



SAXON

'I have a little something that might be of interest to you.....' a home movie of the 1939 excavation Sutton Hoo surfaces in Vancouver by Rosemary Hoppitt



*Above, left to right:
Jeremy Gilbert, great-nephew of
Charles Phillips, Angus
Wainwright, National Trust
Archaeologist, and Kim Aspin,
Jeremy's girlfriend, on Mound 1
at Sutton Hoo in early
December 2000
(Photograph R. Hoppitt)*



*Two images from the home-
movie*

*Above: Charles Phillips
(centre), Basil Brown in the
stern, and Bert Fuller and
William Spooner on the edge*

*Right: Basil Brown (front of
picture) and Lieutenant-
Commander Hutchison
excavating the ship*



On 8 August 2000 I received an email; originating in Canada, it proved to be more exciting than most. It was from Jeremy Gilbert, a Canadian television producer, and great nephew of Charles Phillips, the excavator of the Anglo-Saxon Sutton Hoo ship burial and treasure in 1939. It said 'I have a little something that might be of interest to you.... My late grandfather, Harold John Phillips had a home movie camera, and when he went to visit Charles (his brother) as he led the initial excavation of the burial ship, he shot some film footage'.

Following a rapid exchange of emails between Jeremy and his Uncle William in Vancouver (son of Harold Phillips who took the film, and nephew of Charles Phillips), and with Angela Evans at the British Museum, it was established that the film constituted hitherto unknown archive material.

The film had been shot during a visit to Sutton Hoo by Harold and his mother, possibly on two separate days on or about 10 August 1939. By this time the burial deposit — the Sutton Hoo 'treasure' — had been completely excavated and work was under way exposing the detail of the ship's form. At the same time, survey work of the ship under the direction of Lt Commander Hutchison from the Science Museum was beginning.

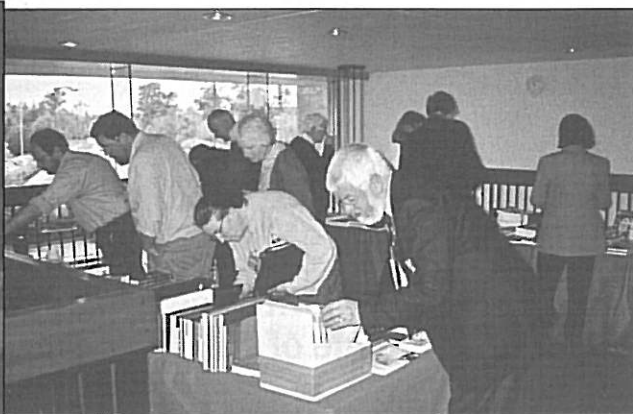
After the Second World War, Harold Phillips emigrated to Canada, taking with him his family home movies. It was when his grandson Jeremy Gilbert's interest was stimulated by being given a book on Sutton Hoo by his girlfriend Kim Aspin, that his memory was alerted to his uncle's collection, and the existence of the Sutton Hoo sequence. It was then that he got in touch via the Society's web site.

Jeremy began the process of getting the film copied onto video to bring it to England. So it was on a very cold day in December 2000 that myself, as Chairman of the Sutton Hoo Society, and Angus Wainwright of the National Trust were able to welcome Jeremy and his girlfriend Kim to Sutton Hoo, to show them the site of his great uncle's momentous find — the Sutton Hoo ship burial.

After the site visit, we retired to the warmth to view the video. The high quality 8mm clip is about 90 seconds in length and the action includes 9 separate sequences of the excavation in progress, the burial mound and the landscape. Jeremy and his uncle have generously donated three copies of the video — one to the Sutton Hoo Society, one to the National Trust and another to the British Museum to be incorporated into the main Sutton Hoo archive from the 1939 excavation. Angela Care Evans commented 'This film clip is, nearly 62 years later, absolutely thrilling. It makes one wonder what other lost records of that remarkable excavation are still to be discovered'. **If you know of anything let us know!**

Conference 2000

North Sea Communities: Evidence for Dark Age Trade and Communication



Above: Delegates take the opportunity to browse at the bookstalls

Far left: Time to talk over coffee



Left: Viewing the exhibition 'Land of the South Folk' provided by Suffolk Archaeology Service

The second Sutton Hoo Society Conference was hosted by BT in the John Bray Lecture Theatre at Adastral Park, Martlesham Heath near Ipswich, on Saturday 28 October 2000.

Building on the success of the previous conference in 1998, this larger venue enabled us to welcome over 200 people to the conference. We would like to thank BT for their generosity, and the help of their staff both before and during the event.

Angela Care Evans chaired the whole day, for which we are very grateful; Professor Martin Carver who had been scheduled to co-chair, was unfortunately unable to make the journey from York on the day due to rail problems.

Proceedings opened with John Davies from Norwich Castle Museum exploring new ideas on the role of Saxon Shore forts in the late Roman period, followed by Valerie Fenwick, Editor of the International Journal of Nautical Archaeology considering how shipbuilders responded to the changing requirements of North Sea trade and transport in the first millennium and later. John Hines from Cardiff University completed the morning by looking at Anglo-Scandinavian contacts before the Vikings.

