From Forest to the Frontline:

Understanding Clipstone Camp through Archival Research



Image ID: 21423 Clipstone Camp Courtesy of Nottinghamshire Archives

An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment prepared for Nottinghamshire County Council.

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Summary

Clipstone Camp is thought to have been one of the largest First World War Training camps in the UK, accommodating up to 30,000 soldiers at any one time. The camp was in operation between May 1915 and early 1921. At the end of the war, the camp became a demobilisation centre. Dismantling of the camp began in May 1920, with adverts placed in newspapers advertising the sale of buildings and equipment (Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013, p. 118). The last soldiers left in early 1921 (Gwynne, 2021) and sales and dismantling continued throughout the year. Some of the buildings in numbers 11, 12 & 13 lines were retained for use when the colliery reopened in 1920 and remained in use in the 1930s (Nottinghamshire Archives, 1932)

By overlaying the Camp Plan (War Office, 1915) on the current street plan (Insightmapping, 2023) it is clear to see how the new town of Clipstone has developed within the footprint of the former camp, with the current Avenues following the lines. The southern lines 5-12 are almost completely under modern development, but the northern lines and central area have not been developed quite so extensively. None of the original camp buildings remain today, but archaeological evidence of the camp and training features in the surrounding area can still be identified. Areas of archaeological potential are presented in the conclusion.

Local historians Pauline Marples (Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013), J C Fareham (1994, 1996) and Tim Priestley (Priestley, Clipstone Camp, 2015) have published their extensive research into every aspect of the camp. A good archive of photographs, postcards, newspaper articles and first-hand accounts exist in private collections and archives. Local people are enthusiastic about preserving the history of the camp and commemorating the men and women (Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013, pp. 101-109) who served here. Clipstone Camp ephemera, artefacts and archaeological discoveries continue to be posted regularly in dedicated Facebook groups (WW1 Clipstone Camp and Clipstone Camp 1914-1919).



Figure 1 Base Map: (Insightmapping, 2023) Nottingham City Council. Overlay: (War Office, 1915)

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1. Introduction

This report was commissioned by Nottinghamshire County Council. This is a second desk-based assessment for the Sherwood Pines Major to Minor project. The first was undertaken by Reclaim Heritage, March 2023). The project aims to undertake documentary and archival research and apply this to three-dimensional mapping to better understand the construction, phasing, and utilisation of the training area.

This second report will use all available archival and digital sources to further investigate the WWI activity of Clipstone Camp. The sources identified are listed in the Methodology.

The former WW1 camp now lies under the colliery village of Clipstone. Army training was conducted within the camp and in the surrounding areas, now known as Sherwood Pines Forest Park, Vicar Water Country Park, and Strawberry Hill Wood.



Figure 2 Clipstone Village and Sherwood Pines (Forestry England , 2023)

2. Methodology

The WW1 camp at Clipstone has been extensively researched, particularly during the centenary period.

Local historian, Pauline Marples, wrote her Master's thesis on Clipstone Camp. Her research forms the basis of the book 'Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One: The Impact of a Large Military Presence in a North Nottinghamshire Community' (Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013). This has proved to be a very comprehensive source, based on archive evidence that gives a detailed history of the camp, the soldiers who trained there and interactions with the local people. Pauline curated an exhibition of her work at Mansfield Museum in October and November 2014.

Tim Priestley has also written about the camp (Priestley, Clipstone Camp, 2015) and holds a collection of camp photographs. He regularly posts in the WW1 Clipstone Camp Facebook group and actively searches for archaeological remains.

J.C. Fareham wrote about the camp (Fareham, Clipstone Camp an account of a military training camp of the First World War, 1994) and also about the subsequent colliery village (Fareham, Clipstone Colliery Village 1922-1972, 1996), which reused some of the original army camp buildings.

Many other local interested people are active in the WW1 Clipstone Camp Facebook group, including Neil Tryner and Rich Machin who have recovered many artefacts from the site of the camp.

In addition, the following sources of information were identified:

Archive Sources

- Nottinghamshire Archives in person visit 29/06/2023
- The National Archives online. Oral History collection. Diaries, Letters, and military record cards
- The Imperial War Museum (IWM) online Oral History Collection. Diaries, Letters.
- Mansfield Museum nothing held.
- Mansfield Library in person visit 30/06/2023.
- Nottingham Central Library temporarily closed for refurbishment.

Archaeological Databases

Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record: Monuments, Maps and LiDAR

Mapping

- The National Library of Scotland.
- Nottinghamshire County Council Insight Mapping.
- Google Maps and Streetview

Aerial Photographs

- Historic England Aerial Explorer
- Britain from Above
- Google Earth
- WW1 Clipstone Camp Facebook group.

Historic Images

- Nottinghamshire Inspire Picture Archive
- eBay
- Facebook local interest groups.
- Local history websites
- Publications
- Newspapers

Secondary Sources

- Publications three main sources: Marples 2014, Priestley 2015 and Fareham 1994, 1996 and many more, see References.
- Local history Websites
- Visitor Websites

Limitations

Mansfield Museum replied that they did not hold anything relevant to the camp and Nottingham Central Library was closed for refurbishment. Pauline Marples (Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013), was unavailable to meet up but sent useful information by email. It seems she may hold a copy of the camp plan. The copy seen at Nottinghamshire Archives was too small to read all the detailed annotations. Pauline is also in contact with the owners of the artefacts (see artefacts section) which would be beneficial to photograph and catalogue.

3. Historical Background of the Camp at Clipstone

Building of the camp

The response to Lord Kitchener's New Army recruitment campaign at the outbreak of war in 1914, was overwhelming. New training facilities were required and Clipstone was chosen as one of the new sites. The land may have been volunteered by the landowner and Patriot, the Duke of Portland, a friend of Lord Kitchener (Ottewell, 2005). The Duke had planned to develop this area as housing for the Bolsover Colliery, until the outbreak of war and enthusiastic enlistment by colliery staff, forced mining operations to be abandoned until 1920 (Marples, 2013, pg. 8, 21).

Building of the hutted camp began in late 1914. The main contractors were W Hodson and Sons of Nottingham (Marples, 2013, pg. 25). The site of the camp was located to the west of Sherwood Pines, between the new mining village of Forest Town and the hamlet of Clipstone. The chosen site was bounded by Clipstone Drive and Mansfield Road (B6030). Five battalions of the Royal Fusiliers arrived in 1915 to help construct the trenches and firing ranges. The rate of soldiers arriving at Clipstone outstripped hut construction, so temporary tented camps were set up. The Forest Town camp, between Walkers Plantation and Forest Town, accommodated 2,000 men, and remained in operation until September 1915 (Priestley, Clipstone Camp, 2015). A second tented camp was set up in the field next to Sherwood Hall and a third in the paddock at Crown Farm, where officers were also billeted in the house. The tented camps can be seen in photograph numbers 1, 28 and 51 in the Historic Photographs section.

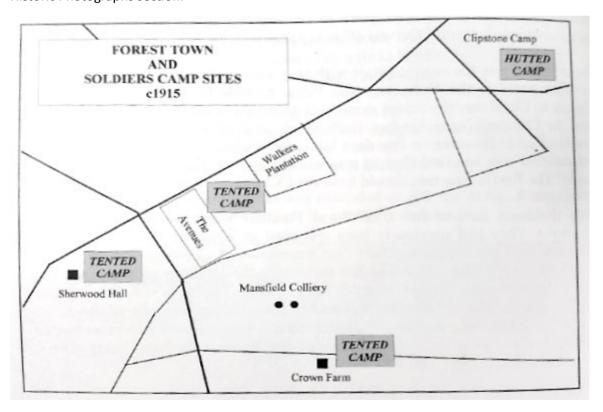


Figure 3 A plan of the temporary tented camps at Clipstone in 1915. (Marples, 2013 pg. 28)

The Mansfield Reporter on the 12th March 1915, stated that the camp was being built to accommodate 12 battalions. The camp plan (Figure 1Figure 4) shows that it was organised in lines that provided self-contained accommodation for whole battalions (approximately 1000 men). Each line, the longest of which was a mile long (Ottewell, 2005), consisted of 60 buildings providing separate sleeping quarters for officers and men (30 to a hut), a cook house, a mess room, a

bathhouse, latrines, stables, coal storage, equipment storage and a parade ground (Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013, p. 26).

Camp communal buildings included churches, shops, three Young Mens Christian Association (YMCA) huts and later a Navy, Army Canteen Board (NACB) hut. A hospital and medical centre looked after their health.

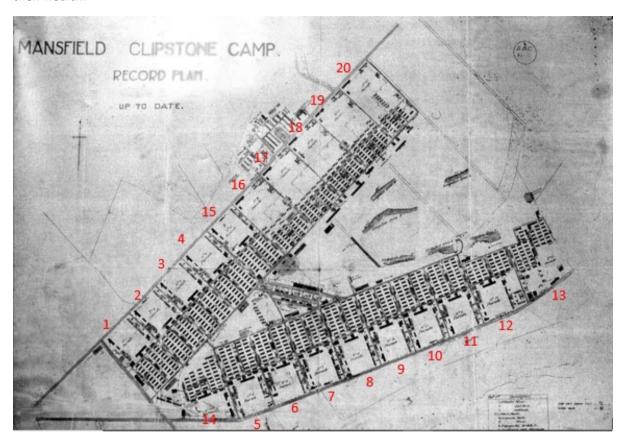


Figure 4 The Clipstone Camp Plan (Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013, p. 26) Annotated with line numbers as seen on the copy plan at Nottinghamshire Archive.

Many comments are made by soldiers at Clipstone about the sand and mud within the camp. The Sandstone soils of the forest and heathland regularly blew into camp. On the 4th June 2015, a cartoon appeared in the camp magazine (the Pow-wow) with the caption 'The levelling of the parade grounds has been carried out to get us used to swallowing sand in case we are sent to Egypt'. (Lovejoy Edwards, 2015, pp. 36, 40)

The camp continued to evolve throughout its life to meet the changing needs of the army. The haphazard numbering of the camp lines (Figure 4) is good evidence that it extended beyond its initial intended capacity, eventually totalling 20 lines. The number of soldiers said to be accommodated at the camp at any one time varies, but 30,000 seems to be a common figure quoted in the various sources.

The Huts

An advert for the sale of huts after the war (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2019) provides good detail of their construction, giving their measurements as 61ft x 21ft, with 12 windows and 2 doors. The roofs were felt and the sides were weatherboarded. The floors were wooden.

Miscellaneous. Miscellaneous. Por Sale, 61ft. x 21ft. wooden army huts. with felt roofs and weather-boarded sides, 12 windows and 2 doors, wood floors; lired to eaves with 5-ply; cut sectional and plan supplied, price £75 for. Clipstone Camp. Apply Morley a Garnham, Chipstone Road, Ferest Town, Mansfield.

Figure 5 An advert for the sale of huts (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2019)

Machine Gunner Frederick Plimmer arrived at Clipstone Camp in 1917. In his oral history (Plimmer, n.d.) recalls the barrack huts being 30x18ft, with beds along both sides, and a fire in the middle. Meals were brought into the huts from the cookhouse. Plimmer was impressed with the flushing toilets and wash and bathhouses.

The men's straw filled mattresses, called paillasses, were raised off the floor on three planks, can be seen in the photo below. Heating was provided by a central coke stove, and each hut had its own post-box (Ottewell, 2005).



Figure 6 Barrack huts with bedding and tables outside (Historic photo ref 13).

The soldiers considered their hut to be an integral part of their unit, and there are many photographs of groups of soldiers outside their huts posted in the WW1 Clipstone Camp Facebook group.

Life in the camp

The University and Public Schools Battalion (UPS) were the first soldiers to arrive on the 12th May 1915. Having transferred from an excellent camp at Epsom, their initial impressions of the camp were not favourable, and they referred to Clipstone as 'the land of chaos' (U.P.S, 1917, p. 90). The battalion arrived in miserable weather and marched the four miles from Edwinstowe Station to Clipstone Camp. On arrival, they found the camp to be unfinished and lacking in basic facilities, the huts leaking and lit by candles. The U.P.S produced a weekly publication for sale in the camp, called 'The Pow-wow' (copies are available to view in Mansfield Library). An early Clipstone edition reported 'rumour hath it that having dropped the U.P.S we have taken up the C.I.S or 'Camp Improvement Society;' and that we are the official Fatigue Party to the Army. (U.P.S, 1917, p. 87). The U.P.S set about creating the necessary training facilities (parade grounds and trenches) and trying to make the camp more hospitable by building the Garrison Theatre at the junction of Clipstone Drive and Newlands Drive, the first YMCA hut, and creating gardens outside the barrack huts.

These gardens were maintained and redesigned throughout the life of the camp, and were the subject of great rivalry between battalions. The gardens were a great source of interest on public open days. One hut garden boasted a black cat made of coal with the words 'for luck' beside it (Lovejoy Edwards, 2015, p. 44). Humorous signs appeared outside huts: 'C View Apartments' 'Fortunes Told Here' and 'To Let' boosted morale and provided light relief for the soldiers. For the visiting public, it showed a softer side to camp life and helped to foster relations with the local community (Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013, p. 60)

The 'Pow-wow' provides a useful insight into the lives of the U.P.S soldiers at the camp from 12th May to 3rd August 1915. It records early training at Clipstone, consisting of extensive attacks over the moors and heaths, musketry and bayonet-fighting, and practice firing on the miniature range below the camp. They also mention extensive ranges three miles from camp at Rufford, and the digging of trenches. Gradually they warmed to the camp and the Mansfield community. They enjoyed using the 'first-class sportsground' attached to Mansfield Institute, bathing at Vicar Water, and having tours of the mine (U.P.S, 1917, pp. 92-93).

Local newspapers (The Nottingham Guardian, The Nottingham Evening Post, The Mansfield Reporter, The Mansfield Chronicle and the Mansfield and Ashfield Chad), kept the local community informed of goings-on at Clipstone Camp. After some initial misgivings, the Mansfield Community quickly came to adopt these soldiers into their lives and many joint army/community events were enjoyed together. The impact has been well analysed and presented by Pauline Marples (Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013). Some soldiers even married local women (Kirk, n.d.)

