

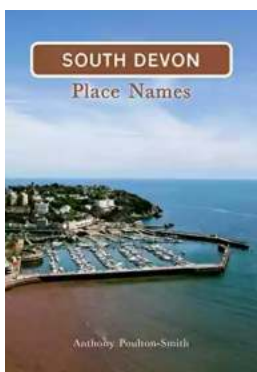
Unveiling the Rich History of South Devon Place Names

Have you ever wondered about the stories hidden within the names of the places we live in? South Devon, a picturesque region in England, is not just known for its stunning coastline, rolling hills, and charming towns; it also holds a treasure trove of fascinating place names that reveal the rich history of the area. Join us on a journey to discover the origins and meanings behind these names, as we dive deep into the past with renowned local historian, Anthony Poulton Smith.

Anthony Poulton Smith, an esteemed expert in toponymy (the study of place names), has dedicated years of research to unravel the mysteries locked within South Devon's place names. His passion for history and his deep connection to the region have driven him to unearth the fascinating tales of its past and share them with the world.

The Deep Roots of South Devon's Place Names

South Devon's place names are deeply rooted in the area's history, providing glimpses into its past inhabitants, their languages, and their cultures. From ancient Celtic origins to Saxon and Viking influences, each name paints a vivid picture of the region's evolution.



South Devon Place Names

by Anthony Poulton-Smith (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 6634 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 218 pages
Lending	: Enabled
Paperback	: 62 pages
Item Weight	: 6.1 ounces
Dimensions	: 7 x 0.14 x 10 inches



The word "Devon" itself has Celtic origins, derived from the Old Welsh word "dyf" meaning "deep" or "great" and the Old English word "tun" which means "farm" or "settlement." This combination perfectly encapsulates the essence of South Devon's varied landscapes, offering a fertile ground for settlement and growth.

One such example is the town of Totnes, whose name can be traced back to its Celtic roots. An ancient hill fort named "Totesburh" once stood there, meaning "stronghold on the River Dart". Today, Totnes remains an important cultural and historical hub of South Devon.

From Roman Influence to Modern Interpretations

With the arrival of the Romans in the 1st century AD, South Devon's place names took on a new layer of influence. Roman forts, roads, and settlements left their mark on the landscape, and many names still resonate with their Latin origins.

Take the town of Exeter, for instance, with its Roman name "Isca Dumnoniorum". The term "Isca" translates to "water" in the Celtic language, while "Dumnoniorum" refers to the "people of Dumnonia," an ancient Celtic kingdom. Over time, the name evolved into "Exanceaster" during the Saxon period, and eventually became the modern-day "Exeter."

South Devon's place names also reflect more recent historical events. Newton Abbot is an excellent example, with "Newton" meaning "new town" and "Abbot" referring to the nearby medieval abbey, which has long since vanished. The name signifies the growth and changes that occurred during the medieval period.

Lost Stories in Forgotten Names

Not all of South Devon's place names have a clear origin or interpretation. Some are shrouded in mystery, providing an irresistible puzzle for Anthony Poulton Smith to solve. These forgotten names hold countless lost stories, waiting to be remembered and shared with the world.

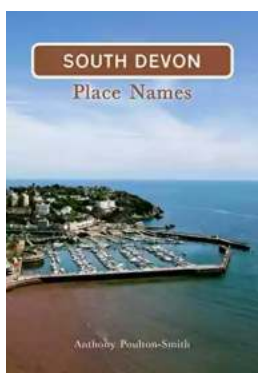
One intriguing example is the village of Ipplepen, whose name's true meaning remains uncertain. Anthony Poulton Smith's research offers plausible explanations, linking it to the Old English words "ippel" meaning "apple" and "pen" meaning "hill." This suggests that the village could have been a site for apple orchards during ancient times. However, without concrete evidence, the true story of Ipplepen's name may forever remain a mystery.

The Preservation of South Devon's Heritage

Thanks to Anthony Poulton Smith's tireless efforts, the heritage and stories encapsulated within South Devon's place names are being preserved for future generations. His work as a historian not only sheds light on forgotten tales but also highlights the importance of cherishing local heritage and keeping our past alive.

As you explore the picturesque towns and villages of South Devon, let the knowledge of their names guide you into the depths of history. From the misty legends of the Celts to the grand legacies of Roman conquerors, the place names of South Devon have countless stories to tell, waiting to be discovered.

So, whether you're a history enthusiast or simply curious about the hidden meanings of the places you visit, South Devon's place names will undoubtedly captivate your imagination, transporting you back in time. Join us on this remarkable journey as we unveil the rich history preserved within South Devon's beloved place names.



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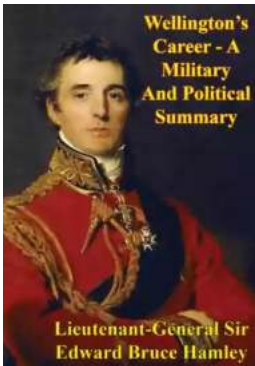
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Ever wondered where our towns and villages get their names from? Were they a deliberate creation by our ancestors or did they evolve naturally over time? Devon Place Names examines the origins of the names with which we are otherwise so familiar. Towns, villages, districts, hills, streams, woods, farms, fields, streets and even pubs are examined and explained. Some of the definitions give a glimpse of life in the earlier days of the settlement, and for the author there is nothing more satisfying than finding a name which gives such a snapshot. The definitions are supported by anecdotal evidence, bringing to life the individuals and events which have influenced the places and the way these

names have developed. This is not just a dictionary but a history and will prove invaluable not only for those who live and work in the county but also visitors and tourists, historians and former inhabitants, indeed anyone with an interest in Devon.



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