

Westward Ho! Beach Access Statement

Westward Ho! beach is a two mile long stretch of golden sand found between the village of Westward Ho! and the mouth of the Taw/Torridge Estuary. Backed by a natural pebble ridge and the dune system of Northam Burrows, this beach is enjoyed by visitors throughout the year. Torridge District Council is committed to providing the best possible access to Westward Ho! beach to ensure that everybody can enjoy this unique and beautiful place.

There are two main access points to Westward Ho! beach. The slipway at Westward Ho! provides disabled access to the beach throughout the year. This is a gently sloping concrete ramp that leads directly onto the sand. Please be aware that periods of adverse sea conditions can cause a temporary pool to form at the bottom of the slipway.

Throughout the bathing season a sleeper bridge over the pebble ridge provides access from Northam Burrows to Westward Ho! at Sandymere. The bridge has been designed so it does not affect the natural movement of the pebble ridge. As a result the bridge has an uneven surface and is unsuitable for disabled users.

In addition to these 2 main access points, the promenade in Westward Ho! provides a level footpath along the seafront where 4 stairs lead down to the rocky shore at the southern end of Westward Ho! beach.



Westward Ho! Slipway

The designated bathing area is between Westward Ho! slipway and Sandymere bridge. There are 2 lifeguard units operating at either end of the bathing area from the 3rd weekend in May until the last weekend in September. From the 1st of May to the 30th of September dogs are restricted to the area north of Sandymere bridge (assistance dogs are exempt from this restriction). Wind sports users are restricted to an area 200m north of Sandymere bridge and 100m from the pebble ridge all year round. At high tide the sea covers the beach and there is no access possible.

There are public toilets available at the 2 main access points, in the Westward Ho! slipway car park and beside Sandymere car park in the Burrows Centre. Both have disabled facilities. The car park at Westward Ho! slipway has a disabled parking bay. There are also 4 disabled parking bays in the main village car park. Westward Ho! is served the by No.21 Bus from

Ilfracombe/Barnstaple via Bideford. More information can be found at: <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/>



Sandymere Bridge

If you have any questions about access at Westward Ho! please contact Torridge District Council on 01237428700 or email customer.services@torridge.gov.uk More information can be found at www.torridge.gov.uk/westward-ho