

Coventinas well - a shrine on Hadrians Wall

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History of Carrawburgh Roman Fort

The horse was a fertility symbol whereas the dog represented the god of medicine and healing called Aesculapius.

Coventina the water goddess

The structure follows a typical Romano-Celtic temple design beside a well fed by a sacred spring. Also based around water, it comprised a single altar, a well and an apsidal wall containing a seat.

Temple of Mithras

You may have read or seen movies based on the legends about King Arthur. A high stone wall, 1. What first met the eyes of the excavators was a mass of votive offerings, mostly copper coins, carved stones, altars, jars, incense- burners, pearls and brooches.

Coventina

As well as the artefacts that you might imagine are offerings, there are also some objects which may just be pure rubbish, which may include the glass bottle. The interest of this legend lies in the fact that Coventina, a Celtic Romano water goddess, was virtually unknown in this country until her only shrine was discovered at Carrawburgh in Yorkshire in the 1890s. This helps us conceptualise how the exchange of cultural traditions shaped the identities of the multicultural population co-existing in Roman Britain.

Coventina

Certainly, the bottom jaw and teeth were not found with the skull, just the top part of the cranium.

Case study: Coventina's Well

We know little of the buildings inside the fort. © Copyright Tim Midgley 2007, revised 9th November 2011.

Temple of Mithras

Roman altars at the Temple of Mithras, Carrawburgh. Over here, though, we have an altar to the goddess nymph Coventina set up by Maduhus, a German, for himself and his family. You then have a man who is from the first cohort of Cubernians, which is this one here, Aurelius Campester.

Coventina

A strong room, where pay and important documents were kept, has been excavated under the central room of the south range the shrine of the standards or aedes and a well was found in the courtyard. The coins ranged from the time of Mark Anthony to that of Gratian. Coventina's Well submitted by The patch of bright green grass in the centre right of the photograph shows the grid reference given for the well.

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