

## Thorne & Hatfield Moors Oral History Project

### Interview with: Trevor Sharpe (1 part 2)

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**Interviewer: Lynne Fox**

*So there, were there a lot of children running around?*

TS: Yes there wah, there were more than ours. There were more than our two family, because we lived that good and the school we went to they thought it were fantastic that we had us own swimming pond, we had us own, er, land to roam free on, so they used to come from off, from the schools. And the name altered from Sharpe's Pond to Bell's Pond for one reason.

BS: Because they had a big family.

TS: They had a big family and everybody knew 'em as Bells, so they said 'Oh, it's Bell's pond, we'll go swimming'. But it actually wasn't it, well it wasn't our pond, but we was, my great grandparents were the first there, so it's Sharpe's Pond. Then it altered to Bell's pond, which it still stands today, Bell's Pond.

*Can you remember any of the people and the kids who used to play there?*

TS: No, not really, we were, we were younger age and it were their friends mainly that we used to see and play with. Me dad went in army from there, from off moors, er, because he wasn't working down the pit so that he were on land and they took him in army. Obviously to do a stint of the er, the wartime, thing that everybody went in the army if they warn't in the mines an, or fields like, you know, I don't know what he was doing. But er, we still carried on going on moors while he were at home, while he were in army, and we got well fed.

*So you went swimming when you were kids and....*

TS: Oh, we did nothing else.

*And then hunting and things, I mean, did you get up to anything else?*

TS: Well, no, you, you couldn't get up to anything else, there were no television no wireless 'cause you'd no electric to put anything on. So there was nothing else to do but come home from school and we, we looked forward to it. We dint look forward to coming and home and seeing a telly or a computer 'because they wasn't there, they wasn't known. I mean, you never got a paper on moors, from one month to another or from one year to, never saw anything. And what papers there wah, wah saved to go to toilet, er, use as toilet paper 'cause they were no such thing as toilet paper you know, in rolls.

*How did you like the house then?*

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TS: Well, because I, because we were children, we only used to go on moors to us grandparents and to me mam and dad. We then had to leave that moors and come home to us own house which is central in Moorends, so it were another mile to walk every night, back home. But, me belief is why we had to do this is because we was, we was fed by the back door. And if we had to, if we had to go to er, go home to me parents house they'd have no money to have food, but on moors you had. You dint have money, you had food. So they went during the day to me grandma's house and granddad's house and we had to leave school and go on the moors, walk home via pit tip like I've said, via, through the main gates of the Thorne Pit, where there was a canteen. Me grandmother worked in the canteen, we was fed by the back door, 'oh, yeah, come in we'll feed you before you go home', so we was always fed. And I think this is why we spent all us life travelling back and forwards from off the moors.

*So tell me about your mum and dad? What...?*

TS: In them days, er, they were unbelievable. Me mother was a lady, wanted to be a lady, wanted to be better than anybody else, I would say, wanted to further her knowledge, further her education as one would say, looking forward in life. Me dad didn't care whether he went to work or he didn't, he had a shilling or he didn't er, but they always got on some how, they always seemed to dwell in it.

BS: To, to me it seemed that way because if we wanted anything we'd just go up road and get it.

TS: Yeah we had no..

BS: No worries. But, you know yersen as you live in a council house, you had debts, and me mam were worried about that.

TS: Yeah, she did the worrying.

BS: Had to go to work. As we got older she went to work. I know me dad worked down pits and that but the money wasn't there in the pits the same.

TS: Yeah, so she went down, she went to wool mills and she used to travel from er, Moorends to Keighley and er, all over in, for these, er, on buses to wool mills to make er, ends meet, to make life better.

*To the woollen mills?*

TS: Yeah.

*Every day?*

TS: Every day.

BS: Into Keighley.

TS: Into Keighley by bus from Thorne or Moorends and come back at night. Then see to us and, so really she had a, she'd had a..

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BS: Hard life.

TS: Hard life to start wi'. Things got better as we got working and er, but then they parted company later on in life.

*So what, your dad went to school in Moorends and then, what did he go on to do?*

TS: Er...

BS: Well when he left school he went down pits.

TS: He did.

BS: But...

*Which pit?*

TS: Thorne Pit.

BS: Thorne Pit.

TS: Thorne Pit.

BS: But the thing wah, he warn't bothered about work.

TS: He had no means, like we have, we wanted us own property, we wanted us own car...

BS: He dint want that.

TS: He dint want that, he dint...