During the lunch break there was an opportunity for delegates to look at the exhibition stands on the work of the National Trust, Suffolk Archaeological Unit's 'Land of the South Folk' and Edwin Gifford's 'Position of the Sutton Hoo ship in the History of North Sea Communication'. In addition there were bookstalls provided by the Sutton Hoo Society, Anglo-Saxon Books, Oxbow Books, and Creekside publishing.

The afternoon began with Edward James from the University of Reading contributing 'East Anglia - the view from the Frankish south', followed by Keith Wade of the Suffolk Archaeological Service who outlined the evidence for early trading sites around the North Sea coast from the 7th to 9th centuries, with special reference to Ipswich

Following a break for tea, the day finished with a plenary session chaired by Angela Care Evans, and joined by Mark Blackburn from Cambridge who was drawn in to provide expertise when the questioning turned in the direction of coinage.

The day was drawn to a conclusion by the Sutton Hoo Society President, the Earl of Cranbrook, who offered a vote of thanks to the speakers and to those who had contributed to the organisation of the day.

Summaries of the papers presented follow on pages 3-6.

Above right: The Society's President, the Earl of Cranbrook, giving the vote of thanks

Right: Angela Care Evans, Chairman of the conference (centre) in discussion with Merlin Waterson, East Anglian Regional Director of the National Trust (right).



Left: The audience in the John Bray Lecture Theatre at Adastral Park



Conference Photographs: C Hoppitt

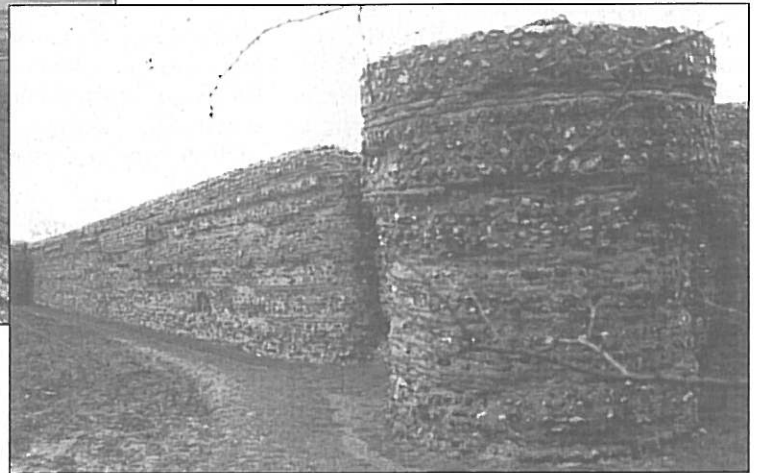
The Evidence for the late Roman Saxon Shore System in East Anglia and its Function

by John Davies



Left: The flat-topped hill in the middle distance is the site of the signal station at Salthouse, on the coast north Norfolk

Photographs: John Davies



Right: The walls at Burgh Castle fort, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk

The Saxon Shore comprised a system of forts built around the coast of southern England and around the Continental Channel shores in the 3rd and 4th centuries. The term Saxon Shore comes from a document called the *Notitia Dignitatum*, drawn up in about AD 408, which lists nine forts under the command of the Count of the Saxon Shore at that time. The British system focused its strength around the south east and the approaches to London. The traditional interpretation has been that these forts were constructed to counter a threat coming from the Jutes, Frisians, Angles and Saxons, who were raiding the coasts of Britain. Recent evidence and reinterpretation of the sources has begun to throw the traditional interpretation of the system into question.

Additional evidence has been revealed for the Saxon Shore fortifications of northern East Anglia in recent years. In addition to the published work of Charles Green at Burgh Castle, metal detector surveys have recovered thousands of Roman finds from the adjacent landscape. Archaeological survey has shown 40 hectares of Roman agricultural occupation around the fort. In tandem with Burgh Castle, the fort at Caister-on-Sea briefly controlled the Great Estuary, now occupied by grazing marshes between Great Yarmouth and Acle. The role of this early 3rd-century construction was eventually replaced by Burgh Castle in the 4th century. Aerial photography and excavation at Brancaster, on the north Norfolk coast, show the fort to have been placed within a system of enclosures and trackways of 2nd-century date.

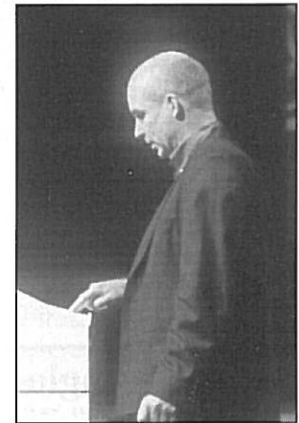
In addition to the Norfolk forts, a number of signal stations have now been identified around the coast at Stiffkey, Salthouse, Kelling and California. Remains of a lighthouse have also been interpreted at Reedham. These sites were associated with the system of forts.

A number of concerns have led some

archaeologists to question the function of the Saxon Shore forts. Our interpretation of the Saxon Shore system is partly derived from written sources. In recent years, Roger Tomlin and Ian Wood have published studies of these documents, throwing into question whether the writings do indeed refer to raiding of the coasts of Britain during the 3rd and 4th centuries. Neither do we have archaeological evidence at these sites for raiding or fighting. Closer investigation of the dates of the sites suggests that this so-called defensive system was constructed over a prolonged period and not a response to a single threat. Reculver (Kent), Caister and Brancaster were all in use around AD230. Others were constructed during the last decades of the 3rd century and Burgh Castle probably later.

