

Landscape Character Type 5: Cliffs

Constituent Land Description Units 02, 116, 60, 62

Location

South coast intermittently between Exmouth and Lyme Regis.

Description

The cliffs are distinguished above all by their predominantly vertical landform, softened in many areas by well-vegetated landslips on the lower half of the cliff face which contain a mix of exposure-tolerant species of high biodiversity value; also by their location on the south coast, marine influence and clearly exposed geological features. Sandstone, chalk and flint are all revealed by erosion and illustrated by strong colour variation. They are unenclosed, unsettled and are inaccessible, with neither roads nor rights of way, although the South West Coast Path follows the top of the cliffs in adjoining plateaux andcombe Landscape Character Types and provides extensive views along the coastline. There is also limited access along the shingle beaches at their foot. This is an exposed and dramatic landscape.



Key Characteristics

- Steeply sloping cliffs, near-vertical in places
- Unenclosed, unsettled and inaccessible
- Narrow shingle beaches at foot of cliffs
- Accessible only along cliff top via South West Coast Path or in some places along beach
- Extensively vegetated slumped landslips on lower half of cliff locally
- Clearly represented geological features
- Extensive views along coastline from cliff-top South West Coast Path
- Exposed, with dominant marine influence

Management Guidelines

Informal recreation: conserve by

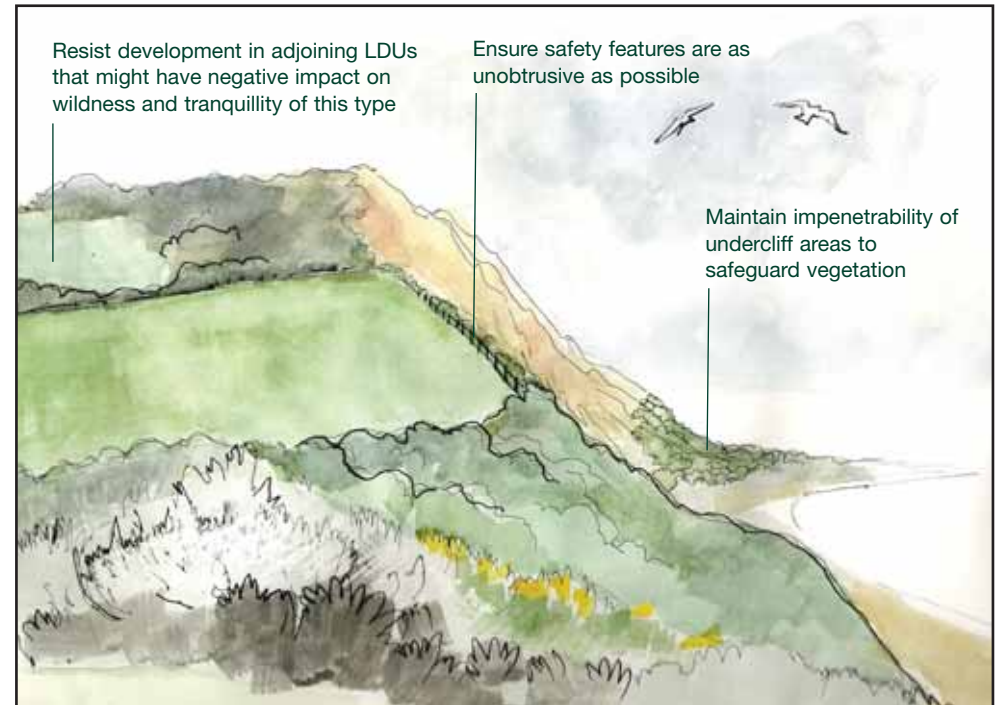
1. Ensuring that access and safety features are as unobtrusive as possible to avoid dilution of unspoilt character.

Semi-natural habitats: conserve by

1. Maintaining impenetrability of undercliff areas to safeguard vegetation from disturbance; highlight their nature conservation importance without encouraging exploration.

Settlement and development: conserve by

1. Ensuring that development in adjoining Land Description Units avoids any negative impact on the wildness and tranquillity of this type and resisting any further development within.



Management Guidelines Illustration

Recommendations for further action

Semi natural habitats: Consider monitoring cliffs to ascertain impacts of climate change on rate of erosion/further land slips. Ensure that any proposals impacting on the Undercliffs National Nature Reserve cross refer to the site management plan.