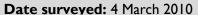
LDU: 692 LCT: 4D

#### Area of LDU within AONB: 67.8 hectares

% of LDU within AONB: 100%







**Survey points:** SS238225, SS236227, SS234228, SS230231, SS228232, SS227233

### Summary of landscape character

A small, steep-sided combe stretching south-east from the coast at Speke's Mill Mouth. Narrow wooded valleys characterise the east of the combe, whilst woodland persists in the centre surrounding valley-bottom pasture before opening out into scrub/grass-covered slopes in the west, where a riparian strip traces the line of the stream to the coast. Footpaths cover most of the area, and levels of tranquillity are high throughout.

### LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

LANDFORM / TOPOGRAPHY			
Landform description	A small steep-sided combe running inland from the coast, with a wider valley bottom in the west narrowing into three small valleys at the southeastern end.		
LAND USE AND PATTERNS			
Agriculture	Main agricultural land use	Other agricultural I	land use(s)
	Rough pasture along the valley bottom in the centre/west, with parts of more intensive pasture fields overlapping onto the upper slopes throughout.	Some encroachment of arable onto the upper slopes further east.	
Field patterns and boundaries	Field patterns and origins	Size (note variations)	Boundary type / description
	Fields of medieval origin occur along the valley bottom in the centre, while the edges of predominantly medieval fields cross over into the LDU along	Medium-sized pasture fields.	Post-and-wire fencing in front of scrub / woodland.

	the upper slopes. Unend rough grazing land characterises the west o LDU.			
Other land uses (e.g. recreation)	Docton Mill gardens – small ornamental gardens set within woodland in the centre of the LDU.			
W	OODLAND AND SEMI	I-NATURAL	. HABITAT	rs
Trees / woodland	Size and distribution within	landscape Type and species(broadleaved / con		ecies(broadleaved / conifer)
	Broadleaved woodland of the narrow upper valleys encloses pasture fields a central section, resulting wooded character.	s and cross the	Oak-domin woodland.	nated broadleaved
Semi-natural habitats	Description and location within landscape			
	Unimproved grassland along the valley bottom in the central/western half of the LDU (including areas of Culm grassland), plus internationally-important areas of maritime scrub, grassland and heath in the west (part of the Marsland to Clovelly Coast SAC & SSSI), along with the woodland itself (including riparian wet woodland), with Docton Wood in the south east designated as a County Wildlife Site.			
	SETTLEMENT AND	DEVELOP	MENT	
Settlement pattern	Settlement size, type, density and relationship to landscape  Sparsely settled, with dispersed housing located along the valley bottom in the central/eastern part of the LDU.		саре	
			ong the valley bottom in	
Transport pattern	Road pattern, character and relationship to settlement / landscape			
(including Public Rights of Way)	A few rural roads cross the combe in the east, otherwise the western part of the area is accessible along its length by public rights of way.			
Local vernacular styles and materials	Predominant traditional building materials	Any local vari	ations	Other built features reflecting vernacular
	Whitewash walls with grey slate roofs and thatch at Lymbridge (e.g. Speke's Valley cottage).	Weatherboa Warrior's Lo exposed sto Docton Mill)	odge), plus ne (e.g. at	Traditional stone bridges e.g. at Docton Mill
Modern development styles / materials	Creamy-yellow render o	occurs on som	e modern bi	uildings/restorations.
	HISTORIC EN	VIRONMEN	T	
Key historic features visible in the				

landscape	probably before the Norman Conquest, while traditional stone bridges are an important feature, as is Milford Mill.		
	VIEWS / PERCEPTUAL QUAI	LITIES	
Views	Key views / landmark features	Intervisibility with LDUs	
		From this LDU	To this LDU
	Views in the west are afforded to the coast and back inland over the combe and its southern finger (of open grass/scrub slopes), whilst more limited views in the centre occur through woodland over valley bottom pasture.	694 (coast) 684 (surrounding elevated land)	694 684
Perceptual qualities (description)	High levels of tranquillity occur throughout, reinforced by the sound of the running stream and the historical character around Docton Mill. A sense of enclosure in the narrow, wooded east contrasts strongly with the open slopes and views of the coast and sea in the west.		

## LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

Designation	Number	% of LDU land area that is within the AONB
	NATURE CONSER	VATION
SAC	I	20.73%
SSSI	I	20.73%
County Wildlife Sites	2	13%
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT		
Listed Buildings	4 (grade II)	

### **UK BAP PRIORITY HABITATS**

UK BAP Priority Habitat	Area (ha)	% of LDU land area that is within the AONB
Lowland heathland	13.97	20.61%
Maritime cliff and slope	13.97	20.61%

# **KEY FACTORS INFLUENCING LANDSCAPE CONDITION**

Perceptual qualities	Levels of tranquillity remain high throughout the area.
Views	Views are largely unspoilt, with a traditional character retained throughout the combe.
Land use	Some edges of arable fields cross over into the LDU boundary on upper slopes in the east (though this does little to affect the predominant character of the combe).
Field patterns	Parts of modern enlarged fields occur in a couple of instances on the upper slopes, but this does not have a significant impact on landscape character.
Field boundaries	N/A
Trees and woodland	The designation of Docton Wood as a County Wildlife Site suggests it is in favourable management, with no obvious signs to the contrary noted in the field for undesignated woodland.
Semi-natural habitats	Continued extensive grazing is required to maintain rough pasture along the floodplain and in the west.
Settlement and development	N/A
Local vernacular	Creamy-yellow render is found in a couple of instances on more modern houses, though is not an overtly prevalent feature.