

SAXON

The Newsletter of the Sutton Hoo Society

Spring 1988

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Free to Members

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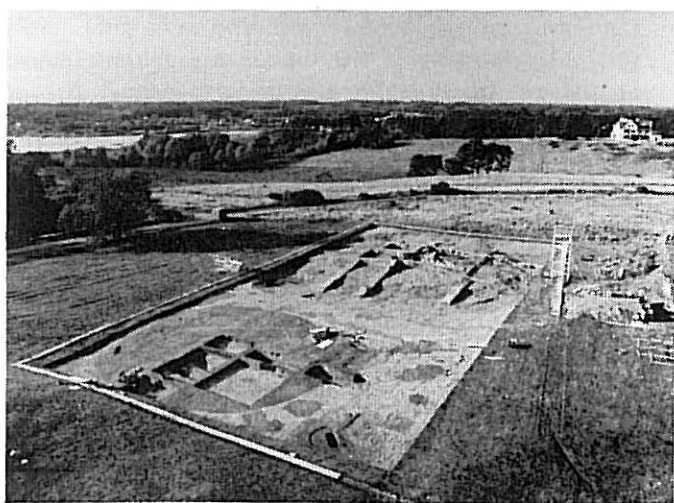
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Sutton Hoo 1987: Excavation Report

Excavation has continued throughout the year on Sector 2, the first area of the scheduled monument to be investigated in the present campaign.

The area now shows two large circular platforms of dark brown soil, which are the ancient ground surfaces originally buried under Mounds 2 and 5. Between them lies the natural sand and gravel, marked in places



Sector 2 in late September, showing Mounds 2 & 5 surrounded by graves (excavated) & prehistoric features (unexcavated).

by patches and strips of darker soil which probably represent infilled pits, palisade trenches and ditches - the remains of a prehistoric settlement. Perhaps the remains of prehistoric burial too: a cremation lying between the mounds is thought from pottery evidence to be Bronze Age. These features have not yet been excavated, but the sector is due to be completed by next spring.

Deciphering a mound

Mound 2 was found to be a mixture of yellow sand, decayed turf and topsoil; much disturbed by rabbits and overlain by the upcast from previous diggings. Much of the materials had originally been quarried from the broad irregular ditch surrounding the mound. The ditch surfaces at 'causeways' on the north, east, south and west sides, and it had silted up before being finally obscured by a fairly recent ploughsoil. The earliest layers in the ditch contained sherds of late medieval pottery. The mound itself had slumped down into the ditch, and would originally have been higher and steeper-sided than it appeared to us. Apart from the many rabbit burrows and a couple of World War II weapons pits, Basil Brown's trench and an earlier robbing were the only features cut into Mound 2.

A new burial chamber

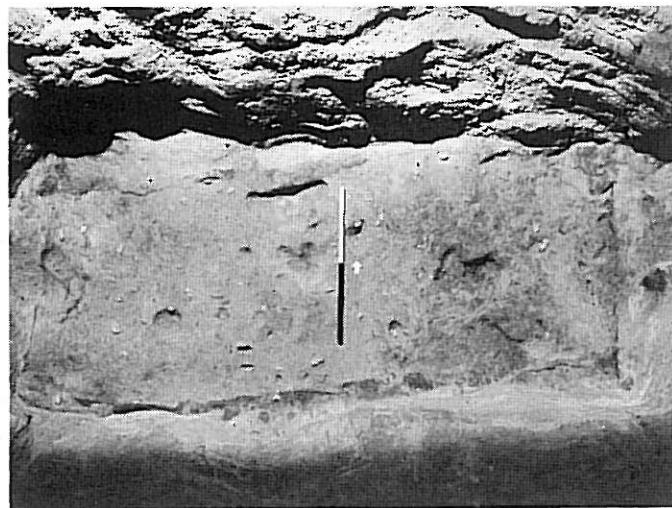
The backfill was carefully removed from Basil Brown's trench, many tons of sieved soil and stones. At the bottom we were astonished to find a pair of steel roller-skates, thrown into the 1938 excavation. The boat-shaped pit first defined by Basil Brown and investigated by the present project in 1984-5, was now revealed. Basil Brown had cut a set of steps down the east end, where his trench had been dug. At this stage, the hunt was on for the boat that all excavations had predicted.

The next job was to remove the backfill of the trench cut by the robbers. Carefully sieved, it contained many fragments of metal (silver, gold and bronze) from objects found by the robbers, who had clearly penetrated deep into the burial deposit and found (and discarded) many iron rivets from the boat. No secure date can be given for this robbing, but the finding of a rubber loop suggests it was late - perhaps 19th or early 20th century. When all the robbers' backfill



The Director at work on the 'boat-shaped pit' in Mound 2, Basil Brown's footsteps in the foreground. Surveying in progress.

had been removed it became clear, for the first time, that Basil Brown had not in fact discovered the full extent of the burial chamber. The boat-shape of the burial pit was clear enough at the top - but at the bottom, shoulders of rain washed sand-silt (looking very like natural sand) were removed to reveal a rectangular pit lined with wood. On the floor of this pit there could still be seen the marks where a bucket



Overhead close-up view of the chamber-grave, by floodlights.

