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# Population genomics of the Viking world

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126

## 127 Abstract

128 **The Viking Age maritime expansion of Scandinavian populations (c. 750 to 1050 CE) was a**  
129 **far-flung transformation in world history<sup>1,2</sup>. To understand its global influence, we sequenced**  
130 **the genomes of 442 ancient humans (median depth of c. 1X) from across Europe and**  
131 **Greenland. We find the Viking period involved foreign gene flow into Scandinavia from the**  
132 **south and east. We observe genetic structure within Scandinavia, with diversity hotspots to**  
133 **the south and restricted gene flow within Scandinavia. We find evidence for a major Danish**  
134 **influx in England, Swedish influx in the Baltic, and Norwegian influx in Ireland, Iceland, and**  
135 **Greenland. Additionally, we see substantial foreign European ancestry entering Scandinavia**  
136 **during the Viking Age. We show that a Viking expedition included close family members. We**  
137 **find that pigmentation-associated loci have undergone strong population differentiation**  
138 **during the last millennia. We trace positively selected loci with unprecedented detail,**  
139 **including the lactase persistence allele and alleles associated with the immune response. We**

140 **conclude that the Viking diaspora was characterized by substantial trans-regional**  
141 **engagement: distinct populations influenced the genomic makeup of different regions of**  
142 **Europe, while Scandinavia experienced increased contact with the rest of the continent.**  
143

## 144 **Introduction**

145 The events of the Viking Age (VA) altered the political, cultural, and demographic map of Europe  
146 in ways that are evident to this day. Scandinavian diasporas established trade and settlement  
147 stretching from the American continent to the Asian steppe<sup>1</sup>. They exported ideas, technologies,  
148 language, beliefs, and practices to these lands, whilst developing new socio-political structures, and  
149 assimilating cultural influences<sup>2</sup>.

150  
151 To explore the genomic history of the VA, we “shotgun” sequenced DNA extracted from 442  
152 ancient human remains dating from the Bronze Age (BA; c. 2400 BCE) to the Early Modern period  
153 (c. 1600 CE) (Fig. 1; Extended Data Fig. 1). The data from ancient individuals were analyzed  
154 together with published data from 3,855 present-day individuals across two reference panels  
155 (Supplementary Note 6), and data from 1,118 ancient individuals (Supplementary Table 3).  
156

## 157 **Scandinavian genetic ancestry and the beginnings of the Viking era**

158 Although VA Scandinavians shared a common cultural background, there was no common word for  
159 Scandinavian identity at that time<sup>1</sup>. Rather than a single “Viking world”, a series of interlinked  
160 “Viking worlds” emerged from rapidly growing maritime exploration, trade, war, and settlement,  
161 following the adoption of deep-sea navigation among coastal populations of Scandinavia and the  
162 Baltic Sea area<sup>3,4</sup>. Thus, it is unclear to what extent the Viking phenomenon refers to people with a  
163 recently shared genetic background or how far population changes accompanied the transition from  
164 the Iron Age (IA) to the VA in Scandinavia.  
165

166 The VA Scandinavians of our study fall broadly within the diversity of ancient European  
167 individuals from the Bronze Age and later (Fig. 2; Extended Data Figs. 2 and 3; Supplementary  
168 Note 8), but with subtle differences among the different groups indicating complex fine-scale  
169 structure. For example, many VA individuals from the island of Gotland cluster with BA  
170 individuals from the Baltic region, indicating mobility across the Baltic Sea (Fig. 2 and Extended  
171 Data Fig. 3). Using  $f_4$ -statistics to contrast genetic affinities with Steppe pastoralists and Neolithic  
172 farmers, we find that VA individuals from Norway are distributed in a similar manner to earlier IA  
173 individuals, whereas many VA individuals from Sweden and Denmark show greater affinity to  
174 Neolithic farmers from Anatolia (Extended Data Fig. 4a). Using *qpAdm*, we find that the majority  
175 of groups can be modelled as three-way mixtures of hunter-gatherer, farmer, and Steppe-related  
176 ancestry. The three-way model was rejected for some groups from Sweden, Norway, and the Baltic  
177 region, which could be fit using a four-way model including Caucasus hunter-gatherer or East  
178 Asian-related ancestry (Extended Data Figs. 4b and 4c), the latter consistent with previously  
179 documented gene flow from Siberia<sup>5-7</sup>  
180

181 Investigating genetic continuity between more temporally proximate IA groups and VA  
182 Scandinavians, we find that most VA groups can be fit using a single IA source, and broadly fall  
183 into two categories: i) English IA sources (most Danish VA, British Isles), and ii) Scandinavian IA

184 sources (Norway, Sweden, and the Baltic) (Extended Data Fig. 5a). Notable exceptions are  
185 individuals from Kärda in Southern Sweden, for which only the early Medieval Longobard  
186 individuals from Hungary can be fit as a single source group ( $p > 0.01$ ; Extended Data Fig. 5a).  
187 Groups with poor one-way fits can be modelled by including either additional northeastern ancestry  
188 (e.g. Ladoga VA) or additional southeastern ancestry (e.g. Jutland VA) (Extended Data Fig. 5b).  
189 Overall, our analyses suggest that the genetic makeup of VA Scandinavians largely derives from  
190 ancestry of the preceding IA populations, but they also reveal subtle differences in ancestry and  
191 gene flow from both the south and east. These observations are largely consistent with  
192 archaeological findings<sup>8,9</sup>.  
193

## 194 **Genetic structure within VA Scandinavia**

195 To elucidate the fine-scale population structure of VA Scandinavia, we performed genotype  
196 imputation on a subset of 298 individuals with sufficient ( $>0.5X$ ) coverage (289 from this study + 9  
197 published<sup>10</sup>) and inferred genomic segments shared via identity-by-descent (IBD) with a reference  
198 panel of present-day Europeans ( $n=1,464$ , Supplementary Notes 6, 10 and 11). Genetic clustering  
199 using MDS and uniform manifold approximation and projection (UMAP) shows VA Scandinavians  
200 clustering into three groups by geographic origin, with close affinities to their respective present-  
201 day counterparts (Fig. 3a, Fig.S10.1). Some individuals have strong affinities with Eastern  
202 Europeans, particularly those from the island of Gotland in eastern Sweden, which likely reflects  
203 individuals with Baltic ancestry, as clustering with Baltic BA individuals is evident in the identity-  
204 by-state (IBS)-UMAP analysis (Fig. 2b) and through  $f_4$ -statistics (Fig S9.1).  
205

206 We used ChromoPainter<sup>11</sup> and a reference panel enriched with Scandinavian individuals ( $n=1,464$ ,  
207 see Supplementary Notes 6 and 11) to identify long, shared haplotypes and detect subtle population  
208 structure (Supplementary Figures S11.1-10). We find ancestry components in Scandinavia with  
209 (inexact and indicative) affinities with present-day populations (Fig. S11.11): “Danish-like”,  
210 “Swedish-like”, “Norwegian-like”, and “North Atlantic-like” (i.e. possibly individuals from the  
211 British Isles entering Scandinavia). The sampling is heavily structured, so these complex results  
212 (Fig. S11.12) are visualised over time and space (Fig. 4) using spatial interpolation<sup>12</sup> to account for  
213 sampling locations and report significant linear regressions (Supplementary Notes 11-12).  
214

215 “Norwegian-like” and “Swedish-like” components cluster in Norway and Sweden, respectively,  
216 while “Danish-like” and “North Atlantic-like” components are widespread (Fig. 4, S11.12 and  
217 Supplementary Table 6). Unexpectedly, VA individuals from Jutland (Denmark) lack “Swedish-  
218 like” and “Norwegian-like” genetic components (Fig. S11.12). We also find that gene flow within  
219 Scandinavia was broadly from south to north, dominated by Danish movement into Norway and  
220 Sweden (Table S11.2).  
221

222 We identified two ancient individuals from northern Norway (VK518, VK519) with affinities to  
223 present-day Saami in Norway and Sweden. The VK519 individual likely also had “Norwegian-like”  
224 ancestors, indicating genetic contacts between Saami and other Scandinavians populations.  
225

226 The genetic data are structured by topographic boundaries rather than by present-day country  
227 borders. Thus, the south-western part of Sweden in the VA is genetically more similar to Danish  
228 VA populations than to central mainland Sweden, likely due to geographic barriers that prevented  
229 gene flow.

230

231 We quantified genetic diversity using two measures: conditional nucleotide diversity  
232 (Supplementary Note 9) and variation in inferred ancestry based on ChromoPainter results  
233 (Supplementary Note 11; Extended Data Fig. 6 and Fig. S11.13). We also visualized it as the spread  
234 of individuals on the MDS plot based on a pairwise IBS sharing matrix (Fig. 3b).

235

236 Diversity varies significantly from more homogeneous inland and northern parts of Scandinavia to  
237 diverse Kattegat (eastern Denmark and western Sweden) and Baltic Sea regions, suggesting an  
238 important role for these maritime regions in interaction and trade during the VA. Interestingly, on  
239 Gotland, there are many more “Danish-like”, “North Atlantic-like”, and “Finnish-like” genetic  
240 components than “Swedish-like” components, indicating extensive maritime contacts during the  
241 VA.

