Channel Tunnel Rail Link

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The radiocarbon dates from Cuxton, Kent

by Michael J. Allen, T. MacKinder and Elaine L. Morris

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

1 INTRODUCTION

Most features, events or phases on site were discrete and /or were associated with sufficient material to date them without the necessity of radiocarbon results. The aim of the radiocarbon programme was twofold. Initially it was proposed to attempt to phase the development of the cemetery through radiocarbon dating integrated with stratigraphic data (see Table 2). The budget of only six determinations, combined with the predicted resolution required, placed this lower in the project priorities. However, an important Early Iron Age pottery assemblage exists and defining its precise chronology was considered important for relating this with other sites (Tollgate and Northumberland Bottom) and in comparing these in Kent with others in southern England.

The radiocarbon result is presented in Table 1 and figure 1 and has been calibrated with the atmospheric data presented by Stuiver *et al.* (1998) and performed on OxCal ver 3.9 (Bronk Ramsey 1995; 2001) and is expressed at the 95% confidence level with the end points rounded outwards to 10 years following the form recommended by Mook (1986).

2 PIT 343, TRANSITIONAL EARLY TO MIDDLE IRON AGE POTTERY

This pit contained 165 sherds (5870g) comprising an important Early Iron Age assemblage. There is clear evidence that the sherds were deposited as a single event, and none is residual or redeposited. The pottery is clearly Early Iron Age in character (700-400 cal BC), but has elements which suggest that this assemblage might extend into the transition from the end of the Early Iron Age to the Middle Iron Age (600/500-350/250 cal BC). Amongst the dumped pottery was a large quantity of charcoal and fragments of charred Pomiodeae of only 14-15 years age was selected and submitted.

The result of 2267±30 BP (NZA-22593) gives a calibrated date of 400-200 cal BC. Even this span of 200 years is clearly useful and demonstrates that this pottery falls more into the Middle Iron Age than the Earlier Iron Age. However, the radiocarbon distribution is clearly bimodal (Figure 1) suggesting periods of either 400-350 cal BC (41%) or 320-200 cal BC (54%) are more likely. Both are more-or-less equally likely. The implications and significance of this are discussed more fully elsewhere by Morris.

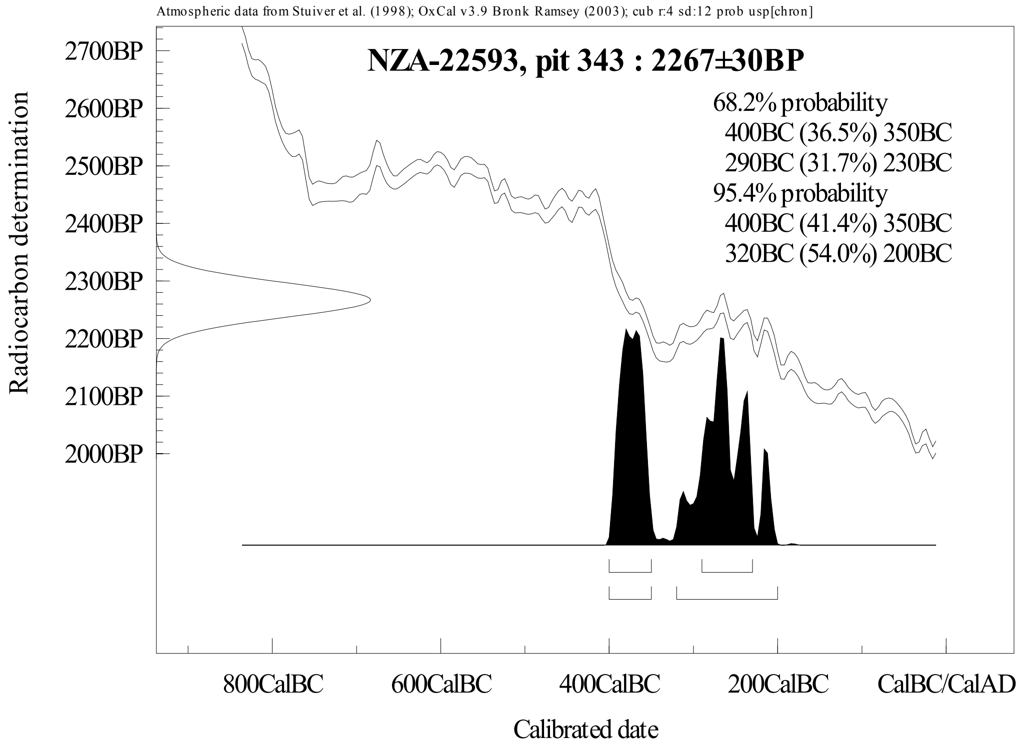

Figure 1. Radiocarbon distribution of dated charcoal from pit 343. Note the clearly bimodal distribution

3 REFERENCES

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Feature	*context*	*sample*	*context details*	*material*	*result no.*	*δ C^{13}*	*result BP*	*cal*
Pit 343	342	11	Lower of two pit fills	Pomioidea charcoal >15yrs	NZA-22593	-26.57	2267±30	400-200 BC

Table 1. Radiocarbon determinations from Cuxton

4 APPENDIX

A series of Saxon humna burials were selected and considered for submission (Table 2). The aim was to define the longevity of use of the grave yard, examine its spatial development and provide some chronological constraint on a series of burial events. As the number of results required to provide enough detail was considerably higher than the allocation for this site, and that combined with the expected date ranges and the value of these results, these were not submitted.

Feature	grave	context details	material
Skeleton 246	246	with knife/spear (type C2)	human left femur
Skeleton 249	250	no finds; extreme W of cemetery	human left femur
Skeleton 280	279	no finds:. Cut by 2 burials (AD 600-700)	human left femur
Skeleton 296	297	beads and iron objects. Cuts 280 (AD 600-700) nr N edge	human left femur
Skeleton 360	361	no finds: nr E edge of cemetery	human left femur
Skeleton 378	379	no finds: nr E edge of cemetery	human left femur

Table 2. Preliminary list of selected graves to date