

NSG Autumn Meeting 2021

Ancient DNA and the Neolithic

Organisers: Alasdair Whittle, Josh Pollard, Seren Griffiths, and Susan Greaney

Online Virtual Zoom Meeting: Monday 1 November 2021

The aDNA revolution offers a series of key insights not available by other means into central questions of descent, relationships and identity, at many scales and of many different kinds. Descent, relationships and identity are complex issues and there is much to discuss, which has been our prime motive in setting up this NSG day. The ability to track the genetic signatures of populations across Europe and into Britain and Ireland, our geographical foci today, now sits alongside traditional and other archaeological methodologies based on material culture and practice. We note major trends and contrasts in the interpretation of results for the start and end of the Neolithic. How are we best to integrate these differing sources of information? What further questions should we be asking, in the effort to construct nuanced and complex narratives of change, at varying scales? How can the aDNA evidence help us to do better archaeology?

Programme

9.30 – *Welcome and house-keeping* **Tim Darvill**

9.40 – Introduction: descent, relationships and identity **Josh Pollard and Alasdair Whittle**

9.50 – What ancient genomics can tell us about the past **Eske Willerslev**

10.20 – Ancient genomics, sampling, methods and inference in the Neolithic **Daniel Bradley**

10.50 – Ancient DNA of Near Eastern Neolithic populations: the knowns and the unknowns **Eva Fernández-Domínguez**

11.20 – *Coffee break*

11.40 – Early Neolithic south-east and central Europe – as reflected by archaeological and archaeogenetic data **Eszter Bánffy**

12.05 – Archaeology, genetics and the transformation of Europe in the third millennium BC **Volker Heyd**

12.30 – *Discussion*

13.00 – *Lunch*

13.50 – A tale of two transitions Part One: The Late Neolithic-Chalcolithic **Tom Booth**

14.15 – A tale of two transitions Part Two: The Early Neolithic **Selina Brace**

14.40 – A genomic survey of Irish megaliths **Lara Cassidy**

15.15 – *Tea break*

15.35 – Ancient DNA and Early Neolithic kinship at Hazleton North chambered long cairn

Chris Fowler, Iñigo Olalde, Vicki Cummings, Ian Armit, Lindsey Büster, Sarah Cuthbert, Nadin Rohland, Olivia Cheronet, Ron Pinhasi and David Reich

16.00 – A consideration of ancient DNA's contribution to understanding the Later Neolithic in Ireland and Britain **Neil Carlin**

16.25 – Reconstructing the genealogical relationships of hunter-gatherers and farmers **Leo Speidel**

16.45 – *Summary and Discussion*, led by **Susan Greaney and Seren Griffiths**

17.15 – Close

19.00 – *Social event/informal discussion [this will have a separate zoom code from the main event]*