

In the Footsteps of Peter Orlando Hutchinson

Year 2 Progress Report



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**Peter Orlando
Hutchinson**

A Community Heritage Project

This three year heritage project is building on a successful parish based tithe map project called Parishescapes carried out by East Devon AONB Partnership from 2007-10. It is raising awareness of the changes in the landscape since Hutchinson's time and continuing the legacy of volunteer study and involvement with the historical landscape. Historical elements of the landscape explored through the project include ancient hill forts, tumuli (burial mounds) and quarrying activities.



One of several Hutchinson paintings of High Peak, prior to tree planting

Linking with the past

Peter Orlando Hutchinson (1810-1897)

The historical landscape of East Devon was extensively studied and sketched by the Victorian antiquarian Peter Orlando Hutchinson who spent all his adult life in Sidmouth. His works have supplied a unique record of the area which can now be revisited and conserved or enhanced to promote and help people learn about the heritage of East Devon, aid modern understanding of the area, highlight the cultural importance of the landscape and further encourage local people to undertake active conservation of key sites.

The attraction of the making the Hutchinson link, quite apart from giving Hutchinson the worthy attention his works deserve, is that it allows sites of varying periods of time and original uses to be brought together into one coherent project and in doing so promote the historical links between landscape and people.

Year 2 achievements

- Several sites cleared and surveyed
- Bronze Age Walk established
- Volunteers trained to lead walks
- Iron Age Day at Blackbury Camp
- Easter week activities
- Second annual conference
- Museum links established
- Exhibition boards commissioned
- Two POH archives on-line
- Transcriptions on-line
- Field walking



Archaeologist Simon Hughes uses Hutchinson picture to explain High Peak excavation (September 2012)



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Hundreds more volunteer hours in the Second Year

The formula for POH site work consists of: introductory walk to recruit volunteers; vegetation clearance by volunteers; professional survey and full report (carried out at Farway Castle, Mutter's Moor and East Hill). With the support of the Donkey Sanctuary a standing stone has been re-erected on Salcombe Hill.

Interpretation and awareness raising projects have included an exhibition contrasting POH views with modern photographs and paintings from the same spots; a 'Heritage Week' of events including walks, story-telling and an Iron Age activity day at Blackbury Camp and our Annual POH conference. Several hundred adults and children participated in these events and the Conference attracted a capacity audience of 80. Over the year the project officer continued to give talks on the project, both within the project area and around Devon and the volunteer contact list has swollen to over 70. Our volunteers are actively involved; helping lead walks, gaining understanding about the heritage, mounting exhibitions, helping run the annual conference, giving presentations and transcribing the POH diaries in their entirety.

Out and about

- Bronze Age walk firmly established and bookings accepted from amenity groups from all over Devon
- Liaison with Sidmouth and Exeter Museums to create links between artefacts, sites and the landscape
- Volunteers working in partnership with Unlocking Coastal Heritage (site clearance at Berry Camp)
- Site clearance, survey and report on three sites on East Hill
- Fieldwalking at Broad Down and Branscombe

Fieldwalking: POH project volunteers in conjunction with the Branscombe Project



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