


CHARACTER TYPE C: ESCARPMENT

LOCATION	CHARACTER AREAS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="954 280 1348 313">• C1. Grouville - St. Saviour<li data-bbox="954 347 1324 414">• C2. South Coast Urban Escarpment<li data-bbox="954 448 1292 548">• C3. St. Ouen's Bay Escarpment and Valleys

NATURAL INFLUENCES

The coastal escarpment represents the pre-historic cliff line of Jersey, which has been pushed back by comparatively recent accumulations of drift deposits of blown sand and loess. The escarpment itself is overlain at the base by these deposits although they thin out on the middle slopes and in the steepest areas the solid geology is exposed. The steep topography of the escarpment forming a backdrop to the flat, mostly developed coastal plain is a very distinctive feature of the Island's landscape. This century many of the steepest slopes have come out of agriculture and are once again reverting to a more natural character. Although there is no Biological SSI, the escarpment includes a considerable area of semi-natural woodland and developing scrub, while on the west facing escarpment of St. Ouen's heathland cover characterises the more exposed knolls. Collectively, these areas provide a significant habitat resource, although management is required to realise their potential.

CULTURAL INFLUENCES

Along the crestline of the escarpment are a number of important Neolithic burial sites. These would have formed an eye catching feature visible, on the skyline, from a wide area on the coastal plain. The base of the escarpment is an attractive site for settlement as it provides a degree of shelter but is situated far enough back from the sea to minimise the risk of flooding. A number of parish churches sit just beneath the scarp indicating the site of the earliest settlement. These linear settlements are frequently linked by roads running along the foot of the slopes. The sunny sheltered land, along the south coast was enclosed for orchards in the sixteenth century, while the more exposed west facing escarpment was mainly used for grazing. The southern scarp encapsulates some of the "earliest" land in the Island and the growth of the potato industry from the 1880s onwards saw even the steepest land cultivated. The small enclosed fields on the steep slopes are a characteristic landscape feature.

Character Areas: The escarpment divides into three distinct character areas, based primarily on the degree of development and relative intactness.

C: ESCARPMENT**EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES, ATTRIBUTES AND SERVICES**

ATTRIBUTES AND SERVICES	REASON WHY IMPORTANT	SCALE OF IMPORTANCE	TREND/THREAT	RECREATABLE
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FEATURE: STEEPTOPOGRAPHY - LINEAR FEATURE

Distinctive landscape feature	Local character	Island-wide	No change in topography. No although changes in land cover have altered landscape character	No
Fossil cliff line (pre-historic)	Environmental history	Island-wide	No change	No
Shelter for settlement on the coastal plain	Local character	Island-wide	No change	Yes, although the coastal plain the extent of woodland planting required to provide the same effect is not practically feasible.
Backdrop to the developed	Local character	Island-wide	Prominent development along the scarp slope and top has breached the 'natural' skyline	No, although in some cases there are opportunities to ameliorate by planting/screening
Fine coastal views from scarp top	Local character	Island-wide	No change	No

FEATURE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES (NEOLITHIC AND BRONZE AGE)

Intact sites	Archaeology	International	Some damage from agriculture	No
Distinctive skyline features	Local character	Island-wide	Some damage from agriculture	Yes

FEATURE: STEEP CÔTILS

South and west facing - some of the earliest land on the Island (for potatoes)	Local economy	Island-wide	With the decline in hand labour many of the cõtils have come out of agricultural production	Yes
Small walled cõtils are a distinctive landscape feature	Local character	Island-wide	Loss of landscape features as fields, scrub up and boundary walls are overtopped	Yes

ATTRIBUTES AND SERVICES	REASON WHY IMPORTANT	SCALE OF IMPORTANCE	TREND/THREAT	RECREATABLE
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FEATURE: ABANDONED FIELDS (SCRUB & WOODLAND)

Broadleaved woodland and scrub (habitat)	Biodiversity	Island-wide	Many areas of former agricultural land have come out of production and have developed through to scrub/woodland. This trend is continuing and accelerating. These areas require management to enhance habitat quality. Extensive bracken invasion is a problem in some areas	Yes
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FEATURE: SEMI-NATURAL HABITATS (HEATHLAND, SCRUB, GORSE)

Heathland and gorse scrub habitats (along St. Ouen's escarpment)	Biodiversity	European	Lack of management has reduced habitat quality with extensive bracken invasion. Some areas have been 'improved' for agriculture	Yes
Rural backdrop	Local character	Island-wide	Losses of semi-natural areas to development have occurred	Yes

