

## **Brixham**

Brixham is located within Torbay local authority area. Historically it formed part of Haytor Hundred. It falls within Holsworthy 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 3671 in 1801 8092 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In the valuation of 1334 it was assessed at £01/12/08. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £24/16/00. In 1641/2 264 adult males signed the Protestation returns. It is recorded as a borough from 1536. A market is recorded from 1822.

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 is of the Brixham 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 128/2,3
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 128NW,NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX925555
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
  - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX95NW,SW
  - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 20
  - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 202
- Geological sheet 350 also covers the area

## **Illustrations**

The image below is of Brixham 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:

Brixham now a fishing port on the S. shore of Tor Bay, has a long history, much of it still awaiting exploration. Most of the parish consists of the dove-grey Devonian limestone, which gives fine cliff scenery (particularly at Berry Head); but from Sharkham Point southwards to the mouth of the Dart the slates and grits give even bolder cliffs and hills, from which one gets superb seascapes.

On Berry Head was a promontory fortress formed by a great rampart 18 ft. high constructed across the narrow neck of land, approximately where the outer wall of the Napoleonic Fort now stands. This rampart was said to have been constructed of masonry, and within the enclosed space a considerable number of Roman coins have been found. (D.A. 18 (1886), 199.) The earthwork, probably of Early Iron Age date, was of the same type as the numerous cliff-forts on the Cornish headlands and elsewhere in Britain, about which little is known. Another was constructed on Bolt Tail, and there were apparently others on the Hartland coast in North Devon. The Berry Head rampart was destroyed in the making of the Fort during the "invasion scare" of 1803, but it is commemorated in the name of the headland itself (from *burh*, "a fort"). Celtic pottery and bones have been found in a cavern named Ash-hole, near Shoalstone Point. About 3 m. SW. of the town, on a hill commanding the Dart estuary, is another Iron Age earthwork, of an irregular oval form, with a single rampart and ditch. The Berry Head earthworks, pottery, and coins suggest a late Celtic trading settlement, persisting into Roman times, as at Mount Batten (see PLYMSTOCK). The Windmill Hill cavern at Brixham, in the Devonian limestone, has produced evidence of occupation by palaeolithic man. This cavern, discovered in 1858, is now open for inspection by visitors.

The old harbour of Brixham formerly stretched about ½ m. farther inland than it does to-day, giving a fine natural estuary locked in and completely sheltered by the limestone hills on either side. The central part of Lower Brixham is now built over this harbour (plate 43). The original Saxon settlement was at Higher Brixham, where the parish church now is. It was an early nucleated village, possibly founded by colonists arriving by sea in the 7th century, with its open fields, and its original territory included the whole of the great peninsula S. of the Galmpton neck, between the lower Dart and the sea. (See the map facing D.S. 308. For the open fields, *ibid.*, 277-8.) That this was a royal estate in Saxon times, like most of these primary villages, is evidenced by the place-names of Kingswear and Kingston in this peninsula, names which go back to pre-Conquest times; but the estate had passed out of royal hands before 1066, when it belonged to one Ulf. A number of daughter-settlements had come into being by the middle of the 11th century Kingswear and Churston (both now distinct parishes), Coleton, Lupton, and Woodhuish. The later manorial history of Brixham is of no interest, merely the usual succession of great feudal names like Nonant, Valletort, Pomeroy, Bonville, and Grey. At a later date, the manor became divided into four parts, one of which was bought by a syndicate of twelve Brixham fishermen. Some of these shares became further divided, but "all the proprietors, be their shares ever so small, call themselves Quay lords."

