
7 The radiocarbon date from Loch Borallie

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The left humerus from Skeleton 1 was sent for C-14 dating at the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit. The date obtained suggests the individual lived during the first quarter of the first millennium AD. The date was calibrated using OxCal v3.5.

At the time, no request for a date from a sample from Skeleton 2 was submitted due to the poor preservation of the bones and the possibility that no collagen survived. When the cairn has been demonstrated by excavation to be multi-phase ([Section 3.2](#))

and the two burials were clearly stratigraphically separate, with hindsight it is perhaps regrettable that only a single radiocarbon date was obtained for them. It could be argued that as the dated skeleton (Skeleton 1) predated the cairn, the suggestion in Section 8 that rectangular cairns can be pre-Pictish is not substantiated, but the evidence observed during excavation does not support an extended dating (as opposed to phasing) for the sequence of burials and cairn-building.

Table 1 The radiocarbon date from Loch Borallie

Lab Code	Sample Material	Lab. Age BP	δ C13	Calibrated 1 <i>sigma</i>	dates 2 <i>sigma</i>
OxA-10253	Homo Sapiens Left humerus, Skeleton 1	1931±37	-20.2	AD 25 – 130	40 BC – AD 210