

Belstone

Belstone is located within West Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Black Torrington 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 137 in 1801 236 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 34 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 Belstone 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 77/5
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 77NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX620936
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX69SW
 - 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:

Belstone is a straggling village spoilt by some atrocious modern building since it was "discovered" fifty years ago. Nevertheless, the surrounding scenery is fine: Belstone Tor (1568 ft.) and Cawsand Beacon (1799 ft.) towering over the village, and the infant Taw hurrying through the gorge of Belstone Cleave. The parish contains much high moorland on which are some remains of hut circles and other traces of Bronze Age man.

The granite church (St. Mary) was deprived of nearly all its interest by a drastic restoration in 1881, when it was practically rebuilt except for the low 15th century tower. It had been allowed to fall into a deplorable state, but the subsequent "restoration" swept away everything indiscriminately. The fine early 16th century screen and the carved oak bench-ends disappeared, together with the gallery at the W. end of the S. aisle where the old village choir sat. The five bells "are somewhat light in tone, but very sweet, as they sound across the moor on Sunday evenings."

Bere Alston

Bere Alston is located within West Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Roborough 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. Disfranchised borough in the parish of Bere Ferrers.

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 Bere Alston 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 111/10,11
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 111SW,SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX448668
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX46NW,NE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 108
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 201
- Geological sheet 348 also covers the area

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

Bere Alston, now a small town and the principal part of the parish [of Bere Ferrers], originated in the time of Edward I as a mining settlement. The silver-lead mines were worked here from the 1290s intermittently down to the late 19th century Reginald de Ferrers obtained a market and fair here in 1295, and shortly afterwards set up a borough. As a parliamentary borough from 1584 to 1832, Bere Alston returned a remarkable number of eminent men, including Lord Chancellor King and Sir George Beaumont.

Bere Ferrers

Bere Ferrers is located within West Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Roborough 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 1110 in 1801 1955 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 248 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

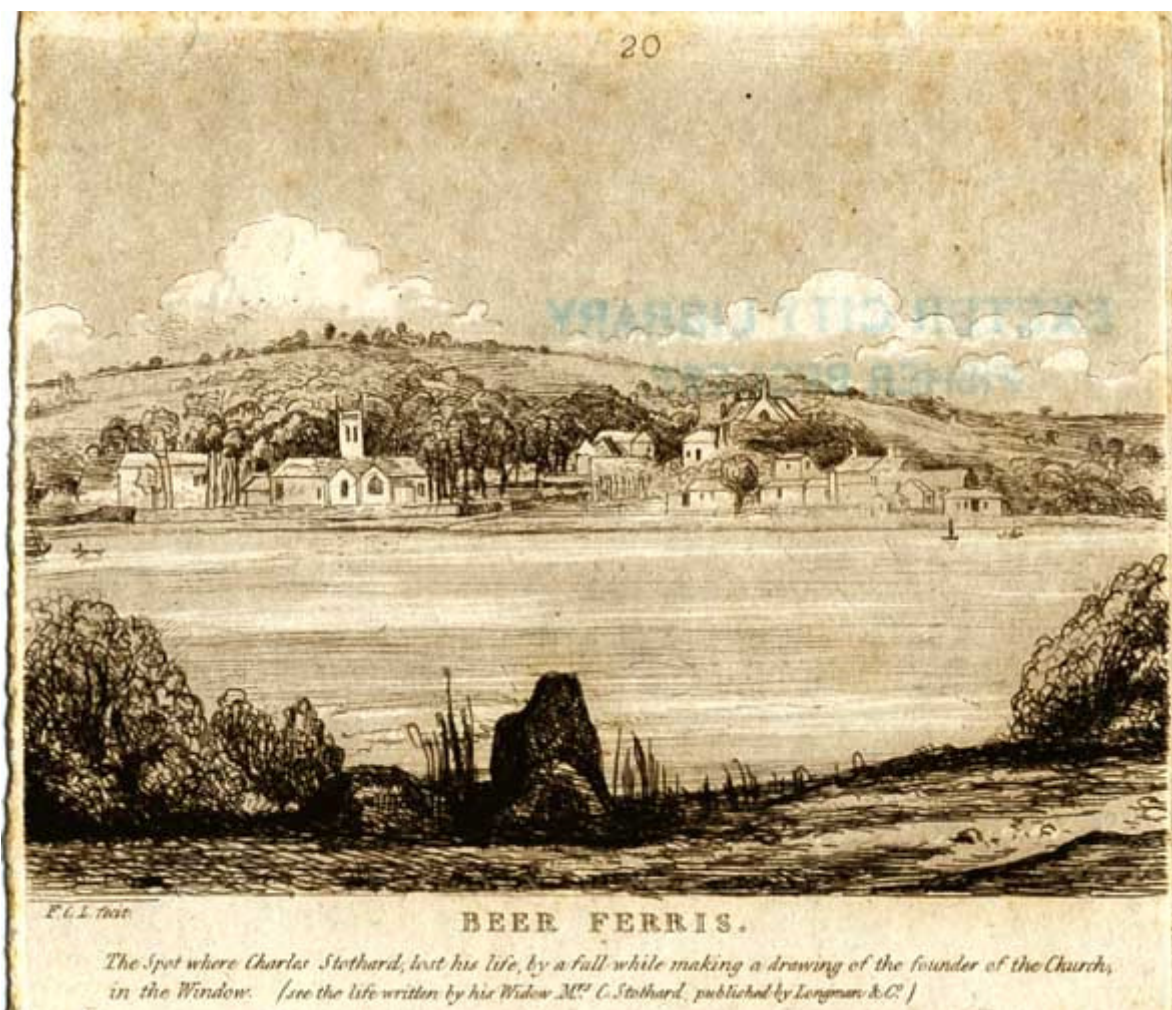
The image below is of the Bere Ferrers area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 117/3
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 117NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX458635
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX46SE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 108
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 201
- Geological sheet 348 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Bere Ferrers 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:

