



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
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Stobs Camp Project Quarter 2 Report July - September 2018

Executive Summary

During this period the project focussed on completing the recording of all buildings and building remains on the site of the camp for Home Front Legacy prior to the closing of the HFL website for consolidation and verification. We also launched the mobile Heritage Trail App with attendant publicity and then began work on the reinstatement of the German memorial monument at Stobs Camp cemetery. Two talks to local history societies were also given and the HES Board were given a guided tour. Altogether 549 volunteer hours were recorded over the quarter.

Introduction & Background

Stobs Camp was a military training camp prior to the First World War but then became an internment camp for German civilians and military and naval prisoners. 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 and Borders Youth Theatre), individual volunteers and local schools.



Progress towards HES grant outcomes:

Outcome 2 – Management and maintenance of the historic environment is improved

Memorial stone

Following the engagement of a stonemason reinstatement of the memorial monument began in August. Volunteers began by sorting stone by size and then trying to identify potential candidates from the original front elevation based on images of the memorial from the First World War. Planning permission did not come through until mid-September so work also began on repairing the steps that lead up from the burial area to the memorial platform which was outside the site area for planning. Volunteers were delighted to discover that some of the stones that had lain around the monument had names and initials carved on them years ago some of which we were able to identify as local people who had lived in the area. Work began mortaring the base layers as soon as permission was granted. The grand unveiling will be part of the Armistice Day commemorations when local and German dignitaries will contribute to a short service.

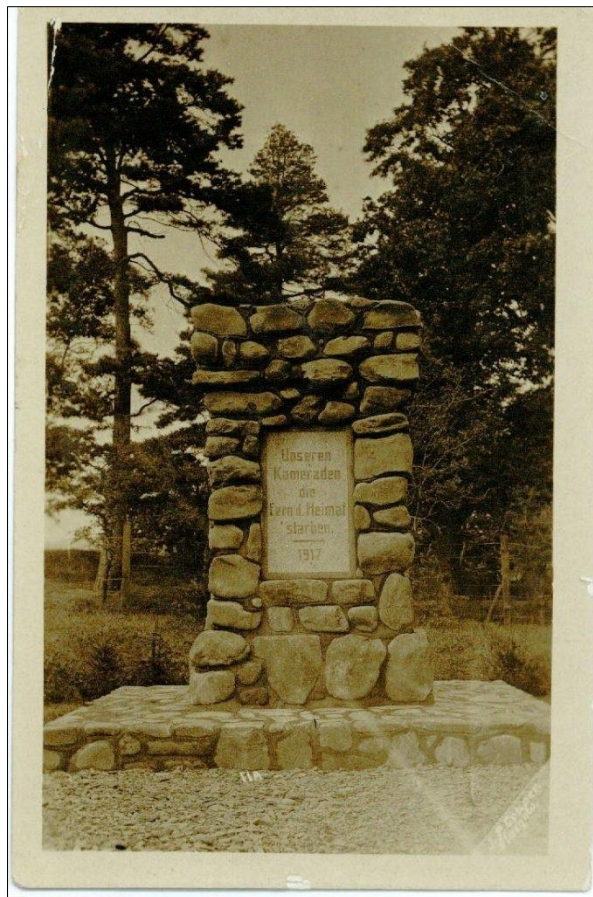


Fig.1. Memorial stone in the former cemetery, image from the First World War

Indicators: Condition report still being compiled by Addyman/Simpson & Brown therefore conservation plan is still to be completed. Memorial will be reconstructed by early November.



Fig. 2. Volunteers repairing the steps up to the platform



Fig.3. Graffiti we could identify as Reene Currie (née Walters) carved post WW11



Outcome 6 – Economic activity undertaken in and around the historic environment will be increased

Hawick Museum interactive

Final tweaks and input was made to the digital interactive display at the museum and this will be completed in time for the official launch of the War Memorial Room on Saturday 3 November. This day will also see the launch of the “Behind the Wire – Civilian Internment in the British Empire 1914-1919” exhibition with our partners from Aston University.



Fig.4. Current version of museum touchscreen landing page

Staff from our contractor's at CMC Associates also helped to digitise the massive Engineer's Plan of 1917 held at the Museum.



Fig.5. Filming the 1917 Engineer's Plan



In the morning of Saturday 3 November the Heritage Hub in Hawick will also launch the “Internment Research Centre”. We have been a partner to this project with Aston University, and others, primarily contributing to resources for the archive and the services of our own Digital Archivist, Hannah Bell, who joined us in May.

Early in August we launched the mobile heritage trail app izi.travel/StobsCamp through social and traditional media. ITV Borders came out to the site to film us demonstrating how the app works. To date it has had nearly 200 downloads and many more views online from all over the UK and a few from abroad. The app should encourage visitors to the site and the local area encouraging economic contribution.

