

Sample extract from Chapter 2, p.48

What are we left with? We know there were some kings in south-west Britain. And Gildas informs us that in the sixth century one of them was called Constantine. What we don't know is whether contemporaries knew of him as a king *of* (as opposed to *in*) Dumnonia or king of Cornubia/Kernow. Or perhaps just a king with no clear territorial affiliation. Or maybe they weren't even aware they were supposed to have a king. However, the consensus is that Tintagel is the best candidate for a possible high-status royal seat and most opinion agrees that power was re-focused west of Exeter. Other evidence supports this contention of a power centre west of the Tamar. Some cite the lack of legendary status ascribed to Devon's hill-forts, in contrast to Cornwall where hilltops positively teem with folkloric kings. The collapse of pottery production in fifth century Devon and the absence of a native pottery industry there until the English restarted it in the eighth century stands in marked contrast with continued ceramic production in Cornwall throughout the post-Roman period. The aceramic east of the region strongly suggests that what became modern Devon was at this time marginal, the tail-end of a kingdom where power was firmly located in the west. Even if contemporaries called it Dumnonia, Dumnonia in practice meant Greater Cornubia.