Bere Ferrers occupies the whole of the undulating and picturesque peninsula between the Tavy estuary on the E. and the Tamar on the W. This triangular piece of country was called *Birland* in Saxon times, from the Welsh *ber*, "pike, spit," or the Irish *bir*, "point," referring to the big spit of land between these two rivers. The Ferrers acquired the manor in Henry II's time and had a house near the water's edge on the Tavy, of which some remains can be seen in the present Bere Barton, chiefly the bottom stage of what was once a small keep-like tower.

The church (St. Andrew) is exceptionally interesting. It was rebuilt (except the tower) by Sir William de Ferrers c. 1330-33, who established a collegiate church here for an archpriest and four other priests and a deacon living as a community. The building was altered in the 15th century by the enlargement of the Decorated S. transept into a full aisle with granite arcades. Much excellent 14th century work remains untouched, though some of the Decorated windows were altered in the 17th century (cf. the S. transept). The 14th century glass in the E. window is reputed to be the oldest in Devon except one or two windows in Exeter Cathedral. Among the other notable features of the church are the vigorously carved Norman font (late 12th

century, of Hurdwick stone); the 16th century seats, carved bench-ends, and book-rests; the 17th century fireplace in the N. transept; and the medieval tombs. The canopied tomb with effigies in the chancel is that of Sir William de Ferrers and his wife, the rebuilders of the church. In the N. transept is an earlier Ferrers tomb and (effigy, and also a handsome table tomb which is almost certainly that of the 2nd baron Willoughby de Broke (d. 1522).

Bere Alston, now a small town and the principal part of the parish, originated in the time of Edward I as a mining settlement. The silver-lead mines were worked here from the 1290s intermittently down to the late 19th century. Reginald de Ferrers obtained a market and fair here in 1295, and shortly afterwards set up a borough. As a parliamentary borough from 1584 to 1832, Bere Alston returned a remarkable number of eminent men, including Lord Chancellor King and Sir George Beaumont. The parish has long been noted for its black cherries and its strawberry fields. The remains of the old mines are chiefly along the Tamar, and with the deserted quays on the river are very picturesque.