BS: So they took him in army.

TS: Yeah.

BS: 'cause he wouldn't work down pit. He were working on like, land, don't get me wrong, 'cause he dint like pit work, so they took him in army. But when he come back out o' army he went back down the pits and he stopped in the pits. Then after a few years, he went to Scunthorpe, working at Scunthorpe.

TS: Steel Works.

BS: Steel Works. But went back down the pits again, till his...

TS: Well in, well in them days Barry er, jobs were free and easy, you could walk out of a job into another.

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BS: Yeah.

TS: You couldn't do that today.

BS: No, I know.

TS: You can't do that. But jobs in them days, I mean he were from one to another, er, but he spent more of his time, as we call it, twagging school. He never went to work he went on the moors, and once you walked out of that back door o' that property you've no idea where you are, you just go.

BS: I mean all he used to do is, when he used to go to me grandmother's, he'd pick gun up and go.

TS: Yeah, yeah.

BS: That's, I mean he loved doing that, you know and er...

TS: He had no sense. He's still living, he had no sense of er importancy in life. You and I, and that includes you, your aim is to have your own house, own your own house, own your own property, own your own car, your own kids, a nice husband all this lot. There was no, right up to today he didn't believe in that, because it was laid on a plate for him.

BS: He had kids but he didn't if you know what I mean. He dint care, he used to just get up and go, leave me mam wi' kids.

TS: Yes he did.

BS: Come home when he wanted and go when he wanted.

TS: It might be in middle o' night, he'd come home wi' geese, rabbits anything. His life was solely for himself, a selfish, nice, he were a gentleman, but in our eyes he was a selfish person in that respect that he only had one route and that were for, to see that he was okay. There was a case, and I do know it's true, when he worked at the pit he was, his mates who worked with him says 'Oh, Ken, can you get me, so and so', an apple pie shall we say, and get one for yourself. He came back to 'em and said 'they only had mine', and that is a true story. There's that many people told me about this apple pie, it's unbelievable. He's, they've paid for it, 'but he only had mine!' And this is a...

[Laughter]

*Oh dear. But he, they obviously had, they moved away from the moors and they moved into Moorends?*

TS: They moved into Moorends when they got married and they were shipped about. They couldn't get houses, there were no house, council houses to be had, so they did finish up on a disused aerodrome at Sandtoft. And like I've explained in, they used to call 'em Nissan huts. Disused, er, billets for the RAF. Me mother being as she is, as stropky as she was, pestered Thorne Council, er, and finished up in a house in Moorends, and there she never settled because you could guarantee every two years she did a bunk. She moved from Moorends to Thorne, from Thorne back to Moorends, from Moorends back to Thorne, she could never settle and I still put it down to that property on moors. I still put it

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down that, once you've lived there and done what you like, a property, er, next door to each other and everything else, is you know, streets and neighbours, you can't get used to it. And this is where in life I finished up being as I am. I am secluded all round, by a ten foot wall. I live peacefully and that's how I want to be. And probably it stems from our, our heritage, how you used to live, how you, what you remember and, this is all I can say it puts it back to.

*And did you, as a family, ever move back to the moors?*

TS: No, because they was condemned when we were kids, and me Uncle Lester, bearing in mind there was no water, they had to drink from well, er, and me Uncle Les worked at Thorne Pit and he put in for a pit house, because they started building round Moorends for miners. So he put in for a pit house. They said you've already got a pit house, you can't have one. So he wrote, he was a very learned, clever man, with pen and paper, I wish I was half as good. So he wrote to London and caused the biggest stink up you could get with the environmental circumstances he was living in. They came down inspected the house and condemned it. That means Pease and Partners couldn't rent it again so, they came out and they had it pulled down. So the remains are still there, we still have a walk back on the moors where they are to have a look and see what was, what's left of it. We still imagine in us own mind er, in some cases you'd think we were going daft, but I still stand and look at the area and see the picture we had, still to this day see, what we've er, how we lived. Now I'm sure a lot of people do that, go back to their roots, find out, just what, we've lost a lot, we've lost hell of a lot through technology, er, and televisions and all this lot has done all that.

BS: The thing is, when you lived out there, you got up when it were light, you went to bed when it were dark.

TS: Yeah, life meant..

BS: Time didn't mean anything to you, you, you lived like animals. You went to sleep when it were dark and you woke when it were light. End of story.

