

## FACTS ABOUT EAST DOWN PARISH

The archaeological and architectural remains in the parish of East Down attest to its varied history, with ancient occupation indicated by the tumuli on the higher land. The Church and some farms date back to Mediaeval times and the current Manor was built in the eighteenth century. The diverse industries of the countryside such as malting and milling can be seen in the buildings around the area, though rarely, of course, in their current uses. In many areas the community reached its peak of vitality in the nineteenth century. Around 1800 the Church house was rebuilt, in 1823 the National School started and a Sunday School was added in 1827. The Board School, now the village hall, was opened in 1877, the Church was extensively "restored" in 1888 and in 1901 the Methodist Chapel and School was built.

East Down was also home to the Northcote family, linked to the Earls of Iddesleigh. Northcote is now a farmhouse, but history tells us it was once a Domesday manor. East Down Manor House which can be seen from the Pyne Arms car park, was formerly the seat of the Pine family, later known as the Pine-Coffins. It is a beautiful early Georgian house, still a private residence, and the pub is named after this heritage link. The church within the grounds of East Down Manor House is dedicated to St. John the Baptist and has a fascinating history and is worth a visit.

East Down Parish covers 3677 acres, has a population of 192 and encompasses the hamlets of Clifton, Churchill, Bugford, Brockham and Stonecombe, as well as East Down itself. There are several outlying farms and other property as well.

The earliest detailed record of East Down currently found has been Whites Devon of 1850. The parish then was only 3643 acres and had a population of 473. At that time only the hamlets of Churchill, Brockham, Viveham and Shortacombe were recorded. In 1850 there were two carpenters (E. Delve and J. Hassell), a blacksmith (W. Burgess), a shopkeeper (J. Mayne) and 17 farmers resident in the parish. Looking at the farmers in those days, the names Fry, Chugg, Crang, Lerwill and Passmore re-occur. The Rectory provided a living of £375 per annum with residence, and 87 acres of glebe land.

By 1878 the parish supported a bootmaker, blacksmith, tailor, beer retailer, carpenter, wheelwright, land agent, miller, shopkeeper and 19 farmers.

However in 1906 the Rectory living had reduced to £304 per annum, but still with residence and an increased glebe land of 104 acres. Population had reduced to 326. The population figures shown on the below table, taken from the national census, show that East Down's population was at it's peak towards the end of the 19th century. It steadily dropped until 1981, since then it has started to slowly increase.

Year	Population
1801	311
1851	455
1901	326
1931	249
1961	213
1981	219
1997	237
2012	192 (registered voters)

According to the 1997 census, the current population is accommodated in 70 households, and between them own 128 cars. There are 60 young persons under the age of 18 years and at the other end of the scale, 46 over the age of 60.