Figure 1 Location of the main sites discussed in the text. The probable maximum extent of Pictland is also highlighted and overlain on the modern outline of northern Britain. ©Crown Copyright/database right 2016. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service.
Figure 2 Examples of Pictish symbols (after RCAHMS 2007).
Figure 3 The Dunfallandy stone, Perthshire. The people depicted are ‘labelled’ with symbols: the figure upper left has a single symbol only (though note the stone surface here is unfinished perhaps leaving space for a second symbol), while the figure to the right and the mounted individual are next to symbol pairs © Crown Copyright: Historic Environment Scotland. Image DP 027927.
Figure 4 Ox phalange (right) decorated with double-disc and crescent and V-rod and a bone pin (left) decorated with double-disc and Z-rod from Pool, Sanday, Orkney. © Roderick Richmond for Orkney, Arts, Museums & Heritage.
Figure 5 The five symbol stones from Dunnicaer. © Crown Copyright: Historic Environment Scotland. A sixth stone is also recorded but is of uncertain form.
Figure 6 Excavations at Dunnicaer 2017 showing the former extent of the promontory.
Figure 7 Groundplan of the Rhynie high status enclosure complex with Craw Stane, stone socket and associated buildings (S1-S4) indicated.
Figure 8 Chronological model for Dunnicaer. Each distribution represents the relative probability of an archaeological event. The distributions in outline show the calibration of each result by the probability method (Stuiver and Reimer 1993). The solid distributions are posterior density estimates derived from the chronological model. This model is exactly defined by the square brackets and OxCal keywords at the left of the diagram.
Figure 9 Symbol typology. The earlier examples (a) Sculptor’s Cave, Covesea, (b) Dunnicaer, (c) Rhynie 8 and (d) Rhynie 6 show symbols only in outline with single-sided combs and no internal elaboration of the symbols. They are also modest in scale. The more monumental examples may be later such as the Craw Stane (Rhynie 1) (e). The Dairy Park, Dunrobin example (f) is likely to be late sixth-early seventh century in date and broadly contemporary with other examples showing decorative elaboration to the symbols, e.g. (g,h,i) Ballintomb, Inveravon, Brandsbutt. The last phase of symbols are on Class II monuments with very obvious references to manuscript art in their decorative styles which include interlace, raised bosses, peltae designs and key pattern, often carved in relief (j) Rosemarkie.