The names of soldiers who passed through the camp for training, medical treatment or demobilisation can be found in army record cards held at the National Archives. Many recorded their experience of the camps in oral histories, letters, postcards, and diaries (see Personal Accounts section)

Camp Facilities

In the early years, soldiers walked the four miles into Mansfield to make use of social and recreational facilities and to attend church services. Gradually, these facilities were provided within the camp and can be seen on the camp plan (Figure 4):

- Military Hospital: included an Isolation unit, meningitis ward, disinfecting area, dental hut, mortuary, officers ward, officers mess, Freemason's Lodge, YMCA hut for patients and visitors, and recreation huts and living quarters for the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC), nurses and maids (separately).
- Two further YMCA huts for recreation
- NACB hut
- The Garrison Theatre
- Anglican Church
- A Non-Conformist Church hut
- Banks
- A Post Office
- The railway line (built in 1917 could not accommodate troop movements but did provide a passenger service to Mansfield).
- A newspaper stand that also sold Clipstone Camp postcards (see Postcards)

Soldiers were still allowed to leave the camp and socialise in Mansfield, visiting cafés, pubs, and the drill hall where they could play billiards. Soldiers were regularly welcomed into Mansfield family homes for Sunday tea, and if they had visitors, they could rent private rooms (Lovejoy Edwards, 2015). On Wednesdays, soldiers were invited to tour the colliery mines, many mentions of these tours are made in personal accounts of their time at the camp (Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013).

The men enjoyed swimming and rowing at Vicars Pond and in the Spa Ponds between Clipstone and Mansfield Woodhouse (Priestley, Clipstone Camp, 2015, pp. 2-3). The Sherwood Golf Club welcomed the soldiers, and members still play today for the Clipstone Camp Cup and Scottish Cup, donated by the Scottish Highland Infantry officers (Sherwood Forest Golf Club, 2023).

The influx of soldiers provided opportunities for the entrepreneurial people of Mansfield who offered taxi services, laundry and mending etc. Local people enjoyed talking to the soldiers and feeling that they were helping them, as they hoped their own husbands, brothers and sons were being well looked after, wherever they were (Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013).

Deaths at Clipstone Camp

Inevitably, there were deaths at the camp and 57 deceased personnel are named and detailed by Pauline Marples ((Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013, pp. 133-137). Causes of death include drowning in the ponds, traffic accidents, training accidents, illness, and suicide. Details of the deaths can also be found in the Facebook Groups WW1 Clipstone Camp and Clipstone Camp 1914-1918) and (Lovejoy Edwards, 2015).

The hospital not only cared for soldiers at the camp, but also for sick and wounded soldiers evacuated from overseas. Some of the deceased were taken by railway to their home towns for burial, but 28 soldiers and one nurse are buried in the churchyard at St Alban's Church in Forest Town (The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 2023).

Each death resonated both in the camp and in the local community, with the public attending the military funerals at St Albans and raising a fund to provide the initial memorial crosses. For some of the Mansfield women this combined with personal grief for their own loved ones who would never return. Children in the school stood silently as the gun carriages passed (Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013, pp. 57-58).

Demobilisation Centre

When the war ended, Clipstone became a huge demobilisation Centre (Dispersal Centres 2 & 3 Clipstone) for troops returning from overseas. For many it was a familiar environment as they had trained here (Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013, p. 113). Newspapers report that the hospital was stretched to capacity with returning men suffering from influenza and pneumonia. By March 1920, only the last few units remained and the camp began to be dismantled and sold off. Soldiers were photographed 'Still sticking it' as they captioned it, at Clipstone camp in 1921 (Historic Photograph reference 61, (Gwynne, 2021).

The Post-war Sale and Reuse of Huts

Huts in line numbers 11-13 were initially retained for colliery workers. The remainder were sold off and adverts for the sale of buildings and equipment appeared in the local newspapers throughout 1920 and 1921. Many of the huts purchased by the local community for use as homes and community buildings, including for the colliery school. Some of these purchases and conversions are recorded by J C Fareham (Fareham, Clipstone Colliery Village 1922-1972, 1996)

An advert for the sale of hut contents in lines 3 & 8 in February 1921 (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2019) provides a useful inventory of equipment (and of artefacts that might be found).



Figure 7 An advert for the sale of hut contents, 1921 (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2019)

All the huts repurposed in Clipstone village have now been demolished. Chris Kolonko (Kolonko, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2015) appears to have found a hut believed to have come from Clipstone, still in use in 2019 (and maybe still) by the Women's Institute, in Station Street, Bingham, Nottinghamshire. Kolonko comments that there is also a WW1 Drill Hut in use in the centre of Bingham.



Figure 8 A Clipstone Hut? in use in Bingham (Kolonko, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2015)



Figure 9 A Clipstone Hut in use at Station Street Bingham. (Google Maps, 2019)

WW2

Clipstone Camp had largely been dismantled by 1920, and so could not be reused by the army in WW2. Instead, troops were stationed to the north-east at Ollerton (Proteus Camp), Birklands, Bilhagh, Clumber Park, Rufford Abbey and Budby Common (Gray, 2008) Evidence suggests that the Sherwood Pines area was still used for training. Local resident, Malcolm Raynor (Raynor, 2023) recalls

watching American tanks driving up Skerry Hill and along Eakring Road and Violet Hill junction. Fareham (Fareham, Clipstone Colliery Village 1922-1972, 1996). A 20-foot square concrete pad was constructed in the forest for bombing practice. One bomb, half a mile off-target crashed through the roof of a house in Deerdale (Sherwood Forest Visitor, 2012).

Former elements of the camp were used by the Home Guard and army cadets, including one of the ranges near Vicars Pond and a stable block for shooting practice. Firewatchers used the hut at the bottom of church road (Gray, 2008).

Archaeological groundtruthing of the LiDAR Survey over the Strawberry Hill Wood records six features associated with WW2 training (Gillot, 2021).

New Clipstone Village

As the colliery workforce increased, new houses (648) were built during the 1920s, along the southern lines of the dismantled camp (Gray, 2008, p. 135). This was the beginning of the development of new Clipstone Village. The village continues to grow, but remains largely within the footprint of the former camp (see Figure 1).

4. Maps

Maps were consulted online at the National Library of Scotland, Nottinghamshire County Council Insight Mapping and Google Maps and Streetview. One archive plan was found at Nottingham Archives (see Pg. 57).

Date	Title	Source	Link
1066	Clipstone	(Nottingh	https://maps.nls.uk/view/240945760
-	Park	amshire	
1799	(Monument	HER 1,	
	record)	2023)	
1911	Ordnance	National	https://maps.nls.uk/view/240945760
	Survey. Sheet	Library of	
	113 Ollerton	Scotland	
	Geological		
	Survey 1 inch		
1011	to 1 mile	A1 .: 1	1 // // // // // // // // // // // //
1914	Nottinghams	National	https://maps.nls.uk/view/115390378
	hire XXIII.11 25"	Library of Scotland	
	23	Scotiand	
c.	War Office		https://www.ourmansfieldandarea.org.uk/content/place/clipstone/
1918	Camp Plan		clipstone camp and the mansfield area in ww1
			(Fareham, Clipstone Camp an account of a military training camp of
			the First World War, 1994)
1932	Plan of land	Notts.	DC/SW/4/8/7/2
		Archive	Shows map of colliery usage – camp buildings still in use. Shows
	Clipstone Ne		Miniature firing range.
	w Village		
1027	(no image)	Noticeal	https://maps.plc.uk/gog/ovplore/#======12.59lat=52.460509.lat=
1937	Land Utilisation.	National Library of	https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=13.5⪫=53.16959&lon=- 1.13577&layers=174&b=Sheet%2046%20-
	Sheet 46 The	Scotland	%20The%20Dukeries,%20Surveyed:%201931%20to%201935,%20Pr
	Dukeries.	Jeotiana	inted:%201937
1938	OS 6"	National	https://maps.nls.uk/view/115390381
	Nottinghams	Library of	
	hire Sheet	Scotland	https://maps.nls.uk/view/101602620
	XXIII SW / SE		
1956	OS SK56SE -	National	https://maps.nls.uk/view/189228354
	А	Library of	
		Scotland	
2023	Insight	Nottingha	https://maps.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/insightmapping/
	Mapping	mshire	
		County	
		Council	

1066-1779 Clipstone Park

The area now known as Sherwood Pines was originally part of the ancient Sherwood Forest. This Oak and Birch woodland was designated a Royal Hunting Forest following the Norman Conquest in 1066. The northern part of the camp was located on land formerly known as Clipstone Park (1066-1779) (HER MNT26660)

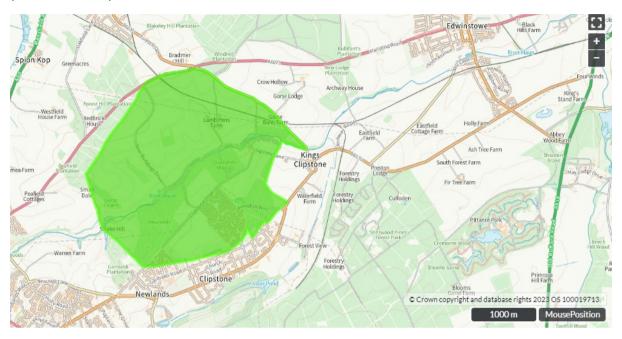


Figure 10 Clipstone Park (Nottinghamshire HER 1, 2023)

Timber felling for construction and shipbuilding during the medieval period and woodland clearance for pasture and parklands and to provide pit props and charcoal for industry, transformed this landscape from forest to heathland.

1911 OS

Immediately prior to the First World War, the 1911 map (Figure 11) names the Sherwood Pines area as 'Clipstone Forest' and 'Rufford Forest'. The annotation shows it to be largely heathland with a sparse survival of evergreen and deciduous trees. Sherwood Pines was not created until 1928, when the Forestry Commission began an afforestation programme to reduce British dependency on wood imports (Visit Nottinghamshire, 2023). Archaeological evidence of training features such as trenches and firing ranges have been discovered in this now forested area.

The area of the camp is shown as heathland and named Flixter Breck. Intake Woods is shown, looking remarkably similar to now.



Figure 11 Clipstone Forest, Rufford Forest and Flixter Breck (Ordnance Survey, 1911) Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland' CC-BY.

1914 OS

Maps surveyed in 1914 record the name Woodhouse Forest next to Flixter Breck. Building of the camp had not started at this time.

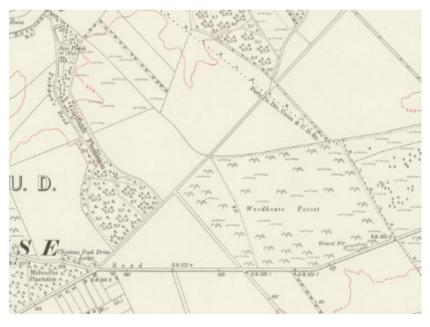


Figure 12 Woodhouse Forest (Ordnance Survey, revised 1914) Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland' CC-BY.

1918 c. Plan of Clipstone Camp

A detailed colour plan of the hutted camp at Clipstone was discovered in a private collection by Pauline Marples in 1999, and subsequently deposited at The National Archives at Kew in 2005 (thought cannot be found currently). A copy of the plan was made and displayed at the exhibition in 2014. A copy is thought to still be in Pauline's possession and it would be worth enquiring about making another copy.

A small copy (4 sheets of A3) is held at Nottinghamshire Archives (War Office, 1915), but copies/photographs are not allowed to be made, and the text is too small to read even with a magnifying glass.

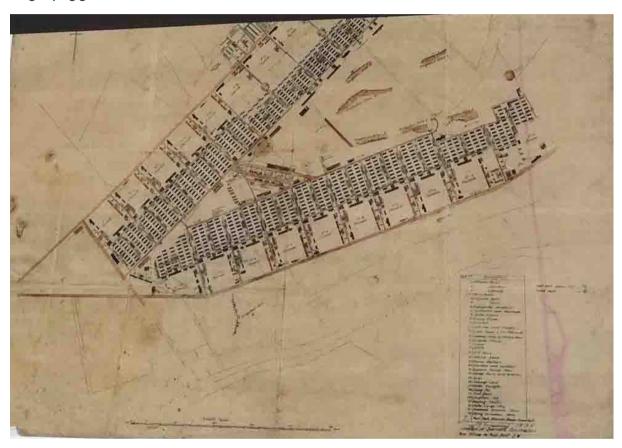


Figure 13 Coloured plan of Clipstone Camp (War Office, c.1918)

A mono version is available on the ourmansfieldandarea website (Clipstone Camp Plan Mono, 2013)

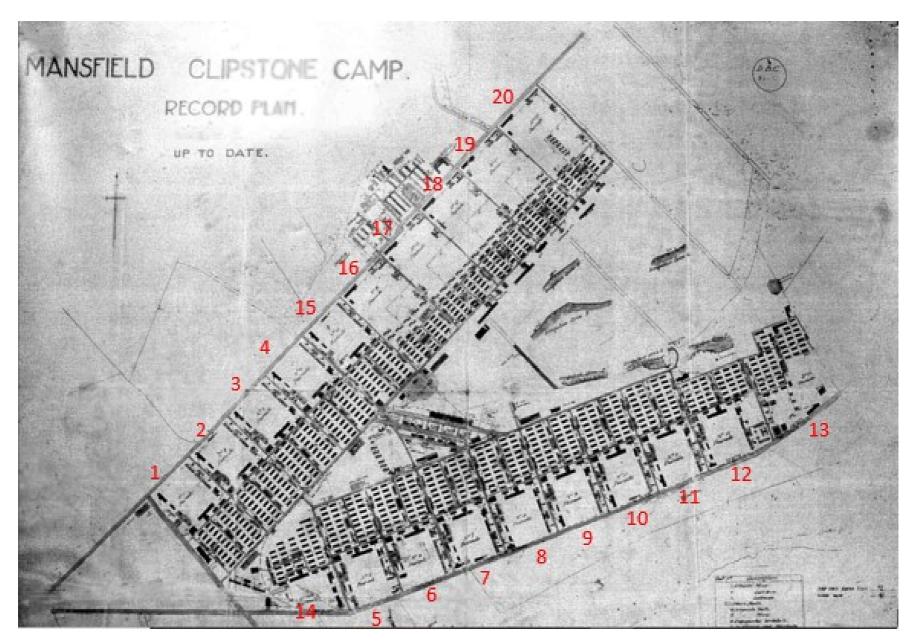


Figure 14 (Clipstone Camp Plan Mono, 2013) Annotated with line numbering as seen on War Office Plan (War Office, 1915)

A Clipstone Camp map drawn by J C Fareham (Fareham, 1994) shows the lines incorrectly numbered. This suggests it may have been drawn on the basis of memories gathered, predating the discovery of the War Office plan (War Office, 1915)

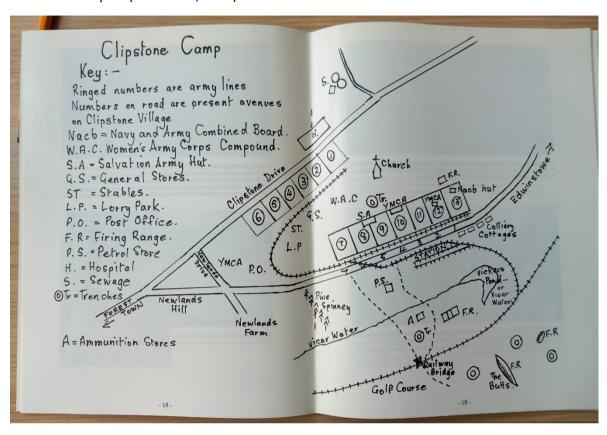


Figure 15 Fareham's Map of Clipstone Camp (Fareham, 1994)

1937 Land Utilisation Survey

This image shows how closely modern Clipstone developed directly within the lines of the old hutted camp. The hospital buildings are still visible.

