

THREE MOMENTS IN TIME (PART TWO)

Tuesday 25th February 2014: twenty people gathered in the village hall to continue working on the HEAP Project mapping exercise that we started last December (See previous report for an explanation of what this is all about). Some new people, some second time round.

Emma Rouse, the lead on this HEAPs project, had made some technical refinements following feedback from the first mapping day, and things went much more smoothly.

As before, we worked on one kilometre squares taken from the modern Explorer Ordnance Survey (OS) map of Branscombe and, using the 1810 Manor of Branscombe Map, 1840 Tithe Map, and 1889 OS Map.

There's no question that people most enjoyed working on their own patches, and seeing how the landscape changed through time - changes in field boundaries, woodlands, orchards, farmsteads and settlements. The intense level of concentration was palpable! Probably the most difficult changes to discern were those involving buildings, and in particular collections of farm buildings. Deciding which shape stood for the farmhouse and which for barns or sheds was not always easy, and the orientation of what we plotted was not always consistent from map to map.

At the end of the session, Emma Rouse explained that we've now covered all the full kilometre squares for the parish. She has offered us a final session so that we can complete some squares that were not finished last time round and pick up the raggedy areas outside the full squares that take us to the parish boundary. Almost everyone present wanted to take part in this last push and we're very much looking forward to seeing the end result of our labours!





