

Historic Environment Action Plan: Lympstone

Version 2 February 2015

What is the Historic Environment?

The past is all around us. The Historic Environment is all the aspects of our parish which have come about through the interaction between people and places through time. It therefore includes, not just archaeological sites, earthworks and monuments and historic buildings, but the historic aspects of our Medieval and Post Medieval fields, winding lanes, parkland and coastlines

Why does it matter to Lympstone?

Lympstone parish is unique. All of its character including the nucleated layout of the buildings, the material that buildings have been built from, the regular and curving shape of the fields, the makeup of the woods, the direction of the tracks and lanes, look the way they do because of choices that our ancestors, relatives and predecessors made in the past. The parish will continue to change and evolve but in order to help shape this future evolution effectively and celebrate what makes Lympstone so special we need to understand how it has come to look the way it does. The HEAP framework is one way which will help us gain this understanding. It is a voyage of discovery which will shed new light on the parish and look at well-known stories and information in different ways.

Why has Lympstone chosen to complete an HEAP?

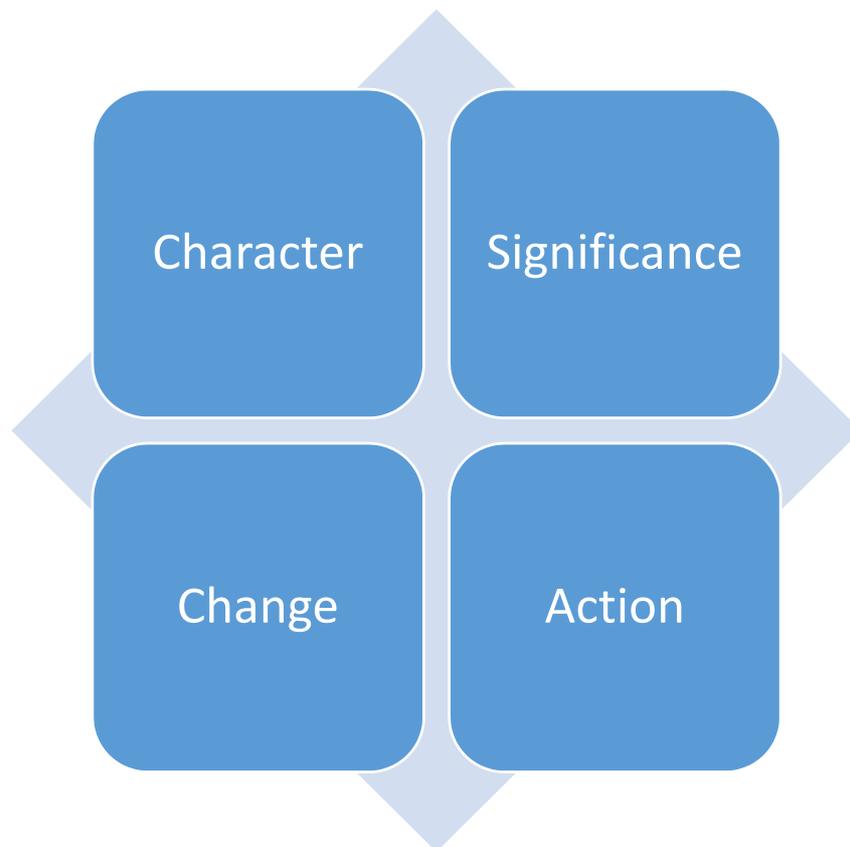
A HEAP is one way to gather evidence about the historic features in the parish. As you will know the people of Lympstone over the last 20 years has already collected some information either as memories of the past, old photographs, maps and documents, family history research, local history research and archaeological research. This tool provides a way of gathering this information together in a new way and of sharing it with others, of undertaking new research by asking questions about the landscape, and of identifying what is special to local people, what is under threat and what further work we would like to do.



It will also provide a very useful evidence base which could help inform future parish/neighbourhood plans, and village design statements.

But it is not about telling people what to do with their property or land but celebrating what makes that special sense of place in Lympstone.

There are four elements in an Historic Environment Action Plan – which can be undertaken in any order – Lympstone has started by looking at **Character and **Action****



Character – What are the key historic environment features in Lympstone?

Significance – What Heritage matters to us most?

Change – How has Lympstone parish changed? How might it change in the future?

Action – What do we want to do next?

CHARACTER

What are the key historic environment features in Lympstone?

Draws together information both new and/or existing on the archaeological and historic features present in the parish.



1. Lympstone Historical Mapping Process

We were lucky enough to be given the opportunity to get involved in a mapping exercise with the help of Emma Rouse and Phil Planel of the HEAP project (Historic Environment Action Plan). The process we followed has helped us to draw out new information about our village, and also to identify local documents, images and sources that could have been lost. We were very lucky to have helps with what we did, but the process could be easily replicated by others.

How did we do it?

First of all we invited Phil to come and talk to us about the HEAP project, and a pleasant evening was had, involving members of the history society and other key people in the village who were invited because of their specific interests such as our historic houses group with an interest in Lympstone's listed buildings. At the end of this informal evening, we decided we would like to take it further with our own mapping event, and a few of us arranged to attend similar events in nearby villages.

