



Designation Consultation

This designation consultation is open for comment until 02/03/2023.

Give us your comments

Historic Environment Scotland consult with those who are directly affected by designation proposals – including owners, occupiers and tenants – and with the planning authority.

We also welcome comments from interested persons or groups.

When we consult about a designation case we will have carried out research and set this out in a **report of handling**. This report is an assessment produced for consultation and it sets out our view, including a proposed decision. The assessment is not intended to be a definitive account or description of the site or place. We consider the comments received before we take a final decision.

We consider comments and representations which are material to our decision-making, such as:

- Your understanding of the cultural significance of the site or place.
- Whether sites or places meet the criteria for designation.
- The purpose and implications of designating the site or place. We consider whether these are relevant to the case.
- Development proposals related to the site or place. Where there are development proposals, we consider whether to proceed with designation in line with our designation policy.
- The accuracy of our information.

You can find more guidance on providing comments and how we handle your information on our [website](#).

Information on how we treat your personal data is available on our [Privacy Notice](#).

How to make a comment

Please send your comments to designationconsultations@hes.scot and provide us with the case reference. You can also make comments through our [portal](#) by clicking on the link 'email your comments about this case'.

If you are the owner, occupier or tenant or the planning authority please email us at: designations@hes.scot.

If you are unable to email your comments please phone us on 0131 668 8914.



Case information

Case IDs	300056983, 300056985, 300056986, 300056990
Name of Site	Stobs Camp Designation Review Project

Local Authority	Scottish Borders Council
Designation Type	Scheduled Monument
Designation No. (if any)	N/A
Case Type	Designation

Received/Start Date	20/02/2020
Decision Date	Pending

1. Proposed decision

Case Reference	Scheduled monument names (including designation numbers)	National grid reference	Proposed action
300056983	Stobs Camp, prisoner of war camp and cemetery, military training camp and trenches, Stobs (SM13767)	NT 4992 0943	Add to the schedule of monuments (designate)
300056985	Acreknowe training trenches, Stobs Camp, 460m WNW, 560m WNW and 570m NNW of Acreknowe, Stobs (SM13768)	NT 49833 10804 NT 49768 10873 NT 50032 11135	Add to the schedule of monuments (designate)
300056986	Blakebillend, tracked target range, 750m WNW and 570m and 740m NW of Penchrise Peel (SM13769)	NT 50999 05964 NT 51361 06132 NT 51257 06260	Add to the schedule of monuments (designate)
300056990	Stobs Camp rifle ranges, 650m W, 330m WNW and 450m SSE of White Knowe (SM13755)	NT 49489 07164 NT 48624 07487 NT 48939 07651	Add to the schedule of monuments (designate)



2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

There are currently no national heritage designations associated with this site.

2.2 Development Proposals

There is a current planning proposal (21/01267/S37) for a 33kV electrical grid connection between the Pines Burn Wind Farm and Hawick. Although this proposal passes relatively close to the eastern end of the monument and will have some impact upon its setting, it does not directly impact upon the proposed scheduled area, nor does it impact upon the key view from the firing positions towards the targeting area.

We are aware of a forestry creation scheme around Acreknowe and initial planting plans and have seen indicative planting plans. There is no direct impact on the proposed designation.

We were also made aware of plans to develop the area around Barns House as an agricultural small holding and this includes a proposal to convert the former camp post office building into holiday accommodation for which a planning application has been submitted to Scottish Borders Council (Application reference 22/01810/FUL). Our designation proposals have taken account of these plans (see below – Policy considerations).

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

We received an application to consider the heritage significance and designation of the Stobs Camp on 20/02/2020. Stobs Camp was an extensive military training area which operated from 1902 until 1959. The core of the training area measures approximately 7km north to south and 3km east to west. It includes a military training camp which was used in the First World War as a civilian internment camp and a prisoner of war camp. In addition, an extensive area surrounding the camp was used for military training with practice areas and a number of target ranges.

Given the scale of the site and the extensive remains, our assessment included an initial sift to determine which sites were likely to meet the designation criteria. Following that, we carried out a more detailed assessment of the selected sites which focused on the camp area and several training areas that exhibited significant remains. Some elements of infrastructure associated with the camp, for example a



reservoir and railway sidings lie outside the core camp area and are not included in the proposed designation because of later adaptive reuse.

We have not assessed Barns House as part of this project. Barns House is a 19th century stone-built farmhouse with related outbuildings to the rear. The house predates the military occupation of Stobs and was a major farmhouse within the Stobs estate. The military purchased Barns House as part of the wider estate but there is little readily available evidence for military use of the house. An image from 1914 shows soldiers marching in the vicinity of the house and it can be reasonably assumed the building was utilised as office or accommodation space for the camp. However, there is no evidence for any physical external changes to the structure as a result of military use or intervention. The house is occupied and the area around is currently under development.

We carried out site visits on 30/11/2021 and 29/03/2022.

3.2 Assessment of national importance

We carried out assessments using the selection guidance for scheduled monuments to decide whether the sites or places were of national importance. We considered if several of the upstanding buildings within the camp area would be more appropriately listed rather than scheduled. However, as integral components of the camp, we decided that scheduling was the more appropriate designation.

The designation selection guidance for scheduling is published in the Historic Environment Scotland Designations Policy and Selection Guidance 2019, Annex 1, pp 9-10, <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/designation-policy>.

3.3 Policy considerations

The policy guiding our approach to designations is set out in the Designations Policy Designation Policy and Selection Guidance | Hist Env Scotland (historicenvironment.scot).

