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A Short Cist Burial at Kilkeddan Farm, Campbeltown, Argyll & Bute

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Illustrations by GRAEME CARRUTHERS and JAMIE HUMBLE*

Summary

AOC Archaeology Group undertook the excavation of a previously unknown Bronze Age cist, located in a field close to Kilkeddan Farm, Argyll & Bute, during September 2005 under the Historic Scotland call-off contract for human remains. The cist was found to contain poorly surviving unburnt human skeletal remains along with a finely decorated tripartite Food Vessel and a flint knife. The incomplete and fragmentary condition of the skeleton suggests that the human remains were disarticulated at the time of deposition. Radiocarbon dates obtained from the human bone and associated charcoal confirms an early Bronze Age date for the burial.

Keywords: Bronze Age, Burial, Food Vessel, Knife, Rapid-Response Excavation

Background

During ploughing of a field on Kilkeddan Farm, Argyll & Bute, in 2005, the farmer, Mr Semple, disturbed a large stone slab that on further examination by Frances Hood of the local antiquarian society was considered to be the cover-stone of a stone-built short cist. Under the guidance of the antiquarian

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www.euppublishing.com/journal/saj
society Mr Semple contacted Patrick Ashmore of Historic Scotland (now Historic Environment Scotland) who then commissioned AOC Archaeology to investigate the discovery under the terms of the Human Remains Call-Off Contract.

Kilkeddan Farm lies approximately 5km north of Campbeltown within Glen Lussa, on rolling farm land flanked by steep forested hills to the north and south. The cist, located at NGR NR 752 258 (Figure 1), was situated amidst enclosed fields used for grazing and silage, immediately east of a break of slope along the edge of a burn that leads into Glenlussa Water to the south. The natural geology of this area comprises Dalradian quartz-mica schists with an underlying drift comprised of peaty gleys and pea gravels on undulating lowlands with gentle slopes.

Three earlier discoveries of cist burials are also known from the area (Figure 1). The first of these was located on the north side of Glenlussa Water, approximately 500m from the Kilkeddan cist. It was recorded in the late 18th century when a number of cists containing urns were found (MacIntosh 1861, 31). It is thought to be the remains of a cairn (RCAHMS 1971, 50, 60, 90). The second was an isolated cist found in the mid-19th century during land cultivation close to the top of a bank at Kilkeddan (RCHAMS 1971, 50, no. 74). Unfortunately nothing is known of its exact location or its contents. The third cist at Ardnacross, known locally as the ‘Priest’s Grave’, is located towards the coast (RCAHMS 1971, 46, no 54). This cist was excavated in 1934, the records showing that it was of similar dimensions to the Kilkeddan cist. A fragment of Food Vessel was recovered from this earlier cist and is today held within the collections of Campbeltown Museum.

A number of other prehistoric funerary remains and monuments have also previously been recorded from the area around the location of the cist (Figure 1). These include several chambered cairns, three of which are located on the hillside to the north of the cist; three areas of cup-and-ring marked stones, two standing stones along the coast line, and a stone hut-circle on the hill to the north of the site.

**FIELDWORK**

Archaeologists from AOC Archaeology Group confirmed the identity of the stone slab at Kilkeddan as a capstone for a cist. The capstone lay directly below the topsoil at a depth of approximately 0.2m and measured 1.4m in length, 1.1m in width and was on average 0.15m thick. The substantial size and weight of the capstone meant that it could not be moved by hand so with the assistance of a tractor the slab was removed revealing the side stones and cut of a rectangular short cist.

