

11 Radiocarbon determinations

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Four samples were assayed for radiocarbon determinations. These were chosen carefully to date uncontaminated cultural material (no easy task given the level of disturbance). Two samples came from context 08: the cultural material that lay in a scoop on the surface of the raised beach. The other two came from context 10: cultural material from within the 'hearth' area in B1. The results of the dates are presented below (Table 34).

These determinations place the site securely in the first half of the Mesolithic, at a time when there is

increasing archaeological evidence for settlement in western Scotland (Table 36). The dates from context 10 are remarkably similar. Those from context 08 range more widely, but given the vagaries of radiocarbon dating these determinations may be taken together as a coherent series suggesting that activity on site is likely to have taken place around the mid 7th millennium BC. Neither the dates nor the available archaeological evidence give much clue as to the overall size and duration of the site.

Table 34 Camas Daraich radiocarbon determinations, with calibrations carried out by the lab using OxCal 3.5 (Bronk Ramsey 2000) and the 1998 calibration curve (Stuiver *et al* 1998)

Lab code	Sample	Sq and context	Age BP	dC13	Cal date 1 sigma	Cal date 2 sigma
OxA-9782	<i>Corylus avellana</i> , charred seeds	B3 SW, cxt 08 Centre of track, black material in scoop	7670 ± 55	-24.2	6590–6440	6640–6420
OxA-9783	<i>Corylus avellana</i> , charred seeds	B3 NW, cxt 08 Centre of track, black material in scoop	7985 ± 50	-25.1	7060–6820	7060–6690
OxA-9784	<i>Corylus avellana</i> , charred seeds	B1 SE, cxt 10 Side of track, black hearth-fill	7545 ± 55	-25.4	6460–6260	6470–6240
OxA-9971	<i>Corylus avellana</i> , charred seeds	B1 SE, cxt 10 Side of track, black hearth-fill	7574 ± 75	-27.2	6480–6260	6570–6230