

Sawtry Way Postwar Temporary Housing - Origins and Occupation History.

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1. Introduction.

This Addendum to the research report "*The Postwar Use of Sawtry/Wood Walton Lane POW Camp for Civilian Housing*", 27 April 2022 describes the origins of the plan to use the Sawtry/Wood Walton Lane Prisoner of War (POW) Camp 59 - shown in Figure 1 as it was in June 1946 - for the temporary housing of local people after the last of the Prisoners of War had left and the Camp was closed as a POW Camp in 1948. Discussions, beginning at the end of May 1948, between the Ministry of Health and Huntingdonshire County Council (HCC) regarding the use of POW Camp 59 buildings for civilian housing are described, as is the need to refurbish, or convert, the selected buildings for civilian housing and the selection of a local contractor to do the conversion work. The allocation of the resulting converted dwellings to their first civilian occupants - tenants of HCC - is described. To the Council, these council dwellings would be known as "Sawtry Way Temporary Housing", whilst they were to be known to the residents and to local people as "The Camp". This Addendum goes on to identify the holders of all Sawtry Way tenancies and the durations of their tenancies. Some comments on everyday life at The Camp are provided. These have mostly been gathered from a small group of surviving Camp residents, who were children of Camp tenants. These "children of The Camp" have also provided some contemporary photographs taken at The Camp, which were not available at the time of publication of the main body of this research report in April 2022.

This Addendum covers the period from the 28th of May 1948, when the Ministry of Health first suggested to HCC that, as the huts of the POW Camp were now redundant, they might be used for civilian dwellings - to the 2nd of December 1957, when the last HCC tenants had left Sawtry Way and Sawtry Way Temporary Housing was effectively closed.

Also addressed is the installation of a pipeline of the Government Pipelines and Storage System (GPSS), which ran close to the Camp and the installation of the Sawtry Petroleum Storage Depot (PSD), which was constructed on the area of the former POW Camp Prisoners' Enclosure. While the pipeline was laid some time before civilian housing began, installation of the PSD may have overlapped with the civilian occupancy of Sawtry Way.

The principal information sources for this Addendum include the records of the HCC Housing Committee - from which sections 4,5,6,7,8 and 9 of this Addendum quote extensively. This Addendum also draws on Annual Reports to the Huntingdon Rural District Council by the Medical Officer of Health, HCC Rent Registers and Electoral Registers for Huntingdonshire. Reference documents listed in the main body of this research report have also been used, as well as some personal recollections of surviving Sawtry Way residents. Full details of the sources used are given in Section 14 References.

2. Acknowledgements.

I wish to acknowledge the help and support of the following collaborators, who, like me, were children of Sawtry Way, a.k.a. The Camp:

- Dave Sweeney has made a very substantial contribution to this research, with his numerous visits to the Huntingdon Archives, reviewing HCC Minute Books and uncovering the HCC Rent Registers and Electoral Registers for the period. Dave's work has allowed us to determine the names and tenancy dates for all of the registered tenants of Sawtry Way Temporary Council Housing and to more precisely determine the timescale over which Sawtry Way Temporary Council Housing was occupied.
- Steve Sweeney (Dave's brother) has provided personal recollections of life at Sawtry Way and a valuable contemporary photograph of the Sweeney family at Sawtry Way.
- John Holliday has provided personal recollections of life at Sawtry Way and valuable contemporary photographs of the Holliday family at Sawtry Way.
- Tommy Holliday (John's brother) has provided personal recollections of life at Sawtry Way.
- Barry Keeble and Barry's Sister Carol have provided personal recollections of life at Sawtry Way and four valuable contemporary photographs of Keeble and Nicholls family members at Sawtry Way.

I also wish to acknowledge the contribution made by Malcolm Wayland with information on the Government Pipelines and Storage System (GPSS) and its component, the Sawtry Petroleum Storage Depot (PSD), which was built on an adjacent area of the POW Camp 59 site as the occupancy of Sawtry Way Temporary Council Housing was coming to an end.

Sources are explicitly acknowledged for all of the photographs and illustrations contained in this Addendum. All photographs and illustrations are used herein for private research only.

3. Overview

The Sawtry Way Temporary Housing project, which at its peak might have housed as many as 120 people or more in 24 separate dwellings, has its origins in the severe housing shortage following the Second World War. With the repatriation of German POWs, which was complete by 1948, the many POW camps in the UK were no longer required for their original purpose. Some were subject to spontaneous irregular occupation, or "squatting", by homeless people, while others were taken over by local authorities to be used for council housing in a time of need. At the invitation of the Ministry of Health, Huntingdonshire County Council (HCC) took over 24 of the 55 huts at Sawtry/Wood Walton Lane Prisoner of War (POW) Camp 59 for temporary housing of local people in the latter part of 1948. The HCC undertook the conversion of the selected huts - which were those outside of the Prisoners' Compound - to provide 24 Council dwellings, the first of which were ready for occupation in late 1948, with all 24 dwellings being occupied by early 1949. While the HCC began scaling back the number of dwellings to be used as early as 1953, temporary council housing at Sawtry Way went on until late 1957, by which time approximately 41 families or individuals had held tenancies there. Most of the occupants of Sawtry Way were eventually found more permanent council housing within Huntingdonshire, with many being relocated to Sawtry and other local villages. The table below provides a summary of the timeline of major events in the life of the Sawtry Way Temporary Housing project.

SAWTRY WAY TEMPORARY COUNCIL HOUSING TIMELINE	
<u>1948:</u>	
Departure of all prisoners the and closing of POW Camp 59	April/May 1948
Ministry of Health (MoH) invites HCC to use Camp Huts for Council Housing	28 May 1948
HCC Housing Committee recommends taking up the MoH Offer	11 June 1948
HCC Housing Committee selects a Contractor for the Conversion of 24 selected Huts	17th Sept.1948
The Selected Conversion Contractor takes over the site	Circa. 15 Oct. 1948
HCC Housing Committee selects the First Sawtry Way Tenants and fixes rents	12th of Nov. 1948
The first 5 Sawtry Way Dwellings are Occupied (with 17 residents)	15 Nov to 13 Dec. 1948
<u>1949</u>	
Sawtry Way Completed & Occupied (24 Dwellings).	29th April 1949
<u>1953</u>	
Deletion of selected Sawtry Way Dwellings begins	18 Jan. 1953
<u>1957</u>	
Deletion of all Sawtry Way Dwellings completed (end of all tenancies)	2 Dec 1957
Construction of Sawtry Petroleum Storage Depot (PSD) begins	1957 (Estimate Only)

4. The Origins of Sawtry Way Temporary Housing.

A plan of Sawtry/Wood Walton Lane POW Camp 59 as it was while prisoners were still present is shown in Figure 2. This plan is probably based on the 1946 photograph of Figure 1. At the top of the plan is the rectangular prisoners' enclosure. Beneath this in the plan are the guards' barracks and administration buildings, which were the buildings selected by HCC in 1948 to be used for Temporary Council Housing. Figure 3 shows a Detail of the June 1946 photograph of Figure 1 showing these buildings which were selected by HCC.

Available records show that there were 275 German Prisoners of War remaining at Sawtry POW Camp as late as the 31st of March 1948. From water consumption figures for the POW Camp (Figure 4), recorded by the Medical Officer of Health to the Huntingdon Rural District Council and from correspondence sent to HCC from the Ministry of Health, it can be concluded that all prisoners had left the Camp by the end of May 1948.

A meeting of the HCC Housing Committee on the 11th June 1948 heard a report of a special meeting of the HCC Housing Committee which was held at Sawtry POW Camp on the 9th of June 1948 at 6.30 PM. Those present at this special meeting were Mr. T. W. Collett (Chairman), Mr. T.G.C. Evans, Mr. M.E. Hunting, Mr. J. Swales, Mr. J. H. Newton and Mr. G. L Grey¹. In attendance were Dr. J. R. Garood (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. H. E. Doe (Architect), Mr. R. H. Short (Assistant Sanitary Inspector) and Mr. W. Midwood (Clerk).

The [special] meeting was called on the instructions of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Housing Committee as a result of a letter dated the 28th of May 1948 from the Ministry of Health advising the Council that approximately 56 huts² on the P.O.W. Camp, Sawtry have been declared by the

¹ It is thought that the members of the Housing Committee attending this special meeting were primarily Councillors from the Sawtry area.

² The 56 huts mentioned in the Ministry of Health letter appear to include the huts within the Prisoners' Enclosure as well as the buildings outside the Prisoners' Enclosure, which had been used by the guarding Armed Forces personnel.

Ministry of Works to be redundant and enquiring whether the Council are interested in the hutments for housing accommodation.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Housing Committee had also instructed the Clerk to ask Mr. H. E. Doe to make a preliminary survey of the hutments offered in order to be in a position to give advice to the Committee at the meeting.

A comprehensive inspection of the buildings outside the Prisoner's compound was made by the members and excluding the Carpenter's Shop and the Concert Hall, provision can be made for the following temporary dwellings:-

2	1 bedroom
13	2 bedrooms
8	3 bedrooms
3	4 bedrooms

Total 26 Dwellings

Upon the proposition of Mr. T. G. C Evans seconded by Mr. J. Swales, it was Unanimously Resolved to Recommend: That in the event of the site being taken over by the Council -

- a) No provision shall be made for the time being for the conversion of the Concert Hall;
- b) The Nissen Hut and the Carpenter's shop be not converted.

