

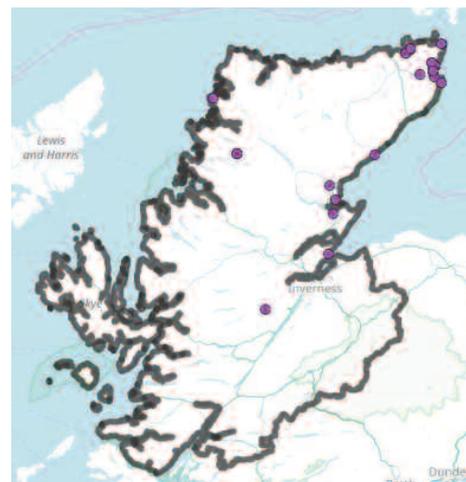
Bone Pin

Period: Iron Age or Early Historic
(c. 800 BC - c. 1000 AD)

Material: bone

Complete item

This bone pin is based upon examples found in domestic and craft-working sites from the Iron Age and Early Historic periods. Pins vary in the complexity of decoration from fairly simple shaping that can be quickly carved to very intricately carved and inlaid pins that



take considerable skill, such as one found near Rosemarkie.



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Plain pin found during recent excavations at Clachtoll Broch near Lochinver

A section of large mammal bone was sawn into the rough dimensions required and then the pin filed down to a smooth cylindrical shape with a long even point. The pin is slightly 'hipped' so that it gets slightly wider before starting to taper to a point. This design meant that it was less likely to slide out of the cloth it was pinning. The head of the pin has been shaped using various tools including knives and files.

Scotland in bone, antler or bronze, with simple bone examples dating as early as the Neolithic. They could be used in combination with thread to pin clothing together, or they may have been purely decorative. Some examples are very small, only a few centimetres long.

How and where might these pins have been worn?

Pin with amber insets found at a cave near Rosemarkie. Now in NMS, Edinburgh



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See also:

CT Bone and Antler Working

When? Iron Age

When? Early Historic

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