

Bow

Bow is located within Mid Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of North Tawton Hundred. It falls within Cadbury 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 677 in 1801 660 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £02/03/08. In 1641/2 129 adult males signed the Protestation returns. It is recorded as a borough from 1259. It had parliamentary representation from 940. Also known as Nymet Tracey. A market is recorded from 14c.-1792.

A parish history file is held in CREDITON & OKEHAMPTON Libraries. 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 Bow 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 66/1,2
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 66NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS722018
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS70SW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 113
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 191
- Geological sheet 324 also covers the area

A fair is known from: 14c.-1822. [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:

Bow is a large street-village on the old Crediton and Okehampton road. The original centre of the parish was Nymet Tracey (for the meaning of *nymet* see KING'S NYMPTON) but in the 13th century a new settlement grew up on the main road. Henry de Tracey obtained in 1259 the grant of a weekly market and a three-day fair at the feast of St. Martin, (Lysons, 346-5. Lysons gives 1258 as the date of the grant, but it should be 1259). which would naturally be held down on the main road; and so Bow was born. Early in the 14th century an attempt was made to make a borough of it. We find four burgesses here in 1326; (Lysons, 364-5. Lysons gives 1258 as the date of the grant, but it should be 1259) but the place never developed any urban characteristics, though it retained its fair until about 1900.

Halse was a Saxon estate and is recorded in Domesday. Hillerton is recorded in a Saxon charter of 739. Here Mr. Reckitts, the starch mignate, built a mansion which is now completely demolished. At Hilldown, the Traceys are said to have had a castle (more probably a fortified manor house) of which some walls remained within living memory.

Nymet Tracey church (St. Bartholomew) is a 14th century building, with a 15th century N. aisle, all heavily restored in 1889-90, when the chancel was rebuilt. There are traces of Norman work in the S. doorway. An unusual early 16th century rood-screen retains a good deal of the ancient colouring. The pulpit and altar rails date from 1680. There was formerly a chapel at Bow dedicated to St. Martin.

Bradford

Bradford is located within Torridge local authority area. Historically it formed part of Black Torrington 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 352 in 1801 280 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 68 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Holsworthy 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 Bradford 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 51/5
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 51NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS421072
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS40NW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 12
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 190
- Geological sheet 307 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Bradford 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:

Bradford was the "broadford" over the Torridge. Besides Bradford itself, Dunsland, Henscott, and Lashbrook are all mentioned in Domesday. Dunsland descended to the Arscotts of Arscott, by marriage with the Battyn heiress, in 1522. They held it until 1634, when William Bickford married the Arscott heiress. The Bickfords held it from 1634 until 1817. It then passed to the Coharns, and subsequently to the Dickinsons, who sold it before 1939. Dunsland House is of considerable interest. Beginning with a small early Tudor house, it shows a succession of enlargements down to the late 18th century. The original house (c. 1500) was added to about the middle of the 16th century: a record of 1580 refers to "the old parlour" and "the old kitchen," and suggests a house of some size. (D.C.R.S., I.P.M. Humphrey Arscott 1580) It also refers to the chamber or chapel over the porch, a room which may still be seen. No earlier reference to a chapel at Dunsland has been found; but this suggests a pre-Reformation date for part of the house which is confirmed by the existence of linenfold panelling in one room. The house was enlarged in 1609; much of this work also remains. It was further enlarged and embellished by Arscott Bickford, who ruled at Dunsland 1659-93. The magnificent decorated ceiling and carving in the drawing-room, c. 1680, now restored, is part of his work. Lysons says that the house was further "much improved" by George Bickford, who had Dunsland 1771-95. The house fell into considerable disrepair during the war of 1939-45, but has since been rescued and carefully restored. The remains of a moat and a large fishpond SW. of

Bramble Wood probably represent the site of the medieval manor house of Dunsland, before the early Tudor rebuilding on a new site.

Henscott, now a farmhouse, was the home of the Henscotts from the early 13th century until 1572 when John Henscott died. Near the farm is a small earthwork of an irregular circular plan, overlooking the Torridge valley. Bovacott was a "mansion" in the 16th and 18th centuries. On the wall of the N. aisle of the parish church is an incised slate slab, of beautiful lettering and design, to the Maynards of Bovacott, 1666-88.

The church (All Saints) is essentially an early 14th century building, with a good Norman S. doorway and a (restored) Norman font, preserved from the 12th century church. The N. aisle was added early in the 16th century. In 1550 the tower was repaired and raised, as appears by a dated stone, and the church probably reseated. A few remains of well-carved 16th century bench-ends lie mouldering at the back of the church, together with a medieval chest. Many late medieval tiles remain in the floor. There are incised floor-slabs to the Arscotts, Bickfords, Henscotts, and other local families. The church, which had become ruinous, was restored in 1869 and again in 1875-89 when the chancel was rebuilt. Nevertheless, it remains an interesting and pleasant little building.

Bradninch

Bradninch is located within Mid Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Hayridge Hundred. It falls within Cullompton 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 1187 in 1801 1521 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In the valuation of 1334 it was assessed at £02/16/08. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £11/17/03. In 1641/2 370 adult males signed the Protestation returns. It is recorded as a borough from 1157 and was incorporated in 1604. It had parliamentary representation from the 14th century. A market is recorded from 1208.

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 below is of the Bradninch 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 57/9
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 57SW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS998038
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS90SE,ST00SW
 - 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 Bradninch as included in the Library's illustrations collection. Other images can be searched for on the local studies catalogue.