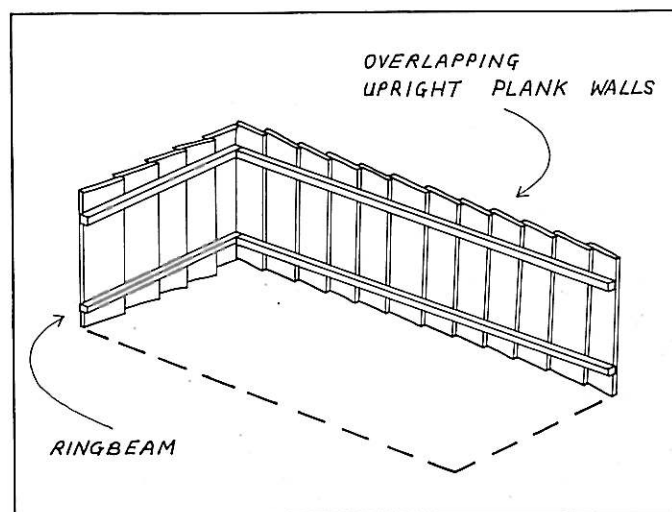


Fig. 2

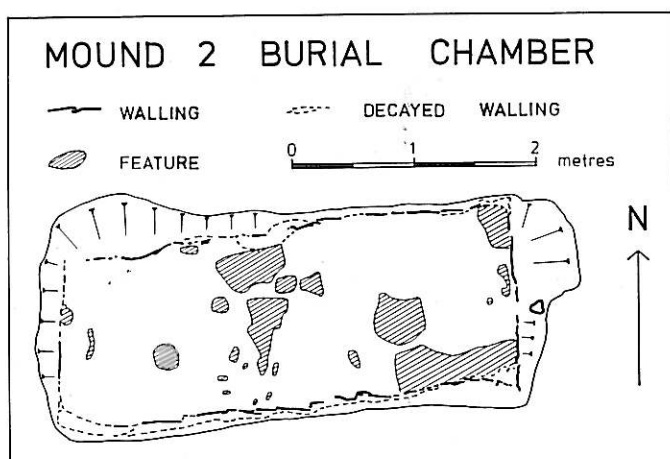
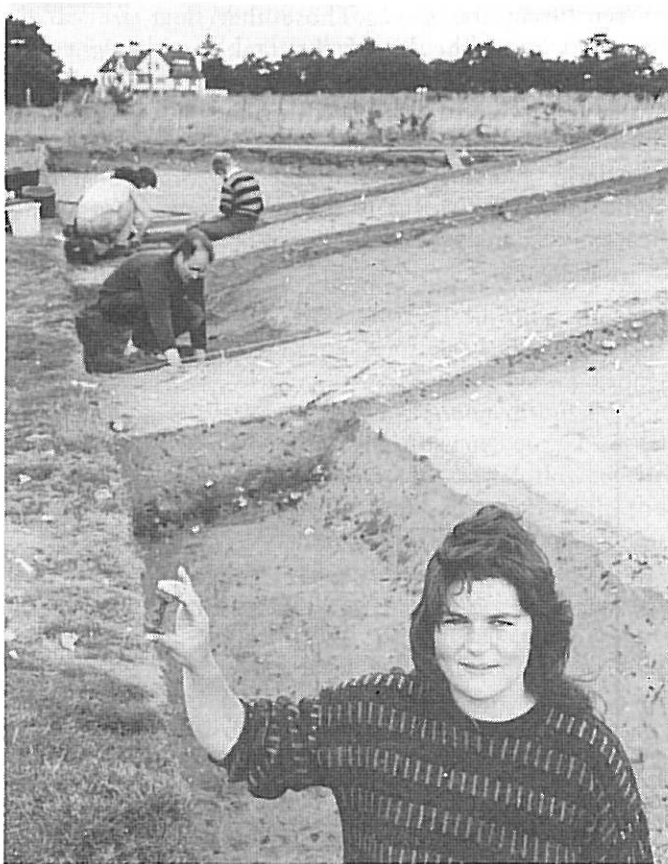


Fig. 1

and other objects had originally stood before being pulled out by the robbers. It was in fact a chamber grave, and in spite of the chaos caused by pillagers, we know quite a lot about it. The chamber was constructed of planks, which its excavator Mark Johnson believes were set on edge, possibly in a narrow trench; and held in place by a ring-beam, with perhaps horizontal struts across the chamber - like shoring.

The dead person lay at the eastern end, and at his (or her) feet lay an iron-bound bronze bucket, a vase of blue glass, a drinking horn and a number of wood or leather objects bound and studded with bronze and gilt fittings. When the analysis of the scraps of metal in the British Museum is complete, we shall surely be able to say still more about this latest addition to the Sutton Hoo aristocracy.

But what of the boat? Over 300 rivets were found this year alone - all of them scattered in backfill or upcast, but securely identified by Angela Evans (British Museum) & Gillian Hutchinson (National Maritime Museum) as coming from a boat. Then there is the boat-shaped pit The best explanation appears to be that a small boat (about 15 feet long), or part of a large boat, was used to roof the chamber grave. Two such graves have been found before, one in North Germany and the other in Denmark, although they were rather later in date (9th century A.D.) than ours. So Mound 2 is not a ship-burial like Mound 1, but different again. Once more Sutton Hoo has side-stepped our expectations, and the site must have plenty more surprises in store.



Miranda Nicholson (CP Team) holding one of the ship-rivets.

A sand-child is discovered

Four graves have been excavated in Sector 2, including the other half of that found by Ian Longworth in 1970. Two possible graves have yet to be examined. Three of the graves lie around Mound 5; and the fourth - perhaps the most exciting discovery - lies to the south-east, surrounded by a shallow ring ditch. In it was a coffin containing the fragile remains of a child, with grave goods: an iron spearhead and a tiny bronze buckle. This find provides one of the missing links between simpler graves and the ship-burials, and our proposed 5-year excavation sample seems set fair to provide a comprehensive repertoire of Anglo-Saxon burial practice in the 6-7th century.

More foul play is suspected

Of the other three graves, one contained the tangled remains of two bodies with much of the bone surviving. The Longworth sand-man's legs were found to belong to an individual who had been buried face down, with the head bent back against the end of the grave. The third grave held someone buried as though sleeping - but with the head on upside down. None of these graves contained grave goods.

The story so far

It is early days yet to make sense of the 1987 discoveries. Excavation continues on the platform of soil buried under Mound 2 - where earlier graves have been defined in the last two weeks by Andrew Copp (the Site Supervisor). Mound 5 is still to be excavated, and will not give up its particular secrets until the spring. So far we can point to the unexpected lack of ordinary graves in the large area occupied by the burial mounds, compared with the cemetery to the east (INT. 32). It seems that the qualification for burial in this part of the site is to be rich or to be sacrificed.

