

**PART B: CHARACTER TYPES
AND CHARACTER AREAS**

TERRESTRIAL, INTERTIDAL AND OFFSHORE REEFS AND ISLANDS CHARACTERISATION

The terrestrial, intertidal and offshore reefs and islands of Jersey have been divided into eight broad character types based on common, uniform, physical and natural features and attributes. These have been further broken down into constituent, discrete character areas, each with a distinctive local identity.

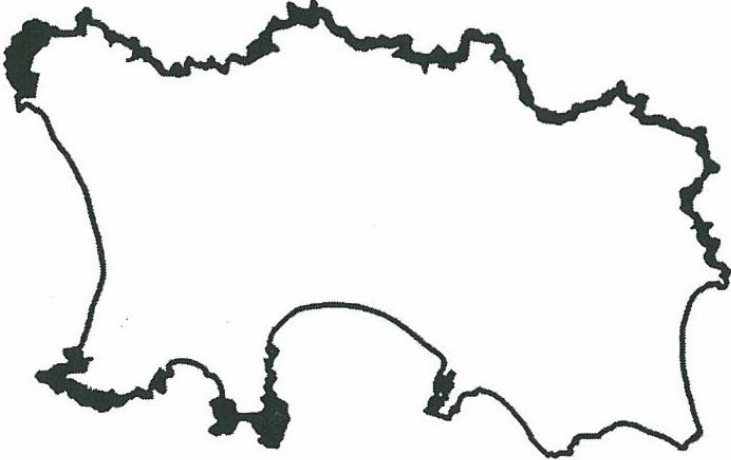
| CHARACTER TYPE | CHARACTER AREA |
|--|---|
| A: Cliffs and Headlands | A1: North Coast Heathland A2: South-west Headlands A3: North-east Low Wooded Edge |
| B: Coastal Plain | B1: Grouville B2: St. Clement - St. Saviour B3: South Coast - urban B4: Quennevais Dunes B5: St. Ouen's Bay |
| C: Escarpment | C 1: Grouville - St. Saviour C2: South Coast C3: St. Ouen's Bay Escarpment & Valleys |
| D: Enclosed Valleys | D1: Main Interior Valleys D2: Eastern Plateau Valleys D3: St. Brelade's Valleys D4: North Coast Valleys D5: St. Martin's Valleys |
| E: Interior Agricultural Land | E1: North-west Headland (St. Ouen) E2: South-west Headland (St. Brelade) E3: North-east (St. Martin) E4: North Coast E5: Central Plateau Ridges E6: Central Plateau Valley Heads E7: Eastern Plateau E8: Western Plateau |
| F: Cliff Edge with Deep Sea | F1: North and South-west Cliffs |
| G: Bays with Intertidal Flats and Reefs | G1: St. Ouen's Bay G2: St. Brelade's Bay G3: St. Aubin's Bay G4: South-east Coast G5: St. Catherine's and Anne Port |
| H: Offshore Reefs and Islands | H1 : Les Écréhous H2: Le Plateau des Minquiers |

The Countryside Character Types and Areas are illustrated on Figure 6.

The Intertidal Character Types and Areas are illustrated on Figure 7.

The Offshore Reefs and Islands Character Types and Areas are illustrated on Figure 8.

CHARACTER TYPE A: CLIFFS AND HEADLANDS

| LOCATION | CHARACTER AREAS |
|---|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1054 309 1334 365">• A1. North Coast Heathland<li data-bbox="1054 409 1334 465">• A2. South-west Headlands<li data-bbox="1054 510 1334 566">• A3. North-east Wooded Edge |

NATURAL INFLUENCES

This landscape type comprises the elevated cliffs and headlands that occur on the harder igneous and volcanic rocks, in the south-west, north-west and along the north coast. In geological conservation terms, the cliffs are remarkable and include distinctive geomorphological features and exposed rocks exhibiting a range of complex geological relationships. The cliffs and headlands contain the majority of the Island's proposed geological SSI, many of which are considered to be of International importance. The exposed, windswept edges are, for the most part, clad with coastal heath land, one of the Island's most valued habitats. Together, the cliffs and heathland create Jersey's most spectacular and beautiful coastal scenery.

CULTURAL INFLUENCES

These areas have the longest history of settlement and are consequently the richest areas of the Island in terms of archaeological heritage and contain the majority of proposed archaeological SSI. The sea caves and rock shelters on the cliff edge preserve sediments which provide evidence of temporary occupation by Palaeolithic hunter gatherers. The area includes the majority of the Neolithic megalithic monuments, as well as Iron Age defensive promontory forts and Roman and Medieval settlement sites. The continuity of settlement on the cliffs and headlands is recorded by several important multi-phase sites, ranging from the Neolithic to the Middle Ages. The cliffs and headlands also demonstrate evidence of past practices of land management and the ebb and flow of agriculture at the extreme margins of viability. The naturally more open nature of the cliffs and headlands has, historically, been maintained by grazing dating back to the introduction of stock by Neolithic settlers.

The way in which the cliffs and headlands of Jersey have been perceived has subtly altered over the centuries. To Neolithic man the cliffs and headlands of Jersey were the centres of their culture. They were the areas in which they produced their food, built their settlements and religious shrines and buried their dead. To the Islanders of this period the inhospitable "wasteland" was the thickly wooded interior. Gradually, the relationship between the interior and the extremities of the Island in the psyche of the Islanders has been reversed as the interior woodland was cleared and settlement advanced into the heart of the Island. The transformation was certainly complete by Medieval times as the cliffs and headlands became the "common" land of the feudal system. At this time these areas were seen as "wastes" by the land-owning class who would have been sure to have farmed these areas "in hand" if they attached any value to them. The headlands were, however, valued by the peasant class who used them to run stock on and collected gorse and bracken for fuel and bedding. Today, the cliffs and headlands are prized for their remoteness and the feelings of wilderness that they engender. For these reasons they have a very high public appeal and are now important for recreation and tourism.

Character Areas: The cliffs and headlands of Jersey divide into three distinct character areas. These are the north coast heathlands (A1), the south-west headlands (A2) and the lower wooded coastal edge of the north-east coast (A3).

A: CLIFFS AND HEADLANDS

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES, ATTRIBUTES AND SERVICES

| ATTRIBUTES AND SERVICES | REASON WHY IMPORTANT | SCALE OF IMPORTANCE | TREND/THREAT | RECREAT-ABLE |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|

FEATURE: IGNEOUS GEOLOGY

| | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--|----|
| Raised topography, spectacular scenery and coastal views | Sense of place/local character | Island wide | No change (dependent on long term sea level change) | No |
| Distant geomorphological features e.g. sea stacks | Sense of place/geodiversity | Island-wide-international | Natural changes arising from wave action and sea erosion | No |

FEATURE: CLIFF FACES

| | | | | |
|---|--------------|---------------------------|--|----|
| Mixed geological exposures | Geodiversity | Island-wide-international | Most sites: no immediate threats | No |
| Raised sea caves and platforms preserving a succession of Pleistocene sediments | Archaeology | International | Some sea erosion and threat of cliff collapse but no immediate threat. (Dependent on long term sea level changes) | No |
| Habitat for breeding sea birds | Biodiversity | Channel Islands | Increasing disturbance along cliff top paths (e.g. bikers, horse riders) is affecting the bird population. In the past, rubbish dumping has been a problem | No |

| ATTRIBUTES AND SERVICES | REASON WHY IMPORTANT | SCALE OF IMPORTANCE | TREND/THREAT | RECREAT-ABLE |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|

