

Mainshill Carpark, Dalmellington, East Ayrshire: Archaeological Mitigation

Data Structure Report



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on behalf of Forestry Commission Scotland

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Forestry Commission Scotland in respect to the development of the Mainhill carpark to support access to the national forest estate including Pickan's Dyke in Dalmellington, East Ayrshire (12/0477/PP). The archaeological works were designed to deliver the appropriate archaeological mitigation to facilitate the development.
2. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service, which advises East Ayrshire Council on archaeological matters, provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works appropriate on this site. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by Forestry Commission Scotland to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works.
3. The Written Scheme of Investigation (Gordon 2013) provided the detail of the works (archaeological monitoring, exclusion, excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication) for the mitigation pertaining to ground breaking within the development area and hence the direct physical impact on buried sediments.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. 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.
5. Measuring approximately 765m in length, with 325m of this located within the national forest 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.
6. 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).
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. The underlying geology is sedimentary in character, composed of Lanark group Sandstones, overlain with superficial deposits of peat.



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)

Historical Sources

10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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).
14. 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.
15. 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.

Exploratory Excavations in 2012

16. Targeted locations along the dyke were investigated by three hand excavated trenches undertaken by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Forestry Commission Scotland. 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.

"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



Figure 3a: Dalmellington Motte



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

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.

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.

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).

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.” (Gordon, Williamson & Klemen 2012)

17. The discussion of the draft publication paper from this excavation is pertinent to understand the current status of this monument:

The shallow depth of peat over a compact bedrock sub strata, is most likely the reason for the reduced appearance of Pickan’s Dyke in the area of Trench 1. After having dug through the peat the inimical nature of the substrata for digging meant that the dyke builders may have moved on to the next section of the dyke quicker than they have elsewhere. In addition the turf/peat material most likely compressed under the weight of the excavated sub strata material; thus giving the reduced profile of the monument in this location.

The position of Trench 2 was chosen to investigate the best preserved section of the dyke. In this area there was little to no peat, with the bedrock substrata sitting far deeper than in Trench 1, which means that the upcast bank in this area was made from soil rather than peat and was more substantial. In addition the original ground surface was visible at the base of the bank as a thin black humic layer. Micromorphological analysis revealed that the original ground surface was grassland, with little to no evidence of anthropic impact other than the dyke itself (Roy 2013).

In both of these trenches 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.

The absence of identifiable significant features from Trench 3, which overlay the projected line, suggests that either all traces of the monument have been completely excised or that it was never constructed at this point. While Roy’s map of the area (which doesn’t show Pickan’s Dyke) depicts this portion of the hillside as arable ground, there was no evidence from the trench of plough damage. This may lend more support to the possibility that this stretch of the dyke was never actually built, though why this gap would have been left in such a linear

monument is uncertain. Should the gap have been for ease of movement across the dyke, it would seem to be far larger than needed.

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). While both suggestions have merit; in the case of the park pale evidence for posts or poles, or for a hedge or stones running along the top of the bank (Barber 1999) would be expected. Unfortunately no such evidence was uncovered during the trial excavations. Although, given the limited sample excavated, it is possible that the trenches missed such evidence which may still 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.

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 ever occurred in this area.

It should be noted that the depth of the ditch as evidenced by the excavation (i.e. without sediment filling it) was comparable to that reported in the Ordnance Survey Name Book. By extrapolation, should the fill of the ditch be returned to the bank, it also would more closely resemble the dimensions recorded in the mid-nineteenth century. This comparative exercise should be accompanied by extreme caution as we cannot assess whether the surveyor was reporting accurate dimensions of the dyke and ditch or using generic shorthand for a substantive monument. If it is the former, this raises the spectre that in the mid-nineteenth century the topography of the monument closely reflected its original form, unlike the monument today only a century and a half later. Hence some consideration should be given to a late medieval or even post-medieval date for the building of the dyke, given the absence of evidence for recent renewal of the features.

In Barber's work of 1999 he cites Pickans Dyke as an example of his sub category of 'enclosing small areas of land (<5km²)' within his Category 2 'Economic land Divisions'. This appears to be built on the premise that the dyke would have originally continued arcing towards either the Muck Water or the Parrie Burn, thereby enclosing this area of the hillside. While this is not an unreasonable assumption that the dyke may have done this, there is however no evidence to support that this was the case.

In the opinion of the authors the best fit from Barber's classification of linear earth works with what can be ascertained about Pickan's Dyke is that it belongs within his sub category of 'Miscellaneous land division' which from '...their sizes, lengths and topographical positions suggest that they are economic land divisions but it is not possible to establish their function more precisely than this' (1999, 76-7). Unfortunately at this time, without further evidence, the full nature of the monument cannot be determined beyond this. (Gordon & Williamson in prep)

18. The works were also used to inform on the site's management during the creation of a pathway, in particular on the impact which foot traffic may have on the monument itself.
19. 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.
20. No conclusive evidence was uncovered during the course of the trial excavation in 2012

to be able to state a definitive purpose or age for this monument. 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 after the construction of the dyke.