The cemetery has an air of being special, separate and upper-class; a phenomenon well-known on the continent, where at a certain moment the wealthy warrior graves are found not in the large communal cemeteries, but together on their own. The interpretation given is that society is becoming more stratified, dominated by fewer wealthier individuals with pretensions to aristocracy and kingship. Before this time, East Anglian society was apparently differently organised - perhaps in smaller, less powerful groups; and after it, society would change again, with the advent of Christianity and the Christian alliance. Sutton Hoo indeed presents a unique moment in history.

Next year we plan to begin work on two more mounds (6 and 7) and can promise our visitors the most spectacular moments of the present campaign. By 1989, fifty years after the discovery of the great ship-burial, we should see the graves of other high-ranking members of Anglo-Saxon society; Raedwald will be rejoined by his companions.

Programme

The buried soil pattern left by Mound 2, and the remaining two graves are to be excavated by Christmas; and all the prehistoric features in the northern half of Sector 2 by March 1988.

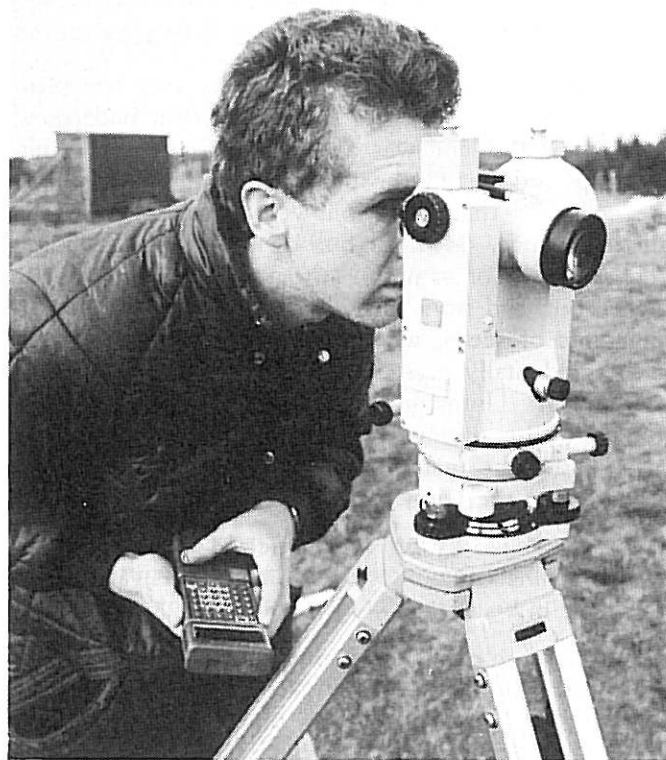
Mound 5 burial chamber and buried soil are to be excavated by May 1988, along with all the prehistoric features in the southern half of the sector.

Sector 5, the next area of the proposed excavation sample, is to be surveyed by radar before Christmas if possible, so that de-turfing can begin in the spring. The first archaeological level will be recorded by summer 1988, so that excavation of Mounds 6 and 7 can take place next summer and autumn.

Martin Carver & Jenny Glazebrook

Illustration: Mark Johnson

November 1987



Richard Garnett (CP Team) surveying on site with the new theodolite, and one of the Psion Organiser mini-computers.

Acknowledgements

Our thanks, as always, go to the **Sutton Hoo Society** for their continuing help and support. This year the Society has provided the project with a second Nikon NT 2A theodolite which will speed up the recording process; and financed construction of a wet sieve.

Our thanks also go to Mr Colin Aldous of **Aldous Homes Ltd**, for lending us a JCB to convert our spoil-heap into a public viewing platform; **Psion Ltd** for donating 3 Psion Organisers and Organiser Developer software to assist recording; **USAF** for the loan of cordons for the royal visit, and a squad of volunteers to help launch the balloon; **F Ingram-Smith** for the continued loan of a portacabin; **Brian Ribbans** for repeated attempts to launch the hot-air balloon (foiled by windy weather); **Stowmarket Caravans Ltd** and **Stephens & Carter Ltd** for concessionary prices on a mobile home and a scaffolding tower and bridge.



The Director explaining the 'ploughman' replica to USAF troops.

The Siraf-Type Tank Alias Wet Sieve, Alias 'Floater'

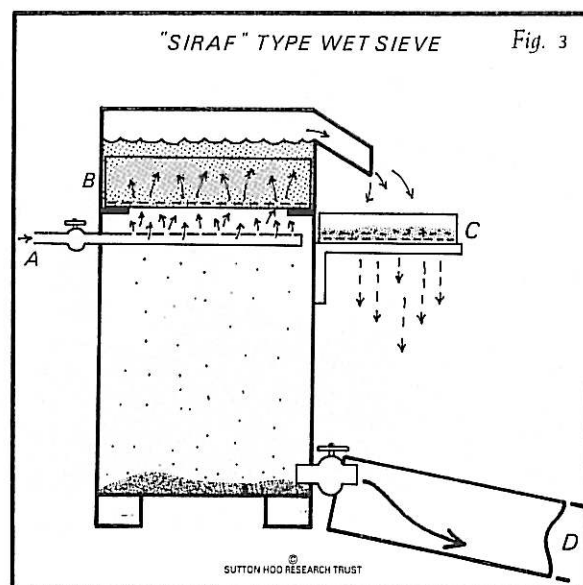
The acid sand at Sutton Hoo preserves very few plant-remains, and yet these few are vital for an understanding of how the land was used - not just in the Anglo-Saxon period but in the previous 4,000 years, and in the centuries that have followed the building of the burial mounds, down to our own time. Accordingly, a programme of sampling the soil deposits is being carried out, and from the soil samples we try to extract fragments of seeds, wood, and plant stems that have been accidentally preserved by being parched or partially burnt. Unfortunately the fragments are often tiny, and the difficulty is in isolating them, to put them under the microscope for identification. To the rescue came the Berry 'Floater' (Fig. 3).

This device works on the principle that carbonised plant remains contain trapped air bubbles, and therefore float in water.

