



SILCHESTER ROMAN TOWN:  
THE INSULA IX TOWN LIFE PROJECT: VOLUME 3

LATE IRON AGE CALLEVA  
THE PRE-CONQUEST OCCUPATION AT SILCHESTER  
INSULA IX





FOR STEPHEN AND CAROLINE BUTT  
and  
THE CALLEVA FOUNDATION





# LATE IRON AGE CALLEVA

THE PRE-CONQUEST OCCUPATION AT SILCHESTER  
INSULA IX

BY

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This, the third volume reporting on the Insula IX Town Life Project, describes its earliest, Iron Age archaeology, some of which was being excavated as early as 2008, but with completion in the summer of 2014. This research excavation ran under the auspices of the University of Reading's Silchester Field School, directed by Amanda Clarke, and over the seven seasons between 2008 and 2014 more than 1,500 students and volunteers from the university, the UK more widely and, indeed, across the world took part, for the most part experiencing field archaeology for the first time.

First and foremost, we are immensely grateful to the landowners, Hampshire County Council, who, through the good offices of Helen Jex, gave us permission to carry out the excavation, to their most helpful tenants, Desmond and Graham Best, and to successive Inspectors of Ancient Monuments, especially for these years, Drs Ben Jarvis and Richard Massey, who supported us in our successive applications for Scheduled Monument Consent from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

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The success of an enterprise on the scale of the Town Life Project also depends on essential help with the dig infrastructure, such as the shoring of wells, and the day-to-day running of generators and electricity supply to cabins. We are immensely grateful to John Brown†, our volunteer Technical Supervisor, and Jim Harriss, our Site Technician, for helping to ensure the smooth running of the dig infrastructure and Alan Absalom, our lorry driver, who helped with the setting up and setting down of the campsite and dig infrastructure, and the transport of equipment to and from Reading.

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Our excavation attracted thousands of visitors each year and to help explain the archaeology and to manage their volunteer assistants we enjoyed and are grateful for the services of successive Visitor Managers: Helena Boehm, Ross McGuaran and Zoe Cavendish. Their success is reflected in our visitors' very positive feedback.

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Post-excavation work began in earnest at the end of the 2014 season and we warmly thank Jen Eaton and Rory Williams-Burrell for all their hard work throughout in supporting the research programmes on both the finds and the environmental remains, often involving lengthy visits to collect bulk finds or environmental samples from storage at one of the University's farms, or endless days processing samples and sorting through the residues from flotation.

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November 2017



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## PREFACE

Following the publications of *Life and Labour in Late Roman Silchester* (Fulford *et al.* 2006) and *Silchester: City in Transition* (Fulford and Clarke 2011), *Late Iron Age Calleva* is the third volume reporting the archaeology of Insula IX. The initial publication strategy for the excavations carried out at Insula IX between 1997 and 2014 was to reverse normal practice in the interests of expediency and work on the final publication while the excavation was still in progress, beginning with the latest archaeology and working down to the earliest. In addition to the above volumes, the Victorian excavations of Insula IX were published by Fulford and Clarke (2002) and the archaeology of the development of House 1 in the online publication, *Internet Archaeology* (Clarke *et al.* 2007). However, it became increasingly clear over the last six or seven seasons of fieldwork that to unravel the complexities of the late Iron Age and earliest Roman occupation required a return to a normative approach and to continue the publication strategy by working from the earliest to the latest. Following this volume, a further two are planned, the first to cover the Claudio-Neronian archaeology, the second the developments within the Insula between the later first and early-to-mid-second century A.D. Online publication to complement the traditional printed publications has been a distinctive feature of the Town life Project and it is planned to take this further by developing online access to the entire Insula IX excavation archive.

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November 2017



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