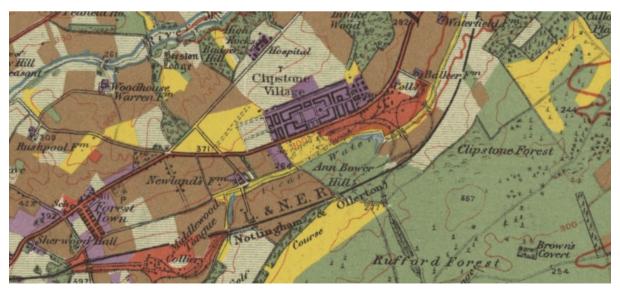


Figure 16 (OS Land Utilisation Survey, 1937) Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland CC-BY-NC-SA

1938 OS Nottinghamshire Sheet XXIII.SW

Post-war settlement can be seen overlying the south-western lines of Clipstone Camp, bounded by Mansfield Road and the newly constructed Forest Road. The side streets are named First to Seventh Avenues, and these names are still used today. All of the buildings appear to be post-war builds, including All Saints Church which was built in 1928 (National Churches Trust, 2023), after the camp closed.

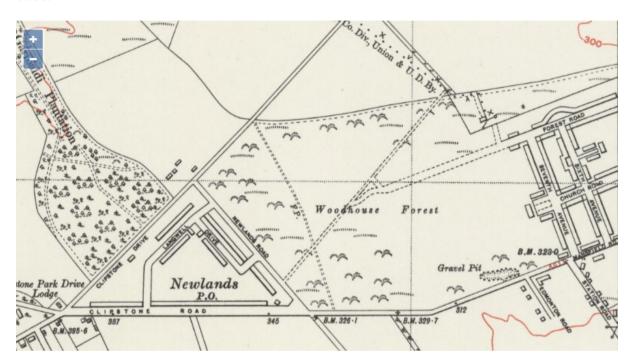


Figure 17 OS 1938 Nottinghamshire Sheet XXIII SW (Ordnance Survey, 1938 SW) Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland CC-BY.

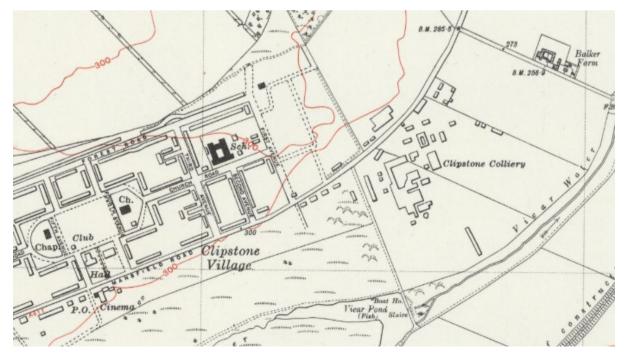


Figure 18 OS 1938 Nottinghamshire Sheet XXIII SE (Ordnance Survey, 1938 SE) Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland CC-BY.

1956-1964 OS

Shows the development of the colliery in the area around Vicars Water and Clipstone. It also shows expansion of the village in the Highfield Road and Baulker Lane areas.

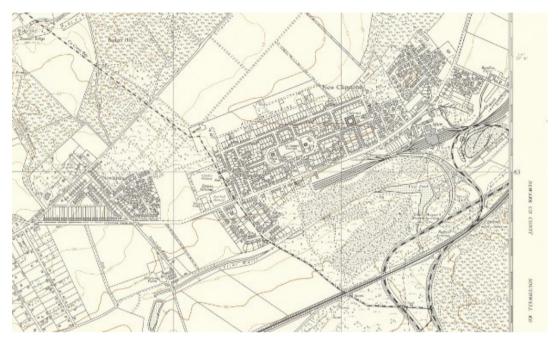


Figure 19 OS 1966 (Ordnance Survey, Published 1966) Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland CC-BY.

2023 Insight Mapping

Shows Clipstone Village as it is today, developed almost entirely within the camp footprint (see Figure 1). The colliery closed in 2003 and the area was transformed into Vicar Water Country Park.

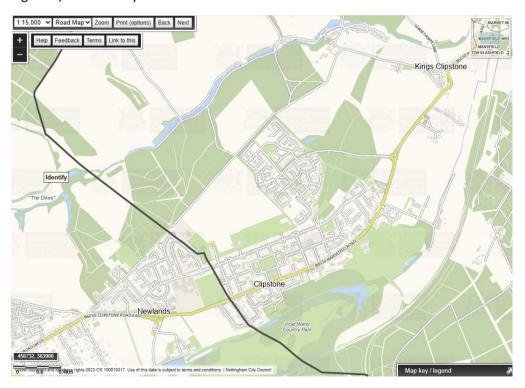


Figure 20 2023 NCC insight Mapping (Nottingham City Council, 2023)

Sherwood Pines

Maps covering the area now known as Sherwood Pines, where much of the training took place, are included in the DBA by Reclaim Heritage. No additional sources were found.

5. Aerial Photographs

Three sources were checked for all available aerial images of the area:

- Google Maps images 1 and 2 in the table show 2023 aerial views over the whole site.
- Historic England Aerial Photograph Explorer 25 images recorded.
- Britain from Above (returned the same four photographs as Historic England EAW024138-4)
- An additional 9 aerial photographs were found on Facebook.

All images found are recorded in the table on the following page.

The Historic England Aerial Photographer Explorer contains 25 useful images. Of these, 21 are taken over the site of the former camp and 4 over nearby Cavendish Lodge, with views relevant to the position of the camp (image locations circled below in red). No images were available over the Sherwood Pines area.

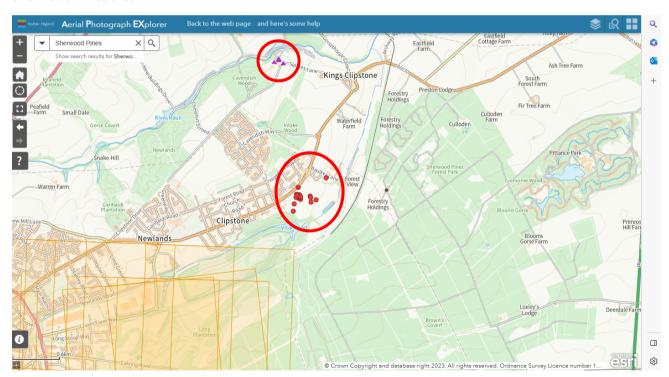


Figure 21 Map of photo sites found in the Historic England Photograph Explorer accessed 03/07/2023 (Historic England, 2023)

The most useful images are:

- **No. 1& 2**: The current Google maps images as they can be used to identify areas within the footprint of the camp that have not been identified, and where it might be possible to undertake field survey.
- **No. 5** offers a good view over the whole of the camp. It is clear to see how modern development still sits within the footprint of the camp, and puts the site of the camp into context with the surrounding areas where training took place.
- **No. 17** (1949) is useful for showing how the colliery housing had developed on the southern lines whilst the central area and northern lines had returned to open land.
- **No. 25** is taken a lower altitude and shows very clearly how modern housing follows the Avenues of the camp layout.
- **No. 27** gives a good appreciation of the scale of the camp and the size of the open central area.



Figure 22 Mono Camp Plan over Google Maps.

By overlaying the (Clipstone Camp Plan Mono, 2013) over the current Google Maps image (Google , 2023), it is clear to see how the modern village has developed over the lines of the camp. The angle of the southern lines does not quite line up in these images, as the camp plan does not have quite the right curvature, but the roads do match up and the modern houses are above the barrack block positions.

No.	Link & Image ID	Date taken	Thumbnail	Description	Notes
1	https://www.google.co.uk/ maps/@53.1599279,- 1.1068125,5315m/data=!3 m1!1e3?entry=ttu	2023		Aerial view of Clipstone and Sherwood Pines	Shows the position of Clipstone relative to Sherwood Pines.
2	https://www.google.co.uk/ maps/@53.1648272,- 1.1262811,2234m/data=!3 m1!1e3?entry=ttu	2023	Charter Constant	Zoomed in Aerial view of Clipstone	The roads that bounded the camp are still in use and clearly visible. Modern housing overlies approx. 75% of the former camp area and spills over the southern boundary infilling the space between the former camp and Vicar Water.
3	35050_001 https://historicengland.org. uk/images- books/archive/collections/a erial- photos/record/35050_001	02/06/2021		Oblique view looking north over Clipstone	Looking across the former camp, the V shape is visible in the line of housing and the trees. The deforested area at the top of the photo was probably the site of the hospital.
4	35050_002 https://historicengland.org. uk/images- books/archive/collections/a erial- photos/record/35050_002	02/06/2021		Oblique view looking west over Clipstone.	A good overall shot of the former camp. The tree line beyond the allotments looks like it might mark the lower boundary of the northern arm of the camp. This would mean the allotments are in the central area – where training features are shown in the camp plan. Have artefacts been found in the allotments? A good photo to see the open spaces that remain and that would be worth field walking.
5	35050_003 https://historicengland.org. uk/images- books/archive/collections/a erial- photos/record/35050_003	02/06/2021		Oblique view looking west over modern Clipstone.	Shows the whole area of the camp. Same observations as 35050_002 but includes the western end that was missing. Good view of Vicars Water and surrounding area and to the east of the camp.

6	35050_004 https://historicengland.org. uk/images- books/archive/collections/a erial- photos/record/35050_004	02/06/2021	Oblique view looking west over Clipstone and Vicars Water.	Shows western tip of Sherwood Pines in relation to the camp.
7	3505_005 35050_005 - Aerial Photo Historic England	02/06/2021	Oblique view looking south into Sherwood Pines.	Partial view of the camp that puts Vicars Water and Sherwood Pines in context.
8	35050_006 https://historicengland.org. uk/images- books/archive/collections/a erial- photos/record/35050_006	02/06/2021	Oblique view looking north east over Clipstone	Less detailed view than 007
9	35050_007 https://historicengland.org. uk/images- books/archive/collections/a erial- photos/record/35050 007	02/06/2021	Oblique view looking east over Clipstone and Intake Wood.	Shows the modern housing is directly overlying the camp footprint, right up to the wood. One clear space at the edge of the wood that might be worth further investigation. Modern housing continues over the road and beyond the camp boundary.
10	3505_008 https://historicengland.org. uk/images- books/archive/collections/a erial- photos/record/35050_008	02/06/2021	Oblique view looking over the eastern end of Clipstone and beyond.	Complete view of Intake Woods and fields beyond. Partial view of the modern housing overlying the northeastern arm and central part of the former camp where training features were located.

11	3505_009 - 20 https://historicengland.org. uk/images- books/archive/collections/a erial- photos/record/35050_009	02/06/2021	Oblique views of the Colliery Power House	Shows a small triangle of grass. This would have been at the end of a parade ground at the edge of the camp.
12	3505_014 https://historicengland.org. uk/images- books/archive/collections/a erial- photos/record/35050_014	02/06/2021	The Power House	Park visible in the background (Clay Cross Drive) that would have been under the huts on the southern arm of the camp.
13	3505_015 https://historicengland.org. uk/images- books/archive/collections/a erial- photos/record/35050_015	02/06/2021	The Power House	Same triangle visible in 009
14	3505_021 https://historicengland.org. uk/images- books/archive/collections/a erial- photos/record/35050 021	02/06/2021	The Power House	Different view of the park at Clay Cross Drive (see 014)
15	EAW024140 https://historicengland.org. uk/images- books/archive/collections/a erial- photos/record/EAW024140	1949	Cavendish Lodge looking south west towards the camp.	Clipstone Drive is visible on the left but this would be just beyond the reaches of the camp buildings. Shown as an empty area on the camp plan.

16	EAW024141 https://historicengland.org. uk/images- books/archive/collections/a erial- photos/record/EAW024141	1949	Cavendish Lodge from the east.	Corner of Clipstone Drive and Squires Lane. Beyond the camp boundary.
17	EAW024138 https://historicengland.org. uk/images- books/archive/collections/a erial- photos/record/EAW024138	1949	Cavendish Lodge in the foreground across to Clipstone.	The new post-war social housing and allotments on Forest Road are visible in the background. Nothing remains of the north arm of the camp but some rough ground and structures are visible in the centre.
18	EAW024139 https://historicengland.org. uk/images- books/archive/collections/a erial- photos/record/EAW024139	1949	Cavendish Lodge looking to the North	Beyond the camp area.
19	Facebook Post by Philip Bates. https://www.facebook.com/ photo/?fbid=101628297462 80268&set=g.23064979703 4425	October 2019	Looking west across Clipstone, along North Crescent and Church Road.	
20	Facebook Post by Philip Bates. https://www.facebook.com/ photo/?fbid=101628297464 40268&set=g.23064979703 4425	October 2019	Looking east across Clipstone towards the headstocks with Sherwood Pines in the distance.	

