



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

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Stobs Camp Project Quarter 4 Report January - March 2019

Executive Summary

During this period the Project team focused on key desk-based activities including updating website content, newspaper research, postcard annotation, project evaluation and development of the Internment Research Centre catalogue. Drone surveys of the PoW Camp continued and talks were given at two international conferences. Volunteers were recognised for their contribution to a national First World War Home Front database and local schoolchildren were inspired to get creative.

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), individual volunteers and local schools.



Progress towards HES grant outcomes:

Outcome 7 – Conservation and/or archaeological skills are enhanced

Home Front Legacy award

On 20th February Project volunteers received an award in recognition of their work to record the buildings, or the remains of buildings, at Stobs and to locate potential structures auctioned off by the MOD in the early 1920s and late 1950s. Using archaeological techniques and the Home Front Legacy (HFL) toolkit provided by the Council for British Archaeology and Historic England volunteers had trained how to interrogate military sites.

The search for the buildings outwith the camp had led to 21 buildings around the Scottish Borders being found with a possible connection to Stobs. At Stobs itself the volunteers spent over 100 hours measuring, drawing and photographing 16 structures in the camp, including buildings in the guard camp, an officer's hut, two drying sheds, training huts, a water treatment tank, fortification trenches and the Stobs War Memorial. In groups they wrote site descriptions and assessed building conditions. They then helped to write the final reports with site sketches, scale drawings and photographs for upload to the Home Front Legacy database.

The project submitted 23 records to the database in August 2018 after starting the work early in 2017. In recognition the HFL Project awarded the Stobs Camp team a Champion's certificate for the contribution they had made (Fig.1). The previously unrecorded data captured by the Stobs Camp team will now contribute to the local Historic Environment Record and Discovery & Excavation in Scotland which will lead to entries in Canmore, the national database. The work the team has completed so far will help to inform the future understanding of Stobs and the role it played during the First World War. It will also support future decisions on conservation and the creation of a management plan.



Fig.1. Project staff and volunteers with the Champion award



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

Model of Stobs PoW Camp

Following tours at Stobs in November 2018 pupils from Drumlanrig Primary School in Hawick made a model of the PoW Camp and cemetery (Fig.2). A small article appeared in The Hawick Paper and Archaeology Scotland presented Heritage Hero Awards to all the pupils involved.



Fig.2. Pupils from Drumlanrig Primary School with their Stobs Camp model, January 2019

Postcard and photograph annotation

Work continued on annotating the vast collection of images of Stobs. Completed images were added to our catalogue and the CALM archive at the Heritage Hub in Hawick. Further images were being scanned.

Updates to the Project website

There was a concerted effort over the winter months to update the website (stobscamp.org). This included:

- the addition of progress reports
- the inclusion of a new Educational Learning Resource
- the upload of oral reminiscences and transcriptions
- investigation of a replacement Timeline tool
- a celebration of the volunteers reaching 4,000 hours on the project
- the addition of all newspaper & magazine articles published in 2018
- the creation of an Internment Research Centre page which includes links to the Heritage Hub in Hawick and a map of First World War internment camps (Fig.3)



Fig.3. Interactive map of First World War internment camps on the Stobs Camp Project website (<http://www.stobscamp.org/irc/>)

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

Drone survey

Drone surveys were in progress during this period (Fig.4). The pilot spent time stitching images together to ensure there were no gaps in the flight plans (Fig.5).

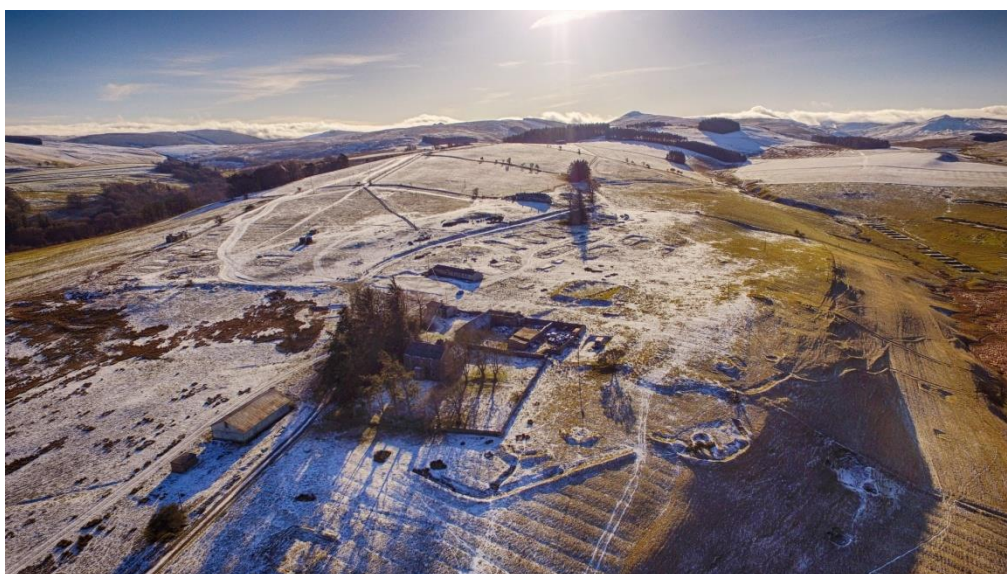


Fig.4. Image from drone looking south across the British Guard Camp, February 2019

