

Axmouth

Axmouth is located within East Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Axminster Hundred. It falls within Honiton Vol 1 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 375 in 1801 643 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 116 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Seaton 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

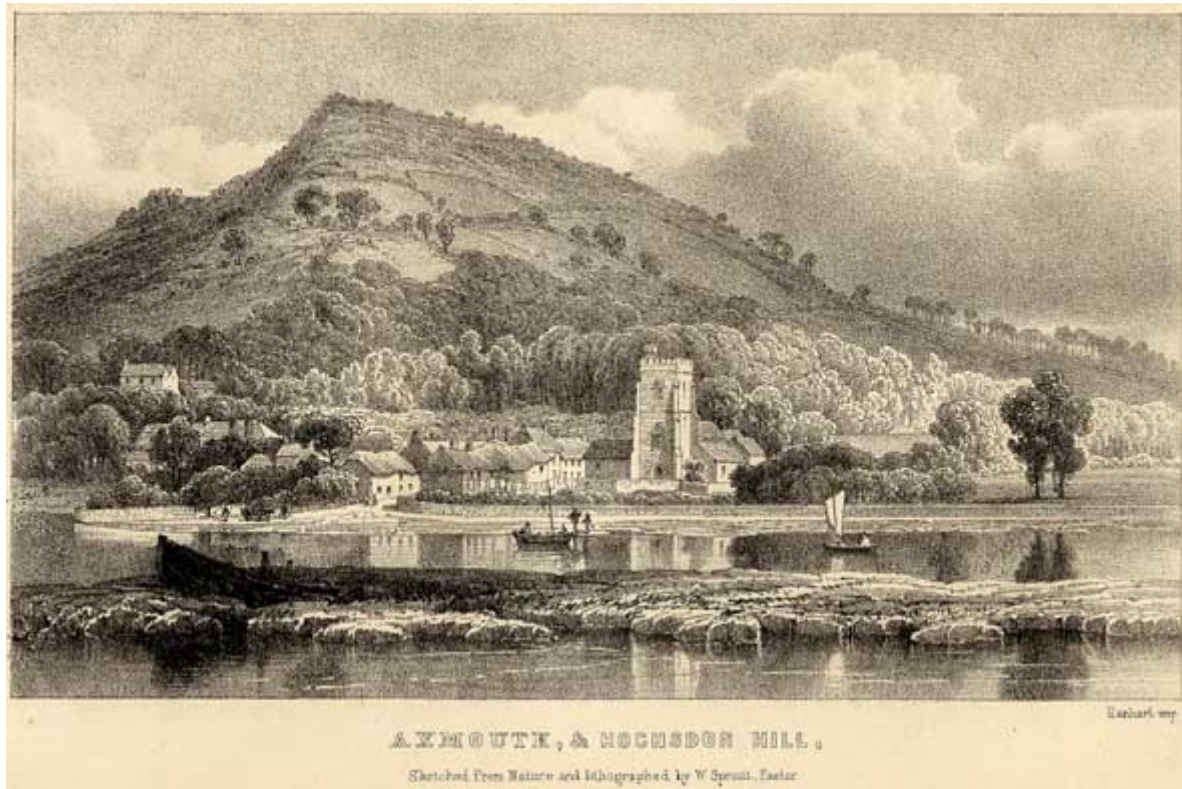
The image below is of the Axmouth area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 83/12 Six inch (1:10560) sheet 83SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SY258911.
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - 1:10,000 (six inch to a mile: sheet SY29SE
 - 1:25,000 mapping: sheet Explorer 029
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping: sheet 192
- Geological sheet 326 also covers the area.

Illustrations

The image below is of Axmouth 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:

Axmouth. One could spend a pleasurable week of exploration in and around this delectable little place, which always looks so inviting at any time of the year across the emerald marshes of the River Axe. The estuary of the Axe was formerly much wider than it is to-day, probably half a mile across, and extended considerably farther southward than the present coastline.

The hill-fort of Hawksdown dominates this estuary and a vast area beyond: the views up here are superb. It probably dates from the late pre-Roman Iron Age.

In Roman times, Axmouth appears to have been the southern terminus of the Fosse Way. In the Saxon occupation of the 7th century, it was one of the earliest villages to be founded. It belonged to King Athelstan, later to Edward the Confessor, and then to William I. It was also the centre of an early hundred, proof again of its antiquity and importance.

By Leland's time the mouth of the Axe was almost barred by the high pebble ridge which forces the river through a narrow outlet on the E. side. Attempts to reconstruct the harbour from the Seaton side were made in the 1st century, but came to nothing. At the end of the 16th century the Earles tried to remake the harbour from the Axmouth side. For some reason this project also failed. Early in the 19th century, several farmers of Axmouth and the neighbouring parishes attempted to dig out the ruins of the ancient harbour. A pier was built about 1803, behind

which vessels of 100 tons could unload, and up to 1868, when the railway came, two vessels traded regularly between Axmouth and London. Other vessels also used the harbour. The railway killed this trade, the harbour was allowed to decay again, and a considerable part of the pier was swept away in a gale on Sunday, 31 January 1869.

Leland speaks of Axmouth as "an old and bigge Fischar Toune." It was much larger then than to-day, as is proved by the foundations of houses unearthed over a wide area. (Pulman, Book of the Axe, 869-70) By 1800, it had shrunk to fewer than 400 people. In 1871 its population had risen to 702, but since then it has been stationary or gently declining. The present village is most attractive, with a number of excellent farmhouses and cottages of 16th to 19th century date. Two or three are notable examples of Elizabethan domestic building. Axmouth is worth careful exploration, and is indeed one of the most unspoilt and delightful villages in Devon. To the N. of the village, Stedcombe is a good William and Mary house (169S), rebuilt near the site of the older house which was garrisoned for Parliament by Sir Walter Erle and destroyed by the Royalists in 1644. Bindon, E. of the village, is a former manor house, mostly 16th century in date, with some earlier remains. The private chapel, still to be seen in the house, was licensed by Bishop Lacy in 1425. (An essay on Axmouth and Bindon will be found in Rogers, Memorials of the West.)

