

The Mossebo Project (January 2023)

About the ancient sample VK547

VK547 is an ancient sample located under A5 in the tree below. The skeleton was excavated in 1957 in Tjeldsund in northern Norway. A sample from the remains was sequenced in a study that was published in 2020 and titled "Population genomics of the Viking world" (Margaryan, et al.; link to the article: [here](#)). In the Supplementary Material to the study (p. 27), one can read the passage quoted below.

"The burial was found through the digging of a cable ditch,

straight downhill 15 m north of the main building of the farm and 1 m north of the road between Sandnes and Kjørstad. The site is situated c 150 m east of Hol church, at Tjeldsundet. A professional excavation of the remaining part of the burial was conducted by a curator from Tromsø Museum. The grave was not marked on the surface, and the burial pit, dug in shell sand, was without stones and in the shape of a trough. It measured 30-50 cm in depth, and was 60 cm wide and 130 cm long. It was oriented east-west, and

the body was lying on its side, with the head towards east, facing north, and with flexed legs. The sparse grave goods were found at the back of the legs, in the grave's southwest corner. They consisted of an auger of iron, a possible awl of iron with a wooden handle, and three iron tacks with wooden remains from an unidentified object. The finds can be dated no closer than to the [Viking age]. In the Schreiner database, the skeleton is described as well-preserved, and is suggested to be that of a male of around 45-55 years."

About the tree and the SNPs that define the branches

The Mossebo project is a twig on the I1 branch of the human Y chromosome haplotree: I1 → L121 → DF29 → Z2893 → Y2592 → Z2336 → S6346 → L22 → Y3549 → CTS6868 → Z74 → L813 → Y15505. For more information, see www.johanlagerlof.com/gengen. The branches in the tree are defined by the SNPs listed below.^a The tree structure and the age estimates are from YFull's YTree v10.08.00—see [here](#) (where one also finds confidence intervals for the age estimates, omitted here). Unless otherwise indicated, all years shown are A.D.

- ◇ A1: Y15505
- ◇ A2: Y66983, Y69636, Y77552, Y78325, Y67015, BY40121(H), FT6329
- ◇ A3: Y129187, Y128723, Y129821, Y129079
- ◇ A4: Y19916, Y14994, Y14998, CTS1752,^b Y15507, FT27260, Y14995, Y14996, Y19918(H), BY48380, FT26958, CTS2783^c
- ◇ A5: FT8660, FT11350, Y126949
- ◇ A6: Y139905, Y139906
- ◇ A7: Y14992, Y226164(H), Y154880(H)
- ◇ A8: Y139911, Y139907, Y139913, Y139908, Y139910, Y139909
- ◇ A9: Y14991, Y14997, Y15508, Y15504, Y15506
- ◇ A10: BY96673, FT166636(H)
- ◇ A11: Y19917^d
- ◇ A12: Y36103, Y36717, Y36720, Y36718, Y36719, BY34480(H), Y38230
- ◇ A13: Y24951, BY3471
- ◇ A14: DYS624=10^e

^aAn asterisk indicates that the SNP is located outside of the so-called combBED region of the Y chromosome, and it is therefore not used by YFull for age estimation; an "(H)" means that the SNP is located in a homologous region—i.e., one that is similar to other regions on the Y chromosome or on other chromosomes—and therefore is less reliable.

^bAlso known as S4755.

^cAlso known as M10746 and as S4753.

^dAlso known as BY3472.

^eYFull uses the label Y24951a for this branch. It is defined by the SNP Y24951 and the STR marker DYS624 taking the value 10.