In deciding whether to designate a site or place while there are ongoing development proposals, we will consider:

- the implications of designation on development proposals;
- the effect of the proposed development on the significance of the site or place; and
- the extent to which plans have been developed for the site or place – where these are particularly advanced, we will not normally list or schedule.

In this case, the development proposal is to develop the area around Barns House into an agricultural small holding, including conversion of the former camp post office building into holiday accommodation (Scottish Borders Council Planning reference 22/01810/FUL). The camp post office also operated as a guard hut and is a single-storey structure with corrugated iron and wood panel walls on brick foundations with a corrugated iron roof. HES site visits in 2021/2022 recorded around one quarter of the roof and walls had collapsed. The structure is significant for understanding the



camp, but it is a small element of the site. Including the post office building in the scheduled monument designation would have a significant impact on the development proposals which are well advanced. We have taken these factors into account in the proposed scheduled area and have not included the post office building. As a result, our current view is that the proposed designation is consistent with our policy.

4. Consultation

4.1 Consultation information

Consultation period: 09/02/2023 to 02/03/2023.

We consult with the owner, occupier and/or tenant and the planning authority.

The consultation report of handling is published on our portal for comment from interested parties.

Dara Parsons

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Historic Environment Scotland

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ANNEX A – Assessment of national importance

Stobs Camp, prisoner of war camp and cemetery, military training camp and trenches, Stobs

1 Description

The monument consists of the extensive remains of a military training camp operational from 1902-1959. During its operational life it was also used as a civilian internment camp, a prisoner of war camp and a resettlement camp for displaced Polish servicemen. The monument covers an area around 1.5km by 1.5km and is located on the slopes of the upland valley around Barnes Burn, around 7km south of Hawick and around 200m above sea level.

Stobs Camp was established as a military training camp when the War Office purchased land in 1902 and military training began in 1903. During the First World War it was used to detain civilian internees and captured enemy military personnel. Later was used solely as a prisoner of war camp becoming the headquarters for all prisoner of war camps in Scotland. After the Second World War Stobs was one of many Army camps used to accommodate Polish ex-servicemen and their families. The camp also continued as a training base in the interwar period, during the Second World War and until the mid-1950s before the camp was closed in 1957. Demolition and removal work began in 1959.

The majority of the plan form of the camp remains visible. It survives as concrete bases for buildings, a network of paths and tracks, some stone and concrete walling, and earthworks. The site also includes several upstanding buildings including a First World War prisoner of war accommodation hut, a pre-First World War store, an officers' hut and a number of brick and concrete drying rooms/sheds. Other features include a dammed bathing pool, the internee cemetery (all human remains have been exhumed), practice defensive emplacements and trench systems.

The scheduled area includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction and use is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The schedule excludes any modern post and wire fencing and gates, cattle grids and their related sumps, the top 30cm of any surfaced roads/tracks, signposts and information boards and telegraph/power pylons.



2 Statement of National Importance

The national importance of the monument is demonstrated in the following way(s) (see Designations Policy and Selection Guidance, Annex 1, para 17):

- a.** The monument is of national importance because it makes a significant contribution to our understanding or appreciation of the military heritage of Scotland, in particular the history of early 20th century military training and First World War internment and imprisonment. The internment of civilians of enemy nations and imprisonment of captured soldiers was a significant social historical aspect of the First World War. Stobs was the primary camp for such internment in Scotland.
- b.** The monument retains structural, architectural, decorative or other physical attributes which make a significant contribution to our understanding or appreciation of the past. The surviving elements help us understand the functions and processes of a major military training and prisoner of war camp operational in 20th century Scotland.
- c.** The monument is a very rare example of an extensive, military camp with upstanding remains covering many of the contemporary functions. The level of survival of the prisoner of war hut, store hut and officers' hut are particularly rare, especially the completeness of the overall plan layout. The First World War prisoner of war hut is the last surviving upstanding example at a camp in the UK.
- d.** The monument is a significant example of a fairly standardised military facility that had a key role in local, regional, national and international socio-economic life in 20th century Scotland and is therefore an important representative of this monument type. The monument played an important role in the training of troops and the British war effort in both World Wars.
- e.** The monument has research potential which could significantly contribute to our understanding or appreciation of the past. The remains at Stobs Camp played an important role in the First World War, a crucial event in world history. The associated prisoner of war camp, later used for resettlement of Polish troops and the remains of the internee cemetery along with a wide collection of detailed documentary sources provides further potential to study the history of Stobs and similar military camps and their contribution to, and impact on, life in Scotland and even overseas.
- f.** The monument makes a significant contribution to today's landscape and/or our understanding of the historic landscape by serving as a physical reminder of the importance of military camps and wartime internment in Scotland and its role in society.
- g.** The monument has significant associations with major historical events. It is directly linked to the First and Second World Wars, two of the defining global events of the 20th Century.



3 Assessment of Cultural Significance

This statement of national importance has been informed by the following assessment of cultural significance:

- **Intrinsic characteristics** (how the remains of a site or place contribute to our knowledge of the past)

Stobs Camp was originally intended as a permanent training base and barracks but this scheme was cancelled in 1904. After this date the site developed over several main phases which can be summarised as:

- the pre-First World War summer training camps in tented accommodation on the slopes west of Barnes Burn
- the pre-First World War development of permanent camp buildings generally around and south of Barnes House,
- the early First World War development of features around the camp including ancillary buildings and training trenches and fortification systems,
- the First World War purpose-built civilian internment camp west of Barnes Burn,
- the extension and development of the internment camp during the First World War into a prisoner of war camp
- the use of the camp for military training use (not for prisoner of war accommodation) in the interwar period and during the Second World War, and its use as a resettlement camp for Polish troops after the Second World War.