21	Facebook Post by Philip Bates. https://www.facebook.com/ photo/?fbid=101628297461 05268&set=g.23064979703 4425	October 2019	Looking north across Clipstone. Cavendish way is in the centre of the new development that sits between Forest Road and Clipstone Drive.	This is only area in the northern part of the former camp that has been developed. The rear of this development overlies lines 19 and 20. The central part of the camp (south of Cavendish Drive) was open ground. The miniature firing range is just out of shot on the right.
22	Facebook Post by Philip Bates. https://www.facebook.com/ photo/?fbid=101628297451 35268&set=g.23064979703 4425	October 2019	Looking east along Mansfield Road towards Kings Clipstone.	The development around Baulker Lane (on the right) is the only part of modern Clipstone that has developed outside of the original camp footprint. The housing seen here in the centre and left overlies line 13. The housing in the foreground was open ground.
23	Facebook Post by Philip Bates. https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=101628297449 95268&set=g.23064979703 4425	October 2019	Looking east along Mansfield Road towards Kings Clipstone – a wider angle view of the above.	The housing alongside Intake Woods and in the foreground was built on open ground, inside the camp, but not occupied by buildings.
24	Facebook Post by Philip Bates. https://www.facebook.com/ photo/?fbid=101628297447 00268&set=g.23064979703 4425	October 2019	Looking west along Mansfield Road and Vicar Water Country Park to Sherwood Pines.	The Colliery Cottages, visible in the centre of the photo, were built in 1914 and remained outside of the camp. The Cottages are approximately opposite camp lines 11/10. The remainder of buildings on the cottage side are all modern. All the housing visible on the right-hand side of Mansfield Road overlies camp lines.
25	Facebook Post by Philip Bates. https://www.facebook.com/ photo/?fbid=101628297442 50268&set=g.23064979703 4425	October 2019	Looking west along Church Road towards Mansfield.	The southern boundary of the camp is clearly defined by Mansfield Road on the left. Forest Road on the right, marks the beginning of the barrack blocks on the southern lines of the camp.

26	Facebook Post by David	1993		A series of Arial	The Southern lines of the camp is clear to see, with intake
	Poole			photographs	woods in the middle. This photograph gives a good sense of
	https://www.facebook.com/			taken at 2000ft	the size of the camp and the open space in the middle, with
	photo?fbid=297288631292			show Clipstone	the northern arm only just coming into view.
	4318&set=pcb.4325761997		(Carried States	and the working	
	523164			Colliery.	
27	Facebook Post by Banger	Posted 21 st		A series of arial	No new views but might be useful to have another angle if
	Lowde	April 2018		photographs	looking for something specific.
	https://www.facebook.com/			showing views	
	photo?fbid=574314169621			over New	
	924&set=pcb.15889334845			Clipstone.	
	39376				

Drone Survey

Dave Smith posted a photograph on Facebook (Smith, 2021) titled 'Drone Pilot mapping the area of Clipstone Camp' There is nothing to suggest who this was done by or where the results are held.

6. Archaeological Evidence

The HER features located in Sherwood Pines (Casswell, 2023) and Strawberry Hill Wood (Gillot, 2021) are the subject of other reports. This leaves two records connected to the camp:

 MNT27602 WWI Training Camp (Nottinghamshire HER 1, 2023) – two separate rectangles mark the north and south lines. MNT27601 (Nottinghamshire HER 2, 2023)- Hospital at Clipstone Camp.

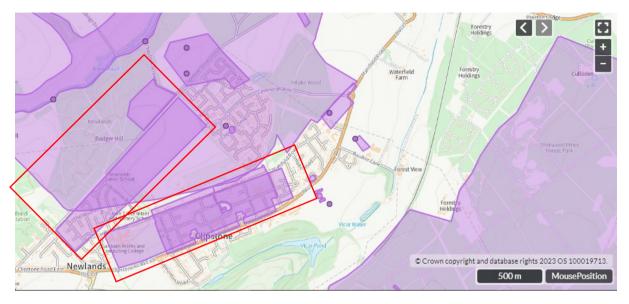


Figure 23 Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Map accessed 11/07/2023

LiDAR

The Veiled Landscape: Sherwood LiDAR Project was a survey flown in 2021, that captured data at 0.16m resolution (Nottinghamshire County Council, 2023). Two single-hill shade digital terrain models (DTM) are incorporated into the Nottinghamshire HER online mapping portal. Coverage of the Sherwood Pines Forest area is complete and very detailed.

Analysis of the LiDAR data revealed possible remains of WW1 training features in Strawberry Hill Wood and in Sherwood Pines Forest. Groundtruthing of both areas was carried out in 2023. Trenches, pits, and dugouts were positively identified in Strawberry Hill Wood (Gillot, 2021). In Sherwood Pines Forest (Casswell, 2023) Trenches, Butts, Mortar Craters, and Rifle Ranges were identified. All these features have been added to the HER.

LiDAR coverage of the camp area is incomplete (Figure 24). However, analysis of the LiDAR data available, reveals undeveloped areas that would be worth further investigation.

In the image below, the purple areas mark the HER monuments (two long rectangles mark the north and south lines of the camp MNT27602, with the hospital MNT27601 above). The underlying grey areas are LiDAR data.



Figure 24 Map showing the lines of the camp and the hospital site with underlying LiDAR data (Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record, 2021)

Analysis of the Southern Lines

The only part of the southern lines included in the LiDAR data are the areas that are now Clipstone Cricket Club and Clipstone FC, built over number 5 lines, and Garibaldi School, built over number 14 and 5 lines (Figure 25).

The LiDAR just stops short of Forest Road, which marked the top of the southern line, where the barrack huts started.

The current Google Maps image (Figure 26) shows areas of open land at the three sites that could be investigated further to see if any remains of the lines or artefacts can be found.

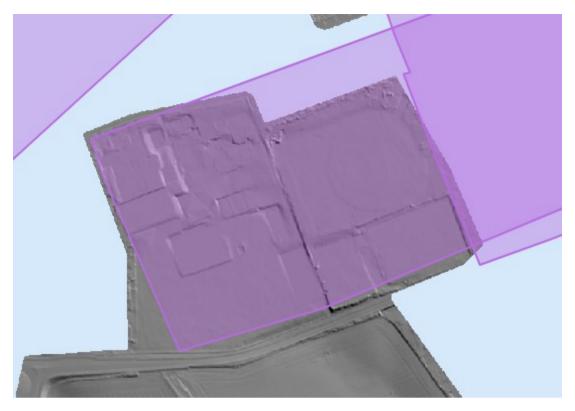


Figure 25 Zoomed in section of LiDAR data over the Cricket Club, Football Club and Garibaldi School. (Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record, 2021)

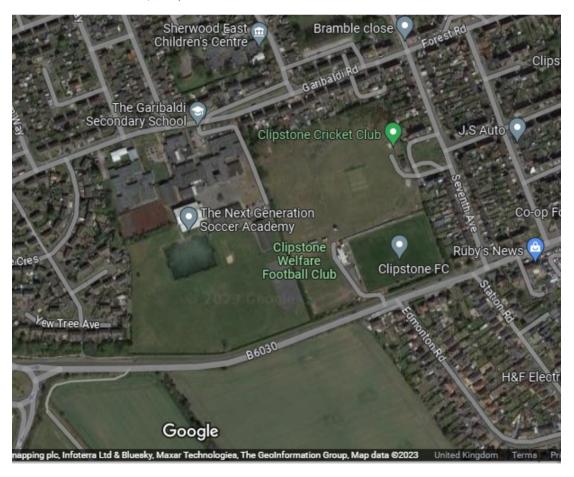


Figure 26 Google Maps showing the Cricket Club, Football Club and Garibaldi School (Google , 2023)

By overlaying the southern lines (in red) on Google maps, other undeveloped areas of the camp can be seen (Figure 27).



Figure 27 The Southern Lines (red) (Google, 2023)

The open spaces inside Church Road (Clipstone Welfare Sports Centre and the Village Hall) might contain traces of the barrack blocks of approx. lines 8 and 9 of the southern lines. Clipstone Bowls Club lies over a former parade ground (Figure 28).



Figure 28 The Clipstone Welfare Sports Centre and village hall (Google , 2023)

Open areas to the west of Third Avenue would have been within the barrack block and parade ground of number 10 lines. Investigation of these two areas would provide a slice through number 10 lines (Figure 29 An open area Third Avenue



Figure 29 An open area Third Avenue (Google , 2023)

The playing field at Samuel Barlow Primary Academy and the open ground in Highfield Road are overlaying the barrack block areas of line number 12.

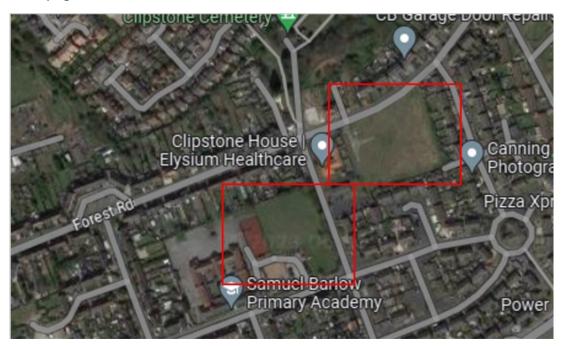


Figure 30 Samuel Barlow School and open ground at Highfield Road (Google , 2023)

Analysis of the central area of the camp

The triangular area between the two lines was also part of the camp, though not included in MNT27602 monument record). Most of the area is covered by the LiDAR data, but not all.

Intake Wood

At the far north eastern end of the site, is Intake Wood. The outline of the wood appears little altered from the OS 1888 map, and can often be seen in the background of historic photos of the camp.

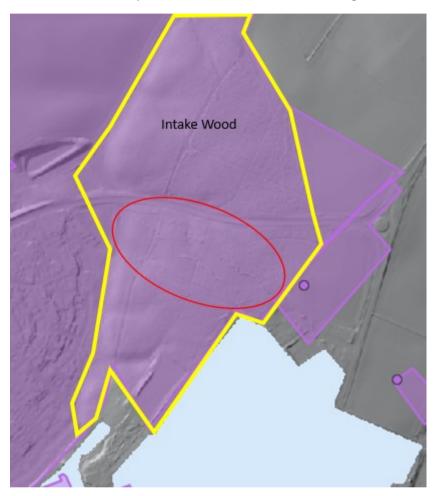


Figure 31 Intake Wood (Forestry England , 2023)

Two strong irregular tree lines are visible in both the LiDAR and Google Maps. Fieldwalking might determine whether these are associated with trench systems or firing ranges.

Miniature Range

Beyond the lines at the eastern end of the camp, close to Intake Wood (and the modern burial ground) was a miniature firing range. This is marked on the camp plan (War Office, 1915) but is not included as part of the monument MNT27602 (Nottinghamshire HER 1, 2023). The Miniature Range is often mentioned in written accounts of training (U.P.S, 1917) (Rumsby, 2014). It was also the scene of a suicide (Lt QM Bradley) (Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013, p. 133) and the cause of a fatality at the camp, when a stray bullet pierced a hut in number 13 lines and killed Pte Gillott (Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013, p. 53). This tragic event is said to

have been the last use of this range. It did serve a post-war use briefly, as a boxing arena (Fareham, 1996).

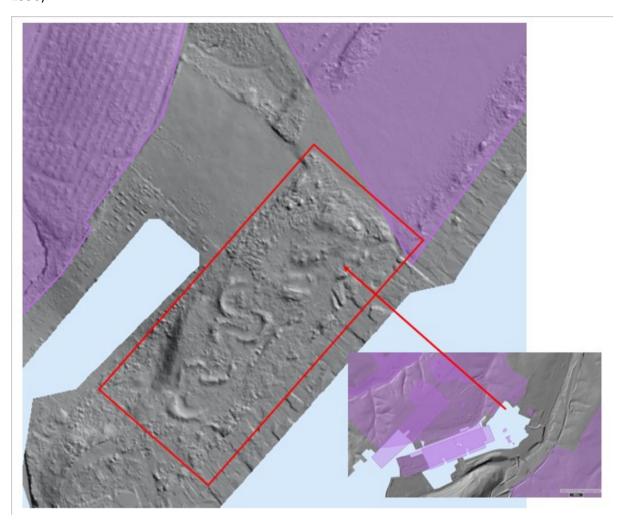


Figure 32 LiDAR data over the miniature range, with location inset (Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record, 2021)

The camp plan shows this central triangular area (now fields, allotments, colliery housing, the recent Cavendish Way estate and Forest Road), to be a largely open area with six irrigation drains. To the west of the drains, an open firing range is shown as a straight line vertically crossing this central area. The LiDAR image shows an irregular line in approximately the right position, circled in red in Figure 33. This may be worth ground truthing.



Figure 33 The location of the firing range in the centre of the camp plan and LiDAR data of the same area.

A wooden church stood to the west of the firing range. Also in this central area, a shunting line and sidings ran east around the south of the camp to the northern arm and turned into the centre of the camp at roughly number 4 lines, passing a range of buildings that bisected the yard (stables and store rooms) and ended at the Guardroom. Although this is now open ground, no trace of these buildings could be seen on the LiDAR.

Today this area is a field and allotments (Figure 34). Little evidence is likely to be found in the ploughed field, but allotment owners may have unearthed artefacts.



Figure 34 undeveloped spaces in the central area (Google, 2023)

Analysis of the Northern Lines



Figure 35 LiDAR of the Northern Lines (Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record, 2021)

Newlands Junior School Fields (Figure 35) approximately overlying number 4 lines, but no evidence of barrack huts or parade grounds could be seen in the fields on the LiDAR data. LiDAR for the adjacent two fields only shows plough lines where number 15 and 16 lines would have been, but all of these areas could be investigated further through field walking. There is no LiDAR data for the western end of the northern lines, but this is now all under housing.

The Hospital Site

The LiDAR over the hospital site (Figure 36) to the north of lines 16-18, shows ground disturbance and linear features. Linear features and recent ground clearance can be seen on the current Google maps view (Figure 37). When comparing the markings at the western end of the camp plan, they do appear to correlate with the linear features seen on Google maps. Ground truthing in this area would be useful. The Clipstone Forests Plan 2023-2033 (Forestry England, 2023) states that the former hospital stie will remain unplanted and allowed to regenerate as open woodland.

