

1: Caitlin Green: April

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Note, north is at the bottom of this map image: From this city sc. You journey hence through mountains and ravines for a month, till you reach the land of the Franks. It is a great city on the shore of the Western Ocean, ruled by seven kings. When the stranger wishes to enter it, he sleeps and cannot enter it, until the people of the city take him, to examine his intention and purpose in entering the city. They are the last of the lands of the Greeks, and there is no civilization beyond them. Furthermore, it would imply that this concept of the political situation in pre-Viking England was sufficiently well-known to have reached at least Rome, if not Constantinople, by the end of the ninth century, which is itself a point of some considerable significance. Ward and Ian Wood have pointed out. This has often been thought to refer to the consulship of Justinus in AD , which would itself be a point of considerable significance, but it has recently been powerfully argued that the consul in question is actually more probably the Emperor Justin II himself, who was consul successively from 565 AD , with this then underlying the statements made and recorded by Procopius in the mid-sixth century, is clearly worthy of some serious consideration. In support of such a contention, another rarely mentioned eastern account of early medieval Britain can be cited here, as it too seems to share this idea of Britain as a continuing element within the Byzantine Empire. It is found nowhere else, according to V. Barthold, but it clearly fits with the suggestions made above, namely that, from an eastern perspective, Britain was a place that continued to have some sort of relationship with the Byzantine Empire. As to its origins, it may be referring to the possibility of some sort of trading relationship between the the Islamic world and the British Isles in the eighth and ninth centuries, for which there is certainly some archaeological, numismatic and documentary evidence, or possibly to Spanish-English contacts in the tenth century. Greenway Oxford, , pp. An Archaeological Investigation London, ; L. Tracing the Emergence of Medieval Europe, Oxford, , pp. See also, for example, P. Sarris, Empires of Faith: For more sceptical views, see A. Charles-Edwards, Wales and the Britons, Oxford, , pp. Naismith et al ed. Studies in Memory of Mark Blackburn London, , pp. Britain and the Britons, AD , p. Heilo, Seeing Eye to Eye: Although she is claimed by very much later sources to be an otherwise unknown Irish saint, she actually bears a name identical to that of a martyred Greek saint, St Ia of Persia, whose important church in Constantinople-located next to the Golden Gate-was restored by the emperor Justinian in the sixth century: Bosworth with a preface by V. Barthold London, , pp. On the possibility of a degree of trading activity between the Islamic world and the British Isles in the eighth and ninth centuries, see C. Backhouse, The Making of England: Archaeological Excavations Dublin, , pp. Broaching Carolingian connections at Ballycottin, Co. Green, , All Rights Reserved, and should not be used without permission. Posted by Caitlin Green at.

2: Durocornovium - Wikipedia

Wanborough, near the modern town of Swindon, was a thriving small Roman town located on Ermin Street that stretched between Cirencester and Silchester. This report summarises the excavations that took place in advance of development and presents the finds (coins, metal objects, pottery, tiles, domestic and personal items), as well as.

