

Area of LDU within AONB: 52.5 hectares

% of LDU within AONB: 81%



Date surveyed: 5 March 2010

Survey points: SS430397, SS427400, SS425401, SS420405, SS422408, SS425408

Summary of landscape character

This LDU comprises an undeveloped strip of coastline that wraps around the western promontory between Croyde and Woolacombe Sand, rising from an exposed rock platform in the south to high rock cliffs at Baggy Point and along the northern stretch. Grassy/scrubby slopes fall to the top of the exposed rock (steeply in the north and more gently in the south), whilst lichen-encrusted stone walls form the inland boundary to the pasture fields of the adjacent LDU. The South West Coast Path crosses the full length of this coast, where views over the sea to Lundy are afforded in the west.

LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

LANDFORM / TOPOGRAPHY

Landform description	A wave-cut rock platform with clear stratification is exposed along the southern stretch, with the coast rising to steep rock cliffs at Baggy Point in the west, which continue at varying height along the northern stretch around to Napps Cliff in the east. Scrubby grassland slopes descend steeply to the vertical rock cliffs in the north, and more gently to the rising rock platform of the south.
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LAND USE AND PATTERNS

Agriculture	<i>Main agricultural land use</i>	<i>Other agricultural land use(s)</i>	
	Rough grazing	N/A	
Field patterns and boundaries	<i>Field patterns and origins</i>	<i>Size (note variations)</i>	<i>Boundary type / description</i>
	Field boundaries extend at right angles from the cliff edge in the north, west of Napps	N/A	Dry stone walls and stone-faced banks form the inland boundary to the

	Cliff.		pasture fields of the adjacent elevated downland of LDU 403, and are often thickly encrusted in lichen.
Other land uses (e.g. recreation)	Recreation: walking along the South West Coast Path (and rock-climbing on Baggy Point).		
WOODLAND AND SEMI-NATURAL HABITATS			
Trees / woodland cover	<i>Size and distribution within landscape</i>		<i>Type and species(broadleaved / conifer)</i>
	The exposed coastline is essentially devoid of tree cover, apart from ornamental planting in the private gardens of the houses in the south above Croyde Bay.		N/A
Semi-natural habitats	<i>Description and location within landscape</i>		
	The majority of the LDU falls within the Saunton to Baggy Point SSSI, with maritime grassland and scrub covering the slopes and running from the plateau edge down to the exposed rock cliffs. The dry-stone walls forming the inland LDU boundary and the rock cliffs themselves provide habitat for lichen communities and other maritime species. The inland section of the south-east forms part of a County Wildlife Site (Middleborough Hill), designated for its rich mosaic of unimproved grassland and scrub (including a small area of calcareous grassland).		
SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT			
Settlement pattern	<i>Settlement size, type, density and relationship to landscape</i>		
	A few houses stretch up along the coastline from Croyde Bay in the very south, representing ribbon development with an open character, but otherwise the LDU is devoid of settlement.		
Transport pattern (including Public Rights of Way)	<i>Road pattern, character and relationship to settlement / landscape</i>		
	The South West Coast Path provides access around the full length of the coastline, whilst the area is devoid of roads (save for a small track that serves the houses in the south). Most of the LDU is open access land.		
Local vernacular styles and materials	<i>Predominant traditional building materials</i>	<i>Any local variations</i>	<i>Other built features reflecting vernacular</i>
	Victorian-style houses with whitewash/cream render walls and grey tile roofs, plus exposed red brick chimney stacks.	Red tile covers the roof of one extension.	N/A

Modern development styles / materials	The most westerly house is of a modern design with large glass frontage and an unusual roofline.		
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT			
Key historic features visible in the landscape	<i>Description</i>		
	N/A		
VIEWS / PERCEPTUAL QUALITIES			
Views	<i>Key views / landmark features</i>	<i>Intervisibility of LDUs</i>	
		<i>From this LDU</i>	<i>To this LDU</i>
	<p>Expansive views out to sea from the full length of coast, with Lundy highly prominent in the west from Baggy Point. Croyde Sand and Dunes and the farmed ridge above are visible from the southern coastal stretch (as is the distant North Devon Coast), while from the north Woolacombe Sand and town and Morte Point promontory dominate views.</p> <p>The coastline itself contains notable landmark features, including the sheer rock outcrop of Baggy Point and the multicoloured geology at Long Rock.</p>	<p>403 (elevated downland)</p> <p>397, 383, 384 (Croyde Sand, Dunes & town)</p> <p>896 (slope south of Croyde)</p> <p>385, 579, 386, 578 (Woolacombe Sand, Warren, town & point)</p> <p>402, 853 (northern elevated downland)</p>	<p>403</p> <p>397, 383, 384</p> <p>896</p> <p>385, 579, 386, 578</p> <p>402, 853</p>
Perceptual qualities (description)	The lack of development and road access results in high levels of tranquillity, with perceptions of escapism and inspiration afforded by the South West Coast Path as it rises above dramatic rock cliffs, especially in the west at Baggy Point where views stretch over the sea to Lundy, while clear ridgeline views are afforded inland.		

LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

Designation	Number	% of LDU land area that is within the AONB
NATURE CONSERVATION		
SSSI	1	72.74%
County Wildlife Sites	1	14.59%

UK BAP PRIORITY HABITATS

UK BAP Priority Habitat	Area (ha)	% of LDU land area that is within the AONB
Maritime cliff and slope	46.09	87.8%

KEY FACTORS INFLUENCING LANDSCAPE CONDITION

Perceptual qualities	Perceptions of tranquillity and inspiration are high around the coast, though the popularity of surrounding areas makes this a well-used walking route and thus a 'shared' experience (particularly in summer).
Views	Development at both Woolacombe and Croyde is clearly visible to the north and south.
Land use	Informal recreation associated with the South West Coast path is the predominant land use, with Baggy Point a clear destination for walkers.
Field patterns	N/A
Field boundaries	The stone walls forming the inland boundary are predominantly in good condition and offer both landscape and wildlife value.
Trees and woodland	N/A
Semi-natural habitats	The LDU's SSSI land is currently assessed as in favourable condition by Natural England. The maritime cliff and slope habitat that comprises most of the area may, however be at some risk from erosion due to high visitor numbers, especially areas adjacent to the coastal path (though this is largely restricted due to the topography). Informal rock climbing on Baggy Point may also disturb cliff habitats.
Settlement and development	A few individual coastal dwellings in the south extend into the area, reflecting a change from traditional to more modern designs, but generally this LDU retains high levels of tranquillity and remoteness.
Local vernacular	The most westerly dwelling is of modern design, but this does not have a significant impact on landscape character.