Dr John Carman MPhil, PhD, FCIS

Senior Lecturer in Heritage Valuation

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About

I am an archaeologist with an interest in what archaeology 'does' in the world – how it came to be as it is, why we study what we do in the way we do it, and what that means in terms of understanding ourselves. I work particularly in two fields: cultural heritage; and conflict archaeology, especially the archaeology of battlefields. I have been most recently honoured with a biographical entry in the *Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology* published by Springer.

Qualifications

University of Cambridge

- MPhil in Archaeology 1988
- PhD in Archaeology 1993

Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators

- Associate 1976
- Fellow 1988

Biography

After a professional career in the administration of large corporations, I studied for an MPhil and then a PhD in Cultural Heritage in the Department of Archaeology in the University of Cambridge. My PhD - completed in 1993 - examined English law in terms of what law does to archaeological material and how this effects our understanding of that material, and was published as *Valuing Ancient Things* in 1996. From 1993 to 1999 I was a Research Fellow at Clare Hall, Cambridge, and from 1998 to 2005 an Affiliated Lecturer in the Department of Archaeology at Cambridge, involved in research and teaching. During this period, to get away from long periods spent in dusty law libraries and to get out into the open air, I began witrh Patricia Carman the *Bloody Meadows* Project on historic battlefields as landscapes, a project that continues. While at Cambridge I published my first contributions to Conflict Archaeology *Material Harm* (1997) and *Ancient Warfare* (with A. Harding, 1999) as well as more in the field of Heritage especially *Archaeology and Heritage* (2002) and *Against Cultural Property* (2005).

In 2005 I joined the Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity at the University of Birmingham as Senior Lecturer in Heritage Valuation, and in 2013 transferred to the Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage. Birmingham saw the publication of the first major output of the battlefields project in *Bloody Meadows* (2006) and a wider consideration of Conflict Archaeology in *Archaeologies of Conflict* (2013), together with involvement in the commemoration of the 1708 Battle of Oudenaarde beginning a long-standing collaboration with the Ename Center in Belgium that has also seen the foundation of the international co-operative network of battlerfield archaeologists in Europe *ESTOC*. I have continued to publish in Archaeology and Heritage, including *Heritage Studies* (with M.L.S. Sørensen, 2009*), Archaeological Practice in Great* Britain (with J. Schofield and P. Belford, 2011) and *The Oxford Handbook of Public Archaeology* (with R. Skeates and C. McDavid, 2012). My next book will be *Archaeological Resource Management: an international perspective* for Cambridge University Press to be followed by a second co-authored volume out of the *Bloody Meadows* Project.

Teaching

Undergraduate core and seminar modules taught in Archaeology.

- Archaeology in the World: examining how archaeology works as a global discipline and a contemporary activity
- Killing Fields: the archaeology of war and conflict
- Seminar: Weird Archaeologies: examining strange ways of studying the past

Postgraduate taught modules.

- Critical Approaches to Cultural Heritage
- Resarch methods and skills
- Theory and practice of condflict archaeology
- Landscapes of conflict

Current academic roles

- College of Arts and Law Ethical Review Officer
- IIICH Director of Cultural Heritage PhD Programme

Postgraduate supervision

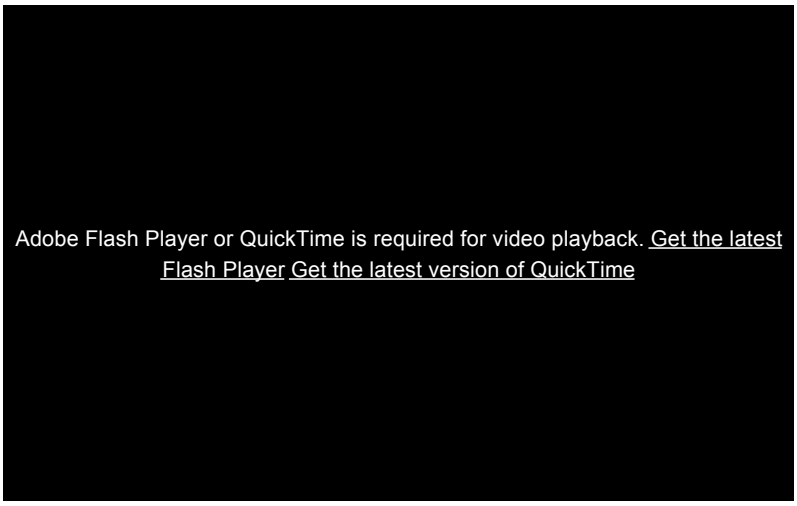
- Heritage and its management
- Socio-politics of the past
- Phenomenology of landscapes
- Conflict Archaeology
- Battlefield archaeology
- Archaeological approaches to warfare and violence

Research

My overall interest is in the role in the present of material remains from the past. This involves a concern with the ideological aspects of what we call 'heritage' and the institutions – organisational, legal, structural – that we set up to manage it. I am interested in what kinds of object we allocate to the category 'heritage' and how we do it, and how aspects of heritage management relate to the theory and practice of archaeology as a research discipline into the past. I have a particular interest in how issues of ownership impinge upon and condition our attitudes towards and expectations of the material heritage. All of this derives from an interest in understanding the various types of value we give to our material heritage – what those values are, and from where they derive. The category of heritage is a universal one – everybody can claim to have a heritage – but the specifics of what constitutes that heritage and how it is treated vary from place to place: so I am also interested in comparing heritage practices internationally.