242

243 Our results for Gotland and Öland agree with archaeological indications that these were important  
244 maritime communities from the Roman period onwards<sup>13,14</sup>. A similar pattern is observed on the  
245 central Danish islands, such as Langeland, but at a lower level. The data indicate that genetic  
246 diversity on the islands increased from early to late VA, suggesting increasing interregional  
247 interaction. Evidence for genetic structure within VA Scandinavia<sup>2,4,15-17</sup> with diversity in  
248 cosmopolitan centers like Skara and trade-oriented islands like Gotland, highlight the importance  
249 of sea routes.

250

## 251 **Viking migrations**

252 Our fine-scale ancestry analyses of genomic data are consistent with patterns documented by  
253 historians and archaeologists (Figs. 3, 4 and S11.12): eastward movements mainly involved  
254 “Swedish-like” ancestry, while individuals with “Norwegian-like” ancestry travelled to Iceland,  
255 Greenland, Ireland, and the Isle of Man. The first settlement in Iceland and Greenland also included  
256 individuals with “North Atlantic-like” ancestry<sup>18,19</sup>. A “Danish-like” ancestry is seen in present-day  
257 England, in accordance with historical records<sup>20</sup>, place-names<sup>21</sup>, surnames<sup>22</sup>, and modern  
258 genetics<sup>23,24</sup>, but VA “Danish-like” ancestry in the British Isles cannot be distinguished from that of  
259 the Angles and Saxons, who migrated in the 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> centuries CE from Jutland and Northern  
260 Germany.

261

262 VA execution sites in Dorset and Oxford, England, have significant “North Atlantic-like” ancestry  
263 as well as “Danish-like” and “Norwegian-like” ancestries. If these represent Viking raiding parties  
264 that were defeated and captured<sup>25,26</sup> then they were composed of individuals of different origins.  
265 This pattern is also suggested by isotopic data from a warrior cemetery in Trelleborg, Denmark<sup>27</sup>.  
266 Similarly, the presence of “Danish-like” ancestry in an ancient sample from Gnezdovo in present-  
267 day Russia indicates that eastern migrations were not entirely composed of Vikings from Sweden.

268

269 Importantly, our results show that “Viking” identity was not limited to individuals of Scandinavian  
270 genetic ancestry. Two Orkney individuals who were buried in Scandinavian fashion are genetically  
271 similar to present-day Irish and Scottish populations and are likely the first Pictish genomes  
272 published (“Evidence for Pictish Genomes”, Supplementary Note 11, Figs S11.3, S11.12, S11.14,  
273 Supplementary Table 6). Two other Orkney individuals had 50% Scandinavian ancestry, and five  
274 such individuals were found in Scandinavia. This suggests that Pictish populations may have been  
275 integrated into Scandinavian culture by the VA.

276

## 277 **Gene flow into Scandinavia during the Viking era**

278 Non-Scandinavian ancestry in samples from Denmark, Norway, and Sweden agrees with known  
279 trading routes (Supplementary Notes 11 and 12). For example, Finnish and Baltic ancestry reached  
280 modern Sweden, including Gotland, but is absent in most individuals from Denmark and Norway.  
281 By contrast, western regions of Scandinavia received ancestry from the British Isles  
282 (Supplementary Notes 11 and 12). The first evidence of South European ancestry (>50%) in  
283 Scandinavia is during the VA in Denmark (e.g. VK365 and VK286 from Bogøvej) and southern  
284 Sweden (e.g. VK442 and VK350 from Öland, and VK265 from Kärda) (Fig. 4, Supplementary  
285 Table 6).

286

## 287 **Disappearance of the Greenlandic Norse**

288 From around 980 to 1440 CE southwest Greenland was settled by people of Scandinavian ancestry,  
289 probably from Iceland<sup>28,29</sup>. The fate of the Norse in Greenland remains debated, but probable causes  
290 of their disappearance are social or economic processes in Europe (e.g. political relations within  
291 Scandinavia and changed trading systems) and natural processes, including climatic change<sup>29-31</sup>.

292

293 According to our data, the Greenlandic Norse were an admixture between Scandinavians (mostly  
294 from Norway) and individuals from the British Isles, similar to the first settlers of Iceland<sup>18</sup>. We see  
295 no evidence of long-term inbreeding in Greenlandic Norse genomes, though we have only one high-  
296 coverage genome from the later period of occupation of the island (Supplementary Note 10; Figs.  
297 S10.2 and S10.3). This result could favor a relatively brief depopulation scenario, in line with  
298 previous demographic models<sup>32</sup> and archaeological findings. We also find no evidence of ancestry  
299 from other populations (Paleo Eskimo, Inuit, or Native American) in the Greenlandic Norse  
300 genomes (Fig. S9.4), which accords with the skeletal remains<sup>32</sup>. This suggests that sexual  
301 interaction was absent or on a very small scale.

302

## 303 **Genetic composition and kinship of the earliest Viking expedition**

304 Whilst maritime raiding has been a constant of seafaring cultures for millennia, the VA is partly  
305 defined by this activity<sup>33</sup>. However, the exact nature and composition of Viking war parties is  
306 unknown<sup>5</sup>. One raiding or diplomatic expedition has left direct archaeological traces, at Salme in  
307 Estonia, where 41 Swedish males who died violently were buried in two boats accompanied by  
308 high-status weaponry<sup>34,35</sup>. Importantly, the Salme boat-burial predates the first textually  
309 documented raid (on Lindisfarne, England, in 793) by nearly half a century.

310

311 Kinship analysis of the genomes of 34 individuals from the Salme burial reveals four brothers  
312 buried side by side and a third degree relative of one of the four brothers (Supplementary Note 4).  
313 The Salme group had similar ancestry profiles when compared to the profiles of other Viking  
314 burials (Supplementary Notes 10 and 11), suggesting a relatively genetically homogeneous group of  
315 people of high status, including close kin.

316



317 The five Salme relatives are not the only kin in our dataset. Intriguingly, we also identified two  
318 pairs of kin where the related individuals were excavated hundreds of kilometers apart from each  
319 other. This dramatically illustrates the mobility of individuals during the VA.  
320

## 321 **Positive selection in Northern Europe**

322 We looked for SNPs whose allele frequencies changed significantly in the last 10,000 years<sup>36,37</sup> to  
323 detect allele frequency shifts in time that cannot be explained by temporal changes in ancestry alone  
324 (Supplementary Note 14). Extended Data Figure 8a shows the likelihood ratio scores in favor of  
325 selection in the entire 10,000-year period (“general” scan), the period up to 4,000 BP (“ancient”  
326 scan) and the period from 4,000 BP up to the present (bottom, “recent” scan).  
327

328 The strongest candidates for selection are, as expected<sup>38,39</sup>, SNPs near the LCT gene, the frequency  
329 of which increased after the BA<sup>40,41</sup>. Our dataset traces the frequency of the lactase persistence  
330 allele (rs4988235) and its evolution since the BA. Extended Data Figure 8b shows that VA groups  
331 had very similar allele frequencies at the LCT lactase persistence SNP to present-day northern  
332 European populations. Conversely, BA Scandinavians, and Corded Ware- and Bell Beaker-  
333 associated individuals from central Europe, have low frequency despite evidence for milk  
334 consumption. Our IA samples have intermediate frequencies, suggesting a rise during this period.  
335 The frequency is higher in the BA Baltic Sea region than in BA Scandinavia, consistent with gene  
336 flow between the two regions explaining the increasing frequency of lactase persistence in  
337 Scandinavia.  
338

339 Other candidates for selection include previously identified regions—TLR1/TLR6/TLR10, HLA,  
340 SLC45A2, and SLC22A4<sup>41</sup>. We also find new candidate regions for selection, with associated  
341 trajectories starting before the VA, suggesting shared phenotypes between ancient Vikings and  
342 present-day Scandinavians (Supplementary Note 14). These include a region overlapping DCC that  
343 is implicated in colorectal cancer<sup>42</sup>, and another overlapping AKNA that is involved in the  
344 secondary immune response<sup>43</sup>.  
345

## 346 **Evolution of complex traits in Scandinavia**

347 To search for signals of recent population differentiation at SNP markers associated with complex  
348 traits, we compared genotypes of VA individuals with those of a present-day Danish panel<sup>44</sup>. We  
349 obtained summary statistics from 16 well-powered genome-wide association studies through the  
350 GWAS ATLAS<sup>45</sup> and tested for a difference in the distribution of polygenic scores between the two  
351 groups (Supplementary note S15). The polygenic scores of VA individuals and present-day Danes  
352 differed for three traits: black hair colour ( $P = 0.00089$ ), standing height ( $P = 0.019$ ), and  
353 schizophrenia ( $P = 0.0096$ ), though the latter two were not significant after accounting for the  
354 number of tests (Extended Data Fig. 7). At the moment, we cannot conclude whether the observed  
355 differences in allele frequencies are due to selection acting on these alleles between the VA and the  
356 present time or to some other factors (such as more ethnic diversity in the VA sample). A binomial  
357 test of the number of black hair colour risk alleles at higher frequency in the VA sample and the  
358 present-day sample was also significant (65/41;  $P = 0.025$ ), suggesting the signal is not entirely  
359 driven by a few large-effect loci.  
360

## 361 **Genetic legacy of the Vikings in present-day populations**

362 To test whether present-day Scandinavians share increased ancestry with their respective ancient  
363 Viking counterparts, we first computed D-statistics of the form D (YRI, ancient; present-day  
364 population 1, present-day population 2), which measure whether an ancient test individual shares  
365 more alleles with either present-day population 1 or population 2. Viking Age individuals shift  
366 subtly from Scandinavia towards their present-day counterparts in the distributions of these  
367 statistics (Extended Data Fig. 5c; Figs S9.2 and S9.3).

