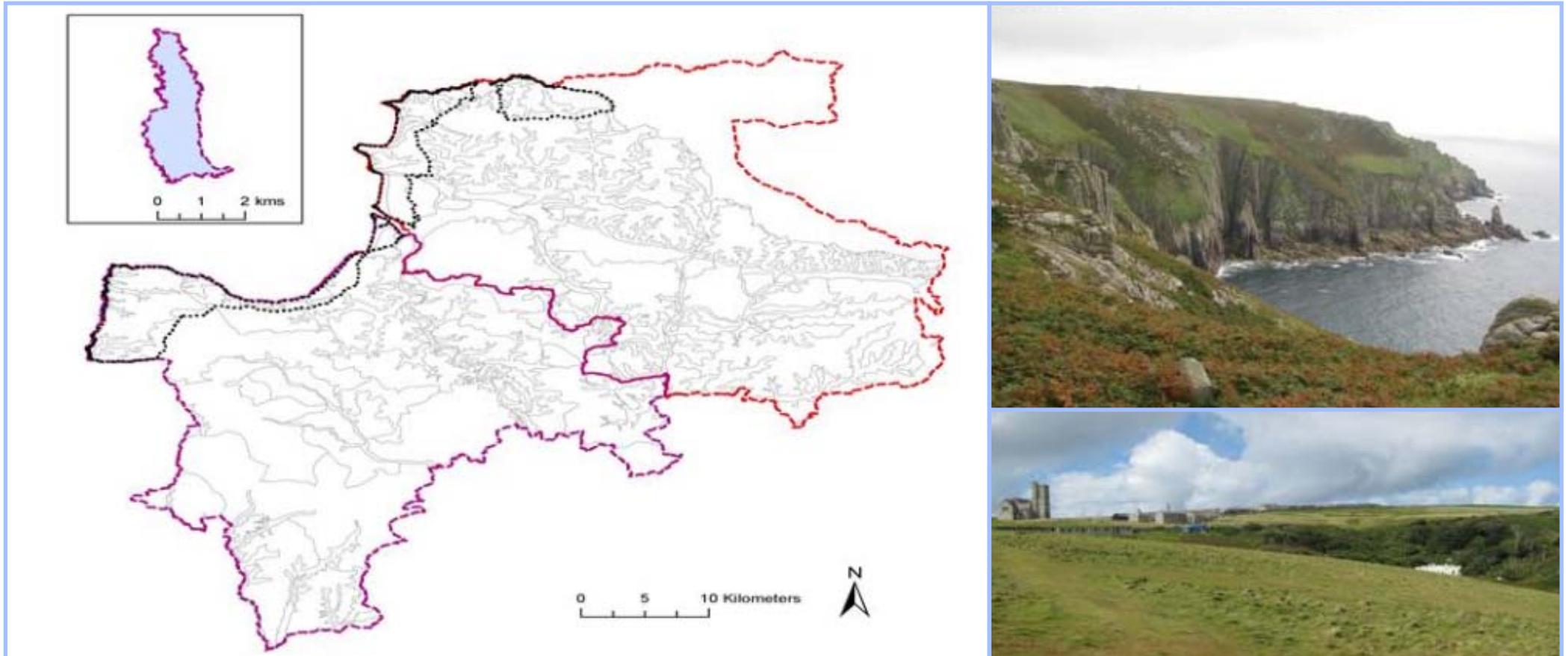


## PART I: DESCRIPTION



### SUMMARY OF LOCATION

This LCT covers Lundy Island, which lies 11 miles off the North Devon coast in the Bristol Channel. It falls entirely within Torridge District.

