

Pickan's Dyke, Dalmellington: Archaeological Investigation

Stage 1 Data Structure Report



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on behalf of Forestry Commission Scotland

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Non-Technical Summary

1. This Data Structure Report presents the details of a programme of works designed to evaluate the nature and extent of the archaeological deposits associated with Pickan's Dyke near Dalmellington, East Ayrshire, and to investigate a diverse range of impacts which may have affected the site.
2. Targeted locations along the dyke were investigated by three hand excavated trenches. The aim was to recover information on the monument's date and form as well as to record any physical disruption to the archaeological deposits. Two of the trenches identified the bank and ditch as possibly relating to a single phase of work with the spoil of the ditch forming the bank. The third trench, placed within a gap in the line of the Dyke, contained no archaeological features raising questions over whether anything had ever been present here.
3. The works may also help to inform on the site's management during the creation of a proposed pathway, in particular on the impact which foot traffic may have on the monument itself.
4. A programme of communication and engagement with the local community was undertaken to promote the role of Forestry Commission Scotland and to enable the importance of the medieval remains in Dalmellington to be recognised. This work sought to place the monument in context and promote the recognition that the dyke is an important fragment of a landscape that includes Dalmellington Motte.

Introduction

5. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Forestry Commission Scotland in support of their management of Pickan's Dyke near Dalmellington, East Ayrshire, within the national forest estate. The programme of sequential archaeological works proposed was designed to clarify the nature, age and extent of any buried archaeological deposits in relation to Pickan's Dyke.
6. The Forestry Commission Scotland Archaeologist provided a Brief on the structure of the archaeological works required on this site. At each stage of implementing the Project Design the specific details of subsequent stages of these works were agreed with the Forestry Commission Scotland Archaeologist, who also monitored their implementation.
7. A preceding Project Design (Gordon 2012) presented a baseline of the known archaeological resource, the objectives of the project and the structure of the archaeological works to be undertaken. Elements of that report (*Background* and *Objectives*) are reproduced here to deliver clarity as to the preconception of the character of this monument.
8. Rathmell Archaeology was appointed to implement the agreed Project Design which focused on the evaluation of the monument through survey and intrusive trenching, excavated by hand.

Terminology

9. The following key terms are recognised within this Report:
 - ❖ The Client – Forestry Commission Scotland;
 - ❖ The Archaeological Curator – Forestry Commission Scotland Archaeologist;
 - ❖ The Archaeological Contractor – Rathmell Archaeology Ltd, who were appointed by the client to implement the agreed Project Design

Background

10. Pickan's Dyke is an irregular linear earthwork (NGR: NS4821 0608 – NS4890 0597, RCAHMS Canmore ID 42563, WoSAS Pin: 7121) which still survives as upstanding

remains to the east of Dalmellington. The Dyke runs roughly west to east following a ridge that leads to a flat hill area marked as Mains Hill, the ground is open hillside with approximately half of the monument lying within the estate of the Forestry Commission; the monument is covered by a mixture of grass, moss and reeds.

11. Measuring approximately 765m in length, with 325m of this located within the Forestry estate, the monument is a meandering linear monument, comprising a ditch and bank. Both bank and ditch are broken in at least one section where a 62m stretch appears to have been excised. With the exception of this missing section, the monument appears to survive in varying degrees of preservation, with the bank remaining up to a height of 0.8m and the ditch to a depth of 0.4m. In addition to the missing section some erosion is present from foot traffic walking along the dyke.
12. CFA Archaeology Ltd, as part of the baseline studies for an Environmental Statement, noted that:

'Pickan's Dyke is shown on the OS 1st edition map running from NS 4821 0608 to 4890 0598. Field survey located the eroded remains of this feature, which comprises an earth and stone bank up to 4m across and between 0.2-0.8m high. There is a ditch up to 2.5m wide and 0.4m deep on the S side of the bank. The bank fades out in peaty heather moorland on the top of Mains Hill' (CFA 2004).

13. In preparation for the initial Project Design, a site visit was carried out on the 1st June 2012 and the line of the Dyke followed from west to east. On the return journey it was noted that what appears to be a second linear earthwork was present to the north of the missing section of the Dyke. This earthwork (Figure 1b) appears similar to Pickan's Dyke but was situated to the immediate south of a dry stane dyke acting as a field boundary. Given its close proximity to the dry stane dyke, this bank is most likely a result of recent agricultural activity, possibly a forerunner of the dry stane dyke, though it is curious that it appears to match the missing section of Pickan's Dyke.
14. Also noted during the site visit was the presence of an 11kv overhead electricity line with one of the poles positioned in the middle of Pickan's Dyke (Figure 1a).

Designations and legal constraints

15. The monument is not a designated site and hence is not specifically protected. Where the monument lies within the national forest estate the responsibilities of informed management of the historic environment apply as detailed in the Scottish Historic Environment Policy.

Topography, Geology and Soils

16. The site occupies the lower western portion of a ridge running roughly northeast to southwest from the summit of Cockclay Hill. The easternmost portion of the site lies on a level area of the ridge marked as Mains Hill, in a prominent location which overlooks both the valley occupied by the modern town of Dalmellington and the River Doon Valley.
17. The underlying geology is sedimentary in character, composed of Lanark group Sandstones, overlain with superficial deposits of peat.

Historical and Archaeological

18. Early mapping shows the study area to comprise open hillside, although field systems are depicted by the time Roy undertook his Military Survey of Scotland in the mid-eighteenth century (Figure 2a, 1752-55). However, the first depiction of Pickan's Dyke comes in the mid-nineteenth century on the six inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of the area (Figure 2b), which names it as Pickan's Dyke.



Figure 1a: General shot of Pickan's Dyke from the ESE



Figure 1b: Linear Earthwork along dry stane dyke



Figure 2a: Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1752-55)



Figure 2b: 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1868-70)

19. The break in the Dyke appears to have been extant in the mid-nineteenth century, as there is a portion of the dyke on the map which shows no hachures unlike the rest of the depiction. While the 1st edition Ordnance Survey shows no evidence of fields in the study area, the Camlarg Plantation appears to the immediate north of the Dyke. Further map progression shows little change until recent times, with the extension of the cemetery to the east side of the road - its boundary encroaching on the monument at its western end - and new houses being built approximately 200m to the south. A fence running roughly southeast to northwest also cuts across the western portion of the monument.
20. Linear earthworks are well known in archaeology, being used for a variety of reasons such as defence and the division of land. In the case of land division, the larger variants were used for political boundaries and could range for hundreds of miles. Offa's Dyke is one such boundary: measuring about 177 miles in length, it was built between Mercia and Wales in the second half of the eighth century. Another example is the Scot's Dike which was only three and half miles long but in AD1552 marked the border between Scotland and England through the Debatable Lands of the West Marches.
21. The smaller variants were used for the marking of economic land boundaries, such as estates, ecclesiastical ground and hunting forests, '*which were often treeless moors but subject to forest law*' (Barber 1999). They are usually built of stone, though they have also been known to be constructed of turf with poles, hedges or stones on the top. The use of dykes for land division became more prevalent with the increase of Norman influence in Scotland (Lawes-Marty 1999). They are also mentioned in many medieval charters, which were delimiting forest grazing to 'within the dyke', indicating the use of the dykes to formalize the divide between land ownership and land use, though most often after a period of dispute (Lawes-Marty 1999).
22. Pickan's Dyke has been identified as a land boundary (Graham & Feachem 1956), which given its position running up a ridge is not unlikely. It appears that it would have encompassed two known nearby medieval sites. The first of these, Dalmellington Motte (Figures 3a & 3b, Canmore Id: 42573), is a well preserved medieval motte, which is situated 260m to the south of the west end of Pickan's Dyke. The motte is circular in plan with a diameter of 18.5m on its level top and with steeply sloping sides that lead down to a ditch with a counterscarp of 1.5m.
23. Dame Helen's Castle (Canmore Id: 42574) which is situated 520m to the southwest of the east end of Pickan's Dyke, is thought to have been a towerhouse located on a motte. Remains of a building were visible in the 1800s though no remains are now evident.

Impact Assessment

24. The underlying archaeological remains at Pickan's Dyke have the potential to be impacted upon by a range of different agencies. At the moment the monument sits in an area of open grass and moorland but if in the future it was to be incorporated within a forestry plantation it would mean that buried deposits may be subject to damage both from the initial planting (potentially including ploughing), and from the subsequent growth of the coniferous trees planted upon it.
25. The potential for adverse impacts on archaeological monuments from forestry has long been recognised. During the mid 1950s the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) instigated the Marginal Land Survey to record important monuments prior to their loss or damage through land use change.
26. In addition, the site has been subject to erosion from the passage of walkers, who have established a footpath along a portion of the monument. Foot traffic across a monument can sometimes cause erosion to the upper surfaces of the underlying archaeological features.



