

Lydford

Lydford is located within West Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Lifton Hundred. It falls within Tavistock Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript Church Notes of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 422 in 1801 2812 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In the valuation of 1334 it was assessed at £01/03/04. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £01/07/05. In 1641/2 39 adult males signed the Protestation returns. It is recorded as a borough from 975?. It had parliamentary representation from 14 cent.. A market is recorded from 14 cent..

A parish history file is held in Tavistock, Okehampton & Princetown Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

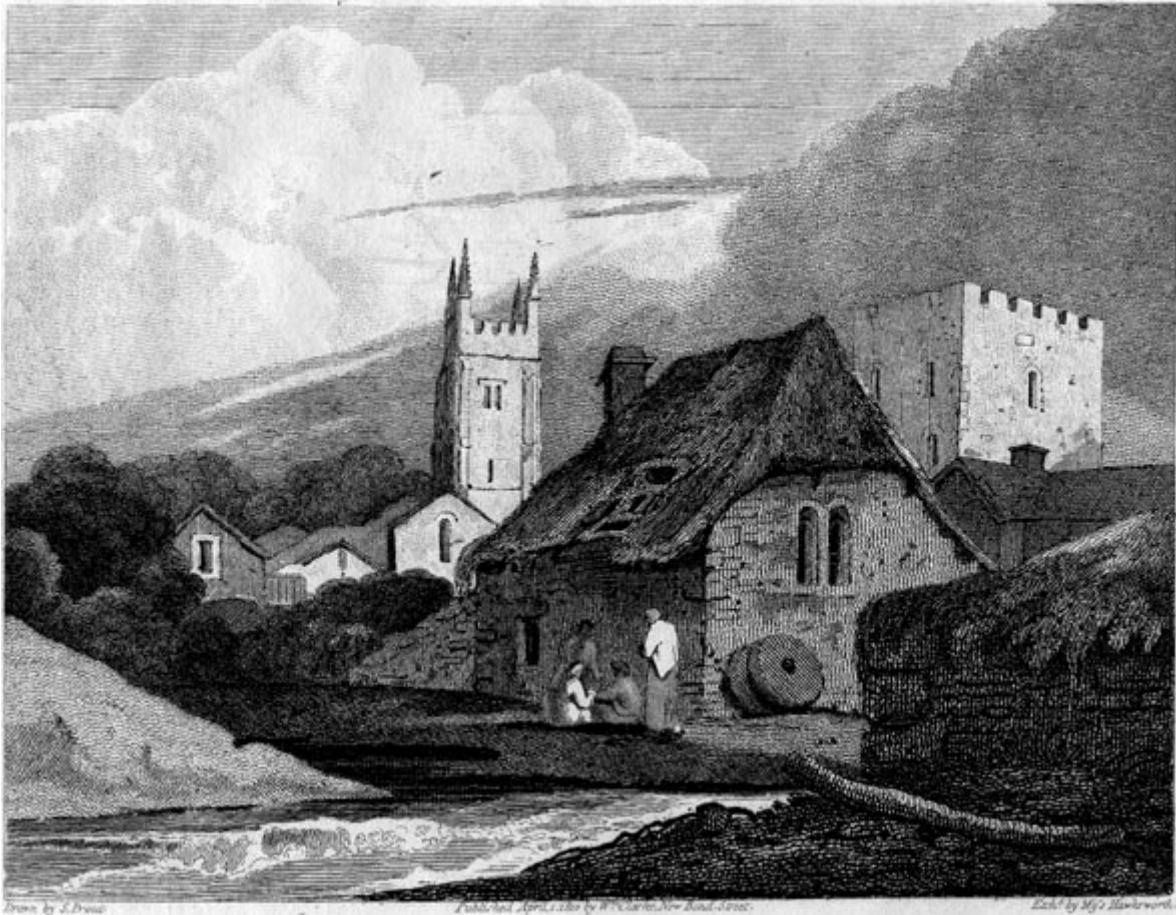
The image below is of the Lydford area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 88/13
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 88/SW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX511849
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX58SW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 112
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 191
- Geological sheet 338 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Lydford as included in the Library's illustrations collection. Other images can be searched for on the local studies catalogue.



A fair is known from: 14 cent.. An extract from **The glove is up! Devon's historic fairs**, by **Tricia Gerrish**, is included by kind permission of the author.

Lydford Fair LOCATION: A386. Western fringes of Dartmoor

ORIGINAL CHARTER 1267 Granted to Richard, Duke of Cornwall and King of Almain by Henry III. 3 day fair at Feast of St Petroc (4th June). Sometimes recorded as St Patrick.

Richard, Duke of Cornwall and King of Almain, received King Henry III's charter for a three day fair in 1267. Many sources claim it was for the Feast of St Petroc, the saint to whom the parish church at Lydford, or Lidford, is dedicated. The Lysons claim it was for the feast of St Patrick, and some later writers have followed their view. Mrs Whitcombe, writing in 1874, also claims that the principal fair was dedicated to St Patrick and held on a Sunday afternoon, with trading formerly taking place in the church. However, press reports early in the 20th century bear out that the fair continued at the feast of St Petroc, in June. In 1300, tolls and fees from this fair were worth five shillings to Richard. Market dues continued to be paid to the Duchy of Cornwall, as landlords in later centuries, as late as the mid 1800s, but the fair almost certainly lapsed before then. William Browne, c.1644 writes that Lydford had neither market nor fair to comfort it.