Project Works

21. The programme of works took place over two phases, following the methodology as outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Gordon 2013). The on-site works for the first phase took place between the 24th June to the 1st July 2013, and comprised a monitored topsoil strip focussed on the line of Pickan's Dyke as it crossed the development area.
22. When we first arrived on-site, the northeastern portion of the development area had upstanding trees still present on it (see Figure 5a). These were cut down to just above ground level prior to the start of the works in order to allow access. In the immediate area of the Dyke, the areas surrounding any remaining tree trunks were reduced first, in order to check that no damage would be done to any underlying archaeological deposits, prior to their removal by the machine if required.
23. The first phase of works started by machine excavating a series of 4m wide trenches covering the full width of the bank and ditch, with alternate 4m wide sections being left intact. The stripped trenches were reduced down to a level surface comparable to the upper surface of the natural subsoil (i.e. leaving the ditch fills in place but removing the denuded bank).
24. In all, four trenches were opened in this manner, numbered 1 to 4 starting at the southwest end (see Figure 4). All trench bases, and sections through the area of the bank, were then hand cleaned and photographed.
25. Two slots, each measuring 2m wide, were then hand excavated through the ditch itself after it was exposed within the trenches allowing for the fills of the ditch to be sampled. Slot 1 was placed against the northeast facing section of Trench 1, while Slot 2 was placed against the southwest facing section of Trench 3 (see Figure 4).
26. These slots, and the adjacent sections through the area of the bank, were then recorded before the remaining intact baulks were reduced down to the same level, exposing the entire length of the ditch as it crossed the development area. Samples were taken from any visible bank material and relevant upper deposits while these bulks were reduced. The work throughout the first phase was carried out using a 5 ton tracked excavator with a smooth ditching bucket.
27. While the weather stayed dry during the initial opening of the trenches in the first phase of works, the last few days experienced heavy continuous rainfall which saw much of the site covered in water. This included the hand excavated slots through the ditch, which were prone to filling with water and required bailing out on a regular basis.
28. After the first phase of on-site works were complete, the area was then backfilled. The two hand dug slots through the ditch were protected with terram and then infilled with local stone. The backfilling was carried out as a precaution to avoid leaving the ditch exposed in case there was any delay before the second phase of works could take place.
29. The second phase took place on-site between the 15th July and the 17th July 2013, and between the 22nd July and the 23rd July 2013. This involved archaeological monitoring of the groundbreaking works across the full area of the carpark taking place as part of the development itself. As a part of these works, the ditch was re-stripped and covered by terram in compliance with the methodology agreed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Gordon 2013). Again, the work was carried out by a 5 tonne tracked excavator using a smooth ditching bucket.

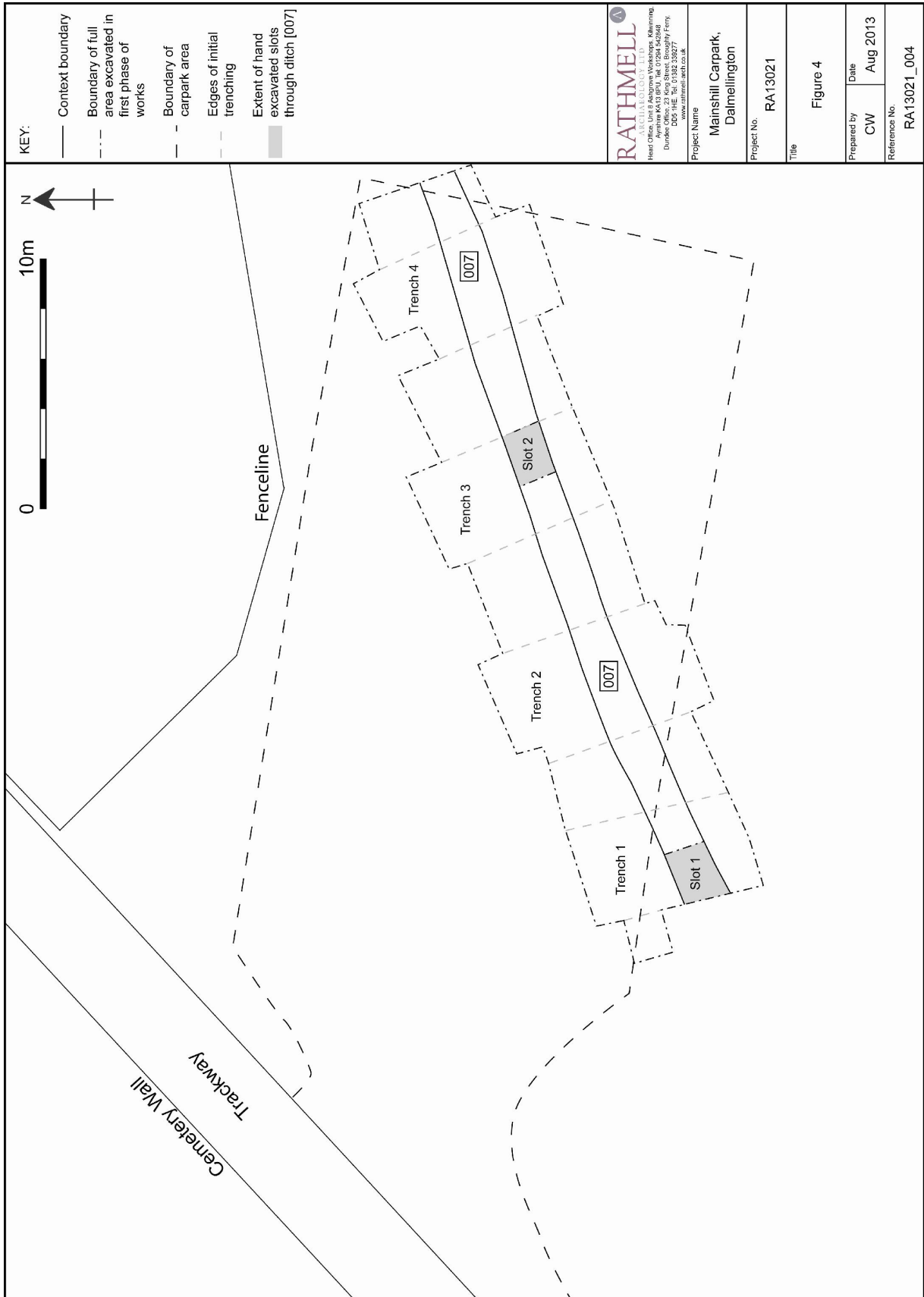


Figure 4: Plan showing areas excavated during first phase of works and extent of carpark



Figure 5a: Shot of development area along line of Pickan's Dyke before start of works, from the southwest



Figure 5b: Shot of bank material at southwest end of area from the northeast

30. In compliance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2012) any potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded. All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

31. The development area lay within open field to the east of the Dalmellington Cemetery and was accessed via a metalled track which ran up the eastern side of the cemetery's boundary wall.

