



WREXHAM
ROMAN CONFERENCE

Archaeology Conference Cymru #ArCC2026

2nd – 4th October 2026



The Wrexham Roman Conference



**AMGUEDDFA
CYMRU**

12:00 – 13:00	Admission
13:00 – 13:30	Welcome <i>Dr Susie White, PAS Cymru</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Roman Research Framework for Wales Session 1 <i>Seminar with Dr Leah Reynolds, Dr Caroline Pudney & Dr David Roberts</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee
15:00 – 16:00	Roman Research Framework for Wales Session 2 <i>Seminar with Dr Leah Reynolds, Dr Caroline Pudney & Dr David Roberts</i>
16:00 – 18:00	Comfort break
18:00 – 18:30	Evening reception formal open <i>Dr Carol Bell & Richard Nicholls, Heneb</i>
18:30 – 19:30	Keynote Wales and the Marches under the emperors Carausius and Allectus (AD 286-96) <i>Dr Sam Moorhead & Graham Barker</i>
19:30 – 21:00	Drinks Reception & Canapés
19:30 – 21:00	Tours of new museum galleries
21:00	Depart

08:30 – 09:00	Admission (Staff & Stallholders only from 7:30am)
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome from <i>Richard Nicholls & Jane Richardson</i>
09:30 – 10:00	We remember Macsen the Emperor: the Romans and Welsh Identity <i>Dr Roger White, University of Birmingham</i>
10:00 – 10:30	Roman coins in Wales: the view from the Portable Antiquities Scheme <i>Matthew Ball, British Museum</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee
11:00 – 11:30	Regional Fashion in the Roman Period; the Wirral brooch (pre-recorded) <i>Dr Frances McIntosh, English Heritage</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Filling in the gaps: Roman Flintshire. Excavations of two new Romano British Settlements <i>Chris Matthews, Heneb</i>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 13:30	An Unusual Roman Cremation from the Buckley Area (pre-recorded) <i>Dr Robert Philpott, University of Liverpool</i>
13:30 – 14:00	Wales's earliest 'portraits'? Two Roman sculpted stones from Isca (Caerleon) <i>Dr Mark Lewis, Amgueddfa Cymru</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Coffee
14:30 – 15:00	'Fibulae, figurines and fastenings: PAS Roman finds from north Wales and adjacent regions'. <i>Sally Worrell, read by Dr Susie White, PAS Cymru</i>
15:00 – 15:30	New Perspectives on Roman Wales <i>Dr Ralph Häussler, Roman Culture Specialist, Lampeter University</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Closing remarks and Conference 2027 Announcement <i>Richard Nicholls & Dr Carol Bell</i>
16:00	Depart – Join us for a pie and a pint at Ty Pawb from 6pm (meal paid for – drinks via paid bar)

Sunday 4th October

Wrexham University & Tours at Park in the Past and Stori Brymbo

08:45 – 09:00	Admission
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome <i>Dr Carol Bell, Heneb</i>
09:15 – 10:00	A Roman Perspective on Glass Recycling <i>Rachael Tynan, Liverpool University</i>
10:00 – 10:45	From Chance Find to Roman Villa: New Insights into Roman North-East Wales <i>Dr Caroline Pudney & Stephen Greuter, Chester University</i>
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee
11:15 – 12:00	Rediscovering Anglesey's Roman Copper Ingots, Collections Research in Action! <i>Kelly Parry, Oriel Môn</i>
12:00 – 12:30	Comfort break, collect lunch, then depart for chosen tour from car park
	Choose from Tour A OR Tour B below
13:00 – 15:00	Tour Park in the Past (Tour A - choose 1)
13:00 – 15:00	Tour Stori Brymbo (Tour B - choose 1)
15:00 – 15:30	Return to Wrexham University
16:00	Depart

Welcome to ArCC2026

Heneb: The Trust for Welsh Archaeology and the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS Cymru) welcome you to the inaugural Archaeology Conference Cymru; a weekend of talks, socials and visits to celebrate new research on Roman Wales.

Venues

Football Museum of Wales and Wrexham Museum, LL11 1RB

Opening its doors officially late in September 2026 after a major refurbishment and multi-year program of investment, the museum celebrates a long proud history of football, with the Welsh Football Association being founded in Wrexham 150 years ago. The new museum now gives a nod to its dual purpose - to the great game itself and the celebration of the people and story of Wrexham.



Wrexham University, Mold Road, Wrexham, LL11 2AW

Students have been taught at the main Wrexham campus since 1887, when it was known as the Wrexham School of Science and Art. The first degrees were offered in 1924, but they've come a long way since then.

Now a vibrant and dynamic social learning space, with work ongoing to further enhance the campus for students and visitors it is the ideal venue to celebrate Welsh heritage and culture.



