

Sample Interview Log

Name of Company/Organisation e.g. Swaffham Museum

Project: E.g. 'Two Shores: Living with the North Sea'

Oral History Interview with **(name of interviewee)**



By (insert name of interviewer)

General topic: Farming in Aldeburgh and Suffolk, 1960 to present

FULL NAME: John Doe

INTERVIEWER: Jane Smith

DATE: 22nd September 2008

PLACE: xx, Aldeburgh, Suffolk

TYPE OF EQUIP: PMD Marantz 660, Wav, 48hz, 16bit

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1 hour 39 minutes

PERSONAL DATA

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH:

xx

SPOUSE:

Married

OCCUPATION:

Retired farmer

BIOGRAPHY

John Doe (JD) is a retired farmer from a farming family. Originally from Pettistree, Wickham Market, JD and his brothers farmed in partnership several farms in Suffolk, one of which was in Aldeburgh where JD moved to in 1960 after he was married. Aldeburgh Hall Farm has had both dairy cattle and arable crops over the years. When JD first bought the farm it needed draining on the salt marshes in order to put in grazing for the cattle. Over the years government policy has changed and where he was once required to drain ditches the current farmer who manages the land has been requested to refill them once more.

INTERVIEWER'S COMMENTS

The recording is of good technical sound quality and is suitable for website broadcast and/or other broadcast media. JD makes some useful reflections on farming 'then and now' during his lifetime. He tells of the Italian and German prisoners of war helping with the sugar beet crops during the war. He also talks of modern farming techniques and how it has changed compared to what former farmhands used, easing their work. There is some information on wildlife e.g. cuckoos, coypu and

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tadpoles. Surprisingly there has only been three occasions when his farm, which is below sea level, has had flood warnings and minor flooding in the forty eight years he has owned the land.

INTERVIEW INDEX

Initials	Time	Topic of Discussion
JD Part 1	00:01:20	Talks of the marshland and type of land and how it was used. Mainly for grazing as it's wetter land. Goes on to talk of the stages of draining the land in 1962/3.
JD	00:03:22	1953 floods – before his time on farm – the land had damage from the saltwater from the flooding and he exposed a lot of the sub-soil.
JD	00:04:46	In the early years Dudley kept sheep on the land by the river wall and sometimes he would get a call at 2am from the police warning of floods so would need to move the sheep to safety.
JD	00:06:00	Talks of Cobb Island in the river near the Aldeburgh brickworks disappearing rapidly over an eight year period.
JD	00:10:13	Talks of cuckoos disappearing.
JD	00:10:53	Talks of tadpoles disappearing in the ditches on the salt marsh at Hazelwood which he farmed with heavy fertilizer. Realisation that it had a detrimental effect.
JD	00:13:47	Talks of government's attitude to farming over the last 60/70 years and how it's changed. Initially asked to drain lands and grow crops. Now the reverse. Talks of policy of food excess and food shortages in the world in the 1970s/80s.
JD	00:32:16	Working on a farm used to be back breaking nowadays it's physically easier with new technology. You need to be a bright lad and work computers to use farming equipment these days. More quick witted and alert than previously required.
JD	00:37:20	Pace of life has changed from previous farming life. Remembers wives bringing husbands their tea during harvesting time and eating it with them in the field.
JD	00:38:50	Describes how new modern milking parlour he had installed changed the lives of the cow men and how one cow man reflected on the backbreaking work as it was.
JD Part 2	00:01:00	Talks of Italian and German prisoners of war helping with the sugar beet crops. Brief description of how sugar beet was farmed then and now.