Figure 3a: Dalmellington Motte



Figure 3b: View of Dalmellington Motte from Pickan's Dyke taken from the NE

27. Work has been conducted to explore the differing character of the relationship between forestry and the historic environment (Yarnell 1993 and Crow 2004). While poorly managed afforestation can have serious adverse impacts, other forestry and woodland regimes can create relatively benign environments which serve to protect monuments in the longer term. The upstanding remains at Pickan's Dyke suggest that it was managed under this more benign pattern, with the earthworks still upstanding to a substantial height and the main missing section having been lost prior to the mid-nineteenth century.
28. The Forestry Commission has established sound guidance for handling archaeological sites within forestry. This has either been delivered through targeted technical advice (Forests and Archaeology Guidelines), through planting design guidance encompassing archaeological and historical sites (Forest Design Planning) or through strategy documents (Scottish Forestry Strategy). Much of this guidance promotes the clearing of significant monuments as well as providing public access to, and interpretation of, such monuments. The proposed works at Pickan's Dyke provide an excellent opportunity to examine the consequences of the above on a narrow, linear monument where the physical characteristics (and pre-afforestation condition) of the monument may vary along its length.

Objectives

29. The character and scope of the archaeological resource has been established through analogy with monuments of similar form and extent which have previously been investigated elsewhere in mainland Scotland and beyond. It is, however, apparent that this particular class of monument varies greatly in character, with numerous variants evident depending on the intended function of the linear earthwork.
30. The overall objectives of the works were as follows:
 - a. to excavate a sufficient portion of the archaeological monument to allow the recovery of artefactual, palaeo-environmental and structural evidence, assisting in our interpretation and understanding of the site in order to more confidently establish its date, function, and form;
 - b. to determine the consequence to the archaeological resource from the use of the ground within a commercial forestry operation, covering both positive and negative aspects, while considering the future consequences of typical management; and
 - c. to disseminate the findings of these works in the appropriate manner.
31. More specific objectives which applied to assessing the character of the monument were:
 - d. to explore the relationship between the monument and the local topography, hydrology and drift geology. This was to include the characterisation of the wider landscape, both at the time of its main phase of use, and in the period immediately preceding it;
 - e. to elucidate whether the monument as we view it today is the product of a single coherent build, or a sequential build, and if the latter, to identify and interpret each separate phase of occupation or rebuilding as appropriate;
 - f. to improve our understanding of its structural elements;
 - g. to recover palaeo-environmental and artefactual evidence which may clarify the nature and function of activities undertaken within and immediately adjacent to the monument. In particular, evidence will be sought for the structured deposition of material within the ditch;
 - h. to consider the evidence for the process of abandonment of the monument;

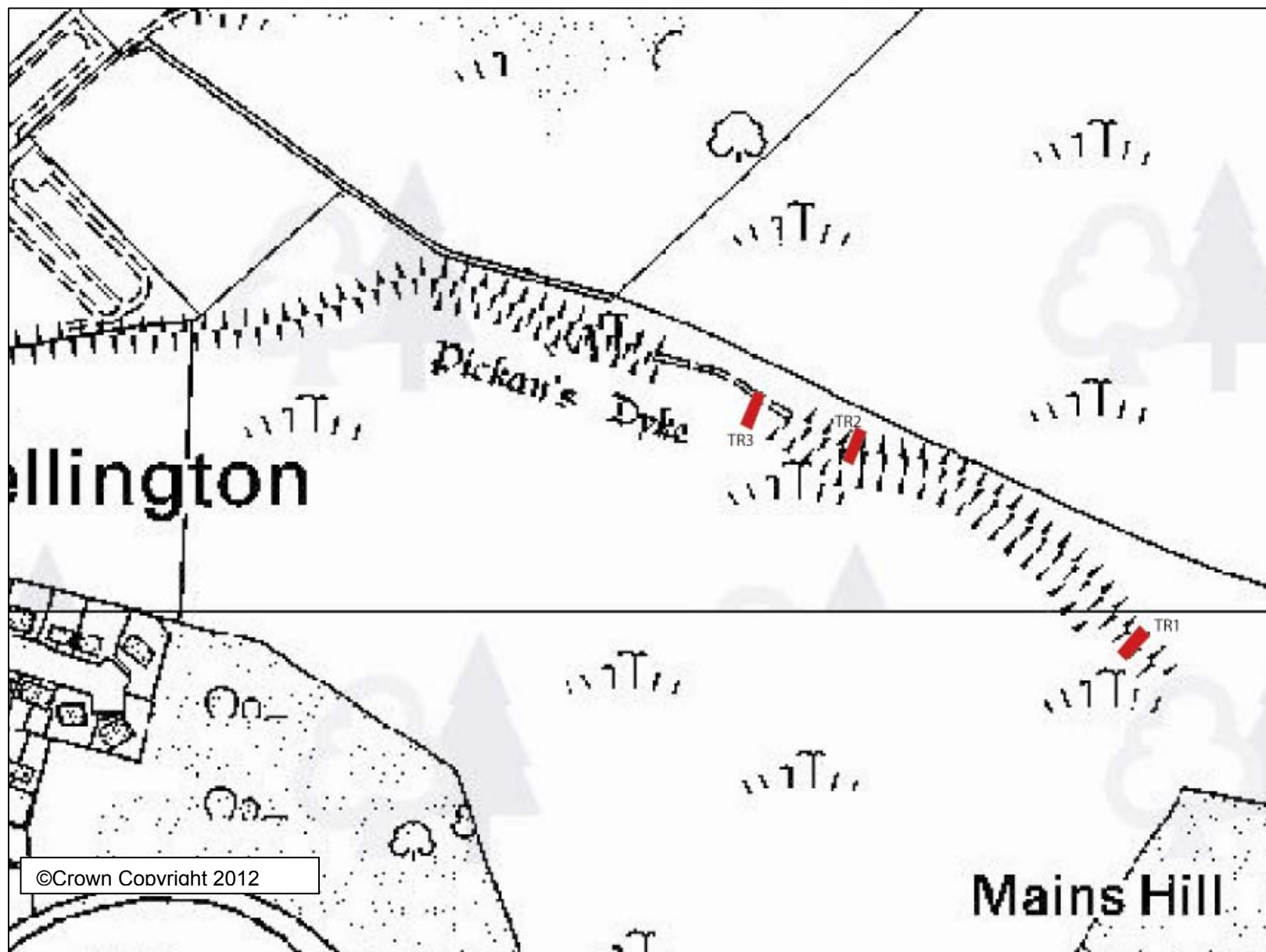


Figure 4: Site plan

- i. determine whether the monument has subsequently been reused;
 - j. to establish where this particular archaeological resource fits in with Medieval land use occurring within the immediate locale, and throughout the wider area of Ayrshire and the Southwest of Scotland.
32. The more specific objectives with regard to the impact of afforestation and related forestry operations on the monument were:
- k. to establish the impact of tree planting and subsequent growth on the buried sediments and upstanding fabric;
 - l. the extent of the erosion occurring as a result of increased foot traffic following the establishment of an informal walkers' path near the monument;
 - m. the consequence of renewed vegetation growth upon the archaeological resource, in particular any impacts from natural tree regeneration or the spread of bracken;
 - n. to understand what archaeological importance can be given to the ground that would typically be within a buffer to protect the visible monument; and
 - o. to establish the extent of any areas which are subject to active erosion, in particular as a result of burrowing animal activities.
33. These objectives were to be achieved through the programme of works detailed within the preceding Project Design.

Project Works

34. The programme of works that took the form of an archaeological evaluation which was carried out between the 27th August and the 7th September 2012. The works were carried out in keeping with the agreed Project Design (Gordon 2012) which comprised:
- a. limited excavation carried out in carefully selected areas of the monument and also in its immediate vicinity, thus allowing the surviving archaeological remains to be properly characterised;
 - b. developing community engagement with schools as well as hosting an open day for the local community to visit the monument and explore its significance; and
 - c. the production of a preliminary site report which integrates the findings of the works through a Data Structure Report, detailing the nature, form and extent of the archaeological features recorded.
35. Continuous liaison was carried out with the Forestry Commission Scotland Archaeologist to keep them apprised of progress and archaeological finds.
36. The fieldwork was generally undertaken in dry conditions, with occasional sunshine and spells of showers, though several days were marred by heavy rain and wind.