Axmouth church (St. Michael) is structurally much more interesting than most Devonshire churches, containing work of almost every period from the Norman to the Victorian. There are substantial remains of the Norman church (c. 1150); a narrow S. aisle was added early in the 13th century, and further alterations made a hundred years later. At the end of the 15th century the fine W. tower was built, possibly replacing a Norman tower at the E. end of the S. aisle. In the chancel is the effigy of a 14th century priest, fully vested in alb, stole, and chasuble. There are memorials to the Erles of Bind on, and a good 18th century mural monument to Hallett of Stedcombe (1749). The church was restored by Hayward of Exeter in 1889, who produced the beastly Victorian font.

Axmouth lies in the chalk country of Devon, and has some spectacular coastal scenery. At Dowlands farm, the great landslip of Christmas 1839 may be seen: a chasam $\frac{3}{4}$ m. long, 300 feet wide, and a 150 feet deep, formed when 8, 000, 000 tons of earth crashed in one night. The view from the E. end is particularly fine.

Besides Axmouth and Stedcombe, Bruckland and Charton existed as separate estates before the Norman Conquest. Bindon, though not separately mentioned until 1238, was a part of Axmouth manor in pre-Conquest times.

Aylesbeare

Aylesbeare 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 687 in 1801 225 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £08/16/03.

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 Aylesbeare 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 81/7,11
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 81NE,SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SY039920
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SY09SW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 030
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 192
- Geological sheet 325 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Aylesbeare as included in the Library's illustration 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:

Aylesbeare has an unexciting 15th century church (St. Mary). On the E. the parish rises to a heathy ridge (the Budleigh Pebble ridge), rather over 500 ft. above sea-level, from which there are fine views in all directions. Barrows on this heath have been excavated, revealing curious pebbled pavements, the date and purpose of which are not clear.

Babbacombe

Babbacombe is located within Torbay local authority area. Historically it formed part of Haytor Hundred. It falls within Ipplepen 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. Hamlet of Torquay.

You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database or contact Torbay Library Service Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Babbacombe 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 116/10,11
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 116SW,SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX936653
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX96NW,SW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 031
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 202
- Geological sheet 350 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Babbacombe as included in the Library's illustrations pages. 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:

In 1892 Torquay was incorporated as a municipal borough; in 1900 its boundaries were extended to take in Babbacombe, Chelston, Ilsham, and St. Marychurch. ... All Saints' Church at Babbacombe is by Butterfield (1867).

Bampton

Bampton is located within Mid Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Bampton Hundred. It falls within Tiverton 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 1361 in 1801 1440 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In the valuation of 1334 it was assessed at £03/16/07. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £17/17/08. In 1641/2 328 adult males signed the Protestation returns. It is recorded as a borough from 1210. A turnpike was established in 1785. A market is recorded from 14c.-1822.

A parish history file is held in Bampton 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 Bampton 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 24/15 Six inch (1:10560) sheet 24SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS957223
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS92SE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 114
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 181
- Geological sheet 310 also covers the area

A fair is known from: 14c.-1935. [It is intended to include the local section from The glove is up! Devon's historic fairs, by Tricia Gerrish, by kind permission of the author].

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

Bampton is a small market town on the river Batherm near confluence with the Exe, lying in beautiful hilly country. It was an early Saxon village and gave its name to a hundred, developing in the 13th century into a small town. It has two fairs and a weekly market, and by 1302 we hear of burgesses here. It was, however, never incorporated but continued to be governed by two portreeves until 1894. Like many Devon market-towns it had large cattle and sheep markets, and a cloth industry from early times. The latter had dwindled almost to nothing by the early 19th century, but the two fairs remained among the largest in the west of England. The October fair is still famous for its cattle and sheep sales, and above all for the Exmoor ponies brought down from the moor.

The town is quiet and of no architectural interest. Most of the houses are covered with a rather drab stucco. The church (St. Michael, but formerly St. Mary according to Oliver) is mainly a building of c. 1300, much rebuilt and enlarged in the 15th century when the N. aisle was added. It is now all "scraped" and over-restored. The tall, plain tower is c.1300 in date. John Bouchier, Lord Fitzwarren, created 1st Earl of Bath in 1536, and prominent at the court of Henry VIII, was buried in Bampton church where he endowed a chantry. As late as 1770 his tomb still stood in the N. aisle, with the effigies of himself, Cecily his wife, and their eight children.

Bampton Castle, so called, is at the E. end of Castle Street. It now consists of nothing more than a mount with some traces of outworks, and seems originally to have been a fortified house rather than a true castle.

S. of Bampton are extensive limestone quarries, of considerable interest to the geologist, commanding an excellent view of the town. Davale Barton is probably a Celtic name from the British *du* "black" and *bal* peak, prominence," referring to the curiously shaped hill between the Exe and the Batherm. Dippford was a small Domesday estate.

Bantham

Bantham is located within South Hams local authority area. Historically it formed part of Stanborough Hundred and is a hamlet of the parish of Thurlestone.

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 Bantham 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 135/4
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 135NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX669439
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX64SE
 - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 20
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 202
- Geological sheet 355 also covers the area