

All you need to know about...

Lyme Regis

Location



Small coastal town in the South of England



In the heart of the heritage site known as the Jurassic Coast.

Issues in Lyme Regis



Much of the town has been built on unstable cliffs.

The coastline is eroding more rapidly than any in Europe due to the powerful waves from the south west.

Many properties have been destroyed or damaged, and there has been considerable erosion of the foreshore. The sea walls have been breached many times. Lyme Regis is built on a layer of limestone, which is very solid. On top of that layer are slippery muds, clays and sands, which slide over the limestone layer to form the landslides.



Why the coastline needs to be managed

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The local economy depends on tourism as a major source of income & jobs. 37,500 people are employed in the tourism sector in Dorset.

The area generates £800million p/year most of that comes from overnight stays, buying food & drink and entertainment and shopping.



Lyme Regis there are many events such as: April's Fossil Festival, which showcases the Jurassic Coasts most famous rocks, May's Jazz & Blues Festival and August's Regatta,



Management of the coastline at Lyme Regis



The Lyme Regis Environmental Improvement Scheme was set up in the early 1990s to provide long-term coastal protection and reduce the threat of landslips

Phase one → Phase two → Phase three → Phase four

New sea wall and promenade constructed to the east of the River Lim In the winter of 2003 a £1.4 million emergency project was completed to stabilise the cliffs hundreds of large nails were used to hold rocks together.

Creation of a wide sand and shingle beach to absorb wave energy and increase us of the shore: shingle dredged from the English Channel and sand imported from France

Initial plan to prevent landslips and coastal erosion to the west of the Cobb were shelved. It was decided to leave this stretch of the coast alone as the costs outweighed the benefits.

The final phase focused on the coast east of the town. It cost £20 million and involved constructing a new 390m sea wall in front of the existing wall

Advantages of the management scheme



The new beaches have increased visitor numbers and sea front businesses are thriving

The new defences have stood up to recent stormy winters

The harbour is now better protected, benefiting boat owners and fishermen



Disadvantages of the management scheme

Increased visitor numbers have led to conflicts with locals about traffic congestion and litter Some people think the new defences have spoilt the natural coastal landscape

The new sea wall may interfere with coastal processes and affect neighbouring stretches of coastline

