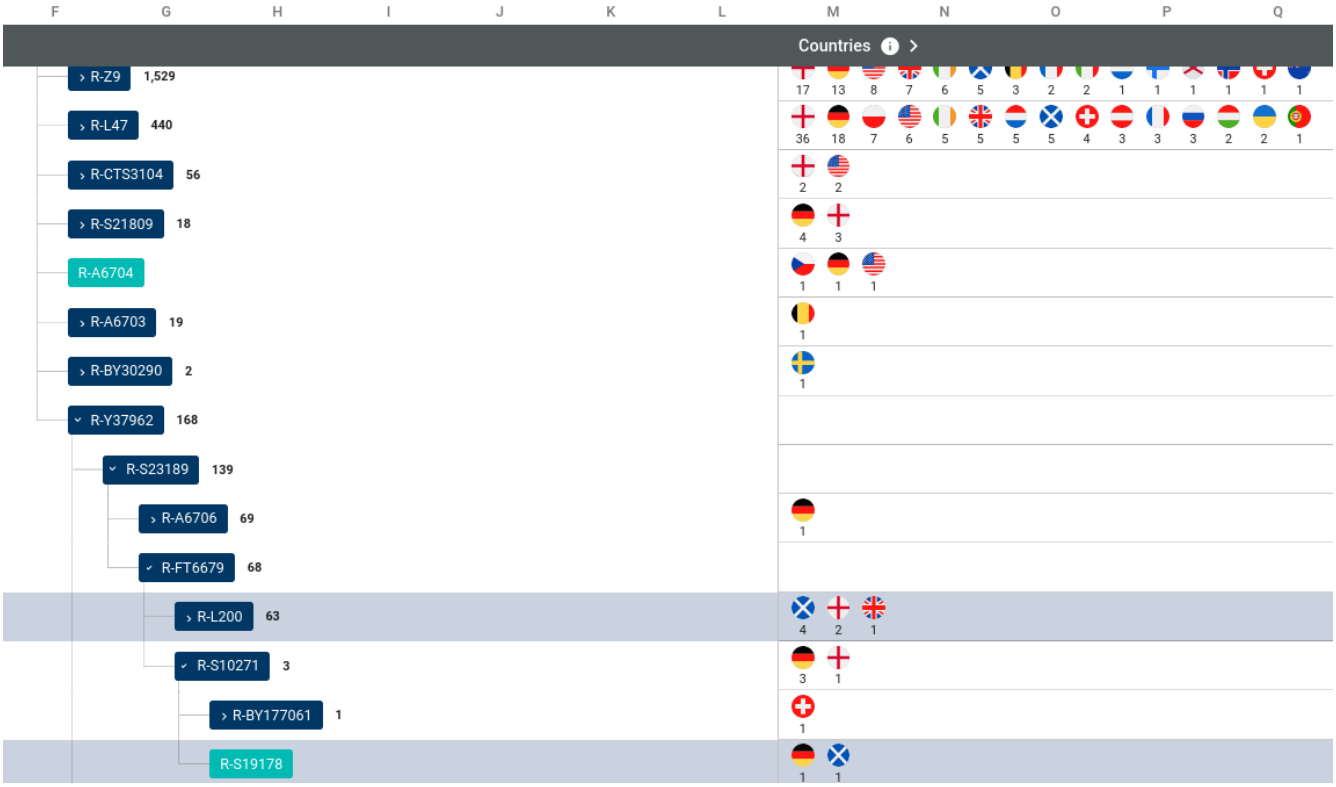
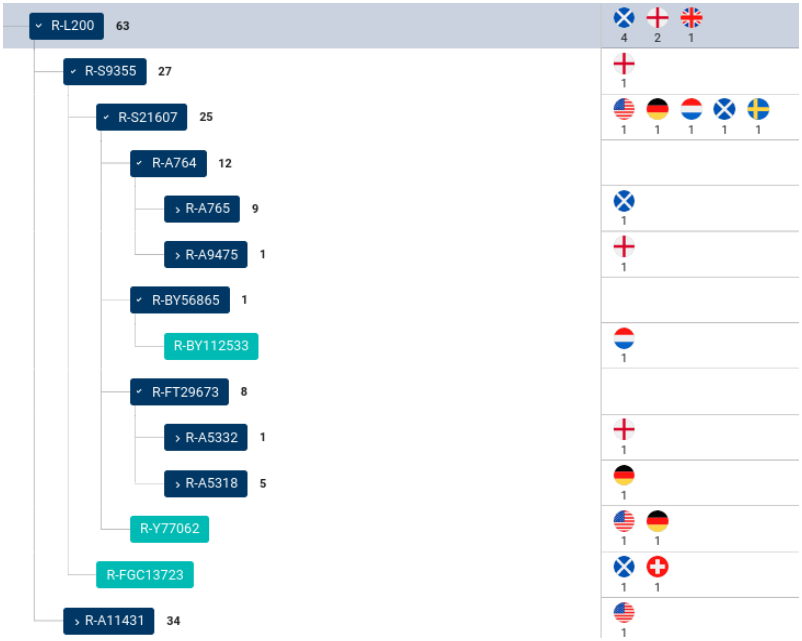
S21607 Cousins in Ancient DNA