368  
369 We further examined ancient ancestry in present-day populations using fineSTRUCTURE  
370 (Supplementary Note 11, Fig. S11.14). Within Scandinavia, most present-day populations resemble  
371 their VA counterparts. The exception is “Swedish-like” ancestry, present at only 15-30% within  
372 Sweden, with one Swedish cluster closer to ancient Finnish, and a second more closely related to  
373 Danes and Norwegians. “Danish-like” ancestry is now high across the whole region.

374  
375 Outside of Scandinavia, the genetic legacy of the Vikings is consistent, though limited. A small  
376 Scandinavian ancestry component is present in Poland (up to 5%). Within the British Isles, it is  
377 difficult to assess how much of the “Danish-like” ancestry is due to pre-existing Anglo-Saxon  
378 ancestry, but the VA contribution does not exceed 6% in England (Supplementary Note 11). The  
379 genetic impacts are stronger in the other direction. While some “North Atlantic-like” individuals in  
380 Orkney became culturally Scandinavian, others found themselves in Iceland, Norway, and beyond,  
381 leaving a genetic legacy that persists today. Present-day Norwegians vary between 12 and 25% in  
382 “North Atlantic-like” ancestry; this ancestry is more uniformly 10% in Sweden.

## 384 **Discussion**

385 Our genomic analyses shed light on long-standing questions raised by historical sources and  
386 archaeological evidence of the VA. We largely confirm the long-argued movements of Vikings  
387 outside Scandinavia: Danish Vikings going to Britain, Norwegian Vikings moving to Ireland,  
388 Iceland, and Greenland, and Swedish Vikings sailing east towards the Baltic and beyond. However,  
389 we also see ancient “Swedish-like” and FL ancestry in the westernmost fringes of Europe, and  
390 “Danish-like” ancestry in the east, defying modern historical groupings. It is likely that many such  
391 individuals were from communities with mixed ancestries, thrown together by complex trading,  
392 raiding, and settling networks that crossed cultures and the continent.

393  
394 During the VA, different parts of Scandinavia were not evenly connected, leading to clear genetic  
395 structure in the region. Scandinavia likely comprised a limited number of transport zones and  
396 maritime enclaves<sup>46</sup> with active external contacts, and limited external gene flow into the rest of the  
397 Scandinavian landmass. Some VA Scandinavian locations are relatively homogeneous, particularly  
398 mid-Norway, Jutland, and the Atlantic settlements. This contrasts with the strong genetic variation  
399 of populous coastal and southern trading communities such as in the islands Gotland and Öland<sup>47-49</sup>.  
400 The high genetic heterogeneity in coastal communities implies increased population size, extending  
401 both spatially and further back in time the urbanization model for the Late VA city of Sigtuna  
402 proposed by Krzewińska et al.<sup>10</sup>, who suggested that more cosmopolitan trading centers were  
403 already present at the end of the VA in Northern Europe. The formation of large-scale trading and  
404 cultural networks that spread people, goods, and warfare took time to affect the heartlands of  
405 Scandinavia, which retained pre-existing genetic differences into the medieval period.

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Lastly, our findings show that Vikings were not simply a direct continuation of the Scandinavian IA groups. Instead, we observe foreign gene flow from the south and east into Scandinavia, starting in the IA, and continuing throughout the duration of the VA from an increasing number of sources. Many VA individuals have high levels of non-Scandinavian ancestry, both within and outside Scandinavia, suggesting ongoing gene flow across Europe.

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449

## 450 **Contributions**

451 E.W. initiated and led the study.  
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453 N.L., J.A., I.Mo. and A.A. designed the study.  
454  
455 A.M., P.d.B.D., L.C., M.M.B., A.K.F., I.L. and J.S. produced the data.  
456  
457 A.M., D.J.L., Mar.S., F.R., S.R., I.Mo., R.N., T.W., L.C., E.J., A.I., M.W.P., T.K., R.M., G.R.,  
458 C.B., J.V.M.-M., H.M., A.A., J.C., K.H.I. and M.E.A. analysed or assisted in analysis of data.  
459  
460 E.W., A.M., D.J.L., Mar.S., F.R., S.M.S., K.K., L.H., R.N., M.C., A.I. interpreted the results with  
461 considerable input from I.Mo., M.E.A., M.W.P., T.K., H.W., R.M., G.R., T.W., C.H.J., J.A., N.L.,  
462 N.P., J.B., A.A., M.T.P.G., L.O. and other authors.  
463  
464 E.W., A.M., D.J.L., Mar.S., F.R., S.M.S., K.K., L.H., wrote the manuscript with considerable input  
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472 M.T.P.G., M.E.A., J.B. and E.W. excavated, curated, sampled and/or described analysed skeletons;  
473 all authors contributed to final interpretation of data.  
474  
475

## 476 **Competing interests**

477 The authors declare no competing interests.  
478  
479

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582 **Fig. 1: Viking Age genomic dataset overview.** **a**, Map of the “Viking World” from 8<sup>th</sup> till 11<sup>th</sup>  
583 centuries, showing geographic location and broad age category (coloured symbols) of sites with  
584 new ancient samples reported in this study. **b**, all new ancient individuals from this study (n=442)  
585 and published VA samples from Sigtuna<sup>10</sup> and Iceland<sup>18</sup> categorized based on their spatio-temporal  
586 origin. The ancient samples are divided into the following five broad categories: Bronze Age (BA),  
587 Iron Age (IA), Early Viking Age (EVA), VA and Medieval (MED) / early Modern (EM). Random  
588 jitter has been added along the x-axis in each category to aid visualization. LNBA - Late  
589 Neolithic/Bronze Age; NorseW - Norse Western settlement; NorseE - Norse Eastern settlement;  
590 NorwayS - southern Norway; NorwayN - northern Norway; NorwayM - middle Norway.

591

592

593 **Fig. 2: Genetic structure of VA samples.** **a**, Multidimensional scaling (MDS) of n=1,305 ancient  
594 genomes, based on a pairwise IBS sharing matrix of the VA and other ancient samples  
595 (Supplementary Table 3). Outlier individuals with hunter-gatherer (VK531) or Saami-related  
596 ancestry (VK518, VK519) are highlighted. **b**, UMAP analysis of the same dataset as in plot (a),  
597 with fine-scale ancestry groups highlighted.

598

599 **Fig. 3: Genetic structure and diversity of ancient samples.** **a**, Uniform manifold approximation  
600 and projection (UMAP) analysis of n = 1,624 ancient and modern Scandinavian individuals based  
601 on the first 10 dimensions of MDS using IBD segments of imputed individuals. Large symbols  
602 indicate median coordinates for each group. **b**, Genetic diversity in major Scandinavian VA  
603 populations. Plots next to the map show MDS analysis based on a pairwise IBS sharing matrix.  
604 Here “Norway” represents all the sites from Norway. The scale is identical for all the plots.

605

606 **Fig. 4: Spatiotemporal patterns of Viking and non-Viking ancestry in Europe during the IA,**  
607 **EVA and VA.** We performed inverse distance weighting interpolation of the ancestry painting  
608 proportions of each individual genome on a dense grid of points covering the European continent,  
609 to better visualize the distribution of ancestry paintings at different periods (Supplementary Note  
610 12). The “Swedish-like” ancestry is the highest in present-day Estonia due to the ancient samples  
611 from the Salme ship burial, which originated from the Mälaren Valley of Sweden, according to  
612 archaeological sources. n = 289 genomes used for interpolation.