The soil sample is tipped onto a sieve immersed in water near the top of the tank. Water, controlled by a gate-valve, flows in through pipe A, and percolates (via holes in the pipe) up through the soil sample (B). Particles of sand and soil sink to the bottom of the tank, while plant remains either float to the surface,

or remain in the sieve. Those that float are carried by water over the lip of the tank, and caught in a fine mesh at C. The overflow is carried away by the gutter (D), which is also used to drain away the build-up of sludge in the bottom of the tank - with the help of a large gate-valve. The harvest of organic material collected in the sieves is then taken away for identification and analysis.

Martin Carver & Kathryn Dowse
Illustration: Nigel MacBeth



Construction of this wet-sieve was largely funded by a generous donation to the Society from Professor Hassell Simpson, Hampden-Sydney College, USA.

Report from the Hon-Secretary 1987 Season

After the low-key year of 1986 it is a pleasure to report that the 1987 season has been far more productive in terms of income for the Society from the numbers of visitors and from sales, both of which have doubled.

Booked tours have averaged six per month of the season; a number of talks have been given to schools and interested societies and the interest of overseas visitors has increased noticeably.

Visitors range from erudite professors of Anglo-Saxon history, archaeology, geology, anthropology etc., to the completely ignorant but interested 'party' who exclaims in bewilderment, 'I can't understand why anyone would want a boat up here, there's no water!' or the aggressive who, having sailed up the Deben in his own yacht, asked 'Where's the boat then?' The latter, being told that there was no 'boat' was most objectionable, refused to pay the £1 entrance fee but entered with his family and examined the static display before leaving complaining about the adjectival swindle.

Visitors are almost invariably interested and appreciative, but as one guide suggested after a 'standing ovation', it may have been from a sense of relief after he had completed a tour lasting about 1¾ hours! The fact remains that keen visitors do, by their interest, encourage guides to extend 'operations'.

Children of the Middle School age are usually more responsive than older students and take great delight in the 'Bodies', one boy saying how clever the grave robbers were at getting them out whole (I'm sure that this was meant to be a compliment to the archaeologists) whilst budding entrepreneur volunteered that if he owned Sutton Hoo he'd turn it into a golf course (and undoubtedly make more money than we do!)

The accolade for dedication must go to a visitor from Cumbria, who arrived after we had finished the last tour, after a harrowing seven hour drive from Cockermouth. The least I could do was to give him a personal tour finishing at the Ploughman. Having discussed the possible causes of death; sacrifice, plague, etc., I added that I couldn't imagine anyone who had followed the plough for his living wanting to be buried with the thing. The Cumbrian said, 'Chap up our way wanted to be buried with his tractor. Damm big hole it was too!' Was he really pulling my leg? Anyway it seemed to conclude the tour nicely. When I asked where he was staying the night he replied that he was driving back to Cumberland as he always slept in his own bed. Now that's dedication! and it really made my day.

Experiences like these make the task of guiding full of interest and give one great satisfaction and I must pay tribute to the co-operation and dedication of my fellow guides and helpers who have turned out on many occasions in shocking weather and without whom the Society could not exist. Long may I have the support of their devotion to duty and my very sincere and grateful thanks to them all.

R.A.B.

A.G.M. Sutton Hoo Society

Friday 19th February 1988 at Woodbridge School.

High Winds, Hard Work & Hailstones

The first full year of site-based operations has been successfully completed, and we have proved it is possible to excavate and record a famous site, keep the accounts straight, produce publications, receive over 4,000 visitors, and offer lunch to royalty - all from 2 portacabins, 1 mobile home, an ex-shipping container, 1 small shed and the long-suffering British Museum Hut.



The Society's Secretary holds a group of schoolchildren enthralled at the start of a site tour . . .



. . . and beside the replica sand-men.

We are in fact expanding . . . and the Project Team now has two new members of staff. Kathryn Dowse, from the Wessex Archaeological Trust, has been appointed Finds/Environmental Assistant; and Klara Spandl, a recent archaeology graduate from the University of York, is to supervise the Community Programme team. On the research side: Helen Atkinson, from the Department of Quaternary Research, University of Stockholm, is to examine the pollen from soil samples collected during excavation.

Between June and October over 30 students attended the training session: undergraduates from the Universities of London, York, Sheffield, East Anglia, North Wales and St Andrews; and senior pupils from schools in Ipswich, Woodbridge and Felixstowe. A dozen extra professional archaeologists and experienced excavators helped to provide the necessary supervision. We are also lucky in having a gallant crew of local people who volunteer their help throughout the year - like Matthew Wade, from Woodbridge, who spent the spring and summer working on Sector 2 before going off to University in London.

A high peak of activity was reached in August, when the whole site was brushed clean in one day for overhead photography and filming, before the soil colours had time to fade. Then the bulk of Mound 2 was removed in less than four weeks, at a rate of 3/400 wheelbarrows per day (one in nine of them sieved on the way to the spoilheap).

Damp but not defeated

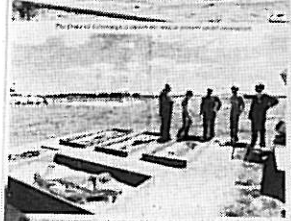
A particularly wet and nasty summer was survived by the visiting site team, camped out under canvas or in caravans. Morale among the troops remained high, even when a spectacular electrical storm was followed next day by a freak shower which buried Woodbridge under a layer of hailstones the size of golf-balls. Fortunately our tents emerged unscathed, and there was plenty of ice around that night for the gin and tonic.

The high rate of survival was largely due to the ministrations of Rosemary Halliday, who provided meals-on-wheels from the Froize Inn; and of course Peter Berry - to whom no problem is insoluble and no task too great . . .