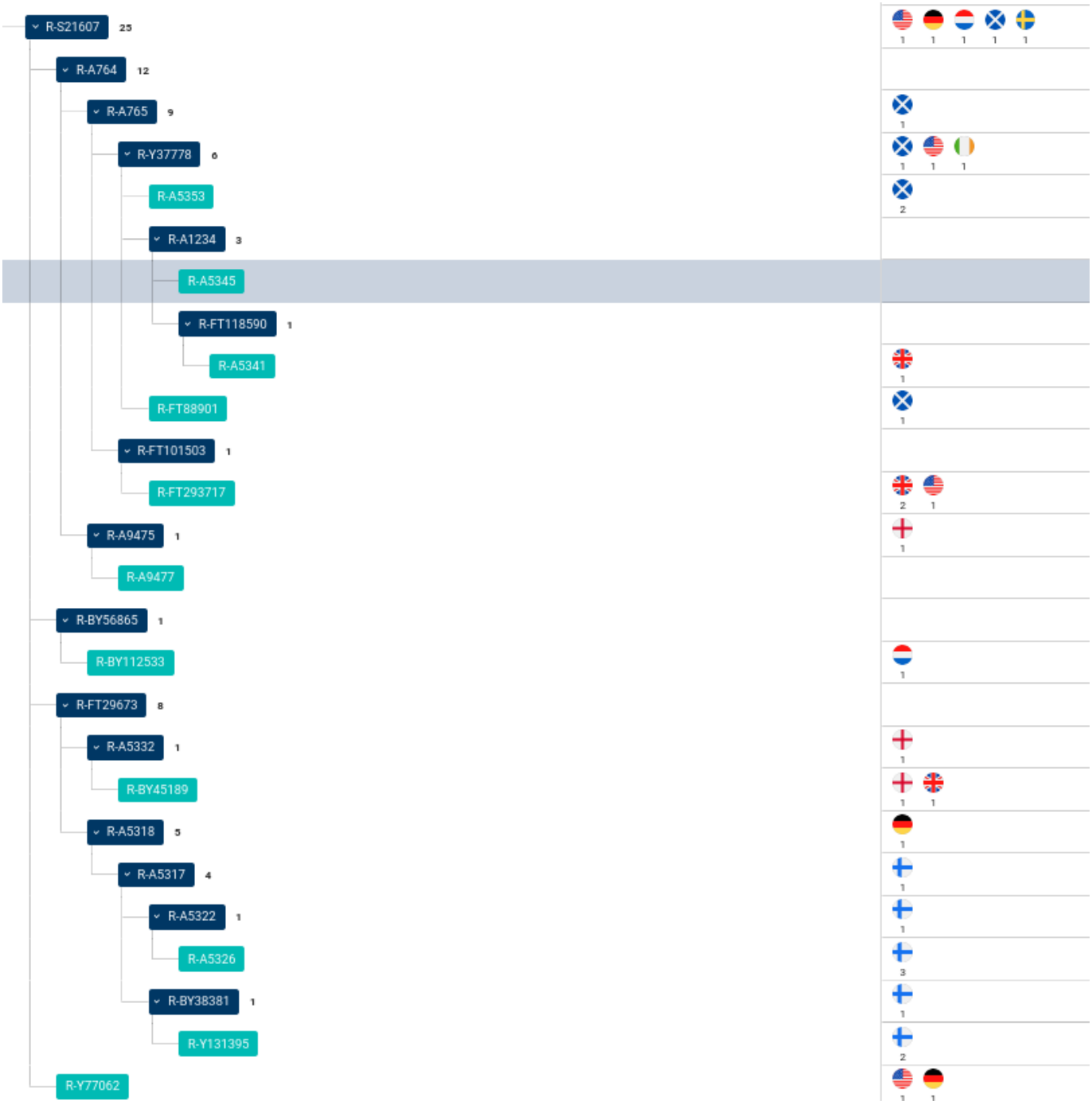
Haplogroup S21607 lies downstream of L200, which is in turn a subclade of the larger L48 haplogroup, as shown in this chart.



