

Sutton Hoo

A seventh-century princely burial ground and its context



Martin Carver



Reports of the Research Committee of the
Society of Antiquaries of London, No. 69



Colour Plate 1 The Sutton Hoo burial ground before the start of the 1983 campaign, with the River Deben and the town of Woodbridge. (Photo: C. Hoppitt.)



Colour Plate 2 The burial ground during the evaluation phase in 1984. (Photo: C Hoppitt.)



Colour Plate 3 The burial ground (Zone A) looking south after mowing in 1983. (Photo: C. Hoppitt.)



Colour Plate 4 The northern end of the excavation (Int. 41) during preparations for horizon mapping. The Early Bronze boundary ditch runs parallel to the lower edge of the picture, and an Iron Age enclosure ditch runs parallel beyond. The cuts at the left-hand side belong to Early Medieval quarry pits and the large pit between the two ditches is a robber pit, probably of the nineteenth century. On the right-hand side of the picture is the robbed burial pit of Mound 5, regarded by Rupert Bruce-Mitford. (Photo: N. Macbeth.)



Colour Plate 5 Mound 2 (left) and Mound 5 (right) under excavation, looking east. At Mound 5 the trenches cut during the 1965–71 excavation campaign have been re-excavated. (Photo: N. Macbeth.)



Colour Plate 6 Under Mound 2, showing the excavated robber pit crossed by an Iron Age enclosure ditch (F216). (Photo: N Macbeth.)

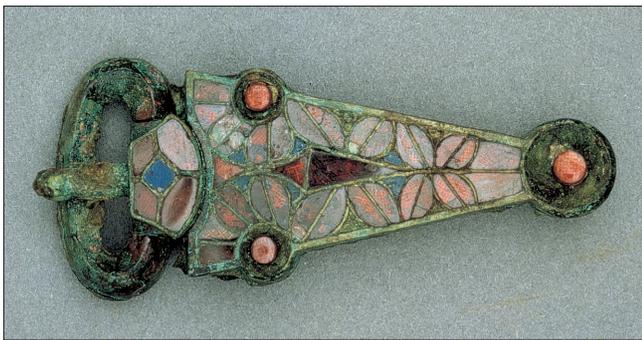
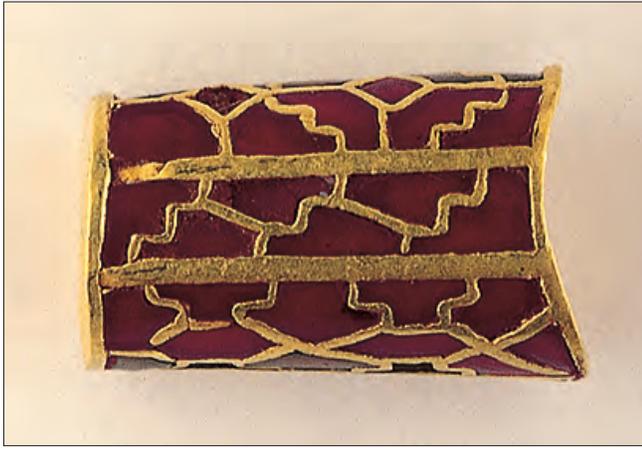
Colour Plates



Colour Plate 7 Excavation of Mound 17: the human burial at Stage 4.



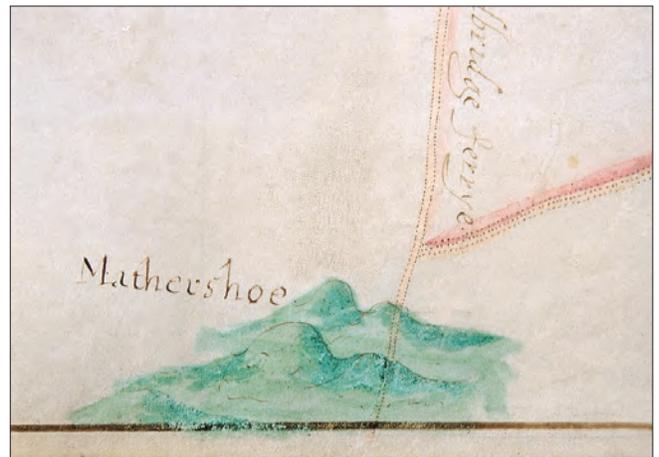
Colour Plate 8 Excavation of Mound 17: the human burial at Stage 9.



Colour Plate 11 Early Medieval artefacts from Sutton Hoo 1983–91: (a) gold and *cloisonné* garnet fitting, a stray find (Int. 55/65; length: 13 mm); (b) glass reticella bead from Mound 7 (Int. 44/ 1547; diameter 24 mm); (c) a gilded copper-alloy, garnet and ivory scabbard buckle from Mound 17 (5c; length 56 mm); (d) and (e) copper-alloy, garnet, blue glass, ivory and gold-foil belt buckle from Mound 17 (6; max. length 61 mm); (f) copper-alloy, garnet, ivory and gold foil sword mounts from Mound 17 (5a and b; widths 19 mm); (g) silver, copper-alloy and iron strap-links from the Mound 17 harness (29a and b; pendant length 32 mm).



Colour Plate 12 Artefacts belonging to the horse harness from Mound 17: (a) roundels for the head piece, with axe-shaped pendants – 25a (centre) diameter 60 mm; 25b and c, diameters 57 and 56 mm); (b) pendants or strap ends (26; greatest length 39 mm); (c) snaffle bit (21; greatest length 242 mm).



Colour Plate 13 The early seventeenth-century Norden Map, showing the Sutton Hoo area, with detail (right) of the Sutton Hoo burial mounds, labelled Mathershoe, and (left) Gallow Hill. (Suffolk County Record Office.)

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With major contributions by Angela Evans, Christopher Fern, Madeleine Hummler, Frances Lee and John Newman

Based on field recording by Andrew Copp, Angela Evans, Justin Garner-Lahire, Jennifer Glazebrook, Madeleine Hummler, Nigel Macbeth, John Newman, Linda Peacock and Catherine Royle; and specialist studies by Janet Ambers, Phillip Bethel, Leo Biek, Julie Bond, Charles French, Alan Hall, Terry O'Connor, Steve Rothera, Rob Scaife, Keith Wade and Penelope Walton Rogers

With line illustrations by Victor Ambrus, James Brennan, Jim Farrant, Trevor Pearson, Juliet Reeves, Annette Roe, Horste Spalding, James Thorn and staff of Field Archaeology Specialists (York) Ltd

Photography by Nigel Macbeth

This book is dedicated to Madeleine Hummler and our children Frédéric, Geneviève, Jacques and Louis who were all born during the Sutton Hoo research campaign and spent their early years on the site.

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Martin O. H. Carver has asserted his right to be identified as the author of this work

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Abstract

Sutton Hoo is an Early Medieval cemetery situated beside the River Deben in south-east Suffolk, England. It has been made famous by the discovery there in 1939 of an intact ship-burial of the seventh century AD, the contents of which are now in the British Museum. This ship-burial, which lay beneath Mound 1, was subjected to comprehensive study and further fieldwork between 1946 and 1975, and published between 1975 and 1983. This work led to an interpretation of Sutton Hoo as the burial ground of the early kings of Anglo-Saxon East Anglia.

A new campaign of excavation and survey began in 1983, designed to put the Mound 1 ship-burial into context. Eight mounds were investigated or re-examined in an excavated area of one hectare. These proved to have contained another ship-burial, the burial of a horse and rider, the chamber-grave of a rich woman and a number of wealthy cremations, all dated to the seventh century AD. The use of the burial ground was brief, but seems to have begun with cremations and continued with ship-burials and ended with the graves of adolescents and a woman of high rank.

