

South Milton

South Milton is located within South Hams local authority area. Historically it formed part of Stanborough 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 302 in 1801 287 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 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 South Milton 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 136/1,5
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 136NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX698429
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX64SE
 - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 20
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 202
- Geological sheet 355 also covers the area

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

Milton, South has an attractive church (All Saints), built of the local greenish slate. It is mostly a 14th century building, though it retains a good Norman font, and a S. doorway of the same period. Part of the S. wall of the nave may be Norman also. A beautiful little screen (15th century) spans the nave and N. aisle, with figure paintings in the lower panels. The parclose screen is also notable.

Collacott, due S. of the church, is a farmhouse of considerable age, possibly medieval in part. Out in the parish, Horswell House, Didwell, and Holwell, which all go back to the 13th century or earlier, retain traces of their former status as “mansions.”

South Molton

South Molton is located within North Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of South Molton Hundred. It falls within South Molton 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 2753 in 1801 2892 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In the valuation of 1334 it was assessed at £06/05/05. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £45/05/04. In 1641/2 608 adult males signed the Protestation returns. It is recorded as a borough from 1170 and was incorporated in 1590. It had parliamentary representation from 13--. A turnpike was established in 1759. The community had a grammar school from 1686. A market is recorded from 14c.-1985.

A parish history file is held in South Molton 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 South Molton 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 22/5
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 22NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS714259
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS72NW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 127
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 180
- Geological sheet 293 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of South Molton 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:

Molton, South is a cheerful little market town on the main road from Barnstaple to Taunton. Broad Street is an unspoilt group of building set off by the excellent facade of the Town Hall, which is carried on a series of arches over the pavement. This building was begun in 1740, finished in 1743, (*Records of the Borough of South Molton*, ed. Cock (1893), 54-5.) and carries a bust of Hugh Squier (1625-1710), "our great benefactor." He built and endowed a grammar school in 1686, afterwards known as Hugh Squier's school, which was amalgamated in 1877 with the Blue Coat Schools (1711) and the National Schools (1833) to form the South Molton United Schools.

The parish church (St. Mary Magdalene) is a spacious 15th century building with an austere W. tower (1435). It was enlarged in 1820 and drastically restored in 1865. It has a beautiful medieval stone pulpit and a good font, both 15th century. By the act of 1534, when 26 suffragan bishops were to be created, South Molton was selected as one of the new sees, but nothing came of this.

South Molton originated as a large village early in the Saxon occupation, probably c.700, and gave its name to a hundred. Gilbert de Turberville created the borough of South Molton c.1150-70. (Worth, *Early Days in South Molton*, D.A. 26 (1894), 122-32. I date the original charter from the fact that Pagan de Turberville, the son of the first Gilbert, was alive in Devon in 1199 (Pipe Rolls)). The borough was incorporated in 1590, and its charter renewed by Charles II in 1684. It sent two burgesses to the parliament of 1302, but afterwards petitioned to be exempted from this expensive privilege. The woollen industry flourished here from medieval times until the late 18th century and in a dwindling degree until the late 19th. The town grew in population down to 1851, but the coming of railways killed its busy coaching trade, and this, coupled with the ending of the old woollen manufacture, brought about a decline during the next century. The coming of railways not only killed the coaching trade and all its ancillaries – the grandfather of J.M.W. Turner, the painter, was a saddler at South Molton, and Turner himself only just missed being born here – but helped also to kill the prosperous and well-attended markets. The opening of the North Devon Railway in 1854 led to the establishment of a more convenient cattle market at Eggesford, and the opening of the Devon and Somerset Railway to a cattle market at Molland, the home of the famous North Devon breed.

The large parish (which is co-terminous with the borough) contains much beautiful scenery and some interesting houses. Bremridge, remotely situated in the N. of the parish, was a Domesday manor. It came eventually to Sir John Dodderidge, the judge, who rebuilt the house about 1622. Part of this house was pulled down about 1830, but a considerable portion with contemporary windows and chimney-stacks remains. West Clatworthy is a 17th century farmhouse. Snurridge is an 18th century brick house, unusual for Devon. Honiton Barton was a Saxon estate and is now an attractive farmhouse, c.1600 in date, with some reconstruction in 1676 (plate 36). It came to the Southcombs of Rose Ash (*q.v.*) and in 1730 the Rev. Lewis Southcomb built here a chapel dedicated to the Trinity, on the site of an older chapel. He and his father were buried here. The building is now derelict.

Other domesday manors were North and South Aller, Blackpool, and Hacche. Kingsland Barton is of some age.

South Pool

South Pool is located within South Hams local authority area. Historically it formed part of Coleridge 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 412 in 1801 296 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 96 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

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 South Pool 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 136/12
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 136SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX775401
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX74SE
 - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 20
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 202
- Geological sheet 355 also covers the area

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

Pool, South lies at the head of a long creek of the Kingsbridge estuary and is one of the most attractive and unspoilt villages in Devon. The fine church (St. Nicholas and St. Cyriacus) is of considerable interest. It is built entirely of local slates, the tower being a notable example of building in this stone. The present fabric is mainly late 15th century in date, but the core of the church may be that of the building consecrated by Bishop Stapeldon on 24 August 1318. The rood-screen, a fine

example, is probably c. 1500 or a little later, and is similar to that of Dartmouth. In the S. transept is a female effigy (early 14th century), either a Courtenay or a Chichester. The Easter sepulchre is occupied by the tomb and effigy of Thomas Briant, rector of S. Pool and Portlemouth (living 1536). At the back of the recess is a carving of the Resurrection. There are monuments to Leonard Darre, Esquire, and his wife (1608, 1615), and a splendid Norman font.