Contemporary plans and images of the camp survive and greatly help in identifying the purpose of the physical remains visible today. The most significant and best understood phase of activity at Stobs Camp was during the First World War when the site was a crucial training camp for troops and then the primary internment and prisoner of war camp in Scotland. At the peak of wartime activity as a prisoner of war camp, Stobs Camp was divided into two areas; the eastern portion provided accommodation huts and mess quarters for guards and officers and administration buildings. The western side was the secured camp, first for internees and then for prisoners of war.

The plan form of the eastern camp area can still be clearly understood with surviving concrete hut bases, various minor earthworks and bunding, practice trench systems and training fortifications/dugouts, brick and concrete drying rooms, a timber and sheet metal storage building and a timber and sheet metal officers' accommodation hut. The timber and metal structures are rare survivals from the early 20th century period in Scottish military history. The storage building (NT 50305 09366) measures around 9.5m by 18.75m, constructed from corrugated iron panels with a high roof and nine steel cables run externally from the roof to the ground. The nearby officers' hut (NT 50244 09240) is rectangular and single-storey measuring about 30m by 6.5m, constructed from corrugated iron panels with external features including the remains of a veranda and picket fence on the north.



A key feature in the eastern area of Stobs Camp is the cemetery where 45 German soldiers, sailors and civilians who died at Stobs were interred (NT 50454 09606). At the west end of the cemetery, on a raised area with stone steps leading to it from the graves, was a memorial to the dead with stone benches placed to the north and south. When the camp closed, the graves were removed to the German Military Cemetery in Staffordshire and the memorial at Stobs was reportedly blown up. However, the base of the memorial and stone rubble survived, and they were reconstructed in 2018. Stones found at the cemetery were selected and cleaned before the memorial was assembled and efforts were made to locate the facing stones visible in First World War photographs.

The western portion of Stobs was developed as the internment camp and then prisoner of war camp. By 1917 this part of the camp was a large compound measuring internally about 750m by 280m surrounded by a heavy triple-barbed wire fence. There was a sentry post at each of the corners of the compound fence and other posts at 70-100 metre intervals round the perimeter. This fenced area was split into A, B, C and D compounds and each had a suite of buildings such as stores, kitchen, boiler house and accommodation huts. Each camp compound had twenty accommodation huts and in total up to 4500 men were accommodated.

The plan form of the western portion of the camp is still understandable from the surviving remains, and these are similar to those found at the east. The layout of the camp can be seen through the surviving road network and concrete hut bases. Notably, there is a single surviving First World War prisoner of war accommodation hut (NT 50126 09614). This is a unique example of a First World War prisoner of war hut that is still in its original location in the UK. The single storey hut is mostly of timber and sheet metal construction, measuring around 36.5m by 6m, and rests on brick and concrete plinths. Some windows and glazing survive and metal flues in the roofline for stoves. Internal features such as the shower and ablutions area at the north end of the hut still survive. This area of Stobs Camp also included a hospital, YMCA and arts theatre, operating theatre, mortuary, bakery, post offices and workshops and these survive as foundations and hut bases. There are also standing brick and concrete structures used as drying rooms and various minor earthworks and bunding. There survives a significant amount of camp infrastructure including a reservoir and freshwater system, on site waterworks, an internal road and narrow-gauge rail network. At the northeast edge of the camp is the remains of the water treatment works (NT 49924 09851) containing three rectangular and three octagonal concrete tank bases. A bridge constructed of concrete (NT 50089 09423) over Barnes Burn leads into the western camp area. Southwest of the bridge, Barnes Burn is collected into a pond by a concrete dam (NT 50047 09369). This was used as a bathing pool.

The training trenches and practice fortifications are in three groups around the eastern camp area and likely date from across the early to mid-20th century. A collection immediately northwest of Barns House (approximately NT 502 094) include well-preserved practice defences that can be matched with contemporary



photos of their construction. Another group of trenches lie east of Barns House (approximately NT 504 093), some were partially excavated in a recent community archaeology project which helps provide further modern evidence of their construction and use. The final group of trenches lie in two areas (approximately NT 500 090 and NT 500 088) within fields southwest and south-southwest of Barns Cottage.

The largely complete plan-form of this camp makes Stobs a very rare and significant site. The camp has undergone changes and adaptations to structures and its plan, particularly the partial clearance of the site after its closure in 1957. However, ground survey, study of aerial imagery and comparison with contemporary plans and photographs allows us to confidently identify many archaeological features on site. The above ground remains such as the standing buildings are very rare survivors and greatly add to the importance of Stobs as a physical reminder of military training and wartime activities on home soil. There is high potential for surviving archaeological evidence both within and around the camp. The impressive array of remains and archaeological features covering all the various functions and activities of the camp helps us to understand its use and the daily lives of the men who built, worked, trained and were imprisoned there.

- **Contextual characteristics** (how a site or place relates to its surroundings and/or to our existing knowledge of the past)

Stobs Camp was one of the largest military training sites within Britain in the first half of the 20th century and it was used by hundreds of thousands of troops over its operational lifetime. The site was established in 1903 and it was operated by the army until 1957, when most of the site was sold, with the remainder a few years later. During this extended period, the site was also used for a variety of functions in addition to military training including its use as a civilian internee camp and a prisoner of war camp. The extended use of the site, the concentration of remains and the additional functions it was put to, makes Stobs Camp a rare survival amongst military training sites.