613

614

## 615 **Methods**

### 616 **Laboratory work**

617 Laboratory work was conducted in the dedicated aDNA clean-room facilities at the Globe Institute,  
618 University of Copenhagen according to strict aDNA standards<sup>50,51</sup>. The overwhelming majority of  
619 ancient samples were petrous bones and teeth (Supplementary Table 1). The details of DNA  
620 extraction can be found in Supplementary Note 2. Double-stranded blunt-end DNA libraries were  
621 prepared using Illumina-specific adapters and NEBNext DNA Sample Pre Master Mix Set 2  
622 (E6070) kit. We used Agilent Bioanalyzer 2100 to quantify the amount of the purified DNA  
623 libraries. The libraries were sequenced 80 bp single-read chemistry on Illumina HiSeq 2500  
624 machines at the Danish National High-throughput DNA Sequencing Centre.  
625

### 626 **Bioinformatics analysis and quality assessment**

627 We used AdapterRemoval v2.1.3<sup>52</sup> for removing Illumina adapter sequences keeping only  
628 sequences with a minimum length of 30 bp. Adapter-free sequences were mapped against the  
629 human reference genome build 37 using BWA v0.7.10 aligner<sup>53</sup> with the seed (-l parameter)  
630 disabled for higher sensitivity of ancient DNA reads<sup>54</sup>. DNA sequences were processed with  
631 samtools v1.3.1<sup>53</sup> and only sequences with mapping quality  $\geq 30$  were kept. Picard v1.127  
632 (<http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard>) was used to sort the reads and remove duplicates. DNA  
633 libraries were combined at sample level and realigned using GATK v3.3.0<sup>55</sup> with Mills and 1000G  
634 gold standard indels. At the end, realigned bam files had the md-tag updated and extended BAQs  
635 calculated using samtools calmd. Read depth and coverage were determined using pysam  
636 (<http://code.google.com/p/pysam/>) and BEDtools<sup>56</sup>. The mapping statistics for the ancient samples  
637 are summarized in Supplementary Table 2.

638 We used mapDamage v2.0 to obtain approximate bayesian estimates of damage parameters<sup>57</sup>. Data  
639 authenticity was assessed by estimating the rate of mismatches to the consensus mitochondrial  
640 sequence using contamMix<sup>58</sup> and Schmutzi<sup>59</sup> as well as the excess of heterozygous positions in  
641 male haploid X chromosomes using ANGSD<sup>60</sup>. The sex of ancient individuals was determined by  
642 calculating the R<sub>y</sub> parameter<sup>61</sup>.  
643

### 644 **Uniparental haplogroup determination and kinship analysis**

645 The mitochondrial haplogroups of the ancient individuals were assigned using haplogrep<sup>62</sup>. To get  
646 the mtDNA consensus sequences, we aligned the trimmed reads of ancient samples to the human  
647 mitochondrial reference genome: revised Cambridge Reference Genome (rCRS). Base quality  $\geq 20$   
648 and mapping quality  $\geq 30$  filtering options were applied. Only SNPs at sites  $\geq 3X$  coverage were  
649 considered for consensus calling using samtools mpileup/bcftools v1.3.1<sup>53</sup>.

650 We identified male Y chromosome lineages using the pathPhynder workflow  
651 (<https://github.com/ruidlpm/pathPhynder>) and Yleaf v2<sup>63</sup>. For the latter, the analysis was restricted  
652 to 26,083 biallelic SNPs from the ISOGG (International Society of Genetic Genealogy) 2019  
653 database ([https://isogg.org/tree/ISOGG\\_YDNA\\_SNP\\_Index.html](https://isogg.org/tree/ISOGG_YDNA_SNP_Index.html)).

654 We used NgsRelate<sup>64</sup> to detect family relationships between all pairs of individuals. NGSrelate is a  
655 maximum-likelihood based program that for a pair of individuals based on genotype likelihoods  
656 estimates the three coefficients, k<sub>0</sub>, k<sub>1</sub> and k<sub>2</sub>, which denote the proportions of the genome where  
657 the pair of analyzed individuals share 0, 1 and 2 alleles identical by descent, respectively. We only  
658 included the 376 samples with sequencing depth above 0.1X for the analysis. From these we



659 estimated GLs and allele frequencies with ANGSD<sup>60</sup> using the SAMtools GL model (-gl 1)  
660 including reads with MapQ  $\geq 30$  and bases with baseQ  $\geq 20$ . We only estimated GLs and allele  
661 frequencies for the autosomal transversion sites where 1000 Genomes CEU population has a minor  
662 allele frequency of 0.05 resulting in 1,752,719 sites. READ<sup>65</sup> was used to confirm the degree of  
663 relatedness between pairs of individuals. The pedigree reconstructions based on the kinship  
664 coefficients were conducted using PRIMUS - Pedigree Reconstruction and Identification of a  
665 Maximum Unrelated Set<sup>66</sup>.  
666

## 667 **Imputation**

668 We imputed the genotypes of 298 ancient samples (289 from this study + 9 from the study by  
669 Krzewińska et al.<sup>10</sup>) that had a sequencing depth greater than 0.5X. We used Beagle v4.1<sup>67</sup> for  
670 imputations based on the genotype likelihood data, which was first estimated by GATK v3.7.0  
671 UnifiedGenotyper. To generate the genotype data we only called biallelic sites present in the 1000G  
672 dataset and only the observed alleles (--genotyping\_mode GENOTYPE\_GIVEN\_ALLELES). The  
673 resulting VCF files were filtered by setting genotype likelihoods to 0 for all three genotypes (e.g.  
674 hom ref, het and hom alt) for sites with potential deamination (C>T and G>A) as described by  
675 Martiniano et al.<sup>68</sup>. Following this, the per-individual vcfs were merged using bcftools-v1.3.1. The  
676 combined VCF were then split into 15,000 markers each and imputed separately using beagle-4.0  
677 using the 1000G phase3 map included with beagle (\*.phase3.v5a.snps.vcf.gz and  
678 plink.chr\*.GRCh37.map) with input through the genotype likelihood option. Run time for imputing  
679 using beagle was approximately 280,000 core hours.  
680

## 681 **Merge with existing panels**

682 Scandinavian panel: To assess the genetic relationships of various Viking Age groups with their  
683 present-day counterparts we constructed a reference panel enriched with Scandinavian populations  
684 based on published datasets: the EGAD00010000632 dataset from Leslie et al.<sup>23</sup> (UK dataset) and  
685 the EGAD00000000120 dataset from The International Multiple Sclerosis Genetics Consortium &  
686 The Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium 2<sup>69</sup> (EU dataset), see Supplementary Note 6 for  
687 details. Seven most relevant populations from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Poland, UK  
688 and Italy were considered (n=1464) with a total number of 414,264 SNPs. The CHB (Han Chinese)  
689 and YRI (Yoruba) populations from the 1000 Genomes project phase 3 database were merged to  
690 this panel as outgroups.

691 1000 Genomes panel: We used a set of 1,995 individuals from 20 populations (excluding  
692 individuals from the AMR super-population as well as admixed ASW and ACB populations) of the  
693 1000 Genomes project phase 3 release 5 (<ftp://1000genomes.ebi.ac.uk/vol1/ftp/release/20130502/>).  
694 We restricted the dataset to a set of 12,731,663 biallelic transversion SNPs located within the  
695 'strict' mappability mask regions  
696 ([ftp://1000genomes.ebi.ac.uk/vol1/ftp/release/20130502/supporting/accessible\\_genome\\_masks/](ftp://1000genomes.ebi.ac.uk/vol1/ftp/release/20130502/supporting/accessible_genome_masks/)).

697 Analyses of phenotype associated SNPs were carried out using five European-ancestry populations  
698 (IBS/Spanish; TSI/Tuscan; CEU/Utah Residents with Northern and Western European Ancestry;  
699 GBR/British; FIN/Finnish) along with CHB (Han Chinese) and YRI (Yoruba) as outliers. These  
700 were used to assess genome-wide allele frequencies for various SNPs associated with pigmentation  
701 phenotypes and lactose intolerance.

702 Ancient panels: We constructed datasets for population genetic analyses by merging the newly  
703 sequenced Viking Age individuals as well as other previously published ancient  
704 individuals<sup>40,41,68,70-96</sup> with the two modern reference panels described above. Ancient individuals

705 were represented with “pseudo-haploid” genotypes, obtained by randomly sampling an allele  
706 passing filters (mapping quality  $\geq 30$  and base quality  $\geq 30$ ), further requiring that it matched one of  
707 the two alleles observed in the reference panel (Supplementary Table 3). For high coverage ancient  
708 and modern individuals, we used diploid genotypes obtained using samtools / bcftools as previously  
709 described.

710

## 711 **Clustering analyses**

712 Based on the pseudohaploid individuals from the “ancient panels” we ran ADMIXTURE<sup>97</sup> by  
713 thinning the dataset for linkage disequilibrium using plink with recommended settings (--indep-  
714 pairwise 50 10 0.1). This dataset contained 1324 individuals for 151,235 markers for the autosomal  
715 chromosomes. Only samples with >20,000 SNPs overlapping with the “Human Origins panel” were  
716 kept in the analysis, resulting in 378 samples from this study. We did 50 replicates with different  
717 seeds for  $k=2$  to  $k=10$ . We used pong<sup>98</sup> to identify the best run for each  $K$  and similar components  
718 between different  $K$ s.

