**FOR ATTENTION OF STEVEN SWABY ONLY**

*Selection of Quotations from Hydrocitizenship research project (AHRC funded 2014-17) semi-structured interviews with Walthamstow (Fishery) Wetlands stakeholders*

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PLEASE NOTE IF USED THESE QUOTATIONS NEED TO BE CONSENTED BY THE PARTICIPANTS WHO GAVE THEIR CONSENT AT INTERVIEW FOR USE IN RESEARCH BUT WERE NOT ASKED IF THEIR WORDS COULD BE USED IN THE SITE INTERPRETATION

**[Volunteer / Local Resident1]**

1. “Yes, but talking about the benefit to the local community, I think it will have a benefit. It’s remarkable that, that site is- I mean, I’ve lived in Walthamstow for 15 years and only knew about going to the wetlands, you know, the last couple of years and only went there since September 2014. So I think the majority of people in Walthamstow have never been there, or rarely and it is a beautiful place. This also sounds corny or like a cliché or something, but it’s absolutely true, that I’m amazed that every time I go there, I see something new. ... So different weather or different birds. Before being involved in the wetlands, I’d only seen a kingfisher once. I’ve seen kingfisher, the same one probably, three or four times now in the last month.”

2. “[t]he more you go, the less you notice the pylons and the more you start to love the pylons because it’s a pace you love and you feel like you have an ownership of them and I look up at the pylons to see- there’s usually birds perched in them or often there are birds perched and they attract the peregrine falcons.”

3. [s]o the large space. It’s unusual to be in that large an environment, you know, unbroken up. So you have wind, the wind is quite strong there and it’s unusual to be able to see that far. There is something about- it’s almost like a trip to the seaside. In the summer, it does feel like – when especially you’ve got seagulls, we got gulls there – you can always see the skyscrapers in the distance but it’s very nice to be next to the water. It does have waves because of the wind blowing the water. There’s a sort of mental association of being next to water as being on vacation, you know. So it gives you a sense ‘that I’m on holiday’.”

4. “Now, it’s the boundary between Haringey and Waltham Forest. It’s between the development in Tottenham Hale and the development in Black Horse Road. So it is very much a liminal space at the boundaries and so psychologically, you’ve got a sense that you’re outside of Walthamstow Central but you’re not in Hackney. People from both sides come to escape, you know, to get a bit of free mental space. Now I’m not seriously, but you know Adele had a song recently and it really doesn’t make that much sense, but she’s using the sort of metaphor of a river flowing and it’s an old sort of thing in blues music, isn’t it? She’s using that. You can say that, you know, like life flows along, or you see time flowing along as a river, that being around the river – which the reservoirs are there because the river is there – you do have a sense of the flow of life and of change.”

5. “I feel like it reminds me of the Lake District there. The islands there. And that’s a personal thing from my childhood, but a lot of people will feel the same, that it connects them.  
  
So referring to them as reservoirs. Like East Warwick and other concrete-sided are clearly reservoirs, but the older [ones], the first reservoirs one, two and three, look like lakes. So you have a sense of being in the countryside. ... I mentioned before about Adele’s single about the River Lea and the idea of water being flowing, a river flowing and time flowing and life flowing along. I think that there is that sense that the wetlands are part of the Lea Valley and the water continues on down through the marshes and it’s not just in the middle of nowhere.”

6. “There’s lots of tributaries around here and that is quite a multi-faceted identity of it that you’ve got the River Lea, you’ve got the Copper Mill stream which was a man-made diversion of the River Lea. Because there were marshes, they couldn’t build a copper mill on the marshland. It would have to be drained. So they diverted the copper mill to where they could build a copper mill. Then you’ve got the River L-E-A and then the navigation and then you’ve got other things like the Dagenham Brook and you’ve got the flood relief channel as well. And if you look at a map, it’s quite something to work out and a bit of a puzzle and a mystery and I enjoy that sort of element of it, of learning how it all fits together. There’s an esoteric element of it of people who know this and that and the other, whereas other people who don’t and learning all about it is intriguing. So if I was bringing friends here, I would start the tour over at the Lea navigation so that they could see that the wetlands is related to the river.”

7. “loving the place and loving the fact that it is in Walthamstow and it is local, will make people appreciate the whole water system. Because I didn’t realise that most of London’s water comes from here and when you turn on the tap, you don’t think “Oh, I’m getting Walthamstow water”. It still seems incredible and I don’t know how it works. Again, there’s this is mystery about the whole place.”