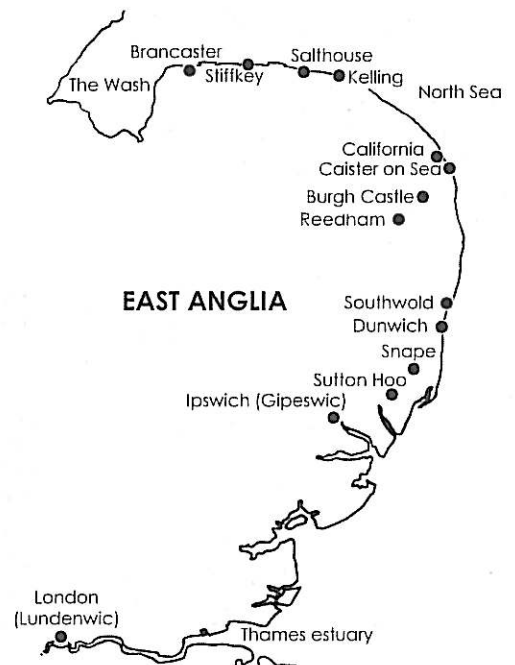
The forts have also produced evidence of economic activity. Metal, bone and antler working is associated with domestic evidence at sites such as Portchester (Hampshire) and Caister. Portchester appears to have been occupied by a community of families, rather than soldiers, during the 4th century.

Gustav Milne has already suggested the role of the Shore forts could have been trans-shipment centres. He renamed them 'fortified ports of the Saxon Shore'. Ongoing scrutiny of the increasing evidence for the forts and their associated sites places them more comfortably within this new model. Their locations, associated with inland river systems and on south eastern coastal positions can be associated with the major axis of trade between southern Britain and the Rhineland. The suggestion is now to view the forts of the Saxon Shore not as naval police stations but as fortified trading ports.



Above: John Davies, Norfolk Museums Service

Below: Location of East Anglian sites mentioned in lecture summaries



North Sea Shipping in the First Millennium

by Valerie Fenwick

In this period all other types of water transport are overshadowed by the ghost-ships of Snape and Sutton Hoo, together with well-preserved and numerous Viking ships found in Scandinavia. Both were built with overlapping planking fastened with iron rivets.

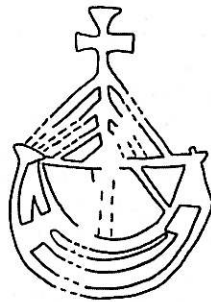
My talk at the Sutton Hoo conference started by asking the audience to visualize many humbler working craft, such as dugout canoes, which would have been in use alongside them. An Anglo-Saxon example has recently been found at Dunwich and dugouts continued to be used throughout the Medieval period.

During the Roman occupation large transports supplied grain to the armies of northern Britain and the Rhine frontier and brought bulk goods and luxuries from the continent. These sailing ships were built either by Mediterranean-trained shipwrights, or more massively by locals, their flat bottoms fastened to frames with long hooked nails before the sides were built up. On the Continent this 'bottom-based' construction was widely used for river barges as much as 34m long. Their sides were built up with overlapping planks. By the end of the millennium a class of sailing trader built in this way had become a most practical cargo-ship for bulk trade. It was the cog, to be adopted and enlarged by Hanseatic merchants trading across the North Sea. After years of study and conservation, the best preserved example of a cog has been put on display to

the public in the Deutsches Schiffartsmuseum in Bremerhaven – well worth a visit.

There are innumerable differences in the methods used by early shipwrights to build a seaworthy hull and mostly archaeologists find fragmentary remains which ended up far from where they were built. This is where dendrodating of timber can help, by pinpointing the region in which the trees grew. For instance, it showed that the longship found at Skuldelev, Denmark had been built in AD1060, more than a thousand miles away – in Ireland!

Only scrappy information has been recovered from this coast, but at Southwold in Buss Creek disarticulated planks and frames encountered by a Hi-mac were recovered by local archaeologist, Stuart Bacon. Radiocarbon dated to c. AD1023 they have an unusual mixture of iron rivets and wooden pegs fastening the planking – paralleled by a contemporary shipwreck from Hedeby in the Baltic.



Left: Ship on a coin of Athelstan I of East Anglia (c. 827 – 841)

Right: Valerie Fenwick



Anglo-Scandinavian Contacts before the Vikings

by John Hines

The Sutton Hoo Society conference provided a welcome opportunity to reconsider and reassess the apparently extensive, varied and significant links between England and Scandinavia that had existed long before the violent incursions of Scandinavian adventurers in the British Isles during the Viking Period. Recognition of these links has had a secure place in the general understanding of the currents that formed the early Anglo-Saxon cultures and populations for some 20 years now. The underlying facts implying a connection seem to be widely accepted, but there is still much hesitation over how they should best be explained or interpreted. The solidity of the basic data on which hypotheses concerning the character of Anglo-Scandinavian relations in the pre-Viking period are formed is underlined by the fact that new finds in England over the past two decades have consistently reinforced rather than undermining or significantly modifying the picture first outlined in my doctoral thesis (*The Scandinavian Character of Anglian England in the pre-Viking Period*, Oxford, 1983; published, BAR, 1984). As a result, any

review now will largely involve a reaffirmation of a case already made. But the exercise is worthwhile, both because no such broad historical interpretation of archaeological evidence should ever simply be taken for granted, and because there is inevitably a changing general understanding of the period of the 5th to 8th centuries AD within which these contacts are to be seen.

