

## **A Note on the Photographs D836/EA/18**

### ***Related Background Information***

According to A B Afford, ten boys from Spring Bank School, New Mills, attended the first White Hall schools' course:

The First School Course, 26 February – 2 March, 1951.

This was led by Ken Oldham with a group of boys from Spring Bank School, New Mills. He also kept a complete written record of it from which we offer these few details. Ken and ten second to fourth-year boys spent five full days on foot exploring the Peak District. Map reading, compass work and field study occupied them fully. (Afford, A B, *The Story of White Hall Open Country Pursuits Centre*; vol. 2 (Buxton, Derbyshire, UK: A B Afford, 1978), p. 4.)

### ***Catalogue Information on D836/EA/18***

The fifty-odd photographs in D836/EA/18 are part of the 'New Mills and Hayfield school records'. They are listed as 'illustrating the courses at White Hall' and are dated 1951. The catalogue record does not link the photographs to any particular school or to any particular date in the year.

### ***Linking the Photographs to the First White Hall Schools' Course***

Photograph Number 1 is the most vital one of the fifty-odd. An examination of photograph Number 1 clearly identifies it as being of Spring Bank School. Knowing this, we can now confidently attribute the photographs to White Hall's first schools' course, 26 February – 2 March 1951.

There can be little doubt that all the photographs were taken by Ken Oldham, the teacher who accompanied the boys and who has been widely recognised as a pioneer in outdoor education.

White Hall is widely regarded as having been the pattern for many other Local Education Authority residential outdoor pursuits centres. These photographs are therefore of more than just local significance; they are part of the history of outdoor education in the UK.

Pete McDonald  
September 2015