

# BLACK PIGS DYKE

REGIONAL PROJECT

TENDER BRIEF

26 March 2014

Closing date: 4pm, Friday, 25 April 2014



Figure 1 The Black Pig's Dyke, Aghareagh West, Scotshouse, Co.Monaghan



## **BLACK PIGS DYKE REGIONAL PROJECT**

This is a joint County Heritage Plan project between Cavan, Longford, Monaghan and Roscommon Heritage Offices, supported by the Heritage Council. Monaghan County Council is handling procurement on behalf of all the project partners.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Black Pigs Dyke is somewhat an enigmatic archaeological monument, intermittently traversing counties Leitrim, Longford, Roscommon, Cavan, Monaghan, Armagh and Down. It is a linear earthwork, recorded under various names including the Black Pigs' Dyke, Black Pigs Race, The Worm Ditch, The Worm's Cast, Duncla, and the Dane's Cast.

Work to determine the full extent of the earthwork across the region has yet to be undertaken. Some sections of the Black Pigs Dyke are included on the Record of Monuments and Places for the southern counties and on the archaeological inventories for the northern counties. With the advancement in modern aerial photography, Lidar and other mapping techniques, considerable progress is possible to decipher the route and its connectivity to other features across the landscape.

It may be that a frontier existed composed of various scattered earthworks, supplemented by other natural topographical barriers and "linked together in time, origin and function" (Walsh, 1991). The Heritage Offices hope that this regional project will allow a fuller picture to emerge of the extent of the monument, and that this one year project will form the preliminary basis for a regional cross-border cultural heritage proposal and bid for EU funding.

Although this is a cultural heritage project, the project managers are cognisant of the biodiversity value of some sections of the BPD, comprising hedgerows, coppiced woodland, scrub and ditches.

This project is primarily desk based, but it is essential that the project team familiarise themselves with the monument.

### **Overall objective of the project**

To take a regional approach to understanding and promoting the Black Pigs Dyke.

### **Aims**

- Collate all existing information and research undertaken on the Black Pigs Dyke to date, including archaeological, historical, mythology, folklore, and placenames.
- Determine and map the possible extent of the BPD and associated earthworks, using existing aerial photography and available modern technology such as existing Lidar data, GIS datasets and Bing Maps to inform the location of BPD features. This will include the identification of previously unrecorded earthworks that may be associated with the BPD.
- Identify research gaps and make prioritised recommendations for future research and fieldwork areas. Identification of methods suitable for such research.

- Identify and liaise with potential stakeholders for the development of a regional cultural project focusing on the BPD corridor in counties Leitrim, Roscommon, Longford, Cavan, Monaghan, Armagh and Down.
- Develop a proposal document for a regional cultural project focusing on the BPD corridor.
- Increase awareness of the monument by the public

### **Project outputs**

- Written report describing project findings
- Set of annotated maps and GIS layers
- Proposal document for regional cultural project and regional project partners identified for European Funding bid
- Article on the Black Pigs Dyke and this project for placing in local and national press to mark National Heritage Week
- Text and images for the production of two A0 panels on the project for display at venues in the region

### **TENDER SUBMISSION**

Proposals are sought from multi-disciplinary teams, which should include an archaeologist and a historian. GIS expertise on the team is also required. The overall budget for the project is €19,500 including all VAT and expenses. Proposals that exceed this budget will not be scored for assessment.

All tenders must be submitted in writing and marked **Black Pigs Dyke** and addressed to

**Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Affairs, Monaghan County Council, The Glen, Monaghan by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 4pm.**

#### **Timescale:**

The project will commence in May 2014 must be completed in full by 30 October 2014.

#### **Project Management**

A project steering group comprising the Heritage Officers of Cavan, Longford, Monaghan and Roscommon will guide the development of this project. Day to day contact will be with the County Monaghan Heritage Officer.

### **GUIDANCE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS**

Tenders must include a clear outline of the relevant professional skills that would be brought to bear, and the names and CVs of all individuals. The tenderer should also provide three recent case-studies of previous work outlining all key activities undertaken by individual team members, as well as the relevant contact details of the client.



price should also be stated inclusive of Net cost and VAT. The tenders received will be scored according to the criteria which are set out below.

**Criterion Marks Basis for evaluation**

Cost	25%	Price quoted (within budget)
Competency and specification of service	25%	Provided in your method statement
Deliverables/outputs	25%	Provided in your method statement
Project team skills	25%	CVs

The award of a score for cost will be computed on an objective mathematical basis, with the lowest price receiving 100% of the available score and all other tenders receiving scores proportionately. Competency and specification of services, and deliverables/outputs will be assessed from the method statement.

