

Widemouth to Boscastle

Key Features and landscape character

This area includes the highest cliffs in the county, often tumbling in profile where there are less stable shales and sandstone, as at Rusey Cliff and High Cliff, and the Strangles Beach north of Boscastle.

Deeply incised, wooded valleys cut down to sea level at Boscastle, Crackington Haven and Millook. These extend far inland creating a folded, secluded landscape, hiding many farming hamlets. The micro-climates of the valleys are in sharp contrast to the open farmland above which is exposed to sea winds.

Built Heritage

Important historic features include the medieval open field system of Forrabury Stiches, as well as several 16th & 17th century farmhouses, such as Trevigue.

Boscastle is interesting due to its twin centres - the old medieval village evolved around Bottreaux Castle, and the small sheltered port which was at its busiest in the 19th century, the only sheltered harbour between Padstow and Bude.

The churches around Boscastle form an important feature of the landscape. St. Juliot's in the Valency valley is connected to Thomas Hardy who, as a young architect, stayed in the area overseeing the restoration of the church.



Tintagel

Key Features

The coastline is very rugged and indented with narrow coves between rocky promontories.

The geology is complex slates and volcanic rocks, all much folded and faulted. These hardened rocks form stacks and small islands, such as Tintagel Island.

Character

The geology gave rise to many slates quarries, many of which worked directly into the cliff face and are still evident. The slate is extensively used throughout the locality as the predominant building material.

The open landscape is mainly pasture and characterised by slate hedges using a herringbone construction called 'curzy way'. The field pattern is irregular owing to its medieval enclosure.

Built Heritage

Tintagel mixes traditional slate and modern white buildings. It is surrounded by a dense pattern of small agriculturally based hamlets linked by sunken narrow lanes and high hedges.

Tintagel Church and the headland hotel form separate distinct landmarks. The pressure of tourism is much in evidence in the townscape and surrounding beaches and lanes.



Pentire Point to Trebarwith

Key Features

This a narrow band of coastal landscape known as the Delabole ridge.

The landform consists of seaward slopes falling steeply from the ridge to chamfered cliffs, dissected by many short streams which create v-shaped valleys.

Character

The lack of tree cover and the exposure to coastal winds strongly influence the area's open character.

The landscape is pastoral in use and the irregular small to medium sized fields are of medieval origin. More regular enclosed fields exist behind Port Quin.

This is a quiet area with an unspoilt, magnificent coast. Much of which is under the guardianship of the National Trust. However, summer visitor pressures create problems in the narrow country lanes and the streets of Port Isaac.

Built Heritage

At Rumps Point there are the remains of an iron age cliff-castle whose ramparts survive as earthworks amongst the rough coastal vegetation.

The slate buildings perched by the cove at Port Quin in this exposed landscape give a strong local character.

