

Radiocarbon Dating Sample – SK047

(Carina Summerfield-Hill, 2010)

A sample was taken from a rib fragment deriving from human burial SK047 for radiocarbon dating. The burial was excavated during a watching brief at All Saints Church, Marsworth, Buckinghamshire during the construction of a WC and tea port with associated drainage (Summerfield-Hill 2010).

SK047 was a mature adult male excavated from the klargester trench at a depth between 1.10-1.25m below ground level (BGL), with the grave base at 1.27m BGL. SK047 cut burial SK044, and was overlaid by burials SK002 SK009 SK012 SK015 SK024 SK035 at a higher depth between 0.54-1.10m BGL.

The radiocarbon dating results (Lab Code: SUERC-30956) indicate a Radiocarbon Age BP at 835 ± 30 years BP (before 1950 AD). The calibrated date indicates a 68.2% probability date of 1175-1240 AD and a 95.4% probability date of 1150-1270 AD (Fig. 1).

The results point to SK047 dating to the 12th/13th century. In *c.*1120 a church was constructed on the site thought to be a wooden structure, of which no visible remains now exist. The original church consisted of the present south aisle, likely dating to the end of the 12th century. In *c.*1330 the south chapel, nave and chancel were built (Page 1925; Pevsner & Williamson 2000; Short Guide to All Saints Church). The C¹⁴ results suggest that SK047 was interred at the time of the original south aisle church, and may even possibly date to the original wooden church. Burial SK047 also cuts through burial SK044 indicating that SK044 pre-dates SK047, whilst six burials overlie SK047 (see above) that post-date burial SK047.

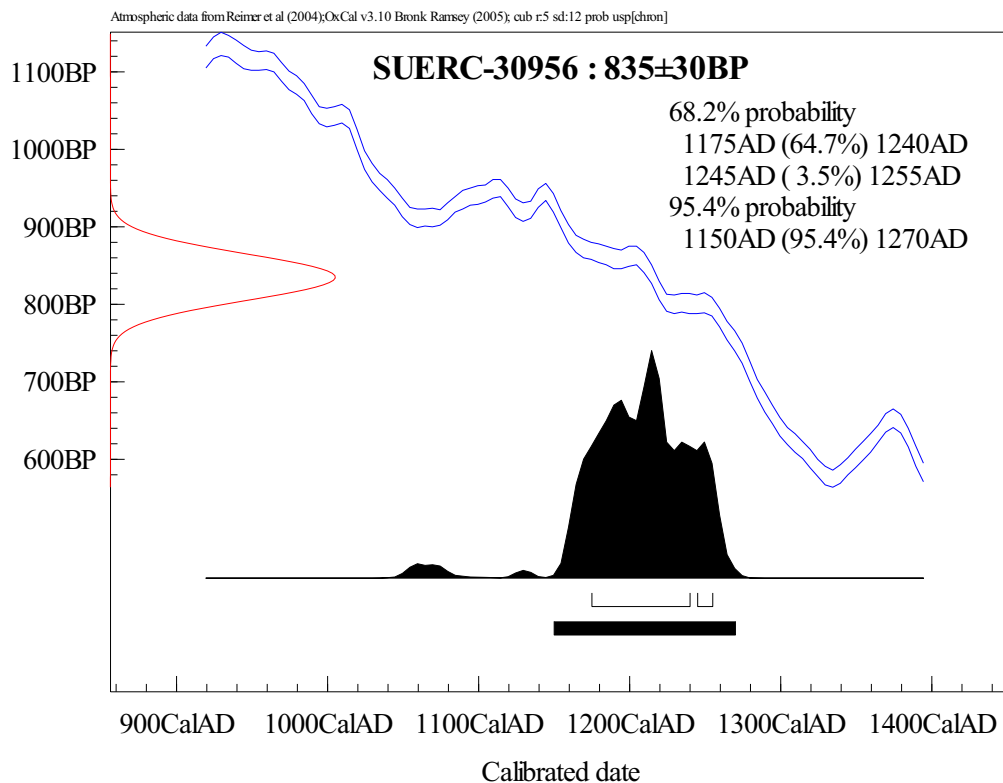


Figure. 1: C14 dating results

All Saints Church, Church Road, Marsworth, Buckinghamshire
1270/MAS

References

Page, V 1925 *The Victorian History of the County of Hertford, Volume 3*. The University of London Institute of Historical Research (Folkstone & London), p.391-397.

Pevsner, N & Williamson, E 2000 *The Buildings of England Buckinghamshire*. Penguin Books, London, p.466.

Summerfield-Hill C 2010 *Watching Brief: All Saints Church, Church Lane, Marsworth, Buckinghamshire*. Archaeological Services and Consultancy Report. ASC: 1270/MAS.

SUERC *Scottish Universities Environment Research Centre, The University of Glasgow*.

A Short Guide: All Saints Church, Marsworth. Leaflet.