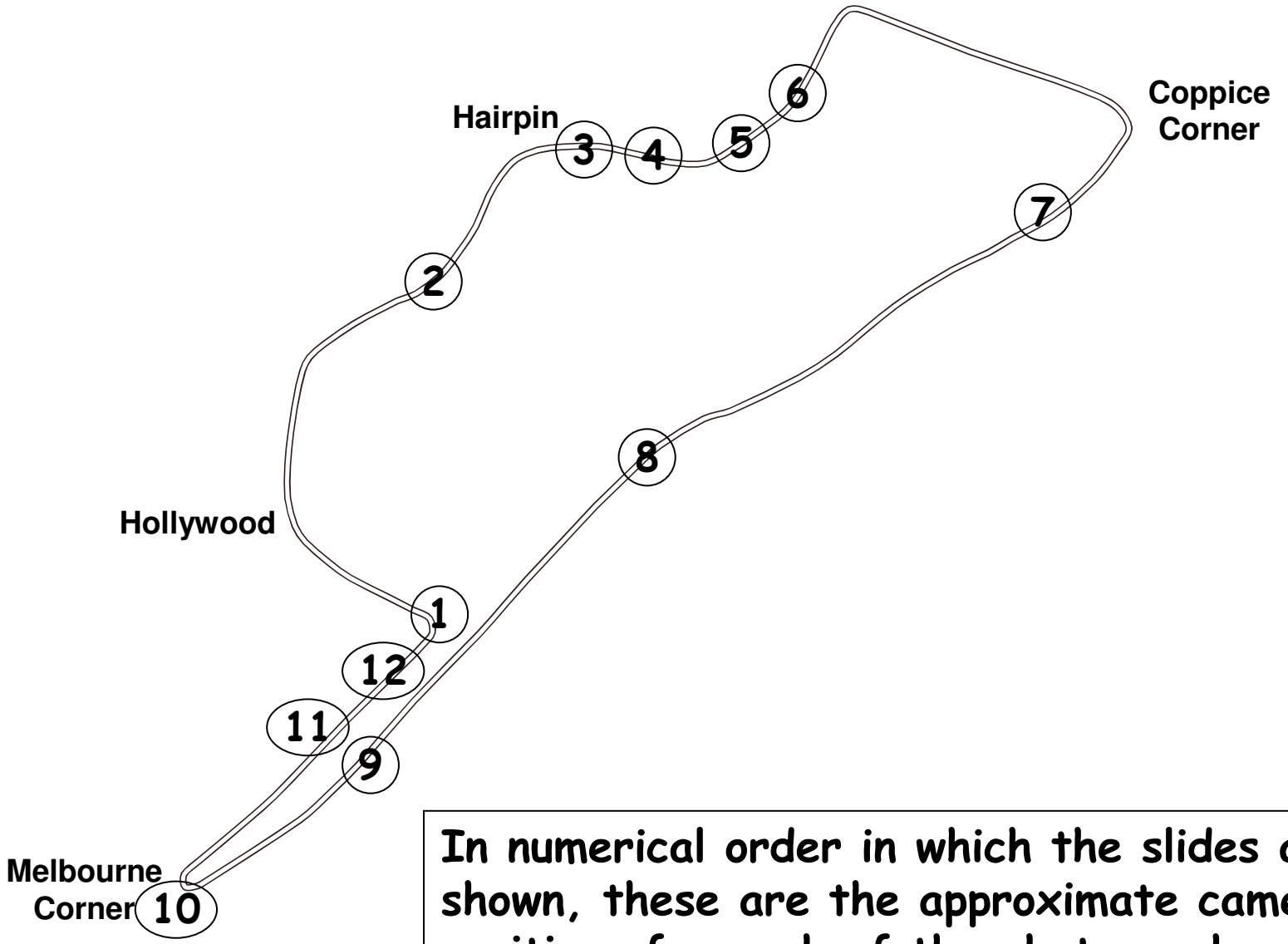
Donington Racing Circuit December, 1968

In my youth, I became very interested in the pre-war Donington Racing Circuit. In the December of 1968, I went round the track taking photographs.

I hope that you will enjoy these and get some idea of the demands that the Donington circuit put on the drivers and riders.

The average car today has an engine producing 100 bhp. German Auto Union and Mercedes racing cars had engines producing over 500 bhp.

Driving such a powerful car around the track must have been a truly awesome experience, but judge for yourself.



In numerical order in which the slides are shown, these are the approximate camera positions for each of the photographs



This is the start and finish point of the pre-war circuit. From the position where the photograph was taken, the racers would have been coming straight towards you.



Having turned left, the racers went along a short straight before turning right again and coming down this hill towards Hairpin bend.



This is the Hairpin bend which was particularly difficult and deceptive. The racers would be coming straight towards you.



