

Britannia

Roman Britain from Caesar to Arthur

8

The Post-Roman Era



EVENTS

Explore Archaeology Open House

11/5/2022 to 11/5/2022 | 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Program Location: Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 950 N Lombard St, Mahomet, IL 61853

Join museum staff, members of the East Central Illinois Archaeological Society (ECIAS), and the Illinois State Archaeological Survey in exploring the wondrous field of archaeology. Enjoy special displays, dioramas, films, activities, and artifacts of interest to both adults and children. Both historical and prehistoric archaeology will be covered. At 2 p.m., Larry and Marilyn Kinsella, flintknappers and storytellers, will present a program titled "Stories 'N Stone." The presentation will focus on the importance of stone in tribal mythology and the daily lives of past peoples.

All ages. FREE. Programs may be altered or cancelled due to weather or health related concerns.

For more info: (217) 586-2612 or pcain@ccfpd.org

Roman Britain about 410.

1 2 Routes of Caesar's expeditions to Britain (55-54 B.C.)

— Roman roads.
Names of native tribes thus:

Scale 1:5 000 000
Miles



CALEDONIA (SCOTLAND)
HIBERNIA (IRELAND)
Mona (I. of Man)
Mona (Angles)
OCEANUS HIBERNICUS (IRISH SEA)

Antonine
Flood R.
Arimonium
Cheviot Hills
Bremenian
Blatbulgion
Hadrian's Wall
Conspilum
Vinovia
Lanuvrae
Cataractonium
Eburacum (Colonia) (YORK)
Parisii
Legolium
Camboduanum
Anavio
Lindum (Colonia) (Lincoln)
Abus. Aest. (Ebor. R.)
Mabius. Aest. (the Wash)
Bremetonnacum
Ickley
Iboracum
Cocclum
Deva (Chester)
Aque
Viroconium (Worcester)
Lelocetan
Bravonium
Tribanovantes
Trisantonacum
Ratae (Abercester)
Durobrivae
Venonae
Bannogventa
Lactodorun
Durocobrivae
Verulamium (St. Albans)
Corinium (Herecester)
Londinium (London)

OCEANUS GERMANICUS (NORTH SEA OR GERMAN OCEAN)

Segontium
Canovian
Ordoevices
Carnovian
Maraidunum
Delecta
Isca Silurum (Caerleon)

Clanovaria
Monapia (I. of Man)
Cumbrian Mts.
Galava
Carnovian
Viroconium (Worcester)
Lelocetan
Bravonium
Magnae
Gobarnium
Glevum (Gloucester)
Isca Silurum (Caerleon)
Venta Siturnum
Aqua Sulis (Bath)
Sorbiodunum (Salisbury)
Durotriges
Moridunum
Vectis (I. of Wight)

Brannoduan
Iceni
Venta Icenorum (Castor, Bury St. Edmunds)
Tribanovantes
Canulodunum (Colchester)

Isca Dumnoniorum (Exeter)

Belgae
Venta Belgarum (Winchester)
Clausentum (Southampton)
Regnum (Exeter)
Durovernum (Canterbury)
Regulbium
Inaus I.
Autupiae
Durobrivae
Fretum Galliarum (Strait of Dover)
Gesoriacum (Boulogne)

OCEANUS BRITANNICUS (ENGLISH CHANNEL)



The only real evidence concerning the rescript comes from Zosimus, who says;

Honorius wrote letters to the cities in Britain, bidding them to take precautions on their own behalf.

AD 406



key
Bur Burgundians
Thur Thuringians

The Fall of the Western Empire

In 394, after a series of civil wars, Theodosius was master of both halves of the empire. The cost of victory was high. Large barbarian mercenary armies, which even included Huns, had been used by both sides, and thousands of them refused to go home after Theodosius's success. Alaric, a great leader of the Visigoths, kept his army in the Balkans, plundering at will. This unhappy legacy passed to Theodosius's sons, Arcadius and Honorius, who inherited the Eastern and Western Empires on their father's death in 395. Honorius was also left a guardian, whom he used but increasingly resented—a great general of Vandal birth named Stilicho.

For the next few years Stilicho

wielded real power in the West. He failed to beat Alaric in Greece in 397, and in the process made an enemy of Arcadius who ruled the Eastern Empire. The furious eastern emperor responded by employing Alaric, and thus gave his dangerous Gothic horde a sort of respectability within the empire. Stilicho and Alaric skirmished and plotted for advantage. The Gothic chief was arranging to join Stilicho in a treacherous invasion to take over the Balkans from the Eastern to the Western Empire when, in the winter of 406/407, disaster struck. For his wars in Greece and Italy, Stilicho had stripped the defences of Britain and Germany to the bone. Now the hardest winter for

years actually froze the waters of the mighty Rhine—and the great natural barrier to the barbarian migrations disappeared. A huge confederation of Vandals, Suevians and Alans poured across the ice, swept away the last Roman garrisons on the west bank, and spread out through Gaul, killing and pillaging.

A usurping general, Constantine, brought troops from Britain and tried to take over parts of Gaul and Spain in the confusion. Alaric advanced on Italy again, and had to be bought off with huge bribes. Honorius had Stilicho murdered, tried to resist Alaric himself, and failed miserably. Rome itself was besieged by the Visigoths, and after negotiations

broke down in the summer of 410, Alaric sacked the city. The government had moved to Ravenna, but the shock of the fall of Rome was tremendous. Roman generals and barbarian kings scrambled for power all over the West in eight years of chaotic wars and plotting. By the time a kind of peace was restored in 418, the map had changed forever.

Britain was abandoned to its fate in 410 and was lost to the empire forever. Honorius admitted that Rome could no longer defend it against the attacks of sea-faring barbarians from northern Europe and Ireland, and of Picts from Scotland. Spain was in turmoil as Vandals, Suevians, Alans, Goths, and

surviving Roman troops fought for power. Northern France was also in chaos. Italy was safe for the time being, thanks to the real power in Europe—the Visigoths, who were now officially granted a large part of central and southern France as a kingdom allied to Rome. This Gothic kingdom of Aquitaine allowed the Roman court at Ravenna to keep an appearance of power, but only when it suited them. The Roman Empire of the West was just a great memory.

Right: The Emperor Honorius, who presided over the fall of the Western Empire from 395-423.

Below: Crossing the frozen Rhine.



AD 406

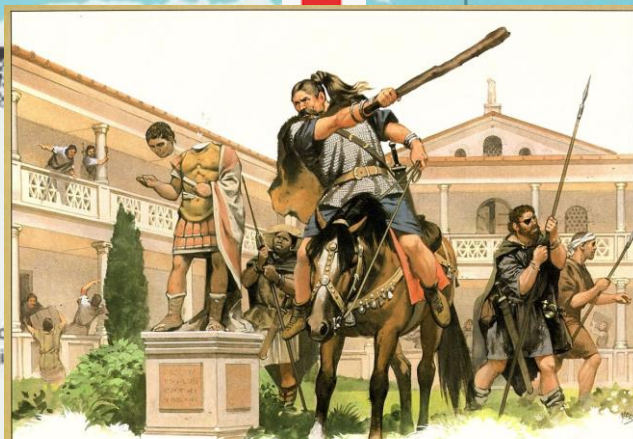


key
Bur Burgundians
Thur Thuringians

AD 420



Key
 Bur Burgundians
 Thur Thuringians



In 410, Emperor Honorius had other things to worry about.

The Post-Roman Centuries: some basic points

—The end of Roman rule brought a sharp decline in material culture. Coins and money economy ended, pottery and other items were locally produced and cruder, towns shrank or disappeared.

—Although Roman government and army were gone, the British landowning elite was still there, dominating society and regarding themselves as “Romans.”

—With central government gone, that elite rapidly became the rulers of local domains and petty kingdoms. Although real Romans had always rejected the title of “rex” (king), these British warlords had no problem with calling themselves kings.

—The Christian Church survived, keeping alive the Latin language and what literacy there still was.

—Threats of raiding or invasion by Scots (from Ireland) and Picts (from Scotland) continued, as did the growing threat of Germanic peoples from across the North Sea: Angles, Saxons, and Jutes.



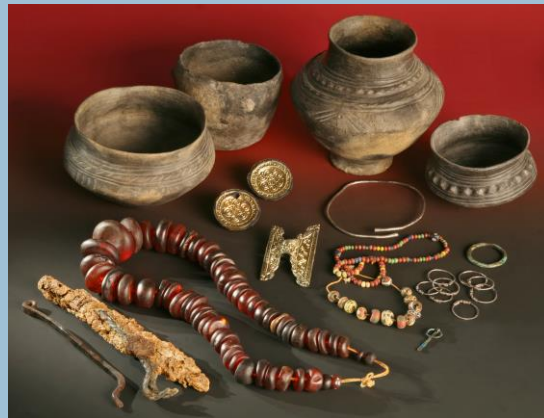
Gallo-Roman landlord hands over property rights to a Burgundian warlord, late 5th century.

In Gaul, the Roman elite was able to adjust to barbarian rule. The Germanic peoples had long experience with Roman ways, and were often already Christian.

In Britain, these conditions did not apply.

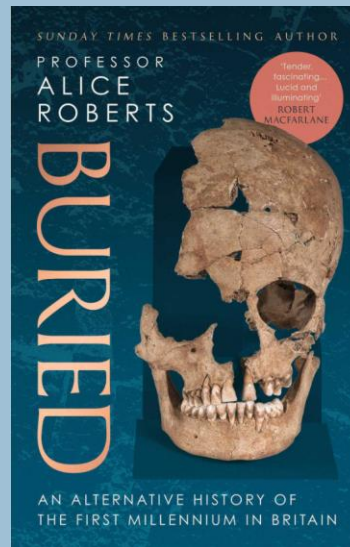
The coming of the English: the great debate has finally been resolved.

Whenever something dramatically new appears in the archaeological record, the question is asked: Is this due to new peoples moving in, or new ideas and culture adopted by the people already there?



This question about post-Roman Britain has been intensely debated for many decades.

Prof. Roberts' book Ancestors (2021) examined British prehistory; Burials (2022) does the same for the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods.



She mentions the major project studying genetic and isotopic information from 5th-century cemeteries, noting that its findings were delayed for more than a year by Covid.

Those findings were released two months after her book was published!

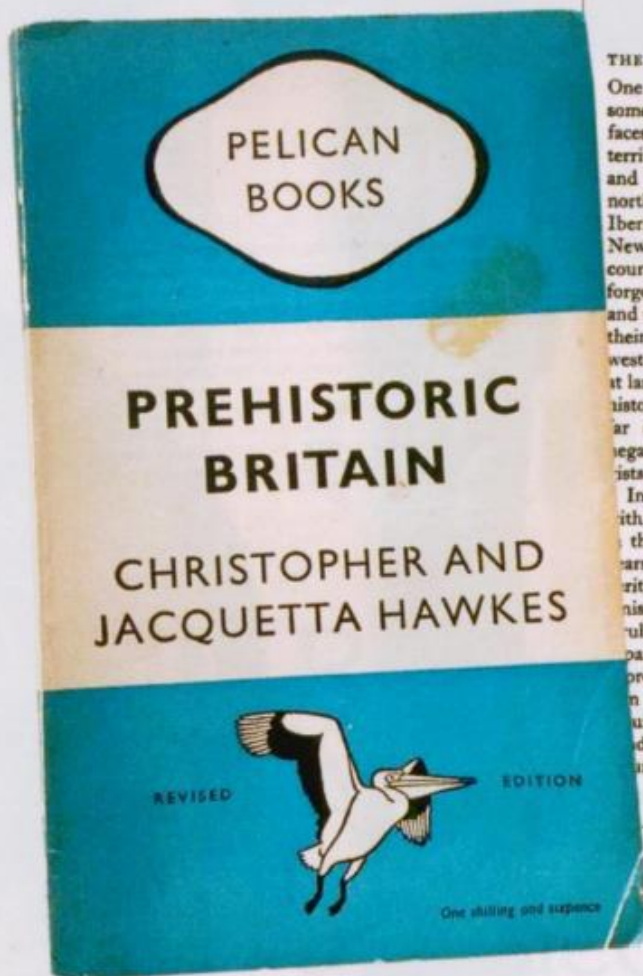
The fifth century saw the appearance of Germanic artifacts, burial customs, house styles, and above all language—Old English replacing Brittonic (Celtic), spreading from the eastern coast inland.



The traditional older view was that this was the product of Anglo-Saxon invasions: warrior bands followed by migrating peoples, pushing the native British to the west.

In the 1960s a new view emerged: these changes were the result of the preexisting population adopting the culture of the Anglo-Saxons, perhaps with a small warrior elite moving in to take charge.

BELOW & RIGHT In 1943, *Prehistoric Britain* imagined an invasion of 'warlike races' – something vigorously refuted by Grahame Clark in his influential *Antiquity* paper of 1966.



The Invasion Hypothesis in British Archaeology

by GRAHAME CLARK

The last 150 years of archaeological writing in Britain have seen the adoption and propagation of many models of thought, of which the most influential, necessary and popular was the technological model of the successive ages of Stone, Bronze and Iron. In this article the Disney Professor of Archaeology in the University of Cambridge, England, examines the invasion model in relation to British archaeology and other models of prehistorical thought.

This article is based on a lecture given in the University of Aarhus earlier this year.

THE BACKGROUND

One of the basic facts about England—from some points of view the basic fact—is that it faces east across the North Sea to a broad arc of territories from the Low Countries to Denmark and the Scandinavian Peninsula; south to northern France, the Biscayan seaboard and Iberia; and west to the Atlantic Ocean and the New World, the discovery of which was in due course, long after prehistoric times had been forgotten, to transform both its own destiny and that of Europe. The imperial adventures of their fellow-countrymen, in the course of which western civilization was mediated to the world at large, however much they may have coloured historical and political thought, have never so far as can be seen, distorted, unless in a negative sense, the vision of British archaeologists.

In this respect there is a strange contrast with Germany, where the growth of imperialism in the closing years of the 19th and the early years of the 20th century was marked by a detestable chauvinism of prehistory, a chauvinism tinged with racialism, of an exceedingly virulent and sinister kind. The British took the expansion of their power in the world almost as providence rather than any qualities of their own was responsible. Was not the Empire required in a fit or series of fits of absence of mind? By the same token it would never have occurred to British archaeologists to vaunt

British superiority in the Stone Age, to distort chronology and ascribe every glimmer of light in the cultural world, not merely of Europe but of Asia, to the tonic incursions of a morally superior and racially satisfactory weapon-bearing *Urbritischkulturvolk*. Quite the contrary has been the case: the ancient Briton may have been taken seriously during the romantic era, especially when clad in druidical garb, but ever since he has been a figure of fun, if not of scorn.

So little did British archaeologists of the era from Kipling to Winston Churchill feel the need to underpin the Empire with prehistoric props that they went out of their way to ascribe every good thing about their early past to foreign influences, if not indeed to foreign conquerors. So anxious were some of them to avoid ascribing any innovation to their own forbears that one might say that they were suffering from a form of invasion neurosis. For much of the first half of the 20th century British archaeologists felt themselves under strong compulsion to ascribe every change, every development to overseas influences of one kind or another. The more accessible parts of the Continent between Portugal and Norway, or more often the literature bearing on these, were searched hopefully for analogies. So sure were prehistorians that every new thing must have come from the Continent that even quite vague similarities

The intense debate between these two positions reflected changing cultural views in the late 20th century. Imperialism and invasions were now unpopular and out of fashion; peaceful change of society was now favored, and theories of how this could happen were widely discussed and debated.

The question has now been answered, thanks to new scientific developments.



November 2022 !

The question has now been answered, thanks to new scientific developments.



The migration question

Re-grounding Anglo-Saxon archaeology

Was the arrival of the 'Anglo-Saxons' in England a limited elite takeover, an invasion force, or a mass movement of migrants? Perceptions of the immediate post-Roman period have shifted and evolved over the centuries. **John Hines** places the new genetic data explored in this issue in the context of research history.

ABOVE John Speed's map of c.1611 depicts the kings who reportedly conquered parts of southern Britain and founded the earliest Anglo-Saxon kingdoms there in the 5th and 6th centuries – as imagined in the early 17th century. Here we see Hengist of Kent, Ella of Sussex, and Cerdic of Wessex.

Revisiting the Adventus Saxonum, again

Exploring the implications of new evidence

Following this issue's explorations of genetic data, cemetery and skeletal evidence, and isotope analysis, **Joanna Story** reflects on the significance of the research, and its place within the bigger picture of understanding the early Middle Ages.

BELOW 'Spung Man' sits on the lid of a mid-fifth-century cremation urn from Spung Hill in Norfolk.



The history of the Adventus Saxonum is a fascinating one. The stories that were told in the Middle Ages about 'the Arrival of the Saxons' on the island of Britain, and the influence of those stories on later audiences, reveal a lot about notions of collective identity. This is true both at the times these texts were written down, and in later ages when these stories were reread and reused by audiences who turned to them, wishing to discover their own histories, often in search of origins, explanations, or justifications for contemporary views on nation, race, or religion.

The key word here is 'story'. All of our early sources about this period of transition were retrospective views. Early medieval authors explained the circumstances of their own day by laying down a plausible historical pathway to their own time which was meaningful to their immediate audiences.

Writing in the mid-6th century, Gildas railed against the leaders of his own people, the Britons, blaming their impious actions for the arrival of the Saxons. He is our first major 'witness' to the impact of the Saxons on Britain and its inhabitants. But



Isotopes and aDNA

Teasing apart ancestry versus migration in early medieval England

The previous articles in this issue have focused primarily on ancient DNA – but what can isotopic analysis add to this picture? **Sam Leggett** explores how this technique can complement genetic analysis, and how it illuminates the experiences of people living centuries earlier.

ABOVE Cleaned teeth (after having been through a sonic bath and dried in the oven) set to undergo isotope analysis.

Ancient DNA (“aDNA”) can now be analyzed, showing what region a person’s ancestry came from.



Isotope analysis (principally of teeth) can show the chemical makeup of soil and water in the region in which individuals spent their youth.



Some main themes and conclusions....

New scientific techniques continue to produce fascinating new information, sometimes answering questions that have been asked for many decades...

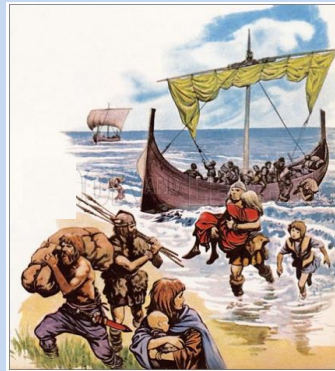
...not just new fashions, but new peoples moving in.



Neolithic farmers 4000 BC



Beaker people 2500 BC



Anglo-Saxon migration, AD 450

AD 451



Foederati (singular foederatus) were peoples and cities bound by a treaty (foedus) to support Rome, coming to its aid when called upon.



The best-known example came in AD 451, when the forces of Attila the Hun threatened the west. Roman forces joined with foederati (Visigoths, Franks, Burgundians, Alans and Saxons) to defeat the Hun forces.

In Britain, this may have happened on a smaller scale. Writing a century later, the monk Gildas used the term “foederati” to describe Saxon mercenaries invited to Britain to aid in defense against Picts and Scots (c. AD 440).



British warlord Vortigern greeting the Saxon leaders Hengist and Horsa.

Those Saxons are said to have rebelled and brought in more of their people, beginning the Anglo-Saxon settlement (traditional view, much debated!).

AD 476



key
Bur Burgundians
Thur Thuringians

Britain 400 – 500 Anglo-Saxon Homelands and Settlements

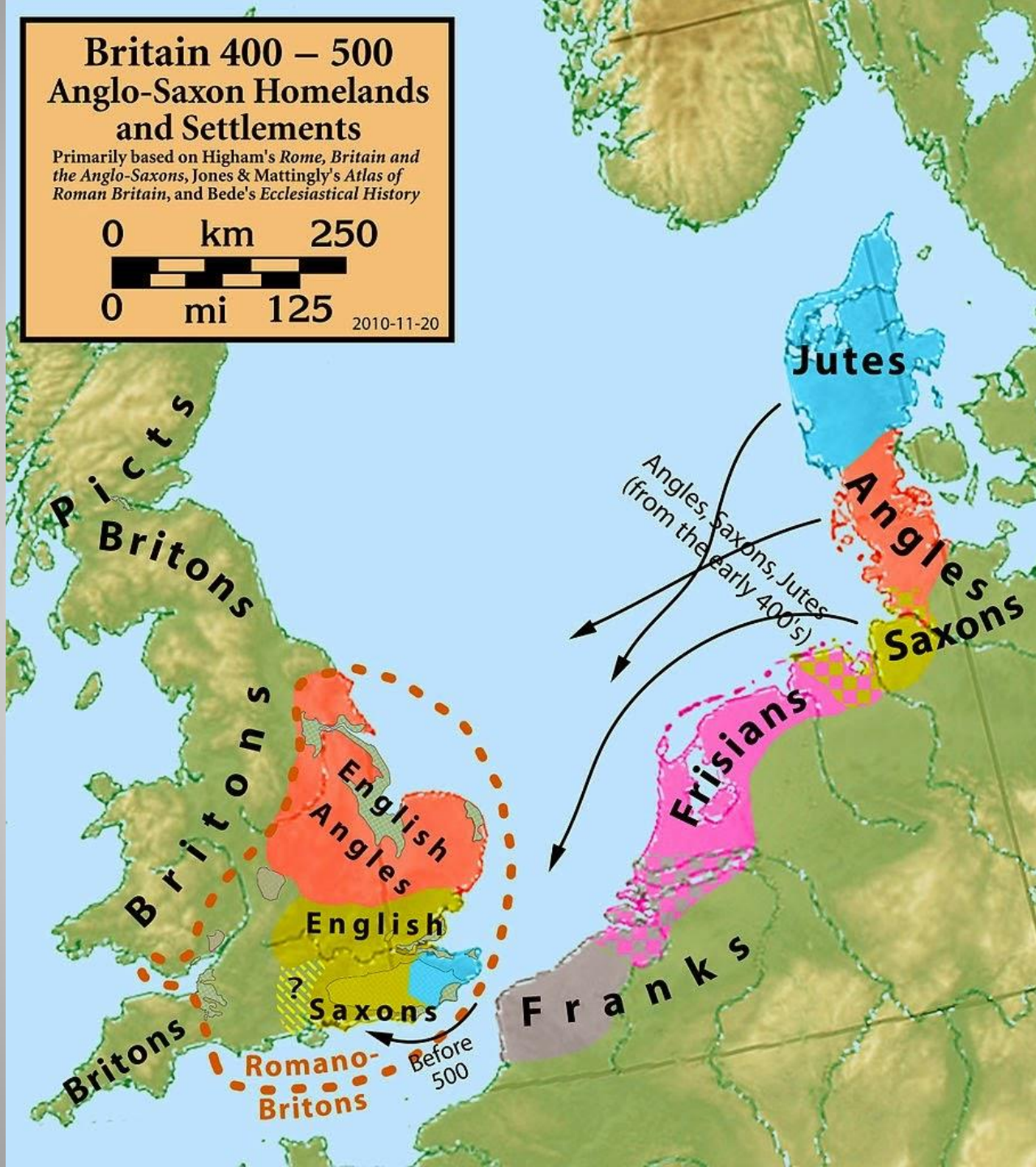
Primarily based on Higham's *Rome, Britain and the Anglo-Saxons*, Jones & Mattingly's *Atlas of Roman Britain*, and Bede's *Ecclesiastical History*