The whole life of Brixham, for several centuries, was in fishing, shipbuilding, net making, and all the subsidiary trades. William Brewer's foundation charter of Torre abbey (1196) shows that fishing with nets in Tor Bay was even then an established practice. In the 16th century Leland refers to the net fishing in Tor Bay, and the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535 shows that Brixham, Paignton and St. Marychurch were all important fishing ports. Brixham had probably taken the lead by this date, and it remained the foremost fishing port in Devon until overtaken by Plymouth in the 1870s. Lysons tells us that in his day the Brixham fish supplied the Bath and Exeter markets, and that great quantities were also sent to London, being taken by sea to Portsmouth and thence overland. About 100 trawlers were then employed at Brixham, sixty of which fished along the S. coast, and the others in the Bristol and Irish Channels. About forty smaller boats were occupied with inshore fishing during the summer season. By the 1840s there were more than 270 vessels in the port (20,000 tons in all) employing about 1,600 seamen. The subsequent growth of the Brixham industry, and its disastrous collapse from 1919 onwards, has already been related in Part I. The town more than doubled in population during the 19th century; it fell in numbers during the first quarter of the 20th century but has lately acquired a reputation as a holiday centre and is now growing again.

Though Brixham has a strong character of its own, there is little in the town of architectural interest. Lower Brixham church (All Saints) was built 1820-4, but has been considerably altered since. Its first incumbent was the Rev. H. F. Lyte, the author of the hymn *Abide with me*. He lived at Berry Head House, which was built as a military hospital during the Napoleonic Wars (1809), and is now a hotel. On the N. side of Berry Head are extensive limestone quarries which are eating into the headland, and on the summit is a diminutive lighthouse, erected in 1906, with a powerful light. On the Quay at Brixham is a statue, erected in 1889, to commemorate the landing of William of Orange at this point on 5 November 1688.

At Higher Brixham, the original parish church (St. Mary) is a late 14th to 15th century building of red sandstone, with Beer stone arcades, and a number of interesting monuments, especially that to John Upton of Lupton (1687). The altar tomb is that of a former vicar, William Hille, 1464-87.

At Upton, and near Sharkham Point, were iron mines, now disused. Upton Manor was built in 1768. Lupton House, now a school, was a seat of the Bullers for a time, and was rebuilt c. 1770. It has been gutted by fire and reconstructed in recent years. Nethway House, in a small park, was built in 1699 by John Fownes, and contains much work of this period. Coleton Fishacre is a modern country house by Oswald Milne (1925-6).

## Brixton

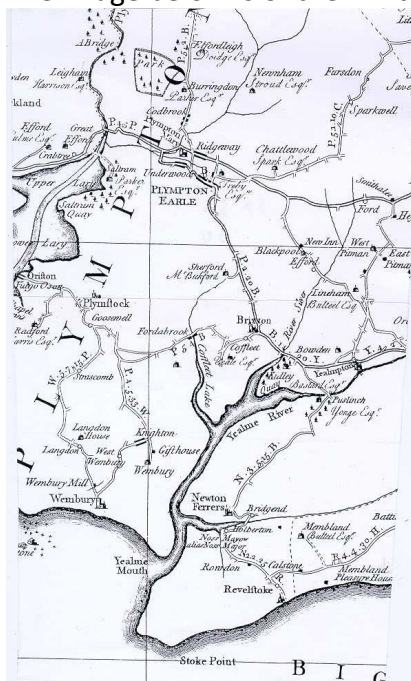
Brixton is located within South Hams local authority area. Historically it formed part of Plympton Hundred. It falls within Plympton Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript Church Notes of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 635 in 1801 652 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website.

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 Brixton 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 124/15
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 124SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX554521
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
  - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX55SE
  - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 20
  - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 202
- Geological sheet 349 also covers the area

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

Brixton has a late 15th century church (St. Mary), much restored in 1887 and 1894. Near it is a grove of elms, first planted in 1677 by Edward Fortescue of Spriddlestone, to be felled and sold for the relief of the poor of the parish. Immediately N. of the church is a late medieval house, probably the former parsonage or church-house. SW. of the church is a 16th century house, and E. and W. a number of attractive cottages.

The parish contains a number of interesting "mansions." Apart from Brixton itself, no fewer than seven other estates are mentioned in Domesday Book. These are Chittleburn, Halwell, Hareston, Sherford, Spriddlestone, Winston, and Wollaton. At Higher Hareston is a very attractive early Tudor house with a good porch, and remains of a chapel licensed in 1408. Spriddlestone was the home of one of the numerous branches of the great Fortescue family from about 1355 to 1785. They built a large quadrangular house here (now gone) *temp.* Henry VI and enlarged it in Elizabethan times.

