

## **Oakford**

Oakford is located within Mid Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Witheridge 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 480 in 1801 484 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 102 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Tiverton 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 Oakford 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 24/13
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 24SW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS910213
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
  - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS92SW
  - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 114
  - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 181
- Geological sheet 310 also covers the area

## **Illustrations**

The image below is of Oakford 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:**

Oakford church (St. Peter) dominates the village from an eminence. It was rebuilt in 1838-9, except for the 15th century tower, with a spacious nave and short chancel. Spurway Barton lies remote above a wooded combe and was a Domesday manor. The Spurways were already settled here in 1244 and continued to own it until recently. Other farms mentioned in Domesday are Bickham Barton, Mildon, Woodburn and East and West Tapps.

## **Offwell**

Offwell is located within East Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Colyton 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 302 in 1801 304 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £07/11/04.

A parish history file is held in Honiton 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 Offwell 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 71/1
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 71NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SY195996
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
  - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SY19NE
  - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 030
  - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 183
- Geological sheet 326 also covers the area

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

Offwell has a 15th century church (St. Mary), much restored by Edward Copleston (1776-1849), bishop of Llandaff and dean of St. Paul's, who was born at the rectory. The Coplestons have been rectors without a break from 1773 to the present day, and have produced a number of distinguished churchmen. Edward Copleston was a great builder. He built Offwell House (1828), the rectory (1845), and the tower on Honiton

Hill (1843) from which there are magnificent views. Colwell Barton, Culbeer, and Wilmington were all Domesday manors, and Glanvill Barton occurs as early as 1173-5.

## Okehampton

Okehampton is located within West Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Lifton Hundred. It falls within Okehampton 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 1500 in 1801 3223 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 £12/09/05. In 1641/2 318 adult males signed the Protestation returns. It is recorded as a borough from 1086 and was incorporated in 1623. It had parliamentary representation from 1640-1832. A turnpike was established in 1760. The community had a grammar school from 1591. A market is recorded from 14c.-1935.

A parish history file is held in Okehampton 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

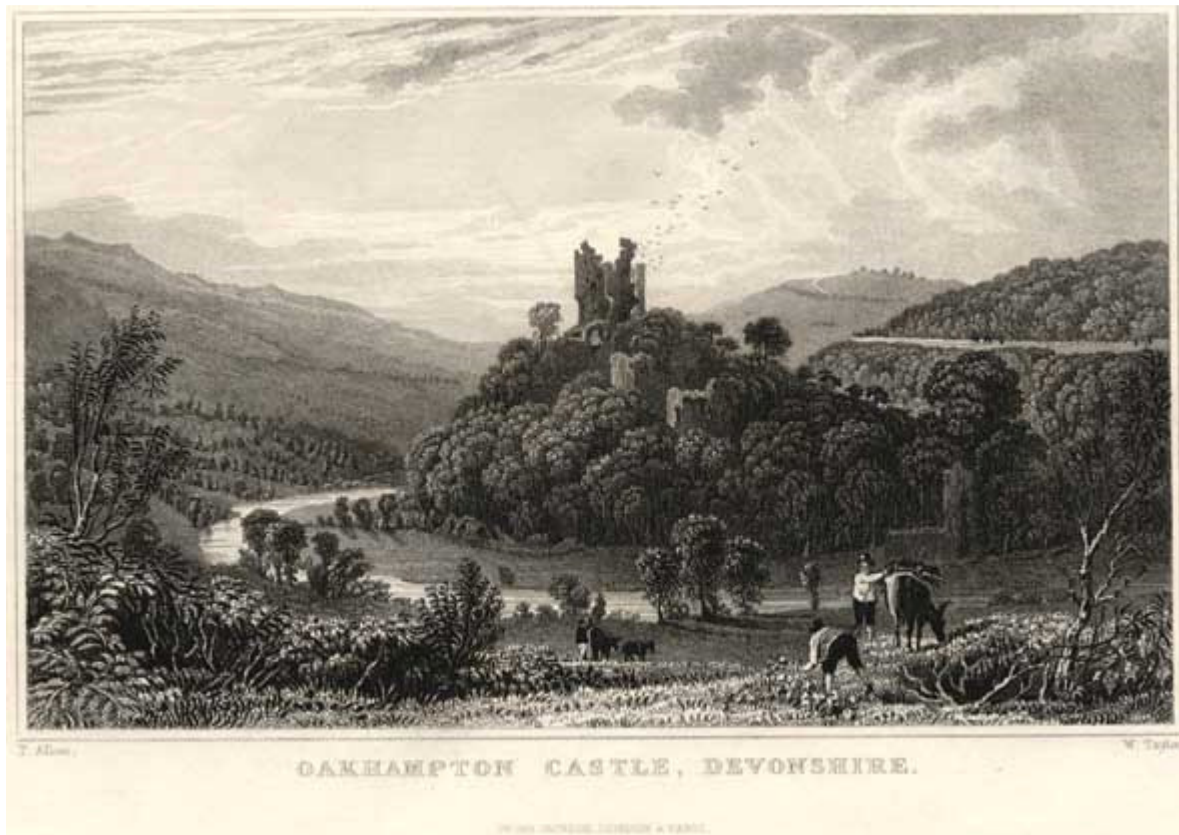
The image below is of the Okehampton area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 76/4
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 76NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX589952
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
  - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX59NE,SE
  - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 113
  - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 191
- Geological sheet 324 also covers the area