BRADNINCH CHURCH.

*Drawn from Nature and en-Stone by W. Sproule.
Printed by C. Bulmerfield.*

A fair is known from: 14 cent.. [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:

Bradninch lying in a fold of the hills that rise W. from the Culm valley to 850 ft. at Christ Cross, is a decayed borough and market town with a long history. In the 12th century it was held as an honour or barony with the earldom of Cornwall by Reginald, natural son of Henry I, who created a borough here by charter between 1141 and 1175. (D.A. 24(1951), 204.) King John's charter of 1208 granted the burgesses of Bradninch all such liberties and free customs as the city of Exeter enjoyed, together with a Saturday market and a four-day fair at the feast of St. Dionysius; and in 1238 King Henry III granted the borough a Thursday market and a three-day fair at the festival of the Holy Trinity. In 1337 Bradninch, with other estates, was absorbed into the Duchy of Cornwall, to which it still belongs. The borough was incorporated by James I in 1604, and given a mayor, 12 masters, and a recorder. The Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 removed Bradninch from the list of boroughs, although the report of the commissioners showed that it was far from being as scandalously corrupt as most of the Devon boroughs. Of the annual income of £64 10s., the corporation spent exactly one-half on feasting themselves.

Like many of the East Devon towns, it had a considerable woollen industry and was also noted for its lace manufacture. Both these industries decayed to nothing by the late 18th century, and when Lysons wrote (1822) he tells us that all the fairs and great markets had long been discontinued; even the weekly market had not been held within living memory. Bradninch would, indeed, have sunk to the level of Plympton Earl and passed away in its sleep but for the timely establishment of paper mills on the Culm, whose water was eminently suitable for paper making. A grist mill at Hele was converted to a paper mill in 1762, and in 1767 two more mills were started at Kensham, near by. The Hele Mills are still flourishing and produce high-grade paper. It was here that John Dewdney produced the first glazed writing paper in England in the 1840s; he was called on to supply the paper for the catalogues of the Great Exhibition in 1851. (Crosslegh, History of Bradninch) The mills were burnt down in 1821 and rebuilt. With the houses and cottages around, Hele makes an attractive group.

The town has little to commend it. It consists chiefly of one main street flanked by drab roughcast or red brick, lifeless and unattractive. The usual series of fires, so common in the cob- and-thatch country, has destroyed most of the old buildings, though away from the main street are one or two buildings in the old vernacular style. The church (St. Dionysius) is entirely 15th to early 16th century in date, with an over-restored interior (1845). Only the rood-screen is of any interest. It is twelve bays in width, with fifty-two panels having painted figures or subjects. Two niches retain their ancient statuettes. The date of the screen is said to be 1528. Across the tower arch is a fine 15th century screen, formerly the N. parclose screen.

The manor house was built by Peter Sainthill in 1547, but not much of this house is left. About 1712 the central block was rebuilt in brick. Though the house is somewhat plain externally, it retains a good deal of very fine carved Jacobean woodwork, most notably in the so-called "Job Room." This room has a splendid internal porch strongly resembling that at Bradfield'; and the ceiling is a good example of the Devonshire school of plasterwork. The 17th century library fireplace is also notable. Bradninch was the head-quarters of King Charles's army on 27 July 1644, when the King slept at the manor house. In October 1645 the town was the headquarters of Fairfax.

Bradstone

Bradstone 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 105 in 1801 105 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 57 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Tavistock 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 Bradstone 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 96/8
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 96NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX382809
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX38SE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 112
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 201
- Geological sheet 337 also covers the area

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

Bradstone takes its name from some "broad stone," perhaps a boundary mark. The S. boundary of the parish is a prehistoric trackway down to the Tamar, where Greystone Bridge now is. This fine medieval bridge is mentioned in the Exeter episcopal registers in 1438 and by William of Worcester in 1478. There are superb views, all over the parish, of Bodmin Moor, Dartmoor, and the Tamar valley. The church, dedicated to St. Non, mother of St. David, is mostly an early 16th century

building with a good W. tower, boldly pinnacled. The 12th century S. doorway was uncovered about 1888. Considerable portions of the S. wall of the nave appear to be Norman also. The medieval screen still survived in 1840; the present atrocity dates from 1892. The interior is plain, with no monuments. The Hall, now a farmhouse, is a good Elizabethan house in local stone, with a gatehouse and fine ranges of barns and outbuildings.

Bradworthy

Bradworthy is located within Torrington local authority area. Historically it formed part of Black Torrington 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 634 in 1801 847 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 166 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Holsworthy 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 Bradworthy 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 39/5
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 39NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS324141
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS31SW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 126
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 190
- Geological sheet 307 also covers the area

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

Bradworthy is a large village in high, remote country, built around an open square. In plan it is characteristic of a nucleated settlement founded early in the Saxon occupation (perhaps c. 700): the large open space, the houses grouped around the original water supply, and the parish church to one side. The latter (St. John the Baptist) is a dullish building, largely of early 16th century date, containing an earlier

font (c.1200), a Jacobean pulpit, and some medieval tiles in the floor. Alfardisworthy was a small Domesday estate; the present farmhouse is of considerable age. Other Domesday estates were Ash, Brexworthy, Horton, Instaple and Kimworthy, while Limscott is recorded by 1196. On the outlying moors are a number of Bronze Age burial-mounds.