

Working out the bearings between ships

- In the 1600s, there was a man called John Smyth who lived in the village of Nibley, near Dursley.
- He could read and write and worked as a steward to Lord Berkeley, who lived in Berkeley Castle.
- At this time, the town of Berkeley was a port and sailing boats used to sail in and out of the inlet called Berkeley Pill.
- As well as cargo ships, there were lots of fishermen at the port.
- One day John Smyth went down to the quay and made a list of all the fish that the fishermen had caught in the Severn:

Sturgeon, Porpoise, Thornback ray, Herringe,
Pogge, Swordfish, Salmon, Trout, Turbot,
Lamprey, Shad, Dogfish, Sole, Flounder,
Barne, Cod, Eel pout, Mackarell, Sunfish,
Hake, Haddock, Roncote, Sea tad, Plaice,
Mullet, Linge, Dabbe, Horncake, Lumpsucker,
Red gurnard, Grey gurnard, Cuttlefish,
Whiting, Crab, Conger eel, John dorrey,
Herring, Sprat, Pilchard, Prawn, Shrimp, Eel,
Elvers, Bass, Sea bream and Halibut.

- We can identify all the fish that John Smyth recorded with the exception of four: the Barne, Horncake, Roncote and Sea-tad.