Between the eighth and the eleventh centuries some sixteen individuals had been hanged or decapitated, and buried in pits around Mound 5, in the centre of the mound-cemetery. Some further twenty-three individuals had been buried at the edge of the mound-cemetery, around the possible site of a gallows. Most of these are interpreted as judicial executions authorized by Christian kings of East Anglia or of England.

A number of other studies was undertaken to help put the Early Medieval burial-ground into its context. The Prehistoric use of the site and its environment showed a sequence of land-use from the middle Neolithic until the Late Iron Age and Roman periods. The history of Sutton Hoo from the eleventh to the twentieth century was studied through excavation, survey and documentary research. The mounds had stood among rabbit warrens and sheep-walks until they were ploughed in the later Middle Ages. In the sixteenth century a first major campaign of mound digging took place, to be followed by a second in 1860. In the Deben valley, land use and settlement patterns from the Neolithic to the Medieval periods were studied through field survey. An Anglo-Saxon cemetery of the sixth–seventh century discovered on the occasion of the construction of the Sutton Hoo visitor centre may have been the folk cemetery that preceded the seventh-century princely burial ground. A series of international seminars helped to relate Sutton Hoo and East Anglia to other Early Medieval cemeteries and early kingdoms on the shores of the North Sea.

Sutton Hoo is here interpreted as a short-lived and theatrical monument created in response to the first Christian missions to England. The burials expressed the identity and autonomy of East Anglian aristocrats, their aspiration to kingship and their resistance to the political and ideological agenda of early seventh-century continental Christianity. When the ideological battle was lost, East Anglia became a Christian kingdom and the former princely burial-ground became a place of execution.

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Preface

The publication of the field surveys and excavations conducted between 1983 and 1993 at Sutton Hoo – arguably the most famous of all Anglo-Saxon burial grounds – is a triumph from several viewpoints. This was a project that was pioneering in the way that a clear research agenda for resolving specific problems was laid out from the beginning, and carried through to its conclusion. For the Early Medieval scholar, the meticulous dissection of the site's history from the Prehistoric period to the later Middle Ages has cast new light not only on the richly furnished ship-burial excavated under Mound 1 in 1939, but on the society of that time and its aspirations. The Mound 1 ship-burial now appears as a singular moment in a short-lived seventh-century cemetery notable for the variety of its burial practices. Still more surprising was the discovery that in the following generation the site became a place of execution where individuals were hanged or beheaded. This adds an archaeological dimension to textual accounts of judicial processes, and pushes such processes back to the times of the earliest Christian kings of East Anglia. In addition, the analysis of how the site contributes to our wider understanding of the political and ideological aspirations of emerging kingdoms around the North Sea was given greater depth by the regional surveys and international seminars which accompanied the fieldwork. Mound 1 can now be seen within the context of a hectare of excavated ground, the Deben Valley, the nascent kingdom of East Anglia and the early nations of Northern Europe.

The Sutton Hoo Research Trust provided guidance and funding throughout the project, and its members must be congratulated for the stamina and vision that enabled them to bring the project to such a successful conclusion. Nevertheless, the long list of persons and institutions that generously gave their time and money and supported the project in divers ways is closely linked to Martin Carver's ability to share his ideas as they

developed and to inspire enthusiasm for the aims and methods of the work. Of course this promotion of the site was also shared by the whole field team (listed in this volume), and by the many volunteers who emerged locally to form the Sutton Hoo Society. Indeed, the involvement of local, regional, national and international interests in this project is one of its major successes.

As well as prosecuting the fieldwork and its publication, the Trust was much preoccupied with the long-term future of the site, the site archive and the finds, and from the viewpoint of the general public the outcome has been conspicuously happy. The generosity of Mrs Edith Pretty, the sponsor of the 1938–9 excavations, in donating the artefacts to the British Museum has been followed by that of Mrs Annie Tranmer and her trustees, who have donated the site and the entire Sutton Hoo estate to the National Trust. The British Museum, the major partner in the Sutton Hoo Research Trust and custodian of Sutton Hoo's treasures, has provided valued expertise in conservation throughout the project, and holds the site archive. We are all further indebted to them for the publication of the present volume and their active cooperation with the National Trust in the new on-site display that was opened by Seamus Heaney in March 2002.