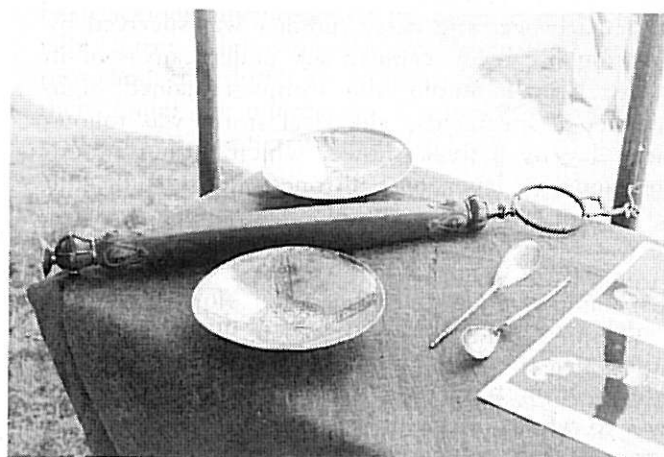
Savouring the unique lineage at Sutton Hoo



Report by John Grant
Pictures, Richard Scahill



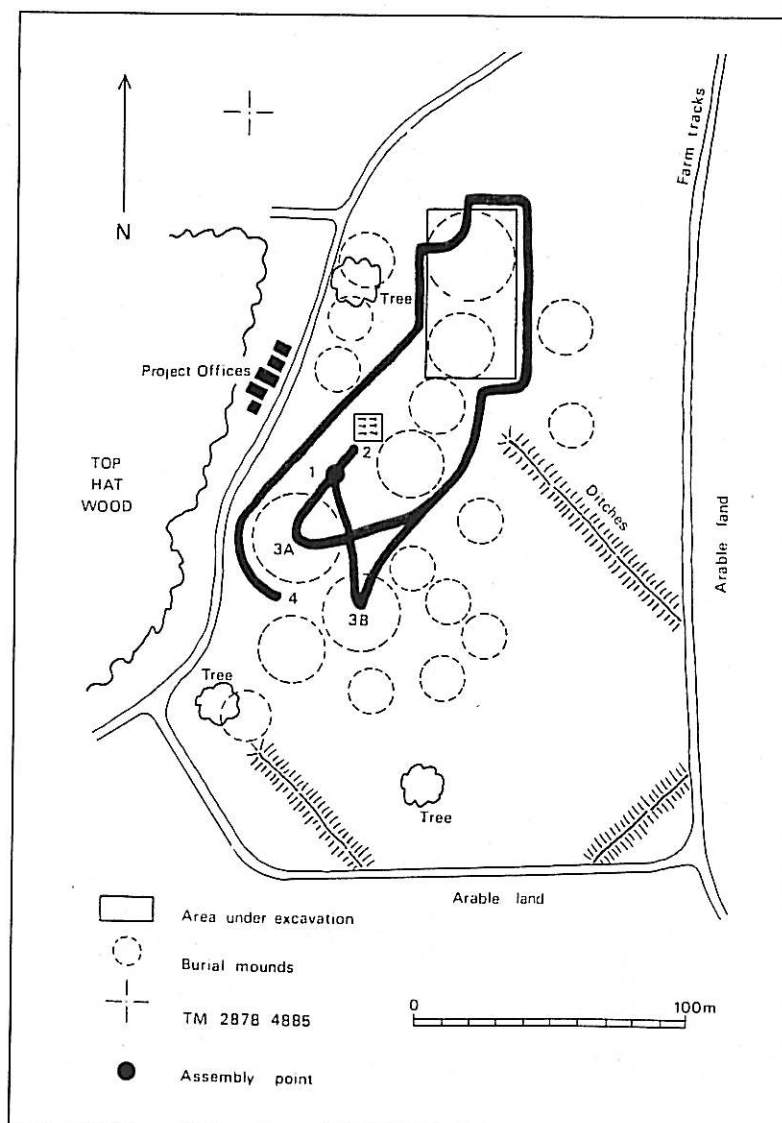
The Duke of Kent, Prince Philip, and the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles, visited the Sutton Hoo site in Suffolk on Monday. The Duke of Kent, Prince Philip, and the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles, visited the Sutton Hoo site in Suffolk on Monday. The Duke of Kent, Prince Philip, and the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles, visited the Sutton Hoo site in Suffolk on Monday.



Another Royal Occ

The visit of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to the site was the fulfilment of many hopes over the years. Our President is known to take his responsibilities very seriously, and all those who met him commented on the depth of his knowledge and the searching nature of his questions. What made it particularly memorable was that the visit was a private one. There was a TV crew in attendance, whose report was shown on the evening news, but really this was a Society day. Our President had come to have a look around, he drove himself over to the site, met the people involved, from the Professor to the MSC Worker (as Chaucer might have put it) and then had a bite of lunch. The weather was perfect and everyone agreed it had been a successful day.

Among the people introduced to the Duke was the Site Supervisor, Mr. Andrew Copp, who showed him a sample collection of the 200 iron ship rivets which have been found beneath Mound 2. He also met Mr. Paul Reilly and Mr. Andrew Walter of IBM UK Ltd.,



ision At Sutton Hoo

who demonstrated the latest advances in computer graphics, and how they are being used to assist the archaeologists. Miss Angela Care-Evans of the British Museum showed the Duke replicas of some of the 1939 discoveries, including the lyre, sceptre, and two silver bowls. The Duke also saw the excellent model of the burial ship which is the property of Woodbridge Museum.

Before he left he was presented with a replica of one of the silver bowls by Julie Lewis, grand-daughter of the site owner, Mrs. Tranmer. The Sutton Hoo Society Chairman, Mr. Michael Miles, gave to the Duke an aerial view of the site by Mr. Cliff Hoppitt. Several newspapers commented on the fact that a member of the Royal Family was again standing on a small piece of England which may have last witnessed such an honour one thousand years ago. The Sutton Hoo Society hopes it does not have to wait quite so long before another Royal occasion!



PROGRAMME

Thursday July 9th 1987

Arrive	10.15 - 10.30	Proceed to site from Dairy Farm car-park.
1.	10.45	Assemble to await arrival of H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh at 11.00.
2.	11.10	'Exhibition Cemetery': View replicas of burials excavated at Sutton Hoo. Meet Paul Reilly and Andrew Walter (IBM), and view computer graphics work in progress.
3.	11.30	Site Tour: Party A proceed with Angela Care-Evans, Party B with Sqdn.Ldr. Robert Beardsley, to commence conducted tour of site and work in progress.
	12.35	Proceed to marquee for presentation and reception.
4.	12.45	Reception: Presentation by Julie Lewis. Buffet lunch in marquee. View exhibition, meet remainder of Project staff and guests.
	13.35	Duke of Edinburgh departs by car.
	13.45	Disperse at will.