FEATURE: PINE SHELTERBELTS/AMENITY PLANTING

Landscape feature	Local character	Island-wide	Trees along the scarp slopes and tops are particularly vulnerable and many have been lost/damaged in the storms of 1987 & 1990	Yes
Nineteenth century plantings	Cultural history	Island-wide	Many lost, damaged in recent storms	Yes

FEATURE: WINDMILLS AND TOWERS ON SCARP TOP

Vernacular architecture	Cultural history/Local	Island-wide	The towers on the skyline at St. Ouen's and Grouville character are important landscape features. There is no current threat	No
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FEATURE: EXPOSED ROCK FACES

Landscape feature	Local character	Island-wide	No change, no threats	Yes
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EVALUATION

The escarpment is a very distinctive topographical feature, particularly in the absence of any real hills on the Island. Although the escarpment does not cover a large area (it is the smallest of the terrestrial character types) its visual importance extends over a very wide domain, forming the backdrop view from the coastal plains of the west, south and south-east coasts. On the more developed coast edge the escarpment provides both visual and physical containment. Its overall visual importance as a backdrop is more significant than any of the individual environmental features although the collection of important archaeological sites and semi-natural habitats represents important environmental capital. The combination of small sloping arable cõtils , areas of broad-leaved woodland within open areas and 'clean' ridgeline help reinforce the impression of Jersey's rural hinterland.

This character is very vulnerable and is threatened by inappropriate development, particularly where this breaches the ridgeline. The loss of the intimate landscape structure as the steepest fields come out of agriculture is also a concern.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Management of arable cõtils that come out of production: some to be retained as landscape features and others to be managed to enhance habitat diversity (broad leaved woodland on south coast and heathland on the west coast).
- Restoration and management of field boundaries.
- Protection and management of archaeological sites.
- Management of existing areas of semi-natural vegetation to enhance habitat diversity.
- Amenity tree planting, involving a mix of species including some pines and cypress which are characteristic of the escarpment landscape.

LEVELS OF PROTECTION AND CAPACITY TO ACCEPT CHANGE

It is recommended that the escarpment deserves a high level of protection, and has only limited capacity to accept change. The 'open' sweep of the escarpment which provides visual and physical containment to the coastal plain must be conserved. Any new development must be very carefully located in relation to the existing urban areas. Further new development should not occur within open 'undeveloped' areas on the scarp slope and should not impinge on the skyline view.

CHARACTER TYPE C: ESCARPMENT



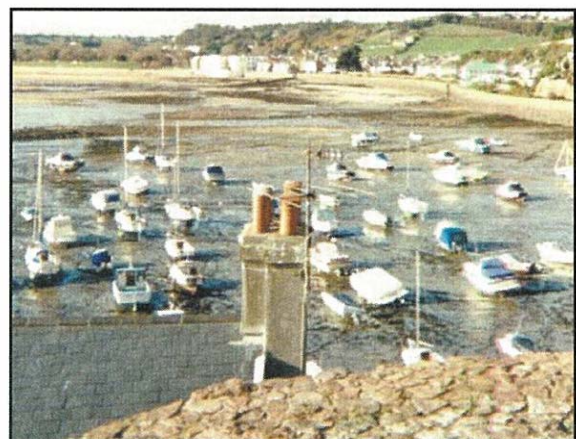
The steep topography of the escarpment, forming a backdrop to the flat coastal plain, is a distinctive feature of the Island's landscape.



On the exposed scarp slopes of St. Ouen's bay, stone walls are the characteristic field boundary.