## KEY CHARACTERISTICS FOR THIS LCT WITHIN NORTH DEVON & TORRIDGE

- A flat-topped island formed primarily of Tertiary granite, with Devonian slates revealed along the south-east peninsular. Intrusions by vertical dykes reveal the island's volcanic past.
- Island forms an important seascape feature visible from all along the North Devon coast. Lundy's church tower and old lighthouse form prominent vertical elements rising up from the plateau.
- Spectacular cliffs reaching over 100 metres; the west coast battered by the waves and winds of the Atlantic resulting in a rugged, exposed coastline with features including the Devil's Limekiln sea cave, whilst the eastern side of the island is more sheltered with vegetated slopes and secluded rocky coves.
- Long views to the South Wales and North Devon coasts, with the lighthouse at Hartland Point forming a distinctive landmark feature on the horizon. In clear conditions views stretch as far as Woolacombe Down, Baggy Point and Saunton Down.
- Brown podzol soils giving rise to impoverished, acidic conditions across the island.
- Exposed west coast and plateau defined by an absence of tree cover. Stunted stands of oak, sycamore and rhododendron associated with the valley and sheltered south-east coast.
- Northern half of the plateau characterised by unenclosed heath and acid grassland, whilst in-by farmland in the centre and south of the island is enclosed within grey granite stone walls forming square fields.
- Open grazing by feral Soay sheep, goats, Lundy ponies and Sika deer, with sheep-grazed pasture and some cultivation within the enclosed farmland. The island is also grazed by a large population of rabbits left as a legacy from the medieval period.
- Rich, nationally important cliff-top habitats including heath and maritime grasslands supporting unique flora and fauna including the endemic Lundy cabbage and valued colonies of grey seals and sea birds (including a small population of puffins).
- Plateau drained by a series of small streams cascading down the cliffs and flowing to the sea. Small ponds (the most significant at Pondbury) form valued wetland habitats.
- High concentrations of archaeological remains including over forty Scheduled Monuments from Bronze Age burial mounds, early Christian inscribed standing stones, the remains of the 13<sup>th</sup> century Maresco Castle to 19<sup>th</sup> century quarries and gun emplacements.
- Village clustered at the south of the island with a unifying grey granite vernacular including the prominent 19<sup>th</sup> century church of St Helena. Granite stone also used in various other buildings across the island including the early 19<sup>th</sup> century lighthouse ('Old Light') and Tibbett's Hill lookout.
- A contrasting early 19<sup>th</sup> century mock Georgian manor house with white rendered walls sits in the sheltered valley in the south east of the island (formerly a hotel).
- New access road snaking along the south-east peninsular to link the landing bay of the SS Oldenburg with the village. The remainder of the island is crossed by one rough track, lined by distinctive granite boulders in its southern stretches. Informal paths and open access land cover the remainder.
- A unique cultural identity defined by a small close-knit working community far-removed from 21<sup>st</sup> century influences. Lundy is loved and studied by many.
- Island at the mercy of the elements and defined by the ever-present influence of the sea. The landscape presents a challenging and exhilarating 'wilderness' experience to visitors arriving by boat or helicopter from the mainland.

## PART 2: EVALUATION

### SUMMARY OF SPECIAL QUALITIES

- Remote and undeveloped – a ‘sanctuary’ away from the mainland.
- Strong sense of isolation, self-sufficiency and spirituality.
- Marine Reserve reflecting uniqueness of the island’s wildlife (including sea birds).
- A jewel in the view over Bideford Bay and the full length of the North Devon coast.



### FORCES FOR CHANGE

#### PAST / CURRENT FORCES FOR CHANGE AFFECTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- Production-related subsidies introduced through the CAP in the 1970s, leading to overgrazing on the island by domestic sheep (at one time approximately 850 sheep were grazed).
- Change in agricultural policies and the island’s participation in Countryside Stewardship Scheme bringing sheep numbers down over the last decade (SSSI currently assessed as in unfavourable recovering condition by Natural England).
- Incidences of overgrazing by feral goats, sika deer and Soay sheep – controlled by a selective culling programme introduced in the last decade.
- Explosion in rabbit numbers also leading to significant areas of overgrazing (including damage to Lundy Cabbage plants) and archaeological damage. In 2004 the population was estimated at 25,000 (equivalent to a grazing pressure of 4,000 sheep). Numbers controlled by disease outbreaks and culling.
- Use of fencing around some fields rather than traditional Lundy granite stone walls.
- Visitor pressure (up to 20,000 visitors per year) leading to erosion on some of the more popular walking routes.
- Spread of rhododendron, particularly along the east coast, affecting the island’s unique biodiversity. A clearance programme aims to eradicate the species from the island by 2012.

## LANDSCAPE TYPE: 6: OFFSHORE ISLANDS

### PAST / CURRENT FORCES FOR CHANGE AFFECTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (Continued)

- New access road constructed from the Landing Beach as a result of cliff erosion threatening the previous road. This has introduced a prominent man-made feature to the south-eastern coastline.
- Arrival of visitors by helicopter impacting on levels of tranquillity.



### FORCES FOR CHANGE

#### FUTURE FORCES FOR CHANGE AFFECTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- Increase in UK-based holidays leading to the potential for higher visitor numbers to the island.
- Uncertain levels of support for agriculture, potentially causing the island's SSSI to move from an overgrazed to an undergrazed situation (already reported by Natural England in their latest condition assessment).
- Impacts of climate change on the distribution of the island's unique habitats and species, including an increased prevalence of pests, diseases and invasive species.
- Sea level rise and more rapid coastal erosion as a result of climate change, leading to unstable sections of cliffs, more frequent landslides, the 'squeeze' of coastal habitats and potential loss of cliff-top archaeology.
- Demand for off-shore renewables, particularly wind farms and tidal devices. The proposed location for the *Atlantic Array* off-shore wind farm (some 250 turbines) is just north of Lundy and would dominate northward views from the island.



## PART 3: LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

**OVERALL STRATEGY:** To protect the wild, exposed and generally unsettled character of the coastal cliffs, ensuring that new development does not detract from these valued attributes. The landscape’s spectacular geology, cultural heritage and unique habitats are celebrated and appropriately managed to meet the future challenges presented by climate change. People can continue to enjoy unrivalled access to the coast whilst appreciating and understanding its dynamic nature.