Upon the proposition of Mr. M. E. Hunting seconded by Mr. G. L. Grey, it was Unanimously Resolved to Recommend

- a) That the Ministry of Health be informed that this Council is prepared to take over the buildings which are situate outside the Prisoner's compound³ on the P.O.W. Camp, Sawtry and provide accommodation for 26 families under the terms of paragraph 6 of Ministry of Health Circular 20/46. [Figure 2 shows HCCs selection of buildings outside the Prisoners' Enclosure to be used for Temporary Housing].
- b) That permission of the Ministry of Health be sought for the immediate conversion of one building with a view to its immediate letting to a suitable tenant free of rent for the time being on condition that the tenant selected agrees to act as Caretaker of the site until such time as the remaining work can be completed.
- c) In the event of the Ministry's approval being given to recommendation (b), the selection of a suitable tenant be left to the three Sawtry Representatives.
- d) That the recommendation of the Housing Committee under Minute No. 43 of a meeting held on the 28th May with regard to the taking over of Site 6 on the Alconbury R.A.F. Station be referred back by the Council to the next meeting of the Housing Committee.

Upon the proposition of Mr. T. W. Collett seconded by Mr. M. E. Hunting, it was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED That the report of the Housing Committee of a special meeting held on the 9th June 1948 be and is hereby adopted.

ARCHITECT FOR WORK ON SAWTRY P.O.W CAMP: Upon the proposition of Mr J. H. Newton seconded by Mr M. E. Hunting, it was RESOLVED That Mr. H. E. Doe A.R.I.B.A. be appointed to act for the Council as Architect for the work required to be done in connection with the conversion of buildings on the Sawtry P.O.W. Camp into temporary dwellings.

³ No rationale is recorded in council minutes for why hutments inside the Prisoners' Compound were not included in the number to be used for temporary council housing. However, it is likely that the prisoner's huts, being more of the Nissen Hut type, were assessed as being less amenable to adaptation to create individual family homes to a satisfactory standard. Also, there may well have been socio-political reservations to offering converted prisoners' quarters to the indigenous civilian population.

5. Conversion of the Selected Buildings for Civilian Dwellings.

A meeting of the HCC Housing Committee on the 17th September 1948 addressed SAWTRY P.O.W. CAMP

The following tenders for the conversion of buildings on the above site into 24 temporary dwellings were opened by the chairman:-

	£.	s.	d.
H. Steward, Main St. Orton Waterville, Peterborough	3287.	0.	0.
Chambers & Mason, Harrow, Middlesex	3179.	18.	2.
H. V. Goodwin Ltd. Yaxley	2608.	16.	0.
C. W. Shelton, Peterborough	5170.	0.	0.
Stretton & Sons, Builders, Yaxley	2650.	0.	0.
George Stretton, Stilton	2806.	0.	0.

In considering these tenders the Committee had in mind the concern expressed earlier in the meeting at the very slow progress made by the firm of H.V. Goodwin Ltd. on the permanent houses in Fen Lane, Sawtry, and accordingly, upon the proposition of Rev. P.L. Green, seconded by Mrs. V. K. Warth, it was RESOLVED That subject to the approval of the Ministry of Health the tender of Messrs. Stretton & Sons, Builders, Ltd. of Yaxley to carry out the work for the sum of £2650 be accepted.

A meeting of the Huntingdonshire County Council Housing Committee on the 1th⁴ October 1948 heard a report concerning TEMPORARY HOUSES, SAWTRY P.O.W. CAMP. The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the Ministry of Health approving acceptance of the tender submitted by Messrs Stretton & Sons, Builders, Ltd. of Yaxley for the conversion of buildings on the above site into 24 temporary dwellings.

A meeting of the Huntingdonshire County Council Housing Committee on the 15th October 1948 heard a report concerning SAWTRY P.O.W. CAMP - ALLOCATION OF ONE HOUSE: The Clerk reported that Mr. P. D. McGinty, a married man with two children at present living in a cottage at Sawtry was due to appear at Norman Cross Police Court on Tuesday the 19th October to answer an application for possession by the owner of the tied cottage in which he lives. One of the Sawtry representatives had asked for this matter to be brought to the notice of the Housing Committee and would whole heartedly support the promise to Mr. McGinty of a house on the Sawtry P.O.W. Camp as soon as one is available. It is thought that this procedure might help the Court in deciding the application to be heard on the 19th. Upon the proposition of Mr. J.H. Moss seconded by Mr. N. Gingell, it was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND That one of the first houses to be available on the Sawtry P.O.W. Camp be allocated to Mr. P.D. McGinty of Toll Bar Cottages, Sawtry.

This same meeting addressed a report from Mr. H. E. Doe. MR. H.E. DOE'S PROGRESS REPORT: A letter was received from Mr. H.E. Doe apologising for his absence from the meeting and enclosing the following Progress Report [regarding Sawtry P.O.W. Camp]:-

Sawtry P.O.W. Camp: Contractor has taken over the site and is carting materials ready for starting next week.

6. Selection of the First Residents.

A meeting of the Huntingdonshire County Council Housing Committee on the 12th of November 1948 allocated the available temporary dwellings to their first residents, as follows:

SAWTRY P.O.W. CAMP - ALLOCATION OF TEMPORARY DWELLINGS

Lists of applications having been circulated with the Agendas, consideration was given to the allocation of 23 dwellings on the Sawtry P.O.W. Camp.

⁴ The day in October is not clear from the records.

It was RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND That these dwellings be allocated⁵ as follows⁶:

Mr. R. H Bourne, Bridge House, Alconbury Weston.
Mr. E. C. Carter, Church Street, Kings Ripton.
Mr. J. W. J. Clifton*, 12, Ouse Walk, Huntingdon.
Mr. D. B. Coster, Queens Cottages, Church St. Sawtry.
Mr. M. B. Dewberry⁷, Church End, Woodwalton, Hunts.
Mr. M. W. Fellows, "Lyndale", East Street, Huntingdon.
Mr. A. L. Ford, High Street, Spaldwick.
Miss. A. Garner, Conington, near Peterborough.
Mrs. B. M. Haylock, 4, Thrapston Road, Spaldwick.
Mr. H. E. Hilton, 4 Council House, Ailsworth, near Peterborough.
Mr. H. W. Holliday, New Buildings, Caldecote, near Stilton.
Mr. E. W. Joyce, 86 Southfields Avenue, Whittlesey Rd, Farcet.
Mr. W. Lumbers, Rectory Farm, Luddington, Barnwell, Peterborough.
Mr. James McGowan, Bell Lane, Green End, Sawtry.
Mr. Michael McGowan, Church Street, Sawtry.
Mrs. E. M. McQuillan, c/o Mrs McShane, 12 Council House, Maxey, Peterborough.
Mr. D. Nixon, c/o No. 4 Railway Cottages, Woodwalton.
Mr. P. J. O'Boyle, Common Farm, Sawtry.
Mr. Charles Ruff, Grange Farm Cottages, Grantham Road, Waddington, Lincoln.
Mr. G. H. Shelton, 13, School Hill, Sawtry.
Mr. G. E. Summers, 3 Alberta Crescent, Huntingdon.
Mrs. E. V. Tiegge, c/o 23 Council Houses, Green End, Sawtry.
Mr. E. Sweeney, Green End, Sawtry.

** James Henry Clifton in the Electoral Roll with Qualifying Date 20 November 1949.*

7. Dwelling Sizes and Rents.

The meeting of the Huntingdonshire County Council Housing Committee on the 12th of November 1948 addressed Rents for Sawtry P.O.W. Camp accommodation.

SAWTRY P.O.W. CAMP - RENTS : Consideration was given to the fixing of rents for the temporary dwellings being converted on this site. It was reported that the sizes of the dwellings varied as follows: -

2 No. -	1 bedroom type
5 No. -	2 bedroom type
14 No. -	3 bedroom type
3 No. -	4 bedroom type

The Committee referred to the rents being charged for permanent houses in Sawtry and for temporary dwellings on other camps in the district, and after consideration it was RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND That

⁵ HCC tenancies tended to be in the name of 1 adult, usually the husband if he was present.

⁶ Mr Patrick David McGinty, though not shown on the HCC list of 12 November 1948, was in fact given the first of all Sawtry Way tenancies (dwelling No.2), on 15 Nov. 1948. It is possible, though it cannot be confirmed, that Mr McGinty was appointed to a caretaker role for the site as was resolved in the HCC Housing Committee meeting of the 11th of June 1948; resolution points b) and c).

⁷ Mr. M. B. Dewberry is presumed to be Mark Dewberry, who, as recalled by Harry Joyce, was a tractor driver for the farming of fields adjacent to the Camp.

subject to the approval of the Ministry of Health the following weekly rents be fixed for the temporary dwellings on the Sawtry P.O.W. Camp: -

	s.	d.	
1 bedroom type	6.	0	plus rates
2 bedroom type	7.	6.	do.
3 bedroom type	8.	0.	do.
4 bedroom type	9.	0.	do.

