



Galloway Glens 'Can You Dig It'

Community Archaeology Project

2019 End of Year Report.

1. Background

The Can You Dig It community archaeology project started in earnest on the 4th February 2019, when the contract for delivery was let to Rathmell Archaeology Ltd by the Galloway Glens scheme. Our previous End of Year Report, dated the 26th March 2019, details the work that was carried out in February and March 2019, and this report completes the reporting, covering the period from April 2019 to March 2020.

2. Executive Summary

Can You Dig it is a 2-year Historic Environment Scotland and National Lottery Heritage Funded Community Archaeology project managed by the 'Galloway Glens' Landscape Partnership Scheme and delivered by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd. This funding period ended in March 2020.

The archaeology of the Galloway Glens area in rural SW Scotland is varied and fascinating, ranging from the Neolithic to settlements deserted in the 19th Century, and the project aimed to introduce as much of the resident community to their local built heritage as possible.

The project had a twin focus on community engagement and communication, and inclusion and accessibility. It pioneered a new inclusion technique in the form of 'Accessibility Postcards' for events. This technique, coupled with a consistently welcoming and engaging presence through email, social media and fieldwork, has resulted in the introduction of many new people to their local heritage. It has also resulted in an engaged and interested 'community of interest', which will be taken to the next level of technical expertise in the coming years of Can You Dig It 2 delivery.

A Partnership approach was key to the success of this project, with the Galloway Glens bringing its detailed knowledge of local networks and context and Rathmell bringing technical expertise. In addition, the recruitment of a small but technically-skilled Steering Group from the local community kept the strategic delivery of the project on track. Siting a Community Archaeology project within a Landscape Partnership Scheme undoubtedly brings benefits to both that are more than the sum of their parts.



3. Introduction to Galloway Glens and Can You Dig It

The Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme is a 5-year National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) scheme with the primary aim of connecting local people with their natural, cultural and built heritage. It covers an area in SW Scotland that follows the course of the Rivers Dee and Ken from their source in the uplands above the Glenkens, down past Castle Douglas and out to the sea at Kirkcudbright. Both Castle Douglas and Kirkcudbright are rural towns of about 3,000 population. The Glenkens contains 4 small remote-rural villages, including Carsphairn and St John's Town of Dalry.



The Galloway Glens scheme began in April 2018 after a 2-year Development phase and will run until April 2023. The NLHF funding is given as matched funding to 35 headline projects that together make up the overall scheme. Each project has a different partner, ranging from national stakeholders such as RSPB or NTS to mid-sized local charities to small grass-roots voluntary organisations. In most cases, our partners are delivering the projects, but some projects, such as this one, are managed in-house by the Galloway Glens staff.



A Community Archaeology project was one of the flagship projects identified in the Development stage, and we were delighted to be offered £50,000 of funding by HES in 2018 towards the first stages of the project. Named 'Can You Dig It', the project's core aims were to:

- Increase enthusiasm and general knowledge amongst local residents for their built heritage
- Upskill enthusiasts further with a wide range of modern archaeological techniques
- Offer work experience / Skills passport opportunities to people looking to enter the field.
- Engage with a wide range of people and minimise barriers to participation.

In addition, it was identified that the project should

- Cover as wide a range of eras as practical
- Cover the Galloway Glens geographic area in an equitable manner.
- Build on previous community engagement with more work to ensure that the project meets the needs and expectations of the local community.

4. Governance

To ensure that these aims were met, a Steering Group for the project was created. The members of this group are currently:

- Andrew Nicholson, Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC) Archaeologist
- David Devereux, local historian and archaeologist
- Dr Kevin Grant, HES
- Dr Deirdre Cameron, HES
- Helen Keron, Galloway Glens Education and Community Engagement Officer

With thanks as well to Dr Lisa Brown, Kevin's predecessor on the Steering Group.

The Steering Group meets, together with representatives from Rathmell Archaeology, every 2 months, with interim updates and advice being discussed via email.

In addition, the Galloway Glens has its own Board structure for governance. Board members are mostly representatives from national or regional stakeholders. HES is represented by Dr John Raven. The Galloway Glens Board meets quarterly and provides strategic direction and assurance for all Galloway Glens projects.

The Galloway Glens scheme also sits within the formal structure of Dumfries and Galloway Council. Although externally funded and governed as above, DGC is our legally accountable body and we use their insurance, financial management and procurement systems as required for project delivery.



5. Timeline

Dates	Activity	Notes
2015-2017	Galloway Glens 2-year Development phase.	Resulting in a detailed bid to Heritage Lottery for £2.7M of matched funding.
April 2018	Galloway Glens Delivery phase begins. Some staff in place.	HES confirms offer of £50,000 funding for Can You Dig It over 2018/19 and 2019/20.
November 2018	Galloway Glens Education and Community Engagement Officer in post. Steering Group for Can You Dig It appointed. Terms of reference for the project created.	
December 2018	DGC Procurement system used to put £100,000 Community Archaeology contract out to tender.	Contract published on PCS. 9 parties registered an interest, 2 submissions received.
4 th Feb 2019	Rathmell Archaeology confirmed as successful bidder for the contract.	
Feb-Mar 2019	Rathmell Archaeology immediately begins on delivering the 2018/19 outcomes.	
April-June 2019	2019/20 outcome delivery commenced: Research Designs completed; 1 x Exploration held; 2 x surveys carried out, 2 workshops held.	More details below (Section 6).
July-Sept 19	4 x Excavations / Explorations completed, 1 x survey completed; 3 x workshops held	More details below.
Oct-Dec 2019	3 x workshops held; 2 partner events supported, 5 Community Engagement events held including a VLOG, lectures and schools work. Technical reporting and Planning for CYDI 2 (2020 – 2022).	More details below.
Jan-Mar 2020	5 Community Engagement events held including a VLOG, and lectures. Community consultation on CYDI 2 targets.	More details below.





