

## Local environment

Feniton is probably named from the Vine stream that runs through the village – the name appears as Vineton on 17th century maps.

A mid-sized Devon parish with nearly 2000 residents, Feniton covers an area of some 650 hectares and includes the original ‘old’ village, housing estates built around the nearby train station and previously called Sidmouth Junction, the hamlets of Curscombe, Higher Cheriton and Colesworthy and traditional Devon farmsteads and agricultural landscape. Access to the village is via single-track roads. The A30 trunk road is a mile to the south and provides easy access to the local towns of Honiton, Ottery St Mary, Exeter and to the M5. The village station is on the Exeter to London Waterloo railway line.

Feniton has a comparatively high population density with 2.9 people per hectare and the age profile of inhabitants is weighted in favour of those of employable age with 83% of adults aged under 64. There are many families with school age children in the parish.

The parish has a 13th century church, a post office, a public house, a general store, two hairdressers and a fast food takeaway. There is a primary school, a private dental practice, mobile NHS services (a chiropody clinic) and a mobile library that visits fortnightly. There are two well equipped children’s play areas, a youth centre building, allotments, football and cricket pitches and an active sports and social club. Feniton village has been twinned with Louvigny in France for over 30 years.

A small industrial site located at Talewater on the west of the parish, the site of an old brick works, provides jobs for some 50 people in light engineering, print finishing and forestry. To the east, by the River Otter, is the site of the battle of Fenny Bridges. In 1549 Cornishmen fought here against the government’s introduction of the first Reformed Prayer Book. A commemorative stone marks the field.

