

Thorne & Hatfield Moors Oral History Project

Interview with: John Isle (second interview)

Date: 12 December 2006

Interviewer: Lynne Fox

Summary

John Isle's family have been farmers in Crowle for generations. His farm includes a piece of Crowle Moor which he currently manages for wildlife.

Description of farm – town farm – land separate from buildings

Generations of Isle family farming in Crowle – Joseph Isle there in 1779

History of the farm – Enclosure Award, warping activities

Description of warping

Bog 'oaks' – damage to machinery, historic uses

Drainage & raising water table

Moors Top Road - Nellie Tram – fatal accident

Other owners' uses of their plots of moorland

Crowle Moors fire in 1956

Peat gravers - made metal covers for their pipes to prevent fires.

How land of various quality was allocated, differences in land quality & warping especially between tidal warp & area where old riverbed of old Don is.

Sea Carr

Current uses, set-aside & other schemes

Dutch canal system

Abandonment of workings, tools etc in situ after '56 fire.

Value of warping & use of warping drains for transporting agricultural produce – rhubarb farm