6. 2019/20 Delivery

6.1. Complete 2 Excavations and post-excavation analysis to agreed standards.

Date	Event	Attendance (person-days)	Post-Ex analysis status	Notes
28-30 March 2019	Upper Gairloch (Raiders Road) deserted settlement exploration	21		3-D model created of exposed kiln barn.
19-20 July 2019	Castledykes test-pitting, Kirkcudbright	18		Area around the scheduled monument.
1-3 August 2019	Moat Brae trenches, Kirkcudbright	28		Being part of the Kirkcudbright Arts and Crafts Trail led to additional public interest.
14-17 & 21-24 Aug 2019	Upper Gairloch deserted settlement exploration	29		Repeat visit to uncover the farmstead associated with the kiln barn.
10-14 & 17-21 Sept 2019	Little Wood Hill enclosure large exposure, Threave Estate	66		Building on previous work by NTS archaeology.

These activities have been delivered with the help, support and resources of Forestry & Land Scotland, Dumfries & Galloway Council and the National Trust for Scotland, with the corporate archaeologists from all these organisations assisting in design and delivery – our thanks to them.



March 2019: Upper Gairloch Kiln Barn – Day 1



Beginning to take shape



August 2019: Families at Moat Brae, Kirkcudbright



August 2019:

Intergenerational working at Upper Gairloch.

It does rain occasionally in Galloway.



Sept 2019: Little Wood hill, Threave Estate



Welfare facilities were important.

DSRs have been produced for all of the fieldwork above, and are published on social media and www.gallowayglens.org/resources, and are added to the HER through the Regional Archaeologist.

The main focus of Can You Dig It was always community engagement and involvement, but some interesting finds have been made during the 2019 fieldwork programme:

- The work on the deserted settlement of Upper Gairloch on the Raiders Road uncovered a kiln barn, and then the associated farmhouse was shown to have an unusually well-finished courtyard and yard surfaces of local granite, and the intriguing incorporation of large granite glacial erratics into key wall junctions.
- The Castledykes trial-pit excavations showed a range of medieval and post-medieval finds, indicating activity beyond the core scheduled area of the castle. A piece of Northern French white ware, similar to Saintonge Ware, suggests the sort of trade links we should expect from a port town.



- Excavations at Moat Brae in the middle of Kirkcudbright confirmed that elements of the mound were man-made, with a basal layer of clay-bonded river cobbles lying above the natural estuarine silty clay. Medieval pottery finds could date as early as the 12th century, which would place the motte and bailey construction into the timeframe for the early Lordship of Galloway under the House of Fergus.
- The work on Little Wood Hill on the Threave Estate uncovered some flints and a musket ball, showing continuity of settlement from the Neolithic to the late 18th century and extending the work undertaken by the NTS in 2014.



*Upper Gairloch 2-level cobbled floor
(lower level only just seen)*



*Sherds of medieval pottery from the 12th-15th centuries AD,
Castledykes*



*Neolithic flint found at Little Wood Hill,
Threave Estate*



6.2. Complete the planned programme of non-invasive surveys.

This work was extended to include Technical Workshops (Outdoor surveying, 3-D modelling and Web-based research) and some organically evolved Partnership Working as well as Non-invasive surveys.

i. Non-invasive surveys

Date	Event	Attendance (person-days)	Reporting status	Notes
14-15 June 2019	Historic Woodland Assessment, Barhill Woods, Kirkcudbright	25		First day technical survey; second day public event
20 June 2019	Guided visual survey of the high ground wrecks on Corserine, above Dalry	8		
25 July 2019	Guided visual survey of the high ground wrecks on Corserine, above Dalry	7		Repeat of first walk



June 2019: Historic Woodland Assessment, Barhill Woods

- Sam Kelly's video of the public event:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QEfcEQ4V3Y&feature=youtu.be>
- <https://dendrochronicle.co.uk/blog/> for other details.



June and July 2019: Corserine High-ground wrecks survey

These activities have been supported by Rob Asbridge, a volunteer for the Kirkcudbright Development Forum and principal actor behind the Barhill Woods community development, and the Forrest Estate Manager – our thanks to them, as well as to Dr Coralie Mills of Dendrochronicle, who carried out the Historic Woodland Assessment with support from Peter Quelch.



ii. Technical workshops – outdoor surveying skills.

