

Camel Estuary

Key Features

A broad tidal river valley with gently sloping sides, the estuary is over half a mile wide at Padstow and stretches inland for five miles to Wadebridge where it then narrows significantly.

At low tide the mud and sandbanks are exposed, and in the sheltered creeks and Amble marshes the mud is colonised with reeds and salt-marsh vegetation providing habitats of wildlife interest.

On the hilltops, the full impact of the coastal winds is felt, with long distance views down the estuary to the sea.

Character

This is a tranquil and intimate landscape of human scale. It gains a sense of shelter and richness from the many small woods and creeks that flank the estuary, and this contrasts with open views down the estuary to the sea - unique on the north coast of the county.

The landscape pattern is formed of a mix of irregular medieval enclosures and patches of enclosed, larger, more regular fields. The lower reaches of the Amble are important for overwintering wildfowl and waders.

Built Heritage

The settlement pattern consists of many farmsteads and small hamlets related to the medieval field system. Small lanes lead down to the estuary terminating in dead ends. These lanes are often deeply etched into the landscape. Distinctive landmarks include Trewornan Bridge over the river Amble and the disused railway line which hosts the highly popular Camel Trail.