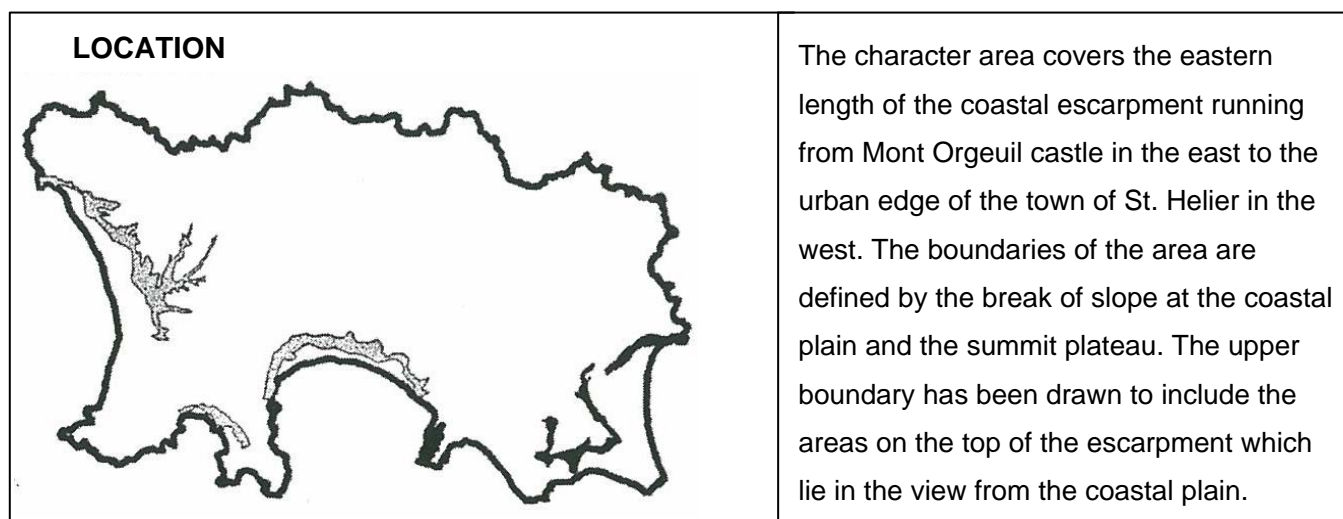


Many of the steepest slopes have come out of agriculture in the last century and the escarpment now includes sizeable areas of semi-natural woodland and scrub.



The base of the escarpment has historically been an attractive site for settlement, with the historic core of villages such as Gorey and St. Clement's nestled at the foot of the slope.

CHARACTER AREA C1: GROUVILLE - ST. SAVIOUR ESCARPMENT



NATURAL INFLUENCES

Geology and Soils: The solid geology comprises the diorite, gabbros and granites of the south-east igneous complex. Deep drift deposits of head material have accumulated along the lower slopes of the escarpment while on the steeper upper slopes the solid igneous geology is revealed. The exposed rock faces are an important landscape feature. Deep fertile soils cover the main escarpment slopes with some patches of thinner soils belonging to the Noirmont series on the steepest slopes. There are no proposed Geological SSI in the character area.

Landform: The steep topography of the escarpment creates a narrow band of land backing the coastal plain. At Grouville it forms a smooth arc sweeping around the coastal plain. To the west the line of the escarpment becomes more convoluted, with a spur extending out to the coastline at Le Hocq and coming inland again to enclose the bowl of land around Samares Manor. It is cut through by Queen's Valley and the narrow valleys of the eastern plateau.

Land Cover and Nature Conservation: Land cover is almost entirely a product of past and present agricultural management, as indicated below. Small areas of broadleaved woodland are particularly important in landscape terms in creating the rural backdrop as well as providing habitat and screening of development. Ivy clad trunks of elm and storm damaged trees are currently a (temporary) feature of the scarp top. There are no Biological SSI.

CULTURAL INFLUENCES

Archaeology and Past Land Use: This part of the escarpment is close to the resources and open land of the coastal plain and intertidal areas, but without the threat of flooding, and would have been a prime area for early settlement. The Castle Green site at Mont Orgueil has one of the highest archaeological potentials in the Island, with Neolithic and Iron Age materials sealed by the Medieval and pre-Medieval earthworks. It is believed that the Neolithic settlement site in this area may have been comparable with Le Pinnacle, in the north-west of the Island and that these two sites may represent the centres of

Neolithic culture on the Island. A passage grave, the Dolmen du Faldouet is located close to the settlement site on the crest of the escarpment, while to the south, another important Neolithic site, the Dolmen du Mont Ube, is situated on the crest overlooking the Samares area. Mont Orgueil Castle, itself, situated on a granite knoll at the northern end of the escarpment dates from the 13th century with late Medieval, Tudor and Stuart additions. It commands an impressive view across the south-eastern corner of the Island and is a dominant landmark and feature in views of the area. Incidentally, the old stone walls of the castle also provide an important habitat for wall lizards. All four sites have been identified as Ancient Monument SSI.

In the Middle Ages, post 1500, orchards replaced grazing as the main land use on the lower sheltered slopes and The Duke of Richmond Map of 1795 indicates an almost continuous orchard on the scarp from Gouray around to the town of St. Helier. By this time the land had been enclosed into small fields, with low earth banks and walls with hedges to provide shelter. In the 1880s the orchards were supplanted by the potato. This part of the escarpment provided some of the best early land on the Island and even the steepest slopes were brought into cultivation. Where the granite is exposed on the upper part of the escarpment there are several small quarries, although these have largely scrubbed up and now form an integral part of the character of this area.

Settlement and Building Character: Settlement traditionally hugged the sheltered slopes along the foot of the scarp with the Parish churches at Gouray, Grouville and St. Clement being prominent features. The attractive settlement at Gouray climbs from the coastal plain along the slopes of the escarpment. Over the last 200 years some settlement and very visually intrusive hotel developments have occurred on the steep slopes, exploiting the long coastal views that can be obtained from this area. On the scarp top Le Moulin Beauvoir and Nicolle Tower are distinctive skyline features.

