

Picts and medieval lords

Cruithnich is triathan nam meadhan-linntean

Pronounced: Creeneech is tree-an nam mean leenteean

Across the bay you can see the mighty ruins of medieval Urquhart Castle **Caisteal Urchardainn**, a highly important fortress which gave control over this part of the Great Glen. For at least the last 1,500 years there has been a stronghold on this site.

Land of the Picts **Tir nan Cruithneach**

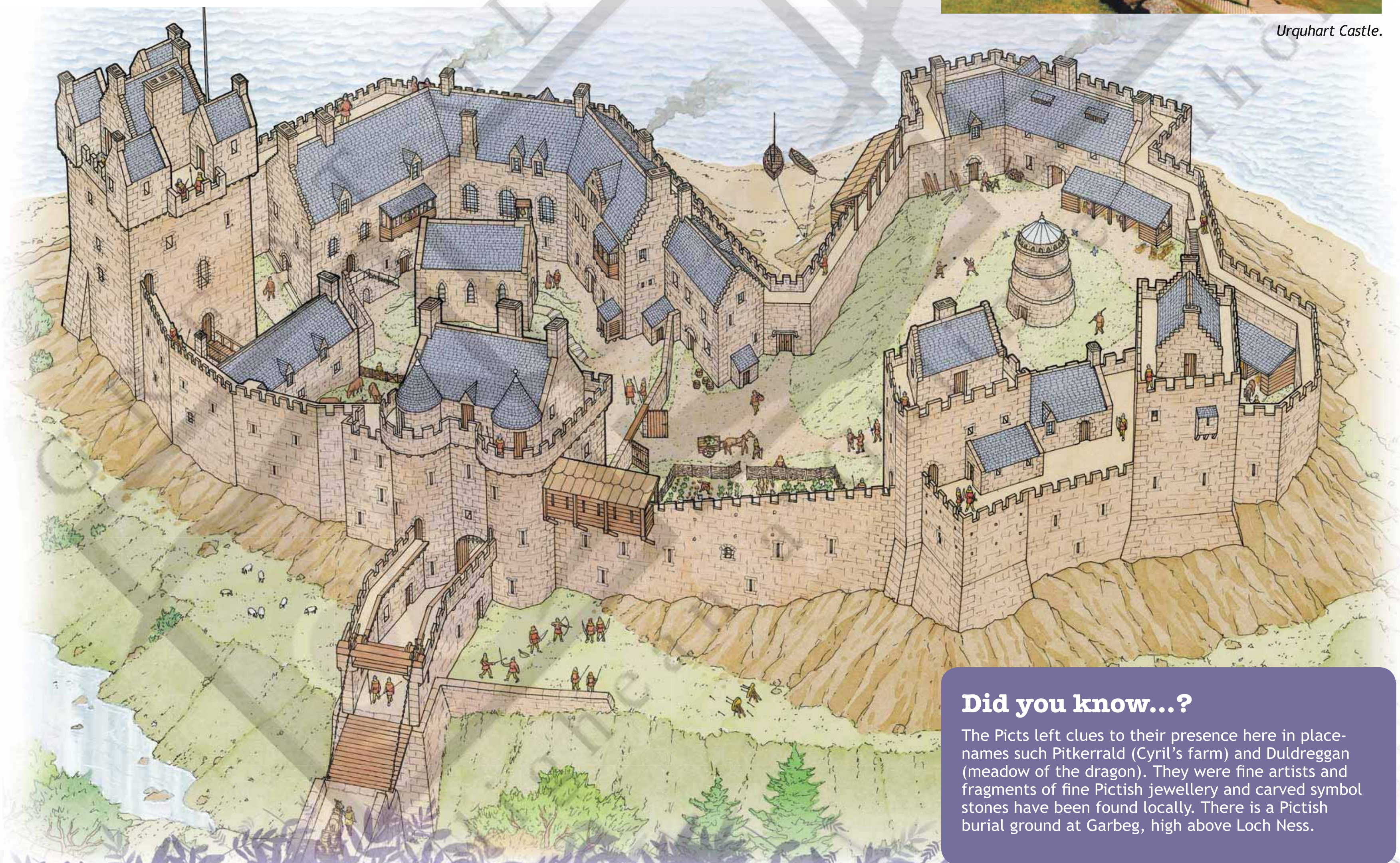
Around 580 AD, St Columba of Iona visited Urquhart Bay and baptised an elderly Pict, Emchath, who was one of a long line of local Pictish rulers. There are remains of what is thought to have been their fort on the site where Urquhart Castle was built around seven hundred years later.

A vast medieval estate **Oighreachd mhòr o na meadhan-linntean**

Throughout the Middle Ages Urquhart Castle was the centre of a vast and productive estate. The laird of Urquhart controlled the fertile cornlands and pastures near Loch Ness **Loch Nis** and the rich hunting grounds of Cluanie **Cluanaidh** in the mountains to the west.



Urquhart Castle.



Did you know...?

The Picts left clues to their presence here in place-names such as Pitkerrald (Cyril's farm) and Duldreggan (meadow of the dragon). They were fine artists and fragments of fine Pictish jewellery and carved symbol stones have been found locally. There is a Pictish burial ground at Garbeg, high above Loch Ness.