Area of Pickan's Dyke

32. As described above, the initial phase of works on-site focussed on the line of Pickan's Dyke itself, with the objective of recording what remains of the bank and ditch. The line of Pickan's Dyke crosses the development area roughly orientated southwest to northeast. While remains of the feature are still visible as upstanding in other areas, no remains of either the bank or the ditch were visible on the ground within the development area itself, prior to the works taking place (see Figure 5a).
33. The entire opened area was roughly rectangular in shape, orientated southwest to northeast and measured approximately 30m long and 7m wide (Figure 4). In keeping with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Gordon 2013), the depth of the area was taken down to a level comparable with the upper surface of the natural subsoil. The depth of the subsoil sloped downwards to the northeast, so that the area was reduced to a depth of approximately 550mm at the southwestern end, sloping down to a depth of approximately 750mm at the northeastern end.
34. Prior to excavation, the entire area was covered by turf and topsoil (001) which comprised a dark brown silty clay with frequent rootlets and sub-rounded stones. This measured an average depth of 100mm. Underlying this, the upper deposits across the majority of the area displayed a common stratigraphic sequence as described below.
35. When (001) was removed during the works, deposit (002) was revealed below. (002) comprised a compact grey to light brown clay which contained frequent modern material including fragments of ceramic field drain, brick, plastic, glass and modern rubbish (Figure 10a). This measured a maximum depth of 450mm and appeared to represent a layer of modern made ground consisting of re-deposited clay and modern dumped material.
36. Underlying (002) across the majority of the site, lay buried turf layer (003). (003) comprised a thin black organic layer with frequent rootlets which measured an average depth of 40mm. This was not present in some areas at the southwestern end of the development area. Underlying this, and (002) where (003) was not present, was buried topsoil deposits (004) and (015). These comprised a mid brown silty clay with occasional roots, small to medium sub-rounded stones and rare fragmentary coal inclusions, and measured an average depth of 200mm. (015) was recorded in a discrete section at the northwestern end of Trench 1, but appears to be the same as (004), separated from it by the presence of bank material (011).
37. Underlying (004) lay natural subsoil (006). This comprised a compact orangey mottled clay trending to grey in places and represented the natural subsoil across the whole of the area excavated.
38. This common stratigraphic sequence varied in portions of the site where remains of the bank and ditch which formed the original material of Pickan's Dyke were still present.

Bank

39. The only section which clearly showed signs of original bank material still remaining was the northeast facing section of Trench 1 at the southwestern end of the excavated area (Figures 5b, 6a and 8).
40. In the northwestern half of Trench 1, turf and topsoil (001) directly overlay deposit (011)

which consisted of orangey brown clay with common rootlets measuring approximately 250mm in depth and 1.3m wide (NW-SE). While the northwestern edge of this deposit had a gently sloping profile, the southeastern edge appeared to have been truncated by cut [016]. [016] measured 0.5m wide and up to 500mm deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The cut was infilled by deposit (002) and may have represented a wheel rut from larger vehicles using this area as an access route in more recent times.

41. Underlying (011) at its southeastern end, was deposit (012) which consisted of a thin black organic layer with rare rootlets, measuring 20mm thick and approximately 0.4m wide. This appeared to represent the original buried turf line underlying the bank material, and had also been truncated by [016] at its southeastern end.
42. Underlying both (012), and (011) on its northwestern side, lay deposit (013). This deposit comprised a grey clay measuring up to 1m wide and up to 40mm thick. Below this lay deposit (014), a firm black and dark brown/grey gravel in a clay matrix with common rootlets, measuring up to 1.8m wide and 150mm deep, which may have represented the original topsoil from beneath the bank material. Both (013) and (014) have also been truncated on their southeastern side by cut [016]. Underlying (014) was then natural subsoil (006).
43. The southwest facing section of Trench 3 also showed two deposits which may have been remaining from the original bank, but these were less clear than the remains visible in Trench 1. Underlying buried topsoil layer (003), sat deposit (017), a pale grey clay which contained occasional rootlets and small to medium sized sub-rounded stones measuring up to 1.26m in width and 210mm deep. This deposit may be a layer of re-deposited clay which could have formed part of the original bank. Underlying (017), were two small lenses of buried turf line which appeared to be the same as (012) seen in the section of Trench 1. Unfortunately, the deposits in this section were less distinct and appeared to have been more disturbed.
44. No artefacts were recovered from the deposits which comprised the bank material. No remains of the bank were visible in any of the rest of the sections across the line of the Dyke.

Ditch

45. Along the southeastern ends of the opened trenches, linear ditch [007] was revealed underlying buried topsoil deposit (004), orientated southwest to northeast (Figure 9a). It measured approximately 1.6m wide and was exposed for a length of 30m during the first phase of works.
46. The two hand excavated slots through the ditch revealed it to vary in depth between 350mm in Slot 1 (Figure 6b), and 400mm in Slot 2. The sides of the cut were stepped in profile with the upper portions more gently sloping before becoming steeper towards the base, so that they formed a narrower channel along the southeastern side of the ditch (Figures 6a and 7a). The channel was more prominent in Slot 2, where it measured 200mm deep and 0.55m wide (Figures 7b and 8). The base of the channel was fairly flat.
47. The ditch contained two fills: (008) and (010). The upper fill (008) consisted of a moderately compact mid brown clay with organic lenses (appearing dark brown to black) stretching across the full width of the ditch and varying in depth between 150mm in Slot 1 and 100mm in Slot 2. (008) was similar to overlying buried topsoil deposit (004), and it was often difficult to distinguish between the two deposits. Underlying this across the lower half of the ditch lay deposit (013), a compact grey clay, which varied in depth between 80mm in Slot 1, and 320mm in Slot 2. This deposit had frequent leaching towards the base of the ditch.
48. No artefacts were recovered from within the ditch fills in either slot.