8. “Yes, I mean if it’s somewhere that you love being, then you sort of love the water as much. I don’t know. It may lead people to take it for granted, you know, if they don’t realise how special it is here and how unusual it is. Societies around the world are all based – historically – were based around rivers and cities all start around rivers. So living in a situation where you’ve got water is so essential to where you live, that we’ve become, in the modern world, detached from the natural resources that we need to sustain a living. So this reconnects you with something that, you know, if you’re living on the Amazon or you’re living on any river in any part of the world, it’s very clear, very obvious. Whereas you can live in Walthamstow without being connected with all of that. If this massive site wasn’t there, if you lived in loads of other areas of London, you wouldn’t be so reminded of it.”

9. “you become much more conscious of the weather at Walthamstow wetlands. You become much more conscious of the sun. Even on a day like today when it’s cold, the sun is reflected in the water and you can see the reflection, it’s really great, isn’t it? I love the reflection of the sun and the reflection on large areas of water with it shimmering away as the water moves. But also the wind. You become aware of the wind over the large expanses and that can be chilling, but also you start to get waves in the water. ... But also, as I’ve said, ice we had a couple of weeks ago, the fog back in November. You become much more aware of the weather and the weather is all affected by sustainability of, you know, everything we’re doing with fossil fuels and the climate change.”

**[Volunteer 2/ resident nr Walthamstow]**

1. “. It’s definitely interesting having the different types of reservoirs. So you can go from the very overgrown, middle of the trees and everything to- it’s like the East and West of Warwick Reservoirs, which are so open and huge expanses, and then go round and see the Cormorant Island on the other side. So that variation is really special I think. Also having the old buildings around the industrial of course, the pylons and all of that. That definitely gives it its own character. I feel it’s a very different site to Hampstead Heath, for example. I find it interesting, that mixture of the industrial with the natural.”

2. “I think I just love understanding how things work and that I was always the kind of person that wanted to know how the magic tricks worked. I always enjoyed them more once I’d… (Laughter) So I think it’s something about understanding those mechanisms and you appreciate it more as a system, and why this thing has been created. You just get more of a sense of the history of it. Just all those elements suddenly give it more meaning, I suppose.”

3. “Certainly, obviously, you’re getting to meet lots of different people you wouldn’t necessarily meet. For me, personally, it’s been such an amazing insight and to practically- this world of conservation and all the great and more complicated sides of it, it’s been really good. For me in that respect. With that particular site, you feel quite privileged being able to spend time on the site, getting to know the site. I’ve really enjoyed the guided walks. ... It allows you to take some kind of pride, I guess, in your knowledge and sharing that and making people excited about it. It’s that sense of, “Oh, come and see this thing.”

**[Birder/ local resident]**

1. “You know, it’s easy to get to without public transport and you do see birds here that you won’t see anywhere else without getting on buses and trains. ... Well it’s two things really. One is the islands that you’ve got on large areas of water, because the birds are totally safe there. You get birds that either nest there or sit round there or use the trees to roost in because- well, I haven’t asked them, they haven’t told me, but I assume they feel safe there. The second one is the large expanses of water. I mean, if you go into any park which has got a small area of water, you’ll find moorhens and coots and mallards, but other barn fowl you’ll only tend to get when you’ve got bigger areas of water and also you get more birds where there’s vegetation round the edges. You can see the difference if you compare the birds here with the birds in Banbury Reservoir which is just north, which has no vegetation at all. It’s all concrete.”

2. “one of the things I’m interested in is the birds that you get in urban areas because that’s where I’ve mostly bird watched all my life. What happens is birds like habitat, so they will come here, they don’t care that there are houses all around it, what they care about is what is here. So you can be in the middle of all this bit. That’s what people sometimes say to me, they’re wandering around, they say, “How can this be in the middle of all these houses?” It is, but it’s here for a particular reason which is related to economics.”

3. “I was born in Edmonton further up the River Lea. We used to walk down to the River Lea when I was a boy in the ‘40s. At that time you had the barges with horses still taking timber up and down and this huge Harris Lebus furniture factory over there where the Ferry Lane Industrial estate is. There’s a heritage here that’s part of people’s heritage. My family were all born down in Hackney, down there \_\_\_[0:39:22]. For the kids that come here, there may be that connection. It has the opportunity to make those connections. ... Yes, your sense of identity is. I mean, why am I a birdwatcher? Because when I was a little, probably my dad used to take me over by the River Lea where there was an old gravel pit that was filled in. He used to go round collecting bits of wood and stuff like that that he’d use. We used to run around and fish for tiddlers and stuff like that in the remains of the gravel pits. You know, I’m sure that was one of the factors of why I got interested in wildlife. Because if you don’t experience it, you don’t know, do you? ... It’s something that you can be less aware of in an urban environment ...”