719 The large number of ancient individuals included in the analysis panels facilitates genetic clustering  
720 using the ancient individuals themselves, rather than projecting them on axes of variation inferred  
721 from modern populations. We carried this out using multi-dimensional scaling (MDS) on a distance  
722 matrix obtained from pairwise IBS sharing between individuals, using the ‘cmdscale’ function in R.  
723 We performed the main genetic clustering on a set of 1,306 ancient Eurasian individuals with >  
724 50,000 SNPs with genotype data, restricting to the batch-corrected SNP set described in  
725 Supplementary Note 8. Results from the batch-corrected MDS were combined with further  
726 dimensionality reduction using uniform manifold approximation and projection (UMAP),  
727 implemented in the ‘uwot’ package in R.

728

## 729 **Population genetics**

730 We used  $f_4$  statistics to investigate allele sharing between sets of test individuals and different  
731 modern and ancient groups (Supplementary Note 9). To characterize the deep ancestry relationship  
732 of the study individuals we calculated  $f_4$  (YRI, Test individual; Barcin\_EN.SG, Yamnaya\_EBA.SG)  
733 for all ancient Europeans from the BA onwards (1000 Genomes panel merge). This statistic  
734 contrasts genetic affinities of the test individuals with two major ancestry groups contributing to the  
735 gene pool of ancient Europeans from the Bronze Age onwards: Anatolian farmers and Steppe  
736 pastoralists. Genetic continuity with Scandinavian Iron Age groups was investigated using  $f_4$  (YRI,  
737 Test group; Test individual, Scandinavia IA group) (1000 Genomes panel merge). This statistic  
738 measures whether a test individual is consistent with forming a clade with Scandinavian IA groups  
739 to the exclusion of a test group from outside of Scandinavia. Genetic affinities between ancient  
740 groups and present-day populations were investigated using  $f_4$ (YRI, Test individual; Present-day  
741 test population, present-day reference population) (Scandinavian panel).

742

## 743 **Ancestry modelling using qpAdm**

744 We estimated ancestry proportions of VA groups using  $qpAdm$ <sup>70</sup>, which is based on  $f_4$ -statistics of  
745 the form  $f_4(X, O1; O2, O3)$ , where  $X$  is either the source or target population, and  $O1/O2/O3$  are  
746 triplets of outgroups to the source/target groups. To minimize batch effects and/or biases due to  
747 ancient DNA damage or SNP ascertainment, we used a set of 1,800,038 transversion-only sites that  
748 were found polymorphic with minor allele frequency  $\geq 0.5\%$  and missing genotype rate of  $\leq 15\%$  in  
749 the 1000 Genomes panel merge.

750

## 751 **Genetic diversity**

752 The genetic diversity of ancient groups was assessed using “conditional nucleotide diversity” as  
753 previously described<sup>73</sup>. For this analysis, pairwise differences between individuals were calculated  
754 using SNPs polymorphic in an outgroup population (YRI) and with a minor allele count  $\geq 5$  in the  
755 1000 Genomes merge.  
756

## 757 **IBD analysis**

758 The imputed genotypes of 298 individuals were used to infer genomic segments shared via identity-  
759 by-descent (IBD) within the context of a reference panel of 1,464 present-day Europeans, using  
760 IBDseq<sup>99</sup> (version r1206) with default parameters. We conducted genetic clustering by MDS on a  
761 distance matrix obtained from pairwise IBD sharing and UMAP to reveal fine-scale population  
762 structure among Viking Age individuals.  
763

## 764 **Painting**

765 To assess the fine-scale variation in genetic ancestry proportions of VA individuals we used  
766 Chromosome Painting<sup>11</sup>. The following describes the general workflow of the Chromosome  
767 Painting analysis, see Supplementary Note 11 for details.

768 1. Create a modern reference panel using 1675 modern individuals sampled from Northern Europe,  
769 using the standard FineSTRUCTURE pipeline:

770 • Apply ChromoPainter to paint all modern individuals using the remaining individuals as donors  
771 using fs2.0.8. Related individuals were identified through increased haplotype similarity, and  
772 admixed individuals were identified by their finestructure clustering. These were removed  
773 leading to 1554 unrelated individuals, which were re-painted. Cluster with FineSTRUCTURE,  
774 resulting in 40 populations. After removal of small populations and merging of the Chinese  
775 (CHB) and African (YRI) sub-populations, this resulted in 23 modern populations with  
776 geographical meaning.

777 • Call the resulting clustering the “Modern Reference Panel”, which consists of 23 Modern  
778 Surrogate populations and 23 Modern Donor populations (Figure S11.2).

779 2. Create an “ancient reference panel” using the modern reference panel:

780 • Apply ChromoPainter to paint all ancient individuals using the “Modern Population Palette”  
781 (Figure S11.3).

782 • Create a supervised “Ancient Population Palette” consisting of 14 populations which either: A:  
783 “represent” a modern ancestry direction, or B: are “best associated with” a modern ancestry  
784 direction. The paintings consider the average per-individual donor rate to each of the 7 modern  
785 populations, normalising each donor label to have mean 1 (Figure S11.4). The individuals that  
786 contribute most to a population “represent” it (above a threshold amount chosen by identifying a  
787 change-point). The remaining individuals are assigned to the population that they are “best  
788 associated with”. We create an “Ancient Population Surrogate” for each modern population,  
789 consisting of the individuals that “represent” each modern population. For  $K=7$  modern  
790 populations, this results in a matrix of  $K=7$  rows (surrogate populations) and  $2K=14$  columns  
791 (donor palette populations) which captures the ancient population structure (Figure S11.6).

792 3. Infer Ancestry. Learn about population structure in either modern individuals or ancient  
793 individuals by painting them with respect to the “ancient population panel” and fitting them as a  
794 mixture using the “ancient population surrogates”, using the Non-Negative Least Squares (NNLS)

795 implemented in GLOBETROTTER<sup>100</sup> (see Supplementary Section S11) with uncertainty estimated  
796 using 100 bootstrap replicates . All samples are analysed by leaving out one individual per donor  
797 population so that modern and ancient individuals are exchangeable (as the ancient individual is  
798 itself excluded from its own ancient donor population). This is reported in many ways.

- 799 • The inferred ancestry results (Supplementary Table S6) are summarized by taking the mean  
800 across inferred populations in Figure S11.11, whilst Figure S11.12 shows the means over  
801 sample information labels.
  - 802 • We performed a spatio-temporal regression (Table S11.2) using the model  $a_{ik} = \alpha_{jk}t_i +$   
803  $\beta_{jk}x_i + \gamma_{jk}y_i + \varepsilon_{ijk}$ , where  $a_{ik}$  is the amount of ancestry individual  $i$  possesses from population  
804  $j$ ,  $t_i$  is the “age category” of the individual (1=Iron Age, 2=Early Viking Age, 3= Viking Age,  
805 4=Medieval) and  $(x_i, y_i)$  are the longitude and latitude of the burial location of the individual.
  - 806 • The modern ancestry results are estimated using the “Spatial median” instead of the mean, to  
807 account for ancestry being constrained in a  $k$ -dimensional simplex (Figure S11.14), with  
808 uncertainty quantified by bootstrap resampling of individuals (Figure S11.15).
- 809 4. Perform sensitivity analyses to ensure that the inference procedure performs as expected. We  
810 checked that sequence depth was not associated with cluster membership (Figure S11.7), and that  
811 sequence depth did not significantly affect inferred ancestry (Figure 11.8) by downsampling  
812 individuals with high depth data available, re-phasing, re-imputing and re-painting them, and  
813 assigning ancestry using the above procedure. Results 2X and above were extremely similar, whilst  
814 at 1X there was some loss of precision but the broad structure remained clear.
- 815 5. Run Principal Components Analysis of the ancient + modern populations painted against our  
816 donor populations (Figure S11.9) as well as an all-vs-all ChromoPainter analysis including modern  
817 and ancient individuals (Figure S11.10).

818

## 819 Ancestry Diversity Measure

820 We wish to quantify diversity in ancestry for a population of individuals, with “diverse” meaning a  
821 large deviation of individual ancestry estimates from the average ancestry in that population. We  
822 compute the average Kullback-Leibler (KL) Divergence for each individual label from the average  
823 of that label:

$$D(A^{(l)}) = \frac{1}{n_l} \sum_{i=1}^{n_l} KL(A_i^{(l)} || p^{(l)})$$

824 where  $A^{(l)}$  is the  $n_l$  by  $K$  matrix of ancestry estimates in label  $l$ ,  $p^{(l)}$  is the length  $K$  vector of  
825 average ancestries in that label, and  $KL(Q || P) = \sum_{k=1}^K q_k \log_2 \left( \frac{q_k}{p_k} \right)$ . We performed a  
826 simulation study to validate this measure (Supplementary Section S11, Figure S11.13) which  
827 allowed us to calibrate the expected diversity as a function of sample size.

