

## Brendon

Brendon is located within North Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Sherwill Hundred. It falls within Shirwell 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 260 in 1801 262 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 404 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Lynton 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 Brendon 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 3/15
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 3SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS769482
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
  - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS74NE
  - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 09
  - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 180
- Geological sheet 277 also covers the area

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

Brendon is a large parish with much beautiful valley scenery and moorland. Badgworthy, Cheriton and Lank Combe represent small Domesday estates. Lank Combe is now un-inhabited. Cheriton means "farm by the church," but there is no church here to-day. At some date it was removed to its present solitary site about a mile away. It is dedicated to St. Brendan, the 6th century Irish saint. The building is,

however, of no interest except for its Norman font, having been almost completely rebuilt in 1873 when the N. aisle and N. transept were added. The churchyard, on a hill and surrounded by trees, commands very fine views of the rolling Exmoor foothills.

## **Brenton**

Brenton is located within West Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Tavistock 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 108 in 1801 105 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 36 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 Brenton 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 97/7
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 97NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX471804
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
  - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX48SE
  - 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:

Brenton takes its name from the isolated conical rock, the remnant of a volcano, on the summit of which the parish church stands alone. The tor (1,130 ft.) is a striking landmark all over W. Devon; from its summit magnificent views are to be had, extending far over Devon and Cornwall. The church (St. Michael) was first built here

c.1140 by Robert Giffard at his own cost. (E.H.R. 62 (1947), 357.) It was known in the 12th and 13th centuries. As "St. Michael of the Rock" - "a church, full bleak, and weather beaten," says Risdon, "all alone, as it were forsaken, whose church yard doth hardly afford depth of earth to bury the dead; yet doubtless they rest there as securely as in sumptuous St. Peters, until the day of doom."

The small church consists of nave and chancel only, with a low battlemented W. tower, built of volcanic stone quarried on the hill. The S. wall of rubble masonry is probably the original early 12th century work, the remainder early 13th century. The plain tower may have been added early in the 14th century, as bishop Stapeldon came to consecrate the church on 4 December 1319. (Reginald Stapledon, 137.) In the following century the tower was raised and the battlements added. The church was restored 1889-90.

An earthwork of unknown purpose and date runs around the hill well below the summit, in the form of a massive, stone-faced bank. On 15 June 1232 Henry III granted to the abbot of Tavistock a three-day fair annually on the vigil, feast, and morrow of St. Michael (28-30 September) at the church of Brentor (D.A. 46 (1914), 235.) The manor belonged to Tavistock Abbey until the Dissolution and was then granted to John, Lord Russell, as part of his vast spoils from the Tavistock estates.

## **Bridestowe**

Bridestowe 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 581 in 1801 457 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 110 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Okehampton & 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 Bridestowe 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 88/1
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 88NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX514894
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
  - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX58NW
  - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 28
  - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 191
- Geological sheet 324 also covers the area

## **Illustrations**

The image below is of Bridestowe as included in the Library's Etched on Devon's memory website. 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:

Bridestowe is “the holy place (*stow*) of St. Brigid,” the famous Irish saint (c.450-c.525) to whom the church is dedicated. The church, mainly 15th century in date, was ruthlessly “restored” and practically disembowelled. One of its Norman arches now stands at the gateway to the churchyard. A fine screen was hacked to pieces, and every other enormity perpetrated.

There are a number of good houses in the parish. Bidlake, the home of the Bidlakes from 1268 until 1792, is a restored Elizabethan mansion, a good example of a squire’s house of that time. Millaton, another ancient estate of the same type, had its house rebuilt c.1700 and enlarged in the early 19th century. Leawood is another small mansion, in a park. In addition, a number of farmsteads are recorded in Domesday Book: Battishill, Combebow, Ebsworthy Town, Fernworthy, Kersford, and Way. Battishill gave its name to a family who were flourishing round the edge of the Moor as late as 1890.

In Burley Wood, above the river Lew, is one of the strongest fortifications on the W. side of Dartmoor. It appears to be a large castle-site, with mount and bailey and extensive outworks, and is probably of 12th century date. The manor of Bridestowe was held by the great Norman family of Pomerai (of Berry Pomeroy) in the 12th century and this may well have been a stockade castle put up by one of them.

## Bridford

Bridford is located within Teignbridge local authority area. Historically it formed part of Wonford 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 444 in 1801 404 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 97 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 Bridford 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 91/6
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 91NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX817864.
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
  - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX88NW
  - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 031
  - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 191
- Geological sheet 325 also covers the area

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

Bridford is a wild, hilly parish, rising to over 1,100 ft. in places, and containing much beautiful scenery. The village is larger than usual in these upland parishes, mainly because of the granite quarries and the barytes mine. There are disused lead mines also. The older houses of the village are built of moorstone (i.e. surface granite) of which there was much in the higher parts of the parish. The church (St. Thomas Becket) is an early 14th century building, reconstructed c. 1500. It contains many of

its ancient fittings: some late medieval glass, carved stalls and bench-ends of the same period (early 16th century), good wagon roofs, and a N. parclose screen. The chief glory of the church is, however, the rood-screen (plate 53). This retains its soft ancient colouring and is of high artistic merit. The carving is remarkably rich and lavish. Above the rood-loft door are the initials of Walter Southcote, rector 1508-50, who gave the screen. The double rose of Henry VIII and the pomegranate of Aragon appear on the screen, which can be dated at about 1530. The pulpit is said to have been made from pieces of the screen.

Laployd Barton (formerly Lapflode) was the seat of the Lapflodes from the time of John until 1523 when the last of that family died. A chapel dedicated to St. Katherine existed here in 1409, but there are now no traces of it. The core of the present house, which is built of moorstone throughout, may be medieval, lengthened at both ends c. 1600, as is suggested by the NE. doorway. Weeke Barton and Woodlands are both good examples of old Devon farmhouses, possibly 16th to 17th century in date. Westcott was the home and property of the Westcotts, typical peasant freeholders, from the late 13th century (if not earlier) until the 18th century.



## Bridgerule

Bridgerule 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 332 in 1801 375 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 53 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 Bridgerule 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 61/3
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 61NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS274029
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
  - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS20SE
  - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 111
  - 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:

Bridgerule was called *Brige* in Domesday Book, after the bridge over the Tamar here. It has a 15th century church (St. Bridget) with an elegant granite S. arcade, a fine tower, and good wagon-roofs, especially that in the S. aisle which has carved bosses. A Norman font and stoup survive from the 12th century church. The font is of the simplest type: a bowl hollowed out of a block of granite. The church seems originally

to have been cruciform in plan, with N. and S. transepts: Tackbear was a Domesday manor, and a "mansion", in the 16th to 18th centuries.