In 1822 a fair took place at nearby Two Bridges on the 1st Wednesday following 16th August, at which horses, sheep and cattle were traded. White's Directory for 1860

also records cattle fairs for Tuesday following 20th July, Thursday following 2nd August (at Two Bridges) and on 23rd August, at Princetown. According to Tavistock Gazette, 1924's Lydford Fair at the Feast of St Petroc had continued 'to modern times.' There are no further reports following the Second World War.

Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Lydford is a small village and a long-decayed borough on the NW. foothills of Dartmoor (plate 11), with a parish that takes in an enormous tract of the Moor and is reckoned at some 50,000 acres. The village stands on a narrow tongue of land above the Lyd, which enters a remarkable wooded gorge immediately below. There is no doubt that the site of Lydford was chosen for military reasons. It was one of the four *burhs* of Devon, set up by Alfred for defence against the Danes, and was one of the four Domesday boroughs two hundred years later. It was never a walled town, but was defended by a massive earthen rampart and stockade. This rampart, drawn across the neck of the promontory, is still clearly visible on either side of the road at the NE. end of the village.

At the SW. tip of the promontory a castle was probably thrown up between 1066 and 1086, as Domesday Book records of the royal borough of Lydford that "40 houses have been laid waste since King William has had England." It seems likely that the mount and ditch about 100 yds. SW. of the present stone keep represents the site of this 11th century castle. In 1195 this was superseded by the great square stone keep, of lanes that cross the present street at which the gutted shell still stands, built expressly for the custody of offenders against the forest and stannary laws. By the early 12th century the military importance of Lydford had passed away to Launceston Castle, the key to the whole Cornwall, and to Okehampton Castle.

Lydford was one of the four Saxon mints of Devon. Its coins are known from the reign of Ethelred 11(979-1016) to that of Edward the Confessor (1042-66).(D.A. 65 (1933), 140.) But just as its military importance passed away at an early date to Launceston and Okehampton, so its commercial life decayed also with the rise of Tavistock and of Okehampton. One can still trace the lines of the early medieval streets, in the grass-grown lanes that cross the present street at right angles inside the ramparted area.

The church (St. Petrock) stands near the castle keep. It is a 15th century building in granite, with a N. aisle added in 1890. There is an excellent modern screen of the Devonshire type by Bligh Bond (1904), and some finely carved modern bench-ends. One window contains medieval glass brought from elsewhere. In the churchyard is an ingenious epitaph to George Routleigh, a local watchmaker. Lydford Gorge, a remarkable place, is now National Trust property.

Princetown is in the parish of Lydford, a grim little town some 1,400 ft. above sea level, with an abominable climate of fog, snow, wind, and more than 80 in. of cold rain – sometimes over 100. It stands on a *col* between the two Hessay Tors, exposed to the bitter N. and E. winds, the least suitable place that could ever have been

chosen for a town. But the site was dictated by Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt so as to be near his granite quarries.

As early as 1780 a farm, named Prince Hall, was reclaimed on the site of an ancient tenement near Two Bridges, and in 1785 Mr. Tyrwhitt (later Sir Thomas), who had been appointed Lord Warden of the Stannaries, set about improving the moor at a place which he named Tor Royal, about ½ m. SE. of Princetown. Here he made a productive estate and built a house in 1798. (Rowe, *Perambulation of Dartmoor*, 255) He was later instrumental in building the road from Tavistock to Princetown, and the other good roads that now cross the Moor and make it (or some of it) accessible to the motorist.

It was Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt who proposed that a prison be built on the Moor to house the thousands of captives of the Napoleonic Wars, who had become too numerous to lodge in the prisons and prison-ships at Plymouth. The site was given by the Prince of Wales, who held the lands of the Duchy of Cornwall to which all the Moor belonged: hence the name Princetown. The prison was built in 1806 (architect, Daniel Alexander) at a cost of £130,000 and at one time between seven and nine thousand prisoners were crammed into it.

A small town grew up near the prison. Two large inns were built during the war; one of them is the present Duchy Hotel. Many of the prisoners had prize-money to come from their own country; many others made their own in their hammocks at night, even forging Bank of England and local bank notes, which they passed off in the great daily market held in the prison. With the closing of the prison in 1816 the town almost collapsed, but the completion of the Dartmoor Railway in 1823 brought back many people to the granite quarries. The prison remained derelict until 1850, when it was reopened for prisoners serving long sentences. It has since been considerably extended.

The prehistoric antiquities of Dartmoor are too numerous to mention. Some are referred to in Part 1, and all the more important are marked on the special map (Fig. 5). Reference should also be made to the other semi-moor-land parishes, principally North Bovey, Chagford, Cornwood, Manaton, Walkhampton and Widecombe-in-the-Moor.