Date	Location	Skills Focus	Attendance	Notes
18 June 2019	Mid-Kelton Churchyard, near Castle Douglas	Plane table and tape offset survey skills.	8	
17-18 July 2019	Polmaddy deserted settlement, near Carsphairn	Plane table and tape offset survey skills.	7	The Project Officer of another Galloway Glens project, the Ken Words writing project, attended in order to extend her knowledge of and hence creative response to the deserted settlement.
31 July 2019	St Cuthbert's Kirkyard, Kirkcudbright	Plane table and tape offset survey skills.	2	Members of the Kirkcudbright History Society attended at the end to give participants a better insight into the Kirkyard's history.



June 2019: Mid-Kelton Survey workshop



July 2019: St Cuthbert's Kirkyard, Kirkcudbright

- Sketchfab model of the John Ewart Monument above: <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/john-ewarts-1642-monument-e72a57a5042b4d70bfcd06ebb6866754>

Our thanks to Jane McBeth, the Ken Words Project Officer, and the Kirkcudbright History Society, in particular Helen Bowick and David Devereux, for their interest in and support of these activities.



iii. Technical workshops – indoor skills

Date	Location	Skills Focus	Attendance	Notes
28 June 2019	Kirkcudbright	Web-based Research	8	Canmore etc
26 July 2019	Glenkens	3-D modelling	2	
22 October 2019	Castle Douglas	Web-based research	4	
21 November 2019	Kirkcudbright Galleries	Finds Handling workshop	6	
28 November 2019	Kirkcudbright Galleries	Finds Handling workshop	5	

The National Museums of Scotland have supported these activities with guidance, while the Dumfries & Galloway Council Museums Service has made their collections available, in particular delivering displays linking to the activities in Kirkcudbright. Our thanks to them.



Finds handling workshop, Kirkcudbright



Visiting the Stewartry Museum displays, Kirkcudbright



iv. Partnership working

Date	Location	Skills Focus	Partner	Notes
4-7 Oct 2019	Kirkcudbright Bay	Marine Archaeology	Solway Firth Partnership and SCAPE	We promoted SFP / SCAPE's coastal archaeology project focussed on the wreck of the Fauna, and some of our CYDI community attended.
17 Nov 2019	Kirkcudbright	Pre-historic Rock Art	Kirkcudbright branch of Scotland's Rock Art project	We partnered with the local ScRAP volunteers to put on a tour of some of their findings and promote their work. 13 attendees.

Our thanks to Nic Coombey of the Solway Firth Partnership and Lisa Allen, volunteer coordinator of the Kirkcudbright branch of Scotland's Rock Art Project, for inviting the Can You Dig It community to see their fascinating projects.



November 2019 – ScRAP Rock Art day, Kirkcudbright

26/03/2020

CYDI – END OF YEAR REPORT

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6.3. Complete the programme of community engagement events.

Date	Event	Notes
April 2019	Publications	Balmacellan Community Council, History Now and Galloway News all requested articles re the Upper Gairloch / CYDI plans.
10-10-19	VLOG tour of ROC posts	Published live on Facebook and Twitter, supported by live posting of research and photos.
21-10-19	'Border Life' ITV interview about the ROC posts	Broadcast 02-03-20
13-11-19	Lecture on CYDI programme	Requested by Kirkcudbright History Society. 41 attendees.
07-12-19	Case Study submitted to 'Re-imagining Scottish Archaeology'	Information about CYDI as a Community Archaeology project was presented at the Scottish Archaeology Strategy 'Aim 1' Workshop (Glasgow).
11-12-19	Schools event	An afternoon session in Kells School, New Galloway, teaching P1-P7 about 'Changing Technologies' and 'Changing Settlements'.
5&6-02-20	Summary Presentations of CYDI, introduction of consultation on possible future targets.	Held in the Glenkens and Kirkcudbright. 16 and 48 attendees respectively, good interactions.
26-02-20	Drop-In exhibition of the work done to date and consultation on possible future targets.	Useful feedback solicited.
28-02-20	VLOG tour of Covenantor history	Published live on Facebook and Twitter, supported by live posting of research and photos.
03-03-20	Attendance at the Galloway Glens 'Jamboree' with all other GGLP projects.	Useful to make / re-affirm links between other Galloway Glens projects, such as the Place Names project, Ken Words writing project (Polmaddy focus), the improvement of the Pilgrims Way to Polmaddy and the 4 new Heritage Hubs.
Ongoing	Facebook feed	@GGLPArchaeology. See Section 8.1.2 for more details.
Ongoing	Twitter feed	@GGLPArchaeology. See Section 8.1.2 for more details.
Ongoing	SketchFab page	sketchfab.com/GGLPArchaeology See Section 8.1.2 for more details.
Ongoing	Galloway Glens webpage – CYDI section	www.gallowayglens.org/Resources has all the DSRs published on it, plus Technical Notes, Lecture slides, Workshop notes and the Historic Woodland Assessment of Barhill Woods.