From the viewpoint of the Society of Antiquaries, which, with the British Museum and the BBC, was the principal financial sponsor of the Sutton Hoo Research Trust, the involvement of so many scholars and specialists in the achievement of this new understanding of Sutton Hoo, its publication in this volume and the conservation and public presentation of the site, are sources of much satisfaction.

Rosemary Cramp
(one-time President of the Society of Antiquaries, Trustee of the British Museum and Head of Archaeology at the University of Durham)

Participants

An archaeological expedition depends on those who own the land (owners), those who promote the work (managers), those who fund it (sponsors) and publicize it (broadcasters and patrons), those who carry out the fieldwork (the field team), and those who study the results, write about them, illustrate them with drawings and photographs and publish them. All these have helped to bring our campaign to fruition and to produce this book and are to be thanked and credited in equal measure.

Owners

Mrs Annie Tranmer gave permission for access to her estate for excavation and survey. In 1997 the estate itself was transferred into the ownership of the National Trust through her generosity and the good offices of her daughter, Mrs Valerie Lewis, and her Trustee, John Miller.

Mr Robert Pretty exercised his prerogative to authorize excavation and possess finds from Sutton Hoo by virtue of the Deed of Covenant inherited from his mother, Mrs Edith Pretty. In 1988 the Deed of Covenant was redrafted in favour of the Sutton Hoo Research Trust, who in turn revised it in favour of the British Museum and the National Trust in 2001.

Colin Walker and Property Growth Assurance Ltd gave permission for access to their estate, which formerly lay adjacent to the east and south of the Sutton Hoo site, for excavation and survey in 1983–6.

The Sun Alliance Assurance Group donated land at the south end of the burial site to the Sutton Hoo Research Trust in 1987, who donated it to the National Trust in 2001.

Mr Peter Waring gave permission for access to his estate, which lies adjacent to the east and south of the Sutton Hoo site, for excavation and survey from 1986 to 2001.

With the agreement of Mrs Tranmer and Mr Waring, and in recognition of the Pretty Covenant, all finds from the 1983 campaign have become the property of the British Museum.

In 2001 the Sutton Hoo Research Trust, its work completed, was wound up and its mission, assets, responsibilities and covenant accepted by the Society of Antiquaries and the British Museum.

Mr John Knight of Bury St Edmunds, acting as Honorary Solicitor to the Sutton Hoo Research Trust, was instrumental in executing these agreements in their permanent legal form.

Management

The Sutton Hoo research project was promoted from 1975 by Rupert Bruce-Mitford, Rosemary Cramp, Philip Rahtz and Arnold Dufty in partnership with Robert Pretty, Mrs Edith Pretty's son and heir.

The Sutton Hoo Research Trust was formed by a partnership between the British Museum and the Society of Antiquaries of London. It was chaired, in turn, by Christopher Brooke, Michael

Robbins, John Evans, Barry Cunliffe and Simon Jervis; consecutive Presidents of the Society of Antiquaries of London. Its initial members were Sir David Wilson, Leslie Webster and Sir David Attenborough, representing the British Museum, and Barry Cunliffe and Phillip Rahtz, representing the Society of Antiquaries. In recognition of local interests, they were joined by Stanley West, who represented Suffolk County Council. The members of the Trust, which was a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, met about every six weeks to audit and review progress.

The Sutton Hoo Research Trust appointed Martin Carver as Director of the new campaign in 1982.

The project was hosted by the University of Birmingham's Field Archaeology Unit between 1983 and 1986, and by the University of York from 1986.

From 1983, Rupert Bruce-Mitford acted formally and informally as advisor to the Director.