After the Hairpin, racers had to go under Starkey's Bridge, so now the racers would be going away from the camera position.



After the Starkey's Bridge, the racers went up the hill through the tree lined section of the circuit, so the racers are going away from the camera position.



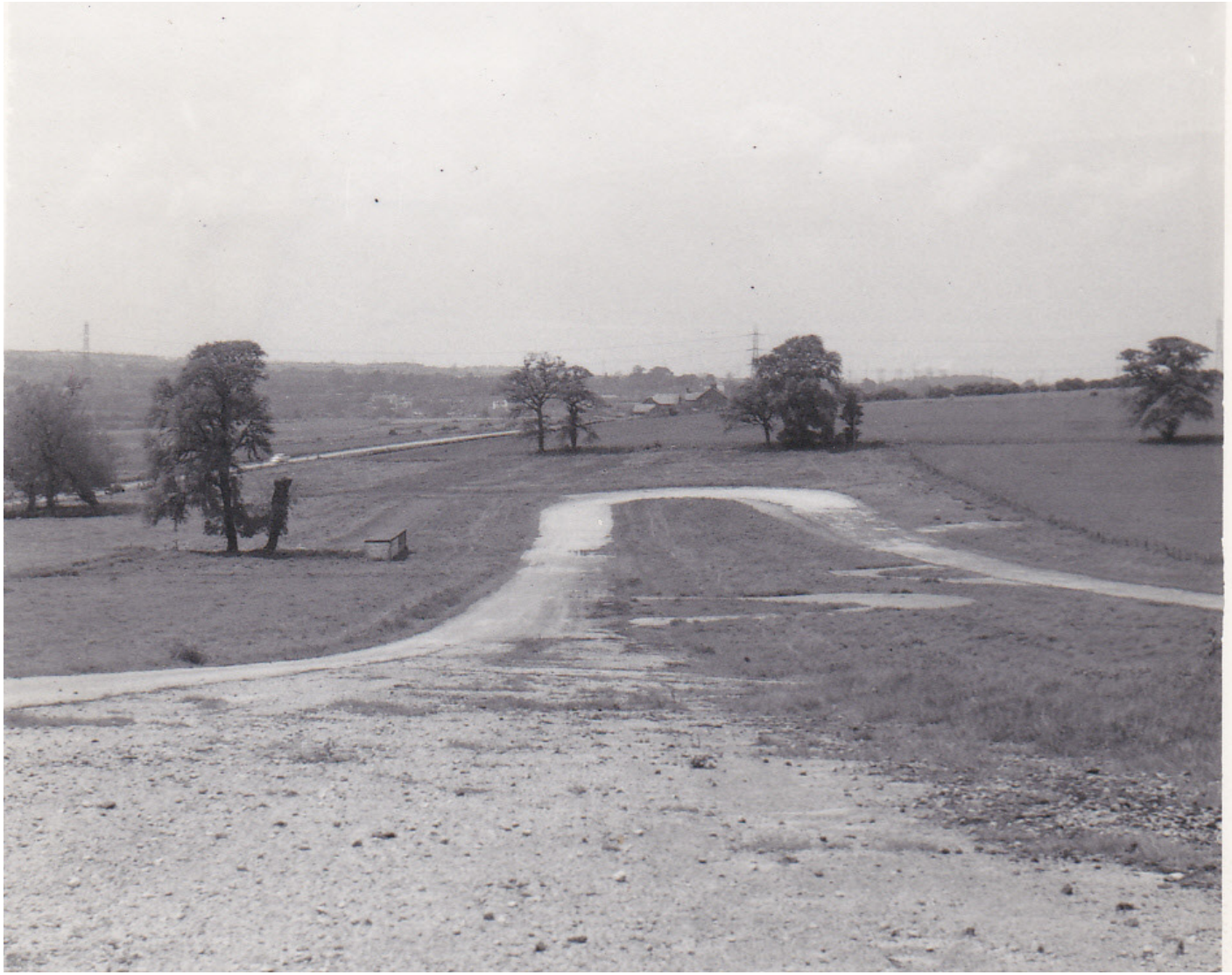
The final part of the tree lined section before the cars turned to the right to begin the long straight section of the track.



The start of the straightest section of the circuit, but even here, it is possible to see how difficult it must have been as the road seems to disappear. The racers are going away from the camera position.



The end of the straight section. In the distance the track disappears as it goes down the steep hill towards Melbourne Corner. The German cars were probably travelling at 180 mph and faster at this point.



The top of the hill before Melbourne Corner. Not really a place to discover that the brakes are not working!



A photograph taken on Melbourne Corner. The racers came down the right-hand side before making a 180^0 turn to make the ascent on the left-hand side.



The view back down to Melbourne Corner. At this point the German cars had so much power that they left the ground and there was daylight under all four wheels.



Now. We are back to the start and finish point and here are the remains of the grand stand.