

RNAS Lenabo

Some notes and pictures are included here as the airship station was along the road from Home Farm Nether Kinmundy and the rail line between RNAS Lenabo and Longside was near the farm house.

Sometimes referred to as Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Longside but not to be confused with RAF Longside.

The base was built in 1915 and operational between 1916 and 1920 when the buildings were demolished.

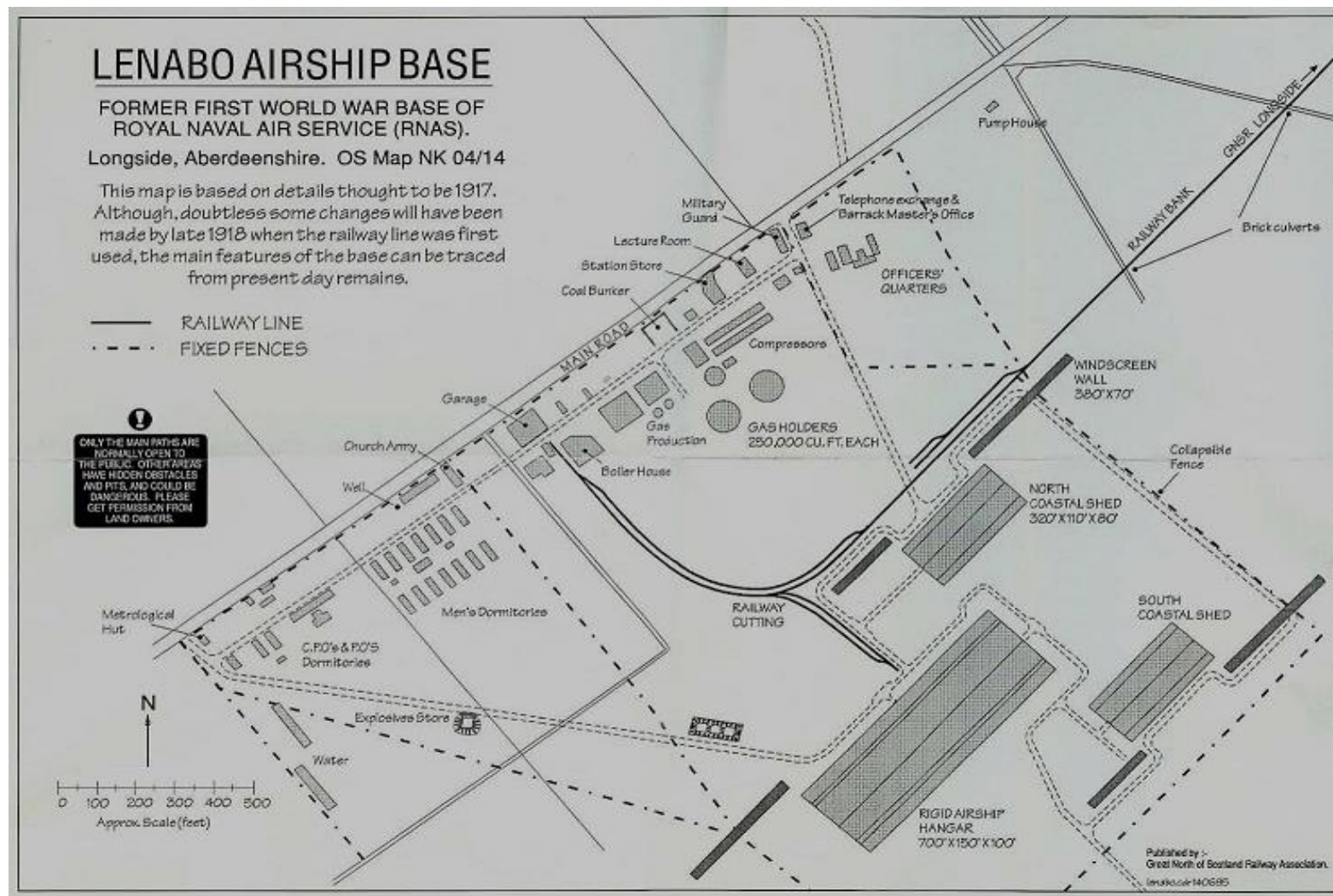
Maybe an insight into the terrain is the meaning of Lenabo - from the Gaelic "lannam bo" meaning "wet meadow of the cows" - and the use of peat to fire the steam powered shovels that were used to remove the peat during the construction phase!

There is an excellent booklet in the Airfield Focus series - 61: RNAS Longside (Lenabo).

My father was born in 1909 so would have been between 7 and 11 years old - at Kittybrewster, Aberdeen school and spending some holidays at the farm. He had clear recollections of the "soos" (Doric for pigs) and could readily have seen them taking off and landing. He mentioned to me a girl who seemingly was an airship captain's daughter who, I think, he went to see at the base. A difficult avenue to explore except that the names of some captains are recorded in various places at <http://www.ns11.org/1131-2/> which also gives an account of North Sea airships NS3, NS9 and NS 12.



NS6 at Lenabo



↑
 Railway line
 ran alongside
 Home Farm,
 Nether
 Kinmundy.

A Salute to Lenabo was penned in 1969 by William L Morgan - old Oxonian and former Naval Person at Sheerness, Barrow-in-Furness and Lenabo Airship Station, 1916-1920. I liked his concluding verse:

*There is a land, a treeless land,
 Where all the bravest go;
 It raineth every day and night,
 We call it "Lenabo".*



Courtesy of www.ns11.org

This picture is from <http://www.ns11.org/news/n-s-6-Over-traffic-square/> posted on 17 December 2017 as "NS 6 Over Trafalgar Square". These airships were built at Kingsnorth, Rochester, Kent and NS 6 was based at Lenabo. Perhaps this one was "en route"? I had a query with the website editor as the number on the airship looks like a "5". Peter 'Art' Lewry has confirmed, from a high resolution image, that the picture is indeed of N.S.6 which flew over London a lot for propaganda purposes. It was the first he had heard of the airships being called "soos" in Scotland adding that in Norfolk they were called "pigs"!