Tŷ Pawb, LL13 8BY

Tŷ Pawb is a multi-award-winning cultural centre, in the former People's Market, Wrexham. A place where people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds are welcome to experience, explore, express and co-create meaningful sustainable culture.

Since opening in 2018, Tŷ Pawb has become internationally recognised as an exemplar of how art and life can be intertwined.

It's culture, ethos and community feel make it the perfect venue for the ArCC2026 Saturday night social.

Location, Accessibility and Parking

The Wrexham University Plas Coch campus is located on the edge of Wrexham town centre on Mold Road (postcode LL11 2AW).

There are plenty of free car parking spaces available on this site and it is suitable for access to both the museum and the university activities.

Easily accessed by public transport, with Wrexham bus station a 10-minute walk away. Some bus routes stop directly outside the campus. The nearest train station is Wrexham General, which is a few minutes' walk to the main campus.

Alternatives include the art school which is located on Regent Street (postcode LL11 1PF), just a few minutes' walk from Plas Coch campus and public transport stations and the state-of-the-art National Football Development Centre at Colliers Park which is located just outside of Wrexham town centre in Gresford (LL12 8PW).

Accessible toilets are available at all venues.

The lecture room, exhibit space and catering area are wheelchair accessible and suitable for those with mobility issues.

There is adequate seating in all spaces, but if you have any specific requirements email zoe.arthurs@heneb.org.uk or call 07581 405835 to let us know.

Refreshments and Lunch

We are offering tea, coffee, water and juice on arrival and again during the breaks throughout the weekend.

Drinks and canapés will be served in the museum on Friday evening.

A light buffet lunch will be provided on Saturday and a take-away packed lunch will be provided on Sunday including a range of vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options.

A selection of hot and cold dishes will be served on Saturday evening at Tŷ Pawb.
All of the above is included in your ticket.
The bar will be open at Tŷ Pawb on Saturday evening (at own expense).

Organisations

Heneb - The Trust for Welsh Archaeology
Formed in 2024 through the merger of the four regional Welsh archaeological trusts: Clwyd-Powys, Dyfed, Glamorgan-Gwent, and Gwynedd.

For over 52 years, these trusts played a crucial role in preserving Wales' archaeological heritage, and Heneb continues this legacy as an independent organisation dedicated to the protection, investigation, and promotion of Wales' rich historic environment.

Portable Antiquities Scheme

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is run by the British Museum and Amgueddfa Cymru - Museum Wales to encourage the recording of archaeological objects found by members of the public in England and Wales. Every year many thousands of archaeological objects are discovered, many of these by metal detector users, but also by people whilst out walking, gardening or going about their daily work. Finds recorded with the Scheme help advance knowledge of the history and archaeology of England and Wales.

Speaker Abstracts

Research Framework for Wales Seminar Round Table Facilitated by Dr Leah Reynolds, Dr Caroline Pudney and Dr David Roberts

Successive iterations of the Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales have provided a vital resource assessment and identified strategic research priorities for archaeology in Wales across periods and regions. A new update for the Roman period framework offers an opportunity to undertake a major reassessment of the current state of knowledge and set the agenda for future research. This timely renewal of the Roman period framework will provide an up-to-date resource assessment and synthesis which both integrates new discoveries and identifies persistent knowledge gaps across seven core thematic areas: Chronology; The Western Frontier; Settlement and Land Use; Ritual, Religion and Ceremony; Material Culture; Mobility and Migration; and Presenting the Roman Past.

This workshop session invites anyone working on, studying, or interested in the Roman period in Wales to collaborate on the update of the Roman Research Framework. It will present the work that has already been undertaken and through knowledge-sharing and critical discussion of the key research themes we will work together to set out questions and priorities in order to develop a robust framework for use by archaeologists, researchers, and stakeholders across the sector to shape the future research agenda in Wales.

Dr Roger H White - Hon. Research Fellow,
University of Birmingham

*Cofiw i Facsen Wledig/We remember
Macsen the Emperor the Romans and Welsh
Identity*



Taking as its starting point the commonly held public perspective that Wales was largely unconquered by the Romans and was indeed a focus of resistance to Roman rule, I argue from the archaeology to demonstrate that such perceptions are misleading. Archaeological evidence demonstrates Rome certainly conquered and held Wales throughout its occupation of Britain. Furthermore, its hold on Wales was so firmly established by the second century that Rome's identity was fully stamped upon the territory. More importantly I believe it was maintained by the peoples of Wales after the end of Roman rule. The degree to which Wales was in the end Romanised is encapsulated in the post-Roman identity of the emerging Welsh kingdoms which consciously looked back to the Roman Emperor, Magnus Maximus (Macsen Wledig in Welsh) for their foundation as actual and spiritual successors to Roman power. Rather than offering perpetual resistance to Rome, it can be argued instead that by the later Roman period, notions of Roman power operating within a Christian Empire, provided the peoples of Wales with the means to resist the rise of English power in the immediate post-Roman period.

