People buried at Stonehenge 5,000 years ago came from far away, study finds

The beginning of this study can be traced to the 1920s, when archaeologists first excavated the Aubrey holes identified impressions of cremated remains. The archaeologist plans to study cremated remains in other countries. From home. That travelers carried their deceased to this place, placing them to rest miles from where they lived. “The strontium is usually related to the underlying geology, plants. As most people stay within a few kilometers of their settlements, there is a general assumption that everyone came from there,” Snoeck said.

Archaeologists conduct different versions of strontium, called isotopes, generally at the University College London’s Institute of Archaeology. After a team re-excavated the remains in 2008, Snoeck’s co-author Christie Willis, at the University College London’s Institute of Archaeology, began identifying individuals from the jumble. She was successful in 25 cases.

Willis, at the University College London’s Institute of Archaeology, began identifying individuals from the jumble. She was successful in 25 cases. Those Neolithic bones did, however, match the strontium isotopes found in Wessex chalk beneath Stonehenge, which stretches for at least nine miles in every direction, has a very specific strontium profile. Ten of the people did not match that type.

Working on cremated bone “opens up a whole new area of study in adult mortality,” Snoeck said. But researchers cannot currently examine every individual. “Not being able to extract information from them is leaving too many blank pages in our history, in our past,” Snoeck said. "Not being able to extract information from them was leaving too many blank pages in our history, in our past," Snoeck said.

When archaeologists sent Stonehenge remains to Snoeck’s lab for another snapshot of the last 10 to 15 years of a person’s life, they were surprised by what they found. A chemical analysis of their bones indicates that 10 of the 25 people were not locals. This was at a time when, before the invention of the wheeled transport, most people stayed within a few kilometers of their settlements, not locals. This was at a time when, before the invention of the wheeled transport, most people stayed within a few kilometers of their settlements.

Excavation of a pit at Stonehenge where human remains were buried. (Adam Stanford/Aerial-Cam) "This suggests it was not just the stones that were brought to Wiltshire," Evans said, "but there could have been a continuing link between the two areas.” Evans said, “but there could have been a continuing link between the two areas.”

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