

Obituaries

*John Hodgson.
Photo: Jane Hodgson*



**John Hodgson MA FSA Scot ACIfA (739)
1959–2024**

*By Eleanor Kingston MCIfA, Lake District National Park;
Jane Hodgson; and Helen Maclagan, Affiliate*

John was the Lake District National Park's first archaeologist, appointed in 1993 and staying until his retirement in 2017. He organised many large-scale surveys including the prehistoric landscapes of the south-west fells and significant industrial remains such as the Coniston Copper Mines and Roughton Gill Mine, in partnership with Historic England. Conservation projects included the Howk Bobbin Mill, Rusland Tannery and most notably securing the conservation of Backbarrow Iron Furnace. Because of his experience and knowledge he was invited to join English Heritage's national Industrial Archaeology Panel. Still retaining his original passion for prehistoric archaeology, John undertook occasional fieldwork and co-authored the prehistory chapter for the North West Regional Research Framework.

John played a key role in securing World Heritage status for the English Lake District in 2017. He was crucial to securing the essential buy-in from the local community, and took many of the photographs – of a professional standard – that illustrated the nomination document.

John was well liked and respected across the professional and volunteer community. Many have described him as a man of great integrity and a pleasure to work with.

A more extensive obituary will appear in the Autumn Newsletter of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society.

Phil Mills BSc PhD MCIfA (1999)

by Duncan H Brown MCIfA

Phil Mills, who died on 12 March 2024, was an unfailing proponent of good practice in finds work and a master in the study of ceramic building material. A niche subject to many, Phil's superb analyses of the roofs of the Roman world showed how much can be learned from a find type that is often dismissed as ubiquitous but dispensable. His 2013 book, *The Ancient Mediterranean Trade in Ceramic Building Materials: A Case Study in Carthage and Beirut* (Archaeopress), based on his own work, stands as testament to the depth of his analysis and understanding.

Beyond his devotion to brick and tile, Phil 'Tileman' Mills twice served as Chair of the ClfA Finds Group, on the second occasion stepping up after the sudden resignation of the Chair. In that role he oversaw the *Review of the Standard of Reporting on Archaeological Artefacts in England* (by Alice Cattermole) and continued to advocate for a standard contract for freelance specialists.

There was much more to Phil than his devotion to archaeology, not least as a husband and father. Gentle, good-humoured, funny and intelligent, he was marvellous company. Aged just 56, Phil Mills has left us too soon and, as we are just realising, is irreplaceable.



Phil Mills in 2000 at the International Carthage Excavation Campaign. Photo: Esther Geerling