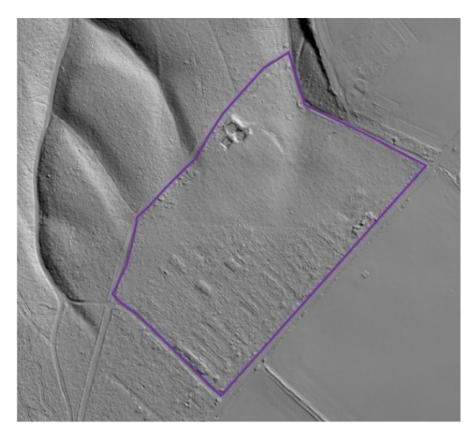


Figure 36 LiDAR over the site of the hospital (Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record, 2021)



Figure 37 Markings on Google Maps compared to the camp plan. Do these marks represent the western end of the hospital? (Google , 2023) (Marples, 2013, p. 26)

Within the northern tip of the hospital site, two circular and one square feature are clearly shown in the LiDAR image and on Google Maps. These would appear to be the remains of the camp sewage system, the concrete emptying station and the associated filter beds.

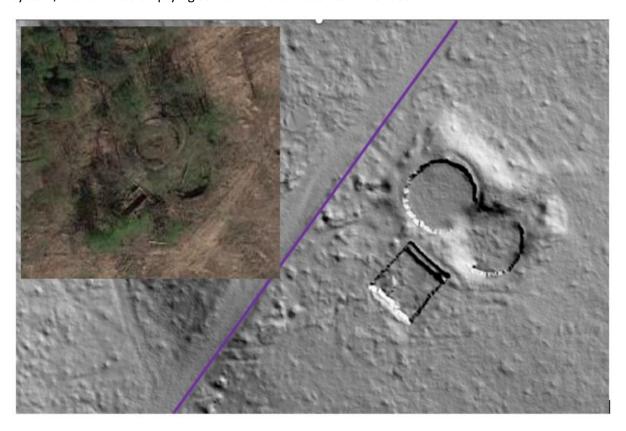


Figure 38 Lidar over the sewage plant with Google Maps (Google , 2023) inset.

Photographs found on Facebook would support this (Figures 39-42).



Figure 39 The remains of the concrete sewage plant. (Fareham, Clipstone Camp an account of a military training camp of the First World War, 1994, p. 10)



Figure 40 The remains of the Sewage works photographed by Tim Priestley (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2020)



Figure 41 Untitled (Newbold, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2013) Thought to be a filter bed.



Figure 42 The Sewage filter Beds (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2020)

Tim Priestly took photographs of the former hospital site, following tree clearance in May 2020 (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2020). He states 'all the trees have been cleared, down to the sewage works, revealing more brick and concrete remains'. The photographs are included in Appendix 1

Similar photographs were discovered for trenches etc in the forested areas and are included these in the Appendix 2.

Oak Tree Lane Area

The known training areas of Sherwood Pines and Strawberry Hill Wood are both covered by LiDAR and have been ground-truthed.

First-hand accounts mention marching to train near the Oak Tree Lane area. Historic photo refs 44 and 57 show the firing range (which (Gray, 2008) says was used again in WW2). Locals recall on Facebook their memories of playing in the trenches near the Tesco. Figure 95 Fareham's Trench Photos LiDAR data was not captured over this area, but Google maps show other open heathland areas in this vicinity that might be worth further investigation (Figure 43, marked in yellow).



Figure 43 The area around the Golf Club and Oak Tree Lane could be investigated further. (Google , 2023)

Artefacts

A section of the camp railway, thought to be narrow gauge, was discovered by Neil Tryner in 2019 (Tryner, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2019) in an area of the camp that was being developed for housing.



Figure 44 Railway Track located by Neil Tryner in 2019 (Tryner, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 18/04/2019)



Figure 45 A preserved section of camp railway (Tryner, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2020)

A short section of the camp's narrow-gauge railway has been preserved and can be found next to the memorial at the bottom of Clipstone Social Club car park. This might perhaps be the same piece of track discovered by Neil Tryner in 2019.

Neil Tryner's name repeatedly appears against Facebook posts displaying artefacts found at the camp during housebuilding between 2015-2018 (Tryner, WW1 Clipstone Camp Facebook Group, 2023). Many of these artefacts look like they may have been included in the exhibition at Mansfield Museum in 2014 (Our Mansfield & Area, 2014).



Figure 46 Artefacts found by Neil Tryner (Tryner, WW1 Clipstone Camp Facebook Group, 2023)



Figure 47 Glassware and backpack buckle Neil Tryner (Tryner, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2019)



Figure 48 Artefacts recovered in May 2019 by Neil Tryner (Tryner, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 18/05/2019)



Figure 49 A 303 Rifle Cartridges found at Clipstone by Neil Tryner (Tryner, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2021)

Rich Machin (Machin, 2022) posted photos on Facebook of some of the artefacts he has recovered from Clipstone Camp (Figures 50-54). These artefacts were uncovered during the building of new housing "every time they build something the machines inevitably uncover some sort of dump or rubbish. Sometimes it's it's a small hole or ditch filled in mostly with ash and bottles and sometimes it's a big pit. I've had a few people donate garden finds too". Figure 50 is a Canadian Army badge which together with fragments of White Star Line crockery, is evidence of the Canadian troops

billeted here. A comment on the post mentions a wedding between a Canadian solider and a local girl (Machin, 2022). Other British regimental badges (Figure 52) were found together with pottery pieces, one of which is a white George V egg cup (Figure 53) and battalion crockery (Figure 54).





Figure 50 Canadian Army Badge found at Clipstone (Machin, 2022). Figure 51 Notts & Derby Reg. Badge (Machin, 2022)





Figure 52 Shoulder Titles I&R Machin (Marples, OurNottinghamshire, 2015) Figure 53 George V Egg Cup (Machin, 2022)



Figure 54 An assortment of stamped battalion crockery found by I & R Machin (Marples, OurNottinghamshire, 2015)

NACB stamped crockery was discovered by Ken Bateman in the present Clipstone Burial Ground, which is situated almost opposite the location of the NACB hut in number 13 lines, approximately the area between King Johns Road and The Foundry Steelworks. Fareham records other stamped crockery with the names 'C.T. Maling and Sons' 'Burslem Pottery Co.' and 'Doulton' and (Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013, p. 125) shows a photo of ACC stamped crockery.

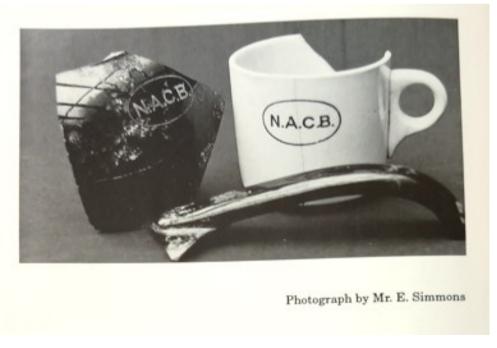


Figure 55 NACB stamped crockery (Fareham, 1994)

Tim Priestley also posted a garden find, an improvised identity tag (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2017).



A garden find on the site of the camp which would appear to be an improvised identity tag fashioned from cutlery. Only one person in the MGC had the service number 97540.

Harold James Thomas

Born Bristol 1899

Pre war trade printer

Enlisted 23/1/17 after attempting whilst under age in 1916

Trained at Grantham and Clipstone

Punished at Clipstone for falling asleep on duty and also breaking out of camp and being found in Mansfield by Military Foot Police Served Bombay in early 1918 and Basrah from September



Figure 56 Improvised Identity Tag recovered from a garden in Clipstone (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2017)

In 2014, Pauline Marples collated an exhibition about Clipstone Camp at Mansfield Museum (Our Mansfield & Area, 2014). Two cases full of artefacts collected from around the area of the camp were displayed.



Figure 57 Two cases of artefacts displayed in the 2014 Exhibition at Mansfield Museum (Our Mansfield & Area, 2014)



Figure 58 Case 1 Glass and Metal artefacts (Our Mansfield & Area, 2014)

Case 1 contained Glass and Metal Artefacts. Top Shelf – Glass bottles, glass jars, pottery jars. Bottom shelf – Boot polish tins, bullets, boot heel cleats, buckles, coins, stirrups, army regimental badges.



Figure 59 Case 2: Pottery and Assorted Artefacts (Our Mansfield & Area, 2014)

Case 2 contained pottery and metal artefacts. Top shelf – Metal tins, YMCA and NACB mugs and plates. Bottom shelf – cutlery, door handle, keys, ink bottles and wells (provided by the YMCA).



Figure 60 Clay Pipes (Our Mansfield & Area, 2014)



Figure 61 Dominos, brushes, and other personal effects. (Our Mansfield & Area, 2014)

If these artefacts could be collated together again, it would be a good opportunity to photograph and catalogue them.

7. Archive Sources

Archives

Archive	Date	Online or In	Notes
	Accessed	Person	
Nottinghamshire	29/06/2023	In Person	4 documents accessed. The copy of the Clipstone
Archives			Camp plan is not allowed to be copied here.
Nottinghamshire	29/06/2023	Online	Good source for photographs that can be purchased
Inspire Picture			as digital copies.
Archive			
Mansfield	30/06/2023	In Person	Good Local Studies lending and reference collection
Library			that include some archive materials. The Clipstone
			Camp Plan was not found here.
The National	05/07/2023	Online	Individual Army Records – 197 for MGC. 17 Medical
Archives			Cards and 1 diary. An enquiry is open to try and
			locate the War Office Clipstone Camp Plan.
The Imperial	05/07/2023	Online	16 Oral Histories and 11 Private Papers (letters
War Museum			mainly, that mention Clipstone Camp)
IWM Lives of	05/07/2023	Online	Search term 'Clipstone Camp' returned 37 results of
the First World			people who passed through Clipstone at some point
War (IWM,			during WW1
2023)			
The British		Not	Many newspaper articles are referenced in
Newspaper		accessed	(Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in
Archive			World War One. The impact of a large military
			presence in a North Nottinghamshire community.,
			2013) and (Lovejoy Edwards, 2015)

Nottinghamshire Archives visited 29/06/2023.

The following documents were consulted:

1. DC/SW 4/8/7/2, 4. Plan of land and projected road widening Clipstone New Village.

Contains 3 Plans:

1 plan dated 29/01/1929 Bolsover. Shows projected widening of the Mansfield to Clipstone road.

1 plan dated 04/01/1932 Shows a disused rifle range next to the cemetery (marked on the camp plan as 'new miniature rifle range'). This plan shows the colliery village still using some of the original accommodation huts in blocks 11 and 12, a recreation hut (YMCA 3 above block 12) and Institute (the regimental institute in block 13). New colliery housing is shown on First Avenue, and a Bowling Green has been added (2 copies).

2. **DD2584/1** Clipstone Camp Record Plan (coloured) (Note on the front of the file states 'No copies allowed refer to Mansfield Library where original map is held'

Notes made from seeing the plan – including the numbering of the lines and hospital facilities.

3. **CC/6/3/4/17** Agreement for the conversion of army huts at Clipstone. Dated 24/12/1924. Agreement between the Education Company of Nottinghamshire and Rogers and Crooks Limited to convert certain army huts into classrooms at Clipstone Camp. No plans.

4. CC/6/3/4/69 Agreement for converting army hut at Clipstone County Council of Nottinghamshire dated 24/12/1930. Agreement between the County Council of Nottinghamshire and Mr Thomas Smith Builder and Contractor of Debdale Works, Chesterfield Road, Mansfield. Handwritten terms and conditions of the agreement, with some details the work to be undertaken such as installing a new stove, moving internal partitions, and installing 30 coat and hat hooks. No plans.

The Nottinghamshire Archives card index was searched for further sources but none found (searched Clipstone, Army, Military, Photographs, Maps).

Searched Nottinghamshire Archives Local History Library and found two books of old postcards of Mansfield, but these did not contain any relevant photographs (Mansfield in Old Picture Postcards (ref 90.2M) David J Bradbury 1992. Mansfield in Old Picture Postcards (ref 90.2M) David J Otwell 1993).

Mansfield Library – visited 30/06/2023

The relevant sections of the following publications were reviewed in the Local Studies section:

- (Fareham, Clipstone Camp an account of a military training camp of the First World War, 1994)
- (Fareham, Clipstone Colliery Village 1922-1972, 1996)
- (Lovejoy Edwards, 2015) Mansfield in the Great War
- (Gray, 2008). Sherwood Forest and the Dukeries

Defending Nottinghamshire: the military landscape from prehistory to the present (Osborne, 2014) was not available for review.

The map drawers at Mansfield Library were searched for the War Office Camp Plan but it could not be found. Enquiries with the archive service had concluded that it must be at The National Archives. An enquiry is currently open to try to confirm this. No other relevant maps were found.

Historic newspapers are available to view at Mansfield Library but not searched during this trip as they can also be found online at the British Newspaper Archive and time was limited.

The National Archives – Online

https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r/4? q=Clipstone%20camp& ps=60

The Clipstone Camp Plan could not be found in the online catalogue. An enquiry is open.

A search of the online collections catalogue (all archives) for 'Clipstone Camp' returned 223 results (17 held at TNA and the remainder at other archives):

- 197 Individual Army Record Cards all Machine Gun Corps
- 17 Medical Record Cards
- 4 Correspondence
- 1 Diary of Private F Bullen who trained with the KOYLI at Clipstone in 1916 (held at Sheffield Archives ref SY/232/F).

Searches for Mansfield WW1 and Sherwood Forest did not return any relevant results.

The Imperial War Museum - Online

https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/search?query=Clipstone+Camp&pageSize=&media-records=all-records

A search of the online collections catalogue returned 30 results:

- 16 Oral Histories
- 11 Private Papers letters, diaries and poems.
- 2 Photographs (already seen)
- 1 Book ((Fareham, Clipstone Camp an account of a military training camp of the First World War, 1994)

Searches for Mansfield WW1 and Sherwood Forest did not return any relevant results.

Newspapers

Copies of the U.P.S Battalion camp magazine, 'Pow-wow' provides a useful insight into the lives of the U.P.S soldiers at the camp from 12th May to 3rd August 1915. Copies are available to view in Mansfield Library.

All the local newspapers (The Nottingham Guardian, The Nottingham Evening Post, The Mansfield Reporter, The Mansfield Chronicle and the Mansfield and Ashfield Chad), reported regularly on Clipstone Camp. Copies of these papers are available to view free of charge in libraries or by subscription to the British Newspaper Archive.

