

NEW RADIOCARBON DATES AND A REVIEW OF THE CHRONOLOGY OF PREHISTORIC POPULATIONS FROM THE MINUSINSK BASIN, SOUTHERN SIBERIA, RUSSIA

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ABSTRACT. The results are presented of a new program of radiocarbon dating undertaken on 88 human skeletons. The individuals derived from Eneolithic to Early Iron Age sites—Afanasievo, Okunevo, Andronovo (Fedorovo), Karasuk, and Tagar cultures—in the Minusinsk Basin of Southern Siberia. All the new dates have been acquired from human bone, which is in contrast to some of the previous dates for this region obtained from wood and thus possibly unreliable due to old-wood effects or re-use of the timber. The new data are compared with the existing ¹⁴C chronology for the region, thereby enabling a clearer understanding to be gained concerning the chronology of these cultures and their place within the prehistory of the Eurasian steppes.

INTRODUCTION

The results of radiocarbon dating are of particular importance for the establishment of the chronology of cultures not recorded in written sources, as is the case for most of the cultures of prehistoric Southern Siberia. Some of the first ¹⁴C dates obtained for the prehistoric complexes of Southern Siberia (Scythian monuments of the Altai Mountain region) were published in *Radiocarbon* in 1965 (Butomo 1965), and since then the various aspects of the area's ¹⁴C chronology have been presented and discussed in its pages (e.g. Sementsov et al. 1969, 1998; Semyontsov et al. 1972; Görsdorf et al. 1998b, 2001; Alekseev et al. 2001; Zaitseva et al. 2004). The following paper focuses on the chronology of the prehistoric populations of the Minusinsk Basin, Southern Siberia, and presents new ¹⁴C dates and a review of the previous understanding of the region's chronology.

The Minusinsk Basin is a region of Southern Siberia and is located in the territory of the modern Republic of Khakasia and the Krasnoyarsk Province in the middle valley of the river Yenisey and upper valley of the river Chulym. It comprises 4 smaller basins—the Nazarovo, Chulym-Yenisey, Syda-Erba, and Minusinsk basins (henceforth the term “minor Minusinsk Basin” will be used throughout the text to avoid confusion; see Figure 1). The first division of the prehistoric cultures of the area into periods was devised during the 1920s by S A Teploukhov (1929) and the situation did not change until the 1960s, when the Okunevo culture of the Early Bronze Age was identified (Maksimov 1965, 1968a,b, 1975a,b). Archaeologists currently believe that archaeological cultures, ranging in date from the Eneolithic through to the Iron Age, successively lived in the region from the 25th century BC to the 1st century AD (Table 1).

The traditional chronology of the steppe cultures was originally established on the basis of cross-cultural synchronization with Chinese bronzes, with European sites, and on 1 occasion with “Mycenaean” ornaments (Kuzmina 2007:459–466). The traditional chronology, however, has appeared to be in conflict with the dating sequence derived on the basis of ¹⁴C dates, particularly for the cultures

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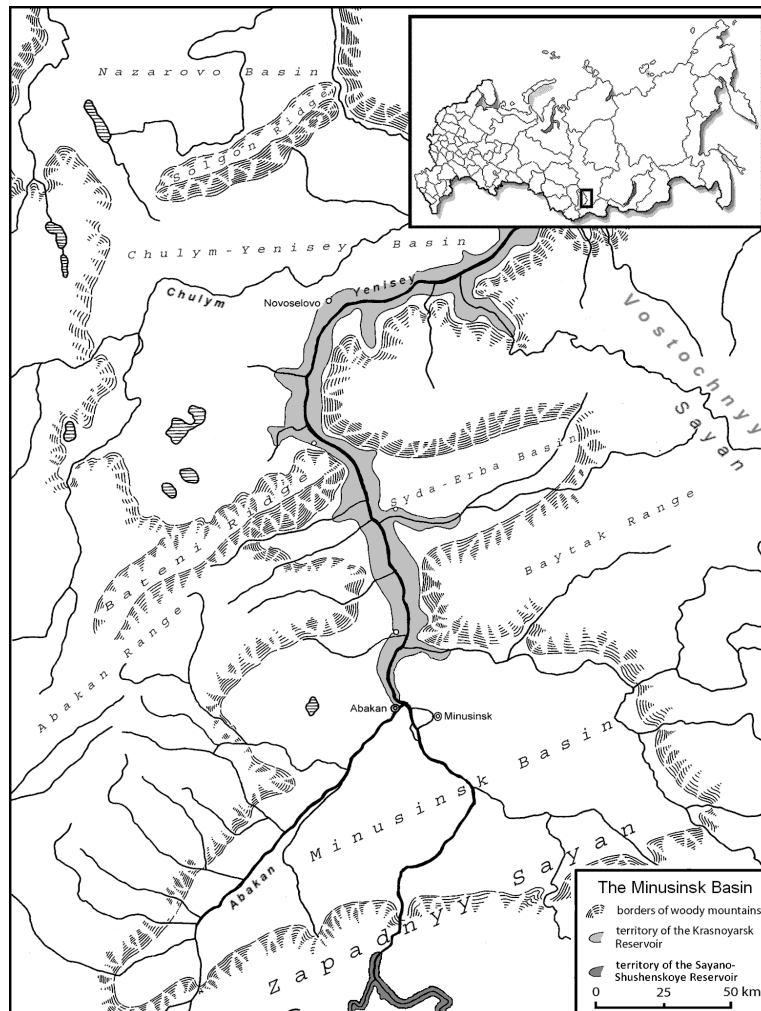


Figure 1 Location of the Minusinsk Basin (modified after Vadetskaya 1986)

Table 1 Eneolithic to Early Iron Age cultures of the Minusinsk Basin and their periodization.

Culture	Period	Traditional dating	¹⁴ C dating
Afanasievo ^a	Eneolithic	25th–20th centuries BC	37th–25th centuries BC
Okunevo	Bronze Age	19th–17th/16th centuries BC	25th–19th centuries BC
Andronovo ^a		17th/16th–13th centuries BC	19th–15th centuries BC
Karasuk		13th–8th centuries BC	14th–10th centuries BC
Tagar	Early Iron Age	10th/8th centuries BC–1st century AD	9th century BC–2nd century AD

^aThe dates are presented only for Minusinsk Basin sites.

of the Middle Yenisey area. Since the 1960s, more than 270 ¹⁴C dates have been obtained for the 5 prehistoric cultures of the Minusinsk Basin (Appendices 1–5). The results have tended to suggest that the cultures are older, and in some cases considerably older, than traditional archaeological dates, based on cross-correlation of material culture (e.g. Görsdorf et al. 2001:1117; Alekseev et al. 2005:223; Table 1). The discussion over the discrepancy between the archaeological and ¹⁴C dating of the populations is still ongoing.

Only a few attempts have been made to summarize the ^{14}C data obtained for the area's prehistoric populations (e.g. Scott et al. 2004; Alekseev et al. 2005; Kuzmin 2008). The current paper will not only attempt to synthesize the results of all prior ^{14}C studies for the region, but will also greatly augment this corpus of information with the addition of 88 new ^{14}C dates. This dating program is part of an ongoing research project that aims to explore the complex interrelationships between the environment, lifestyle, and diet of the prehistoric populations of the Minusinsk Basin. The new dates have been obtained from adult human skeletons derived from various cemeteries of the Afanasievo, Okunevo, Andronovo, Karasuk, and Tagar cultures (see Tables 3, 5, 8, 10, and 13). The paper will discuss how the new series of ^{14}C dates compare to the current archaeological and ^{14}C models for the emergence and development of the different prehistoric cultures of the Minusinsk Basin.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A total of 88 adult human bone samples were taken for accelerator mass spectrometer (AMS) ^{14}C dating. Adult individuals of both sexes and different age categories were sampled. Samples of 2 g of cortical bone were taken from different parts of the skeleton, with the objective of retrieving a suitable sample of bone while causing minimal damage to the skeleton. All samples were prepared at the $^{14}\text{CHRONO}$ Centre for Climate, the Environment, and Chronology, Queen's University Belfast. The bone collagen was extracted following the ultrafiltration method described in Brown et al. (1988), using VivaspinTM filters cleaned to remove glycerin used to preserve the filter membrane, 2 centrifugations with ultrapure water (MilliQTM), ultrasonication in MilliQ water, and 3 more centrifugations with MilliQ following the method of Bronk Ramsey et al. (2004). In summary, the bone was decalcified in 2% hydrochloric acid (HCl), followed by protein lysing in HCl (pH 2) in a culture tube that was placed on a heating block at a temperature of 58 °C. The material was then filtered using the cleaned Vivaspin 15S ultrafilters, which have a molecular weight cutoff of 30 kD to remove smaller contaminants such as humic acids. The resultant collagen was then freeze-dried.

The prepared collagen was sealed under vacuum in quartz tubes with an excess of copper oxide (CuO) and combusted at 850 °C to produce carbon dioxide (CO₂). The CO₂ was converted to graphite on an iron catalyst following the zinc reduction method of Slota et al. (1987). Two samples (UBA-8786 and UBA-8789) produced <1 mg carbon; thus, it was necessary to convert this material to graphite on an iron catalyst using the hydrogen reduction method of Vogel et al. (1987). The graphite was then pressed to produce a "target," which was then subject to AMS dating. Two laboratories were utilized for AMS dating: 10 samples (lab code UB) were dated in the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit (ORAU), University of Oxford, while 78 samples (lab code UBA) were analyzed in the $^{14}\text{CHRONO}$ Centre, Queen's University Belfast. The ^{14}C age and 1 standard deviation were calculated using the Libby half-life (5568 yr), following the conventions of Stuiver and Polach (1977). The ^{14}C ages were then corrected for isotopic fractionation using the AMS-measured $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, which accounts for both natural and machine fractionation, and thus is not presented in the tables summarizing our dates. The %C, %N, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ were analyzed using an elemental analyzer-isotopic ratio mass spectrometer (EA-IRMS). Following the guidelines of DeNiro (1985), only samples with C:N_{atomic} values between 2.9 and 3.6 were included in the study. The stable isotope results will be presented elsewhere and will not be discussed in any detail here. Calibration of the ^{14}C dates was undertaken using CALIB 5.0.2 software (Stuiver et al. 2005) and the IntCal04 calibration curve (Reimer et al. 2004).

BACKGROUND AND RESULTS

Afanasievo Culture

Archaeologists agree that the Afanasievo is the earliest Eneolithic culture in Southern Siberia (e.g. Gryaznov and Vadetskaya 1968:159; Maksimenkov 1975b:49; Kyzlasov 1992:9; Gryaznov 1999:45). The date for the beginning of the Afanasievo culture in the Yenisey region is still the subject of discussion, but there is a consensus of opinion that it first appeared in the Minusinsk Basin no earlier than in the middle of the 3rd millennium BC (e.g. Gryaznov and Vadetskaya 1968:159; Vinogradov 1982:12; Kyzlasov 1986:242–3) and was followed by the Okunevo culture at the end of the 3rd millennium BC or beginning of the 2nd millennium BC (Zimina 1964:235; Semenov 1987:19; Kyzlasov 1992:9; see Table 2). However, the date for the start of the culture is regarded as a particularly important issue, because it deals with what has been claimed as one of the longest known migrations, i.e. the 2000-km migration of the Yamnaya people (late 3rd millennium BC), or even pre-Yamnaya (Repin; middle of the 3rd millennium BC) culture from the Volga-Ural region to the east, as far as Southern Siberia (Anthony 2007:307–11). The relation between the Afanasievo and Yamnaya cultures is confirmed by burial ritual, material culture (Vadetskaya 1986:22), and even the physical appearance of the populations (Alekseev 1961:380; Alekseev and Gokhman 1984:35).

Table 2 Traditional dating of the Afanasievo culture.

Source	Beginning	End
Zimina 1964	n/a	beginning 2nd millennium BC
Gryaznov and Vadetskaya 1968	middle 3rd millennium BC	n/a
Vinogradov 1982	middle 3rd millennium BC	n/a
Vadetskaya 1986	3rd millennium BC	17th century BC
Kyzlasov 1986	middle 3rd millennium BC	end 3rd millennium BC
Semenov 1987	n/a	beginning 2nd millennium BC

Previous ^{14}C dates are available from 9 Afanasievo sites of the Minusinsk Basin: Chernovaya VI, Krasniy Yar I, Letnik VI, Malinovi Log, Maliye Kopeny II, Sargov Ulus, Sukhanikha, Sukhanikha II, and Vostochnoye. The majority of calibrated ^{14}C dates fall within the period 3700–2230 BC (Appendix 1). Only the sample Le-532 from Chernovaya-VI is somewhat later, calibrated to 2345–1883 BC. It should be noted, however, that burials of both the Afanasievo and Okunevo cultures were present in the cemetery (Vadetskaya 1986:23). As such, there is a possibility that the sample belongs to the later Okunevo culture. Thus, as has been noted, the ^{14}C dates of the Afanasievo culture “speak for quite an earlier chronological position of this culture” (Görsdorf et al. 2001:1117). However, the dates from the past research are obtained from wood or charcoal, and it is therefore possible that older dates are a product of the “old wood effect” and/or re-use of old timbers. Modern studies (e.g. Panyushkina et al. 2008) that have been more selective about the wood samples used for dating can generally be considered to be more reliable as compared to some older reports.