Dr Sam Moorhead - British Museum, and
Graham Barker - Hon. Research Fellow
University of Warwick

*Carausius and Allectus in North Wales and
Anglesey*



This lecture will consider the archaeological and numismatic evidence for Roman activity during the reigns of the 'rebel' emperors, Carausius (AD 286-93) and Allectus (AD 293-5/6), in Wales and The Marches. The talk will cover important sites such as Cardiff, Lydney and Segontium and will look closely at the exploitation of metal ores in Wales at this time, notably in North Wales and Anglesey. It is clear, from a broader consideration of the western seaboard of Britain, that Wales was a crucial element in the domains of these emperors.

Graham Barker and Sam Moorhead have written *Rebel Emperors of Britain, Carausius and Allectus* (Spink 2025), Graham Barker has discussed the Golden Age during the reign of Carausius in *Imperial Legitimation* (Spink 2020) and Sam Moorhead has published the standard reference for the coinages of these emperors in *Roman Imperial Coinage*, Vol. 5, Part 5 (Spink 2025).

Dr Frances McIntosh - Curator of Hadrian's
Wall and the North East

*Regional Fashion in the Roman Period; the
Wirral brooch*



The Wirral brooch is a regional type of Romano-British brooch which has a distribution mainly focused around the Wirral peninsula in the North West of England. The vast majority of these brooches were found in rural areas and not on the urban and military sites within the North West For my

MLitt thesis in 2010 at Newcastle University I studied this type of brooch, from its form, distribution and metallurgical composition. Since then I have kept an eye/ear out for new finds, with metal detectorists or Finds Liaison Officers kindly contacting me occasionally too. this talk will discuss my work in 2010 and it's conclusions, as well as integrating finds from the last 15 years to check whether those conclusions still stand.

Matthew Ball - PAS National Finds Adviser

Iron Age and Roman Coinage Roman coins in Wales: the view from the Portable Antiquities Scheme

A broad overview of the profile of PAS single finds and hoards across the region - whether that be North Wales or the whole of the country - to showcase the PAS dataset and the work of Finds Liaison Officers.



Chris Matthews - Senior Project Archaeologist, Heneb

Filling in the gaps: Roman Flintshire. Excavations of two new Romano British Settlements

Flintshire, on the northeast coast of Wales, has long been regarded as an archaeological backwater during the Roman period, characterised by a perceived lack of activity beyond a small number of prominent military sites, and despite its close proximity to the legionary fortress at Chester.



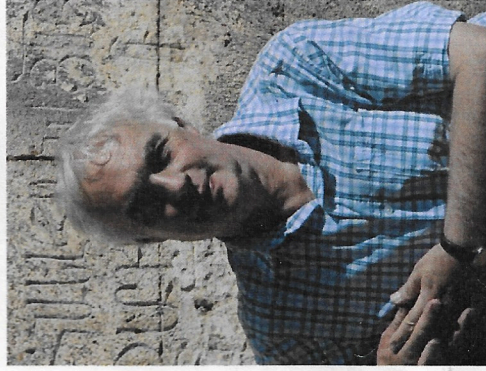
Recent discoveries, however, are beginning to challenge this. This paper presents the results of two recent excavations. The first marks the culmination of a series of investigations at Greenfield Valley Heritage Park, where archaeologists from Heneb, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Flintshire County Council, uncovered a substantial roadside settlement during works within the grounds of Basingwerk Abbey. The site has produced important new evidence for settlement activity along the North Wales coast, with occupation dating back to the Middle Iron Age. These findings were soon complemented by the identification of a linear industrial settlement at Mancott, overlooking Chester where we have found evidence of extensive Roman brooch production.

Together, these sites reveal a far more complex and interconnected Romano British landscape than previously recognised. They also highlight significant challenges relating to the visibility and preservation of archaeological remains, raising important questions about how such remains can be more effectively identified and mitigated during development-led work.