8. Dwelling Completion and Occupation.

Completion of the process of converting the huts for habitation by civilian families was progressive, i.e. not all dwellings were ready for occupation at the same time. Minutes of the HCC Housing Committee record some discussion of the readiness of the first dwellings.

The meeting of the Huntingdonshire County Council Housing Committee on the 12th of November 1948 addressed a Progress Report by Mr. H.E. Doe (Architect).

MR. H.E. DOE'S PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Doe read the following report: - Sawtry P.O.W. Camp.

One 3 bedroom dwelling will be ready this weekend for an emergency case. Also the first single bedroom one⁸. 2 others will be ready next weekend. Drainage is well ahead. Some delay in starting was caused by shortage of hollow clay blocks, but those are now being delivered regularly.

The minutes from a meeting of the Huntingdonshire County Council Housing Committee on the 10th of December 1948 record:

Sawtry P.O.W. Camp.

Five dwellings will be occupied on Monday and two more are nearly completed. Work has commenced on several of the others. A fair amount of extra work has been necessary in tracing burst water pipes. Most of the materials are on the site and there should be little delay in the steady completion of this Contract.

From HCC Rent Registers, it is clear that 5 tenancies began during the remainder of 1948. The 1948 edition of the Annual Report to the Huntingdon Rural District Council by the Medical Officer of Health identifies new houses occupied in 1948, with 5 new houses in Sawtry Way (Figure 5). The same report describes water supplies to temporary housing sites at the end of 1948, with 5 houses supplied at the Sawtry Way Site, with an estimated population supplied of 17 persons (Figure 4).

The minute from a meeting of the Huntingdonshire County Council Housing Committee on the 29th of April 1949 record:

SAWTRY WAY TEMPORARY HOUSES.

Arising out of the Minutes of the last meeting, Mr H.E.Doe reported that he had examined the possibilities of removing the concrete posts in the temporary dwellings of the Sawtry Way Site. It would be uneconomical to attempt to remove the posts in some of the houses but in one or two with short span it could be done reasonably. Mr. Doe had mentioned the matter to the Ministry of Health's Regional Architect who was not enthusiastic about the removal of these posts, but if there were serious objections to them, it was suggested that one house be dealt with in the first instance. Mr. Doe informed the Committee that he could deal with No. 19 at an estimated cost of £10 and upon the proposition of Mr. J. H. Newton seconded by Mr. M. E. Hunting, it

⁸ This single bedroom one is thought to be 1 Sawtry Way, known from rent records to have been first occupied by Eric William Joyce and his wife Monica Rhoda Joyce on the 13th of December 1948. Eric and Monica had no children at that time.

was RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND That for the time being the Architect be authorised to arrange for the vertical concrete posts to be removed from No. 19 Sawtry was at an estimated cost of £10.

The minute from a meeting of the Huntingdonshire County Council Housing Committee on the 29th April 1949 also record:

Sawtry P.O.W. Camp. Completed and Occupied.

The order has been given for the provision of the stoves.

This appears to mark the point at which the Housing Committee records that the conversion of all of the 24 dwellings has been completed and that all of these dwellings has been let to selected tenants. This is corroborated in the 1949 edition of the Annual Report to the Huntingdon Rural District Council by the Medical Officer of Health, which reports, in the table of Figure 6, that 19 new houses at Sawtry Way were occupied in 1949.

In summary then, the first 5 dwellings at Sawtry Way were occupied with tenants in 1948, with the remaining dwellings being occupied by the 29th of April 1949. Section 10 addresses the full schedule of tenancies and occupants over the full lifetime of Sawtry Way Temporary Housing from 1948 to 1957.

9. Dwelling Number Designations.

The minutes from a meeting of the Huntingdonshire County Council Housing Committee on the 29th of April 1949 record:

SAWTRY WAY - HOUSING SITE

Mr J.H. Newton called attention to the omission of the numbering of the houses on this site and instructions were given for this to be arranged as quickly as possible.

It is not known when the process of numbering of the houses was completed, though this was evidently prior to the compilation of the Register of Electors issued on the 15th of October 1949, for which the Qualifying Date was the 10th of June 1949. We have not been able to confirm the precise numbering scheme for the 24 Dwellings. A provisional numbering scheme, developed by the author from available fragments of information, is shown in Figure 7.

10. Schedule of Tenancies and Occupants

The following table documents all Sawtry Way tenants and the start and end dates of their tenancies. This table has been developed using HCC Rent Registers, which record council tenancies with dates and also record the date at which each dwelling was first let and the weekly Rent. Electoral Registers for Sawtry have provided corroboration of tenants' location at Sawtry Way and have been used to identify other occupants of voting age for each of the 24 dwellings. In the case of some families (Joyce, Sweeney, Holliday and Keeble), the author has also researched the minor children who would have been living with their parents at The Camp. The number of bedrooms in each of the 24 dwellings has been taken from minutes of the HCC Housing Committee meetings. Finally, the Rent Registers provide the date on which the dwelling was "Deleted", which is assumed to mean the date on which the dwelling was removed from the housing stock and no longer let to tenants. There are also 4 instances of "Demolished" being recorded and the meaning of this is taken as self-evident. Examples of HCC Rent Register extracts and extracts from Electoral Registers, relating to the families of Eric William Joyce, Edward Sweeney and Horace William Holiday are shown in the following figures:

Figure 8: HCC Rent Register showing Eric William Joyce's Tenancy of No. 1 Sawtry Way from 13 Dec. 1948 to 22 Nov. 1953, then of No.2 from 23 Nov. 1953 to 10 Jan. 1955.

Figure 9: HCC Rent Register showing Edward Sweeney's Tenancy of No. 24 Sawtry Way from 21 Mar. 1949 to 12 Nov. 1956.

Figure 10: HCC Rent Register showing Horace William Holiday's Tenancy of No. 13 Sawtry Way from 7 Feb. 1949 to 30 Oct. 1949, then of No.15 from 31 Oct. 1949 to 4 Jan 1953.

Figure 11: Electoral Register Entries for Joyce, Sweeney and Holliday at Sawtry Way. *(County of Huntingdon)*

Note that the precision which Electoral Registers provide regarding the movements of a person is quite limited. The Electoral Register is essentially only fully accurate at the time the person submits their address to the Registration Officer. The period of data collection for an update to the Register may be a number of months. A person may move address a short time after making their submission to an Electoral Register yet their submitted residence would stay on the Electoral Register for many months afterwards.

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SAWTRY WAY TEMPORARY HOUSING OCCUPANCY (See Notes at bottom of Table)									
Hs. No.	Named Tenant (HCC Rent Register)	Adult Occupants (Electoral Register)	First Letting of this House	Period of Tenancy		Wkly Rent	Bed-rooms	Notes	Last Letting/Closure of this House
				Date Commenced	Date Ended				
HOUSES WHOSE FIRST TENANCIES BEGAN IN 1948:									
1	E.W. Joyce (*)	Eric William Joyce Monica Rhoda Joyce <i>Minor Son Eric William Joyce b. 1 Dec. 1949.</i> <i>Minor Son Harry Joyce b. 9 Nov. 1951</i>	13 Dec 1948	13 Dec 1948	22 Nov 1953	6s	1	Son Eric William Joyce was born here on the 1st of December 1949. Their son Harry Joyce was born here on the 9th of November 1951. E.W. Joyce and his family moved to No. 2 Sawtry Way on 23 Nov 1953. (Houses 1 and 2 are thought to have been the quarters of the POW Camp Commandant).	Deleted W.E.F 7 Dec 1953
2	D. McGinty	Patrick David McGinty Ann McGinty Also: John Murray	15 Nov 1948	15 Nov 1948	22 Nov 1953	8s	3	Mr P.D. McGinty was not on HCC 12th of Nov.1948 Allocation List of First Residents. However, he was identified by HCC as a high priority candidate for accommodation.	
	E.W. Joyce (*)	Eric William Joyce Monica Rhoda Joyce <i>Minor Son Eric William Joyce b. 1 Dec. 1949.</i> <i>Minor Son Harry Joyce b. 9 Nov. 1951</i>		23 Nov 1953	11 Jan 1955	8s	3	From the Sawtry Rent Register and from Harry Joyce's personal memory, E.W. Joyce and his family lived at # 2 Sawtry Way until they moved to 3 Fen Lane Sawtry on 11 Jan 1955.	Deleted W. E. F. & Feb 1955.
3	R.H. Bourne (*)	Robert Henry Bourne Lilian Bourne	29 Nov 1948	29 Nov 1948	12 Mar 1950	8s	3		
	E.D. Fendley	Eric Douglas Fendley Rose Mary Fendley		13 Mar 1950	10 Jan 1954	8s	3		
	R. Furnell	Robert Furnell Elizabeth Furnell <i>Greta May Furnell</i>		1 Mar 1954	26 Dec 1955	8s	3		Deleted W.E.F 30 Apr 1956, then re-occupied 12 Feb 1957