Haplogroup L200 divides into two further subclades, S9355 and A11431. S21607 is a subclade of S9355.



S21607 is subdivided into 4 main subbranches.



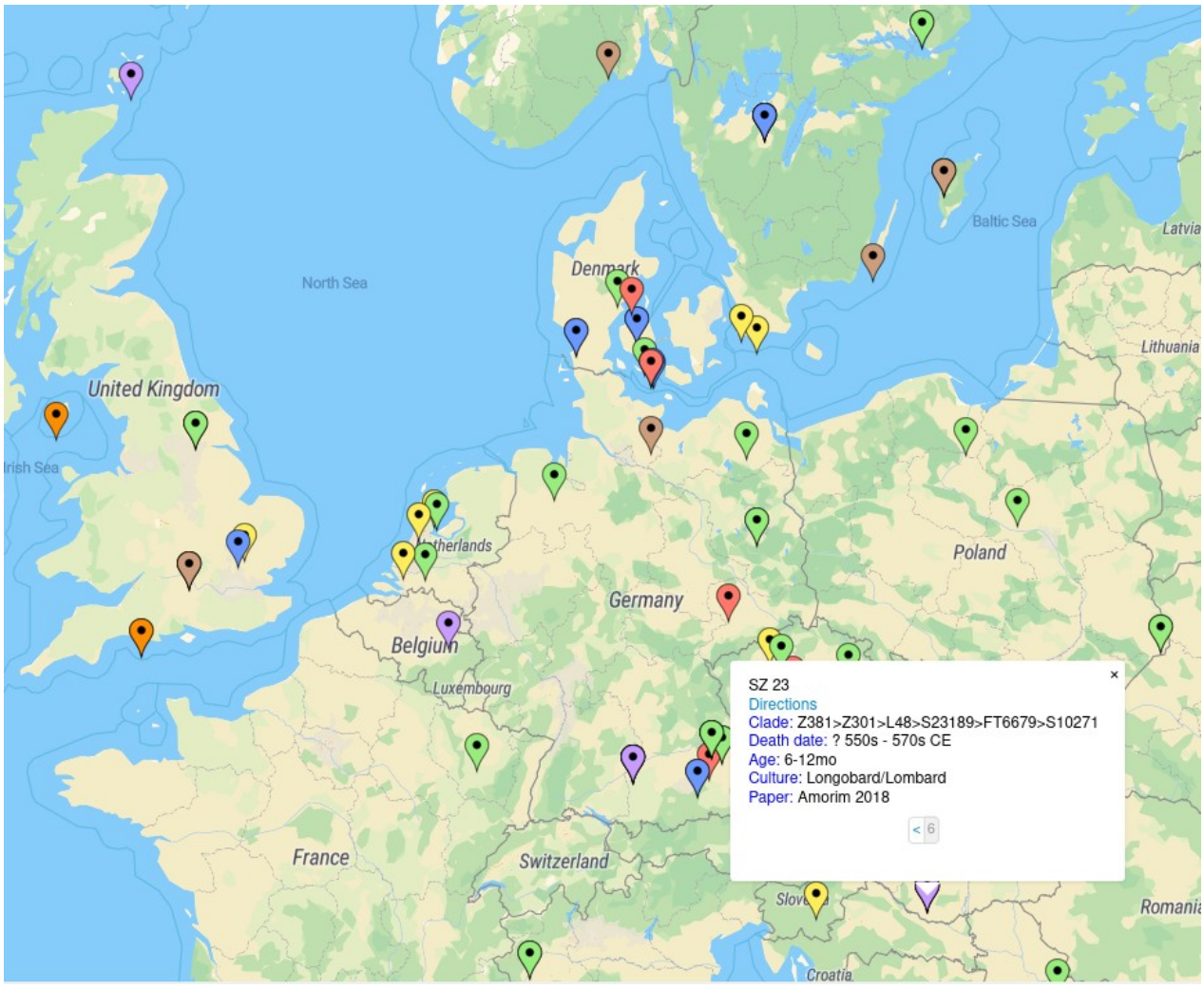
The first, A764, contains members who are mainly Scottish and English, having various surnames spread throughout several branches.
The second, BY56865, is represented only in Holland.
The fourth, Y77062, is represented only in Germany.
The third, FT29673, contains members in England, Germany and Finland. The Finnish members are clustered under subbranch A5317, which derives from A5318 (containing one German member), distinct from the English subbranch, A5332.