Alison Dunnett (CP Team) putting the wet-sieve through its paces.

Designer digging equipment

This year Peter designed and constructed a real masterpiece: the 'Berry Bather', a draught-free HOT shower for the campers, which runs off bottled gas and could easily double as a sauna. After that, the Siraf-type flotation tank (known to users as the 'Berry Floater') must have seemed fairly straightforward. Designed to retrieve plant remains from soil samples, the 'Floater' was devised and built by Peter Berry, and financed by the Society.

A Royal Visitor

The visit of the Society's President, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, will mark a high point in the present campaign. Weeks of planning and preparation preceded the event, and a great deal of hard work went into the site to get things looking just right for the occasion. In the days leading up to the visit cordons were strung out, a marquee went up, new exhibition boards made, replicas of the Mound 1 treasure brought from London, programmes sent out, press releases written, and lunch menus discussed.

The great day dawned fine, and there was a sharp air of expectancy. A security search at 6.30 am began the proceedings, and we watched a police dog locate a (specially planted) stick of gelignite in the filing cabinet. Uniformed police kept a low profile to maintain the visit's informality, and their radio messages kept us informed of the Royal Range Rover's progress towards the site. Met by Martin Carver, the Duke was shown the excavations and introduced to members of staff, research colleagues, and guests. Blessed by good company, a fine lunch, and one of the rare sunny days of the summer, the occasion could hardly have been better, and surely provided excellent promotion for the project.



HRH THE Duke of Edinburgh examines the replica whetstone-sceptre.



HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and Andrew Copp examine some of the ship-rivets.



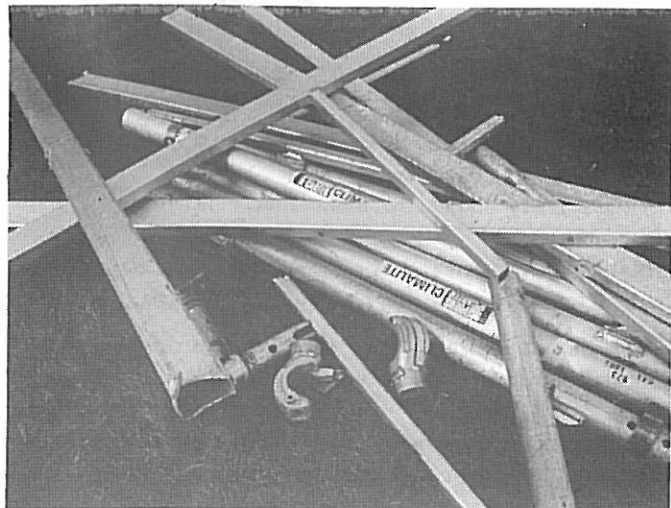
HRH the Duke of Edinburgh discussing one of the flint arrowheads with Andrew Copp (Site Supervisor).

Hit by a hurricane

How distant those July days seemed in the hurricane of October. With no warning of high winds, there were people still sleeping on site in caravans amongst the trees on the night of the storm. Miraculously, no-one was hurt, but Kathryn had a narrow escape when a large tree landed on her caravan, reducing it to matchwood. She had left the caravan a few minutes earlier because it was 'rocking about so much'.



The little green squashed caravan.



Remains of the scaffolding tower.

Next morning the damage was assessed: one scaffolding tower blown to bits, one caravan squashed, one mobile home holed by a branch, several large trees down, leaves and branches everywhere. It will take a long time before the site is completely cleared of debris.

Jenny Glazebrook
November 1987

Woodbridge Ferry

A river ferry is not a service which usually attracts a great deal of attention, but Woodbridge Ferry is a little different. I don't know of any other societies which run such a service for the benefit of the public. There is no doubt that the public enjoy using this ferry as an interesting way to visit Sutton Hoo. Each summer has seen a steady increase in the number of people using it. We have a good boat but the main problem is finding a reliable ferryman. It was a matter of some embarrassment that one afternoon towards the end of the season both the boat and the ferryman had disappeared due to a problem with the engine. However many of the would-be passengers appear to have taken this as part of the unique charm of the whole venture and returned again when the ferry ran a fortnight later.

About the one problem that I never expected the ferryboat to cope with was a hurricane. Living as I do lower down the River Deben I was woken at daylight on October 16 by what was obviously an extremely violent gale. A normally tranquil reach of the River Deben was behaving like the open North Sea. As the squalls screamed up the river they picked up the surface of the water and whirled it into the air causing a mist of driving spindrift. My first reaction, probably not a very wise one, was to go out and try to photograph this unusual event. An intention which was not fully realized because it proved nearly impossible to stand upright and even more difficult to hold the camera still.

The photographic expedition was cut short when it was realized that one stood a good chance of being blown into the river, but then at 8 am the wind started to decrease. The rest of the day was spent, often in stunned disbelief, discovering that the landscape of the villages I had spent my whole life in had totally altered. Woods and hedges had become assorted trees surrounded by havoc. On Woodbridge waterfront boats were jammed up in heaps and in the half empty river masts and the tops of wheelhouses could be seen sticking up out of the water. Boat owners were moving around as if they were at a funeral exchanging deep-felt sympathy over recent bereavements. In amongst the boats washed up against the tide mill pond was our ferryboat, the **Saxon Clog**. She was full of water and holed in the port side. The ferryman was already attempting to salvage her, while another helper, David Annett, had rescued most of the gear which had been washed out of her.

The ferryboat was eventually salvaged by Frank Knight's Boatyard. The diesel engine was stripped down to get rid of the salt water, the hole repaired and the hull repainted. It would appear that we were covered by insurance for this.

Next summer the **Saxon Clog** should return to normality in the peaceful Deben for another season carrying passengers to the Sutton shore, running alternate weekends when the tide is high. The ferry has settled into a routine that people are now beginning to understand, but perhaps one day if there is a permanent Saxon Heritage Centre at or near Sutton Hoo we could justify running the ferry every day throughout the summer.

