

## 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:-





## 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”.



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.

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.



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