828

## 829 Spatiotemporal patterns

830 To visualise the migration patterns of the Vikings we used inverse distance weighting interpolation  
831 implemented in the function ‘idw’ of the R package *gstat*, to interpolate the proportion of each  
832 ancient genome that was attributed by our fineStructure analysis (Supplementary Table 6) to one of  
833 the pre-defined ancestry groups: ‘UK’, ‘Denmark’, ‘Norway’, ‘Sweden’, ‘Italy’, ‘Poland’ and  
834 ‘Finland’. We used the Shepard method of interpolation<sup>12,101</sup> with the weight for a given  
835 interpolation location  $x$  equal to  $1/(d(x,v)^2)$  where  $v$  is the location of an observed sample and  
836  $d(a,b)$  is the distance between two points  $a$  and  $b$ . For plotting maps, we used a Mercator projection

837 and downloaded coastal contours at 1:50m scale from Natural Earth:  
838 <https://www.naturalearthdata.com/>  
839

#### 840 **Lactase persistence and pigmentation SNPs**

841 For ancient populations we estimated the derived ‘A’ allele frequency of the SNP rs4988235 known  
842 to affect expression of the lactase LCT gene. The ancestral “G” allele is responsible for lactase  
843 intolerance in adult Europeans<sup>39</sup>. We used ANGSD<sup>60</sup> to estimate the allele frequencies of the  
844 ancient population based on the genotype likelihood data. We used the five European populations  
845 (CEU – Northern European, FIN – Fins, GBR – British, TSI – Italy, IBS – Spain) and two  
846 outgroups (Yoruba – YRI; Chinese – CHB) from the 1000 Genomes Project as comparative groups.  
847 We also included the present-day Danish population from the IPSYCH case-cohort study<sup>44</sup> and  
848 geographically proximate Iron and Bronze Age populations to trace frequency shifts of SNP  
849 rs4988235 through time. We also used ANGSD<sup>60</sup> to estimate the frequencies of 22 SNPs  
850 (HIrisPlex<sup>102</sup>) with strongest influence on human pigmentation phenotypes in the VA/EVA  
851 Scandinavian population.  
852

#### 853 **Signatures of selection**

854 We aimed to find SNPs whose allele frequencies changed significantly in the last 10,000 years,  
855 using our ancient human genomes to look at the frequencies of alleles in the past. We combined our  
856 VA and IA genomes with previously published present-day, Bronze Age, Neolithic and Mesolithic  
857 sequence data typed at the Human Origins array (see Supplementary Note 6). We filtered for  
858 genomes that were younger than 8,000 BCE and that were located within a bounding box  
859 encompassing the European continent:  $30 < \text{latitude} < 75$  and  $-15 < \text{longitude} < 45$ . We then used  
860 neoscan in Ohana<sup>36,103</sup> to scan for variants whose allele frequencies were strongly associated with  
861 time, after controlling for genome-wide changes in ancestry that might have also occurred over  
862 time. We only analyzed sites with a minor allele frequency  $> 1\%$  (see Supplementary Note 14 for  
863 details).  
864

#### 865 **Tracking the evolution of complex traits in Scandinavia**

866 We wanted to examine whether we could identify signals of recent population differentiation of  
867 complex traits by comparing genotypes of VA samples excavated in Scandinavia (i.e. Denmark,  
868 Sweden and Norway) with those of a present-day Scandinavian population. For the latter, we used  
869 imputed genotypes from subjects born in Denmark between 1981-2011 from the IPSYCH case-  
870 cohort study<sup>44</sup>. We downloaded summary statistics from the Genome wide association study  
871 ATLAS webpage (<https://atlas.ctglab.nl>)<sup>45</sup>, from studies of 16 disease- and anthropometric traits  
872 (excluding those related to cognition) published in 2017 or later with SNP heritability estimated at  
873  $>0.1$ , sample size of  $>100,000$ , and  $>100$  identified genome-wide significant loci. We calculated  
874 polygenic risk scores based on independent ( $R^2 < 0.1$  within 10Mb range) genome-wide significant  
875 allelic effects and standardized them to a unit representing the standard deviation of the mean of  
876 their distribution. We then removed outliers (anyone with a value for any of the 25 PCs falling more  
877 than 4 standard deviations away from the group mean) reiteratively from within each ancestry  
878 group (treating the Scandinavian Viking age samples as one ancestry group), and subsequently  
879 tested for difference in PRS distribution between Viking age samples and Danish ancestry IPSYCH  
880 random population samples using a linear regression model correcting for sex and the 25 principal  
881 components.

882

883

884

## 885 **Data availability**

886 Sequence data are available at the European Nucleotide Archive under accession number  
887 PRJEB37976.

888

## 889 **Code availability**

890 All raw data are available at the European Nucleotide Archive under accession number  
891 PRJEB37976. Functions for calculating f-statistics are available as an R package at GitHub  
892 (<https://github.com/martinsikora/admixr>).  
893

893

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1006

## 1007 **Extended Data Figures**

### 1008 **Extended Data Fig. 1: Viking Age archaeological sites**

1009 Examples of a few archaeological Viking Age sites and samples used in this study. **a**, Salme II ship  
1010 burial site of Early Viking Age excavated in present-day Estonia: schematic representation of  
1011 skeletons (upper left-hand corner image) and aerial images of skeletons (upper right-hand corner  
1012 and lower images). **b**, Ridgeway Hill mass grave dated to the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> century, located on the  
1013 crest of Ridgeway Hill, near Weymouth, on the South coast of England (reproduced with  
1014 permission from Dorset County Council/Oxford Archaeology). Around 50 predominantly young  
1015 adult male individuals were excavated. **c**, The site of Balladoole: around AD 900, a Viking was



1016 buried in an oak ship at Balladoole, Arbory in the south east of the Isle of Man. **d**, Viking Age  
1017 archaeological site in Varnhem, in Skara municipality, Sweden: Schematic map of the church  
1018 foundation (left) and the excavated graves (red markings) at the early Christian cemetery in  
1019 Varnhem; foundations of the Viking Age stone church in Varnhem (middle) and the remains of a  
1020 182 cm long male individual (no. 17) buried in a lime stone coffin close to the church foundations  
1021 (right).

1022

1023 **Extended Data Fig. 2: Model-based clustering analysis**

1024 Admixture plot (K=2 to K=5) for 567 ancient individuals spanning 71 different populations. This  
1025 figure is a subset of most relevant individuals and populations from Figure S7.2, see Supplementary  
1026 Note 7 for details. This plot consists of 378 ancient samples from this study; VA samples from  
1027 Sigtuna, Sweden<sup>10</sup> (n=21); Iceland<sup>18</sup> (n=22) and other ancient comparative groups (n=146).

1028

1029 **Extended Data Fig. 3: Fine-scale population structure**

1030 The point cloud at the top center shows an alternative view of the UMAP result from Figure 2b,  
1031 with all ancient individuals colored based on analysis group. The framed panels surrounding the  
1032 point cloud highlight particular ancestry clusters as indicated, with labels and larger symbols  
1033 corresponding to the median coordinates for the respective group. The larger bottom panel similarly  
1034 shows median group coordinates for the large central point cloud, which includes the vast majority  
1035 of European individuals from the Bronze Age onwards.

1036

1037 **Extended Data Fig. 4: Ancestry modelling for distal sources**

1038 **a**, Contrasting allele sharing between Anatolian farmers (Barcin\_EN) and Steppe pastoralists  
1039 (Yamnaya\_EBA) for European individuals from the Bronze Age and later. Violin plots showing  
1040 distributions of statistics  $f_4(\text{YRI, test individual; Barcin\_EN, Yamnaya\_EBA})$  for n=515 individuals  
1041 with a minimum of 1,000,000 SNPs with genotypes and groups with at least two such individuals.  
1042 **b**, Ancestry proportions of analysis groups from the Bronze Age and later inferred using *qpAdm*.  
1043 Target groups were modelled using three distal sources representing European hunter-gatherer  
1044 (Loschbour\_M), Anatolian farmer (Barcin\_EN) and Steppe pastoralist (Yamnaya\_EBA) ancestry.  
1045 Sample sizes for target groups can be found in Supplementary table 10. Error bars indicate standard  
1046 error obtained from *qpAdm*. **c**, Ancestry proportions of analysis groups for which the three source  
1047 model was rejected using *qpAdm* ( $p < 0.05$ ). Target groups were modelled including one additional  
1048 distal source representing either Steppe hunter-gatherer (Botai\_EBA), Caucasus hunter-gatherer  
1049 (CaucasusHG\_M) or East Asian-related (XiongNu\_IA) ancestry.

