
8 CONCLUSION

The excavations carried out at Lockerbie Academy have made a significant contribution to the archaeology of the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Anglian periods in Scotland.

The Early Neolithic timber hall is only the fourth example to be excavated in Scotland (the fifth, if Doon Hill A is indeed Neolithic) and its position within the south-west of the country demonstrates that a building type once thought to be confined to the north-eastern Lowlands may have been considerably more widespread. Radiocarbon dates obtained for these structures suggest that they were broadly contemporary, indicating that they were a relatively short-lived phenomenon dating to the earliest part of the Neolithic. Similarities between the four excavated structures indicate that they may all have served a similar function. Whether they can be interpreted as 'normal' farmhouses is open to debate, but they were all situated within highly fertile plains and potentially represent the control of large tracts of arable land.

The Bronze Age cemetery was very similar to

that excavated at the nearby Kirkburn site, but on a rather smaller scale. It broadly comprised a large central burial surrounded by smaller satellite burials. The cemetery demonstrated a variety of burial rites, including cremation and inhumation. Of particular note was the large boulder that sat within the upper fill of the central burial. Several high-status items were recovered from the graves, including a stone wristguard and a bronze dagger of the Butterwick type.

The site also demonstrated clear evidence of Northumbrian settlement within the south-western part of Scotland. Northumbrian settlement is clearly visible within the archaeological record of south-east Scotland at sites such as Sprouston, Doon Hill and Castle Rock, Dunbar, but in the south-west, away from the important monastic sites at Whithorn and Hoddum, it has been largely inferred from the historical records of the time, combined with the presence of Anglian place-names and the recovery of Anglian carved crosses and other sculpture.