Berry Pomeroy

Berry Pomeroy is located within South Hams local authority area. Historically it formed part of Haytor Hundred. It falls within Totnes 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 1124 in 1801 1193 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 309 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Totnes 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.

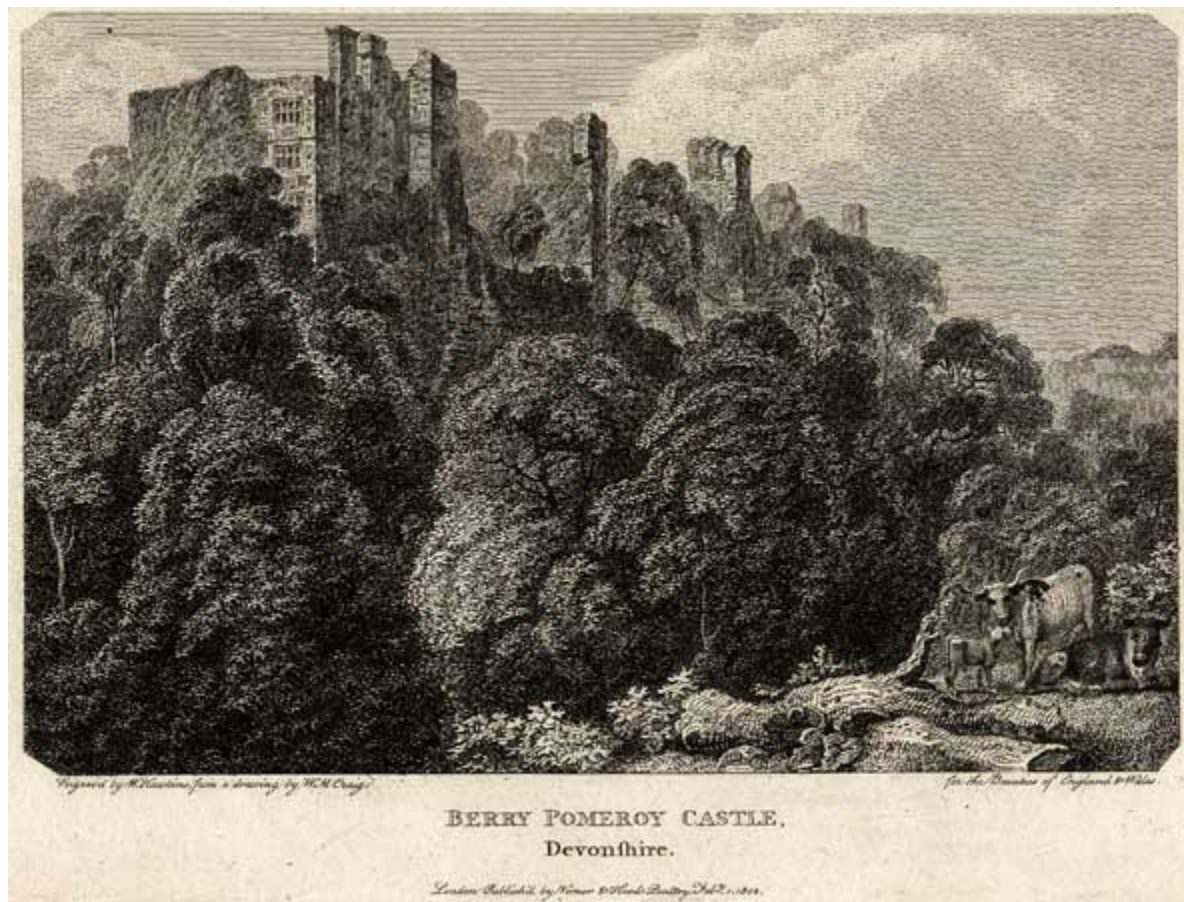
Maps



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 121/6
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 121NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX829611
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX86SW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 031
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 202
- Geological sheet 350 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Berry Pomeroy 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:

Berry Pomeroy has been in the possession of only two families since the Norman Conquest - the Pomeroyes and the Seymours. The great Norman family of de la Pomerai owned it from 1066 until 1548, making it their principal residence in Devon. It was then sold to Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, whose descendant still owns it. There is no evidence that a castle existed here before the building of the Edwardian castle by one of the Pomeroyes in the early 14th century. A survey of 1292 shows only the usual type of medieval manor house on the site. The 14th century gatehouse, with its massive curtain wall leads into a courtyard in the ruins of the great house in all probability by the Lord protector's son, who lived here from 1575 until his death in 1593. The Seymours lived at Berry for most of the 17th century. Much work of this period is visible in the existing ruins, but the plan of the buildings has yet to be worked out in detail. John Prince, author of *The Worthies of Devon* (first published in 1701) and vicar of Berry Pomeroy, tells us that the Seymours spent upwards of £20,000 on the house" but never brought it to perfection." They had been strong royalists in the Civil War, and were heavily fined. Nevertheless, they were living here in some state in 1688 when Sir Edward Seymour, the 3rd bart., welcomed William, Prince of Orange, at Berry Castle. His son, another Sir Edward (1633-1708), who became speaker of the House of Commons and had a distinguished career in politics, made Maiden Bradley (Wilts.) his home and Berry was abandoned. When Prince wrote, it was already falling into decay and it is now

one of the most romantically beautiful ruins in Devon, almost buried in deep woods on the edge of a cliff.

Berry Pomeroy church (St. Mary) is an attractive building, rebuilt in the time of Sir Richard Pomeroy (d. 1496). He is probably the occupant of the ornate tomb on the S. side of the chancel. The capitals of the S. arcade bear the names of other donors to the rebuilding, the scroll on the W. respond having the inscription *Et pro omnibus benefactoribus huius operis orate*. There is a fine Seymour monument to Edward, son of the Lord Protector (d. 1593), his son Edward (d. 1613), and the latter's wife, Elizabeth Champernowne.

John Prince was vicar here 1681-1723, and seems to have done a good deal of work on his church. The tower and S. porch look like a 17th century rebuilding, and the old altar rails and altar table (now in the N. aisle) are of his date. So, of course, are the royal arms of William and Mary. The vicarage looks like Prince's handiwork also. Prince was succeeded by Joseph Fox, who was vicar 1723-81, so that Berry had only two parsons in 100 years.

At Longcombe, a farmhouse, William III is said to have held a meeting of his supporters in a house now called Parliament House, before moving on to Berry Castle.

Berrynarbor

Berrynarbor is located within North Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Braunton 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 532 in 1801 589 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 162 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Combe Martin 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 Berrynarbor 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 5/2
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 5NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS560468
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS54NE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 139
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 180
- Geological sheet 277 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Berrynarbor 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:

Berrynarbor The manor house of the Berrys, built c. 1480, still stands near the church, though the porch and one wing have been demolished. The porch and some elaborate carved work are now at Westaway, near Barnstaple. The church (St. Peter) is largely a 15th century building, but there are considerable remains of the 12th and 13th century The Beer stone arcade (c.1500-10) has rather coarse detail in its carved capitals Presumably this stone was brought all around the coast by sea from the East Devon quarry. The tower, built of the local red sandstone about 1480, is one of the grandest in N. Devon; its N. face is perhaps the best side, with the turreted staircase.

John Jewel (1522-71), bishop of Salisbury and author of the famous *Apologia pro Ecclesia Anglicana* (1562), which Queen Elizabeth ordered to be read in every church in her kingdom, was born at Bowden, a farmhouse in this parish. The present farmhouse, which retains an interesting 15th century screen, may well be the very one in which Jewel was born. His great opponent, Thomas Harding (1516-72), who abandoned protestantism and retired to Louvain in the reign of Elizabeth, was born in the neighbouring parish of Combe Martin.

Watermouth Castle, a Gothic house in a lovely park, was built about 1825. East Hagginton was a Domesday manor.