The type of dress-accessory – exclusively a female one in England, although worn by both sexes in Scandinavia – known as the "wrist-clasp" remains the most significant single category of find for this topic. Details of the typology and distribution of these items in England and Scandinavia point to specific links between particular areas on either side of the North Sea, indicating an introduction of the clasps from western Norway to eastern England in the late 5th century. The earliest examples in England are found around the East Anglian fen edge and in Humberside. Another, minor, artefact-type that would still appear most likely to have been introduced to Anglian England from the same source about this time is the plain Anglian equal-armed

brooch. It would appear that these artefact-types are generally too humble for it to be realistic to postulate that their use and production crossed the North Sea as objects of trade for their own sake, in consequence of which a migration of people for whom clasps were an integral and common form of the normal costume may be postulated. In the absence of cross-North Sea influence in the form of many other common types of artefact (such as pottery), however, it is not possible to "explain" the clasps' presence as merely a blind reflection of the fact of contact: rather we have to see the clasps as being purposefully adopted in Anglian English women's costume because they served to reinforce the identification with a community that a distinctive costume embodied. Explanation is not simply a matter of trying to identify sequences of cause and effect, but rather of interpreting patterns of influence and cultural development in a sophisticated and systematic way.

Wider links between southern Scandinavia and southern and eastern England at the same date are reflected in a more diverse and

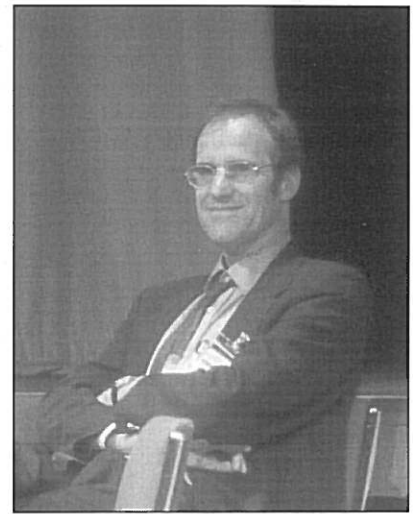
conspicuously expensive range of metal dress-accessories, in particular great square-headed brooches, and types of pendant known as bracteates and scutiform (shield-shaped) pendants. Altogether, these take their place in a network of early North Sea relationships which new finds, particularly on the Continent, are showing to be ever more complex and wide-reaching. This web of contacts envelops the special links between Kent and Jutland/the Jutes recorded as early as in Bede's 8th-century *Ecclesiastical History*, but does not submerge them. Kent's Jutish connections as revealed by archaeology have recently been reviewed in another Oxford doctoral thesis by Pernille Sørensen. In the case of both metalwork and pottery, it is usually difficult to identify truly unique Kentish-Jutlandic parallels, but there are particular concentrations of equivalent material (such as certain forms of pottery, and cruciform brooches) in these areas. In a manner that is comparable to the adoption of wrist-clasps in Anglian England, Kent again seems more deliberately to adopt a Scandinavian feature in the D-bracteates around the beginning of the 6th century. Recent analysis has effectively demonstrated that many of the examples found in Kent were in fact made there. Here again, an available connection was actively drawn upon to reinforce a local identity through distinctive material culture, particularly in the form of dress.

Such is the background to the famous Sutton Hoo ship burial of the earlier 7th century. This particular deposit should not just be regarded as *special*; rather as genuinely *peculiar*. It does have a Scandinavian character, as embodied in the fact of the ship burial, and artefactual details of the helmet, the shield, and examples of animal art. But these occur here at a date when it is clear that England's cultural orientation was generally shifting away from Scandinavia towards the

Continent. Even within the North Sea network, the closer, southern areas of the Frisian coastlands were evidently becoming more important for trading links with England, as is shown particularly by the emergence of early trading sites, and the use of a common coinage, very clearly, eventually, in the form of what are known as *sceattas*. This does not mean that a continuing direct contact between England and Scandinavia ceased to exist and to be used significantly, but reflections of it have now to be sought out in a much more careful and informed manner, in details of artwork for instance, rather than by studying and mapping common items *en masse*.

If I were obliged now to answer the question "is the Sutton Hoo ship burial Scandinavian in character or not?", my answer would be no, in deference to the view that the character of the deposit should be regarded principally as *East Anglian*. But being East Anglian at this date involves a rich and broad cultural heritage derived from the North Sea area, within which we now have boat burials going back to the early 5th century outside of Scandinavia (although by no means free of Scandinavian influence), at Fallward, in Landkreis Cuxhaven, Niedersachsen, northern Germany.