A particularly interesting category of heritage is that of 'landscape' and especially those landscapes which carry special meanings for us in the present. One such landscape type which has become the concern of archaeologists and heritage professionals is the 'historic battlefield'. These are the subject of research by the Bloody Meadows Project – a joint enterprise with Patricia Carman – which studies such places as landscapes. Our aim is to understand the attitudes to place brought by warriors in the past to the places where they carried out their violent activities, and to compare those places so sought in one period with those sought in other periods; this leads us to apply a broadly 'phenomenological' approach to their investigation. A related concern – and one linked with the interest in heritage value – is with the way such places are remembered or memorialised. This work was the subject of a book published by Suttons in 2006, *Bloody Meadows: investigating cultural landscapes of battle*.

John discusses his research into cultural heritage and battlefield archaeology



- **Transcript (/accessibility/transcripts/artsandlaw/iaa/john-carman-cultural-heritage.aspx)**

Other activities

Membership of Advisory and Editorial Boards:

- *International Journal of Heritage Studies* 2006 - present
- *Conferences organised by the Greenlines Institute for Sustainable Development, Portugal 2006 – present*
- *Heritage Values Group, Society for American Archaeology 2008 - present*
- *Hermes. Resvista de Museografía didáctica, Spain 2008-present*
- Community Archaeology Research Institute (CARI),Houston,Texas,USA2008– present
- HeritageAcademy,University of Gothenburg,Sweden2009 – present
- Conflict and Security Studies Network, University of Birmingham 2009 – present
- *The Historic Environment: policy and practice* journal, 2009 - present

Recent collaborative projects:

- *Oudenaarde 1708* commemoration and *Casus Belli* project, Ename Center for Public Archaeology and Heritage Interpretation, Belgium 2006 – 2009
- *The Value of Shakespeare* research project, Shakespeare Institute, Stratford Upon Avon, UK 2006-2010
- Flemish Heritage Institute Project on *Inventory of Historic Battlefields in Flanders before WW1*, 2010-2012
- International Liaison Officer, Society for Historical Archaeology annual conference, Austin TX, USA 2011
- Organiser and Chair, 33rd Annual Conference of the Theoretical Archaeology Group, Birmingham, 2011

Current projects:

- *Bloody Meadows: historic battlefields in international comparative perspective* (co-Director with Patricia Carman)
- *ESTOC: European Studies of Terrains of Conflict* network: pan-European collaboration in studying sites of past conflict
- *Archaeological Resource Management: an international perspective*. Cambridge University Press: delivery due December 2013

Publications

Authored books

- *Archaeologies of Conflict,* Debates in Archaeology, 2013, ISBN 978-1-84966-888-0
- *Against Cultural Property: archaeology, heritage and ownership*, Duckworth Debates in Archaeology, 2005, ISBN 0-7156-3402-X
- *Archaeology and Heritage: an introduction*, London, Continuum Press, 2002, ISBN 0-8264-5894-7 (hcover), 0-8264-5895-5 (pbk)
- *Valuing Ancient Things: archaeology and law* Leicester University Press, 1996, ISBN 0-7185-0012-1

Co-authored books

- J. Schofield, J. Carman & P. Belford *Archaeological Practice in Great Britain: a heritage handbook,* Springer, 2011, ISBN 978-0-387-09452-6
- J. Carman & P. Carman *Bloody Meadows: investigating cultural landscapes of battle*, Sutton Publishing, 2006, ISBN 0-7509-3734-3

Edited book

- *Material Harm: archaeological studies of war and violence*, Cruithne Press, 1997, ISBN 1-873448-10-4

Co-edited books

- R. Skeates, C. McDavid & J. Carman (eds) *THe Oxford Hanbdbook of Public Archaeology,* Oxford University Press, 2012, ISBN 978-0-923782-1
- M.L.S. Sørensen & J. Carman (eds) *Heritage Studies: methods and approaches*, Routledge, 2009, ISBN 978-0-415-43184-2 / 978-0-415-43185-9
- R.H. White & J. Carman (eds) *World Heritage: global challenges, local solutions. Proceedings of a conference at the Ironbridge Institute, May 2006*. Oxford, Archaeopress, BAR 1698, 2007. ISBN 978-1-4073-0140-2
- J. Carman and A. F. Harding (eds) *Ancient Warfare: archaeological perspectives*, Stroud, Sutton Publishers, 1999, ISBN 0-7509-1795-4
- I. Hodder, M. Shanks, A. Alexandri, V. Buchli, J. Carman, J. Last, and G. Lucas (eds) *Interpreting Archaeology*: *finding meaning in the past* Routledge, 1995, ISBN 0-415-07330-8
- M. A. Cooper, A. Firth, J. Carman and D. Wheatley (eds) *Managing Archaeology*, Routledge, 1995, ISBN 0-415-10674-5

Expertise

How we select what to include as 'heritage' (and what not), how it is valued, how we treat it, and issues of ownership; historic battlefields

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