TS: Aye, you picked a rod up, you went fishing. I don't wanna do that today, you picked a gun up, you went shooting. I don't wanna do that today, I'll go walking, I'll go sight seeing, I'll, bird nesting wah a favourite thing in them days. We'll go bird nesting, we'll do this. So, er, for your mates at school or friends you'd, 'We're off bird nesting'. 'Oh? You what? Bird nesting, can we come?' That's how you finished up with a gang of kids going bird nesting. Unheard of today because it's against the law. But that's what happened that were our domain and from going over the pit tip we've classed it as 'It's ours'.

BS: When, when, when we lived over there, I know it dint belong them, but they lived there, so everything belonged them, dunt matter what it wah, it belonged them.

TS: That's right.

BS: And that's how they used to treat people what went over, 'Can't come down here, it's ours. You'll have to go back', and that's how granddad wah, great granddad and Smits and Verhees. You know they, they were looking after their sens, warn't bothered about the people what were coming, they dint want 'em, 'cause they were frightened they were gonna take something off 'em. Although it warn't

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them. They were frightened.

TS: They dint see it that way Barry. They saw that that property were theirs, because they lived there, not, we don't own it, they dint think well it's Pease and Partners, er, but we live here. We own this, it's ours 'cause we live here and that's how life used to be. You had an house, rented or not. This is mine, I'm the man of the house type o' thing and all them theories has all gone now ant it. All them theories has gone by the board, kicked under the carpet. History, people don't think that way anymore. Their minds have been turned, er, not warped, by all means not warped, er, it's just that minds, the, they're brought up differently so their minds. Unless, I've bought the property it's mine. If anybody's living in a council house, it's council's. Well we didn't think that way 'cause we lived in that, we looked after that and we brought, if anybody come over the bridge we knew, for, an hour, half an hour, there's somebody coming down, a stranger. All out, er, like flocked. 'There's a stranger coming down', 'who is it?', all out, so they'd nowhere to get in on, 'cause it were, find out who it is first. And because it was so clear at the back of us on the other side of the moor, you could see for miles. So you could see a good hour, half an hour ride, from the pit tip, 'there's somebody coming over pit tip, I can just see 'em'. All flock to the gate, all flock to the.. yeah. Like, I wunt say hooligans, as much as clans.

*Clans?*

TS: Clans, you know, clans of people.

BS: We wanted to know who everybody wah.

TS: That's right, and if they were strangers, 'Who are ya? What you doin' here? What, why, what for?' you know, 'you are a stranger to our area, you are not allowed here', you know.

BS: All though, even people out o' village were strangers.

TS: Yeah.

BS: They only lived half a mile away, but they were strangers to us, because they'd come over that banking.

*And did they come, did they come to do, I know kids came to play but what about the adults?*

TS: Adults come to go shooting. Friends, elder people, when they, I mean you've seen all these, a lot of older people, if they had friends come, but they stayed over night. They didn't leave, they slept on the floor, er, at Bells, slept on the floor, 'We're going shooting tomorrow, we'll sleep here', and that were their friends that's how they, how they come to be.

*When the houses were condemned was your great granddad still alive?*

TS: Oh yes.

BS: Yeah, yeah.

*And what happened to..?*

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TS: He went to live ...

BS: He come to Moorends, right to Thorne to live we me, his daughter, er granddaughter.

TS: Granddaughter, yeah, and that's where he passed away at hundred, or we think he was hundred.

BS: And he lived in their room for a lot o' years with me grandmother, not me great grandmother, me grandmother, 'cause me grandmother looked after him. It was daughter-in-law, actually, and er, the reason his wife killed her sen, she had a child to Bill, but it died, stillborn, and that's the reason she committed suicide.

*Who had a child?*

TS: Me grandmother, his daughter-in-law, she's my grandmother.

*Can I just stop you. We need to bear in mind that this is being recorded, so you need to think about what you, what you ... let me stop this a minute.*

[Pause]

*You were saying that your granddad was a bit stern.*

TS: He was, he was a very stern man, what he said went.

*This your great granddad?*

TS: Great Granddad. Not only with our family, with the Bells being so many kids, you moved when he walked round, a very proud man I would say. Er, and me father has taken after him, he was a very proud, well dressed, good looking, man. He just didn't have the graft in him that me great granddad had and that was the only difference. Very poor school life, me dad had, very poor, er, because of where he lived and he could do as he wanted. So hence, finished up working in mines and nowhere else like, and army.

*So when children came to walk down the, down your track down to white city to go and play, they were faced by...*

TS: If..