4. “What I like to do is walk round the same route every time I come, record the birds that are here. I mean, go home and write it up and all that sort of thing, you know, so you’ve got records and you can see what’s happening. What I like is something different and unusual. So the memories are that I’m \_\_\_ walking round the West Warwick, and I’ve done that every week for years and years and years. One time I walked up the slope and two heron-like birds flew up, one of which was darker looking than the other. I thought, “Oh my God, this could be a purple heron,” which I’d never seen in my life. And it was!”

**[Artist/ Leytonstone resident]**

1. “I was preparing for an exhibition in Leightonstone library and at the time I didn’t know what it was going to be about. I decided to dedicate that little free cabinet exhibition to the exploration of the site in Walthamstow Wetlands. That’s how my journey began. The first time I entered the site I bought a daily pass ticket and asked the Ranger, one of the officers there, where do I go, which way do I go, and they explained.

It was confusing because it is open to the public but not at the same time. It is not posted clearly enough, “Welcome everybody, this is for you.” That was very exciting in a way because it felt like I was getting into something special, which it is.

I started walking. On the first day I explored the whole site. I walked around everything that was accessible in one go. I documented my journey by taking loads of photos on the first day. I realised that this was an invaluable experience because I was getting to know my tap water source. I learned later on that this is where most of east London and certainly further on, people get their tap water from, where it is stored and cleaned at Coppermill plant. That, to me, meant such an expansive, great source that I could explore not just artistically but also on a human level that I haven’t stopped coming since. I keep returning. I have bought a yearly pass now. Every time I return to the area I document my walks either by photos or by recording my walks as a reference rather than passing on the information. I was looking for inspiration in an essence for my exhibition, not just to artistically translate what I’m seeing but also to pass on; look at this amazing place, it’s here, go there as well, you can and you learn so much. If you are interested, why not?”

2. “What sort of benefits would you say the site brings for visitors?”

“The one of knowledge of your local area. That is a basic one but very important. ... A sense of belonging and knowing your nature. Everybody needs some kind of nature to feel that they are part of. If someone in the area who is local can be welcomed in this nature, which Walthamstow Wetlands very much are for me, nature in its broadest sense, that might inspire people to be more aware how important it is to protect it.

I return back to water because this is where the water is stored and further behind the fence, which is not accessible, the water is cleaned. You will perhaps give confidence to people to drink the tap water more and stop buying bottled water. That was the effect I felt on myself. Just by seeing how beautiful and natural the reservoirs are, I know they are manmade structures, but they are occupied by birds and there are lots of trees and vegetation which is beautiful. The water is beautiful. The bottled water isn’t beautiful. It used to be beautiful when it was where it belonged, in the soil. It’s not beautiful any more just because of how it has been encapsulated and moved around.

The proximity and accessibility to water and the beauty of it in front of you is such an experience that hopefully will open people’s minds. ... Wellbeing, clarity of mind and body. This might all sound very much like a cliché but it needs to be said. We are in a city and this is an urban manmade space but the feel that we get from it, or I got from it when I was there, is a natural one.”

**[Ranger/ TW employee]**

1. “I think people obviously get enjoyment from being outdoors and doing an activity, so there’s health benefits. There’s also psychological benefits because you’re outdoors. You can get a new perspective on life, you can see species of wildlife you wouldn’t necessarily see in your back garden or down the main road here in London. You also get a perspective of London which you wouldn’t normally get, where you don’t have buildings surrounding you. You get to see a bit of a horizon, a sunrise and a sunset, which often, you may see the sun setting, but it will drop behind a building. Suddenly you get an expansive view, and that can be quite good psychologically, I think, sometimes, because it’s just a little bit of release and freedom.

My first year here it was very strange for me, because growing up in north London, and not really seeing a horizon very often; suddenly you’ve got this vista. I used to get, not a headache, but it used to hurt my head a little bit that we’ve got all this to look at, and, yes. I described this place to my colleague, who’s from Essex, as, “It’s a bit like the countryside.” And he burst out laughing, because it was like, “This is nothing like the countryside.” I was like, “No, but it is for a Londoner.” Once you’re on the reservoirs, and you’re in the middle of it, and you can barely hear any road noise; maybe a siren or two. For a Londoner, it is very much like the countryside, and I think it’s from your perspective; but yes, he still laughs at me for saying that.”