A total of 7 samples from 2 Afanasievo sites—Afanasieva Gora ($n = 4$) and Karasuk III ($n = 3$)—were analyzed as part of the current project. The ^{14}C dates suggest that the sites were rather synchronous. The majority of the calibrated dates range between 2874 and 2469 BC (Table 3; Figure 2) and fall within the ^{14}C range obtained from previous research (Appendix 1). To summarize, the ^{14}C dating evidence is somewhat at odds with the traditional chronology of the culture. The scientific dating evidence would tend to suggest that the Afanasievo culture is some 300–400 yr older in date than indicated by conventional archaeological understanding.

Table 3 New ¹⁴C dates of the Afanasievo samples ($n = 7$).^a

Lab ID	Provenance	¹⁴ C BP	Calibrated age (2 σ)
UBA-7902	Afanasieva Gora, burial 71	1297 \pm 27	663–772 cal AD
UB-7489	Afanasieva Gora, burial 73	4077 \pm 39	2860–2489 cal BC
UBA-7903	Afanasieva Gora, burial 73	4037 \pm 31	2831–2473 cal BC
UBA-8772	Afanasieva Gora, burial 75	4092 \pm 27	2858–2502 cal BC
UBA-8773	Karasuk III, enclosure 1, grave 2, skeleton 2	3996 \pm 26	2573–2469 cal BC
UBA-8774	Karasuk III, enclosure 1, grave 3, skeleton 1	4148 \pm 26	2874–2630 cal BC
UBA-7904	Karasuk III, enclosure 7, grave 1, skeleton 1	2362 \pm 29	518–386 cal BC

^aHere and further in tables: sharply different ¹⁴C dates are highlighted in **bold**.

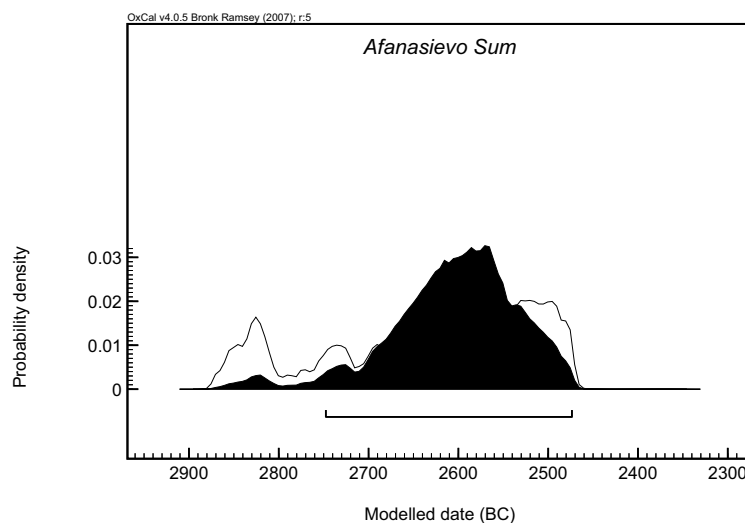


Figure 2 Summed probability distribution for new human bone dates, Afanasievo culture. (This and further OxCal plots were generated using OxCal v4.0.5 software [Bronk Ramsey 1995, 2001] and the IntCal04 calibration curve [Reimer et al. 2004].)

It should be noted that 2 individuals—UBA-7902 and -7904—provided much more recent dates than other samples from the same sites. It is considered probable that these individuals have been incorrectly ascribed to the Afanasievo culture and rather that they date to the early medieval period and the Tagar culture, respectively. Indeed, examination of the excavation report for Karasuk III revealed that UBA-7904 had derived from an intrusive burial (Gryaznov 1999:36–7). Unfortunately, it was not possible to obtain further information concerning the burial context of the UBA-7902 sample.

The majority of the wood/charcoal dates for Afanasievo are not incompatible with the human bone dates presented here, with the notable exception of 4 wood/charcoal determinations from Malinovi Log, which are all considerably earlier, by some 600 ¹⁴C yr. The explanation for this is not clear at the moment, but it seems unlikely that it can be explained entirely as an old-wood effect.

Okunevo Culture

At the end of the 1940s, the Okunevo culture was defined by Komarova (1947) as a separate early stage of the Andronovo culture. Further excavations, however, revealed that it was a completely distinct culture, which appeared to be younger than the Afanasievo culture and older than the Andronovo culture. It is generally believed that the beginning of the Okunevo culture immediately

followed the Afanasievo culture. Some scholars have suggested there may have been a gap in time between the end of the Afanasievo and the beginning of the Okunevo (Savinov 1995:4), while others have proposed that the end of the Afanasievo and the beginning of the Okunevo saw a degree of overlap (Khlobystina 1973; Sokolova 2002, 2006).

The end of the Okunevo culture is also poorly understood. Archaeologists have noted that in various regions of the Middle Yenisey region, the Okunevo was replaced by different cultures at different times. It is believed that the Okunevo culture persisted until the Late Bronze Age, when it was replaced by the Karasuk culture, in both the Republic of Tuva and in the south of the Minusinsk Basin (Semenov 1984:253, 1997:157–60; Vadetskaya 1986:36, 46; Molodin 1992:29; Lazaretov 2001:104, 2007:41; Savinov 2002:24, 32). In the northern part of the basin, however, the Okunevo culture appears to have been succeeded by the Andronovo culture no earlier than the 14th–13th centuries BC (Vadetskaya 1986:36; Lazaretov 2007:41). Vadetskaya (1986:36) has suggested the Okunevo culture dates to the 18th–13th centuries BC, thereby corresponding to the dates of other related cultures, such as the Samus (18th–13th centuries BC) and the Krotovo (first half of the 2nd millennium BC to the 13th century BC) cultures of Western Siberia.

Table 4 Traditional dating of the Okunevo culture.

Source	Beginning	End
Gryaznov 1969	beginning 2nd millennium BC	n/a
Maksimov 1968b	beginning 2nd millennium BC	middle 2nd millennium BC
Maksimov 1975a	21st century BC	17th century BC
Vadetskaya 1986	18th–17th centuries BC	13th–11th centuries BC
Kyzlasov 1986	end 3rd millennium BC	n/a
Lazaretov 2007	turn of the 3rd and 2nd millennia BC	14th–13th centuries BC

As such, it is clear that the chronology of the Okunevo culture is generally poorly understood, although most archaeologists agree that it first appeared in the Minusinsk Basin at the end of the 3rd millennium BC or the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC, lasting until the middle of the 2nd millennium BC (Table 4).

Only 14 previous ^{14}C dates are available from 7 Okunevo sites of the Minusinsk Basin: Chebaki, Chernovaya, Karasuk III, Lebyazhye, Pristan I, Uibat V, and Ust-Kindirla (Appendix 2). When calibrated, the dates belong mostly to the last third of the 3rd to beginning of the 2nd millennia BC (2467–1693 BC). Two dates from Lebyazhye and Uibat V appear to be older outliers, however, belonging to the end of the 4th to beginning of the 3rd millennia BC and middle of the 3rd millennium BC, respectively. These dates again place the Okunevo culture rather earlier than the traditional chronology would tend to suggest. It should be noted, however, that the discrepancy between ^{14}C and archaeological chronologies is not as large as was the case for the Afanasievo culture.

A total of 19 samples from 5 sites of the Okunevo culture—Bateni ($n = 1$), Okunev Ulus ($n = 3$), Uibat III ($n = 1$), Uibat V ($n = 7$), and Verhniy Askiz I ($n = 7$)—have been dated as part of the current project. The majority of calibrated dates belong to the second half of the 3rd to beginning of the 2nd millennia BC (2565–1885 BC; Table 5, Figure 3), thereby correlating with the previous ^{14}C dating evidence. Only 2 dates (UBA-7920 and -7907) are very much at odds with the general range, belonging to the 1st millennium BC. In both cases, no chronologically diagnostic material was recovered from the graves, and the burials were initially assigned to the Okunevo culture because the whole complex was attributed to the culture. It would appear, however, that the burial from which UBA-7907 was taken may have been intrusive and that it actually belonged to the Tagar culture. Only 2 individuals were recovered from Kurgan 3 at Uibat V (UBA-7920), and it is possible that the entire burial complex belonged to the Karasuk or Tagar culture.

Table 5 New ¹⁴C dates of the Okunevo samples (*n* = 20).

Lab ID	Provenance	¹⁴ C BP	Age, cal BC (2 σ)
UBA-8771	Batani	3853 ± 35	2461–2206
UB-7494	Okunev Ulus, grave 5	3757 ± 35	2287–2040
UBA-7927	Okunev Ulus, grave 5	3725 ± 38	2276–1983
UBA-7929	Okunev Ulus, grave 7	3619 ± 40	2131–1885
UBA-7916	Uibat III, kurgan 1, grave 1, cranium 1	3644 ± 44	2137–1901
UBA-7912	Uibat V, kurgan 1, grave 3	3723 ± 30	2202–2032
UBA-7917	Uibat V, kurgan 1, grave 3a Va, skeleton V	3832 ± 28	2457–2154
UBA-7963	Uibat V, kurgan 2, grave 4, skeleton A	3691 ± 26	2193–1980
UBA-7920	Uibat V, kurgan 3, skeleton 1	2740 ± 26	968–821
UBA-7964	Uibat V, kurgan 4, grave 4, cranium A	3721 ± 25	2199–2035
UBA-7965	Uibat V, kurgan 4, grave 18	3651 ± 25	2133–1944
UBA-7915	Uibat V, kurgan 4, grave 21, skeleton 2	3698 ± 28	2196–1981
UBA-7910	Verhniy Askiz I, kurgan 1, grave 6	3654 ± 29	2135–1944
UBA-7908	Verhniy Askiz I, kurgan 1, grave 10, skeleton 1	3719 ± 31	2202–2029
UBA-7914	Verhniy Askiz I, kurgan 1, grave 13, skeleton 1	3894 ± 28	2467–2297
UBA-7907	Verhniy Askiz I, kurgan 1, grave 18	2609 ± 29	825–676
UBA-7913	Verhniy Askiz I, kurgan 2, grave 4, skeleton 1	3934 ± 39	2565–2297
UBA-7919	Verhniy Askiz I, kurgan 2, grave 15, skeleton 1 (burial 1)	3738 ± 30	2273–2035
UBA-7911	Verhniy Askiz I, kurgan 2, grave 21, skeleton 1	3713 ± 30	2200–2028

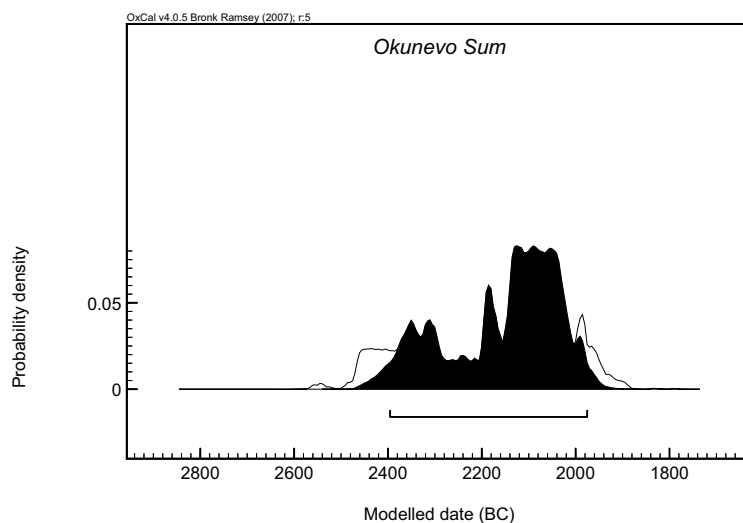


Figure 3 Summed probability distribution for new human bone dates, Okunevo culture

Particular note should be made of the individual recovered from a grave near the former settlement of Batani, from which sample UBA-8771 derived. On the basis of associated archaeological evidence, this burial was believed to be of Neolithic date—the only Neolithic burial attributed in the territory of the Minusinsk Basin (Gryaznov 1953; Vadetskaya 1986:11). The new ¹⁴C date, however, indicates that the burial was actually from the Okunevo culture.

Both previous (*n* = 7; lab code BIn) and new (*n* = 6; lab code UBA) ¹⁴C dates obtained from 3 kurgans at the site of Uibat V are provided in Table 6. The previous calibrated dates vary between the

27th and 19th centuries BC, while the new dates range from the 25th to the 20th centuries BC. As such, the dates are in general agreement.

Table 6 ^{14}C dates from Uibat V, Okunevo culture ($n = 13$).

Lab ID	Material	Provenance	^{14}C BP	Age, cal BC (2σ)
BIn-5195	human bone	Uibat V, kurgan 1, grave 1	3734 ± 29	2266–2034
UBA-7912	human bone	Uibat V, kurgan 1, grave 3	3723 ± 30	2202–2032
ID n/a ^a	human bone	Uibat V, kurgan 1, grave 3	3830 ± 25	2456–2153
UBA-7917	human bone	Uibat V, kurgan 1, grave 3a Va, skeleton V	3832 ± 28	2457–2154
BIn-5196	human bone	Uibat V, kurgan 1, grave 4	4016 ± 30	2618–2470
UBA-7963	human bone	Uibat V, kurgan 2, grave 4, skeleton A	3691 ± 26	2193–1980
UBA-7964	human bone	Uibat V, kurgan 4, grave 4, cranium A	3721 ± 25	2199–2035
BIn-4951	bone	Uibat V, kurgan 4, grave 4	3631 ± 41	2134–1891
BIn-4762	wood	Uibat V, kurgan 4, grave 5	3782 ± 62	2457–2033
BIn-4950	bone	Uibat V, kurgan 4, grave 15	3620 ± 35	2125–1890
UBA-7965	human bone	Uibat V, kurgan 4, grave 18	3651 ± 25	2133–1944
BIn-4949	bone	Uibat V, kurgan 4, grave 20	3657 ± 43	2192–1916
UBA-7915	human bone	Uibat V, kurgan 4, grave 21, skeleton 2	3698 ± 28	2196–1981

^aThe source (Lazaretov 1995) specifies that the date was obtained in the Heidelberg Radiocarbon Laboratory.

