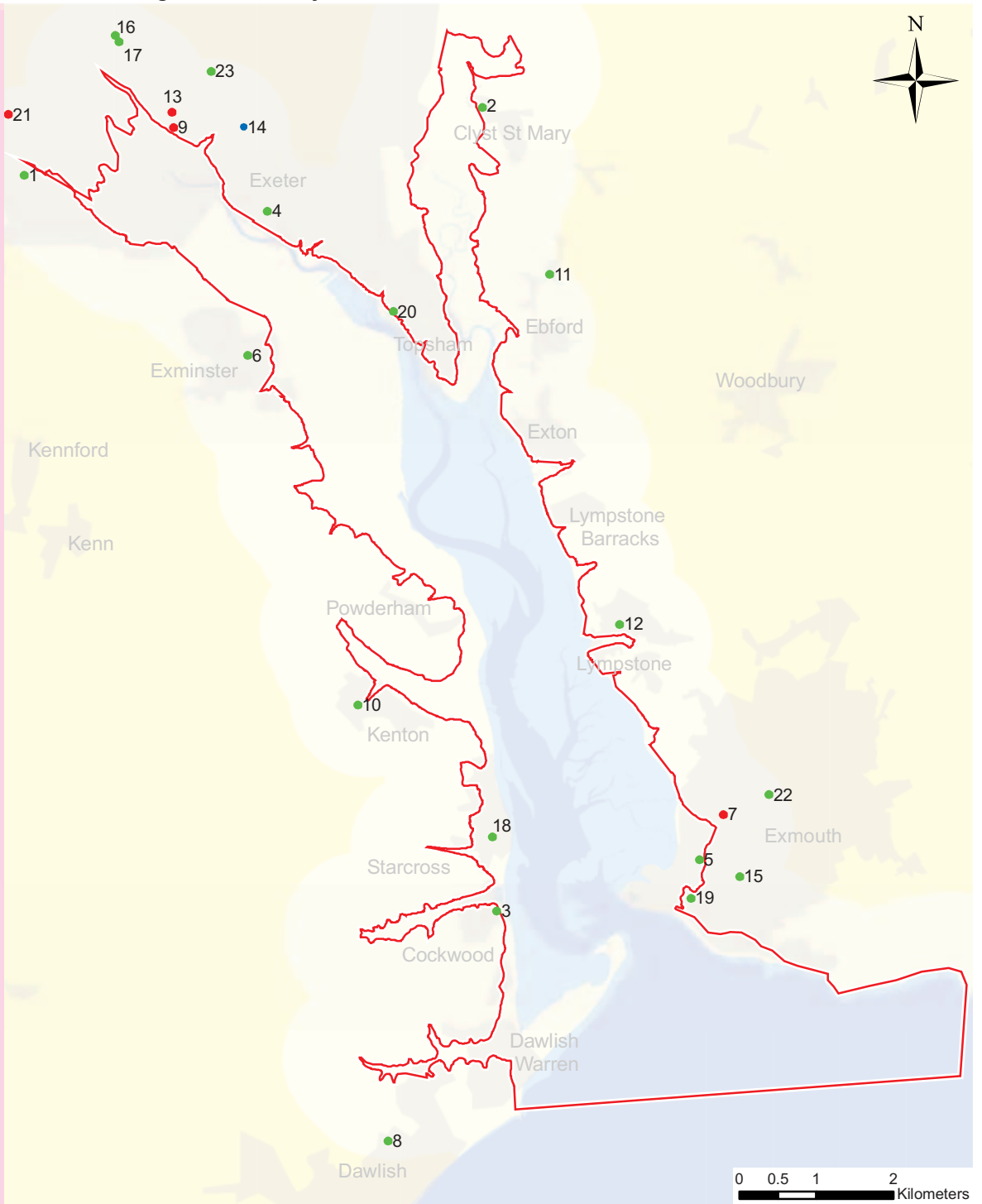
The presence of interpretation boards and information signs around the Estuary is another effective way to provide an education resource for the people who use the Exe. There are currently a variety of boards and signs positioned at access points on the Estuary. Some are used to relay information about the estuarine environment and how to protect the sensitive ecosystems, whilst others outline byelaws or provide safety advice. However, the risk of relying on sign boards alone to relay important information is that they may not always be read by all target audiences.



Image 6e: **Interpretation board on the Exe Estuary**  
Source: Exe Estuary Management Partnership

**Schools within 1 kilometre of the management boundary**

- 1 Aliphington Primary School
- 2 Clyst St Mary Primary School
- 3 Cockwood Primary School
- 4 Countess Wear Community School
- 5 Exeter Road Community Primary School
- 6 Exminster Community Primary
- 7 Exmouth Community College
- 8 Gatehouse Primary School
- 9 Isca College Of Media Arts
- 10 Kenton Primary School
- 11 Lady Sewards Church Of England Primary School
- 12 Lympstone Church Of England Primary School
- 13 Priory High School
- 14 Southbrook School
- 15 St Josephs Catholic Primary School Exmouth
- 16 St Leonards C Of E Primary School
- 17 St Nicholas Catholic Combined Exeter School
- 18 Starcross Primary School
- 19 The Beacon Church Of England Voluntary Aided Primary School
- 20 The Topsham Primary School
- 21 West Exe Technology College
- 22 Withycombe Raleigh Church Of England Primary School
- 23 Wynstream Primary School



**Key**

- Settlements
- Land
- Land within 1 kilometre of the management boundary
- Inter tidal zone
- Tidal Water

**Number of schools within 1 km of boundary**

- Primary school 18
- Secondary school 4
- Special school 1
- Exe Estuary Partnership Management Boundary

**Figure 6a: Schools in the vicinity of the Exe Estuary**

Source: Devon County Council with OS background mapping

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## Research, Surveys and Publications

Over the years the Exe Estuary has been the site of a wide variety of research studies and surveys. The results generated have been used to inform management decisions, raise awareness and understanding of different aspects of the Estuary, and promote a continued interest from academics, managers and the people that use it

The Exe Estuary has also been the subject of numerous books, ranging from watercolour and nature books, to historic accounts of the Exe. There is a selection of publications and information leaflets on the Exe, and the Exe Estuary website ([www.exe-estuary.org](http://www.exe-estuary.org)) provides up to date estuary-related news and links.



Image 6f: Selection of Exe Estuary promotional and advisory materials  
Source: Dawlish Warren NNR, Environment Agency, Exeter City Council