

Final Report – The History of the Ancient Parish of Gainford

1. Name of Project

The History of the Ancient Parish of Gainford

2. Funding allocation

£2,000

3. Short introduction to the project

This proposal is for a scoping study for a history of the ancient parish of Gainford as a possible volume 6 within the county series, to be carried out.

In the early-twentieth century drafts and proofs for the history of the entire historic county of Durham were completed. That for the parish of Gainford exists in typescript only. The study would identify and review the body of published works and surviving documentary sources for a modern history of the parish. A VCH volume endeavours to provide a comprehensive history of a parish and its constituent parts from the earliest times to the present. In this the shaping of the landscape is an important element, covering settlement patterns, land use, field boundaries, communications and industrial sites. The research materials, which are posted on-line while work is in progress, and the resulting publication are invaluable works of reference for landscape historians.

4. aims and objectives of the project and how they have been met

- *Production of a scoping study as a preliminary to a full 'Red Book' for the ancient parish of Gainford.*

This was completed with two research groups and a brief report produced.

- *The work will be carried out through volunteer groups under the leadership of volunteer professional historians.*

The two research groups were made up of volunteers from various local history groups and led by Professor A. J. Pollard

5. Additional achievements and legacy – community involvement/benefits

The volunteers have learned valuable research skills and are able to undertake similar projects in the future.

6. Lessons learnt

- At best, what we have are notes towards a history.
- Having a secondary contact for the project is essential if the primary contact is unavailable e.g. due to ill health