*A stern chap?*

TS: If they were faced by old Bill, I mean in them days they called him Old Bill, in the days when he wasn't old, they moved. They either hid in the bushes or parted company for him to go by. That was his patch, so nobody, I don't care who it was, gentry or kids, parted company. He had his rights and he were a gentleman that way. We always liked him because of his ways, frightened to death of him. But we always knew where to hide from him, so, but in other ways, er, I could understand him, to this day now, I could understand him. Them days I couldn't, but yeah, yeah.

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*And he had the back of the, his horses there?*

TS: Oh, the horse used to bite you, you to stick its neck right out to grab ya, so you, you daren't go near field, but I think he trained it that way! I think it were his way, the say an animal takes after the owner and by god, er, it used to, it used to er, ya, an horse is an animal everybody loves so they go to stroke it, you dint stroke it twice!

[Laughter]

TS: So it were, it was in biting.

*So what about you two, what, what, what, when you would finish school, what did you do?*

TS: Later, when life started, we had no choice in them days, er, me parents turned round and said go out to work or don't eat. So we had to go find a job. But unbeknowing them, er, I already had a job, er, on moors. I tried different things in between, er, like bus driving. I got me bus license, still working on moors, 'cause I've worked there all me life. Fire service, I worked in Thorne Fire Service on nights. I came home from eight hour shifts on moors and then signed on at the fire service every night, weekend as well. On a Sunday at the same time I'd go takin' trips to Alton Towers when that opened, from Thorne kiddies and all that lot. So that were me life, family life, er, came second.

*When you say you worked on the moors...*

TS: Yeah.

*Tell me about that.*

TS: Well, wi' being brought up on moors I knew the work, and what they did and how they did it, so in my mind I dint need training.

*What kind of work?*

TS: Graving, er, piddieing, stowling, stacking, filling wagons and milling. And it happened one day er, I was sat at home and me uncle came and said 'there's a job on moors, er, loco driving.' This is after horses just finished, they'd got a brand new loco, a little diesel engine to take wagons to mill and 'empty back. And I said 'yeah, there int a problem. I want that job.' So I went to see er, Stan Marshall, the foreman at that time. 'Yeah, start Monday'. So I left school on a Friday, started work Monday. 'I want you dyking first', cleaning dykes out and all this lot until that job really comes because there were still, er at the time we've always been used to horses on moors pulling wagons off 'cause it were always a horse area, you're not allowed any motor vehicles on moors. Until they got this little loco to take wagons. And I was chopping trees down during winter, burning 'em to clear for gravers. Gravers is a word for people digging peat. Seasonal work, always seasonal workers wah peat cutting. You graved in the winter because it was, too, er, you couldn't do anything else, er, so you graved when in were cool. You piddied in the spring for the peat to dry out, which is heaps of peats that you have graved, nobody else's. If you cut it wrong, you'll stack it wrong, you piddied it wrong. You had your own work to keep up with unless you finished and somebody else had to take over. So if you



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made a cock up of the first stage, it went on and on and on. So...

*What's piddie?*

TS: Piddie, is er, as in piddies in Israel. Piddies, you stack peat up in a point, leaving gaps for air to go through. I've got photographs of...

*Oh like pyramids?*

TS: Pyramids yeah, we call it piddies. Yeah pyramids. Er, you stacked it in a point and that was the first stage of drying peat, and then....

*So what's the process, tell me about the process?*

TS: Cutting the peat.

*So if somebody was doing it what would they be doing?*

TS: They'd cut the peat with a, a knife, a special knife, er, and a special shovel shaped like an heart. You always took the first foot off, which was rough, bracken roots and put it in the dyke bottom. And then you cut the peat into slabs which was er, ten, ten inch by about four inch. They were blocks, oblong blocks, and you put that in rows to its first stage of drying.

*What upon the..?*

TS: On the bank. You had to lift it, cut it and lift it. And then you got a fork and you rolled it out into rows. For, that took about two month, and then when spring come, you started lifting that peat into piddies, into pyramids, so that the air could travel through to dry it further. And then after that you stacked it, you put it into stacks, all in the centre, so that when they come to pick it up it's all in stacks and they could put the railway between 'em, and put it into wagons both sides. From there on it went to the factory, in the old days by horse and wagon, er, but diesel loco at the end of the term. When I started, they'd just finished, 1960, they'd just got the loco, '59 I think they got loco, and er, I left school went onto the moors. Like everybody else, do as your told, cut the bracken for the gravers, chop the trees, clear the dykes out so that the water could run, for about three, four year. And then I got promoted to the loco which were a bonus to me. It were a job in a million. I've looked at this loco and looked at it, er, and I thought I'm doing that job, I'm doing that, I want that job, and I got the job.