The Stobs estate was bought by the War Office in 1902, initially with the intention of providing a permanent training and barracks complex for the British Army 6th Corps. By 1904 changes to the structure of the army led to Stobs changing roles from a barracks to a primarily summer training camp, some troops coming from the regular army forces but the majority from the many volunteer units around Britain. The volunteer units were formally reclassified as the Territorial Force during the Haldane Reforms in 1908, and Stobs continued to be used for annual summer training camps.

With the advent of the First World War, Stobs Camp was changed to operating as a year-round training facility, to accommodate the high numbers of new recruits during the conflict, and at the same time part of the site was turned into an internment camp, initially for civilian detainees from enemy nations and later for prisoners of war. Although most of the visiting troops to the camp both before and during the First



World War were accommodated within tents during their time at the camp, permanent facilities were constructed for the core functions of the camp, including training ranges.

The monument forms part of the network of prisoner of war camps in Britain. Stobs was the main administrative centre and camp for Scotland. Prisoners arrived in Scotland at Stobs and some were relocated to satellite camps. For example, records suggest up to 1200 prisoners of war arriving at Stobs were then stationed at Kinlochleven camp (SM13681).

In the 1950s, Stobs was mainly used as a training base for the Territorial Army with the last military activity on site in 1955. The military use in the 1950s included training of troops for the Korean War and this period appears to be less well publicly documented. In 1957, it was announced Stobs would cease operating as a training base and the site was partly cleared in 1959.

The wider landscape around the main Stobs Camp contains extensive further remains of the military training area. These ancillary features were constructed and used by the troops based at Stobs and were vital parts of the function of the wider camp. Other remains still identifiable within the former training area are the remains of the Acreknowe training trenches, Stobs Camp, 500m NW of Acreknowe (SM13768), Blakebillend, tracked target range, 750m WNW and 570m and 740m NW of Penchrise Peel (SM13769) and Stobs Camp rifle ranges, 650m W, 330m WNW and 450m SSE of White Knowe (SM13755).

- **Associative characteristics** (how a site or place relates to people, events, and/or historic and social movements)

The monument forms the core of the substantial military training and internment camp complex at Stobs, directly linked to both the First and Second World Wars. The Stobs Camp complex is highly significant as an example of both a military training site for much of the first half of the 20th century, including both world wars, and as a First World War internment site for both civilians and later prisoners of war. The complex has a high potential to inform us about many aspects of military and civilian life during the First and Second World War, and their impact upon Scotland's society, economy and population.

4 References

Historic Environment Scotland <http://www.canmore.org.uk> reference number CANMORE IDs 86444, 332674, 340668 (accessed on 18/10/2022).

Archaeology Scotland (Eds. Bell, H., Jepson, A. and Swift, D.) (2019). *Stobs Camp project: Exploring the military training and internment camp near Hawick 1903-19*. Scotland.



Barclay, G. (2013). *The Built Heritage of the First World War in Scotland*. HS and RCAHMS. Edinburgh.

Jepson, A. and Swift, D. (2019). *Stobs Camp, building recording for Home Front Legacy*, in Paula Milburn, *Discovery and Excavation Scotland, vol. 19*. Cathedral Communications Ltd, Wiltshire, England.

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Building Condition Survey, August 2017 - March 2020. *Stobs Military Camp Hawick Scottish Borders*. Available at: <http://www.stobscamp.org/buildings-condition-survey-report/> [accessed on 18/10/22].

Stobs Military Camp Hawick Scottish Borders. *Stobs Military Camp Hawick Scottish Borders*. Available at: <http://www.stobscamp.org/> [accessed on 18/10/22].



ANNEX B – Assessment of national importance

Acreknowe training trenches, Stobs Camp, 460m WNW, 560m WNW and 570m NNW of Acreknowe, Stobs

1 Description

The monument comprises the remains of training trenches constructed by troops based at the adjacent Stobs Camp during the First World War. The trenches, surviving in three distinct groups, are visible as earthworks on slopes on the southeast side of Acreknowe Burn and downstream of the Acreknowe Reservoir. They are located around 1.5km north-northeast of the core of Stobs Camp at around 205m above sea level.

The southern collection of trenches (centred at NT 49820 10720) is the largest by area. Various trench styles and systems survive including communication trenches (zig-zag form), crenelated lines and square sections. The trenches vary in depth from around 30 to 40cm. Immediately northwest of the southern group, the central group of trenches (centred at NT 49768 10873) are the smallest by area. The central trench system is laid out with a front line with its 'Greek Key' design to the northeast, northwest and to the southwest. The northeast and southwest lines are connected by two communication trenches and a narrow trench lies parallel to the northeast line. This central group is probably the best preserved at Acreknowe with the clearest remains on plan and are up to 50cm deep. The northern trench system (centred at NT 50032 11135) lies around 280m northeast of the central group and is located on the southeast side of the burn. This group of trenches have a forward line to the northeast with two communication trenches leading to a network of trenches to the rear. The trench remains at the northern group are up to 50cm deep.

The scheduled area is irregular and consists of three parts. It includes the remains described above and an area around within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The above ground elements of all fencing and gates are specifically excluded from the scheduling, to allow for their maintenance.