Site[edit] The town, encompassing around 25 hectares at its peak, was located at Nythe Farm, east of the A adjacent to modern Swindon , although the site is usually associated with the village of Wanborough to the southeast. The farmland is a designated flood plain and has a history of inundation, alleviated by modern drainage, based on clay and gravel beds. There is no public access and no remains are visible. Excavations[edit] The following digs have been made at Durocornovium. Hoare made a visit to the site and found it had every mark of Roman residence, in coins, figured bricks, tiles, but unfortunately, had not preserved them. Interpretation[edit] Duro- is a Celtic word meaning "door" cognate at the Proto-Indo-European level with English door and Latin forum and, by extension, "enclosed market, square, forum, walled town, village". There is, however, a mention of a Cohors I Cornovium in Roman records and suggestions have been made that they were connected with the site, though no evidence exists. He was the son of Commius , king of the pro-Roman Atrebates tribe and is known to have controlled a mint at modern Silchester. Phase 1 habitation AD [edit] The original development is assumed to be military in nature and dates from the period when Roman legionaries built the road through the area, backed by the discovery of material dating from the reign of Nero. One building from this period has been identified, an apparently short-lived construction showing signs of iron working or blacksmithing, perhaps indicative of a mutatio horse station. The name suggests the presence of a legionary fort. The modern day name of the site reinforces the idea. Nythe is an anglicised version of nidum nest and a name applied to forts elsewhere, such as Neath in Wales. So far no evidence of this has come to light, though some ditches uncovered during excavation might possibly be those from a marching camp. With the military emphasis moving north the site was abandoned for at least twenty years before Britons resettled the place as shown by the remains of roundhouses dated to that time. Phase 2 habitation AD [edit] Durocornovium was the site of intensive building. The discovery of lime kilns and lead working point to building trades in full swing. Clearly it was benefiting from its location on the road, backed by a further southward road to Cunetio and Venta Belgarum The southward route is not mentioned in the Antonine Itinerary so may not have been considered as anything but a minor road by the Romans themselves. Perhaps more relevant was the political significance. Durocornovium rested on a junction of roads linking regional administration centres at Calleva Atrebatum , Corinium Dobunorum , and Venta Belgarum. As the names suggest, these towns were designated as civitas and used as governmental bases for control over the local British tribes. Stone buildings dominate this period and some evidence of monumental columns were found during roadworks. A mansio a sort of hotel for travelling officials has been identified metres from the road, a substantial structure that so far remains unexcavated. Other remains include a possible granary. Recent finds at Groundwell have pointed to the affluence of the area during the height of the Roman Empire. The discovery of a Nyphaeum, a shrine at a well-head, agrees with another Roman structure at a spring south of Durocornovium at Callas Hill. Swindon hill was inhabited largely for the availability of spring water and typically this was something the Romans recognised in their religious life, raising the possibility of a major temple site either destroyed or undiscovered. Remnants of monumental stonework were removed during bridge building which has raised speculation that the temple site is currently beneath a bridge pier. There is no evidence of any aqueduct, but given the close proximity of Dorcan Stream and the River Cole, it was unlikely one was needed. It appears the Roman roads were diverted slightly and some newer buildings were built on top of the old disused road surface. Although many Roman towns in the later empire built stone defences such as walls and a gatehouse identified at Cunetio , near Marlborough ten miles to the south this defensive work did not occur at Durocornovium. It may be this was impossible on the marshy ground existing at the time, or simply that it was economically not viable, and it is notable that the hill fort at Liddington immediately to the south was re-occupied in the 3rd century. It was not for shortage of stone: There was a unique development at

Durocornovium in the 4th century. Whilst it is possible that conventional stone buildings continued to be used, there was a proliferation of wooden buildings built on top of sarsen stone pilings to stay above ground level, a feature that explains the relative bounty of coins dating from that time as coins were dropped and lost through the floorboards. Such a change in architecture reflects what archaeologists believe was an increase in local flooding. It might also reflect changes in the economy and the availability of skilled trades. Post-Roman habitation[edit] After the removal of Roman legions from Britain at the beginning of the 5th century the civil administration collapsed within fifty years. With no economy to support the town, it was quickly abandoned. Saxon settlers used Durocornovium as a source of building material when they settled on Swindon Hill. Such removal of stone and damage from ploughing since the Dark Ages has effectively destroyed much of the evidence. The road through the site remained in use and a coin dating from the reign of Henry III was found embedded in the cobbled surface. Modern roads still follow the general course of those built by the Romans. Industry and commerce[edit] This was a town on a major communication link and for that reason a busy commercial element is probable. At Roman agricultural sites in the area, particularly to the south, the existence of ovens for drying corn indicates a trade in grain. The Romans also quarried stone from the hill to the west. Located in what is now West Swindon the Romans maintained a considerable pottery industry. The town has shown evidence of pottery remains from all over southern Britain, and some from Gaul and Africa, yet the potters of Durocornovium created a unique style of painted wares which never became fashionable nor widespread.

3: The Correspondence of John Aubrey (1, letters) – EMLO

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5: John Wacher (Author of The Towns of Roman Britain)

Wanborough, near modern Swindon, is the site of a Romano-British small town on Ermin Street, between Cirencester and Silchester. It is usually identified with the Durocornovium of the Antonine Itinerary.

6: The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: a Handbook

The Romano-British Small Town at Wanborough, Wiltshire: Excavations By A. S. Anderson, J. S. Wacher and A. P. Fitzpatrick.

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Durocornovium was a Roman town in Britain, situated on the Roman road between Corinium Dobunorum (Cirencester) and Calleva Atrebatum. In many ways Durocornovium was a typical small Roman town. In many ways Durocornovium was a typical small Roman town.

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