Paul Ashbee, principal excavator in the British Museum campaign of 1965–71 supplied field records from the archive, and offered advice and support.

The Sutton Hoo Research Committee was a group of experienced academics meeting twice a year and acted as advisors to the Director and Trustees.

The sometime members of the Sutton Hoo Research Trust

Sir David Attenborough CBE (BM)
Professor Christopher N. L. Brooke PSA (SoA)
John Cherry FSA (BM)
Professor Barry W. Cunliffe CBE, FBA, PSA (SoA)
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R. Michael Robbins CBE, PSA (SoA)
Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council)
Mrs Leslie Webster FSA (BM)
Dr. Martin G. Welch FSA (SoA)
Dr. Stanley E. West FSA (SoA)
Sir David Wilson FBA, FSA (BM)

Co-opted members

Professor M. O. H. Carver FSA, FSA (Scot.), Director of Research and Company Secretary
John Knight, Honorary Solicitor
Martin Burchmore, for the auditors Kingston Smith
All members of the Sutton Hoo Research Trust were also members of the Sutton Hoo Research Committee.

Participants

Additional members of the Sutton Hoo Research Committee

Dr. Paul Ashbee FSA
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John G. Hurst FBA, FSA
Professor Henry Loyn FBA, FSA
Lt. Comm. David Pretty RN
Dr. Michael Tite
Edward V. Wright MBE, FSA

Sponsors

The project was sponsored principally through an agreement between the British Museum, the Society of Antiquaries of London and the British Broadcasting Corporation.

The Sutton Hoo Society extensively grant-aided the project with money raised from site tours, sales and other public activities.

The work of the Sutton Hoo Research Trust was given financial support by:

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Università degli Studi di Siena
University College London
University of Bamberg

University of Belfast
 University of Bradford
 University of Bristol
 University of Cambridge
 University of Cardiff
 University of Exeter
 University of Glasgow
 University of Leicester
 University of Liverpool
 University of Pennsylvania
 University of Prague
 University of St Andrews
 University of Sheffield
 University of Sydney
 University of York

The British Museum was a principal sponsor of the fieldwork. It seconded research and conservation staff to the field team, undertook the research, analysis and conservation of all the Early Medieval objects, funded the assistant editor and now hold the archive from the campaign.

The Society of Antiquaries of London was the initiator and principal sponsor of the campaign. It gave moral and financial support to the fund-raising, fieldwork, analysis, administration and publication.

Publicity and patronage

The BBC planned a series of films in collaboration with the Trust, four of which were made. *The Million Pound Grave* was a remake of a film about the discovery of the Mound 1 ship-burial originally shown in the 1960s. *New Beginnings* recorded the evaluation phase, 1983–6, and attracted three million viewers. *The Last of the Pagans* was first broadcast in 1988 and *Sea Peoples* in 1989. The footage recorded for these, and for later programmes which were not made, is stored in the British Museum. The project gained a great deal from the knowledge and interest of Ray Sutcliffe, the driving force behind the ‘Chronicle’ series, who produced the Sutton Hoo programmes.

Press coverage was co-ordinated nationally and internationally by the *East Anglian Daily Times* of Ipswich.

The successful plays produced by Ivor Cutting for the East Angles Theatre Group, *The Sutton Hoo Mob* (1994; by Peppy Barlow) and *The Wuffingas* (1997; by Ivor Cutting and Kevin Crossley-Holland), helped to raise the profile of the site.

The public was welcomed onto the site throughout the campaign, and guided tours were provided on weekends and bank holidays. An on-site display was created by Amanda Balfour, Caroline Fleming and Ron Warmington, working in a job-creation scheme led by Elizabeth Hooper at the University of Birmingham. This display, periodically updated, was viewed by the public from 1984 until 2001.

