

SCOTTISH BORDERS (local authority)

Cavers (parish)

Stobs Camp former PoW cemetery

Re-instatement of PoW Memorial

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NT 50523 09563 (centred on) A community project to re-instate a German PoW memorial and stone steps was undertaken, August-November 2018, at Stobs Camp by Archaeology Scotland in partnership with Tree-ditions Woodland Crafts School.

The aim was to rebuild the memorial originally constructed by German prisoners interned at Stobs Camp during the First World War for the Armistice 2018 centenary commemorations. The original structure, measuring 2.5m in height, was either destroyed or broken up in the early 1960s and many of the loose stones were found lying on the ground. The prisoners were disinterred in 1962 and moved to the German War Graves Commission Cemetery at Cannock Chase in Staffordshire.

Planning permission for the re-instatement was granted by Scottish Borders Council on 21 August 2018. Stones were selected and cleaned before the memorial was assembled. All efforts were made to locate the facing stones visible in First World War pictures. Construction took place using a modern hydraulic lime mortar with a sharp sand mix for bonding and pointing. A plaque made of durable sandstone was placed at the centre with an inlaid German inscription as per the former memorial. In translation the inscription reads “To our comrades who died far from home.”

A stone plinth measuring 3 x 3m and six stone steps were also cleaned and re-pointed.

Whilst graffiti was observed on a handful of stones no finds of archaeological note were discovered.

Eleven volunteers worked on the re-instatement project.

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

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