



SHERBROOKE CAMP SITE

CENTRAL NOTTS DISTRICT
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



Sherbrooke Camp Site

In the 1960s, discussions took place between Ron Langford, (DC) and Rear Admiral Sherbrooke and on October 11th 1966 the first document for Central Notts District to have use of the site abutting Thorndale plantation was established.

At a meeting on the site with the Admiral, Ron Langford (DC) and Derek Wells, (ADC), in the middle of 1966, the Admiral agreed that the Scouts should have use of the site for as long as it was needed. The legal work was undertaken by Jim Drury (ADC Senior Scouts). Later a Tuck Shop was donated by Jim and is a useful addition to the site.

In 1968/9 contact was made with Army Engineers in Yorkshire, who agreed to bring their equipment to the site to level and regrade the camping area. During this time leaders and scouts were engaged in "stone picking" before the area was seeded. Also at this time a few hundred trees were planted which were sourced from the Forestry Commission in the Forest of Dean.

The District then acquired two sectional wooden huts which were erected on the site and used as storage and meeting rooms for all groups. The rooms were also available to be used if the weather was bad and also for overnight accommodation.

Over the ensuing years the site grew, being used for weekend camps, hiking bases and midweek District and County meetings, along with use for training purposes.

During the 1970's the condition of the area began to deteriorate and acts of vandalism to the wooden huts became a regular occurrence. After a series of small fires it was decided to remove the huts. The quickest way was to burn them down completely. Not a good idea as the fire service was called by a local neighbour, but, after explaining the situation and an apology for not giving notice, the incident was resolved.

The site was still available and used by a small number of groups for day activities and camps. However the use of the site for scouting activities continued to decline and it was apparent that a major decision was needed to decide its future.

In the Autumn of 1980, the then District Commissioner, Phil Barlow, called a District meeting to assess the support of the whole District in redeveloping the site.

The response of 17 groups out of 18 was to go ahead with a development plan. All groups agreed to support the plan and to make use of the site during and after the redevelopment.



Nev Barratt at this time was GSL at 1st Colwick and was invited by the DC to become the Camp Warden. Nev agreed and subsequently permission was sought from Gedling B C for the erection of a chalet, which Nev provided, for him to live in on site. This greatly increased the security and progress of the development.



A residential caravan donated by DSL Geof Pogson was hauled up from Hoveringham to become the first office/store room on the site.

The DC met with the District team and presented the first part of the plan, which was to construct a permanent training centre, designed by Phil and submitted for approval to GBC. It contained large and small meeting rooms, toilet and kitchen, and log burning stove.

The plans acquired good support from local organisations and building companies and suppliers. A number of leaders and friends were active for some 12 months in its construction and the centre was officially opened on Sunday October 10th 1982. A grant of £10,000 was obtained from Leisure Services Department of Notts CC. which contributed to 75% of the final cost.

An open day was held on Sunday 16th January 1983.

Sherbrooke was chosen as the official name for the camp site, acknowledging the generous gift from the Admiral. The site, under the direction of the District Team in particular Nev Barratt, and with much enthusiasm from many of the leaders and supporters in the District, developed rapidly. A Chapel, Camp Fire circle, toilet block and activity area were added over the ensuing years, all adding to the excellent facilities and training opportunities.



Camp Fire circle and Chapel

Views around the site