Current Use and Management: Generally, land cover includes a mix of small arable c tils, bounded by low earth banks and granite walls plus intervening areas of scrub and woodland. The retention of much of this part of the scarp in agricultural use may be explained by the high agricultural quality of the south facing early land, although it is apparent that many of the steepest arable fields, particularly in the area stretching from Gorey to the Queen's Valley dam, have come out of production in recent years, which will over time result in a more wooded appearance.

ESSENTIAL CHARACTER

- comprises the eastern line of the escarpment starting from the granite knoll at Mont Orgeuil and continuing around to the edge of the town of St. Helier, backing the wide coastal plain;
- smooth steep slope at Grouville, with the landform becoming more complex towards St. Helier. Cut through by Queen's Valley and several smaller valleys;
- land cover is almost entirely a product of past agricultural management with small walled and hedged c tils interspersed with areas of scrub and broadleaved woodland;
- lines of ivy-clad elm trunks and storm damaged trees are a current (temporary) feature of the scarp top. Pine clumps and shelterbelts are also a characteristic feature;

- the area contains a rich collection of archaeology with four proposed Ancient Monument SSI representing sites from the Neolithic to the Medieval;
- contains the impressive Mont Orgeuil Castle which dominates views within this area;
- small, sloping south facing arable cõtils represent some of the earliest land on the Island and are intensively cultivated;
- some abandoned cõtils with progression through to woodland.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

CHARACTER TYPE	CHARACTER AREA
C: Escarpment	C I: Grouville - St. Saviour Escarpment
Steep topography, linear feature	The steep, largely undeveloped scarp slope provides a very distinctive rural backdrop to the coastal plain.
Exposed rock faces	The exposed igneous rocks are a characteristic feature of this part of the escarpment.
Archaeological Monuments	Includes two Neolithic burial sites and an important Neolithic settlement site, plus Bronze Age and Medieval remains.
Steep arable cõtils	Many fields still remain in use on these warm south facing slopes.
Abandoned fields (scrub and woodland)	A large number of fields have been abandoned and scrub and woodland are now a characteristic feature.
Semi-natural habitats	This part of the scarp includes some small patches of broadleaved woodland.
Pine shelterbelts and amenity clumps	Small, amenity plantings, shelterbelts and clumps on the slopes and along the tops are characteristic.
Windmills and towers	Le Moulin de Beauvoir and Nicolle Tower are distinctive skyline features.

EVALUATION

Integrity of Character: The small cõtils interspersed with scrub and woodland which characterise the south-east escarpment create a pleasant rural backdrop to the more developed coastal plain and help differentiate this area from other parts of the south coast. Despite some intrusive hillside development the area retains a strong, intact character. It includes a collection of good and representative examples of the environmental features which characterise the escarpment which together forge a distinctive local identity which should be conserved and enhanced.

Key Environmental Capital

- The area is particularly significant for the archaeology that it contains including a multi-phase site at Castle Green which is thought to have one of the highest archaeological potentials on the Island, as well as two important Neolithic burial sites.

Threats to Local Character

- The rural character is particularly vulnerable as arable land and cõtils begin to scrub up creating in places the appearance of a neglected landscape.
- There is some intrusive development on the slopes which is visible over a wide area.

MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

This section should be read in conjunction with the general management guidelines identified for the Character Type: Escarpment. The following apply specifically to the Grouville - St. Saviour Escarpment:

- **Confirm Archaeological SSI** at the four proposed sites and ensure appropriate management to prevent damage and erosion.
- **Develop management proposals for arable cõtils** that come out of agricultural production. The extension of broadleaved woodland is generally to be welcomed in this area. The developing scrub-woodland should be managed (e.g. removal of invasive species) to enhance habitat diversity. Some arable cõtils should be retained as landscape features.
- **Amenity tree planting** to ameliorate the impact of storms and Dutch elm disease. This should include some non-native species such as pines which are a distinctive feature of the area.
- **Restoration and management of field boundaries** is a priority to include gapping up and thickening of hedges and repair of boundary walls.

