

LEPHIN REPORT

Excavation (September 2019)

NM [44579 57172](#) An excavation took place in September 2019 at Lephin (Canmore ID: 22085), and revealed that the main structure was partially rebuilt, probably in the late 14th or early 15th century. A burial was also discovered under the floor of the main structure, although at this stage it is unclear as to which phase of activity the burial dates from, it lends credence to the presence of a chapel. Additional postholes and a gully were also recorded below and sealed by the lowermost floor deposits, indicating that there is an earlier structure underneath the main one.

A sunken, probable turf-built structure with an internal hearth, internal room division and turf-built porch paved with stone were recorded to the E of the main structure. It is thought likely that this structure pre-dates the enclosure wall and may date to the Norse period. This structure was sealed by remnants of metalworking, which is postulated to be contemporary with the reuse of the chapel in the 14th or 15th century.

Further fragments of decorated burnt bone/antler and many pieces of burnt undecorated antler and burnt antler tips were recovered from charcoal rich deposits associated with a number of pits which had been previously dated to around the 11th century AD. The remains appear to indicate a substantial hearth upon which antler working waste was discarded.

Finally, within the circuit of the enclosure, a gully and pit were recorded located below a deliberately laid layer of rubble; the function of this gully and pit aren't yet known. A similar deliberately and neatly laid layer of rubble was recorded outside the entrance of the main structure, and both rubble deposits are thought to date to the last phase of occupation of the site when a barn was constructed over the remains of the enclosure wall.

Archive: NRHE (intended)

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