Ongoing	Technical Notes	7 Technical Notes have been published on the Galloway Glens website and social media in order to promote previous archaeological endeavour in the Galloway Glens area. Topics are: Polmaddy, Threave Castle, Glenlochar, Carminnow, Castledykes, Moss Raploch and Park of Tongland.
Ongoing	Training Workshop and Lecture Notes	3 Training Workshop Notes have been published on social media covering Web-based Heritage Research, 3D Models from Photographs and Survey Skills. These complement the respective workshops. The slide presentation given in February 2020 as a summary of CYDI has also been amplified and published.
Ongoing	Emails	We have 146 people on our mailing list, all gained organically through positive sign-ups. We have emailed them 10 times through 2019, all with quality updates of the work achieved to date, plus advertising of upcoming events. Feedback to the emails has been good, with people enjoying reading them.
Ongoing	Galloway Glens webpage – CYDI section	www.gallowayglens.org/Resources has all the DSRs published on it, plus Technical Notes, Lecture slides, Workshop notes and the Historic Woodland Assessment of Barhill Woods.

Supporting evidence:



October 2019: VLOG Tour of the ROC posts - video supported by real-time research posts.



- Link to the 'Border Life' interview on the ROC posts:

<https://www.itv.com/news/border/2020-03-02/catch-up-with-border-life-02-03-2020/>



December 2019 – Afternoon session with Kells School, New Galloway



February 2019 – Summary presentation, Dalry Town Hall, Glenkens.



Can You Dig It

Published by Claire Williamson [?] · 28 February at 13:39 ·

Robert Grierson of Lag was one of the most feared persecutors of the Covenanters. Lag Tower stood in Dumfriesshire but Grierson was also connected with the farm of Garryhorn in Carsphairn Parish, where he made his headquarters in the district. Many Covenanters in the district were hunted down and killed by Grierson.

After the religious persecution ceased, Grierson lived quietly and died almost 50 years later in 1733. He spent his last 13 years living at the Turnpike House stood on the High Street in Dumfries where he died. According to tradition his body was so large that it could not be brought down the turnpike stairway which gave the house its name, so the stonework between two windows was removed and the coffin lowered down by ropes. The house was demolished in 1826.

The images below are taken from the Future Museum website - <http://www.futuremuseum.co.uk/>



February 2020: VLOG Tour of Covenantor Sites.

Can you Dig it?

Technical Notes



Home | About | Themes | News & Events | Get Involved | Resources

February 20 – Upper Gairloch Season 2 DSR

February 20 – Summary of 2019 – Lecture notes

August 19 – Barhill Woods Historic Woodland Assessment

August 19 – Moat Brae Excavation DSR Report

July 19 – Castledykes Test Pits DSR Report

April 19 Park of Tongland note

March 19 – Upper Gairloch Kiln Barn DSR Report

March 19 3D modelling workshop note

March 19 – Web-based research

March 19 Carminnow note

March 2020 – Screenshots of Galloway Glens website with published DSRs and Technical Notes. See also Section 6.8.



6.4. Complete improvements to excavation sites as appropriate.

The Upper Gairloch deserted settlement (kiln barn and farmhouse) were completely covered in undergrowth and almost unrecognisable. The work done by our volunteers through Can You Dig It has left both structures clear and clean. See Section 6.1 above for before and after photos of the kiln barn. With some interpretation, they would form an engaging addition to the heritage tourism offering of the area.



3-D Model of the exposed kiln barn, created by Liam McKinstry of Rathmell Archaeology.

- **SketchFab link to 3-D model:** <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/kiln-barn-raiders-road-bdb1d9077a16457eb6775192c88d8e21>



September 2019:

Upper Gairloch Farmhouse almost fully covered. Walls and a cobbled floor revealed

The other excavations (Castledykes, Moat Brae, Threave Estate) were reinstated to their previous state post-excavation.



6.5. Create a temporary exhibition of all findings and display at a local venue.

Our drop-in exhibition on the 26th February 2020 featured all of our finds, plus display boards summarising all of the work done to date. This is an excellent resource of local history / archaeology, and we are considering how to use it in the future more widely.

We also used this event as a chance to consult with our community about the plans for CYDI 2.



February 2020: Full display and example board.



6.6. Deliver a phased training programme for volunteers.

- We supported a student in gaining archaeological experience to support her studies in History and Archaeology at Edinburgh University
- We have issued Skills Passport for 2 attendees and signed off skills in them.

Throughout the course of Can You Dig It, we identified that our primary demographic was older people in term-time and families in holidays / weekends. Neither of these demographics are typically interested in formal certification. However, we have supported those people that are interested, and have formulated Can You Dig It 2 (2020 – 2022) such that a more structured training programme (if not certified) will form the core of the programme. See Section 7: Assessment and Section 8: CYDI 2 for more details.

6.7. Create school resources compatible with Curriculum for Excellence.

Access to schools has proved somewhat difficult, due to congested timetables. However, a visit to Kells School, New Galloway proved very rewarding, both for the pupils and the Can You Dig It team. See Section 6.3 for photos of our visit to the school.

We have remodelled our approach to delivery of teaching resources and have built into our planned booklet ranges (see Section 6.10) a section on archaeological learning approaches to the sites linked to Curriculum for Excellence. These have been developed to produce a robust and enduring resource for schools, families and lifelong learning.



6.8. Reporting: DSRs, Survey reports, Documentary research

Data Structure Reports (DSRs) for all of our explorations (sub-projects) are now complete and are in the process of submission through OASIS to both the local HER and the NRHE. They are also published on the Galloway Glens website, www.gallowayglens.org/resuorces - scroll down to Can You Dig It.