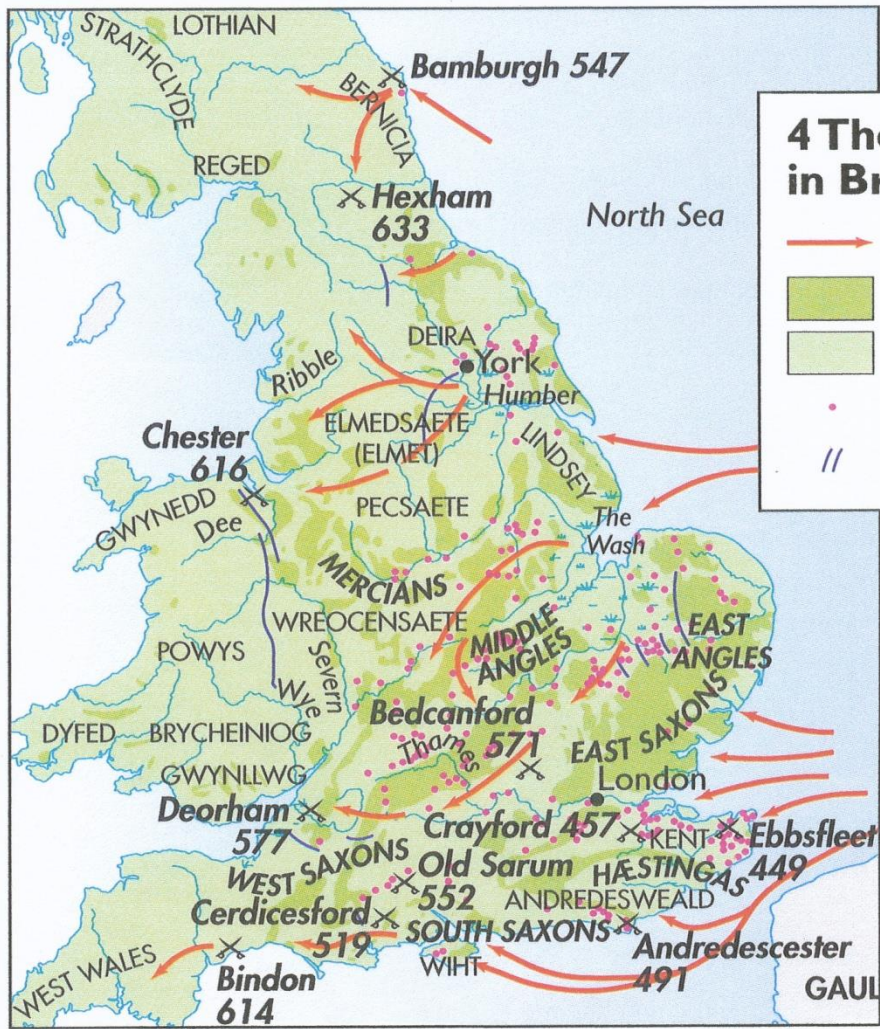
0 km 250



0 mi 125

2010-11-20





4 The Anglo-Saxon settlement in Britain, c. 449–650

- lines of Anglo-Saxon advance
- forest
- fenland, swamp
- Anglo-Saxon burial places c. 450–650
- // British fortifications

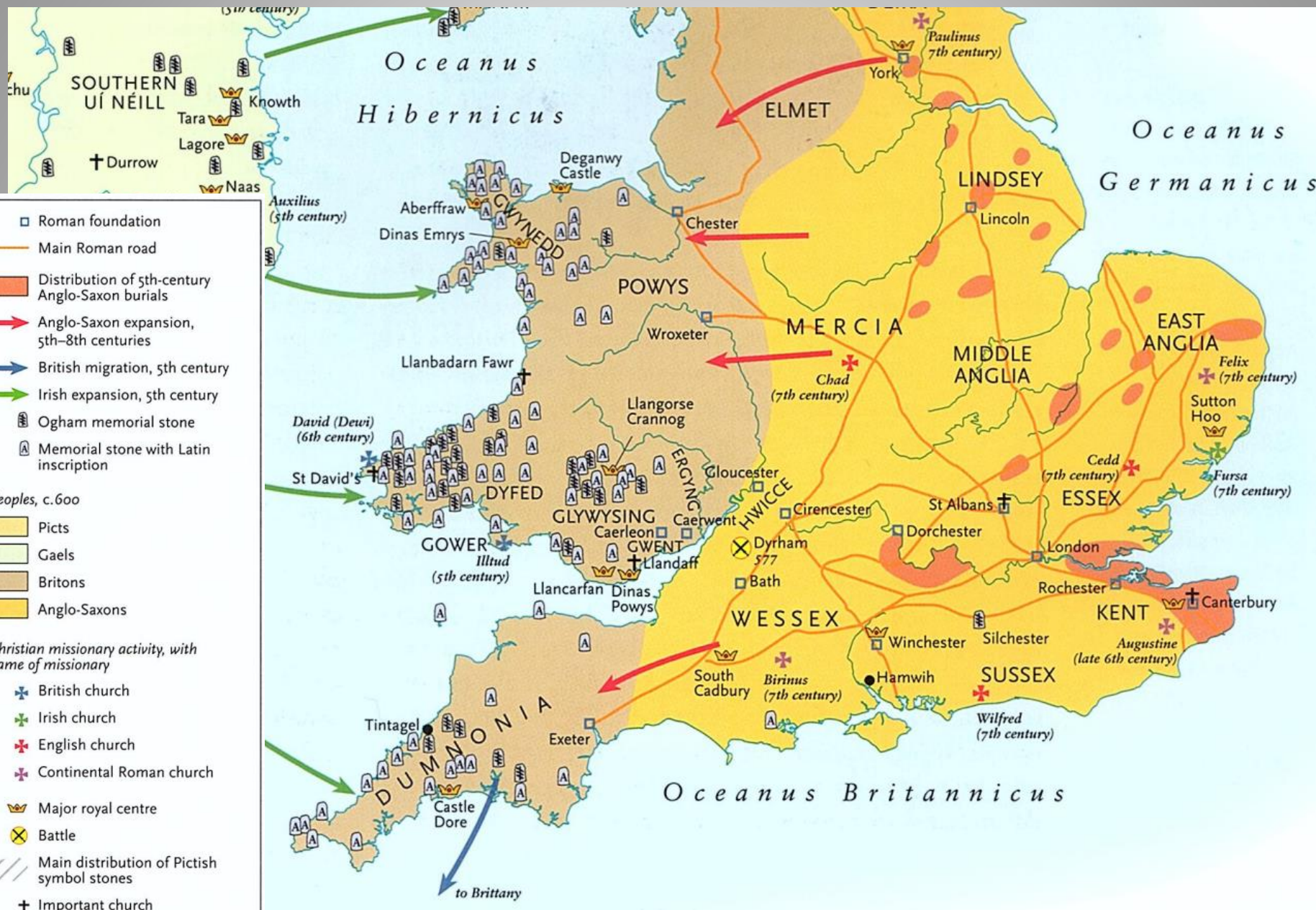
4 The first Germanic settlers in Britain were probably mercenaries in Roman service. In the early 5th century the last Roman legions left Britain and the numbers of barbarian incomers increased (**map above**). According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, the Anglo-Saxons set up their own kingdoms from about the middle of the 5th century, establishing control of most of modern England by about 650.

The migration period
c.400–600

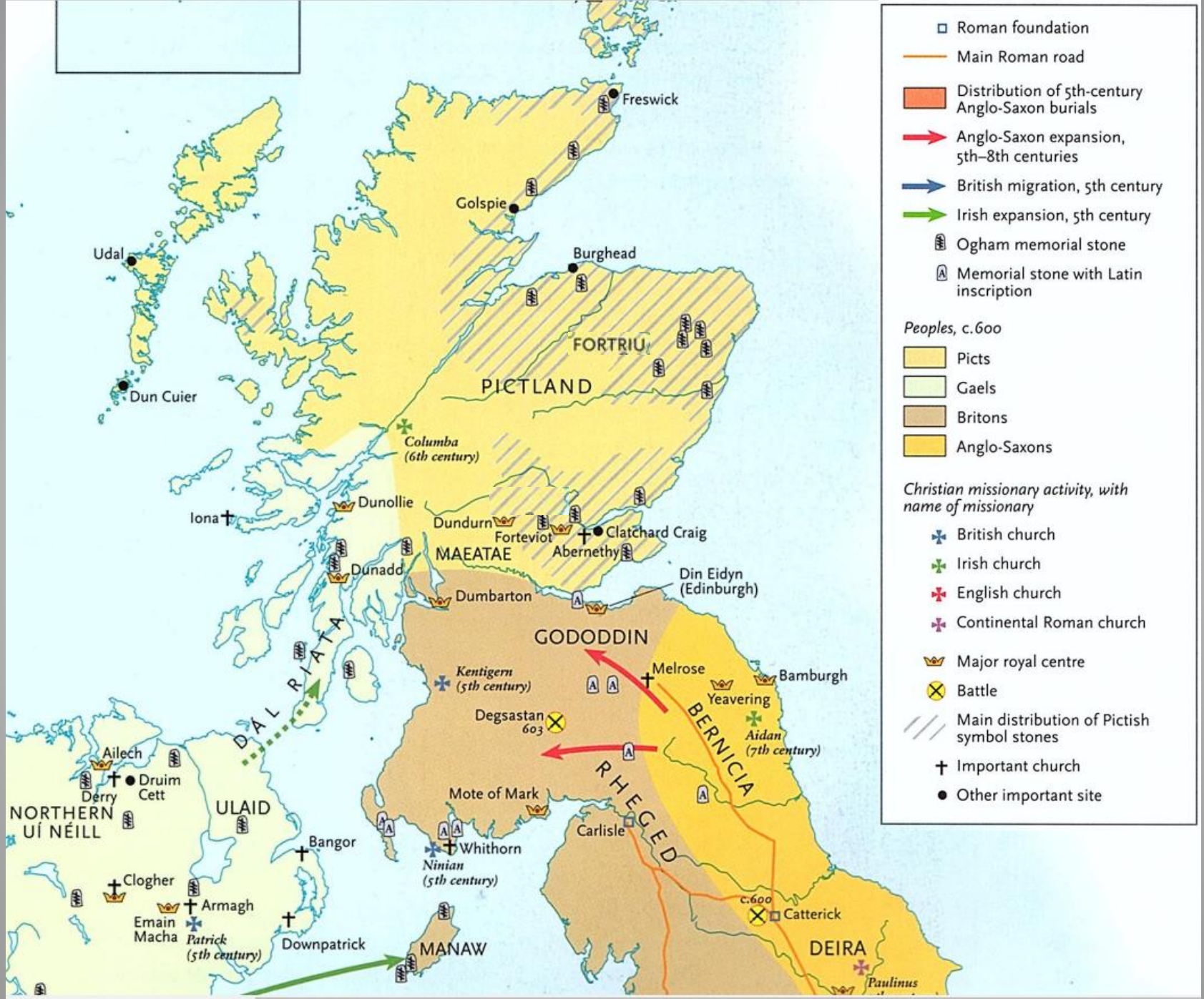
Archaeology has begun to shed some light on the 'Dark Ages', where documentary evidence is lacking. The distribution of pagan 5th-century Anglo-Saxon burials indicates the probable areas of earliest English settlement in Britain. The English advance continued throughout the period – though both English and British kingdoms fought as often amongst themselves as against each other. Inscriptions in the Irish ogham alphabet – also adopted by the Picts – point to areas of Irish settlement in southwest England, west Wales and southwest Scotland; Latin memorial stones reflect successful British campaigns to drive the Irish out. Meanwhile, British and then Irish missionaries spread Christianity throughout Ireland and among the Picts; by the end of the period Irish, continental and native English missionaries had also begun the conversion of the English.







THE MIGRATION PERIOD

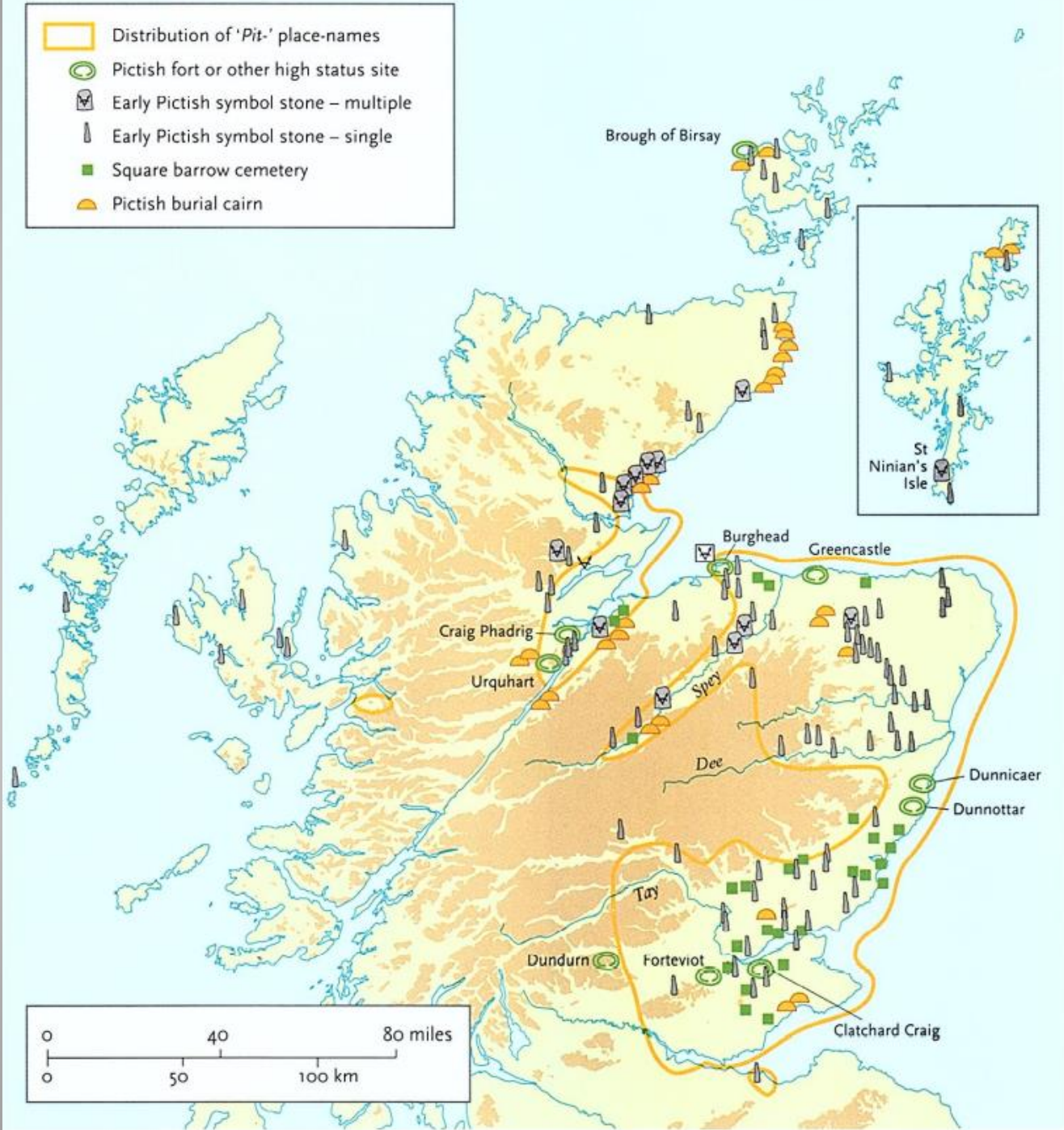




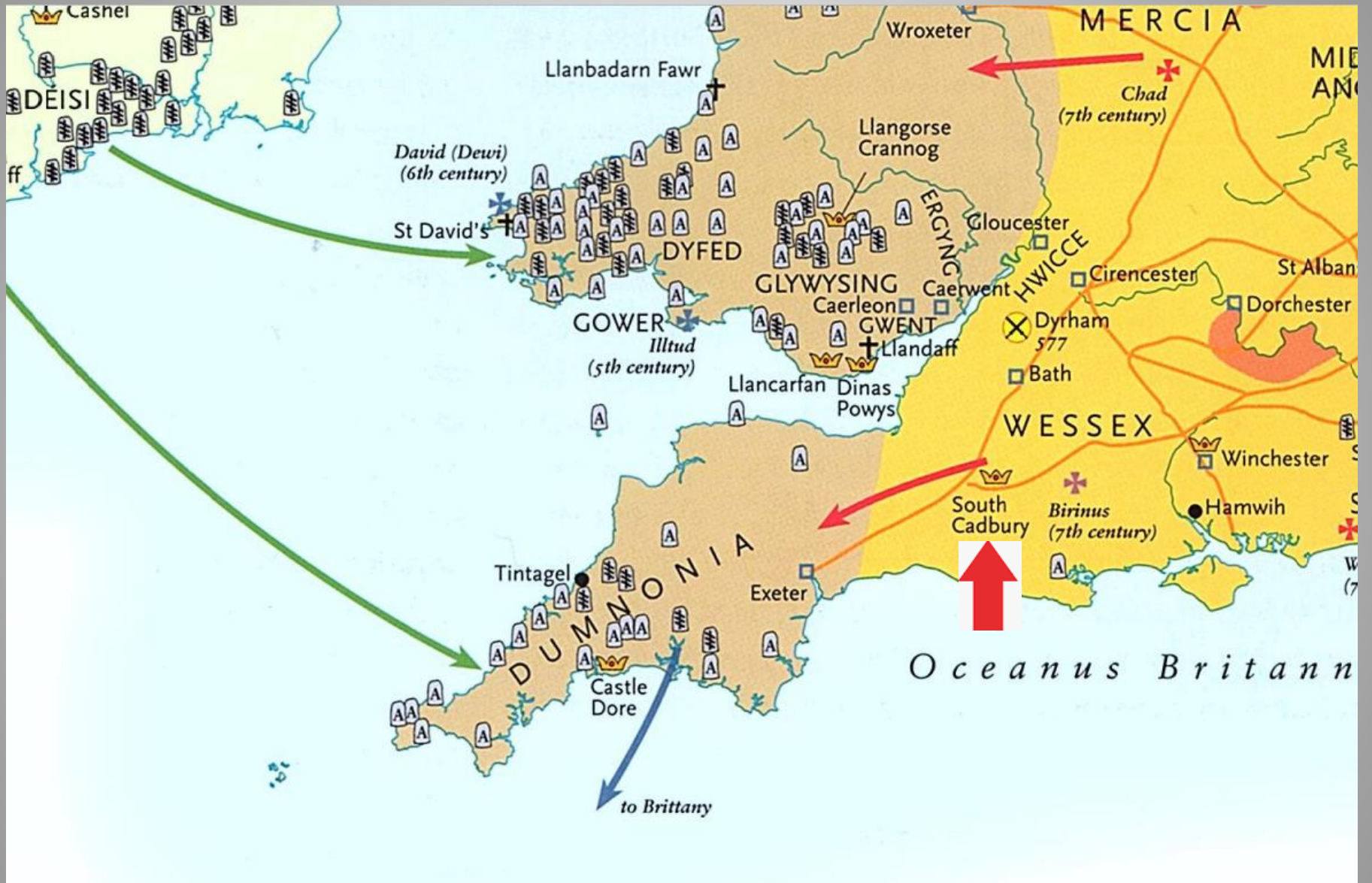
- Roman foundation
 - Main Roman road
 - Distribution of 5th-century Anglo-Saxon burials
 - Anglo-Saxon expansion, 5th–8th centuries
 - British migration, 5th century
 - Irish expansion, 5th century
 - ⊕ Ogham memorial stone
 - ⊕ Memorial stone with Latin inscription
- Peoples, c.600**
- Picts
 - Gaels
 - Britons
 - Anglo-Saxons
- Christian missionary activity, with name of missionary**
- ⊕ British church
 - ⊕ Irish church
 - ⊕ English church
 - ⊕ Continental Roman church
 - ⊕ Major royal centre
 - ⊕ Battle
 - /// Main distribution of Pictish symbol stones
 - ⊕ Important church
 - Other important site



-  Distribution of 'Pit-' place-names
-  Pictish fort or other high status site
-  Early Pictish symbol stone – multiple
-  Early Pictish symbol stone – single
-  Square barrow cemetery
-  Pictish burial cairn







ARTHUR'S BRITAIN: the Post-Roman Era, 5th and 6th Centuries

REFERENCE WORKS:

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- B. Cunliffe, R. Bartlett, J. Morrill, A. Briggs and J. Bourke, eds., **The Penguin Atlas of British and Irish History** (2001)
- Norris J. Lacy, ed., **The New Arthurian Encyclopedia** (updated ed., 1996)
- Christopher Snyder, **The World of King Arthur** (2000, rev. ed. 2011).
- Christopher Snyder, ed., **Early Peoples of Britain and Ireland: An Encyclopedia** (2 vols., 2008).

STANDARD ACCOUNTS (ACCEPTING ARTHUR'S REALITY):

- Leslie Alcock, **Arthur's Britain** (1971, reprinted with new preface and bibliography, 1989).
- Geoffrey Ashe, ed., **The Quest for Arthur's Britain** (1968)

RECENT ACCOUNTS:

- Thomas Charles-Edwards, ed., **After Rome** ("Short Oxford History of the British Isles," 2003)
- Guy Halsall, **Worlds of Arthur: Facts and Fictions of the Dark Ages** (2013)
- Nicholas Higham, **King Arthur: Myth-Making and History** (2002)
- Ronald Hutton, **Witches, Druids and King Arthur** (2003)
...in this essay collection, see "Arthur and the Academics" and "Glastonbury: Alternative Histories."
- Francis Pryor, **Britain A.D.: A Quest for Arthur, England and the Anglo-Saxons** (2004).
- Alice Roberts, **Buried: An Alternative History of the First Millennium in Britain** (2022)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS:

- Leslie Alcock, **Cadbury Castle, Somerset: The Early Medieval Archaeology** (1995).

Susan Hirst and Philip Rahtz, "Liddington Castle and the Battle of Badon: Excavations and Research 1976," **Archaeological Journal** (153), 1996.

NOVELS:

- Alfred Duggan, **Conscience of the King** (1951).
...fifth-century Britain, the arrival of the Saxons, and Arthur, as viewed by Cerdic, founder of Wessex, a king with no conscience at all.
- Rosemary Sutcliffe, **Sword at Sunset** (1963)
...very good portrayal of the Arthurian saga in an accurate sixth-century setting.
- Gene Wolfe, **Castlevew** (1990).
*...an Arthurian fantasy set in present-day Illinois. Very strange! (For a good review/explanation of this novel, see Joe R. Christopher, "A Second View of Castlevew," in *Quondam et Futurus* [the name for *Arthuriana* during the first three years of the journal], 3(3), Fall 1993.*

WEBSITES:

Arthuriana: the Journal of Arthurian Studies
[Arthuriana](#)

Arthurian Resources
...comprehensive website maintained by Thomas Green, Oxford University
<http://www.arthuriana.co.uk/>

Wikipedia article: "King Arthur"
...thorough and fully annotated.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Arthur

Fred Christensen
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November 2022

- 1: Romano-British militiaman, 6th C
2: North British cavalryman, 6th C
3: Welsh tribal warrior, 5th-6th C



THE
WORLD
OF
KING
ARTHUR



CHRISTOPHER SNYDER

Thames & Hudson

A good survey of all things Arthurian!

Celtic torc, gold, (1st century AD)



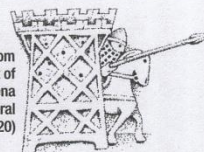
Bronze hanging-bowl (5th or 6th century)



Pictish warrior gravestone inscription (8th century)



Detail from archivolt of Modena Cathedral (c.1120)



BRITAIN AND IRELAND

- Claudius invades Britain (43)
- Revolt of Boudica (60/61)
- Construction of Hadrian's Wall begins (122)
- Lucius Artorius Castus commanded Sarmatian cavalry in Britain (175)

- Picts, Saxons, Scots and Atacotti harass Britain (364)
- Magnus Maximus declared emperor (383)
- Stilicho withdraws troops from Britain (401 or 402)
- Election of usurpers Marcus, Gratian and Constantine III (406–7)
- Britain devastated by Saxon incursions (408 or 410)
- Britons revolt from Roman Empire (409)
- St Germanus of Auxerre sent to Britain (429)
- Britons ask Agitius for aid against barbarians
- Patrick's mission in Ireland
 - *Superbus tyrannus* invites Saxon mercenaries to Britain
 - Ambrosius Aurelianus leads British forces against the Saxons
 - Battle of Mount Badon and birth of Gildas (c.485)
 - Entry for Battle of Badon in *Annales Cambriae* (518)
 - Gildas's *De Excidio Britanniae* (c.529)
 - Entry for the Battle of Camlann in *Annales Cambriae* (539)
 - Battle of Arderydd, in which Myrddin goes mad (c.573)
 - Battle of Dyrham (577)
 - Battle of Catraeth (c.590)
 - St Augustine arrives at Canterbury and the death of St Columba at Iona (597)
 - Aneirin composes *Y Gododdin*
 - St Kentigern's mission in Strathclyde
 - Kingdom of the Gododdin destroyed (638)
 - Bede completes his *Ecclesiastical History* (731)

- Harleian manuscript produced, containing *Historia Brittonum* and *Annales Cambriae*
- *Culhwch ac Olwen* is written down
- Geoffrey of Monmouth's *History of the Kings of Britain* (c.1136–38)
- Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Life of Merlin* (c.1150)

FRANCE

- Witnesses in Gaul observe that part of Britain has fallen to the Saxons (c.441)

- Wace's *Roman de Brut* (c.1155)
- Chrétien de Troyes writes five Arthurian romances (c.1170–91)

GERMANY

REST OF WORLD

- Visigoths sack Rome; Honorius urges cities of Britain to see to their own defence (410)

- Archivolt of Modena Cathedral (c.1120)

The timeline above is intended to help readers visualize the temporal span of the significant figures, historical events and creative works mentioned in this book. At the same time, it reveals how these elements may have influenced one another. Also evident from such a chart is the remarkable longevity of the Arthurian myth.

