The Ascot Park and North Circular Road prefabs in Neasden, north-west London.

Willesden Borough Council had identified a number of possible sites for temporary "prefab" homes during 1944, and on 15 January 1945 their Housing and Town Planning Committee approved proposals for their Borough Engineer to acquire those sites, including 'Land adjoining the factory of Ascot Water Heaters Limited, North Circular Road', and two small sites on the North Circular Road just to the west of this land. A larger site of railway land nearby was found not to be available, as it had been 'taken over by the Ministry of Works for a supply depot for emergency factory-made houses.'

After the war in Europe ended in May 1945, the "supply depot" by the Neasden railway sidings was used to bring in Uni-Seco prefab sections by rail, and then distribute them by road. One of the articulated lorries used for this distribution took part in a local "Victory Parade", seen here passing along Willesden High Road:



The locations of the Ascot Park ("A") and some of the North Circular Road ("B") prefabs can be seen on this 1961 aerial photograph:-



There were ten prefabs built on the North Circular Road (numbers 125 to 145 odd) either side of "The Pantiles" public house, and 37 in Ascot Park, built on land beside the gas water heater factory. This extract from the Willesden electoral register for 1952 gives the names of the adult residents in these homes:-

BOROUGH OF WILLESDEN-WILLESDEN WEST CONSTITUENCY-POLLING DISTRICT R-CHURCH END WARD.

