

SCOTTISH BORDERS (local authority)

Cavers (parish)

Stobs Camp pre-First World War practice trench

Excavation

Andrew Jepson and Dianne Swift – Archaeology Scotland

NT 50437 09301 (centred on) A community excavation was undertaken, 13-14 June 2017, at Stobs Camp by Archaeology Scotland.

The aim was to investigate a practice trench believed to be dug by British soldiers prior to, or during, the First World War, to determine its depth and construction method. The practice trench was marked by a shallow crenellating depression 39m in length on a SE-NW alignment. To this end, one trench measuring 3 x 3m was located perpendicular to the practice trench and was opened by hand. At the back of the trench system the steep sides of the practice trench were excavated to a depth of 0.55m. The bottom was not reached. It was 0.4m wide and was infilled with blue-gray clay. At the front of the trench system the practice trench was wider, reaching 1.1m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. The bottom was not reached.

During sieving of the top soil a tunic button belonging to a Seaforth Highlander was found. The Seaforth Highlanders trained at Stobs Camp in the summer of 1907. Two coins were also discovered during a metal-detector survey prior to excavation; a 1901 Queen Victoria halfpenny and a 1905 Edward VII penny.

During the first day of excavation 14 pupils and 2 teachers from Hawick High School took part in the dig. On the second day a further 6 adult volunteers joined the excavation.

Archive: Historic Environment Scotland, Scottish Borders Council, Historic Environment Record (intended)

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