



# UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

The University of Leicester's key role in the high-profile discovery of the remains of Richard III under a car park has been singled out as research project of the year.

In collaboration with the Richard III society, Leicester academics identified the likely resting place of the last Plantagenet king in the grounds of a former priory and then successfully excavated the site to find human remains. These were identified as the king's using a variety of techniques, including a novel method of DNA analysis, carbon dating and comparison of the remains with historical accounts of Richard's scoliosis and battle wounds.

The project, which began in 2011, involved a multi-disciplinary team that included geneticists, archaeologists, engineers, Latinists, osteologists and genealogists.

It attracted worldwide attention when the positive identification was announced in February this year, generating more than 1,500 news articles. The find's impact on the regional economy, through tourism and other activity, has been estimated by Leicester Chamber of Commerce to amount to £140 million a year.

The journal Nature said Leicester had "managed to unite the two cultures of science and humanities in a way that few have before".

Mark Gardiner, president of the Society for Medieval Archaeology, described the scholars' work as "faultless" and "absolutely stunning".

The judges said it "represents the highest quality of archaeology investigation and discovery, while stimulating the imagination of publics throughout the world".