

Atlantic route. Though the population grew as the native woods were cleared for crops, it does not necessarily follow that these farmers replaced the indigenous hunter-gatherers. It is more likely that the hunters gradually adopted the new agricultural way of life, while being joined by fresh arrivals from Iberia.

About 3,000 years ago, during the late Bronze Age and Iron Age, material artefacts from the thriving Celtic cultures of central Europe, like weapons and jewellery, began to appear in Britain. However, this vivid cultural change seems, from the genetic evidence, to have involved the movement of relatively few people.

Our genetic analysis of your DNA shows that it is likely that you have inherited your Y-chromosome from one of the earliest inhabitants of the British Isles, perhaps even from one of the first settlers who arrived 10,000 years ago. There are intriguing genetic connections between your Y-chromosome and those found in the Iberian Peninsula, especially among the Basques. This suggests that your ancestor took part in the vigorous sea-borne traffic between Ireland, western Britain and the Atlantic seaboard of France and Spain, which archaeologists have long suspected. This connection began with the pre-farming hunters and fishermen and continued with the peoples who built the large stone monuments, the *megaliths*, which also link these western sites from Spain to Scotland.

Your ancestor must have been successful and fathered sons. Through his sons and grandsons, his Y-chromosome has been passed down virtually unaltered through time to you, where it lives on today in every cell of your body. Requiring no written records for its transmission, your Y-chromosome is a message from the past. It is truly your genetic legacy. If you have sons, it will continue its journey into the future through them.

You can discover more about your ancestors and your Y-chromosome through the Oxford Ancestors website ([www.oxfordancestors.com](http://www.oxfordancestors.com)) which includes the opportunity to contact others with the same or similar genetic signatures by clicking on 'DNA Connections'. You may also like to read Professor Bryan Sykes' book *Blood of the Isles*, which explores the genetic origins of Britain and Ireland based on his recently completed ten-year survey. *Blood of the Isles*, published in the US as *Saxons, Vikings and Celts*, can be found in bookshops and signed copies are available via our website.

Thank you for your interest in Oxford Ancestors and congratulations on discovering more about your ancient ancestry.

Please note that the interpretations supplied with your *Tribes of Britain* analysis are based on the assumption that your paternal ancestry can be traced to Britain or Ireland. The interpretations based on your Y-chromosome signature give what we consider to be the *most likely* origin of your paternal ancestor or the historical group to which he belonged when he first reached these shores.