**Camp 71** **- Lower Hare Park, London Road, Newmarket, Cambridgeshire**

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| **Prisoner of War Camps (1939 – 1948) - Project report by Roger J.C. Thomas - English Heritage 2003** | | | | | | | |
| OS NGR | Sheet | No. | Name & Location | County | Cond’n | Type 1945 | Comments |
| TL 592 595 | 154 | 71 | Lower Hare Park, London Road, Newmarket | Cambridgeshire | 4 |  |  |

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| In contemporary lists of camps for 1941, 1945 and 1947, Camp 71 was only listed as Sherriffhales, Shropshire. The same is true for the list of Italian camps for 1943, 1944 and 1945 produced by Isabella Insolvibile. There are no records for the Lower Hare camp at the National Archive.  Lower Hare Park came up for sale by auction in 1944 – it had been owned by the ‘late Sir Ernest de la Rue’. It remained unsold as the bidding did not go high enough. This may give a clue that it was not requisitioned until 1944/45.  From a Facebook request, local memories recalled Italians and then Germans at Lower Hare.  One memory of Italians – “*My father was discharged from frontline service in 1941 with shrapnel in his knee! He returned to make his home in Burwell and worked at the POW Camp at Lower Hare Park. He always said we looked after them to well compared to the treatment our boys got. He also told the story of how the Italians caught a big bird one day and cooked it on a fire… he went mad, it was a swan protected by law.*”  Several people stated that the camp was a little to the SE towards Six Mile Bottom. One response provided some evidence of the camp and use of the number 71:  “*There was definitely military activity at Lower Hare Park, here's an advert from 1947.* [below] *I also have a clipping from a Major of 71 group, Lower Hare Park donating toys to White House Hospital in Newmarket in 1945. The entrance to Lower Hare Park is directly opposite Station Road, Dullingham as it joins the A1304 London Road and just after the short bit of road from the A1303 Cambridge Road and the A1304 London Road. The access road further on towards Six Mile Bottom is actually the old tradesman's entrance to Upper Hare Park. The big Country house that was at Upper Hare Park was demolished in the 1960s, but you can still make out the* |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1958 |

*track that would have been used by the posh people at Nine Mile Hill, just before the A1303 crosses the A14.”* (My underlining).

The toys referred to in 1945 were almost certainly made by pows – this happened at many pow camps. The advert gives further evidence that 71 Pioneer Corps (the guards at the camp) were still at Lower Hare in 1947.