2. “I think what it does is, when you’re on the site, it makes you think about why the reservoirs are there, what purpose do they serve, who benefits from the reservoir. Why do we have these big open bits of water? And then when you learn that they’re there to supply drinking water, then that’s something interesting, and a lot of people in London don’t realise where their water comes from.”

**[TW Alumni/ ex Ranger, Fishery Manager]**

1. “Well, the site itself has been, for many years, a bit of a green oasis - I suppose you might call it - in the North London area. Very much a low-profile site. A low-profile oasis. It’s really known mainly for its fishing.”

2. “I think if we talk about this area, then you’re going to think and look at this area, as we said earlier… A large body of water. A large green oasis within this particular part of town, and I think that people like being near water. I think there’s a perception of a break between buildings. It acts as, to a degree, a buffer, I guess you might call it. I don’t know whether that’s the right word or not, but I think that, in a sense, it acts like that.   
People are there. They like to see the water. ... I think it’s in our nature to want to be near water.”

3. “You’ve got the tangible things like the buildings, which are there, which you can look at. You’ve got pieces of machinery that hopefully we’ll keep, again, indicating to people… How did this work? Where did the water come from? What did it do? I think that they’re the sorts of things that people like. I think, having the built-in history here enables people that live in an area like this to perhaps connect more [with] the history.”

4. “So, you have recreational facilities and industrial water supply working side by side.”

5. “For me it was also being involved in this industry, which was not something I ever intended getting involved with, to be frank with you. It was, I don’t know, a complete accident, I guess. But then, being involved and seeing how things have changed, have moved on, I think it’s an industry, in particular for me, that’s enabled me to play a number of roles. ... Whereas, when I first came here, I was just an operative, just a guy working, and then all of a sudden, for me… Because I’m a history buff. I like nature, the wild and all that sort of stuff. I like all of that sort of stuff, and this enabled me also, not only to do my job, but to have an interest in those sides of it as well. So, it’s killing two birds with one stone, to a degree.”

**[LWT Trainee/ Walthamstow resident]**

1. “[i]t’s quite unusual to find such a dense amount of houses and businesses and buildings around a nature reserve. But Walthamstow, Woodberry, hopefully are going to be good examples of how you can make a home for nature, alongside homes for people and hopefully they’ll provide good opportunities for people to connect with nature. More so than places like Barnes, where in a sense you have to pay to enter. Whereas these are going to be free sites, so they’re taking away that economic barrier to wildlife.”

2. “I hope people will get involved in the management of the site, hopefully and you’ll be able to see the benefit. I hate the phrase ‘Giving back’ because it sounds like you’ve taken something doesn’t it, but yes contributing basically, hopefully people will see the benefits of volunteering. I hope people get involved with the nature walks, bat walks and bird walks and surveys and hopefully will help their understanding.”

3. “[i]t’s open, and you can see quite a long way which is strange to see in London and that’s really valuable for people, a lot of people tell me that. Even myself, to stand there and stare at the vastness of it and you know, spot up landmarks in the distance. In Walthamstow you can spot Ali Pali, Canary Wharf, and Woodberry Wetlands, all from one spot. So that’s really good. You don’t really get that in woodlands or heathland or any other habitat, like reservoirs.”

4. “I think a really powerful experience for me, was on a walk in January there were just loads of people from Walthamstow on the walk and they were all from different backgrounds and different ages and just talking to people and saying “Where about’s do you live?” and they say “Walthamstow” And I say “Where about’s in Walthamstow, what road?” and they’ll say “Livingstone Road” and I’ll say “Oh fantastic, I used to go up there. I went to the school just round the corner” and then they can see “I understand where they’ve come from, at least a little bit”. It kind of hit me after that, this is actually happening on my doorstep, it’s a really big project and it’s a really massive change to the local area.”

**[Waterside resident 1 &2]**

1. “It’s very special. It’s very precious this [site]. ... So I think all the people here have been drawn to either to water or to the birds or to nature.”

2. “I remember the first time I went into the back garden at Waterside and it’s just mesmerising. It’s just mesmerising.”

3. “So I suppose I hope two things. People get a real sense of peace from coming to this space, but also start to understand the damage that they do [to the environment]”

4. “You know, it’s such a precious commodity in other parts of the world and we take it so for granted that it comes out of our tap and it’s clean and it’s this, that and the other. There’s just some fabulous opportunity to say “This is precious stuff. This is like gold and we need to look after it ...”