Stage 2

37. This report is the enabling document for an appropriate programme of post-excavation analysis which takes into account all the significant material recovered and establishes the required level of publication. Such Stage 2 works are also expected to encompass the deposition of the project archive with RCAHMS Collections to ensure the long-term preservation of the archaeological information obtained during the on-site works.



Figure 5a: School visit to Pickan's Dyke



Figure 5b: Two of the volunteers working with the archaeologists

Standards

38. The enabling Project Design was designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines including:
- ❖ Code of Conduct (Institute for Archaeologists 2000);
 - ❖ Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (Institute for Archaeologists 2001); and
 - ❖ Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (Institute for Archaeologists 2001).

Outreach

39. The social media site Facebook was used to inform the community of activities and progress during the period of work with more targeted activities detailed below.

Schools

40. Local schools were contacted by letter informing them of the works that would be taking place on Pickan's Dyke and the availability of an archaeologist to give a talk at the school, followed by a visit to the site. Dalmellington Primary School and Bellsbank Primary School both communicated that they would like to take part.
41. Dalmellington Primary School was visited on Friday 17th August. Here the whole school was undertaking a history project with each class covering various periods. On account of this, the headmistress asked for the archaeologist to speak to all of the classes in the school starting with Nursery and up to Primary 7. On the 29th August Primary 3 to Primary 7 visited the site (Figure 5a), with the visits starting at 0930hrs and the last one taking place about 1330hrs.
42. An archaeologist attended Bellsbank Primary School on the Wednesday 22nd August when a talk was given to Primaries 5 and 6. This class visited the site on the 5th September at 1000hrs.
43. All in all the schools exercise was considered a success, with both the children and teachers being interested and enthusiastic.

Scottish Archaeology Month

44. As part of Scottish Archaeology Month a walking tour of medieval Dalmellington and an open day to the site were arranged. Both events were the only events for Scottish Archaeology Month in East Ayrshire.
45. The walking tour took place on the Monday 3rd September. It was well attended and lasted for two and a half hours starting at the Dalmellington Motte, before proceeding to the Dalmellington churchyard and lastly continuing up the hill to see the evaluation trenches on Pickan's Dyke.
46. The Open Day which took place on Tuesday 4th September attracted only a handful of people on the day. However, random visitors to the site continued to appear for the rest of the week, saying that they had been unable to attend the open day.

Volunteers

47. Three places were made available for volunteers from the local area to take part in the works. In the end three volunteers attended (Figures 5b & 6b), who appeared to enjoy their time although the weather took its toll on their enthusiasm at times.

Excavation

48. A series of three targeted hand-excavation areas (Figure 4) were excavated to examine the character of the monument and the consequences of previous disruption to its fabric

(see *Strategy*). Each of these excavation areas were established with a specific objective (see Table 1 extracted from Project Design).

Table 1: Targets for each Excavation Area

Trench	Task	Size
1	To section the bank and ditch at the eastern end of the monument to examine (i) its composition and construction method, (ii) whether the bank overlies a buried palaeosol, and (iii) the character of the ditch fills.	8m by 2m
2	To section the bank and ditch near the middle of the monument within the FCS Estate, where it appears in a better state of preservation, in a manner comparable and strategy to Area 1.	8m by 2m
3	To sample the line of the dyke in the missing section of the monument to establish if this area contains any residual evidence for the bank and ditch.	8m by 2m

49. A description of each trench is included within the *Trench Summaries* section of 'Appendix 1: Registers' at the rear of this report. Appendix 1 also contains those registers which detail context description, photography, drawing, and sampling.

Conventions

50. Where significant features are discussed their location will normally be quoted as a distance along the relevant trench (such as +3m). This distance was measured from the end of the trench quoted first for the orientation of the trench in the *Trench Summaries* in Appendix 1. All depths and heights given for features are given from the original ground surface of the trench unless otherwise stated.
51. The context is the basic archaeological unit of description relating to a structure, a cut or a sediment of common characteristics. Structures (such as walls or built surfaces) and cut features (normally identified as they cut the underlying subsoil) are denoted by squared brackets (e.g. [040]). Sediments are denoted by rounded brackets (e.g. (041)). Finds are denoted by angled brackets (e.g. <04>).

Trench 1

52. Trench locations were sited to take into account the varying degrees of preservation along the length of the monument (Figure 4). Trench 1 (Figures 7a & 10) was sited at the eastern end of the monument aligned NE-SW and measuring 8m by 2m. The topsoil (001) consisted of a dark black-brown turf and silt mix with abundant rootlets which measured 200 to 250mm thick. The topsoil had been cut by a modern drainage ditch which ran NW-SE across the northeastern end of the trench measuring 0.6m wide and 200mm deep. Underlying topsoil (001) lay deposits (007) and (006) which formed bank [003] which ran WNW-ESE across the central portion of the trench.
53. Bank [003] measured 2 to 2.6m wide and up to 300mm high with gently sloping sides and a flattened top with rounded breaks of slope (Figure 8a). The upper and main deposit of the bank was (007), a firm light to mid orange-brown slightly sandy silt/clay with abundant small stones and occasional medium sized stones on the upper surface. It measured 50 to 230mm in thickness and directly overlay (006) which formed the basal deposit of the bank. (006) consisted of a loose mid to dark blackish brown mixture of peat and turf with frequent rootlets. It measured up to 200mm in thickness but was very similar to the underlying deposit (009) with a very diffuse interface between the two which was sometimes difficult to distinguish.



Figure 6a: Each trench was surveyed by metal detector after de-turfing



Figure 6b: When possible archaeological deposits that were not sampled were dry sieved (As demonstrated by one of our volunteers)



Figure 7a: Trench 1 post excavation



Figure 7b: Trench 2 post excavation

54. Underlying the bank [003] and its infill deposits, as well as directly underlying topsoil (001) on either side lay peat layer (009). This was a quite firm dark blackish brown peat with occasional to moderate small rootlets present which measured 200mm in thickness. Present across the entire length of the trench, (009) had been cut by ditch [004].
55. Ditch [004] crossed the trench at its southwestern end. Orientated ESE-WNW, it measured 1.8m wide with a maximum depth of 450mm (Figure 8b). The cut had gently sloping sides with gradual breaks of slope and a rounded base. The upper and main deposit of the ditch was (005), a loose mid to dark brownish orange very organic peaty silt with abundant rootlets which measured 300mm deep. Underlying this was basal deposit (008), a firm dark blackish brown/slightly grey silt with occasional small stones which measured 100 to 150mm deep.
56. Across the base of the trench as it was excavated lay natural subsoil deposit (002) which consisted of a very compact dark blackish brown bedrock sitting within a clay/silt matrix. This had also been cut by ditch [004]. The excavation of the trench stopped at the surface of the natural subsoil.

Trench 2

57. Trench 2 (Figures 7b & 11) was located near the middle of the monument where it appears to be in a better state of preservation. Aligned N-S and measuring 8m by 2m, the well-preserved bank [020] was located in the northern area of the trench with a rounded profile and aligned E-W. Subsequent excavation of [020] revealed the height was 500mm with a width of 2.85m, with (012) and (013) forming the fill deposits (Figure 9a). The top and base breaks of slope are gradual and rounded.
58. The ditch [019], also well preserved, was located to the south and oriented E-W. Excavation revealed [019] as 'U' shaped in plan, 430mm in depth and measuring 2.63m in width (Figure 9b). The top break of slope on the southern face is rounded and has a sharp descent to the ditch bottom, whereas the break of slope-top on the north face is rounded with a gradual slope to the ditch bottom. For both sides the break of slope-base is rounded with a flat base. Three deposits (015), (017) and (018) formed the fill within [019].
59. Overlying [020] and [019] was the topsoil (011), 100mm thick and covering the extent of the trench and extending beyond. This comprised of a dark brown and humic clay silt with frequent rootlets and occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular stones.
60. Two deposits form the bank [020]; (012) was located close to the ditch with (013) forming the northern extent of [020]. Both deposits were very similar in composition with (012) characterised by a light brown orange clay sand with infrequent small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Bioturbation from animal and root activity was visible throughout. The extent and depth of (012) and (013) were the same as for [020]. Although both contexts formed the bank, (013) overlay (012) and was formed of a light orange sand with occasional rootlets and also showed evidence of animal bioturbation. The closeness of (012) to the ditch [019] may have resulted in its slightly damper composition with the position of (013), forming the northern extent of the bank, allowing it to drain better.
61. The natural subsoil (014) was a moderately compacted mottled grey and orange clayey sand. Throughout there were occasional medium to small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones and it formed the basal context for the whole trench. Within (014) patches of dark black humus (016) was recorded. This also formed a thin band 20mm thick and 1.74m in length within the northern portion of the bank located between (014) and (013).
62. Three deposits formed the fill of [019]. (015) consisted of a 260mm thick brown-red sandy silty loam with frequent roots. This was only recorded within [019], covered an area measuring 2m by 2m in extent. Underlying this was (017), formed of a brown-grey clay sand with frequent sub-rounded small stones. Measuring 140mm thick by approximately 500mm in length, this deposit was only found on the south-facing side of [019]. The final deposit (018) consisted of a 600mm thick black and red brown humic loam with occasional roots and rootlets.