FEATURE: HEATHLAND MOSAIC

| | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|---|--|
| Open access and coastal footprints | Recreation | Island-wide | Coastal footprints have been created in recent years. Apart from the coast, the heaths are the only area with 'open access' in Jersey | Yes |
| Heathland flora (maritime heath, lichen, heath and dwarf- shrub health) | Biodiversity | European | Loss in area of heathland due to development and excessive recreation pressures. Reduction in quality resulting from bracken and shrub invasion, degeneration of gorse and accidental fires | No- although over 50 years basic heathland communities can be re-established |
| Local character (landscape) | Sense of place | Island-wide | | Yes |
| Heathland fauna, e.g. birds (Dartford warbler) | Biodiversity | European | Losses due to the changes in habitat quality (see above) and recreational disturbance | Yes |
| Multi-phase archaeology (Neolithic-post Medieval) | Archaeology | international | Threats include scrub encroachment pressures and vandalism | No |

FEATURE: GERMAN OCCUPATION FORTIFICATION

| | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---|-----|
| Historic artefact | Cultural history | Island-wide-international | Intact by the Occupation Society | No |
| Landscape feature | Local character | Island-wide-European | Extensive erosion around structures has destroyed the landscape setting | Yes |

FEATURE: WILDERNESS AND REMOTNESS

| | | | | |
|--|----------------|-------------|---|----|
| Local Character (Views of the sea and sky elevated topography) | Sense of place | Island-wide | Threatened by development (Visual intrusions) and recreation pressures (including noisy sports) | No |
|--|----------------|-------------|---|----|

EVALUATION

The cliffs and headlands character type contains the majority of the Island's geological conservation sites including a wide range of unique geological exposures and geomorphological features.

Archaeological remains date from the Palaeolithic and include sites representative of all phases of Jersey's history. Many of the geological conservation and archaeological sites are considered to be of International importance. The cliffs and headlands support all of Jersey's lowland heathland. This habitat is identified as a priority ecosystem in the Island's draft Biodiversity Strategy and its importance is recognised at the European level. The heathlands are the only area in Jersey with open public access and also contain the coastal footpaths. They have a very high public appeal and are prized especially for qualities of remoteness and wilderness. Most of the environmental features are not recreatable.

The cliff faces and geological exposures are, generally, not under threat apart from long term changes resulting from erosion and fluctuations in sea level. The heathland however, is under increasing threat. This includes losses in total heathland area to development and a reduction in habitat quality, with changes in traditional management practices (decline in grazing) leading to extensive scrub encroachment and degeneration of gorse. Disturbance resulting from intensive recreational use is also having an impact on flora and fauna. Visual and aural impacts of development on or adjacent to these remote heathland edges also threaten their very special qualities of remoteness, wilderness and tranquillity.

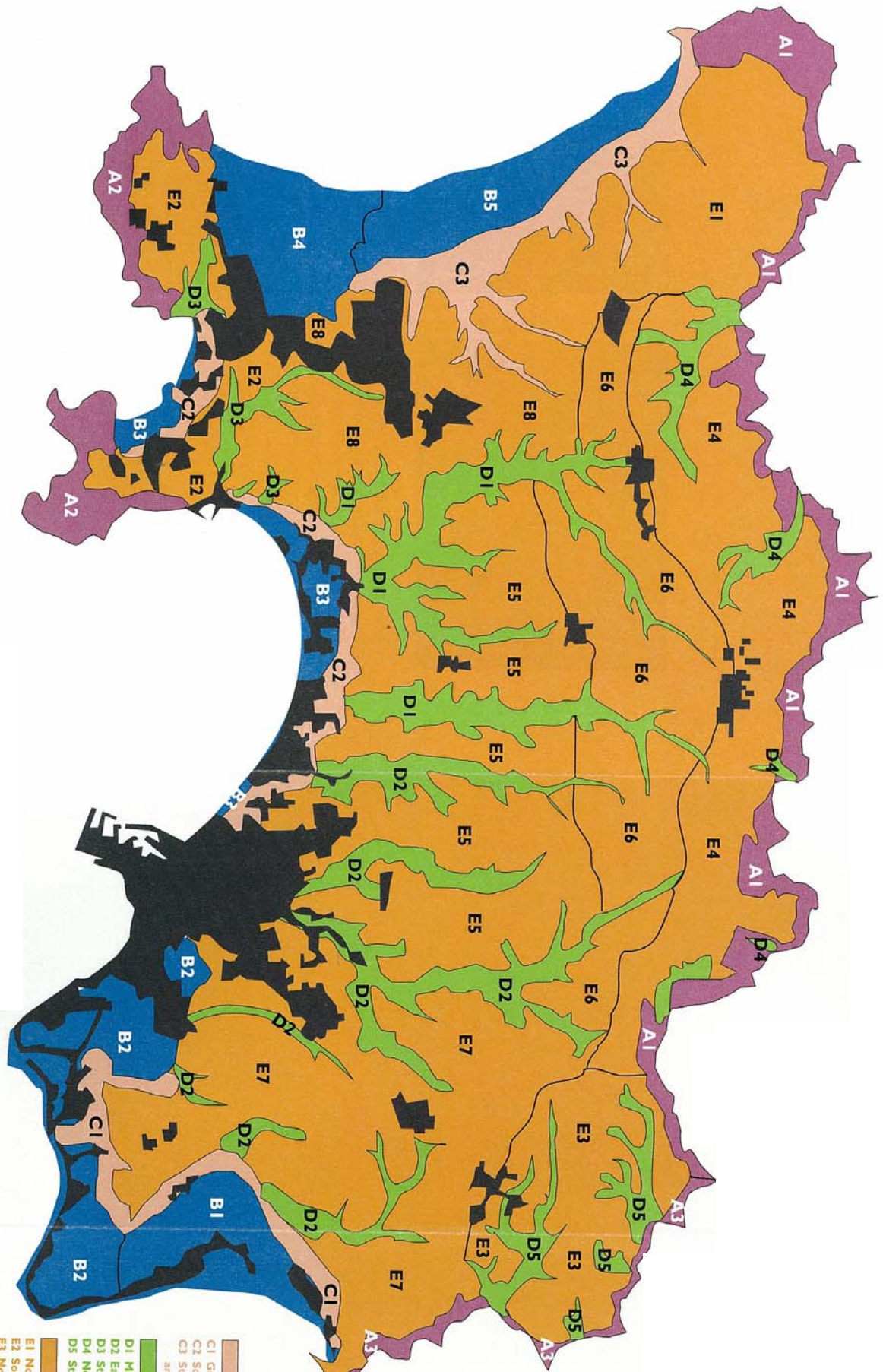
MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The priorities for the character type are:

- Heathland management to enhance habitat quality.
- Heathland re-creation to increase the habitat area.
- Confirmation and formalisation of proposed Geological, Biological and Ancient Monument 55, plus monitoring and management to maintain quality.
- Recreation management to limit intensive and disruptive uses.

