

Current debates on the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in Britain and Ireland

Julian Thomas

School of Art History and Archaeology, University of Manchester, UK

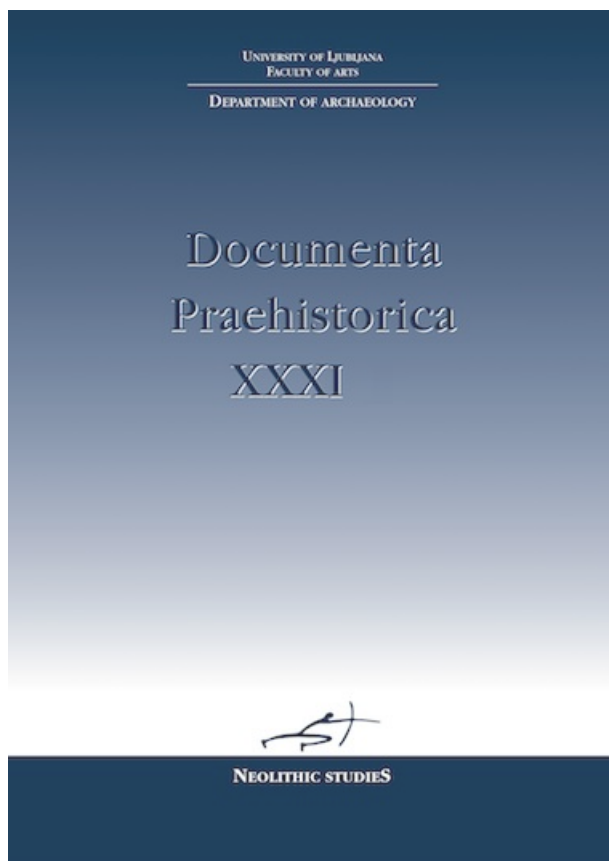
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4312/dp.31.8>

Keywords: Mesolithic, Neolithic, Britain, Ireland, population movement, diet, Achnacreebeag, identity, timber buildings

Abstract

In this contribution I address a series of recent publications which present revisionist accounts of the beginning of the Neolithic in the British Isles. New evidence suggests that we need to reconsider issues of population movement, diet, mobility and residence patterns. However, I conclude that a return to a model of colonisation by an agricultural population from the continent is premature, and seek to stress the distinct patterns of change that characterised Britain and Ireland respectively.

Downloads



Published
2004-12-31

How to Cite

ThomasJ. (2004). Current debates on the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in Britain and Ireland. *Documenta Praehistorica*, 31, 113-130. <https://doi.org/10.4312/dp.31.8>

More Citation Formats

Issue

[Vol 31 \(2004\)](#)

Section

Articles

Authors who publish with this journal agree to the following terms:

1. Authors are confirming that they are the authors of the submitting article, which will be published (print and online) in journal **Documenta Praehistorica** by Znanstvena založba Filozofske fakultete Univerze v Ljubljani (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Aškerčeva 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia). Author's name will be evident in the article in journal. All decisions regarding layout and distribution of the work are in hands of the publisher.
2. Authors guarantee that the work is their own original creation and does not infringe any statutory or common-law copyright or any proprietary right of any third party. In case of claims by third parties, authors commit their self to defend the interests of the publisher, and shall cover any potential costs.
3. Authors retain copyright and grant the journal right of first publication with the work simultaneously licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#) that allows others to share the work with an acknowledgement of the work's authorship and initial publication in this journal.
4. Authors are able to enter into separate, additional contractual arrangements for the non-exclusive distribution of the journal's published version of the work (e.g., post it to an institutional repository or publish it in a book), with an acknowledgement of its initial publication in this journal.
5. Authors are permitted and encouraged to post their work online (e.g., in institutional repositories or on their website) as it can lead to productive exchanges, as well as earlier and greater citation of published work.

Language

[English](#)

[Slovenščina](#)

Information

[For Readers](#)

[For Authors](#)

[For Librarians](#)

Ljubljana University Press, Faculty of Arts
(Znanstvena založba Filozofske fakultete Univerze v Ljubljani)

Print ISSN: 1408-967X

Online ISSN: 1854-2492

Neolithic Transition in Europe - James Steele - Free download as PDF File (.pdf), Text File (.txt) or read online for free. Neolithic Transition in Europe - James Steele. The authors make use of a new database of radiocarbon dates from Mesolithic and Neolithic sites to map the transition. While the overall effect is still a diffusion into Europe from the south-east, detailed spatial analysis reveals fascinating local variations: in some places change was rapid, and one population replaced another, in others it was gradual and owed to incoming ideas rather than people. The manner in which these transitions affected the islands of Ireland and Britain on the northwestern edge of the continent remains the subject of debate. The first ancient whole genomes from Ireland, including two at high coverage, demonstrate that large-scale genetic shifts accompanied both transitions. In Europe, these clearly show population replacement by migrating farmers from southwest Asia at the onset of the Neolithic with some retrenchment of the earlier Mesolithic genome at later stages (5 ↓ ↓ ↓-9, 11, 12). Three longitudinal genome studies have also shown later genome-wide shifts around the beginnings of the Bronze Age in central Europe with substantial introgression originating with the Yamnaya steppe herders (7, 9, 10). The Mesolithic period in European history includes the history of the complex hunter-gatherers who developed the technology to cultivate crops. The earliest standing stones at Carnac on the Brittany coast were raised during the Mesolithic period. Thierry Tronnel / Corbis / Getty Images. Social Sciences. Archaeology. Ancient Civilizations. Basics. Excavations.