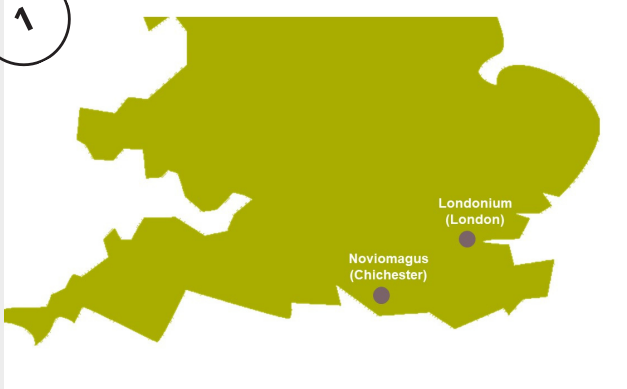


How the Romans Plotted Straight Roads

The Romans built thousands of miles of roads in Britain using a simple but effective tool - a groma.

1

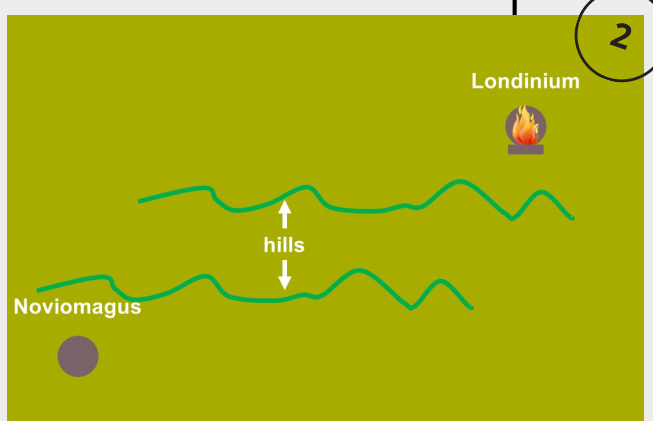


Connecting towns

The Romans want to connect the important towns of London and Chichester with a straight road to move troops and supplies easily.

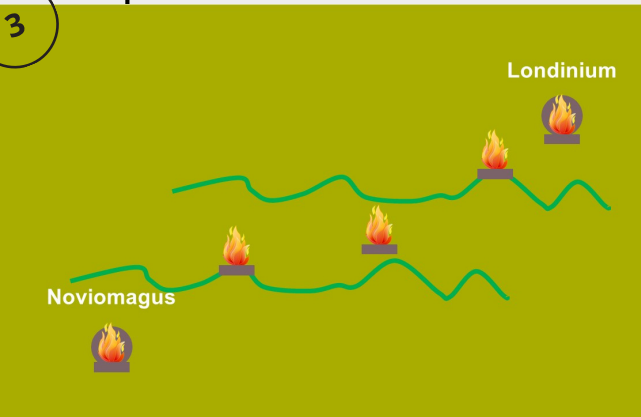
No line of sight

The towns are 80 miles apart, with multiple hills in between. The Roman surveyor lights a beacon in London.



2

3

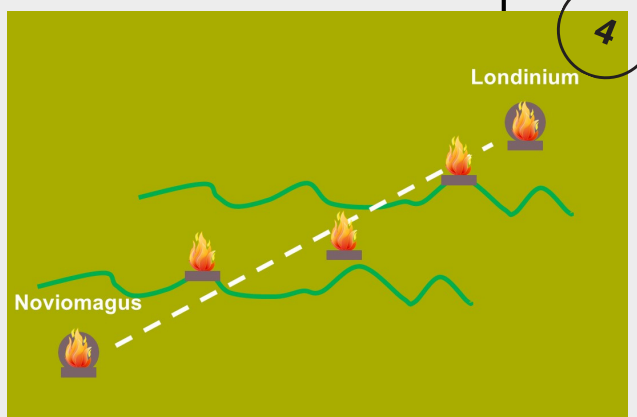


Lighting the way

The surveyor travels towards Chichester, lighting beacons on high ground and always making sure he can see the beacon before.

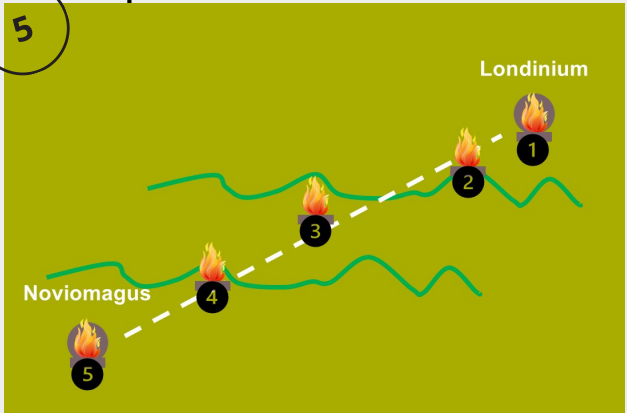
A line of lights

Eventually he gets to Chichester, lighting the last beacon in the town. The beacons mark a path but it is not a straight one,



4

5

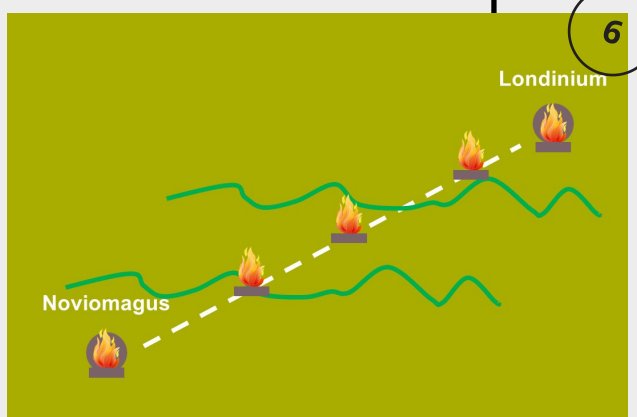


Using the groma

The surveyor returns to beacon 4 and uses a groma to line up the beacons either side (3 and 5).

Getting it straight

The surveyor moves back and forwards between the beacons, using the groma to line them up. Eventually they form a straight line between the towns.



6

The road can now be built