Figure 8a: Bank (003)



Figure 8b: Ditch [004]



Figure 9a: Bank [020]



Figure 9b: Ditch [019]

Trench 3

63. Trench 3 (Figure 12a) was sited to sample the line of the dyke in the missing section of the monument with the aim of establishing whether any residual evidence of the bank and ditch survived in this area. Aligned NE-SW with sloping ground to the south-western end, the trench measured 8m by 2m.
64. The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of 100mm to 150mm of topsoil (021) characterised by a firm and dark black brown slightly peaty silt. Throughout this context there were occasional small stones and abundant rootlets. Underlying this was (022) which varied in depth from 130mm to 360mm, with the south-western end the shallower, and was formed of a mid greyish brown silt with occasional small to medium stones. This covered the whole trench and was noted to be either natural subsoil or possible hillwash.
65. The natural subsoil (023) underlying (022) was composed of a slightly compacted mottled brown-orange silt with abundant small to medium stones. It was recorded that this layer had been heavily truncated by animal bioturbation. Context (023) formed the north-eastern area of the trench, covering an area of 6m by 2m.
66. The lower, south-western, portion of the trench was covered by two layers (024) and (025) which represented hillwash. The upper layer (024) was 150mm in depth, covering an area 1.20m by 2m, and was composed of a loose light greyish brown silt with abundant gravel throughout. Underlying (024), (025) consisted of a 100mm deep very dark black-brown organic silt. This covered an area measuring 0.9m by 2m in extent; throughout the context there were frequent rootlets and very small stones recorded.
67. The natural subsoil covering the base of the south-western area of the trench, underlying deposits (024) and (025), was (026). This comprised a firm light greyish brown silty gravel with abundant small stones which covered an area of 2m by 2m.

Sampling

68. Samples were recovered in the course of the work; these were either for dating, soil morphological study or general bulk soil samples for palaeo- environmental processing.

Table 2: Samples recovered from trenches

Sample No.	Trench	Context	Sample Type	Description / Quantity
001	Tr 2	012	Bulk 20 L	Bank deposit
002	Tr 2	013	Bulk 20 L	Bank deposit
003	Tr 1	006	Bulk 30 L	Layer of turf/peat within bank [003]
004	Tr 1	005	Bulk 30 L	Upper fill of ditch cut [004]
005	Tr 1	008	Bulk 20 L	Lower fill of ditch cut [004]
006	Tr 2	014	Bulk 20 L	Natural (control sample)
007	Tr 2	015	Bulk 20 L	Ditch fill
008	Tr 2	016	Bulk 20 L	Possible remains of turf (humic organic material)
009	Tr 2	017	Bulk 20 L	Possible re-deposited natural or bank material
010	Tr 1	007	Bulk 20 L	Upper layer of bank [003]
011	Tr 2	018	Bulk 20 L	Black to red organic loam below (017) and (014)
012	Tr 1	001	Bulk 10 L	Topsoil (control sample)
013	Tr 1	002	Bulk 10 L	Subsoil (control sample)
014	Tr 1	009	Bulk 10 L	Peat/topsoil
015	Tr 2	011	Bulk 10 L	Topsoil (control sample)
016	Tr 2	013,014,016	Kubiena	Bank (013), humic turf (016) & natural (014)
017	Tr 3	024	Bulk 20 L	Hill wash (control sample)
018	Tr 3	025	Bulk 20 L	Hill wash (control sample)

Sample No.	Trench	Context	Sample Type	Description / Quantity
019	Tr 3	023	Bulk 10 L	Subsoil (control sample)
020	Tr 3	026	Bulk 10 L	Natural (control sample)

Finds

69. No artefacts of archaeological significance were recovered during the works on Pickan's Dyke. In fact no artefacts in any shape or form or age at all were observed.

Observations

70. In addition to the bank and ditch of Pickan's Dyke, another bank and ditch was observed just to the north, running immediately parallel with the remains of the drystone dyke that runs roughly southeast to northwest from the forestry plantation to the northeast of the cemetery and just south of the Camlarg Plantation.
71. The ground on which Pickan's Dyke runs is quite damp, particularly at the eastern portion which is between moorland and a moss or wetland.

Discussion

Character of the monument

72. Pickan's Dyke is an irregular linear earthwork consisting of a bank and ditch measuring 765m in length with a 62m gap located approximately two thirds of the way along its length. Prior to excavation, the monument appeared to vary in its survival along its length: in the west it was barely visible, becoming more pronounced as it progressed eastwards up the hill. It then disappeared entirely at the break, before reappearing in what seemed to be the best surviving portion before fading out again to the east.
73. The bank [003] within Trench 1 appears to have been made from turf (006) with a soil covering (007), all of which sat upon peat (009). The turf and soil comprise the upcast from the digging of the ditch [004]. The area around Trench 1 is made up of about 200mm of turf (001) over peat (009). All so measuring about 200mm deep, (009) in turn overlies (002), which appears to be substrata over bedrock. Given the shallow depth of material that was available here it may explain why the bank and ditch in this portion of the monument are much less apparent than in the area of Trench 2. The turf and peat would appear to have sunk/compressed under the weight of (007) over time, thus giving the reduced appearance of the monument in this location.
74. In Trench 2 the bank [020] and ditch [019] have survived quite well. There is little to no peat in this area with the bedrock substrata sitting deeper than in Trench 1, which means that the bank in this area is made from soil rather than peat. Within the section of the bank (Figure 11) there appear to be thin dark organic lenses of soil (016) which may be the remains of the turf from the original ground surface. The bank and ditch appear to have been constructed in one event, after which it was subject either to minimum maintenance or abandoned, with no evidence of re-cutting of the ditch.
75. The three fills of ditch [019] appear to have accumulated over time from organic build up, though they seem to lack the dark brown and black colours usually associated with organic build up in ditches. In comparison the fills of ditch (004) in Trench 1 were far darker; the basal fill (008) shows the ditch was open for a time with slow running water causing it to silt up before it started to stagnate and form peat (005).
76. Trench 3 (Figure 12a) which was placed in the gap in the extant remains of the Dyke, failed to show anything. No truncated remains of the ditch and bank were present; this means that either all traces of the monument have been completely removed or was that it was never built here in the first place. The usual suspect for such severe truncation would be ploughing: on Roy's Military map of the area, which doesn't show Pickan's Dyke (Figure 2a) the hillside is marked as ploughed ground. This would seem to support the