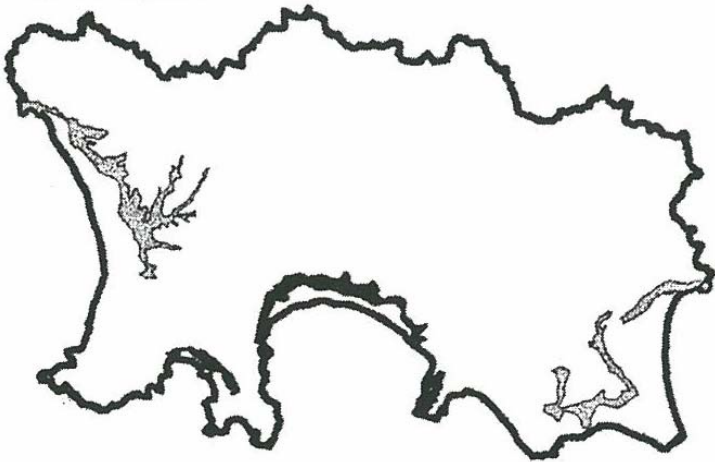
LEVELS OF PROTECTION AND CAPACITY TO ACCEPT CHANGE

Capacity: There is very limited capacity to accept new development within this character area and it is recommended that the Grouville - St. Saviour Escarpment should have high levels of protection in order to maintain a rural backdrop to the coastal plain.

Guidance: Generally the only developments that can be justified in this area are small scale renewals or extensions to existing buildings and these will need careful attention to scale and design. While there may be some scope for augmenting the collection of buildings that exist around Grouville Church and St. Clement's Church at the foot of the escarpment this should not involve visually prominent development on the 'clean' slopes of the scarp which rise up behind the churches. Elsewhere, the escarpment slopes should remain undeveloped as even small buildings can be visually intrusive over a wide area.

The granting of permission for any development within the character area should, wherever possible, aim to procure the environmental enhancement and management measures outlined above.

CHARACTER AREA C2: SOUTH COAST- URBAN ESCARPMENT

<p>LOCATION</p> 	<p>The character area is divided into two parts. The first part covers the slopes between the town of St. Helier and St. Aubin, and is bounded on the western edge by the wooded slopes forming the east side of Noirmont headland. The second part continues on the western side of Noirmont headland above Ouaisne and behind St. Brelade's Bay as far as Le Val which marks the beginning of the La Moye Corbiere headland.</p>
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NATURAL INFLUENCES

Geology and Soils: Solid geology comprises the Jersey Shales as far as St. Aubin and the harder south-west Granites around St. Brelade's Bay. Deposit of Head mantle the lower slopes creating deep fertile soils. There are no proposed Geological SSI.

Landform: The escarpment provides a very distinctive backdrop to the flat coastal plain. The slopes are generally gentler than those that occur to the east around Grouville, although they steepen, on the harder rocks, behind St. Brelade's Bay. The coastal plain is narrower than the area to the east and at St. Brelade the slopes rise almost directly up from the sea edge. The line of the scarp is cut through by the numerous southward draining valleys and does not always appear as a single uniform feature.

Land Cover and Nature Conservation: This area which is heavily urbanised retains very little nature conservation interest. The only areas with semi-natural vegetation are at the entrances to the valleys where the broadleaved woodlands spill out onto the escarpment. There are no proposed Biological SSI.

CULTURAL INFLUENCES

Archaeology and Past Land Use: There are no ancient monuments within the character area, and little is known about the area's past use and management. As the cider industry developed from the sixteenth century onwards the use of the scarp for grazing was replaced by the widespread planting of orchards. The Duke of Richmond Map of 1795 shows the whole escarpment between St. Helier and St. Aubin as an almost continuous orchard planting enclosed within small fields. At this time only the area around St. Brelade's Bay remained open and during the nineteenth century was planted up with a variety of 'exotic' imported tree species. From the 1880s onwards the steep land over the remainder of the area was bought into arable cultivation for potatoes.

Settlement and Building Character: The Duke of Richmond Map captures the point just before the major expansion of St. Helier. At this time the towns of St. Helier and St. Aubin were roughly equal in

size and the escarpment was only sporadically settled. Over the last two hundred years the linking of St. Aubin and St. Helier by road and railway and the growth of tourism have turned the sunny south-facing escarpment into a prime development site and it has now been largely built upon and forms part of the extensive urban area which fringes the south coast. The escarpment above St. Brelade's Bay has also been built up with residential and tourism developments. More recently, low density suburban development has also occurred on Noirmont in the area lying above Ouaisné.

Current Use and Management: The remaining open gaps are either in arable production, such as the area around Mon Plaisir, or maintained as public parks. On St. Brelade's Bay the undeveloped areas of the scarp are densely wooded, with nineteenth century amenity plantings including Monterey pines and cypress, Holm oak and oak providing the backdrop to the tourism developments.

