

## Press Release.. Press Release.. Press

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### **Reading between the lines**

**Seventy nine participants attended the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) 'Parishscapes Project' one day conference 'Reading between the lines- Mapping landscape change in East Devon' at the Norman Lockyer Observatory, near Sidmouth on Saturday 26 April.**

#### *Conference success*

"We just wanted to congratulate you on a super day", exclaimed one delegate to Phil Planel, the conference organiser. "All the speakers were interesting and gave so much information in such a short time."

The purpose of this one day conference was to showcase examples of local history projects and signpost interested individuals or groups to existing or new sources of information. The conference included presentations by representatives from the Branscombe Project, which has been successful in telling the story of social history in this East Devon coastal village, and Bill Horner, Deputy County Archaeologist, from the Devon County Council's Historic Environment Record on how to read the landscape. John Draisey, the County Archivist explained how landscape historians can make the best use of the archives kept at the Devon Record Office.

Phil Planel, Parishscapes Project Officer, said: "The packed venue demonstrates the high level of interest in our historic landscapes that exists amongst residents and specialists alike, in particular how our landscapes have been used and shaped in the past. The Parishscapes Project has been established to meet that demand and enable people to find out more."

The event was also attended by mill historian Martin Watts, who gave an informative

talk on water-power in East Devon based on map and field evidence. Finally Phil Planel informed the audience on the digitisation of tithe maps, which is well underway for all 29 parishes in and around the East Devon AONB, and how these are making our historic landscapes more accessible to more people.

### *Parishscapes project*

Parishscapes is a three year project, 2007 to 2010, delivered by the East Devon AONB Partnership with financial support from East Devon District Council, Natural England and the Heritage Lottery Fund. If you are interested to find out more please contact Philippe Planel on 01404 46663 or email [pplanel@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:pplanel@eastdevon.gov.uk)

## **ENDS**

### **Notes for Editors**

- **Photo images: 'Parishscapes digitised tithe map, Sidmouth, shows how colourful some of these Victorian maps were'.**
- The East Devon AONB was designated in 1963 and covers 268 sq km, or one third of the East Devon district. Core funding and support is provided by Natural England, Devon County Council and East Devon District Council. Sixteen organisations form part of the AONB Partnership from environmental groups to statutory bodies, landowners and community representatives. For more information visit [www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk](http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk).
- The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) distributes the heritage share of funds raised by the National Lottery. Good causes receive 28 pence in every pound and of this 4.66 pence goes to heritage projects. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)
- Natural England works for people, places and nature to conserve and enhance biodiversity, landscapes and wildlife in rural, urban, coastal and marine areas. We conserve and enhance the natural environment for its intrinsic value, the wellbeing and enjoyment of people, and the economic prosperity it brings. [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)
- The countryside of East Devon is one of its most precious assets, rich in wildlife and landscape quality. The East Devon District Council's Countryside Service works alongside its customers, partners and other bodies to take care of and improve our environment. [www.eastdevon.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/countryside)