

Southleigh

Southleigh 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 237 in 1801 157 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £02/05/02.

A parish history file is held in Colyton 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 Southleigh 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 83/2
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 83NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SY207935
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SY29SW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 030
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 193
- Geological sheet 326 also covers the area

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

Southleigh is a scattered village among the wooded hills S. of the Coly Valley. The church (St. Lawrence), attractively situated on the edge of a small combe, is built of flints and much restored. It was probably an early 13th century church. The south aisle was added in 1821, and the chancel rebuilt in 1854. Wiscombe lies in a romantic situation among finely wooded hills. It belonged in the 13th century to the great

Bonvill family, who made a deer park here. The old house was pulled down, and the present one built in the Gothic style in 1826.

Blackbury Castle (i.e. "black earthwork") is a large Iron Age hill-fort on a commanding ridge S. of Wiscombe. It is roughly oval in shape, with a remarkable inturned entrance on the S. side. The other entrances are probably modern.

Sowton

Sowton is located within East Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Wonford 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 318 in 1801 374 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website.

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 below is of the Sowton 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 80/8
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 80NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX977926
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX99SE
 - 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 Sowton as included in the Library's illustrations catalogue. 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:

Sowton church (St. Michael) was wholly rebuilt in 1845, and is quite dull. Bishop's Court was formerly a palace of the Bishops of Exeter (called *Clyst*). Bishop Bronescombe bought the estate and had erected a palace and chapel here before 1276. Much medieval work remains, including the chapel (c. 1270) and 15th century barns and stables, but the house itself was "altered and improved" about 1863.

Sparkwell

Sparkwell is located within South Hams local authority area. Historically it formed part of Haytor 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.

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 Sparkwell 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 118/16
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 118SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX581580
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX55NE
 - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 20
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 202
- Geological sheet 349 also covers the area

Spreyton

Spreyton is located within West Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Wonford 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 333 in 1801 360 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 74 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

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 Spreyton 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 66/13
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 66SW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX699967
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX69NE,SX79NW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 113
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 191
- Geological sheet 324 also covers the area

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

Spreyton stands high (750 ft.) in the rolling foothills N. of Dartmoor.

The church (St. Michael) is a 15th century building in granite, with a fine, dignified tower that is a landmark for some miles. It is approached by an avenue of lime trees

planted in 1802. A Latin inscription in the chancel roof suggests that the church was completed in 1451. The nave and N. aisle roofs are ceiled and have excellent carved bosses, ribs, and wall-plates. In the churchyard is a headstone to Thomas Copley, gent., of Buttsford in the neighbouring parish of Colebrooke, d. 1844, aged 82. He was the nephew of the famous "Uncle Tom Copley," who also lies buried in this churchyard. "Uncle Tom" was a substantial yeoman of Spreyton, who died at the end of the 18th century at a great age. His companions on the famous ride to Widecombe Fair all came from this district. He disinherited his son Thomas for being too free with the girls and left his considerable estate to this nephew who, however, does not seem to have put up so much as a headstone to the old man.

Spreyton Barton, near the church, is probably a 17th century farmhouse, the seat of the Battishills for a time.

Starcross

Starcross is located within Teignbridge local authority area. Historically it formed part of Exminster Hundred. It falls within Kenn 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 Dawlish 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 Starcross 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 102/4
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 102NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX976817
- 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 031
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 191
- Geological sheet 339 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Starcross as included in the Library's illustrations catalogue 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:

Starcross is a large village in the parish of Kenton on the estuary of the Exe and the ancient landing-place for Kenton. There was an inn here (the Courtenay Arms) and "several neat buildings" by the time Polwhele wrote (1793), and the opening of the South Devon Railway in 1846 brought more people. Starcross never fulfilled

expectations as a watering-place, being overshadowed by Dawlish, but it still wears, along the river front, a placid air of early Victorian days.