Robert Simper

Hoos, Haughs and Howes

Most people from the Woodbridge area know the road named Haugh Lane, which leads from the A12, and may have wondered idly, as I often did, whether the name might have any connection with Sutton Hoo. Then we have the vexed question of the derivation of the name 'hoo', which in old maps and manuscripts often appears as 'how' (see pp. 12 and 13 in Angela Evan's 'The Sutton Hoo Ship Burial').

Generally, 'hoo' or 'hoe' is derived from Anglo-Saxon 'hoh' which means 'spur of land'. A glance at the contours on the O.S. map shows clearly that this could very well apply to Sutton Hoo. 'Howe' and '-hoe' (in combination) usually come from Old Scandinavian 'haugr' meaning 'hillock' or 'barrow'. 'Haugh' is more difficult; it might be derived from Anglo-Saxon 'haga', meaning 'enclosure' or Anglo-Saxon 'haga' (no, not a misprint!), meaning 'hawthorn'.

Haugh Lane is simply dealt with, a lane with hawthorn hedges or trees is most probable. The 'Howehilles' on William Haiward's map of 1631 are our familiar barrow-mounds (from OScan 'haugr' and Anglo-Saxon 'hyll') but I would suggest that the name 'Hoo' was given to the topographical feature quite independently of and almost certainly prior to the building of the Anglo-Saxon burial mounds, though the two ideas and similar words may have become confused and fused with each other in later centuries.

A Society Member

Where is the bridge at Woodbridge?

Ekwall (Dictionary of English Place-names) gives 'Wooden bridge' which is neither inspired, imaginative nor accurate. He also gives the following earlier forms:

- a. 'Oddebruge' 1050; Codex diplomaticus aevi Saxonici 970.
- b. 'Wudebrige' 1085 DB.
- c. 'Wudebreg' 1205, Index to the Charters and Rolls in the B.M.

My objections to 'wooden bridge' are first, that there is no bridge, no trace of there ever having been one nor even a suitable site for one at Woodbridge and secondly, I imagine any bridge built by the Anglo-Saxons would have a wooden one and hardly likely to have been worthy of comment, let alone being commemorated in the name of a settlement. (I have seen elsewhere the suggestion that Anglo-Saxon 'brycg' could also bear the meaning 'ford' and the writer interpreted Wudebrige as meaning 'ford by the wood', although I cannot see any fordable stretches of the Deben before Wilford, the site of the present bridge, some 2 km away).

The first element in a. 'odde' could be cognate with Old Scandinavian 'odd(r), oddi' = promontory or cape (or hoo?) cf. also the spelling of the name 'Offa' which became in the East Anglian dialect, 'Uffa' or 'Wuffa'.

The second element in c. 'breg', if it is not just a mis-spelling by a Norman scribe, could be derived from poetical Anglo-Saxon 'brego' = prince, king.

Thus, Oddebrega (> Wuddebrega > Wudebreg) = the Hoo of the princes. What could be more apposite?

Alternatively, one meaning of the Norwegian 'brygge' is 'quay'. (cf. Mod. German, 'Landungsbrücke' for a pier or jetty). This suggests that the original significance of Anglo-Saxon 'brycg' may have been 'a structure over, or by, water', including a quay. Thus 'Wudebrige' = 'Wood Quay'. Coincidentally, there is a Wood Quay in Dublin where Viking-age harbour installations have been excavated recently.

Sadly, I am inclined to think the latter derivation, though mundane, is the more likely of the two.

A Society Member



*The owner of the roller-skates has been identified.
Young Pretty returns to claim them!*

Beowulf

When the Geats heard the tale of woe,
They jumped in their longboats and started to row.
When they landed on the Danish shore,
They were escorted to King Hrothgar's door.

The king then entertained them until the dead of
night.
Then they went to bed knowing that later they would
wake with fright.

Two hours of peace then passed in that hall,
But then Grendel disturbed it all.
Up jumped Beowulf with his spear and shield,
And with his sword he started to wield.

Very soon the battle was won
So everybody started to make merry now that Grendel
was gone.

But very soon there was a new foe,
So off to the beach did Beowulf's army go.

Then Beowulf swam down through the ocean green,
To slay Grendel's mum who was even more powerful
and mean.

Then up came Beowulf - Grendel's mum had been slain!
So Beowulf had been victorious once again.

Stephen Hudson. Age 11 years.
Woodbridge School.

Epic burial ship poem read again



Mr. Kevin Crossley-Holland, reading from his translation of *Beowulf*, by torchlight at Sutton Hoo, on Saturday.

THE FIRST great English poem, written by one of the mourners at the Sutton Hoo royal burial, was recited on the Saxon cemetery mound on Saturday for what was thought to be the first time in 1,300 years.

Suffolk author Kevin Crossley-Holland stood on the ancient barrow under which King Redwald was buried in the now world-famous ship burial and as dusk descended recited the epic *Beowulf*.

Mr. Crossley-Holland's translation of the poem has just been published by the Woodbridge-based Boydell and Brewer Ltd. and as part of its launch he recited *Beowulf* by torchlight to about 30 guests.

He told the EADT, "*Beowulf* is a terrific adventure story but it is also a very moving and profound poem and is as relevant today as it was when it was composed in about 680.

"It is about Man drawing on resources within himself to cope with terrifying forces.

"It is the first great English poem and is now widely acknowledged to have been written by some-

one who witnessed the Sutton Hoo burial," he said.

Mr. Crossley-Holland, of Walsham-le-Willows, started studying Anglo-Saxon literature as a student at Oxford. He said he had "fallen under the spell" of its "gritty, backs to the wall, dogged and heroic nature."

His new translation of *Beowulf* is priced at £12.95.