The chronology is less precise in its early medieval phase than in later eras. While the historical and mythological roots of Arthurian stretch back into antiquity, most scholars have considered the fifth and sixth centuries (shaded above) to be the most formative. For some, this is because the historical Arthur may actually have lived in this period – thus it is often known collo-



The Sword in the Stone, from a medieval manuscript illumination

Guinevere, detail from a stained glass window designed by William Morris (19th century)



Prince Valiant, created by Hal Foster in 1937

• Layamon's *Brut*

• *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

• Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur* (1470)

• Edmund Spenser writes *The Faerie Queene* (1590–96)

• Alfred Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*

• T.H. White's *The Sword in the Stone* (1938)

• Rosemary Sutcliff's *Sword at Sunset* (1963)

• Leslie Alcock's excavations at Cadbury 'Camelot' (1966–70)

• *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (1975)

• John Boorman's *Excalibur* (1981)

• Geoffrey Ashe's *Discovery of King Arthur* (1985)

• Robert de Boron's *Merlin*

• The anonymous *Perlesvaus*

• French Vulgate cycle (1215–35)

• Post-Vulgate cycle (1230–40)

• Joseph Bédier's *Le Roman de Tristan et Iseut* (1900)

• Founding of the International Arthurian Society (1949)

• Hartmann von Aue's *Erec and Iwein*

• Ulrich vonatzikhoven's *Lanzelet*

• Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Parzifal* (1210)

• Gottfried von Strassburg's *Tristan* (1210)

• Richard Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* (1865)

• Richard Wagner's *Parzifal* (1882)

• Hal Foster's *Prince Valiant* appears in American newspapers

• *Camelot* opens on Broadway (1960)

• Marion Zimmer Bradley's *The Mists of Avalon* (1982)

• The NBC-TV mini-series *Merlin* (1998)

• Dante's *Inferno* (c.1310)

• Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso* (1516)

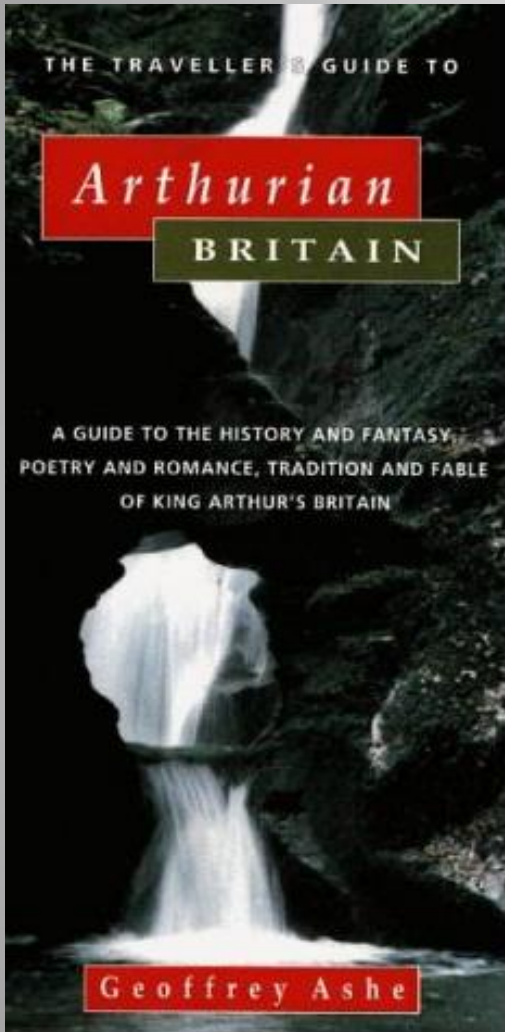
• Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889)

• Old Norse *Tristrams Saga*

quially as 'The Age of Arthur'; for others, because these years provided the personal names, battles and heroic ethos which form the heart of the Arthurian legends.

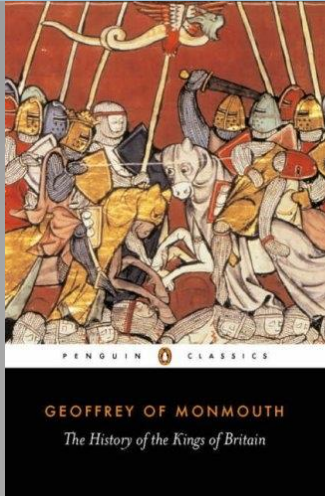
Lastly, the timeline illustrates the spatial dimension of the Arthurian tradition. From being a wholly insular figure in the early Middle Ages, Arthur came to 'conquer' much of conti-

ental Europe by the early modern period and, beginning in the nineteenth century, to capture the attention of America as well. While never entirely shedding its guise as a national British myth, Arthuriana in the twenty-first century is certainly a trans-Atlantic, if not international, phenomenon.

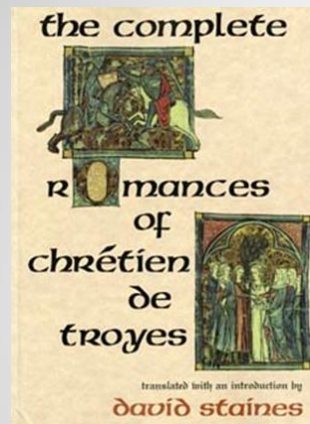


A comprehensive list of all sites in Britain connected in any way with King Arthur.

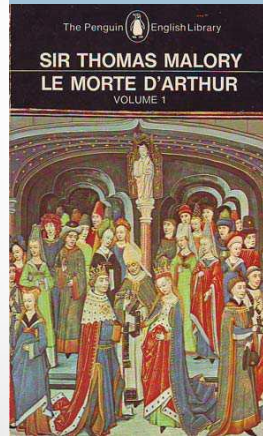
...a highly imaginative and largely fictitious pseudo-history of early Britain, providing the basic outline of the story of Arthur.



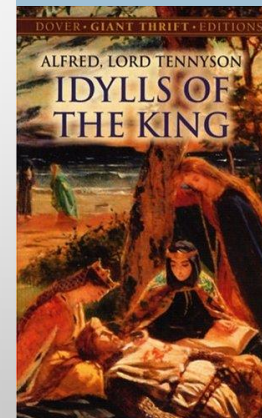
...adds romantic details: Guinevere, Lancelot, the Round Table, etc.



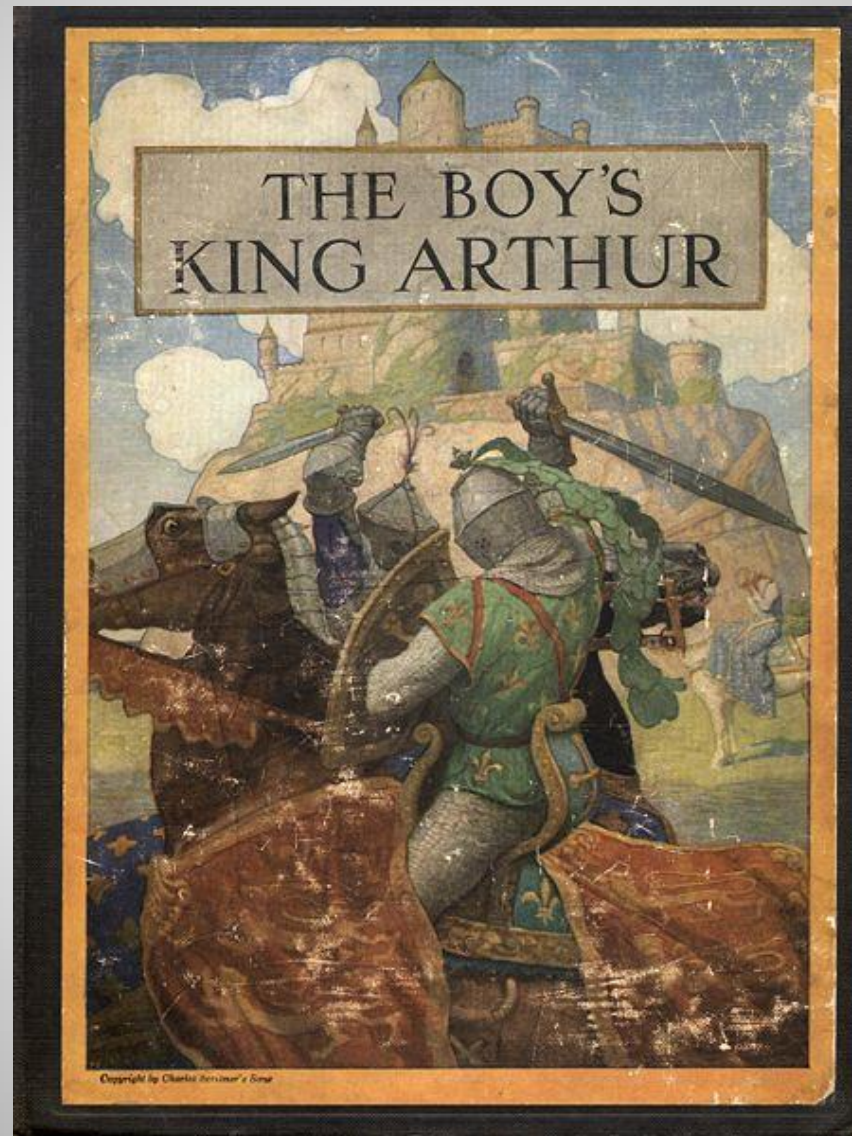
...These tales were enormously popular in the late Middle Ages, with this version widely read in early modern England.

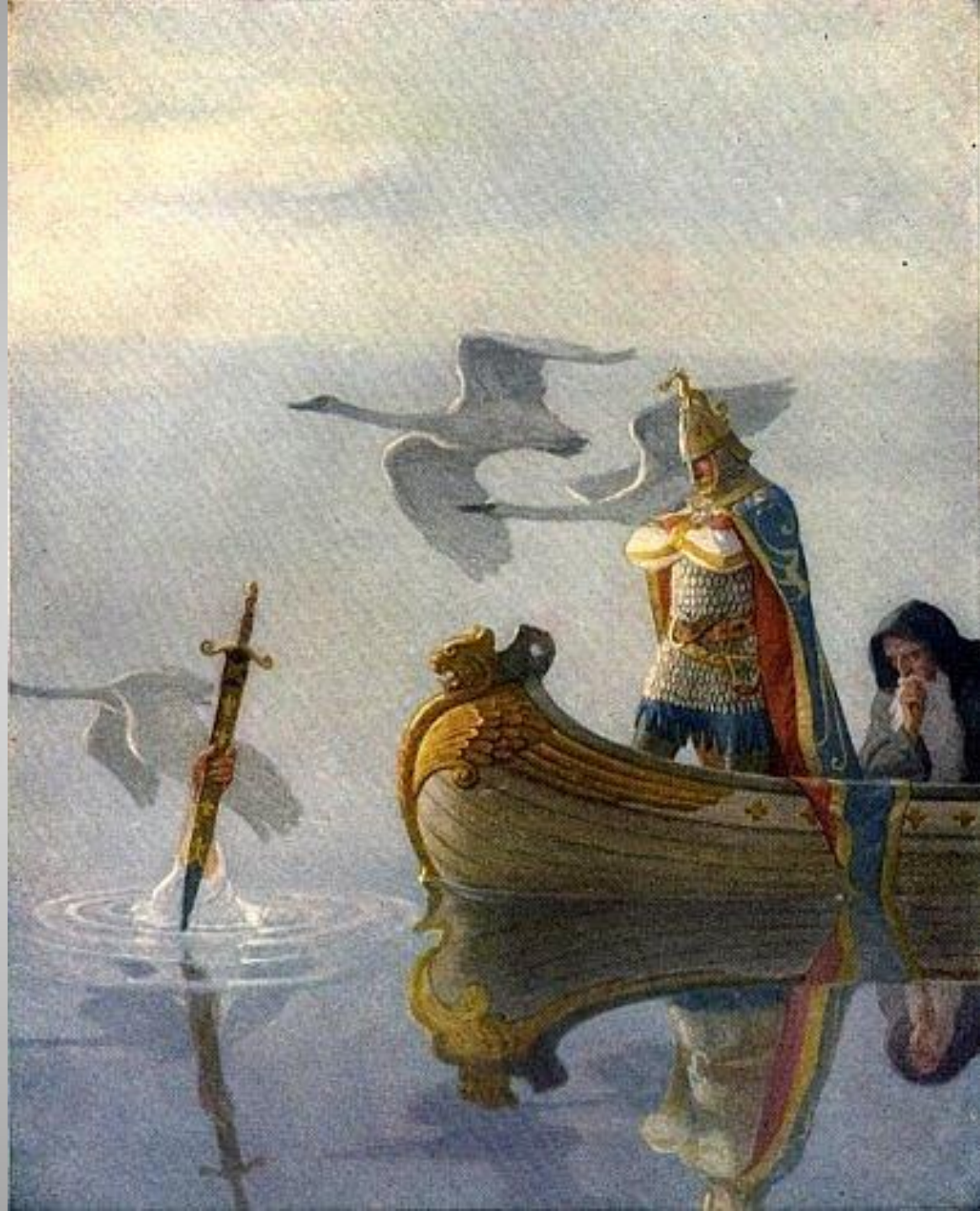


...the tales continued to inspire literary works through the 19th century...



...and the 20th and 21st!











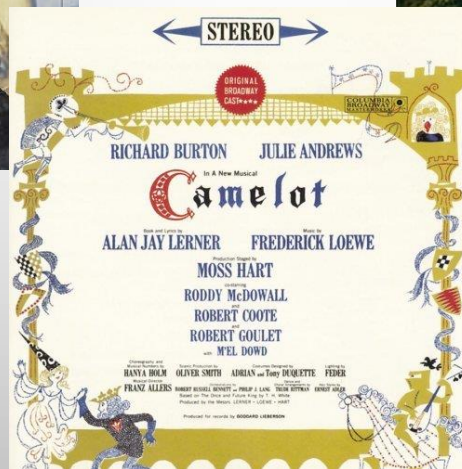
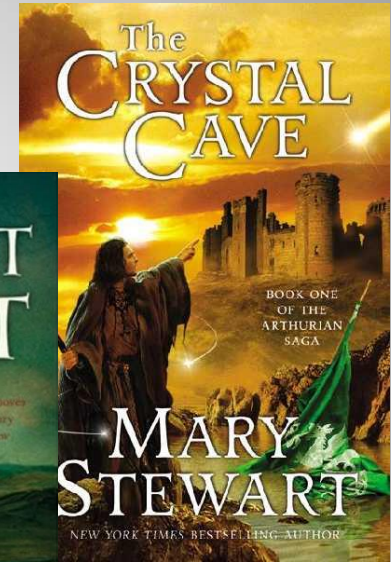
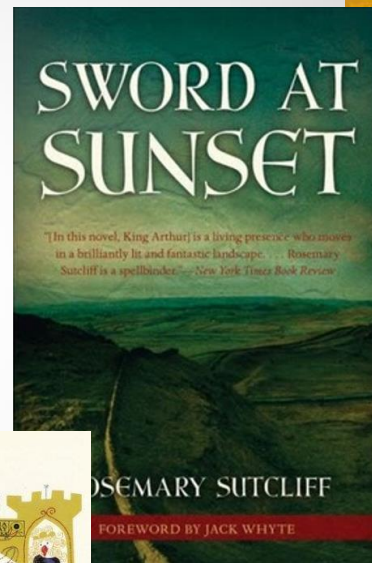
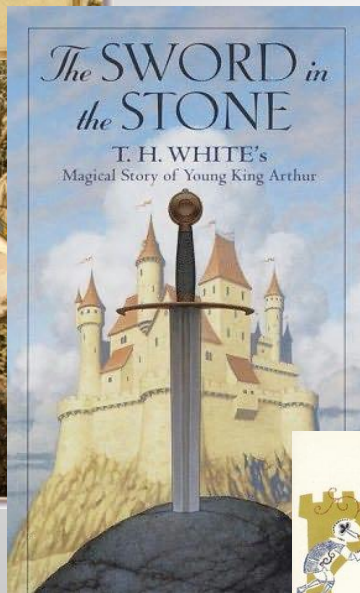


Prince Valiant's adventures in the world of King Arthur have formed a continuous unbroken narrative in Sunday papers for 85 years (since 1937!)



The News-Gazette dropped the strip several years ago, but each new installment (and all of the old ones) can be found at the website Prince Valiant Comics (run by Comics Kingdom).

Arthur lives on.



NOVELS:

Alfred Duggan, **Conscience of the King** (1951).

...fifth-century Britain, the arrival of the Saxons, and Arthur, as viewed by Cerdic, founder of Wessex, a king with no conscience at all.

Rosemary Sutcliffe, **Sword at Sunset** (1963)

...very good portrayal of the Arthurian saga in an accurate sixth-century setting.

Gene Wolfe, **Castleview** (1990).

...an Arthurian fantasy set in present-day Illinois. Very strange!
(For a good review/explanation of this novel, see Joe R. Christopher, "A Second View of Castleview," in Quondam et Futurus [the name for Arthuriana during the first three years of the journal], 3(3), Fall 1993.

HOW DID THE THIRD SON OF A PETTY TYRANT FOUND BRITAIN'S ROYAL DYNASTY?

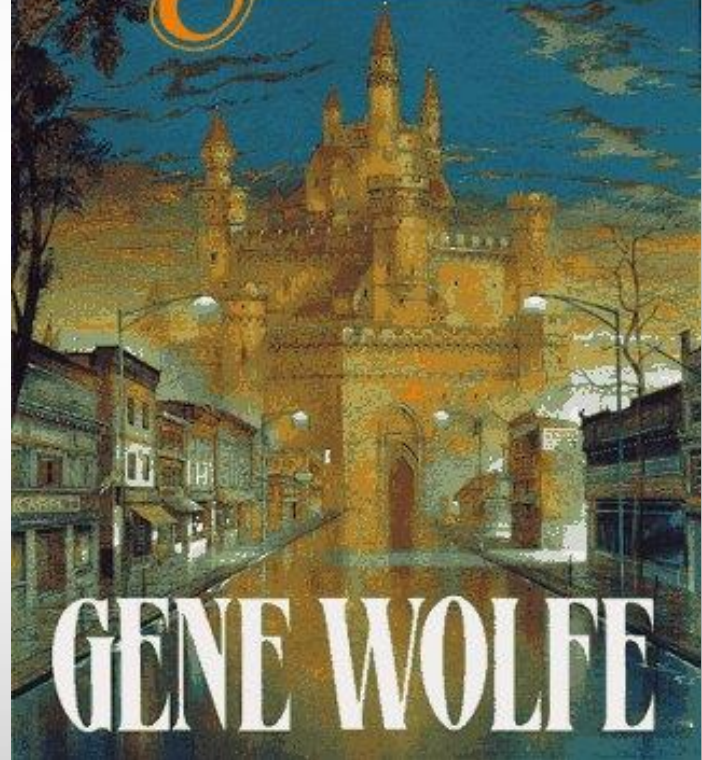
ALFRED DUGGAN



CONSCIENCE OF THE KING

*"Like all of Wolfe's work, *Castleview* is a game and an act of reverence—a fine dream of superb gallantry."
—Los Angeles Times*

CASTLEVIEW



GENE WOLFE

SPECIAL EDITION

GRAHAM JOHN TERRY TERC THOOS MICHAEL
CHAPMAN GLEESON GILLIAM TALLEY JONES PALIN

MONTY PYTHON and the Holy Grail



"Pure Comic Genius!"
- Michael Wilmington, CINEASIA



The main sources of historical information....

AD 540



On the Ruin of Britain

Gildas

DODO  PRESS

The monk Gildas wrote this fiery sermon on the sins of current rulers, with fragments (often unreliable) of earlier history.

AD 731

OXFORD MEDIEVAL TEXTS

General Editors

D. B. GREENWAY E. F. HARVEY M. LAPIDGE

BEDE

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY
OF THE
ENGLISH PEOPLE

EDITED BY
BERTRAM COLGRAVE
and
R. A. B. MYNORS



This famous chronicle is focused on the spread of Christianity in Britain (does not mention Arthur).

AD 828



History of the Britons
(Historia Brittonum)

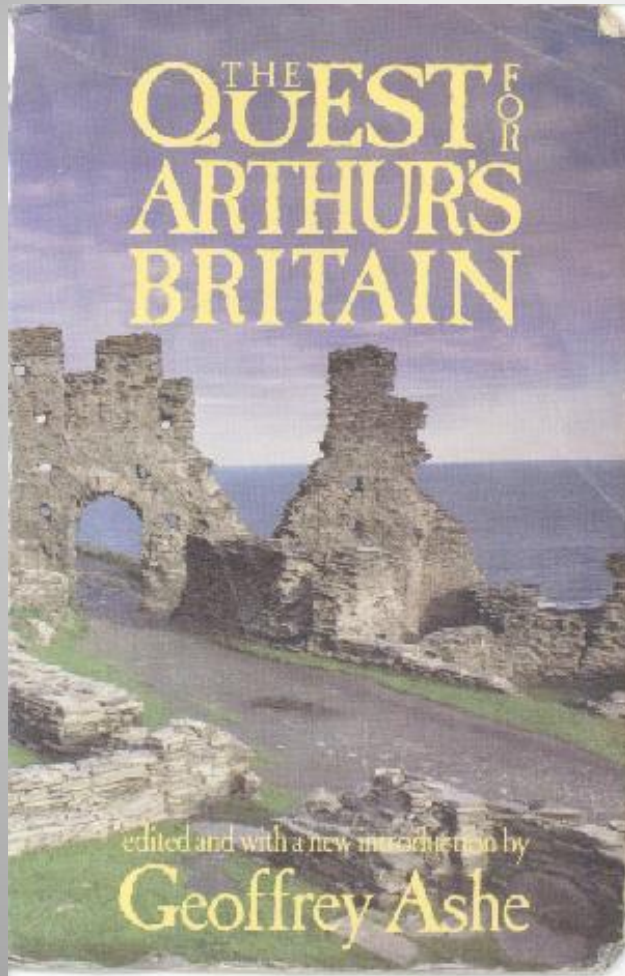
Nennius

DODO  PRESS

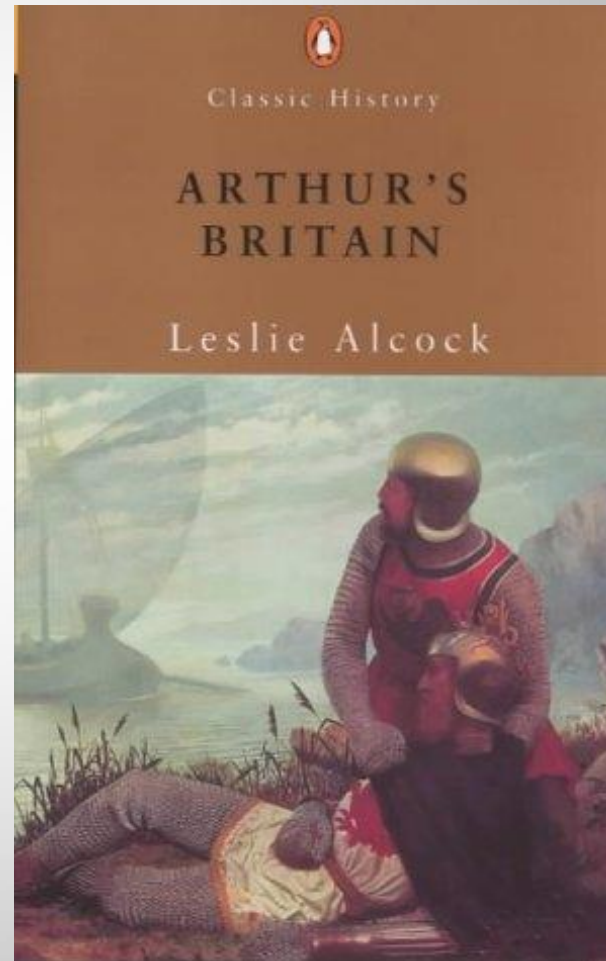
A compilation of tradition, myth and history, this is the earliest source to mention the name of Arthur.



