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## STAGES AND SCREENS

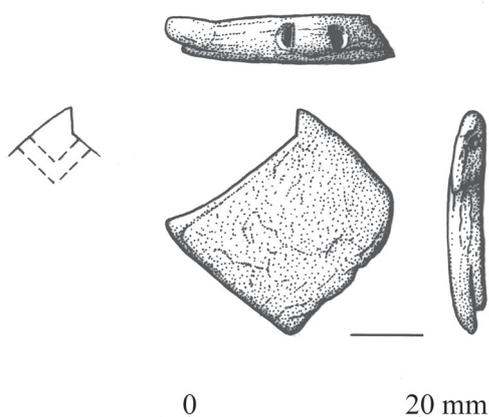


Illustration 1.54

Stone pendant from excavation in 2005–6

(Clarke *et al* 1985, cover, fig 4.10, 272). Two Scottish examples of this type – both associated with Collared Urns – have recently been radiocarbon dated as part of the National Museums' Scotland *Dating Cremated Bones Project*: one from Victoria Park, Glasgow, dates to  $3435 \pm 35$  BP (1880–1640 cal BC at  $2\sigma$ , GrA-24866) while one from Carwinning, North Ayrshire, has a virtually identical date of  $3435 \pm 45$  BP (1880–1640 cal BC at  $2\sigma$ , GrA-19421; Sheridan 2007, fig 14.10). These dates overlap at  $1\sigma$  with those for the three dated urns from Broomend of Crichtie.

### **Burnt stone pendant**

ALISON SHERIDAN

Context 1075 (illus 1.54). Burnt fragment of a thin stone object with a V-perforation at one corner, probably a pendant. Found among the cremated bones of an adult, probably female, in Pot 2. It measures  $16.2 \times 14.6 \times 3.3$ , and the perforations are slightly oval at their outer ends, one measuring  $1.9 \times 2.3$ , the other  $1.9 \times 2.6$ . One side – from which a large spall had broken away – is very slightly convex (and may have been the front), the other correspondingly concave, and the edges have been gently squared off. There are hints that the object had originally been diamond-shaped, and probably not much larger than its present form: two, possibly three of the original sides are present, and along one of these both ends kink out, suggesting that it had not been longer. The stone is dark grey and laminar, with whitish patches on its surfaces, caused by heat damage from the pyre;

it has been identified by Dr Simon Howard as a mudstone, and may well have been obtained locally, as fine-grained metamorphic rocks are associated with the local igneous rocks.

That this object is more likely to have been a pendant than a toggle fastener for a funerary garment is suggested firstly, by its lack of resemblance to the bone toggles that are known from Early Bronze Age deposits of cremated remains, and secondly, by the fact that a parallel – albeit not very close – is known from Seggiecrook, Kennethmont, just over 30km to the NW of Broomend of Crichtie (Callander 1905, fig 1). Here, a small, subrectangular flat slate pendant around  $37 \times 23$  in size, perforated at two of its corners along its long axis and with two incised lines running close to its edge, was found in a grave pit beneath the bottom of an urn. The latter, buried upright and full of cremated bone, resembles the Collared/Vase Urns from Broomend of Crichtie, and a radiocarbon date of  $3495 \pm$  BP (GrA-19427, 1940–1690 cal BC at  $2\sigma$ ; Sheridan 2007b, 183) for its associated bone indicates it is contemporary with them. Both the Broomend of Crichtie and the Seggiecrook pendants are very unusual within the canon of Early Bronze Age cinerary urn grave goods.

### **Bone pin fragment**

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Context 1100 (illus 1.55). Fragment from the shaft of a burnt bone pin, found along with sherds of

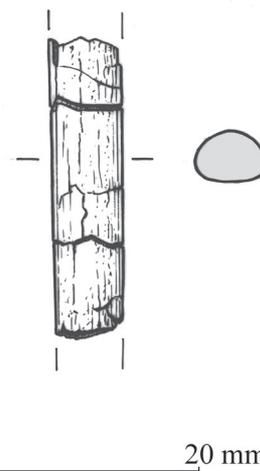


Illustration 1.55

Bone pin from the excavation in 2005–6