**Camp 673** **Bridestowe, Okehampton, Devon**

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| **Prisoner of War Camps (1939 – 1948) - Project report by Roger J.C. Thomas - English Heritage 2003** | | | | | | | |
| OS NGR | Sheet | No. | Name & Location | County | Cond’n | Type 1945 | Comments |
| SX 514 885 | 191 | 673 | Bridestow, Okehampton | Devon | 4 |  | Woodland |

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| **Location:** Bridestowe is a village located between Okehampton and Tavistock. The camp was located just S of here in Leawood (Lea Wood).  **Before the camp:** British troops were brought to Bridestowe and the local area shortly after Dunkirk. A hutted training camp was built at Leawood in fields alongside the road. US troops took over the camp in 1943 until April 1944.    **Pow Camp:** It is believed that the military camp was converted to a pow compound with a barbed-wire perimeter by Italian pows. The main entrance was opposite Standon Lane.  German pows arrived shortly after D-day.  Memories of beautifully decorated murals inside the huts and wooden models standing by the fence. At Christmas 1944 every child in Bridestowe received a wooden toy made by the pows. (Information from an article by Howard Barkell, March 2015 -  [www.bridestowe.org.uk/perch/resources/june15.compressed.pdf](http://www.bridestowe.org.uk/perch/resources/june15.compressed.pdf).  In the Fox and Hounds Inn at Bridestowe is a mural of a fox hunt painted by German pow Willie Brandt. [HER Number MDV118363].  A bridge was built by German pows in 1946 over the nearby River Tavy. A cement plaque on one of the bridge piers reads – “*Erbaut* (Built) *Aug Sept 1946 [12?] G POW Camp 673”*  ([finglewoods.org.uk/2019/04/29/the-timber-trail-history-in-the-making/](https://finglewoods.org.uk/2019/04/29/the-timber-trail-history-in-the-making/)) |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1963 |

**After the camp:** The huts were sold off and the area planted with conifers.

**Further Information:**