

**Area of LDU within AONB:** 33.1 hectares

**% of LDU within AONB:** 100%



**Date surveyed:** 25 February 2010

**Survey points:** SS435394

**Summary of landscape character**

This LDU comprises the small, flat sandy beach of Croyde Sand, backed by the sand dunes of Croyde Burrows to the east to form a buffer between the beach and the resort settlement of Croyde. The beach is nestled within a curving bay, allowing views to rugged heath-clad coastal headlands to the north and south. The peaceful qualities of the beach are transformed during the peak visitor season, when it becomes a popular destination including for surfing.

**LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION**

**LANDFORM / TOPOGRAPHY**

<b>Landform description</b>	Flat but relatively wide sandy beach backed by steep sand dunes, and framed within the wider curving Croyde Bay. Rock pools are features in the north of the LDU.
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**LAND USE AND PATTERNS**

<b>Agriculture</b>	<i>Main agricultural land use</i>	<i>Other agricultural land use(s)</i>	
	N/A	N/A	
<b>Field patterns and boundaries</b>	<i>Field patterns and origins</i>	<i>Size (note variations)</i>	<i>Boundary type / description</i>
	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Other land uses (e.g. recreation)</b>	The LDU is entirely covered by Croyde Sand, used for a range of recreational activities associated with the beach.		

**WOODLAND AND SEMI-NATURAL HABITATS**

<b>Trees / woodland cover</b>	<i>Size and distribution within landscape</i>		<i>Type and species(broadleaved / conifer)</i>	
	N/A		N/A	
<b>Semi-natural habitats</b>	<i>Description and location within landscape</i>			
	Exposed rocky cliff bottoms and sandy beach of Croyde Sand, part of the SSSI-designated length of coast from Saunton to Baggy Point.			
<b>SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT</b>				
<b>Settlement pattern</b>	<i>Settlement size, type, density and relationship to landscape</i>			
	This LDU is unsettled.			
<b>Transport pattern (including Public Rights of Way)</b>	<i>Road pattern, character and relationship to settlement / landscape</i>			
	N/A			
<b>Local vernacular styles and materials</b>	<i>Predominant traditional building materials</i>	<i>Any local variations</i>	<i>Other built features reflecting vernacular</i>	
	N/A	N/A	N/A	
<b>Modern development styles / materials</b>	N/A			
<b>HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT</b>				
<b>Key historic features visible in the landscape</b>	<i>Description</i>			
	None			
<b>VIEWS / PERCEPTUAL QUALITIES</b>				
<b>Views</b>	<i>Key views / landmark features</i>		<i>Intervisibility with LDUs</i>	
			<i>From this LDU</i>	<i>To this LDU</i>
	The sea dominates westward views, framed by rocky heath-clad cliff headlands to the north and south. The beach is backed to the east by steep sand dunes to form a physical buffer with the settlement of Croyde. Gaps in the dunes allow glimpses of the settlement, with longer eastwards views crowned by the telecommunications mast on Ora Hill.		<b>383</b> (sand dunes) <b>897</b> (north coast) <b>896</b> (south coast) <b>403</b> (including mast on Ora Hill) <b>896</b> (upper combe slopes above Croyde) <b>384</b> (Croyde settlement)	383 897 403 896 384

**Perceptual qualities  
(description)**

The beach evokes different perceptual qualities dependent on the prevailing weather conditions and time of year. It is an extremely popular tourist destination for a range of recreational activities (including surfing) – so the summer months introduce a sense of busy-ness into the landscape. Off-season, the beach is peaceful, broken only by the sounds of the sea.

## LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

Designation	Number	% of LDU land area
<b>NATURE CONSERVATION</b>		
SSSI	1	92.54%

## UK BAP PRIORITY HABITATS

UK BAP Priority Habitat	Area (ha)	% of LDU land area
Maritime cliff and slope	0.04	0.14%

## KEY FACTORS INFLUENCING LANDSCAPE CONDITION

Perceptual qualities	Dependent on weather and the time of year – the beach’s peaceful qualities are impacted on during the busy tourist season.
Views	The mast on Ora Hill (LDU 403) detracts from eastward views of generally undeveloped, smooth distant skylines. Glimpses through gaps in sand dunes to Croyde settlement, including modern tourism-related development, can dilute feelings of remoteness associated with the beach.
Land use	N/A
Field patterns	N/A
Field boundaries	N/A
Trees and woodland	N/A
Semi-natural habitats	The beach and rocky cliff bottoms are currently assessed as in favourable condition by Natural England.
Settlement and development	Development at Croyde, whilst outside the LDU, is in close proximity – including car parking areas and holiday parks. The sand dunes (LDU 383) provide an important role in screening views of this development to preserve the beach’s setting.
Local vernacular	N/A