



Oral History Project – Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of the Oral History Project in Luppitt?

The project aims to capture and preserve the living memories, stories, and experiences of people connected to the Luppitt valley. By doing so, we hope to better understand the landscape's past and present, and shape a more inclusive and sustainable future for everyone who lives, works, and visits here.

2. Why is oral history important for this project?

Oral history helps us:

- Fill gaps in historical records
- Capture lived experiences and traditions
- Preserve local dialects and storytelling
- Include voices often left out of written history
- Understand cultural and environmental changes over time

3. What are the main themes of the interviews?

We're focusing on:

- The Commons – how people use and care for shared land
- The Farms – past and present farming practices
- The River Love – its role in the landscape and community

4. Who will be interviewed?

We plan to formally interview six individuals or families from a diverse list of local residents, farmers, landowners, conservationists, and community members. Others are welcome to contribute informally through community events.

5. How will the community be involved?

We're hosting:

- Drop-in story-sharing sessions at the Village Hall
- Creative workshops like map-making with artist Emma Molony
- Opportunities to share memorabilia such as photos, letters, and artefacts

6. What will be created from the project?

- Audio recordings and written transcripts
- A community archive of stories and memorabilia
- A visual map created through community collaboration
- Public exhibitions and online sharing of materials

7. Where will the materials be shared?

- The Luppitt Website
- The Blackdown Hills National Landscape Website
- Local venues like the Village Hall,
- Local archives such as the Devon Heritage Centre

8. Who are the project partners?

Key partners include:

- Local farmers and landowners in the Luppitt Landscape Recovery project
- DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs)
- The National Association for National Landscapes (Blackdown Hills)

9. How does this project support wider goals?

The oral histories will:

- Inform sustainable land management
- Support DEFRA's environmental and rural development goals
- Contribute to cultural preservation and community empowerment

10. How long will the project run?

The project runs over 12 months, with key activities scheduled from January 2025 to January 2026, including interviews, community events, workshops, and final presentations.

11. How can I get involved?

You can:

- Attend/support our drop-in afternoon tea and story share sessions Friday 18th July and Friday 15th August 2-5pm at Luppitt Village Hall.
- Share your stories or memorabilia by contacting Jess Huffman by email: jesshuffman@hotmail.co.uk or calling 07779008856/01404 871 102
- Volunteer to help with interviews or events
- Join the creative family workshop Saturday 1st November 2-5pm