EADT Mar.
26th Oct.
1987

"Beowulf" at Sutton Hoo

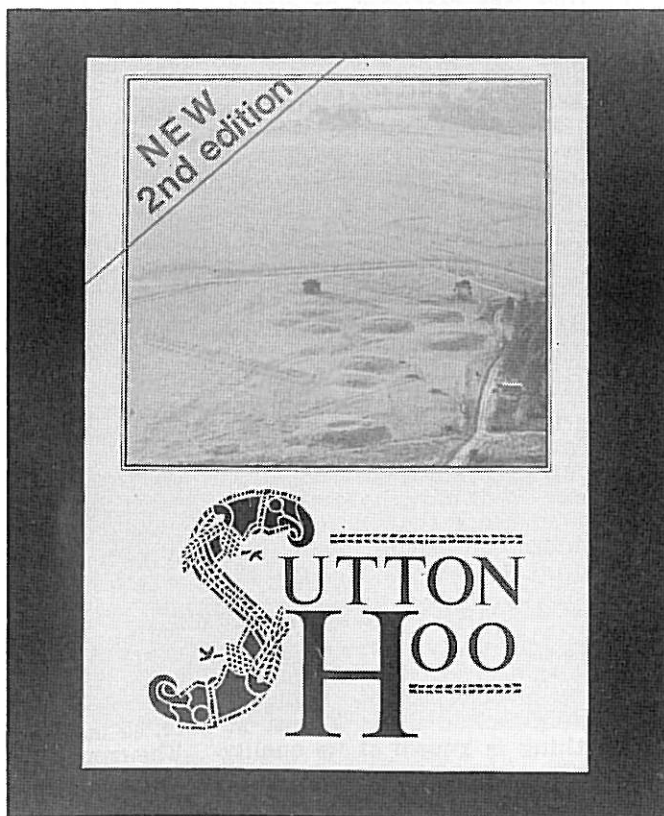
As with all the best ideas it was remarkably simple. Kevin Crossley-Holland, the translator of the Anglo-Saxon poem "*Beowulf*" would read from the lavish new edition of his book one evening - at Sutton Hoo. From the moment I arrived it was clear that this was to be no ordinary recital.

As dusk fell on a perfect evening, the flaming torches were lit, forming an avenue of fire to the mound itself. Already the pulse quickened. Then the two great fires were lit, and we processed behind the reader to the prepared place.

By the light of wildly dancing flames Kevin Crossley-Holland read to us the story of the warrior *Beowulf*, and how at the end of his life he had died in pursuit of glory. When he spoke of the hero's funeral mound being built, of the body being placed in it and of the mound being raised to his honour; it was a rare moment for all of us to be there. We watched the smoke rise into the night sky and felt a lump in the throat as we all sensed a thousand years of history part from our lives. It was an unforgettable experience and never has Sutton Hoo been such a site for me before or since.

Many people have subsequently expressed the hope that a similar reading might be repeated in the summer. I entirely agree, and the occasion could be a wonderful fund raiser too. It is too early to think of dates and such like, but the prospect of such an evening is exciting, and preliminary enquiries suggest there are no insuperable problems in the way.

MAM

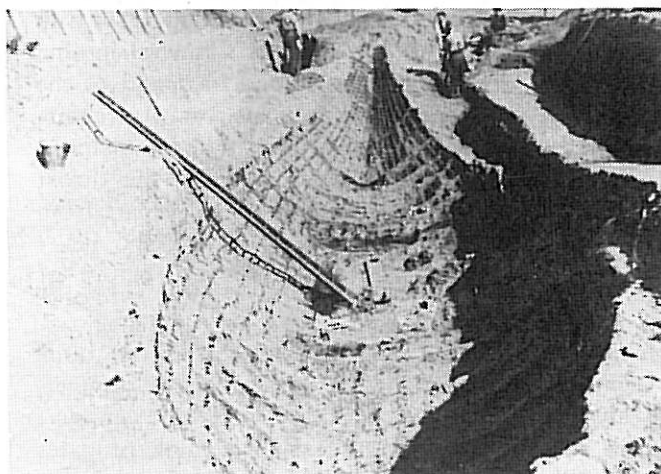


Advertisement for the revised edition of the site guide - published 1987.

Open Day

Sunday 25th September 1988 at 12 o'clock.

Members provided with a Ploughman's Lunch.



.. LIGHT ON THE SUFFOLK SHIP-BURIAL

GRAVE OF KING OF THE EAST ANGLES

REDWALD?

MONARCH WHO HAD PALACE AT RENDLESHAM

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It is now established that the ship-burial at Sutton Hoo, near Woodbridge, exclusively described in the *East Anglian Daily Times* on Saturday—an antiquarian discovery which has aroused tremendous interest in archaeological circles—is almost certainly that of Redwald (or Rædwald), King of the East Angles, who died about the year 627 A.D., or of his predecessor, Tytili (or Tytla), the son of Wuffa (or Uffa).

Uffa was reckoned as eighth in descent from Woden, and after him, as first East Anglian King, the kings of his house were called Uffingas.

Redwald reigned during the supremacy of Ethelbert, King of Kent, under whose influence he accepted Christianity and was baptised in Kent. On his return to his own kingdom he was persuaded by his queen and "certain teachers" to resume his heathen practices.

TEMPLE WITH TWO ALTARS

He did not, however, renounce his new faith, but worshipped Christ and his old Gods at the same time, having a temple in which were two altars, one for Christian sacrifice, and the other for sacrifices to idols.

In his "Suffolk and Norfolk" the late Dr. Montague James observes that it is not clear where Redwald's hybrid worship went on, but suggests that it may have been at Rendlesham—some four or five miles from Sutton Hoo—which was the site of a palace.

CROWN MELTED DOWN

In 1687 a silver crown, reputed to have been Redwald's, was dug up at Rendlesham, and Dr James comments that, painful to relate, it was melted down almost at once, so that nothing is known of its quality. The crown is reputed to have weighed some 60 ozs.

According to the Dictionary of National Biography, Redwald's temple remained undestroyed until the lifetime of Aldwulf, King of the East Angles from 664, who said that he had seen it when a boy.

Redwald rose to great power, and even in the reign of Ethelbert obtained the leadership of all the peoples South of the Humber, with the exception, probably, of the Kingdom of Kent. He is therefore reckoned as fourth of the kings called Bretwaldas, who held a power of that kind.