The cist comprised four large upright side slabs aligned approximately NW/SE, and the interior was in-filled with pea gravel and soil (Figure 2). The internal dimensions of the cist were 0.9m in length, 0.7m in width and 0.8m in depth. All the stones of the cist consisted of a blueish quartz mica schist, a locally outcropping rock. The two opposing elongated side slabs comprised single large rectangular slabs set on edge, both of which projected out slightly beyond the shorter end slabs, on to which they rested (Table 1). In profile the south-east slab had a rounded outer edge and incorporated a thin quartz vein running though the stone. A large section of this slab had broken away on the outer edge, possibly as
a result of the recent disturbance to the capstone. Tool marks were not apparent on any of the cist slabs. Possible evidence for clay luting was recorded at the top of the south-east corner where clay appeared to have been used to seal the corner between the side-slabs.
Table 1 Dimensions of the cist side slabs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cist stone</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Height (m)</th>
<th>Thickness (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North-east side slab</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-west side slab</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North-west end slab</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-east end slab</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fills of the cist comprised a primary deposit and two upper layers of sediment. The two upper layers of sediment contained quantities of grass and organic material of fairly recent origin, indicating that this material was modern in-wash within the cist. This sediment contained occasional lumps of an orange clay-rich material which had been used to seal or ‘lute’ the edges of the interior of the cist. The primary soil layer was 0.35m deep (Figures 3 and 4) and consisted of a fine orange pea-gravel which overlay and surrounded the human remains and ceramic vessel. There are two interpretations for this material: either the soils have accumulated slowly over time as the result of percolation within the cist or it represents a deliberate layer of backfill undertaken at the time of burial as part of the funerary ritual.

The upper soil layers were removed to reveal a complete finely decorated ceramic vessel (Catalogue 1), at the north-east end of the cist within the primary fill. The vessel was tilted slightly to one side (Figure 5).

Removal of the primary fill revealed a pile of disarticulated long bones and a partially surviving skull to the southern end of the cist. The long bones appeared to have been placed together with the skull placed on top (Figure 2). The surviving bones were all in a poor, fragmentary and friable condition. A flint blade (Catalogue 2) was also recovered from the cist immediately to the west of the skull (Figure 8). The base of the cist was hard to define as there was no stone or cobble floor and the natural subsoil was very similar in makeup to the primary fill.

The construction pit for the cist was cut into the natural subsoil and had been deliberately backfilled with fine natural pea gravel. The removal of the backfill (the side slabs being left in place due to their size) revealed a cut sub-rectangular in plan measuring 2.08m in length, 1.5m in width and 0.80m in depth (Figure 6). Two large rounded packing stones had been inserted against the south-west side slab, one at each end. A small fragment of a vitrified or fused substance, initially thought to be cramp, was found within the backfill of the construction pit. Subsequent analysis could not closely categorise the material and it is thought to be intrusive and unconnected with the burial (Troalen, intra).

**THE RADIOCARBON DATES**

After removal from the cist the human remains were analysed (MacSweeney, intra) and a single sample was selected for radiocarbon dating to establish the age of the interred individual.

X-radiography confirmed the absence of bone or artefactual material from within the Food Vessel, which was then excavated under laboratory conditions.
Fig 2 Plan of the Kilkeddan cist
Excavation confirmed that the fill was sterile with the exception of small fragments of charcoal. The fill appeared to consist of a similar soil to that of the primary sediment from which further charcoal fragments were recovered during wet sieving. Both sediments, from within the vessel and directly overlying the human remains, were thought to represent material deliberately backfilled into the cist as part of the closing rites, prior to the capstone being moved into position. Charcoal samples (Duffy, intra) from both were submitted for radiocarbon dating.

Three radiocarbon dates were obtained (Table 2). The date from the skeletal remains (3695±35 BP, 2200 - 1970 cal BC at 2 sigma (GU-14160)) confirms an early Bronze Age date for the burial. The dates from the skeletal remains and the charcoal within the Food Vessel (3740±35 BP, 2230 - 2030 cal BC
Table 2 Radiocarbon assays from Kilkeddan Farm cist burial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample dated</th>
<th>Laboratory Number</th>
<th>Uncal</th>
<th>Cal 2 Sigma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human bone sample</td>
<td>SUERC 10713 GU-14160</td>
<td>3695±35 BP</td>
<td>2200–1970 cal BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charcoal from the fill</td>
<td>SUERC 10715 GU-14162</td>
<td>3740±35 BP</td>
<td>2230–2030 cal BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of the Food Vessel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charcoal from primary fill of the cist</td>
<td>SUERC 10714 GU-14161</td>
<td>4480±35 BP</td>
<td>3350–3080 cal BC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

at 2 sigma (GU-14162)) are statistically indistinguishable supporting established typochronological schemes, and confirming that the deposition of the human remains and the vessel in the cist are contemporary and likely part of the same ritual event.

