

A diet fit for a king?

Isotope analysis of the remains of Richard III

A talk suitable for sixth form students by

Dr Angela Lamb, Isotope Geochemist, British Geological Survey

4:15 pm Thursday 21st May 2015

University of Warwick, Department of Chemistry, Lecture Theatre L3, Coventry CV4 7AL

The recent discovery of the remains of King Richard III, one of the most controversial characters in British history, provides an opportunity to use scientific methods to assess conflicting historical and literary descriptions of his life. Dr Angela Lamb, from the British Geological Survey, will examine the changes in isotope chemistry found in Richard's teeth, femur and rib bones; all of which develop and rebuild at different stages of life. Isotope measurements that relate to geographical location, pollution and diet (strontium, nitrogen, oxygen, carbon and lead) will be discussed, paying particular attention to changes relating to his short reign as King. The results reinforce the idea that food and drink were strongly linked to social status in Medieval England and provide new details about his childhood whereabouts.

To book for a school group to attend please contact Selina Kermode, Royal Society of Chemistry Education Coordinator on S.Kermode@warwick.ac.uk