

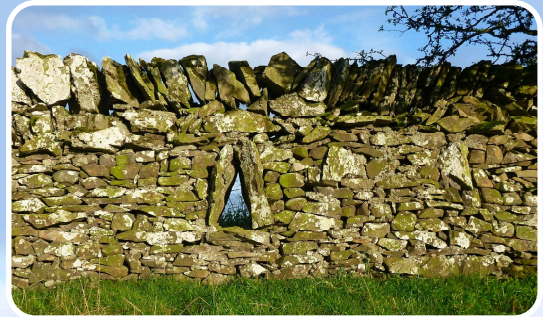
FIELD NAME: BIG CARRICK / BORELAND MARCH

FIELD NAME CLASSIFICATION: FARM NAME / BOUNDARY

Very often, where two farms meet, the fields are named after the adjoining farm. The field named Boreland March (right of drystone dyke) is on Carrick Farm while Big Carrick (left of drystone dyke) is on Boreland Farm.

March is from Old English *mearc* via Anglo-French *marche* and Scots *merche* meaning a border. The March Dykes Act 1661 required neighbouring landowners to split the cost of building a shared boundary when the land was enclosed. In southwest Scotland the term march dyke is used to describe the boundary of a farm. It was usually the first drystone dyke built when a farm was enclosed and is often taller than the dykes built later to subdivide the farmland.

This dyke defines more than the boundary of two farms as it also marks the extent of an estate and parish. The boundary appears on a 1761 map and is annotated to show the line of the border as *“the Bounding dyke of the Parks of Cally....and....the separation betwixt the Parishes of Girthon and Borgue”*. The map was drawn to show the location of places being considered in a dispute over dykes blocking traditional routes to fords crossing the River Fleet.



Drystone dykes sub-dividing farm fields often have holes to allow hares to move from place to place.

