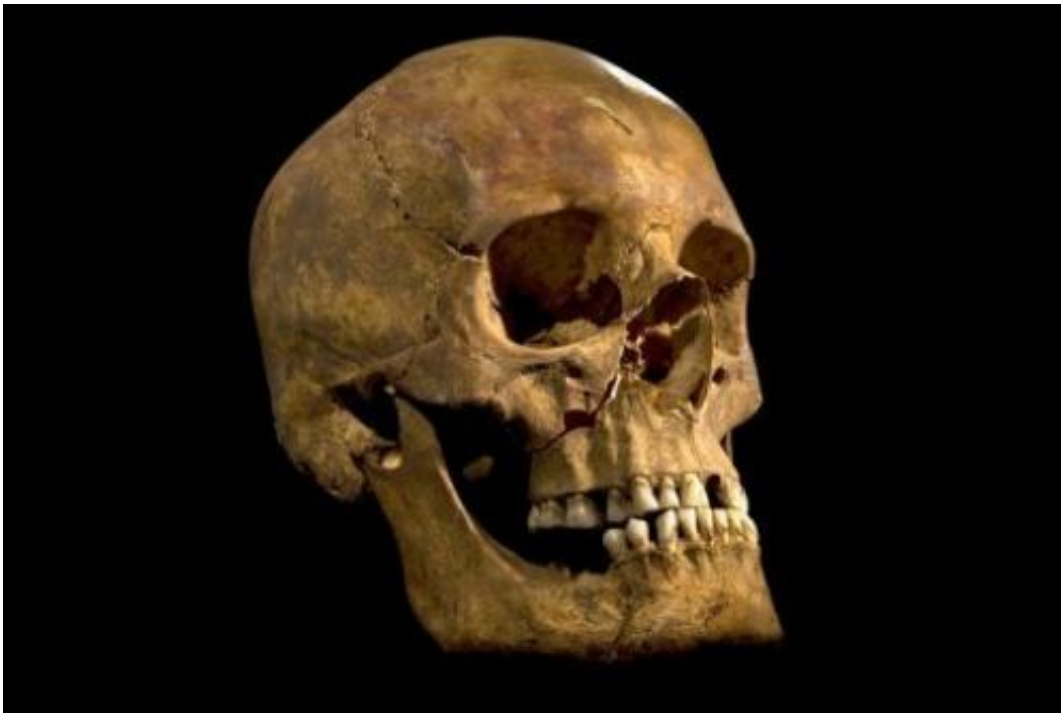


Skull found in Britain 'could be King Richard III'

February 4 2013



A handout picture released on February 3, 2013 from the University of Leicester shows the skull from the skeleton found at an excavation site in Leicester. British archaeologists hunting for the lost remains of King Richard III revealed this first image ahead of what they said would be a "major announcement" about their findings.

British archaeologists hunting for the lost remains of King Richard III have revealed the first image of a battle-scarred skull found at a car park ahead of what they said would be a "major announcement" about their

findings.

More than five centuries after the mediaeval king was killed in battle, academics were due Monday to reveal the identity of a [skeleton](#) unearthed in September at a car park in the central English city of Leicester.

The skeleton bears striking similarities to descriptions of Richard, who ruled England from 1483 until his death at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 at age 32.

Its curved spine has an arrowhead embedded in it, and there is evidence of a wound at the back of the [skull](#).

The image released by the University of Leicester showed a well-preserved skull with most of its teeth still intact.

"The skull was in good condition, although fragile, and was able to give us detailed information about this individual," said Jo Appleby, who led the exhumation.

"In order to determine whether this individual is Richard III we have built up a biological profile of its characteristics. We have also carefully examined the skeleton for traces of a [violent death](#)."

But the university stopped short of revealing whether the skull was Richard's ahead of its press conference at 1000 GMT on Monday.

Scientists have been using the DNA of distant relative of Richard's to try to confirm the skeleton's identity.

They took [DNA samples](#) from 55-year-old Michael Ibsen, a Canadian-born carpenter who lives in London, and have been comparing them with

samples from the skeleton.

Ibsen is a 17th-generation nephew of the [king](#), who was immortalised as the hunchbacked villain of Shakespeare's "Richard III".

Richard is thought to have been buried at the Franciscan friary of Grey Friars in Leicester, but the church was demolished in the 1530s and its location had been lost until now.

The skeleton was unearthed in what is thought to have been the choir of the church, which was also uncovered during a three-week archaeological dig at the car park.

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