5. “I want people to enjoy it, I want people to live in London and have access to these kind of spaces and I know how important it is for my health and well-being.”

6. “In terms of identity, this is a nature reserve, it’s about conservation, it’s about respecting our wildlife, its biodiversity, where water comes from, you know, the preciousness of nature and that’s what floats my boat.”

7. “The joy of the birds. You know, if you can stop for long enough and you just look at what the birds do, they’re hilarious. I mean, they’re absolutely hilarious. The way the birds interact with each other, with the fish, you know. It’s just beautiful and, you know, some of it is just very funny. It’s funny, there’s a lot of humour on this site. There’s a lot of things that make you smile, that actually make me laugh out loud and you know, I want people to share that. I know I can sit and I can read a bit, look up and I can just interact with it all the time, but I want people to come on the site and they want to look at it and they see the humour and the joy of this site, would just be magical.”

8. “I think looking at the water. Having something so elemental. To have access to an element like that. And you can just watch this water and it will look still and moving at the same time. It is amazing.”

**[Waterside resident 3]**

1. “This is my first experience of living by water. I’m from Wales and we lived in a land locked valley in Wales, so this is new to me, that you find a space like this, in the middle of the city, London in this case and you’re right by the water. So it’s remarkable in every sense. We’ve been here for about 18 years, and I guess what it’s done is connected me to the seasons and the weather. ... , it’s lovely just to sit and look. To look at the water, the wildlife, the changes of the seasons. But in the distance, you can also see traffic and trains. ... So it’s the connection of the water, but with living in an urban area, it’s a double life really. ... So again, you’re never on your own here and over the years, it’s opening up, the marshes and with the wetlands I’m sure there’s going to be more people here. But there’s lots of people walking and enjoying feeling like it’s in the country. It’s the country feel about it, in the city. It’s quite unique. ”

2. “People have got to be very mindful of this site, that it is an operational site and this is our drinking water and also the habitat of so much wildlife down here, some of it very precious and rare.”

3. “... being peaceful and quiet sometimes is really important and valuing that space, just to sit quietly. But I don’t think it’s just for me, because I’m unwell, that I need that- I think it’s for everybody. Particularly in London, everybody ought to have that space where you can be quiet.”

4. “Some people might argue that that’s just a bit wacky, but for me, and quite a few other people, and even if it’s not expressed, there may be something spiritual about living so close to nature, particularly, stressing this, *in the city*. ... But this is very precious.”

5. “There is something about water, quite right. When I sit at the end of the garden, there’s a lapping sound, and a wave sound and it’s just the water breaking against the side of the reservoir. But actually it feels like the movement of the water, I guess, that it’s a living thing and it’s inhabited by other living things. The fish jump and leap and I always think, they do it mostly in the centre of the lake and they’re leaping for joy that they’re not caught by the fishermen who are round the edge and I always think they’re saying “Look at me, I’m jumping about, you can’t get me” (Laughter) It’s that feeling. There’s the swans, the elegance and the beauty of the swans on the reservoir and I think there’s six at the moment, on that little island there. Although it’s not tidal of course, it’s a reservoir. They take the water up and down, so sometimes there’s a little beach there and we have the birds around on the beach and sometimes, now it’s filled up at the moment, so there’s no beach, so they’re back up on the island. So there’s a feeling of – it’s not a beast, but it’s a living thing.”

**[Fishermen Focus Group – x 3 fishermen]**

1. “I’m still working but I get a lot of time off because of my work and the time off, I spend here. So basically, this is my second home. I have three or four days off a week, which generally, like last week, I had four days off, I had four days here. So it is my second home. I love the site. Obviously, why I’m here today, obviously I am agreeing with promoting the site and would like it to be looked after. Because as I say, I’ve been here since I was 12 years old, I’m 57 now and, you know, I’ve seen a lot of changes – sometimes not for the better – but we’d like to keep the site as I find it refreshing and relaxing and obviously, a break away from the norm of my work. Because I find it very important.”

2. “I’ve fished here since 1952. Now, I do mostly trout fishing but I’ve seen it develop. In fact, I stopped first carping here in about 1970 with a couple of the others that are working here. Yes, I just think it’s a wonderful environment so close to this side of London.”

3. “People are totally absorbed at looking at birds, or whatever. And angling, if you’re going to do it properly, or seriously, it’s the same. It’s not just fish and the environment but it’s entomology, understanding the ways of the lake, how it’s affected by the wind and the weather and the temperature.”