Figure 6a: Slot 1 from the northeast



Figure 6b: Northeast facing section of Trench 1 showing ditch [007] in Slot 1 and bank material



Figure 7a: Slot 2 from the southwest



Figure 7b: Southwest facing section of ditch [007] in Slot 2

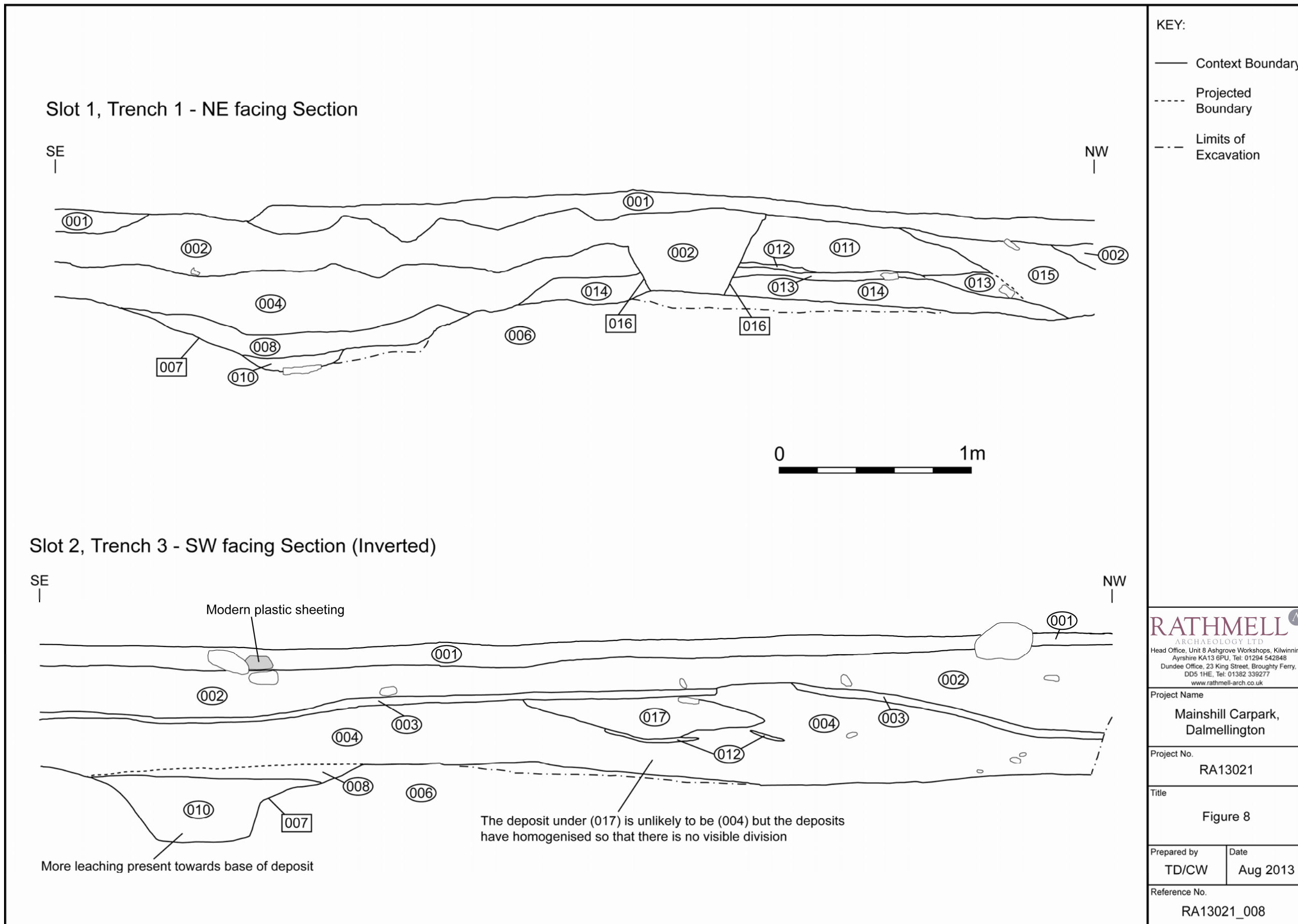


Figure 8: Sections showing ditch [007] and remaining bank material (the section of slot 2 has been inverted to allow comparison with Slot 1)

General Carpark Area

49. The second phase of works on-site, comprised the archaeological monitoring of groundbreaking works across the full area of the carpark carried out by the main contractor.
50. The area of the carpark was rectangular in shape, measuring 30m long by 15m wide (Figure 10b). It was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east with the entrance to the carpark coming in from the west (Figure 4), from the metalled track running along the eastern wall of the cemetery. The entrance measured approximately 9.7m long by 6.7m wide on the same alignment.
51. The groundbreaking works began at the western end of the carpark with the entrance, and then continued east stripping the whole width of the area as they went (Figure 9b).
52. Across the area of the entrance and the western half of the carpark, the excavation works went to a maximum depth of approximately 400mm but went gradually deeper towards the eastern end of the carpark, where they reached a maximum depth of approximately 700mm.
53. The upper deposits across the full carpark area followed the same common stratigraphic sequence as recorded during the first phase of works. The groundbreaking works during the second phase of works removed deposits (001), (002) and (003) across the full area of the carpark and the entrance.
54. Across the entrance and the western half of the carpark, excavation works stopped at the depth of buried topsoil deposit (004) and did not reach the depth of the natural subsoil.
55. Across the eastern half of the carpark area, the groundbreaking works went deeper in order to re-expose the ditch which had been backfilled after the end of the first phase (see *Project Works* above). As such, the works in this area removed deposit (004) and exposed natural subsoil (006).
56. Across the full area of the carpark, no new archaeological features were exposed during the second phase of the works on-site, other than those already recorded during the first phase. The only artefacts discovered across the carpark area were modern in date relating to 19th and 20th century activity.

Discussion

57. The development area sits directly over the line of Pickan's Dyke at its western end. To the east, the Dyke runs further up the hill, and it is at the top of this hill that earlier excavation works were carried out along the monument last year. This phase of works marks the first archaeological investigation to have been carried out in this western section.
58. Prior to the start of the works, the Dyke was not as well preserved in this area as it is at the top of the hill. From what could be seen, it was suggested that a gap existed in the Dyke in the area where it crossed the proposed carpark. The excavation works, however, managed to expose the ditch as continuous across the full length of the development area. This suggests that while the bank may appear to have a break, this may not originally have been the case. If the ditch continues uninterrupted then it is likely that the bank originally did as well. Any gap present now is likely to be a result of later disturbance to the ground rather than from original design.
59. Indeed, the excavation works revealed that little of the bank had survived even below ground level, with only small pockets of original bank material still remaining. Excavation across the entire area of the carpark revealed it to be covered by a large amount of modern made ground containing various modern inclusions including ceramic field drain, plastic and glass. This deposit measured up to 450mm in depth and also contained redeposited clay suggesting that the modern material had not merely been dumped on top, but that the ground had actually been disturbed during the process.
60. The presence of this made ground, a feature not present across the area excavated at

the top of the hill, is likely a reflection of the area's location. Just off the trackway leading along the side of the cemetery next to a housing estate, the area is a convenient location for dumping. Due to the amount of material it is possible that some of the material may come directly from construction works in the surrounding area, possibly including the creation of the trackway itself.

61. The location of the area just off the trackway also indicates that it is a good point of access into the surrounding fields. A fenceline sits along the trackway just to the north of this area closing off access after this point. The presence of wheel rut [016] is very likely as a result of larger vehicles crossing the area for this purpose.
62. As already noted, the Dyke was not as well preserved in this area and the bank was not visible above ground level prior to the works. The excavation revealed that little of the original bank material had survived in general across the majority of the carpark area, with only an area at the southwestern end showing a clearly defined portion of the bank to still be present.
63. This material comprised deposit (011) which covered an area measuring approximately 1.3m wide and 250mm deep overlying deposits (012), (013) and (014). It is possible that (012), (013) and (014) represented the original natural ground surface deposits on top of which the bank was formed. If this is the case, (012) would appear to have been the original turf line, and (014), the original topsoil. It is possible that clay deposit (013) may have then represented a layer of naturally built up material resulting from the waterlogged nature of the ground.
64. All of these deposits had been truncated along the southeastern edge by modern wheel rut [016]. It is also possible that the bank material (011) may have originally sat higher but had been compacted by the movement of traffic across the area.
65. In comparison, the ditch [007] had survived intact across the full area measuring approximately 1.6m wide and between 350 to 400mm deep. It contained two fills (008) and (009). The upper fill (008) was very similar to the buried topsoil deposit (004) which sat above and it is likely that it was a layer of the topsoil which had infilled across the upper portion of the ditch.
66. The lower fill of the ditch, (010), did not have any evidence of tip layers or other material mixed through, and appears likely to be a natural inwash of material along the ditch from further up the hill. The presence of much leaching at the base of the deposit suggests the movement of water along the ditch was a common occurrence.
67. As stated above, the channel at the base of the ditch was more prominent in Slot 2 than it was in Slot 1. This is possibly due to the need to vary the depth of the channel in order to maintain a smooth gradient to allow for the steady flow of water without any pools of stagnant water forming.
68. The nature of the bank and ditch was comparable with the evidence recorded during the earlier excavations further towards the eastern end of the monument (Gordon *et al* 2012). There, the bank and ditch were interpreted as being created in a single event with no evidence of re-cutting, and the same appears to be the case here.
69. The evidence from the earlier works suggested that the bank may have been constructed differently between the two trenches in which it appeared. In the earlier works, Trench 2 showed only a thin layer of fragmentary turf line surviving at the base of the bank with no topsoil deposit underneath, implying that the earlier ground surface had been mostly stripped down to natural subsoil prior to the bank material being deposited on top. In contrast, Trench 1 had a layer of peat measuring 200mm deep which underlay the bank material. This appeared to have represented an earlier ground surface deposit which had been left intact, with the bank material being deposited on top.
70. The construction of the bank material revealed during these works appears to be similar to what could be seen in Trench 1 of the earlier works, with the earlier ground surface deposits being left intact and the bank material being placed on top. This could possibly indicate a connection between how the bank was formed and the ground conditions. While the ground at Trench 2 from the earlier excavation, was dry and solid, the ground



Figure 9a: Ditch [007] fully exposed from the southwest



Figure 9b: Working shot – stripping the full carpark area from the west-north-west



Figure 10a: South-south-west facing section of carpark area showing made ground (002)



Figure 10b: Shot of carpark area fully excavated

around Trench 1, and the area covered by this phase of works, was wet and prone to waterlogging. It is possible that leaving the original ground surface intact underneath the bank material was the preferable method of construction in waterlogged ground conditions.

71. The nature of the ditch varied slightly from what was recorded further to the east. In this phase of works, the base of the ditch featured a channel running along the southeastern edge of the ditch, a feature not present in the earlier excavations to the east where the ditch was recorded as 'U' shaped in section. This may be down to differences in the original digging technique used: possibly different sections were dug by different labourers, or it may relate to the difference in location. Indeed the natural subsoil in the area of the carpark is a very compact clay and, as seen during the works, heavy rainfall caused much waterlogging across the area including within the ditch itself, which filled quickly with water. Possibly the need for better drainage in this area led to a different approach in how the ditch was originally excavated.
72. Any difference in width between the ditch exposed here, and that exposed during the earlier excavations, is likely to be merely be a reflection of the nature of the ditch's survival here. While the ditch at the top of the hill still survives at ground level and could be excavated from this level, the area of the carpark had to be reduced down to the upper level of the underlying subsoil before the ditch was exposed. As such, it was only the lower portion of the ditch that had survived and was excavated during this phase of works.
73. It was hoped that this phase of works may help to contribute to the findings from the earlier excavation works. As with the earlier works, the excavated sections through the bank and ditch failed to recover any artefacts from within the features themselves. There was also a lack of dateable material in the form of charcoal or equivalent within the infilled deposits. However, the works have given a further insight into the form of the monument both in plan and in section at a point of the Dyke where it sits within a different topographical location.

Recommendations

74. The excavation works at Mainshill Carpark in Dalmellington has helped to further our knowledge of the form of Pickan's Dyke in both plan and section.
75. As mentioned, excavation works have been carried out on Pickan's Dyke further to the east (Gordon *et al* 2012) and a publication paper covering these works is currently in preparation. It is recommended that the information from this phase of works be included as a supplement within this paper in order to complement the earlier findings.
76. The excavation works did not recover any physical evidence which would help to date the feature and as such no further post-excavation work is recommended in this regard.
77. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with East Ayrshire Council and their advisors, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Conclusion

78. Archaeological excavation and monitoring works were carried out in respect to the development of the Mainshill carpark to support access to the national forest estate including Pickan's Dyke in Dalmellington, East Ayrshire. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area.
79. The carpark lay over a section of Pickan's Dyke itself and required a process of archaeological excavation along the line of the Dyke prior to monitoring works across the full carpark area. This work was hoped to add to earlier excavation works which had been carried out at the eastern end of Pickan's Dyke last year (Gordon *et al* 2012).
80. The excavation works identified that the ground had been disturbed by a large amount of made ground and dumped material, so that little of the original bank material had

survived. In contrast, the base of the ditch was revealed to still remain fully intact across the carpark area. The recording and excavation of what remained of the bank and the ditch did not recover any artefacts and little was found in dateable material. As such, the date of Pickan's Dyke still remains unknown.

81. The monitoring works across the full carpark area, did not identify any significant archaeological features in the area beyond the Dyke itself.

Acknowledgements

82. The author is grateful to Lyndy Renwick at Forestry Commission Scotland for allowing us the chance to carry out these works, to her colleague Jim Newall for his assistance, and also to Alistair McGarry and the trainee machine drivers who did an excellent job. I would like to thank the West of Scotland Archaeology Service who gave guidance throughout the project. I am also grateful to Diane Gorman and Joss Durnan for all their hard work on site even when the weather was determined to get the better of us. Thanks also goes to Thomas Davis for his contributions to the appendices and illustrations, and Thomas Rees for his support and final editing of this report.

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Appendix 1: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site.

Context Register

Context	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001		Deposit	Dark brown silty clay topsoil with turf, rootlets throughout & frequent sub-rounded stones. Average depth approx 100mm. Max depth 200mm.	Topsoil & turf
002		Deposit	Compact grey to light brown clay. Contained modern material including fragments of tile drain, brick, plastic, glass and modern rubbish. Maximum depth 450mm. Average depth 250mm.	Modern build up containing re-deposited natural clay
003		Deposit	40mm thick black organic layer, frequent rootlets.	Buried turf layer
004		Deposit	Mid brown silty clay with occasional roots and small to medium sub-rounded stones. 200mm thick. Very rare fragmentary coal inclusions.	Buried topsoil
005		-	Void	-
006		Deposit	Orangey brown mottled clay trending to grey in places.	Natural subsoil
007		Cut	Linear shaped cut in plan orientated NNE-SSW. Measures 1.6m wide and up to 440mm deep. In profile: two marked drops/slopes in base giving stepped appearance, central channel having flat base. Filled by (010) and (008).	Cut of ditch forming part of Pickan's Dyke
008		Deposit	Moderately compact mid brown clay with organic lenses (appearing dark brown to black) towards base. Average depth approximately 120mm. Maximum width 1.8m.	Secondary fill of ditch [007]
009		-	Void	-
010		Deposit	Compact grey clay with occasional medium sub-rounded stones. Maximum depth approximately 330mm although shallower at southwestern end of area excavated where it measures only 70mm deep. Maximum width 1.74m. More leachates were present at base of deposit in Slot 2.	Primary fill of inwash ditch [007]
011		Deposit	Orangey brown clay with common rootlets. Average depth approximately 250mm. Max width 1.32m. Only present at southwest end of development area. Truncated on southeast side by [016].	Redeposited clay/bank material, forming part of Pickan's Dyke

Context	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
012		Deposit	Thin black organic layer 20mm thick with rare rootlets.	Buried turf from under Pickan's Dyke
013		Deposit	Grey clay up to 90mm thick. Maximum width 1m. Average depth 40mm.	Redeposited clay
014		Deposit	Firm, black and dark brown/dark grey gravel in clay matrix with common rootlets. Average depth approximately 150mm. Maximum width 1.8m.	Original topsoil lying below area of Pickan's Dyke
015		Deposit	Mid brown silty clay with occasional medium sub-rounded stones and common rootlets throughout. Average depth 300mm.	Possibly same as (004)
016		Cut	Cut measuring 0.5m wide and up to 500mm deep. Visible in Trench 1 baulk section. Infilled by (002) and fragments of (012) visible. Steeply sloping sides and flat base.	Possible wheel rut
017		Deposit	Pale grey clay overlying (012) in Trench 3 baulk section. Contained occasional rootlets and small to medium sub-rounded stones. Maximum width 1.26m. Average depth 210mm.	Possible bank material

Photographic Register

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
001	-	-	-	-	001	General shot- area to be stripped	E	24/06/13
002	-	-	-	-	002	General shot showing trees in the way	E	24/06/13
003	-	-	-	-	003	General shot of area to be stripped	ESE	24/06/13
004	-	-	-	-	004	As above, zoomed in	ESE	24/06/13
005	-	-	-	-	005	General shot, area to be stripped (tree coverage)	SE	24/06/13
006	-	-	-	-	006	General shot, taken from line of Pickan's Dyke	SW	24/06/13
007	-	-	-	-	007	General shot, looking towards area to be stripped	SW	24/06/13
008	-	-	-	-	008	General shot, with flags in place	SW	24/06/13
009	-	-	-	-	009	General end of day shot	E	24/06/13