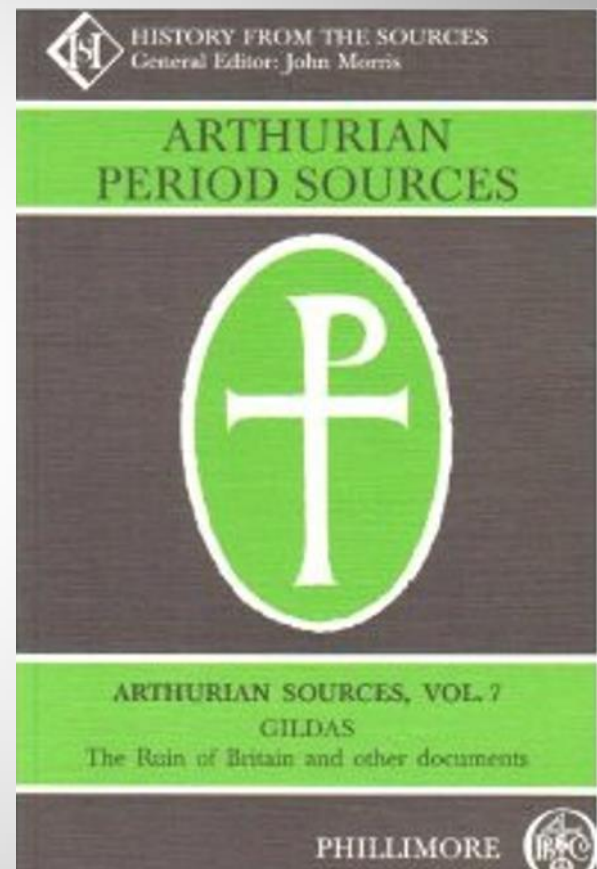
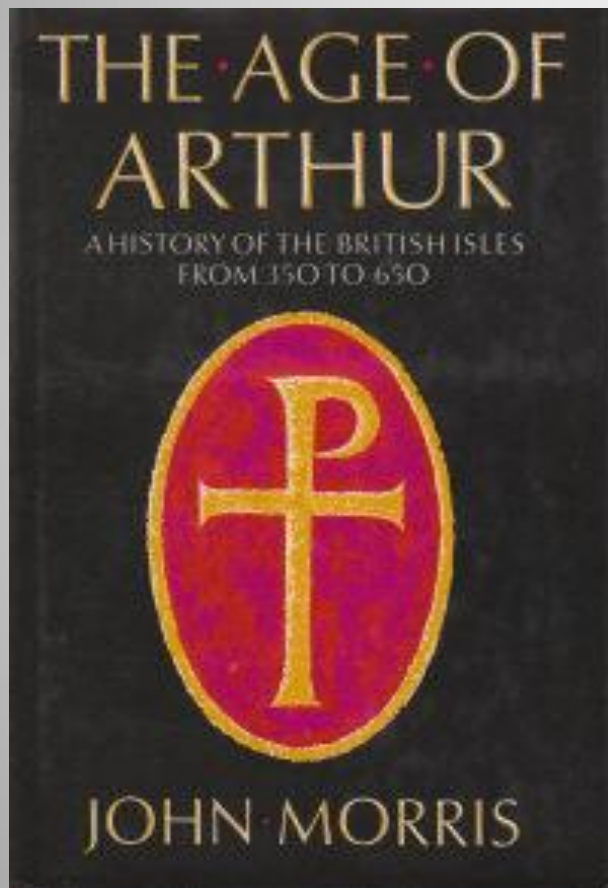
Two good older books, accepting Arthur's reality



1968



1971





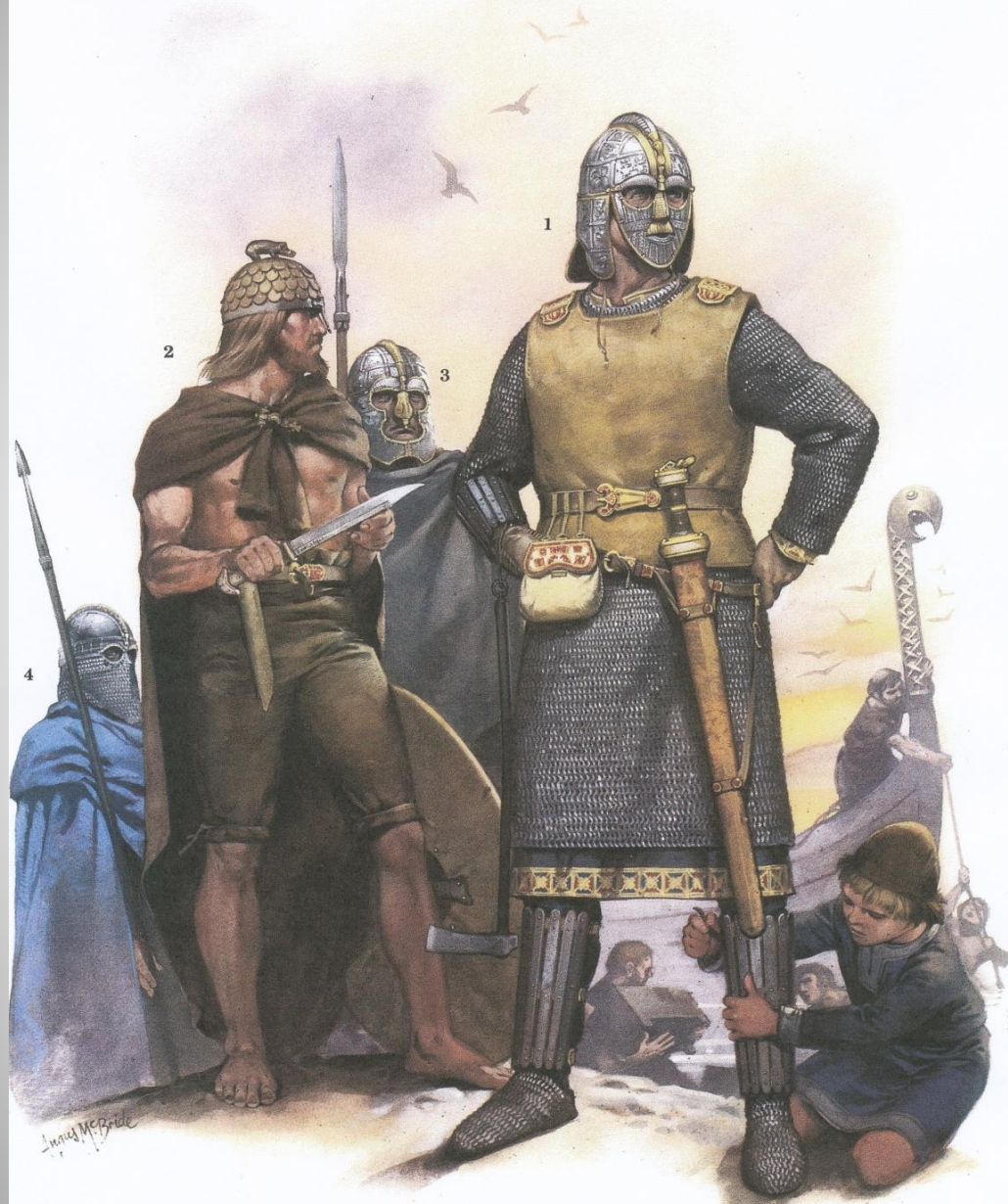
Key fortified sites in 'Arthurian' Britain



Sites in the war fought between the Britons and the Saxons



- 1: Anglian king, early 7th C
2: Mercian warrior, 7th C
3, 4: Anglo-Saxon warriors, 7th C



- 1: Romano-British militiaman, 6th C
2: North British cavalryman, 6th C
3: Welsh tribal warrior, 5th-6th C





Mercurian Romano-British landlord clashes with a Saxon raider on the outskirts of Bath, Britain, in the late fifth century.

Arthur's Twelve Battles

...from the Historia Brittonum, AD 828

in rubo igneo secundo modo in monte q̄
 draginta dieb; & q̄draginta noctib; ieiuna-
 uit. tertio modo similes fuer̄ ecce centū ut
 gna annis quarto modo sepulchru illi ne-
 mo scit. S; in coculo humat; nemine sci-
 ent. quindeci annis in captiuitate. mutesi-
 mo quinto anno ab amyathico sc̄o episcopo
 subrogat; octingentū & quinq; annorū.
 in hibernia p̄dicauit. Et aut exagebat
 ampli loqui de sc̄o patreio. sed tamen p̄
 cōpendio sermonis uoluit breuiare.
 In illo tempore saxones multescebant in
 multitudine & cresebant in britanniā.
 Hortuo aut hengsto octua fili a transi-
 uit de sinistrali parte britannie ad reg-
 nū cantoni. & de ipso orat; reges cantōe.
 unc archur pugna bat cōtra illos.
 in illis dieb; cū regib; breconū. s; ipse dixit
 bellonū. Primū bellū fuit in ostū flumī
 nis quod dicit; Glein. sedm̄ & ecū & q̄-
 tū & quinq; sup̄ aliud flumen quod
 dicit; dubglas. s; in regione linnuis.
 Sextū bellū sup̄ flumen quod uocā
 ē bassas. Septimū fuit bellū
 in silua celidonis. id; eae coit celidon.
 Octauū fuit bellū in castello quinn-
 on. In quo archur portauit imaginē
 sc̄e marie p̄p̄tue uirginis sup̄ hume-
 ros suos. & pagani ueni s; in fugā in
 illo die. & ceder magna fuit sup̄ illos.
 p̄ uirtutem dñi n̄r̄ ihu xpi & p̄ uirtutē
 sc̄e marie uirginis genitricis ei. Nonū
 bellū gestū; in urbe legionis. Decimū
 gestū; bellū in uicore fluminis quod
 uocā; tribruit. In decimū faccū;
 bellū in monte qui dicit; agned. In
 decimū fuit bellū in monte badonis
 in quo corruer̄ in uno die n̄genti sex-
 ginta uiri de uno impetū archur.

The first battle was at the mouth of the river called Glein.

The second, the third, the fourth and the fifth were on another river, called the Dubglas, which is in the country of Linnuis.

The sixth battle was on the river called Bassas.

The seventh battle was in the Caledonian Wood, that is, Cat Coit Celidon.

The eighth battle was at Guinnion fort, and in it Arthur carried the image of the holy Mary, the everlasting virgin, on his shoulder, and the heathen were put to flight that day, and there was great slaughter upon them, through the power of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Virgin Mary, his mother.

The ninth battle was fought in the City of the Legion.

The tenth battle was fought on the bank of the river called Tribruit.

The eleventh battle was on the hill called Agned [*some manuscripts say Breguoin*].

The twelfth battle was on Badon hill and in it nine hundred and sixty men fell in one day, from a single charge of Arthur's, and no one laid them low save he alone, and he was victorious in all his campaigns.

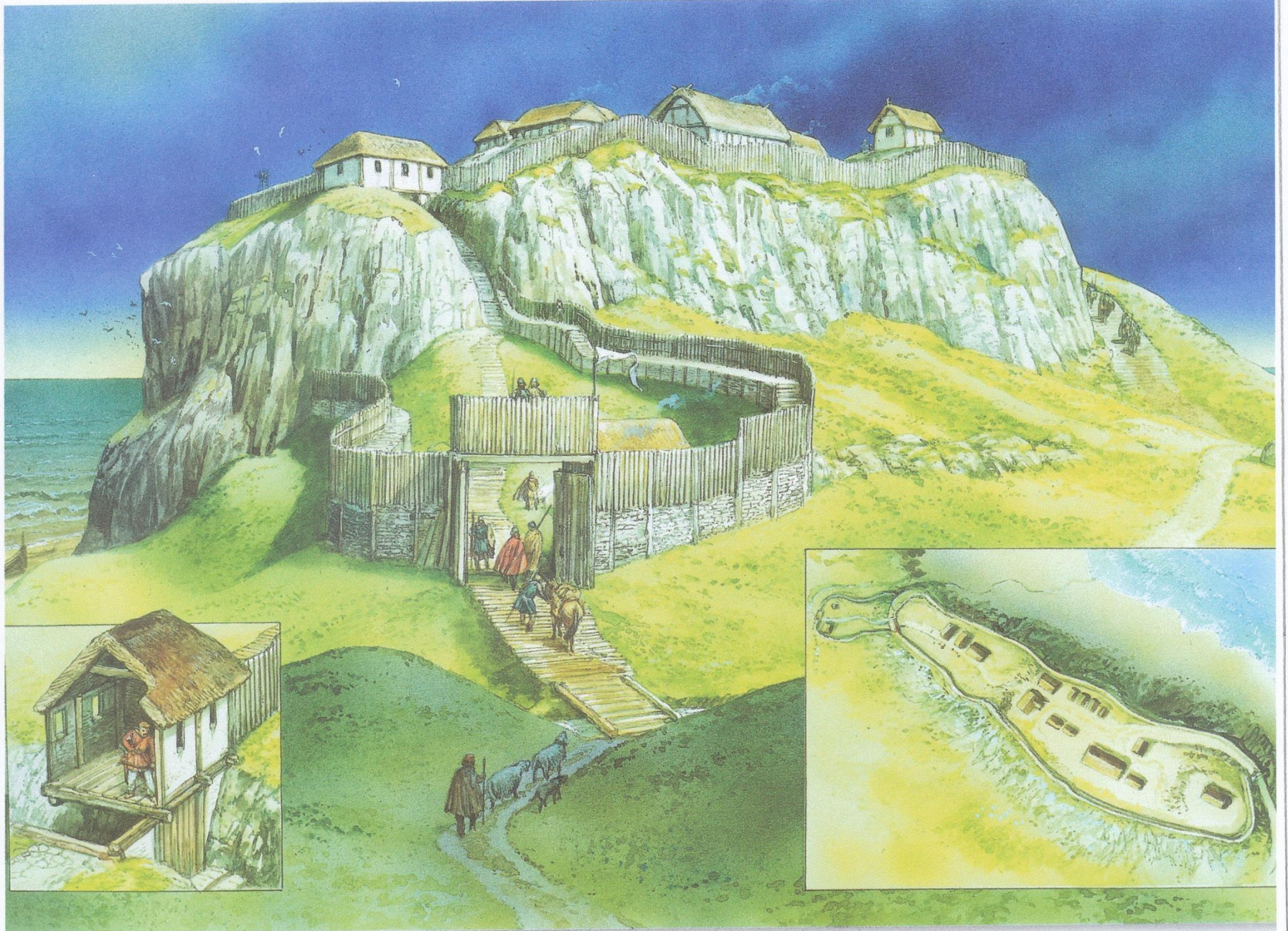


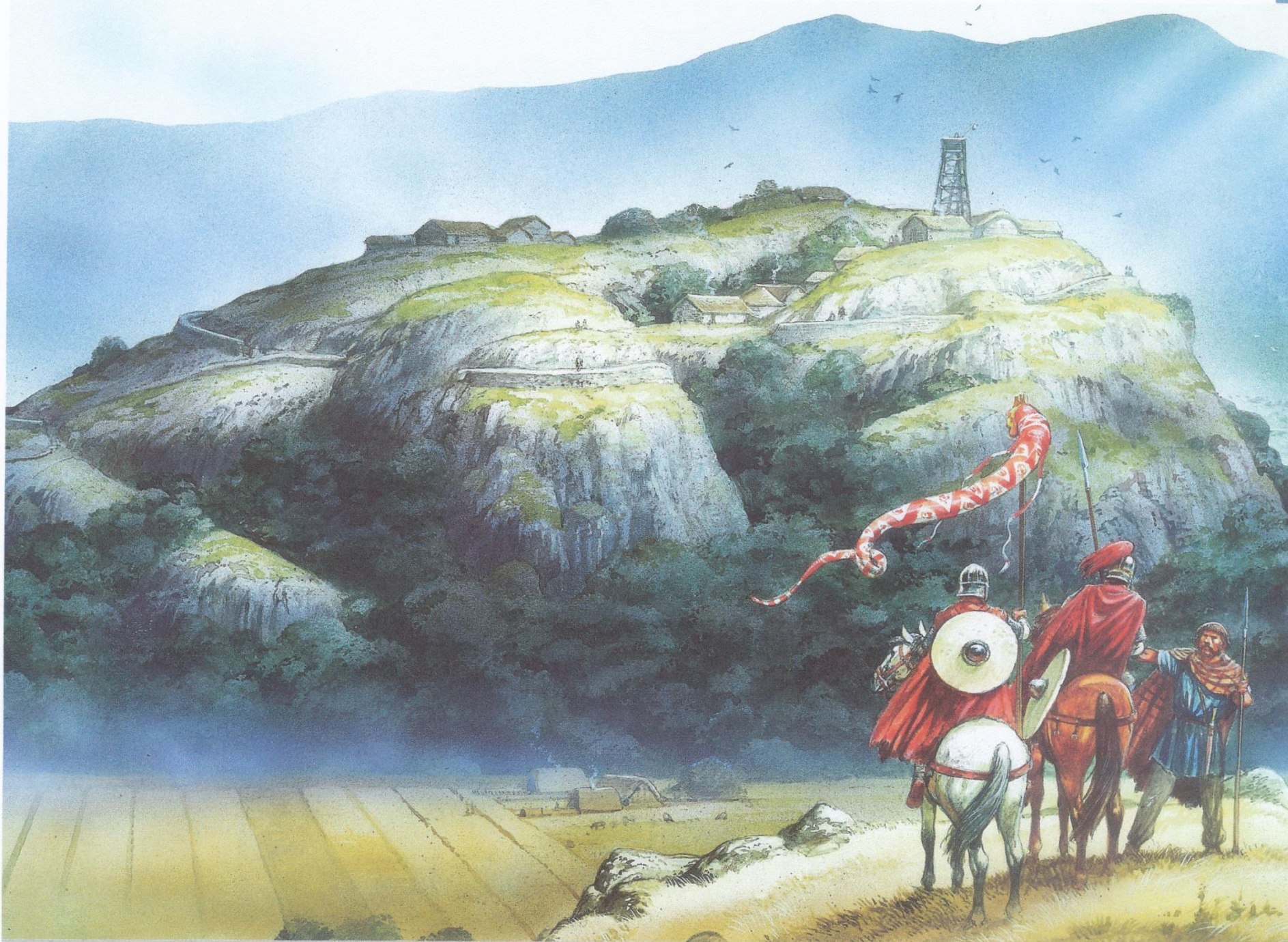
Map 2. Possible locations for Arthur's battles.

