

Name:

Science at the Roman Baths

Biology at the Baths or CSI Aquae Sulis

Welcome to the Roman Baths! You are a Roman government official responsible for investigating unexplained deaths in Aquae Sulis

An unidentified body has been found in the Baths

You have to analyse the skeleton, the Roman lifestyle and the physical evidence in the museum to come up with a theory to explain the death.

Getting to the bottom of the Baths



Have a look at the water in the Great Bath, how would you describe it?

The baths are lined with lead. The water was not filtered or cleaned. It was a busy place many people would use the baths each day.

What health hazard may this have caused?

Material Evidence – The people of Aquae Sulis

Look at the objects used by the Romans which been found on the site. Focus on anything which was used to store food and drink and anything which the average Roman would have used every day.

Is there anything which might be toxic or unhygienic which could have contributed to the mystery death?

Clues from the skeleton

Read the information boards and listen to the audio-guide to find out how scientists find clues about lifestyle from the bones and teeth of a skeleton.

What does this examination tell us about the origin of the skeleton? Was he a native of Aquae Sulis or did he come from somewhere else?

What can we say about the quality of his diet from examination of the skeleton?

Diseases such as TB, Leprosy, Cancer and Scoliosis cause damage which may show disease or injury.

Are there any signs on the bones which indicate injury or illness at the time of death?

Health of the settlement

The area around Aquae Sulis would have been quite wet and marshy in Roman times. Some of the wildlife living in Britain included wolves, brown bears and lynx.

What dangers did the Romans face from wildlife, could any of these have contributed to the mystery death?

Your C.S.I. analysis

How did the person die? - Decide which three factors are the most likely to have contributed to his death. List them below and write a summary of the evidence in favour of that factor.

One

Two

Three