

RADIOCARBON DATES

RADIOCARBON DATING RESULTS FROM *THE BEAKER PEOPLE PROJECT, 2007:* SCOTTISH SAMPLES

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The Beaker People Project is a major interdisciplinary five-year research programme, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and led by one of the authors (MPP, of Sheffield University. See Jay and Richards 2007 for details). It aims to investigate patterns of diet, mobility and health in British Beaker-associated skeletons (and in contemporaneous non-Beaker associated skeletons) to help address long-standing issues of identity. The project is examining 250 sets of remains, from five geochemically contrasting areas – namely eastern Scotland, Yorkshire, the Peak District, Wessex and Wales – using osteology, dental microwear, histology and pathology, and isotopic analysis of tooth enamel and bone. Summaries of the results so far have been published in Larsson and Parker Pearson 2007. A subset of the 250 individuals is being radiocarbon dated, to improve our understanding of Beaker chronology.

Scotland was the first area to be investigated, with material (mostly from the NE) taken mainly from the collections of National Museums Scotland (NMS) and Marischal Museum (ABDUA). The results obtained in 2006 were published in *Discovery and excavation in Scotland* 7, 198–201, and discussed within the overall framework of Scottish Beaker dating in Sheridan 2007. The last two Scottish results, obtained in 2007, are presented below. Both are AMS dates, from unburnt remains; the Kinaldie date is from a mandible and the Kilspindie date is from dentine; calibrated using OxCal v.3.10; 2 values are shown in **bold**. Further information on the findspots is available from Canmore. The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values are not cited, but it is clear that the individuals both had diets that were mainly or wholly terrestrial in origin. See also Curtis *et al.* this volume for further dates for Beaker-associated and other Early Bronze Age skeletons from Aberdeenshire, dated as part of the Marischal Museum's current *Beakers and Bodies Project*.

Beaker-associated skeleton:

Findspot, museum, Clarke 1970 no	Beaker type ¹	Laboratory no OxA-	Date BP	Date cal BC at 1 σ and 2 σ
Kinaldie (Kinaldy), Kintore, Aberdeenshire. National Museums Scotland, pot NMS X.EG 28; skull (adult male) NMS X.ET 35. Clarke no 1464F (not illustrated)	SN step 4 or 5 N3	V-2228-39	3815 \pm 29	2295–2200 2410–2140

1. Typology according to the schemes of Needham (2005), Shepherd (1986) and Clarke (1970), in that order.

Early Bronze Age skeleton from short cist with no ceramic associations:

Findspot, museum	Laboratory no OxA-	Date BP	Date cal BC at 1 σ and 2 σ
Kilspindie, Aberlady, E. Lothian. Marischal Museum, ABDUA 14429 (adult male)	V-2232-38	3680 \pm 29	2140–2020 2190–1960

Note that although this cist contained no grave goods, a nearby cist contained a vase food vessel. The date obtained for the aceramic cist is well within the date range for the currency of Scottish Food Vessel use (Sheridan 2004).

References

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