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	Mrs V. Nicholls	Kenneth Arthur Nicholls Violet Nicholls <i>Robert Nicholls</i>		12 Feb 1957	11 Nov 1957	8s	3		Deleted 11 Nov 1957
4	M.B. Dewberry (*)	Mark Bernard Dewberry	13 Dec 1948	13 Dec 1948	13 Feb 1949	8s	3		
	P. J. O'Boyle (*)	Patrick J O'Boyle Annie O'Boyle <i>Also: James Cleary</i>		14 Feb 1949	22 Feb 1953	8s	3	My Mum, Monica Joyce, was friends with Mrs O'Boyle while we lived at The Camp. The O'Boyles lived close to us at The Camp and I have a vague memory of visiting their house.	Demolished 29 Mar 1953
5	D.B. Coster (*)	Donald Bernard Coster Violet May Coster	13 Dec 1948	13 Dec 1948	18 Dec 1949	7s 6d	2		
	J.E. Daubney	No Record Found		19 Dec 1949	8 Oct 1950	7s 6d	2		
	A. McCafferty	Anthony McCafferty Rita McCafferty <i>Also: Michael Maher</i>		9 Oct 1950	2 Dec 1957	7s 6d	2		Deleted 2 Dec 1957
		<i>Also: Leslie George Shelton</i>							
		<i>Also: Martin Cleary</i>							
HOUSES WHOSE FIRST TENANCIES BEGAN IN 1949:									
6	A. L. Ford (*)	Arthur Lawrence Ford Kathleen Ford	3 Jan 1949	3 Jan 1949	19 Aug 1957	8s	3		Deleted 19 Aug 1957
7	D. Nixon (*)	David Nixon Doris Irene Nixon	3 Jan 1949	3 Jan 1949	6 Jul 1952	8s	3		
	J. McGowan (*)	James McGowan Mary McGowan <i>Also: James Cafferty</i>		14 Jul 1952	23 Apr 1956	8s	3		Deleted 30 Apr 1956
8	Mrs. E.M. McQuillan (*)	Eileen Mary McQuillan Robert George McQuillan	24 Jan 1949	24 Jan 1949	15 Mar 1953	8s	3		

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	R. Furnell	Robert Furnell Elizabeth Furnell <i>Greta May Furnell</i>		11 May 1953	28 Feb 1954	8s	3		Deleted W.E.F 1 Mar 1954
9	C. Ruff (*)	Charles Ruff Marion Lloyd Ruff	24 Jan 1949	24 Jan 1949	16 Jul 1950	8s	3		
	J. Noone	John Noone Kathleen Noone <i>Anthony Noone</i>		17 Jul 1950	16 Aug 1953	8s	3		Demolished 21 Aug 1953
		Also: Michael McDonnel Also: Ann McDonnel							
10	G. E. Summers (*)	George H. Summers Dorothy Maud Mary Summers	3 Jan 1949	3 Jan 1949	21 Feb 1953	8s	3		Deleted W.E.F. 22 Feb 1954
11	H. E. Hilton (*)	Harold Edward Hilton Joyce Thelma Hilton	3 Jan 1949	3 Jan 1949	11 Oct 1953	8s	3		
	H. B. Armatage	Henry Benjamin Armatage Helga Erna Armatage		12 Oct 1953	11 Nov 1957	8s	3		Deleted 11 Nov 1957
12	B. S. Parson	Barry Strutt Parson Mary Parson	14 Feb 1949	14 Feb 1949	30 Oct 1949	7s 6d	2	Note Mrs. E. V. Tiege, who was on the HCC List of First Residents, is recorded as "Refused" at 7 Feb 1949.	
	C. J. Goulding	No Record Found		21 Nov 1949	18 Dec 1949	7s 6d	2		
	W. Ranft	Phyllis May Ranft		19 Dec 1949	6 Aug 1950	7s 6d	2		
	P. Coaley	Percy Coaly Ruby Coaly <i>Betty Martina Coaly</i>		7 Aug 1950	29 Jul 1957	7s 6d	2		Deleted 29 Jul 1957

Addendum 1 to: "The Postwar Use of Sawtry/Wood Walton Lane POW Camp for Civilian Housing - 27 April 2022".

13	H. W. Holliday (*)	Horace William Holliday Emily Maud Holliday <i>Minor Daughter Christine M R Holliday b. December 1938. Minor Son Charles L (Len) Holliday b. 17 October 1940. Minor Son Thomas W Holliday b. 14 March 1946. Minor Daughter Doreen E Holliday b. 29 September 1948.</i>	7 Feb 1949	7 Feb 1949	30 Oct 1949	8s	3		
	W. Ranft	Phyllis May Ranft		31 Oct 1949	18 Dec 1949	8s	3		
	C. J. Goulding	No Record Found		19 Dec 1949	12 Mar 1950	8s	3		
	H. B. Armatage	Henry Benjamin Armatage Helga Erna Armatage		13 Mar 1950	11 Oct 1953	8s	3		Deleted 19 Oct 1953
14	Mrs. E. E. Green	Ellen Elizabeth Green Gordon Ellis Green <i>Beryl Ann Green William James Green Rosina Ivy Green</i>	7 Feb 1949	7 Feb 1949	11 Nov 1957	9s	4		Deleted 11 Nov 1957
		Also: Dennis John Green							
15	W. Ranft	Phyllis May Ranft	28 Feb 1949	28 Feb 1949	30 Oct 1949	8s	3		
	H. W. Holliday	Horace William Holliday Emily Maud Holliday <i>Minor Daughter Christine M R Holliday b. December 1938. Minor Son Charles L (Len) Holliday b. 17 October 1940. Minor Son Thomas W Holliday b. 14 March 1946. Minor Daughter Doreen E Holliday b. 29 September 1948.</i>		31 Oct 1949	4 Jan 1953	8s	3	H.W. Holliday moved to 6 Toll Bar Sawtry on 5 Jan 1953 and lived there until 15 Dec 1958	

Addendum 1 to: "The Postwar Use of Sawtry/Wood Walton Lane POW Camp for Civilian Housing - 27 April 2022".

	R. L. Kent	Raymond Leslie Kent Rose Mary Kent		19 Jan 1953	4 Jul 1955	8s	3		
	Mrs. V. Nicholls	Kenneth Arthur Nicholls Violet Nicholls <i>Beryl Nicholls</i> <i>Possibly Also:</i> Jean Margaret Keeble Robinson Keeble <i>Minor Daughter Carol Keeble b 23 Jun 1952</i>		23 Aug 1955	11 Feb 1957	8s	3		Deleted W.E.F. 11 Feb 1957
16	E.F. Leach	Ernest F. Leach Ivy Cordelia Leach	18 Apr 1949	18 Apr 1949	2 Apr 1950	8s	3	Full names of Adult Occupants obtained from newspaper article "Three Children Left all Day with no Food or Fire; Parents Sent to Prison for Cruelty", Peterborough Standard 31 March 1950. See Section 12.	
	P. Goodman	No Record Found		17 April 1950	16 Sep 1951	8s	3		
	P. Sweeney	Peter Sweeney Margaret Sweeney		8 Oct 1951	9 Aug 1953	8s	3		Deleted W.E.F. 16 Aug 1953
17	J. W. Clifton (*)	James Henry Clifton Gladys Marjory Clifton	28 Feb 1949	28 Feb 1949	2 Apr 1950	7s 6d	2		
	C.D. Holmes	No Record Found		10 Apr 1950	7 Jan 1951	7s 6d	2		
	H.V.Black	Hubert Victor Black Joyce Black		5 Feb 1951	13 Sep 1953	7s 6d	2		
	Mrs. Marriott	Marie Louise Marriott		5 Oct 1953	19 Sep 1954	7s 6d	2		Deleted 27 Sep 1954
18	Mrs. Marriott	Marie Louise Marriott	28 Feb 1949	28 Feb 1949	4 Oct 1953	7s 6d	2	Mrs. Marriott moved to House # 17 on 5 Oct 1953	Deleted W.E.F. 5 Oct 1953
19	W. Hickey	William Hickey Rosaleen Mary Hickey <i>Albert Austin Hickey</i> <i>Dora Hickey</i>	28 Feb 1949	28 Feb 1949	16 Aug 1953	9s	4		Deleted W.E.F. 17 Aug 1953
20	Mrs V. Nicholls	Kenneth Arthur Nicholls Violet Nicholls <i>Robert Nicholls</i> <i>Sheila Nicholls</i>	21 Mar 1949	21 Mar 1949	22 Aug 1955	9s	4		Deleted W.E.F. 23 Aug 1955

Addendum 1 to: "The Postwar Use of Sawtry/Wood Walton Lane POW Camp for Civilian Housing - 27 April 2022".

