

# Video transcription with timings for Kielder Water Heritage Project

## Mink Farming: Aidan Pollard

Time	Speaker	Discussion
0.00	Graham	Did you ever help out or work on your friend's mink farm?
0.05	Aidan	Yes I did, yes, part time, just a little bit of help. Not a pleasant business, I understand why there is so much opposition to it. They, the mink were brought in with a poor quality colour variety. They were then carefully bred to improve that and of course once they got a good quality consistently, consistently coloured coat, then it had value. They were then killed
0.31	Graham	Did you see or well were you aware of many escapees while you were there?
0.36	Aidan	Yeah, the Ministry of, would be, farming in those of days insisted on a method of fencing which was a, which had buried wire around the perimeter and then plain steel sheets above so they couldn't grip. But I remember going with this gentleman down to a farm in the Browney Valley near Durham, where there's a mink farm there, and that was to install a perimeter fence, there had been so many escapees. [1.06] So, yeah there were escapees and mink are aggressive animals, they will fight and they will travel, yeah, there were lots of escapees and it doesn't take many. They, you know sizeable litters, no competition, whatever was born developed and formed a 6, 8 fold increase in the population immediately.