

## Cruwys Morchard

Cruwys Morchard is located within Mid Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Witheridge Hundred. It falls within Tiverton 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 556 in 1801 523 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 135 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Tiverton 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 Cruwys Morchard 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 44/8
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 44NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS874122
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
  - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS81SE
  - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 114
  - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 181
- Geological sheet 310 also covers the area

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

Cruwys Morchard lies high, in the unspoilt and unknown country W. of Tiverton. There is no village, the centre of the parish being the church and the manor house. The church (Holy Cross) is an attractive little building, of various dates. It is substantially an early 14th century structure, the two lower stages of the W. tower

and the chancel being of this date, and probably the nave also, with a S. aisle added in the early 16th century. The top stage of the tower was rebuilt in brick after the disastrous fire of 1689 which gutted the church. The interior of the church is most pleasing: plastered, decent Georgian, with a remarkable chancel screen and S. parclose screen of Corinthian design, well carved and well kept. The chancel fittings are of exceptional interest as showing the continuity of traditional forms, the stalls running to the E. wall to inclose the communion rails, and returning on the other side in the ancient manner. The screen is early 18th century in date.

Beside the church is Cruwys Morchard House, the seat of the Cruwys family since the reign of John and possibly a little earlier. They died out in the male line in 1804, but George Sharland married Harriet Cruwys the heiress, and his son took his mother's name by royal licence in 1831, so that the name of Cruwys continues at Cruwys Morchard. The house is a plain and modest Georgian to look at, but it stands upon an ancient site and incorporates much old work. One wing of the house may be medieval in plan, and the present hall is probably disguised Tudor. The present kitchen has a fine panelled roof of moulded oak timbers, c. 1500 in date or slightly earlier, and may have been the solar of the medieval house. The house and park are highly "atmospheric," as characteristic as anything in Devon of the homes of the ancient squirearchy, the true deep-rooted squires who never made a fortune in law or in trade, and never produced anybody of note in Church or State. The farms of Hill, Ruckham, and Yedbury were all Domesday manors.

## **Cullompton**

Cullompton is located within Mid Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Hayridge Hundred. It falls within Cullompton 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 3138 in 1801 2922 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In the valuation of 1334 it was assessed at £03/05/04. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £59/17/06. In 1641/2 725 adult males signed the Protestation returns. It is recorded as a borough from 1640. A turnpike was established in 1813. The community had a grammar school from 1632. There was also a 14th century market at Langford. A market is recorded from 14c.-1822.

A parish history file is held in Cullompton 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 Cullompton 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 57/2
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 57NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is ST020070
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
  - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet ST00NW
  - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 030
  - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 192
- Geological sheet 310 also covers the area

### **Illustrations**

The image below is of Cullompton (SC0434) as included in the Library's illustrations catalogue. Other images can be searched for on the local studies catalogue.



CULLOMPTON CHURCH.

*Sketched and Drawn on Stone by W. Spence.  
Printed by C. Ballman.*

A fair is known from: 14c.-1822. [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:

Cullompton is a cheerful little market town, mostly consisting of one main street with "courts" running off it. There are a few late Tudor buildings, most notable of which are The Walronds, begun by Sir John Petre in 1603 and completed in 1605, containing fine carved mantelpieces and moulded plaster ceilings of the period; and the Manor House (not so called until 1850) which is Elizabethan, enlarged c. 1718. In the main, however, it is an undistinguished 19th century town, the product of frequent fires and rebuildings. The Great Fire of 1839 destroyed 264 houses, and necessitated much commonplace rebuilding.

Cullompton was one of the most important woollen manufacturing towns in Devon from the 16th century to the 18th, its greatest merchant, John Lane (d. 1529), being a contemporary of John Greenway of Tiverton. They rivalled each other in the magnificence of their additions to their respective parish churches. Although the woollen industry decayed, the parish still kept several large paper and corn mills, which carried on actively throughout the 19th century.

The parish church (St. Andrew) is one of the grandest in Devon (plate 48). It was a collegiate church before the Conquest. William I presented the five prebends to Battle Abbey in Sussex, but at some early date the prebendal system was dropped. The present building is 15th early 16th century in date. The body of the church is c. 1450; the aisles were added c. 1500, the second S. aisle (Lane's) in 1526; and the majestic tower (in the Somerset style) 1545-9, (Oliver, *Eccl. Antiquities*, i, 109.) The church was restored in 1849 when the chancel was rebuilt and the chancel roof recoloured. A superb roof runs the whole length of the church: a panelled wagon roof of 24 bays, richly coloured, moulded, and carved. The 15th century rood-screen extends the entire width of the church, of ordinary character but striking because of its great length and perfect condition. A Golgotha, or Calvary, which originally stood on the rood-loft, now lies at the W. end of Lane's Aisle, a gruesome piece of medieval carving. In Lane's Aisle the fan-traceried roof should be noticed, and the exterior carvings of merchants' ships, shears, and other symbols of the cloth trade. The pillars and capitals of the nave also call for study. At the W. end of the church is a massive Jacobean gallery.

The parish is large and fertile, full of beautiful pastoral scenery, and attractive farmsteads. Colebrook, Hillersdon, Langford, and Ponsford are all recorded in Domesday Book. Langford Court has some remains of old work. Moorehayes (originally Moor) was the seat of the Moores for sixteen generations from the 12th century down to 1711, when George Moore, Esq., the last of his line, died.

## **Culmstock**

Culmstock is located within Mid Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Hemyock Hundred. It falls within Cullompton 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 1496 in 1801 766 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £10/08/06. In 1641/2 336 adult males signed the Protestation returns. A market is recorded from 1822.

A parish history file is held in Uffculme 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 Culmstock 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 47/1
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 47NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is ST101135
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
  - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet ST11SW
  - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 128
  - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 181
- Geological sheet 311 also covers the area

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

Culmstock was once a small market town, but its population is now only one-half of that of 1801. The village is much uglified by red brick, but it has retained a good deal of traditional building of the 18th and early 19th century. It had formerly a

considerable woollen industry. Near the river Culm is an old woollen mill, and some 18th century weavers' cottages.

The church (All Saints) is a 15th century building of local flint, with a clearstory, an unusual feature in Devon. It has been too much restored from time to time, but retains a few interesting things. A fine stone rood-screen, standing in Lyson's day, was removed soon afterwards but rescued by Mr Blackmore, the novelist's father, and replaced as a reredos. A 15th century cope, of gold-coloured velvet with a central representation of the Assumption of the B.V.M., is preserved in a glass case in the N. aisle. Frederick Temple (1821-1902), who became archbishop of Canterbury (1896-1902), lived at Axon in this parish in his early years, and taught in the Sunday school here.

At the hamlet of Prescott is a Baptist Chapel, built in 1715, rebuilt in 1785, a renovated in 1892 which retains its 18th century galleries and other furniture of the period. At Spicelands is a meeting-house of the Society of Friends, erected in 1670, rebuilt in 1815, also retaining much of its original simple character.