4. “What I say, it is unique, and it’s quite local. When Wetlands first discovered this, they said it was a jewel in the crown. But it’s been our jewel in the crown for like 50, 60 years.”

5. “I mean a season ticket in those days was a guinea. You’re too young to know what that was. But a day ticket, you had to go through the water board, Rosebery Avenue and that used to cost a shilling a day – which in those days was quite a bit of money – but the chances, and I can remember, in what was the closed season in those days, March, June, you’d write off to Rosebery Avenue requesting a day and “Wow, that was it, we’ve got a day in Walthamstow in October”, you know? And it was really, it was very, very strict. Season tickets were an impossibility and then I think by the ‘60s you could get a ticket on the gate. Then it sort of opened up and by the ‘70s this was like a thousand people a day in here, could be quite a possibility. ... Because it was so good. It was exactly that. It was special. It was special.”

6. “Male: Well I’ve bailiffed it a lot of years, haven’t it? I’m in since the ‘60s and…

Interviewer: What’s your motivation for doing that? You’ve both bailiffed and why was that an important job for you?

Male: So to keep the environment and-

Male: We love this site. We love the site.

Male: Looking after it.

Male: We love the freedom of the site. Walking around. Even if you’re not fishing, walking around, the wildlife, yes? It’s just second nature to us, it’s in our hearts to look after this place.

Male: It’s also we’ve passed on our experience. New youngsters in here, new people coming in here, people who wanted to know what it was about and what the fishing was about, where and how to fish it. That was in our experience and passed that on.  
  
Also, you know, like anywhere, keeping an eye on the place. See that people weren’t misbehaving, leaving rubbish. We used to clear up enough of that. And you know, say to people “It’s just not on. We’re not having you misbehaving. We’re not having you lighting fires over here. We’re not having you leaving rubbish. If you want to do that, go home”.  
  
I’ve said endless times to people, you know “Do you throw that rubbish down in your living room when you’re finished?” “No”, “Well why do you do it here? Take it home”.

7. “It’s an oasis in London. It’s an oasis for us. There’s not a site like this in London. I would say there’s not a site like this in probably… If you say a city, I would say in, probably, southern England, if not the UK. I haven’t seen one. You do get other reservoirs, but they’re not, generally, near main cities. Well, we’re still within London. We’re nowhere on the borders, but we’re still in London and there’s not a site like this for fishermen to come along. It takes me quarter of an hour in the car, it takes Ray quarter of an hour, it takes Derek – he lives locally. There’s not a site like this and you’ve got reservoirs – large reservoirs – all over the UK but they are basically, generally, right out in the countryside that are not near major cities.”

8. “It’s relaxing. It’s calming. I mean, I’ve got a few problems at the moment but I can come down here and I can escape.”

9. “But while I’m here, I’m focused on this. ... I think as well, that’s for a lot- well, say it is for me as well, it is a great relaxation, it’s a break away. When you said though, that it’s an escape, it is. It’s an escape. Because you can be something \_\_\_[0:42:00 will check original audio] and you come over here and it’s gone. And that’s what fishing is. And as I say, it’s quite an important site as I say, because there are not many sites like this that are open to fishermen and the variety of fishing they’ve got here.”

10. “when we started fly-fishing was basically that was my memorable thing, when someone said to me – and I remember I was coarse fishing – and I came over quite a young lad, you know. What I’d done is my mate looked after my gear and then I went over to the fly-reservoirs and then I caught my first fish on a rod. And I remember that, and from there – because I was a coarse-fisherman, which I used to fill to Coppermill Stream here at the top for barbell and chub and from there, I sold all my course tackles and took up fly-fishing. But that was the start. Although it doesn’t stop me doing, like, I still do it now. I still do free-lining and I do that type of- I still go fishing for carp in the summer, but that would be an experience and I would like other people to enjoy it.”

11. “But no day is the same. It doesn’t matter some days whether you catch a fish or not, but you could be sitting there and nothing happening. And a kingfisher lands on your rod. Which they do. I’ve had kingfishers as close as this. Now that may make that day a lousy fishing day, but it’s a very memorable day.”

12. “You’re closer to nature. You’re not only fishing, you’re close to nature.”

13. “So we’ll make up their gear and he’d very rarely ever catch anything but he used to come over here and bring chicken-bits didn’t he? In the height of his days, sit there and the old fox used to come around and she’d sit right beside him and feed it by hand. That was his great day. Great. It used to follow him around and they were always coming around. You know, it’s all integral.”