

Area of LDU within AONB: 19.9 hectares

% of LDU within AONB: 100%



Date surveyed: 25 February 2010

Survey points: SS435394, SS437392

Summary of landscape character

This LDU comprises the hummocky sand dunes of Croyde Burrows – forming the western edge of the settlement of Croyde. The dunes are crossed by a network of paths (including the South West Coast Path and Tarka Trail), with their raised position affording views westwards out to sea and around the bay, and eastwards into the resort of Croyde and its framing elevated downland (LDU 403). The sand dunes have an inherently wild quality, but this is affected by the close proximity of the resort of Croyde, which includes a range of tourist facilities including caravan/camping sites and car parks.

LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

LANDFORM / TOPOGRAPHY / VIEWS

Landform description	Hummocky sand dunes with some very steep slopes, backing the beach at Croyde Sand.
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LAND USE AND PATTERNS

Agriculture	<i>Main agricultural land use</i>	<i>Other agricultural land use(s)</i>	
	N/A	N/A	
Field patterns and boundaries	<i>Field patterns and origins</i>	<i>Size (note variations)</i>	<i>Boundary type / description</i>
	N/A	N/A	Post-and-wire fencing borders the dunes.
Other land uses (e.g. recreation)	The whole LDU comprises the sand dunes of Croyde Burrows.		

WOODLAND AND SEMI-NATURAL HABITATS

Trees / woodland	<i>Size and distribution within landscape</i>	<i>Type and species(broadleaved / conifer)</i>
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cover	N/A		Some pine clumps form prominent features behind the dunes in the north (near PROW 18).
Semi-natural habitats	<i>Description and location within landscape</i>		
	Nationally important mosaic of dune grassland, tall herbs and scrub with a notable plant interest.		
SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT			
Settlement pattern	<i>Settlement size, type, density and relationship to landscape</i>		
	This LDU is unsettled although strongly influenced by adjacent leisure and tourism-related development at Croyde – including a car park and caravan/camping site on the immediate north-eastern boundary of the LDU.		
Transport pattern (including Public Rights of Way)	<i>Road pattern, character and relationship to settlement / landscape</i>		
	The dunes are crossed by a network of informal footpaths and public rights of way, as well as the Tarka Trail and South West Coast Path National Trails.		
Local vernacular styles and materials	<i>Predominant traditional building materials</i>	<i>Any local variations</i>	<i>Other built features reflecting vernacular</i>
	N/A	N/A	N/A
Modern development styles / materials	N/A		
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT			
Key historic features visible in the landscape	<i>Description</i>		
	The only visible feature is a Listed lime kiln on the coast in the north-western corner of the LDU.		
VIEWS / PERCEPTUAL QUALITIES			
Views	<i>Key views / landmark features</i>	<i>Intervisibility with LDUs</i>	
		<i>From this LDU</i>	<i>To this LDU</i>
	The sandy beach and sea feature strongly in westward views, framed by rocky heath-clad cliff headlands to the north and south of Croyde Bay. Eastward views are dominated by development at Croyde, including holiday parks and caravan sites, whilst the telecommunications mast on Ora Hill (LDU 403) is a prominent feature in longer	397 (Croyde Sand) 384 (Croyde settlement) 897 (north coast) 896 (south coast) 403 (including mast on Ora	383 384 897 403 896

	eastwards views.	Hill) 896 (upper combe slopes above Croyde)	
Perceptual qualities (description)	The dunes have a strong sense of place with their exposure and proximity to the sea conveying feelings of wildness, particularly in the quieter months of the year. The popularity of the area in peak season, with the dunes used by people en route to the adjacent beach at Croyde Sand, impacts on perceptions of tranquillity and remoteness.		

LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

Designation	Number	% of LDU land area
NATURE CONSERVATION		
SSSI	1	70.71%
County Wildlife Sites	1	20.57%
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT		
Listed Buildings	1 (Grade II)	

UK BAP PRIORITY HABITATS

UK BAP Priority Habitat	Area (ha)	% of LDU land area
Coastal sand dunes	10.64	53.61%
Maritime cliff and slope	0.1	0.53%

KEY FACTORS INFLUENCING LANDSCAPE CONDITION

Perceptual qualities	Dependent on weather and the time of year – the dunes’ wild qualities are impacted on during the busy tourist season when they are used as a popular walking route to and from Croyde Sand.
Views	Eastward views are dominated by development at Croyde, contrasting with the undeveloped qualities of the dunes. The mast on Ora Hill (LDU 403) detracts from eastward views of generally undeveloped, smooth distant skylines. Sea views characterise views to the west, along with rocky headlands of the cliffs framing Croyde Bay.
Land use	N/A
Field patterns	N/A
Field boundaries	N/A
Trees and woodland	N/A
Semi-natural habitats	The sand dunes are part of the wider Saunton to Baggy Point SSSI – currently assessed by Natural England as in favourable condition.
Settlement and development	Modern development at Croyde lies immediately adjacent to the east of the LDU – affecting the setting of the comparatively wild and remote sand dunes.
Local vernacular	N/A