These sources are already extensively referenced by Pauline Marples (Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013) therefore they were not reviewed for this report.

Personal Accounts

Soldiers wrote about their time at the camp in camp magazines, letters and postcards, and diaries. After the war, some recorded oral histories.

Primary sources:

- The Pow-Wow magazine and the UPS regimental history (U.P.S, 1917)
- The Royal Engineers Museum has a copy of the War Diary of the Royal Engineers Depot based at Clipstone Camp in 1916 (Royal Engineers Museum, 2015)
- 1 Diary of Private F Bullen who trained with the KOYLI at Clipstone in 1916 (held at Sheffield Archives ref SY/232/F). (not accessed)
- Oral histories The IWM online collection includes 16 oral history recordings by men who trained at or were demobilised from Clipstone Camp.
- Yours for Eternity: A Romance of the Great War. Edited by John H Rumsby (Rumsby, 2014).
- Harold Jones Letter (Jones, 1915)
- Noel Downing Letter (Downing, 1915) Talks about the funeral of a soldier and local hospitality.
- Private papers including letters and diaries held at the IWM.

Secondary sources:

 As Hard as Nails: The Sportsmen's Battalion of WW1 Published 2007 (Foley, 2023) (not accessed) Jack Watts – trained at Clipstone Camp and married a girl he met whilst there. http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/learning-resources/LR/jack watts3430.pdf?docid=aa12f73b-e903-4ad1-a4f1-203a3abf0b39&version=-1 (Kirk, n.d.)

Corporal Henry Coulter

A series of letters written by Corporal Henry Coulter to his sweetheart Lucy, have been compiled into a book **Yours for Eternity: A Romance of the Great War.** Edited by John H Rumsby (Rumsby, 2014). They provide a valuable insight to the types of training undertaken at the camp, where Corporal Henry Coulter trained between the 11th November 1915 to 16th March 1916 with the 17th West Yorkshire Regiment (The Leeds Bantams).

Pg. 95-96. **11/01/1916** Henry mentions firing on the miniature range, the Mayor of Leeds visiting and having photos taken for the cinema (Gaumont). Photos were taken of Bayonet Fighting, Swedish Drill, Boxing, Football and Dinner. Mentions going to the YMCA in Mansfield and the Empire Picture House.

Pg. 97-98 **25/01/1916** Henry talks about being on 'bombing practice' (grenade-throwing), a short route march and a 20-mile route march the following day.

Pg. 98 **02/02/1916** The Sentries on guard heard the Zeppelins pass over prior to the raid on Sheffield, Tye Bridge and Nottingham.

Pg 99. **02/02/1916** "I am on duty on the firing range this week, from 7 o' clock in the morning until 3.30. Its right on the moors, about 5 miles away from camp". (Repeated on pg. 109 but this time says 4 miles away from camp).

Pg. 102. **11/02/1916** "I was on the miniature range yesterday afternoon and we went trenching last night until 8.30. Then, when we got back, all the lights were turned out as once more Zepps' were reported about, so we all had to go to bed out of the way. It has been an awful day here today darling, snow and slush galore. We are over the ankles in it, when we turn out of the huts."

Oral Histories

An interview by the BBC with Pauline Marples (BBC, 2014) contains soundbites of oral histories:

- Charles Simpson (OH at Nottingham Central Library) talks about marching through Forest Town and while officers' rode on mules.
- Machine Gunner Frederick Plimmer (IWM) arrived at Clipstone Camp in 1917. He talks about the huts and facilities: 30ft by 18 huts beds both sides fire in middle meals in huts brought from cookhouse. Flush toilets and wash and bath houses.
- Harold Pratt (IWM) talks about machine gun training at Clipstone.
- Donald Price (IWM) Royal Fusiliers talks about marching and training in the forest.

In total, 16 oral histories connected with Clipstone Camp are held online in the IWM collection (IWM OH, 2023). Additional information may be gained by listening to all 16 interviews.

Historic Photographs

Pauline Marples book (Marples, Clipstone Camp and the Mansfield Area in World War One. The impact of a large military presence in a North Nottinghamshire community., 2013) (Nottinghamshire HER has a copy) contains the largest single collection of Clipstone Camp photographs, from her own collection. Many of the photos are duplicated in different sources. These have been included only once, against the first digital source found. The photos have been included as thumbnails in the table (as permission for their use has not been sought). A weblink to the source is recorded against each photograph for easier viewing.

Tim Priestley also has a good personal collection, many of which he has posted in the WW1 Clipstone Camp Facebook group.

The WW1 Clipstone Camp Facebook group has many photographs of units of men. Only those that contained details of the camp are referenced in this report.

The following sources were searched for historic photographs:

Source	Date Accessed	No. of relevant photographs recorded in the table.	Notes
Nottinghamshire Archives Inspire Photo Archive (Nottinghamshire Archives, 2023)	29/06/2023	9	Searched all 86 Clipstone results.
Nottinghamshire Archives	29/06/2023	0	All digitised and held on Inspire
Mansfield Library	30/06/2023	0	All digitised and held on Inspire
Facebook Clipstone	03/07/2023	19	Looked through media tab to see all
Camp 1914-1918			images
еВау	03/07/2023	10	Searched Clipstone Camp and
			Clipstone WW1
Our Mansfield Area	04/07/2023	3	Many in the book but selected 3 not
website			seen elsewhere
Fareham 1994	04/07/2023	9	Photos taken on phone
Priestley 2015	04/07/2023	3	Copied from web article
Facebook WW1	04/07/2023	7	Looked through media tab to see all
Clipstone Camp group			images – many photographs of men
			outside huts etc. I only chose those
			that showed detail of the camp area.

A note on the photographers

Many images have the same white writing on stating 'Clipstone' and a number. These were taken by Hans Peter Hansen of Bramcote (Derbyshire Photographers Profiles, 2023). Other photographs were taken by local newspaper reporters. Several photographs are marked Johnsons Camp Shop Series. Their photographer took souvenir photographs showing life at camp and printed them as postcards for soldiers to purchase and send home. The Johnsons Camp Shop itself can be seen in historic photograph ref. 55.

Ref.	Archvi	Photo	Date	Thumbnail	Description and link
	e ID	Markings		-	
		Archive – sea		stone	
1	21422	Clipstone	1915		Huts, wash block and railway line next to the camp. A temporary tented camp is visible in the
	27099	Camp III			distance, at the top of Newlands triangle.
	36675				
				1	https://www.inspirepicturearchive.org.uk/image/21422/Clipstone Camp
				A Comment of the Comm	
					Sepia version https://www.inspirepicturearchive.org.uk/image/27099/Clipstone_Camp
2	21423	Clipstone	1915		A block of huts and soldiers in uniform waiting outside.
_	22.23	Camp 98	1313	Secretary of the secret	77 STOSK OF THATS AND SOCIAL STATE WAILING OUTSIDE.
		'		- Problem	https://www.inspirepicturearchive.org.uk/image/21423/Clipstone Camp
				CONTRACT OF THE PARTY OF THE PA	Sepia version https://www.inspirepicturearchive.org.uk/image/22008/Clipstone_Camp
3	22003	Clipstone	11/07	Albert House	Soldiers lined up around a parade square with huts in the background.
		Camp 47	/1915		https://www.inspirepicturearchive.org.uk/image/22003/Clipstone Camp
				AL LAND	nttps://www.mspirepicturearchive.org.uk/image/22005/Chpstone Camp
				CUPSTONE 47	
4	22013	Clipstone	1915		Huts, washing facilities, soldiers at tables, horse riding in the background
		Camp 27			
					https://www.inspirepicturearchive.org.uk/image/22013/Clipstone Camp
				CUPSTONE 27	
5	22014	Clipstone	1915		A view along one of the camp avenues with soldiers walking and electricity poles.
					σ σ σ σ σ σ σ σ σ σ σ σ σ σ σ σ σ σ σ
					https://www.inspirepicturearchive.org.uk/image/22014/Clipstone Camp
				The state of the s	
6	22618	Clipstone	1915-	promoduca	Huts, soldiers, horses and carts.
		113	1918		Tracts, solutions, morses and surface.
				The Court of the C	https://www.inspirepicturearchive.org.uk/image/22618/Clipstone Camp
				Calletone 113	
				is tolard troop t	

7	36674	Clipstone	1915	Huts, Sol	diers, Civilians delivering/selling goods by horse and cart.
				https://w	ww.inspirepicturearchive.org.uk/image/36674/Clipstone Camp
8	20103	Clipstone Colliery	1925	Shows cla	assrooms converted from army huts.
		Council School 1925		https://w	ww.inspirepicturearchive.org.uk/image/20103/Clipstone Colliery Council School Clipstone c 1925
9	09121	Marching to Clipstone	1914- 1918	11	narching to Clipstone Camp on an unmade road, in the snow. Horse at the front, motor vehicle(?) at Electricity poles along the road.
		Camp		https://w	ww.inspirepicturearchive.org.uk/image/9121/Marching to Clipstone Camp
Facebo	ook Clipsto	one Camp 19)14-1919	Group https://www.facebook.com	n/profile.php?id=100066900832905
10	FB1	Clipstone	1915	Soldiers a	re gathered around a table outside their hut. Other huts and soldiers visible in the background.
		28		https://w	ww.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=243314262483005&set=g.230649797034425
11	FB2		Poste	Posted by	Fred Newbold. Remains of circular brick feature.
			d 15/09 /13	https://w	ww.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10201760711357038&set=g.230649797034425
12	FB3	Inside YMCA 3	No date	Inside YN	ICA 3 at Clipstone Camp.
		at Clipstone Camp	uate	https://w	ww.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10201760666115907&set=g.230649797034425
13	FB4	Clipstone 60	1915		e huts with beds outside and soldiers. Beds were formed of straw palisades were laid on top of three ised off the floor by blocks.
				https://w	ww.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=435125222060835&set=a.435125185394172

14	FB5	Clipstone 21	1915		Shows the huts and gardens. https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=435125225394168&set=pb.100066900832905 2207520000.&type=3
15	FB6	Nottingh am Evening Post,'	11th June 1915	CLIPSTONE 21	Caption reads Soldiers and their love for the beauties of Nature. Two of the front gardens at Clipstone Camp where huts of the men of the 18 th Btn Royal Fusiliers possess ornamental flower beds. https://www.facebook.com/1880626055598960/photos/pb.1000669008329052207520000./2024456227882608/?type=3
16	FB7	Clipstone 29	1915	The state of the s	An elevated view of the camp showing huts with beds outside. https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=2053727521622145&set=pb.1000669008329052207520000.
17	FB8	Non conformi st hut	19/03 /1917		Nottingham Daily Express,' 20th March 1917 "A new hut, provided by the Congregationalists, Baptists, Primitive Methodists, and United Free Methodists of Mansfield, for the purpose of religious services and social recreation, was placed at the disposal of the United Board at a local military camp yesterday afternoon. [19th March 1917] A wooden structure, with three clerestory windows and three aisles, lined inside and out with fireproof asbestos sheets. After the war, the church was dismantled and moved to Kirkby for use as a church social centre.
					https://www.facebook.com/1880626055598960/photos/pb.100066900832905 2207520000./1978579875803577/?type=3
18	FB9	Nr The Camp Clipstone 3914	1915	Name of the Party	https://www.facebook.com/1880626055598960/photos/pb.100066900832905 2207520000./2076869995974564/?type=3 A boy sells postcards from a wooden booth near the railway line.
19	FB10	Clipstone 15	1915		Soldiers lined up outside their hut.

20 FB11	Last Draft,	Sept 1918	222222222	Last Draft Clipstone September 1918.	
		Clipstone	1910		https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=10155663992567596&set=bc.Abqfm3WulpwhyGjx6vrLCl7cn2F2swgBmoqSdlpS7btkMJfOabLbROgnkoGH6zMkQCgYEhQNc3r2f9cw2W2kS_ITZhRe8EdwR9
				and Deal Deals Chieffing See we	21NWaydr0qVBZyTWZ3JwallDpyU0b656K92jeoqIb2JpeZRfkucV7c&opaqueCursor=AboLYWHbycqP6ysImAy4W
					fFCzBzxSmyj82iOOeP0xZyt5edySIv3Y_iMSG8Cm6_SgwqLYbeva8ZS11c3jj6BWMfkgM5llKVAljKuKj7o5MdLWeJQ
					x1KrYvBT4WK6gNN3e18-0NRHkhL7QEQL-rk1Ap4NqPlC54N5I9CchV_a-
					OuknG7ZgIDR2pScdykOq_dtih0afWqXKS-mTQ9VjYc7W5iEVQGrGZ5WP4e-
					E81HFkUIrDkNWD5jcfjP3gonAGtrp9eLKpvr5MhC3z7lb9XRDIyhQ6qBGo0GFPj4yuGUtJvhdnN6wcz54xiPAx70 394r-fmVcm1EJ6vse2rvOXgfBZoO8Sg6ha8wPJs0F
21	FB12	Clipstone			Soldiers marching along Clipstone Drive. Drums and Bugles.
	1512	17 MX		No of the last	soldiers marching drong empstone brive. Drums and bugies.
					https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10155663992837596&set=g.230649797034425
				Tox	
22	FB13	Welfare	unkn	(3)	This later image shows the trainline and a hut still in use.
22	1013	trip to	own	A weg	This later image shows the training and a nut still in use.
		the		grand grand	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10200713512497721&set=g.230649797034425
		seaside.		- N-	
23	FB14	Church	1925	A STATE OF THE STA	Children play on the open ground of Church Square which is surrounded by Colliery housing.
		Square Clipstone		Annual market	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10151345702747417&set=g.230649797034425
		Clipstolle		Chat farms Chat	III(ps.//www.racebook.com/prioto/:rbid=10151345702747417&set=g.250045757054425
24	FB15	The Old	1933		The last remaining Institute (used by the Colliery) closed in 1933.
		Institute			
				THE OLD INSTITUTE CLOSED 1933	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=4628679952533&set=g.230649797034425
25	FB16	Vicars	Unkn	h :	Post 1920 photo when the camp had largely gone and the mining had restarted. Mansfield Road and First
		Water	own		Avenue are visible in the background
					https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10150816553457596&set=g.230649797034425
					mttps://www.nacebook.com/pnoto/:hbid=10150810555457550&3et-g.250045757054425
26	FB17	Clipstone	1940/	No.	New Colliery housing along Mansfield Road c. 1940/50. Train line still in operation. Built directly over the
		New	50		position of the huts.
		Village			https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10150816553032596&set=g.230649797034425
				10000000000000000000000000000000000000	,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