Dr Robert Philpott - University of Liverpool

An Unusual Roman Cremation from the Buckley Area

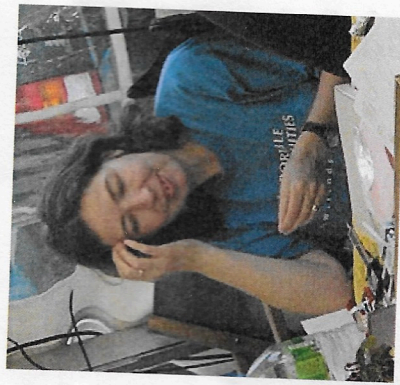
A Roman pottery vessel was reported to Dr Susie White of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) in 2021. She assembled a small team to examine the findspot and the human remains the pot originally held. These, together with a study of the wider context, produced intriguing insights into Roman occupation and culture in NE Wales



Sally Worrell - Portable Antiquities Scheme /
UCL (with John Pearce)

*Fibulae, Figurines and Fastenings: PAS Roman
Finds from North Wales and Adjacent
Regions*

Since its inception in 1997 the PAS has created 56,000 object records of finds of Roman date from Wales. The distribution of those finds across Wales is complex; a result of human behaviour in antiquity, historic and contemporary land-use as well as the distribution of metal-detecting. In this presentation individual "stand-out" objects will be discussed before looking in more depth at one object type – Polden Hill brooches – as a means of highlighting the richness of Roman finds from Wales as a research resource.



**Dr Caroline Pudney & Stephen
Greuter** -Chester University

*From Chance Find to Roman
Villa: New Insights into Roman
North-East Wales*



What do we know about Roman life in the countryside of north-east Wales? Until recently, surprisingly little. Our understanding of the region has been shaped largely by evidence for the Roman military, particularly the legionary fortress at nearby Chester, while evidence for rural settlement has remained limited. This picture is beginning to change. The chance discovery of a Roman lead ingot near Rossett in 2019 led to the identification and excavation of a Roman villa, the first and, so far, only

structurally attested villa rustica in north Wales. The discovery provides an important new source of evidence for understanding the character of Roman occupation in the region. This talk will outline the story of the villa's discovery and present the results of investigations undertaken to date. It will consider the villa within its wider landscape and examine what the site can tell us about settlement, land use and the Roman-period economy in north-east Wales. In doing so, it will explore how a single discovery has the potential to reshape our understanding of the region's Roman past.

Dr Mark Lewis – Amgueddfa Cymru

*Wales's earliest 'portraits'? Two Roman
sculpted stones from ISCA (Caerleon).*



A sculpted stone was discovered by the speaker during the 2010 Caerleon Priory Field excavations, an Amgueddfa Cymru/Cadw/UCL and Cardiff University collaboration. The dig had been rained off and only the speaker and Andrew Gardner (UCL) were on site. Peter Guest had returned to Cardiff University. In driving rain, Mark Lewis sorted through a rock pile near the finds hut looking for any freestone fragments with the potential to be sculpted. The sculpted stone was face down on the rock pile. When turned over a human face was staring back at him. It was instantly recognisable to the finder, and to the dig team once back on site, but eventual publication last year by a third party provided an alternative interpretation. This talk reassesses the available evidence for this and a second sculpted stone recovered from the same site.

Kelly Parry - Oriel Môn

Rediscovering Anglesey's Roman Copper Ingots, Collections Research in Action!



Museums can often be viewed as places where objects are locked away for safe keeping, never to be seen again, at Oriel Môn we have set out to change this. A refreshed approach to collections care, and an active approach to growing our archaeology collection, has led us on a fascinating journey of (re)discovery. Though they are not the most attractive objects in our museum, the copper cake ingots found on Anglesey are proving to be some of the most enigmatic, but thanks to new collections research and a series of new partnerships, we hope these intriguing objects will soon shed light on Anglesey's Roman industrial past.

Dr Ralph Häußler - Roman Culture Specialist / Lampeter University

New Perspectives on Roman Wales



Traditionally, Wales was considered to be at the margin of the Roman world, a place where Rome had little or no influence on people's lives apart from perhaps the military, with regions like much of south-west and west Wales being in decline, with countless Iron Age settlements having been abandoned. But especially in light of recent archaeological discoveries, it is time to re-

think this picture of Roman Wales, exploring, among other things, the extent of civic settlements and agricultural exploitation across Wales, providing a revised view that shows the importance of the whole of Wales in Roman times.

Rachael Tynan - Liverpool University

A Roman Perspective on Glass Recycling



Material culture forms a significant of both past civilisation and contemporary ones, and glass is no exception. From the 1st century AD glass became more accessible and gradually spread through the Roman world. Its diversity of forms ranges from window glass to bottle, mirroring that of modern glass. Archaeological evidence for glass, despite its commonality, is less than would be expected. When comparing this to UK figure, "878,870 Tonnes," of glass is deposited in landfill each year (WRAP, 2024, p.3). Pressure to become a more sustainable today involves adopting circular economy strategies to reduce further environmental damage. Romans, however, treated glass vessels as both a primary material and a product; their economic value drove trade and recycling on local scales. This paper examines how Roman glass economies could provide methodologies to support modern sustainability attempts while at the same time providing insights into how glass, as a resource, was viewed in the Roman world.