1050

1051 **Extended Data Fig. 5: Ancestry modelling for proximate sources**

1052 **a**, Testing for continuity between European Iron Age and later Viking Age and Medieval groups.  
1053 Coloured squares depict whether a particular target group (row) can be modelled using a single  
1054 source group (column). P-values for  $f_4$  rank of 0 (corresponding to a single source group) were  
1055 obtained using *qpAdm* with a set of 15 outgroups which included European Bronze Age groups  
1056 preceding the source groups. Sample sizes for target groups can be found in Supplementary table 12  
1057 **b**, Two-way admixture ancestry proportions of target groups for which a single source was rejected  
1058 ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). Target groups were modelled using additional proximate Bronze and Iron Age sources.  
1059 Sample sizes for target groups can be found in Supplementary table 13. For both **a**, **b**, only ancient  
1060 groups containing at least three individuals with a minimum of 1,000,000 SNPs with genotypes are  
1061 plotted **c**, Contrasting allele sharing between present-day Denmark and other populations. Violin  
1062 plots showing distributions of statistics  $f_4(\text{YRI, test individual; Panel population, Denmark})$  for n=489

1063 individuals with a minimum of 50,000 SNPs with genotypes and groups with at least two such  
1064 individuals. Median values for distributions are indicated with horizontal lines.

1065

1066 **Extended Data Fig. 6: Ancestry diversity of different population groups**

1067 Diversity of different labels (i.e. sample locations combined with historical age) are shown as a  
1068 function of their sample size. The Diversity measure is the Kullback-Leibler divergence from the  
1069 label means, capturing the diversity of a group with respect to the average of that group; see text for  
1070 details. Larger values are more diverse, though a dependence on sample size is expected. The  
1071 simulation expectation for the best-fit to the data ( $0=0.2$ ) is shown.

1072

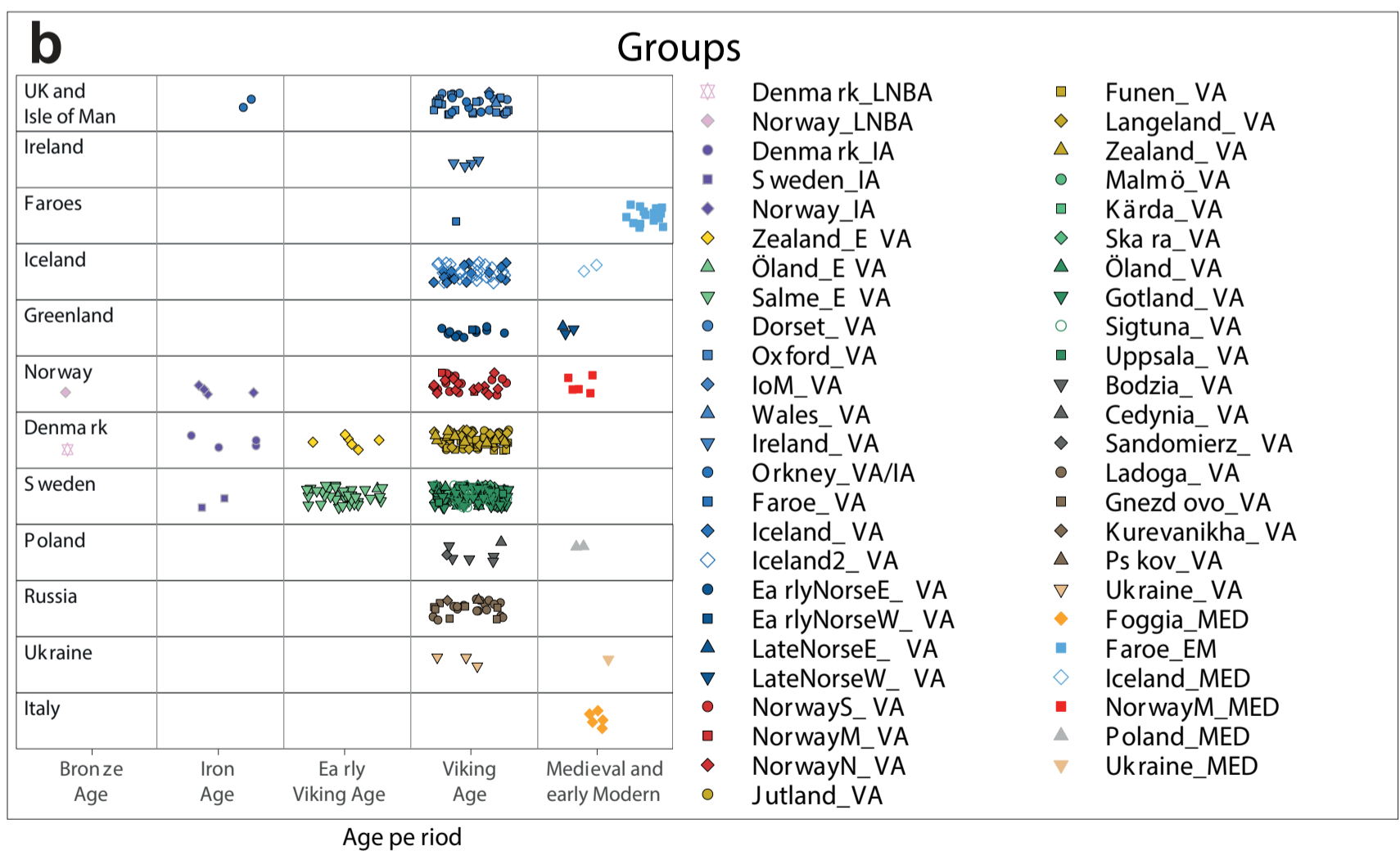
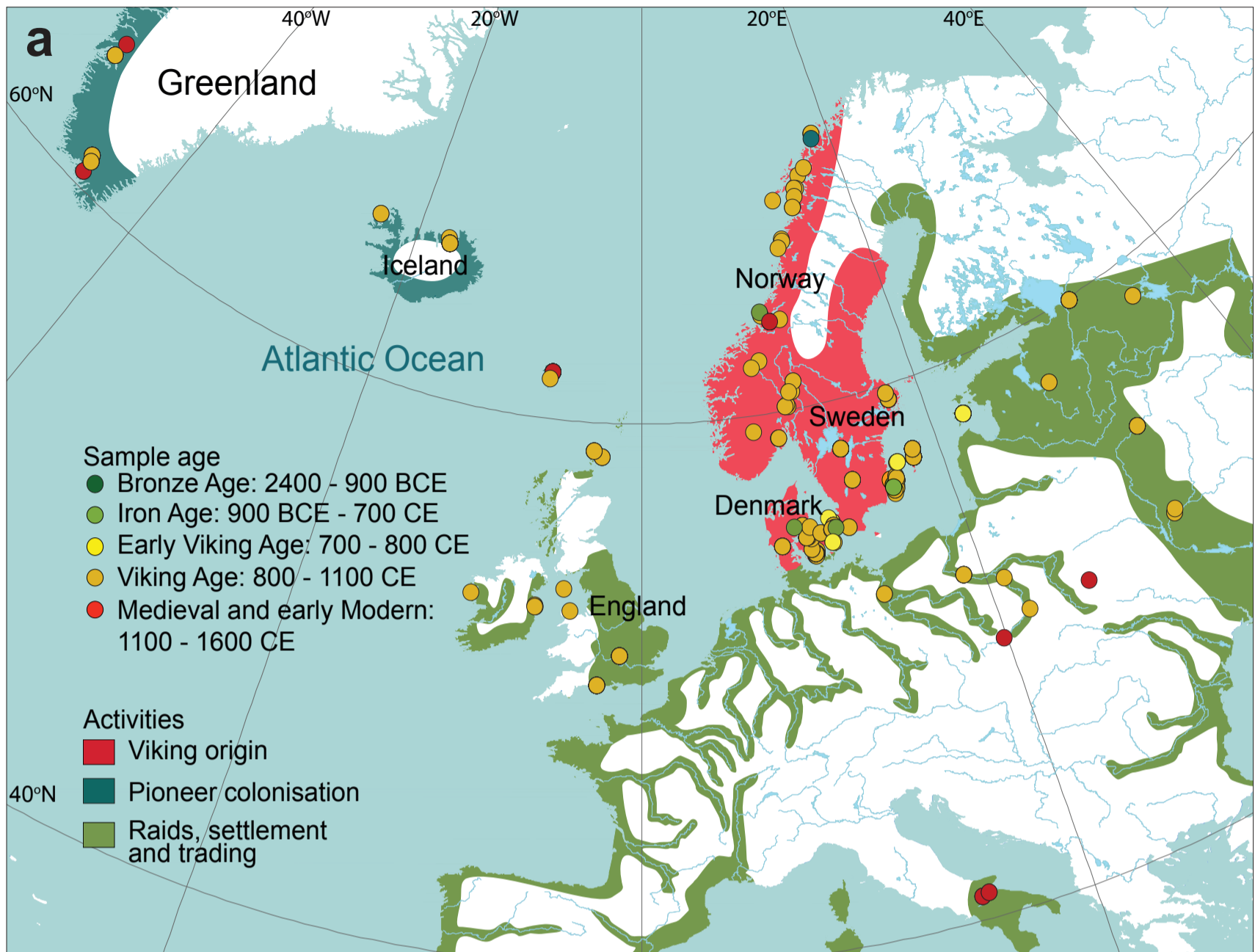
1073 **Extended Data Fig. 7: Polygenic risk scores**