LEVELS OF PROTECTION AND CAPACITY TO ACCEPT CHANGE

Jersey's heathland cliffs and headlands contain some of the Island's most important environmental features (biological, geological and archaeological sites) with importance recognised at International and European levels. It is recommended that they must have the absolute highest levels of protection. The only acceptable changes are those arising from positive management regimes designed to conserve and enhance the unique and special character of these areas. There is no capacity for any form of further development.



- KEY**
- Terrestrial**
- Cliffs and Headlands
 - A1 North Coast Headland
 - A2 South West Headland (St. Breisle)
 - A3 North East Low Wooded Edge
 - Coastal Plain
 - B1 Grovville
 - B2 St. Clemente - St. Saviour
 - B3 South Coast Urban
 - B4 Quennavak Dunes
 - B5 St. Ouen's Bay
 - Escarpment
 - C1 Grovville - St. Saviour
 - C2 South Coast
 - C3 St. Ouen's Bay Escarpment and Valleys
 - Enclosed Valleys
 - D1 Main Interior Valleys
 - D2 Eastern Plateau Valleys
 - D3 St. Breisle Valleys
 - D4 North Coast Valleys
 - D5 St. Martin's Valleys
 - Interior Agricultural Land
 - E1 North West Headland (St. Ouen)
 - E2 South West Headland (St. Breisle)
 - E3 North East (St. Martin)
 - E4 North Coast
 - E5 Central Plateau Ridges
 - E6 Central Plateau Valley Heads
 - E7 Eastern Plateau
 - E8 Western Plateau
 - Urban Areas

CHARACTER TYPE A: CLIFFS AND HEADLANDS



Most of the cliffs and head lands are clad with coastal heathland, one of the Island's most beautiful and important habitats



The south-west headlands support western heath and maritime grassland habitats and a distinctive flora which includes Mediterranean species adapted to the parched conditions.

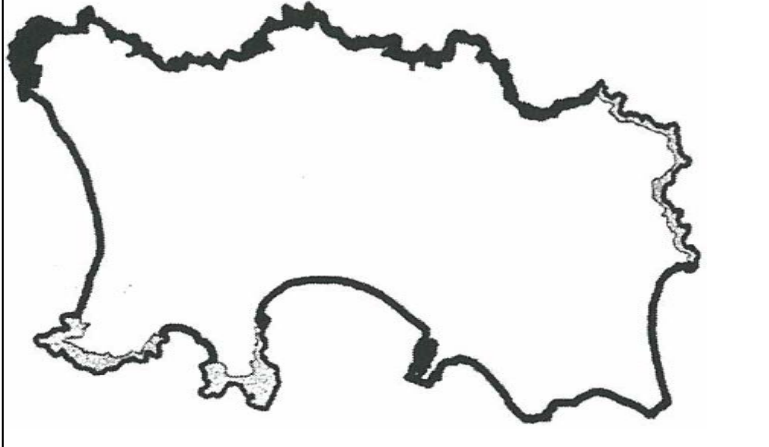


The coastal headlands were the first areas of Jersey to be settled by man and consequently contain many of Jersey's most important archaeological sites.



In geological conservation terms the cliffs are remarkable and contain the majority of the Islands proposed Geological SSI, many of which are considered to be of international importance.

CHARACTER AREA A1: NORTH COAST HEATHLAND

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>LOCATION</p>  | <p>A narrow band of heath land along the north coast cliffs running from Le Grand Etacquerel in the west to the cliffs forming the eastern side of Bouley Bay. The character area also incorporates the area of heathland known as Les Landes which extends across the exposed headland in the north-west corner of the Island. Les Landes is geographically linked to the north coast heathlands, but has many similarities with the heathland of the south-west coast.</p> |
|--|--|

NATURAL INFLUENCES

Geology and Soils: A high wall of rugged cliffs rising, in places, to almost 100m above sea level, with protected bays at Bonne Nuit, La Grève de Lecq, Giffard and Bouley Bay. The complex igneous geology includes hard granites in the north-west and diorites and gabbros at Ronez, combined with older rocks, of the Jersey Volcanic Series with Rhyolite at Giffard and Bouley Bay and sites at La Bell Hougue headland. The solid bedrock is mantled by thin, acidic soils. Geologically, the coastline is of great interest with unique geomorphological features, sea caves preserving evidence of past sea level fluctuations and Palaeolithic occupation, and exposures exhibiting a range of complex geological relationships between the granites and volcanic rocks. Along the whole of the coast the main feature defining the cliffbase is the wave cut notch associated with the 8m raised beach. The character area includes eleven proposed Geological SSI more than half the total number of such sites on the Island.

Landform: Together, the combined forces of erosion, wave action and the complex geology have created a magnificent coastal landform with rocky headlands and inlets, rock platforms, gullies and sea caves. The sheer cliffwall formed by the hard granites in the west, is particularly striking and along the whole coastline the elevated topography provides spectacular sea views to the other Channel Island's and the coast of France. The structural differences in the rocks are exploited by streams, draining the Island's short northern watershed, which have cut small valleys into the coastal edge dropping over the cliff in series of waterfalls.

Land Cover and Nature Conservation: This north facing coast is in the shade for much of the day and is consequently cooler and moister compared to the cliffs and headland of the south-west. Aspect and exposure, and the thin soils which occur over the hard igneous rocks of the area are all important physical influences and these are reflected in the vegetation. The coastal heath includes some northern species which are characteristic of mountain moorland. Bracken and gorse occur on the deeper soils on the valley sides although in the absence of management these species, as well as substantial areas of bramble, hawthorn and blackthorn, have encroached over much of the area, and wind pruned heather can now only be found on the most exposed headlands. Many plants, more characteristic of woodland, including native

wild daffodil, Lent lilies and bluebell, flower in spring beneath the shelter of the bracken. A further contrast is provided by the short north facing valleys which intersect the heath land where the shelter and deeper soils support dense scrub and woodland. Within this moist, protected environment a luxuriant cover of mosses and ferns thrive. The orange and grey-green lichen which clad the trees and the exposed grey and pink rock faces are a distinctive feature of these shallow valleys, which cut through the heath land. Two areas of heathland at Bonne Nuit Bay and Bouley Bay have been identified as potential Biological SSI.

Les Landes, which lies on the north-west headland, is a distinctive area and has many similarities with the sun-baked headlands of the south-west. Here, maritime heath land extends out over the headland and is not confined to a narrow coastal strip. Exposure to Atlantic gales combined with rabbit grazing maintains the low dwarf shrub community and the western gorse, mixed with heather and bell heather creates a rich carpet of yellow and purple in late summer. This area has been designated as one of the Island's first Biological SSI.

The cliffs along the entire length of the north coast are important for breeding seabirds and Peregrine falcon are known to have bred in the past. On the heathland breeding birds include Dartford warbler, stonechat, skylark, linnets, yellowhammer, whitethroat and lesser whitethroat. Coastal heathland also provide an important habitat for invertebrates and the green lizard.

