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