### Illustrations

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



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:

Okehampton is surrounded by a large parish known as Okehampton Hamlets, of which Kigbeare and Chichacott were Domesday manors, and Meldon occurs in the 12th century The parish rises S. to the high moorland of Dartmoor and includes its two highest points - High Willhays (2,039 ft.) and Yes Tor (2,028 ft.). Yes Tor, probably the name originally given to the whole hill of which High Willhays is part, is recorded as *Ernestorre* and *Yernestorre* in a 13th century perambulation of the Moor, meaning "eagles' tor." The military have had their grip on this part of the Moor for fifty years or more, but one may on occasions gain access to the summit of Yes Tor, from which there is an extraordinary view: N. over most of Devon, W. as far as Bodmin Moor, S. a vast, awe-inspiring, and desolate prospect into the deepest recesses of the Moor.

Okehampton town was founded by Baldwin de Brionne, the Norman sheriff of Devon, shortly before 1086, on a new wedge-like site between the East Okement and West Okement rivers, and the Saxon site was gradually abandoned except for the church (All Saints), which now stands alone. The 15th century church was



entirely destroyed by fire in 1842, except the fine granite tower. It was rebuilt by Hayward of Exeter in 1843-4. Because of the distance of the parish church from the new town, a chantry chapel of St. James was erected in the town. This was rebuilt in 1862, except the 15th century granite tower. Okehampton is a singularly dull town, with very little to look at. The only building of any merit is the Town Hall, a handsome structure erected in 1685 by John Northmore as a town house, and converted to its present use in 1821. Just outside the town, to the N., is Oaklands, a mansion erected in 1820-2 by C. Vokins for Albany Saville, who had bought the castle and manor of Okehampton from Henry Holland.

Okehampton was incorporated in 1623. From 1640 to 1832, when it was disfranchised, it regularly returned two members to Parliament.

About 1 m. SW. of the town, on a commanding site above the West Okement river, is the castle, of which there are substantial remains. A strong site was made even stronger by an artificial cut on the W. side, above which towers the square keep. The keep may be late Norman in date, but the other buildings represent mostly a rebuilding of c. 1300. On the N. side of the bailey are the remains of the great hall and buttery, stores, and the kitchen with its two ovens; on the S. side the lodge, ward-rooms, and a very picturesque chapel. The whole site is romantically beautiful. (For a fuller description of the castle, see Young, Okehampton, 35-8) The position of the castle, beside the main road from Exeter into Cornwall, probably accounts for its building and early importance.

At Brightley, about 2 m. N. of the town, is an ancient house, and the remains of a chapel, now used as a barn. Here Richard fitz Baldwin founded a religious house in 1133, and on 3 May 1136 a superior and twelve monks arrived from Waverley Abbey to build a new monastery. They abandoned Brightley in 1141 and were given a new site at Ford in East Devon, which subsequently became Ford Abbey.

At Meldon, about 2½ m. SW. of the town, are great quarries of limestone. Meldon Viaduct, near by, is a notable piece of railway engineering, carrying the railway over a deep ravine at a height of 160 ft. The scenery around here is of striking beauty. Between Meldon and Okehampton, on the hillside below the military camp, is the site of Okehampton Park, the chase of the medieval Courtenays, now a wild spot covered with ancient hawthorns, holly trees, and great furze bushes.

## Otterton

Otterton 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 920 in 1801 622 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £22/14/02.

