

Rousdon Cliffs

Turning back time

The ruined buildings near the footpath were once a freshwater pumping station and an engineer's house. Water was pumped up to the Peek estate and used for drinking water.

Other signs of human habitation within the Reserve include East and West Cliff Cottages, found at either end of the Pinhay Estate, and Landslip Cottage at Dowlands Cliffs. The owners of Landslip Cottage, the Gappers, sold afternoon teas to the tourists visiting the landslip, then a major attraction.

Sheep farming in the Undercliffs ceased around 1900, the only visible remains being an old sheep wash and farm buildings. Native ash and maple woodland returned but is now under threat from invasive non-native species such as Holm oak, cherry laurel, rhododendron and pampas grass that had been introduced into the formal Estate gardens.

Engineer's Cottage 1911

Below: Engineer's cottage 2005



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