A sample of charcoal from the primary fill returned a date over a millennia earlier than anticipated (4480±35 BP, 3350–3080 cal BC (GU-14161)). This suggests that either the fill is not contemporary with the burial, or that the charcoal was redeposited. It is also possible that this material represents the ritual burning of an ancestral object, the remains of which were scattered over the cist interior prior to the closing of the grave, but the lack of any deliberate shaping of the charred wood pieces makes this assertion entirely speculative.
On examination the human bones were found to be in a very poor state of preservation, with a large number of very small unidentifiable fragments present. In general, softer, cancellous bone had not survived and all that remained were
areas of denser, compact bone, but even this had largely been reduced to small slivers of bone. The only recognisable fragments were a number of sections of long bone shafts, including the right humerus, the left femur, right femur and tibia (side unclear). Part of the skull had survived – a large piece of frontal and some small pieces of temporal and parietal. Two molars were represented by part of the enamel only and there was also a small part of one talus (ankle bone). The most complete bone was the left femur, of which most of the shaft remained. Due to the poor condition of the surviving bone it was not possible to confirm that the bones were in a defleshed state at the time of burial.

The lack of any duplication of skeletal elements indicates that a single individual is represented by the surviving bones.

It is likely from examination of the left femur that epiphyseal fusion had taken place, at least at the distal end, giving an age at death of at least 17 years. Fortuitously, considering the condition of the remains, the two surviving fragments of dental enamel were sufficiently intact to give an indicative age based on the degree of occlusal wear. These showed that only a minimal amount of attrition had occurred, and this was probably a young adult (according to Brothwell’s (1981) scale of attrition, probably between 17 and 25). The size and robustness of the left femur suggests the individual was probably male.

A full report which includes details of methodology can be found in the site archive.

THE FOOD VESSEL

Alison Sheridan

Description

Catalogue 1 (Figure 7) Tripartite Food Vessel, intact but for an extensive area of spalling on the upper body on one side, and minor spalling and superficial cracking elsewhere. It stands 160mm high, and has rim and base diameters of 190mm and 86mm respectively; at its widest point (at the upper carination), the diameter is 190mm. Wall thickness varies from 12mm at the upper part of the neck to 20mm at the base. The pot had been coated with a thick slip (i.e. slurry of clay) with the exterior being a medium brown, with a slightly reddish tinge and the sub slip core being dark grey.

The interior is a reddish-brown, with a large dark grey patch over one side of the pot, representing the stain left by the evaporation of the pot’s former liquid contents. The position of the interior stain suggests that the pot may have been tilting as its contents evaporated. This accords with the position in which the pot was found. On the exterior of the vessel there are diffuse patches of small, grey-brown speckles; whether these also relate to the pot’s former contents is unclear.

Also present are two definite and five possible cereal grain impressions, at various angles. Six of these are within the same quarter of the pot’s circumference, on and immediately below the upper neck; the seventh is in the interior, on the edge of the rim bevel. The clearest impression is oval, 4mm long, and shows the grain’s ventral groove clearly; the cereal could not be identified. The others include what may be the outer edge of an impression, where the grain had been inside the clay,
Fig 7 The Kilkeddan Food Vessel

and one socket suggesting that a grain had accidentally been pressed lengthways into the clay; these are on the rim facet and on the upper carination respectively.