Key fortified sites in 'Arthurian' Britain



The Saxon fortress: Bamburgh (Bebbanburgh), Northumbria







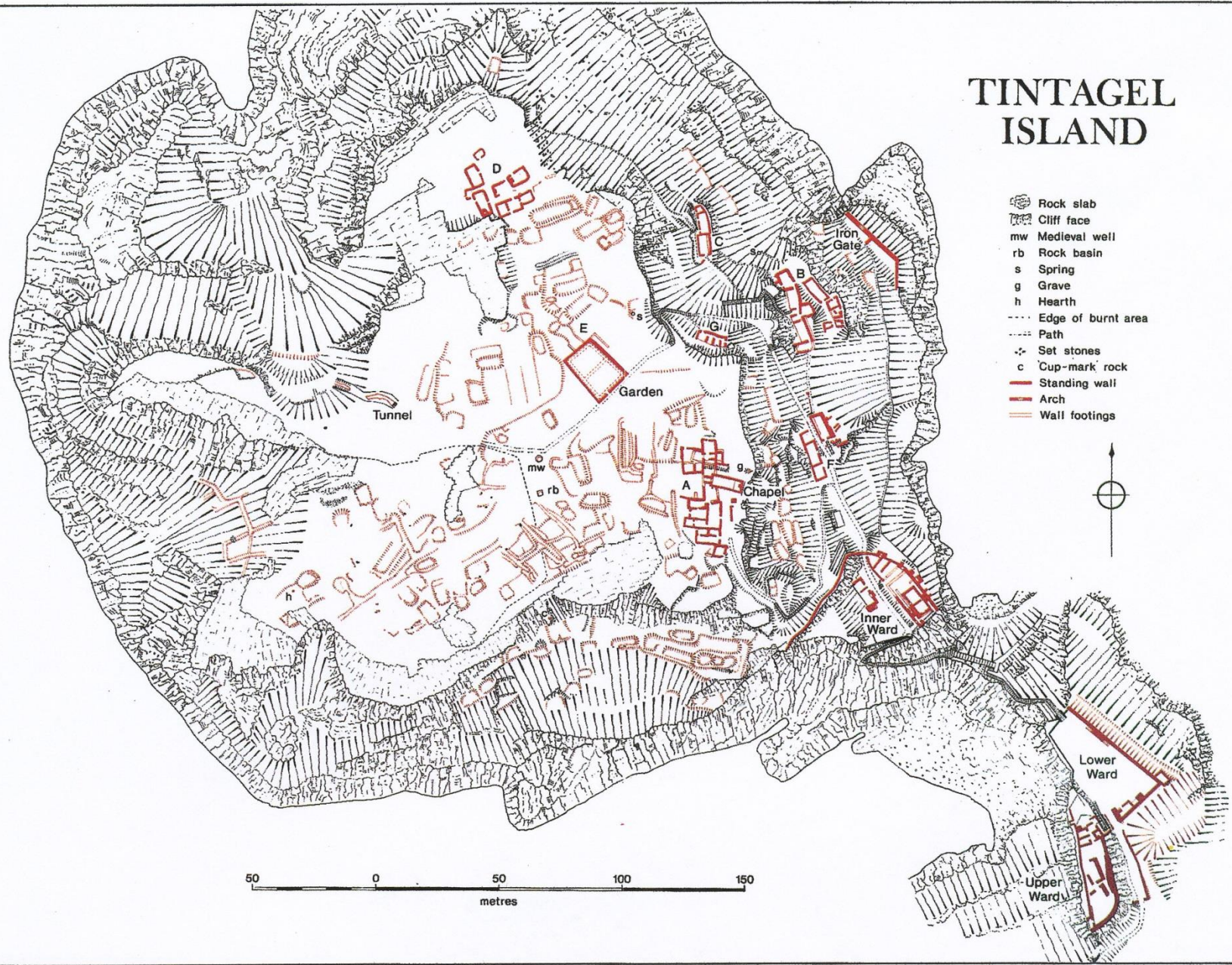




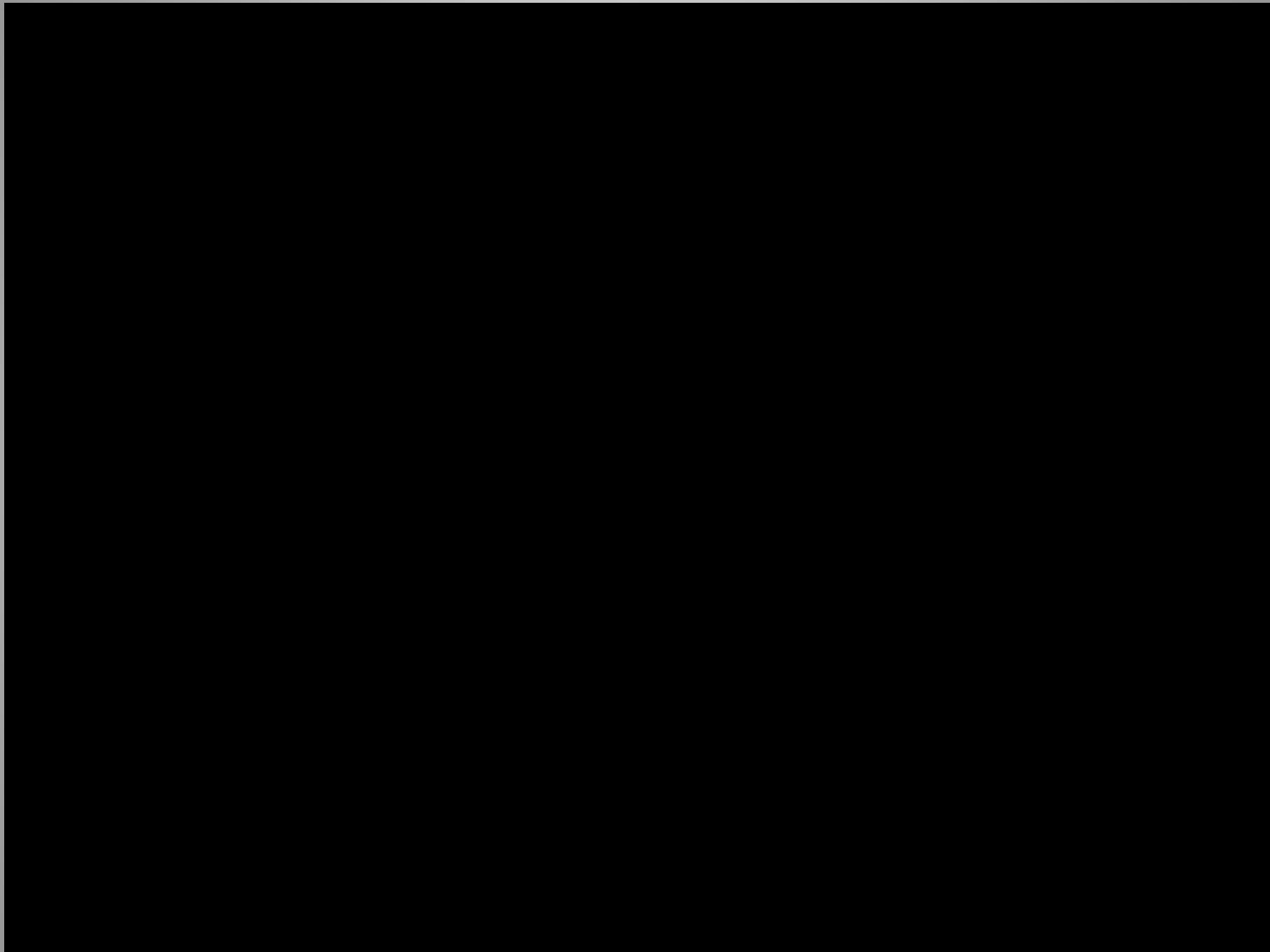


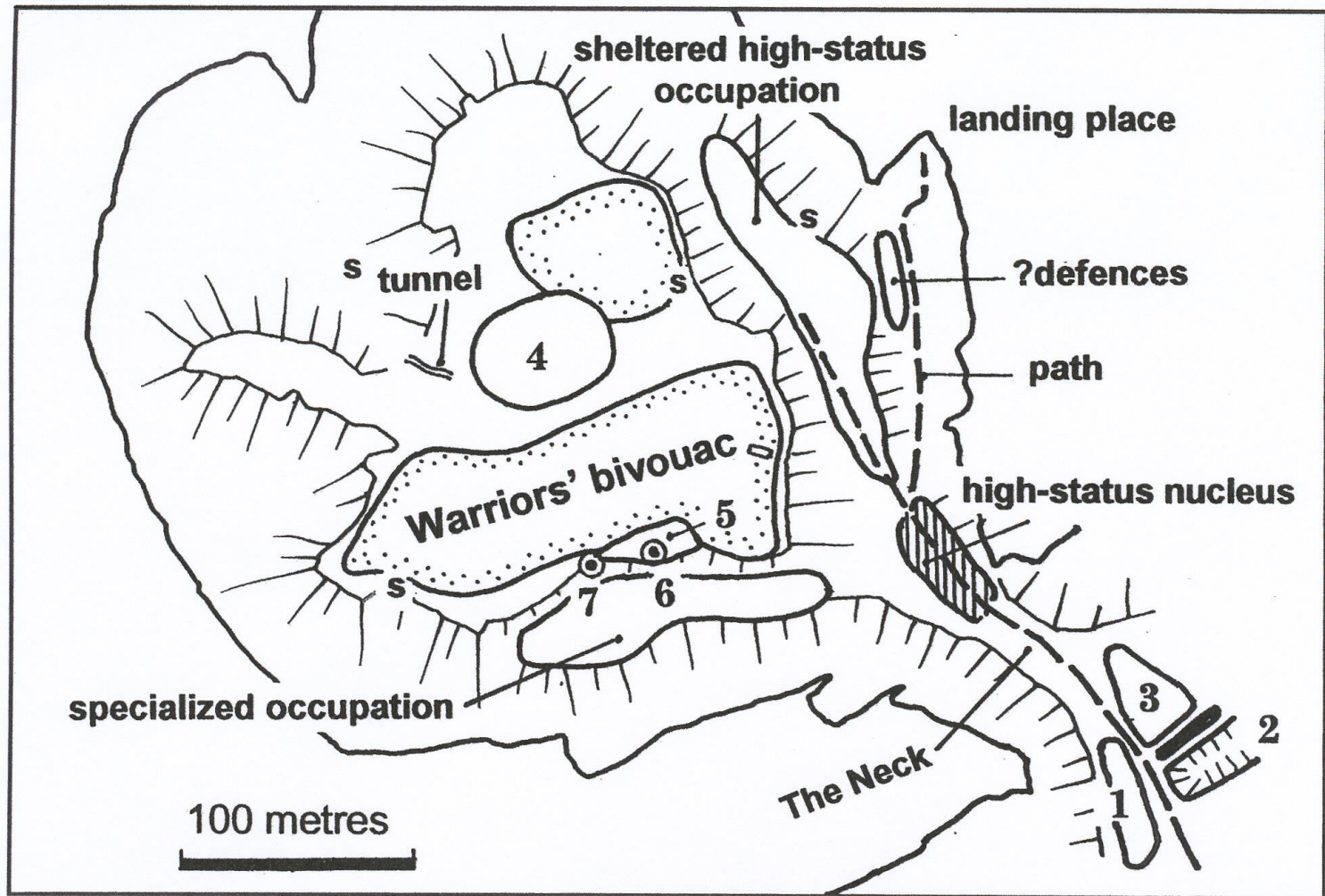
The peninsular fort: Tintagel, Cornwall



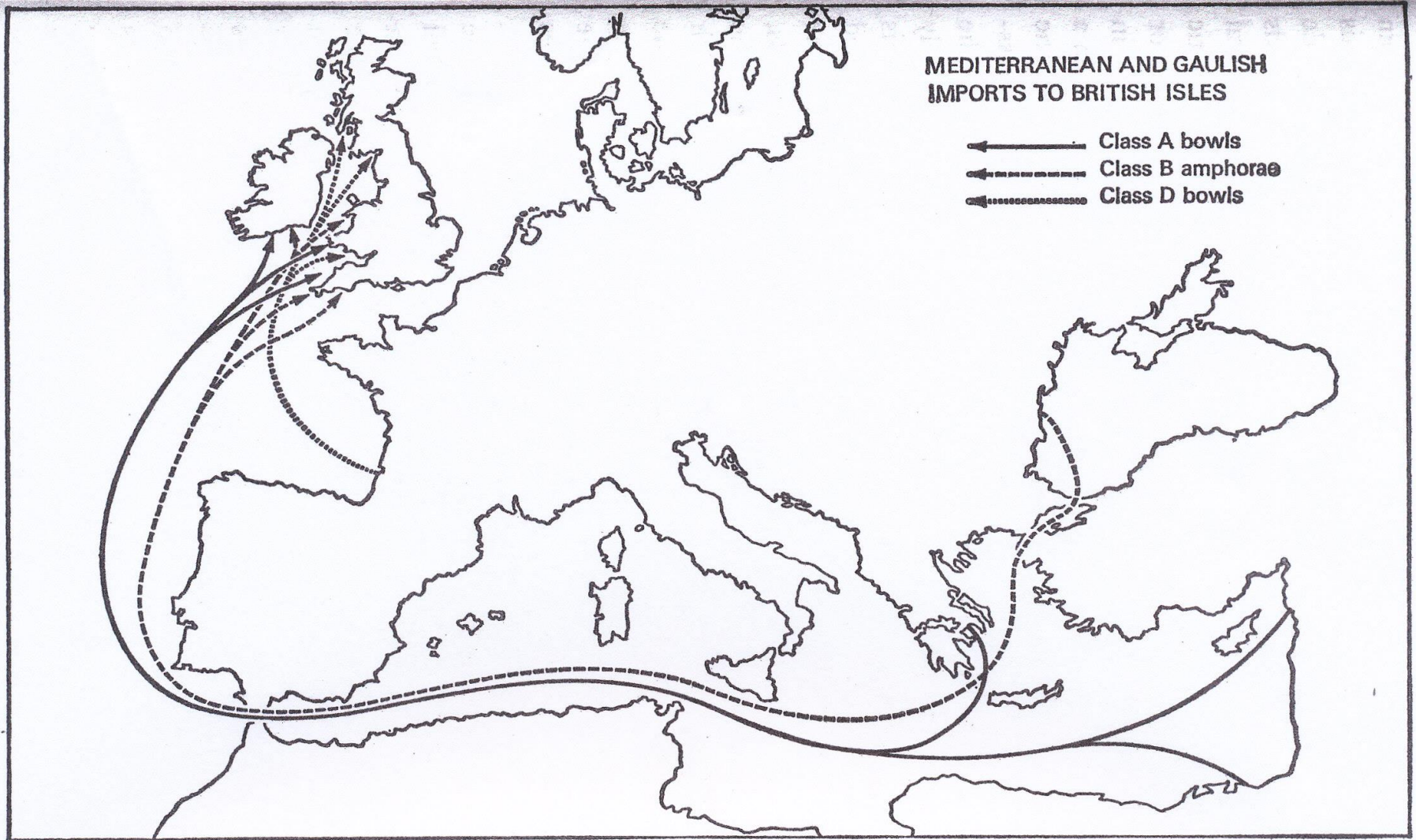


4 The RCHME plan of Tintagel, made in 1985 after the 1983 fire.

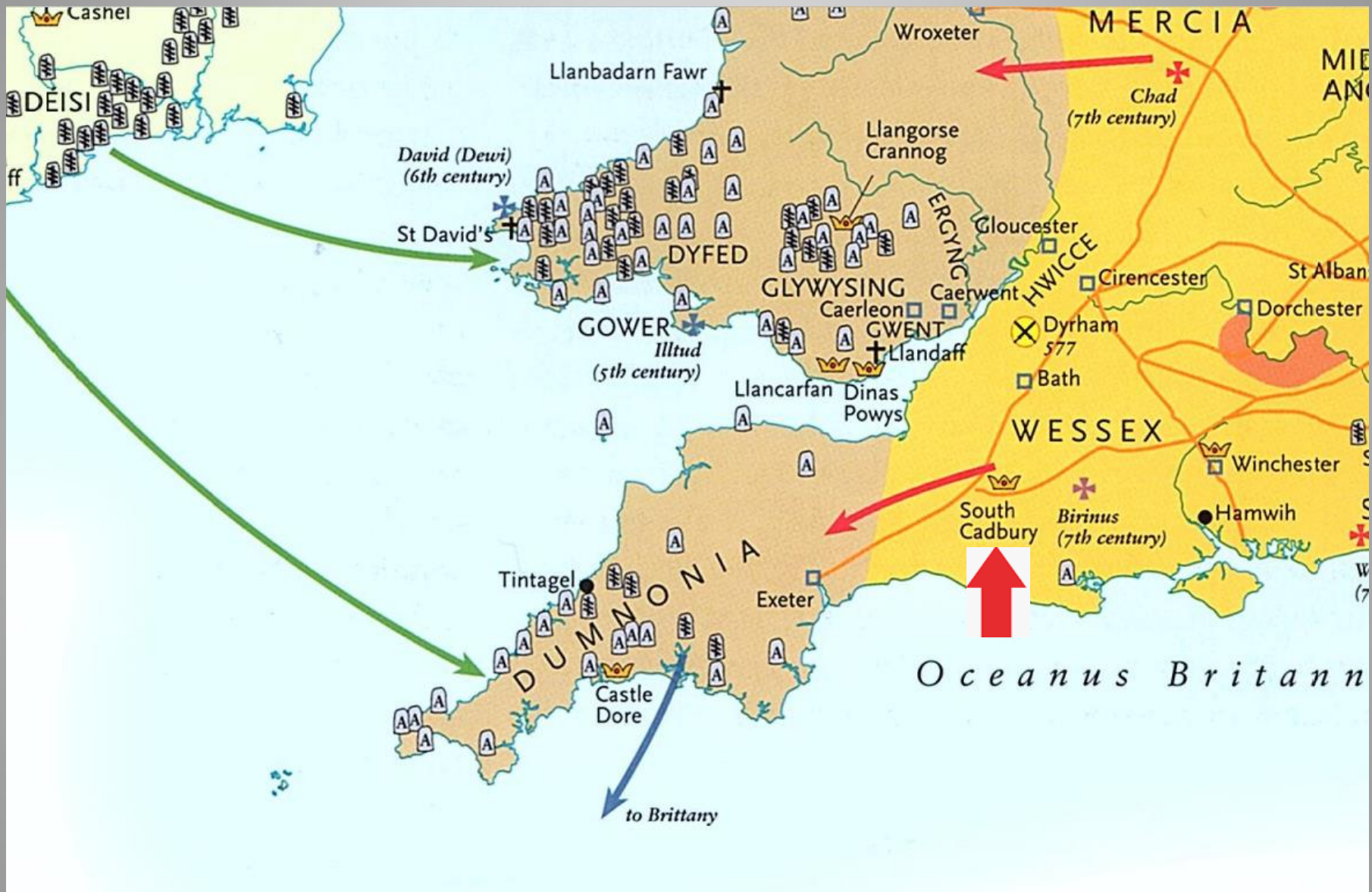


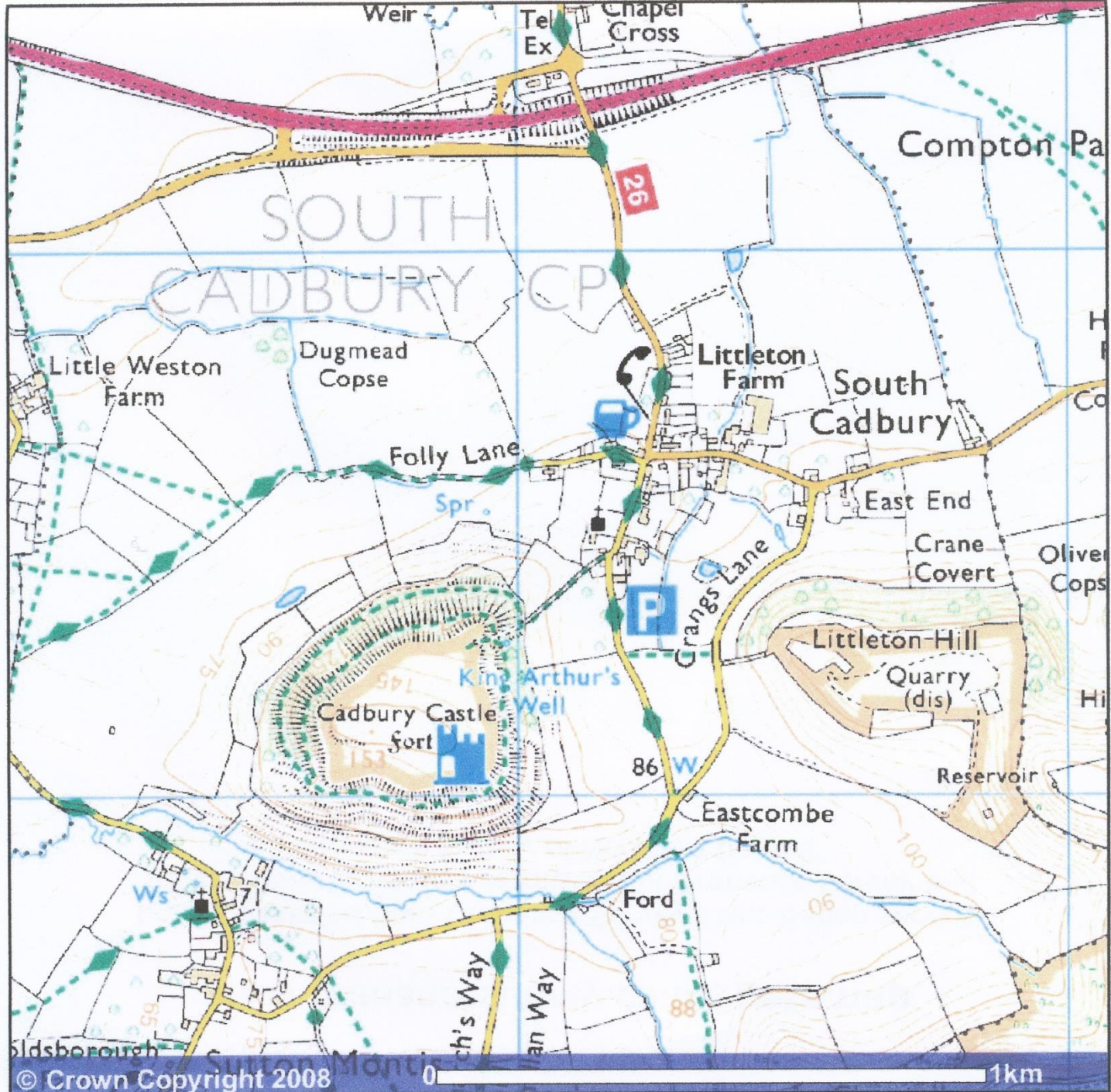


re 3.7 Tintagel: dark age functional zones. 1= walled strongpoint; 2 = defensive ditch; 3 = occupied forepart; 4 = caretaker settlement; 5 = ceremonial summit platform; 6 = King Arthur's Footprint; 7 = King Arthur's Seat; s = spring

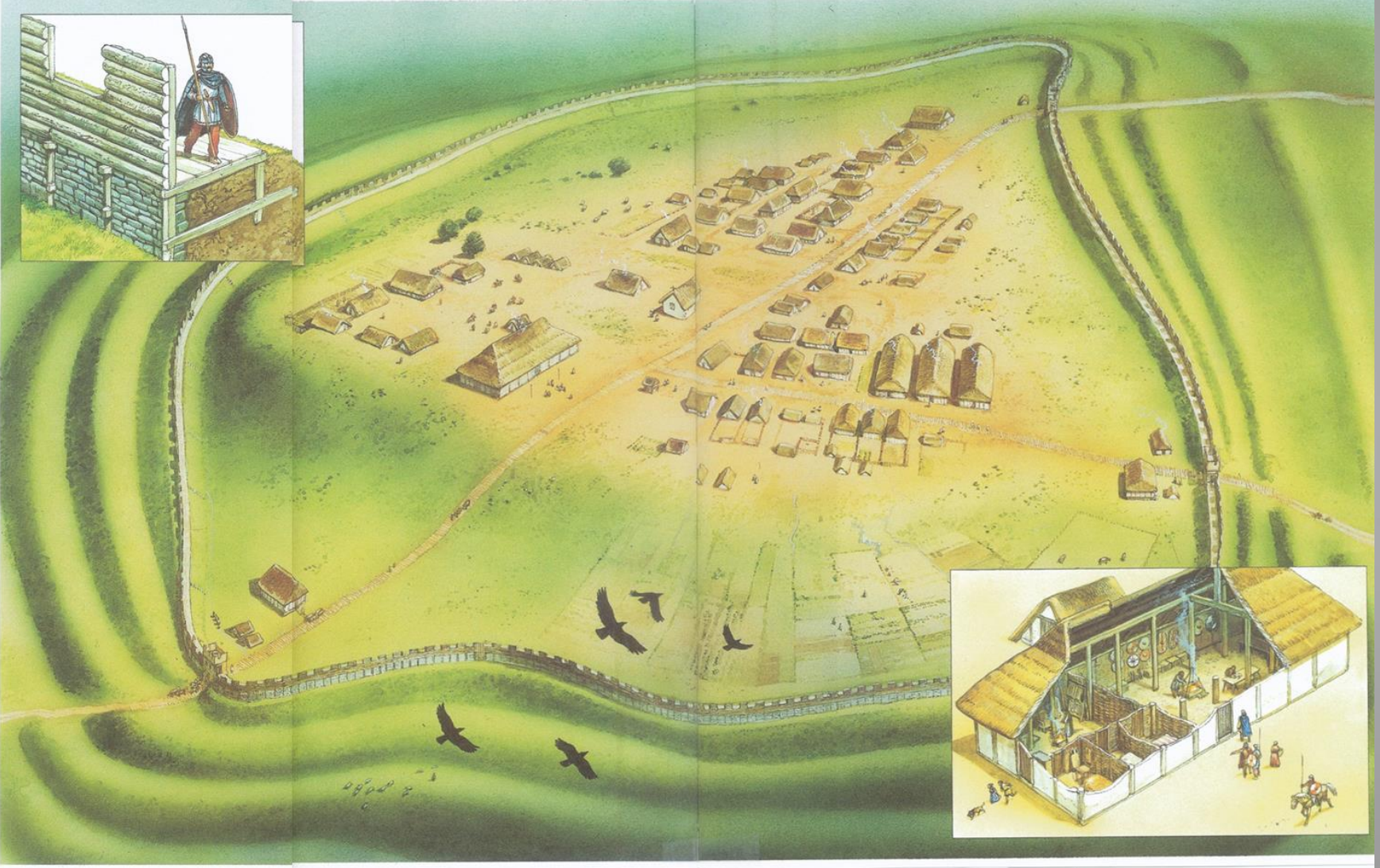


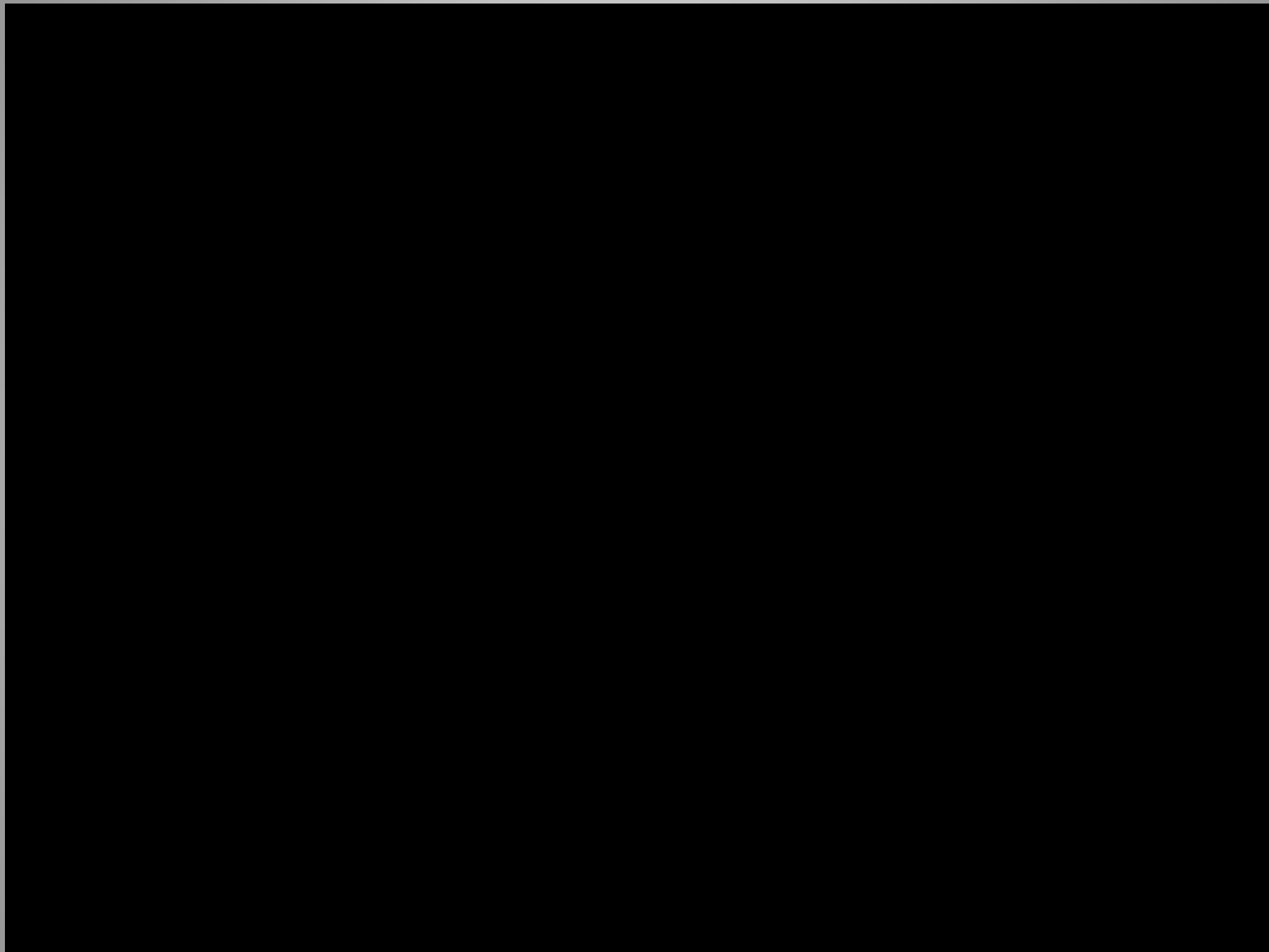
Map 5. Possible routes by which pottery of Classes A, B, and D was imported from the Black Sea, the east Mediterranean and western Gaul.