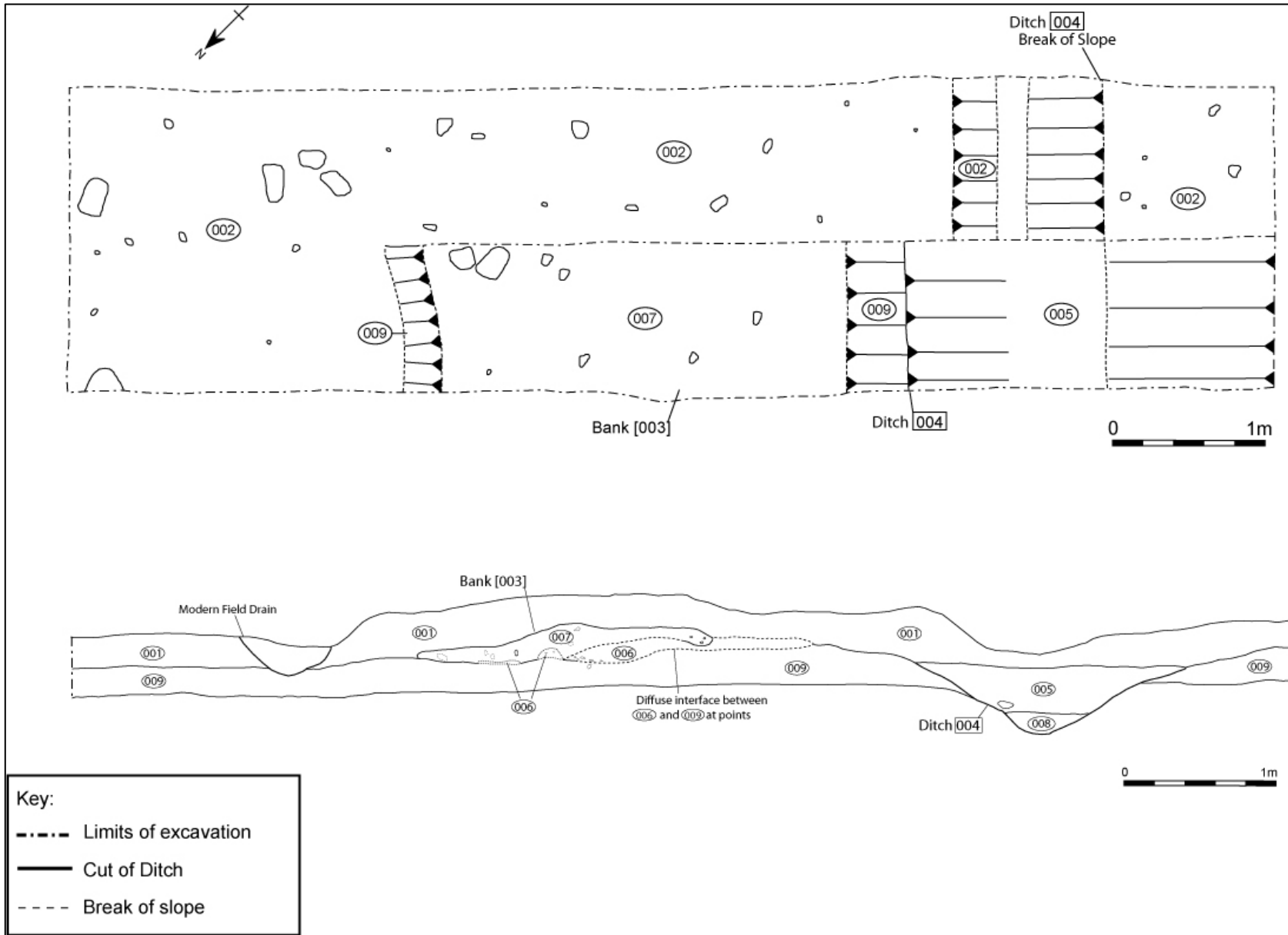


Figure 10: Trench 1 with Northwest facing section

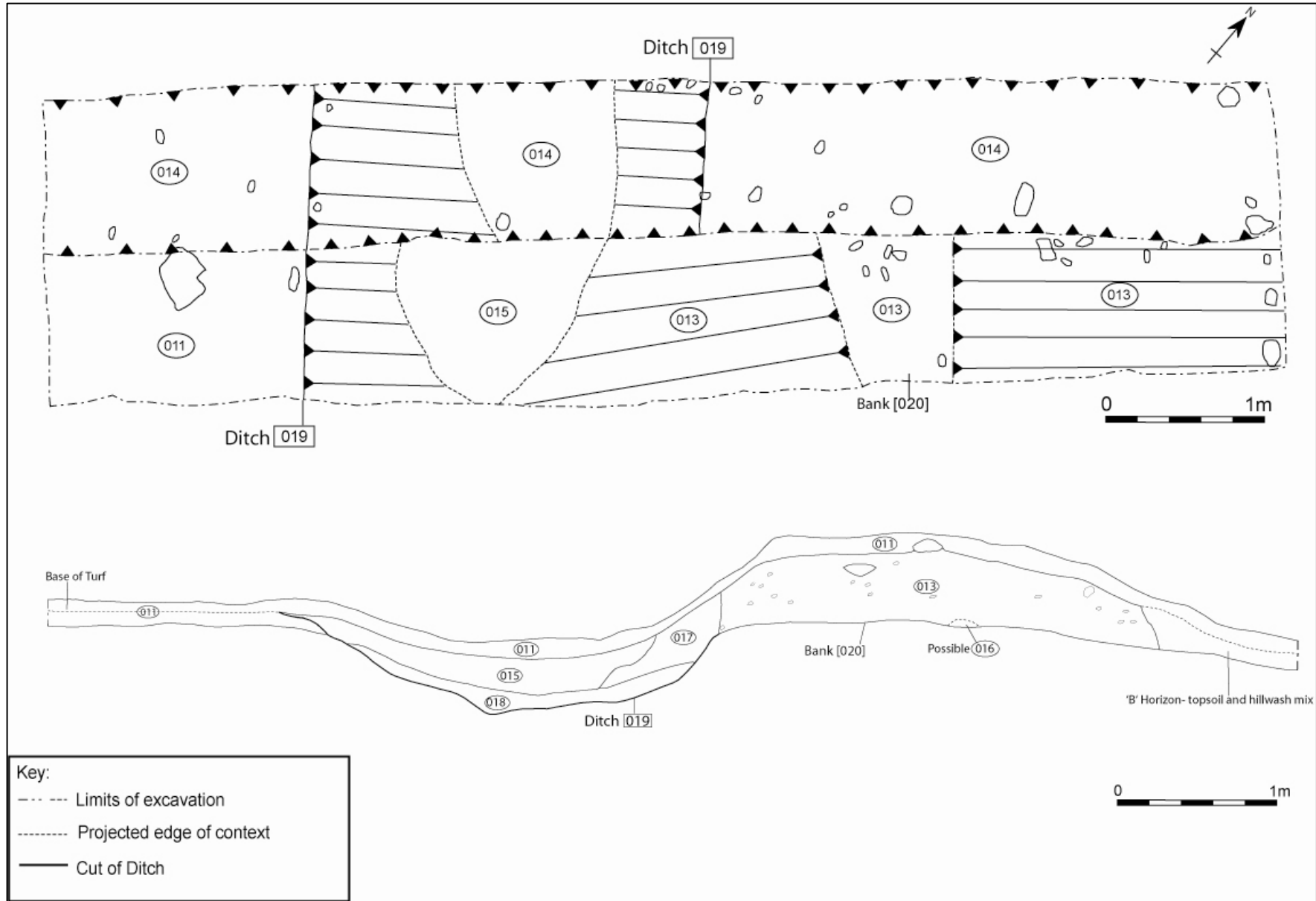


Figure 11: Trench 2 and Northwest facing section



Figure 12a: Trench 3 post excavation

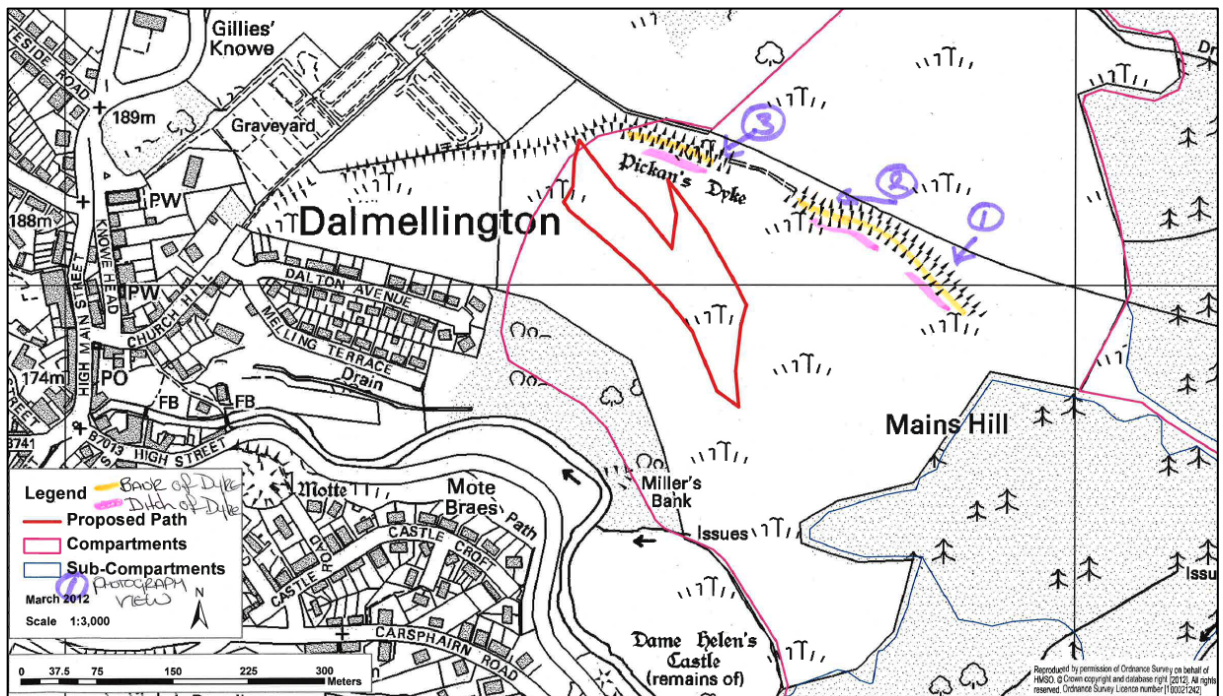


Figure 12b: Proposed Forestry Commission Scotland Path

idea that the monument has been plough truncated. However there was no evidence of ploughing within Trench 3, although it may be the case that the trench was too small to pick up any such evidence.

