

***Perspectives from beyond Wessex***

*Dr. Alison Sheridan (National Museum of Scotland)*

This presentation will focus on developments outside of Wessex – principally in northern Britain and Ireland – at the time of, and immediately preceding, the so-called ‘Wessex Culture’. Picking up on themes raised by Stuart Needham in his keynote address, the inter-relatedness of these areas and their social dynamics will be explored, with special emphasis on the ‘vocabulary’ of status display. The shift in the focus of social power from northern Britain to Wessex – another theme identified previously by Needham – will be outlined. The role of the metal supply network in this inter-relatedness and social dynamic will be considered.