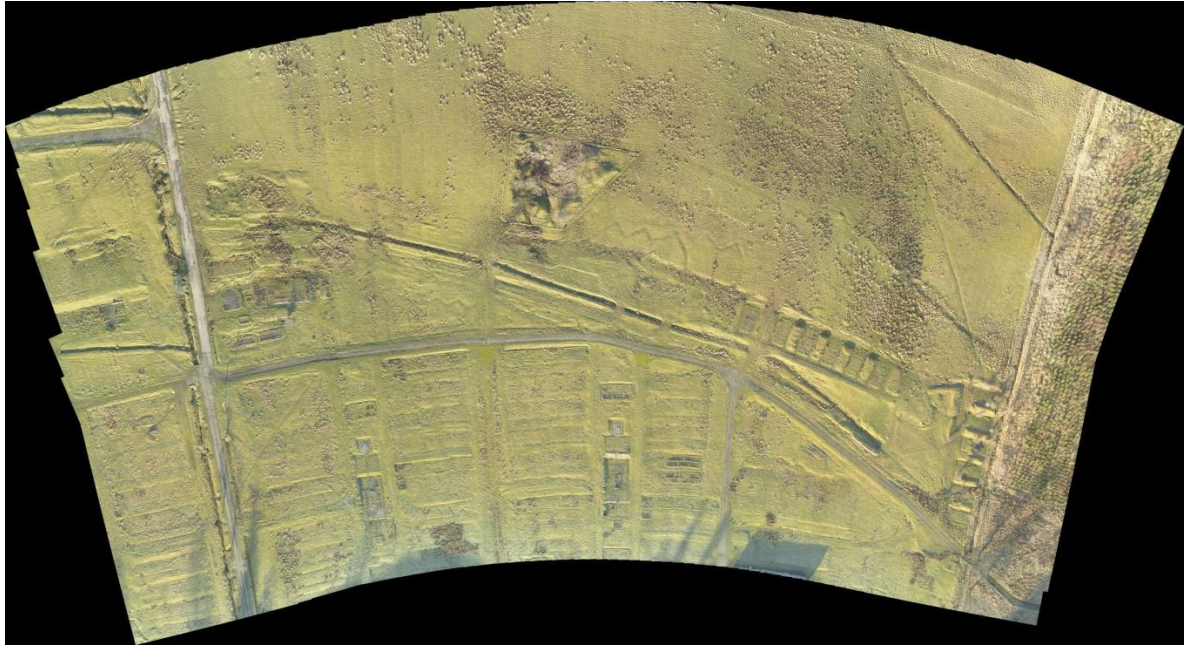


Fig.5. Drone image featuring Camps C and D, February 2019

Newspaper research

Over 530 newspaper articles on Stobs have now been researched and summarised by a team of volunteers. The majority of these are Scottish Borders newspapers but The Scotsman has also been included. Current focus is on the Southern Reporter during the First World War years. Selected entries have been added to the website timeline.

Project evaluation

Rob Robinson Heritage Consulting was asked to evaluate and review the Project. A questionnaire was designed and volunteers, partners and teachers were invited to take part. 29 volunteers completed the survey. The consultant's findings were that:

"The Stobs Camp Project was ambitious, aiming to deliver a wide variety of outputs in a rural community, and is set to deliver all of these with only minor alterations to two elements based on necessity and maximising value. Indeed, in many respects the Project has delivered well beyond its targets, not only in terms of volunteers involved and people trained but also in terms of tangible outputs.

Some of the most significant successes of the Project are where the project has gone the extra mile to deliver additional benefits beyond those initially identified. For example, the rebuilding of the war memorial and the centenary event, the considerable media coverage throughout the project, the school resource pack and maximising project partnerships to deliver theatrical performances and providing valuable resources for the Hawick Museum exhibitions and the Heritage Hub (Internment Research Centre), all enabling the project to reach a larger and more diverse audience.



The project is set to complete by the end of June and already there is a strong desire (by staff, partners and volunteers) to continue the Project into the future now that the appetites for Stobs heritage are whetted, volunteers are enthused and so many people have been trained."

Project Book

Plans to publish a community book began by recording over 20 conversations with volunteers to gather their experiences of working on the project. The findings were consolidated and chapters were being drafted.

Social media

The Stobs Camp Project Twitter account now has 692 followers.

Outcome 13 – People and communities enjoy the historic environment

Talks

During this quarter the Project was invited to speak at the 'Legacies of the First World War' conference in Birmingham, 22-23 March and at the 'Knockaloe, a local, national, global perspective' conference on the Isle of Man, 28-30 March (Fig.6). These conferences brought Stobs and the Project to a wider audience.



Fig.6. Centre for WW1 Internment conference, 28th March 2019

Andy Jepson & Dianne Swift
April 2019