Lecture 2: Neolithic Scotland: the big picture and regional narratives

Scotland before people: the last Ice Age:

- Map of ice coverage, 25,000 BC: www.antarcticglaciers.org

Late Upper Palaeolithic archaeology in Scotland:

- technological identification of Late Upper Palaeolithic artefacts: Ballin, T.B. 2019. Identification of Scottish Late Upper Palaeolithic industries by detailed technological analysis. (2) 2019: Identification of Scottish Late Upper Palaeolithic industries by detailed technological analysis | Torben Bjarke Ballin - Academia.edu

Mesolithic Scotland (and comparanda):

- relatively substantial dwelling structures:
  Howick, Northumberland (as a comparandum): Howick - Archaeological Research Services Ltd


- the ‘Storegga slide’, around 6200 BC:

Blog by Caroline Wickham-Jones: Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Scotland in a nutshell – Caroline Wickham-Jones


- Late Mesolithic shell middens on Oronsay, and examination of the human remains from them:
  
  
  
  

- critical review of Mellars’ model of Mesolithic seasonal occupation of Oronsay:
  

- DNA of Cnoc Coig Mesolithic woman, compared with other Mesolithic and Neolithic individuals:
  

- the Old Quay, St Martin’s, Scilly microliths:
  

The c. 1000-year delay between the appearance of farming in Britain and Ireland when compared to its arrival on the near Continent:

…discussed, for example, in:


Breton-style funerary monuments in Britain and Ireland:

…latest discussion, with references to previous studies:


Achnacreebeag closed chamber and simple passage tomb:

Discussion of the Achnacreebeag pottery:
https://www.sidestone.com/books/ancient-lives

Early Neolithic use of caves for burial:
See Sheridan & Schulting 2020, listed above, and, for Raschoille Cave:

The ‘Carinated Bowl Neolithic’:
- pottery:
https://www.sidestone.com/books/ancient-lives

Hélène Pioffet's technical comparison of Carinated Bowl pottery with Chasséo-Michelsberg pottery in France:
Pioffet, H. 2017. Societies and identities during the Early Neolithic of Britain and Ireland in their west European context: characterisation and comparative analyses of pottery production between Channel, Irish Sea and North Sea. PAST 87, 5–7 (although note that the characterisation of 'east vs west' styles of pottery is open to critical review)

- Axeheads of jadeite and other Alpine rock:
See references relating to Projet JADE in Lecture 1, and see:

Pitchstone:
PAST_87_for_web.pdf (prehistoricsociety.org)

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jasrep.2019.102189

- axeheads of Langdale tuff (Implement Petrology Committee ‘Group VI’ rock), Cumbria:


CBA Research Report No. 67 (archaeologydataservice.ac.uk)

- exploitation of calc-silicate hornfels for making axeheads and maceheads at Creag na Caillch, above Killin:


The Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in Britain and Ireland:

- the Julian Thomas model and the published critique by Sheridan:


-Ferriter's Cove: domesticated cattle bones in a Late Mesolithic camp:


- claims for cross-Channel contacts during the Mesolithic – the Bouldnor wheat sedimentary DNA case:


- Mesolithic-Neolithic interactions in S Scandinavia/N Germany:


- the Collard et al. model:
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jas.2009.11.016

- the Whittle et al. model, and Sheridan’s review of it:


- Warden et al.’s climate change hypothesis:
Climate induced human demographic and cultural change in northern Europe during the mid-Holocene - CORE Reader

- the Sheridan multi-strand Neolithisation model: various publications, including:

Sheridan, J.A. 2018 The Neolithisation of Britain and Ireland: the arrival of immigrant farmers from Continental Europe and its impact on pre-existing lifeways. In N. Sanz (ed.), The Origins of Food Production, 226–45. Mexico City: UNESCO (and note that Fig. 6 is in error: the plan should be of Cairnholy I, not II)

- the Continental background: the Morbihan region of Brittany:

Cassen, S.(ed.) 2009. Autour de la Table : explorations archéologiques et discours savants sur des architectures néolithiques à Locmariáger, Morbihan (Table des Marchands et Grand Menhir). Nantes : Université de Nantes


- the Continental background: population expansion out of the Paris Basin from c. 4300 BC:


- the DNA evidence for Britain and Ireland:


Sheridan, J.A. 2020 [Alison Sheridan, who has long studied the Neolithic of Britain and Ireland, assesses the new aDNA revelations from an archaeological perspective] *British Archaeology* September/October 2020, 41

- French DNA studies relevant to the issue of the appearance of farming in Britain and Ireland:


- chronological overlap between latest hunter-fisher-forager (Mesolithic) communities and earliest farmers (Neolithic) in Scotland:


- the conundrum of shell middens:
Example of a shell midden with post-Mesolithic dates: Inveravon, West Lothian: https://canmore.org.uk/site/47795/inveravon

'Snapshot' of developments after the arrival of farming:

- secondary expansion to Outer Hebrides and Northern Isles:


- Late 4th millennium developments in Orkney: see bibliography for Lecture 5

- rock art:

Professor Richard Bradley & Dr Aaron Watson’s work on the rock art on Ben Lawers, Perth and Kinross:

Excavating prehistoric rock carvings on Ben Lawers - University of Reading

Bradley, R., A. Brown, & A. Watson. 2010. The archaeology and environment of prehistoric rock carvings on Ben Lawers. PAST 65, 11–14 [prehistoricsociety.org]


Jones, A. M., & B. O’Connor. 2007. Excavating art: Recent excavations at the rock art sites at Torbhlaren, near Kilmartin, Mid-Argyll, Scotland. PAST 55, 4 PAST_91_for_web.pdf [prehistoricsociety.org]


- the University College London team’s hypothesis of population crash around 3550 BC and crash in arable farming c. 3300 BC, and Dr Rosie Bishop’s response re agriculture:


Shennan, S. 2018. The First Farmers of Europe: an evolutionary perspective. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press


From Big Picture to regional narratives: 1. West and south-west Scotland

- distribution of Carinated Bowl pottery, and example from Knocknab, Glenluce:


- Lockerbie ‘hall’:


- Cursus monuments at Holywood and Holm Farm, near Dumfries:


- Early Neolithic funerary monuments in south-west Scotland:


Clyde cairns and their congeners in Ireland and the Isle of Man:


Giant’s Graves North:


- Connections between SW Scotland and NE Ireland:


Pitchstone:


Pottery:


Axe- and adzeheads of Langdale tuff (Gp VI rock):


The Rotten Bottom bow:


- Kilmartin Glen and the Neolithic of Argyll:


- Connections along the Atlantic façade, c. 3000 BC (timber and stone circles, Grooved Ware etc.):


Understanding the Irish Grooved Ware complex in its wider context | Alison Sheridan - Academia.edu


Neolithic connections along and across the Irish Sea | Alison Sheridan - Academia.edu

- Bargrennan-type chamber tombs:


From Big Picture to regional narratives: 2. Shetland

- overall account of the Neolithic (and Chalcolithic and Bronze Age) in Shetland:


Shetland, from the appearance of a ‘Neolithic’ way of life to c. 1500 BC: a view from the ‘mainland’ | Alison Sheridan - Academia.edu

Earlier publications that were subsequently updated in the Sheridan 2014 publication:


http://nordligeverdener.natmus.dk/fileadmin/user_upload/temasites/nordlige_verdener/Nord_Verd_Shetlandsprojekt_3_web.pdf

- West Voe shell midden:


- Shetland chamber tombs:


- Stanydale:


- Scord of Brouster:

- Modesty:

- the North Roe Felsite Project:
Megarry, W. & Cooney, G. 2018. The role of felsite in Neolithic Shetland. The Role of Felsite in Neolithic Shetland — Queen’s University Belfast (qub.ac.uk)

- evidence for starvation and the eating of fish at the Sumburgh cist: