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# Stobs Camp Project Quarter 4 Report January - March 2018

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## Executive Summary

During this period the project began recording the upstanding buildings at Stobs for the Home Front Legacy project and the Historic Environment Record. Volunteers were able to participate and determine building conditions and risks. Through the winter months progress was made on conducting newspaper research and transcription of oral histories and documents. Volunteers began testing the mobile heritage trail app and the Project Officer spoke to a number of historical and professional societies about the past, present and future of Stobs. Professional images were taken of key finds and donated items. A total of 123 volunteer hours were recorded during January to February 2018 with March expected to double that total.

## Introduction & Background

Stobs Camp was a military training camp prior to the First World War but then became first a civilian internment camp and then a military POW camp. It is internationally important as so much of it remains upstanding or visible. The local community and other stakeholders are keen to see the site properly recorded and receive adequate recognition.

The Stobs Camp Project is a community project being led by Archaeology Scotland (AS) co-operating with Historic Environment Scotland, Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service, Live Borders Museums and Archives, Hawick Archaeological Society, Hawick Callants Club, Project Hawick, Borders Family History Society, University of Aston, Edinburgh Napier University, landowners and other organisations (including Youth Borders and Voice Of My Own), individual volunteers and local schools.



## Aims & Objectives

The aims of the **Stobs Camp Project** are to encourage both local people and the global online community to:

- Better understand Stobs Camp and the role it played in the First World War
- To value, share and commemorate Stobs and the people connected to it
- To protect Stobs Camp for future generations

## Progress towards aims:

### **Objective 1 – to better understand Stobs Camp and the role it played in the First World War**

#### **1. Home Front Legacy recording**

During March the project team began recording information for the Home Front Legacy project and the Historic Environment Record. Initial focus will be on the upstanding structures. Later visits will focus on other on-site features including the War Memorial, practice trenches and bathing pond. The first building the team recorded was a drying hut near to Barns Farm. This was originally used to dry horse tack and soldiers' uniforms (Fig.1 & 2).



Fig.1. Barns Farm Drying Hut - image facing W, 13 March 2018



Fig.2 & 3. Barns Farm Drying Hut – interior and volunteers measuring external walls, 13 March 2018

Volunteers completed a basic measured survey and wrote a site description covering the orientation, location, shape and features including the door, steps, windows, hatches and vents. A brief visual inspection of the interior was noted. The team concluded that the overall condition was fair but that the saplings growing out of the flat roof and the crumbling outer rough casting posed an active and moderate threat to its continued survival. Figure 3 shows volunteers measuring the exterior walls. Additional surveys will take place in 2018 and a sub-group will be encouraged to continue the work under supervision.

## 2. Researching newspapers

This period saw the start of research on the Southern Reporter, Peeblesshire Advertiser, Kelso Chronicle, Scotsman and Hawick News newspapers. Volunteers were tasked with capturing key data from Stobs-related articles such as dates, regiments and names and then were asked to write a brief summary. This information will be added to the project website timeline and will sit alongside postcards, images, biographies and other Stobs-related ephemera. Three key resources are being used; the online British Newspaper Archive, digitised newspapers in Scottish Borders libraries (Fig.4) and a set of PDFs previously captured by Dr Gordon Barclay. This work will continue through 2018.





**RESOURCE GUIDE**

**Searching a newspaper using a keyword**

*Simple Search*

To search a particular edition of a newspaper using a keyword, open the specific newspaper edition  
e.g. *Southern Reporter* 10<sup>th</sup> August 1916 Keyword: *K.O.S.B.*

Select the specific folder e.g. *Southern Reporter*

Select the specific folder e.g. *SR 1916*

Select the specific folder e.g. *SR 1916 JUL-SEPT*

Select the specific document e.g. *SR 1916 Aug 10<sup>th</sup>*

Select Edit

Select Find

Or press 'Ctrl' and the letter 'F'

In the box that appears type the word or phrase to be searched and select next.

In the example below the word 'K.O.S.B.' is highlighted in blue. You can see other occurrences of the word or phrase by selecting 'Next'.

The user can then move backwards and forwards through the document by clicking on 'Previous' or 'Next'.

1

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Fig.4. Scottish Borders First World War library resource

### 3. Drone planning

The Project Officer met with a drone pilot to discuss plans to capture aerial imagery of the site. A programme of works has been identified to focus on the following:

- Recording stills and video of the upstanding buildings; the PoW camp barrack hut, the 4 drying huts, the store building near Barns Farm, the Officer's hut, the British Guard hut and the gas training chamber
- Completing a 3D scan of the PoW camp, including the exercise yards and hospital
- Taking aerial stills and video at Barns Moss firing range
- Capturing close-up stills and video of the Royal Engineers fortification, PoW camp prison and the foundations of the Quartermaster's store

This work will be commissioned in the next three months and will continue on from the trial work conducted in 2016 (Fig.5).



