

## Physical Landscapes in the UK: Lyme Regis

Lyme Regis is a small town in **west Dorset**, in south west England. Lyme Regis is a town found along the **Jurassic Coastline** - a World Heritage site and famous coast in England, known for its fossils and coastal landforms. This makes the area extremely popular with **tourists**, but with added risks to the coastline.



Source: wdlh.co.uk

## Threats to Lyme Regis

The coast along Lyme Regis is prone to **erosion**. This is for a number of reasons:

- The geology of Lyme Regis is a mixture of limestone, which is resistant to erosion, and clay, which is vulnerable to erosion. The clay sits on top of a bed of limestone, so as the clay erodes the cliffs are vulnerable to landslides.
- Houses, roads and farmland are at risk of being damaged due to cliff landslides. There is a risk to life with some landslides.



Source: On Foot Holidays

To manage this risk, the local government has developed a plan of coastal management.

## Managing the Risk

The scheme that the local government has created is called the **Lyme Regis Environmental Improvement Scheme**. Members of the local community were all consulted whilst the local government finalised the scheme. The scheme has **five parts**:

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1990 - 1995

Phase 1 -

New sea wall constructed, as well as a promenade

£1.4 million project to try to stabilise the cliffs, using nails to fold the rock together



2005 - 2007

Phase 2 -

Existing coastal defences are deteriorating or under threat. Therefore the beaches are to be replenished (dredged from the English Channel and imported from France). Rock Armour is to be extended and repaired

N/A

Phase 3 -

Monmouth Beach is under threat from erosion and flooding

However, the risks outweigh the benefits so this phase was scrapped



2015 - 2017

Phase 4 -

The sea wall has been repaired and extended to the East of Lyme Regis.

Stabilising and helping to drain cliffs, to protect 480 homes. This phase costs £20 million

To Do

Phase 5 -

Repair the walkway along the promenade and continuing to strengthen the wall, especially in the area of The Cobbs.



## Success at Lyme Regis

The management strategy has been a mixture of successes and complications.

de Beaches have been **renewed** with material, which continues to attract tourism

Lourism is very important to the town's economy, so protecting the coastline is important to protecting local jobs and businesses

Some coastal defences have deteriorated and needed fixing sooner than it was thought. This means the scheme has costed extra money and taken longer than expected







