

## ***Foxhunting: past, present, future?***

### ***Transcript of interview extract for Peter Collins***

#### **Peter Collins**

Professional Huntsman

#### **Interview date**

04.04.2006

#### **Brief description**

Talks about the impact on hunts and foxes of the Hunting Act.

#### **Duration**

2mins 24secs

#### **Interview extract**

Peter Collins: ... Because it's not in the welfare of the fox. It is worse now for foxes than it was, they've been shot at as before. When the hounds caught a fox it's clean, swift, the job's done, if the fox gets away, if we don't catch the fox, he was only out of breath, or it got away. There was no half measures, he was either dead or it gets away. It's as simple as that. And now it is not that simple. You're not out there catching the weak ones, the ones that been hit by cars, you're not, you're just not out there doing your job. So the welfare for foxes is definitely not as good.

CA: And if the ban continues what, what other um issues do you think will come out and impact?

PC: Well I think in time, I think the worse thing is, will be um, if you get packs of hounds start packing up through people not um having enough followers, a way of life going. You, you know I've done this job now and not wanted to do anything else since I was probably 13 years old. It's been a way of life, it's a

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way of life for hundreds and hundreds of people. People, you only have to look at the pictures in Melton when we had the parade to see, see what it's like. In Leicestershire, you, you just look on the coat of arms, you've got a fox on there, "For'ard on". Well that is only there because of fox hunting, not 'coz of nothing else. It's what this part of the world, the countryside, the country, it's how it's formed, that's how Leicestershire looks like it does. The coverts, we own 20 coverts, they're all managed, manicured and looked after, people who know how to look after the countryside. And the countryside does have to be managed, by farming, for the farmers, people like ourselves and if all that kind of thing goes where's that knowledge going, it won't come back. Um, you know, we, we pick up a lot, like I said, fallen stock. Um, you know we're, we're the only people now that go out and can do this sort of job, putting down animals, old horses and know how to do the job properly. If those sort of things go, I think it will be a great shame.

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Contact Melton Carnegie Museum to hear or read the full interview.  
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