

The Location

THE exact location of the campsite was kept secret right up to the end of the competition. There was a very good reason for this - it had not been finalised!

In a letter to Peter Keary, one Pearson's Editors, dated 22nd May 1908, B-P states that he is going to look for his campsite that week, and on the 30th May he wrote again to say he has visited Spurn Point, at the mouth of the River Humber, which "**although good is not ideal**".



The campsite today from the road

Again in a letter to Keary on August 9th B-P wrote:

"I have arranged camping grounds thus: Camp at Walewick [sic] (The village is pronounced Wal-ick and spelt Walwick- deriving its name from the Roman Wall which is very close to it.) Grange five miles from Hexham (Station Chollerford) for a week, then Tramps to neighbouring spots and bivouacs for the nights."

B-P knew the area quite well, as Commanding Officer of the Northumbrian Territorial Army in 1907, he had frequently visited a camp at Walwick Grange. (He had a normal car converted into one of the first motor caravans ever constructed, so that he could travel England's largest single administrative area without the need to book hotels or prevail on private hospitality.)

He was also very a good friend of Nathaniel Clayton of nearby Chesters, and Saxton Noble, the father of two of the Brownsea lads, who had underwritten the financial loss of the Brownsea camp, also lived in the vicinity. His friendship with Saxton Noble no doubt came about through his life-time association with his brother, [George Noble](#), who shared many adventures with B-P in India and Afghanistan whilst they were serving in the 13th Hussars.

The site is just south of the Roman Wall on a gently sloping hillside adjacent to Carr Edge Plantations (Grid Ref. NY 890.697). The 'Walewick' Grange B-P mentioned, is marked as Walwick Grange on the Ordnance Survey map and was one of George Noble's family homes; the nearest station, which was the one the Scouts actually used, was at Fourstones. B-P had letterheads printed for the camp (as he had done at Brownsea) with 'Humshaugh' as

the address. Humshaugh village is, however, a mile north of the Roman Wall and would seem to have no association, postal or otherwise, with the campsite. The mystery of how the camp gained its name has, I feel, been solved by *Milestones* reader Phil Taylor, ex-member of the 1st Humshaugh Baden-Powell Troop, who points out that the Humshaugh telephone exchange would have served Walwick Grange and perhaps for that reason B-P thought it was also the postal address. (The 'Humshaugh' letterhead is often referred to, so letters sent from the camp must exist. I would be very pleased to publish copies or transcripts of them on this site with proper acknowledgement.)



The view to the south-west