Ron Dryden has conjectured that the S21607 branch formed sometime before the Germanic Migration period in Europe. Its structure suggests that one subbranch participated in the Anglian colonization of Britain in the second half of the 5th century AD, while the other expanded mainly on the continent.

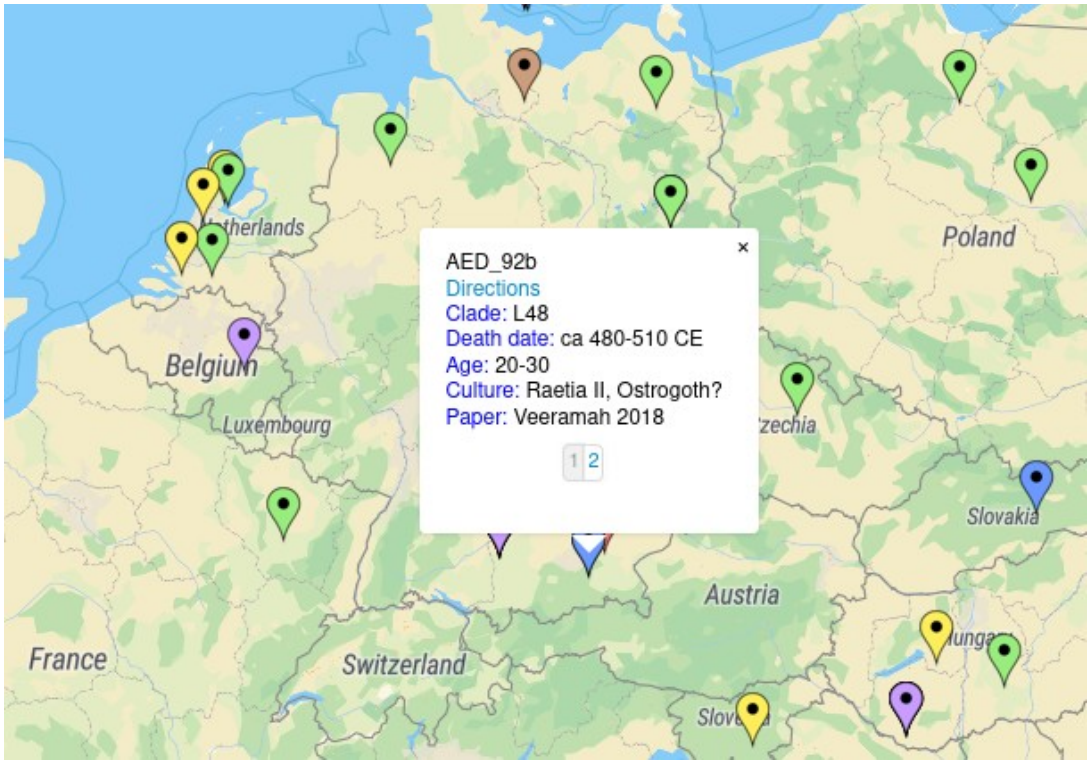
Here we will examine the evidence of lineages related to S21607 derived from ancient DNA sources. S21607 itself is not represented in samples studied to date, but L48 and some of its sublineages are attested, as shown in the following maps.

