

part 2

Read the article and choose the correct answers (A,B,C or D) for questions (6-11).

Transfer answers to answer-sheet (the form on a separate page).

Sutton Hoo: the find of the century

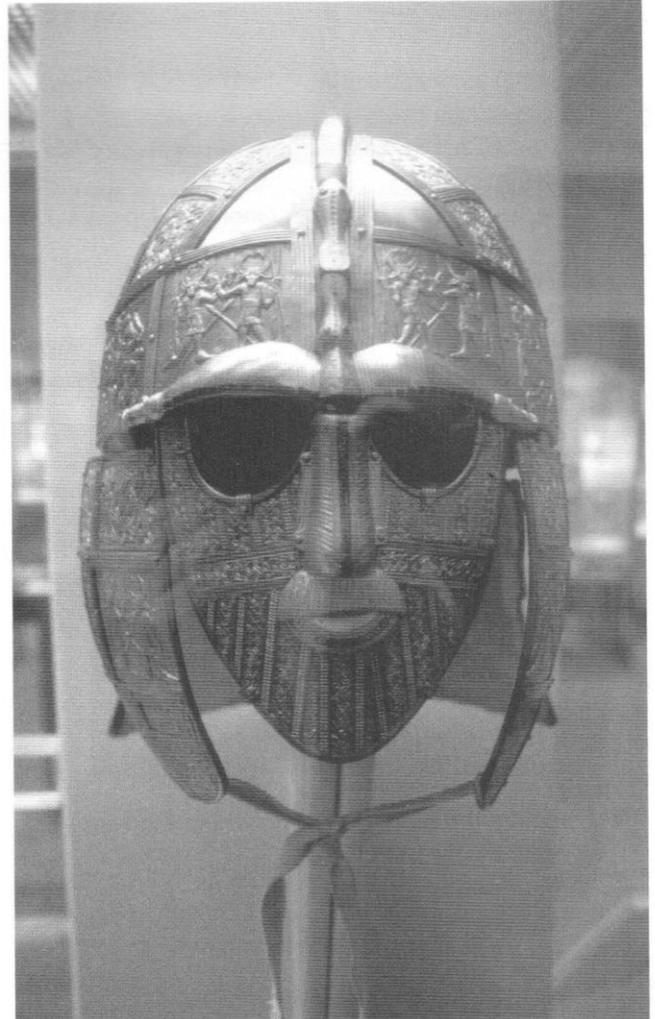
As with many historical finds, legend surrounds the discovery of the Sutton Hoo treasures. Around 80 years ago, Edith May Pretty and her husband bought a large property in Suffolk. On their land were several mounds, believed by many to be ancient burial sites. According to some versions of the story, Mrs Pretty had a dream of a man walking on the largest of these mounds. Convinced that there was something of significance under the mound, she hired the services of an archaeologist, Basil Brown, to come and investigate. Initial excavations in 1938 showed that the site was historically important, but, unluckily for Mr Brown and Mrs Pretty, it also confirmed their worst fears: the area had been ransacked over the years and it was clear that objects of great value had long since been stolen.

Despite some interesting, but hardly earth-shattering finds that year, digging stopped. But Brown returned the following year when, at Edith's insistence, he began investigating the largest of the mounds. Brown had been convinced that this was the least likely place where they would find anything because there was clear evidence that the site had been dug before. Not unreasonably, Brown assumed this meant that anything of value had already been taken. As it turned out, the earlier attempts to find treasure had just missed the main site. Excavations soon revealed the remains of a huge burial site and a 27-metre-long Saxon ship from the 7th century.

What made Mound 1, as it later became known, different from the others was that a large hole had been dug deep beneath the surface. The ship had been lowered into it and all of the objects were found in its hull, covered with a lot of earth. With the other mounds, the remains had been close to the surface and the earth piled up on top. What preserved this remarkable find for so long was the fact that the looters of previous generations had not bothered to dig so deep because they expected Mound 1 to be just like all the others.

When the experts began to excavate the site, they found that almost nothing remained of the original timber that had been used to build the ship. However, the shape of the ship had been perfectly preserved in the sandy soil. The rivets were all still in place, showing where the pieces of wood had been joined to make the ship, so experts were able to build up an accurate picture of the construction process. From this information, several replicas of the ship were built in the years that followed.

Nobody was found in the ship, which, at first, was puzzling, as experts felt sure that it was a burial site. However, soil analysis many years later showed that there had once been a body there, and the number and quality of the items found nearby suggest that it was the body of a king. The most likely suggestion is that



it was the burial place of King Rædwald, believed by some to be the first true king of the English people.

The objects found in Mound 1 constituted a hugely significant find, throwing light on a past civilisation that we knew very little about. The jewellery, weaponry and other objects found there were worth an absolute fortune. It was decided that the find was not to be deemed treasure trove, since the objects were buried with no intention of them ever being recovered again. This meant that sole ownership of the objects remained with Edith May Pretty, who wasted no time in donating them to the British Museum as a gift to the nation. At the time, it was the largest such gift ever made.

- 6 According to legend, the property at Sutton Hoo
- A had a close connection with Egyptian legends.
 - B had always belonged to the man who later married Edith Pretty.
 - C had a mystical appeal to its owner.
 - D was a place associated with bad luck.
- 7 During the initial excavations in 1938, Basil Brown
- A ignored a request by Edith Pretty to dig Mound 1.
 - B discovered nothing at all of historical value.
 - C discovered the remains of the ship.
 - D realised that the largest mound was the most interesting.
- 8 Early attempts to rob Mound 1 failed because the robbers
- A didn't know there was a mound there.
 - B dug too far down into the earth.
 - C didn't expect the objects to be so deep.
 - D accidentally covered up the items of value.
- 9 During excavations,
- A plans for the ship were found.
 - B detailed information was found about the ship's construction.
 - C the ship was re-built with the original parts.
 - D experts built several replicas of the ship.
- 10 The ship was probably the burial place of a
- A man who was dedicated to his king.
 - B king who was later buried somewhere else.
 - C king whose body was stolen.
 - D very important person.
- 11 The objects from Mound 1
- A were judged to belong to the state.
 - B were of no historical importance.
 - C were never meant to be reclaimed by their owners.
 - D were given to Edith May Pretty as a gift from the British Museum.