From 1984 guided tours and the reception of the public were undertaken by the Sutton Hoo Society, which was initiated by Martin Carver and created by Mac and Liz Miles and Mike Weaver. Mac Miles was followed as chairman by Robert Simper and Rosemary Hoppitt. In 1987 the Duke of Edinburgh, the Society’s first president, visited the excavations. Following the completion of fieldwork in 1992, under the chairmanship of Rosemary Hoppitt, the Society served a widening public with tours, conferences, a website and a number of educational

initiatives, using the revenue raised to support continued research, including contributions to the production of the present volume. The Society’s newsletter, *Saxon*, has given rapid reports on research in progress at Sutton Hoo since 1984.

From 1983 to 1994 the site was in the care of the Sutton Hoo Research Trust, which delegated the responsibility to Mr Peter Berry of Woodbridge. Peter Berry maintained the site to a high standard, guarded it and received visitors when it was closed. From 1994 until 1997, when the site became the responsibility of the National Trust, the Sutton Hoo Research Trust received a grant-in-aid from English Heritage enabling them to erect a fence and to continue to employ him as caretaker. Peter Berry was also a tireless and ingenious inventor and constructor of site equipment that significantly enhanced the success of the excavation. Among his achievements may be mentioned corduroy paths, shoring, cradles for excavators, grave covers, shelters and sprinklers, some of which will be found pictured in this book.

Field team

The full list of those that assisted in the field from 1983 to 1992 will be found in the *Field Reports*, vol. 1/5. Those who carried particular responsibilities were:

- Philip Bethell (1988–91): supervisor, Leverhulme Project
- Graham Bruce (1991): excavated Mound 14
- Sarah Calvert (1985–7): excavator and recorder in Mound 5
- Martin Carver: Director (1982–2001)
- Andrew Copp (1984–94): surveyor and recorder; supervisor of Int. 41, 44, 52; excavated Mounds 2, 5 and Group 2 burials
- Katherine Dowse (1987–8): finds supervisor
- Angela Evans (1984–2001): excavated Mounds 5, 7 and 18; author of report on the Early Medieval artefacts
- Justin Garner-Lahire (1989–92): supervisor Int. 50
- Helen Geake (1986–91): excavated Mound 7
- Jenny Glazebrook (1984–94): administrator
- Liz Hooper (1984–91): excavator and recorder
- Madeleine Hummler: Deputy Director (1989–97); training supervisor, Int. 48, 55; author of report on the prehistory; archive manager; producer/editor of *Field Reports*
- Gillian Hutchinson (1984–7): excavator and recorder in Mound 2
- Faith Jerromes (1984–91): camp supervisor
- Peter Leach (1984–7): excavated Group 1 burials
- Nigel Macbeth (1985–92): photographer
- Linda Peacock (1989–92): finds supervisor
- Annette Roe (1989–91): excavated Mound 17; preparation of publication drawings
- Catherine Royle (1984–9): evaluation supervisor, recording systems designer, surveyor, section recorder and finds supervisor; studied Mounds 2, 5, 6 and 7
- Luigi Signorelli (1986–90): excavated Mound 13

Commissioned fieldwork and analyses

- Philip Bethell, University of Birmingham (chemical mapping)
- Julie Bond, University of Bradford (cremated animal bones)
- John Bruce (contour survey)
- Andrew David, English Heritage (gradiometry survey)
- Julie Dunk and Ian Lawton (resistivity survey)
- Chris Fern (research on Early Medieval burial rites)

Participants

Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd (topographical and geophysical survey)
Charles French, University of Cambridge (micromorphology)
Mike Gorman, Scott Polar Institute (radar survey)
David Gurney, Norfolk Archaeological Unit (phosphate survey)
Alan Hall, Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York (charred plant remains)
Frances Lee, University of Bradford (human bone)
Joanne Miles, University of Birmingham (soil chemistry)
John Newman, Suffolk Archaeological Unit (Deben Valley survey)
Terry O'Connor, University of Bradford (animal bones)
Steve Rothera, Essex County Council (botanical survey)
Rob Scaife, University of Southampton (plant biology)
Lorraine Stewart, University of Birmingham (soil chemistry)
Penelope Walton Rogers (textiles)
Peter Warner, Homerton College, Cambridge (documentary research)