ESSENTIAL CHARACTER

- gentler slopes on the Jersey Shale backing St. Aubin's Bay with short steeper slopes on the granite behind St. Brelade's Bay;
- the escarpment landform creates the distinctive backdrop to the dense development on the coastal plain;
- contains pockets of open land interspersed between urban development;
- the remaining gaps that are in agricultural use have particular landscape significance in creating the impression of a rural hinterland;
- ornamental woodland characterises the steep escarpment around St. Brelade.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

CHARACTER TYPE	CHARACTER AREA
C: Escarpment	C2: South Coast - Urban
Steep topography, linear feature	The escarpment here has gentler slopes, behind St. Aubin's and short steep slopes backing St. Brelade's Bay.
Exposed rock faces	These are not a prominent feature of this area.
Archaeological Monuments	Not characteristic.
Steep arable cõtils	The few remaining cõtils are very important landscape features.
Abandoned fields (scrub and woodland)	Not characteristic, unused land has been developed.

Semi, natural habitats

Not characteristic.

Pine shelterbelts and amenity plantings

These characterise the slopes around St. Brelade's Bay.

Windmills and towers

Not characteristic.

EVALUATION

Integrity of Character: Apart from the topography itself, this area contains few of the environmental features characteristic of the escarpment, as these have largely been lost to development. However, the remaining open areas comprising woodland and arable fields are very important as the landscape backdrop to the developed areas and help reinforce the impression of the Island's rural hinterland. These open areas should be conserved and enhanced.

Key Environmental Capital

There are no sites which are recognised as being importance for their biological, geological or archaeological merit. The area's environmental capital lies in its importance as a backdrop to the coastal plain and in this respect the remaining open gaps have very great landscape value.

Threats to Local Character

- A particular cause for concern within this character area is the adverse impact of the relatively recent suburban development on the escarpment at Noirmont on the wetland sand dune complex at L'Ousaine (one of the Island's prime biological conservation sites).
- Further infill development and loss of remaining open gaps.

MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

This section should be read in conjunction with the general management guidelines identified for the Character Type: Escarpment. The following apply specifically to the South Coast Urban Escarpment:

- **Broadleaved woodland planting**, involving thickening of existing hedgerow features and creation of small copses and screening/shelter belts, where space permits. New planting should take place along existing field boundaries, around developments and to re-instate former boundaries. Areas within fields should not be planted up as these open gaps are an important landscape feature in their own right.
- A detailed study of hydrology at Ouaisné is required to investigate if the changes which have occurred at a result of development on the scarp can be reversed and the water regime reinstated.
- Retention of remaining fields in agricultural use is a priority to conserve the rural backdrop.

LEVELS OF PROTECTION AND CAPACITY TO ACCEPT CHANGE

Capacity: It is recommended that there is very limited capacity to accept new development within this character area. The south coast escarpment has been urbanised to a high degree and the remaining

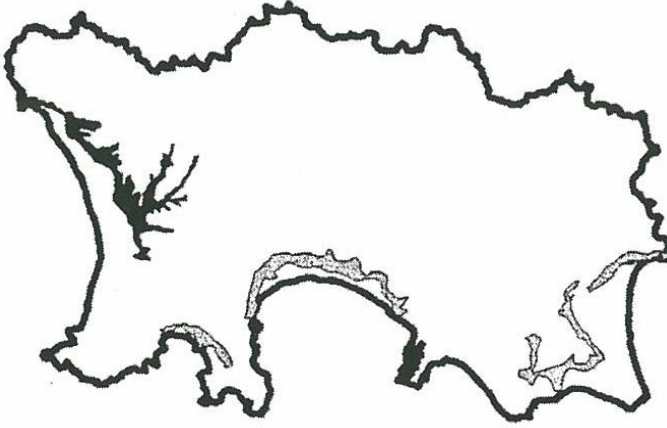
gaps should be protected and enhanced. In a limited number of areas there may be scope for small scale infill developments which are well located in relation to the existing urban area and which are not visually prominent.

Guidance: A more detailed study is required to determine if there are any areas on the scarp which have capacity for development without having an adverse landscape impact. There may be scope, for example, to allow small, well screened developments, tucked in behind existing buildings. The following criteria apply:

- It is important that any development does not further fragment and threaten the viability of the remaining agricultural land as these fields are essential in creating the character of the area.
- The large area of arable land at Mon Plaisir should remain undeveloped.
- Existing mature trees and boundary features should be retained.
- No further development should occur on the escarpment at Noirmont above Ouaisné, as this could have a serious impact on the important sand dune and wetland site, ultimately resulting in its loss.

The granting of permission for any development within the character area should, wherever possible aim to procure the environmental enhancement and management measures outlined above.