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
010	-	-	-	-	010	General end of day shot	ENE	24/06/13
011	-	-	-	-	011	General end of day shot, tr. 1	NNE	25/06/13
012	-	-	-	-	012	SW facing elevation trench 2	SW	25/06/13
013	1	8	1	9	013	SW facing elevation trench 2 (N. End)	SW	25/06/13
014	1	9	1	10	014	SW facing elevation trench 2 (S. End)	SW	25/06/13
015	-	-	-	-	015	NE Facing Elevation trench 2	ENE	25/06/13
016	1	10	1	11	016	NE facing elevation trench 2 (S. End)	ENE	25/06/13
017	1	11	1	11	016	NE facing elevation trench 2 (N. End)	ENE	25/06/13
018	1	12	1	13	018	Pre-ex shot tr. 2	NNW	25/06/13
019	1	13	1	14	019	Pre-ex shot tr. 2	SSE	25/06/13
020	1	14	1	15	020	Pre-ex shot tr. 2 ditch	WSW	25/06/13
021	1	15	1	16	021	Pre-ex shot tr. 2 ditch	ENE	25/06/13
022	-	-	-	-	022	General shot tr. 1 SW facing section	WSW	26/06/13
023	1	16	1	17	023	Tr. 1 SW facing Section N. End	WSW	26/06/13
024	1	17	1	18	024	Tr. 1 SW facing section S. End	WSW	26/06/13
025	-	-	-	-	025	General shot tr. 1 NE facing section	ENE	26/06/13
026	1	18	1	19	026	Tr. 1 NE facing section S end	ENE	26/06/13
027	1	19	1	20	027	Tr. 1 NE facing section N end	ENE	26/06/13
028	1	20	1	21	028	Close-up of bank in NE facing section tr. 1	ENE	26/06/13
029	1	21	1	22	029	General pre-ex tr. 1	NNW	26/06/13
030	1	22	1	23	030	General pre-ex tr. 1	SSE	26/06/13
031	1	23	1	24	031	Pre-ex ditch tr. 1	SW	26/06/13
032	1	24	1	25	032	Pre-ex ditch tr. 1	NE	26/06/13

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
033	-	-	-	-	033	Tr. 3 NE facing elevation (general)	NE	26/06/13
034	2	1	1	26	034	Tr. 3 NE facing elevation (S. End)	NE	26/06/13
035	2	2	1	27	035	Tr. 3 NE facing elevation (N. End)	NE	26/06/13
036	-	-	-	-	036	Tr. 3 SW facing elevation (General)	SW	26/06/13
037	2	3	1	28	037	Tr. 3 SW facing elevation (S. End)	SW	26/06/13
038	2	4	1	29	038	Tr. 3 SW Facing elevation (N. End)	SW	26/06/13
039	2	5	1	30	039	Tr. 3 general pre-ex	NNW	26/06/13
040	2	6	1	31	040	Tr. 3 general pre-ex	SSE	26/06/13
041	2	7	1	32	041	Tr. 3 general pre-ex of ditch	NE	26/06/13
042	2	8	1	33	042	Tr. 3 general pre-ex of ditch	SW	26/06/13
043	-	-	-	-	043	Working shot	SW	26/06/13
044	-	-	-	-	044	Working Shot	SW	26/06/13
045	-	-	-	-	045	SW facing section tr. 4	SW	26/06/13
046	2	9	1	34	046	SW facing section tr. 4 - SE half	SW	26/06/13
047	2	10	1	35	047	SW facing section tr. 4 - NW half	SW	26/06/13
048	-	-	-	-	048	NE facing section tr. 4	NE	26/06/13
049	2	11	1	36	049	NE facing section tr. 4 - SE half	NE	26/06/13
050	2	12	2	1	050	NE facing section tr. 4 - NW half	NE	26/06/13
051	2	13	2	2	051	Tr. 4 - general shot	SE	26/06/13
052	2	14	2	3	052	Tr. 4 - general shot	NW	26/06/13
053	2	15	2	4	053	Pre ex of ditch in tr. 4	SW	26/06/13
054	2	16	2	5	054	Pre-ex of ditch in tr. 4	NE	26/06/13
055	-	-	-	-	055	Gen shot with 4 trenches open	SW	27/06/13

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
056	-	-	-	-	056	Gen shot with 4 trenches open	SW	27/06/13
057	2	17	2	6	057	Gen shot of slot 1 through ditch [007], tr. 1	SW	27/06/13
058	2	18	2	7	058	Gen shot of slot 1 through ditch [007], tr 1	NE	27/06/13
059	2	19	2	8	059	Gen shot of slot 1 through ditch [007], tr 1, close up	NE	27/06/13
060	2	20	2	9	060	SW facing section, slot 1, ditch [007], tr. 1	SW	27/06/13
061	2	21	2	13	061	NE facing section, slot 1, ditch [007], tr. 1	NE	27/06/13
062	-	-	-	-	062	Gen. shot of NE facing section of tr. 1	NE	27/06/13
063	2	22	2	11	063	Gen. shot of slot 2, ditch [007], tr. 2	NE	28/06/13
064	2	23	2	12	064	Gen. shot of slot 2, ditch [007], tr. 2	SW	28/06/13
065	2	24	2	13	065	Gen shot of slot 2, SW facing elevation	SW	28/06/13
066	-	-	2	14	066	Gen shot of slot 2, NE facing elevation	NE	28/06/13
067	-	-	-	-	067	Working shot	-	01/07/13
068	-	-	-	-	068	Shot of slot 2, partially filled with water	NNW	01/07/13
069	3	1	2	15	069	Gen shot of ditch [007] fully exposed	NE	01/07/13
070	3	2	2	16	070	Gen shot of ditch [007] fully exposed	NE	01/07/13
071	-	-	-	-	071	Gen shot, NE half of site (with slot 2)	W	01/07/13
072	-	-	-	-	072	Gen shot, SW half of site	N	01/07/13
073	3	3	2	17	073	Gen shot of ditch [007] fully exposed	SW	01/07/13
074	-	-	-	-	074	Gen shot, NE half of site	SSW	01/07/13
075	-	-	-	-	1	General shot before stripping of car park	SW	15/07/13
076	-	-	-	-	2	General shot before stripping of car park	WSW	15/07/13
077	-	-	-	-	3	Working shot – digging entrance	WNW	15/07/13
078	-	-	-	-	4	General shot of area of entrance (after stripping)	NNE	16/07/13