Samples from the south of Europe demonstrate that L48 and subclades participated in the Migrations of various tribes.

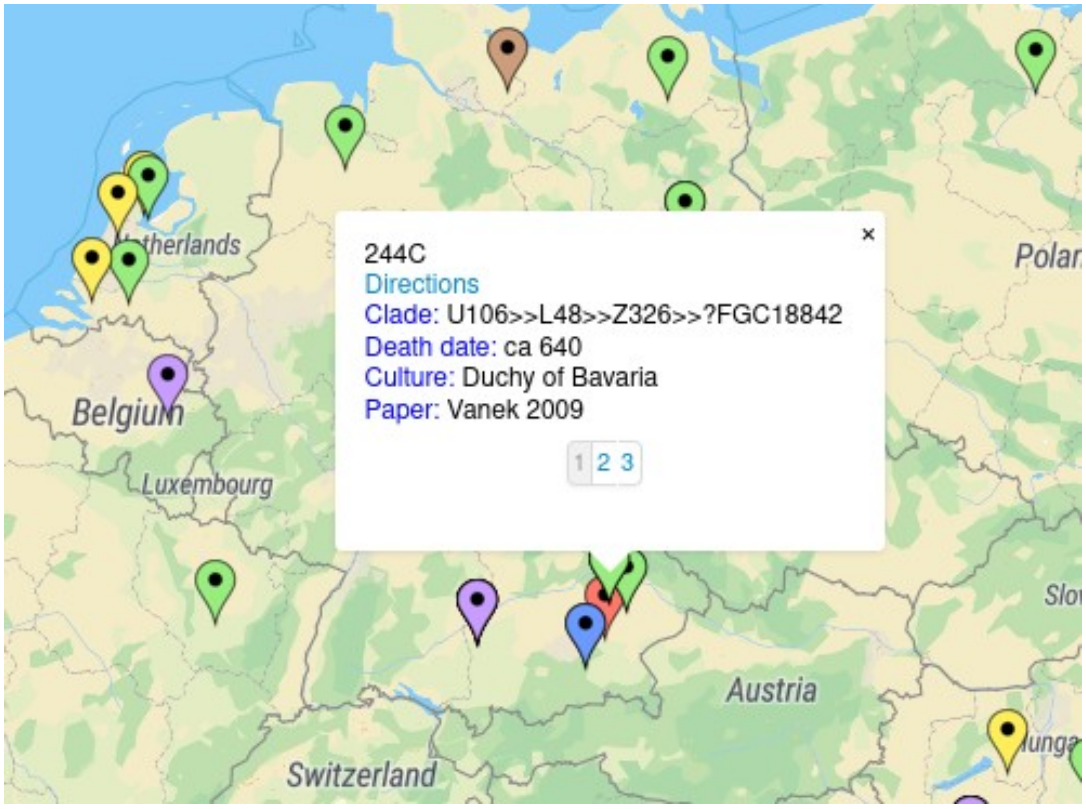
Langobards in Hungary



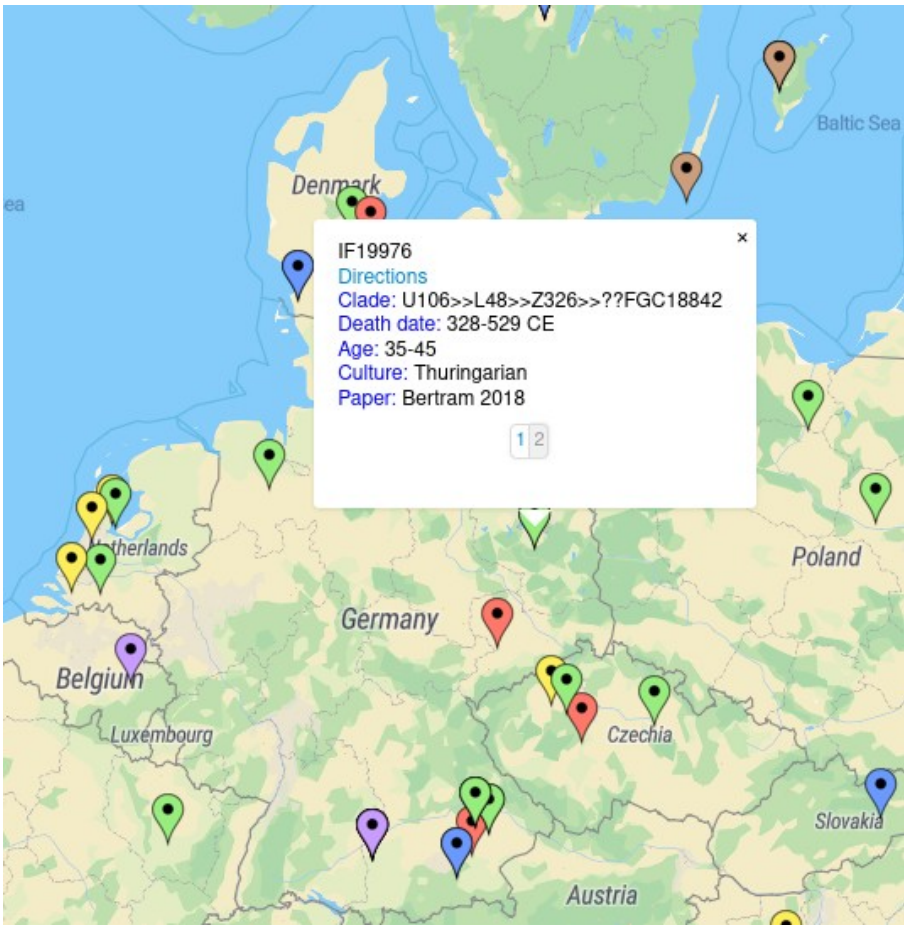
