

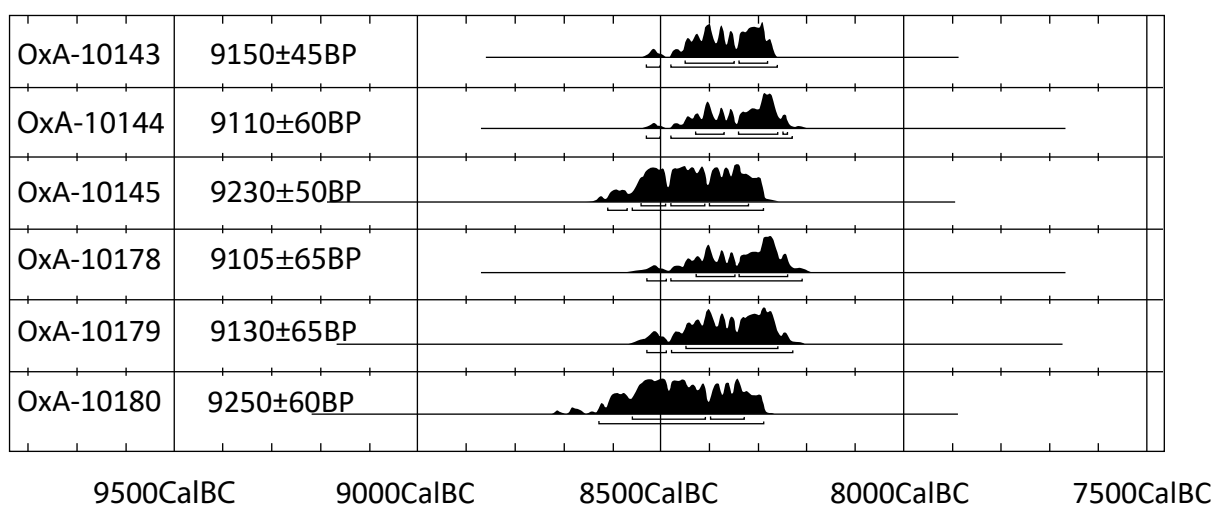
6. RADIOCARBON DATING

A tight sequence of six radiocarbon AMS dates were obtained from carbonised hazelnut shell samples (Lawson 2001; Ashmore 2004) (Illus 12). The sampled material was recovered from the central pit features and spreads excavated within Trench D (Table 14) and as such are considered to be directly associated with the artefactual assemblage recovered at Cramond (Saville 2008: 210–11).

The dates revealed that the occupation fell around the middle of the 9th millennium bc (8630–8210

cal bc) and reflect an essentially short-term and possibly repeated occupation, most probably by the same or similar social group.

Cramond is currently the earliest of the recently excavated Mesolithic Forth Littoral sites with nearby Echline Fields (Robertson et al 2013) and East Barns (Engl & Gooder 2021) producing secure dates of 8278–8022 cal bc and 8200–7954 cal bc respectively. Further along the coast the site of Howick in Northumberland (Waddington 2007) revealed an occupation around 7800 cal bc.



**Illus 12** Cramond radiocarbon determinations and their calibration (OxCal v3.10). (Atmospheric data from Reimer et al (2004). OxCal v3.10 Bronk Ramsey (2009): cub r:5 sd: 12 prob usp [chron])

Table 14 Radiocarbon date designations

Number	Sample	Material	Context	Description	Deposition	Radiocarbon age (bp)
OxA-10143	CR95/74/1409	Seeds, hazelnut shell	1409	Circular spread Deposit sealing 1425, 1430 & 1432	Primary	9150±45
OxA-10144	CR95/283/1402/M	Seeds, hazelnut shell	1402	Fill of pit 1425	Primary	9110±60
OxA-10145	CR95/291/1409	Seeds, hazelnut shell	1409	Circular spread Deposit sealing 1425, 1430 & 1432	Primary	9230±50
OxA-10178	CR95/956/1426/M	Seeds, hazelnut shell	1426	Fill of pit 1430	Secondary	9105±65
OxA-10179	CR95/958/1426K	Seeds, hazelnut shell	1426	Fill of pit 1430	Secondary	9130±65
OxA-10180	CR95/1066/1431	Seeds, hazelnut shell	1431	Fill of scoop 1432	Primary	9250±60
UBA-36379	CR95 S.933 C.1428	Hazelnut shell ( <i>Corylus avellana</i> )	1428	Fill of pit 1459	Primary	9003±67
UBA-36380	CR95 S.083 C.1420	Hazelnut shell ( <i>Corylus avellana</i> )	1420	Fill of pit 1430	Primary	8835±50