Andronovo Culture

The Andronovo (Fedorovo) culture of the Middle Yenisey represented a branch, or an eastern limit, of a large Andronovo “cultural-historical unit,” which was spread over a vast territory, including Western Siberia, Central Asia, the steppe zone of Siberia, Southern Siberia, eastern Kazakhstan, and northern China (Martynov 1964:250; Gryaznov 1969:89; Khavrin 1992). Throughout the text, the term “Andronovo culture” is applied to the sites of the Minusinsk Basin.

Archaeologists have different views concerning the beginning of the Andronovo culture in the Minusinsk Basin (Table 7). The archaeological information on which these views are based includes the spread of Andronovo (Fedorovo) ceramics in Western Siberia (Maksimov 1968a:179–80) and the sequence and morphology of burials, particularly their structure, in multicultural cemeteries (Vadetskaya 1986:46).

Table 7 Traditional dating of the Andronovo culture.

Source	Beginning	End
Kiselev 1951	17th–16th centuries BC	n/a
Maksimov 1968a	16th–14th centuries BC	n/a
Vadetskaya 1986	13th century BC	11th century BC
Kyzlasov 1992	16th century BC	14th century BC
Kuzmina 2007	15th–14th centuries BC	13th century BC

Different opinions also exist concerning the duration of the Andronovo culture in the Minusinsk Basin (Table 7). Vadetskaya (1986:46) proposed that the culture lasted for different lengths of time in different parts of the basin, persisting for longer in the north than in the central part of the region. In the southern part of the basin, the preceding Okunevo culture is considered to have been replaced directly by the Karasuk culture, since no evidence of the Andronovo culture has, as yet, been discovered there (Molodin 1992:29; Lazaretov 2001:104; Bobrov 2003:14; Savinov 2005:29).

The range of ¹⁴C dates available for the Andronovo culture is very broad (Appendix 3). There is no clear explanation for this diversity of dates; although it is probable that the 3 youngest dates (Le-529, -518, and -595) might indicate the presence of later intrusive burials from the Karasuk and Tagar cultures in large Andronovo culture cemeteries. Dates obtained from the cemetery of Potroshilovo II suggest the first third of the 2nd millennium BC as the time of transition between the Okunevo and Andronovo cultures, and the middle of the 2nd millennium BC as the time of transition between the Andronovo culture and the “Classical” phase of the Karasuk culture (Görsdorf et al. 2001:1117).

The 9 new dates provided by the current study and obtained from 4 Andronovo sites—Pervomayskoye I (*n* = 1), Potroshilovo II (*n* = 2), Ust-Bir I (*n* = 3), and Yarki II (*n* = 3)—are very similar. They all belong to the 18th–15th centuries BC (1744–1500 cal BC; Table 8, Figure 4). The new ¹⁴C dates correlate well with the majority of dates obtained previously (9 dates from the 21st–15th centuries BC); however, they are again slightly older than the traditionally accepted archaeological chronology. It is also worth noting that the new dates obtained from Potroshilovo II correlate well with previous ¹⁴C dates derived from the site and also obtained from human bone (Appendix 3).

Table 8 New ¹⁴C dates of the Andronovo samples (*n* = 9).

Lab ID	Provenance	¹⁴ C BP	Age, cal BC (2 σ)
UBA-7922 ^a	Pervomayskoye I, grave 28	3205 ± 41	1606–1407
UBA-9328	Potroshilovo II, enclosure 5, grave 3	3294 ± 28	1657–1500
UBA-9329	Potroshilovo II, enclosure 15	3316 ± 24	1667–1523
UBA-9331	Ust-Bir I, grave 16	3382 ± 27	1744–1617
UBA-9332	Ust-Bir I, grave 19	3278 ± 23	1614–1500
UBA-9333	Ust-Bir I, grave 26	3309 ± 22	1661–1520
UB-7491	Yarki II, grave 1	3317 ± 34	1686–1516
UB-7490	Yarki II, grave 2	3333 ± 35	1730–1522
UBA-7921	Yarki II	3348 ± 32	1735–1530

^aThe site is commonly attributed to the “Classical” Karasuk culture (Vadetskaya 1986:66); however, a detailed analysis of artifacts recovered from the graveyard suggests the attribution of several graves (including grave 28) to the earlier Andronovo culture.

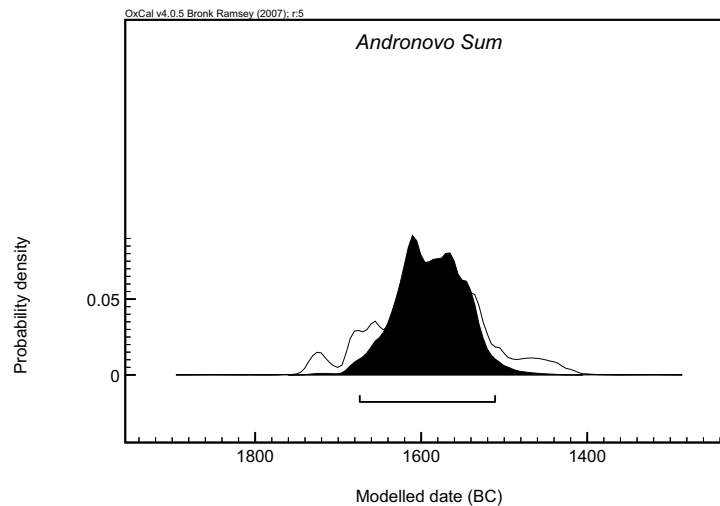


Figure 4 Summed probability distribution for new human bone dates, Andronovo culture

Karasuk Culture

Archaeological dating of the Karasuk culture is mainly based on the similarity of knives particular to this culture with those found to the east of the Minusinsk Basin, including northern China (Vadetskaya 1986:64). The archaeological dating also finds support through comparison with similar cultures and archaeological complexes in Western Siberia where Karasuk artifacts have also been recovered (e.g. Irmen culture of Baraba or Yelovo culture of the Ob region; Vadetskaya 1986:64). Table 9 presents the main archaeological dates of the culture.

Table 9 Archaeological dating of the Karasuk culture.

Source	Beginning	End
Kiselev 1951	12th century BC	8th century BC
Gryaznov et al. 1968	13th century BC	10th century BC
Gryaznov 1969	13th century BC	8th century BC
Chlenova 1972	14th/13th century BC	7th/6th century BC
Vadetskaya 1986	11th–10th centuries BC	8th century BC
Kyzlasov 1992	13th century BC	8th century BC
Polyakov 2006	13th century BC	9th century BC

On the basis of burial type, archaeologists have identified 2 phases of the Karasuk culture, the proper Karasuk phase (“Classical” period) and the Kamenniy Log phase (Late Karasuk or Lugavskaya culture). According to Gryaznov (1969:101), these phases are dated to the 13th–11th centuries BC and 10th–8th centuries BC, respectively. More recent research has also indicated the presence of further subdivisions within these 2 phases (Lazaretov 2006; Polyakov 2006).

Debate has arisen, however, concerning the chronological position of the Kamenniy Log phase, with some archaeologists asking if the phase belonged to the early or late Karasuk period, or even to the transition to the early Tagar culture (Leontyev et al. 1996). This issue has been raised again after 5 ¹⁴C dates obtained from the Kamenniy Log site of Sukhanikha surprisingly proved to belong to the last 2 centuries of the 2nd millennium BC. ¹⁴C dating therefore indicated that “Classical” Karasuk and Kamenniy Log cemeteries were almost contemporaneous during the last 3 or 4 centuries of the 2nd millennium BC. The ¹⁴C dates raised the possibility that “Classical” Karasuk and Kamenniy Log phases of the Karasuk culture should be regarded as 2 different cultures that coexisted in the Minusinsk Basin (Görsdorf et al. 2001; also see below).

¹⁴C dates for the “Classical” phase of the Karasuk culture have been obtained from 8 sites, including Anchil-Chon, Georgievskiy Kurgan (Tes), Itkol I, Potroshilovo, Sukhanikha I, Sukhanikha, Tert-Aba, and Torgajak. Most of these sites belong to the 14th–10th centuries BC (Appendix 4). The youngest dates, derived from Anchil-Chon (11th–5th centuries BC) and Torgajak (9th–5th centuries BC), are explained as either evidence for the existence of later burials (Alekseev et al. 2005:106) or by insufficiency or deterioration of the sample (Alekseev et al. 2005:108).

¹⁴C dates for the Kamenniy Log phase of the Karasuk culture have also been obtained from 8 sites: Anchil-Chon, Kamenniy Ostrov, Dolgiy Kurgan, Karasuk IV, Kolok, Kuten-Buluk, Sukhanikha, and Uij. The majority of calibrated dates belong to the 14th/13th–9th centuries BC, although a number of samples from Karasuk IV, Sukhanikha, and Sukhanikha (Podsukhanikha) II appear to be older and date to the 15th–10th centuries BC (Appendix 4). It is interesting to note that all older dates for the culture were derived from wood, birch bark, or charcoal, and could, therefore, reflect the old-wood effect, or represent the re-use of old timbers.

Nevertheless, current understanding of the chronology of the Karasuk culture derived from previous ¹⁴C dates suggests the following scheme for the dating of the 2 phases (Alekseev et al. 2005:222–3):

- “Classic” Karasuk phase: 15th–10th centuries BC for the southern part of the Minusinsk Basin (minor Minusinsk Basin; no data available from the northern part).
- Kamenniy Log phase: 10th–9th centuries BC for the southern part and 12th–9th centuries BC for the northern part of the Minusinsk Basin.

The ¹⁴C dates obtained during previous research have therefore demonstrated a tendency to provide an older chronology for the Karasuk culture and to disagree with the archaeological evidence that has been used to suggest younger dating (e.g. Chlenova 1972; Vadetskaya 1986).

Some 19 samples from the Karasuk culture were dated for this project. These derived from 6 “Classic” Karasuk sites ($n = 16$), a transitional Karasuk-Kamenniy Log site ($n = 1$), and 2 Kamenniy Log phase sites ($n = 2$). The majority of calibrated dates from the “Classic” Karasuk phase belonged to the 14th–10th centuries BC, while those from the Kamenniy Log Phase varied between the 12th and 9th centuries BC (Table 10, Figure 5). The dates agree with the ¹⁴C dates obtained from previous research, but are slightly older (some 100–200 yr) than the proposed archaeological dating of the culture. The new ¹⁴C data suggests that the site of Pervomayskoye I is around 1 to 4 centuries older than the remainder of the “Classic” Karasuk phase sites analyzed, although this may simply be due to the fact that only 1 burial was dated from this cemetery. Three dates from the “Classic” Karasuk phase (UBA-8778, -7492, and -8782) were notably younger than the other dates. These burials appear to be intrusive, however, and possibly belong to the later Tagar culture. The ¹⁴C date obtained for UBA-8781 was considerably older than the remainder of the samples. The archaeological report noted that no chronologically diagnostic material was recovered from the burial. Okunev Ulus is a complicated multiperiod cemetery, and it would seem possible that this anomalous burial belongs to the earlier Okunevo culture.

Table 10 New ¹⁴C dates of the Karasuk samples ($n = 19$).

Lab ID	Provenance	¹⁴ C BP	Age, cal BC (2 σ)
Karasuk phase ($n = 17$)			
UBA-7932	Karasuk I, grave 65	2957 \pm 45	1367–1018
UBA-7933	Karasuk I, grave 65	2978 \pm 39	1372–1056
UBA-9327 ^a	Minusinsk Karyer	3008 \pm 22	1375–1132
UBA-8779	Okunev Ulus, grave 2	2962 \pm 24	1293–1060
UBA-9338	Okunev Ulus, grave 2	2890 \pm 27	1194–980
UBA-7928	Okunev Ulus, grave 5	2987 \pm 55	1388–1052
UBA-8781	Okunev Ulus, grave 5	3687 \pm 25	2191–1979
UBA-8778	Okunev Ulus, grave 12	2685 \pm 27	896–804
UBA-7925	Pervomayskoye I, grave 21	3122 \pm 42	1494–1300
UBA-9339	Podgornoye Ozero I, grave 3	3021 \pm 27	1388–1134
UBA-8777	Podgornoye Ozero I, grave 4	3063 \pm 24	1406–1268
UB-7492	Podgornoye Ozero I, grave 5	2548 \pm 33	801–546
UBA-7923	Podgornoye Ozero I, grave 6	3017 \pm 41	1393–1129
UBA-7924	Podgornoye Ozero I, grave 8	2850 \pm 41	1188–905
UB-7493	Yarki I, grave 1 (35)	2945 \pm 33	1287–1029
UBA-7930	Yarki I, grave 3 (37)	2904 \pm 40	1258–977
UBA-8782	Yarki I, grave 4	2200 \pm 31	376–191
Kamenniy Log phase ($n = 2$)			
UBA-7966	Kamenniy Ostrov, excavation 1	2833 \pm 24	1053–913
UBA-7931	Solonechniy Log, grave 1 (16)	2793 \pm 78	1192–804

^aThe sample is archaeologically dated to the transition between the Karasuk and Kamenniy Log phases of the culture.