Ostrogoths in Bavaria



Unknown in Bavaria

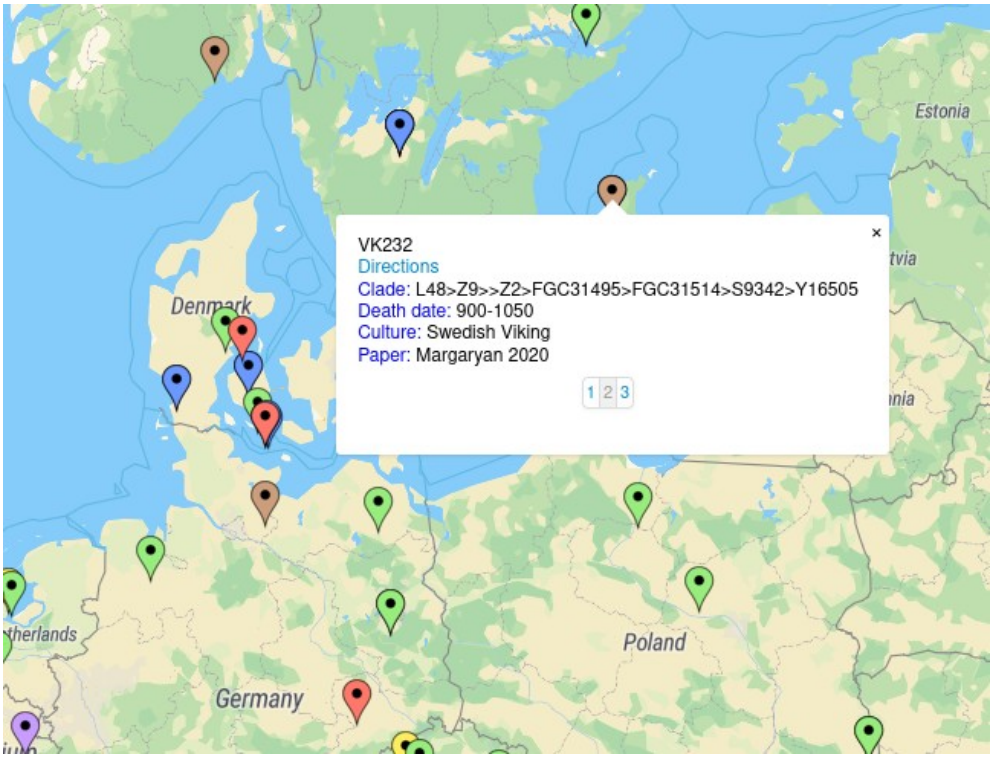


Thuringian(?) in Brandenburg



Some also figure in a 2020 study of Viking burials across Europe.