The full list of these reports is:

- Upper Gairloch, Raiders Road – clearance and investigation of the Kiln Barn
- Castledykes, Kirkcudbright – excavation of test pits
- Moat Brae, Kirkcudbright – evaluation trenching
- Upper Gairloch, Raiders Road – clearance and investigation of the Farmhouse
- Little Wood Hill, Threave – excavation of the Iron Age enclosure
- The Corserine, Glenkens – survey of high ground wrecks
- Barhill Woods, Kirkcudbright - Historic Woodland Assessment

These reports were prepared in keeping with the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards & Guidance. Where the site involved the recovery of artefacts, the report was extended to include specialist assessment of this report. In a similar manner, where the sites encompassed social history resources, we have undertaken provisional reviews of these resources to deepen and broaden the information within the report compared to the conventional product.

All of the sub-projects were also informed and shaped by Research Designs (RDs) which have also been made available by common means with the DSRs.

6.9. Assessment/ lessons learned report

See Section 7 for a full report.



6.10. Progress report on life-long learning activities

Three strands were developed for lifelong learning through the Can You Dig It project:

- Informal promotion and engagement through social media and lectures
- Formal training workshops
- On-the-job training during sub-projects.

The informal social media strand (see 7.1.2 below) has been more successful than anticipated. This has led to additional resources being deployed into promoting recurring initiatives that collaborate with others (like #FolkloreThursday #FindsFriday #LoveDandG). Formal training workshops have developed core archaeology skills (see Section 6.2 ii & iii above) which has reinforced on-the-job training on-site. A good crossover has been noted with multiple individuals using both the workshops and attending sub-projects.

Only two individuals chose to commence skills passports (which were supplied to them at no cost) though all volunteers were briefed on them and shown examples.

A recent addition to the life-long learning activities has been the incorporation of some of the CYDI findings into a planned series of Galloway Glens booklets. The final range of booklets will cover many of the technical findings of the Galloway Glens projects, but CYDI will feature heavily. First plans are to cover the Barhill Woods Historic Woodland Assessment, and then an edition based on the Corserine High-Ground Wrecks.

6.11. Proof of archiving

OASIS forms have been completed for all sub-projects, with the completed DSRs uploaded as grey literature reports. These grey literature reports have been pre-circulated to the receiving Historic Environment Record (HER). Structured archives have been prepared for each sub-project as have notifications for the Treasure Trove Unit (TTU) of artefacts recovered. The former will be submitted to the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) once the TTU decision is known. At the same time, the artefacts will be supplied to the receiving institution.





7. Assessment of Can You Dig It

Can You Dig It is primarily a Community Engagement project, and as such, our twin focus has been on building a community of interest through communication and engagement, and on accessibility and inclusivity.

7.1. Communication and Engagement

7.1.1. Branding

We created our own brand for Can You Dig It, related to but distinct from the Galloway Glens, in pursuit of creating a new community of interest with a clear identity.



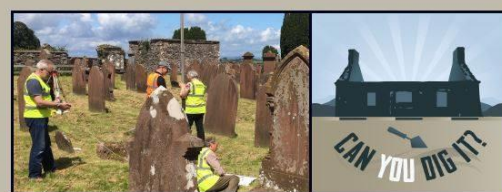
This has been very well received and the branding is now well recognised across our community of interest.



Community Archaeology Programme - June

- **14th June, 2:30 - 4:30pm**
- **15th June, 10am - 12pm**
2 guided walks around Barhill Wood, Kirkcudbright, to learn about the historical woodland features it contains.
- **18th June, 10am - 3pm: Outdoor Survey Skills workshop** in the Castle Douglas area. A great opportunity to learn or improve your practical archaeological surveying skills.
- **20th June, 9am - 4pm: Guided walk up Corserine hill.** This will be a fascinating trip to see what we can learn from the high-ground wrecks and other features.
- **25th June, 10am - 3pm: Web-based Research workshop** in Kirkcudbright. Find out what online resources are available to support your research.

All events are FREE but places must be booked through helen.keron@dumgal.gov.uk
No archaeological experience required - come along and learn some new skills!



Community Archaeology Programme July 2019

- **17th and 18th July, 10am - 3pm: Polmaddy Survey.** Join our team of professional archaeologists to learn surveying skills at this atmospheric deserted settlement near Carsphairn.
- **19th and 20th July, 9am - 4pm: Castledykes excavation.** Learn the skills needed in test pitting, and learn more about the history of Kirkcudbright. Come for one or both days.
- **25th July, 9am - 4pm: Guided walk up Corserine hill.** This will be a fascinating walk to see what we can learn from the high-ground wrecks and other features.
- **26th July, 10am - 3pm: 3-D modelling workshop** in the Glenkens area. Find out how to create amazing models of your finds using easily available software.
- **31st July, 10am - 4pm: Survey Skills workshop** in Kirkcudbright.

All events are FREE but places must be booked through helen.keron@dumgal.gov.uk
No archaeological experience required - come along and learn some new skills!