Discussion

This finely-made vessel is readily recognisable as a tripartite Bowl (as discussed by Alison Young in 1951) – a type of Food Vessel found in south-west, central and eastern Scotland, with strong design links with some Food Vessels in Ireland (Ó Riordáin & Waddell 1993). Several of the south-west Scottish examples, like the Kilkeddan pot, are notable for the high quality of their manufacture; indeed, several of the examples from the Kilmartin Valley (e.g. Poltaloch Estates, with its polished surface: Anderson 1905, fig 8; cf. the finely-made bipartite Bowls from Dunchraigaig and Glebe Cairn: Clarke et al 1985, figs 5.41, 5.27) are of such quality that the presence of specialist, perhaps even Irish, potters, is suspected. Elsewhere in Scotland and Ireland, the existence of pairs or groups of near-identical pots, some separated by a considerable distance, supports the idea that some Food Vessels had been made by specialist potters (Cowie 1983, 255; Sheridan 1993). While no identical match for the Kilkeddan pot can be identified, the use of horizontal lines, interspersed with false-relief running chevrons, can
readily be paralleled on other tripartite Food Vessels such as that from Kill y Kiaran and Carnasserie in the Kilmartin Valley, Argyll & Bute (Young 1951, fig 1.4; RCAHMS 1988, 22, B), ‘Argyll’ (Young 1951, fig 1.2) and Maybole, South Ayrshire (Simpson 1965, no. 7) – the horizontal lines in these cases were made using comb impressions. Parallels for the specific shape of the Kilkeddan pot include the ‘Argyll’ and Maybole vessels; those from Clachbreck and Kilmartin Glebe in the Kilmartin Valley (RCAHMS 1988, 22, E, G); and, closer to Kilkeddan, from Glenramskill (Ritchie 2003, plate 4).

The calibrated radiocarbon date from the charcoal within the Kilkeddan pot is 2230 BC to 2030 BC, similar to those from other Food Vessels in Scotland (Sheridan 2004; see in particular the dates for Barns Farm cist 1 and Pitmilly). This date range accords with that obtained for similar vessels in Ireland (Brindle 2007). The presence of the cereal impressions – a phenomenon noted on some other early Bronze Age pottery (e.g. wheat impressions on the base of a cinerary urn from Brackmont Mill, Fife: Mears 1937, fig 14) – is of particular interest. The grain, tentatively identified as barley (*Hordeum* sp; J Robertson, pers comm) had clearly been processed, and its accidental inclusion during the manufacture of the pot suggests that it was made in a domestic context, although the storing of processed grain makes it hard to determine at what point in the year the pot was made.

**The Flint Knife**

*Rob Engl*

**Description**

**Catalogue 2** (Figure 8) Double edged flint knife, 60mm in length, 20.7mm in width and 4.5mm in thickness. This artefact is made on fresh creamy grey flint of good quality. It is almost complete with only the distal tip missing, probably the result of post-depositional damage. Both lateral edges have been modified along the full length of the artefact by the application of short, fine retouch. This is gently scalloped along the proximal right hand edge giving a slightly denticulated appearance.

**Discussion**

The flint knife type most commonly associated with Food Vessels is the plano-convex form (Clark 1932, 160; Pierpoint 1980, 130–131). However it is clear that a variety of more simply retouched knife forms are also frequently associated with graves during the early Bronze Age (Simpson 1968; Saville 2004). An artefact very similar to that under discussion was recovered from a short cist containing an inhumation burial at the nearby Kintyre nurseries, Campbeltown, Argyll (Peltenburg 1979, 14). This knife appears almost identical in flint type and form and was found in association with a jet spacer-plate necklace and possible bracelet. The Kilkeddan knife is also very similar to an example found in a flint cache at Auchenholan, near Campbeltown, Argyll (Saville 1999). The likeliest source of this flint is the Antrim source in Northern Ireland.
Twelve fragments of charcoal were recovered from infill material within the cist, including soils within the Food Vessel. Eleven fragments were identified as hazel (*Corylus avellana*). A single piece of oak (*Quercus sp.*) was also retrieved from the interior of the ceramic vessel. The charcoal fragments were generally very small and none were identified as artefactual.

**The Amorphous Material**  
* Lore Troalen

A small amorphous lump of dark green-brown ‘cramp’-like material was found within the fill of the construction pit. This material was investigated with X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) and Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM-EDS) in order to observe the morphology of the constitutive material. The results of this investigation were inconclusive but indicated that the material had a fairly
mineralized structure composed principally of quartz crystals, and smaller traces of iron, manganese, potassium, titanium and zirconium; all particles naturally present in Scottish soils. The recovery of this amorphous material from the pit surrounding the cist places doubt over the association of the material with the burial itself and could well be a recent incidental intrusion.