		Jean Margaret Keeble Robinson Keeble <i>Minor Daughter Carol Keeble b 23 Jun 1952</i>							<p>The Parish Register of Sawtry All Saints Church records the Baptism, on 27 June 1952 (See Section 12), of Carol Ann Keeble (b. 23 June 1952) and shows the father as Robinson Keeble and the Mother as Jean Margaret Keeble at 20 Sawtry Way R.A.F. No Rent Register Records or Electoral Register Records have been found for the Keebles at Sawtry Way.</p> <p>According to Barry Keeble, son of Robinson and Jean Margaret Keeble, Violet Nicholls was his maternal Grandmother. Ken Nicholls was Jean Margaret's brother (Barry's Uncle). Violet Nicholls had three other children, Ray, Bob, and Sheila. All these Nicholls lived at The Camp. These close family relationships (Nicholls/Keeble) might explain why Robinson Keeble and Jean Margaret Keeble do not appear as tenants in the Sawtry Way Rent Register.</p>
21	P. Doherty	Patrick Doherty Mary Doherty Also: John McGrath	21 Mar 1949	21 Mar 1949	9 Aug 1953	8s	3		
	P. Sweeney	Peter Sweeney Margaret Sweeney		10 Aug 1953	30 Jan 1955	8s	3		Deleted 7 Feb 1955.
22	H. R. Jones	Harold Robert Jones	21 Mar 1949	21 Mar 1949	20 Aug 1950	6s	1		
	A. McCafferty	Anthony McCafferty Rita McCafferty		4 Sep 1950	15 Oct 1950	6s	1		
	H. V. Black	Hubert Victor Black Joyce Black		18 Dec 1950	4 Feb 1951	6s	1		
	R. H. Kent	Raymond Leslie Kent Rose Mary Kent		26 Mar 1951	18 Jan 1953	6s	1		Demolished 18 Jan 1953
23	E. B. Watts	Ernest Bertie Watts Elizabeth Watts	28 Apr 1949	28 Apr 1949		8s	3		
	Mrs. E. Watts (from 30 Sept 1949)	Ernest Bertie Watts Elizabeth Watts			18 Dec 1949	8s	3		
	W. G. Wells	No Record Found		26 Dec 1949	4 Jun 1950	8s	3		
	R. Furnell	Robert Furnell Elizabeth Furnell		7 Aug 1950	10 May 1953	8s	3		Demolished from 18 May 1953

Addendum 1 to: "The Postwar Use of Sawtry/Wood Walton Lane POW Camp for Civilian Housing - 27 April 2022".

24	E. Sweeney (*)	Edward Sweeney Mary Sweeney <i>Minor Daughter Mary Sweeney b. Sep 1949</i> <i>Minor Son Stephen Sweeney b. Mar 1951</i> <i>Minor Son Andrew Sweeney b. Dec 1954</i> <i>Minor son David Sweeney b. Mar 1956</i>	21 Mar 1949	21 Mar 1949	12 Nov 1956	7s 6d	2	The Sweeney children were David, Mary, Andrew and Stephen. E. Sweeney and Family moved into 3 The Cross Wood Walton on 13 Nov 1956; then to 27 Fen Lane Sawtry on 25 Mar 1958.	Deleted 13 Nov 1956
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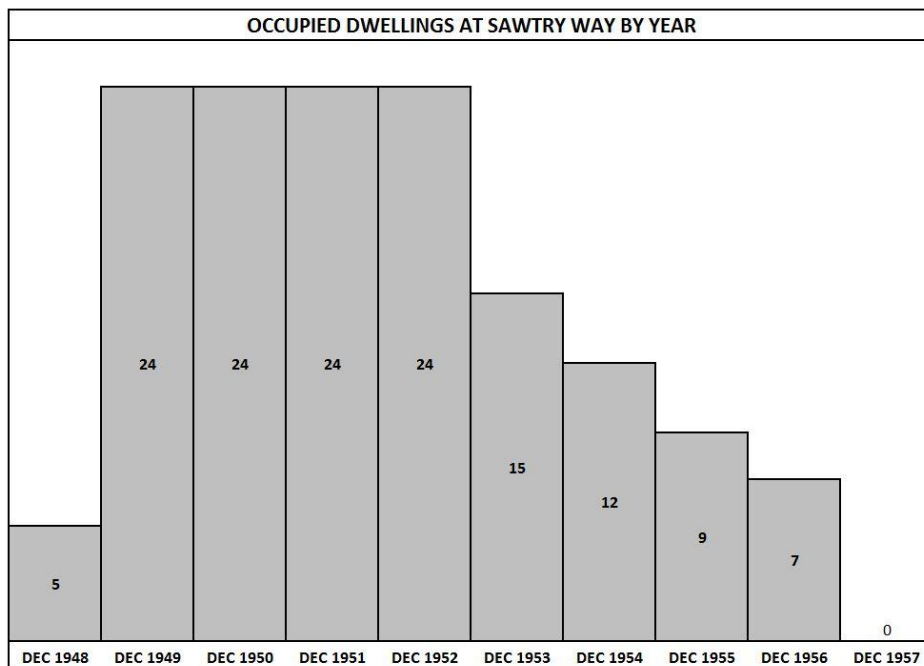
NOTES:

- 1. Named Tenant (HCC Rent Register):** The name which appears in the Huntingdonshire County Council (HCC) Rent Registers. The (*) annotation means that this name appears on the HCC 12 Nov. 1948 List of First Residents for Sawtry Way Temporary Housing. There are numerous reasons why someone on the HCC 12 Nov. 1948 list might not be in receipt of a one of the first tenancies, or indeed any tenancy. They may have moved away or found alternative accommodation. HCC may have modified the 12 November 1948 List, based on housing priorities, before actually offering tenancies. It is to be borne in mind that the Sawtry Way Housing was only ever meant to be temporary at a time of national housing shortage. The accommodation it afforded was very modest, even cramped for some families; whose aim would have been to secure the more spacious accommodation of a permanent council house in Sawtry or elsewhere in the county. Also, at approximately 1 mile from the village of Sawtry, Sawtry Way Housing was relatively remote (POW Camps were intentionally located remotely from towns, villages and transport systems) at a time when few people had cars.
- 2. Adult Occupants (Electoral Register):** The adult occupants of the house as appear in Electoral Registers for Sawtry. Names in italics are thought to be those of adult children of the tenant(s). Adult children will appear on the Electoral Register when they have reached voting age. Adult children will disappear from the Electoral Register at this address when they leave home.
- 3. Adult Occupants (Electoral Register):** Some addresses show other names which appear to be unrelated to the registered tenant(s) or their adult children. These may be lodgers, relatives or friends.
- 4. First Letting of this House:** Sawtry POW Camp - Sawtry Way houses used for postwar temporary civilian housing were all designated by HCC as "New Houses".
- 5. Weekly Rent & Number of Bedrooms:** These are taken from the HCC Rents Table in the Minutes of HCC Housing Committee of the 12th of November 1948 for the Sawtry Way Temporary Housing.
- 6. Last Letting/Closure of this House:** The designation "Demolished" is taken to mean that the house has been permanently removed from the housing stock. The designation "Deleted" is taken to mean that the house has been removed from the housing stock. This removal may be temporary, as in the case of House No. 3, or may (as in most cases) be permanent.

11. Occupancy by Year and the Closure of Sawtry Way

The table below and the associated histogram below show the evolution of the number of occupied dwellings at Sawtry Way from the start of the first tenancy on 15 November 1948 to end of the last tenancy on 2 December 1957.

SAWTRY WAY TEMPORARY HOUSING OCCUPANCY TIMELINE	
1948:	
First Dwelling Occupied (No.2)	15th November 1948
First 5 Dwellings are Occupied (Nos. 2,3,1,4,5), with 17 residents.	By 13th Dec. 1948
1949	
Sawtry Way Temporary Housing now Completed & Occupied (24 Dwellings).	29th April 1949
1953	
9 Houses Deleted or Demolished (Nos. 1,4,9,13,16,18,19,22,23).	
1954	
3 Houses Deleted: Nos. 8,10,17.	
1955	
3 Houses Deleted: Nos. 2,20,21.	
1956	
2 Houses Deleted: Nos. 7,24.	
1957	
7 Houses Deleted: Nos. 3,5,6,11,12,14,15.	
All Houses now Deleted or Demolished	2nd Dec 1957



12. Day-to-Day Life at the Camp

Very little is recorded in official documents which have been found about day-to-day life at Sawtry Way Temporary Housing, a.k.a. "The Camp". Some insights, provided from memory, from surviving Camp residents are included in the main body of this report. Below are some further insights from personal memories of the Camp residents who have contributed to the preparation of this report⁹. Some other comments, based on inferences drawn from researched information, are added here.

Photographs

Few photographs of the Camp or of its occupants taken during their residence there have been found. Several such photographs are included in the main body of this report. One additional photograph, shown in Figure 12, has subsequently been provided by David and Stephen Sweeney and is of the Sweeney family, who lived at No. 24 Sawtry Way and was taken in 1956 or 1957. Another four photographs have been provided by Barry Keeble, whose parents, Robinson Keeble and Jean Margaret Keeble, lived with the Nicholls family at Sawtry Way; Jean Margaret being the daughter of Sawtry Way tenant Violet Nicholls. These photographs (Figure 13, Figure 14, Figure 15 and Figure 16) were taken at Sawtry Way on the occasion of the wedding of Violet's son Kenneth (Ken) Arthur Nicholls and Beryl Annie Green at Sawtry All Saints Church on the 22nd of December 1956. In these photographs, the Camp looks somewhat desolate and empty. In fact, at this time, the occupancy of the Camp was dwindling. Of the original 24 dwellings, now only 6 were still occupied. With reference to the occupancy table in Section 10, only the following families remained; No. 5: McCafferty, No.6: Ford, No.11: Armatage, No.12: Coaley, No. 14: Green (Family of newly-married Beryl Nicholls), No. 15: Nicholls.