Community Archaeology Programme August 2019

- **1st - 3rd August, 9am - 4pm daily: Moat Brae Excavation.** Join our team of professional archaeologists as they delve into the history of Kirkcudbright and its castles. Part of the Kirkcudbright Arts and Craft Trail.
- **14th - 17th August, 9am - 4pm daily: Raiders Road Exploration.** Learn more about the deserted settlements of the Raiders Road and learn some new skills too.
- **21st - 24th August, 9am - 4pm daily: Raiders Road Exploration.** Another chance to find out more about our recent farming history.

All events are FREE but places must be booked through helen.keron@dumgal.gov.uk
No archaeological experience required - come along and learn some new skills!
You can book onto 1, 2 or more days of each excavation.



Archaeological Survey Skills Workshop

An outdoor session at the Polmaddy deserted farm town (near Dundee) to learn hands-on surveying skills in this beautiful location.

17th & 18th July, 10am - 3pm

FREE

Booking required: Helen.keron@dumgal.gov.uk

No prior experience necessary!

A Galloway Glens 'Can You Dig It?' community archaeology project.



7.1.2. Social Media results

We created a Facebook page, Twitter feed and SketchFab page with the Can You Dig It brand, and have had increasingly good interaction there, as the volunteers have got to know each other and the team. We have used Facebook Live and videos as very effective ways of engaging with people and increasing our reach.

- **Twitter** @GGLPArchaeology.

In the 13 months to late March 2020, we have tweeted 425 times, generating 2579 profile visits, 344 followers, 311,300 tweet impressions and 167 mentions.

- **Facebook** @GGLPArchaeology.

Our Facebook page has 390 followers, which includes a smaller core of enthusiasts who Comment and Like regularly. The page has reached 18,000 people and 3,500 engagements / month when popular posts are shared, and individual popular posts typically reach 10,000 people, generating 1,200 engagements.

In the 13 months to late March 2020 we have posted 590 photos, as well as 7 Technical Notes, 2 VLOGS, lecture notes, the DSRs and the Historic Woodland Assessment, in order to provide quality content.

- **Sketchfab** (GGLPArchaeology)

The twelve models uploaded by late March 2020 have generated 628 views, the most popular one being the aerial model of the deserted settlement at Polmaddy. <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/deserted-settlement-at-polmaddy-36aa9a5eceb498c96ae44d559c49481>





Some recent Twitter chat:



Can You Dig It @GglpArchaeology · Mar 6

John Graham of Claverhouse, aka 'Bonnie Dundee' (he's also been called 'Bluidy Clavers', much more like it), was commissioned by the privy council in 1678 to suppress conventicles in the SW.
His family owned an estate in Dundee & he served in both the French & Dutch armies.
1/3



Can You Dig It @GglpArchaeology · Mar 6

Replying to @GglpArchaeology

Claverhouse was beaten by Covenanters at Drumclog in 1679, but then helped to defeat them at Bothwell Bridge 3 weeks later.
For some years, Claverhouse teamed up with Grierson of Lag, both carrying out their mission with enthusiasm; 82 people were killed by their troops.
2/3

[Show more replies](#)



Mark Jardine @drmarkjardine · Mar 7

Replying to @GglpArchaeology

The infamous persecutor Grierson of Lag, part myth, part reality. Judge for your self [#History](#) [#Scotland](#) Scotland

Robert Grierson of Lag – Jardine's Book of Martyrs
drmarkjardine.wordpress.com



Can You Dig It @GglpArchaeology · Mar 9

Thanks for the link! A great resource on the Covenanters.





Some Facebook engagements:

 Published by Claire Williamson [?] · 24 September at 13:20 · 🌐

Sorry for the delay everyone, but our final day at Threave on Saturday was a busy one! We had some new faces joining us again and the sun came out for our last trip up the hill. We've also included some shots from Friday that didn't make it into the original post.

We finished off our four slots through the ditch and recorded our sections. We also managed to identify some possible internal features including a possible pit.

Thank you to all of our volunteers throughout the two weeks - you worked very hard and we couldn't have asked for a nicer group of people!

Thanks also to everyone at [Threave Garden and Estate](#) and [Threave Castle](#) - the staff from both the National Trust for Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland were so kind to us throughout our visit and we can't recommend this place enough as a great place to visit.



Threave Garden and Estate Thank you for the mention, you are very welcome 😊

Like · Reply · Message · 1d



1



Nickie Newsum A big THANK YOU to everyone involved! I had a fantastic time and learnt a lot. The team from Rathmell were such lovely folk. We worked hard, but had a lot of laughs. Can't wait for the next one..... 🙌

Love · Reply · Message · 1d



1



Can You Dig It Thanks Nickie, it was great having you on site and thank you for helping to carry kit down on the Saturday. Look forward to seeing you again!

Like · Reply · Commented on by Claire Williamson [?] · 1d



1



Steven Steele Had a great time again. Interesting, informative and a great laugh too! Looking forward to the next one 👍👍

Love · Reply · Message · 18h



1

"Most relevant" is selected, so some replies may have been filtered out.



Can You Dig It Thanks Steven and great find on the musket ball. Hopefully see you again soon!



7.2. Accessibility and Inclusivity

7.2.1. Planning for inclusion

We knew we didn't want just 'the usual suspects' for Can You Dig It, but instead consciously set out to identify and then remove barriers that other people might feel about getting involved.