2 Statement of National Importance

The national importance of the monument is demonstrated in the following way(s) (see Designations Policy and Selection Guidance, Annex 1, para 17):

- a. The monument is of national importance because it has the potential to make a significant contribution to our understanding of the past, in particular about the nature of military training in the First World War, and the impact of the conflict on Scotland. It is directly related to Stobs Camp, one of the key early 20th century military training centres in the country, as it was constructed and used for training by the troops based at Stobs. The



concentration of military infrastructure in this area, demonstrates the significance of Stobs Camp to the overall war effort.

- b.** The monument retains structural, architectural, decorative or other physical attributes which make a significant contribution to our understanding or appreciation of the past. The clear plan form of the trench complexes is well-preserved and displays characteristic elements of First World War design. The survival of multiple styles and examples of trench systems that are clearly visible above ground makes this site particularly significant.
- c.** The monument is a rare surviving example of a First World War training area within Scotland. Such training areas would have been relatively common during the conflict but only five examples including those at Acreknowe by Stobs have been identified to date (October 2022).
- d.** The monument with its well-preserved trench complexes is a particularly good example of a First World War training area within Scotland. It is therefore an important representative of this monument type.
- e.** The monument has research potential which could significantly contribute to our understanding or appreciation of the past. There is high potential for historical research and investigation of buried archaeological evidence which could tell us more about the training that took place at Stobs during the First World War and more generally what impact the advent of trench warfare had on military training during this period.
- f.** The monument makes a significant contribution to today's landscape and/or our understanding of the historic landscape by serving as a physical reminder of the importance of military camps and wartime training in Scotland. They served as a crucial part of troop training as trench warfare eventually came to typify the First World War.
- g.** The monument has significant associations with historical events. The trenches are directly related to events of the First World War; they would have been constructed and used by regiments training out of Stobs Camp.

3 Assessment of Cultural Significance

This statement of national importance has been informed by the following assessment of cultural significance:

- **Intrinsic characteristics** (how the remains of a site or place contribute to our knowledge of the past)

The monument was constructed during the First World War as a training area for the soldiers at Stobs Camp, around 1.5km south of the site. With the advent of the First



World War, Stobs Camp was changed to operating as a year-round training facility, to accommodate the high numbers of new recruits during the conflict. Training trenches were dug to prepare recruits for the practicalities of the trench warfare they would face on the front lines of the Western Front and elsewhere, including construction and maintenance of the trenches as well as combat tactics and use of weapons.

All three areas of the trench complexes are well-preserved and display characteristic elements of First World War design. The plan form of the trenches is very clear and readily interpreted on the ground, being up to 50cm deep. To have such a selection of First World War trenches surviving in this condition is very rare. There is high potential for historical research and investigation of buried archaeological evidence to tell us more about the training that took place at Acreknowe during the First World War. There is also potential for evidence showing the development and changes to training techniques over time, specifically how the three groups of First World War trenches relate to each other and show some examples of different styles and defensive systems.

- **Contextual characteristics** (how a site or place relates to its surroundings and/or to our existing knowledge of the past)

The Acreknowe training trenches are located on sloping ground on the southeast side of Acreknowe Burn on the small, narrow valley floor. The training trenches are directly linked to the adjacent Stobs Camp (scheduled monument SM13767) where troops were stationed for military training in the early 20th century. Troops would have travelled from the camp only 1.5km away to construct and train within the trenches. It is common with many military training areas within Scotland, that such training trenches were reused at other points in the 20th century. While in many cases this reuse removed any First World War evidence, at Acreknowe there are most likely entirely First World War elements surviving.

This site is one of twelve known sites across Scotland used for military training during the First World War. Very few visible parts of First World War training areas survive to any recognisable degree within Scotland. Two groups of training trenches survive near Invergordon, at Rhicullen (SM13640) and Broomhill (SM13641) and another example of training trenches survives at Dreghorn (scheduled monument SM13717), while a set of trenches with additional evidence of later Second World War use are known to survive at the Barry Buddon Training Centre in Angus.

- **Associative characteristics** (how a site or place relates to people, events, and/or historic and social movements)

The First World War trenches would have been constructed and used by regiments training out of Stobs Camp. The physical remains of sites from the First World War such as the Acreknowe training area have become places to visit, remember and commemorate the people who served on wartime sites such as this. The monument is a visible reminder of the considerable scale of infrastructure and resources and



number of people required in the First World War, one of the defining events of the 20th century.

4 References

Historic Environment Scotland <http://www.canmore.org.uk> reference number CANMORE IDs 332672 (accessed on 18/10/2022).

Archaeology Scotland (Eds. Bell, H., Jepson, A. and Swift, D.) (2019). *Stobs Camp project: Exploring the military training and internment camp near Hawick 1903-19*. Scotland.

Barclay, G. (2013). *The Built Heritage of the First World War in Scotland*. HS and RCAHMS. Edinburgh.

Online

Stobs Military Camp Hawick Scottish Borders. *Stobs Military Camp Hawick Scottish Borders*. Available at: <http://www.stobscamp.org/> [accessed on 18/10/22].



ANNEX C – Assessment of national importance

Blakebillend, tracked target range, 750m WNW and 570m and 740m NW of Penchrise Peel

1 Description

The monument comprises the remains of a Second World War firing range, part of the Stobs Camp military training area. The range is a tracked target range for training tank gunnery and survives as a triangular trackway, a number of buildings and earthwork. The site lies on high ground overlooking the valley of the Slitrig Water to the east, at around 300m above sea level

The monument consists of a large triangular trackway, measuring around 395m east to west by around 210m north to south at its largest, and set in a cutting around with concrete revetments in places around most of its length. At the eastern end of the circuit is a small secondary loop branching off the main circuit and leading through a brick and concrete maintenance shed. Also located here are the Range Warden's hut and the building housing the power and winding gear for the target track. Around 200m to the northeast of these buildings is another isolated single building, built of brick with a lightweight timber and concrete sheeting roof, while around 270m to the north are a series of earthworks believed to be the firing positions for the range.