**DISCUSSION**

Previous excavations in the Campbeltown area, and Argyll more generally, have revealed the remains of a rich early prehistoric landscape which includes a variety of funerary and ceremonial sites. Short cist burials dominate the Chalcolithic and early Bronze Age funerary record in this area and the mode of burial observed at Kilkeddan fits with this broader pattern of mortuary traditions. The Kilkeddan cist is very similar to other cists recorded in the Argyll area although a degree of regional variation in the burial tradition invariably existed in terms of construction techniques, monument types, treatment of the body and provision of grave goods (Sheridan 2004, 261).

From current evidence, the cist at Kilkeddan Farm appears to be an isolated burial. Yet it should be noted that it was out-with the remit of this rapid-response investigation to excavate an extensive area around the perimeter of the cist and it is possible that further graves are present beyond the limits investigated. It is plausible that the Kilkeddan cist, situated on the top ridge of a linear slope, is part of a more extensive cemetery along the edge of the bank similar to Bronze Age cemeteries noted at Kintyre Nurseries and at Poltalloch (Peltenburg 1979; Craw 1929). Previous instances of cists being found in the area around Kildeddan lend support to this prospect.

The poor preservation of the human remains discovered within the Kilkeddan cist limits the inferences that can be made about the funerary rites represented. As the surviving bone, consisting of long bone and skull fragments, was concentrated at one end of the cist the remains were interpreted in the field as a collection of disarticulated white bone rather than surviving portions of a badly preserved articulated inhumation.

Osteological analysis confirmed that the remains were incomplete. The generally poor condition of the surviving bone makes it impossible to determine whether the absence of other skeletal elements is the result of natural decay or were missing at the time of deposition. Yet natural decay is unlikely to explain the position of the surviving bones. Two scenarios to explain this observation can be postulated: the first, is that the collection of bones represents disturbed and jumbled remains of an articulated inhumation, moved to one end of the cist some time after burial, probably in a white bone state. The intention may have been for a second body to be interred, similar to that noted at Traigh Bhan, Islay (Ritchie & Stevenson 1982), Kentraw, Islay (Ritchie 1987), Kintyre Nurseries, Argyll (Peltenburg 1979) or at West Pinkerton, East Lothian (Stevenson 1939), to name a few, but no human remains relating to a subsequent burial were observed during excavation or identified during specialist osteological analysis. The second possibility is that these bones represent a single interment consisting of a collection of fragmentary disarticulated white bone resulting from an excarnation or previously buried and
reinterred skeletal remains. Given that the date of the bone and the charcoal recovered from the fill of the Food Vessel are statistically indistinguishable, the implication is that the deposition of the human bone and the pot represent a single funerary event.

The formal burial of disarticulated or partially articulated human remains is becoming an increasingly recognised facet of Chalcolithic/Beaker and early Bronze Age funerary practices than hitherto recognised (Gibson 2004). This practice, undertaken across Britain, is known from several sites in Scotland such as at Dryburn Bridge, East Lothian, where the disarticulated bones of a 6–8-year-old child had been carefully placed over the feet and lower legs of a crouched adult male (Dunwell 2007, 9–11, fig 4 & 8). It is not clear whether the disarticulated bones at Dryburn Bridge were added to the grave some time after the principal burial of the adult or whether the deposits were contemporary. At Mill Road, Linlithgow, a more complicated series of interments appear to have been made within a cist that was constructed in such a way that it could be reopened (Cook 2000). Within the interior of the Mill Road cist, the incomplete remains of five children and an adult were discovered leading the excavator to speculate that the bodies had been excarnated prior to their subsequent burial within the cist. A further recently excavated example is that at Cnip, Isle of Lewis, where a series of interments of Early Bronze Age date had been made in and around a kerbed mound. Important evidence of both excarnation and possible re-burial of previously buried human remains was recognised by the partially articulated state of a number of the burials (Lelong in press).

