

Dr Hannah Koon

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- Hannah is a Senior Lecturer in Archaeological Sciences at Bradford University. She joined the department in 2012 and leads the BSc in Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology. She is also Director of the Light Stable Isotope Laboratories Facility at Bradford. Previously, Hannah held post-doctoral positions at York (Wellcome Bioarchaeology Fellow; AHRC PDRA) and Harvard (Geospatial Agency Fellow). Her background is in collagen chemistry and biomolecular archaeology. Her NERC funded PhD research (Detecting cooked bone in the archaeological record) focused on examining the deterioration of mineralised collagen. Hannah's research interests focus on two related areas; the first is understanding the mechanisms by which biological materials degrade because of taphonomic or diagenetic processes, and how these can impact on our ability to retrieve molecular information from archaeological remains. Secondly, she is broadly interested in the study of human biological remains from historic time periods, in particular how evidence of food processing and of disease on bones can be used to provide insights into past diet and health. Hannah has a long-held fascination with the bone protein, collagen, and has explored it at different orders of magnitude from the gross to the molecular scale. The findings from this work have been used; to detect low temperature cooked bone and embalmed bone, to study how bone degrades in different burial environments and to develop a new model for the thermal stabilization of collagen. More recently she has used proteomics of collagen and paleopathological analyses to identify scurvy and other metabolic and dietary deficiencies in archaeological populations. Her current research also includes using light stable isotope analyses of bones and teeth to track the diet and movement of different archaeological populations including: Iron Age pastoralists, Medieval pilgrims, and 17th century European seafarers. When not at work Hannah enjoys gardening, crochet, scrabble and being entertained by her toddler
- Most recent publication
Nicholls, R., Buckberry, J., Beaumont, J., Črešnar, M., Mason, P., Armit, I. and Koon, H. (2020) A Carbon and Nitrogen Isotopic Investigation of a Case of Probable Infantile Scurvy (6th–4th Centuries BC, Slovenia). *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 30, 102206.