CULTURAL INFLUENCES

Archaeology and Past Land Use: The long continuity and settlement on the north coast makes this area probably the richest archaeological zone in the Island. The area is remarkable for the historical span of sites, many of which show continuity of occupation through the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Medieval periods. The Palaeolithic sites of La Cotte de La Chèvre and La Belle Hougue Caves on the cliffs provide evidence of human activity on the Island in the period when Jersey was still accessible from mainland France. A rich Neolithic culture on the Island is reflected in the large number of megalithic monuments which line the north coast. Although the burial sites are the most visually impressive remains from this period, it is known that Neolithic people initiated farming along the naturally open grasslands which fringed the coast at this time, and a settlement site has been identified at Le Pinnacle on the headland at Les Landes. It has been suggested that Le Pinnacle was one of the two main focal points for early and middle Neolithic culture on the Island (the other being on the east side of the Island at Mont Orgueil). During the Iron Age, natural eminences on the cliff edge were improved by earthworks to create promontory forts, of which Câtel de Lecq is an important example. The Roman building discovered at Le Pinnacle, thought to be a temple, is the only Roman building found in the Island. L'Île Agois, the stack of rock at Crabbe has the remains of 27 hut circles as well as traces of more substantial rectangular stone buildings and is believed to have been the site of a community of hermit monks, in the Dark Ages.

Historically the coastal edges would have formed an integral part of the farming system and from at least the Middle Ages would have been grazed by sheep, with the gorse (furze) and bracken being cut for fuel and bedding. The former extent of agriculture is illustrated by the remnant stone walls and earth banks which run across the heathland, although these are now largely obscured by bracken and gorse. A number of small lanes and tracks lead from inland farmsteads out onto the heathland edge. These would once have been important transport arteries in the Medieval economy leading out onto the communal land along the north coast and used for the movement of stock out to the coastal edges, and the transport of gorse and bracken

inland for fuel and bedding. It is only in the last century, with the decline of sheep grazing, that the heathlands have ceased to be an integral part of the Island's agricultural economy.

The area also includes a number of defensive sites. The castle at Grosnez is a rare example of a Medieval temporary refuge defence which was occupied during raids on the Island. Later examples of military architecture include the "Atlantic Wall" World War II defences at Les Landes.

Settlement and Building Character: Historic settlement was confined to the steep sided valleys which offer shelter from the tearing winds which afflict the area. Since the Neolithic period there have been virtually no settlements out on the exposed heathland edge. During the twentieth century, some bungalows have been built in positions to exploit views from the coast. These are relatively few, however, and the area is distinguished by its remote, undeveloped character. A large scale holiday development located on the cliff edge at Plemont strongly intrudes into the character.

Current Use and Management: The feeling of remoteness and wilderness engendered by the north coast means that it has become highly valued as a recreation resource. This process has been aided by the creation of the coastal footpath, which runs through the whole area and is well used by both locals and tourists. There have been a number of modern developments which threaten the area's peaceful, remote, wild climate.

ESSENTIAL CHARACTER

- high wall of rugged cliffs of pink, orange and grey granites and other igneous and volcanic rocks dropping steeply to a deep sea and enclosing several protected bays;
- cliffs are distinguished by a variety of slopes, outcrops, gullies and platforms, and headlands, and provide magnificent coastal views. Geologically, of great interest with eleven proposed Geological SSI;
- north facing and consequently in the shade and cooler and more moist compared to the cliffs of the south - west, with the notable exception of Les Landes which faces to the west;
- clad with a narrow band of heathland, bracken and bramble and dissected by narrow lush, wooded valleys. On Les Landes, wind pruned maritime heathland extends over the headland. Les Landes has been designated as a Biological SSI. Two further heathland sites, on the north coast, are proposed Biological SSI;
- the richest archaeological zone on the Island, with a continuity of sites dating from the Palaeolithic and including all phases from the Neolithic - Post Medieval. Nine sites are identified as proposed Ancient Monument SSI;
- six sites along the north coast heathlands area have been designated as Important Bird Areas for their range of heath land birds. The whole of the cliffs are of value for breeding sea birds (Channel Islands Importance);
- open, exposed windswept character, highly valued for special qualities of remoteness, wilderness and peacefulness.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

| CHARACTER TYPE | CHARACTER AREA |
|--|--|
| A: Coastal Cliffs and Headlands | A1: North Coast Heathland |
| Igneous Geology | The most complex geology of this landscape type, including plutonic igneous rocks of the north-west granite, diorites and gabbros, plus older rocks of the Jersey Volcanic Series. |
| Cliff Faces | The north coast is characterised by a sheer, steep high cliffwall creating a particularly spectacular landform and 'wild' landscape. |
| Heathland Mosaic | Includes northern species more characteristic of moorland, as well as extensive areas of bramble and bracken. On the north coast the heathland preserves an exceptionally rich collection of archaeological sites. It also provides the route for the longest stretch of the coastal footpath. |
| German fortifications | Important sites are found on the west facing headland at Les Landes. |
| Wilderness + Remoteness | Highly prized for these special qualities. |

EVALUATION

Integrity of Character: The north coast heathlands have a very strong, positive, intact character. This is created by the collection of important environmental features, which together represent a considerable part of the Island's total environmental capital. In addition, the sheer rugged cliffs, long sea views and almost total absence of development all combine to make the north coast the area most prized for wilderness and remoteness. All these features are of great importance and are not substitutable. It is essential that they are protected and conserved.

Key Environmental Capital

- Highly valued for their diverse geology which is exposed on the coastal edge including eleven geological conservation sites, many of which are of International importance.
- The area is probably the richest archaeological zone of the Island and contains nine proposed Ancient Monument SSI, a number of which are considered to be of International importance.

- Contains the most extensive area of contiguous heathland habitat on the Island, a habitat with importance recognised at the European level. Includes three proposed heathland SSI.
- The cliffs are of Channel Islands Importance for breeding sea birds.

Threats to Local Character

- Destruction of exposures of rocks which are of International importance by an extension of Ronez Quarry (at Sorel Point). It is thought likely that the quarry has already destroyed important sequences.
- The north coast cliffs have in the past been subject to rubbish dumping.
- Sea bird colonies are threatened by increasing disturbance, most notably intensive recreation use (mountain bikers and horseriders) along the cliff top paths.
- Lack of management on the north coast heathlands has led to a reduction in habitat quality with heather communities now only remaining on the most exposed headlands. The heath lands are very vulnerable to the effects of management of the adjacent arable fields (run off, pollution etc). Development and agricultural management has also encroached on the heathland area.
- Threats to the archaeology include scrub encroachment, and erosion due to increasing recreation pressures as well as some vandalism.
- In some places inappropriate tree planting along the heath land edge and overzealous maintenance of the footpaths plus numerous benches has created a 'park-like' landscape which detracts from the essential open, exposed, windswept character of the area.
- The visual and aural impacts of developments on, or adjacent to, the heathland edge such as the holiday complex at Plemont, shooting range at Crabbe, model aircraft site at Les Landes and proposed go-kart race track all threaten the peaceful, remote, wilderness qualities of the north coast.

MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

These should be read in conjunction with the general management guidelines identified for the Character Type: Cliffs and Headlands. The following apply specifically to the north coast.

