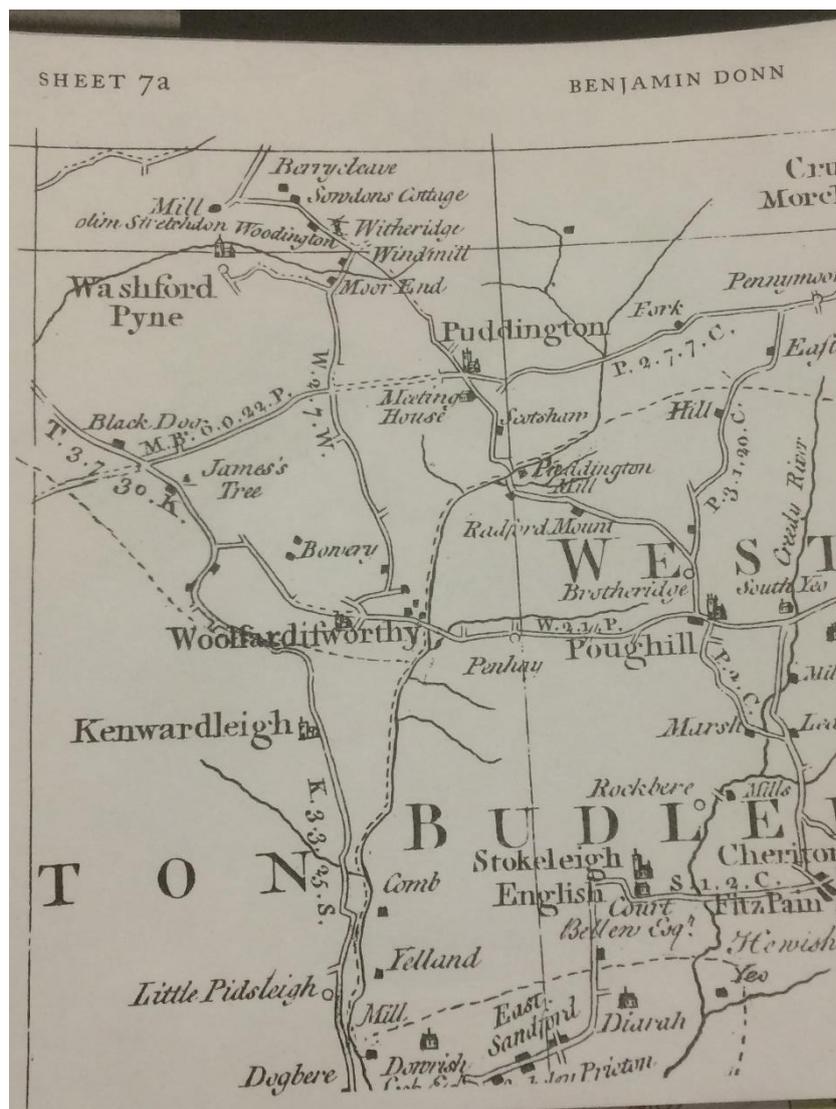


## MILL BARTON

The following information is derived mostly from source material collated by John Usmar in 2007 as part of his study of the Witheridge Outliers.

The earliest reference is believed to be from the Domesday holdings of Tetbald fitz Berner and of Odo fitz Gamelin, which afterwards came to the Honour (a holding or more usually a group of holdings) of Toriton, at this time it was called Mill (Stretchdon). Fitz means “son of”.

A former vicar of Witheridge, Rev Castlehow, identified Mill (later Mill Barton) with Stretcheston in a deed of 1539. In an earlier deed of 1233 there is mention of Richard Strech of Washford who Castlehow thought may have given his name to Stretcheston/Stretchdon. He wrote “Stretcheston being now called Mill or Myll, the name Strech only appears in the form Stretchdown on the way from Witheridge to Mill and eventually Puddington.” Donne’s map of Devon 1765 (see below) shows Mill and underneath “olim Stretchdon” – olim is Latin for formerly.



From the Land Tax records<sup>1</sup>, where the farm was referred to as “Mill”, not Mill Barton, the following were the owners and occupiers:

Date	Owner	Occupier
1780 - 1797	John Chichester Esq	Richard Elworthy
1798 – 1809	Heirs of John Chichester	Wm Elworthy
1811	Heirs of John Chichester	Robert Chichester
1813	Sir A Chichester	Robert Chichester
1814 - 1831	Robert Chichester	Robert Chichester
1832	Robert Chichester	Abraham Cole

1841 census records show Abraham Cole as the Yeoman at Mill, by 1861 this had changed to James Partridge “farmer of 36 acres”. By 1868, James Hill Patridge was advertising Mill Barton with all the stock and implements for sale by auction on 24<sup>th</sup> September as advertised in the Exeter Flying Post of 9<sup>th</sup> September. From the 1881 census Mill Barton was then occupied by William H Kelland from Sandford, who was farming 180 acres, however it was still owned by James H Patridge of Mill Park House Witheridge, who again advertised Mill Barton on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1881, but this time to let for 10 or 14 years.

On 17<sup>th</sup> August 1895 the Tiverton Gazette reported “About five o’clock on Tuesday morning a fire broke out at Mill Farm, the residence of Mr Tucker. Mr Tucker discovered the barn and adjoining lincays on fire, which he thought had probably been burning for about a quarter of an hour. There was no chance of saving any of the property and a straw rick close by was ignited and added greatly to the conflagration. The property is owned by Mr J Hill Patridge and is partly covered by insurance. The loss to Mr Tucker is estimated at about £100. Among things destroyed was a thrashing machine, reed comber, chaff cutter, 17 sacks of corn, and 2 or 3 carts. The origin of the fire is as yet unknown, but the general supposition is that someone must have taken shelter in the barn and have caused the fire by striking a match.”

The 1901 census has Frederick Arscott as the Mill Barton farmer, who was also listed in directories as the farmer until 1910. By 1923 Arthur Matthews was farming and in 1930 and 1939 directories this was taken over by George Matthews.

Mill Barton is Grade II listed and described as<sup>2</sup>:-

Farmhouse. Early C16 with major later C16 and C17 improvements and extensions, some C19 modernisation work. Plastered cob on rubble footings; rubble stacks topped with C19 brick; slate roof (formerly thatched). Long building facing south-east. Originally a 3-room-and-through-passage plan house with former inner room near left (south-west) end. C17 and C18 1-room extensions to both ends and C17 dairy extension at right angles to rear of hall and inner room. C19 stair now in rear passage. Rear lateral stack to inner room, axial stack backing onto former passage to hall, and axial stack to service end room. 2 storeys.

<sup>1</sup> Additional data from <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/DEV/Witheridge/LandTax/>

<sup>2</sup> Taken from the Historic England website <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1251168>