With this in mind, the roles and responsibilities of Can You Dig It were clearly outlined from the start:

- Rathmell Archaeology provided technical design and delivery of the programme.
- Galloway Glens used their deep and broad community knowledge to:
 - Help inform target identification such that they would be likely to be of wide interest
 - Market the events in a way likely to appeal to local communities
 - Identify and remove likely barriers to attendance.
 - Identify individual and communities of interest that would benefit or could support the programme.
- A Steering Group consisting of HES representatives, the Regional Archaeologist (Andrew Nicholson) and a local historian /archaeologist (David Devereux) was formed and met 2-monthly in order to support programme design and provide assurance that it was meeting technical and community requirements.

7.2.2. Accessibility postcards

In order to remove barriers to attendance, we created printed Accessibility Postcards for each event in order to give as much information as possible about expectations of outdoor work, toilet location, nature of the group and so on.








Excavation on the Threave Estate
A 10-day dig near Threave Castle to uncover more about the prehistoric settlement there.
10th - 14th & 17th - 21st September
9am - 4pm
FREE
Booking required: Helen.keron@dumgal.gov.uk
No prior experience necessary!

Threave Excavation:

Accessibility Information

- FREE event
- 10th - 14th & 17th - 21st September, 9am – 4pm.
- Come for one, some or all the days!
- Meet at Kelton Mains carpark, Threave Estate (follow signs for Threave Castle) DG7 1TJ.
- A gentle-paced but all outdoor session with a short walk in. Uneven terrain.
- Toilets available a short walk from the site.
- Small friendly group. Most people won't know each other.
- **No experience of archaeology or digs required.**
- Booking required through Helen Keron



Helen Keron
Galloway Glens Offices
5 St. Andrews Street,
Castle Douglas,
Dumfries & Galloway
DG7 1DE
07827 306 866
helen.keron@dumgal.gov.uk
@gglparchaeology
@gglparchaeology
www.gallowayglens.org





7.2.3. Inclusivity Outcomes

We have also been consistently inclusive and welcoming in the tone of our social media feeds and emails, plus of course the friendly welcome and excellent camaraderie at events. This has paid dividends in a number of specific cases.

Attendance at all our events has been very varied, and we have been delighted to welcome a wider audience than the 'early retired' that such projects typically attract in the Galloway Glens area (although they have been awesome too!)

We had a lot of young (Primary School-aged) families along to the digs over the summer holidays.

We have had older families along at the weekend digs and guided walks, with some repeat attendance.

We supported a student in gaining archaeological experience to support her studies in History and Archaeology at Edinburgh University

We have issued Skills Passport for 2 attendees and signed off skills in them.



7.3. Participant feedback

A selection of feedback from participants via email:

"I found the Rathmell staff to be really friendly and approachable. They took me asking cheeky questions really well and asked for our ideas on the site to bring our local knowledge into interpreting the site." – Upper Gairloch Participant, April 2019

"It gave me a good introduction to an aspect of 3-D modelling of which I knew nothing. Liam clearly set out the Photogrammetry software packages that were available and gave a good assessment of their pros and cons. On the practical side, there was a useful discussion about what were the optimal photographic conditions required to achieve best results, what were the pitfalls; and how many shots and angles required." – 3-D Modelling workshop participant, April 2019.

- Tom and Liam [Rathmell] were great in sharing their broad knowledge of different aspects of archaeology, so the whole day was more interesting. Can't really think how it could be improved!
- It was a lot more than I expected. I loved being shown the low tech, accessible skills for surveying and now feel fairly confident that I could do a passable survey of an area.
- Tom and Liam were brilliant, we couldn't have asked for more enthusiastic, informative, encouraging and engaging people, they get five stars from us.

Participants in Mid-Kelton outdoor survey skills workshop, June 2019.

"That does look like a good day out, Helen - as does the one to look at rusty metal on the hills. I've attached a photo taken in 1989 of my son Euan and the remains of the De Havilland Mosquito on Corserine. It might be interesting for the people who take part to compare this with the few scraps of material still there thirty years later." – In response to an email about upcoming Corserine High-Ground Wreck surveys.

"I was really impressed by how the team took time to explain things and processes. I have been on community digs before where there was a definite them and us feeling and nothing was explained." – Retired archaeologist, Castledykes test pitting, July 2019

"I had a fantastic time at the Threave dig, and feel quite sad that it's over. I met lots of lovely people and the folk from Rathmell (otherwise known as "The Orange Vests") were brilliant - professional, keen to share their knowledge, and very willing to have a laugh. The camaraderie made even the toughest jobs seem like fun. I cannot praise them enough - especially Jack, who put up with an awful lot of good natured teasing along the way!" - Participant in Threave dig, August 2019.



“Just wanted to say that I am really liking having the videos on Twitter of the ROC post tour that Tom did yesterday. I couldn't make it along on the day due to working but has been really interesting catching up this evening and plan to go and have a look at some of the sites myself. Having the what 3 words locations is a really good idea to help with getting the right spot.” October 2019.

