

STATEMENTS FOR PRESS RELEASES

mtDNA

The genealogical link between Joy Ibsen and Richard III was discovered by Dr John Ashdown-Hill in 2004, thus revealing Richard III's mtDNA haplogroup. In 2013, the discovery of a second, confirmatory genealogical link was commissioned by Professor Kevin Schurer of the University of Leicester.

'Body in the River' myth

In 2005, based on research he had done for the BBC, Leicester City Council gave Dr John Ashdown-Hill (then an executive committee member of the Richard III Society) permission to erect a small new plaque beside the nineteenth-century Broadbent plaque near Bow Bridge, stating that the Broadbent plaque was erroneous in respect of the fate of Richard III's remains.

Richard III buried at Greyfriars

In 2010 Dr John Ashdown-Hill published for the first time the fact that TNA, C1/206/69 recto, lines 4 and 5 confirmed that in 1494/5 'the bonys of Kyng Richard the iij^{de} reste ... in the Church of Friers in the town of leycestr'.

Layout

Philippa Langley and Dr John Ashdown-Hill met in 2009. Based on his knowledge of friaries, Ashdown-Hill agreed with Langley's research which suggested the Greyfriars Church was located opposite St. Martin's Church (Leicester Cathedral) on the northern side of the friary precinct. In 2011, University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) published a reconstruction, showing the church on the southern side (*Visions of Ancient Leicester*, 2011, p. 46).

Relationships

At the High Court in London, University of Leicester lawyers argued (and their point was accepted by the court) that members of 'The Plantagenet Alliance' could not be acknowledged as relatives of Richard III - even if documents apparently showed them to be so - because only the relationship of mtDNA (female-line) family descendants can be proved. It is therefore illogical to now claim that famous actors - or American presidents - are relatives of Richard III.