Channel Tunnel Rail Link London and Continental Railways Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture

The radiocarbon dates from Whitehill Road Barrow,

Longfield and Newbarn, Kent

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	THE RADIOCARBON DATES FROM WHITEHILL ROAD BARROW, LONGFIELD							
AND	NEWBARN, KENT	3						
2	REFERENCES	4						
LIST	Γ OF TABLES							
Tabl	e 1. Radiocarbon data from Whitehill Road	4						
LIS	Γ OF FIGURES							
Figu	re 1. Radiocarbon distribution from the Whitehill Road skeleton	3						

1 THE RADIOCARBON DATES FROM WHITEHILL ROAD BARROW, LONGFIELD AND NEWBARN, KENT

A flexed burial was associated with a 'necklace' of 21 amber beads was recovered from a grave that cut into the silted inner ditch of the double-ditched round barrow Such 'exotic' material with burials tends to be associated with the Wessex Culture towards the end of the Early Bronze Age (ie *c*. 1700-1500 BC). The aim of dating was to facilitate comparison with other dated necklace burials and determine if it belongs to the Late Neolithic/ Early Bonze Age (i.e. 'Beaker', *c*. 2500-1700 BC), the Early Bronze Age (post beaker *c*. 1700-1500 cal BC), or Late Bronze Age (1150-700 cal BC). Two dated necklace burials from Wiltshire (Snail Down: 3485±110 BP. OxA-4211, and Amesbury 39, 3620±90 BP, HAR-1237) provide dates of 2150-1500 and 2140-1780 cal BC respectively; both falling within the broad range of 2300-1500 (Needham 1996, table 4).

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).



Figure 1. Radiocarbon distribution from the Whitehill Road skeleton

Human bone fragments from the flexed burial gave a radiocarbon results of 3273±30BP (NZA-22740). When calibrated (1620-1440 cal BC) this clearly places this burial as post-Beaker, and undoubtedly later than the dated necklace burials (2150-1780 cal BC). It falls into the Early Bronze Age, rather than Beaker-dated, range.

2 **REFERENCES**

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context	context d	etails		material	result no.	δC^{13}	result BP	cal BC
41	skeleton	with	amber	human bone frags	NZA-22740	-21.1	3273±30	1620-1440
	beads							

Table 1. Radiocarbon data from Whitehill Road