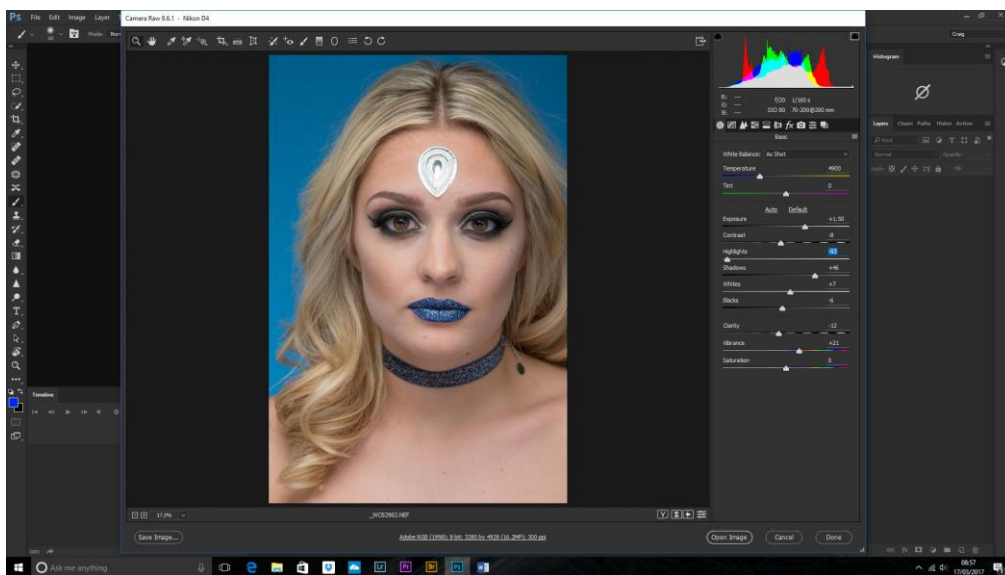


Highlight Recovery

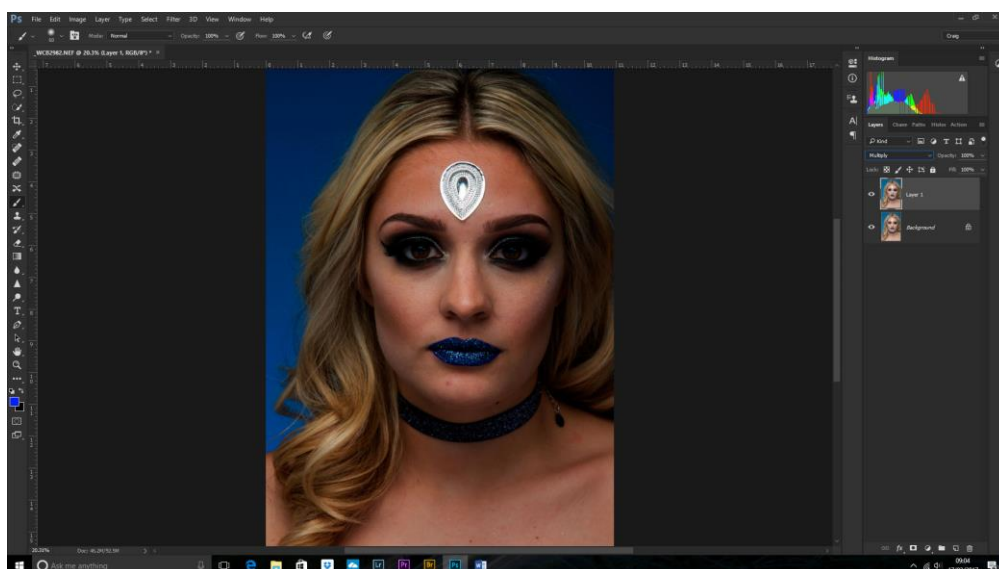
This is a simple trick to recover detail in the highlights or to bring down the brightest parts of the picture – but be careful! It will not work if you have overexposed badly.

Open your image into Photoshop. This image was shot in RAW (of course!) so I moved the highlights slider all the way to the left to recover maximum detail. I enabled the clipping warning (little triangles on the histogram) and there was no 'reds' showing I had not lost all the detail, but the head jewel was still too bright for my liking.

