

Lost Devon's Lost Heritage

Felicity Goodall

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Devon's colorful past may still be visible in its street names and pub signs, but in fact much of the region's history has been obliterated—through necessity, social change and the demands of the outside world. The traditional occupations of farming, fishing, pottery, copper and tin mining, wool production and quarrying and have all seen change over the past several hundred years. Many of these industries are now lost, replaced instead by ever-expanding tourism. Although many historic buildings have been preserved and are now protected properties, a large number of houses, ecclesiastical ruins and settlements such as Hope Cove, a coastal village once renowned for its tough fisherwomen, have tragically vanished. The county's coast is also peppered with ruined pillboxes manned by the Home Guard to watch for invaders—Devon has played a significant military role in the past, from acting as a mooring place for prison hulks in the Napoleonic wars to being the location of a training camp for spies in the Second World War. Superbly illustrated with photographs, paintings, maps and etchings from the country's museums and art collections, Lost Devon provides a fascinating insight into Devon's history, as Felicity Goodall explores what little remains of the past and discusses the events which have formed the county as it is today.



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