The scheduled area is irregular and consists of three parts. It includes the remains described above and an area around within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

2 Statement of National Importance

The national importance of the monument is demonstrated in the following way(s) (see Designations Policy and Selection Guidance, Annex 1, para 17):

- a. The monument is of national importance because it makes a significant contribution to our understanding or appreciation of the past or has the potential to do so. As part of the extensive military training and prisoner of war complex known as Stobs Camp it specifically adds to our understanding of military training at Stobs during the Second World War, which is less understood than its earlier phases.
- b. The monument retains structural, architectural, decorative or other physical attributes which make a significant contribution to our understanding or appreciation of the past. In particular, the good overall preservation of the layout and individual elements of the range helps us to understand how training was undertaken at a site of this type.



- d.** The monument is a particularly good example of a Second World War tracked target firing range and is therefore an important representative of this monument type. In particular, it is one of only two tracked target firing ranges known to survive in Britain specifically designed for tank warfare.
- f.** The monument makes a significant contribution to today's landscape and our understanding of the historic landscape as a part of the extensive military training and prisoner of war complex known as Stobs Camp.
- g.** The monument has significant associations with major historical events. It is directly linked to the Second World War, one of the defining global events of the 20th century.

3 Assessment of Cultural Significance

This statement of national importance has been informed by the following assessment of cultural significance:

- **Intrinsic characteristics** (how the remains of a site or place contribute to our knowledge of the past)

The Blakebillend tracked target range was a key element of the substantial military training area known as Stobs Camp during the Second World War. The range was designed around the need during the Second World War for training tank gunners to hit moving targets. The main element of the range is the triangular trackway circuit. This worked using a small cart on which the targets could be mounted, and a winding system was used to send this cart around the circuit, and gunners would practice hitting the moving target. The trackway was set within a cutting around its length, reinforced with concrete in some areas, to protect the cart itself from the practice rounds. Adjoining the eastern end of the trackway circuit is a small secondary loop, around which supporting facilities for the range are grouped, including the range warden's hut, the maintenance and storage shed for the target equipment and the power and winding machinery house.

Around 200m northeast of the range is another building. Its isolated location away from the other elements of the range and the design of the structure, incorporating a lightweight roof which appears to be designed to lift away in the event of a blast, suggests it may have been used for storing training munitions. The final element of the range is a set of earthworks around 270m north of the circuit, and these appear to be the remains of the firing positions for the range.



- **Contextual characteristics** (how a site or place relates to its surroundings and/or to our existing knowledge of the past)

The range lies on a gently sloping terrace partway up the eastern side of Stirkcleuch Height and is aligned facing towards the higher part of the hill, providing a safe backstop for any stray rounds during training.

Stobs Camp was one of the largest military training sites within Britain in the first half of the 20th century and it was used by hundreds of thousands of troops over its operational lifetime. The site first began operating in 1903 and it remained owned and used by the military until 1957, when most of the site was sold, with the remainder a few years later.

The Blakebillend range is an important part of the Stobs Camp complex, particularly during its later period of use as a training facility. The continued use of Stobs for military training through the Second World War and beyond is well documented. However, in contrast to the extensive range of documentary information resulting from the First World War use of Stobs, there is very little detailed information on the use of the site during this later period. For example, while Regimental War diaries record certain tank units spending time at Stobs (See Associative Characteristics below), there is very little detail contained within them on the actual training they undertook at the site. As a result, the archaeological remains of the training areas themselves, such as Blakebillend, have the potential to contain valuable evidence and information on the techniques and equipment used in military training during the Second World War.

The development of tank warfare during the 20th century necessitated the development of specific training regimes to prepare crews for active service. In the case of the Blakebillend range, the purpose of the training area was to develop the required skills of accurately targeting and firing upon a mobile enemy unit. The Blakebillend range is the only known example of this type of tank gunnery training range within Scotland, although another partially surviving example of a similar design is located within Dartmoor National Park (Devon & Dartmoor HER Number MDV27370). The function and design of the Blakebillend range also has parallels in tracked target ranges within Scotland used for the purpose of training aerial gunnery skills during the Second World War, including at Tain (SM13653) and Baldoon (SM13739), although the aerial gunnery ranges are significantly smaller in scale in comparison to Blakebillend.

The wider landscape around the Blakebillend range contains extensive further remains of the military training area at Stobs. Other remains still identifiable within the former training area are the remains of the main camp at Barns (SM13767), around 3.5km north of the range, firing ranges at Barnes Moss and Penchrise (SM13755) and areas of First World War training trenches at Acreknowe (SM13768).



- **Associative characteristics** (how a site or place relates to people, events, and/or historic and social movements)

The monument is a part of the substantial military training and internment camp complex at Stobs, directly linked to both the First and Second World Wars. The Stobs Camp complex is highly significant as an example of both a military training site for much of the first half of the 20th century, including both world wars, and as a First World War internment site for both civilians and later prisoners of war. The complex has a high potential to inform us about many aspects of military and civilian life during the First and Second World War, and their impact upon Scotland's society, economy and population.