South Tawton

South Tawton is located within West Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Wonford 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 1538 in 1801 1079 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 228 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 here is of the South Tawton 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 77/3
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 77NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX653945
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX69SE
 - 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 South Tawton 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:

Tawton, South includes Cawsand Beacon (1,789 ft.), one of the most conspicuous landmarks on Dartmoor from its vast rounded shape. From the summit one gets an amazing view, ranging from the Atlantic near Bude to the English Channel between Teignmouth and the Start, and S. over Dartmoor at its wildest and most impressive. On the flanks of the hill are Bronze Age kists (burial chambers), barrows, hut-circles, and stone rows, and just S. of Sticklepath the remains of abandoned copper mines. The 2½ inch Ordnance map, sheet 20/69, is invaluable for the detailed exploration of this interesting parish.

The parish abounds in interesting houses, the "mansions" of moorland gentry. Oxenham was the seat of the Oxenhams from the time of Henry III until 1814. The present house was built in 1714. Wickington is largely 15th century in date., with a tower-porch. North Wyke is 15th century and 17th century, very picturesque but much restored. West Week, the home of the Battishills, is dated 1656. Other ancient farmhouses are Powlesland, c. 1600 or a little earlier, with some 15th century work in the barn behind. Sessland, another remote farmhouse, is Elizabethan: much dilapidated but an interesting survival of its age. A branch of the Oxenhams lived here from the 16th to 18th century. The student of old peasant building, and of social history, could profitably spend a week or more in this unspoilt countryside.

The parish church (St. Andrew) is a handsome 15th century building, mostly of granite, with a particularly fine W. tower. Notice the carved roof bosses, especially in the nave roof, and the fine monument with effigy in armour to John Wyke of North Wyke (1592). The Church House (c. 1500), near the church, is one of the best examples of its kind, and is still used for parochial purposes.

South Zeal

South Zeal is located within West Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Wonford 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. It is recorded as a borough from 1299. Hamlet of South Tawton. A market is recorded from 14c.-1600.

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

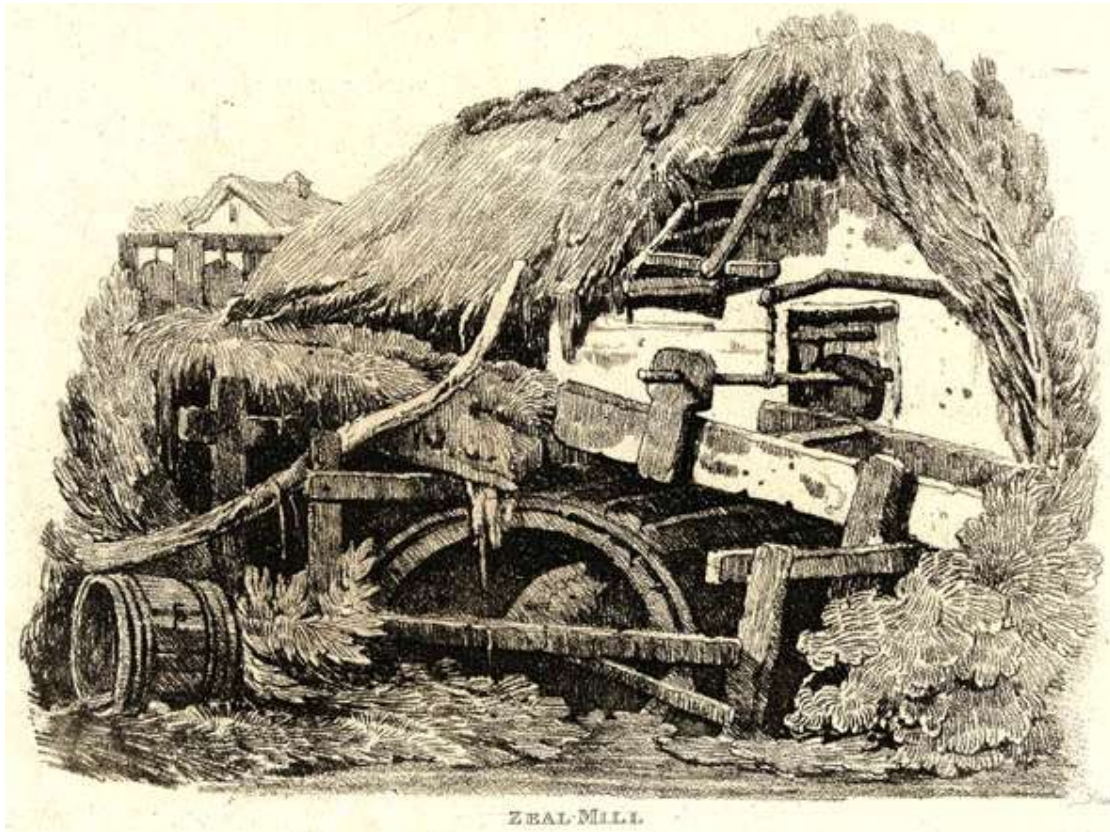
The image below is of the South Zeal area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 77/7
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 77NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX650938
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX69SW,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 South Zeal as included in the Library's illustrations collection. Other images can be searched for on the local studies catalogue.



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:

At South Zeal, [in South Tawton parish] on the old line of the Exeter-Okehampton road, the Oxenham Arms is a good early 16th century granite building; but the medieval chapel, rebuilt in 1713 and restored in 1877, is dull.