CHARACTER AREA C3: ST. OUEN'S BAY ESCARPMENT AND VALLEYS

<p>LOCATION</p> 	<p>The character area comprises the scarp slope rising from St. Ouen 's coastal plain to the summit and includes the area on the immediate scarp top which forms the skyline view from the coastal plain. It stretches from the relict sea stack at Le Grand Etacquerel in the north to the point where it is overlain by the Quennevais dunes at Le Mont Crapaud in the south. The character area includes the valleys which cut through the escarpment, which have essential similarities in land cover.</p>
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NATURAL INFLUENCES

Geology and Soils: The solid geology is formed by the Jersey Shales Formation. The area which lies exposed and takes the full brunt of westerly winds holds none of the later drift deposits. It contains two important geological conservation sites at the contact between the Jersey Shale and the North-west Granites at the northern edge of the scarp. These are both proposed Geological SSI.

Landform: The gently rolling escarpment provides a distinctive backdrop enclosing the wide coastal plain of St. Ouen's Bay. It is cut through by numerous short, steep valleys and the longer wider valley of Val de la Mare which extends eastwards into the plateau to St. Ouen's Manor. The escarpment lies open and exposed to the full brunt of westerly gales from the Atlantic.

Land Cover and Nature Conservation: The St. Ouen's escarpment is unique in retaining a high proportion of semi-natural heath land vegetation, particularly on the headlands and spurs around the valleys, the valley sides and the more exposed middle slopes in the centre of the bay. Important areas of gorse occur above La Bas de L'Etacq, Le Mont Rossignol and Le Mont it la Brune. These three sites have all been identified as Important Bird Areas and support breeding populations of Dartford warbler, stonechat, whitethroat and linnet. Clumps of woodland, including Monterey pine and Monterey cypress, derived from early twentieth century ornamental plantings, occur on prominent knolls and create an attractive feature. Elsewhere, apart from the small walled cõtils which remain in arable production the slopes are largely dominated by bracken.

A further range of habitats can be found in La Val de la Mare, which at its lower end has been dammed and flooded to create a large reservoir. A small reed bed in one of the arms of the reservoir is valuable for Cetti's warbler and reed warbler. Tongues of oak woodland extend eastwards along the upper branches of the valley, providing an important habitat for woodland birds.

CULTURAL INFLUENCES

Archaeology and Past Land Use: An important Neolithic passage grave, Dolmen des Monts Grantez, lies crouched on the slopes near the brink of the escarpment overlooking the northern part of St. Ouen's Bay. It is a proposed Ancient Monument SSI. The open character of the scarp in this area is a product of the exposed nature of these west facing slopes but is also probably a result of the historic land use of this area. St. Ouen and other north-western parishes were historically the areas in which the main concentration of sheep in the Island were found and the escarpment was an important grazing area until the last century which prevented significant tree regeneration. The resultant exposure means that the characteristic field boundary in this area is the stone wall and many of the bracken covered slopes hide ancient stone wall boundaries which are discernible on aerial photographs. The possibility of an extensive Neolithic landscape based around the Quennevais dune system means that the stone field boundaries may be of great antiquity.

Settlement and Building Character: Historically, settlement clustered in the shelter along the base of the scarp, and the Duke of Richmond Map of 1795 show the whole of the slopes and valleys as being entirely undeveloped. More recent developments have occurred on the slopes such as at Le Haut de L'Etacq, within the valleys and on the scarp top. Nevertheless, the St. Ouen's Bay escarpment is distinctive for its clean, smooth profile largely undisrupted by development.

Current Use and Management: Many of the small, walled, cõtils on the escarpment remain in arable production and these diminutive fields are an important and distinctive landscape feature. Otherwise much of the scarp slope and valley sides remain unmanaged. Several of the valleys provide the routes for roads which, wind up the slopes onto the plateau while other such as Les Vaux Cuissin are entirely undeveloped and provide an important sanctuary. A major change has occurred within Le Val de la Mare which has been dammed across the face of the escarpment and flooded to create a large reservoir. The character of this valley derives entirely from its water storage function. On the reservoir sides, much of the original vegetation has been removed and the slopes are maintained as mown grass, with areas of ornamental tree and shrub planting. A public footpath has been created around the reservoir.

ESSENTIAL CHARACTER

- a gently rolling escarpment, with expanses of semi-natural vegetation creating a distinctive, muted backdrop to wide coastal plain of St. Ouen's Bay and the drama of the Atlantic;
- includes the numerous short valleys that cut through the escarpment, which have essential similarities in land cover and the longer, wider reservoir valley of Val de la Mare;
- west facing aspect lying exposed to Atlantic gales. A windswept and open character, with small fields, on terraces, enclosed by low granite walls;
- contains two important geological exposures at the contact of the Jersey Shale with the North-west granite in the northern part of the character area. Both are proposed Geological SSI;

- a Neolithic passage grave, a proposed Archaeological SSI, crouches on the ridgeline overlooking the northern part of the Bay;
- distinctive for its open character including areas of heath land vegetation and gorse headlands. Contains three sites identified as Important Bird Areas;
- a smooth clean profile; with a ridgeline largely undisrupted by development.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

