

# Thorne and Hatfield Moors Oral History Project

## Interview with: Pip Seccombe

**Date: 29 November 2006**

**Interviewer: Lynne Fox**

## Summary

**Pip Seccombe is a member of the Doncaster Natural History Society with a long interest in the wildlife of Thorne & Hatfield Moors. Doncaster 'Nats' have played an important role in the conservation of the Moors.**

Early background. Came to Doncaster as result of husband's job (he is a clergyman)  
Introduction to the expertise and resources of Doncaster Museum  
William Bunting  
Development of her interest in the natural world, especially plants  
Her first visit to the Moors with Peter Rowarth (English Nature)  
Her first impressions  
Description of nightjars  
Changes in the landscape  
Recording wildlife on the moors  
Destruction of the environment through peat extraction  
Doncaster Nats work as part of the planning process  
Peculiarity of area around Moorends Pit tip – Bell's Pond  
Her involvement with Thorne & Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum – Peter Skidmore's book  
Bunting – Bunting's Beavers  
Difficulties of early access  
Some of her current activities on the Moors – the Neolithic trackway  
Description of the flora of the moors now  
Doncaster Nats role in Doncaster and their role on the moors – the connection with Thorne & Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum  
More about peculiarity of Bell's Pond  
Mick Verhees – use of Henry Verhee's egg collection in DDT research  
Importance and implications of English Nature proposal to remove designated status from the moors in 1997 – campaign lead by Forum eventually lead to buy-out & restoration.  
Thorne & Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum – their relationship with Natural England  
Changes since cessation of peat extraction  
Remaining threats