

The Treasure at Sutton Hoo

Anglo-Saxon
England's greatest
Treasure was
discovered in 1939.
Sutton Hoo is an
Anglo-Saxon ship
burial from 620AD.

*This slideshow is about
some of the treasure
that was discovered.*





These gold coins were found in the leather purse. All the coins were made between AD575 and AD620. The dates of the coins tell us that the burial could not have taken place before 620. This is a Pagan burial because Christians didn't bury treasure with the body.





This lid was made to cover a leather pouch containing gold coins. It hung by three hinged straps from the waist. It was fastened by a gold buckle. The decorations include two images of a man standing between two wolves. They show strength and courage.



This is a drinking horn from the late sixth century. It is a cow horn mounted in silver. The Anglo Saxons used them for drinking out of during ceremonies and special feasts.





This shield was rebuilt as all the wooden and leather parts had rotted away. The metal parts are genuine Anglo Saxon. There is a gold covered bird of prey and a six winged dragon. These may be symbols of courage. The knob at the middle is decorated with pairs of horses.



1 metre





This is the Sutton Hoo helmet. Anglo Saxons wore mostly leather helmets. Only the wealthiest had helmets made of iron. The helmet was decorated with heroic scenes.





The face mask has eye sockets, eyebrows, and a nosepiece. The bronze eyebrows are decorated with silver wire and semi precious stone. The nose and eyebrows make up a great bird with outstretched wings.



Whose Grave Was It?

It is possible to deduce some information from the burial mound. *Click on each label to find out if it is possible.*

The person was rich

The person fought in wars

The person was popular

The person was important

The person died of old age

The person had a large family

Probably True

We Can't Tell



Why can't we find more Anglo Saxon Burials?



Most Anglo-Saxon people were cremated after they died. Their remains were placed in urns. Grave goods have also been found near urns.

Mounds like those at Sutton Hoo were the resting places of chiefs and kings. It would also have been known that they contained treasures.

This tempted people to rob the graves of their treasures. As a result, most burial sites are now empty.