To ensure consistency and equity the evaluation panel will assign scores for quality of response to the qualitative desirable requirements based on the indicative scoring definitions below:

**Scoring System Indicator**

- 5 Indicates an excellent response with no weaknesses.
- 4 Indicates a good response with few weaknesses.
- 3 Indicates a compliant response but lacks specific information
- 2 Indicates that the response is limited in detail
- 1 Indicates there is insufficient detail in response
- 0 Very limited information provided

This contract will be awarded on the basis of a fixed price contract, and as such, all costs must be submitted as a fixed cost in Euro. No amount over and above the negotiated total contract price amount will be paid to the appointed contractor.

**Other Matters**

The payment schedule for the contract will be two staged payments on agreement and completion of each of two key stages to be agreed at the outset.

All invoices and supporting documentation must be submitted by post to Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer, Monaghan County Council, The Glen, Monaghan.

The client reserves the right not to accept any of the submissions.

An interim report must be supplied to Monaghan County Council roughly mid-way through the project.

The management team will require a copy of the final draft of the written report for comment and approval prior to completion.

Monaghan County Council operates under the Freedom of Information Act 1997, and all information held by the County Council may be subject to requests under this Act.

Monaghan County Council does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender, and no person making a submission will be remunerated for any trouble or expense incurred in preparing a submission.

#### **CONTRACT EVALUATION AND MONITORING**

The performance of the appointed service provider will be subject to continuous monitoring, management and review.

## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BLACK PIG'S DYKE

The Black Pigs Dyke is somewhat an enigmatic archaeological monument, intermittently traversing counties Leitrim, Longford, Roscommon, Cavan, Monaghan, Armagh and Down. It is a linear earthwork, recorded under various names including the Black Pigs' Dyke, Black Pigs Race, The Worm Ditch, The Worm's Cast, Duncla, and the Dane's Cast.

Conjecture informed much of the early work describing this earthwork (Kane, 1909), as folklore was used to supplement the known extant sections. Folklore and stories were also collected more recently (Sherry, 1993). A giant black pig racing through the countryside digging out the banks with its tusks is one explanation for its existence in the folklore record. Another story concerns a huge worm snaking its way subsurface across the landscape, which incidentally may have inspired the tale of the Lair of the White Worm written by Bram Stoker.

The short excavation carried out on a stretch in County Monaghan in 1982 provides the most accurate archaeological information on its date, construction and destruction (Walsh, 1991). In County Monaghan, the Black Pigs Dyke is double ditched and double banked and generally is found on the southern slopes of the drumlins. Its height can be as much as 1.4 metres. It may have been a palisaded fortification. Although no in situ timber palisades were found during the Monaghan excavation, a U-shaped palisade slot was located 1m back from the northern fosse, which ran parallel with the earthwork. This palisade would have been a defensive feature as it utilises the greater height of the sites natural topography.

According to the excavation research, the Black Pigs Dyke in the stretch excavated was a defensive structure (Walsh, 1991), not simply a territorial boundary or a way to access control or as a deterrent to cattle raiders (Davis, 1940). It was destroyed at around the same time that Navan Fort (Emain Macha) in County Armagh was burnt. Dating evidence suggests that it is a feature of the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age c.500BC. Contrary to early research papers on the dyke, its' construction was not inspired by the Roman Walls in Britain, as it pre-dates them. It is of native Irish origin (Walsh, 1991).

The Discovery Programme recently conducted an overview of research on the Black Pigs Dyke, and a preliminary field survey of a stretch between Lough Gowna and Lough Kinale in Longford. The fieldwork identified an additional 1,100m stretch of the earthwork, parallel to the western edge of Lough Kinale. Although modified by medieval field boundaries, the programme found that the 10km section in Longford is very similar in size and morphology to the earthwork excavated and described by Walsh at Aghareagh West, County Monaghan (Keegan, 2010). However, Keegan notes that the possibility exists that this linear earthwork functioned as a territorial boundary marker rather than as a defensible frontline. It may be that a frontier existed composed of various scattered earthworks, supplemented by other natural topographical barriers and "linked together in time, origin and function" (Walsh, 1991)

Davis, O. (1940). Excavations on the Dorsey and the Black Pig's Dyke. *Ulster Journal of Archaeology, Third Series, Vol. 3* , 31-37.

Kane, W. D. (1909). The Black Pig's Dyke: The Ancient Boundary Fortifications of Uladh. *Proceedings of the Irish Royal Academy* .

Keegan, M. (2010). The Black Pig's Dyke in County Longford between Lough Gownan and Lough Kinale. In A. K. C. Fredengren, *Lough Kinale: studies of an Irish Lake (The Discovery Programme Lake Settlement Project: Discovery Programme Monograph No. 8)* (pp. 140-143). Wordwell.

Sherry, B. (1993). *Along the Black Pig's Dyke. Folklore from Monaghan and South Armagh*. Castleblayney Community Enterprise Ltd.

Walsh, A. (1991). Excavation at the Black Pig's Dyke. *Clogher Record* , 9-26.