

Thorne and Hatfield Moors Oral History Project

Interview with: Peter Robinson

Date: 7 November 2006

Interviewer: Lynne Fox

Background

Peter Robinson was born in Doncaster and is now the officer responsible for Archaeology at Doncaster Museum. In this capacity he was the first professional person to view the Neolithic 'trackway' discovered by Mick Oliver on Hatfield Moor in 2004.

Summary

Origins in Doncaster.

Responsibilities at the Museum

Previous archaeological experience. Degree at Manchester University. Excavations in Doncaster.

Temporary job at Doncaster Museum

Work at Salisbury Museum – developed award-winning Stonehenge Gallery

Gloucester Museum. Problems of young archaeologists seeking work/

Dream job back in Doncaster

Doncaster Museum's role in archaeology – past & present.

Archaeological past of the borough & town

Roman garrison town. Medieval boom.

Overview of wider borough including Sutton Common marsh fort & Bawtry

Importance of landscape for development of importance of Doncaster – land & water transport

Potential demand for produce from Thorne & Hatfield Moors in the borough industries – tanning & pottery

Roman pottery industry Cantley, Rossington Bridge etc.

Roman fort at Doncaster

Pre roman settlement. Sutton Common & other evidence on edges of wetlands including Iron Age settlement at Sykehouse

Finds within the Moors themselves

Discovery of Neolithic 'trackway' on Hatfield Moor – his experience

His first sight & his reaction. His first actions.

Subsequent actions and activity – calling in the Wetlands Unit at Hull University under Henry Chapman + English Heritage

His understanding of the interpretation of the find. His opinion of the find

The importance of the find – its context & other contemporary sites

The likely landscape & environment at the time of construction

The Bronze Age trackway found on Thorne Moor (see Paul Buckland interview)

What might happen to the Hatfield site in the future