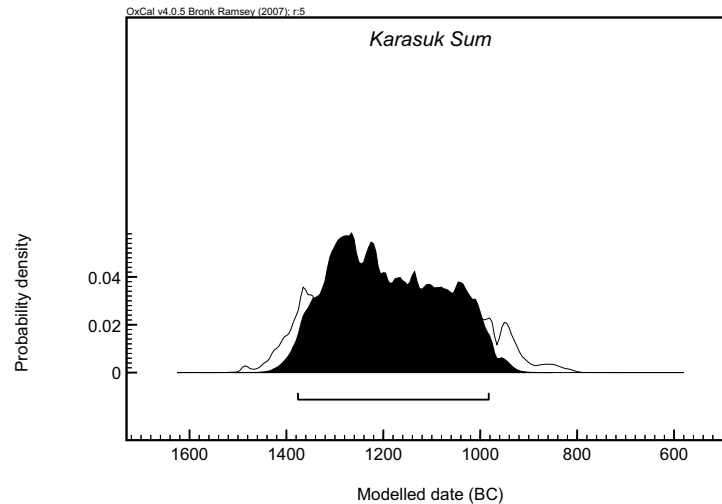


Figure 5 Summed probability distribution for new human bone dates, Karasuk culture

The date of 1053–913 cal BC for UBA-7966 (Kamenniy Ostrov) in Table 10 is in a good agreement with that of 1017–829 cal BC for Ua-24153 from the same site.

Tagar Culture

On the basis of archaeological data, including the development of burial structures, funerary ceremonies, and artifacts, the Tagar culture has been divided into 4 phases. These were first proposed by Gryaznov (1969:214) during the late 1960s: Bainovo, Podgornovo, Saragash, and Tes phases (Table 11).

Table 11 Archaeological periodization of the Tagar culture.

Source	Bainovo phase	Podgornovo phase	Saragash phase	Tes phase
Kiselev 1951	from 7th century BC	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gryaznov 1969	7th–6th centuries BC	6th–5th centuries BC	4th–3rd centuries BC	2nd–1st centuries BC
Chlenova 1972	from 7th century BC	n/a	n/a	n/a
Vadetskaya 1986	from 7th century BC	n/a	n/a	2nd century BC– 1st century AD
Bokovenko 2006	end of 10th– 8th centuries BC	8th–6th centuries BC	6th–3rd centuries BC	2nd–1st centuries BC or 1st century AD

A substantial number of ^{14}C dates are available for the 4 phases of the Tagar culture (Appendix 5). On the basis of ^{14}C dating, it is generally believed that the transition between the Kamenniy Log phase of the Karasuk culture and the earliest Tagar culture took place during the 9th century BC at the latest (Görsdorf et al. 2001:1118). The position of the Bainovo, Podgornovo, and Saragash stages of the culture appears to have ranged from the 10th century BC to the 1st century AD (Table 12). Most ^{14}C dates of the Tes phase belong to the 2nd–4th centuries AD. Overall, the ^{14}C dates obtained previously for the Tagar culture are slightly older than the traditional chronology.

Table 12 Periodization of the Tagar culture based on ^{14}C data (after Alekseev et al. 2005:222–4).

Area of the Minusinsk Basin	Bainovo phase	Podgornovo phase	Saragash phase
Southern part	beg.–mid 9th cent. BC	9th–7th cent. BC	end 9th–3rd cent. BC
Central part	n/a	9th–8th cent. BC	8th–5th cent. BC
Northern part	9th cent. BC	9th–beg. 7th cent. BC	end 9th–5th cent. BC

New ¹⁴C dates were derived from a total of 34 Tagar individuals, from 9 archaeological sites that represented the Podgornovo, Saragash, and Tes phases of the culture. In general, the calibrated dates belong to the 9th century BC to 2nd century AD (Table 13, Figure 6). Samples from the Podgornovo phase sites date mostly to the 9th–6th/5th centuries BC, while those derived from Saragash phase sites date to the 8th–5th centuries BC, and those from Tes phase sites to the 2nd century BC to 2nd century AD. The new ¹⁴C dates generally correspond with the dates available from previous studies, although it should be noted that the lower range of the Podgornovo phase dates were 2–3 centuries younger (Table 12).

Table 13 New ¹⁴C dates of the Tagar samples (*n* = 34).

Lab ID	Provenance	¹⁴ C BP	Calibrated age range (2 σ)
Phase not determined (<i>n</i> = 2)			
UBA-7951	Melnichniy Log – Barsuchinniy Log, grave 35	2366 ± 28	519–388 cal BC
UBA-7952	Melnichniy Log – Barsuchinniy Log, grave 37	2483 ± 32	771–417 cal BC
Podgornovo phase (<i>n</i> = 16)			
UBA-7960	Grishkin Log I, kurgan 1, grave 17 (28)	2539 ± 24	795–551 cal BC
UBA-7935	Grishkin Log I, kurgan 2, grave 18 (29)	2653 ± 49	914–768 cal BC
UBA-7936	Nurilkov Ulus, grave 2	2332 ± 39	520–233 cal BC
UBA-8784	Nurilkov Ulus, grave 2	2414 ± 21	726–404 cal BC
UBA-8785	Nurilkov Ulus, grave 2	2485 ± 21	765–520 cal BC
UBA-8786 ^a	Podgornoye Ozero, grave 1 (10), burial 10a	2166 ± 43	370–93 cal BC
UBA-8787 ^a	Podgornoye Ozero, grave 3	2348 ± 22	503–383 cal BC
UBA-9335 ^a	Podgornoye Ozero, grave 7	2630 ± 24	829–787 cal BC
UB-7496 ^a	Podgornoye Ozero, kurgan 1, grave 17	2561 ± 34	805–549 cal BC
UBA-7939 ^a	Podgornoye Ozero, kurgan 3, from the mound	2356 ± 39	727–369 cal BC
UBA-8788 ^a	Podgornoye Ozero, kurgan 3, grave 22	3011 ± 22	1378–1133 cal BC
UBA-8789 ^a	Podgornoye Ozero, kurgan 3, grave 22 (northeastern)	2563 ± 21	802–596 cal BC
UBA-7941	Saragash Ozero, grave 13	2562 ± 39	809–544 cal BC
UBA-7940	Saragash Ozero, grave 14	2510 ± 53	795–417 cal BC
UB-7498	Yarki II, grave 25	2696 ± 34	906–803 cal BC
UBA-7950	Yarki II, grave 25	2511 ± 28	787–539 cal BC
Saragash phase (<i>n</i> = 13)			
UBA-7947 ^b	Lepeshkina, grave 16	2342 ± 29	510–376 cal BC
UBA-8783	Okunev Ulus, grave 1	3894 ± 24	2466–2299 cal BC
UBA-7946	Okunev Ulus, kurgan 11	2552 ± 29	800–551 cal BC
UBA-8793	Okunev Ulus, kurgan 11	2476 ± 19	764–428 cal BC
UBA-9336	Okunev Ulus, kurgan 11	2516 ± 31	791–539 cal BC
UBA-9337	Okunev Ulus, kurgan 11	2316 ± 30	412–234 cal BC
UB-7497	Saragash Ozero, from the mound of the grave 8	2486 ± 38	774–416 cal BC
UBA-7943	Saragash Ozero, kurgan 1, grave 9	2421 ± 45	753–399 cal BC
UBA-7945	Saragash Ozero, kurgan 1, grave 10	2456 ± 39	756–411 cal BC
UBA-8790	Saragash Ozero, kurgan 1, grave 9	2502 ± 21	774–539 cal BC
UBA-8791	Saragash Ozero, kurgan 1, grave 9	2478 ± 21	765–426 cal BC
UBA-8792	Saragash Ozero, kurgan 1, grave 9	2454 ± 19	751–413 cal BC
UBA-9334	Saragash Ozero, kurgan 1, grave 9	2454 ± 23	752–412 cal BC
Tes phase (<i>n</i> = 3)			
UB-7495	Chernoye Ozero I, kurgan 3, grave 7, skeleton 5	2080 ± 33	194–2 cal BC
UBA-7948	Chernoye Ozero I, kurgan 3, grave 35	2000 ± 39	107 cal BC–cal AD 81
UBA-7949	Chernoye Ozero I, timber, right	1960 ± 28	39 cal BC–cal AD 119

^aThe site contains burials of both Podgornovo and Saragash phases. The dates may belong to the Saragash phase.

^bThe sample is archaeologically dated to the transition between the Saragash and Tes phases of the culture.

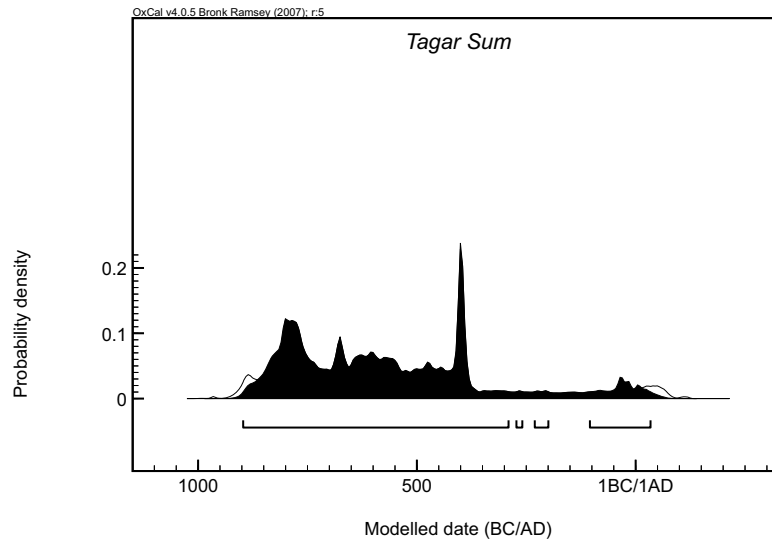


Figure 6 Summed probability distribution for new human bone dates, Tagar culture

The ^{14}C dates UBA-8787 and UBA-8786 from the Podgornoye Ozero site are younger than the rest of the dates of the Podgornovo phase. No further information is available for these burials, but the results suggest that the individuals belong to the later phases of the Tagar culture.

UBA-8788 from Podgornoye Ozero is considerably older than the remainder of the apparently Tagar culture individuals analyzed and, on strictly chronological grounds, places the individual in the Karasuk culture. According to the archaeological data, the graveyard was used over a considerable period of time from the Karasuk through to the later Tagar culture (Podgornovo and Saragash phases; Vadetskaya 1986:66, 117), which also supports the attribution of the anomalous dates derived from Podgornoye Ozero to the earlier Karasuk culture.

UBA-8783 from Okunev Ulus is also considerably older than the remainder of the Tagar culture individuals analyzed. As we have already noted, Okunev Ulus is a complicated multiperiod cemetery, and it is possible that the burial belonged to the earlier Okunevo culture.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The current study has involved a review of the chronological evidence for the prehistoric cultures of the Minusinsk Basin of Southern Siberia. The research has also involved new ^{14}C dates obtained from human skeletons from the Afanasievo to Tagar cultures from the region. In general, the research has confirmed the periodization of the Afanasievo to Tagar cultures, first proposed by Teploukhov (1929) and further developed by Gryaznov and other scholars. The main findings can be summarized as follows:

1. The new ^{14}C dates suggest the following time frames for the different cultures (Table 14, Figure 7, Table 15; for comparison, time frames obtained from previous ^{14}C research are also included in Table 14).

Overall, the new, improved dating that we are now proposing for the different cultures correspond with ^{14}C dates obtained during past research.

Table 14 ¹⁴C dates of the Afanasievo to Tagar cultures.

Culture	Current research	Past research
Afanasievo	29th–25th centuries BC	37th–25th centuries BC
Okunev	25th–20th centuries BC	25th–19th centuries BC
Andronovo	18th–16th/15th centuries BC	19th–15th centuries BC
Karasuk, Karasuk phase	14th–10th centuries BC	15th–10th centuries BC
Kamenniy Log phase	11th–9th centuries BC	14th/13th–9th centuries BC
Tagar, Bainovo phase	n/a	9th century BC
Podgornovo phase	9th–6th/5th centuries BC	9th–7th centuries BC
Saragash phase	8th–5th centuries BC	end 9th–3rd centuries BC
Tes phase	2nd century BC–2nd century AD	2nd century BC–4th century AD

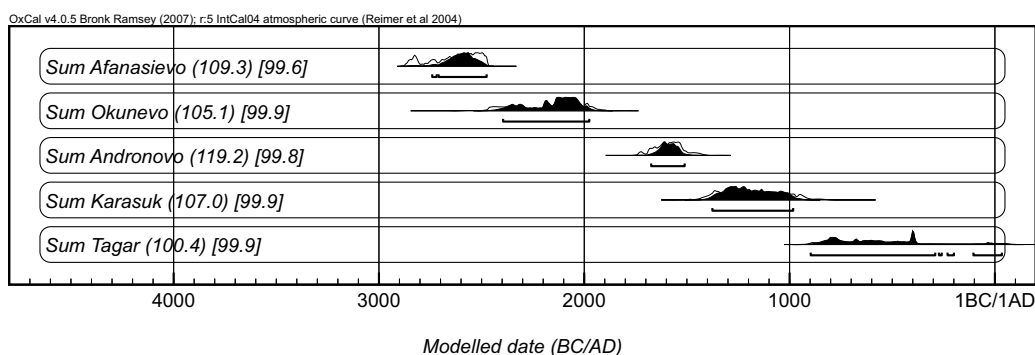


Figure 7 Summed probability distribution for new human bone dates, Afanasievo-Tagar cultures

Table 15 Modeled “start” and “end” dates for the 5 Minusinsk Basin cultures based on the 88 new AMS dates reported here (OxCal 4.0). All transitions except for Okunevo to Andronovo (145-yr gap) show a period of overlap.

