

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

**Interview with: Trevor Sharpe (3 part 1) (including Barry Sharpe)**

**Date: 31 August 2006**

**Interviewer: Lynne Fox**

### **Summary**

**Trevor and Barry Sharpe lived in Moorends but spent most of their time at their grandfather's house at Bell's (Sharpe's) Pond on Thorne Moors. The two houses at the Pond belonged to the Pit owners and were occupied by the Sharpes and the Bell family. About a quarter of a mile away were the two houses at Whaley Balk occupied by the Verhees family and the Smits. These houses belonged to British Moss Litter Company. Trevor and Barry both worked in the peat industry. Barry drove a Hy-Mac loading peat wagons. Trevor drove locos but eventually became factory foreman at Hatfield Mill.**

NB. This is a recording of an informal meeting to look at and scan photographs and collect associated information.

Description of different layers & grades of peat

Moor fires – dangers of moor

Hand graving process

Paraffin mill – firelighters

Piddying & stacking. Loading wagons. Drainage spits & dykes

Differences between English & Dutch styles of graving & piddying

Transporting peat by boat into Thorne via Boating Dyke

Introduction of locos, portable tracks etc.

Introduction of machinery with dates

Changes in the factory process