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