Facilities at the Camp

Very little is known about what, if any, facilities existed at the Camp in addition to the 24 Dwellings. Many mothers at The Camp would have stayed at home with their small children while their husbands went to work and their older children went to school (there was a school bus from Sawtry which stopped at the junction of the B1090 and the Greta North Road-A1). The Sawtry Way community was over 1 mile from the nearest village, Sawtry, when few people had cars. There would have been a need for groceries, as well as medical and welfare services and we can only speculate as to whether Camp residents were obliged to travel to the villages and towns for all of these. It is likely that there was a bus service which ran along the Great North Road-A1 and would have had stops at Huntingdon, Sawtry and Peterborough, though probably with limited frequency¹⁰. It is not known if any mobile retail services, such as those which are known to have serviced Sawtry streets around the same time or a few years later, including a baker, a grocer¹¹, a milkman and a fish & chip van¹², also visited the Camp.

It seems unlikely that there would have been any kind of nursery service for pre-school children at Sawtry Way. Such a thing was not common in the fifties; least of all in working-class communities, in which mothers usually took care of small children at home and even took them to work with them. It is known that some Camp women worked on adjacent farms and took their small children with them into the fields¹³.

From the personal recollections of the surviving Camp residents mentioned in this document, there was mains electricity supplied to Sawtry Way dwellings as well as tap water. There were no fixed baths and bathing was achieved using portable metal baths. There were flush toilets in the dwellings¹⁴. According to Tommy Holliday, the Camp had its own sewage works¹⁵. Tommy goes on to say that Camp children used to play on the sewage works when the sprinkler went

⁹ Harry Joyce, Dave Sweeney, Steve Sweeney, John Holliday, Tommy Holliday, Barry Keeble and Carol Keeble.

¹⁰ Even in about 1960, the frequency of the Huntingdon-Sawtry-Peterborough bus service was no more frequent than 1 hour.

¹¹ Mr Green of Green End Stores, Sawtry visited Fen Lane Sawtry with his grocery van.

¹² Wrens Fish & Chip Van visited Fen Lane Sawtry once per week.

¹³ My mother did this and took my brother and myself with her into the fields (Harry Joyce).

¹⁴ The houses in the lower part of Fen Lane, Sawtry (nearest to the Great North Road) did not have flush toilets or fixed baths until the late 1950s. A similar situation pertained at Toll Bar Cottages, Sawtry.

¹⁵ Though no pictures have been found, the Camp sewage works might have been similar to the sewage system installed at the wartime Land Army Hostel in Slough Lane, Sawtry (which became Sawtry CP School, Infants Section in about 1951).

round they used to sit on it and there was also a pond where all the children learned to swim. Simple pleasures but very few toys.

It appears probable that The Camp had a telephone service available to paying subscribers. In one photograph of the Camp, taken in 1956 or 1957 (Figure 17^{Figure 15}) there is evidence of telegraph poles with telephone wires. It is known that Sawtry itself had telephone services at this time. It is very likely that, prior to 1948, Sawtry POW Camp would have had some telephone service for military and other uses; though this may have been purely military infrastructure. One Sawtry Way resident, Mr. P. Coaley of 12 Sawtry Way, gave a Sawtry telephone number in a classified advertisement which he posted in May 1952.

With reference to Figure 2 and Figure 7, it is believed that two buildings, which are thought to have been long wooden huts, labelled "Canteen and Billiards Room" (nomenclature from the time of the POW Camp) were not used as dwellings, but may have been used for some communal purpose(s) for Sawtry Way residents, though nothing more is known. It seems possible that the photograph of Monica Rhoda Joyce with her son Eric Joyce in 1950 (Figure 18) was taken looking approximately south-east with one of the "Canteen and Billiards Room" wooden huts in the background.

Still on the subject of communal facilities, Figure 19 shows an RAF Aerial Photograph of the Sawtry Way area taken on the 31st of August 1954, when approximately 12 families were still resident in the council dwellings. A number of buildings remain in the Prisoners' Compound area. These appear to be huts, probably of wooden construction and not of the corrugated steel Nissen type. The use of these remaining huts at this time is not known. The minutes of meeting of the HCC Housing Committee imply that HCC never took over the use of, or responsibility for, huts in the ex-Prisoners' Compound, so it seems likely that the ex-Prisoners' Compound area stayed under the administration of the Ministry of Works/Ministry of Defence for the whole duration of Sawtry Way occupancy and was not available to Sawtry Way Residents. As will be discussed in Section 13, the area of the Prisoner's Compound was to become the site of the Sawtry Petroleum Storage Depot (PSD).

Some Published References to Camp Residents

The following references to Sawtry Way and its residents have been found in newspaper articles and in the Sawtry Church Register:

Figure 20: Peterborough Standard 3 June 1949: Boys steal keys from Sawtry Way during the 17th to the 29th of April 1949. This was at the time when the conversion contractor, Messrs. Stretton & Sons, Builders, Ltd. of Yaxley, was still on site and was finishing the conversion of the selected huts for civilian use (all 24 huts were occupied by their first tenants by the 28th of April 1949).

Figure 21: Peterborough Standard 31 March 1950: Report of Child Cruelty at Sawtry Way. Those accused and convicted were HCC tenants Ernest F. Leach and Ivy Cordelia Leach, living at 16 Sawtry Way from 18 Apr 1949 to 2 April 1950. They do not appear in Rent Records for Sawtry Way after this time.

Figure 22: Sawtry Church Register; As recorded in Section 10, no Rent Register records or Electoral Register records were found for Robinson Keeble or Jean Margaret Keeble at Sawtry Way. We have concluded that this couple were staying with Sawtry Way tenant Violet Nicholls, the mother of Jean Margaret Keeble (nee Nicholls).

Figure 23: Newspaper and Date Unknown: Those convicted were Edward Sweeney, living at 24 Sawtry Way from the 21st of March 1949 to the 12th of November 1956 and James McGowan, living at 7 Sawtry Way from the 14th of July 1952 to the 23rd of April 1956.

Figure 24: Peterborough Standard 19 December 1952: An unusual silver coin was found recently in the ford at Hamerton by Mrs. E. W. Joyce of Sawtry Way.

Figure 25: Peterborough Standard 9 July 1954: Careless Motor Cyclists Fined. Horace Brown of 17 Sawtry Way, Sawtry pleaded guilty.

Figure 26: Peterborough Standard 9 May 1952: Advertisement for a 1939 10 cwt Morris van by P. Coaley of 12 Sawtry Way, Sawtry, Phone Sawtry 339.

13. The GPSS and Sawtry PSD

The main body of this report discussed the Government Pipelines and Storage System (GPSS) and its component, the Sawtry Petroleum Storage Depot (PSD). A pipeline of the GPSS passed through, or close to, the Sawtry POW Camp site and the Sawtry PSD was built on what had been the POW Camp prisoners' enclosure. After further research, it has been concluded that the original fuel pipeline which ran past the Camp was part of the Sandy to Misterton pipeline (part of what became the GPSS) and was completed in July 1944, whilst the POW Camp was still in operation. The installation of the pipeline itself then is not relevant to the later Sawtry Way Council Housing, which began only in late 1948. There is uncertainty as to when the construction of the very large Sawtry PSD began. There is some evidence that PSD construction had actually begun whilst some Sawtry Way tenants were still in residence. The photograph of John Holliday (Figure 17), taken in 1956 or 1957, appears to show evidence of the earthen mounds of the PSD in the background. Clearly Sawtry Way is occupied in this photograph. This appears to confirm that construction of the PSD had begun while council tenants were still living at Sawtry Way. This photograph may show the PSD tank mounds themselves, though other possibilities might be excavation earth piles from building the tanks or trees (the intrinsic terrain was fairly flat). Since this area had very recently been the Prisoners' enclosure, in which there were no trees, a substantial body of trees is largely out of the question and there is no evidence of tree growth in this area in the 1954 Aerial Photograph. It is noted that, if PSD construction was going on at the time of the 1957 photograph, there would have been plenty of access for contractors, in the flat and open landscape, other than via the Sawtry Way "main street" which could have been reserved for the remaining civilian population, which in 1957 would have been the occupants of 7 dwellings, dwindling to no occupancy by the 2nd of December 1957.

14. References

1. Meeting Minutes of the Huntingdonshire County Council Housing Committee, Volumes covering 1948 to 1960. These records are held in Huntingdonshire Library and Archives, Princes Street, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 3PA UK. These records are not available online.
2. Annual Report to the Huntingdon Rural District Council for 1948, J.R. Garrood M.D., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health to Huntingdon Rural District Council. (Available on The Internet Archive, <https://archive.org/>).
3. Annual Report to the Huntingdon Rural District Council for 1949, J.R. Garrood M.D., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health to Huntingdon Rural District Council. (Available on The Internet Archive, <https://archive.org/>).
4. Registers of Electors for Sawtry for the years 1948 to 1960 inclusive. These records are held in Huntingdonshire Library and Archives, Princes Street, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 3PA UK. These records are not available online.
5. The Main Body of this report and the References listed therein.
6. Personal memories of the Camp residents who have contribute to the preparation of this report; Harry Joyce, Dave Sweeney, Steve Sweeney, John Holliday, Tommy Holliday, Barry Keeble and Carol Keeble.