- **Confirm Geological, Biological and Archaeological SSI** and establish a programme of monitoring and management.
- **Undertake environmental assessment of the clifftop footpath** route, establish areas where it could be pulled back from the edge to minimise disturbance of important bird colonies and any seasonal restrictions on use. Instigate education campaign to prevent dumping from the cliff edge.

- **Limit use and disturbance caused by mountain bikers and horseriders** by establishing a closed season and 'no-go' areas.
- **Protect total area of heathland** from further development/encroachment.
- **Instigate heathland management** for the whole heathland resource to improve quality and enhance habitat value (the experimental re-introduction of sheep grazing is recommended in this area).
- **Promote heathland creation** at the interface with agricultural land, both to extend the habitat area and provide a buffer zone. Lower intensity management of fields adjacent to the heathland, for example reversion from arable to acid grassland/heathland, is a target (see Character Area E4).
- **Repair erosion and restore heathland** cover around eroded sites at Les Landes.
- **Prevent further ' beautification'** of the heathland through provision of guidance to Public Services/Parish Authorities on appropriate management.

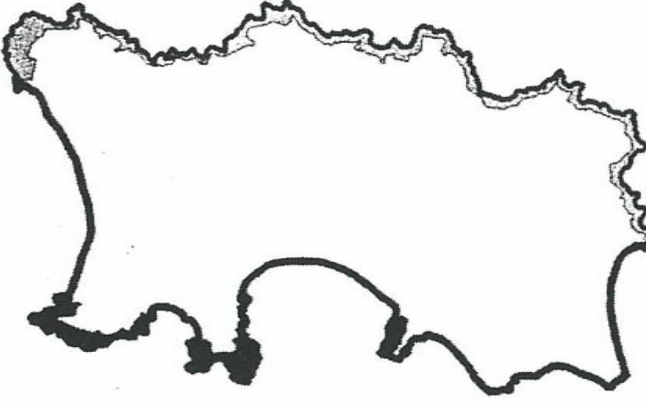
LEVELS OF PROTECTION AND CAPACITY TO ACCEPT CHANGE

It is recommended that the north coast heathlands should have the highest level of protection.

Capacity: There is no capacity to accept further development. In this area, even small scale isolated developments can have a major impact on the sense of wilderness, isolation and remoteness which are important, although diminishing qualities in Jersey.

Guidance: Any change such as the creation of new footpath links should be subject to a full environmental assessment, as should any developments adjacent to the character area which could have a visual, aural or other impact on the north coast heathlands.

CHARACTER AREA A2: SOUTH-WEST HEADLAND HEATHS

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| <p>LOCATION</p>  | <p>The south and west headlands comprise the high cliffs of Noirmont in the east, Portelet and La Moye and Corbière in the west. They encompass the larger heath land sites as well as the thin band of heath along the coastal edge, from St. Brelade around to La Pulente. The area also includes the wooded slopes on the east side of Noirmont headland. The boundaries of the character area are formed by the coastal cliffs to the south and the enclosed agricultural land to the north.</p> |
|--|--|

NATURAL INFLUENCES

Geology and Soils: These headlands occur entirely on the south-west granite, which divides into three main types outcropping at Corbière, La Moye and Beauport. At Corbière the warm pink granite has weathered into spectacular jointed cliffs and rounded tors, while at Beauport the deep red colours of the rock are a particularly distinctive feature. Thin acidic soils derived directly from the bedrock cover the area. On the cliff edge there are three sites which preserve a succession of Pleistocene soft rock deposits which represent two Glacials and an Interglacial and are of International significance. They are all identified as proposed Geological SSI.

Landform: Headlands extending out into the sea on either side of St. Brelade's Bay at Noirmont Portelet and separately at Corbière. The cliffs are slightly lower than those of the north coast and lower gradients occur between the headlands around bays such as Beauport, where a thin band of coastal heath extends along the sea edge. At Noirmont, Portelet and La Lande du Ouest the heathland extends over a larger raised area on the cliff top plateau.

Land Cover and Nature Conservation: These south-west headlands lie exposed to the sun, and the thin soils which cover the granite are warm and dry, supporting areas of western Atlantic heath as well as a number of warmth loving Mediterranean species, such as the spotted rock-rose. Although much of the coastal edge is covered in dense gorse or bracken the more exposed areas support dwarf-shrub heath, maintained through a mix of rabbit grazing and wind pruning. Interspersed amongst these habitats are areas of lichen heath and maritime grassland which support a rich flora adapted to the parched summer conditions and include early sandgrass, sand crocus, Jersey buttercup, and dwarf rush. These delicate, minute plants are a special feature of the headlands. The three main areas of heathland Noirmont, Portelet and La Lande du Ouest are all identified as Biological SSI and together have a great corporate importance. The thinner bands of heath linking these main sites around the coast edge are also very valuable.

In contrast to the heathy edge are the steep wooded slopes on the eastern side of Noirmont headland. This area which forms part of Noirmont Manor was planted in the nineteenth century with a range of

evergreen species including Holm oak, pine and cypress as well as some broadleaves. The dark green slopes, and lack of visible development are an important backdrop in the view across St. Aubin's Bay from St. Helier.

The entire area of coastal heathland is important for birds and breeding species include Dartford warbler, stonechat, whitethroat, linnet and skylark and are significant as one of the few remaining breeding sites on the Island for Cirl Bunting. They also support a rich invertebrate population and the green lizard. The cliff faces provide an important habitat for breeding swifts, ravens, ravens and kestrel as well as breeding seabirds including shag, colonies of gull and raven. Fulmars are known to have prospected the cliffs in recent years. In addition Noirmont headland is a site for some of Jersey's most significant spring and autumn migration landfalls.

CULTURAL INFLUENCES

Archaeology and Past Land Use: These areas in common with the other coastal extremities of the Island contain some of the earliest human activity and include many important archaeological sites. The Palaeolithic cave site of La Cotte de St. Brelade is of International importance, preserving some of the earliest remains of Neanderthal man in Europe. Neolithic sites include the Beau Port Dolmen and La Hougue de Vinde which is thought to have had a stone circle as one of its elements. This would make it the only stone circle in Jersey and one of only a handful in north-west France. The simple passage grave at La Sargente is particularly important as one of the earliest examples of this grave group in Jersey and providing a connection with the early Neolithic in Brittany and Normandy. At Petit Port, coastal erosion has exposed Neolithic/early Bronze Age horizons, which may conceal a large scale settlement site.

Although there are no recorded archaeological sites for the period following the Bronze Age, it is likely that this area would have continued to be in use for settlement and farming. In the Medieval period, the south-west heathlands would have largely been communal land with sheep grazing and the gathering of bracken and gorse for fuel and bedding the chief land uses. Evidence of the Medieval farming system can be traced in the place name La Commune de Haut at Portelet and there are several documentary references to farming in the Noirmont region. The Duke of Richmond Map (1795) shows the south-west heathlands as one of the last areas to be enclosed on the Island. The character of the area is largely a product of the south-westerly gales which buffet these exposed headlands and they have always been marginal for arable cultivation. Historically, many of the coastal fields have come in and out of the agricultural system according to prevailing economic fortunes.

Settlement and Building Character: After the Bronze Age it is likely that settlement retreated from these exposed south-west headlands to the more sheltered interior of the Island. During the twentieth century hotel and tourism development have occurred in the area around La Corbière and Petit Port as well a large holiday village above Portelet Bay. The heathland agricultural interface which is marginal for agriculture has also been susceptible to new development.