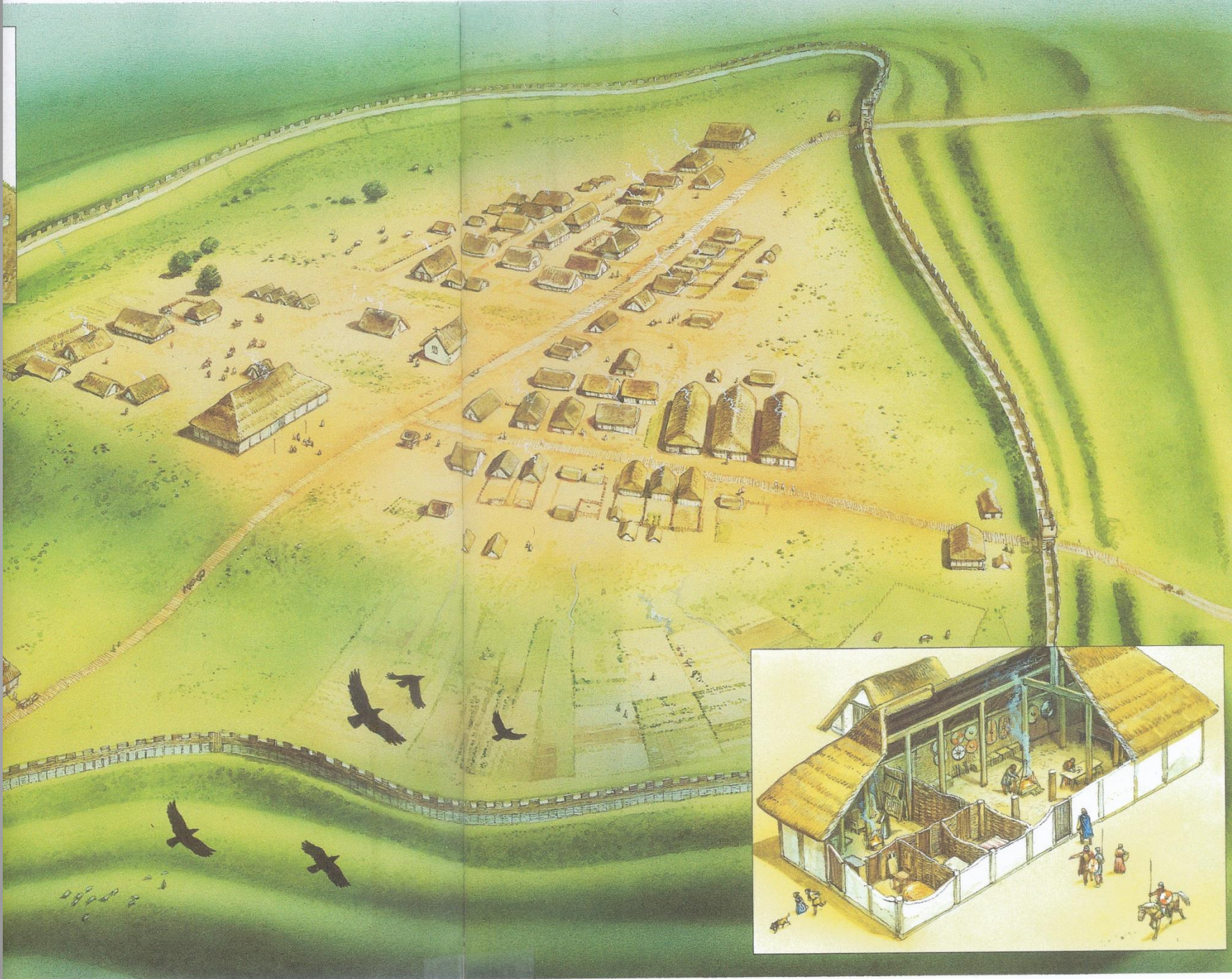


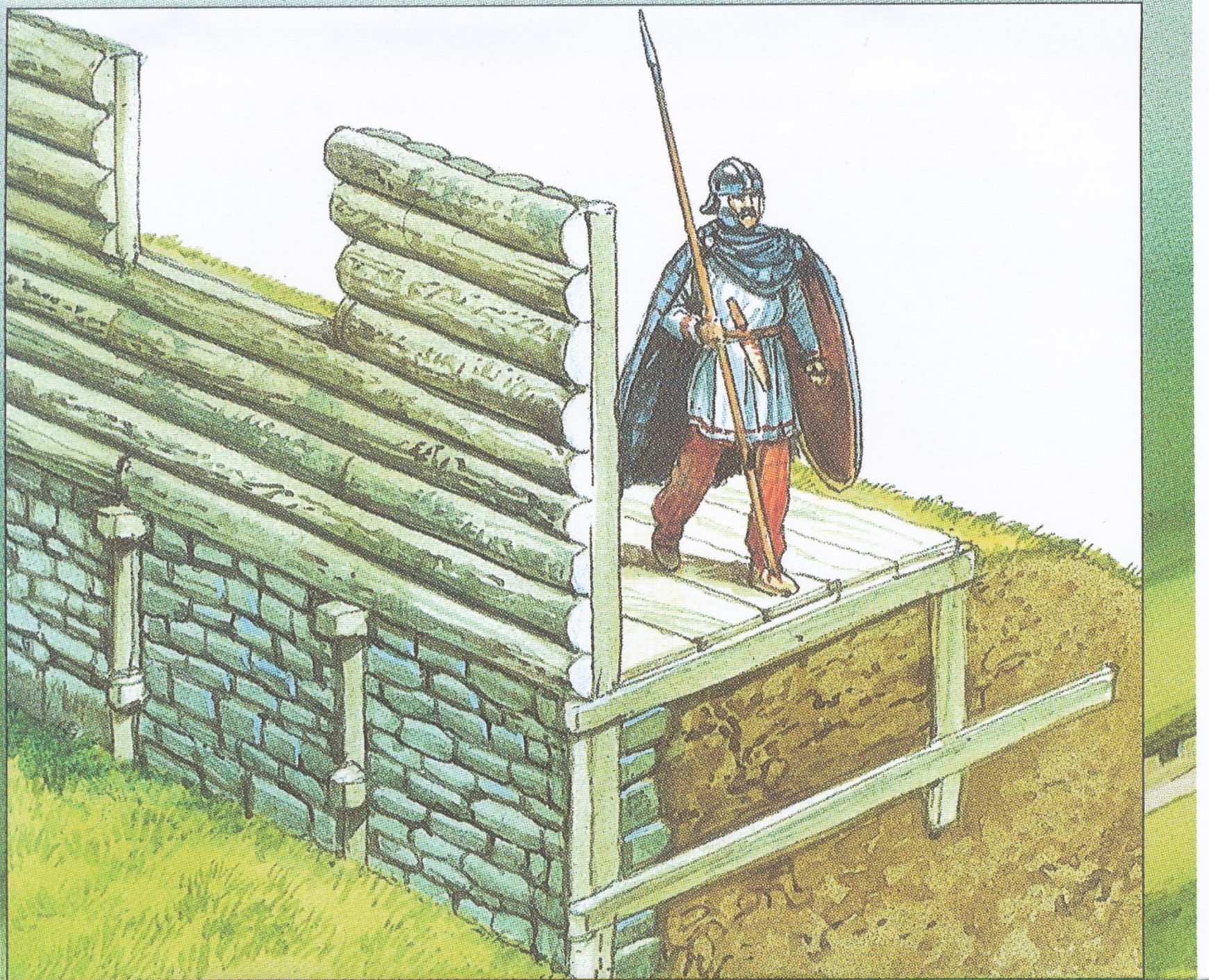


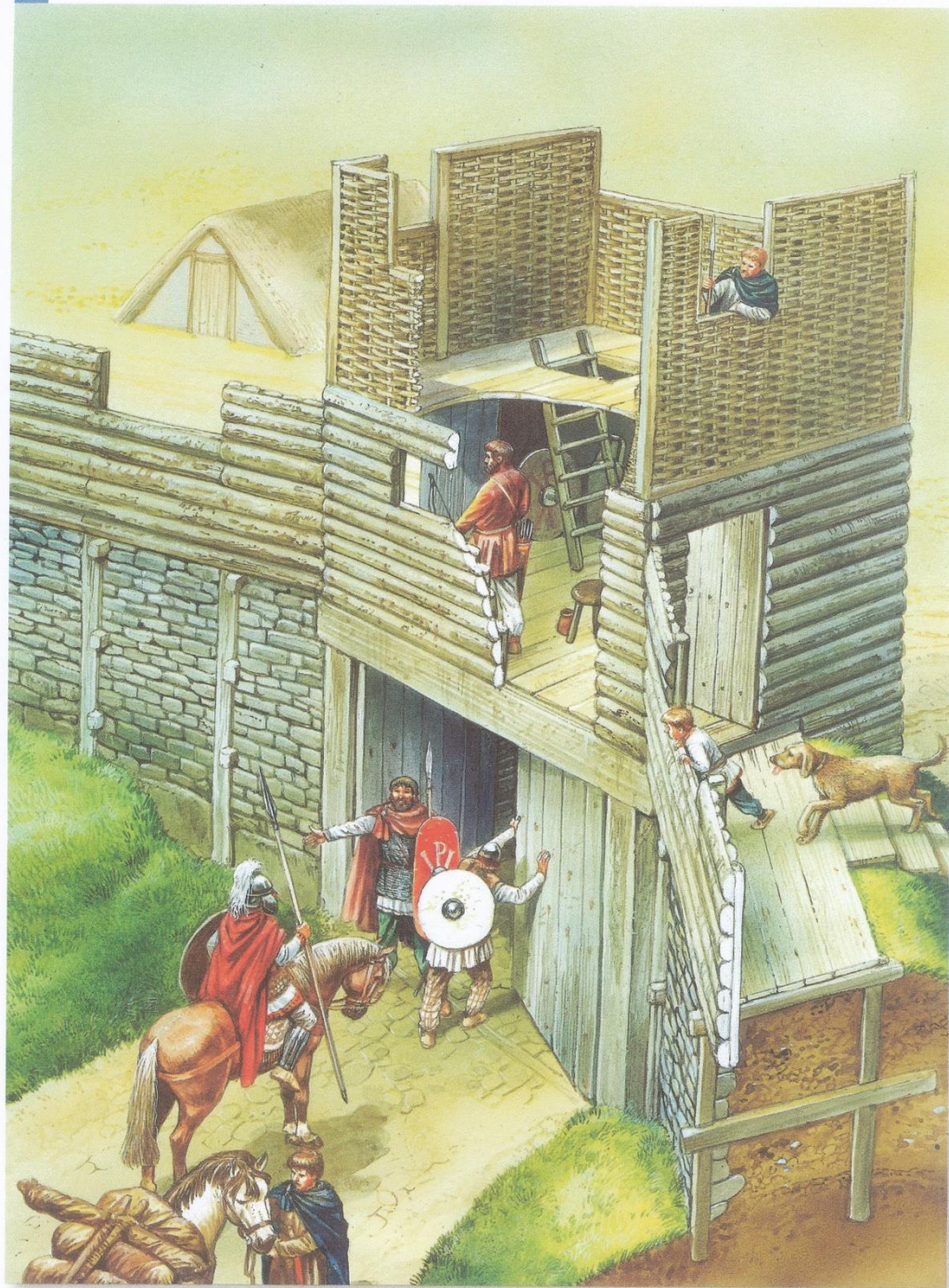
D The site of Camelot? The 'Arthurian' hill-fort of South Cadbury, Wiltshire

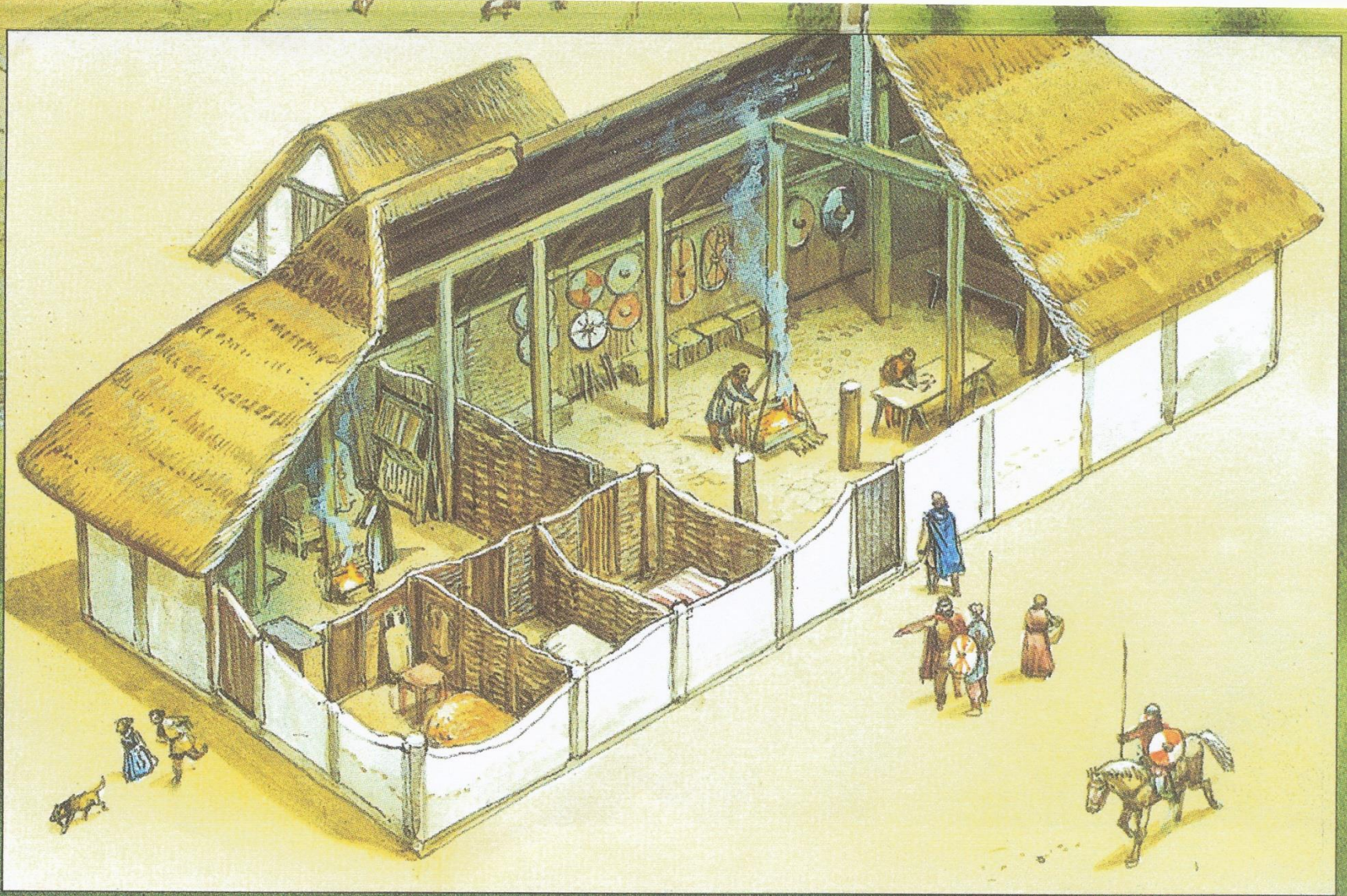




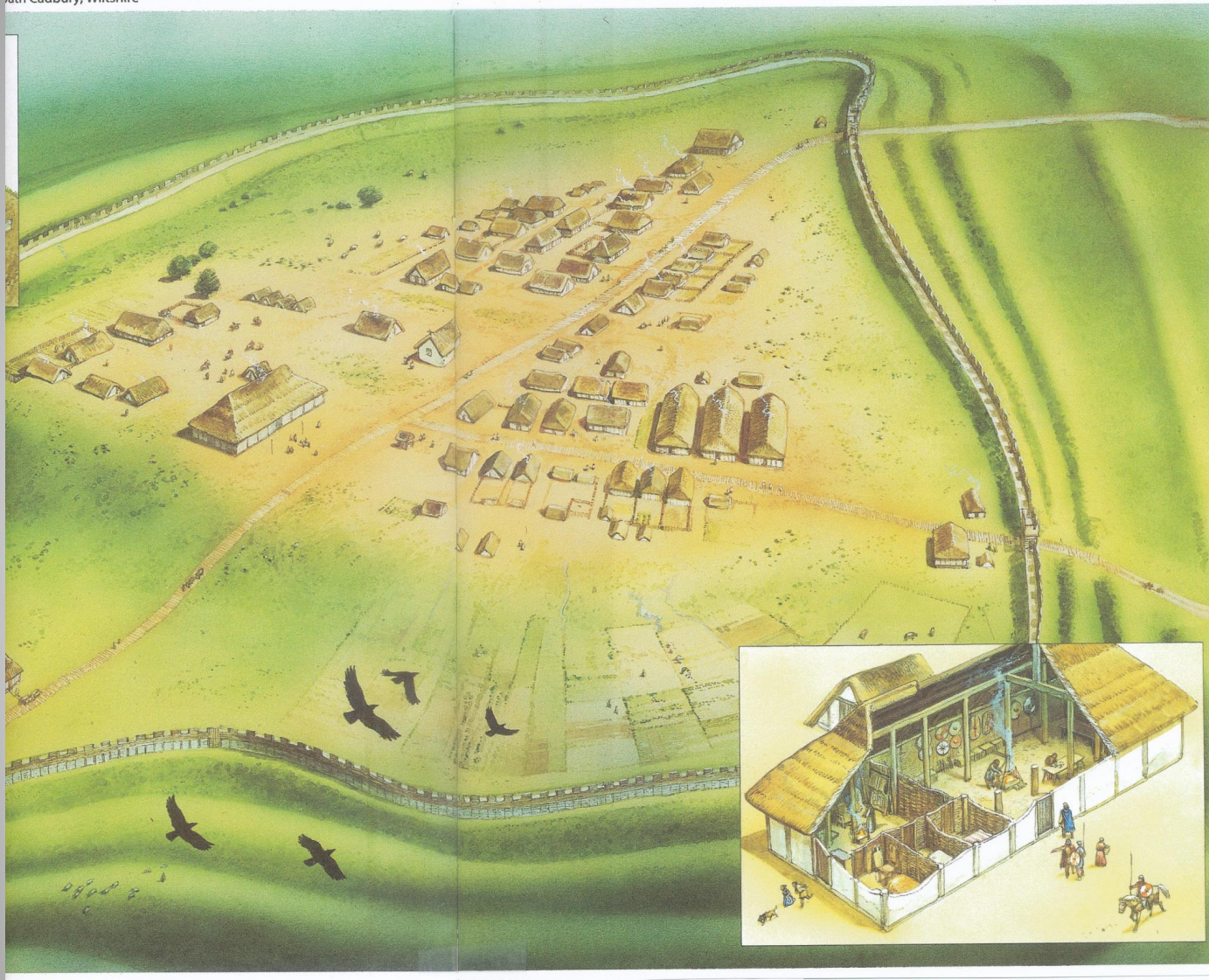














Map 2. Possible locations for Arthur's battles.



Map 2. Possible locations for Arthur's battles.

