

# 495161

## SOMERSET

Though narrower than the map resolution (0.5 km), the strips of sandy beaches and dunes which represent Somerset land system have been included separately because of their popularity as recreational areas and because their sensitive ecosystems are so prone to degradation. They are distributed along the eastern half of the north coast, where there has been insufficient sandy parent material for the development of the closely related Peggs Beach land system.

The deep very pale brown sand soils are calcareous.

The dunes are now stabilised by marram grass but the few remaining vestiges of native vegetation indicate an affinity with that found on Peggs Beach land system.

All areas of Somerset land system are intensively used for recreational purposes.

The sandy soils are susceptible to high wind erosion, and wave action is an extra hazard on the beaches.

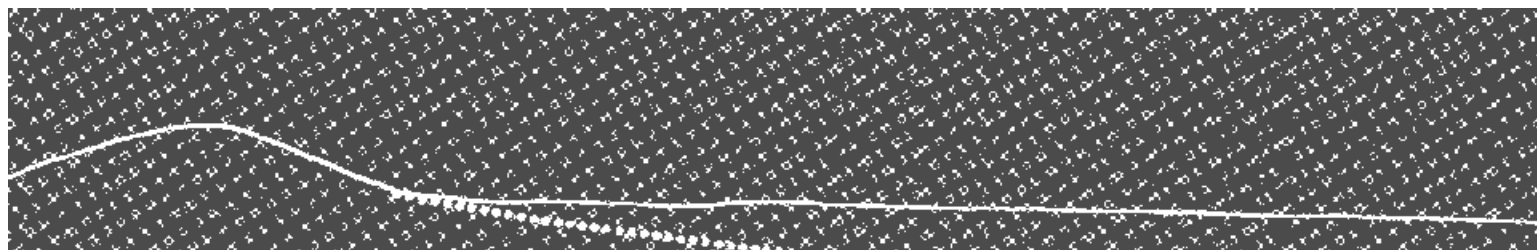


*Weakly differentiated dune sands, typical of Somerset and Peggs Beach land systems*

**LAND SYSTEM**

495161

Somerset



COMPONENT	1	2
PROPORTION %	25	75
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 750-1 000 mm	
GEOLOGY	Quaternary coastal calcareous sands	
TOPOGRAPHY	Coastal dunes and beaches	
Land form	Coastal dunes and beaches	
Position	Dune	Beach
Average Sideslope °	7	2
NATIVE VEGETATION		
Structure	Tussock grassland	Nil
Association	Marram grass	
SOIL	Weakly differentiated, very pale brown (10 YR 7/3) calcareous, sand soils, uniform texture	Undifferentiated very pale brown (10 YR 7/4) calcareous sand soils, uniform texture
Surface Texture	Sand	
Permeability	High	
Average Depth m	>2 0	
PRESENT LAND USE	Recreation, nature conservation	
HAZARDS	High wind erosion	High wave erosion