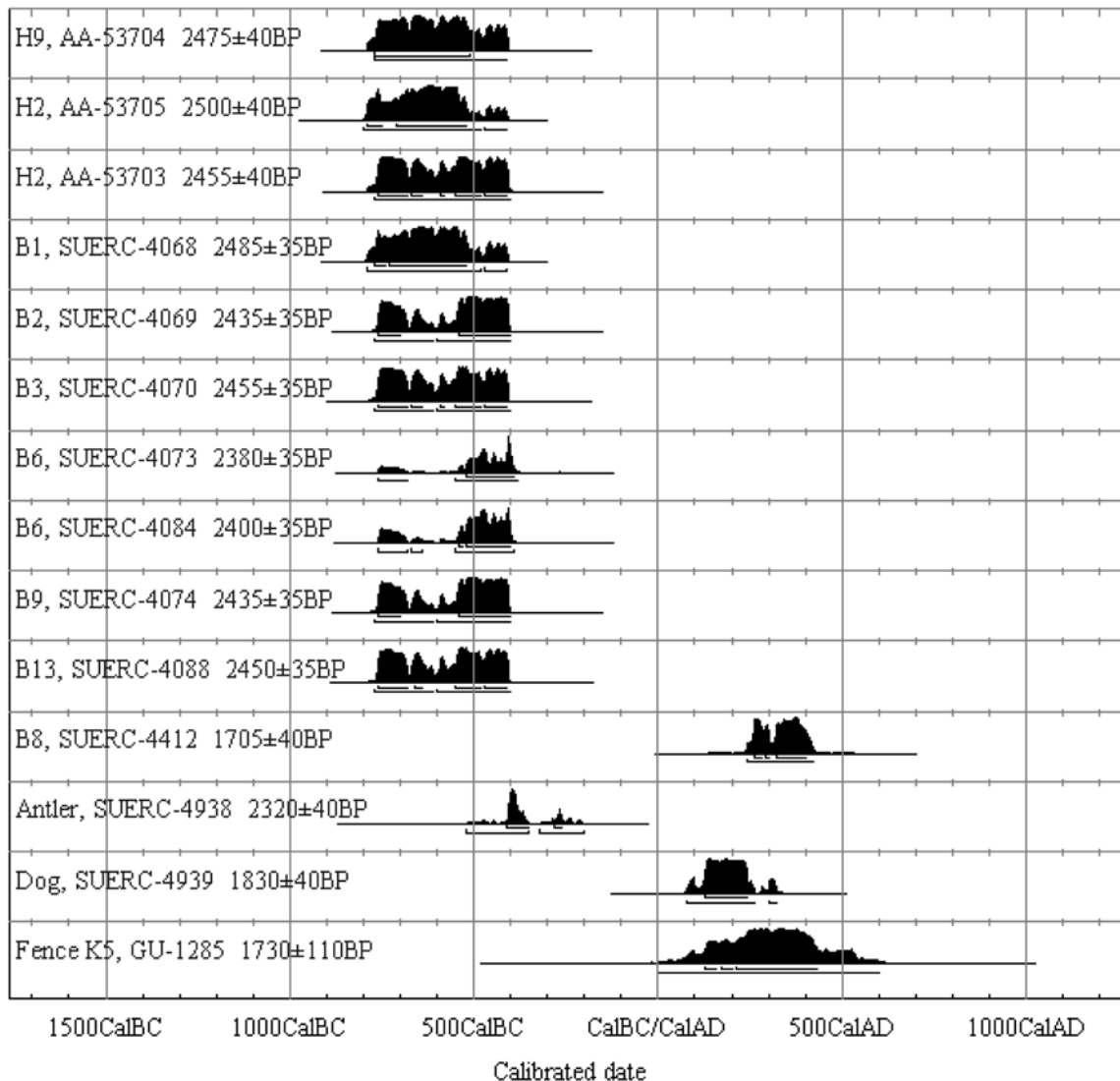


10 Radiocarbon Dates from the Iron Age Settlement

The results of the radiocarbon dates have been described where appropriate in the site description. However, a brief appraisal of the group as a whole is merited, to investigate what information they may impart as to site phasing as a whole. The determinations are sorted by group in *illus 65*, with the original Glasgow University dates omitted, a result of their long calibrated ranges, except where no corroboration is available from more recent determinations (GU-1285).

The key points to note from comparisons between different dated elements of the settlement are that:

- The dates from Houses 2 and 9 are not statistically different, and thus the buildings could be contemporary constructions. The dates indicate that Houses 2 and 9 were most probably constructed prior to 400 cal BC. House 2 may also have been rebuilt and enlarged prior to 400 cal BC, although the possibility of reuse of old wood from the original building within the secondary structure renders this less certain.
- The cemetery was also in use prior to 400 cal BC and, with one exception, the radiocarbon dates are indistinguishable from those obtained from



Illus 65 Radiocarbon dates (OxCal v 3.5; Bronk Ramsay 2000)

Houses 2 and 9. The date from Burial 8 (SUERC-4412) is several centuries younger than those obtained from other burials, although there are good archaeological reasons for doubting the reliability of this determination (discussed in [Section 7.6](#)).

- The dates from Burials 1 and 13 are important, as stratigraphic evidence indicates that they were interred before (Burial 13) and after (Burial 1) the removal of the outer enclosure palisade. This provides proxy evidence that the outer enclosure palisade was dismantled prior to 400 cal BC.
- The radiocarbon date from the antler recovered from pit O48 (SUERC-4938) has a calibrated range that partly overlaps with those from both Houses 2 and 9 and the reliably dated burials, and could relate to later occupation of the settlement.
- The date from the fence outside House 7 (GU-1285), although with only a wide calibrated range, is statistically later than those from Houses 2 and 9, the reliably dated pit burials, and the antler from pit O48. It indicates that activity on the settlement site continued into the first millennium cal AD.

- The dog burial took place in the early first millennium cal AD (SUERC-4939). The radiocarbon date is consistent with that obtained from the House 7 fence nearby, but is statistically more recent than those from Houses 2 and 9, all the reliably dated burials, and the antler from pit O48.

Therefore, certain elements of the site can be placed into a chronological sequence on the basis of the radiocarbon dates, and can contribute towards the development of an overall model of settlement development. The construction of Houses 2 and 9 and the formation of the cemetery could have been contemporary. The cemetery probably formed both before and after the removal of the outer enclosure palisade. The burial of the dog and the date from the House 7 fence-line relate to a chronologically distinct phase of occupation over four centuries after the dated activity related to the cemetery and Houses 2 and 9.