Prior to excavation the cist was found to be approximately two thirds full of sediment, despite the evidence for clay luting of the cist slab joints. On excavation this was recorded as three separate overlying layers but it was not possible to establish conclusively in the field whether these soils represented deliberate backfilling of the cist as part of the Bronze Age funerary ritual, like that seen at Holly Road, Leven (Lewis & Terry 1994), or as successive episodes of intrusive material infiltrating the cist. The upper two layers certainly appear to be later intrusive material but the possibility remains that the primary sediment layer which immediately overlies the human remains could have been deliberately introduced prior to the capstone being moved into position. A previous study of the instances of deliberate backfilling of short cists in Scotland has demonstrated that this practice was far more frequently undertaken than has previously been recognised and may have been undertaken as an attempt to deter subsequent disturbance of the burial (Hunter 2000, 170–1). The presence of charcoal within the primary sediment layer overlying the skeletal remains is of interest as it hints at the more ephemeral stages in the funerary rituals that must have accompanied the construction of the cist, the placement of the body or disarticulated bones within the grave and the closure of the burial (Shepherd & Shepherd 2001, 124).

The associated Food Vessel is a distinctive type found in south-west, central and eastern Scotland whose tripartite bowl-shaped form and decorative scheme shares strong design links with similar pottery in Ireland (Ó Riordáin & Waddell 1993). Several similar vessels from the Argyll area, including the Kilkeddan pot and examples from nearby Kilmartin Valley, demonstrate a particularly high degree of skill in their manufacture. The implication of the pot’s careful design and skilled production is that such vessels were highly prized objects, perhaps symbols of
social standing as perceived by the decedents surviving kinsfolk but the liquid it contained at the time of burial may have been equally valued. Similar liquid or food stains to that noted inside the Kilkeddan Food Vessel were also observed in pots found at Traigh Bhan, Islay (Ritchie & Stevenson 1982) and Kintyre Nurseries (Peltenburg 1979).

This tradition of fine pottery manufacture in south-west Scotland accords with other evidence for the existence of an elite concerned with conspicuous consumption in this region. This evidence includes the high incidence of imported Whitby jet spacer plate necklaces (and their copies) in the south-west, including the Kintyre peninsula; indeed, two such necklaces were found in Campbeltown, just a few kilometres from Kilkeddan (at the head of Campbeltown Loch and at Kintyre Nurseries: RCAHMS 1988, 9, plate 5; Peltenburg 1979; Sheridan & Davis 2002, fig 8A (bottom right); Ritchie 2003, plate 7).

The east coast Irish connection implied by the tripartite Food Vessel is reinforced by the presence of a flint blade potentially produced from Antrim flint. This is not to say that the deceased individual that was the focus of the burial discussed here was of Irish decent – there is no evidence to support this – but the hints of an Irish connection are there in the associated grave goods. The links between east coast Ireland and Argyll during the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age are well established and demonstrate the connection that existed between the two areas as a result of Ireland’s flourishing copper trade (Cook et al 2010; Sheridan 2008, 65–66). The control over the flow of Irish copper is thought to have been channelled through Argyll and the Kilmartin Glen in particular, allowing the development of an elite group whose prosperity and wealth was encouraged and maintained by brokering the trade inland of the sought-after metal (Sheridan 2008, 66). The complex and impressive funerary monuments, ceremonial centres and richly furnished burials of the Kilmartin Glen can be seen as expressions of this prosperity. The grave goods afforded to the individual at Kilkeddan demonstrate the strong links that the Glen Lussa communities enjoyed with this wider network of contacts and exchange, and provides evidence that reinforces the perception of the importance and prestige of individuals within the community during this period in the Argyll and Bute area.

Conclusions

This cist burial is a significant find which adds to the wide and diverse suite of early prehistoric funerary sites located in the Glen Lussa area of Argyll. The application of direct dating of both the human bone and associated charcoal within the cist is an important addition to the growing number of well-dated Bronze Age burials in the area; a methodological practice which is helping to strengthen and refine our understanding of the chronology and complexity of funerary traditions in the region.

Not only does the Kilkeddan cist burial help us to understand the complexities of early prehistoric funerary traditions in Glen Lussa but it also serves to enhance our understanding of the important connections between Argyll and east coast Ireland during the Early Bronze Age as implied by the provision of grave goods which share both design and resource links with examples from across the Irish Sea. The prosperity demonstrated by aspects of the early prehistoric funerary
record in Argyll emphasises the key role that individuals in this area played during this period as a result of a close network of connections forged by the trade and importation of raw materials and objects from Ireland.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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