Specialist advice and fieldwork

This was offered gratis by:

Paul Ashbee, University of East Anglia (excavation and prehistory)
Helen Atkinson, Department of Quarternary Research, Stockholm (sedimentology)
Nick Balaam, English Heritage (environmental strategy)
Alastair Bartlett (magnetometry)
Elizabeth Beasley (site management)
Leo Biek (taphonomy)
Christopher Brooke, Nottingham University (infrared photography)
Rupert Bruce-Mitford (excavation)
Victoria Bryant, University of Birmingham (MA on aerial evaluation)
Kate Clark, University of Bradford (magnetic susceptibility survey)
Tony Clark, English Heritage (geophysical survey)
Malcolm Cooper, University of Birmingham (database management system)
Ole Crumlin-Pedersen, Centre for Maritime Archaeology, Roskilde (ships)
Andrew David, English Heritage (caesium magnetometry)
Simon Dove, British Museum (on-site conservation)
Brian Durham, Oxford Archaeological Unit (kite photography)
George Edens, K&C Mouldings (silicone rubber moulding)
Ann Ellison, University of Birmingham (prehistory)
Margaret Gelling, University of Birmingham (place names)
Mike Gorman, Scott Polar Institute (ground penetrating radar)
Mike Hayes, University of Birmingham (soil chemistry)
Jim Hooker, City University (photogrammetry)
Cliff Hoppitt (aerial photography)
Gillian Hutchinson, National Maritime Museum (ships)
Mike Kelly, University of Bradford (resistivity)
Sean McGrail, National Maritime Museum (ship replication)
Edward Martin, Suffolk Archaeological Unit (Suffolk prehistory)
Edward Morgan (photography)
Michael Müller-Wille, University of Kiel (Early Medieval burial practice)

Peter Murphy, University of East Anglia (environmental archaeology)
Hazel Newey, British Museum (on-site conservation)
John Newman, Suffolk Archaeological Unit (Suffolk history and archaeology)
Mark Newman, University of Birmingham (MA on Prehistoric evaluation)
Oceanfix International Ltd (ground-penetrating radar)
Terry O'Connor, University of Bradford (animal bone)
Andrew Oddy, British Museum (consolidation of sand bodies)
Philip Rahtz, University of York (excavation)
Paul Reilly, University of Bath (three-space tracker)
Brian Ribbans (hot-air balloon)
Julian Richards, Archaeology Data Service (information science)
Juliet Rogers (assessment of bone)
Steve Rothera, Essex County Council (modern environment)
Peter Rumble, English Heritage (site management)
Norman Scarfe (Suffolk history)
Mick Sharp (photography)
Ray Sutcliffe, BBC (film producer)
Mike Tite, British Museum (conservation)
Tony Travis, University of Birmingham (tourism)
Geoffrey Wainwright, English Heritage (strategies)
Roger Walker, Geoscan Research Ltd (resistivity)
Andrew Walters, University of Bath (three-space tracker)
Stanley West, Suffolk Archaeological Unit (Suffolk archaeology)
Rowan Whimster, Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography (aerial photograph rectification and plotting)
Tony Wilkinson (sedimentology)
Nigel Williams, British Museum (consolidation of sand bodies)
Martin Woodhall, Milk Marketing Board (soil chemistry)
Richard Young, University of Birmingham (database management system)

Publication team

The field records were prepared by the field team, curated by Madeleine Hummler with A. Copp, L. Peacock and A. Roe, and have been deposited in the British Museum.

The *Field Reports* were prepared by the field supervisors (see above) and contributors to the research report (see below) under the supervision of Madeleine Hummler, with the assistance of Maureen Poulton, Project Secretary 1992–7. For an index to the *Field Reports*, see the end of this book.