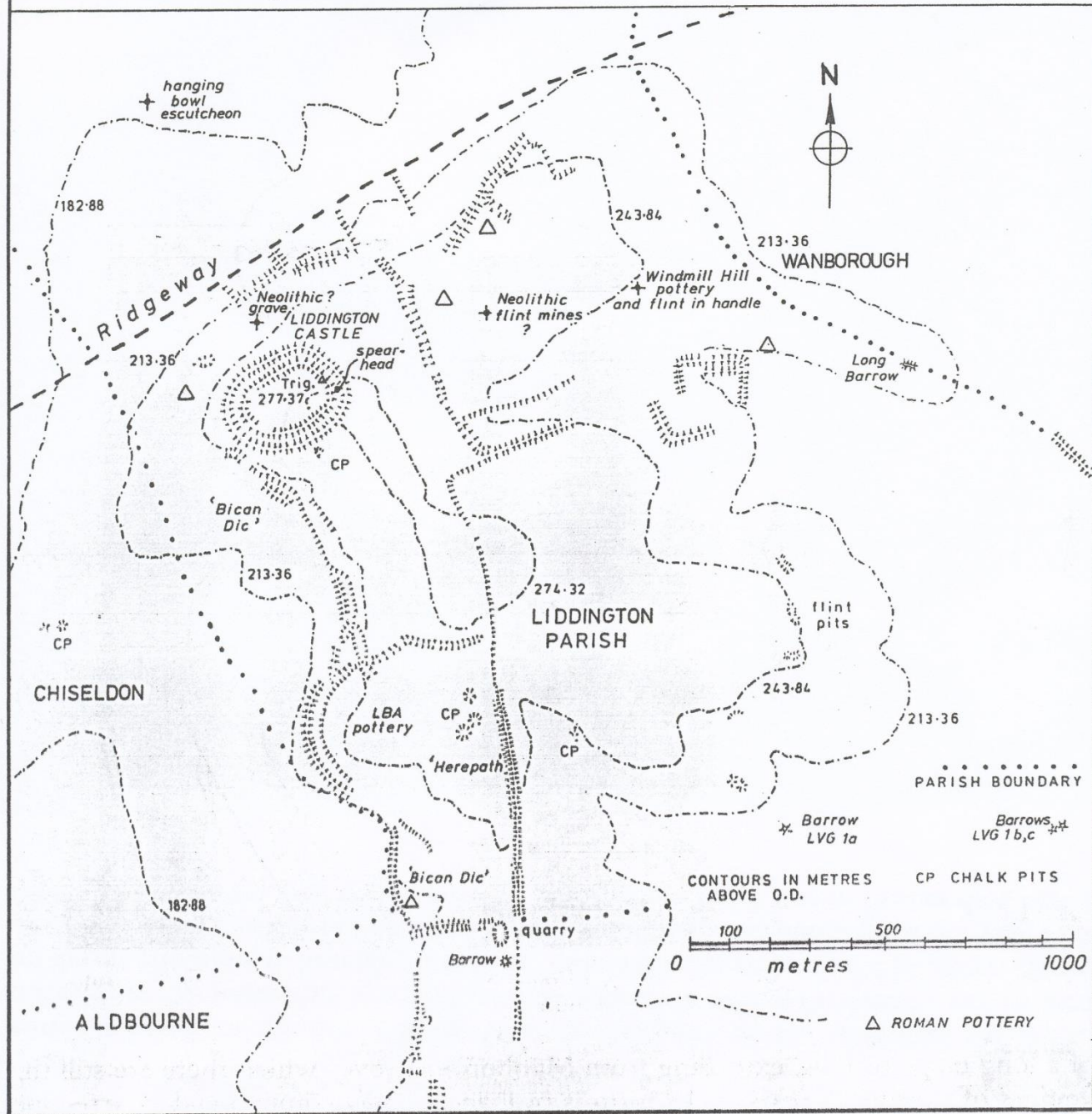


www.FrankLaumen.de

Liddington Castle

Liddington Castle area

after 1:2500 OS maps
SU 27 and 28



RIDGE
WAY

208

209

210

LIDDINGTON CASTLE

A-E and Z : EXCAVATIONS 1976

799

799



chalk
pit

798

798

797

797

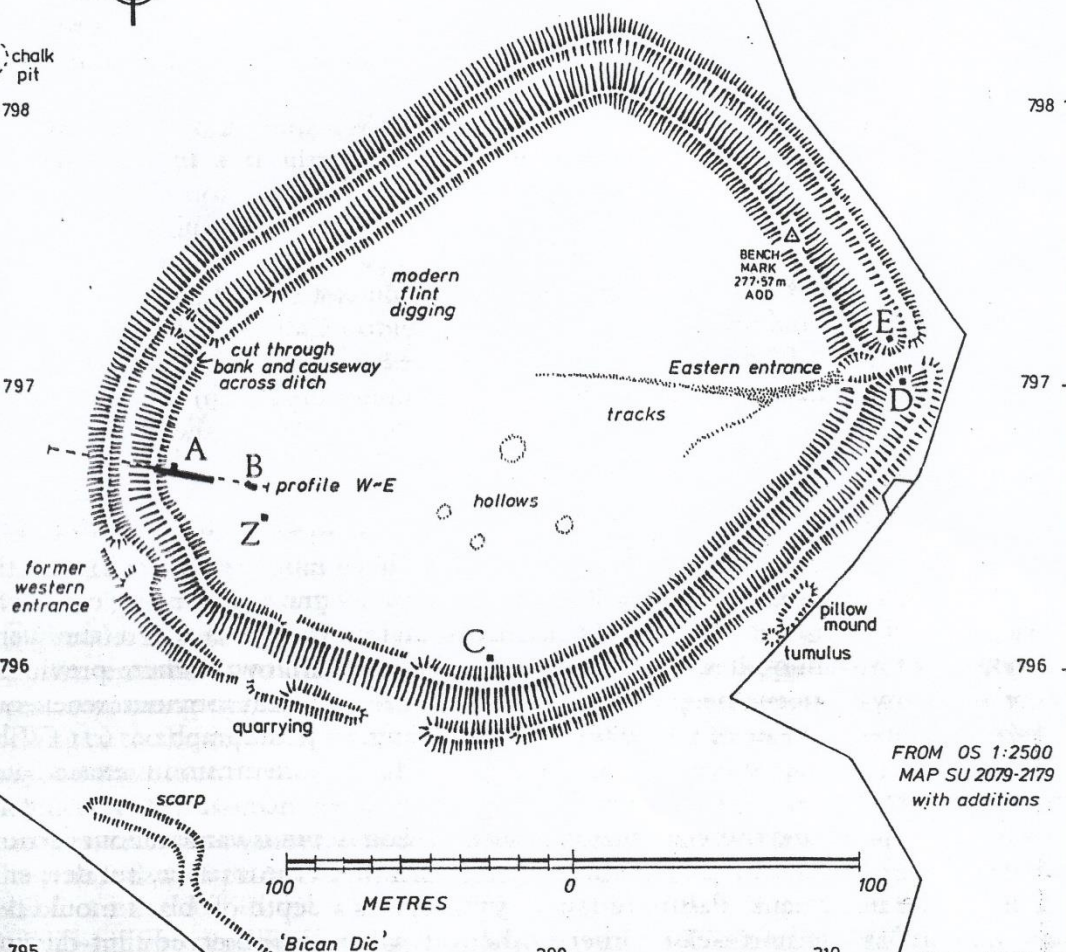
796

796

795

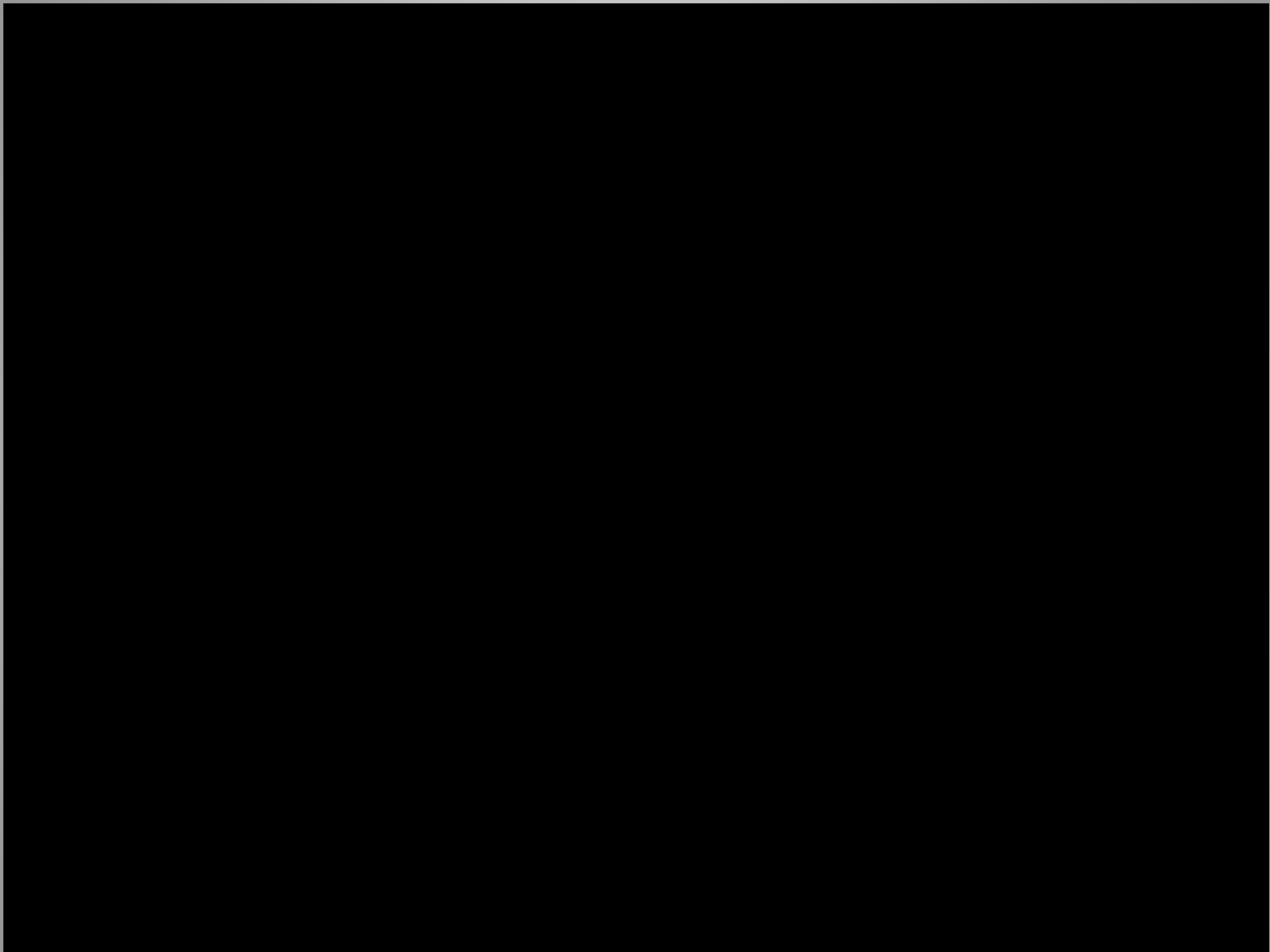
209

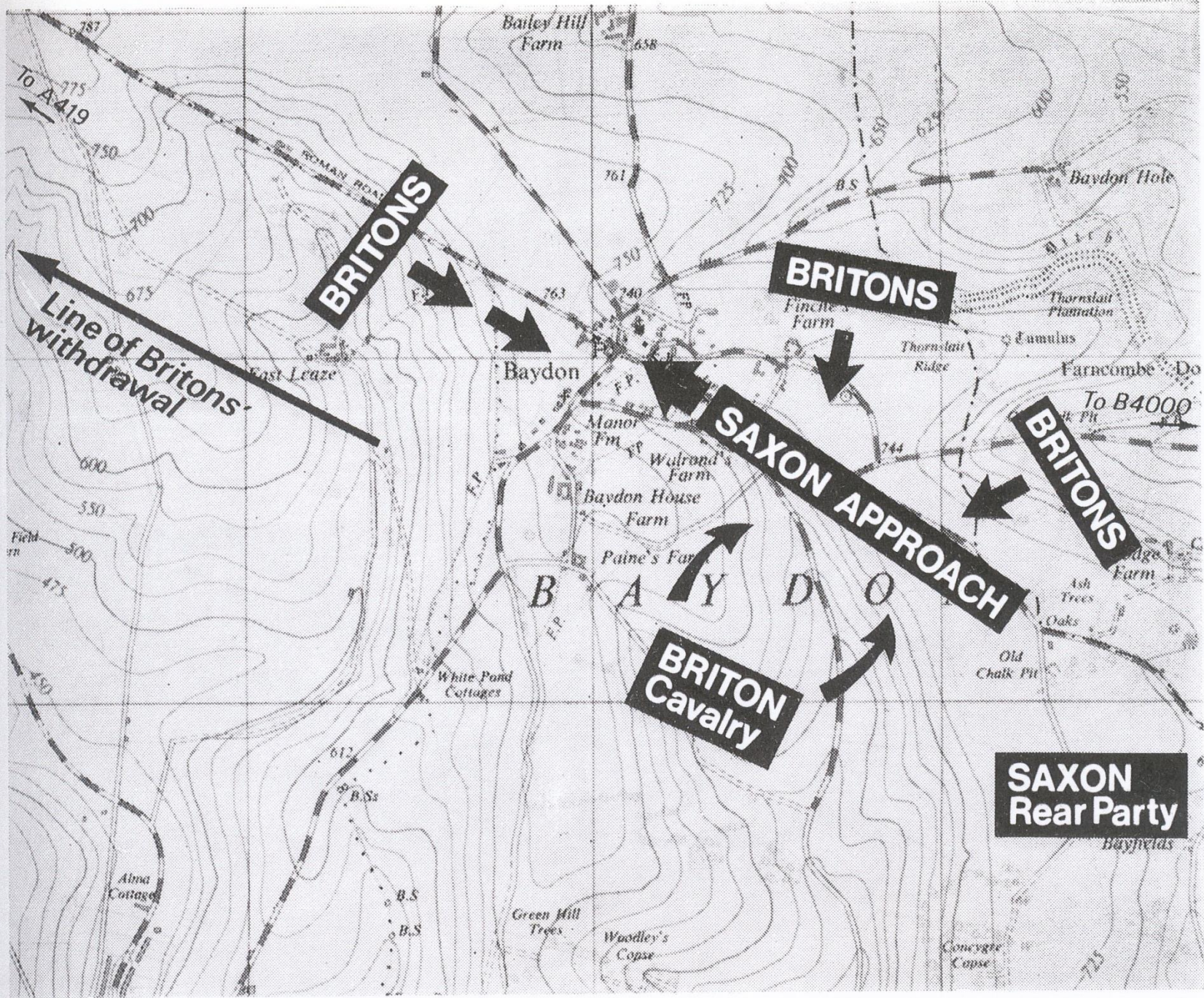
210



FROM OS 1:2500
MAP SU 2079-2179
with additions

PAR 1990





BRITONS

BRITONS

BRITONS

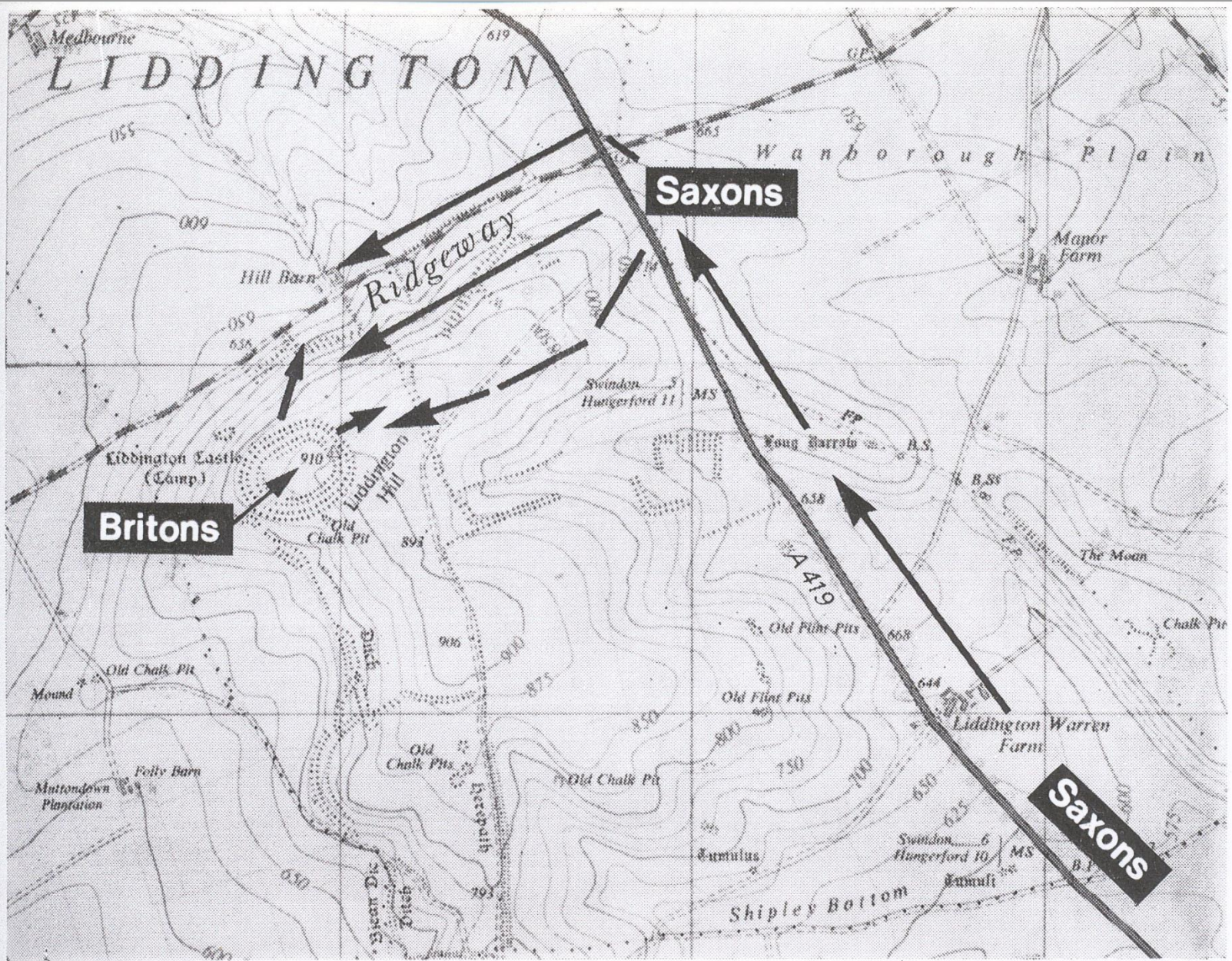
Line of Britons' withdrawal

SAXON APPROACH

BRITON Cavalry

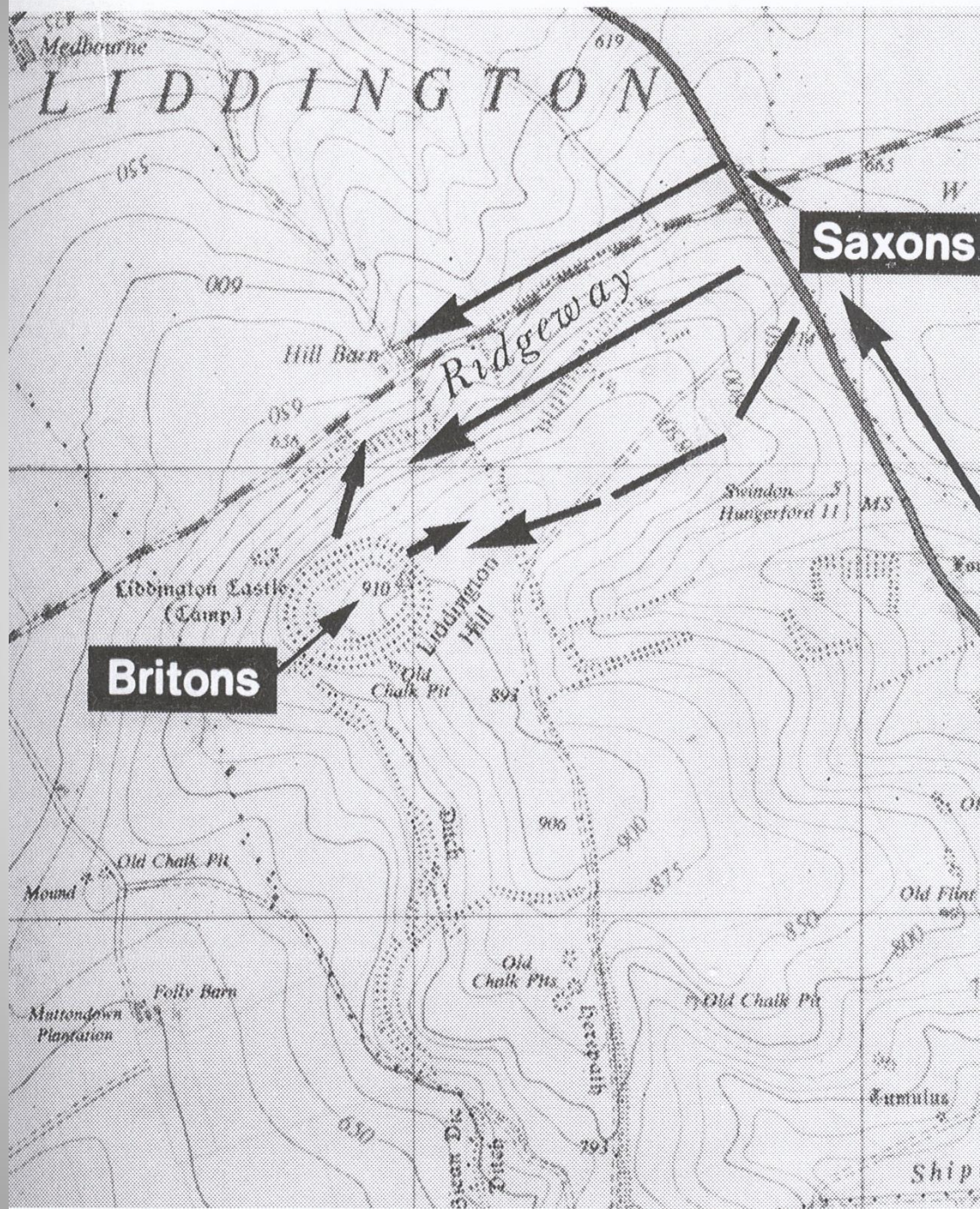
SAXON Rear Party
Bayfields

BAYDON



I Mount Badon, 516 (Wiltshire)

Crown Copyright Reserved







- The secular church*
- Archdiocesan boundary
 - Diocesan boundary
 - Archbishopric
 - Bishopric
- The regular church (major houses)*
- Benedictine house
 - Nunnery
 - Cistercian, Carthusian or other new order house
 - House of canons regular (Augustinian canons)
 - Town with three or more friaries (Franciscan or Dominican)
 - Major pilgrimage site
 - University founded by 1500



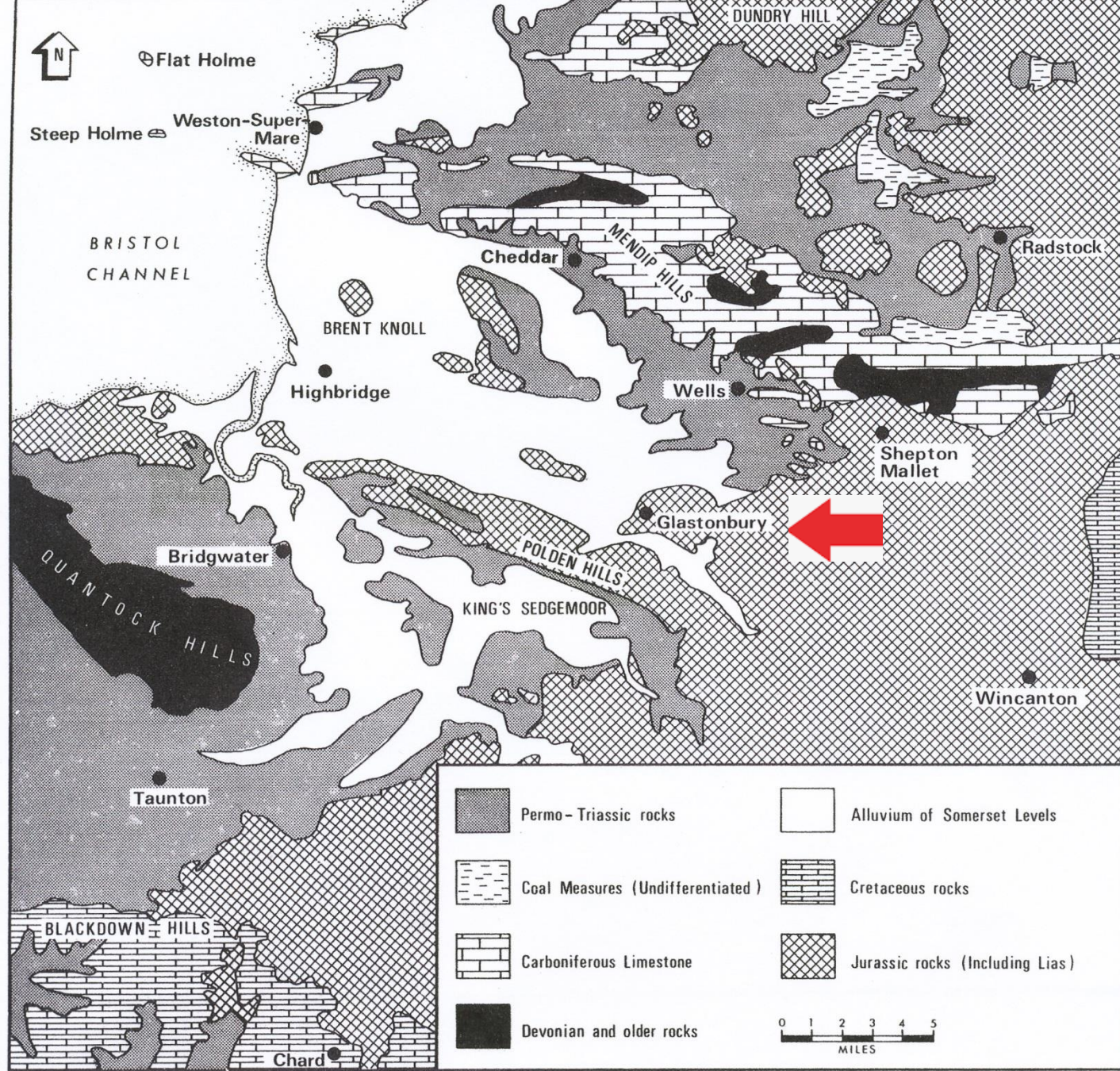
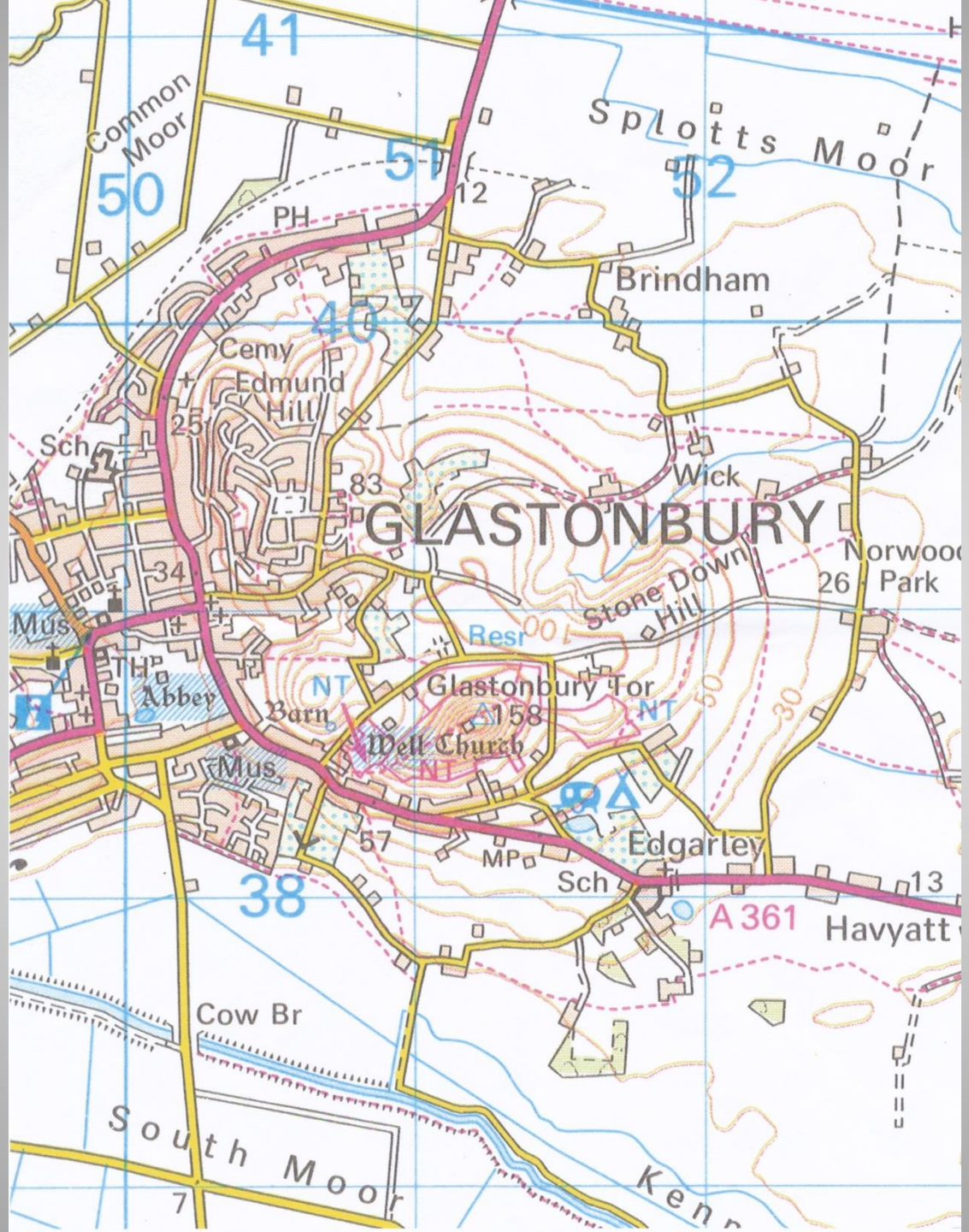


Fig. 43. The structure of the Mendips and the Somerset Levels area.