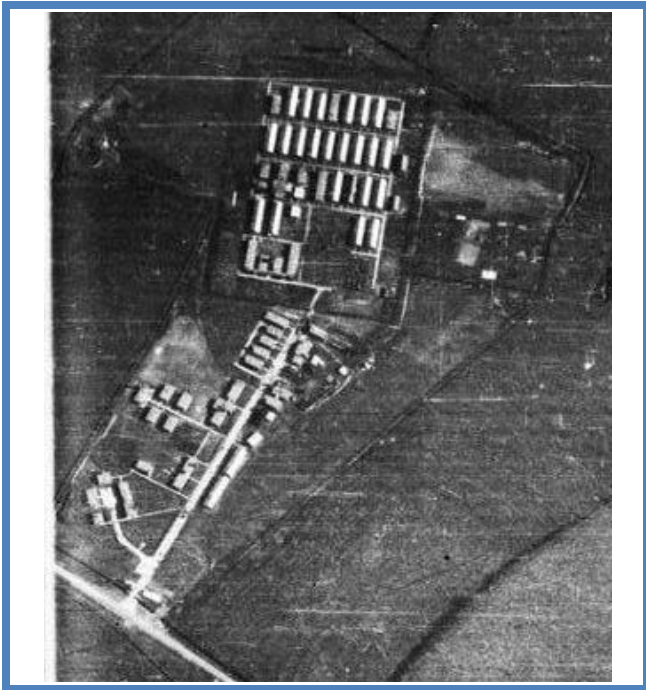


Figure 1: RAF Aerial Photograph of POW Camp 59 Sawtry/Wood Walton Lane, taken on the 21st of June 1946. (Crown Copyright)

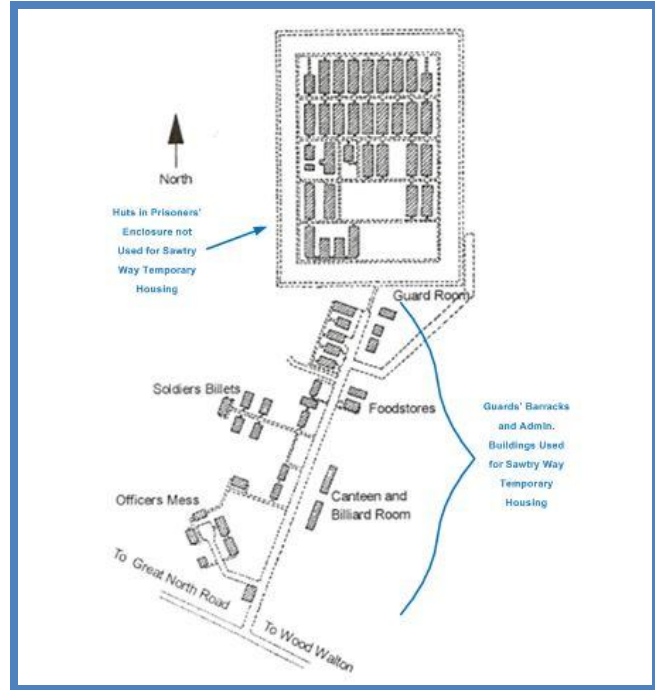


Figure 2: Plan of POW Camp 59, probably based on the photograph of Figure 1, showing HCC's selection of buildings for Temporary Council Housing. (John Chance)



Figure 3: Detail of Figure 1 Showing Buildings Outside the Prisoners' Enclosure, which were selected by HCC for Sawtry Way Temporary Housing (Crown Copyright)

March	June	September	December
903,000	214,000	---	---
923,000	229,000	---	---
1,826,000	443,000	---	---
TOTAL: 2,269,000			

18

WATER SUPPLIES TO TEMPORARY HOUSING SITES AT END OF 1948.

Site.	No. of houses supplied.	Estimated Population supplied.	Source of supply.
W.A.A.F. Site, Alconbury	27	94	Regional Water Scheme
Site No. 4, Alconbury	21	73	Air Ministry mains.
Site No. 5, Alconbury	13	45	Air Ministry mains.
W.A.A.F. Site, Brington	15	52	Air Ministry mains.
Site No. 2, Conington	13	45	Norman Cross R.D.C.
Sawtry Way, Sawtry	5	17	Regional Water Scheme
	94	326	

Figure 4: Water Supplies to Sawtry POW Camp in 1948 (above) & Water Supplies to 5 Houses (17 Persons Supplied) at Sawtry Way Temporary Housing at the end of 1948. (County of Huntingdon).

NEW HOUSES OCCUPIED DURING 1948						
PARISH	ADDRESS	NEW HOUSES BY		BY ADAPTATION		TOTAL
		L.A.	P.E.	L.A.	P.E.	
Alconbury	School Lane	2				2
"	W.A.A.F. Site			27		27
"	Site No. 4			21		21
"	Site No. 5			13		13
"	Weybridge Farm				1	1
Abbots Ripton	Boulton's Hunch Wood		2			2
"	The Rectory				3	3
"	Abbots Ripton Hall				1	1
"	The Rectory				1	1
"	" Inglenook "				1	1
Brampton	Grove Estate	9				9
Ellington	Thrapston Road		1			1
"	Thorpe Lodge		1			1
Gt. Stukeley	Moorfield Way	8				8
"	Church Lane		3			3
"	Ermine Street			14*		14
Brington	W.A.A.F. Site			15		15
Conington	Site No. 2			13		13
Old Weston	West Bank	4				4
Sawtry	Fen Lane	9				9
"	Sawtry Way			5		5
"	Fen Lane		1			1
Upwood	Ramsey Heights		1			1
"	Church Farm				1	1
"	High Street				1	1
Spaldwick	Stow Road	4				4
		36	9	108	9	162

* Hunts. County Council.

Figure 5: New Houses Occupied at Sawtry Way in 1948. (County of Huntingdon).

NEW HOUSES OCCUPIED DURING 1949						
PARISH	ADDRESS	NEW HOUSES BY		BY ADAPTATION		TOTAL
		L.A.	P.E.	L.A.	P.E.	
Alconbury	School Lane	2				2
"	South View			7		7
Brampton	Bell End		2			2
Ellington			1			1
Great Raveley					1	1
Old Weston	West Bank	2				2
Sawtry	Fen Lane	3				3
"	Fen Lane (Aircys)	12				12
"	Sawtry Way			19		19
Spaldwick		4				4
"	Stow Road	2				2
Little Stukeley			2			2
Upton		6				6
Woodwalton	Abbey Farm		1			1
		31	6	26	1	64

Figure 6: 19 New Houses Occupied at Sawtry Way in 1949 (County of Huntingdon).

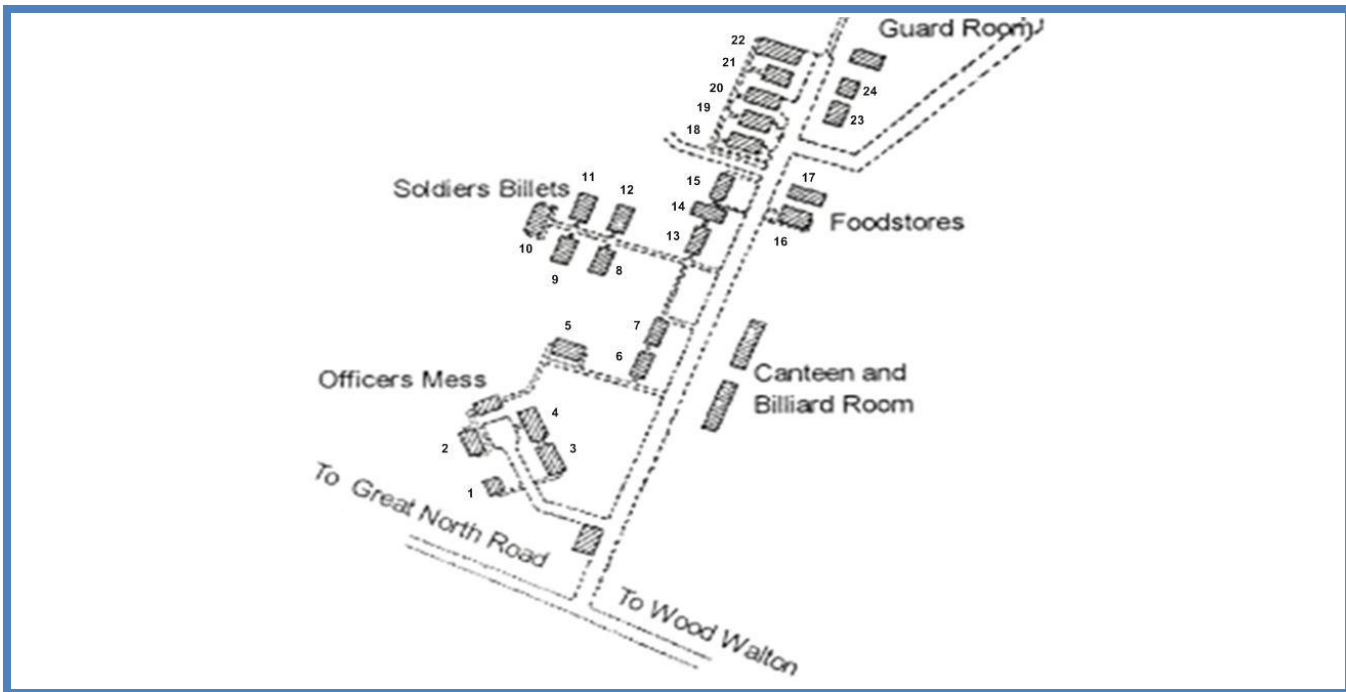


Figure 7: Sawtry Way Dwelling Numbering - Provisional (Official Numbering Scheme not known). (Harry Joyce)