British Museum research team undertaking analysis and conservation of the Early Medieval artefacts

Janet Ambers (radiocarbon dating)
Angela Evans (research of Early Medieval artefacts)
Fleur Shearman (conservation and investigation of all objects; lifting the bridle block from Mound 17)
Mike Tite (conservation and laboratory research)
Penelope Walton Rogers (study of textiles)
Leslie Webster (Early Medieval consultant)
Man Yee Liu (conservation and study of the leather)

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The late Leo Biek, 15A Belsize Square, London, NW3 4HT:
contribution to Chapter 3 (taphonomy)

Julie Bond, Department of Archaeological Sciences, University
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Martin Carver, Department of Archaeology, University of York:
Chapters 1–6, 8–10, 12 and 14; editing of all chapters

Angela Evans, Department of Medieval and Modern Europe,
British Museum: contributions to Chapter 7 (Early Medieval
artefacts)

Christopher Fern, Department of Archaeology, University of
York: co-author of Chapter 8 (Early Medieval burial rites)

Charles French, Department of Archaeology, University of
Cambridge: contribution to Chapter 10 (micromorphology)

Alan Hall, Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York:
contribution to Chapter 11 (plant remains)

Madeleine Hummler, University of York: Chapter 11

Frances Lee, Department of Archaeological Sciences, University
of Bradford: contributions to Chapters 7 and 9 (human bone)

John Newman, Suffolk Archaeological Unit: Chapter 13 (Deben
valley survey)

Terry O'Connor, Department of Archaeology, University of York:
contribution to Chapter 7 (horse)

Steve Rothera, Essex County Council: contribution to special
reports (modern plant regime)

Rob Scaife, University of Southampton: contribution to Chapter
10 (pollen analysis)

Penelope Walton Rogers, York: contribution to Chapter 7 (textiles)

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Under commission from the British Museum, Sue Hirst,
assistant editor, checked the text and illustrations for
archaeological sense, and prepared the text and figures for
publication. She discovered omissions and contradictions,
improved the presentation, and helped make this a more
accessible and usable book.

Table 1

Key to the abbreviations and terms used in this book

BBD	Basil Brown's diary, with page numbers as published in Bruce-Mitford 1974: 141–69.
BBN	Basil Brown's notebook. Held in archive by Ipswich Museum.
Body bearer	Means of carriage or support for a dead body used in a grave. A term used because the evidence at Sutton Hoo is often equivocal (as to whether bier, bed, boat or coffin).
Bull.	<i>Bulletin of the Sutton Hoo Research Committee</i> 1983–93 (Boydell Press).
Context	In excavation records, a stratigraphic unit, for example a layer. Contexts are always numbered with 4 digits: e.g. Context 1254, and restart at 1000 for each intervention.
Feature	In excavation records, these are a set of contexts defined as belonging together, for example a pit with its cut and fills. Features are numbered 1–999, with a separate series for each intervention. So F123 or Int. 48 (123).
FR	A field report. So, FR 4/7.1 is section 7.1 in volume 4 of the <i>Field Reports</i> .
Intervention (Int.)	Any archaeological operation in the field. So Int. 24 was a trench in Top Hat Wood, and Int. 35 was a geophysical survey. For a list of interventions see Table 2.
Quadrant (Quad.)	A rectangular excavation area.
Robber trench, pit	A trench (or pit) cut by unknown people who have left no records. Generally thought to be cut for the purposes of finding and keeping grave goods, hence the name.
Stance	Where something had stood. Used for very slight features or contexts which imply something has stood at that place but been removed: for example the bucket in Mound 2 or the bowl in Mound 7.
SHSB I, II, III	Bruce-Mitford, R.L.S., <i>The Sutton Hoo Ship Burial</i> (vol. I published by British Museum Press in 1975, II in 1978, and III in 1983).
Structure	In excavation records, this is a stratigraphic unit like a mound or a building. A structure is always a set of features. Structures are numbered from S1, and there is a single series for the whole campaign. For a list of structures, see Chapter 3.