



Coastal Landscapes

Lyme Regis – Coastal Management



read

quiz



The Big Picture



Reason for Management



Lyme Regis is a small coastal town on the south coast of England. It lies on the Jurassic Coast. The town is a popular tourist destination in the summer. The town requires coastal management because:

- The coast at Lyme Regis experiences rapid erosion due to high energy waves from the south west and the weak geology of the cliffs. Therefore, houses, roads and farmland are at risk of cliff landslides.
- Tourist numbers were down due to the lack of beach, with waves eroding much of the beach.



Management Strategy



The local government developed a plan to manage the coastline at Lyme Regis called the Lyme Regis Environmental Improvement Scheme and has been completed in stages between 1990 and 2015.



Effects and Conflicts

Positive impacts

- A significant improvement in the attractiveness of the seafront and beach due to nourishment and the wide promenade.
- Increased visitor numbers, and seafront businesses are thriving.
- The defences have withstood recent stormy winters.
- The harbour is better protected, benefiting the fishing industry and boat owners.

Negative impacts

- Conflicts have increased as visitor numbers have increased. Local people have experienced increased traffic congestion and litter due to increased tourism.
- Some feel the new coastal defences have spoiled the natural coastal landscape.
- The new defences may interfere with natural coastal processes affecting neighbouring stretches of coastline, causing conflicts elsewhere.
- Stabilizing cliffs that prevent landslides will reduce the number of fossils found in the area.