of Golemo Gradište at Konjuh.

The hill of Golemo Gradište at Konjuh

The hill of Golemo Gradište at Konjuh was renamed to Zapara/Zapedarnia. The hill known as Golemo Gradište is 400m high and 500m in length. The hilltop of Golemo Gradište was extensively adapted to an acropolis by cutting, rooms in the rock and making an large platform for inhabited use. The rock and making an large platform for inhabited use.

Golescu & Zappara

Republic of Macedonia

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Golemo Gradište

Konjuh

Гареcк & Запара

Maps shows the exact location

Golemo Gradište, note the ongoing ancient city, Golemo Gradište, which later
The city of Garescus in Orbeilla/Parorbeilla (Osogovija) in Macedonia was listed by Ptolemy as the sole, most important with the location occupied by Golemo Gradiste at Konjuh. Golesmo Gradiste with the meaning of “a large city” is an acropolis, a fortified city that was built by the Paeonian tribe Garesci on a hill, a plain area by the Kriva River. Garescus was strategically raised on a place to guard the Paeonian kingdom eastwards against the Illyrians and to control the important road, through the valley of Kriva Reka, with bearing from Scupi to Serdica. Paeonia was ruled by Patraus until his death in 315 BC as an independent kingdom, subjected to Macedonia. Shortly after the new king Audoleon came to the throne, Paeonia must have been attacked by the Avariiate, Illyrian people, forcing inhabitants of Garescus to flee from their city. Diodorus informs us that Cassander assisted Audoleon against Avariate, and that having conquered them, he settled 20,000 men, women and children in the Mount Orbelus. According to Strabo, the Macedonian king Cassander founded Thessalonica in 315 after he had raised to the ground the towns in Crusis and those on the Thermaic Gulf, about 25 in number, by settling all inhabitants together in one city. Obviously, the refugees from Garescus must have also been moved to settle in the newly built city of Thessalonica, like those people moved from the demolished cities. A quite precise description of Parorbeilla’s location as district was given by Strabo telling that Parorbeilla in Macedonia is situated near Agrianes. The Agrianes were a Paeonian tribe not included in the Paeonian kingdom, occupying the district around Pautalia and the source of the Strymon River. In 279-278 BC the Celts/Gauls invaded the Paeonian kingdom with a huge army and carried out immense atrocities destroying everything on their path. Paeonia was repeatedly ruined by many invaders, and during the Roman rule the country was divided into two parts, forming the second and the third region of Macedonia.

Zappara as an episcopal city was first built on the ground of the rased city of Garescus, due to its ideal geographical location, controlling the valley of the Kriva River. A large episcopal Basilica was built among many living houses on the plain of the abandoned fortified city of Garescus late in the 4th or early in the 5th century. However, Zappara was entirely destroyed by the Hunns during their invasion of the Balkans in 448–449 AD and therefore a new episcopal Basilica had been built nearby, outside the fortified city. Zappara was first mentioned as an Episcopal city in the Acta of the 5th Ecumenical church council in 553 AD, when Bishop Sabianus of the Zappara city refused to attend the council because his archbishop, Benenatus of Justinianus Prima, was not present. Hierocles, in the early 6th century, lists eight cities in the province of Macedonia Secundia: Stobi, Argos, Alstramon (Strumica), Pelagonia (Bitola), Bargala, Harmonia, Kelenidin, and Zappara. Even the new built Episcopal Basilica, known as Rotunda church at Konjuh, was rased to the ground by the Slavs and Avars when they settled to the Balkans in the first half of the 7th century AD.