

GUIDANCE NOTES

1. When writing the descriptive accounts of peat winning, it became clear that two types of definition would require early explanation:

- For centuries, peat was known locally as ‘turf’. Sometimes, the term ‘moss’ has been used, apparently by non-local writers. The term ‘moss litter’ was also in general usage. However, the term ‘peat’ is the currently familiar one, and the name ‘turf’ now has (and historically had) other, more readily understood, meanings in English. Thus ‘peat’ is the natural word to use here, except when quoting sources verbatim. Similarly, the term ‘peats’ for turves, like ‘moss’ above, is not locally applicable, and again seems to have a non-local derivation
- Manual peat removal has been variously described as ‘digging’, ‘cutting’ and ‘graving’. All are synonymous

2. The spellings ‘dyke’ and ‘dike’ tend to be employed indiscriminately. The latter is adopted here, following most frequent general usage. However, for relevant watercourses on Thorne Moors, ‘Dyke’ has been retained, to accord with common local practice. The same principle is applied to the term ‘dyke-graving’.

3. Although weights and measures were originally converted into metric units, they held no relevance when removed from their contexts. For example, a measurement given as “half a chain” is invested with a false sense of extreme accuracy when expressed as 10.05m. Yet to approximate it to 10m does not convey the measurement as it was originally expressed. Accordingly, the units are given in the form in which they originated. Their names are abbreviated, unless they are not obvious (e.g. chain, perch, rood) or are not usually abbreviated (e.g. acre, mile, ton). These conventions do not apply to direct quotations. Conversion to metric units is as follows:

1 pound (lb) \equiv 0.4536kg	1 mile \equiv 80 chains \equiv 1.6093km
1 stone (st) \equiv 14 lbs \equiv 6.3503kg	1 square ft \equiv 144 sq. in \equiv 929.0304cm ²
1 hundredweight (cwt) \equiv 8 st. \equiv 50.8023kg	1 sq. yd \equiv 9 sq. feet \equiv 0.8361m ²
1 ton \equiv 20 cwt \equiv 1.0160 tonnes	1 sq. perch \equiv 30.25 sq. yd \equiv 25.2928m ²
1 inch (in) \equiv 0.0254m	1 sq. rood \equiv 40 sq. perches \equiv 1011.75m ²
12in \equiv 1 foot (ft) \equiv 0.3048m	1 acre \equiv 4 sq. roods \equiv 0.4047ha
3ft \equiv 1 yard (yd) \equiv 0.9144m	1 cubic in \equiv 16.3871cm ³
1 perch \equiv 5.5yd \equiv 5.0292m	1 cu. ft \equiv 28.3168dm ³
1 chain \equiv 22yd \equiv 20.1168m	1 cu. yd \equiv 0.7656m ³

4. Two details of obscure measurements are explained here:

- 1 acre \equiv the width of 4 perches \equiv 28yd, as given by Young (1771). The *OED* states that an acre is defined inter alia as a lineal measure, quoting an ‘acre length’ as a furlong \equiv 40 poles \equiv 220yd, and an ‘acre breadth’ as 4 poles \equiv 22yd. However, this latter clearly does not accord with the measurement given by Young, although details of perches and roods were subject to regional variation
- Two lengths quoted from local sources are the ‘benk’ (8in) and the ‘bench’ (14.5in and 15.6in), the latter seemingly being approximately double the length of the former. ‘Benk’ is a dialectal version of ‘bench’, but their precise local origins and relationship remain unclear

5. The details of peat winning methods cannot always take account of minor, sometimes even individual, variations. Therefore, ‘mainstream’ descriptions are inevitably given, with variations documented as fully as possible if of some significance. The drawings accompanying the descriptions of peat winning methods represent idealised examples of the features and structures they depict, as typicality may be difficult to gauge. Their approach is diagrammatic, with standardized – even exaggerated – gaps between turves.