Current Use and Management: More recent land uses include quarrying along the coastal edge and a number of small abandoned pits and quarries remain. The large quarry at La Moye is reputed to have supplied the distinctive granite for the Thames Embankment in London. The strategic importance of the

Noirmont and Corbière headlands with their sweeping views which cover, between them, almost the entire south and west coast has left a legacy of defensive structures dating from the Second World War. The most important concentration of fortifications forming part of Hitler's "Atlantic Wall" are sited within this character area and include an underground command bunker, artillery observation tower, gun and anti-tank casemats and a fortress bunker. These structures are now managed by the Occupation Society.

Today, the main land use is for recreation as the headlands lie only a short distance from the populated urban centres of the south coast. Their special qualities of remoteness and wilderness combined with the sweeping views give the area very high public appeal. Noirmont Headland was acquired by the States as a memorial to the Islanders who gave their lives or suffered in World War II and is managed by Public Services as a park. This use is now the dominant influence on its character.

ESSENTIAL CHARACTER

- rugged cliffs of the south-west granite, although lower than those of the north coast. Distinctive granite colours varying from deep red to rich pinks. Jointed cliffs and rounded tors are a particular feature at Corbière;
- south-west facing and exposed to the sun - warm and dry supporting areas of western Atlantic heath plus warmth loving Mediterranean species as well as areas of floristically rich maritime grassland;
- heathland extends over the headlands at Noirmont and Portelet which are proposed Biological SSI and at La Lande du Ouest (Gorse lands) a confirmed Biological SSI. These heathlands have great corporate importance and form a suite of interrelated and interdependent habitats ;
- the succession of Pleistocene deposits preserved at three sites on the cliff edge are of International importance and are all proposed Geological SSI;
- the south-west heathlands are a particularly important habitat for birds and a critical area for the Dartford warbler a nationally rare species restricted to the heaths of southern Britain. Five heathland sites are recorded as being Important Bird Areas (IBAs). The cliffs along the entire south-west edge are considered to be of Channel Islands Importance for breeding seabirds. In addition, Noirmont headland is a site for some of Jersey's most significant spring and autumn landfalls of migrating birds;
- affording spectacular views of the south and west coasts of the Island, embracing the sweeping curves of St. Aubin's, St. Brelade's Bay and St. Ouen's Bays. The views combined with open character and sense of wilderness give the headlands a very high public appeal;
- of great archaeological importance including five proposed Archaeological SSI. La Cotte de St. Brelade is of International importance containing some of the earliest *Homo sapiens neanderthalis* finds in Europe. Other archaeological sites provide important records of Jersey's Neolithic/Bronze Age landscape;
- these west facing headlands include the main concentration of Second World War structures and fortifications built as part of the 'Atlantic Wall' defences.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

| CHARACTERTYPE | CHARACTER AREA |
|---|--|
| A: Coastal Cliffs and Headlands | A2: South-west Headland Heaths |
| Igneous Geology | <p>The entire area lies on the South-west granite. The three main types of granite at Corbière, La Moye and Beau Port each have a distinctive colour and structure. Unlike the north coast, there are no geological conservation sites related to the granite geology.</p> |
| Cliff Faces | <p>The south-west coast is lower and less rugged compared to the north coast. Platforms on the south-west cliff faces preserve a succession of Pleistocene soft rock deposits of great geological and archaeological interest.</p> |
| Heathland Mosaic | <p>The warm and dry south-west facing headlands support diverse heathland mosaic interspersed with lichen heath and maritime grassland. The exceptionally rich flora is adapted to the parched summer conditions and includes a large number of Mediterranean species.</p> <p>The habitat mosaic of the south-west heathland is particularly important for birds. They are critical for the Island's population of Dartford warbler and are important for Cirl bunting and skylark which have found a refuge here away from the intense farming practices of the interior.</p> |
| German Occupation Fortifications | <p>The heathland preserves a rich collection of archaeological sites (Neolithic and Bronze Age). The whole area is very popular and accessible for public recreation.</p> |
| Wilderness + Remoteness | <p>The south-west headlands preserve a very important collection of structures.</p> <p>These qualities are vulnerable to very high levels of public use, encroachment of development and the visual intrusion of adjacent developments e.g. tall structures.</p> |

EVALUATION

Integrity of Character: The South-west Headlands have a very strong positive character with a large collection of environmental features which are extremely valuable in terms of archaeological, geological and biological conservation, many with importance recognised at the International level. In addition to these individual features the more elusive quality of wilderness and remoteness pervades the whole area. The wooded slopes on the eastern side of Noirmont headland, which form the backdrop view across St. Aubin's Bay, are vital in maintaining the progression from urban seaside of the coastal plain to the more 'remote' headlands. The majority of features which create the character of the area are non-recreatable, and are extremely vulnerable to both loss in quantity and deterioration in quality. It is essential that they are protected and conserved. The area also offers opportunities for enhancement of local character through appropriate management.

Key Environmental Capital

- The cliffs around the headland at Noirmont preserve three of Jersey's four Pleistocene soft rock deposits which are of International geological significance providing evidence of past climatic changes. The deposits on the cliff face at La Cotte de St. Brelade, which preserves early evidence of Neanderthal man are so recognised as an archaeological resource of International importance.
- The cliff faces throughout the whole area are of Channel Island importance for breeding seabirds.
- The south-west headlands contain some of the highest quality heathland habitat on the Island and a large proportion of the total area of heathland on the Island as a whole, a habitat with importance recognised at the European Level. They are especially important for their population of Dartford warbler, which forms a significant proportion of the total in Great Britain and the area also provides this elevated west and south-west facing coastline refuge for farmland birds species.
- The heathlands preserve an important collection of Neolithic and Bronze Age sites.
- A unique collection of World War II defensive structures are preserved on this elevated west and south-west facing coastline.

Threats to Local Character

- The internationally important geological and archaeological sites on the cliff faces are vulnerable to cliff collapse.
- The heathlands vulnerable to cliff collapse are extremely vulnerable, to both loss of habitat to development and agricultural land claim as well as deterioration in quality. Lack of management has led to large scale bracken invasion and degeneration of stands of gorse, and the encroachment of Hottentot fig. The proximity to intensive arable farmland also makes these areas very vulnerable to agricultural pollution.

- The high level of use, combined with the thin soils which characterise the area means that all the south-west headlands are suffering from erosion particularly 'honey pot ' areas around car parks, Occupation structures and the main footpaths. In addition to the landscape impact, erosion also reduces habitat value, while high numbers of people can cause considerable disturbance. The threat of accidental fire is a particular cause for concern on these warm, dry headlands.
- Archaeological sites are under threat from agricultural encroachment, recreational erosion/vandalism, plus at Petit Port, the threat of development.
- The amenity management of Noirmont headland as a public park plus inappropriate use such as the placement of a series of sculptures on the heathland at La Lande Du Ouest conflicts with their wild remote character.
- The visual intrusion of development on the edge of the heathland including 'tall' structures such as the desalination plant chimney and transmitter masts, the prison and residential. Recreational and tourist developments all have an impact on the sense of wilderness and remoteness. A serious threat is posed by the cumulative impact of hotel and tourism developments on the heathland, as illustrated by new constructions in the area around Le Grouet.

MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

This section should be read in conjunction with the general management guidelines identified for the character type: Cliffs and Headlands. The following apply specifically to the southwest headlands:

- **Confirm Geological, Biological and Archaeological SSI** and establish a programme of monitoring and management.
- **Protect important Pleistocene deposits** with management, as appropriate, to prevent cliff collapse.
- **Maintain cliff faces** free from invasive vegetation, particularly Hottentot fig.
- **Management of heathland** and gorse. Plus control of bracken invasion and, particularly, Hottentot fig and appropriate management to limit/prevent fire.
- **Promote heathland habitat creation** on agricultural enclosures adjoining the existing heathland. Target areas include the fields on Noirmont and Portelet headland adjoining the SSI. the fields on the promontory, to the east of Beau Port at Les Creux, and those abutting La Lande du Ouest. These areas will need to be brought into a heath land management regime.
- **Promote the adoption of a lower intensity farming regime** within the adjacent agricultural fields (currently forming part of character area E2). An acid grassland/heathland cover would be appropriate for the area. This will provide an important buffer between these fragile habitats and the agricultural and. It will also extend the area of habitat available for farmland birds which already concentrate in this area.

- **Undertake programme of repair and heathland restoration** around eroded areas (car parks, Occupation structures and along widened footpaths/tracks).
- **Develop a recreation management strategy** to prevent further erosion, including control of illegal vehicle access. Consider option of pulling back the car park at Noirmont from the extreme coastal edge to a more sensitive location and restoring this area to heath land. Recreation management proposals should also aim to draw people away from existing honey pot areas. For example, there are a number of opportunities to create short circular walks, linking into existing car parks and residential areas. Le Val - Les Creux Beau Port is an obvious candidate.
- **Discourage overzealous 'amenity' management** of heath lands and do not promote these headlands as areas for location of sculptures and other artefacts (Guidance to Public Services and Parish Authorities etc).

LEVELS OF PROTECTION AND CAPACITY TO ACCEPT CHANGE

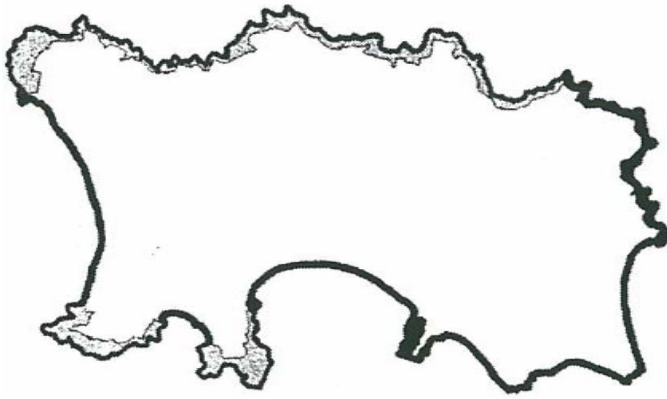
Capacity: The south-west headlands should have the highest level of protection. It is recommended that there is no capacity to accept any further new development.

Guidance: Generally, development is restricted to renewal of those buildings which are already in existence and should occur within the same building 'footprint'. There should be no further encroachment onto heathland or rock faces. Building renewal should not have a further visual impact on the character area.

Any development on the South-west Headlands has the potential to have a serious impact on this extremely sensitive and vulnerable environment. Even small scale development such as apartment extensions may contribute to the cumulative erosion of the Island's most important assets and environmental features and impinge on the special qualities of remoteness and wilderness. It is recommended that all proposals for this area including recreation projects such as new footpath and cycle routes are subject to a full environmental assessment.

The impact, on the headlands, of any developments within the adjacent character area (E2) should also be considered if proposals come forward. The heath land/agricultural interface is extremely vulnerable to change and overall the strategy for this area should be to extend heathland on the inland edge. Where developments in the adjacent area are permitted opportunities should be taken to achieve the environmental enhancement measures listed above.

CHARACTER AREA A3: NORTH-EAST LOW WOODED EDGE

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>LOCATION</p>  | <p>This character area occurs along the coastal edge in the north-east corner of the Island on the softer rocks predominantly of the Rozel Conglomerate formation. It stretches from the headland of L'Etacquerel on the east side of Bouley Bay around Le Havre de Rozel, Fliquet Bay, St. Catherine's and Anne Port. It is bound to the west by the steep cliffs of the north coast heath lands and inland by the wooded interior valleys and enclosed agricultural land of St. Martin's parish. The boundary along the coastal edge to the south is clearly defined by headland at Gorey.</p> |
|--|--|

NATURAL INFLUENCES

Geology and Soils: The character area is defined by the underlying geology which is predominantly composed of sedimentary rocks of the Rozel Conglomerate formation, known locally as 'puddingstone'. Where the rocks are exposed on the coastal edge they create a distinctive feature with pebble beds and stones held within a matrix of reddish brown mudstones and sandstones. The area on the eastern side of the Island from St. Catherine's Bay to Anne Port is underlain by a succession of volcanic rocks of the Rhyolite formation. The sections exposed on the coast at Anne Port are particularly important in that they preserve a complete lava flow succession, providing evidence for past volcanic activity in the vicinity of the Island. This site is a proposed Geological SSI. Soils include substantial areas of good quality deep loams along the coastal edge.

Landform: The softer sedimentary rocks form a lower, gentler coastline compared to the sheer cliffs of the north coast. It is sheltered from the prevailing winds by the headlands along the north coast and particularly by Le Nez du Guet just to the west of Rozel. The coastline along the northern edge is long and convoluted embracing numerous creeks and coves, inlets and bays separated by rocky headland. On the eastern side of the Island the cliffs are slightly set back from the sea and form a gentle wooded slope backing the wide, sandy bays. The coastal edge provides extensive views to the offshore reef at Les Écréhous and the Normandy coastline, which at this point is less than 25 km (15 miles) away.

Land Cover and Nature Conservation: The low rounded cliffs and headlands support a relatively narrow coastal strip of unenclosed land. In this area, which is protected from the prevailing winds, the unenclosed land is covered by dense stands of bracken, although a small outlier of heathland exists just inland from St. Catherine's breakwater. The shelter in this area in contrast to the Atlantic coasts allows some of the most luxuriant tree growth on the Island and woodland cover extends right around the coastal fringe. The dominant colours are of the rich reds and browns of the rocks and, in autumn, bracken contrasting with the dark greens of the Holm oak and pine woodlands. On the eastern edge the

slopes are lower and more sheltered and clothed with a mix of unenclosed land, broadleaved woodland and arable c tils. There are no Biological SSI within this character area.