77. It is equally possible that the monument was never actually built in this area, though why this gap would have been left in such a linear monument is an unknown. If the gap was for ease of access across the dyke, it would seem to be far larger than needed.
78. The two main suggestions for the purpose of the monument are as a medieval land boundary (Graham & Feachem 1956) or as part of a park pale which enclosed a deer park in the medieval period (McBrien 2012). Both are possible interpretations; however if the Dyke were part of a park pale, evidence for posts or poles, or for a hedge or for stones running along the top of the bank would be expected. Unfortunately no such evidence was uncovered during the trial excavations, though given the limited sample excavated it may be possible that the trenches missed such evidence which may otherwise be present elsewhere on the monument. Given the size and morphology of the earthwork it is likely to be medieval in date. The proximity of Dalmellington Motte and Dame Helen's Castle, both medieval structures, would suggest that the Dyke was probably associated with one of these, though this remains an untested supposition.
79. No conclusive evidence was uncovered during the course of the trial excavation to be able to state a definitive purpose or age for this monument. It is hoped that evidence such as datable material will be recovered from the Stage 2 post excavation works and that this will help to answer questions regarding its date and function.
80. The lack of any artefacts within the three trial trenches is curious: while not finding any medieval artefacts could simply be put down to the trenches being in the wrong place, not having any detritus from any age would suggest instead that little activity has occurred in this area.

Impact Assessment

Consequences of afforestation

81. Within the Forestry Commission Scotland land, Pickan's Dyke as it stands does not appear to have been subject to planting, with all the cartographic and aerial photographic records consulted showing the site as open hillside. No tree stumps or roots were observed during the course of the trial excavation. Mild bioturbation was present within the archaeological contexts although this was due to grass rootlets, worm action and small animals.
82. Should afforestation be brought forward, the identified monument should be excluded from the area of planting. This exclusion should even exclude the gap in the monument to ensure the integrity of the linear monument. Any exclusion should create a broad enough clearing that foot traffic and irregular plant movements can use the clearing without placing pressure on the monument. Any natural regeneration and scrub growth within the clearing around Pickan's Dyke could cause damage to the monument. To limit any such damage, periodic monitoring and clearing when appropriate should be anticipated within any forest plan.
83. In addition the intervisibility with Dalmellington Motte is important for the interpretation of Pickan's Dyke. As such, if possible any forestry planting design should seek to use compartment boundaries to retain views of selected vistas to the Motte.
84. In the event that a forestry road is required to cross the monument, this should be placed within the gap of the monument as there is an absence of features at this point (both above and below ground).
85. Should afforestation only occur to the north of the monument, given the slope to the south of the monument. We recommend that a distinctive boundary is generated by any new planting, mirroring but offset from Pickan's Dyke and hence defining more clearly from the Motte the route of this coeval feature.

Consequences of foot traffic

86. A very irregular path was evident in places leading from the cemetery along Pickan's Dyke up the hill, appearing predominantly as a trampled but vegetated path. Where this path occurred on the monument it consistently avoided the damp, ditch sections of the monument in favour of the dry, raised summit of the bank. Some of this use and erosion may be the product of stock movement rather than human traffic. There is no current need to repair or redirect this traffic.
87. The proposed Forestry Commission Scotland path (Figure 12b) to the south of Pickan's Dyke will have little to no impact as it sits away from the monument itself. However walkers gaining access to the path, and the general promotion of access to the hillside through introducing walking paths, should be anticipated to increase traffic on the irregular path following Pickan's Dyke with a consequent increase in erosion and damage to the monument.
88. While there is no current need to repair or redirect traffic, this should be kept under review and in the event pressure initiates erosion and damage to the monument, consideration should be given to a footpath running parallel to Pickan's Dyke, to lessen the pressure of foot traffic.
89. Care should be taken when planning the construction of these paths, that the contractors are excluded from the monument, so as not to cross it with any plant, store materials etc. If there is a need to cross the monument (either on a temporary basis or through permanent path) all effort should be made to use the gap within the monument.

Recommendations

90. Presented below are our recommendations for the Stage 2 archaeological works which will conclude this project. Given the findings of the project we would recommend a limited programme of post-excavation analysis which should include;
- ❖ analysis of soil micro-morphology of the kubiena tin sample taken from the southern bank ;
 - ❖ sediment processing and palaeo-environmental analysis;
 - ❖ recovery of datable material leading to the dating of any viable samples;
91. The proposed path to the south of Pickan's Dyke will have little to no impact, but walkers gaining access from the area of the cemetery are likely to walk along the dyke causing damage to the monument. It is recommended that this should be kept under review and if needed to prevent further erosion, then consideration could be given to installing a second path leading up to the proposed pathway, built parallel to the dyke. This would allow ease of access and limit the amount of foot traffic over the monument, thereby limiting the potential for erosion and loss of the archaeology.

Conclusion

92. A trial excavation was carried out on behalf of the Forestry Commission Scotland, on the linear earthwork known as Pickan's Dyke, Dalmellington. Three targeted trenches were hand excavated to recover information relating to the monument's date and form. Two of these trenches showed the construction of the bank and ditch, possibly completed as a single phase, with the upcast spoil of the ditch forming the adjacent bank.
93. Trench 3, which was situated in a gap in the line of the monument, did not contain any archaeological features. Unfortunately leaving the question of whether the gap was deliberate choice during construction or has been subject to removal due to other processes such as agriculture.
94. No artefacts were recovered in the course of the works.

Acknowledgements

95. The authors would like to thank the Forestry Commission Scotland Ranger Lyndy Renwick for her help and advice as well as Mr Gavin for allowing access across his land. We would like to thank the volunteers for their hard work and for putting up with the weather; Billy Weir, Kirstie Millar and Michael. We would also like to thank the rest of the field team who worked on site and their contributions to the illustrations and appendices within this report: Calum Henderson and Sandra Mulligan, as well as Dr Louise Turner for edits of this report.

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Cartographic

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| 1752-1755 | Roy | Military Survey of Scotland |
| 1898-70 | Ordnance Survey | 1 st edition Ordnance Survey |

Appendix 1: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to the intrusive evaluation works.

Trench Summaries

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
01	Northeast to Southwest	8m x 2m	200 – 250mm	Very compact dark blackish brown clay/silt with abundant cracked bedrock/degrading stone material (002).	None	Ditch [004] and Bank [003]	None
02	North to South	8m x 2m	100mm	Moderately compact mottled grey and orange clay/sand (014). Occasional medium to small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones.	None	Ditch [019] and Bank [020]	None
03	Northeast to Southwest	8m x 2m	330 – 655mm	Fine, slightly compact mixed mottled brownish orange silt with abundant small – medium small stones (023). Heavily truncated by burrowing. Covers 6m x 2m visible at the NE end of trench. Also a firm, light greyish brown silt/gravel with abundant very small stones (026). Covers 2m x 2m visible at the very SW extent of the trench.	None	None	None

Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Trench 1	Deposit	Very compact dark blackish brown peaty topsoil with abundant rootlets 200mm – 250mm thick. This is found throughout the entirety of Trench 1.	Turf / topsoil
002	Trench 1	Deposit	Very compact dark blackish brown clay/silt with abundant cracked bedrock/degrading stone material. This is found throughout the entirety of Trench 1.	Natural subsoil
003	Trench 1	Linear	Linear bank aligned ESE to WNW running parallel to the NE of ditch cut [004]. Comprised of turf material (006) and slightly sandy clay/silt material (007) placed upon natural peat (009). The feature is between 2m and 2.60m wide and up to	Bank associated with ditch [004]

