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Deposited on: 23 October 2014
STAGES AND SCREENS

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 Crichie (Callander 1905, fig 1). Here, a small, subrectangular flat slate pendant around 37 × 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 Crichie, and a radiocarbon date of 3495 ± 35 BP (GrA-19427, 1940–1690 cal BC at 2σ; Sheridan 2007b, 183) for its associated bone indicates it is contemporary with them. Both the Broomend of Crichie and the Seggiecrook pendants are very unusual within the canon of Early Bronze Age cinerary urn grave goods.

Bone pin fragment
ALISON SHERIDAN

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

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 × 14.6 × 3.3, and the perforations are slightly oval at their outer ends, one measuring 1.9 × 2.3, the other 1.9 × 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;

(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 ± 35 BP (1880–1640 cal BC at 2σ, GrA-24866) while one from Carwinning, North Ayrshire, has a virtually identical date of 3435 ± 45 BP (1880–1640 cal BC at 2σ, GrA-19421; Sheridan 2007, fig 14.10). These dates overlap at 1σ with those for the three dated urns from Broomend of Crichie.
EXCAVATIONS AT BROOMEND OF CRICHIE, 2005–7

Pots 7 and 8 in Dalrymple’s backfill beside the north-west portal stone; L 26.6, W 6.0–6.6; Th 5.0. The shaft tapers very slightly and is a rounded D-shape in cross section; the pin had probably originally been long and straight. Calcined; white in exposed subsurface, surface creamy-white and light grey, with hairline longitudinal cracks and deeper circumferential cracks. Made from a compact bone, probably a bovine long bone; it had probably been polished when new.

Pins such as this are not uncommon finds with deposits of Early Bronze Age cremated bone, mostly from urns, and the fact that they have been burnt indicates that they are likely to have been a fastener for a funerary garment. Alternative fasteners, also of bone, are toggles of various shapes; see Sheridan 2007, fig 14.11 for radiocarbon-dated examples of pins and toggles from Scotland.

Cremated bone
MARY LEWIS

Introduction
Three complete sets of cremated remains, excavated from urns in the laboratory, were analysed. In addition, material from come from a pit disturbed during Dalrymple’s excavation. Context 1143 was a scattered cremation, and was examined to determine whether more than one individual was represented.

Methods
Initially, the assessment of the cremated remains aimed to establish if the remains were human or non-human, and the minimum number of individuals (MNI) in each urn. The skeletal assessment aimed at determining the age and sex of the remains, where preservation of the appropriate elements existed, and any manifestations of disease the individuals may have suffered. Additionally any information regarding the cremation techniques was collected.

Once it was established that the remains were human, they were sieved through a stack of sieves, with 9.5mm, 5mm and 1.5mm mesh sizes. The bone from each sieve was weighed and sorted into identifiable and non-identifiable bone. The identifiable bone was divided into five categories: skull, ribs and spine, upper limb, lower limb and unidentifiable long bone fragments. All identifiable groups of bone were then weighed and described in detail.

The expected weight of an individual cremation has been estimated to be on average 1625.9g, but can range between 1001.5g and 2422g (McKinley 1993). The extent of burning will dictate the level of fragmentation of the remains, and in most cases, the majority of bones are expected to have been collected from the funeral pyre (McKinley 1993). Gibson (1993) has suggested that the bones in Collared Urns rarely amount to a complete individual, and suggests that certain skeletal elements may have been lost due to excarnation prior to burning. The colour of the burned material can provide a guide to burning temperatures and may reveal information about cremation techniques (Mays 1998).

Results
FEATURE 1065: URNED CREMATION
The human remains weighed 490.64g, with 26% of the bone material identifiable to bone group. All of the bone groups were represented, suggesting a complete individual was placed in the urn. The weight of the urn contents is to be expected as it contained the remains of a young child. Dental development (Smith 1991) and the appearance of the coracoid process of the scapula (Scheuer & Black 2000) suggest the child was aged between 3–4 years. The bone was in good condition, with three different types of colouration. The majority of the material was creamy-brown, suggesting burning at temperatures under 300ºC. However, fragments of scapula, first rib, humerus and ilium of the pelvis were coloured bright blue/white, indicating they had been exposed to much higher temperatures, up to 600ºC. Some skull fragments were black, or charred, a feature that tends to occur when remains are burned at over 300ºC.

FEATURE 1075: URNED CREMATION
The contents of this urn weighted 1635.73g, with 16% of the remains identifiable to bone group. The presence of the skull, teeth, torso, upper and lower body (including hand and feet) suggests that this was a complete cremation, with the majority of the elements collected after burning. There was no evidence of duplicate skeletal elements to suggest other human remains were included in the burial. Age and sex estimates were limited due to fragmentation, but the lack of evidence for joint disease associated with advancing age, and the fact that all of the teeth were completely developed, indicate a young adult. The small size of the remains, and the shape of the mandibular ramus, suggest a possible female.