

# WROXETER ROMAN CITY, SHROPSHIRE: GAZETTEER OF HERITAGE ASSETS



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# WROXETER ROMAN CITY: GAZETTEER OF HERITAGE ASSETS

## Introduction

The aim of this gazetteer is to provide a comprehensive and cross-referenced list of the visible and buried heritage assets of Wroxeter Roman City. The assessment uses the standard criteria of the Scheduled Monuments assessment process as used in the Monuments Protection Programme (MPP) but arranges them on a proforma. The proforma is divided into two sections:

The **banner** gives locational details, cross-references to the Shropshire Historic Environment Record (HER) or listing record, and a unique identifying number (**Heritage Asset Number** or **HAN**) sorted by **Heritage Asset Types (HAT)**. Each HAT has its own colour, number sequence and symbol on the locational map provided. This will avoid confusion in the field if only black and white copies are available. Each HAN is individually illustrated. The HATs, HANs and HAT symbols/colours are as follows:

<b>Built Assets</b>	<b>100-199</b>	
<b>Fields</b>	<b>200-299</b>	
<b>Earthworks</b>	<b>300-399</b>	
<b>Linear features</b>	<b>400-499</b>	
<b>Buried Assets</b>	<b>500-599</b>	
<b>Natural Assets</b>	<b>600-699</b>	

References to HANs are colour-coded throughout when referred to elsewhere in the main text of the conservation plan and in other gazetteer entries. All HANs are plotted on individual maps G1-G6 within the gazetteer. Each map and HAN entry is on a single page so it can be laminated and taken into the field.

A separate sheet is numbered 670 after the Shropshire Scheduled Monument listing for the site and gives an overall description of the Monument as a whole. It can thus be used in a national sequence of heritage assets with the HATs pertaining to the individual site 670 nesting below. A HAN can thus technically be referred to as [670] HAN400, etc. to distinguish it from any other HAN from another site/monument.

The **body** of the document then lists the MPP-style assessment in the following order:

First, each entry has a **description of the evidence** relating to the asset and, in a separate box, its **Designation**, which offers an interpretation of the asset. Then three other values are described or listed: **Statement of Significance**: how important is the asset locally, regionally, nationally and from whence does that significance derive?

**Period**: date range of asset

**Documentation**: what are the principal sources of information relating to the asset?

The remaining values are subjectively given a hierarchy through tick boxes with notes if required.

**Rarity**: how rare is this type of asset, both regionally and nationally? Is it important as a good example of the commonplace and most typical?

**Group Value**: is the asset associated with other assets of the same period, or is it part of a sequence of sites which has developed through time?

**Survival / Condition**: how well does the asset survive, both above and below ground?

**Fragility / Vulnerability**: what are the threats to the asset, and how serious are they?

**Diversity**: are there variations in the type of asset specific to its region and period?

**Potential**: what potential does the asset have to teach us about the past? Can we predict if it is likely to contain as yet undiscovered archaeological evidence?

**Amenity value**: is it already accessible to the public?

**WROXETER ROMAN CITY (SHROPSHIRE SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT NO.670  
LIST OF HERITAGE ASSET NUMBERS BY HERITAGE ASSET TYPE**

<b>HAT</b>	<b>HAN</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>Built Assets</b>	100	Old Post Office / Smithy
	101	Farm Buildings
	102	Shelter shed
	103	Stable
	104	1 & 2 The Ruins
	105	Site museum
	106	The Cottage
	107	Wroxeter Terrace
	108	Topsy Cottage
	109	The Old Post Office
	110	The Wroxeter Hotel
	111	St Andrew's Wroxeter
	112	The Grange
	113	Gazebo
	114	The School House
	115	Glebe Cottage
	116	The Boathouse
	117	Mount Pleasant Cottages
	118	The Old Work
	119	The baths ruins
120	The churchyard and its gate	
<b>Fields</b>	200	EH field 7885; 0476
	201	EH field 6307
	202	NT Attingham Estate NE field
	203	EH field 7205
	204	EH field 9491
	205	EH field 8152
	206	EH field 5951 (part) Baths visitor site
	207	EH field 5951
	208	EH field 7525
	209	Millington field (glebe lands)
	210	Millington field (glebe lands)
	211	Millington field (glebe lands)
	212	EH field 2508
	213	Boathouse field
	214	Severn island
	215	EH field 2533
	216	Sycamore coppice
	217	EH field 3185 (south)
	218	EH field 1673
	219	EH field 3185 campsite
	220	EH field 4178
	221	EH field 3185 (north)
	222	NT Attingham Estate triangular field
	223	EH field 4405
224	NT Attingham Estate NW field	
<b>Earthworks</b>	300	Rampart NE
	301	Rampart E 1
	302	Rampart E 2
	303	Rampart SE
	304	Rampart S 1
	305	Rampart S 2
	306	Wroxeter manorial earthworks
	307	Rampart W
	308	Rampart NW
	309	Rampart total
	310	Wroxeter 'harbour'
311	Wroxeter village	
<b>Linear Features</b>	400	Whitchurch road
	401	Horseshoe Lane
	402	Green lane
	403	B4380 Ironbridge road
	404	Patch lane
	405	B4394 village road
406	B4394 Ruins road	

