ENGLISH HERITAGE

Centre for Archaeology
Scientific Dating Service

Details of Radiocarbon Sample

For Dating Lab use
Lab No

Result

$\delta^{13}C$:

$\delta^{15}N$:

Other lab nos

Please complete this form for every radiocarbon sample which you wish to submit for dating. The detailed information requested is essential for the assessment and full scientific publication of your samples and may be published verbatim. Incorrect or incomplete submissions will cause delay.

Name of site	Beccles
Name or code of series	Beccles#2
Your sample reference	Beccles#2 430cm

Type of material Please mark with X

Animal bone		Charcoal		Leather		Shell		Water	
Antler		Fabric		Peat	x	Slag		Wood	
Bone		Grain		Plant macrofossil		Soil			
Carbonised residue		Human bone		Sediment		Thatch			

Specific identification eg left tibia, *Quercus* sp., sapwood,		**Weight of sample** eg less than 5g	
Name of person carrying out identification and institution affiliated to		**Date identified**	
Collector's name	Dr Tom Hill	**Date collected**	August 2007
Submitter's name	Dr Ben Gearey	**Date submitted**	August 2007

Estimated archaeological period Please mark with X

Palaeolithic	Until 10,000 BP		Post medieval	1540 – 1955 cal AD	
Mesolithic	10,000 BP – 4,000 cal BC	x	Holocene		
Neolithic	4,000 – 2,500 cal BC		GS–1 (Younger Dryas)		
Bronze Age	2,500 – 600 cal BC		GI–1a (Allerød)		
Iron Age	cal BC 600 – 43 cal AD		GI–1b+c (Older Dryas)		
Roman	43 – 410 cal AD		GI–1d+e (Bølling)		
Early medieval	410 – 1066 cal AD		GS–2 (Middle Weichselian)		
Medieval	1066 – 1540 cal AD				

For AML use

AML approval
AML no

Financial year
Deadline

Notes for dating laboratory

Context		
Was the sample Please mark with X	x	Sealed in recognisable layer?
		Sealed in a localised feature? *eg a grave or pit*
		Unstratified
		Other *eg wooden pile foundation*
This is known Please mark with X	x	Confidently
		Probably
		Doubtfully

Stratigraphic details

Please give details of the contextual and stratigraphic location of the sample, attaching plan or section. Please discuss the possibility of intrusion or residuality *eg inhumation G76 overlying posthole P27 and inhumation G124 and cut by inhumation G128. The skeleton was fully articulated, removing any possibility of disturbance or excarnation.*

Analysis of aerial photographs, LiDAR and grey literature as part of the Suffolk River Valleys Project resulted in the identification of a thick peat sequence within the valley floodplain of the River Waveney, proximal to the town of Beccles.

Beccles#2

0-100cm	Disturbed topsoil/made ground (possible dumping from proximal drainage ditch – unsampled)
100-138cm	Dark red-brown silt-rich well humified peat
138-232cm	Dark brown very well humified peat with occasional wood fragments
232-360cm	Dark red-brown very well humified peat with occasional wood fragments
360-400cm	Dark red-brown herbaceous humified peat
400-430cm	Dark brown-black very well humified peat

Sample Beccles#2 430cm was taken from the base of a dark brown-black well humified peat.

Environmental Details
Please give full details of the burial environment of the sample, including local geology, nearness to water table, calcareous environment, rootlet penetration, disturbance etc. *eg grave 1.7m from surface, waterlogged in winter, cut into natural chalk (pH 7.5). Possible contamination from modern septic tank to NW.*

The underlying geology of this part of the Waveney Valley comprises glaciofluvial drift and chalk till.

The stratigraphy and sedimentology of the deposits suggests the area has infilled naturally through biogenic in-situ sedimentation. There is no evidence for channel migration in this part of the Waveney Valley, indicating sedimentation in a back-water lagoonal environment is a more likely depositional environment than a palaeochannel setting. Estuarine sediments are present further north from the location of core Beccles#2, indicative of estuarine inundation in the surrounding area. The sediments were extracted using a Russian corer to a depth of 4.30m. The natural water table was located c. 0.8m from the surface. Rootlet penetration was not evident within the core upon extraction, although phragmites was present (which are known to penetrate peat to considerable depths).

Objective

Please describe explicitly the relevance of this sample to the specific dating objective(s) of the project. This information should hold good regardless of the final result of the analysis. This is **your** chance to justify the expense of dating **your** samples!

eg to establish the period of use of the cemetery to the W of the church and N of the fourteenth-century boundary ditch, the absolute date of this burial in comparison to G124 which it seals and G128 which cuts it, and to provide useful comparative information for the osteology since this skeleton has also provided a stable isotope measurement ($\delta^{15}N$ 6.2□).

- To determine the timing of organic sedimentation across the Holocene floodplain.
- To determine the duration of biogenic sedimentation and variations in the rates of sedimentation during the depositional history.

Relationship of sample to objective Please mark with X		
x	Certain	The sample came from the object itself *eg skeleton in grave*
	Very likely	There is a direct functional relationship between the sample and the objective *eg coffin in grave*
	Likely	The nature and position of the sample suggests a functional relationship *eg worked antler in an occupation layer*
	Possible	Relationship less obvious because material small and scattered *eg bone fragments in grave*

Estimated age of sample at death Please mark with X	
x	Less than 20 years *eg twigs, grain, bone*
	Could be several decades but less than 100 years *eg charcoal from short lived woody species (eg Corylus avellana, Prunus* sp.*, Pinus* sp.*, Salix/populus* sp.*)*
	Could be centuries old *eg charcoal from long lived woody species (eg Quercus* sp., *Fraxinus* sp., *Taxus baccata)*
	Unknown *eg 'dark earth', soil*

Sample collection, storage and treatment
How was the sample collected? Please include details of size and type of monolith tins or coring equipment if appropriate *eg concentration of charcoal trowelled into polythene bags (double bagged), charcoal separated by water floatation* Using 7cm Russian Corer to 4.30m depth
How has it been stored? *Eg double bagged in polythene in cardboard box* Core preserved in 1m sections in guttering, wrapped in the field, sub-sampled and stored in fridge on returning to the laboratory.
Have any preservatives, fungacides, glues etc been used? Please give details of chemicals No
Was the sample waterlogged when collected? No
Has it been dried and if so how? No
Can the whole sample be used for dating? Yes
Is more material available? We could collect more material from appropriate samples
Has this or any related sample been sent to another laboratory for dating? Please give laboratory references and radiocarbon ages No

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