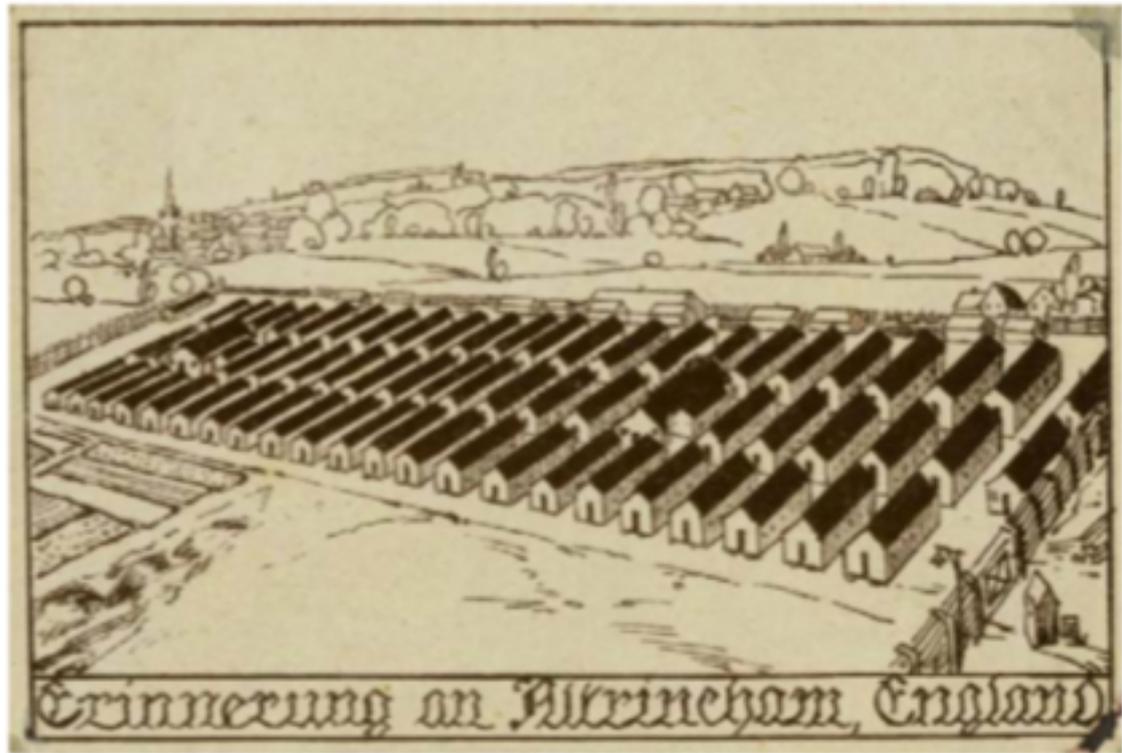


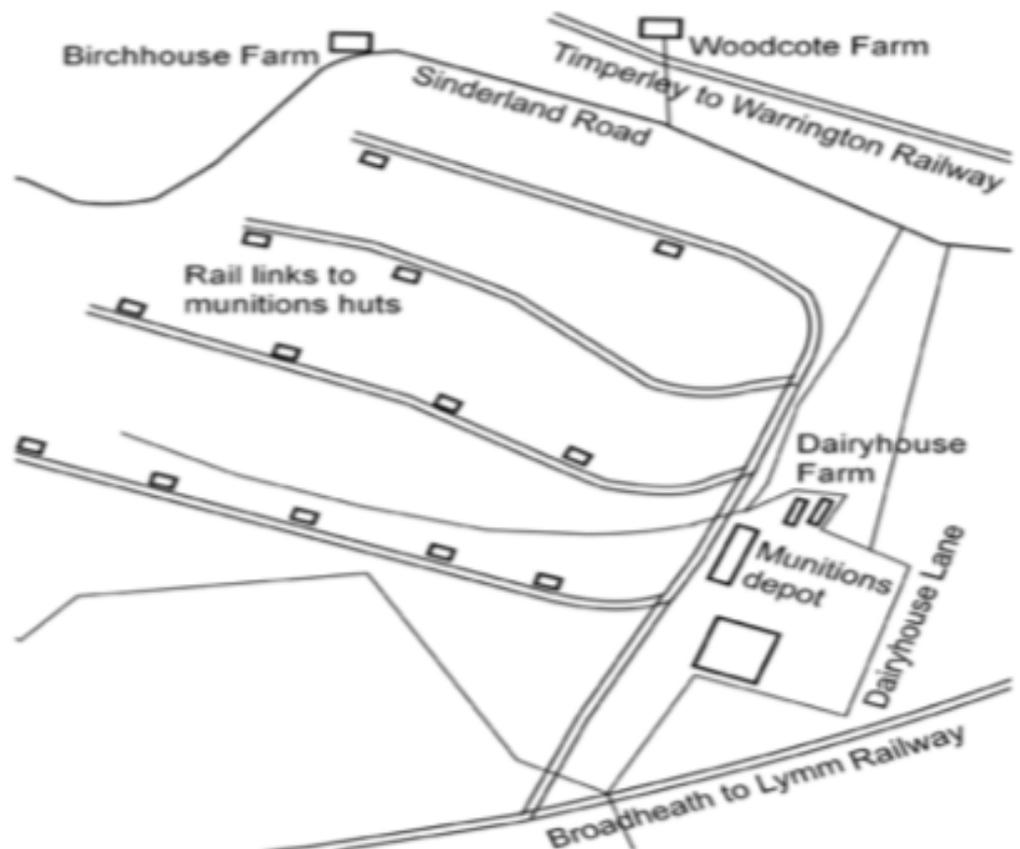
Sinderland Camp

Land west of Dairyhouse Farm at Sinderland (about a mile away from the Dunham POW camp but still part of the Dunham Massey estate) was used in WWI as a POW camp for Germans and Austrians. The Government rented 300 acres of land from the Stamford Estate, Cheshire Lines Committee and Manchester Corporation and moved Sinderland Road nearer to the railway.

This was for a German POW camp which the Germans helped to build in 1917 and was used for just a year or so before becoming an army depot. There were about 60 POW huts quite close together according to a post card of the time perhaps holding 1000 or so prisoners. Around the camp was a high barbed wire fence patrolled by guards with machine gun posts and pill-boxes at strategic points.



In WWII the camp was used as a munitions depot, known as the RAF No. 2 Stores (Ammunition) Depot Altrincham, the first in the country. The munitions were produced in Broadheath. TWO diesel locomotives were used to move wagons and train loads of munitions were shunted on to the main line at night and moved around the whole country.



The RAF No. 2 Stores (Ammunition) Depot at Sinderland showing the railway sidings to the munitions buildings and the connection to the Broadheath-Lymm line. A connection was also made to the more northerly line (from a Russian map of the area of about 1954).

In April 1944 a small camp was built just outside the unit to receive 75 Italians from Hednesford in Staffordshire by removing airmen from the Sinderland camp and housing them under canvas. In May one of the four huts was converted into a dining hall and cookhouse, and 100 Italian Co operators arrived. 16 were sentenced to 21 days' detention for failing to report for work and were transferred to Tarporley, whilst a further seven were transferred back to Hednesford on account of their detrimental influence on Italian Co-operators and their desire to revert to POW status. In July the number of Italians was increased to 201 including one officer by erecting four more barrack huts. A canteen and recreation room were constructed using Italian labour with material from aircraft packing cases.

In October work continued on extensions to the NAAFI airman's cookhouse, dining hall and ablutions, and work at the Italian camp neared completion. In November nine men were returned to Hednesford Holding Unit prior to repatriation and a further nine in December. Fourteen were repatriated in January 1946, eleven in February and 134 were transferred to RAF Kirknewton, Glasgow in March. The accommodation was then used by the RAF, enabling the de-requisitioning of houses in April.

After the war, the maintenance depot continued to store and supply munitions until 1957 when it closed and the farm land was restored.