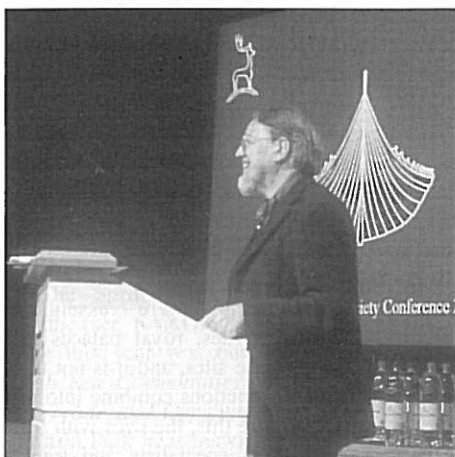
Anglo-Scandinavian contacts that supported significant cross-North Sea relationships thus began very early in the Anglo-Saxon period, as early as the 5th century. From the late 6th century to the eve of the Viking Period in the 8th, this relationship grew steadily more efficiently organized, and in reality more institutionalized. At the same time (paradoxically?) the cultural contrasts between Scandinavia, with its continuing Germanic traditions, and Christian western Europe intensified. It would appear, indeed, that it was the closeness of the contacts between the two areas that permitted and even encouraged differences to be asserted in quite deliberately



Above: John Hines, School of History and Archaeology, Cardiff University

contrastive and finally openly hostile ways. Many factors, of course, were involved in the commencement of Scandinavian Viking expeditions, not least of which, it is now clear, must have been the emergence of opportunities for profitable trade with new Moslem powers in the East at the same time as the Christian West was posing an ever more clearly expressed and perceptible threat to the norms of Scandinavian life. An old view of the birth of the Viking Age was that it was a creation *ex nihilo*: only when, for instance, shipbuilding techniques evolved to a sufficient standard to put Scandinavia regularly in contact with the West did the Viking raiding "naturally" follow. From the study of contacts between Scandinavia and the British Isles, and indeed elsewhere, before the Viking Period, however, it is abundantly clear that the Viking Period was not a painful birth stage in the creation of a more integrated Europe from a primeval Chaos. Here, on the contrary, was Creation reverting to Chaos.

East Anglia – The View from the Frankish south by Edward James



Edward James, Department of History, University of Reading

This lecture considered the relationship between the political powers south of the Channel – above all, of course, the Franks – and those of south-eastern England, above all the kingdoms of Kent and the East Angles. In particular, it examined the idea that the Franks claimed, or even enforced, overlordship over the peoples of south-east England in the 6th and early 7th century. These ideas have been expressed verbally and in print by Professor Ian Wood, of the University of Leeds, on several occasions over the last eighteen years, and over this period have not actually been examined critically. They are nevertheless being repeated by others – Martin Carver's *Sutton Hoo: Burial Ground of Kings?* simply says that Wood has "shown" (p. 188) the pressure the Frankish kings exerted on the southern English kings – and are in danger of

becoming orthodoxy. In fact, the question is by no means settled. The sources are difficult to interpret and to assess. Even if King Theudebert I (534-48), for instance, did make such a claim of overlordship, was that any more than an empty claim? Some of that evidence (from Procopius, for instance, and from the letters of Gregory the Great) come from people whose knowledge about anything north of the Channel was hazy indeed.

Also discussed were Wood's claims for the close relationship between the East Angles and Frankia, based largely on the career of Sigberht, King of the East Angles. He bore a Frankish name; he was exiled to Frankia; once he returned, after the deaths of Kings Redwald and Eorpwald, he had a Frankish missionary, and thereafter East Anglian princesses found their way to Frankish nunneries. All this is

true; but this does not prove anything about Frankish royal power or even about royal interest north of the Channel. Wood's suggestion that the coins in Mound 1 of Sutton Hoo may have come from treasure brought back by Sigberht (and that it is therefore his grave, and not Redwald's) in particular is based on a whole series of assumptions about the circulation of Frankish coins which can readily be challenged.

Wood wrote in 1991 that "The sea left south-eastern England open to Frankish

influence"; but it also left the Franks open to English influence, or raiding. We know so little about the balance of power in the North Sea that we cannot assume that the Franks prevailed throughout the 6th or early 7th centuries. The Franks may have occasionally made claims for overlordship or, as Wood now says, "hegemony", over south-east England, and perhaps these claims fooled some people: Pope Gregory the Great is able, flatteringly, in a letter to the Frankish kings, to call the southern English "your subjects". But

