

## Tribes of Britain Analysis

Thank you for requesting our *Tribes of Britain* analysis. We have now compared your Y-chromosome results with thousands of Y-chromosome signatures from Britain, Ireland, continental Europe and Scandinavia.

We are pleased to tell you that, following these comparisons, we have identified your Y-chromosome as being of probable **Celtic** origin. We arrived at this conclusion by matching the details of your Y-chromosome signature against a reference database which contains details of different chromosomes and their geographical distribution. From this comparison we can infer that your Y-chromosome belongs to a group which is prevalent in Ireland and northern and western Britain. These chromosomes are also found in other parts of Britain, including England, but less frequently. However, they do make up the largest component of the genetic bedrock of both Britain and Ireland, reflecting the largely Celtic patrilineal origin of most British and Irish men.

If you trace your paternal ancestry to Wales, Scotland, Ireland and western England then a Celtic origin for your Y-chromosome is almost certain. If you are uncertain, the historical origin of your surname may help you to do this. If your origins are in southern or eastern England then it is still very likely that you are descended from the original Celtic-speaking people, although there is a slight possibility that your ancestry is Anglo-Saxon. Unfortunately, some Y-chromosomes from these parts of Britain are impossible to assign with complete precision.

When the Romans completed their conquest of Britain after the invasion of Emperor Claudius in AD 43, a complex web of Celtic-speaking tribes inhabited the islands. These were conquered one by one and systematically assimilated into the Empire. Only Ireland, northern Scotland and remote parts of Wales escaped Romanisation. When the Romans departed around 400 AD to defend Rome itself against barbarian attack, they left the islands to the mercy of Anglo-Saxon invaders from Germany and, later, Vikings from Denmark and Scandinavia. We now know, from recent genetic research, that these invaders did not entirely displace the original Celtic people but they changed the language of southern and eastern Britain to the forerunner of English. Their influence never extended into Ireland, Wales or northern Scotland, where Celtic languages are still spoken today.

The ultimate origins of the Celtic tribes first encountered by the Romans are shrouded in mystery. From what we can tell from archaeological discoveries, Britain was first permanently settled after the last Ice Age, about 10,000 years ago, by hunter-gatherers moving across dry land from Europe on what is now the bed of the North Sea. These were relatively few in number and were augmented over the next three thousand years by a sustained movement of people arriving by sea along the Atlantic coast of France to western Britain and Ireland. Four thousand years later, the first signs of farming appeared, carried along this same