

# Sand Dunes



The North Devon Coast AONB contains a wide variety of habitats, including sand dunes and estuaries, rocky shores, species-rich hedgerows, coastal oak woodlands and culm grasslands.



The term 'sand dunes' includes windblown sand formations, both stable and shifting, with slacks (areas of dune wetland), grassland, scrub, woodland and associated foreshore.

Sand dunes form a vital natural resource as a unique habitat for rich and diverse communities of highly specialised plant and animal species. Sand dunes provide a coastal protection role by absorbing the impact of wave energy.

South West England contains c4,000ha of sand dunes, and Northern Devon has a large proportion with 1130ha of dunes. Four of the county's six dune systems can be found in the AONB at Braunton Burrows, Croyde Bay, Northam Burrows and Woolacombe Sands.