

Ashton

Ashton 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.

The population was 176 in 1801 150 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 79 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Chudleigh 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 Ashton 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 91/11,15 Six inch (1:10560) sheet 91SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX857847.
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX88SE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 031
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 191
- Geological sheet 339 also covers the area

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

Ashton lies in singularly beautiful country on the W. slopes of Haldon, falling to the Teign valley. The scattered village is also most attractive. The parish church (now St. John the Baptist: original dedication unknown) is one of the most "atmospheric" village churches in Devon. It was begun before 1400 and completed with all its

fittings by about 1485; and as it was restored at a late date (1900-5) it has conserved intact most of its ancient beauty. The striking rood-screen and parclose screens have some of the best panel-paintings in Devon, those at the back being even better than those at the front. The panel paintings in the Lady Chapel are particularly notable. Besides the screens, the church contains many carved medieval benches, medieval glass, a medieval wall-painting more intelligible than most, an Elizabethan pulpit with sounding-board and hour-glass, and a large wooden monument to Sir George Chudleigh (1582-1657). The original vaulting and loft of the rood-screen were destroyed soon after Rickman saw them in 1825; the present groined canopy was added in 1908. The roof-bosses are all restorations, except one. Such a bare catalogue cannot do justice to this really notable church, which ranks with Torbryan and Molland as one of the most beautiful village churches in the county.

Below the church is Place (now called Lower Barton) where the Chudleighs lived from the early 14th century until 1745) when Sir George, the 4th Bart., began to build the great mansion of Haldon (see KENN).

George Teign Barton is a large rambling farmstead of 16th and 17th century date for the most part, so called from the medieval chapel of St. George which formerly stood here.

Ashwater

Ashwater 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 643 in 1801 758 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 167 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 Ashwater 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 74/4 Six inch (1:10560) sheet 74NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX386953
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX39NE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping: sheet 112
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 190
- Geological sheet 323 also covers the area

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

Ashwater is an attractive little village grouped around a green. The church (St. Peter) is interesting. It has a splendid Norman font of a Cornish type, with unique ornament, and a N. doorway of the same date. Otherwise the church is mainly 14th and late 15th century in date. Notice the curious S. arcade, which is said to date from

a thorough restoration in 1676-7 when the churchwardens' accounts show that nearly £200 was spent on the fabric. Notice, too, the carved roofs. Some of the bench-ends are c. 1500, but most are the modern work of a local craftsman. The canopied tomb in the S. aisle with recumbent effigies is possibly that of Sir Hugh Courtenay (slain at Tewkesbury) 1471) and his wife Margaret. Near by are the royal arms in plaster, dated 1638.

Atherington

Atherington is located within North Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of North Tawton Hundred. It falls within Barnstaple 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 484 in 1801 453 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 132 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Bideford 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 Atherington 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 20/16 Six inch (1:10560) sheet 20SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS591231.
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS52SE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 127
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 180
- Geological sheet 309 also covers the area.

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

Atherington stands high and commands magnificent views. The church (St. Mary), on the hill-top, is a landmark for miles. It is entirely a 15th and 16th century building, and is of exceptional interest for its contents. It is notable in the first place in

retaining the only rood-loft left in Devon, though this is now confined to the N. aisle only. The screen and loft, of exquisite design and finish, formerly stretched across the church, but at some date (possibly about 1800) the chancel section was removed and a much poorer and simpler screen of an early type substituted for it. This early screen is said to have come from the chapel at Umberleigh, the home of the Bassets, when it was pulled down. We know that the rood-loft at least was the work of two Chittlehampton carvers c. 1530-40. They may also have been responsible for the aisle screen, which bears a marked resemblance to those of Lapford and Marwood. The church also has a fine series of carved and crocketed bench-ends, of a most unusual type for Devon, and of an early type (probably 15th century). In the N. chancel aisle is a complete window of medieval glass. There are various effigies and tombs. The effigy of a 13th century knight in armour in the N. chancel aisle is believed to be that of Sir William Champernowne of Umberleigh; and the two 14th century figures in the chancel are said to represent Sir Ralph Willington, kt. (d. 1349) and Lady Eleanor (Mohun) his wife. These effigies were formerly in the chapel at Umberleigh, but were removed to Atherington church in 1818. The altar tomb on the N. side of the chancel has brass figures depicting a knight in armour, his two wives, and twelve children in two groups. It is the tomb of Sir John Basset of Umberleigh, and his two wives Ann (Denys of Orleigh) and Honor (Grenville of Bideford). Sir John died in 1529. Atherington church and screen were restored by J. L. Pearson in 1884. Almost nothing remains of the great house at Umberleigh, beside the Taw. Umberleigh Barton contains some old work, possibly 16th century.