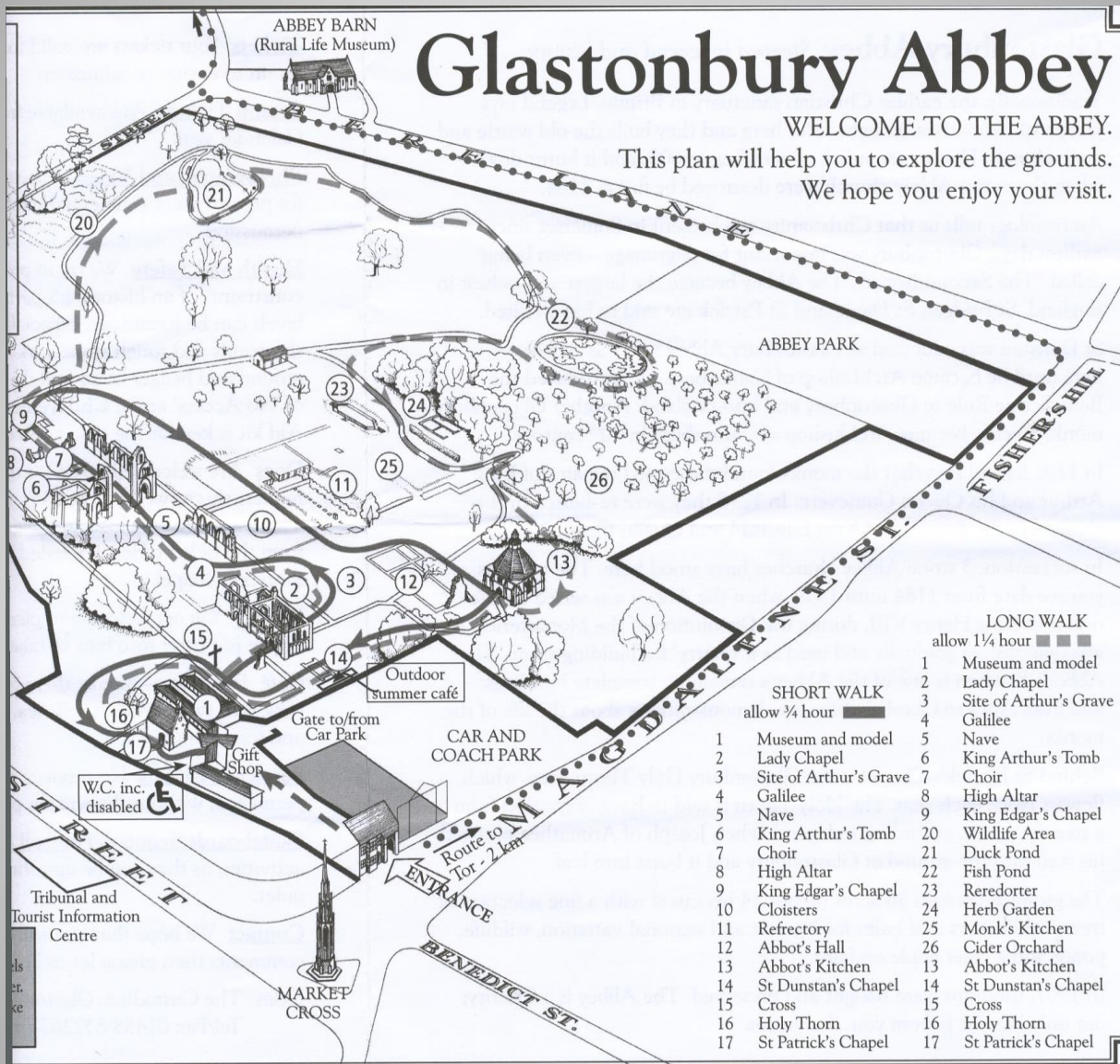


Glastonbury Abbey

WELCOME TO THE ABBEY.

This plan will help you to explore the grounds.

We hope you enjoy your visit.



LONG WALK
allow 1 1/4 hour ■ ■ ■

- 1 Museum and model
- 2 Lady Chapel
- 3 Site of Arthur's Grave
- 4 Galilee
- 5 Nave
- 6 King Arthur's Tomb
- 7 Choir
- 8 High Altar
- 9 King Edgar's Chapel
- 20 Wildlife Area
- 21 Duck Pond
- 22 Fish Pond
- 23 Reredorter
- 24 Herb Garden
- 25 Monk's Kitchen
- 26 Cider Orchard
- 13 Abbot's Kitchen
- 14 St Dunstan's Chapel
- 15 Cross
- 16 Holy Thorn
- 17 St Patrick's Chapel

SHORT WALK
allow 3/4 hour ■ ■

- 1 Museum and model
- 2 Lady Chapel
- 3 Site of Arthur's Grave
- 4 Galilee
- 5 Nave
- 6 King Arthur's Tomb
- 7 Choir
- 8 High Altar
- 9 King Edgar's Chapel
- 10 Cloisters
- 11 Refectory
- 12 Abbot's Hall
- 13 Abbot's Kitchen
- 14 St Dunstan's Chapel
- 15 Cross
- 16 Holy Thorn
- 17 St Patrick's Chapel

W.C. inc. disabled

Tribunal and Tourist Information Centre

MARKET CROSS

ENTRANCE

CAR AND COACH PARK

Gate to/from Car Park

Outdoor summer café

Gift Shop

Route to Tor - 2 km

ABBEY PARK

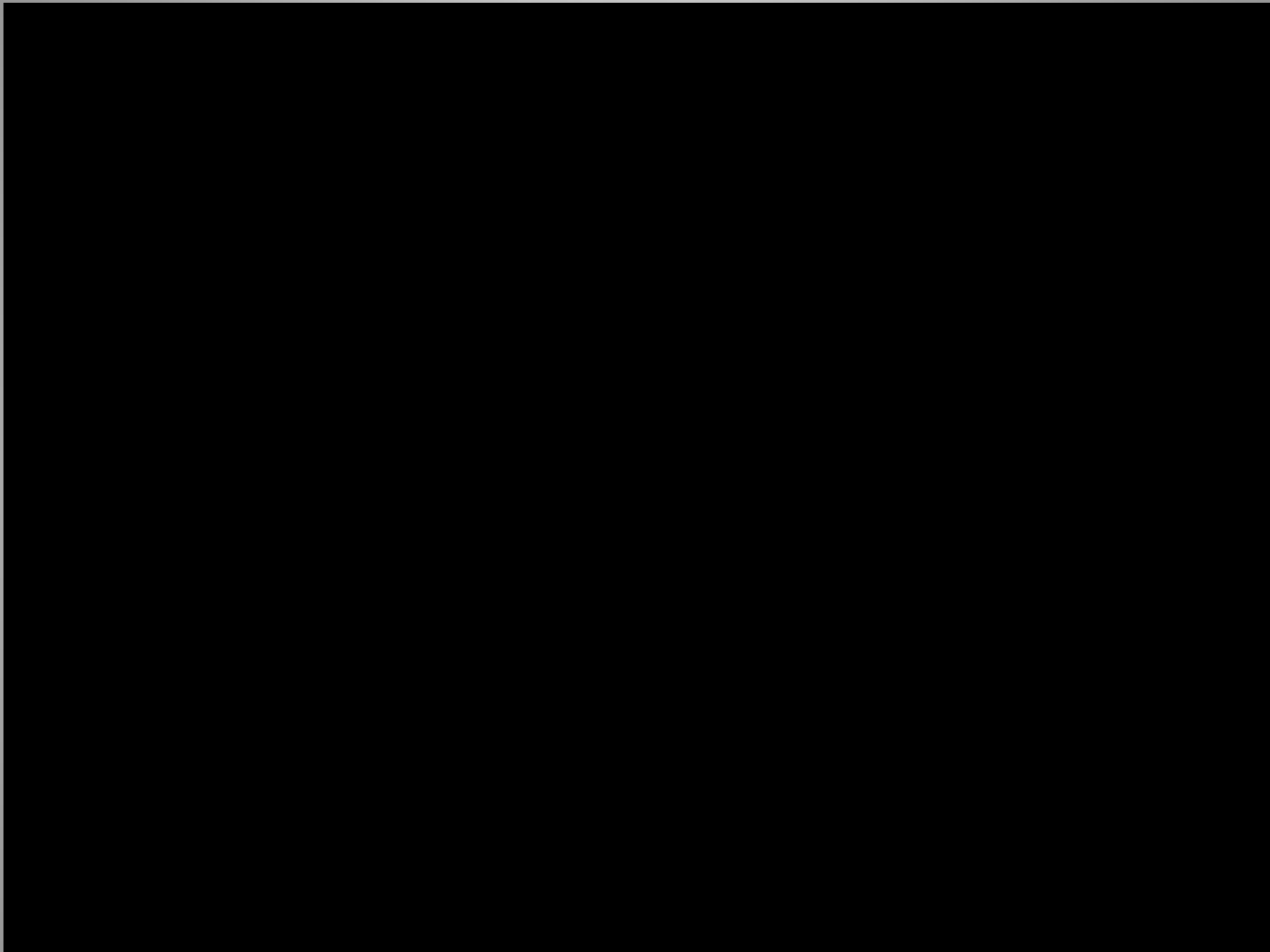
ABBEY BARN
(Rural Life Museum)

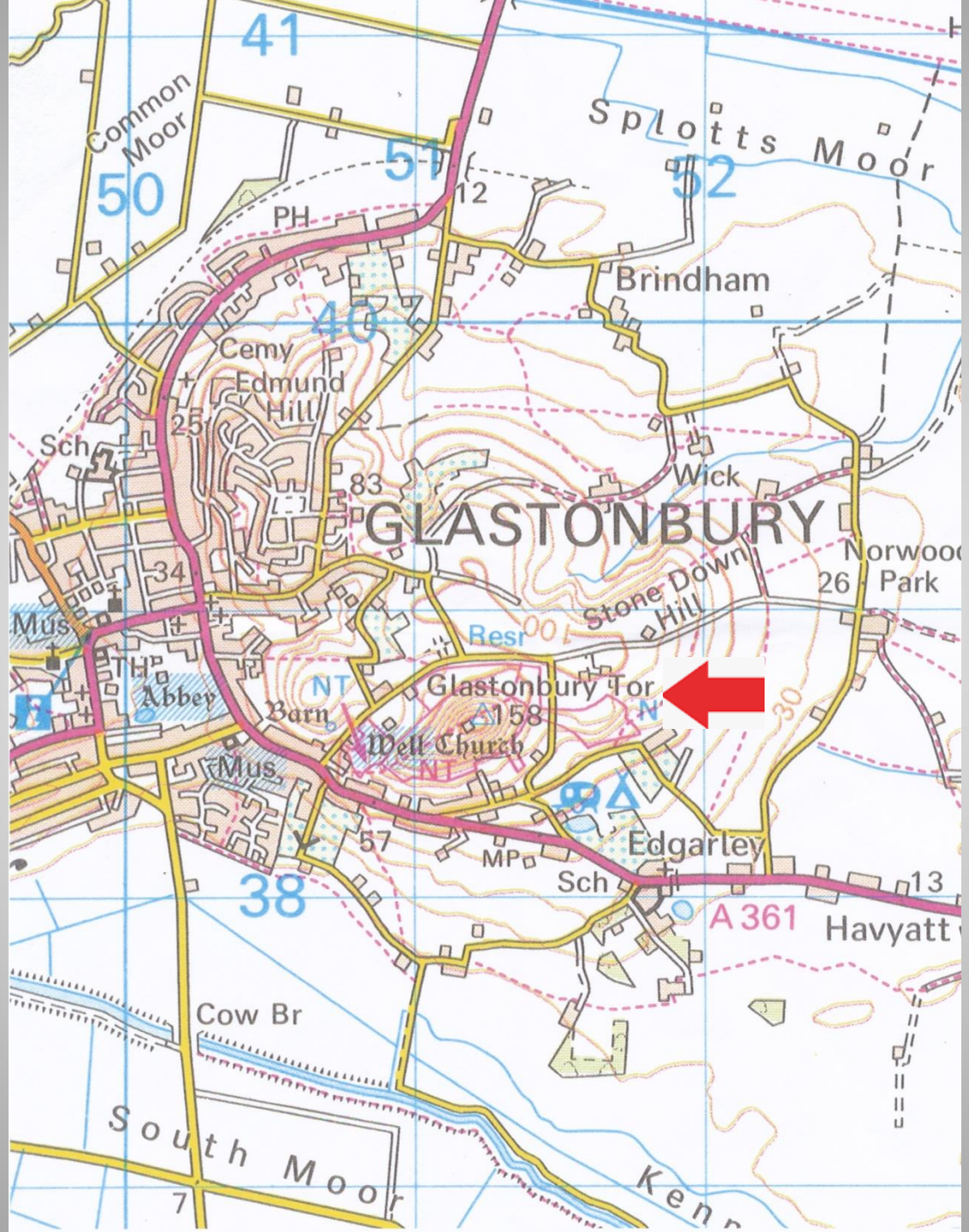
FISHER'S HILL

BENEDICT ST.

STREET

MAGDALEN ST.





SIGNAL STATIONS AND BEACONS



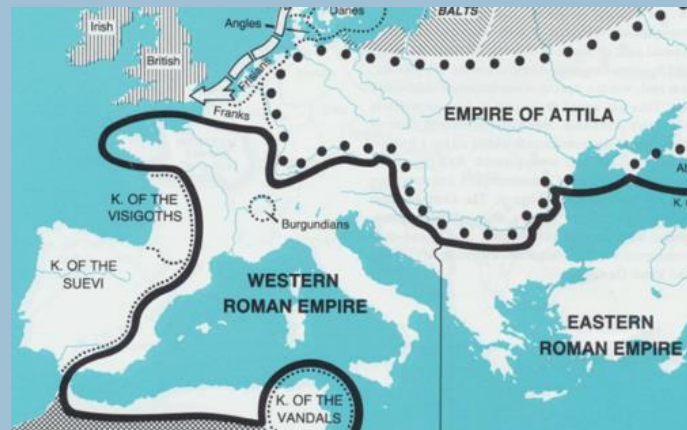
The gap between beacons, where the terrain allowed, was six to eight miles, the chains heading to a climacteric beacon at the most widely visible point of a shire, e.g. Lewesdon (993 feet) in Dorset, and on the Malverns the Herefordshire Beacon (1,114 feet) and the Worcestershire Beacon (1,394 feet). Faggots of brushwood or furze were often piled on the beacon site for fuel, to be lit sometimes on stone hearths or in a stone fire-turret such as survives on Culmstock Beacon in Devon. However, from the 14th century the standard hilltop gear was an iron fire-basket, or cresset, with a pitch-pot inside, raised up on a pole, to which one mounted by a pole-ladder.

The Shell Country Alphabet

From Apple Trees to Stone Circles, How to Understand
the British Countryside

Geoffrey Grigson

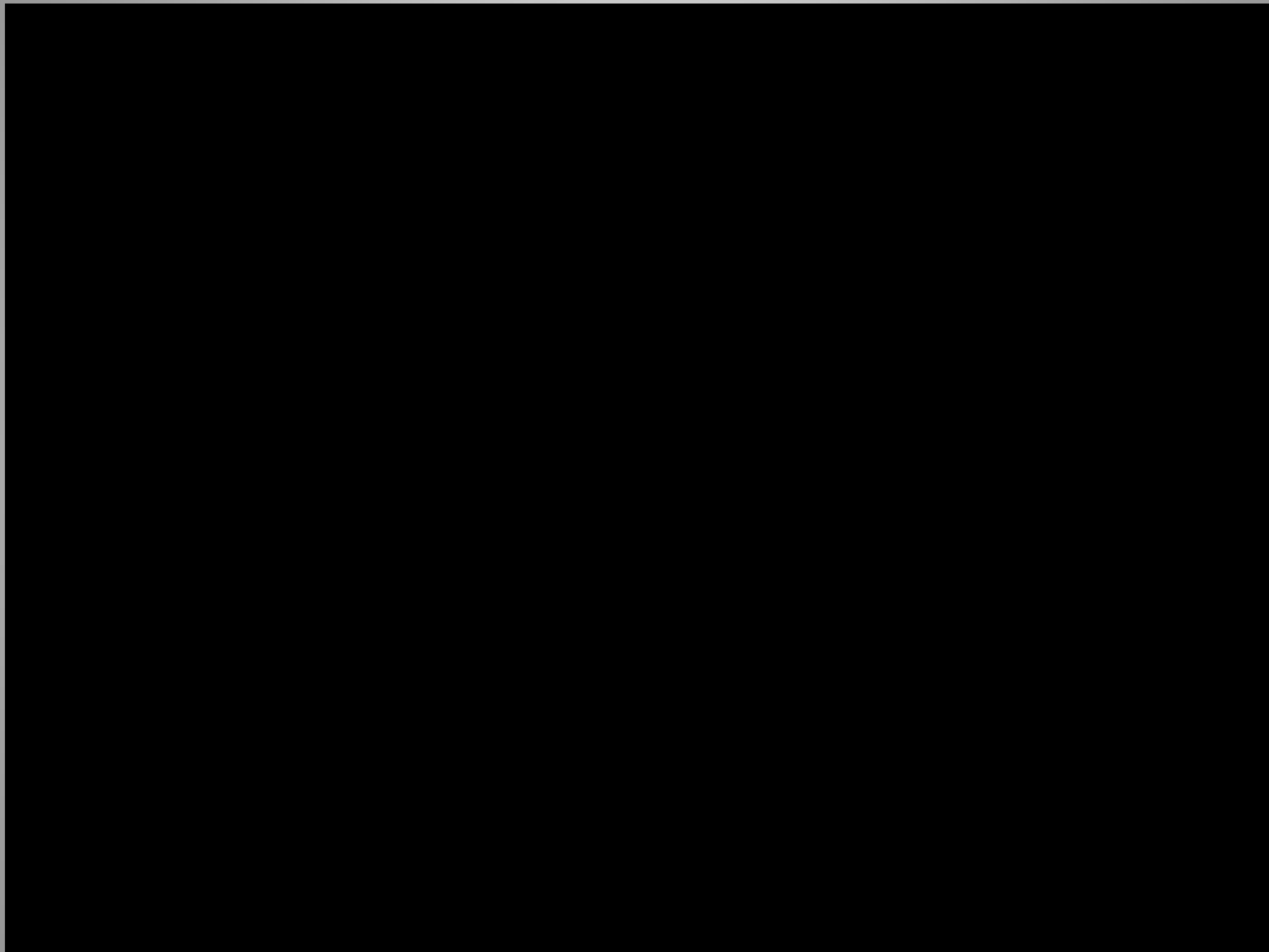
Foederati (singular foederatus) were peoples and cities bound by a treaty (foedus) to support Rome, coming to its aid when called upon.



The best-known example came in AD 451, when the forces of Attila the Hun threatened the west. Roman forces joined with foederati (Visigoths, Franks, Burgundians, Alans and Saxons) to defeat the Hun forces.

In this example, a realm corresponding to the Byzantine Empire is threatened by barbarian invaders.

That realm called upon its foederati to come to its aid. The system of beacons was used....







RaySingh LovelyBones74 11 years ago

I love how Aragorn, Eowyn, Eomer and Legolas are all looking expectantly at Theoden!
Then he goes: "And Rohan will answer! Muster the Rohirrim!"
I'm thinking: Yes! Finally!

 1  [Reply](#)





Axel Hunt 9 years ago

That method has been used for centuries in my country(Georgia) too, and i must say we've mountains of those sizes too and little groups of armies were located with their families in their beacon towers and they were always living there and they were given food and supplies from the valley villages every month or something.



Awful Waffle 9 years ago



I always get chills at the end of the clip

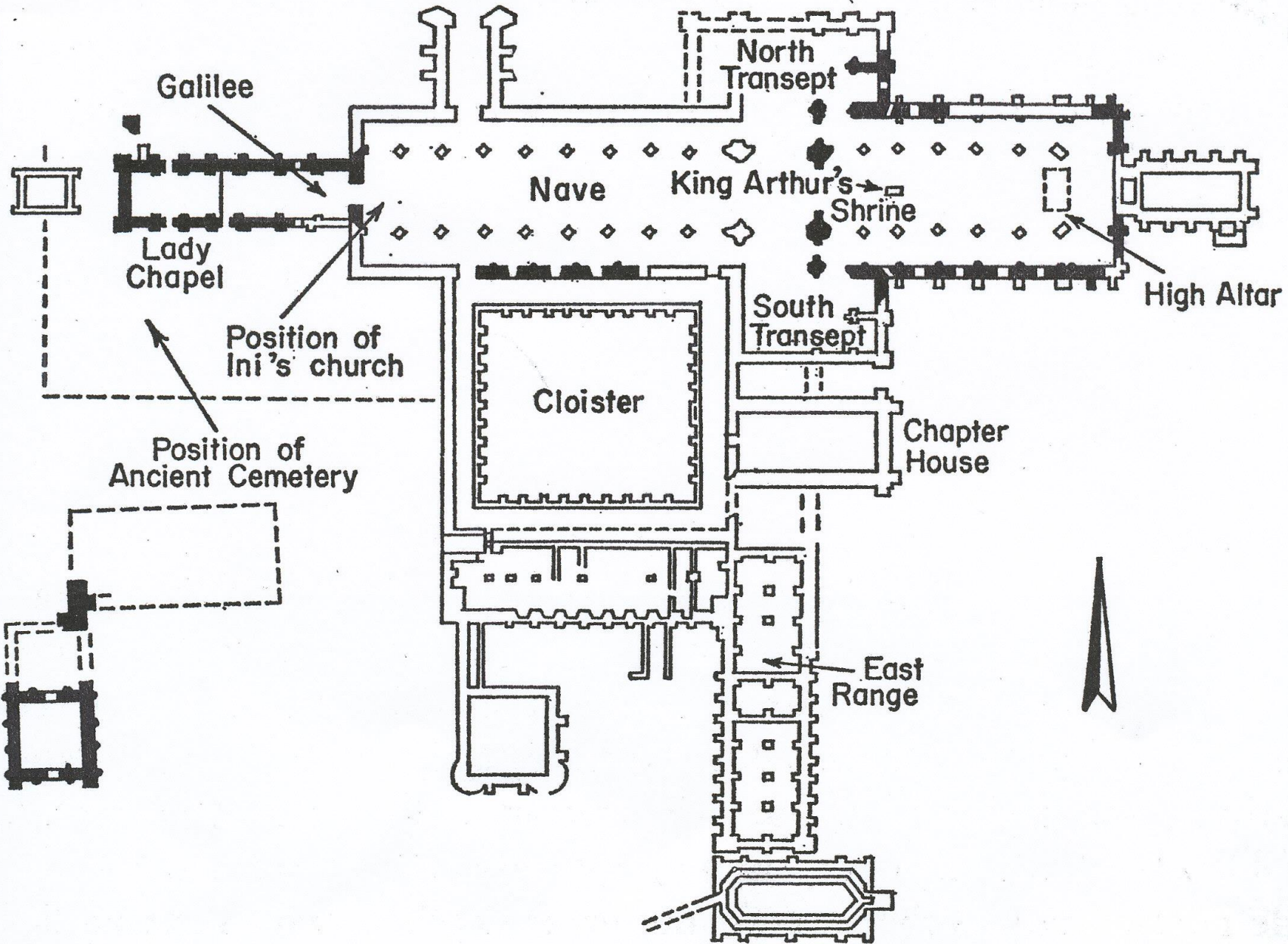
  [Reply](#)



TheSaerwen 10 years ago

This is so epic!!! But everyone should be happy it hadn't rained and the wood wasn't wet.

  [Reply](#)





6. Camden's drawing of the Glastonbury lead cross, from the 1607 edition of *Britannia*.

SAXONS & CELTS

Saxons and Celts

By c.700 the borders between the Anglo-Saxons and the Celtic peoples of Britain were beginning to stabilise. The Britons maintained their independence in Dumnonia, Wales and Strathclyde. The Picts successfully resisted Northumbrian attacks, but came increasingly under the influence of Dal Riata in the 8th century. Northumbria, the leading Anglo-Saxon kingdom in the 7th century, declined in the 8th and Mercia achieved a hegemony over southern Britain. Ireland, divided into seven over-kingdoms and dozens of sub-kingdoms, experienced a 'golden age' of monastic culture.



Roman Britain about 410.

1 2 Routes of Caesar's expeditions to Britain (55-54 B.C.)

— Roman roads.
Names of native tribes thus:

Scale 1:5 000 000
Miles



56
54
52
50



The Heritage of Roman Britain

- **Christianity** in the British Isles
- **London**: city, site, significance
- **Urban locations**: the sites and significance of towns and cities.

- **Case studies and examples of-**
 - History and Archaeology joining to explore the past.
 - New scientific discoveries showing how they can clarify, correct and improve our understanding of the past.