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The radiocarbon dates from Hurst Wood, Charing, Kent

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1 THE RADIOCARBON DATES FROM HURST WOOD, CHARING, KENT

Two undated burnt pits of contrasting size were dated. In each case identified charcoal twigs was selected for radiocarbon dating; pit 104 clematis (*Clematis vitalba*) from the primary fill (context 107), and pit 140 *Maloideaea* twigs (hawthorn, apple, pear) from the upper fill (context 143).

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

The results indicate very different ages for the burning. Pit 140 gave a result of 2742±45 BP which calibrates to 1000-8000 cal BC and indicates a typical Late Bonze Age feature, while pit 104 gave a result of 1076±60 BP which calibrates to cal AD 780-1160, Late Saxon to early medieval. These results indicate burning activities occurred at this locality at very different times separated by nearly two millennia. As the quantity of charcoal in each context was relatively high indicating the deposition of significant but discreet burning episodes, we can discount the likelihood of residuality. Dated vine (*Vitis vinifera*) charcoal from pit 104 confirms its existence in southern Britain in the Late Saxon period. This is paralleled by dated pollen evidence from Market Lavington, Wiltshire (Wessex Archaeology unpubl.).

Feature	*context*	*sample*	*context details*	*material*	*result no.*	*δC^{13}*	*result BP*	*cal*
pit 104	107	9	charcoal rich fill	Clematis vitalba	NZA-12274	-26.1	1076±60	AD 780-1160
pit 140	143	14	charcoal rich fill	Maloideae	NZA-12284	-25.5	2742±45	1000-800

Table 1. Radiocarbon results from Hurst Wood.

2 REFERENCES

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