Aveton Gifford

Aveton Gifford is located within South Hams local authority area. Historically it formed part of Ermington Hundred. It falls within Woodleigh 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 746 in 1801 657 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In the valuation of 1334 it was assessed at £02/13/04. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £09/11/01. In 1641/2 150 adult males signed the Protestation returns. It is recorded as a borough from 1384. A market is recorded from 14 cent..

A parish history file is held in Kingsbridge 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 Aveton Gifford 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 132/5,9 Six inch (1:10560) sheet 132NW,SW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX694475.
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX64NE
 - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 20
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 202
- Geological sheet 349 also covers the area

A fair is known from: 14th 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:

Aveton Gifford (pron. *Awton Jifford*) formerly had one of the oldest and most interesting churches in Devon (St. Andrew), built in the late 13th century for the most part, a cruciform building with a central tower. It was almost completely destroyed in a "tip-and-run" raid in 1943 and is still (1951) a ruin. The farms of Heathfield and Stadbury were Domesday manors; there are some traces of the former manor house at Heathfield. Harraton, beside the Modbury road, is a good example of an early 17th century farm house. Court Barton, near the ruined church, retains some older features.

Robert Macey, who built numerous churches and theatres in London, including the Adelphi and the Haymarket, was born the son of a mason at Aveton Gifford in 1790.

Axminster

Axminster is located within East Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Axminster Hundred. It falls within Honiton Vol 2 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 2154 in 1801 2933 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In the valuation of 1334 it was assessed at £05/00/00. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £10/02/05. It is recorded as a borough from 1209/10. A turnpike was established in 1754. A market is recorded from 14c.-1985.

A parish history file is held in Axminster 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

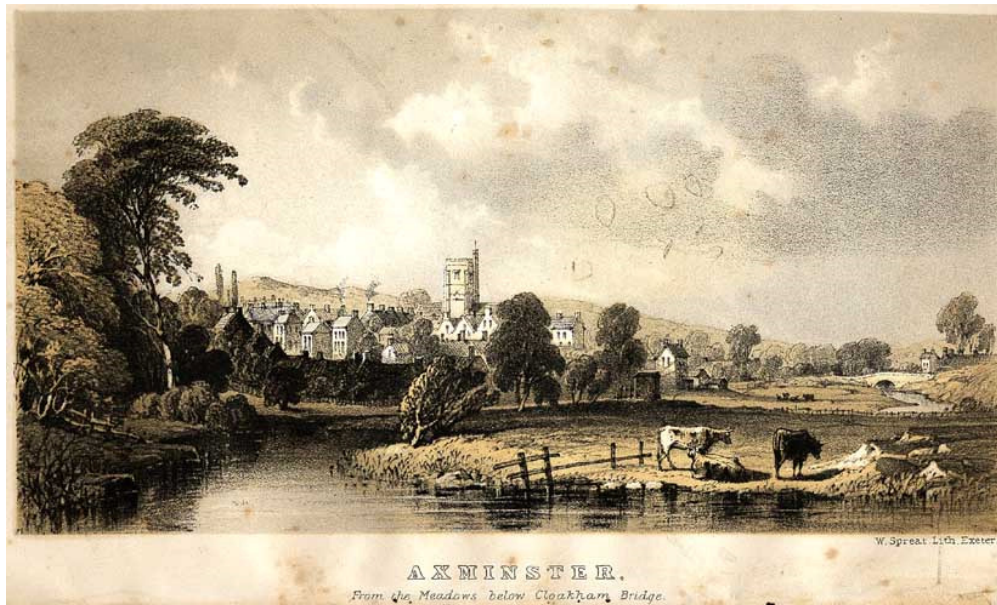
The image below is of the Axminster area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 72/5,6 Six inch (1:10560) sheet 72NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SY297984
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SY29NE & SY39NW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 029
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 192
- Geological sheet 326 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Axminster 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.-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:

Axminster is a quiet little market-town, well sited on a bluff above the Axe. A *minster* or *monasterium* was founded here probably soon after 705, when the see of Sherborne was created to bring Devon within the Saxon episcopal organisation. The town itself lay on or near the Fosse Way, and was one of the earliest settlements in the Saxon occupation of Devon, founded in all probability soon after 660. It was a royal estate until 1204, when King John granted it to William Brewer. From the Brewers it passed to the Mohuns by marriage, and Reginald Mohun gave it to the Cistercian abbey of Newenham which was founded S. W. of the town in 1246. After the Dissolution the manor passed to the Greys, and then to the Howards. Lord William Howard sold it to Lord Petre in 1605 for £7,200. The Petres disposed of a good deal of the land during the next two centuries, and in 1824 sold the remainder, with the rest of their estates in the neighbourhood, for £43,000. (D.A. 67 (1935), 306-7)

A Sunday market had grown up at Axminster during the 12th century and in 1204 it was confirmed to William Brewer. A charter of 1209 is said to have made Axminster a free borough, and another in 1215 granted the burgesses an eight-day fair beginning on the feast of St. John the Baptist. This fair was still held in Lysons's day (1822) but has now ceased. Two one-day fairs are now held, one on the Tuesday after April 25, and the other on the Wednesday after October 10. At the October fair there is usually a good show of cattle, sheep, and horses.

The parish church (St. Mary and St. John the Evangelist), formerly prebendal, is the most interesting building in the town. It is a cruciform structure, with a central tower, its transepts enlarged into aisles at later dates; and the central tower was

rebuilt in the 13th century above the old crossing. The chancel also is largely 13th century. At the E. end of the S. aisle is a good Norman doorway (c. 1150), originally the S. doorway of the nave. Among the fittings of the church are a handsome pulpit and reading-desk (1633) and a fine chandelier (1750).

Of Newenham abbey only small traces of walling remain. The farmhouse on the site (Higher Newenham) is of 16th and 17th century date. John Prince, author of *The Worthies of Devon*, was born here in 1643. Great Trill, first mentioned in 1713, was one of the properties of the Drakes of Ashe, and at one time a small manor house. There are: remains of Tudor buildings in the yard. The house itself has been modernised to some extent. It is practically certain that the great Duke of Marlborough was born in this house on 24 May 1650, and not at Ashe House in Musbury, as is so often asserted.

Weycroft, "built on the rising of a hill," is largely of early 15th century date. In 1417 Bishop Stafford licensed a private chapel here, and in 1426 a royal licence was granted to crenellate the mansion and enclose a park of 800 acres. The most interesting remaining feature is the great hall in the N. section (c. 1400) which runs to the full height of the house and has a range of three large windows on each side. There is a contemporary gallery at the lower end treated like a rood-loft. The S. section of the house is mainly 17th century and later, but the E. wing is probably 15th century.

Smallridge was one of the earliest homes of the Raleighs in Devon. They were here before 1242 and lived here for ten or eleven generations until Sir Wimond Raleigh, the grandfather of the celebrated Sir Walter, sold it *temp.* Henry VIII. Cloakham House, not far away, was built in 1732.

The Axminster carpet manufacture was started here in 1755 but failed in 1835. The original factory building may be seen NE of the church. The carpet manufacture has recently been revived in the town.