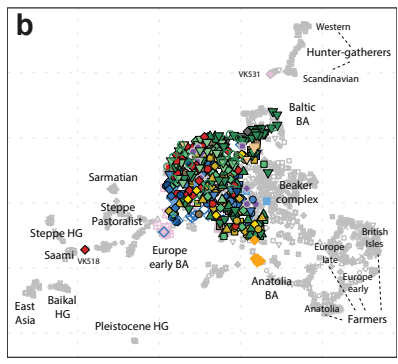
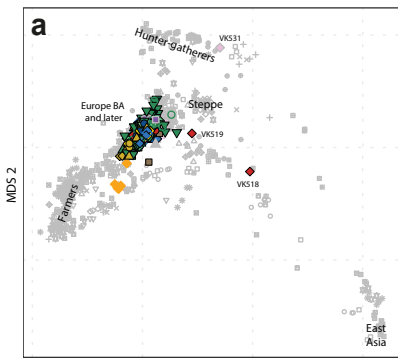
1074 Polygenic risk scores (PRS) for 16 complex human traits in 148 Viking Age samples from  
1075 Denmark, Sweden and Norway compared against a reference sample of 20,551 Danish-ancestry  
1076 individuals randomly drawn from all individuals born in Denmark in 1981-2005. The PRS is in  
1077 each case based on allelic effects for >100 independent genome-wide significant SNPs from recent  
1078 GWAS of the respective traits and standardised to a mean of 0 and standard deviation of 1 in the  
1079 entire sample. Difference in PRS was estimated in a linear regression correcting for sex and 25  
1080 principal components of overall genetic structure. The plotted BETA indicates the coefficient for  
1081 the testgroup (Viking Age sample) PRS compared to that of the Danish comparison sample, with  
1082 error bars indicating the 95% confidence interval of BETA, and P indicating the two-tailed p-value  
1083 of the corresponding T-test (not corrected for number of tests). Only PRS for black hair color is  
1084 significantly different between the groups after taking account of multiple testing.

1085

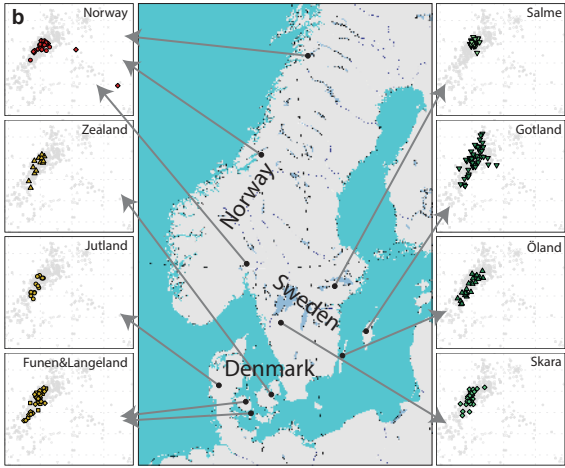
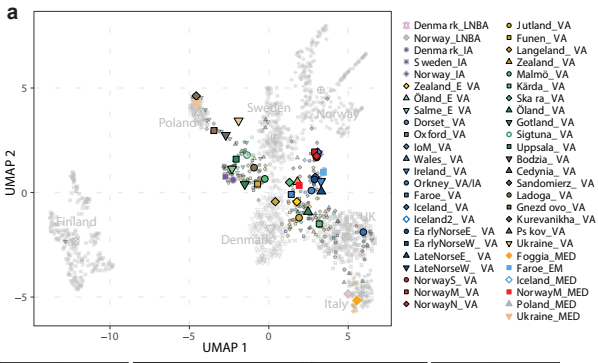
1086 **Extended Data Fig. 8: Positive selection in Europe**

1087 **a**, Manhattan plots of the likelihood ratio scores in favor of selection looking at the entire 10,000-  
1088 year period (top, “general” scan), the period up to 4,000 BP (middle, “ancient” scan) and the period  
1089 from 4,000 BP up to the present (bottom, “recent” scan). The highlighted SNPs have a score larger  
1090 than the 99.9% quantile of the empirical distribution of log-likelihood ratios, and have at least two  
1091 neighboring SNPs (+/- 500kb) with a score larger than the same quantile.  $n = 1,185$  genomes are  
1092 used in the selection scan. **b**, Frequencies of the derived “A” allele rs4988235 SNP responsible for  
1093 lactase persistence in humans for different Viking-Age groups, present-day populations from the  
1094 1000 Genomes Project as well as relevant Bronze Age population panels. The numbers at the top of  
1095 the bars denote the sample size on which the allele frequency estimates are based.

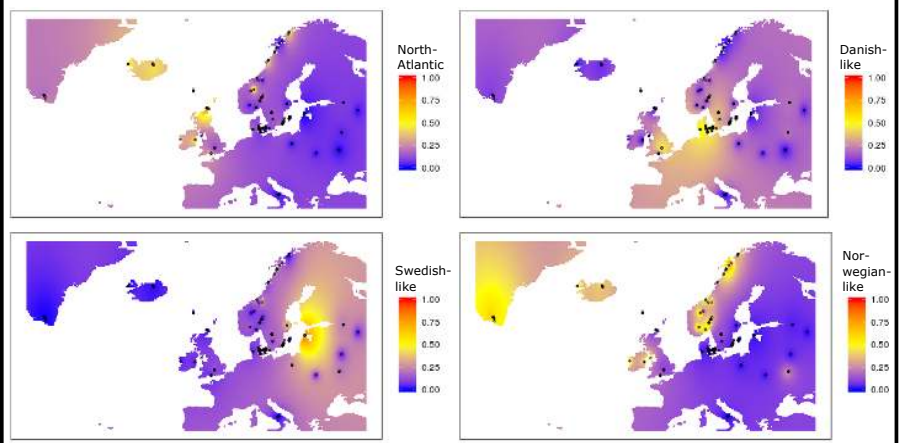




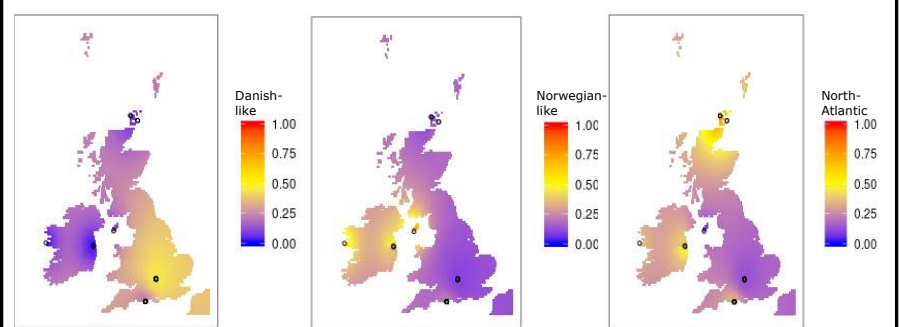
- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Denma rk_LNBA</li> <li>● Norway_LNBA</li> <li>■ Denma rk_IA</li> <li>■ Sweden_IA</li> <li>● Norway_IA</li> <li>◆ Zealand_E_VA</li> <li>▲ Öland_E_VA</li> <li>▼ Sälme_E_VA</li> <li>■ Dorset_VA</li> <li>■ Oxford_VA</li> <li>◆ IoM_VA</li> <li>▲ Wales_VA</li> <li>▼ Ireland_VA</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Orkney_VA/IA</li> <li>■ Faroe_VA</li> <li>◆ Iceland_VA</li> <li>◆ Iceland2_VA</li> <li>● Ea rlyNorseE_ VA</li> <li>■ Ea rlyNorseW_ VA</li> <li>▲ LateNorseE_ VA</li> <li>▼ LateNorseW_ VA</li> <li>● NorwayS_VA</li> <li>■ NorwayM_VA</li> <li>◆ NorwayN_VA</li> <li>● Jutland_VA</li> <li>■ Funen_VA</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Langeland_VA</li> <li>▲ Zealand_VA</li> <li>● Malmö_VA</li> <li>■ Kärda_VA</li> <li>◆ Ska ra_VA</li> <li>▲ Öland_VA</li> <li>▼ Gotland_VA</li> <li>○ Sigtuna_VA</li> <li>■ Uppsala_VA</li> <li>▼ Bodzia_VA</li> <li>▲ Cedyنيا_VA</li> <li>◆ Sandomierz_VA</li> <li>● Ladoga_VA</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Gnezd ovo_VA</li> <li>◆ Kurevanikha_VA</li> <li>▲ Ps kov_VA</li> <li>▼ Ukraine_VA</li> <li>◆ Foggia_MED</li> <li>■ Faroe_EM</li> <li>◆ Iceland_MED</li> <li>■ NorwayM_MED</li> <li>▲ Poland_MED</li> <li>▼ Ukraine_MED</li> </ul> |
|---|---|--|--|



Distinct spheres of influence in the Viking World



Danish Viking ancestry in southern Britain; Norwegian Viking ancestry in Ireland and Isle of Man; Non-Scandinavian ("North Atlantic") ancestry in Orkney, Ireland and southern Britain



Late southern European ancestry in southern Scandinavia