Culture	<i>n</i>	“Start” date (2 σ)		“End” date (2 σ)		Overlap
Afanasievo	5	2916 BC	2583 BC	2575 BC	2402 BC	—
Okunevo	19	2486 BC	2318 BC	2055 BC	1887 BC	84
Andronovo	9	1742 BC	1549 BC	1608 BC	1440 BC	–145
Karasuk	16	1470 BC	1300 BC	1069 BC	893 BC	30
Tagar	38	949 BC	834 BC	40 BC	AD 104	56

- The sites analyzed during this research may be attributed to the following periods (Table 16; periods obtained from previous research are noted in brackets where applicable).
- The earliest dates obtained for the Afanasievo culture belong to the 29th–25th centuries cal BC and, therefore, do not correspond with the earliest dates of the culture obtained from previous research (37th–25th centuries cal BC). It is important to specify again here that all previous Afanasievo dates of the Minusinsk Basin belonging to the 4th millennium cal BC were taken from wood or charcoal samples and are thus at risk of providing misleading results due to the old-wood effect (though wood samples from the kurgans of the Early Scythian time from Altai region suggest that trees, mostly larch, no older than 200 yr were used for the burial constructions: Mallory et al. 2002). None of the human skeletons analyzed during the current research are dated earlier than the 29th century cal BC. Thus, most of the bone dates reported here, and wood and charcoal dates from the literature, are in agreement in placing the start of the Afanasievo culture around 3000 BC, although we need to keep in mind that as yet only a small sam-

Table 16 Afanasievo-Tagar sites time frames, based on new ¹⁴C data.

Culture	Site	Period
Afanasievo culture	Afanasieva Gora	29th–25th centuries BC
	Karasuk III	29th–25th centuries BC
Okunevo culture	Okunev Ulus	23rd–20th centuries BC
	Uibat III	22nd–20th centuries BC (26th–20th centuries BC)
	Uibat V	24th–20th centuries BC
	Verhniy Askiz I	26th–20th centuries BC
Andronovo culture	Potroshilovo II	17th–16th centuries BC (18th–15th centuries BC)
	Pervomayskoye I	16th–15th centuries BC
	Ust-Bir I	18th–16th centuries BC
Karasuk culture Karasuk phase	Yarki II	17th–16th centuries BC
	Karasuk I	14th–11th centuries BC
	Okunev Ulus	14th–10th centuries BC
	Pervomayskoye I	15th–14th centuries BC
	Podgornoye Ozero I	14th–10th centuries BC
	Yarki I	13th–11th centuries BC
	Transitional Kamenniy Log phase	Minusinsk Karyer Kamenniy Ostrov
Tagar culture Podgornovo phase	Solonechniy Log	11th–9th centuries BC
	Grishkin Log I	9th–6th centuries BC
	Yarki II	9th–6th centuries BC
Podgornovo-Saragash phases	Podgornoye Ozero	9th–4th centuries BC
	Nurilkov Ulus	8th–3rd centuries BC
	Saragash Ozero	8th–5th centuries BC
Saragash phase	Lepeshkina	4th century BC
	Okunev Ulus	8th–3rd centuries BC
Tes phase	Chernoye Ozero I	2nd century BC–2nd century AD
Phase not defined	Melnichniy-Barsuchinniy Logs	8th–4th centuries BC

ple of human bone has been dated. The explanation for why the wood/charcoal dates from Malinovi Log are consistently some 6 centuries earlier is unclear at present. However, if we assume that the older dates made on wood or charcoal samples are subject to the old-wood effect and do not definitely reflect the presence of Afanasievo people in the area in the 4th millennium cal BC, we can suggest that the migration of people from the Volga-Ural region could have taken place in the Yamnaya period (late 3rd millennium BC), but not necessarily in the earlier Repin period (middle of the 3rd millennium BC). Though, again, more human bone samples need to be tested from the sites that have provided the oldest dates for the culture before certain conclusions can be made.

- The preliminary date of the sample from the settlement of Bateni (UBA-8771; 2461–2206 cal BC) provides a much more recent date than was expected. Previously, the skeleton was thought to be the only individual of Neolithic date to have been discovered in the Minusinsk Basin (Gryaznov 1953; Vadetskaya 1986:11). However, a ¹⁴C date obtained from the individual during the current study is more in keeping with the Okunevo culture. It is also worth noting that archaeologists have previously commented upon the similarity of the grave goods associated with this individual to those found in Okunevo burials (Vadetskaya 1988:69). As such, it seems probable that the burial belongs to the beginning of the Okunevo culture, although further archaeological and ¹⁴C investigation is required to verify this finding.
- The date ranges obtained for the “Classical” (14th–10th centuries BC) and Kamenniy Log (11th–9th centuries BC) phases of the Karasuk culture are generally in agreement with the

ranges derived from previous research (14th–10th and 14th/13th–9th centuries BC, respectively). The new dates overlap each other in the 11th–10th centuries BC, which can either be the result of a small number of samples analyzed and large $2\text{-}\sigma$ ranges of dates or indicate the coexistence of the 2 subcultures in the 11th–10th centuries BC. However, the dates we have obtained for the 2 phases of the Karasuk culture are not as contradictory as those from Sukhanikha (Görsdorf et al. 2001) and do not suggest an earlier timing of the Kamenniy Log phase of the culture (see above).

6. Overall, the new dates support the trend for the older dating of the South Siberian cultures, observed previously (e.g. Görsdorf et al. 2001:1117; Alekseev et al. 2005:223). However, the discrepancy between the traditional concept and modern ^{14}C chronology appears to diminish from the Early Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age cultures. For the Afanasievo culture, the difference is 10 to 5 centuries, but for the Tagar culture it comprises only around 2 centuries or even disappears if we take into account recent archaeological perspectives, placing the beginning of the Tagar culture at the end of the 10th century BC (e.g. Bokovenko 2006; Table 1). We need to emphasize here that, archaeologically, the timing of the Afanasievo–Andronovo cultures is based on their similarities with related Siberian cultures, themselves poorly dated, while more precise connections based on similarities with Chinese cultures are established for the Karasuk and Tagar cultures. In the meantime, the difference between archaeological and ^{14}C dating is the highest for the Afanasievo–Andronovo cultures, while it considerably decreases for the Karasuk and Tagar cultures. In other words, the difference decreases and disappears in later periods, when better cross-links to other, more securely dated cultures can be made.
7. Recent research has proposed a freshwater reservoir effect as one of the possible reasons for ^{14}C dates on human bone being older than expected. Old carbon can be introduced through the geology of the catchment area, entering the aquatic foodchain, and can affect the collagen of human populations consuming foods from such rivers and lakes. The effect, where it occurs at all, is highly variable, and ^{14}C dates of freshwater organisms can be several hundred or even thousand years older than their calendar age (Lanting and van der Plicht 1995/1996, 1998; Heinemeier et al. 1997; Heinemeier and Rud 1998; Cook et al. 2001, 2002; Khasanov and Savinetskiy 2002). Recently, research has been carried out on populations of the Khvalynsk (6th–5th millennia BC) and Catacomb (Katakomb; 5th–3rd millennia BC) cultures of the northwest Caspian Sea region, revealing a strong link between the diet of these steppe populations, consuming a significant amount of fish, and their ^{14}C age, which turned out to be 100–500 yr earlier than terrestrial materials from the same contexts (Shishlina et al. 2006, 2007; van der Plicht et al. 2007). As fish are often at a higher trophic level than terrestrial foods, there has been an attempt to introduce a linear correlation between the $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ values and ^{14}C dates of individuals using freshwater resources in their diet (Cook et al. 2002), and to apply such preliminary corrections to the ^{14}C dates of Mesolithic–Bronze Age steppe populations of the Samara region of southwest European Russia (Anthony 2007). Depending on their $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ values, the reservoir correction for the Samara populations was proposed to vary between -192 ± 26 and -408 ± 52 yr (Anthony 2007:469).

Most of the archaeological sites of the Minusinsk Basin are located near freshwater resources; therefore, foods of freshwater origin, including fish, were available for the area's populations. Archaeological (Vadetskaya 1986; Savinov 1995; I Grachev, personal communication) and stable C and N isotope analysis data (Svyatko, unpublished data) also suggest freshwater fish were used to some degree by peoples of the Afanasievo through Tagar cultures. However, there appears to be no significant relationship between the $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ values and calibrated ages of analyzed individuals within each separate culture (Figure 8). If there was a marked reservoir effect, those individuals with higher $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ values would on average be expected to exhibit earlier ^{14}C

ages than those with lower values. Therefore, there is no convincing evidence to suggest that the reservoir effect has affected the ^{14}C dating results presented here to any great extent.

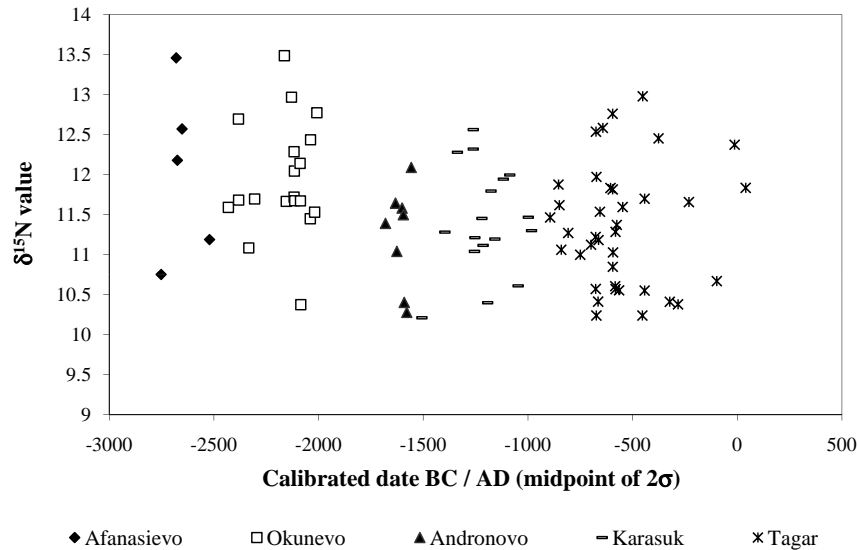


Figure 8 Relationship between the $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ values and calibrated age of individuals analyzed

8. On the basis of the ^{14}C dating, a chronological gap appears to have occurred in the southern Minusinsk Basin in the 19th to the mid-18th centuries BC, between the Okunevo and Andronovo cultures. None of the 28 humans dated to the Okunevo and Andronovo cultures fall within this period (Figure 9). The calibration curve does not show any major fluctuations between 1900 and 1750 cal BC, so possible reasons for the gap include the use of a non-representative sample in the current study; a change in burial practice, which lowered the visibility of individuals; or a phase of depopulation in the Minusinsk Basin for a period of ~150 yr.

The Okunevo samples included in the present study were derived from 4 sites located in the minor Minusinsk Basin (Okunev Ulus, Uibat III, Uibat V, and Verhniy Askiz I). From past research, most of the calibrated dates taken from bone samples from the minor Minusinsk Basin also fall outside of the period. The only exceptions are 2 specimens derived from the Karasuk site of Anchil-Chon (Le-5285 and -5507), providing calibrated date ranges of 2033–1526 and 1874–1319 cal BC, respectively. Unfortunately, further contextual information is not available for these individuals, which might help explain their dating results. However, it is clear that before further conclusions can be drawn concerning this possible hiatus in activity, it is necessary to obtain ^{14}C dates from many more samples, particularly of human bone.

