

## Dialect and Oral History: The East Midlands

## AUDIO RECORD\*

## Recording:

Reference	LANt018
Dialect Location	Leicester (Ratby)
Date of interview	2005

## Interviewee:

Gender	Male
Date of birth / age	1929
Occupation	Retired

## Summary/Transcript:

Extract taken from  
1h0m09s – 1h2m55s

***Has it drama/ I mean you know I have this kind of romantic vision of you hearing the echo of your own voices as seven and eight year olds as you're walking around (...) or has it really quite dramatically changed in its look over those all those years***

Yes (...) aye it's not the same by no means no you see my Un/ my Uncle Bill Bill Stevenson who lived in Ratby he had a wooden wood shed there and he used to cut posts and things and he'd got an old steam boiler that he used to have going to drive his big saw you know and you used to hear him going away and we used to chuck stuff on the roof cos it were a tin roof to make him run and chase us and every every birthday he used to give us a duck egg and a penny but that that all went the footpaths are all changed the M1's gone through there's lots of fields now what we used to walk through are all set with little trees now the cottages that used to go from Gro/ from Groby Road through to the back of the church on Church Lane there that's all built up with houses that's gone the footpaths you can still go through but it's not the same thing (...) course the Western bypass is gone through now that's took some more fields up where we used to go looking for peewits' eggs and mushrooming and doing/ the place where I were born at the vicarage there's a big / the orchard has all been built on with houses and the poplar trees have all gone that were up the side of the vicarage which are natural they were natural the/ they died like through old age I suppose (...) the footpaths a lot of the footpaths are still there the (...) Motty Stile to Stamford Street that footpath's still there but whether that will stop for long I don't know (...) it's (...) no the village is

***Have you got/ one last question have you got kind of like a favourite place is it that wood I mean if***

yes, Two t'ills (...) daft as it may seem, I sometimes go (...) I used to go walks with me Dad and Mum and that like and cos me brother had as well every Sunday was a walk you used to go and I go up there sometimes and sit on this rock it's some of the oldest stone in Leicestershire apparently brought down with the earthquakes and volcanoes and things millions of years ago and I go and sit up there sometimes have a quiet word with the old boy you know that sort of thing

**Linguistic description:**
**Phonology**

Feature	Example(s)	Comments
FOOT/STRUT → [ʊ]	chuck – [tʃʊk] stuff – [stʊf]	Consistent
BATH/TRAP → [æ]	footpaths [fʊʔpæθs] bypass [baɪpæs] daft [dæft]	Consistent
Monophthongisation: /eɪ/ → [ɛ]	make – [mek]	Occurs once
/əʊ/ → [ʊ]	going – [gʊʔɪŋ] go – [gʊ]	Frequent but not consistent
happY vowel	penny - [pɛnɛ]	Occurs once
L-vocalisation	Bill – [bɪʊʔ] fields – [fiʊdz] Stile – [staɪʊʔ]	Frequent but not consistent; word-medially and finally
<-ng> - [ŋ]	looking – [lʊkɪŋ] mushrooming – [mʊʃru:mɪŋ]	Consistent
H-dropping	to have- [tæv]	Occurs once
Definite article reduction	to have- [tæv]	Occurs once; due to h-dropping
T-glottalisation	Ratby – [ɹæʔbi:]	Frequent but not consistent
<of> → [ə]	“that sort of thing” “millions of years”	Consistent
Elision	suppose – [spəʊz] with houses – [wɪʔaʊzɪz]	Occurs once Consistent for this example

**Lexis**

Item	Meaning	Comments
aye	Yes [I agree]	Used once
‘they died like through old age’	Filler	Occurs once

Like	Used as a tag	Occurs once
and that	and so on	Occurs once
stop	remain, survive	Occurs once
the old boy	[his] father	idiom
Two t'ills	Two Hills (a place where, earlier in the interview, the speaker says he used to play as a child)	Here the name appears to have acquired an intrusive <t>

Grammar	Feature	Example(s)	Comments
	Non-standard relative pronoun	"there's lots of fields now <u>what</u> we used to walk through"	'that', Occurs once
	Non-standard tense	"that's <u>took</u> more fields up" " <u>is</u> gone"	'taken', Occurs once 'has', Occurs once
	Non-standard choice of verb	"footpath's <u>are</u> all changed"	'have', Occurs once
	Double negation	"it's <u>not</u> the same by <u>no</u> means"	'by any means', Occurs once
	Non-standard possessive pronoun	"me brother" "me Dad and Mum"	'my', Occurs twice
	Sing. vs. Plural – 'to be'	"I were"	'was', Occurs once
	Zero preposition	"go Ø walks" "Ø course"	'for', Occurs once 'of', Occurs once
	Non-agreement of number	"there's <u>s</u> lots of fields"	Occurs once, with existential 'there'

**Further comments:**

Note that Groby is usually pronounced as [gru:bi:]; National Archive documents show that earlier spellings reflect this. This recording has numerous dialect features characteristic of the older speakers in our study. Earlier in the interview the speaker recalls the names of traditional games played during his childhood, such as 'Holler if you're far and squeak if you're near' and 'Whip and Top', and, interestingly, he pronounces 'bowling' as [baʊlɪn]