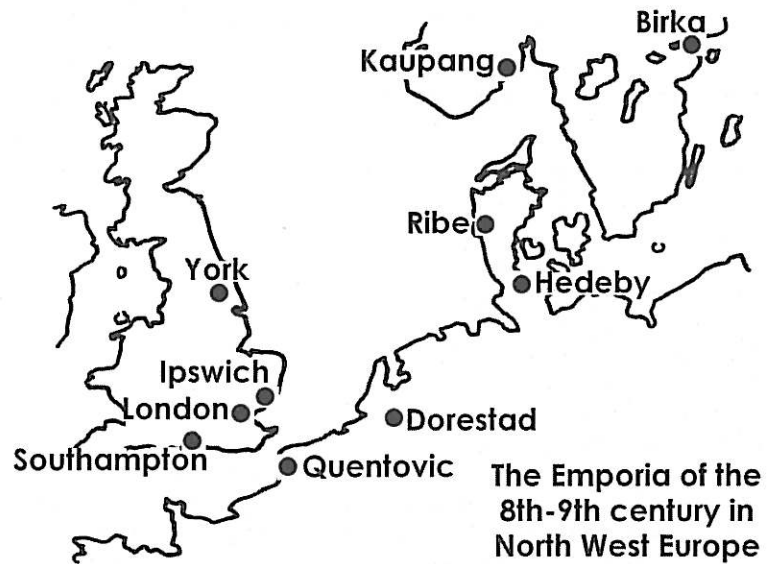
there is room for considerable doubt about whether these claims were more than sporadic, and in particular about whether they were more than hot air. Professor Wood is one of the most stimulating of early medieval historians in Britain today, but we should not take his suggestions to be more than necessary stimuli for further thought; we should certainly not imagine that he has "shown" the power of the Franks in England.

The Evidence for Early Trading Sites Around the North Sea Coast from the 7th to 9th Centuries

by Keith Wade



Keith Wade, Archaeological Service Manager, Suffolk County Council



The Emporia of the 8th-9th century in North West Europe

With the collapse of the Roman Empire in north-western Europe in the early 5th century, and its settlement by Germanic peoples, town life and long distance trade disappears. However, during the 6th and 7th centuries there are signs of a limited exchange of goods with the Mediterranean. Also during the same period there is direct contact between Merovingian France and the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms by royal inter-marriage and this is attested by both object finds and documentary evidence. The Mound 1 burial at Sutton Hoo, of early 7th century date, contains both a Coptic bowl from Alexandria (Egypt) and coins from 37 different Merovingian mints.

How this 6th/7th-century exchange was organised is not known. It is assumed to have been under royal control and the objects concerned are principally prestige goods. No permanent ports or trading sites are known from this period and exchange probably took place at periodic fairs, in coastal or near-coastal locations.

During the later 7th century (from c.670) exchange with the Mediterranean comes to an end but trade around the North Sea basin takes off. For the first time permanent trading sites

are established, characterised by planned street systems and dwellings.

On the continent there are trading sites (*emporia*) in both the Frankish Empire and the Scandinavian kingdoms to the North. In France there is *Quentovic*, in Holland there is *Dorestad*, in North Germany there is *Haithabu* (Hedeby), in Denmark there is *Ribe* and in Sweden there is *Birka*.

In what is now England there is one such port serving each of the separate Anglo-Saxon kingdoms: *Hamwic* (Southampton) serving Wessex, *Lundenwic* (London) serving the kingdom of the East Saxons, and firstly their Kentish overlords, in the 7th century, and then the Mercians in the 8th. *Gipeswic* (Ipswich) served East Anglia and *Eoforwic* (York) served Northumbria.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the English examples have a remarkably similar development. London, Southampton and Ipswich all have a 7th-century nucleus of settlement associated with cemeteries containing some high status burials and imported Frankish material. Whether they represent elite settlements engaged in seasonal trading is not yet clear, nor whether there was

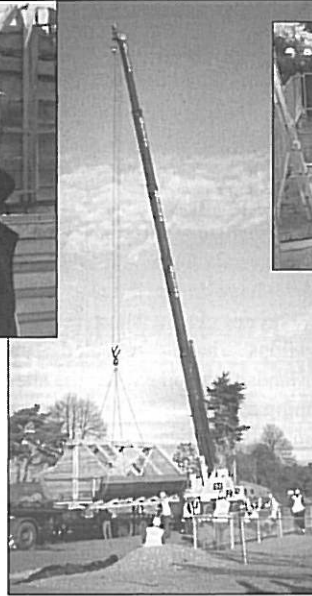
an element of craft production in their economy. In the later 7th or very early 8th century all three places are deliberately expanded into very large permanent settlements which functioned as craft production centres and international ports. The cultural assemblages of the English and Continental sites are very similar at this period. It is now commonly accepted that all these sites were deliberate royal foundations and it is difficult to imagine any other plausible origin. For the continental sites there is documentary evidence to support this but in England this is restricted to the founding of churches associated with them, such as St Paul's in London. For Ipswich there is no such evidence and we must assume that it was founded by the East Anglian royal house, the Wuffingas.

These settlements were essentially polyfocal, with churches, royal palaces and *wics* often on separate sites, and it is not until later that all these functions combine into one single entity. Despite this, the *wics* with their combination of craft specialists and traders surely deserve the title of our first English towns.

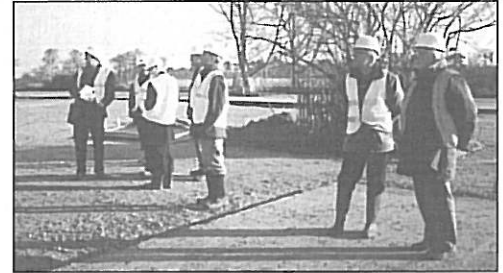
Ship Section arrives at Sutton Hoo

Right: Dr Edwin Gifford – builder of the ship section

Building work on the new visitor centre complex began following the completion of the archaeological excavation in Autumn 2000. The reconstructed centre section of the Sutton Hoo ship, which will house the replica of the burial and its grave goods – the Sutton Hoo Treasure – arrived on site and was carefully lowered into place in early January 2001. Once in place, it was encased in its own shelter, while the building was completed around it. The building work is currently continuing, on schedule for completion in October 2001, with the official opening in March 2002.



