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The Dobunni tribal area morphed into the Hwicce Kingdom area over many wars.

The Romans found Britain full of warring tribes. One of them was named the Dobunni. They were people of the **Severn River valley** (Worcestershire area) and the Cotswolds (North Somerset and Gloucestershire areas).



There was a schism between the northern and southern Dobunni. The Dobunni territory (eventually the diocese of Worcester), was briefly the Saxon kingdom of the Hwicce.

After Britannia seceded from the Roman Empire in 409, the Saxons swept over the lowlands. Victories over the tribes were divided between Britons and Saxons. The Saxons achieved dominance by 441 and left the highland zone as British kingdoms. The buffer zone, including the Dobunni area, seems

to have remained British.



During the peace between the Britons and the Saxons, a Christian society emerged. There were elements inherited from both the Roman and Celtic tribal cultures. Latin continued in use. While towns ceased to be major production centers, with large populations, some remained as monasteries, episcopal seats, or local markets. Life continued amid the ruins.

In the sixth century the Saxons began to expand their territory. The Britons retreated westward beyond the Severn in 577.

Who were the **Hwicce**? The earliest surviving document to record the name is the Tribal Hidage (a land tax list based on the number of hides), now thought to date from 626. It tells us that the **Saxon** queen Eafe had been baptised in her own country, the kingdom of the Hwicce.