In a wider context, there is a strong opinion among archaeologists that in the northern part of the Minusinsk Basin, the culture came to an end because the population was forced out of the territory by the people of the succeeding Andronovo culture, while in the southern part the Okunevo culture could have lasted for a longer period of time, possibly until the Karasuk culture (no Andronovo sites have yet to be identified in the minor Minusinsk Basin). Therefore, there may have been a degree of coexistence between the tribes of the Okunevo and Andronovo cultures in different parts of the Minusinsk Basin (Semenov 1984:253, 1997:157–160; Vadetskaya 1986:36, 46; Molodin 1992:29; Lazaretov 2001:104, 2007:41; Savinov 2002:24, 32). No major climatic changes are reported for the

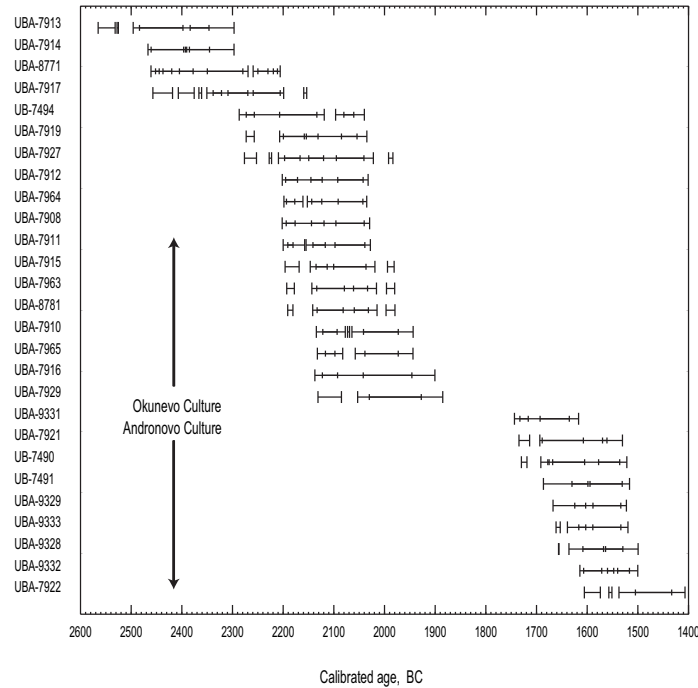


Figure 9 Calibrated age ranges (1 and 2 σ) showing the chronological gap between the Okunevo and Andronovo cultures.

period (Dirksen and van Geel 2004; Koulikova 2004; Dirksen et al. 2007). However, it has been noted that a cold and wet climate prevailed in the area from ~5 cal kyr BP, which would have provided severe living conditions for the Okunevo population. This apparently changed to drier climate at ~3.6 cal kyr BP. It has been suggested that the degree of aridity and continentality may have increased progressively from the northern part of the basin to the south. This may have restricted successful habitation of the entire area by the people of the succeeding Andronovo culture (Dirksen et al. 2007).

Importantly, in the Tuva region to the south of the Minusinsk Basin, a major chronological gap is observed between the turn of the 3rd/2nd millennium BC and 9th century BC (van Geel et al. 2004: 155). No evidence exists for the presence of any cultures in the area in the first half of the 2nd millennium BC; small-scale occupation of the territory began in the second half of the 2nd millennium BC, while a major occupation of the territory occurred in the 1st millennium BC. The poor environmental conditions and dry climate that predominated in the region until the Middle Bronze Age have been suggested as a possible explanation for the gap. It has also been proposed that as Tuva, to the south of the Basin, became too dry, the Minusinsk Basin may have become more attractive for settlement (Zaitseva et al. 2004).

To conclude, it should be noted that a ¹⁴C chronology for the prehistoric cultures of the Minusinsk Basin is still under development. Nevertheless, the new ¹⁴C data reported in this paper constitute a large collection of high-quality ¹⁴C dates derived from single-entity samples of human bone for the Eneolithic to Early Iron Age periods for the region. The ¹⁴C dates derived from previous research and during the course of the present project have confirmed the general chronological sequence of the Afanasievo to Tagar cultures, but much work remains to refine the timing of the transitions between cultures and the timing of the particular phases of the Karasuk and Tagar cultures.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 ^{14}C dates of the Afanasievo culture: previous research ($n = 24$).

Lab ID	Material	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	Provenance	^{14}C BP	Age, cal BC ^a (2 σ)
Le-532 ^b	wood	—	Chernovaya VI, kurgan 4, grave 3	3700 ± 80	2345–1883
Le-8517	wood	—	Itkol II, kurgan 27, grave 1	4170 ± 30	2882–2635
Le-930 ^c	wood	—	Krasniy Yar I, kurgan 7	4080 ± 40	2862–2489
Le-931 ^c	wood	—	Krasniy Yar I, kurgan 9	4170 ± 50	2890–2589
Le-1067 ^d	wood	—	Krasniy Yar I, kurgan 12	4240 ± 60	3011–2626
Le-1068	wood	—	Krasniy Yar I, kurgan 15	4160 ± 40	2882–2622
Le-1611 ^e	wood/charcoal	—	Letnik VI, enclosure 13	4250 ± 40	2926–2679
Le-1612 ^d	—	—	Letnik VI	4410 ± 50	3330–2909
Le-2115 ^e	wood/charcoal	—	Letnik VI, enclosure 14	4410 ± 50	3330–2909
Le-2116 ^e	wood/charcoal	—	Letnik VI, enclosure 14	4380 ± 50	3319–2895
Le-2094 ^e	wood/charcoal	—	Malinovi Log, enclosure 1, grave 1	4770 ± 60	3653–3375
Le-2091 ^e	wood/charcoal	—	Malinovi Log, enclosure 4, grave 1	4780 ± 50	3654–3378
Le-2092 ^e	wood/charcoal	—	Malinovi Log, enclosure 4, grave 1	4790 ± 50	3659–3379
Le-2093 ^e	wood/charcoal	—	Malinovi Log, enclosure 4, grave 1	4820 ± 50	3705–3384
Le-455 ^b	charcoal	—	Maliye Kopeny II, kurgan 2	4440 ± 150	3625–2679
Le-694 ^b	wood	—	Sargov Ulus, grave 3	4270 ± 60	3083–2668
Bln-4764 ^f	wood	—	Sukhanikha, stone circle, object 6	4409 ± 70	3337–2903
Bln-4765 ^f	wood	–24.86	Sukhanikha, stone circle, object 6	4259 ± 36	2926–2702
Bln-4766 ^f	wood	–24.82	Sukhanikha, grave 2, object 2	4205 ± 44	2903–2636
Bln-4767 ^f	wood	–25.27	Sukhanikha, grave 1, object 6	4253 ± 36	2922–2701
Bln-4769 ^f	wood	–24.08	Sukhanikha, grave 1, object 6	4022 ± 40	2833–2466
Bln-4919 ^g	wood	–24.90	Sukhanikha, grave 15, object 6	3936 ± 35	2565–2299
Bln-5280 ^{g,h}	wood	–25.7	Sukhanikha II, burial mound 19a, grave 1	4271 ± 30	2925–2779
Le-1316 ^d	—	—	Vostochnoye	3880 ± 30	2467–2235

^aHere and in other Appendix tables: dates were calibrated with CALIB 5.0.2 (Stuiver et al. 2005) using the IntCal04 calibration curve (Reimer et al. 2004).

^bSementsov et al. 1969:258.

^cVadetskaya 1981:62.

^dZaitseva and van Geel 2004.

^eErmolova and Markov 1983:95–6.

^fGörsdorf et al. 1998a:74–5.

^gGörsdorf 2002:558.

^hGörsdorf et al. 2004:84–5.

Appendix 2 ¹⁴C dates of the Okunevo culture: previous research (*n* = 14).

Lab ID	Material	δ ¹³ C (‰)	Provenance	¹⁴ C BP	Age, cal BC (2 σ)
Bln-4948 ^a	charcoal	-24.30	Chebaki, C-6	3664 ± 37	2190–1938
Bln-4947 ^a	charcoal	-24.14	Chebaki, C-13	3488 ± 40	1916–1693
Bln-5279 ^{b,c}	human bone	-19.2	Chernovaya, kurgan 1, grave 1	3487 ± 25	1885–1745
Le-519 ^d	wood	—	Karasuk III, enclosure 7 ^e	3470 ± 200	2432–1316
Le-1315 ^f	charcoal	—	Lebyazhye, grave 10	4370 ± 100	3358–2708
Le-602 ^d	wood	—	Pristan I, enclosure 6, grave 2	3750 ± 60	2399–1974
Bln-5195 ^g	human bone	-19.5	Uibat V, kurgan 1, grave 1	3734 ± 29	2266–2034
ID n/a ^{h,i,j}	human bone	—	Uibat V, kurgan 1, grave 3	3830 ± 25	2456–2153
Bln-5196 ^g	human bone	-19.5	Uibat V, kurgan 1, grave 4	4016 ± 30	2618–2470
Bln-4951 ^a	bone	-19.79	Uibat V, kurgan 4, grave 4	3631 ± 41	2134–1891
Bln-4762 ^a	wood	—	Uibat V, kurgan 4, grave 5	3782 ± 62	2457–2033
Bln-4950 ^a	bone	-19.51	Uibat V, kurgan 4, grave 15	3620 ± 35	2125–1890
Bln-4949 ^a	bone	-20.55	Uibat V, kurgan 4, grave 20	3657 ± 43	2192–1916
Le-1178 ^{h,k}	—	—	Ust-Kindirla-1, settlement, dwelling 1	3410 ± 50	1881–1541

^aGörsdorf et al. 1998a:74–5.^bGörsdorf 2002:557.^cGörsdorf et al. 2004:86.^dSementsov et al. 1969:258.^eThe date is attributed to the Afanasievo culture in the source; however, the enclosure contained mostly intrusive Okunevo burials (Gryaznov 1999:36–7). Apparently, the date belongs to the Okunevo culture.^fZaitseva and van Geel 2004.^gGörsdorf et al. 2001:1116.^hLazaretov 1995:16.ⁱLazaretov 2007:40.^jLazaretov (1995) specifies that the date was obtained in the Heidelberg Radiocarbon Laboratory.^kThe site was originally attributed to the Neolithic period (Vadetskaya 1986:14); however, artifacts recovered from the settlement are very similar to those of the Okunevo culture. We propose that the site might belong to the Okunevo culture; therefore, the date is presented together with dates of the Okunevo culture.Appendix 3 ¹⁴C dates of the Andronovo culture: previous research (*n* = 20).

Lab ID	Material	δ ¹³ C (‰)	Provenance	¹⁴ C BP	Age, cal BC (2 σ)
Le-1867 ^a	wood/charcoal	—	Ashpyl, kurgan 5, grave 45	3490 ± 40	1918–1694
Le-1866 ^a	wood/charcoal	—	Ashpyl, kurgan 30, grave 3	3580 ± 40	2034–1775
Le-3040 ^b	—	—	Ashpyl, dwelling	3360 ± 40	1742–1531
Le-2562 ^b	charcoal	—	Ashpyl, square E 4, 2nd spit	4200 ± 50	2903–2630
Le-3044 ^b	—	—	Birya (Lebyazhye I)	3340 ± 60	1769–1462
Le-3045	—	—	Birya (Lebyazhye I), grave 15	3060 ± 200	1744–819
Le-3046 ^b	—	—	Birya (Lebyazhye I), grave 16	3780 ± 40	2342–2041
Le-604 ^c	wood	—	Kamenka II, enclosure 24, grave 1	3910 ± 75	2579–2145
Le-595 ^c	wood	—	Kamenka II, enclosure 24, grave 2	2540 ± 65	809–416
Le-630 ^c	wood	—	Lanin Log, enclosure 1, grave 1	3390 ± 70	1880–1523
Le-617 ^c	wood	—	Lanin Log, enclosure 1, grave 3	3660 ± 65	2274–1835
Le-619 ^c	wood	—	Lanin Log, kurgan 2, grave 1	3970 ± 70	2838–2210
Bln-5163 ^d	human bone	-19.3	Potroshilovo II, enclosure 5, grave 1	3397 ± 30	1766–1617
Bln-5194 ^d	human bone	-20.4	Potroshilovo II, enclosure 7	3295 ± 32	1664–1498
Bln-5198 ^d	human bone	-20.1	Potroshilovo II, enclosure 5, grave 2	3269 ± 28	1619–1460
Bln-5197 ^d	human bone	-19.7	Potroshilovo II, enclosure 11	3189 ± 28	1507–1414
Bln-5193 ^d	human bone	-19.7	Potroshilovo II, enclosure 20	3164 ± 28	1497–1400
Le-587 ^c	wood	—	Uzhur, kurgan 14, grave covering	4600 ± 250	3943–2637
Le-518 ^c	wood	—	Yarki II, grave 1	2370 ± 95	771–208
Le-529 ^c	wood	—	Yarki II, grave 2	2970 ± 70	1396–1005

^aErmolova and Markov 1983.^bZaitseva and van Geel 2004.^cSementsov et al. 1969:258–9.^dGörsdorf et al. 2001:1116.

Appendix 4 ^{14}C dates of the Karasuk culture: previous research ($n = 63$).

