

## Press Release.. Press Release.. Press

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### **Historic maps fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

**‘Parishscapes’ has made thirty six historic tithe maps, from the 1840’s, covering the twenty nine modern-day parishes of the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty accessible on the web at [www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk](http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk)**

#### *21<sup>st</sup> century access*

“This is the first time that these wonderful historic maps have been so accessible to so many people” explains Philippe Planel, Parishscapes Officer. Traditionally copies of these maps, which show land-use and type from the Victorian times, have only been available at Record Offices or on microfiche. Some of the parish maps are so large, measuring upto xm by ym, you can hardly see the tops when laid out on tables. “Our project allowed the maps to be digitised using specialist cameras and then made available on our website for all to see. These cameras were also used by the National Coal Board in the past to keep records of their vast maps”.

By creating a digitised version this not only helps preserve the original map but it also allows you to zoom in and out on any part of these fascinating maps from the comfort of your home or local library...wherever you choose to access the internet. Why not take your first clicks to becoming a landscape detective at <http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk/Digitaltithemaps.htm>

#### *What’s next?*

A team of volunteers is also now working on creating electronic versions of what is called the apportionment. These are the listings of information attributed to each of the individual fields numbered on the 1840 tithe maps and tell you about the land-use or crop and land owner. 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)

*Parishscapes project*

Parishscapes is a three year project, 2007 to 2010, delivered by the East Devon AONB Partnership making our historic landscapes information more accessible to more people. It is supported financially by East Devon District Council, Natural England and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Access to the tithe maps has been provided by Devon County Council's Historic Environment Unit.

**ENDS**

**Notes for Editors**

- The East Devon AONB was designated in 1963 and covers 268 sq km. Core funding and support is provided by Natural England, Devon County Council and East Devon District Council. Sixteen organisations from environmental groups to statutory bodies, landowners and community representatives work together through the AONB Partnership to conserve this protected landscape. [www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk](http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk). For more information on the whole UK family of protected landscapes see [www.diamondsinthelandscape.org.uk](http://www.diamondsinthelandscape.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)