SAWTRY - Sawtry Way			
1	Joyce Eric	13.12.48	22.11.53
2	Joyce Eric	23.11.53	10.1.55
3	PARNELL R.	1.3.54	
5	McCAFFERTY A.	9.10.50	

Figure 8: HCC Rent Register showing Eric William Joyce's Tenancy of No. 1 Sawtry Way from 13 Dec. 1948 to 22 Nov. 1953, then of No.2 from 23 Nov. 1953 to 10 Jan. 1955. (County of Huntingdon)

11	ACMATAGE H.B.	12.10.53	
12	COALRY P.	7.8.50	
14	GREEN MRS.E.E.	7.2.49	
15	Sweeney Edward	21.3.49	12.11.56

Figure 9: HCC Rent Register showing Edward Sweeney's Tenancy of No. 24 Sawtry Way from 21 Mar. 1949 to 12 Nov. 1956. (County of Huntingdon)

SAWTRY - Sawtry Way			
12	HOLIDAY H.N.	7.2.49	30.10.49
13	HOLIDAY H.N.	7.2.49	30.10.49
14	GREEN MRS.E.E.	7.2.49	30.10.49
15	KENT W.	28.2.49	28.2.49

SAWTRY - Sawtry Way			
13	HOLIDAY H.N.	7.2.49	30.10.49
15	Sweeney P.	21.3.49	12.11.56

Figure 10: HCC Rent Register showing Horace William Holiday's Tenancy of No. 13 Sawtry Way from 7 Feb. 1949 to 30 Oct. 1949, then of No.15 from 31 Oct. 1949 to 4 Jan 1953. (County of Huntingdon)

341	Joyce, Elsie Margaret, High Street
342	Joyce, Eric William, 1 Sawtry Way
343	Joyce, Ethel M., Green End
344	Joyce, Frances Helen, Mellor's Row
345	Joyce, Henry, Green End
346	Joyce, Iris Lacy, Gidding Road
347	Joyce, Monica Rhoda, 1 Sawtry Way
572	Stimpson, Norman, 13 Fen Lane
573	Sweeney, Edward, 24 Sawtry Way
574	Sweeney, Mary, 24 Sawtry Way
575	Swindon, Beryl Mary, Slough Lane
576	Swindon, Ralph Ernest, Slough Lane
284	Hodson, Lydia A., Belmont Street
285	Hodson, Laurie, Church Street
286	Holliday, Emily Maud, 15 Sawtry Way
287	Holliday, Horace William, 15 Sawtry Way
288	Holmes, Charles Daniel, 17 Sawtry Way

Figure 11: Electoral Register Entries for Joyce, Sweeney and Holliday at Sawtry Way. (County of Huntingdon)



Figure 12: The Sweeney Family at the Camp in 1956 or 1957. Mary Sweeney is holding Baby David. Ted Sweeney is holding Andrew, with Mary and Stephen Standing. (*David & Stephen Sweeney*)



Figure 13: Sawtry Way, 22 Dec. 1956. L-R; Unknown, Jean Margaret Keeble (nee Nicholls) , Beryl Annie Nicholls (nee Green), Unknown



Figure 14: Sawtry Way, 22 Dec. 1956. L-R; Beryl Nicholls, Sheila Nicholls.



Figure 15: Sawtry Way, 22 Dec. 1956. Newly-married Beryl Nicholls (nee Green).



Figure 16: Sawtry Way, 22 Dec. 1956. L-R; Unknown, Beryl Nicholls, Unknown.



Figure 17: John Holliday aged about 3yrs at Sawtry Way taken in 1956 or 1957, with telephone wires in the background (*John Holliday*)



Figure 18: Monica Rhoda Joyce with son Eric at Sawtry Camp in 1950 (*Brian Joyce*)



Figure 19: RAF Aerial Photograph of Sawtry Way (Ex-Sawtry POW Camp) taken the 31st of August 1954 (*Crown Copyright*)



Figure 20: Peterborough Standard 3 June 1949



Figure 21: Peterborough Standard 31 March 1950

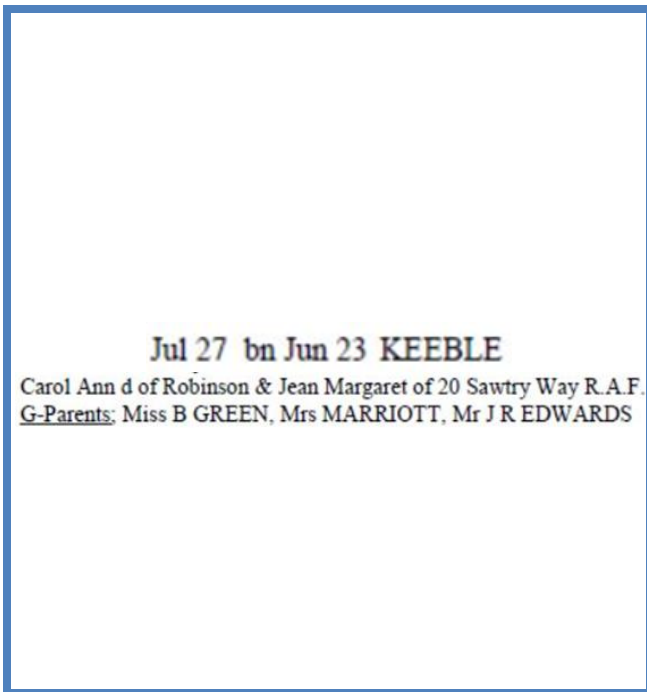


Figure 22: Sawtry Church Register

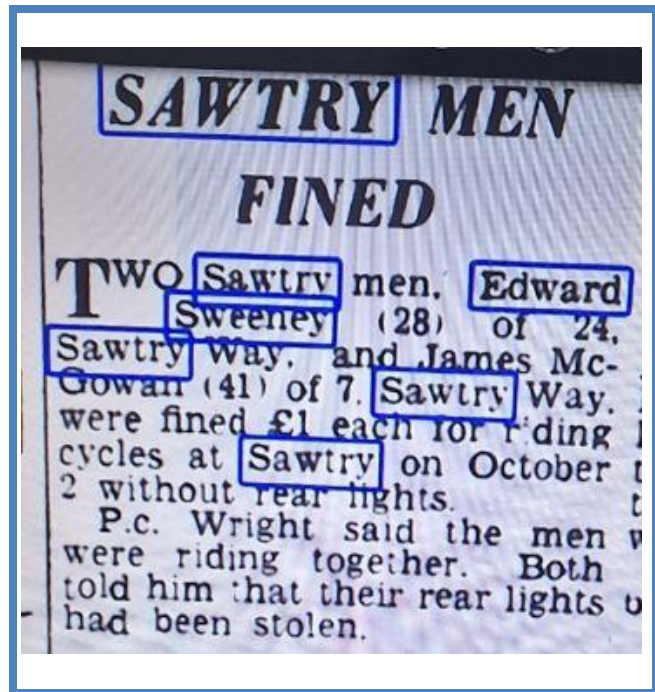


Figure 23: Newspaper and Date Unknown

THAT an unusual silver coin was found recently in the ford at Hamerton by Mrs. E. W. Joyce of Sawtry Way.

That it has been identified at the British Museum as a Jacobite half-groat, minted in 1604.

That it is to be presented to Peterborough Museum.

Figure 24: Peterborough Standard 19 December 1952

Careless motor cyclists fined

Two Motor-cyclists were fined at Whittlesey on Monday for driving without due care and attention.

Horace Brown, of 17 Sawtry Way, Sawtry, pleaded guilty, and Insp. Edgley said the case arose out of an accident which occurred on the Peterborough-road, Whittlesey, on June 9th.

Brown was driving towards Peterborough and on rounding a bend he crossed to his off side and hit a car travelling in the opposite direction.

In a statement Brown said he started to wobble as he went round the bend. He saw the car and thought it was coming over to his side of the road so he crossed to his off side and collided with the front near side wing.

Defendant was fined £3 and his licence was endorsed. He was also ordered to pay £1 5s. costs.

The second motor - cyclist, Arthur Merrill Hill, 2 Cross-st., Farcet, pleaded not guilty. He

Figure 25: Peterborough Standard 9 July 1954

1939. December, Morris 10 cwt van, Taxed and insured, in good running order. £85. — Apply P. Coaley, 12 Sawtry Way, Sawtry. Phone Sawtry 339. M9

Figure 26: Peterborough Standard 9 May 1952