Regimental War diaries now in the Archives of the Bovington Tank Museum give some insight into the tank units that spent time at Stobs, and although they do not include any specific details of the training undertaken, it is likely they would have used the Blakebillend range while at the camp. The units recorded as spending time at Stobs include the 12th Battalion of the Royal Tank Regiment from June – November 1942, the 145th Regiment of the Royal Armoured Corps (R.A.C.) in June and September 1942, the 144th Regiment of the R.A.C. from March – May 1943, the 148th Regiment of the R.A.C. from November 1943 to February 1944 and the 15th/19th King's Royal Hussars of the R.A.C. in May 1944.

4 References

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ANNEX D – Assessment of national importance

Stobs Camp rifle ranges, 650m W, 330m WNW and 450m SSE of White Knowe

1 Description

The monument comprises the remains of three First World War gunnery training ranges, part of the Stobs Camp military training area. Two of the ranges are located on Barnes Moss, with the third at Penchrise.

The first range at Barnes Moss (the western example) is aligned north to south, towards the steeply sloping ground at the base of Penchrise Pen and White Hill. The total length of the range is around 490m, while at its widest it is around 120m west to east. It consists of a targeting position comprising two adjacent large banks, formed of a combination of timber, concrete, steel and earth. A second earthen bank lies to the south of each of them, to provide a backstop for stray rounds, with a deep ditch between. Within the ditch is the stone foundations of the former shelter for the score counters at its western end, and the potential remains of a former tramway running between the scorer's shelter and a pavilion that formerly stood to the west.

Stretching north from the target position are five pairs of firing positions formed of earthwork ditches and banks with concrete distance marker posts, evenly spaced at roughly 100-yard intervals (around 91.5 metres).

The second range at Barnes Moss (the central example) consists of at least four pairs of concrete trenches, three earthwork firing positions and a former tramway. It is aligned northeast to southwest, towards the steeply sloping ground at the base of Penchrise Pen and White Hill. The total length of the range is around 750m, while at its widest it is around 70m northwest to southeast. The concrete trenches appear to be former targeting positions and are roughly L-shaped, and measure around 10m long by around 2m at their widest, although for most of the length they are only around 0.5m wide. Within some of the upstanding trenches are the remains of a mechanical metal framework and parts of a telephone connection. The remains of a tramway, visible as an embankment and a cutting, runs along the southeast end of the range, between the southeasternmost three pairs of trenches. The northwestern section of the range consists of at least four pairs of earthwork banks and ditches representing the former firing positions, and spaced between 65m to 75m apart, with around 135m between the frontmost firing position and the first targeting positions.

The third range, at Penchrise, (the eastern example) consists of a targeting position formed of a pair of parallel large earthwork banks, with a brick and concrete shelter for the score counters at its north corner and some remains of the target mounting frame. Stretching east from the target position are six pairs of firing positions, evenly spaced at roughly 100-yard intervals (around 91.5 metres). It is aligned northeast to southwest, towards the high ground of Penchrise Pen and White Hill. The total length



of the range is around 575m, while at its widest it is around 135m northwest to southeast, where the third of the firing positions have been spaced wider apart than the others to accommodate a stream passing between them.

The scheduled area is irregular and consists of three parts. It includes the remains described above and an area around within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

2 Statement of National Importance

The national importance of the monument is demonstrated in the following way(s) (see Designations Policy and Selection Guidance, Annex 1, para 17):

- a.** The monument is of national importance because it makes a significant contribution to our understanding or appreciation of the past, or has the potential to do so. As part of the extensive military training and prisoner of war complex known as Stobs Camp it specifically adds to our understanding of military training before and during the First World War.
- b.** The monument retains structural, architectural, decorative or other physical attributes which make a significant contribution to our understanding or appreciation of the past. In particular, the good overall preservation of the layout and individual elements of the ranges helps us to understand how training was undertaken at a site of this type. The differences between the ranges demonstrate how standard designs were adapted in response to specific site topography, while the non-standard design of the central range indicates that that ranges were developed for specialised forms of warfare, perhaps sniper training.
- d.** The monument is a particularly good example of early 20th century firing ranges and is therefore an important representative of this monument type.
- f.** The monument makes a significant contribution to today's landscape and our understanding of the historic landscape as a part of the extensive military training and prisoner of war complex known as Stobs Camp. The concentration of military infrastructure in this area, demonstrates the significance of Stobs Camp to the overall war effort.
- g.** The monument has significant associations with major historical events. It is directly linked to both the First and Second World Wars, two of the defining global events of the 20th century.



3 Assessment of Cultural Significance

This statement of national importance has been informed by the following assessment of cultural significance:

- **Intrinsic characteristics** (how the remains of a site or place contribute to our knowledge of the past)

The Barnes Moss and Penchrise rifle ranges are a key element of the substantial military training area known as Stobs Camp. Both the western and eastern ranges have largely been created to a standard design, but there are some unusual features present. One end of each range consists of the former target position, two substantial parallel banks aligned perpendicular to the range. They served a dual purpose of acting as a foundation for a timber frame mounted between them, on which the targets themselves were mounted, and as a backstop to catch any stray rounds during firing. There are some surviving remains of the base of the targeting frame visible at both ranges, along with a high amount of ammunition used in training.