“Heartfelt thanks to Helen, Tom, Claire (and anyone else who knows me.....) for the wonderful Galloway Glens Project - and all its bits - during 2019. It has been a real pleasure to participate in a variety of awesomely different "events" (HIGHLIGHT the Corserine survey on the hottest day of the year, but I'm also now looking at Moths [*a different Galloway Glens project!*] with total respect!), and I shall look forward to more fun in 2020!!!” – Regular participant, December 2019



7.4. Lessons Learned

We actively encouraged our participants to give us constructive feedback in order to improve our delivery of events. Most of the suggestions for improvement were concentrated on the workshop delivery rather than the outdoor skills / excavations.

Suggestions made and acted on included:

- More Rathmell support at 'Web-Based Resources' workshops, in order to support basic IT skills as well as access to Canmore etc.
- Adjusting the format of the 3-D modelling workshops so that the flow was smoother, with less waiting on computer processing time.
- Giving as much notice as possible for events, and scheduling some for weekends.
- Publicising events via email as well as Facebook.
- Taking time to set all survey / excavation events in the context of the wider historical / archaeological events connected with the site.
- Creating a bus tour of the sites, to allow people with restricted mobility to get a sense of the Can You Dig It programme - this was planned for April 2020, now postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- Making it clear in our event advertising that there were non-digging options available, such as cataloguing and drawing finds.





In addition, we learned through observation and reflection that:

1. There are a limited number of people in the Galloway Glens area who want to learn survey skills / 3-D modelling, and those that do are prepared to travel for it.

Due to our initial commitment to spread events fairly across the geography of the Galloway Glens, we held duplicate workshops on each subject in the Glenkens, Castle Douglas and Kirkcudbright areas. The first workshops in all cases were well attended, and numbers then dropped off. In future, holding fewer workshops in Castle Douglas would appear to be acceptable to all participants.

2. For some reason, our participants prefer smaller digs to the longer ones.

Attendance at the Moat Brae and Castledykes digs was noticeably higher per day than the Threave dig, which we thought would be a big draw. Perhaps newcomers were intimidated by the prospect of a 'big dig', or thought they had to commit more time. We can incorporate this learning into CYDI 2.

3. Participants very much appreciate the personal nature of our communications and project.

The fact that all the emails come from the same named person within the Galloway Glens team (Helen Keron), and that all the events are delivered by a small team from Rathmell Archaeology means that people feel confident to get in touch with issues, ideas and feedback, increasing participation and engagement significantly.

4. Embedding Can You Dig It within a Landscape Partnership Scheme has had significant benefits.

The project has benefited from the breadth of projects and networks that the Galloway Glens supports. The interactions between these has added richness and depth to our residents' understanding of all aspects of their heritage.

The Galloway Glens has benefited from the technical heft that the project has brought to the scheme – it has been a real anchor project, as well as a link. The links through CYDI to HES and the regional archaeologist has allowed Galloway Glens to (hopefully) influence practice on a regional and national level.



8. Can You Dig It 2: 2020-2022

We were delighted to hear that we had been successful in our application to HES for continuation funding for a further two years of work on Can You Dig It.

Can You Dig It will end in March 2020 under the current funding regime, and we are reluctant to leave our newly-inspired community without the wherewithal to follow up on their new interest.

We therefore propose a second phase of Can You Dig It which will focus on three main themes:

1. **Creating new active self-directing volunteer groups** by providing them with the skills to:
 - Research and select appropriate targets of interest
 - Secure appropriate permissions
 - Have the skills and knowledge to operate a group safely
 - Organise and execute digs or explorations, open to the general public, to high (semi-professional) standards
 - Record their findings appropriately
 - Work with other similar groups in the area to share learnings and best practice.
2. Creating a different volunteer group that will **bring a deserted settlement into active custodianship**. Maintain, improve and interpret it with a real sense of ownership.
3. **Holding a series of public talks** that will set the archaeology and built heritage of the area in a wider context, increasing knowledge in the wide public and encouraging them to value it more.



9. Conclusion

We have been delighted by the success of Can You Dig It, especially in the compressed February 2019 – March 2020 timescale. We feel that our partnership approach in planning set us off in a strong strategic direction, and that the operational delivery has achieved many of the stated core aims. To re-cap, these aims were to:

- Increase enthusiasm and general knowledge amongst local residents for their built heritage
- Upskill enthusiasts further with a wide range of modern archaeological techniques
- Offer work experience / Skills passport opportunities to people looking to enter the field.
- Engage with a wide range of people and minimise barriers to participation.

In addition, it was identified that the project should

- Cover as wide a range of eras as practical
- Cover the Galloway Glens geographic area in an equitable manner.
- Build on previous community engagement with more work to ensure that the project meets the needs and expectations of the local community.

It is hoped that this report demonstrates that this project has been planned and executed in such a way that those aims have been fully met. We have of course had challenges along the way, but our requests for and responses to community feedback mean that we have been able to be nimble in our evolution of the programme.

We'd like to thank all the many supporters of the programme, both those mentioned in Section 6 above and also the private landowners who have given permission. Particular thanks are due to our funders, the NHLF and HES, without whose support we would not have been able to offer these activities for free. Cost is a major barrier to participation for some key demographics, so this support was most welcome.

Helen Keron

Education and Community Engagement Officer,
Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme

26th March 2020