

## **Thorne and Hatfield Moors Oral History Project**

### **Interview with: Dave Chappell (part 2)**

**Date: 13 December 2006**

**Interviewer: Lynne Fox**

### **Summary**

**Dave Chappell's farm, Boston Park Farm, is on the edge of Hatfield Moor. It is a model farm built in 1846 in response to the economics of the time. His land has not been warped or included in any historic 'improvement' schemes. It is a good example of the topography of the area and the problems this can present to modern farmers. The course of the old river Torne (redundant after Vermuyden's drainage scheme in the 17<sup>th</sup> century) lies through part of his land.**

**Dave is also involved in competition ploughing at World Class level. He has been British National Champion 3 times and competed in the British National competition 45 times as well as coming 10<sup>th</sup> in the World Ploughing contest. He has also acted as coach and judge for the England Ploughing Team for 20 years.**

How the model farm worked

He previously had 4 men working the farm plus a haulage business and contracting.

The history & basis of ploughing competitively.

The European Ploughing contest in Czech Republic in 1990. – Judge & competitor!

The opportunities ploughing has given him

His ploughing activities, the British Team & his own achievements

The livery side of the farm & the benefits of public access

Impact of the Foot & Mouth crisis on people he knew

Possible impact of Moors restoration work on his farm

Looking after nature and the environment as well as making a living

Remnants of the river Torne

Delivery and collection of post (postman calls)

History of RAF camp at Lindholme – borders the farm. Second World War prisoners of war.

Post war squatters camp. Story of return of Canadian tracing his roots with the aid of a child's drawing of Boston Park Farm. His family history at the farm. A poor farm that often bankrupted people.

In 1942 land farmed by neighbouring farmer but farmhouse housed officers training navigators at Lindholme. Searchlight & anti-aircraft gun in front garden.

The POWs who stayed on after the end of the war.

The problem of bog oaks. 2005 ploughed one up 52 feet long & 6-7 feet in diameter. Damage to machinery. Some of them have been dated by British Museum at 2000 years [BC?]