CULTURAL INFLUENCES

Archaeology and Past Land Use: This character area like the other coastal fringes would have been utilised by Neolithic settlers and it contains a wide span of archaeological evidence. Le Couperon, a late Neolithic gallery grave provides an example of a rare grave type in Jersey which does not occur in the other Channel Islands, despite being very common in France. It is also distinctive as it is the only megalithic monument composed of the stone of the Rozel conglomerate. One of the most important archaeological sites in Jersey is the promontory fort at Le C tel. The surviving monument is largely within the adjacent agricultural land but formed part of a larger earthwork across the whole of Rozel Point. The site is possibly multi-phase but definitely has Iron Age and Medieval elements as well as Roman coin hoards. The earthwork is the largest surviving in Jersey and is the prime candidate for the main Iron Age centre of Jersey. Farming would have been initiated at an early stage on this sheltered coastal fringe and the area around Le C tel has the remains of Medieval strip fields. The sheltered aspect and fertile soils meant that much of the land adjoining the coastal edge was enclosed at a relatively early period.

Settlement and Building Character: This area generally has a rural feel and the degree of settlement is little changed since the Duke of Richmond Map of 1795, although some obtrusive hill-side development has occurred and a small number of hotels have been built on the coastal edge.

The east coast orientation with extensive views to France has led to the construction of many coastal defences in this area. Three eighteenth century coastal towers (Archirondel, St. Catherine's and Fliquet) built in response to the threat of French invasion now provide distinctive landmarks. In 1842 a report called for a harbour of refuge to be built at St. Catherine's to provide shelter for a large fleet and the breakwater was completed in 1855.

Current use and Management: The gentler topography has allowed a coastal road to be developed out from Rozel and along St. Catherine's Bay. This provides a popular recreational drive with many car parking areas available, from which views of France can be enjoyed. Modern land cover combines a mixture of unenclosed land, arable, and woodland. On the east coast, boundaries are not essential for shelter and open arable c tils, without walls or with thin, gappy hedges are a particular feature of the area backing St. Catherine's Bay.

ESSENTIAL CHARACTER

- underlain by the distinctive red 'puddingstone' rocks of the Jersey Conglomerate Formation, with volcanic rocks (rhyolites) limited to the eastern edge;
- North-east facing and therefore protected from the prevailing westerly winds - a sheltered aspect. Affording excellent views across the Bay of St. Malo to the Normandy Coast;
- a lower, gentler coastline, cut by wooded valleys and with numerous sheltered creeks and coves along the north and backing the wide sandy bays at St. Catherine's and Anne Port along the eastern side;

- covered by a mix of bracken with oak woodland. Holm oak and pine are a particularly distinctive feature. Broadleaved woodland and steep arable cōtils characterise the eastern slopes, while pines line the coastal road at St. Catherine's;
- impressive archaeological sites at Le Couperon and Le Câtel, both proposed Archaeological SSI;
- the lava flow succession at Anne Port is a proposed Geological SSI;
- three eighteenth century coastal towers including the striking red and white tower at Archironde, built in response to the threat of French invasion, now provide conspicuous landmarks;
- scenic rural area, but lacking sense of remoteness and wilderness experienced on the north and south-west coasts.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

| CHARACTER TYPE | CHARACTER AREA |
|---|---|
| A: Coastal Cliffs and Headlands | A3: North-east Low Wooded Edge |
| Igneous Geology | The area lies predominantly on the younger sedimentary rocks of the Rozel Conglomerate. Volcanic rocks (rhyolites) underlie the south-eastern part of the area. |
| Cliff Faces | The cliff faces are lower, softer and gentler compared to those of the north and south-west coasts. |
| Heathland Mosaic (Unenclosed land) | The sheltered aspect, gentler slopes and deeper soils allow bracken and luxuriant tree growth to predominate at the expense of heathland. The unenclosed land along the northern edge includes two impressive archaeological sites (Neolithic, Iron Age). |
| Wilderness + Remoteness | These qualities are not a special feature of this character area. |
| <u>Additional Features</u> | |
| Eighteenth Century Coastal Towers | The three eighteenth century Jersey Round Towers are a distinctive feature of the east coast, which faces towards France. |
| Woodland and Arable Cōtils | Luxuriant tree growth characterises the coastline, while along the eastern edge the woodlands are interspersed with arable cōtils. |

EVALUATION

Integrity of Character: The north-east low wooded edge has a very distinctive character derived from its geology, topography, aspect and shelter. Overall, this is a scenic coastline, less rugged and more domesticated than the north coast, with abundant woodland, arable c tills and unenclosed coastal land. The area also includes a large number of environmental features which are important at the local, Island-wide level, such as the striking coastal towers which together to forge a distinctive identity for the area. It retains an intact 'unspoilt' rural character, with qualities of peacefulness and tranquillity but lacking the grandeur and sense of wilderness and remoteness found within the other cliffs and headlands. It forms an important transitional area between the cliffs of the north coast and the coastal plain of the south coast and is one of the few areas on the Island where a rural, wooded landscape forms the backdrop to the sea. It is these subtle differences which are important in creating the distinctive character of the Island as a whole. It should be conserved and enhanced.

Key Environmental Capital

- Two important archaeological sites, one of which, at Le C tel, is considered to have the highest archaeological potential on the Island.
- The exposures of volcanic rocks at Anne Port are also of great geological interest and considered to be the best example of sections through lava on the Island, and in southern England.

Threats to Local Character

- The special character of the area is vulnerable and threatened by development and land use change. The important archaeological site at Le C tel is at risk from plough encroachment.
- In some areas along the east coast, new hillside development is visually intrusive with associated rows of cypresses and boundary fences detracting from the natural feel of the area and creating a more suburban character, while some coastal edge development is visually intrusive.
- Changes in agriculture which may result in more arable c tills, coming out of production and scrubbing up may also change the delicate balance between wooded slopes and small arable fields which creates the intimate rural character of the area around St. Catherine's Bay.

MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

This section should be read in conjunction with the general management guidelines identified for the Character Type: Cliffs and Headlands.

- **Develop amenity tree planting strategy** - ensure distinctive character created by pine and Holm oak is retained in the future.
- **Promote woodland management** to enhance habitat diversity, e.g. on areas of developing scrub woodland.

- **Develop land management objectives for arable c tils** which come out of agriculture. Ensure some of the c tils along the eastern coastal edge remain in agricultural production as a landscape feature.
- **Heathland** has probably never formed a major component of the vegetation in this area and therefore **heathland restoration and management is not proposed**. It is however recommended that vegetation management takes place around the archaeological sites to prevent damage from tree roots (see recommendations in Character Area E3 re. proposed changes in farming regime).
- **Enhance opportunities for quiet recreation and public access**, in this area which has scenic coastal landscapes but is not as sensitive in terms of archaeology or nature conservation as the north-east and south-west headlands. Main opportunities include linking the coastal footpath between Fliquet Bay and Rozel and creation of circular routes via the valleys.

LEVELS OF PROTECTION AND CAPACITY TO ACCEPT CHANGE

Capacity: There is very limited capacity to accept new development and it is recommended that this area should have a high level of protection.

Guidance: Generally, the only developments that can be justified in this area are small scale renewals, extensions or conversions to the existing buildings, which occur along the sparsely settled edge between St. Catherine's breakwater and Mont Orgueil. Further development on the unenclosed headland between Fliquet Bay and L'Etacquerel should in particular be discouraged. Any development that occurs along the eastern edge should ensure that appropriate measures are included to ameliorate visual impact by screening, for example by mixed woodland planting. The granting of permission for any development should, wherever possible be tied to the environmental enhancement and management measures outlined above.