	BOROUGH OF WILLESDEN-	WILLESDEN	WEST CO	INSTITUENCY-POLLING DISTRI	ICT R-CH	URCH E		
	NORTH CIRCULAR RD.	-cont:		NORTH CIRCULAR RD	-cont.		NORTH CIRCULAR RD,-	and .
1294	McCall, Sampson R.	101a		Ascot Park-	-cont.		ASCOT PARK-	Cobe
1295	McCall, Violet	101a	1357	McDonnell, John J.	1	1422	Vivian, Phyllis R.	50
1296	Smith, Dorothy V.	1015	1358	Davison, Edward G.	3	1423	Vivian, William F.	50
1297	Smith, John	1016	1359	Davison, Violet M.	3	1424	Tooley, Arthur E.	52
1298	Capon, Robert V.	103	1360	Hoperoft, Louisa	5	1425	Tooley. Doris I.	52
1299	Capon, Rosemary	103	1361	Hoperoft, Victor A. A.	5	1426	Lock, Alfred	54
1300	Turney, Edgar E.	103a	1362	Hornett, Frank J.	7	1427	Lock, Dora	54
1301	Turney, Joyce F.	103a	1363	Hornett, Gladys E.	7	1428	Brown, Ernest F.	56
1302	Turney, May	103a	1364	Sayers, Alfred R.	9	1429	Brown, Frances A.	56
1303	Green, Joan R.	103b	1365	Sayers, Edna R.	9		10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-1	0.00
1304	Green, Ruth A.	1036	1366	Skingle, Annie	11		NORTH CIRCULAR ROAD-	cont.
1305	Murray, Doris M.	105	1367	Skingle, Ronald W. F.	11	1430	Larner, George W.	100
1306	Murray, William T.	105	1368	Braybrook, Elsie	13	1431	Larner, Nellie A.	100
1307	Kerr, Fanny F.	107	1369	Simes, Edward	15	1432	Barnes, Annie	102
1308	Binder, Elfriede A. C.	109	1370	Simes, Nellie J.	15	1433	Barnes, Christopher J.	102
1309	Binder, Frederick G.	109	13/1	Zeal, Patricia K.	17	1434	Barnes, Victor C.	102
1310	Binder, Isabella E.	109	1373	Zeal, Victor	17	1435	Roberts, Eric W.	104
1311 1312	Rumble, Daisy	111	1374	Randon, Margaret J.	2	1436	Roberts, Mary E.	104
1313	Rumble, John R.	111	1375	Randon, Reginald R.	2 4	1437 1438	Ellisdon, Leslie	106
1314	Holdford, Frederick D.	113	1376	Nicklin, Ronald L. H.	4	1439	Ellisdon, Minnie Ellisdon, Nora	106
1315	Holdford, Rosetta L.	113a	1377	Nicklin, Doris M.	6	1440	Ellisdon, Renald	106
1316	Parr, Elsie M. Parr, Henry J.	113a	1378	Overton, Frank I-I. Overton, Lilian M.	6	1441	Ellisdon, Vera J.	106
1317		113a	1379		8	1442	Smith, Kate	108
1318	Parr, Lucy E. Glennerster, Alfred G.	1136	1380	Wakeling, Gladys M. Wakeling, Joseph A.	8	1443	Smith, Thomas J.	108
1319	Glennerster, Ethel F.	1136	1381	Edwards, Eva M.	10	1444	S-Smith, William H.	108
1320	Glennerster, Kathleen	1136	1382	Edwards, George A.	iŏ	1445	Terry, Peggy I.	108
1321	Glennerster, Reginald A.	1136	1383	Elmer, Harry	12	1446	Terry, Valentine G.	108
1322	Wright, Beatrice E.	115	1384	Elmer, Kathleen	12	1447	Smith, Alice A.	110
1323	Wright, William	115	1385	Fitt, Dennis W. J.	14	1448	Smith, Cecil F.	110
1324	S-Coburn, Albert	115a	1386	Fitt, Julia R.	14	1449	Smith, Frederick L.	110
1325	Jackman, Alice	115a	1387	Gallacchi, Fred. J. W.	16	1450	Smith, Winnie	110
1326	Wheeler, Edith	1155	1388	Gallacchi, Patricia B.	16	1451	Murphy, Constance M.	112
1327	Wheeler, Ellen	1156	1389	Cocking, Jennie	18	1452	Murphy, Minme M.	112
1328	Wheeler, Frank	1155	1390	Gorringe, Leslie W.	18	1453	Murphy, Thomas F.	112
1329	Wheeler, George	1155	1391	Gorringe, Olive M.	18	1454	Wheeler, Doreen O. N.	114
1330	Kentish, Ernest D.	117	1392	Kentish, Barbara A.	20	1455	Wheeler, Nellie	114
1331	Kentish, Rosa M.	117	1393	Kentish, Geoffrey	20	1456	Till, Nora M.	116
1332	Hefford, Edith M.	119	1394	Hope, Aida D.	22	1457	Till, Thomas A.	116
1333	Hefford, Henry G.	119	1395	Hope, William T.	22	1458	Collins, Dorothy E.	118
1334	Wheeldon, Derrick	119	1396	Marsh, Henry	24	1459	Collins, Frank	118
1335	Dempsey, Dorothy M.	125	1397	Marsh, Mary A.	24	1460	Y-Collins, Violet E.	118
1336	Dempsey, Michael	125	1398	Nixon, Florence M.	26	1461	Smith, James W.	120
1337	Newton, Albert D.	127	1399	Nixon, James	26	1462	Smith, Lila E., E.	120
1338	Newton, Dorothy	127	1400	Pounder, Doris L.	28	1463	Smith, Violet	120
1339	Over, Frederick A.	129	1401	Pounder, John R.	28	1464	Cheesewright, Elizabeth V.	122
1340	Over. Winifred R.	129	1402	Peck. Doris M.	30	1465	Cheesewright, Walter J.	122
1341	Salter, George L.	131	1403	Peck, Harold R.	30	1466	liggins. Derek A.	122
1342	Salter, Lilian A. M.	131	1404	Price, Charles R.	32	1467	Higgins, Irene	122
1343	Jacoby, John H.	133	1405	Price, Florence M.	32	1468	Newham, Emily	124
1344	Jacoby, Nancy D.	133	1406	Reeve, Reginald G.	34	1469	Newham Eric	124
1345	S-Wadeson, Bernard I		1407	Reeve, Vera A.	34	1470	Newham, Ernest	124
1241	W/ 1 1/ 1	135	1408	Shaw, Lionel J. D.	36	1471	Glanfield, Florence D.	126
1346	Wadeson, Karola	135	1409	Shaw, Marjorie G.	36	1472	Glanfield, Frederick	126
1347	Westram, Ernest C.	137	1410	Brown, Cyril W.	38	1473	Glanfield, Jack	126
1348	Westram, Iris Souter, William F.	137	1411	Brown, Violet A. Stambaiden, Bashara C	38	1474	Barcham, Cicely A.	128
1349		141	1412	Stembridge, Barbara C.	40	1475	Bareham, May	
1350	Souter, Winifred I.	141	1413	Stembridge, Charles R. Swan, Ethel V. P.	40 42	1476	S-Bareham, William E.	128
1351	Goodman, Lawrence T.	143	1414		42	1477	Pakes, Kathleen M.	128
1352	Goodman, Olive J. Conroy, Mary P.	143 145	1415	Swan, Leslie E. Verrinder, Centre B	44	1478	Pakes, Leslie G. Tumer, Charlotte	130
1353 1354	Conroy, Patrick K.	145	1416	Verrinder, George R. Verrinder, Josephine L.	44	1480	Turner, Francis	130
1334	comoy, I aback PC.	145	1417	Adolpho, Gladys G, L.	46	1481	Turner, Frank J.	130
	A	PARK.	1418 1419	Adolpho, Walter	46	1482	Turner, Patricia K.	130
1355	Lazenby, Bridget A.	1	1420	Walter, Eileen P.	48	1483	Turner, Reginald A.	130
1356	Lazenby, Tom	i	1421	Walter, Leonard J.	48	1484	Briggs, Ada F.	132
		5.	. 44.	······				

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Jeffrey Over, the son of Frederick and Winifred Over shown above at 129 North Circular Road, shared some memories and photos of their time in a prefab home in Neasden with me in 2011.

My Experience of growing up in a prefab in Neasden, by Jeffrey Over:

I lived with my parents Arthur and Winifred Over at 129 North Circular Road from October 1948

to March 1968. Our prefab was last to be vacated from both sites, ours on the North Circular and a bigger one nearby, the Ascot Park site, where IKEA is now.

Our site was small and had only three prefabs occupied for the last 12 years, the rest had been demolished in the late 1950s to make way for the car park for the Pantiles pub which is now a "McDonalds".





My mum and dad had been living with my grandparents in Neasden when I was born. I went to Bridge Road primary school which I walked to and John Kelly secondary school which I went to by bus. My best friends were Michael Dempsey who lived in the prefabs, and the son of the first landlord of the Pantiles pub.

The last six months or so our prefab was the only one occupied and it was strange as our prefab laid back of the road, and it took my mum and dad some time persuade to the council to move us, to a block of flats in Tanfield Avenue, Neasden.



This note compiled by Philip Grant, Wembley History Society, October 2017.