Fig.5. Drone image of the PoW camp, December 2016

#### **4. Transcription**

In this period volunteers transcribed material previously extracted from the National Archives by Dr Gordon Barclay.

Other volunteers have completed the transcription of an oral reminiscence recorded with Mr Walter Oliver who met the project team in September 2017. Selected audio clips from the interview will be added to the website along with their associated transcripts.

#### **5. National Archives planning**

The project team shortlisted Stobs-related records at the National Archives for additional research (Fig.6) and two volunteers visited Kew at the end of March to capture this information.



A	B
1	<i>Search for "stobs" in The National Archive 'Discovery' pages</i>
2	<b>Citable Reference</b> <b>Context Description</b>
3	COPY 1/464/151 Copyright Office: Entry Forms, etc. Photographs registered at the Stationers' Company. Bundle of forms applying for registration for copyright....
4	T 1/11021/10020 Treasury: Treasury Board Papers and In-Letters. Papers registered in 1909. Paper numbers 10010 - 10227. (Described at item level).
5	BT 372/1700/208 Registry of Shipping and Seamen: Central Register of Seamen: Seamen's Records ('Pouches').
6	ADM 137/19060 Admiralty: Historical Section: Records used for Official History, First World War.
7	FO 383/60 Foreign Office: Prisoners of War and Aliens Department: General Correspondence from 1906.
8	FO 383/85 Foreign Office: Prisoners of War and Aliens Department: General Correspondence from 1906.
9	CO 323/691/57 Colonies, General: Original Correspondence. Correspondence, Original - Secretary of State. Offices: Miscellaneous. (Described at item level).
10	FO 383/118 Foreign Office: Prisoners of War and Aliens Department: General Correspondence from 1906.
11	FO 383/293 Foreign Office: Prisoners of War and Aliens Department: General Correspondence from 1906.
12	FO 383/433 Foreign Office: Prisoners of War and Aliens Department: General Correspondence from 1906.
13	FO 383/436 Foreign Office: Prisoners of War and Aliens Department: General Correspondence from 1906.
14	FO 383/507 Foreign Office: Prisoners of War and Aliens Department: General Correspondence from 1906.
15	FO 383/508 Foreign Office: Prisoners of War and Aliens Department: General Correspondence from 1906.
16	PROB 11/2116/105 Prerogative Court of Canterbury and related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers. Volume number: 11 Quire numbers: 501-550.
17	RAIL 1053/58/616 Board of Trade Railway Department and Ministry of Transport: Reports and Returns. Accidents: inspecting officers' reports for 1866-1871. (Described at item level).
18	RAIL 1053/60/153 Board of Trade Railway Department and Ministry of Transport: Reports and Returns. Accidents: inspecting officers' reports for 1866-1871, with Parliamentary returns. (Described at item level).
19	
20	<i>References indicated by other sources</i>
21	<b>Citable Reference</b> <b>Context Description</b>
22	WO 900/45 List of German subjects interned as Prisoners of War. List No. 22.
23	WO 900/46 List of German subjects interned as Prisoners of War. List no. 101.
24	WO 162/341 Report on the work of the Prisoners of War Information Bureau: includes examples of administrative papers, hospital and internment reports
25	CAB 37/123/37 Photographic copies of cabinet papers (described at item level).
26	ADM 1/8506/265 Admiralty, and Ministry of Defence, Navy Department: Correspondence and Papers
27	HO 282/21 Exhumation from graves throughout the UK and re-interment in the German Military Cemetery, Cannock Chase, Staffs, of the remains of German servicemen killed in the First and Second World Wars
28	NATS 1/567 Prisoners of War Committee: constitution and function; policy file
29	NATS 1/568 Prisoners of War Committee Labour Policy: extension of Prisoners of War Committee to enquire into conditions of labour, remuneration and supervision of prisoners of war
30	NATS 1/569 Prisoners of War: inspection of camps by Ministry of National Insurance; utilisation of prisoners, enquiry
31	NATS 1/570 Prisoners of War: rations for prisoners engaged in heavy manual work; policy file
32	NATS 1/571 Prisoners of War: repatriation; policy file
33	NATS 1/964 'Comb Out' of hunting and racing establishments of persons evading military service
34	HO 144/11720 Internment of enemy aliens during 1914-1918 war: Classified List
35	HO 45/11522/287235 Central Register of Aliens in United Kingdom; policy of internment and repatriation of alien enemies

Fig.6. Research requirements for the National Archives

## 6. Hut Search Group

During the winter months the Hut Group team continued to capture information on Stobs buildings sold off in the 1920s and 1950s. Earlier in the year twenty-one potential huts had been discovered of which fifteen were still upstanding. The team will convene in the Spring to plan which sites will be visited in 2018.

### Objective 2 – to value, share and commemorate Stobs and the people connected to it

Work has continued on the mobile heritage trail app that will encourage visitors to the site and help to illuminate the visible and hidden remains. The app will be accessible from the internet so will be of interest to the wider public. During this quarter the Project Officer completed preliminary trials and subsequently half a dozen volunteers were invited to test the app on-site and via the online application (Fig.7). Pending any significant issues it is hoped that the app will be launched after Easter.