A parish history file is held in Budleigh Salterton 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

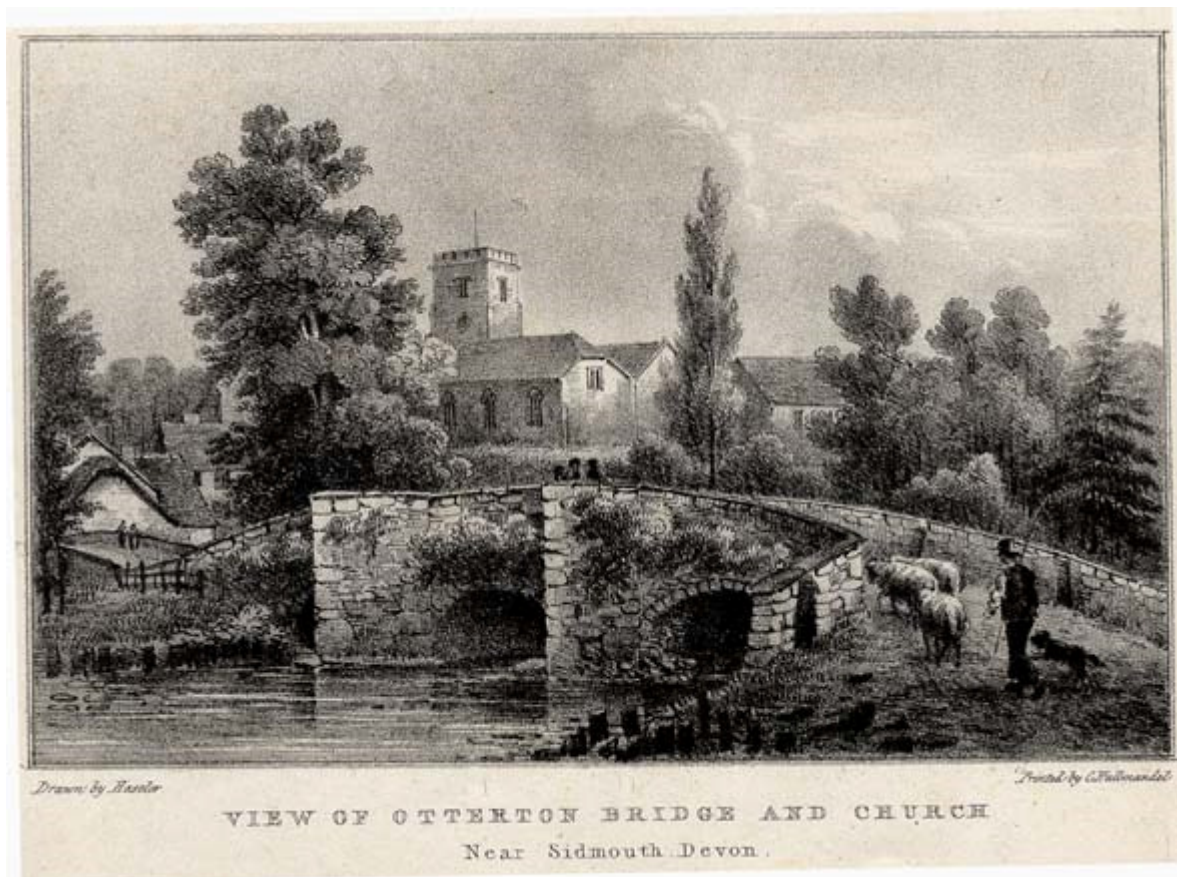
The image below is of the Otterton area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 94/5,9
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 94NW,SW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SY082853
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
  - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SY08NE
  - 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 Otterton 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:

Otterton is a large, pleasant village with much good building in cob and thatch, and the local red sandstone. A good house in the main street is dated 1627, and there are others of the same period. The church (St. Michael) was rebuilt in 1871 (Benjamin Ferrey), except the tower, and turned into a suburban edifice.

Otterton priory, founded *temp.* William II, was a dependent of Mont St. Michel in Normandy. It was suppressed as an alien priory in 1414 and its endowments granted to Syon Abbey in Middlesex. At the dissolution of Syon in 1539, Richard Duke (who was clerk of the Court of Augmentations, handling the disposal of monastic property) immediately bought the manor of Otterton. He converted part of the monastic buildings into a mansion, which still stands by the church, and is now divided internally and occupied by several cottagers. The manorial mills, recorded in Domesday Book, are still working.

Pinn farmhouse has a good deal of 16th century work. Ladram Bay is a much-visited "beauty-spot" on the red sandstone coast of this parish.

