

Massive migration from the steppe was a source for Indo-European languages in Europe

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We generated genome-wide data from 69 Europeans who lived between 8,000–3,000 years ago by enriching ancient DNA libraries for a target set of almost 400,000 polymorphisms. Enrichment of these positions decreases the sequencing required for genome-wide ancient DNA analysis by a median of around 250-fold, allowing us to study an order of magnitude more individuals than previous studies^{1–8} and to obtain new insights about the past. We show that the populations of Western and Far Eastern Europe followed opposite trajectories between 8,000–5,000 years ago. At the beginning of the Neolithic period in Europe, ~8,000–7,000 years ago, closely related groups of early farmers appeared in Germany, Hungary and Spain, different from indigenous hunter-gatherers, whereas Russia was inhabited by a distinctive population of hunter-gatherers with high affinity to a ~24,000-year-old Siberian⁶. By ~6,000–5,000 years ago, farmers throughout much of Europe had more hunter-gatherer ancestry than their predecessors, but in Russia, the Yamnaya steppe herders of this time were descended not only from the preceding eastern European hunter-gatherers, but also from a population of Near Eastern ancestry. Western and Eastern Europe came into contact ~4,500 years ago, as the Late Neolithic Corded Ware people from Germany traced ~75% of their ancestry to the Yamnaya, documenting a massive migration into the heartland of Europe from its eastern periphery. This steppe ancestry persisted in all sampled central Europeans until at least ~3,000 years ago, and is ubiquitous in present-day Europeans. These results provide support for a steppe origin⁹ of at least some of the Indo-European languages of Europe.

Genome-wide analysis of ancient DNA has emerged as a transformative technology for studying prehistory, providing information that is comparable in power to archaeology and linguistics. Realizing its promise, however, requires collecting genome-wide data from an adequate number of individuals to characterize population changes over time, which means not only sampling a succession of archaeological cultures², but also multiple individuals per culture. To make analysis of large numbers of ancient DNA samples practical, we used in-solution hybridization capture^{10,11} to enrich next generation sequencing libraries for a

target set of 394,577 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) ('390k capture'), 354,212 of which are autosomal SNPs that have also been genotyped using the Affymetrix Human Origins array in 2,345 humans from 203 populations^{4,12}. This reduces the amount of sequencing required to obtain genome-wide data by a minimum of 45-fold and a median of 262-fold (Supplementary Data 1). This strategy allows us to report genomic scale data on more than twice the number of ancient Eurasians as has been presented in the entire preceding literature^{1–8} (Extended Data Table 1).

We used this technology to study population transformations in Europe. We began by preparing 212 DNA libraries from 119 ancient samples in dedicated clean rooms, and testing these by light shotgun sequencing and mitochondrial genome capture (Supplementary Information section 1, Supplementary Data 1). We restricted the analysis to libraries with molecular signatures of authentic ancient DNA (elevated damage in the terminal nucleotide), negligible evidence of contamination based on mismatches to the mitochondrial consensus¹³ and, where available, a mitochondrial DNA haplogroup that matched previous results using PCR^{4,14,15} (Supplementary Information section 2). For 123 libraries prepared in the presence of uracil-DNA-glycosylase¹⁶ to reduce errors due to ancient DNA damage¹⁷, we performed 390k capture, carried out paired-end sequencing and mapped the data to the human genome. We restricted analysis to 94 libraries from 69 samples that had at least 0.06-fold average target coverage (average of 3.8-fold) and used majority rule to call an allele at each SNP covered at least once (Supplementary Data 1). After combining our data (Supplementary Information section 3) with 25 ancient samples from the literature — three Upper Paleolithic samples from Russia^{1,6,7}, seven people of European hunter-gatherer ancestry^{2,4,5,8}, and fifteen European farmers^{2,3,4,8} — we had data from 94 ancient Europeans. Geographically, these came from Germany ($n = 41$), Spain ($n = 10$), Russia ($n = 14$), Sweden ($n = 12$), Hungary ($n = 15$), Italy ($n = 1$) and Luxembourg ($n = 1$) (Extended Data Table 2). Following the central European chronology, these included 19 hunter-gatherers (~43,000–2,600 BC), 28 Early Neolithic farmers (~6,000–4,000 BC), 11 Middle Neolithic farmers (~4,000–3,000 BC) including

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the Tyrolean Iceman³, 9 Late Copper/Early Bronze Age individuals (Yamnaya: ~3,300–2,700 BC), 15 Late Neolithic individuals (~2,500–2,200 BC), 9 Early Bronze Age individuals (~2,200–1,500 BC), two Late Bronze Age individuals (~1,200–1,100 BC) and one Iron Age individual (~900 BC). Two individuals were excluded from analyses as they were related to others from the same population. The average number of SNPs covered at least once was 212,375 and the minimum was 22,869 (Fig. 1).

We determined that 34 of the 69 newly analysed individuals were male and used 2,258 Y chromosome SNPs targets included in the capture to obtain high resolution Y chromosome haplogroup calls (Supplementary Information section 4). Outside Russia, and before the Late Neolithic period, only a single R1b individual was found (early Neolithic Spain) in the combined literature ($n = 70$). By contrast, haplogroups R1a and R1b were found in 60% of Late Neolithic/Bronze Age Europeans outside Russia ($n = 10$), and in 100% of the samples from European Russia from all periods (7,500–2,700 BC; $n = 9$). R1a and R1b are the most common haplogroups in many European populations today^{18,19}, and our results suggest that they spread into Europe from the East after 3,000 BC. Two hunter-gatherers from Russia included in our study belonged to R1a (Karelia) and R1b (Samara), the earliest documented ancient samples of either haplogroup discovered to date. These two hunter-gatherers did not belong to the derived lineages M417 within R1a and M269 within R1b that are predominant in Europeans today^{18,19}, but all 7 Yamnaya males did belong to the M269 subclade¹⁸ of haplogroup R1b.

Principal components analysis (PCA) of all ancient individuals along with 777 present-day West Eurasians⁴ (Fig. 2a, Supplementary Information section 5) replicates the positioning of present-day Europeans between the Near East and European hunter-gatherers^{4,20}, and the clustering of early farmers from across Europe with present day Sardinians^{3,4}, suggesting that farming expansions across the Mediterranean to Spain and via the Danubian route to Hungary and Germany descended from a common stock. By adding samples from later periods and additional locations, we also observe several new patterns. All samples from Russia have affinity to the ~24,000-year-old MA1 (ref. 6), the type specimen for

the Ancient North Eurasians (ANE) who contributed to both Europeans⁴ and Native Americans^{4,6,8}. The two hunter-gatherers from Russia (Karelia in the northwest of the country and Samara on the steppe near the Urals) form an ‘eastern European hunter-gatherer’ (EHG) cluster at one end of a hunter-gatherer cline across Europe; people of hunter-gatherer ancestry from Luxembourg, Spain, and Hungary sit at the opposite ‘western European hunter-gatherer’²⁴ (WHG) end, while the hunter-gatherers from Sweden^{4,8} (SHG) are intermediate. Against this background of differentiated European hunter-gatherers and homogeneous early farmers, multiple population turnovers transpired in all parts of Europe included in our study. Middle Neolithic Europeans from Germany, Spain, Hungary, and Sweden from the period ~4,000–3,000 BC are intermediate between the earlier farmers and the WHG, suggesting an increase of WHG ancestry throughout much of Europe. By contrast, in Russia, the later Yamnaya steppe herders of ~3,000 BC plot between the EHG and the present-day Near East/Caucasus, suggesting a decrease of EHG ancestry during the same time period. The Late Neolithic and Bronze Age samples from Germany and Hungary² are distinct from the preceding Middle Neolithic and plot between them and the Yamnaya. This pattern is also seen in ADMIXTURE analysis (Fig. 2b, Supplementary Information section 6), which implies that the Yamnaya have ancestry from populations related to the Caucasus and South Asia that is largely absent in 38 Early or Middle Neolithic farmers but present in all 25 Late Neolithic or Bronze Age individuals. This ancestry appears in Central Europe for the first time in our series with the Corded Ware around 2,500 BC (Supplementary Information section 6, Fig. 2b). The Corded Ware shared elements of material culture with steppe groups such as the Yamnaya although whether this reflects movements of people has been contentious²¹. Our genetic data provide direct evidence of migration and suggest that it was relatively sudden. The Corded Ware are genetically closest to the Yamnaya ~2,600 km away, as inferred both from PCA and ADMIXTURE (Fig. 2) and F_{ST} (0.011 ± 0.002) (Extended Data Table 3). If continuous gene flow from the east, rather than migration, had occurred, we would expect successive cultures in Europe to become increasingly differentiated from the Middle Neolithic, but

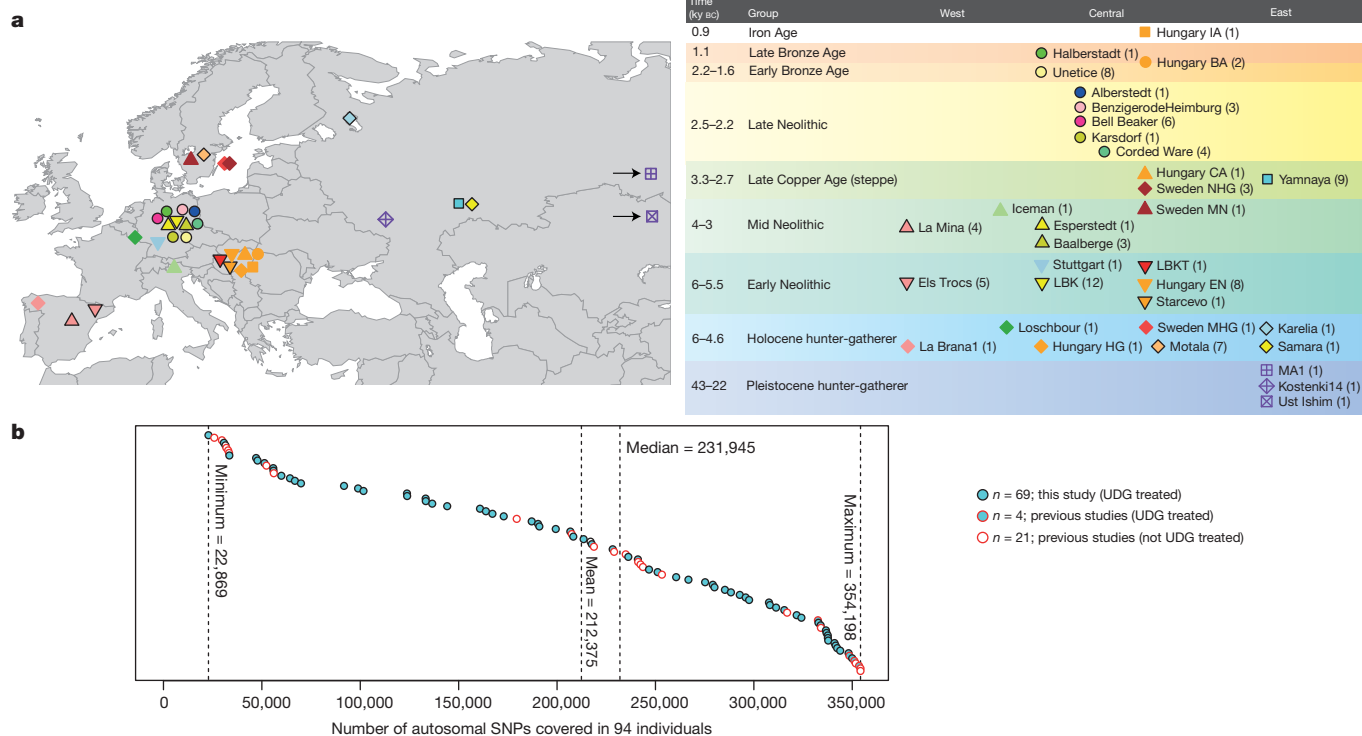


Figure 1 | Location and SNP coverage of samples included in this study. **a**, Geographic location and time-scale (central European chronology) of the 69 newly analysed ancient individuals from this study (black outline) and 25 from

the literature for which shotgun sequencing data was available (no outline). **b**, Number of SNPs covered at least once in the analysis data set of 94 individuals.

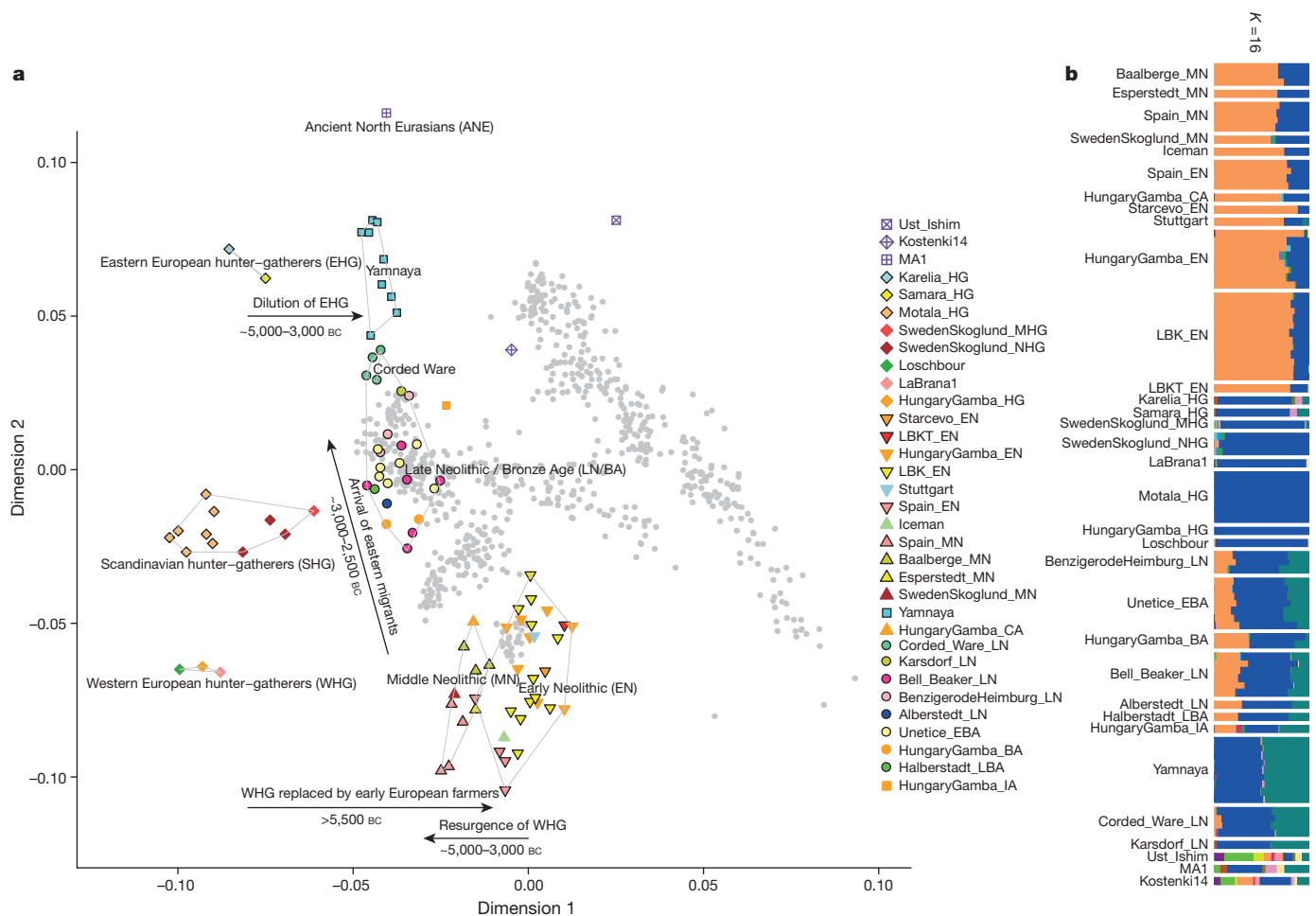


Figure 2 | Population transformations in Europe. **a**, PCA analysis. **b**, ADMIXTURE analysis. The full ADMIXTURE analysis including present-day humans is shown in Supplementary Information section 6.

instead, the Corded Ware are both the earliest and most strongly differentiated from the Middle Neolithic population.

'Outgroup' f_3 statistics⁶ (Supplementary Information section 7), which measure shared genetic drift between a pair of populations (Extended Data Fig. 1), support the clustering of hunter-gatherers, Early/Middle Neolithic, and Late Neolithic/Bronze Age populations into different groups as in the PCA (Fig. 2a). We also analysed f_4 statistics, which allow us to test whether pairs of populations are consistent with descent from common ancestral populations, and to assess significance using a normally distributed Z score. Early European farmers from the Early and Middle Neolithic were closely related but not identical. This is reflected in the fact that Loschbour, a WHG individual from Luxembourg⁴, shared more alleles with post-4,000 BC European farmers from Germany, Spain, Hungary, Sweden and Italy than with early farmers of Germany, Spain, and Hungary, documenting an increase of hunter-gatherer ancestry in multiple regions of Europe during the course of the Neolithic. The two EHG form a clade with respect to all other present-day and ancient populations ($|Z| < 1.9$), and MA1 shares more alleles with them ($|Z| > 4.7$) than with other ancient or modern populations, suggesting that they may be a source for the ANE ancestry in present Europeans^{4,12,22} as they are geographically and temporally more proximate than Upper Paleolithic Siberians. The Yamnaya differ from the EHG by sharing fewer alleles with MA1 ($|Z| = 6.7$) suggesting a dilution of ANE ancestry between 5,000–3,000 BC on the European steppe. This was likely due to admixture of EHG with a population related to present-day Near Easterners, as the most negative f_3 statistic in the Yamnaya (giving unambiguous evidence of admixture) is observed when we model them as a mixture of EHG and present-day Near Eastern populations like Armenians ($Z = -6.3$;

Supplementary Information section 7). The Late Neolithic/Bronze Age groups of central Europe share more alleles with Yamnaya than the Middle Neolithic populations do ($|Z| = 12.4$) and more alleles with the Middle Neolithic than the Yamnaya do ($|Z| = 12.5$), and have a negative f_3 statistic with the Middle Neolithic and Yamnaya as references ($Z = -20.7$), indicating that they were descended from a mixture of the local European populations and new migrants from the east. Moreover, the Yamnaya share more alleles with the Corded Ware ($|Z| \geq 3.6$) than with any other Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age group with at least two individuals (Supplementary Information section 7), indicating that they had more eastern ancestry, consistent with the PCA and ADMIXTURE patterns (Fig. 2).

Modelling of the ancient samples shows that while Karelia is genetically intermediate between Loschbour and MA1, the topology that considers Karelia as a mixture of these two elements is not the only one that can fit the data (Supplementary Information section 8). To avoid biasing our inferences by fitting an incorrect model, we developed new statistical methods that are substantial extensions of a previously reported approach⁴, which allow us to obtain precise estimates of the proportion of mixture in later Europeans without requiring a formal model for the relationship among the ancestral populations. The method (Supplementary Information section 9) is based on the idea that if a Test population has ancestry related to reference populations $Ref_1, Ref_2, \dots, Ref_N$ in proportions $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_N$, and the references are themselves differentially related to a triple of outgroup populations A, B, C , then:

$$f_4(\text{Test}; A, B, C) = \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i f_4(Ref_i; A, B, C)$$

By using a large number of outgroup populations we can fit the admixture coefficients α_i and estimate mixture proportions (Supplementary Information section 9, Extended Data Fig. 2). Using 15 outgroups from Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas, we obtain good fits as assessed by a formal test (Supplementary Information section 10), and estimate that the Middle Neolithic populations of Germany and Spain have ~18–34% more WHG-related ancestry than Early Neolithic populations and that the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age populations of Germany have ~22–39% more EHG-related ancestry than the Middle Neolithic ones (Supplementary Information section 9). If we model them as mixtures of Yamnaya-related and Middle Neolithic populations, the inferred degree of population turnover is doubled to 48–80% (Supplementary Information sections 9 and 10).

To distinguish whether a Yamnaya or an EHG source fits the data better, we added ancient samples as outgroups (Supplementary Information section 9). Adding any Early or Middle Neolithic farmer results in EHG-related genetic input into Late Neolithic populations being a poor fit to the data (Supplementary Information section 9); thus, Late Neolithic populations have ancestry that cannot be explained by a mixture of EHG and Middle Neolithic. When using Yamnaya instead of EHG, however, we obtain a good fit (Supplementary Information sections 9 and 10). These results can be explained if the new genetic material that arrived in Germany was a composite of two elements: EHG and a type of Near Eastern ancestry different from that which was introduced by early farmers (also suggested by PCA and ADMIXTURE; Fig. 2, Supplementary Information sections 5 and 6). We estimate that these two elements each contributed about half the ancestry of the Yamnaya (Supplementary Information sections 6 and 9), explaining why the population turnover inferred using Yamnaya as a source is about twice as high compared to the undiluted EHG. The estimate of Yamnaya-related ancestry in the Corded Ware is consistent when using either present populations or ancient Europeans as outgroups (Supplementary Information sections 9 and 10), and is $73.1 \pm 2.2\%$ when both sets are combined (Supplementary Information section 10). The best proxies for ANE ancestry in Europe⁴ were initially Native Americans^{12,22}, and then the Siberian MA1 (ref. 6), but both are geographically and temporally too remote for what appears to be a recent migration into Europe⁴. We can now add three new pieces to the puzzle of how ANE ancestry was transmitted to Europe: first by the EHG, then the Yamnaya formed by mixture between EHG and a Near Eastern related population, and then the Corded Ware who were formed by a mixture of the Yamnaya with Middle Neolithic Europeans. We caution that the sampled Yamnaya individuals from Samara might not be directly ancestral to Corded Ware individuals from Germany. It is possible that a more western Yamnaya population, or an earlier (pre-Yamnaya) steppe population may have migrated into central Europe, and future work may uncover more missing links in the chain of transmission of steppe ancestry.

By extending our model to a three-way mixture of WHG, Early Neolithic and Yamnaya, we estimate that the ancestry of the Corded Ware was 79% Yamnaya-like, 4% WHG, and 17% Early Neolithic (Fig. 3). A small contribution of the first farmers is also consistent with uniparentally inherited DNA: for example, mitochondrial DNA haplogroup N1a and Y chromosome haplogroup G2a, common in early central European farmers^{14,23}, almost disappear during the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age, when they are largely replaced by Y haplogroups R1a and R1b (Supplementary Information section 4) and mtDNA haplogroups I, T1, U2, U4, U5a, W, and subtypes of H^{14,23,24} (Supplementary Information section 2). The uniparental data not only confirm a link to the steppe populations but also suggest that both sexes participated in the migrations (Supplementary Information sections 2 and 4 and Extended Data Table 2). The magnitude of the population turnover that occurred becomes even more evident if one considers the fact that the steppe migrants may well have mixed with eastern European agriculturalists on their way to central Europe. Thus, we cannot exclude a scenario in which the Corded Ware arriving in today's Germany had no ancestry at all from local populations.

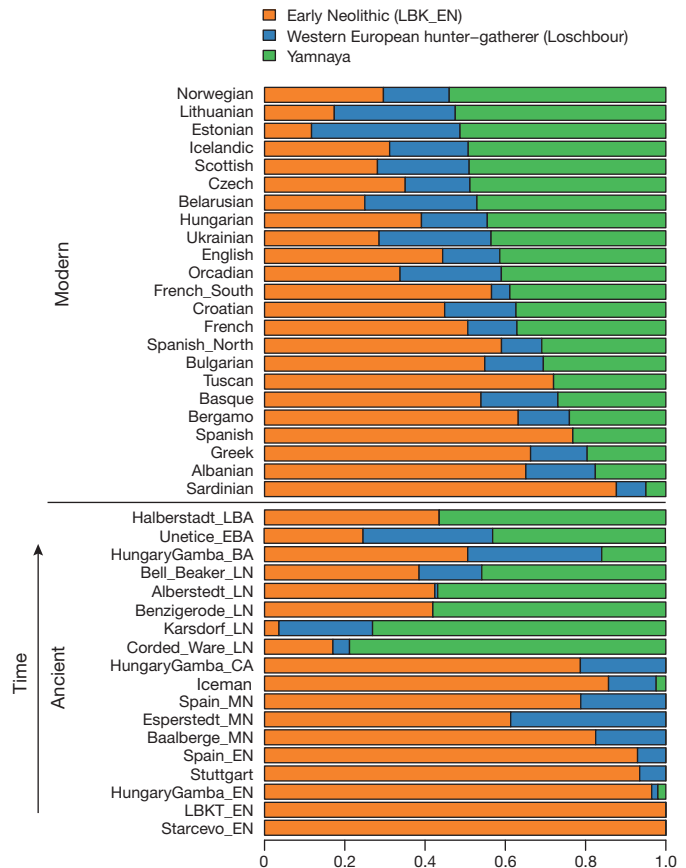


Figure 3 | Admixture proportions. We estimate mixture proportions using a method that gives unbiased estimates even without an accurate model for the relationships between the test populations and the outgroup populations (Supplementary Information section 9). Population samples are grouped according to chronology (ancient) and Yamnaya ancestry (present-day humans).

Our results support a view of European pre-history punctuated by two major migrations: first, the arrival of the first farmers during the Early Neolithic from the Near East, and second, the arrival of Yamnaya pastoralists during the Late Neolithic from the steppe. Our data further show that both migrations were followed by resurgences of the previous inhabitants: first, during the Middle Neolithic, when hunter-gatherer ancestry rose again after its Early Neolithic decline, and then between the Late Neolithic and the present, when farmer and hunter-gatherer ancestry rose after its Late Neolithic decline. This second resurgence must have started during the Late Neolithic/Bronze Age period itself, as the Bell Beaker and Unetice groups had reduced Yamnaya ancestry compared to the earlier Corded Ware, and comparable levels to that in some present-day Europeans (Fig. 3). Today, Yamnaya related ancestry is lower in southern Europe and higher in northern Europe, and all European populations can be modelled as a three-way mixture of WHG, Early Neolithic, and Yamnaya, whereas some outlier populations show evidence for additional admixture with populations from Siberia and the Near East (Extended Data Fig. 3, Supplementary Information section 9). Further data are needed to determine whether the steppe ancestry arrived in southern Europe at the time of the Late Neolithic/Bronze Age, or is due to migrations in later times from northern Europe^{25,26}.

Our results provide new data relevant to debates on the origin and expansion of Indo-European languages in Europe (Supplementary Information section 11). Although the findings from ancient DNA are silent on the question of the languages spoken by preliterate populations, they do carry evidence about processes of migration which are invoked by theories on Indo-European language dispersals. Such theories make predictions about movements of people to account for the spread of

languages and material culture (Extended Data Fig. 4). The technology of ancient DNA makes it possible to reject or confirm the proposed migratory movements, as well as to identify new movements that were not previously known. The best argument for the 'Anatolian hypothesis'²⁷ that Indo-European languages arrived in Europe from Anatolia ~8,500 years ago is that major language replacements are thought to require major migrations, and that after the Early Neolithic when farmers established themselves in Europe, the population base was likely to have been so large that later migrations would not have made much of an impact^{27,28}. However, our study shows that a later major turnover did occur, and that steppe migrants replaced ~75% of the ancestry of central Europeans. An alternative theory is the 'steppe hypothesis', which proposes that early Indo-European speakers were pastoralists of the grasslands north of the Black and Caspian Seas, and that their languages spread into Europe after the invention of wheeled vehicles⁹. Our results make a compelling case for the steppe as a source of at least some of the Indo-European languages in Europe by documenting a massive migration ~4,500 years ago associated with the Yamnaya and Corded Ware cultures, which are identified by proponents of the steppe hypothesis as vectors for the spread of Indo-European languages into Europe. These results challenge the Anatolian hypothesis by showing that not all Indo-European languages in Europe can plausibly derive from the first farmer migrations thousands of years earlier (Supplementary Information section 11). We caution that the location of the proto-Indo-European^{9,27,29,30} homeland that also gave rise to the Indo-European languages of Asia, as well as the Indo-European languages of southeastern Europe, cannot be determined from the data reported here (Supplementary Information section 11). Studying the mixture in the Yamnaya themselves, and understanding the genetic relationships among a broader set of ancient and present-day Indo-European speakers, may lead to new insight about the shared homeland.

Online Content Methods, along with any additional Extended Data display items and Source Data, are available in the online version of the paper; references unique to these sections appear only in the online paper.

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Supplementary Information is available in the online version of the paper.

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Author Information The aligned sequences are available through the European Nucleotide Archive under accession number PRJEB8448. The Human Origins genotype dataset including ancient individuals can be found at (http://genetics.med.harvard.edu/reichlab/Reich_Lab/Datasets.html). Reprints and permissions information is available at www.nature.com/reprints. The authors declare no competing financial interests. Readers are welcome to comment on the online version of the paper. Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to D.R. (reich@genetics.med.harvard.edu).

METHODS

Screening of libraries (shotgun sequencing and mitochondrial capture). The 212 libraries screened in this study (Supplementary Information section 1) from a total of 119 samples (Supplementary Information section 3) were produced at Adelaide ($n = 151$), Tübingen ($n = 16$), and Boston ($n = 45$) (Supplementary Data 1).

The libraries from Adelaide and Boston had internal barcodes directly attached to both sides of the molecules from the DNA extract so that each sequence begins with the barcode¹⁰. The Adelaide libraries had 5 base pair (bp) barcodes on both sides, while the Boston libraries had 7 bp barcodes. Libraries from Tübingen had no internal barcodes, but were differentiated by the sequence of the indexing primer³¹.

We adapted a reported protocol for enriching for mitochondrial DNA¹⁰, with the difference that we adjusted the blocking oligonucleotides and PCR primers to fit our libraries with shorter adapters. Over the course of this project, we also lowered the hybridization temperature from 65 °C to 60 °C and performed stringent washes at 55 °C instead of 60 °C³².

We used an aliquot of approximately 500 ng of each library for target enrichment of the complete mitochondrial genome in two consecutive rounds³², using a bait set for human mtDNA³². We performed enrichment in 96-well plates with one library per well, and used a liquid handler (Evolution P3, Perkin Elmer) for the capture and washing steps³³. We used blocking oligonucleotides in hybridization appropriate to the adapters of the truncated libraries. After either of the two enrichment rounds, we amplified the enriched library molecules with the primer pair that keeps the adapters short (PreHyb) using Herculase Fusion II PCR Polymerase. We performed an indexing PCR of the final capture product using one or two indexing primers³¹. We cleaned up all PCR reactions using SPRI technology³⁴ and the liquid handler. Libraries from Tübingen were amplified with the primer pair IS5/IS6³¹.

For libraries from Boston and Adelaide, we used a second aliquot of each library for shotgun sequencing after performing an indexing PCR³¹. We used unique index combinations for each library and experiment, allowing us to distinguish shotgun sequencing and mitochondrial DNA capture data, even if both experiments were in the same sequencing run. We sequenced shotgun libraries and mtDNA captured libraries from Tübingen in independent sequencing runs since the index was already attached at the library preparation stage.

We quantified the sequencing pool with the BioAnalyzer (Agilent) and/or the KAPA Library Quantification kit (KAPA Biosystems) and sequenced on Illumina MiSeq, HiSeq2500 or NextSeq500 instruments for 2 × 75, 2 × 100 or 2 × 150 cycles along with the indexing read(s).

Enrichment for 394,577 SNP targets ('390k capture'). The protocol for enrichment for SNP targets was similar to the mitochondrial DNA capture, with the exception that we used another bait set (390k) and about twice as much library (up to 1,000 ng) compared to the mtDNA capture.

The specific capture reagent used in this study is described for the first time here. To target each SNP, we used a different oligonucleotide probe design compared to ref. 10. We used four 52 base pair probes for each SNP target. One probe ends just before the SNP, and one starts just after. Two probes are centred on the SNP, and are identical except for having the alternate alleles. This probe design avoids systematic bias towards one SNP allele or another. For the template sequence for designing the San and Yoruba panels baits, we used the sequence that was submitted for these same SNPs during the design of the Affymetrix Human Origins SNP array¹². For SNPs that were both in the San and Yoruba panels, we used the Yoruba template sequence in preference. For all other SNPs, we used the human genome reference sequence as a template. Supplementary Data 2a–d gives the list of SNPs that we targeted, along with details of the probes used. The breakdown of SNPs into different classes is as follows.

124,106 'Yoruba SNPs': all SNPs in 'panel 5' of the Affymetrix Human Origins array (discovered as heterozygous in a Yoruba male: HGDP00927)¹² that passed the probe design criteria specified in ref. 11.

146,135 'San SNPs': all SNPs in 'panel 4' of the Affymetrix Human Origins array (discovered as heterozygous in a San male: HGDP01029)¹² that passed probe design criteria¹¹. The full Affymetrix Human Origins array panel 4 contains several tens of thousands of additional SNPs overlapping those from panel 5, but we did not wish to redundantly capture panel 5 SNPs.

98,166 'compatibility SNPs': SNPs that overlap between the Affymetrix Human Origins, the Affymetrix 6.0, and the Illumina 610 Quad arrays, which are not already included in the 'Yoruba SNPs' or 'San SNPs' lists¹² and that also passed the probe design criteria¹¹.

26,170 'miscellaneous SNPs': SNPs that did not overlap the Human Origins array. The subset analysed in this study were 2,258 Y chromosome SNPs (http://isogg.org/tree/ISOGG_YDNA_SNP_Index.html) that we used for Y haplogroup determination.

Processing of sequencing data. We restricted analysis to read pairs that passed quality control according to the Illumina software ('PF reads').

We assigned read pairs to libraries by searching for matches to the expected index and barcode sequences (if present, as for the Adelaide and Boston libraries). We allowed no more than 1 mismatch per index or barcode, and zero mismatches if there was ambiguity in sequence assignment or if barcodes of 5 bp length were used (Adelaide libraries).

We used Seqprep (<https://github.com/jstjohn/SeqPrep>) to search for overlapping sequence between the forward and reverse read, and restricted to molecules where we could identify a minimum of 15 bp of overlap. We collapsed the two reads into a single sequence, using the consensus nucleotide if both reads agreed, and the read with higher base quality in the case of disagreement. For each merged nucleotide, we assigned the base quality to be the higher of the two reads. We further used Seqprep to search for the expected adaptor sequences at either ends of the merged sequence, and to produce a trimmed sequence for alignment.

We mapped all sequences using BWA-0.6.1 (ref. 35). For mitochondrial analysis we mapped to the mitochondrial genome RSRS³⁶. For whole-genome analysis we mapped to the human reference genome hg19. We restricted all analyses to sequences that had a mapping quality of MAPQ ≥ 37.

We sorted all mapped sequences by position, and used a custom script to search for mapped sequences that had the same orientation and start and stop positions. We stripped all but one of these sequences (keeping the best quality one) as duplicates.

Mitochondrial sequence analysis and assessment of ancient DNA authenticity. For each library for which we had average coverage of the mitochondrial genome of at least tenfold after removal of duplicated molecules, we built a mitochondrial consensus sequence, assigning haplogroups for each library as described in Supplementary Information section 2.

We used contamMix-1.0.9 to search for evidence of contamination in the mitochondrial DNA¹³. This software estimates the fraction of mitochondrial DNA sequences that match the consensus more closely than a comparison set of 311 worldwide mitochondrial genomes. This is done by taking the consensus sequence of reads aligning to the RSRS mitochondrial genome, and requiring a minimum coverage of 5 after filtering bases where the quality was <30. Raw reads are then realigned to this consensus. In addition, the consensus is multiply aligned with the other 311 mitochondrial genomes using kalign (2.0.4)³⁷ to build the necessary inputs for contamMix, trimming the first and last 5 bases of every read to mitigate against the confounding factor of ancient damage. This software had difficulty running on data sets with higher coverage, and for these data sets, we downsampled to 50,000 reads.

For all sequences mapping to the mitochondrial DNA for which the consensus mitochondrial DNA sequence had a cytosine at the terminal nucleotide, we measured the proportion of sequences with a thymine at that position. For population genetic analysis, we only used partially UDG-treated libraries with a minimum of 3% C→T substitutions as recommended by ref. 33. In cases where we used a fully UDG-treated library for 390k analysis, we examined mitochondrial capture data from a non-UDG-treated library made from the same extract, and verified that the non-UDG library had a minimum of 10% C→T at the first nucleotide as recommended by ref. 38. Metrics for the mitochondrial DNA analysis on each library are given in Supplementary Data 1.

390k capture, sequence analysis and quality control. For 390k analysis, we restricted to reads that not only mapped to the human reference genome hg19 but that also overlapped the 354,212 autosomal SNPs genotyped on the Human Origins array⁴. We trimmed the last two nucleotides from each sequence because we found that these are highly enriched in ancient DNA damage even for UDG-treated libraries. We further restricted analyses to sites with base quality ≥ 30.

We made no attempt to determine a diploid genotype at each SNP in each sample. Instead, we used a single allele—randomly drawn from the two alleles in the individual—to represent the individual at that site^{20,39}. Specifically, we made an allele call at each target SNP using majority rule over all sequences overlapping the SNP. When each of the possible alleles was supported by an equal number of sequences, we picked an allele at random. We set the allele to 'no call' for SNPs at which there was no read coverage.

We restricted population genetic analysis to libraries with a minimum of 0.06-fold average coverage on the 390k SNP targets, and for which there was an unambiguous sex determination based on the ratio of X to Y chromosome reads (Supplementary Information section 4 and Supplementary Data 1). For individuals for whom there were multiple libraries per sample, we performed a series of quality control analysis. First, we used the ADMIXTURE software^{40,41} in supervised mode, using Kharia, Onge, Karitiana, Han, French, Mbuti, Ulchi and Eskimo as reference populations. We visually inspected the inferred ancestry components in each individual, and removed individuals with evidence of heterogeneity in inferred ancestry components across libraries. For all possible pairs of libraries for each sample, we also computed statistics of the form $D(\text{Library}_1, \text{Library}_2; \text{Probe}, \text{Mbuti})$, where *Probe* is any of a panel of the same set of eight reference

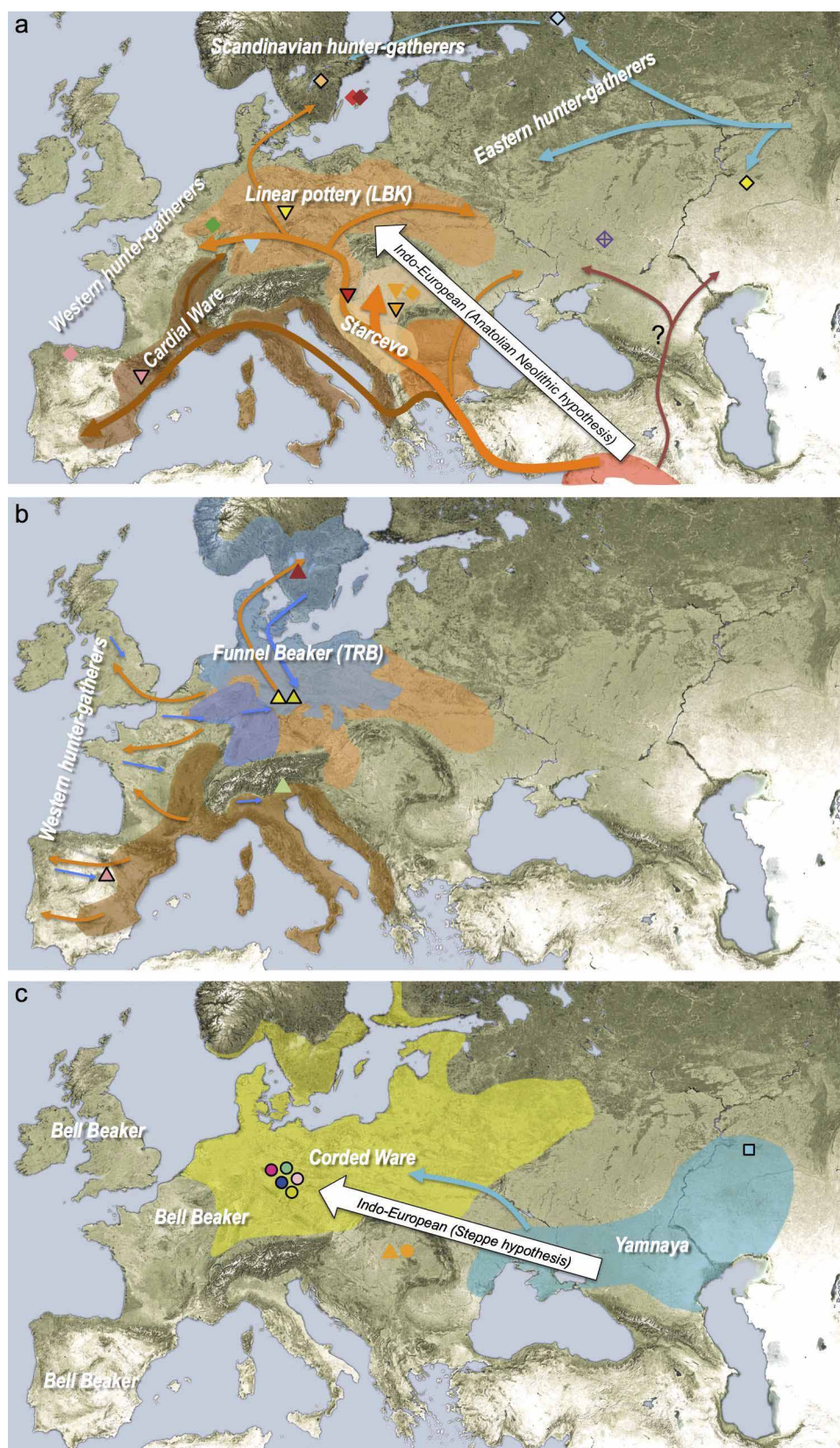
populations), to determine whether there was significant evidence of the *Probe* population being more closely related to one library from an ancient individual than another library from that same individual. None of the individuals that we used had strong evidence of ancestry heterogeneity across libraries. For samples passing quality control for which there were multiple libraries per sample, we merged the sequences into a single BAM.

We called alleles on each merged BAM using the same procedure as for the individual libraries. We used ADMIXTURE⁴¹ as well as PCA as implemented in EIGENSOFT⁴² (using the *lsqproject*: YES option to project the ancient samples) to visualize the genetic relationships of each set of samples with the same culture label with respect to 777 diverse present-day West Eurasians⁴. We visually identified outlier individuals, and renamed them for analysis either as outliers or by the name of the site at which they were sampled (Extended Data Table 1). We also identified two pairs of related individuals based on the proportion of sites covered in pairs of ancient samples from the same population that had identical allele calls using PLINK⁴³. From each pair of related individuals, we kept the one with the most SNPs.

Population genetic analyses. We determined genetic sex using the ratio of X and Y chromosome alignments⁴⁴ (Supplementary Information section 4), and Y chromosome haplogroup for the male samples (Supplementary Information section 4). We studied population structure (Supplementary Information sections 5 and 6). We used *f* statistics to carry out formal tests of population relationships (Supplementary Information section 6) and built explicit models of population history consistent with the data (Supplementary Information section 7). We estimated mixture proportions in a way that was robust to uncertainty about the exact population history that applied (Supplementary Information section 8). We estimated the minimum number of streams of migration into Europe needed to explain the data (Supplementary Information sections 9 and 10). The estimated mixture proportions shown in Fig. 3 were obtained using the *lsqin* function of Matlab and the optimization method described in Supplementary Information section 9 with 15 world outgroups.

Sample size. No statistical methods were used to predetermine sample size.

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Extended Data Figure 4 | Geographic distribution of archaeological cultures and graphic illustration of proposed population movements / turnovers discussed in the main text. a, Proposed routes of migration by early farmers into Europe ~9,000–7,000 years ago. b, Resurgence of hunter-gatherer

ancestry during the Middle Neolithic 7,000–5,000 years ago. c, Arrival of steppe ancestry in central Europe during the Late Neolithic ~4,500 years ago. White arrows indicate the two possible scenarios of the arrival of Indo-European language groups. Symbols of samples are identical to those in Fig. 1.