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Transforming prehistory: what has been the impact of biomolecular archaeology for studying the transition to farming in Europe?

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Here I will review some of the ways that the analysis of ancient biomolecules is revolutionising our understanding of the major economic and social transitions in prehistory. Methods for the extraction of organic molecules, such as DNA, proteins and lipids, from skeletal remains, artefacts and soils have become very sophisticated in recent years. Widespread application to address important and pertinent questions, such as how farming became established in different regions has now begun in earnest. I will discuss some of the latest research to emerge from Europe focusing on the demographic, cultural and dietary transition to farming in the Neolithic period. Now seems like a good time to assess the achievements made so far and to see how we can maximise the impact for the future, especially as the objectives of cultural and scientific archaeologists finally begin to converge

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Mesolithic
Miscellany

Neolithic
Miscellany