

SILVERDALE CAMPSITE

BEING A RECORD OF THE ACQUISITION OF A CAMPSITE AT THE ROW SILVERDALE FOR THE USE OF SCOUTS AND FUNDED FROM THE HELME BEQUEST.

SUNDAY, 9TH DECEMBER 1962

Preliminary inspection of 18 acre site comprising part of Bottoms Farm Silverdale by-

George S Evenden	Chairman, Local Association
Herbert A Price	Secretary (and son)
A Jolly	Member
Robert Sharrock	Member, Group Committee, 16 th Morecambe & Heysham
Harry Brooks	S.M., 16 th Morecambe & Heysham
Alan S Hague	A.S.M., -do-

Inspection group gathered at Carnforth Fire Station at 2.00 p.m. and proceeded by car to Silverdale. The weather was very changeable, cloudy with sunny periods, cold.

The site was entered from The Row where the cars were parked; Mr Jolly acting as guide as he had inspected site previously.

We proceeded round the perimeter of the site as follows:- entered by limestone chipped path - 6 feet wide, solid, this opens into a natural track which proceeds uphill towards a summit. Solid path, although wet previous day. It was noticed, with dismay, that woodcutters had commenced operations at this point - fence posts.

After 200 yards first clearing entered - this is focal point of campsite. Site is well pathed and they converge on this clearing. Possible site for H.Q. block ?

We wended our way through the undergrowth to arrive eventually at the other large clearing. Deep grass - main camp site; passed within 200 yards of Stankelt Road at this point.

Turned along gorge here, varying between approx. 20 - 40 feet in depth. Very thickly wooded chasm. Small stream ? at base of cliff. Public footpath skirts edge of site here. Back to first clearing.

Wood - Site is amply covered by trees, majority deciduous. Underbrush thick in patches.

Trees - Birch, beech, oak, yew and hawthorn in quantity. Holly, ash etc. in small quantity.

Geology - Limestone in large quantity, frequently exposed to view. Characterised by limestone pavement Little other rock in evidence.

Opinion:

Scouters present expressed their profound satisfaction at all the amenities present and also the sylvan beauty of the location.

Most suitable for camping. It was the general opinion that no better site would be found, on the market, within 10 miles of Morecambe.

This opinion was expressed to the LA members who decided to probe a little further into the matter..

5TH JANUARY 1963

Further inspection of site by:-

Max Melling	D.C., Morecambe & Heysham
Francis Middlebrook	G.S.M., 13 th Morecambe & Heysham

John S Nanson
Alan S Hague

S.S.L., 4th Morecambe & Heysham
as above

At Scouters' Meeting, Thursday preceding, decided that further opinions on site would be valuable for presentation to Executive Meeting on Monday 7th January.

A S Hague acted as guide as previously inspected by him.

Same route as preliminary inspection.

DC appeared most impressed by possibilities of site. Other Scouters also expressed satisfaction with site.

Weather changeable - sleet alternating with sunny periods, freezing cold.

7TH JANUARY 1963

Executive Meeting - 6th Morecambe & Heysham Scout HQ

DC presented report on site.

Go ahead given by Local Association.

Notes after writing

1. Per inspection - site impractical as agricultural land.
2. Per local knowledge - planning permission refused. (Area frozen by Town and Country Planning as "green belt")

4TH FEBRUARY 1963

Executive Meeting.

Further details re site obtained. Mr Eric Lowe had contacted Bannister Bates & Son to act as solicitors in purchase.

Vendors solicitors had been contacted and also plans scrutinised and price suggested **£20 0s 0d per acre. £400 for whole.**

Mr Jolly to approach vendor to agree final details of purchase.

DC had suggested early settlement as Association wants to get to grips with site clearance at earliest opportunity.

7TH MARCH 1963

Scouters Meeting

Owners of land had proved reticent in accepting offer of **£400**. Mr Jolly was unable to vary their view.

Mr Lowe visited owner this morning with an offer of **£750**. Owner stated that she would consider offer.

Later agreed by letter to accept offer as stated.

Contract to be drawn up by vendor's solicitors and completion expected by end of month.

Camp Committee elected as follows:-

D.C.	Scouter Member
Albert Mortimer	G.S.M., 2 nd Morecambe & Heysham
A Jolly	Lay Member
A Eric Lowe	Lay Member

Alan S Hague 8/97