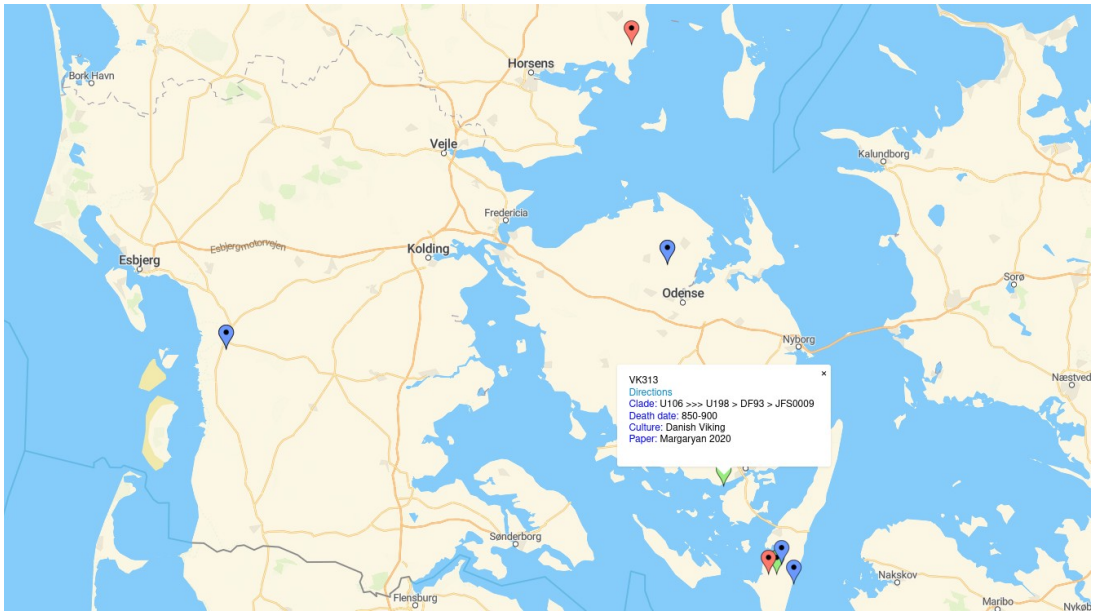
Gotland Swedish Viking



South Swedish Viking

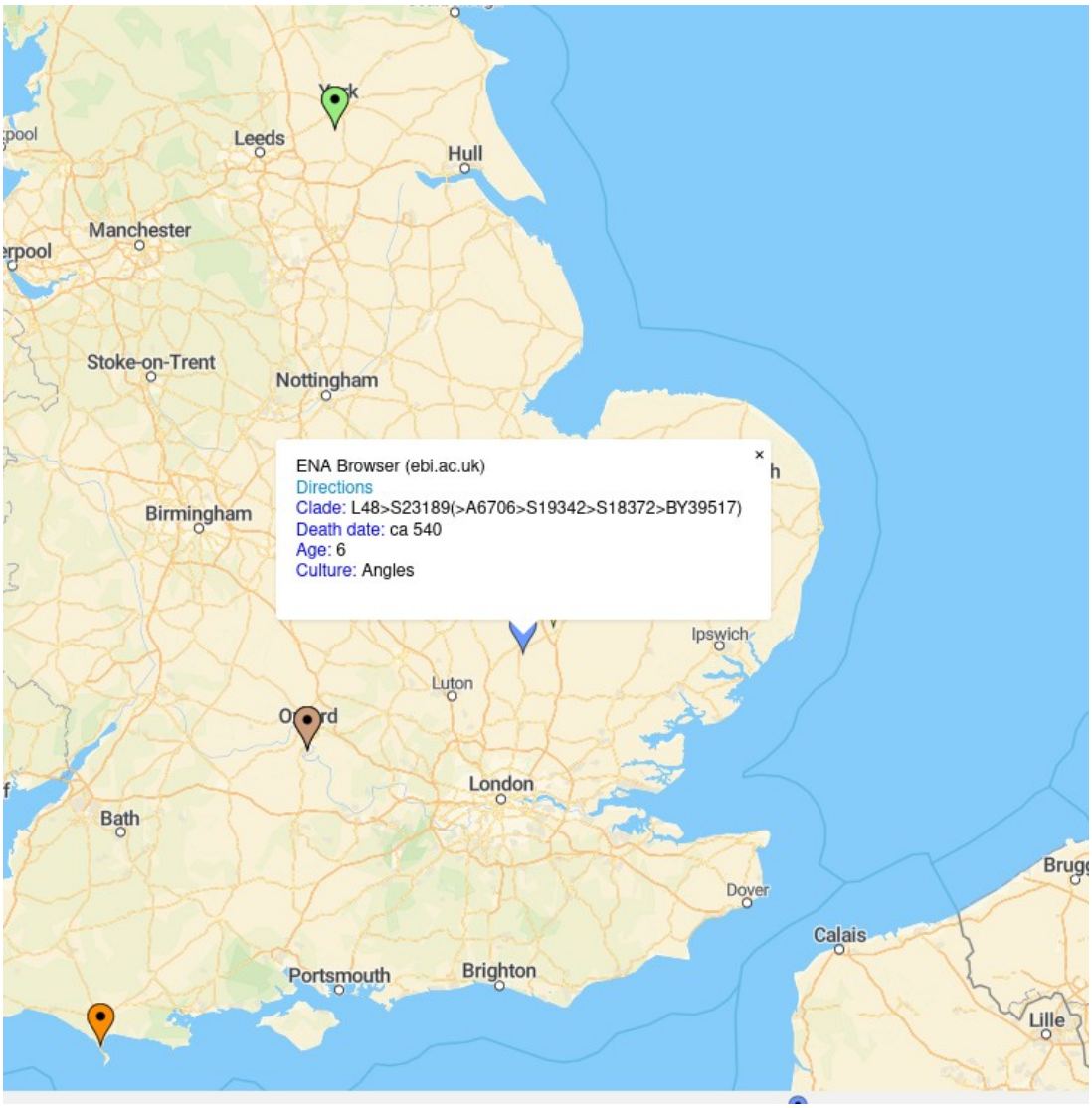


Danish Viking



Note that most of the Danish Viking samples belong to the L47 subclade of L48 (except the one highlighted).

One sample that is assigned to a subclade parallel to L200 is ascribed to an Anglian context.



One plausible conclusion from the distribution of L48 ancient DNA samples is that subclades of L48 dispersed from southern Scandinavia or northern Germany in the context of the Germanic Migrations. These same migrations brought at least one subclade to eastern Britain, while later dispersals propelled one subclade as far as Finland, and caused another to appear in the south of Britain.