## **Broadclyst**

Broadclyst is located within East Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Cliston Hundred. It falls within Aylesbere 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 1540 in 1801 1900 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £16/09/02. In 1641/2 443 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Pinhoe 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 is of the Broadclyst 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 68/12,69/9
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 68SE,69SW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX983972
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
  - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX99NE
  - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 114
  - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 192
- Geological sheet 325 also covers the area

## **Illustrations**

The image below is of Broadclyst 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:

Broad Clyst parish is exceptionally large, covering nearly fifteen square miles and including rich valley scenery, heath, and wooded hills like Killerton and Ashclyst Forest. Several of the farms date from before the Conquest (e.g. Ashclyst Farm, Clyst Gerred Farm, West Clyst, Mosshayne, Columbjohn, and Eveleigh.) Many, such as Killerton, Churchill and Southbrook, date from shortly after Domesday. The parish was for centuries full of ancient freeholders, of whom the most interesting (in view of their later history) were the Churchills, who took their name from Churchill in this parish as early as Henry II's time. This Churchill is almost certainly the original home of the present Churchill family.

The church (St. John the Baptist) has a fine 16th century W. tower of the Somerset type, said to have served as a model for Cullompton. The body of the church was probably rebuilt in the time of Bishop Stafford (1395-1419) as the Stafford knot appears on one of the capitals. The nave arcades of six bays are excellent, having graceful piers surmounted by beautifully carved capitals. In the chancel the fine 14th century sedilia cover the effigy of a knight in armour, believed to be that of Sir Roger de Nonant, the last of the Nonant lords of Broadclyst, who died c. 1330-40. This monument, one of the best of its kind in Devon, closely resembles in style the Prouz monument at Widworthy.

There are good Renaissance monuments to Sir John Acland of Columbjohn (1620) and to Edward Drewe, Esquire, of Killerton (1622), as well as an attractive mural monument to Henry Burrough, gent., and his wife.(1605).



Columbjohn, 2 m. NW. of the church, was a pre-Conquest estate, taking its name from the river and from one John de Culm who held it in 1235. It came eventually to the Earls of Devon, who had "a private retiring house" here, but they lost it by the attainder of Henry, Marquess of Exeter, in 1539. Late in Elizabeth's reign the estate was bought by Sir John Acland of Acland who built a new mansion on the site. Here the Aclands lived until Sir Thomas rebuilt Killerton, a mile away, about the middle of the 18th century. Columbjohn was garrisoned for the king during the civil war, and in March 1646 it was the headquarters of Fairfax, whose army was then stationed at Silverton. Cromwell also stayed here. The old house was demolished when the Aclands moved to Killerton, but the arched Elizabethan gateway still stands among the trees. The chapel, consecrated by Bishop Cotton on Sunday, 11 September 1608, has since been rebuilt. The interior is of no interest, but the exterior and its surroundings are very attractive.

Killerton is now mainly a late 18th century house in a timbered park. "Killerton Clump," the wooded hill behind the house, is a landmark for miles. Edward Drewe, sergeant-at-law, bought the estate late in Elizabeth's reign and built a mansion, only a mile from Sir John Acland's new house. Thomas Drewe, son of Edward, sold Killerton to the Aclands after his father's death, however, and moved to Grange in Broadhembury (q.v.) where the Drewes had built another mansion. The Aclands still live at Killerton, but Sir Richard Acland has handed over the house and park to the National Trust. The chapel in the park was built in 1842 in the Norman style, replacing that at Columbjohn. Round the summit of the hill (called Dolbury, "Dola's burh") are the remnants of an earthwork, a simple, defensive enclosure with rampart and ditch, probably of Early Iron Age date.