CHARACTER TYPE	CHARACTER AREA
C: Escarpment	C3: St. Ouen's Bay Escarpment and Valleys
Steep topography, linear feature	The gently rolling escarpment, cut through by numerous valleys provides a distinctive backdrop to the Bay.
Exposed rock faces	There is no covering of drift deposits and rock outcrops are a distinctive feature.
Archaeological Monuments	An important megalithic site, Dolmen des Monts Grantez, lies on the northern slopes.
Steep arable c�tils	The c�tils enclosed by low granite walls are a distinctive landscape feature.
Abandoned fields (scrub and woodland)	Many c�tils have reverted to bracken. The exposed aspect means that further progression to scrub and woodland is not characteristic in this area.
Semi, natural habitats	Heathland was characteristic of the St. Ouen's Bay scarps; although without management has now deteriorated to dense gorse and scrub. There is potential for restoration.
Pine shelterbelts and amenity plantings	Monterey pine and cypress clumps characterise the slopes, although many have suffered storm damage.
Windmills and towers	The windmill tower and steeple of St. Ouen's Church are distinctive skyline features. More recent prominent developments along the scarp top have disrupted the viewline.

EVALUATION

Integrity of Character: The gently rolling topography, open character and muted tones of the St. Ouen's Bay Escarpment and Valleys provides a very distinctive backdrop and setting for the enclosed, domestic landscape of the coastal plain and the wilderness of the Atlantic. The contrasts and differences between these intimately juxtaposed character areas are unique and special to Jersey. Despite some recent development it retains an intact character which should be conserved and enhanced.

Key Environmental Capital

- Two important geological exposures, both of which are proposed Geological SSI.
- A Neolithic passage grave which is a proposed Ancient Monument SSI.
- Areas of heathland vegetation, a priority habitat with three sites identified as Important Bird Areas.

Threats to Local Character

- Loss of contrast between the terraces of cōtils with their granite walls and the open heath land as more land comes out of agricultural production and begins to scrub up.
- The need for management of the areas of semi-natural vegetation to retain and enhance habitat diversity, and particularly restoration of heathland habitat.
- The impact of further visually prominent developments on the scarp slopes and along the ridgeline.
- Loss of local character around the reservoir within Val de la Mare.

MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

This section should be read in conjunction with the general management guidelines identified for the Character Type: Escarpment. The following apply specifically to the St. Ouen's Bay Escarpment:

- **Confirm the proposed Geological SSI** and instigate appropriate management to maintain exposures.
- **Confirm the proposed Ancient Monument SSI** and ensure appropriate management.
- **The restoration and management of the boundaries** is a priority. If, in the future, these arable fields come out of agriculture the aim should be to manage the vegetation to re-create an acid grassland/heathland cover. Boundaries should be retained as a landscape feature.
- **Restoration and Management of the heathland and gorse habitats** and control of bracken invasion to enhance habitat diversity.
- **Restoration and management of the pine, cypress and woodland clumps**, following storm damage is ongoing and should continue.

- **Consider potential for creating a new footpath along the scarp top.** This route would provide magnificent views over the bay and would effectively link up the coastal footpath along the north coast with the path running around the south-west headlands. A number of circular links could be created using the existing footpaths which cross the escarpment, for example in the valleys below La Ville au Bas, Val de la Mare and the path along the sea wall.
- **Promote more sensitive planting and management on the land held by Jersey Waterworks Company in Val de la Mare.** Ideally to involve native woodland planting, using species characteristic within the existing woodland, plus heathland habitat creation extending along the upper slopes and in the western part of the valley. Treatments to the 'hard' edges of the reservoir could be incorporated to increase habitat diversity and enhance the value of the waterbody for birds, e.g. extending the area of shallows and reed bed habitat.

LEVELS OF PROTECTION AND CAPACITY TO ACCEPT CHANGE

Capacity: The St. Ouen's Bay Escarpment and Valleys should have the highest level of protection. It is recommended that there is no capacity for any new development.

Guidance: Development is restricted to the renewal, conversion and small scale extension of existing buildings. Even small scale developments can be very prominent over a large area of the Bay. It is particularly important that developments on the ridgeline are subject to strict controls to ensure that proposals for extension/renewals or conversion do not result in an overall increase in mass, thereby creating very intrusive visual features. Opportunities should be sought to ameliorate the visual impact of existing buildings, for example through more suitable colour schemes (not white) and screening through planting (pine clumps or broadleaved species). Enclosures created by hard boundary fences or coniferous hedges will not be appropriate.

The granting of permission for any development within the character area should, wherever possible aim to procure the environmental enhancement and management measures outlined above.