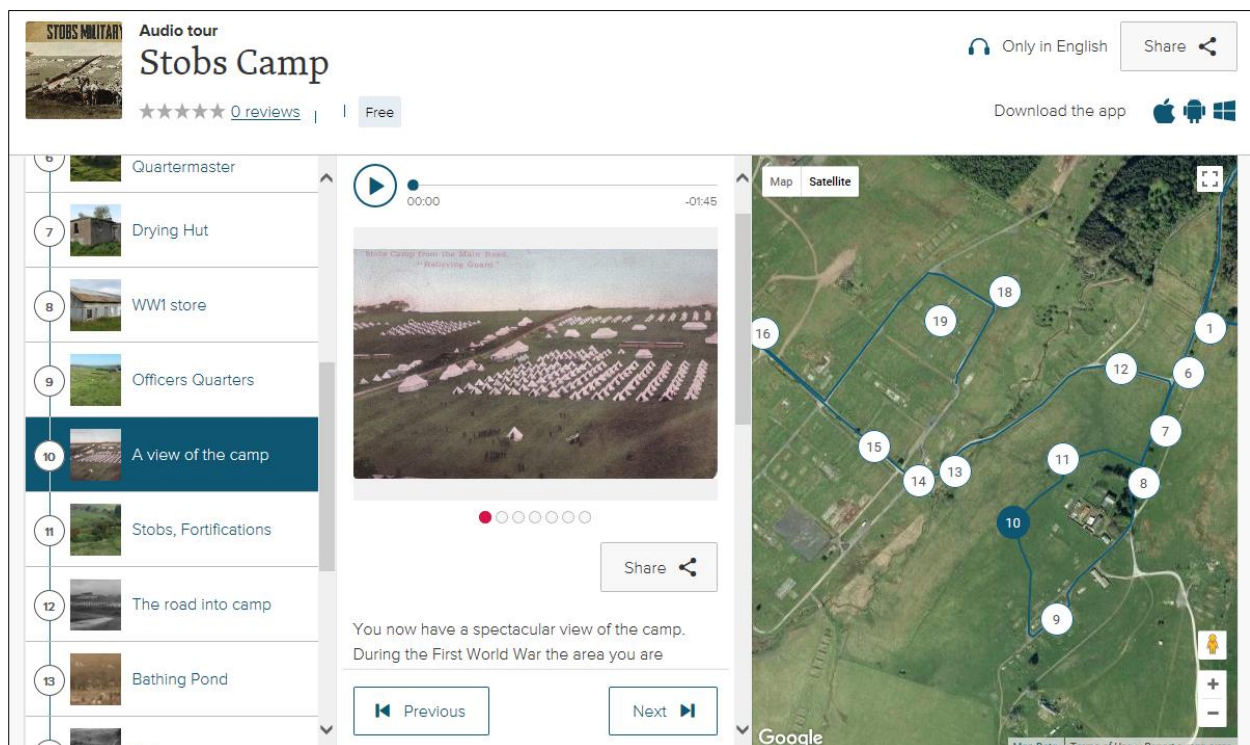


Fig.7. On-line version of the Stobs Camp heritage trail

In the last three months work has begun on developing content for a Stobs-related touch screen at Hawick Museum. This will be part of a permanent War Room exhibition opening later in 2018. The Project Officer is working closely with the museum curator.

The Project Officer delivered a talk to three historical and professional societies during this period. They were:

- Cogsmill Women's Institute, on 14<sup>th</sup> February
- Innerleithen, Walkerburn and Traquair Probus Club, on 6<sup>th</sup> March
- Burnfoot Guild, on 28<sup>th</sup> March

Between January and March the activities of the Stobs Camp Project appeared in an article in *The Hawick Paper*.

Researchers at the Borders Family History Society continue to look for connections to prisoners, internees and British soldiers' families. They are focusing on completing biographies for twenty-five individuals. These will then be added to the project website early in 2018.

The Stobs Camp Project Twitter account now has 525 followers and tweets have reached many thousands of people.



Following training a volunteer from the Borders Family History Society is now helping to build the Stobs Camp website timeline. This person should also be able to help upload the biographies created by the society.

Members of the Hawick Camera Club have assisted in capturing professional images of the artefacts found during excavation and the metal-detecting surveys. They also took pictures of other items donated to the project (Fig. 8 & 9). The images have been uploaded to CMC Flow, the repository for building the mobile heritage trail app and the museum touch screen. They will also be added to the Stobs Camp website in due course.



Fig.8 & 9. Donated wooden toy made by a Stobs PoW and a 9<sup>th</sup> Queens Royal Lancers tunic button found during metal-detecting

### **Objective 3 – to protect Stobs Camp for future generations**

All the work described above will contribute to the future conservation plan and continuous assessment of the standing remains is a constant of the project.

Andy Jepson  
Project Officer  
March 2018