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
079	-	-	-	-	5	Working shot – W end of main car park	WNW	16/07/13
080	-	-	-	-	6	Working shot	WNW	17/07/13
081	-	-	-	-	7	Working shot	W	17/07/13
082	-	-	-	-	8	Sample shot of SSW facing section of car park	SSW	17/07/13
083	-	-	-	-	9	Western end of car park taken down to depth	NNW	17/07/13
084	-	-	-	-	10	Western end of car park taken down to depth	NW	17/07/13
085	-	-	-	-	11	Western end of car park taken down to depth	WNW	17/07/13
086	-	-	-	-	12	Working shot	WNW	22/07/13
087	-	-	-	-	13	Working shot – starting to expose ditch [007]	SW	22/07/13
088	-	-	-	-	14	Working shot – getting down to final depth across eastern half of car park	WSW	23/07/13
089	-	-	-	-	15	Shot of ditch [007] exposed during monitoring works	WSW	23/07/13
090	-	-	-	-	16	Shot of ditch [007] exposed during monitoring works	SW	23/07/13
091	-	-	-	-	17	Shot of ditch [007] exposed during monitoring works	WNW	23/07/13
092	-	-	-	-	18	Shot of eastern half of car park taken down to depth	WNW	23/07/13
093	-	-	-	-	19	Shot of eastern half of car park taken down to depth	SE	23/07/13
094	-	-	-	-	20	Shot of whole car park fully excavated	NW	23/07/13
095	-	-	-	-	21	Shot of whole car park fully excavated	WNW	23/07/13
096	-	-	-	-	22	Shot of whole car park fully excavated	WSW	23/07/13
097	-	-	-	-	23	Shot of whole car park fully excavated	SW	23/07/13
098	-	-	-	-	24	Shot of whole car park fully excavated	ESE	23/07/13
099	-	-	-	-	25	Shot of whole car park fully excavated	E	23/07/13

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
1	1	1	Section	1:10	NE facing section of Trench 1 & Slot 1	DG	28/06/13
2	1	1	Plan	1:20	Post ex plan of Slot 1 through ditch [007]	TR	01/07/13
3	2	3	Plan	1:20	Post ex plan of Slot 2 through ditch [007]	CW	01/07/13
4	2	3	Section	1:10	SW facing section of Trench 3 & Slot 2	CW	01/07/13

Samples Register

Sample No.	Area / Trench	Context	Sample Type	Description / Quantity	Excavator	Date
01	1	008	Bulk x 2 tubs	Upper fill of ditch [007] (Slot 1)	JD	26/06/13
02	-	-	-	Void	-	-
03	1	010	Bulk x 2 tubs	Lower fill of ditch [007] (Slot 1)	JD	26/06/13
04		011	Bulk x 2 tubs	Lower fill of bank	DG	27/06/13
05		003	Bulk x 1 tub	Buried turf layer	DG	27/06/13
06		004	Bulk x 2 tubs	Buried topsoil	DG	27/06/13
07	3	008	Bulk x 2 tubs	Upper fill of ditch [007] in Slot 2 - some rare fragments of charcoal	CW	27/06/13
08	3	010	Bulk x 2 tubs	Lower fill of ditch [007] in Slot 2	CW	27/06/13
09	1	012	Bulk x 1 lrg bag	Old buried topsoil below bank fill (011)	TR	01/07/13
10	1	013	Bulk x 2 tubs	Re-deposited clay in bank material	TR	01/07/13
11	1	014	Bulk x 2 tubs	Original topsoil below bank	TR	01/07/13
12	1	011	Bulk x 2 tubs	Bank fill material	TR	01/07/13
13	3	010	Bulk x 1 tub	Basal fill of ditch [007] - more leachates present (Slot 2)	CW	28/06/13

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Pickan's Dyke Car Park
PROJECT CODE:	RA13021
PARISH:	Dalmellington
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Claire Williamson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Excavation; Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NS40NE 2
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Dyke
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NX 48253 06100 (centre point)
START DATE (this season)	24 th June 2013
END DATE (this season)	23 rd July 2013 (intermittent)
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Gordon, D. & Williamson, C. 2012 'Pickan's Dyke, Dalmellington: Evaluation' DES Vol. 13, 2012 p.64
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	Archaeological excavation and monitoring works were carried out in respect to the development of the Mainhill carpark to support access to the national forest estate including Pickan's Dyke in Dalmellington, East Ayrshire. The carpark lay over a section of Pickan's Dyke itself and required a process of archaeological excavation along the line of the Dyke prior to monitoring works across the full carpark area. This work was hoped to add to earlier excavation works which had been carried out at the eastern end of Pickan's Dyke last year (Gordon <i>et al</i> 2012). The excavation works identified that the ground had been disturbed by a large amount of made ground and dumped material, so that little of the original bank material had survived. In contrast, the base of the ditch was revealed to still remain fully intact across the carpark area. The recording and excavation of what remained of the bank and the ditch did not recover any artefacts and little was found in dateable material. As such, the date of Pickan's Dyke still remains unknown. The monitoring works across the full carpark area, did not identify any significant archaeological features in the area beyond the Dyke itself.
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 and archive to RCAHMS Collections

Contact Details

83. Rathmell Archaeology can be contacted at our Registered Office or through the web:

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84. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service can be contacted at their office or through the web:

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