27	FB18	Clipstone	1940/		Co-op in the middle - Prefabs around it. Start of `The Officials Houses 'on the right with track that led over the
	Anne	New	50	7	train tracks, through the Tips and down to Vicars Pond.
	Layhe	Village			
					https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10150816552767596&set=g.230649797034425
28	FB19	MX and	1915	130 140 140 140 140 140 140 140 140 140 14	The 1915 temporary overspill canvas camp on Walkers Plantation (between modern Stanley Road and Poplar
		EX			Grove) Temporary tented camp near Forest Town. Colliery can be seen working in the background. This camp
		Forrest		EII. MALES	closed in September 1915.
		Town		Private Court	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10155663992897596&set=g.230649797034425
eBay –	search Cl	ipstone Cam	p		
29	ebay4				Shows soldiers training within the camp itself – trench and bayonet practice?
				This Text Will Not be On Your Photo	https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/285114428363?hash=item426224ebcb:g:n4EAAOSwkfZjyRla&amdata=enc%3AA
					QAIAAAAwOxStpDiba04uMnQ2i4R%2Bq%2B2dVJzCTIhqwmwgh8OQInyrC4B6AnJkYVPeNlwwQXl8ty%2BrxXVI
					3Ol0c0dt8gXH1lT%2FHYvyaIbVfaruAxIb9kBTDKw87%2Bse4gaUueMw94Ab5x3YZpJp4LtVxdjmwY%2Fvr%2BH7
					%2BdG2e0FEtKkg8QC8QPhQudbLXWCx4Vg7L26UDK%2B%2Bmuqr1lfq2wl3CeqWfTn6iG9AK2WCvDbLxJR9Qxp
					6RnjmqiXp5LauPdl5fu7fPycZw%3D%3D%7Ctkp%3ABk9SR7zGmoCkYg
30	eBay5	Clipstone	1915		Soldiers on parade in camp. Note brick buildings behind – colliery cottages?
		65		This Text Will Not Se On Your Phot	https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/295480489894?hash=item44cc0277a6:g:3oEAAOSwvw5jyRk6&amdata=enc%3A
				CUPATONE	AQAIAAAA4FB4gtiQGzEJRsd6lANzJSlbf1CnCxxeMTYl4Yt2GwznsYTdiVKJIsylFKYtgxW8weU02lhw%2F0t5jdsugC1
					NUvDoVY18fdNFYSoLBHru5qlRPNnoo0ildjnwVHiAo4QOapRdXXEHVfw9a4DdldVZUIuPTJnzBFi%2BC2nfS1cF210
					YMVT4dVKYTVaFrAPMR3IWKQWtusI1gLW3F8DAMoPACpAZUVCgzxIuJ%2BZQYDitmEKq4xvN6frWGadxvz%2FJL
					kQi2Ks3SEfFTHs6ak2O%2Fe44KMRvhX0xkNelyXgxJFXkBCW0%7Ctkp%3ABk9SR7zGmoCkYg
31	eBay6	Clipstone	1915	nemol many	Huts
		6		This Text Will Not Be On Your Photo	https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/285114428207?hash=item426224eb2f:g:-
				CLIPST ONE IN	boAAOSwrlpjyRmL&amdata=enc%3AAQAIAAAA4HyKW35Dx04RDY4oDgVuZR00zZGLWCAyOoELndBzC6nyF%2
					FYGhmvUvcvdCMLjb%2FGtF4EagwuhnLvRLF%2BDf3uKkCi0DyKD%2B432DEJ2gySnZDLyjVAjQL1Um%2FYEHdnt
					%2FcBzbYbgeMEG0O%2F5yRPsKle4De2nQs27W0%2FRUYz9sGHj6SNf7W5bQ4Z3gomGMSFmmF2Tcfdxqz0UOi
					AguqOWUQFEPTEmx5w85nh%2BWnwCjxV6hUZCLcbOnko7poxqHZTxUcPxTe%2BJ9lpYkLAME8fAeQtos7G7ekD
					uKhZUT8mVSWSX81LI%7Ctkp%3ABFBMvMaagKRi
32	eBay7	2677	1919		Heavy weight team 5 th Batt Royal Fusiliers Clipstone May 1919
				This Text Will Not So On Your Plant	https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/295480489884?hash=item44cc02779c:g:7q0AAOSwsSxjyRk-
					&amdata=enc%3AAQAIAAAA4HCddFRtufGJhLL8Zvom9KjilZZDoeMtnblC2SGHeEN%2BiAeS0Vq9gVVHBvOl%2B
					RBBSpUQHr92PBU0lHrJf2wJDv4CFZRtt1NW1AsV1WUTQVJaLM51Ma3m2ZWYJucKEMBHYkn9kFp1LwrETvmTB

					%2BHSdCbfHayvd0Lq0DKIHrLYTv%2FrffDgW4KkInbKvJyfOWrMzSy86%2FHjJ2%2BtQue0UrozijjpebS7eaDy5kbju Q6JKQt%2F6eCalm2nsTOFqrbF7AAsxqOG%2FYkiF41wMbxwhlq16EHhpHm9Zr6MbqsqiX%2BTMMgE%7Ctkp% 3ABFBMvMaagKRi
33	eBay8	Clipstone 26	1915		Soldiers in the lines, perhaps preparing for inspection.
					https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/233452696977?hash=item365add7591:g:BiIAAOSwNcReDRNe&amdata=enc%3A AQAIAAAAwI51%2Fad%2FGjoKFv1nTPqKFsXHQjMMC0lLaeqQO8tG5Y7Am11z5GZnFZ5P2WqCt2Q6SneTSEvegS t%2FcY3W5LAZIPASQfxry8AF71l8OOiYve0LFP9MtcX9Q7tqFOG3O1BgIfDalu03fAl2znJlvlc2tyzGLTWof4rOdehj83 krA1eqQPv8kq0QKVokO1PwoduEjUlkAO7ljCDIAt%2FRtFnbbse3S3zHpb9FgewmXpDlmOzn1enqAm%2FCtrTOU 5FWmGVLuQ%3D%3D%7Ctkp%3ABk9SR7zGmoCkYg
34 el	eBay9	42N	June 1915		Writing on the back states 4 th Co, 21 Service Batt Royal Fusiliers. Pt, C K Parsons back row, 6 th from left.
				The second secon	https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/334807392431?hash=item4df41360af:g:R3YAAOSw-jNj95dU&amdata=enc%3AAQAIAAAA4PNanMlflN801W2BkSNXh71l2AEiYq4Ond%2FlsRuxpUlnPj4JXH3alCUyse UxBMUo0A3sAlIbNNX6FmShIU25EkFBv9lm5tw6r6yVl1YO%2FAfLzGq9tEoeyQXE4hmMMgu51ZEDTMHkc8lZq4 AfEoRfESrywaqD6oyNS8aZNt9k%2BzfqN9y4oIMQJgfJuR%2Fl01QWA694WceX7TawJcdPe%2F928XE0187CBbgt oTkHzvXkVX0MQ1ufjiYt871rrFznDx9SufKqVDFc0K%2F8SEWUTPqJzppC59q2pAsy2rf6I5wwVj5M%7Ctkp%3ABk 9SR77GmoCkYg
35	eBay 10	3909	unkn own	Various Course	View of Clipstone Camp https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/260630686600
36	eBay 11		1919	SOLUTION OF THE SOLUTION OF TH	Writing on the back states Royal Fusiliers, Clipstone Camp 1919. https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/154172451609
37	eBay 12	J Yates Photogra			Mounted soldier
		pher Clipstone 123			https://picclick.co.uk/Old-Photo-Man-Military-Uniform-Artillery-Belt-Sword-385671772007.html
38	eBay 13	1068 &			Officers 7 NCOs R coy 31 st J R Bn Clipstone Nov 1917
		photogra phers name			https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/225451402328?hash=item347df36458:g:Qx0AAOSwhtxj786c&amdata=enc%3AAQAIAAAAwGJ4uPkqFZu60vDS0PLzQYPUAtyP%2F7kZ6L7dfj9go3%2FEgfw35Kti75juXbMv92%2B3A18KuIKpwBvr1apJ13hMNtq28nTKgSuJLwJvix%2FIj05YMJaDe5y1fYbb7zJquw8JklXawmYJCJ8Vju3zMSAqPXDFAAnyDrYg7LTfm

		(too			uaTMGY4iRfsE9E9hW%2FNPNY81sGqhynKDSNkVFDqDgV3biSRiJ3U%2Bybemr%2BNiA5k6gH%2ByZwHWSVIXIY
		small).			0t6FFHGcJybHq7w%3D%3D%7Ctkp%3ABk9SR9L0tpGkYg
39	(Wort	Clipstone			Soldiers with cars and bicycles.
	hPoin	Camp			
	t,	Mansfiel		Lion Line	https://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/gb-postcard-clipstone-camp-mansfield-246673536
	2023)	d 1915		Committee Names a 110	
Our M	I ansfield ai	nd Area web	 sita http	s://www.ourmansfielda	ndarea org.uk/
40	1	III Alea Web	isite iittp	s.//www.ourmansneida	Christmas at Clipstone. Pauline Marples collection.
40					https://www.ourmansfieldandarea.org.uk/content/place/clipstone/christmas_for_the_soldiers
41	2	3178	1920		14 platoon, D Coy 51 st Gordon Highlanders, Clipstone Feb 1920.
		Photogra			
		phers		以 商的转动的5次。	https://www.ourmansfieldandarea.org.uk/content/place/clipstone_camp_and_the_gay_gordons
		name		1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
42	3		1918	I sales de did de la constante	Women at Clipstone Camp – NACB (Navy and Army Canteen Board). Christmas 1918, Clipstone Camp. 3
					images taken at Clipstone Camp.
					https://www.ourmansfieldandarea.org.uk/content/place/clipstone/women_at_clipstone_camp
Fareha	m: Clipsto	ne Camp 19	94		
43	Pg. 1	Pg. 10			The remains of the sewage system built in 1915 to the north of Clipstone Drive. Waste was transported here from the camp b horse and cart.
44	Pg.15	Clipstone			One of the shooting ranges dug side by side in the rising ground to the south of the stream that feeds Vickers
		94		La Carrier Maria	Pond. A wooden bridge crossed the stream, replaced by stepping stones in the 1930s.
45	Pg.15	Clipstone 9A	1915	CURTOR	Derbyshire Yeomanry filling their palliasses (bedding) with straw.

46	Pg.17				The Spa Ponds below Garibaldi Woods were used for swimming. A safety boat was always deployed.
47	Pg.18			1 11	One of the three YMCA huts. Outside stand soldiers, a Chaplain, women who worked at the camp, and a civilian man and boy.
48	Pg.24				The train at Clipstone Camp. Whilst providing a regular service to Mansfield, it could not accommodate the mass movement of troops. Troops arrived and departed from Mansfield, Edwinstowe or Worksop and marched to Clipstone. The station was built on a raised earth platform edged with railway sleepers.
49	Pg.25	Clipstone 19	1915		A semi-circular shunting line passed around the inside of the camp, crossing what is now 3 rd and 4 th Avenue along Mansfield Road, and turning into the camp at 7 th Avenue and ending at the Guardroom. This was used to move heavy loads around the camp.
50	Pg.25	Clipstone 15	1915		Guards on parade outside the Guardroom. The Guardroom had a veranda that ran the length of the hut, an off-duty room, three small cells, one large cell, and offices.
51	Pg.27		1915	alteraction or fact hospital Factoria (est	No. 3 Officers Lines 21 st Batt 98 th B of RF Clipstone Camp. Tents and huts together.
Priestle	ey, 2015		•	Lid and California	
52	Pg. 2	Clipstone 42	1915	Carpetone 12	Soldiers march past the junction of Clipstone Drive and Newlands Drive.
53	Pg. 3	Clipstone 127	1915		A view along one of the camp lines. Trees in the background.

54	Pg. 4				Soldiers of the West Yorkshire Regiment outside a barrack hut.
Faceb	ook WW1	Clipstone Ca	amp Gro	up https://www.faceboo	ok.com/groups/183730841782245
55	(Priest ley, 2013, May.)	Johnsons Camp Shop Series 4443			Barrack Huts and Johnson's Shop with adverts for the Pow-wow. https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10151435867503244&set=g.183730841782245
56	Nigel Higgin botha m	AGL 381	27/07 /1915	10	Postcard of soldiers bathing at Vicar Water. Sent by Albert to his mum in Essex. Mentions trench digging at night. Stamped with Clipstone Camp https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10207586470203237&set=g.183730841782245
57	Priestl ey, Tim 2015	Target Practice Clipston e 106		narama Alexandra	Tim Priestley identifies this as being the practice range west of Vicar Water. Soldiers can be seen firing in this photograph. Good view of the inside of the firing range. https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10153052067098244&set=g.183730841782245
58	Nigel Higgin botha m	Pilling Photo 145		0000	Horses and soldiers at Clipstone https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10207271444047780&set=g.183730841782245
59	Tim Priestl ey			VNCA E CUPSTORECAMB	YMCA Hut 2 in the snow at Clipstone. Posted 28/07/2015 https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10152995172368244&set=g.183730841782245
60	John Finch				"This is Granddad George Shelton before he went to Clipstone Camp. And George after he had been wounded on 27th November 1917 at Bourlon Wood, he is sixth from the left on the back row". https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1448410065472112&set=pcb.480683062087020
61	Andy Gwyn ne	969		My antaration angles	Still Sticking It! Clipstone Camp 1921 https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158464233098354&set=g.183730841782245

Postcards

Local photographers were quick to seize the opportunity to produce Clipstone Camp postcards that soldiers could buy to send to home. Alison North is a collector of Clipstone Camp Postcards and posted these copies in the WW1 Clipstone Camp Facebook group.