### Landscape and planning guidelines

Guideline	Identified delivery mechanisms (e.g. links to specific projects, Initiatives and policies)	Planning policy links and delivery recommendations
<b>PROTECT</b>		
<p>Protect the largely undeveloped, open and isolated character of Lundy, with expansive views across the open sea to the North Devon and South Wales coasts.</p> <p>Ensure the island retains its role as the ‘jewel in the crown’ of maritime views from the North Devon coast and elevated areas inland, with Old Light and St Helena’s church tower standing out as landmark features.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify important views and viewpoints both to and from Lundy Island (onshore and offshore)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Devon &amp; Torridge Joint Core Strategy: Policy COR 4 and COR6.</li> <li>Devon Structure Plan: Policies CO1, CO3 and CO16.</li> <li>Consider undertaking a seascape assessment to help guide future off-shore development away from the most sensitive locations.</li> </ul>
<p>Protect the characteristic vernacular of buildings constructed from grey Lundy granite, ensuring building repairs and restorations are sympathetically undertaken using the same materials and building styles wherever possible. Keep visitor signage and infrastructure to a minimum to preserve the island’s ‘wilderness’ and ‘timeless’ experience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Stewardship</li> <li>Devon Rural Skills Trust</li> <li>National Trust Estate Management Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Devon &amp; Torridge Joint Core Strategy: Policies COR1, COR6 and COR8.</li> <li>Devon Structure Plan: Policies CO1 and CO7.</li> </ul>
<p>Protect, sensitively manage and, where appropriate, restore the landscape’s rich and varied archaeological heritage dating</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Stewardship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Devon &amp; Torridge Joint Core Strategy: Policy COR6</li> </ul>

**LANDSCAPE TYPE:**  
**6: OFFSHORE ISLANDS**

<b>Guideline</b>	<b>Identified delivery mechanisms (e.g. links to specific projects, Initiatives and policies)</b>	<b>Planning policy links and delivery recommendations</b>
back to the Bronze Age, including through carefully monitoring grazing and access levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Trust Estate Management Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Devon's Structure Plan: Policies CO7 and CO8.</li> </ul>
<b>MANAGE</b>		
Manage the island's nationally important heathland, maritime grassland and wetland habitats and unique species (such as the Lundy Cabbage); ensuring grazing levels by domestic, feral and wild animals are controlled at appropriate levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Stewardship</li> <li>• Devon BAP</li> <li>• National Trust Estate Management Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Devon &amp; Torridge Joint Core Strategy: Policy COR6</li> <li>• Devon Structure Plan: Policy CO9.</li> </ul>
Manage and, where required, restore the distinctive granite stone wall field boundaries around Lundy's in-by land, seeking to reinstate lengths where fencing is currently used for stock proofing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Stewardship</li> <li>• Devon Rural Skills Trust</li> <li>• National Trust Estate Management Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Devon &amp; Torridge Joint Core Strategy: Policy COR6</li> <li>• Devon Structure Plan: Policy CO9.</li> </ul>
Manage nationally important coastal habitats, including coastal heath and maritime grasslands, through supporting a continuation of extensive grazing at appropriate levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Stewardship</li> <li>• Devon BAP</li> <li>• National Trust Estate Management Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Devon &amp; Torridge Joint Core Strategy: Policy COR6</li> <li>• Devon Structure Plan: Policy CO9.</li> </ul>
Manage characteristic areas of stunted woodland in the Millcombe Valley and along parts of the east coast, continuing to control invasive species such as rhododendron and protecting sensitive areas from grazing damage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Stewardship</li> <li>• England Woodland Grant Scheme</li> <li>• Devon BAP</li> <li>• National Trust Estate Management Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Devon &amp; Torridge Joint Core Strategy: Policy COR6</li> <li>• Devon Structure Plan: Policy CO9</li> </ul>
Support the agricultural management of the island, ensuring that the menu at the Tavern continues to strongly feature Lundy produce as an important source of income (particularly lamb, rabbit and venison).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Stewardship</li> <li>• Devon Food Links</li> <li>• National Trust Estate Management Plan</li> </ul>	

**LANDSCAPE TYPE:**  
**6: OFFSHORE ISLANDS**

Guideline	Identified delivery mechanisms (e.g. links to specific projects, Initiatives and policies)	Planning policy links and delivery recommendations
<b>PLAN</b>		
<p>Plan for the impacts of a changing climate on the island's coastline, allowing natural processes to take place wherever practical. Use existing interpretation spaces (in the Rocket Shed and Beach Hut) to explain how the impacts of climate change, both its effects and mitigation measures, are likely to affect Lundy Island and its surrounding seascape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Trust Estate Management Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Devon &amp; Torridge Joint Core Strategy: Policy COR2</li> <li>• Devon Structure Plan: Policy CO9</li> <li>• Shoreline Management Plan policies (SMP 2 currently in consultation phase)</li> </ul>