

This is our first Doccombe Parishscapes project newsletter.



Doccombe Parishscapes

Doccombe was a separate manor for at least 800 years and its ownership by Christ Church Canterbury has left it one of the best sets of written historical records in the country. We have been fortunate to secure a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant to research, record and exhibit Doccombe's rich heritage.

The project will also cover other forms of evidence such as personal and oral histories of recent times and a historical survey of its buildings, farms, and Blackenstone Quarry. And of course the manor also included the woods and Mardon Common where physical and archaeological remains take us back even further to prehistoric times. Nearby Castle Drogo was the last castle to be built in England; its construction and recent renovation used Blackingstone's granite cut and worked by Doccombe's stone masons. But what can its atmospheric flooded quarry reveal?

We will be keeping you updated about the projects progress which will include articles, photography and film-making including an exhibition at Green Hill later in the project. You may also like to join our Facebook page where we will be adding ongoing snippets of information.

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Doccombe Chapel

The present Doccombe Chapel is the social hub of the community. The current building is a converted C18th barn in a farmyard but where was the medieval chapel? We know it existed from the manorial records in a 1 acre field called Church Hey - 'God's acre'. Also there are people referred to as 'clericus' in the Latin-written records. Not too surprising perhaps as it was owned by the monks of Canterbury. So can we find any remains of a medieval chapel? And did medieval Doccombe have a resident clergyman that gave services there?



Stones on Mardon Common

A walk over Mardon Common reveals what recent 'swaling' (burning off gorse and bracken) has surfaced. There are quite a few foxholes/slit-trenches and gun shelter holes from the US troops who practised there prior to the D-Day landings in 1944. Grass-covered ridges could be early medieval reeves and/or the remains of ridge and furrow ploughing. The lines of stones shown in the photo leave questions - did they mark the boundary between the manors of Moretonhampstead that claimed a third of Mardon and Doccombe manor that had the rest?



Doccombe Manor

New Project Meeting

We would like to involve as many local people in the project's various activities as possible. To find out a bit more you are invited to a meeting at **Doccombe Chapel on Thursday 19th May at 8pm**. We hope to engage the present-day community of the hamlet with oral histories, a photographic record and a survey of the buildings. How did the manor's share of the beautiful Teign Valley Woods play a vital role in the lives of its tenants?

Come along and find out. Simply turn up at the chapel on the night.



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