Our first historic mapping event was held in June, and it was attended by history society members and village residents. It was facilitated by Phil and Emma. We were very glad of their help because Emma organised the whole morning as well as supplying us with 3 sets of maps covering clearly marked, square sections of the village:

1. Current Ordnance Survey Maps
2. Ordnance Survey Map of 1880
3. Tithe map (land use c1840 – fields, orchards, woodland and properties)

We were also very glad to have had the chance for a few of us to attend mapping sessions in other local parishes, and to experience the process for ourselves; it takes a while to 'get your eye in' and we were able to support those who were new to the process to get going more quickly. There are a few things you need to know, like how features like orchards and woodland are shown on the maps (orchards are shown as trees in neat rows).

We worked in pairs to compare 1840s Lypstone with the parish in 1880, while other pairs worked on comparisons between 1880 and today. Fine-nibbed coloured pens were used to indicate things that have stayed the same, and things that have changed. At the end of the morning each pair fed back on what they had found - we noticed the loss of a great many small orchards throughout the village, and that a number of properties had remained on the same footprint throughout the years.

In September we held a second mapping session, this time focusing on the centre of the village and the waterfront, as our village sits right on the Exe Estuary and has a long economic history bound up with the sea. The same process of comparing maps was used, and many of the same people joined us again, with some new people as well. Some of our members had visited the County Records Office in Exeter to look at maps of the planned railway route, and had discovered some brand new information about land use and ownership at the time, in the form of a 'referendum' in which planners listed all those affected by the proposed route.

SIGNIFICANCE

What are the Special historic features in Lypstone?

This is the part where we have started to think about what



CHANGE

How is our heritage changing?

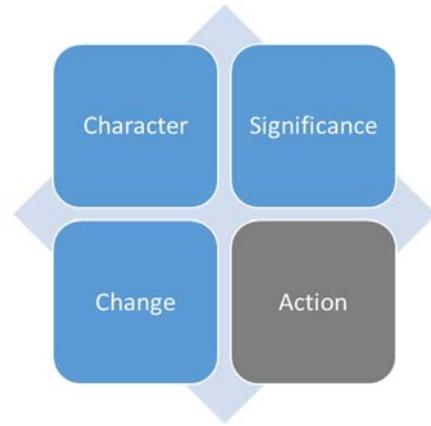
How is Lypstone changing? How might it change in the future?



What would we like to do in the future?

This is the part where we have thought about our next steps and how might we share our findings?

If you have an idea for exploring, understanding or sharing the history and archaeology of the parish then get in touch?



What next?

In October we had another informal evening meeting with Phil and we discussed a variety of ways of moving forward over a glass of warm punch (thanks Jenny). As a result of this meeting we found out about lots of valuable sources of information that could help us in our research, and we now have some plans to move forward in a number of complementary ways:

- by beginning to digitise some of our local historic information (starting with our historic display boards and information uncovered during this research phase)
- Research by individuals on topics of interest to them such as the history of our 'Darling Rock'; the impact of the railway on the local economy; the sailing history of the village, and how the village has been represented by artists over the years.

We hope to involve more village residents, including children and families, through activities and events as we uncover more and more information to share about our local history.

We have formed a research group for the purpose of undertaking investigation into a wide range of topics. At our initial meeting we identified 32 areas of interest which linked to the historic landscape, the shoreline and the maritime nature of a predominantly fishing village. The mapable data will include the economy, typography, geology, architecture, art, the railway and community at large together with major events (flooding and fire).

At our last meeting we had updates from the members of the group:-

- The digitising of information and wide range of memorabilia held by the Society is progressing well.
- We hope to arrange an exhibition next year: we have yet to decide on focus other than include mapable subjects so as to benefit from local memories which we are recording from residents and current research.
- The impact of the railway research is ongoing; it covers its effect on the population, changes to farming practices : restriction of access to the river caused by the railway : effect on fishing locally as well as cod fishing in Newfoundland by fishermen from Lympstone and other neighbouring villages.

- Decline of the mussel industry, lime kilns and the mill await investigation along with green areas within the village.
- Research into paintings by artists from the 17th and 18th century: contemporary photographs of these landscapes taken from the same angle help to indicate changes, allowing for artistic licence.
- Other initiatives to be arranged include walks using the various footpaths (in the spring).

We will adopt the ideas of Woodbury Salterton to try again to involve the school children and also approach the WI. We are currently recording conversations with families who have lived in the village for generations. Memories of favourite places, events and influences will add further details to the mapable records.”

USEFUL WEB LINKS

Tithe maps (c1840) at <http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk/dro/>

Apportionment tables (alongside tithe maps)

<http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk/index.php?page=tithe-map-apportionments>

The first ordnance survey maps for Devon (1840) can be found online at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/map.aspx?compid=55114> (1:10560)

1880 Ordnance Survey maps of Devon can be found at

<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/find/#zoom=10&lat=50.64754&lon=-3.28868&layers=B000000FF>