Left: The ship section is carefully lowered into its final resting place – watched (below) by archaeologists Keith Wade and Stanley West (far right) and a group of journalists (left)



Photographs: R. Hoppitt

SOCIETY REPORTS

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General meeting was held on Friday 23 February, at Woodbridge School, and attended by about twenty members.

The Chairman presented a report on the year. Membership levels this year have increased from 339 last year to 385, with 105 life, 227 ordinary and 44 family (up from 14 family members last year). Thirty new members joined as a direct result of the Conference in October. During the 2000 season there were 120 public and 34 pre-booked tours. The total number of paying visitors was 2,650, with £9,778 of income generated from the site, compared with £10,306 in 1999.

The majority of guides attended a study day in March. Arising from the day, a visitor satisfaction survey was undertaken in August, which indicates that the majority of our visitors (94%) originate from the UK with 40% originating in East Anglia; most visitors (75%) come out of general interest; the majority had a very positive experience when they visited, and this was confirmed by the unsolicited comments on the questionnaire about the depth of knowledge and the quality of presentation of information. Negative responses mainly related to factors outside our control, and things that will be resolved by the new visitor centre (e.g. car parking, quality of display, toilets etc).

The Spring Lecture was given by Jo Caruth, (see *SAXON* 32), and the Autumn event this year was our second conference, *North Sea Communities: Evidence for Dark Age Trade and Communications*, held at BT Adastral Park near Ipswich. (see pages 3-6 of this issue for details).

The Society has maintained its constitutional links with the National Trust,

(NT) being represented on the NT Advisory Group, whose recent work has been focused on the process and planning of the content and organisation of the display. Meetings have also been held to address the issue of the continuing relationship and role of the Society at the site and with the NT.

It has been agreed in principle that the Sutton Hoo Society will continue to run guided tours of the burial site. School groups will be administered separately by the NT.

Concessions regarding access to the site will be available to Society members. The exact details have yet to be finalised but will probably include:

- A concession on any site season ticket
- A voucher for one free entry to the site, visitor centre facilities and site tour
- A concession on return visits

In addition, the Society will be able to organise an event once a year on site at which members will have free access to the visitor facilities.

Two issues of the Society's newsletter *SAXON* have been published in the year 2000. The **web site** has been maintained and extended and was used to give early publicity to the summer excavations. It continues to draw in many enquiries, and is providing a route in for overseas members

The response to funding the Mound 17 replicas for the display raised £714. We have also committed funds (up to £2,000) to the section of the display which illustrates and explains the construction of the cloisonnée jewellery. We have agreed in principle to fund the information board that will go with the Mound 17 replicas.

£900 has been paid for the radiocarbon dating of the horse and other items from the

burial site.

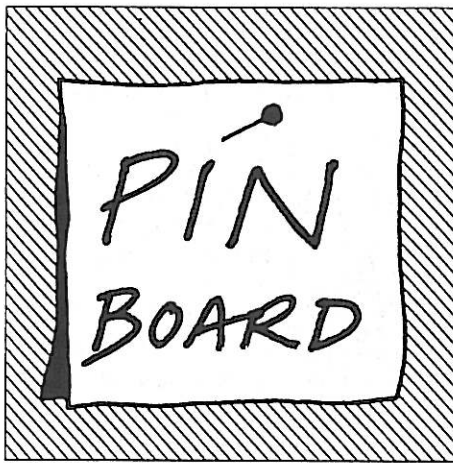
The Society has agreed to contribute towards funding new geophysical survey work between the 'old' and 'new' cemeteries up to a maximum of £2500.

Financial Report

In the year to 31 December 2000, the Society's income was £17,573 of which £4,907 came from site tours and £4,871 from sales etc. Including maintenance costs and purchase of stock, this left a surplus of income over expenditure of £5,516 from activities on the site. Income from subscriptions, gifts, activities (Conference and Spring lecture) and bank interest produced an income of £7,795; less expenditure, (including *SAXON*, the guides training day and grants to the Sutton Hoo Research Project) this left a surplus of £2,504. Income from the Conference in October was £3,405, with expenses of £2,073, generating a surplus of £1,332. The balance at the year end was £27,405, £6,500 is committed to the geophysical survey and to items for the new exhibition. In accordance with Charity Commission recommendations, we need to identify, justify and keep under review the level of reserve funding retained in our accounts at any time for which we have no specific spending plans.

Committee Changes

Jenny Glazebrook resigned from the Committee after 16 years of involvement at Sutton Hoo, both professionally as Site Manager and then in a voluntary capacity as a Committee Secretary. Elected to the Committee at the meeting was Brenda Brown, the rest of the Committee were re-elected *en bloc*.



DIARY

Sutton Hoo Opening Times

Fortunate to have been spared the problems of Foot and Mouth Disease, the site opened to visitors on Easter Saturday, 14 April. It will continue to be open (as long as Foot and Mouth regulations do not cause closure of the footpath) on weekend and Bank Holiday Monday afternoons up to and including Sunday 30 September. Guided tours begin at 2pm and 3pm. Allow 20 minutes to walk along the track to the site. Entrance charges are £2 for adults, £1 for under 18-year-olds, under 10s are free. For Sutton Hoo Society members entrance is also free (on production of your current membership card). National Trust members are currently required to pay the entrance fee.

