

Dr Roger White FSA, MifA

Academic Director, Ironbridge Institute
Senior Lecturer

[Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage \(/schools/historycultures/departments/ironbridge/index.aspx\)](/schools/historycultures/departments/ironbridge/index.aspx)

Contact details

Telephone **+44 (0)1952 435 936 (tel:+44 1952 435 936)**

Telephone (2) **+44 (0)121 414 5493 (tel:+44 121 414 5493)**

Email **[r.h.white@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:r.h.white@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:r.h.white@bham.ac.uk)**

Arts Building
University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2TT
UK



About

Since 2000, I have been Academic Director at Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage, a leading provider of International and World Heritage Management training for postgraduate students. I am editor of the Historic Environment Journal and represent the University on a number of committees within the Institute for Archaeologists.

Qualifications

- BA (Hons) Ancient and Medieval History and Archaeology (University of Liverpool)
- PhD 'Roman and Celtic Objects in Anglo-Saxon Graves' (University of Liverpool, 1987)

Biography

By training, I am an archaeologist and for much of my working life my research interest has focused on Wroxeter Roman City, in Shropshire. My long-term involvement with this site has led to my frequent use as a consultant by English Heritage regarding aspects of the management and interpretation of the site. Geographically, my research interests extend over the West Midlands, Wales and the north west, while my chronological interests cover the millennia before and after Christ's birth, that is from the later Bronze Age to the Vikings. Within this broad span, my main research interests lie in the period of transition from the late Roman to early medieval period and especially so in the west of Britain, the late Roman province of Britannia Prima.

My role at Ironbridge encompasses teaching and research, where I have responsibility for developing and delivering the **[distance learning programmes in heritage management \(http://www.ironbridge.bham.ac.uk/programmes/heritagedistance/index.shtml\)](http://www.ironbridge.bham.ac.uk/programmes/heritagedistance/index.shtml)** offered there. I also research into the industrial archaeology of Shropshire, with particular interest in the broadest sense of understanding the impact that industrialisation has had on societies and in the management of industrial landscapes. This theme can be seen most clearly in my work on the Cleve Hills in Shropshire and in Ironbridge.

This latter theme overlaps with his interests in Heritage management, and this role is increasingly being reflected in his work both at Ironbridge and in Archaeology, with whom he maintains close ties in heritage management offered there. I also research into the industrial archaeology of Shropshire, with particular interest in the broadest sense of understanding the impact that industrialisation has had on societies and in the management of industrial landscapes. This theme can be seen most clearly in my work on the Cleve Hills in Shropshire and in Ironbridge.

Teaching

Postgraduate programmes in Heritage Management (Distance Learning) and contributions to programmes in Landscape and Professional Archaeology. Undergraduate teaching in the archaeology of Pompeii and for postgraduates in the Heritage Management of the Mediterranean World.

Postgraduate supervision

Completed PhDs:

- The Mining Landscape of Frisco, Utah (2013)
- Heritage Tourism in Jordan (2010)
- Byzantine Towns in the eighth and ninth centuries (2008)
- Iron Age funerary feasting rituals (2003)

Current supervisions:

- Heritage and Identity in Emilia Romagna
- Iron Age and Roman Settlement in South Shropshire
- The Quarrying Industry in Shropshire in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Completed MPhils:

- William Hazeldine, millwright and ironmaster (2012)
- The Incline Planes of the East Shropshire Coalfield (2010)
- Barytes Mining in Shropshire (2007)

Research

My primary focus for research is on the Roman period, and especially Late Antiquity. My interest in this field has arisen from my work at Wroxeter but also through my PhD and generally through a fascination with the changing society and material culture of this formative period of British History. For the same reasons, I am drawn towards the archaeological study of the industrial age where the wealth of material and sources offers a stark contrast to my earlier research period in the 'dark ages'.

Roger talks about his research into Wroxeter Roman town

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- [Transcript \(\[accessibility/transcripts/artsandlaw/ironbridge/roger-white.aspx\]\(#\)\)](#)

Other activities

I am a member of the English Heritage Advisory Committee since May 2011 and am currently a Council Member of the Institute for Archaeologists. From 2007 until 2010 was Chair of its Professional Training Committee and joined as a Member of the IfA in 1987.

From 2008-2011 I was on the Committee for the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies and was involved in the conferences held in 2010 to commemorate the 'End of Roman Britain' in AD 410, giving papers in Cardiff and Aberystwyth.

In 2010 I also gave papers at the Roman Archaeology Conference in Oxford and at the European Association of Archaeologists in The Hague. I have been a Committee member for the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society since 1994.

Publications

Books and monographs

- 2010 *Footprints of Industry. Papers from the 300th anniversary conference at Coalbrookdale, 3-7th June 2009*. BAR British Series 523 (edited volume with Paul Belford and Marilyn Palmer)
- 2007 *Britannia Prima. Britain's Last Roman Province* Tempus
- 2007 *Wroxeter, the Cornovii, and the urban process*. Journal of Roman Archaeology Supp Ser. 68 (with Prof. V. Gaffney)
- 2007 *World Heritage: Global Challenges, Local Solutions* BAR International Ser. 1698 (edited volume with Dr J. Carman)
- 2006 *Wroxeter Archaeology. Excavation and Research on the Defences and in the Town, 1968-1992* *Shropshire Archaeology and History* vol. 78 (with Peter Ellis)

Contributions to books

- 2007 'From Basket-Case to Hanging Baskets: Regeneration, Alienation and Heritage in Ironbridge, In R. White & J Carman (eds.) *World Heritage: Global Challenges, Local Solutions* BAR International Ser. 1698, 47-51
- 2003 'Resolving the paradox: the work of the Wroxeter Hinterland Project' in P. Wilson (ed.) *The Archaeology of Roman Towns. Studies in Honour of John S. Wacher* Oxbow, 221-232 (with Prof. V. Gaffney)
- 2000 'Wroxeter and the transformation of late Roman urbanism' in T. Slater (ed.) *Decline in Towns, 100-1600* Ashgate, 96-119
- 2000 'The Roman Lead-workings at Linley' in J. Leonard, D. Preshous, M. Roberts, J. Smyth and C. Train (eds.) *The Gale of Life. Two thousand years in South-West Shropshire*. Logaston Press, 31-41

Other reports

- 2010 *Wroxeter Roman City Conservation Plan and Gazetteer* Ironbridge Institute, for English Heritage
- 2007 *The Clee Hills Project. A Conservation Management Plan for Titterstone and Clee Hill*. Ironbridge Institute / Birmingham Archaeology Internal Report for English Heritage

Editorships

- 2010 – to date *Historic Environment, Policy and Practice*. Bi-annually printed peer reviewed international journal published by Mane