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			300m thick.	
004	Trench 1	Cut	Linear ditch running parallel to the SW of bank [003]. This feature is 1.80m wide and 450mm thick, with gradual top and bottom breaks of slope, gently sloping sides and a rounded base. The feature is aligned ESE – WNW and contains two fills (005) and (008).	Cut of ditch
005	Trench 1	Deposit	Loose, very waterlogged, mid – dark brownish orange very organic peaty silt. The deposit was 300mm thick, 1.80m wide and contained abundant rootlet inclusions.	Upper fill of ditch [004]
006	Trench 1	Deposit	Loose, mid – dark blackish brown peat/turf material with frequent small rootlet inclusions. The deposit is up to 200mm thick and 2.70m in extent.	Remains of turf used to construct bank [003]
007	Trench 1	Deposit	Firm, light – mid orange brown slightly sandy silt/clay with frequent small – medium sized stone inclusions. The deposit is between 50mm – 130mm thick and 2.70m in extent.	Upper layer of material used to construct bank [003]
008	Trench 1	Deposit	Firm, dark blackish brown silt with occasional small stones 0.10m – 150mm thick and 600mm in extent.	Lower fill of ditch cut [004]
009	Trench 1	Deposit	Moderately compact dark blackish brown peat with medium rootlet inclusions. This is 200mm thick and is found below topsoil (001) throughout the entirety of Trench 1.	Peat/topsoil
010	-	VOID	VOID	VOID
011	Trench 2	Deposit	Dark brown humic clay/silt with frequent rootlets and small sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions. The deposit is 100mm thick	Topsoil/Turf
012	Trench 2	Deposit	Moderately compact and moist, light brown/orange clay/sand. Infrequent small – medium sub-rounded and sub-angular small stones.	Material used to construct bank [020]
013	Trench 2	Deposit	Moderately compact, well drained, light brownish orange sand. Frequent to very frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded small – medium stones. Occasional small rootlets and evidence of animal burrowing.	Material used to construct bank [020]
014	Trench 2	Deposit	Moderately compact mottled grey and orange clay/sand. Occasional medium to small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Thickness unknown.	Natural subsoil

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
015	Trench 2	Deposit	Moderately compact brownish red sand/silt loam (almost peat) with frequent roots and no stones. The deposit is 260mm thick and 2m x 2m in extent.	Fill of ditch cut [019]
016	Trench 2	Deposit	Moderately compact, black organic/humic material with no inclusions. The material is 20mm thick and 1.74m in length. Forms a thin band of black visible in the west facing section and towards the northern extent of the bank [020].	Possible remains of original medieval turf that formed bottom of bank [020]
017	Trench 2	Deposit	Moderately compact brownish grey clay/sand with frequent sub-rounded small stones. This deposit is only recorded on the south side of the ditch and is 140mm thick, 500mm in extent.	Re-deposited natural. Fill of ditch cut [019]
018	Trench 2	Deposit	Moderately compact black/reddish brown humic loam with occasional small rootlet inclusions. The deposit is 600mm thick with an unknown extent.	Fill of ditch cut [019]
019	Trench 2	Cut	Linear ditch feature, U-shaped in profile and aligned E - W. The feature is 430mm deep, 2.63m in width by 2m (area exposed in trench). The break of slope on the south face is rounded with steep sides. On the north it is rounded with gradually sloping sides. The bottom breaks of slope are rounded with a flat base. The ditch has fills (015), (017), (018) and is cut into natural (014).	Cut of ditch
020	Trench 2	Linear	Linear bank rounded in profile and shape, aligned E – W. The feature has a depth of 500mm and a width of 2.85m. The break of slope at the top is rounded and gentle with a gentle gradient of slope/sides. The break of slope at the base is gradual. The bank is constructed with deposits (012) & (013).	Bank associated with ditch [019]
021	Trench 3	Deposit	Firm dark blackish brown slightly peaty silt with occasional small stones and abundant rootlets. The deposit is 100mm – 150mm thick and exists throughout trench 3.	Topsoil
022	Trench 3	Deposit	Firm mid greyish brown silt with occasional small – medium sub- rounded and sub- angular small stones. The deposit is 130mm – 360mm thick (deeper at SW of trench) and is present throughout the entire trench.	Natural subsoil
023	Trench 3	Deposit	Fine, slightly compact mixed mottled brownish orange silt with abundant small – medium small stones. Also very heavily truncated by burrowing. The thickness is unknown with 6m x 2m visible at the NE of trench.	Natural subsoil
024	Trench 3	Deposit	Loose, light greyish brown silt with abundant gravel. The deposit is 150mm thick and 1.20m in extent.	Hill wash

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
025	Trench 3	Deposit	Loose very dark blackish brown, slightly organic silt 100mm thick and 900mm in extent.	Hill wash
026	Trench 3	Deposit	Firm, light greyish brown silt/gravel with abundant very small stones. The thickness is unknown with 1.90m x 2m visible at the very SW extent of the trench.	Natural subsoil

Photographic Register

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
1	-	-	-	-	001	Trench 1 de-turfed before cleaning	S	28/08/12
2	-	-	-	-	002	Trench 2 de-turfed before cleaning	S	28/08/12
3	-	-	-	-	003	Trench 2 after first clean showing ditch and bank	S	28/08/12
4	-	-	-	-	004	Trench 2 as above but oblique showing ditch and bank	SE	28/08/12
5	-	-	-	-	005	Trench 2 showing bank on north facing side	N	28/08/12
6	-	-	-	-	006	Trench 2 using metal detector	N	28/08/12
7	-	-	-	-	007	Trench 2 as above	NE	28/08/12
8	-	-	-	-	008	School Visit	-	29/08/12
9	-	-	-	-	009	School Visit	-	29/08/12
10	-	-	-	-	010	Trench 1 Pre-Ex	N	29/08/12
11	-	-	-	-	011	Trench 1 Pre-Ex	S	29/08/12
12	-	-	-	-	012	Trench 1 Pre-Ex	E	29/08/12
13	-	-	-	-	013	Pre-Ex of Possible Feature (Trench 1)	N	29/08/12
14	-	-	-	-	014	Trench 1 (Working shot)	-	29/08/12

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
15	-	-	-	-	015	Trench 1 (Working shot)	-	29/08/12
16	-	-	-	-	016	Trench 2 (Working shot showing sieving)	-	29/08/12
17	-	-	-	-	017	Trench 2 (Working shot showing sieving)	-	29/08/12
18	-	-	-	-	018	Trench 2 (Working shot showing sieving)	-	29/08/12
19	-	-	-	-	019	Trench 2 (Working shot showing mattock in use)	-	29/08/12
20	-	-	-	-	020	Trench 2 (General working shot)	-	29/08/12
21	-	-	-	-	021	Trench 1 (General working shot)		30/08/12
22	-	-	-	-	022	Trench 1 (General working shot)		30/08/12
23	-	-	-	-	023	Trench 1 (General working shot)		30/08/12
24	-	-	-	-	024	Post-Ex of bank [003] (Trench 1)	NW	30/08/12
25	-	-	-	-	025	Post-Ex of bank [003] and ditch [004] (Trench 1)	NW	30/08/12
26	-	-	-	-	026	Close-up of NW Facing Section [004] (Trench 1)	NW	30/08/12
27	-	-	-	-	027	Post-Ex of bank [003] and ditch [004] (Trench 1)	SE	30/08/12
28	-	-	-	-	028	Close up of SE facing section [004] (Trench 1)	SE	30/08/12
29	-	-	-	-	029	Pos-Ex of bank [003] and ditch [004] (Trench 1)	SE	30/08/12
30	-	-	-	-	030	Post-Ex of bank [003] and ditch [004] (Trench 1)	SE	30/08/12
31	-	-	-	-	031	Oblique shot of [003] and [004] (Trench 1)	SSE	30/08/12
32	-	-	-	-	032	Post-Ex (Trench 1)	SE	30/08/12
33	-	-	-	-	033	Post-Ex (Trench 1)	NE	30/08/12
34	-	-	-	-	034	Close-up of bank [003] (Trench 1)	NW	30/08/12
35	-	-	-	-	035	Close-up of bank [003] (Trench 1)	SE	30/08/12
36	-	-	-	-	036	Oblique shot of [003] and [004] (Trench 1)	NNW	30/08/12