	407	Cliff road
	408	Stone wall by HAN216
	409	Stone wall at HAN106
	410	Stone Wall village
	411	Boathouse lane
<b>Buried Assets</b>	500	Pre-Roman Wroxeter
	501	Insula i
	502	Insula ii
	503	Insula iii
	504	Insula iv
	505	Insula v
	506	Insula vi
	507	Insula vii
	508	Insula viii
	509	Insula ix
	510	Insula x
	511	Insula xi
	512	Insula xii
	513	Insula xiii
	514	Insula xiv
	515	Insula xv
	516	Insula xvi
	517	Insula xvii
	518	Insula xviii
	519	Insula xix
	520	Insula xx
	521	Insula xxi
	522	Insula xxii
	523	Insula xxiii
	524	Insula xxiv
	525	Insula xxv
	526	Insula xxvi
	527	Insula xxvii
	528	Insula xxviii
	529	Insula xxix
	530	Insula xxx
	531	Insula xxxi
	532	Insula xxxii
	533	Insula xxxiii
	534	Insula xxxiv
	535	Insula xxxv
	536	Insula xxxvi
	537	Insula xxxvii
	538	Insula xxxviii
	539	Insula xxxix
	540	Insula xxxx
	541	Insula xxxxi
	542	Insula xxxxii
	543	Insula xxxxiii
	544	Insula xxxxiv
	545	Insula xxxxv
	546	Insula xxxxvi
	547	Insula xxxxvii
	548	Insula xxxxviii
	549	Cemetery (north)
	550	Middle Crows Green cemetery
	551	Legionary fortress and associated features
	552	Early Civil town AD90-120
	553	Mature Roman town AD120-500
	554	Late Roman / Post-Roman town AD500-650
	555	Medieval village AD650-1600
	556	Norton cropmarks
	557	Line of aqueduct
<b>Natural Assets</b>	600	Black Mulberry
	601	Veteran Oak

SHROPSHIRE SITE NUMBER: 670

<b>Location</b> Wroxeter Roman City, Shropshire		<b>Grid.ref.</b> (centred) SJ 5608	<b>Heritage Asset Type</b> URBAN AREA		<b>English Heritage Asset Number:</b>  <b>670</b>	
<b>Associated HER Nos.</b> 06487 MSA13147 06492 MSA13152 06495 MSA13155		<b>AMP ref.</b>		<b>NT ref.</b>	<b>EH Ref. No</b> Salop AM 670	<b>Compiler / Date</b> RHW July 2010
<b>Summary description of surviving evidence</b> Oval area of ca. 78ha. (180 acres) bounded by earthworks of bank and ditch defences on all but the west side where the river cliff for the River Severn forms the limit. Within the defined area lies the village of Wroxeter (at the south end) and a cluster of farm and other buildings at the central crossroads. A prominent valley containing the Bell Brook runs west-east across the north part of the monument. The enclosed area is largely down to pasture.			 <p>Figure 4. Plan of Wroxeter showing insulae numbers</p>		 <p>Figure 5. Aerial photograph of Wroxeter Roman City</p>	
<b>Designation</b> The protected (Scheduled) Heritage Asset is contained within the late 2 <sup>nd</sup> c. earthwork defences of the town but the asset also includes the buried asset of the Roman fortress and its annexe (HAN551), the 5-7 <sup>th</sup> cent. late antique town (HAN554) and the current largely farming landscape that evolved from the 7 <sup>th</sup> cent. to the present day, including a church, village houses and Victorian model farm complex.						
<b>Statement of Significance</b> A unique site that offers the opportunity to explore in detail the spatial components of a major Romano-British urban centre alongside its chronological depth, from its genesis, maturity and especially its demise in the early medieval period.						
<b>Period</b>		Roman, Medieval, Post-Medieval				
<b>Documentation</b>		R. White and P. Barker 1998 <i>Wroxeter. Life and Death of a Roman City</i> Tempus				
<b>Assessment of importance/significance</b>						
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Med.</b>	<b>Low</b>			
<b>Survival/condition</b>	✓			The asset has not been ploughed since the mid 1970s and excellent preservation of archaeology has been demonstrated where excavation has been carried out. There are many areas that have never been excavated.		
<b>Fragility/vulnerability</b>		✓		The remains are vulnerable to nighthawking and perhaps to long-term management issues such as the effects of artificial fertilizer on buried artefacts but are under the direct protection of the state.		
<b>Rarity</b>	✓			Practically unique in terms of levels of preservation but also in terms of appreciation of how Roman towns relate to their countryside. It is still possible to gain an understanding of this because of the relatively unchanged nature of the landscape around the monument.		
<b>Group value</b>	✓			Considered in regional terms, the towns of Wroxeter, Shrewsbury and Telford allow the development of a significant understanding of British urban history over the last two millennia.		
<b>Diversity</b>	✓			Good diversity of monument types within the limits of the site and good historical range.		
<b>Potential</b>	✓			Huge potential for the elucidation of Roman urban history in Britain through both excavation and remote sensing The site has unique potential for understanding transition from the Roman to early Medieval periods. The core potential for the site is its research value.		
<b>Amenity value</b>	✓			Excellent amenity value as a visitor attraction but also as a locale for education at all levels and for public engagement with history in its widest sense.		