That were from Medge Hall, to back o' Thorne Pit, no more than two hundred yards from where I used to visit me granddad's and stay there. And then travelled back late at night in the dark in winter, through to Medge Hall, push bike it from Medge Hall back to Moorends. This went on day after day, year after year and er, couldn't afford motorbikes or anything. You came through the moors in fog, came through moors in rain, to, you came down the track that you'd already took the wagons up, through to Moorends. Er, then...

*So you used to cycle back down the track did you?*

TS: To come home.

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*Right.*

TS: Yeah, arh, it warn't that far, five mile, I would say, five mile, if you went round road it were like ten miles, it were like fifty mile round, but we used to cut through moors. And also there were a track from Crowle, Medge Hall being adjacent to Crowle, there were a track from Crowle, er, down by Burt Russell's farm, er, to Moorends, which we found were a better, better road. So we used to come by Limberloss and by Birtwhistle's farm and Causeway Farm and all that, er, through to er, Moorends home, for years. And then it were a case of 'they're shutting the factory, we want you to travel to Swinefleet'. So I went into the office and er, I said 'It's a bit far for me to travel by push bike to Swinefleet and in fact I'm not doing it. Is there a chance that I'll get to Hatfield?' So all them years I'd work Thorne and Hatfield, er, Thorne, er, Crowle Moors, I got the transfer to Hatfield, as a loco driver. And er, loco driving for years and then we got married and loco driving in them days wont very much money, enough to live off for one person. And I saw a gap in the factory, where I could make more money and work more hours. So I took that job er, and all this time trying to gain knowledge from old people of how the moors worked, how it arrived, how it, how they'd, there cut and all this lot. And, today, I've got all the photographs and the information, er, lots of photographs of peat cutting and everything about it.

*And did you carry on being the loco driver?*

TS: No I went into the factory.

*Sorry, you said.*

TS: I did, and I went on er, on piece work into the factory, and then I finished up being, for last twenty year, finished up being the foreman of the factory and run the factory. Er, and then got made redundant and in that, er, I haven't worked since, bits and pieces to help me self that's all.

*What did you do in the factory?*

TS: I was a mill foreman, I used to run the factory, so I was in charge.

*And before that, when you say...*

TS: I was on the machines, er, making, baling peat up, bagging peat up, or anything, you were a general worker. The foreman will come up and say 'I want you there', one day, 'Trevor. On that machine', or, 'I want you on lorries', well in them days it were loco. Er, main lines, filling main line wagons, because there were no such thing as er, lorries and, they'd come round wi' horse and cart you see, filled up, or tractor and trailers. And, and mainline used to run through the factory, so we used to er, load them. Er, and then they came to me one day and said 'we need a charge hand', so I says 'Fantastic', more money, 'cause I was orientated in money, you know. Everything led to a better life and that's how I was.

TS: And then they came and er, I'd a few years worked and said 'We need a foreman', 'Yeah, no problem'. So I run the factory for twenty year after that.

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*And when did you finish?*

TS: Er, I've been finished eight year now. They made, they made some staff redundant and I agreed to the redundancy and that were it. But, still working, they still keep me in the knowledge of what's happening and all the photographs that I've got up to eight year ago is all the machinery, the new machinery the old machinery, and everything else that's on moors.

*Do you still keep that contact with the moors?*

TS: Yes I do, especially Thorne Moors. Twice a year I walk on the moors, have a look what's happening. I go to Hatfield where I finished up working, see the lads who's left, er, have the crack wi' them obviously and er, see what the changes are. I'm still interested, it's in your blood. A peat worker, a bog, we call 'em bogmen, they are a different breed of person. Not everybody can do that job. They can for a while, but they always seem to leave, if it's not suited they leave. The amount of people that's worked on moors and factory, er, it's been no good to 'em they've not been satisfied, they've not been happy. Some have come for one day, some have come for sixth month, but they have always left. And that includes miners, which is supposed to be the hardest work there is, but they said, 'oh, no good to us, we're off'. They're a special breed. And in this area there is quite a few special breeds, and we call 'em, I call 'em special breed because they've, moors life, all their life, all the working time. The Busbys and Sharpes, both, three brothers have worked there and if it's suited, you are one o' them, if it's not suited you can come from any walks o' life and it not be suited, but I suppose I'm looking at my aspects, it can happen in any job can't it. But the bog people are the people that have stood fifty, fifty, gone from school, you know.