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
37	-	-	-	-	037	NNW Facing Section of [003] (Trench 1)	NNW	30/08/12
38	1	1	-	-	038	E Facing Section of ditch [019] (Trench 2)	E	04/09/12
39	1	2	-	-	039	W Facing Section of ditch [019] (Trench 2)	W	04/09/12
40	1	3	-	-	040	W Facing Section of bank [020] (Trench 2)	W	04/09/12
41	1	4	-	-	041	E Facing Section of bank [020] (Trench 2)	E	04/09/12
42	1	5	-	-	042	Post-ex of bank [020] (Trench 2)	N	04/09/12
43	1	6	-	-	043	Post-ex of ditch [019] (Trench 2)	S	04/09/12
44	1	7	-	-	044	Post-ex of Trench 2 looking North	S	04/09/12
45	1	8	-	-	045	Post-ex of Trench 2 looking South	N	04/09/12
46	1	9	-	-	046	Post-ex of Trench 2	NW	04/09/12
47	1	10	-	-	047	Post-ex of Trench 2	SE	04/09/12
48	1	11	-	-	048	S Facing Section of Trench 2	S	04/09/12
49	1	12	-	-	049	N Facing Section of Trench 2	N	04/09/12
50	1	13	-	-	050	W Facing Section of Trench 2 (Southern Half)	W	04/09/12
51	1	14	-	-	051	W Facing Section of Trench 2 (Northern Half)	W	04/09/12
52	1	15	-	-	052	E Facing Section of Trench 2 (Northern Half)	E	04/09/12
53	1	16	-	-	053	E Facing Section of Trench 2 (Southern Half)	E	04/09/12
54	1	17	-	-	054	SE Facing Section of Trench 2 ditch [019]	SW	04/09/12
55	1	18	-	-	055	W Facing central section (Southern Half)	W	04/09/12
56	1	19	-	-	056	W Facing central section (Northern Half)	W	04/09/12
57	1	20	-	-	057	W Facing central section of ditch [019] and bank [020]	W	04/09/12
58	-	-	-	-	058	Working shot (Trench 3)	S	04/09/12

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
59	1	21	-	-	059	SE Facing Section of Trench 3	SE	04/09/12
60	1	22	-	-	060	SE Facing Section of Trench 3	E	04/09/12
61	1	23	-	-	061	SE Facing Section of Trench 3	SE	04/09/12
62	1	24	-	-	062	General shot of Trench 3	NNE	04/09/12
63	2	1	-	-	063	ID SHOT FILM No. 2	-	04/09/12
64	2	2	-	-	064	General shot of Trench 3	SSW	04/09/12
65	2	3	-	-	065	NW Facing Section (Trench 3)	NE	04/09/12
66	2	4	-	-	066	NW Facing Section (Trench 3)	NE	04/09/12
67	2	5	-	-	067	SSW Facing Section (Trench 3)	SSW	04/09/12
68	2	6	-	-	068	NNE Facing Section (Trench 3)	NNE	04/09/12
69	2	7	-	-	069	Oblique shot of Trench 3 (NW facing section)	SE	04/09/12
70	2	8	-	-	070	Oblique shot of Trench 3 (SE facing section)	SE	04/09/12
71	-	-	-	-	071	Shot of Kubiena Sample (Trench 2)	W	06/09/12
72	-	-	-	-	072	Shot of Kubiena Sample (Trench 2)	W	06/09/12
73	2	9	-	-	073	Oblique shot of Trench 3	S	06/09/12
74	2	10	-	-	074	Shot of SE of Trench 3 having removed deposits (024) and (025)	SE	06/09/12
75	2	11	-	-	075	Shot of SE of Trench 3 showing (024) and (025) in section	NW	06/09/12
76	2	12	-	-	076	General shot of Trench 3 having removed (024) and (025)	W	30/07/12
77	2	13	-	-	077	Shot of NE Facing Section of Trench 3.	S	30/07/12
78	-	-	-	-	078	Trench 1 after backfilling	W	30/07/12
79	-	-	-	-	079	Trench 2 after backfilling	S	30/07/12
80	-	-	-	-	080	Trench 3 after backfilling	W	30/07/12

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawn By	Date
1	1	2	Plan	1:20	Pre-Ex Plan of Trench 2	PK & KM	28/08/12
2	1	1	Plan	1:20	Pre-Ex Plan of Trench 1	SM & CH	29/08/12
3	2	1	Section	1:10	NE Facing Section of Trench 1	SM & CH	03/09/12
4	2	1	Section	1:10	SE Facing Section of Trench 1	SM & CH	03/09/12
5	2	1	Plan	1:20	Post-Ex Plan of Trench 1	SM & CH	03/09/12
6	3	1	Section	1:10	NW Facing Section of Trench 1	SM & CH	31/08/12
7	3	1	Section	1:10	SE Facing Section of sondage in Trench 1	SM & CH	31/08/12
8	4	2	Section	1:10	S Facing Section of Trench 2	SW & PK	04/09/12
9	4	2	Section	1:10	N Facing Section of Trench 2	CW & PK	04/09/12
10	4	2	Section	1:10	E Facing Section of Trench 2	PK & CW	04/09/12
11	5	2	Section	1:10	W Facing Section of Trench 2	PK & CW	05/09/12
12	6	2	Plan	1:20	Overlay of DWG 1 showing post-ex plan of sondage	PK & CW	06/09/12
13	7	2	Section	1:10	W Facing Section of sondage in Trench 2.	CW & PK	05/09/12
14	5	3	Plan	1:20	Pre-ex plan of Trench 3	SM & CH	06/09/12
15	8	3	Plan	1:20	Overlay of DWG 14 with post-ex of slope of trench	SM & CH	06/09/12
16	9	3	Section	1:10	SE Facing Section (Trench 3)	SM & CH	06/09/12
17	10	3	Section	1:10	NW Facing Section (Trench 3)	SM & CH	07/09/12

Sample Register

Sample No.	Context	Sample Type	Description / Quantity	Excavator	Date
1	012	Bulk 20 L	Bank Deposit	PK & KM	29/08/12
2	013	Bulk 20 L	Bank Deposit	PK & KM	29/08/12
3	006	Bulk 30 L	Layer of turf/peat within bank [003]	CH & SM	29/08/12
4	005	Bulk 30 L	Upper fill of ditch cut [004]	CH	30/08/12
5	008	Bulk 20 L	Lower fill of ditch cut [004]	CH	30/08/12
6	014	Bulk 20 L	Natural (Control Sample)	PK	30/08/12
7	015	Bulk 20 L	Ditch Fill	PK	31/08/12
8	016	Bulk 20 L	Possible remains of turf (humic organic material)	PK	31/08/12
9	017	Bulk 20 L	Possible re-deposited natural or bank material that has slipped	PK	31/08/12
10	007	Bulk 20 L	Upper layer of bank [003]	CH	03/09/12
11	018	Bulk 20 L	Black to red brown organic humic loam, sits below (017) & (014)	PK	03/09/12
12	001	Bulk 10 L	Topsoil (Control Sample)	CH	03/09/12
13	002	Bulk 10 L	Subsoil (Control Sample)	CH	03/09/12
14	009	Bulk 10 L	Peat/Topsoil	CH	03/09/12
15	011	Bulk 10 L	Topsoil (Control Sample)	PK	06/09/12
16	013,014,016	Kubiena	Bank (013), humic turf (016) & natural (014)	CW & PK	06/09/12
17	024	Bulk 20 L	Hill wash (Control Sample)	CH	06/09/12
18	025	Bulk 20 L	Hill wash (Control Sample)	CH	06/09/12
19	023	Bulk 10 L	Subsoil (Control Sample)	SM	07/09/12
20	026	Bulk 10 L	Natural (Control Sample)	SM	07/09/12

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Ayrshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Pickan's Dyke, Dalmellington
PROJECT CODE:	RA12035
PARISH:	Dalmellington
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Douglas Gordon and Claire Williamson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NJ16SE4
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Earth bank and ditch
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 4821 0608
START DATE (this season)	27 th August 2012
END DATE (this season)	07 th September 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A trial excavation was carried out on behalf of the Forestry Commission Scotland, on the linear earthwork known as Pickan's Dyke, Dalmellington. Three targeted trenches were hand excavated to recover information relating to the monument's date and form. Two of these trenches showed the construction of the bank and ditch, possibly completed as a single phase, with the upcast spoil of the ditch forming the adjacent bank.</p> <p>Trench 3, which was situated in a gap in the line of the monument, did not contain any archaeological features. Unfortunately leaving the question of whether the gap was deliberate choice during construction or has been subject to removal due to other processes such as agriculture.</p> <p>No artefacts were recovered in the course of the works.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Forestry Commission Scotland
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
E MAIL:	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service SMR and archive to RCAHMS Collections.

Contact Details

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