Figure 62 An assortment of Clipstone Camp postcards (North, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 05/05/2020)



Figure 63 A Silk Postcard sent from Clipstone Camp (North, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2022)



Figure 64 A silk postcard from Clipstone Camp collected by Alison North (North, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2020)

COnstant Camp 1917 -
Clipstone Camp
Mansfield
Here we are at Clipstone Camp, Nearfar famed Mansfield town; Where Robin Hood & Friar Tuck 'did' Mayors & Bishops
Tho we don't now meet Maid Marion in garb of Lincoln Green
There lots of prim and pretty girls in Sherwood still are seen.
How the good folks make us welcome, invite the 'boys' to tea At their Homes, their Rests and in thousands at their Y.M.C. Where 'allright' well they cater, with no patronizing air.
But as 'brothers all' and comrades, ; men tolk and ladies fair
Serve out substantial foodstuff, good, wholesome, 'toothsome', cheap.
And should you wish to letters write, to read or have a 'sleep' I here are lounge chairs big and cosy, where your limbs you can stretch out
Aftertiresome drills, parade and 'grills' or march on rugged route.
And for those who're fond of Billiards or love to 'Snooker' play
There's Tables four, with Cues and Ball, for use at easy pay. You can pot the Red and Colours, win Positions, use your Chalk To Cannons make, try Hazards, Bag your foe, Entrench in Baulk.
With Pierotts, Bands and Concerts too we banish Old Dull Care We "pack him up in our old kit bag" as daily loads we bear, We smile and we sing of the "Home fires bright", so Cheer up 1
dont be cast down!!
We're 'jolly and fit' whilst doing our bit; in merry old Mansfield town.
P.S.—
And should you want to visit us, send word, don't go round
dodging —
The Y.M.C and their numerous friends will find you "week
end" Lodging.
Where you'll find good friends to meet you to make you quite
For they regot lads, sweethearts and dads in Khaki of their own.
H.C.

Figure 65 A Clipstone Camp Poem Postcard (North, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 05/05/2020)

Others were found in the same Facebook group:

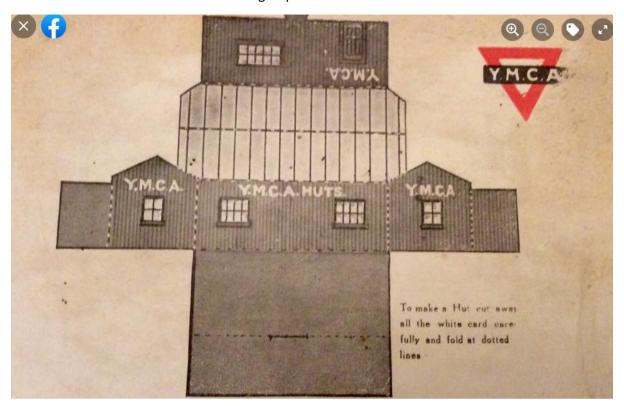


Figure 66 Novelty YMCA postcard (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2016)

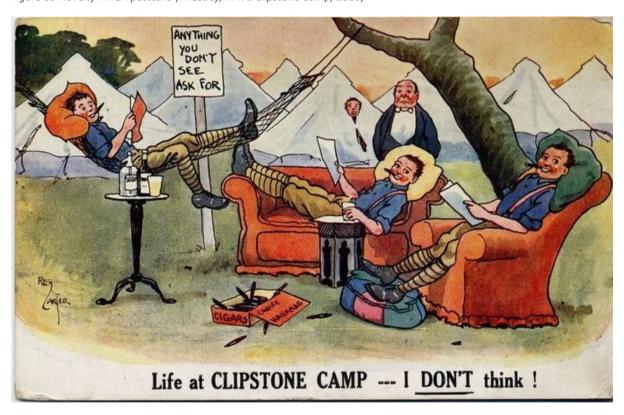


Figure 67 Clipstone Postcard (Newbold, WW1 Clipstone Camp Postcard, 2013)





Figure 68 (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 05/10/2013) Figure 69 Clipstone Camp Postcards collected by Allan Petcher (Petcher, 2018)

J.C. Fareham (Fareham, 1994) also has a collection of postcards. The message on the back of the Machine Gun Corp postcard refers to Canadians in the camp.

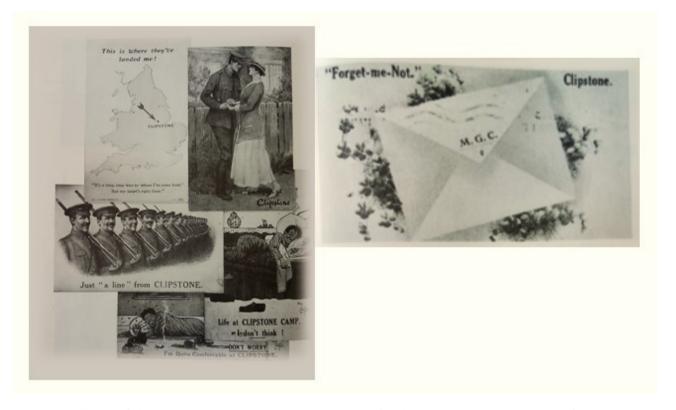


Figure 70 A collection of Clipstone Camp postcards collected by JC Fareham (Fareham, Clipstone Camp an account of a military training camp of the First World War, 1994)

8. Secondary Sources

The following secondary sources were identified and reference throughout this report.

- Publications three main sources: Marples 2014, Priestley 2015 and Fareham 1994, 1996 and many more, see References for full list.
- Local history websites <u>www.ourmansfieldarea.org.uk</u> https://www.foresttown.net/index.php/heritage/
- Local visitor websites www.visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk, www.sherwoodforestvisitor.com
- WW1 research forum https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/
- WW1 Database: https://livesofthefirstworldwar.iwm.org.uk/searchlives/Clipstone%20camp/filter 37 results.

The Sherwood Forest Visitor website (Sherwood Forest Visitor, 2012) provided good detail about the construction of training features "Five battalions of Royal Fusiliers arrived in 1915 and helped to set up the camp and establish firing ranges and trenches. Rifle and pistol ranges were constructed near the camp to the south of Vicar Pond (see map). A large network of trenches, straight, curved (The Manchester Trench) right-angled and zig-zag were dug across the heath as far as Oak Tree Lane in Mansfield. Some of these can still be seen in Sherwood Pines".

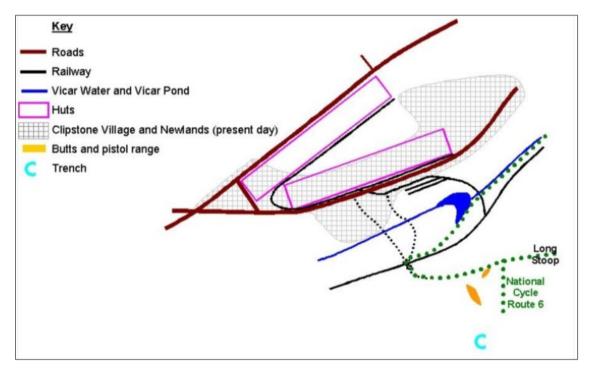


Figure 71 Plan from (Sherwood Forest Visitor, 2012)



Figure 72 Manchester Circular Trench from (Sherwood Forest Visitor, 2012)

The Manchester Circular trench looks on the map provided to be in Sherwood Pines. This website also mentioned Oak Tree Lane, which I have detailed further on page 47.

9. Conclusion

Extensive research into Clipstone camp has been published by several local historians. A camp plan drawn by the War Office (War Office, 1915) very clearly shows the layout of the camp and this fits neatly over modern mapping of new Clipstone village, with modern roads following the camp lines.

Clipstone Camp is shown below (Figure 73) in relation to the known training areas. Archaeological evidence has been found of extensive training features in the area of Sherwood Pines (Casswell, 2023) and Strawberry Hill Wood (Gillot, 2021). First-hand accounts mention route marches of 20 miles, and men marching 3 to 4 miles almost daily, to rifle ranges and trenches. Several photos show soldiers marching along Clipstone Drive (the distance from the camp across Vicar Water to Sherwood Pines or Strawberry wood is approx. 3 miles, or 4 miles if going by road through Forest Town). Potentially, any of the area surrounding the camp, could have been used for training (excluding three known areas of pre-existing land use marked in yellow). The U.P. S (U.P.S, 1917) write about trench training as far away as Rufford. As a post-war forest, Sherwood Pines should not be considered as a boundary in terms of WW1 activity. Therefore, areas to the north, west and south should be further investigated too, to complete the story.



Figure 73 The site of the camp and training areas (Google , 2023)

The area of the camp has not been investigated archaeologically, for the Major to Minor project. LiDAR coverage of the camp area is incomplete but does reveal some areas that would benefit from ground-truthing. By overlying the camp plan on google maps (Figure 22), it is possible to identify undeveloped areas that may also benefit from ground survey, fieldwalking and possibly excavation. These areas are listed in the following table.

Area for investigation	Figure Ref	LiDAR	Look for	Archaeological Potential	
Northern Lines					
Newlands Junior School Field	35	Yes	Barracks & Parade Grounds	Low	
Fields	35	Yes	Barracks & Parade Grounds	Low	
Hospital Site	37	Yes	Hospital Buildings	High	
Sewage Plant	38-42	Yes	Sewage Plant emptying Station and filter beds.	High	
Central Camp Area					
Intake Woods	31	Yes	Arboglyphs, artefacts, training features?	Medium	
Miniature Rifle Range	32	Yes	Rifle range and artefacts.	High	
Central Firing Range?	33	Yes	Firing Range?	Medium	
Field	34	Yes	Any evidence	Low	
Allotments	34	Yes	Artefacts?	Medium	
Southern Lines					
Garibaldi School area	26	Yes	Evidence of Barrack Area	Low	
Clipstone Welfare Centre Sports Ground & Bowls Club	28	No	Barracks & Parade Grounds	Medium	
Third Avenue	29	No	Barracks & Parade Grounds	Medium	
Samuel Barlow School Field	30	No	Evidence of Barrack Area	Medium	
Highfield Road	30	No	Evidence of Barrack Area	Medium	
Training areas outside the camp					
Oak Tree Lane Area	43	No	Training Features	Medium	
Vicars Water Country Park	Historic Photo 44	No	Training Features inc. Firing Range.	Medium	

In addition to fieldwork, the following work is recommended:

- Contact Pauline Marples to see if it possible to make a copy of the colour War Office Camp Plan.
- Collate and professionally photograph and record the WW1 artefacts found. Pauline Marples
 has the contact details (ensure this includes Tryner & Machin). This could be a volunteer
 training opportunity.
- Host a public show and tell event for the public to bring along artefacts found in gardens and allotments etc that may relate to the camp. Advertise this through the three Clipstone Facebook groups and local newspapers. Photograph and record these items. This could be incentivised with a talk by one of the local historians, perhaps over Remembrance weekend in November.
- Arrange a meeting/tour with Pauline Marples, Tim Priestley and JC Fareham to discuss their knowledge in relation to archaeological remains of the camp and training areas (put locations to the photographs found in Appendix 2).
- Make contact with the Clipstone Community Regeneration Group, who were awarded National Lottery Heritage Funding in January to record the heritage of Clipstone. https://www.facebook.com/ClipstoneHeadstocks

It is very evident that local people are interested in Clipstone's military heritage. Memorials to all those who served at the camp can be found in the car park of the social club in Fifth Avenue and at Vicars Water.



Figure 74 Clipstone Camp Memorials Top: Social Club (Barksby, Clipstone Past and Present, 2021) Bottom: Vicars Water (Barksby, Vicars Water Monument, 2021)

Appendix 1 Military Hospital Photographs by Tim Priestley

Taken following ground clearance work in May 2020.



Figure 75 Hospital Site Clearance 1 (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2020)



Figure 76 Hospital Site Clearance 2 (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2020)



Figure 77 Hospital Site Clearance 3 (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2020)



Figure 78 Hospital Site Clearance 4 (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2020)



Figure 79 Hospital Site Clearance 5 (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2020)



Figure 80 Hospital Site Clearance 6 (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2020)



Figure 81 Hospital Site Clearance 7 (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2020)



Figure 82 Hospital Site Clearance 8 (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2020)



Figure 83 Hospital Site Clearance 9 (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2020)



Figure 84 Hospital Site Clearance 10 (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2020)



Figure 85 Hospital Site Clearance 11 (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2020)

Appendix 2: Archaeological Evidence in Sherwood Pines

LiDAR and Groundtruthing in Sherwood Pines was covered in the first DBA (Casswell, 2023). Included here are photographs of archaeological remains found in the forested areas whilst researching the camp. Unfortunately, all are lacking location data.

These photographs taken by Tim Priestley show the remains of trenches and shell holes in Sherwood Pines (Priestley, Facebook, 2023). Unfortunately, there is no location reference, but in the Facebook posts he does offer to meet interested people and show them the locations.



Figure 86 Shell hole (Priestley, Facebook, 2023)



Figure 87 Trench (Priestley, Facebook, 2023)



Figure 88 Trench (Priestley, Facebook, 2023)



Figure 89 (Priestley, Facebook, 2023)



Figure 90 (Priestley, Facebook, 2023)





Figure 922 Pistol Range near Clipstone (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2013, June)

Figure 913 (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2013, June)



Figure 93 (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2013, June)

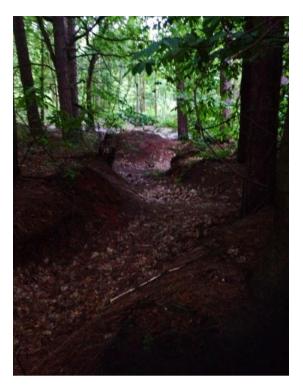


Figure 94 (Priestley, WW1 Clipstone Camp, 2013, June)

J.C. Fareham also includes images of surviving trenches in his book (Fareham, Clipstone Camp an account of a military training camp of the First World War, 1994, p. 16)

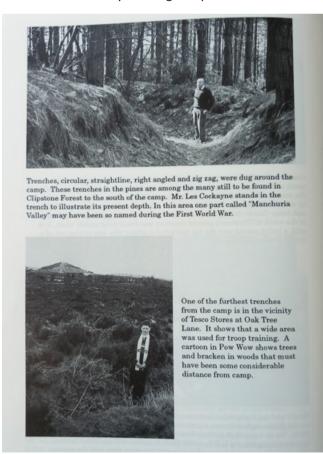


Figure 95 Fareham's Trench Photos (Fareham, Clipstone Camp an account of a military training camp of the First World War, 1994)

Three other images of trenches in Sherwood Pines (dated 2005, location unknown) were found for sale on eBay.



Link
https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/325296336689?has
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