Lympstone

Lympstone is located within East Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of East Budleigh Hundred. It falls within Aylesbeare Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript Church Notes of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library. The population was 883 in 1801 1012 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £03/19/08. It is recorded as a borough from 1288.

A parish history file is held in Exmouth Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Lympstone area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 93/9
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 93SW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX992842
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX98SE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 030
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 192
- Geological sheet 339 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Lympstone as included in the Library's illustrations collection. Other images can be searched for on the local studies catalogue.



Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Lympstone opens out between low sandstone cliffs on to the Exe estuary. The views from the shore across the river to the woods of Mamhead and Powderham and the Haldon skyline, are strikingly beautiful. The village is still unspoilt and has great character. It is full of pleasant cottages and villas of the period 1800-40, when it was thronged with summer visitors, who enjoyed the scenery and the rich smells of the estuary mud-flats.

The church (St. Mary) is a Perpendicular building, rebuilt in 1864 except for the tower, and enlarged in 1928.

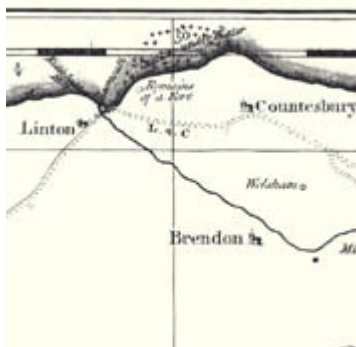
Lynmouth

Lynmouth is located within North Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Sherwill Hundred. It falls within Shirwell Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript Church Notes of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

A parish history file is held in Lynton Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Lynmouth area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 3/9
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 3SW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS724495
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS74NW
 - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 09
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 180
- Geological sheet 277 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Lynmouth as included in the Library's illustrations collection. Other images can be searched for on the local studies catalogue.



Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Lynmouth [in the parish of Lynton] is much more picturesque (in the proper sense of that word). It was "discovered" in the first decade of the 19th century when the Napoleonic Wars had closed the Continent to English visitors, two of the earliest visitors being Mr. Coutts the banker, and the Marchioness of Bute. Southey described it as "the finest spot, except Cintra and the Arrabida, that I ever saw". The Shellers stayed here for nine weeks between June and August 1812 in a cottage belonging to a Mrs. Hooper. Two "cottages" claim to be, and call themselves, Shelley's Cottage. The actual cottage was burnt in 1907 and partly rebuilt. (Daily Graphic, 30th April 1907; Daily Telegraph, 21st May 1907.) The first hotel was built in 1807, but most visitors stayed in "cottages" of which there are many attractive examples dating from the 1830s and 1840s when the town began to develop steadily. The quay and pier were built in the 18th century for the herring fishery, which was once important, and a machicolated tower at the end added early in the 19th century by General Rawdon in imitation of the towers on the Rhine. By 1856 there were three hotels at Lynton, and Murray's *Handbook* in that year warns the visitor that "telescopes are employed at the rival houses for the prompt discovery of the approaching traveller. He had better, therefore, determine before-hand on his inn, or he may become a bone of contention to a triad of post-boys, who wait with additional horses at the bottom of the hill to drag the carriage to its destination." Sir

George Newnes, the publisher, lived at Lynton for many years and gave to the town the cliff-railway which makes the steep ascent from the shore up to Lynton town.

On the night of 15-16 August 1952, Lynmouth was overwhelmed by floods arising from torrential rain on Exmoor, and suffered great damage. 31 people lost their lives, 93 houses were destroyed or so damaged as to call for subsequent demolition, and 28 bridges in the district destroyed or damaged. Among the casualties was General Rawdon's tower.

Lynton

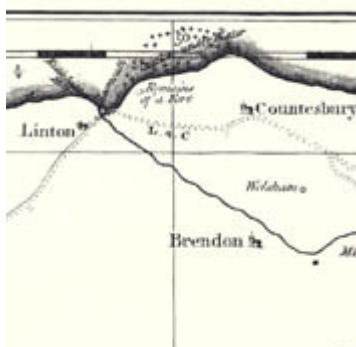
Lynton is located within North Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Sherwill Hundred. It falls within Shirwell Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript Church Notes of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 481 in 1801 1641 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £01/03/08. In 1641/2 117 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Lynton Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Lynton area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 3/9
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 3SW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS719493
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS74NW
 - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 09
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 180
- Geological sheet 277 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Lynton as included in the Library's illustrations collection. Other images can be searched for on the local studies catalogue.



Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Lynton includes Lynmouth, at the foot of the tremendous hog-backed cliffs, which rise to over 1,000 ft. in places. The scenery of this parish, coast, moorland, and valley, is too well known to call for further description, beyond saying that it is spectacularly beautiful along the East Lyn river, in Lyn Cleave, and in the so-called Valley of the Rocks W. of the town. The remote farms of Coffins Heanton and Ikerton were Domesday manors. So, too, were East Lyn and West Lyn. At Lower East Lyn are the remains of the 17th century manor house of the Pophams.

The town of Lynton itself has little to commend it. It is almost entirely late Victorian and Edwardian. Nor is the church (St. Mary) any better. Apart from its 13th century tower, it has been rebuilt and enlarged so often that it is now a neat, dull Victorian.