



Natural Speech Technology
Edinburgh – Cambridge – Sheffield

Browsing Oral History

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ENGLISH
HERITAGE

EPSRC
Pioneering research
and skills

Oral History

- Collected by **English Heritage** (and others)
 - ‘*English Heritage* exists to protect and promote England's spectacular historic environment and ensure that its past is researched and understood.’
 - Over 400 sites open to the public
- Long Interviews
- Memories, reminiscences
- Topic-focussed (but topic may be very wide)
- Many collections, no central database.. 1000s of hours
- Data back to the 1990s (at least)
- Variable recording quality
- Metadata
 - Typically summary of an interview
 - Sometimes a transcription
- **Usage limited by retrieval problems.. need speech tech!**



ENGLISH
HERITAGE

Brodsworth at War



Oral History recordings .. WWII experiences

- around 25 interviewees
- ~50 hours

ASR Transcription as a browsing tool

- Link Audio, summary and ASR
- Still to work on OOV problems