## **Ottery St Mary**

Ottery St Mary is located within East Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Ottery St Mary 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 2415 in 1801 3495 in 1901 7417 in 1991. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In the valuation of 1334 it was assessed at £20/00/00. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £79/02/02. The community had a grammar school from 1545. A market is recorded from 14c.-1888.

A parish history file is held in Ottery St Mary 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 Ottery St Mary 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 70/13
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 70SW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SY100955
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
  - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SY09NE,SY19NW
  - 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 Ottery St Mary as included in the Library's illustration's collection. Other images can be searched for on the local studies catalogue.



A fair is known from: 14c.-1888. [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:

Ottery St. Mary is a pleasant little town set in the midst of a large, fertile, and beautiful parish. The parish occupies mainly the valley of the Otter, from which it takes its name, but it reaches both E. and W. to high ridges from which there are superb views over a luxuriant countryside.

Edward the Confessor gave the manor and hundred to the cathedral church of St. Mary at Rouen. Bishop Grandisson of Exeter procured it by exchange in 1334, and in 1337 he founded a college of secular priests, with 40 members in all, endowing it with the manor and hundred, and the tithes of the whole parish. The college was suppressed by Henry VIII in 1545, when the fabric of the church, and a small residue of the collegiate property, were transferred to a body of four governors, to whom Edward VI added eight assistants in 1552. These are still the legal owners and guardians of the church and churchyard. Among the property so transferred was the school-house of Grandisson's foundation, which was refounded as "The King's New Grammar School" and continues to the present day. John Coleridge (1719-81) was vicar of Ottery and master of the grammar school, and his son Samuel Taylor Coleridge, the poet and philosopher, and perhaps the only literary genius that Devon

has produced, received his earliest schooling here. Ottery is the Clavering St. Mary of *Pendennis*, by W. M. Thackeray, who used to spend his vacations from Charterhouse (1825-28) at Larkbeare, near by; and William Browne, the author of *Britannia's Pastorals*, lived here for many years and died here in 1645.

Although swept by great fires in 1767 and 1866, Ottery retains many good Georgian houses, especially in the neighbourhood of the church; but it is the latter (St. Mary) which is the glory of the town. It is perhaps the finest church in Devon other than Exeter Cathedral, upon which it was closely modelled by Bishop Grandisson when he greatly enlarged and beautified the existing church for his college of canons. It is a 13th century church, reconstructed in 1338-42, added to c. 1520 by the Dorset Aisle, and restored by Butterfield in 1849-50.

Among the notable features of the church are (1) the 14th century clock (c. 1340) in the S. transept, with its original works, though no longer working; (2) the canopied tombs in the nave of Sir Otho de Grandisson (1358), brother of the bishop, and Lady Beatrice, his wife (1374); (3) the tomb of John Haydon of Cadhay (1588) in the chancel; (4) the monument, in the N. aisle, with full-length standing figure, to John Coke of Thorne (1632); (5) the 14th century choir stalls, altar screen, and sedilia; (6) the minstrels' gallery, stalls, and gilded wooden eagle, all in the Lady Chapel, the latter given to the church by Grandisson himself; (7) the fine pulpit (1722), carved by a parishioner, and the bronze lectern copied from that at St. Nicholas, King's Lynn; (8) the eight coloured bosses in the roof, extending from the middle of the nave to the E. end of the Lady Chapel, the W. boss depicting Bishop Grandisson in his episcopal robes, the others a summary of Our Lord's life and works; (9) the carved exterior of the N. porch; (10) in the S. transept the recumbent effigy by Thrupp of Jane, Lady Coleridge (1878).

Ottery has subsisted for a thousand years as a market town for a fertile countryside. It formerly had a considerable woollen manufacture, and still had in Lysons's day "a large manufactory for spinning wool." The old mill near the station was probably this manufactory. In the parish are a number of interesting houses, of which Cadhay, 1 m. NW., is the most notable. This is a fine Tudor mansion, built by John Haydon (d. 1588), a successful Devon lawyer who married the Cadhay heiress. There is a quadrangle known as "The Court of the Kings," with an entrance in the centre of each side, above which are the figures of Henry VIII and his three "sovereign" children.

Knightstone, SE. of the town, is substantially a medieval hall-house, remodelled in the 16th century. It belonged for a time to the Bonvilles and the Greys, and then to the Shermans, a local family, for several generations. Other "mansions" in the parish were Thorne, Holcombe, Ash (Elizabethan), and Bishop's Court, said to have been the seat of Bishop Grandisson.