

# CAHERCONNELL CASHEL

## Dating, to date...

Identifying and dating the various phases of activity at Caherconnell cashel is an ongoing study, with every new radiocarbon date facilitating refinement of the chronological story. The dates obtained from the 2007, 2010 and 2011 excavations suggest the following:

### Phase 1

A fire-pit quarried into the bedrock, discovered in 2011, produced a 7<sup>th</sup>-century AD date. This probably represents pre-cashel activity, though future work may determine otherwise.

#### *C14:*

c.42 from 2011 – lower fill of fire-pit  
UBA-18915 cal AD 641-689 (2 sigma, 0.986)

### Phase 2

This phase is marked by the levelling off of the uneven ground surface and the construction of Caherconnell cashel. The walls were built partly on bedrock and partly on levelling material. A slab surface was laid down inside the cashel and occupation material accumulated on top of this. Radiocarbon dates suggest a 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> century date for this phase.

#### *C14:*

c.65 from 2007 – deposit on bedrock, c.16 from 2011 – occupation layer  
UBA-8564 cal AD 967-1046 (2 sigma, 0.903)  
UBA-18914 cal AD 981-1045 (2 sigma, 0.939)

### Phase 3

Phase 3 saw the laying of a new slab surface, and the build up of occupation material on top of it. Dates suggest 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century AD.

#### *C14:*

c.55 from 2007 – pre-house occupation layer, c.18 from 2010 – under entrance slabs,  
c.25 from 2011 – occupation layer  
UBA-9068 cal AD 1044-1099 (2 sigma, 0.452) and 1147-1210 (2 sigma, 0.401)  
UBA-18913 cal AD 1285-1326 (2 sigma, 0.419) and 1344-1395 (2 sigma, 0.581)  
UBA-18916 cal AD 1075-1155 (2 sigma, 0.673) and 1022-1059 (2 sigma, 0.310)

#### **Phase 4**

This phase was the final phase of occupation within the cashel. A new entrance was inserted, and a rectangular house built inside the north wall of the cashel. It dates to the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century, possibly into the start of the 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### ***C14:***

c.57 from 2007 – structure A occupation

UBA-8562 cal AD 1442-1525 (2 sigma, 0.653) and 1556-1632 (2 sigma, 0.347)

#### **Phase 5**

The final phase of activity includes post-occupation use of the cashel as an animal pen, collapse of structures and tumble of stone from parts of the cashel wall. It dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### ***C14:***

None yet.