

Bigbury

Bigbury 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 430 in 1801 260 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 149 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 Bigbury 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 131/12
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 131SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX667463
- 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 355 also covers the area

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

Bigbury probably takes its name from Borough Island which was known as *La Burgh* in the 15th century. It is a miniature of St. Michael's Mount in Cornwall, and had indeed a chapel dedicated to St. Michael on its summit in 1411, of which there are now no traces. The coast here has been much spoilt by bungalow-building.

The church (St. Lawrence) is mainly a 14th century building, virtually rebuilt in 1872-3 by J. D. Sedding, and good. The plain 14th century tower has a short spire. The chancel retains its early 14th century piscina and triple sedilia. The N. aisle and S. transept are said to have been added c. 1400 by the daughters of Sir William de Bigbury, whose fine brasses may be seen in the N. aisle. The pulpit and lectern were brought from Ashburton about 1777.

Bishop's Nympton

Bishop's Nympton is located within North Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Witheridge 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 902 in 1801 893 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 191 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

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 Bishop's Nympton 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 22/11
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 22SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS759237
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS72SE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 127
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 180
- Geological sheet 309 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Bishop's Nympton 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:

Bishop's Nympton was an estate of the bishops of Exeter. The church (St. Mary) is entirely 15th or early 16th century in date, with a fine, well-proportioned tower. Restored in 1869 and 1877, the interior is Victorianised and unexciting. All the roofs have good bosses, especially the S. aisle. An altar-tomb on the N. side of the chancel without inscription is probably that of Sir Lewis Pollard (c. 1465-1450), king's sergeant in 1507, justice of the Common Pleas 1514-26, and one of the many eminent Devon lawyers to found a large estate. He lived at Grilstone in this parish, though he later bought a large estate in King's Nympton (q.v.) and made a park there. A window in the Pollard aisle formerly portrayed the judge with eleven sons kneeling behind him, and his wife with eleven daughters. About this Prince relates a pleasant tale: "That his lady, glassing this window in her husband's absence at the Term in London, caused one child more than she then had to be set there; presuming, having had one and twenty already, and usually conceiving at her husband's coming home, that she should have another. Which, inserted in expectation, came to pass in reality." (Prince, *Worthies of Devon*, 641.)

There are some remains of the old house at Grilstone. Rawstone, Garliford and Hall are other farmhouses which were once the mansions of medieval freeholders and show some evidence of this origin. Whitechapel Barton was called *Blaunchechapele* in 1281, and *Whitechapel* in 1333, possibly from the colour of its stonework. The present house, which belonged to the Bassets for centuries, is an attractive building of 16th century date, with some early 18th century alterations.

Bishop's Tawton

Bishop's Tawton is located within North Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of South Molton 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 747 in 1801 2632 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 271 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Barnstaple 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 Bishop's 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 13/11
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 13SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS566303
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS53SE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 139
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 180
- Geological sheet 293 also covers the area

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

Bishop's Tawton is a large village, now almost a suburb of Barnstaple. There is a long-standing tradition that it was the site of the see of Devon before Crediton was chosen in 909, but conclusive proof of this is not yet forthcoming. Throughout medieval times Bishop's Tawton was, next to Paignton, the bishop of Exeter's most

valuable property. He had a palace here, of which some remains are to be seen in the 15th century building (next to the church) now occupied as a farmhouse.

The church (St. John the Baptist), one of the few in Devon with a medieval spire, is substantially a 14th century building, but has undergone sweeping restorations. The chancel, S. porch, and vestry were rebuilt in 1860. In the chancel are some mural monuments to the Chichesters of Hall.

Hall was the seat of the Halls, whose heiress brought it to a younger son of the Chichesters of Raleigh in 1461, so establishing a new branch of that formerly ubiquitous family in North Devon, and now the only one to survive in its old home. The present house, built in 1846-8 in the Elizabethan style, contains a galleried banqueting hall. A quantity of finely carved oak fittings, formerly in the private chapel at Hall, are now in a chapel of ease, erected at Herner in 1888. Little Pill, now a farmhouse, was formerly a "mansion," with a private chapel licensed in 1400. At Whitemoor farm some medieval work survives, including a 15th century oak doorway, and an example of "cruck" building, rare in Devon.

New Bridge, over the Taw, existed in 1326 when Bishop Stapeldon left 60 shillings for its repair. The present bridge was probably built early in the 19th century. The foundations of an earlier bridge can be seen 100 yards downstream.

Godden Hill (630 ft.), in this parish, is associated with W. N. P. Barbellion (born at Barnstaple), whose book, *The Journal of a Disappointed Man*, was a literary sensation of the early 1920s and contains much good descriptive writing about the Barnstaple country.

Bishopsteignton

Bishopsteignton 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 673 in 1801 1076 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 144 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Newton Abbot 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 Bishopsteignton 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 110/5,6
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 110NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX910737
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX97SW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 031
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 192
- Geological sheet 339 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Bishopsteignton 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:

Bishopsteignton is a large parish on the N. side of the Teign estuary. It belonged to the bishops of Exeter from before the Norman conquest and was one of their richest manors. They had one of their numerous "palaces" or country residences here, at Radway just NE. of the village, but only a little 14th century walling remains of this. The village is large, with a good deal of very pleasant early 19th century building in white stucco.

The church (St. John the Baptist) was practically rebuilt in 1815 when the central tower was taken down and rebuilt at the W. end. The body of the church is 15th century and of little interest, the removal of the screen turning it into a great barn. The N. aisle was the Lyndridge aisle and contains several memorials to the successive owners of the estate.

Lyndridge is a good 17th century house, probably built in 1673 for Sir Peter Lear, bart., a Barbados merchant, who bought the estate from the Martins. It was formerly much larger. Two wings were pulled down about 1740, leaving the centre alone standing, and the house has been remodelled to some extent. It was refaced in brick in 1916. There are some sumptuously decorated rooms with magnificent plaster ceilings done c. 1673.

Bittadon

Bittadon is located within North Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Braunton 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 24 in 1801 54 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website.

A parish history file is held in Ilfracombe 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 Bittadon 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 5/14
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 5SW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS545415
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS54SW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 139
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 180
- Geological sheet 293 also covers the area

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

Bittadon lies in an unspoilt valley. On the hills to the E. is a group of eight large barrows, probably of Bronze Age date, and a few others to the N. again. The church (St. Peter) consists of nave, chancel, and dumpy W. tower with pyramidal cap. It was hideously rebuilt and ruined in 1883-7. The only objects of interest are a plain 13th

century font, and mural monuments to Edward Poyntz (1691) and Arthur Acland (1675).