Lab ID	Material	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	Provenance	^{14}C BP	Age, cal BC (2σ)
Karasuk phase ($n = 26$)					
Le-5283 ^a	animal bone	—	Anchil-Chon, kurgan 1, grave 1	2660 ± 100	1054–418
Le-5284 ^{b,c}	bone	—	Anchil-Chon, kurgan 1, grave 1	2880 ± 70	1294–896
Le-5285 ^a	bone	—	Anchil-Chon, kurgan 1, grave 3	3470 ± 100	2033–1526
Le-5293 ^a	bone	—	Anchil-Chon, kurgan 1, grave 4	2960 ± 45	1368–1022
Le-5287 ^a	bone	—	Anchil-Chon, kurgan 1, grave 4	2950 ± 25	1262–1056
Le-5289 ^a	animal bone	—	Anchil-Chon, kurgan 1, grave 7	2970 ± 25	1300–1118
Le-5290 ^a	bone	—	Anchil-Chon, kurgan 1, grave 8	2920 ± 50	1292–946
Le-5286 ^a	animal bone	—	Anchil-Chon, kurgan 1, grave 9	2890 ± 50	1257–928
Le-6299 ^a	bone	—	Anchil-Chon, kurgan 2, grave 1	2880 ± 90	1367–838
Le-4141 ^{b,c}	charcoal	—	Georgievskiy Necropolis (Tes), kurgan 1213, grave 1	2880 ± 40	1208–930
Le-8193 ^d	animal bone	—	Itkol I, kurgan 40	2870 ± 100	1369–827
Bln-5165 ^e	human bone	–15.4	Potroshilovo, grave 1	2905 ± 26	1208–1009
Bln-5164 ^e	human bone	–17.7	Potroshilovo, grave 7	2994 ± 26	1370–1128
Bln-5311 ^{f,g}	human bone	–16.3	Sukhanikha I, grave 1, object I	3134 ± 27	1493–1318
Bln-5318 ^{f,g}	human bone	–15.2	Sukhanikha I, grave 1, object VI/3	3101 ± 26	1431–1311
Bln-5312 ^{f,g}	human bone	–18.0	Sukhanikha I, grave 1, object VIII	3006 ± 30	1379–1130
Bln-5314 ^{f,g}	human bone	–17.1	Sukhanikha I, grave 1, object 8	2987 ± 27	1368–1125
Bln-5319 ^{f,g}	human bone	–17.1	Sukhanikha I, grave 3, object VIII	2985 ± 26	1366–1125
Bln-5592 ^h	animal bone	–19.7	Sukhanikha	2876 ± 29	1190–937
Bln-5593 ^h	animal bone	–19.8	Sukhanikha	2871 ± 28	1187–933
Bln-5594 ^h	human bone	–18.1	Sukhanikha	812 ± 36	AD 1165–1273
Le-5396 ^c	bone	—	Tert-Aba, enclosure 21b	2890 ± 100	1374–841
Le-4704 ^{b,c}	wood	—	Torgajak, dwelling 1, western part	2600 ± 40	837–559
Le-4706 ^{b,c}	wood	—	Torgajak, dwelling 1, western part	2580 ± 80	897–417
Le-4707 ^{b,c}	wood	—	Torgajak, dwelling 1, western part	2900 ± 60	1288–919
Le-4708 ^{b,c}	wood	—	Torgajak, dwelling 5, depth 1 m	2870 ± 50	1212–911
Kamenniy Log phase ($n = 37$)					
Le-6300 ^c	bone	—	Anchil-Chon, kurgan 3b, grave 1	2760 ± 30	994–830
Le-5707 ^c	coal	—	Anchil-Chon, kurgan 3v	3070 ± 100	1525–1020
Le-5545 ^c	bone	—	Anchil-Chon, kurgan 3v	2720 ± 50	976–800
Le-5507 ^c	bone	—	Anchil-Chon, kurgan 3g	3280 ± 100	1874–1319
Le-5705 ^c	bone	—	Anchil-Chon, kurgan 3g	2800 ± 35	1044–845
Le-6297 ^c	bone	—	Anchil-Chon, kurgan 6, grave 1	2940 ± 55	1371–997
Le-6298 ^c	bone	—	Anchil-Chon, kurgan 7a, grave 1	2740 ± 40	976–810
Le-5704 ^c	bone	—	Anchil-Chon, kurgan 7b	2710 ± 50	975–797
Le-5706 ^c	bone	—	Anchil-Chon, kurgan 7v	3000 ± 60	1401–1055
Ua-24153 ⁱ	bone	—	Kamenniy Ostrov	2780 ± 40	1017–829
Le-2046 ^{b,c}	wood	—	Dolgiy Kurgan, kurgan 3	2850 ± 40	1187–905
Le-577 ^j	wood	—	Karasuk IV, kurgan 19, grave 2	2710 ± 75	1053–675
Le-695 ^j	charcoal	—	Karasuk IV, kurgan 10, grave 2	2930 ± 60	1369–939
Le-1862 ^{b,c}	wood	—	Kolok, kurgan 10, grave 1	2830 ± 50	1129–843
Le-4327 ^k	wood	—	Kuten-Buluk, kurgan 2, grave 1	2860 ± 100	1311–818
Le-4329 ^k	wood	—	Kuten-Buluk, kurgan 9, grave 1	2910 ± 40	1260–997
Le-4330 ^k	wood	—	Kuten-Buluk, kurgan 11, grave 1	2890 ± 50	1257–928
Le-4326 ^k	wood	—	Kuten-Buluk, kurgan 2, grave 2	2790 ± 40	1039–835
Le-4323 ^k	wood	—	Kuten-Buluk, kurgan 6, grave 2	2750 ± 40	996–816
Le-4328 ^k	wood	—	Kuten-Buluk, kurgan 8, grave 2	2750 ± 40	996–816
Le-4324 ^k	wood	—	Kuten-Buluk, kurgan 10, grave 1	2790 ± 40	1039–835
Le-4331 ^k	wood	—	Kuten-Buluk, kurgan 12, grave 1	2770 ± 40	1008–828
Le-4325 ^k	wood	—	Kuten-Buluk, kurgan 14, grave 1	2700 ± 50	972–794
Le-4322 ^{b,c}	wood	—	Kyzlas, kurgan 2, grave 1	2990 ± 190	1662–800

Appendix 4 ¹⁴C dates of the Karasuk culture: previous research (*n* = 63). (Continued)

Lab ID	Material	δ ¹³ C (‰)	Provenance	¹⁴ C BP	Age, cal BC (2 σ)
Bln-4768 ^l	wood	-25.71	Sukhanikha, grave 15, object 4	3031 ± 38	1407–1132
Bln-4962 ^l	wood	-26.54	Sukhanikha, grave 20, object 4	2962 ± 36	1306–1052
Bln-4921 ^l	wood	-26.77	Sukhanikha, grave 20, object 4	2943 ± 29	1262–1050
Bln-4836 ^l	birch bark	-26.33	Sukhanikha, grave 15, object 4	2923 ± 37	1260–1010
Bln-4835 ^l	wood	-26.23	Sukhanikha, grave 15, object 4	2906 ± 38	1258–980
Bln-4763 ^l	charcoal	-24.09	Sukhanikha, stone line, object 6	2762 ± 49	1014–812
Bln-5281 ^{g,i}	wood	-25.9	Sukhanikha (Podsukhanikha) II, kurgan 11, grave 1	3044 ± 29	1405–1216
Bln-5316 ^{g,i}	human bone	-15.8	Sukhanikha (Podsukhanikha) II, kurgan 11A, grave 1	2833 ± 27	1108–909
Bln-5317 ^{g,i}	human bone	-16.5	Sukhanikha (Podsukhanikha) II, kurgan 11, grave 1	2810 ± 25	1026–900
Bln-5315 ^{g,i}	human bone	-17.7	Sukhanikha (Podsukhanikha) II, kurgan 10, grave 1	2667 ± 24	895–797
Le-2001 ^{b,c}	wood	—	Uij, kurgan 1, grave 1	2690 ± 40	912–798
Le-2002 ^{b,c}	wood	—	Uij, kurgan 1, grave 1	2630 ± 40	895–675
Le-2003 ^{b,c}	wood	—	Uij, kurgan 1, grave 1	2610 ± 40	893–593

^aBokovenko and Legrand 2000.

^bAlekseev et al. 2001.

^cAlekseev et al. 2005.

^dA Polyakov and S Morozov, unpublished data.

^eGörsdorf et al. 2001.

^fGörsdorf 2002:558.

^gGörsdorf et al. 2004.

^hGörsdorf 2004:407.

ⁱGrachev 2006.

^jSementsov et al. 1969:259.

^kLazaretov 2006.

^lGörsdorf et al. 1998a.

Appendix 5 ¹⁴C dates of the Tagar culture: previous research (*n* = 158).

Lab ID	Material	δ ¹³ C (‰)	Provenance	¹⁴ C BP	Age, cal BC (2 σ)
Bainovo phase (<i>n</i> = 7)					
Le-5255 ^{a,b}	wood (charcoal)	—	Khystaglar, barrow 1, fence A	2710 ± 70	1024–774 BC
Le-5256 ^{a,b}	wood	—	Khystaglar, barrow 1, fence A, grave 1	2950 ± 70	1386–977 BC
Le- ^{c,d}	wood	—	Khystaglar, barrow 1, fence A, grave 1	2620 ± 40	895–669 BC
Le-5254 ^{a,b}	wood	—	Khystaglar, barrow 1, fence B, grave 1	2950 ± 30	1268–1050 BC
Le-5257 ^{a,b}	wood	—	Khystaglar, barrow 1, fence B, grave 1	2840 ± 30	1113–916 BC
Bln-5166 ^e	human bone	-15.6	Krivaya, grave 1	2552 ± 32	802–548 BC
Le-2096 ^{a,b}	wood	—	Letnik-6, kurgan 10	2430 ± 40	753–402 BC
Podgornovo phase (<i>n</i> = 32)					
Le-1896 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Ashpyl, kurgan 5, grave 3	2360 ± 40	730–373 BC
Le-2128 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Ashpyl, kurgan 16, grave 2	2390 ± 40	747–389 BC
Le-2126 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Ashpyl, kurgan 22	2360 ± 40	730–373 BC
Le-2127 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Ashpyl, kurgan 23, grave 2	2330 ± 40	521–231 BC
Le-2124 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Ashpyl, kurgan 24, grave 1	2380 ± 40	741–386 BC
Le-1613 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Ashpyl, kurgan 26, grave 1	2660 ± 40	900–790 BC

Appendix 5 ^{14}C dates of the Tagar culture: previous research ($n = 158$). (Continued)

Lab ID	Material	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	Provenance	^{14}C BP	Age, cal BC (2σ)
Le-2099 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Ashpyl, kurgan 26, grave 1	2630 ± 40	895–675 BC
Le-1614 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Ashpyl, kurgan 26, grave 2	2300 ± 40	412–207 BC
Le-2100 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Ashpyl, kurgan 26, grave 2	2310 ± 40	503–208 BC
Le-5133 ^{b,g}	wood	—	Bolshaya Erba I, barrow 4, grave 2	2840 ± 35	1115–914 BC
Le-5135 ^{a,b,g}	wood	—	Bolshaya Erba I, barrow 4, grave 2, 20 outer rings	2780 ± 40	1017–829 BC
Le-5135 ^{b,g}	wood	—	Bolshaya Erba I, barrow 4, grave 2, 30 inner rings	2730 ± 25	920–819 BC
Le-5398 ^a	bone	—	Iyusskiy Mogilnik, kurgan slope	2510 ± 50	795–417 BC
Le-5190 ^{b,g}	bone	—	Kazanovka-2, kurgan 1, grave 1	2720 ± 80	1112–769 BC
Le-5388 ^{a,b}	bone	—	Kazanovka-2, kurgan 1, fence D	2670 ± 80	1018–546 BC
Le-5137 ^{b,g}	wood	—	Kazanovka-2, kurgan 3, grave A	2665 ± 30	895–795 BC
Le-5391 ^{b,g}	bone	—	Kazanovka-3, kurgan 2, fence A, sk. B	2620 ± 40	895–669 BC
Le-5393 ^{a,b}	bone	—	Kazanovka-3, kurgan 2, fence G, grave 2	2820 ± 100	1264–803 BC
Le-5646 ^h	bone	—	Kazanovka-3, kurgan 2a, grave 2	2640 ± 120	1048–410 BC
Le-720 ⁱ		—	Kickik-Kyuzhur-1, kurgan 1	2410 ± 50	753–395 BC
Le-2114 ^{b,f}	wood	—	Letnik-6, kurgan 12	2610 ± 40	893–593 BC
Le-2113 ^{b,f}	wood	—	Letnik-6, kurgan 12	2630 ± 40	895–675 BC
Le-2118 ^{b,f}	wood	—	Letnik-6, kurgan 38	2580 ± 40	820–549 BC
Le-2119 ^{b,f}	wood	—	Letnik-6, kurgan 38	2590 ± 40	829–554 BC
Le-5651 ^h	bone	—	Pechische, barrow 3, grave 3	2480 ± 50	772–414 BC
Le-5296 ^{a,b}	bone	—	Prigorsk-1, kurgan 1, grave 1	2365 ± 45	746–365 BC
Le-5295 ^{a,b}	wood	—	Prigorsk-1, kurgan 1, grave 2	2500 ± 30	781–519 BC
Bln-5313 ^j	human bone	–18.5	Sukhanikha II, kurgan 14, grave 1	2651 ± 26	891–791 BC
Le-5192 ^{b,g}	wood	—	Shaman Gora, kurgan 1, grave 2, bottom	2700 ± 30	904–806 BC
Le-1880 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Tigey, 1 grave	2330 ± 40	521–231 BC
Le-5786 ^b		—	Tigir-Taidzhen-4, kurgan 1	2750 ± 20	968–833 BC
Le-5838 ^h	wood	—	Tigir-Taidzhen-4, kurgan 1	2780 ± 30	1003–843 BC
Saragash phase ($n = 86$)					
UB-4957 ^{k,l}	wood	—	Ai-Dai	2440 ± 16	742–410 BC
Le-7511	wood	—	Apchinaev, kurgan 3, grave 1, cov- ering	2560 ± 25	802–567 BC
Le-2866 ^m		—	Balalyk-1, kurgan 6, grave 2	2850 ± 40	1187–905 BC
Le-5679 ^{b,h}	wood	—	Cheremshino, barrow, grave 1, log, 4 layer from center	2370 ± 20	510–393 BC
Le-5678 ^{b,h}	wood	—	Cheremshino, barrow, grave 1, log, 3 layer from center	2400 ± 20	701–400 BC
Le-5677 ^{b,h}	wood	—	Cheremshino, barrow, grave 1, log, 2 layer from center	2540 ± 40	801–539 BC
Le-5676 ^{b,h}	wood	—	Cheremshino, barrow, grave 1, log, 1 layer from center	2710 ± 60	997–795 BC
Le-5680 ^{b,h}	wood	—	Cheremshino, barrow, grave 1, outer rings	2435 ± 25	748–406 BC
Le-5670 ^{b,h}	wood	—	Cheremshino, barrow 1, grave 3	2470 ± 30	762–416 BC
Le-5668 ^{b,h}	wood	—	Cheremshino, barrow 1, grave 2	2530 ± 25	793–547 BC
Le-5671 ^{b,h}	wood	—	Cheremshino, barrow 1, grave 3	2610 ± 50	896–553 BC
Le-5672 ^{b,h}	wood	—	Cheremshino, barrow 1, grave 1, outer rings	2660 ± 60	976–598 BC
Le-5675 ^{b,h}	wood	—	Cheremshino, barrow 1, grave 1, central rings	2700 ± 50	972–794 BC
Le-720 ^a	wood	—	Kichik-Kyuzhur-1, kurgan 1	2410 ± 80	780–379 BC
Le-721 ⁱ		—	Kichik-Kyuzhur, kurgan 7, burial 5	2180 ± 50	383–103 BC