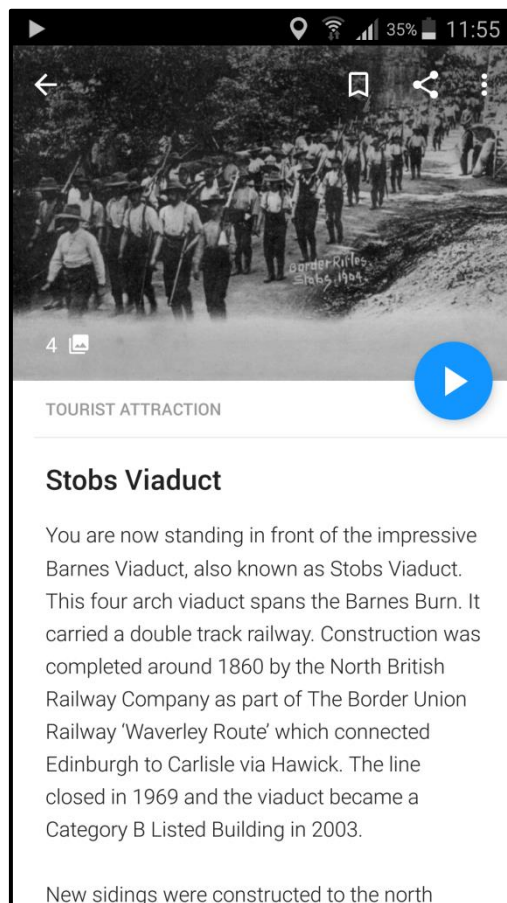


Fig.6. Screen shot of app

Indicators: App is completed and launched. Digital interactive display completed, mobile exhibition to be completed late October and dates for launch of IRC and exhibition agree and invites sent.

Outcome 3 &7 – Skills for threats & Opportunities and Conservation and/or archaeological skills are enhanced



Following the delivery of a Home Front Legacy training workshop in Hawick building surveys were conducted over five days on site. Along with the findings of the Hut Search Group we recorded 21 buildings and some volunteers helped with submitting the information to the Home Front Legacy website. The site is planned to go live by November 2018. People learnt both archaeological recording and digital skills.

Hut Search Group

In this period the Hut Search Group consolidated its findings for uploading to the Home Front Legacy database. Plans to visit more buildings in the Autumn were made.



Fig.7. Screen shot of buildings recorded on HFL site

Indicators: 21 buildings assessed for condition and included on HFL. 11 volunteers trained for HFL. 11 volunteers record and upload information and a further 8 are involved in volunteer-led off-site recording. Monitoring and evaluation are ongoing.

Outcome 11 – Existing and new audiences have opportunities to access and learn about the historic environment.

Postcard and photographic annotation

Work has continued on annotating the vast collection of images and hundreds have been added to our own catalogue and the Calm archive at the Heritage Hub in Hawick. Selected images and newspaper stories have been added to the timeline on stobscamp.org. Annotation workshops will continue over the autumn and winter months.



Fig.8. Screen shot of timeline

Heritage Hero Awards & Youth Engagement

Our young volunteers continue to work towards the Gold Award and are also volunteering on other projects around the local area. Hawick High School pupils are also working on poetry reflecting their feelings about what they have learned about the First World War and this may be part of the Armistice event.

Indicators: Two school days are planned for October and November. Delving Deep is scheduled for November 7th. 15 volunteers have contributed to transcriptions and newspaper research. 700 photo/postcards annotated. Hundreds of articles recorded some of which appear on the timeline of the website.

Drone flight agreed with SBC and will take place late October. Software still to be purchased. Lidar image of site obtained.

Outcome 12 – Communities are empowered to take an active role in understanding and enhancing the historic environment

Researchers at the Borders Family History Society continue to look for connections to prisoners, internees and British soldiers' families. They have completed the biographies for twenty-five individuals and are currently assessing newspaper and police reports. These will also be added to the timeline on the project website soon.



Indicators: 31 family histories compiled. Hundreds of newspaper articles either summarised or reproduced. 11 volunteers confident of leading and reporting on conditions and making observations.

The Stobs Camp Project Twitter account now has over 600 followers and tweets have reached many thousands of people.

Outcome 13 – People and communities enjoy the historic environment

Tours at Stobs

The Project Officer led three illustrated tours at Stobs during this period. These were for the Peeblesshire Archaeological Society (4th July), Hawick Library (12th September) and for the Board and Senior Management of Historic Environment Scotland (27th September). Each tour focussed on the history of the camp prior to, and during, the First World War and visited key areas including the British Guard camp and the former PoW cemetery. The tour culminated in a stunning view of the PoW camp.



Fig.9. Mid-tour overlooking the camp

Talk

The Project Officer was invited to speak to the Lauderdale History Society about the past, present and future of Stobs.

Indicators: Recording completed and reports being compiled for HER and DES.

3 Plays completed – 2 in November. Armistice event organised. Working on celebration event. Details of volunteers is compiled.

Stobs theatre productions (also meets Outcomes 11 & 14)

The project has commissioned Borders Youth Theatre to stage “Delving Deep”, a multi-media production which is based on local poetry of the First World War. They will work with regular BYT members but are also holding a workshop for Hawick High School drama students on the afternoon of the performance on 7th November.



Parchmarks

Further publicity included our short video on parchmarks at Stobs being included in a story on PBS Newshour in Washington, DC as well as many retweets by Carenza Lewis.



Fig.10. Parchmarks at Stobs June 2018

Indicators: 2 television products, 5 press articles, 100s of retweets. Volunteers love it!

Dianne Swift & Andy Jepson
October 2018