*Do you still go out and walk on the moors?*

TS: Oh yes. It's a favourite pastime on the weekend, er, when I get chance like. I mean, it's, I used to go probably once a month, now three or four time a year. But I still keep in contact with the factory. I still go down and have a look at the alterations, how they've worsened it, because they haven't bettered it.

*And you, do you go hunting still?*

TS: No, no, no. Me role has completely turned, I could shoot an animal, now I can't kill an animal, I sooner breed animal than kill it. And that goes for me pigeons, I can't kill 'em, er, I give 'em away if they were ready for getting rid of. It's completely turned, I can't eat the, er, pheasants the deer, and, I just cannot eat 'em, rabbits. When I see a rabbit, you wunt believe it, I just can't touch 'em. I can't stand 'em on markets, anything.

*Can you remember, well you said already that you used to watch 'em peat digging when you were younger.*

TS: Oh, yes, just go on moors and stand and watch. They dint know I were there, else we'd have been kicked off like, off the working area. But we used to stand and watch 'em in trees and watch how they stacked 'em and cut and, it used to fascinate me. It really fascinated me. It wan't a job, all me life it's not been a job, it's been a fascination, because I've added the history into it. So while I've been working, I've been learning about it. And taking, collecting photos off different people. I mean I've got

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a lot of photos here, they might be off ten different people. They've said, 'I've got a photo of so..', 'Can I borrow that photo?', 'Yes' and then the next person, 'Can I borrow that photo?', 'Yes', and that's how I've gone in life. I've had 'em copied and given them back like, you know.

*And was it, when you looked out where they were digging, can you describe what it looked like?*

TS: Yes I can, in the olden days you couldn't see where they were digging because they dug in rows and there were trees growing up, bushes. So, when a man went to work, you couldn't see where he were digging. And that's where the problem is today, they can see what, they've milled and everything. In them days they cut between the trees. Now, they flat every tree in sight, no disrespect to 'em, it's, it's a way of living it's a way we've gone, er, machinery. So what they do, the first thing they do is say 'We'll clear that moor', and by clearing is by digging everything up that's living and then mill it up. But in our days it were cut between the trees, so nobody knew what, what was going off, nobody knew any different. The moors were still moors, and that's er, it's progress int it.

*So if you were looking at a chap digging his patch, what was it like piece work was it? He was given a patch?*

TS: It was piece work in the end. In them days it were day work but they turned around and says er, 'Put it onto piece work and then you can come and go when you like', and everything else.

*So you'd see him in his patch, and you couldn't see anybody else?*

TS: Oh, no, you never saw anybody. Sometimes you didn't see anybody all day, from coming to work. And then all of a sudden they come through moors and say 'Hiya, are you going home?' But the main thing about moors work, you had to get you work done because of the weather conditions in a morning up to dinner time, because the heat used to hit the moors and bounce back, so you got heat both ways, so you couldn't work, in the highlights of summer. And in the winter it got that cold you couldn't work 'cause it froze the peat up. Now our climate's this day, it dunt happen that way, for some reason. We've not had a really bad frost to, for, from '62, the last decent frost we got were 1962, I think.

*And you say it was seasonal work and they did it in the winter?*

TS: They did it all year. The project took all year, different jobs were seasonal. Graving in winter, stacking in spring or pyramid in spring, stacking in summer, and then that peat was taken away the year after 'cause, it'd dried. But in er, peat, peat's a funny substance. All it is, is a sponge and it holds moisture. And Fisons, and, or, British Moss and Fisons and Scotts as it is now, I don't think that they've done any harm what they've done, because if you, all you would have seen on Thorne moors for instance, or Hatfield moors is one big mound of peat. Because of, the area is drying out, the farmers are drying the area as well, they're digging dykes all round. And peat doesn't grow, it grows, it's a plant, a sphagnum moss, but it doesn't grow like, it expands, so it you take the weight off a sponge, it'll do that. So we'd a been looking at a great big mound over Thorne Moors now. So what they actually have done is kept cutting the peat in layers and layers and keeping it down to ground level, so we're back to square one now. Thorne moors I would say there is three foot of it, three foot o' peat, most places, in some only a foot, but no detriment, life, if they left Thorne Moors to....

[Recording Ends]

# Thorne & Hatfield Moors Oral History Project