Appendix 5 ^{14}C dates of the Tagar culture: previous research ($n = 158$). (Continued)

Lab ID	Material	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	Provenance	^{14}C BP	Age, cal BC (2σ)
Le-2203 ^{a,b}	wood	—	Kirbinskiy Log, kurgan 1, grave 2	2210 ± 40	385–185 BC
Le-2204 ^{a,b}	wood	—	Kirbinskiy Log, kurgan 1, grave 2	2280 ± 40	403–208 BC
Le-2205 ^{a,b}	wood	—	Kirbinskiy Log, kurgan 2	2220 ± 40	387–197 BC
Le-2208 ^{a,b}	wood	—	Kirbinskiy Log, kurgan 4, grave 1	2340 ± 40	705–234 BC
Le-2209 ^m	—	—	Kirbinskiy Log	3840 ± 40	2462–2154 BC
Le-2210 ^{a,b}	wood	—	Kirbinskiy Log, kurgan 5, grave 1	2380 ± 40	741–386 BC
Le-2211 ^{a,b}	wood	—	Kirbinskiy Log, kurgan 5, grave 2	2410 ± 40	750–396 BC
Le-2305 ^{a,b}	wood	—	Kirbinskiy Log, kurgan 3, grave 4	2180 ± 40	378–114 BC
Le-1864 ^{b,f}	wood	—	Kolok, kurgan 3, grave 1	2690 ± 50	970–791 BC
Le-2097 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Kolok, kurgan 3, grave 1	2640 ± 40	895–773 BC
Le-1865 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Kolok, kurgan 3, grave 2	2110 ± 40	350–4 BC
Le-2098 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Kolok, kurgan 3, grave 1	2130 ± 40	354–46 BC
Le-1863 ^{b,f}	wood	—	Kolok, kurgan 9, grave 1	2400 ± 50	752–391 BC
Le-2095 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Kolok, kurgan 9, grave 1	2380 ± 40	741–386 BC
Le-2096 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Kolok, kurgan 10, grave 1	2430 ± 20	735–407 BC
Le-5134 ^{b,g}	wood	—	Kobyak, kurgan 5, grave 1, 18 central rings	2840 ± 30	1113–916 BC
Le-5134 ^{a,b,g}	wood	—	Kobyak, kurgan 5, grave 1, 20 middle rings	2790 ± 35	1017–839 BC
Le-5191 ^{b,g}	wood	—	Kobyak, kurgan 5, grave 1, outer rings	2640 ± 25	835–790 BC
Le-5190 ^{b,g}	wood	—	Kobyak, kurgan 5, grave 2	2470 ± 30	762–416 BC
Le-2095 ^{a,b}	wood	—	Letnik-6, kurgan 9, grave 1	2380 ± 40	741–386 BC
Le-2036 ^g	wood	—	Medvedka-1, kurgan 1, grave 2	1980 ± 40	87 BC–AD 124
Le-2040 ^g	wood	—	Medvedka-1, kurgan 1, grave 2	2060 ± 40	184 BC–AD 24
Le-2045 ^g	wood	—	Medvedka-1, kurgan 4	2030 ± 40	164 BC–AD 57
Le-2044 ^g	wood	—	Medvedka-1, kurgan 3, grave 2	2010 ± 40	154 BC–AD 74
Le-2007 ^{b,g}	wood	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 1, grave 1, 12 central rings	2560 ± 40	809–543 BC
Le-2007 ^{a,b,g}	wood	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 1, grave 1, rings 12–24	2520 ± 40	796–517 BC
Le-2008 ^b	wood	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 1, grave 1, NW corner	2090 ± 40	337 BC–AD 1
Le-2008 ^b	wood	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 1, grave 1, NW corner	2080 ± 40	200 BC–AD 3
Le-2008 ^{c,b}	wood	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 1, grave 1, NW corner	2090 ± 40	337 BC–AD 1
Le-2009 ^b	wood	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 1, grave 1, floor	2720 ± 40	971–804 BC
Le-2010 ^b	wood	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 1, grave 1	1980 ± 40	87 BC–AD 124
Le-2010 ^{a,b}	wood	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 1, grave 1, top	1930 ± 40	39 BC–AD 209
Le-2010 ^b	charcoal	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 1, grave 1	1890 ± 40	AD 28–230
Le-2189 ^b	wood	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 2, grave 1	2690 ± 40	912–798 BC
Le-2190 ^{b,g}	wood	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 2, grave 1, top	2490 ± 40	780–416 BC
Le-2191 ^{b,g}	charcoal	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 2, grave 2, NW corner	2470 ± 40	764–414 BC
Le-2193 ^b	wood	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 2, grave 2	2470 ± 40	764–414 BC
Le-2194 ^b	wood	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 2, grave 2	2230 ± 40	387–203 BC
Le-2195 ^b	wood	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 2, grave 2	2270 ± 40	400–207 BC
Le-2196 ^b	wood	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 3, grave 1	2490 ± 40	780–416 BC
Le-5138 ^{b,g}	fur	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 1, grave 1	2650 ± 90	1019–514 BC
Le-5139 ^{b,g}	textile	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 1, grave 1	2580 ± 50	834–539 BC
Le-5140 ^{b,g}	charcoal	—	Medvedka-2, kurgan 1, grave 1	2540 ± 60	809–417 BC

Appendix 5 ^{14}C dates of the Tagar culture: previous research ($n = 158$). (Continued)

Lab ID	Material	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	Provenance	^{14}C BP	Age, cal BC (2σ)
Le-4321 ^{a,b}	wood	—	Novaya Mikhailovka, kurgan 1, grave 3	2350 ± 50	746–231 BC
Le-722 ⁿ	—	—	Novoselovo, kurgan 1, grave 1	2160 ± 50	366–56 BC
Le-1192 ^{b,f}	wood	—	Salbyk, floor	2410 ± 60	756–394 BC
Le-4771 ^{a,b}	wood	—	Salbyk, floor	2490 ± 40	780–416 BC
Le-5145 ^{a,b}	wood	—	Salbyk, 30 outer rings	2460 ± 40	758–412 BC
Le-5297 ^{a,b}	bone	—	Sarala, kurgan 2, grave 2	2445 ± 20	749–410 BC
Le-5298 ^{a,b}	bone	—	Sarala, kurgan 2, grave 4	2430 ± 30	749–404 BC
Le-5299 ^{a,b}	bone	—	Sarala, kurgan 2, grave 1	2420 ± 25	736–403 BC
Le-5652 ^o	bone	—	Sarala, kurgan 2, grave 1	2490 ± 80	789–412 BC
Le-5300 ^{a,b}	bone	—	Sarala, kurgan 2, grave 3	2305 ± 30	407–234 BC
Bln-5340 ^j	human bone	–19.1	Sukhanikha II, kurgan 82, grave 3	2389 ± 26	706–395 BC
Bln-5341 ^j	charcoal	–26.2	Sukhanikha II, kurgan 82, grave 3	2543 ± 26	797–550 BC
Bln-5342 ^j	charcoal	–25.7	Sukhanikha II, kurgan 88, grave 4	2563 ± 24	803–593 BC
Bln-5343 ^j	charcoal	–24.8	Sukhanikha II, kurgan 93, grave 3	2541 ± 23	795–554 BC
Bln-5276 ^j	human bone	–16.9	Sukhanikha II, kurgan 88, grave 3	2448 ± 27	752–409 BC
Bln-5277 ^j	human bone	–17.5	Sukhanikha II, kurgan 88, grave 4	2519 ± 27	791–541 BC
Bln-5278 ^j	human bone	–16.3	Sukhanikha II, kurgan 93, grave 4	2425 ± 30	748–402 BC
Le-696 ^p	wood	—	Ulug-Kyuzhur I, kurgan 3, grave 1	2450 ± 50	759–407 BC
Le-2103 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Znamenka, kurgan 13	1980 ± 40	87 BC–AD 124
Le-2104 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Znamenka, kurgan 13	2220 ± 40	387–197 BC
Le-2105 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Znamenka, kurgan 13	2250 ± 40	395–204 BC
Le-2106 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Znamenka, kurgan 17, grave 1	2270 ± 40	400–207 BC
Le-2107 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Znamenka, kurgan 17, grave 2	2250 ± 40	395–204 BC
Le-2108 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Znamenka, kurgan 16, grave 1	2030 ± 40	164 BC–AD 57
Le-2109 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Znamenka, kurgan 16, grave 1	2220 ± 40	387–197 BC
Le-2110 ^{h,i}	wood	—	Znamenka, kurgan 16, grave 1	2250 ± 40	395–204 BC
Le-2111 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Znamenka, kurgan 12, grave 2	2280 ± 40	403–208 BC
Le-2112 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Znamenka, kurgan 12, grave 2	2250 ± 40	395–204 BC
Tes phase ($n = 33$)					
Le-1825 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Kadat, kurgan 4, grave 2	2210 ± 40	385–185 BC
Le-1820 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Kadat, kurgan 3, grave 1	1950 ± 40	40 BC–AD 128
Le-1819 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Kadat, kurgan 3, grave 2	1720 ± 40	AD 237–412
Le-724 ^{i,o}	wood	—	Kamenka III, grave 64	1790 ± 60	AD 85–387
Bln-4920 ^{k,q}	wood	–26.8	Sukhanikha, grave 18, object 4	2008 ± 35	101 BC–AD 72
Bln-4961 ^{n,q}	wood	–26.9	Sukhanikha, grave 18, object 4	1984 ± 35	84 BC–AD 116
Bln-4922 ^{n,q}	wood	–26.9	Sukhanikha, grave 22, object 4	2026 ± 33	156 BC–AD 55
Le-2072 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 1	1850 ± 40	71 BC–AD 249
Le-2071 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 1	1920 ± 40	18 BC–AD 214
Le-2073 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 1	1930 ± 40	39 BC–AD 209
Le-2074 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 2	1980 ± 40	87 BC–AD 124
Le-2075 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 2	2010 ± 40	154 BC–AD 74
Le-2076 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 2	2020 ± 40	159 BC–AD 67
Le-2081 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 92	1790 ± 20	AD 137–323
Le-2082 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 92	1830 ± 40	AD 79–319
Le-2077 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 94	1800 ± 40	AD 92–339
Le-2078 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 94	1820 ± 40	AD 85–322
Le-2079 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 96	1780 ± 40	AD 130–378
Le-2080 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 96	1810 ± 40	AD 87–332
Le-2086 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 100	1840 ± 40	AD 75–312
Le-2087 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 100	1890 ± 40	AD 28–230
Le-2088 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 100	1910 ± 40	AD 5–216
Le-2089 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 105	1910 ± 40	AD 5–216

Appendix 5 ^{14}C dates of the Tagar culture: previous research ($n = 158$). (Continued)

Lab ID	Material	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	Provenance	^{14}C BP	Age, cal BC (2σ)
Le-2090 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 105	1920 ± 40	18 BC–AD 214
Le-2083 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 112	1780 ± 40	AD 130–378
Le-2084 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 112	1880 ± 40	AD 34–236
Le-2085 ^{f,i}	wood	—	Tepsey-VII, grave 112	1900 ± 40	AD 23–223
Le-2069 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Tepsey-VII, crypt	1830 ± 40	AD 79–319
Le-2068 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Tepsey-VII, crypt	1840 ± 40	AD 75–312
Le-2065 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Tepsey-VII, crypt	1860 ± 40	AD 67–242
Le-2067 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Tepsey-VII, crypt	1870 ± 40	AD 60–238
Le-2066 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Tepsey-VII, crypt	1900 ± 40	AD 23–223
Le-2070 ^f	wood/charcoal	—	Tepsey-VII, crypt	1850 ± 40	AD 71–249

^aAlekseev et al. 2001.^bAlekseev et al. 2005.^cID is uncertain.^dBokovenko 2006.^eGörsdorf et al. 2001:1116.^fErmolova and Markov 1983.^gSementsov et al. 1998.^hAlekseev et al. 2002.ⁱHall 1999.^jGörsdorf 2002:557–9.^kBeer 2004.^lThe site is assigned to the transition between the Podgornovo and Saragash phases of the Tagar culture.^mZaitseva and van Geel 2004.ⁿGörsdorf et al. 1998a:74–5.^oSemyontsov et al. 1972.^pSementsov et al. 1969:260.^qGörsdorf et al. 1998b.