6. The description of Dutch peat winning methods is based on facts from a second-generation Dutch worker, but augmented by the recollections of others. It relates only to the working of the upper peat, known as ‘brown’ or ‘white’, though this represented most of the peat removed by these methods. It is possible that elements in the methodology described are evolved versions of the techniques originally introduced in 1894, reflecting adaptations to local circumstances and/or conditions. This may, for example, have been the case with rucking. Turf dimensions remain puzzling by their recorded and remembered variety.

7. To prevent ambiguity, spade terminology follows Gailey and Fenton (1970). An exception is direct quotations, where authors may introduce their own nomenclature. The terms used are as follows:

- Shaft: The length of timber gripped by one or both hands, on the end of which a blade is fixed. Wooden spades often have blade and shaft carved from a single length of timber. The shaft may have a handle on its upper end

- Handle: A hand-grip, on the upper end of the shaft. Its shape may vary, but in the present study the only relevant shape is a T-handle, where the upright part of the T is formed by the end of the shaft, and the handle so formed may be either straight across the top, or have its ends turned slightly down. It may be a cross-bar handle, which can be defined as a greatly elongated T-handle
- One-sided, two-sided: A spade is either one- or two-sided if provision is made for the foot to be placed, respectively, on one or either side of the shaft in digging
- Blade: Usually an expansion at the end of the shaft, either wooden or metal. If wooden, it may be fitted with a 'shoe' or '[spade-]iron', which in turn, may be fixed to the wooden portion of the blade by nails or lateral straps. The following terms are defined in relation to a spade held as in use, with the blade down: the 'front' of the blade faces up, the 'back' faces down, towards the ground; the 'right side' and 'left side' of the blade are the side edges; and the cutting, or bottom, edge is the 'mouth' of the blade
- Lift: A forward bend of the spade, produced as a curve or an angle, either in the blade, the shaft, or blade and shaft. Its function is to provide added leverage in the tool
- Dish: Lateral concavity in the front of the blade, usually particularly marked about its centre and lower portion
- Socket: The spade blade has, in its upper portion, a socket by means of which it is secured to the shaft. The socket may be 'open', formed of back-turned flanges, which grip, but usually do not completely encircle, the end of the shaft. The socket may be 'closed', or developed within the thickness of the metal of the blade, by means of welding or punching, in which case the socket usually is strengthened in its function by means of 'straps' that extend up the front and back surfaces of the shaft, to which they are riveted
- Underfoot spade: A peat spade used for cutting turves in a downwards direction, sometimes almost vertically downwards, into the peat. The term is used whether the foot is applied to the spade or not

8. The narrow-gauge railway systems on Thorne Moors eventually became unified and known as the Swinefleet system. The actual lines were called trams, a name that probably lay at the beginning of the moss litter years. That convention is perpetuated

here, with the term tramway also used, although the latter seems to have arisen outside the industry. The trams were connected to peripheral peat processing plants.

9. Concerning the Dutch canal system, it was initially intended to include here contextual and comparative data from The Netherlands. However, it was eventually resolved not to ‘contaminate’ the Thorne information by trying to extrapolate relevant Dutch literature. In both peat winning and associated canal building in The Netherlands, there was a great deal of local variation which, moreover, makes the use of Dutch sources even more problematical. Thus it was decided to include only details obtained from people with experience of Thorne Moors, and from contemporary sources describing the moorland.

10. Because Thorne Moors is a single (though large) site, peat exploitation nomenclature has been relatively uniform across the parish divisions. The only known examples of divergent native terminology involve Crowle Moor.

11. From the 1860s, the words ‘mill’ and ‘works’ were recorded to denote the peat processing plants situated on the edges of Thorne Moors. The terms are essentially synonymous, although ‘works’ has been traditionally employed for the factories. However, ‘mill’ was employed much more consistently on Crowle Moor, including for outdoor sites. The ‘Paraffin’ site has been referred to as a ‘works’ and a ‘mill’, though the latter is the original name, and is employed here. Mill is also perpetuated in its Crowle context, but the larger sites elsewhere on the moor edges are consistently referred to as works.

12. Despite their different titles over time, the main local newspapers quoted are given standardized titles: *Doncaster Gazette*, *Doncaster Chronicle* and *Goole Times*.