Groups can visit at any reasonable time throughout the year. Contact Stewart Salmond for party bookings (address below).

Disabled visitors should arrange access in advance with the Visits and Guiding Secretary. This is because vehicular access to the site involves the use of a private driveway and farm tracks which carry farm and construction vehicles all week, and as a matter of courtesy and safety we need to inform the occupiers in advance of unexpected vehicles, and give drivers directions. If you, or someone you know who is disabled, wish to visit the site, please contact the Visits and Guiding Secretary at least a week in advance of your visit so that arrangements can be made. Once the National Trust car park and

the new access is complete, your visit will be more straightforward.

Autumn Outing

This Autumn we shall be visiting **Taplow**, near Maidenhead in Berkshire on **Sunday 28 October**. Taplow is the site of another 'princely' Anglo-Saxon burial mound, excavated in the 19th century. The finds are on display in the British Museum. Leslie Webster, of the British Museum is re-appraising the material from the site for publication, and we have engaged her to come with us to the site to give a short lecture. Recent excavations have revealed an intriguing wider landscape context for the site. We shall be running a coach from Suffolk, but if you want to make your own way there that will be possible – perhaps we might be able to meet up with some of our more 'distant' members. If you want to join the tour either under your own steam or on the coach complete the application form and send to **Brenda Brown, 7 Woodside, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1SB**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks

We would like to express our thanks to Life Member **Daphne Hiskett** for making a regular contribution to offset the costs of sending out **SAXON** by providing 100 second class stamps. We are extremely grateful to Daphne for her support and loyalty to the Society for over 17 years.

Also many thanks to **Jenny Glazebrook**, as she leaves the Committee for her service to Sutton Hoo in both a professional and voluntary capacity over the past 20 years.

Free to good home

This is your last opportunity! At the end of the 2001 guiding season, the **large exhibition hut** will be removed from the site. If anyone out there wants to give it a new lease of life, then it is yours free – but you will have to dismantle it and remove it at your own cost and own risk, liaising with the site contractor. **Please contact any Committee member for more information.**

Change of address

Please note that our **Membership Secretary Jenny Cant** has moved. New address below.

Guides and Volunteers needed

The Society will continue to provide site guides at Sutton Hoo during 2002 when the site will be run by the National Trust. We want to be able to offer at least the current service, and possibly more. To do that we need more volunteer guides. If you are at all interested, then please get in touch immediately – we shall be having some intensive training over the winter – so if you feel you would like to be involved with a fascinating and enjoyable pastime, start now so that we can all 'hit the ground running' in 2002. **Contact Stewart Salmond (see address below).**

There will be opportunities to work as a National Trust volunteer doing other jobs at the site – contact **Trevor Connick, The National Trust, The Dairy House, Ickworth, Suffolk IP29 5QE Tel. 01284 736008 or email: avotdc@smtp.ntrust.org.uk**

Courses

Suffolk Anglia Polytechnic University in association with the National Trust will be running a course in the Autumn based at Belstead House and at Tranmer House (Sutton Hoo) entitled **Interpreting Sutton Hoo for Learning**. For more details contact **Hilary Pegum, NT Regional Education Officer on 01284 736004**.

Also during Autumn 2001 **Dr Sam Newton** is running various courses on Sutton Hoo, Early Medieval History and Literature at venues in Beccles, Stowmarket, Halesworth, Belstead, Hadleigh, & Colchester. Further details from website www.wuffings.co.uk.

Based in Norfolk **John Chatwin** offers a course in Anglo-Saxon History and Culture. Contact him on **01603 700028** or email john@chatwin43.fsnet.co.uk.

*******STOP PRESS: Archaeologist and wartime 'saviour' of Sutton Hoo, Ted Wright died recently (see SAXON 31); an obituary was carried by the Independent newspaper on 20 June 2001.*******

Contact Addresses

Jenny Cant, Membership Secretary, 258 The Pastures, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP 13 5RS
Stewart Salmond, Visits and Guiding Secretary, Tailor's House, Bawdsey, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3AJ
Email: chairman@suttonhoo.org Web site: <http://www.suttonhoo.org>
Sutton Hoo Research Project, Dept. of Archaeology, University of York, The King's Manor, York YO1 2EP
Saxon: Email: publications@suttonhoo.org

Who's Who – Sutton Hoo Society Committee Members

Chairman: Rosemary Hoppitt Hon. Secretary: Sue Banyard Hon. Treasurer: Peter Rooley Research Director: Martin Carver
Membership Secretary: Jenny Cant Visits & Guiding Secretary: Stewart Salmond Publicity: Lindsay Lee
Publications: Rosemary Hoppitt
Brenda Brown Nigel Maslin Trish Mulholland-Middleton Pearl Simper Robert Simper Angus Wainwright

CREDITS

Saxon: Editor: Rosemary Hoppitt Sub-editor: Jenny Glazebrook Original Design: Nigel MacBeth