## **Broadhembury**

Broadhembury is located within East Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Hayridge Hundred. It falls within Ottery 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 780 in 1801 554 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In the valuation of 1334 it was assessed at £02/01/04. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £08/06/08. In 1641/2 240 adult males signed the Protestation returns. A market is recorded from 14 cent..

A parish history file is held in Cullompton 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 is of the Broadhembury 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 58/5
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 58NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is ST102048
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
  - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet ST00SE,ST10SW
  - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 030
  - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 192
- Geological sheet 326 also covers the area

### **Illustrations**

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



A fair is known from: 14c.-1822. [Extract from 'The glove is up! Devon's historic fairs', by Tricia Gerrish, by kind permission of the author].

Broadhembury

LOCATION:North of A373, between Honiton and Cullompton

ORIGINAL CHARTER:c.1290. Granted to the Abbot of Dunkeswell Abbey

3 day fair at Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15th)

The original charter for a fair at the Assumption Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary was given to the Abbot of Dunkeswell Abbey, which is nearby. An early 19th century cattle fair on 11th December is not mentioned by 1890.

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

Broadhembury takes its name from Hembury Fort on a spur of the Blackdown Hills, the finest earth-work in Devon. A brief account of it will be found in Part I. It is an Iron Age fortress superimposed upon a Neolithic causewayed camp, and it continued to be occupied until the second half of the 1st century. The name means "the high burh."

Broadhembury is one of the most attractive cob-and-thatch villages in Devon: it is rural East Devon at its best. The Drewe Arms, a notable example of village building, is an early Tudor house, and was probably the Church House originally.

The church (St. Andrew) is late 14th to early 15th century, with a fine W. tower, good window tracery, and the usual pleasant Beer stone arcades. The S. chancel aisle was the chapel of the Drewes of Grange (in this parish) and there are two good early 17th century Drewe monuments in the chancel. Notice also the excellent 15th century font, the groined roof and inner doorway of the N. porch, and the nave roof which has kept a good deal of its original colour. The medieval rood-screen was removed to an outhouse about 1851, and there burnt: the determined "restorers" stuck at nothing. The Victorian interior of the church is pleasant, but it might have been beautiful had they been content to leave things alone. The Rev. Augustus Toplady, famous as the author of the hymn *Rock of Ages* (which he wrote in Somerset), ended his days here as vicar, 1768-78.

Near Kerswell, in the NW. of the parish, was a small monastic cell dependent on the Cluniac monastery of Montacute in Somerset, founded between 1119 and 1129. The Priory, about ½ m. NW. of Kerswell, occupies the site of this cell.

Grange, SW. of the village, was another piece of monastic property, belonging to Dunkeswell Abbey. It was bought in 1603 by Edward Drewe, a successful Elizabethan lawyer who already possessed Sharpham and Killerton in this county, and he began to build here. He died in 1622 (and is buried in Broadclyst, (q.v.), and the house was completed by his son Thomas. The latter was knighted at the coronation of Charles I, and d. 1651 (buried at Broadhembury). The house is still substantially the early 17th century house, though it was much pulled about and altered in the 18th and early 19th centuries. It is notable for its magnificent plasterwork and carved woodwork, very similar in style to that at Bradfield (see UFFCULME). The Oak Drawing Room is the most elaborate room in the house, and one of the most beautiful in all Devon.

## Broadhempston

Broadhempston is located within Teignbridge local authority area. Historically it formed part of Haytor Hundred. It falls within Totnes 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 667 in 1801 441 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 225 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Totnes 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 Broadhempston 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 115/9
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 115SW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX806663
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
  - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX86NW
  - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 031
  - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 202
- Geological sheet 350 also covers the area

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

Broadhempston is a pleasant village with a fine church (St. Peter and St. Paul), which was rebuilt in 1401-03 except the tower and chancel (both c. 1300). The splendid late medieval rood-screen, formerly much mutilated and decayed, was restored by Herbert Read of Exeter in 1901-2.

Beaston was one of the "mansions" of the Rowes for 250 years, and the present farmhouse contains remains of the old building. Broadhempston is one of the small number of parishes to possess pre-Reformation churchwardens' accounts, beginning in 1519.