The rest of the range extends away from the targeting position and consists of a series of firing positions (ten at Barnes Moss, twelve at Penchrise), arranged in pairs parallel to the targeting bank at intervals of around 91.5m (100 yards) apart. This is a standard layout for a firing range of the period, allowing recruits to practice marksmanship at different distances. Each of the firing positions consists of a shallow earthwork trench around 30m in length, within which trainees would be situated aiming towards the target position. At Penchrise, the positions have slightly variations in alignment and spacing between each other, in contrast to the standard consistent alignment and spacing seen at Barnes Moss, apparently to account for the presence of several small streams running through the Penchrise range on their route to Gibby's Sike at the base of the slope.

On the northeast corner of the targeting earthwork at Penchrise is a small brick and concrete structure, with an earthwork bank against its northeast face, which would have served as a shelter for the personnel undertaking scoring of the training. The position of this shelter is unusual, as the scoring shelters would normally be positioned at one end of the ditch between the two earthworks, as this provided additional protection from stray firing, and this can be seen in the stone foundation of the former shelter at Barnes Moss. The location of the Penchrise shelter is instead on the same side of the earthwork as the firing positions, increasing the risk to the personnel inside and necessitating an additional earthwork bank for their protection.

The central range at Barnes Moss has a very unusual design when compared to the other firing ranges at Stobs or elsewhere. In a standard range of the period like the Barnes Moss and Penchrise examples, a single targeting position is located at one end of a range, with multiple firing positions extending away from it at 100-yard



intervals. In this example, there appear to be multiple target positions, in the form of narrow concrete trenches with metal target mounting frames, unlike the single targeting position seen at the ranges above, with the firing positions following the more standard design. It is unclear precisely why the range was designed in this unusual manner, but it may relate to a specific type of training it was intended to provide. It is also unclear if this is the original design for this range, or if it was modified during the First World War, however the 1918 date stamp on part of the connecting telephone system does confirm its existence in this form at that time. The design of the concrete positions, with the shelters facing away from the firing positions and being equipped with telephone connections, suggests that personnel would be stationed within them during firing training, either for scorekeeping or target mounting purposes, with the telephone system allowing communication between constituent parts of the range without having to leave the safety of the shelter.

- **Contextual characteristics** (how a site or place relates to its surroundings and/or to our existing knowledge of the past)

The Barnes Moss ranges lie to the east of Dodburn Hill. The western range lies on gently sloping ground on the shoulder of the hill and runs across the base of the narrow valley between Dodburn Hill to the north and Penchrise Pen and White Hill to the south. The central range lies to the south of Barnes Loch and runs along the base of the narrow valley between Dodburn Hill to the west and White Knowe to the east. The Penchrise range lies to the north of Penchrise Farm, on gently sloping ground beside Gibby's Sike. The range runs along the base of the valley formed by White Knowe and Newton Hill to the northwest, Penchrise Pen to the southwest and White Hill to the southeast. In all three cases, the choice of location is typical for ranges of this period, which required an area of relatively level ground for the range itself, while surrounding high ground or large bodies of water were utilised to provide a safe backstop for any rounds missing the targets.

Stobs Camp was one of the largest military training sites within Britain in the first half of the 20th century and it was used by hundreds of thousands of troops over its operational lifetime. The site first began operating in 1903 and it remained owned and used by the military until 1957, when most of the site was sold, with the remainder a few years later.

The Stobs estate was purchased by the War Office in 1902, initially with the intention of providing a permanent training and barracks complex for the British Army 6th Corps. By 1904 changes to structure of the army led to Stobs changing roles from a barracks to a primarily summer training camp, some troops coming from the regular army forces but the majority from the many volunteer units around Britain. (The volunteer units were formally reclassified as the Territorial Force during the Haldane Reforms in 1908, but Stobs continued to be used for their annual summer training camps). With the advent of the First World War, Stobs Camp was changed to operating as a year-round training facility, to accommodate the high numbers of new recruits during the conflict, and at the same time part of the site was turned into an internment camp, initially for civilian detainees and later for prisoners of war.



Although most of the visiting troops to the camp both before and during the First World War were accommodated within tents during their time at the camp in the early period, permanent facilities were constructed for the core functions of the camp, including training ranges, and it is likely that the Penchrise range dates to this period of construction at the camp.

A high number of rifle training ranges were constructed in the late 19th and early 20th century, with around 130 examples recorded in the National Record of the Historic Environment. Intended for the purpose of training recruits and volunteers in marksmanship, they were generally designed to a consistent pattern involving a targeting position at one end of the range, and a series of six firing positions spaced at roughly 100-yard intervals from the target. Many examples of these training ranges have now been either partially or wholly removed or lost, while there are some examples that remain in use for training to this day, such as at Castlelaw (Canmore ID 110879).

The wider landscape around the Penchrise range contains extensive further remains of the military training area at Stobs. Other remains still identifiable within the former training area are the remains of the main camp and related remains at Barns (SM13767), around 2km north of the ranges, areas of First World War training trenches at Acreknowe (SM13768), and a Second World War tank training area at Blakebillend to the southwest (SM13769). This concentration of surviving training infrastructure makes Stobs Camp particularly significant for our understanding of military training during the First and Second World Wars.

- **Associative characteristics** (how a site or place relates to people, events, and/or historic and social movements)

The monument is a part of the substantial military training and internment camp complex at Stobs, directly linked to both the First and Second World Wars. The Stobs Camp complex is highly significant as an example of both a military training site for much of the first half of the 20th century, including both world wars, and as a First World War internment site for both civilians and later prisoners of war. The site has a high potential to inform us about many aspects of military and civilian life during the First and Second World War, and their impact upon Scotland's society, economy and population.

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