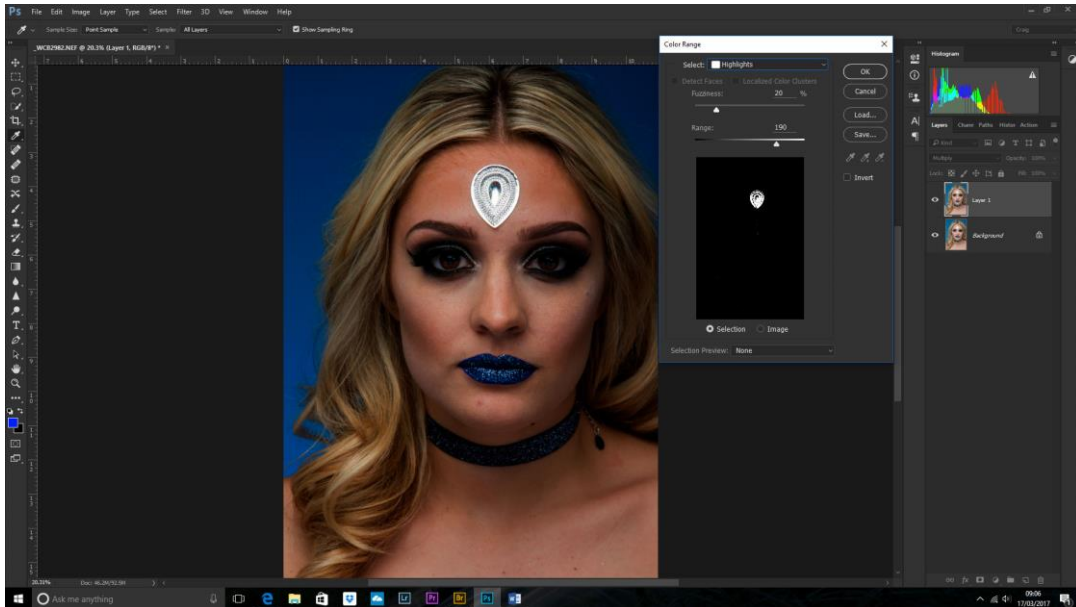


In Photoshop, make a copy of the background layer (Ctrl+J).

Change the blending mode to Multiply. This will darken the whole image.



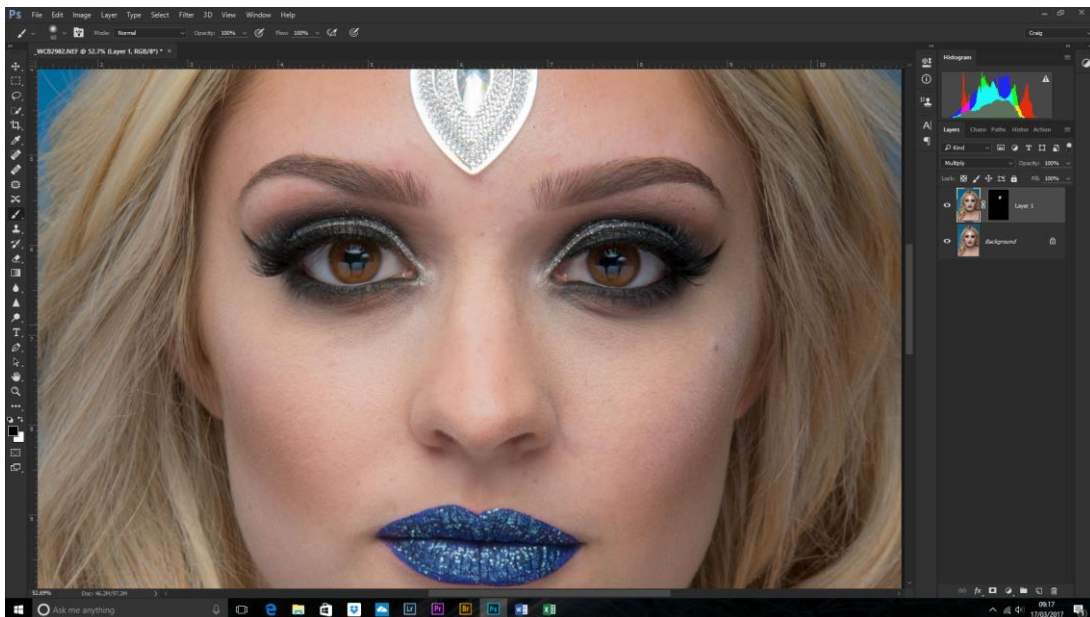
Now I want to make a selection of the highlight areas only. Select>Color Range and Select>Highlights. The preview will show which parts have been selected. Click OK.



Now, with the top layer selected make a mask and the image will look normal, but with the detail returned to the highlight areas.

If it's not enough, then you can duplicate this layer and if it's too much reduce the opacity or paint with black on the mask the parts you want brighter.

NB. This picture took it to the extreme, but detail was returned not only to the jewel, but also to a bright point on the nose, too.



Done!