



What do we know about the Anglo-Saxon influence in the area?

Revealing Rendlesham



Thanks to the incredible work by historians and archaeologists, we now know that for over three centuries, the settlement at Rendlesham underwent a remarkable transformation, evolving into a prosperous and influential royal centre. The excavations that took place have played an important part in helping to grow our understanding of Anglo-Saxon life.

As early as 420 AD, Rendlesham was estimated to have covered a vast expanse of land, akin to 20 football pitches. The settlement was dotted with workshops, farmsteads, and many timber houses, suggesting that the families, farmers, and skilled craftspeople who lived there thrived as they were supported by a strong society.

The residents of Rendlesham are believed to have cultivated wheat and barley, crafting these grains into bread and porridge. As many bone fragments were found surrounding the homesteads, we can assume that cattle, sheep, and pigs were reared for both meat and dairy products, while the abundance of wild fruit added essential vitamins to their diet.



Rendlesham's craftspeople also demonstrated exceptional skills in metalworking, fashioning precious metals like gold and silver, into objects catering to all members of society. Gold coins, jewellery, belt buckles, and pins were all found in recent excavations - some coming from as far away as Germany, indicating strong trade connections.

By 720 AD, Rendlesham had roughly doubled in size. With discoveries of a great timber royal hall, similar to a palace in today's comparison, we know that a regal complex graced the high ground overlooking the river, marking the pinnacle of the settlement's development.



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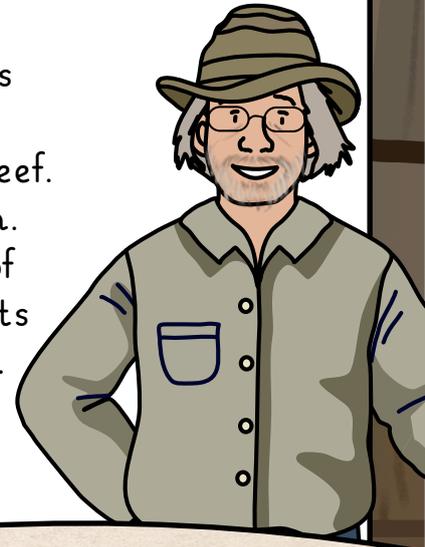
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© Suffolk County Council



Kings of the East Angles, along with their royal entourages and warriors, visited and stayed at the grand royal hall. Evidence of fine metal work, such as this decorative horse harness, supports the idea that there was a high royalty presence and a range of skilled craftsmen in the area.

Further remains of food preparation and feasting, supports the previous suggestion that around the royal residence, kings were feasting on vast quantities of meat, such as beef. This consumption was a symbol of their power and wealth. Royal presence would have promoted the transformation of Rendlesham into a hive of activity, with fairs and markets that also drew merchants and traders from across Europe. People living in the area would have looked up to their leaders for guidance and protection from neighbouring tribes.



In the most recent excavations, the remains of a possible temple have been uncovered. This could suggest to us that the Anglo-Saxons had a belief system that predates the early Christian beliefs that swept through the country in the following centuries.

Sadly, as the 8th century dawned, we know that a change swept through Rendlesham. The royal residence, once a symbol of grandeur, was abandoned, and the settlement resembled a typical rural village.

This transition coincided with the ascendance of the nearby town and port at Ipswich, which itself was now emerging as a thriving centre of trade and production.



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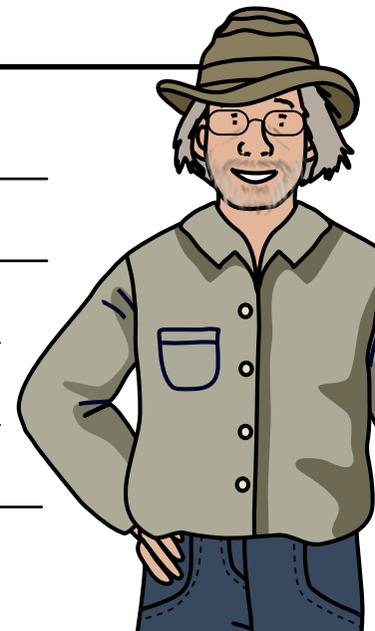
Reflect on the archaeological finds and write about what they tell us about Anglo-Saxon life at the time.

Daily Life and Beliefs

Society Structure

Evidence

Evidence





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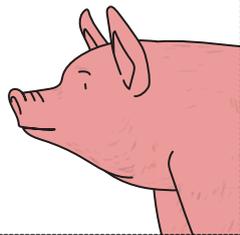
Below are several examples of excavated evidence found in and around Rendlesham. Cut and match the objects with the definitions of what they tell you about Anglo-Saxon life.

Evidence of workshops, farmsteads and homes.



This suggests that their was royal presence in the area.

Bone fragments of sheep and pigs.



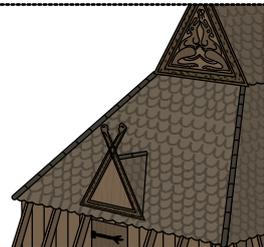
This suggests a royal presence and highly skilled craftsmen working for them.

Pins, jewellery and belt buckles.



This suggests people were highly skilled in crafting.

Evidence of a large royal timber hall.



This suggests those living in the area were wealthy enough to eat beef.

Evidence of metal work, such as decorative horse harnesses.



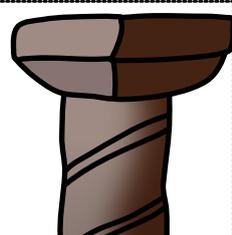
This suggests that the Anglo-Saxons farmed cattle for food.

Evidence that they feasted on vast quantities of beef.



This suggests a strong belief-system amongst the residents.

Discovery of a possible temple.

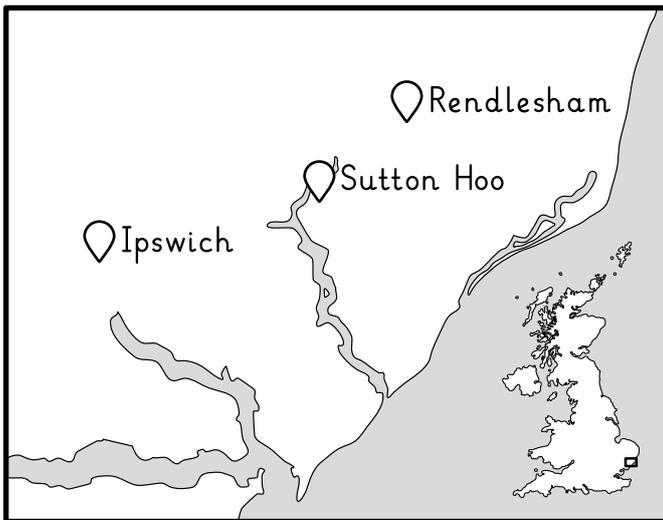


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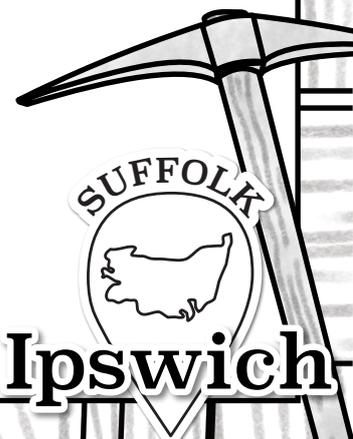
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Ipswich



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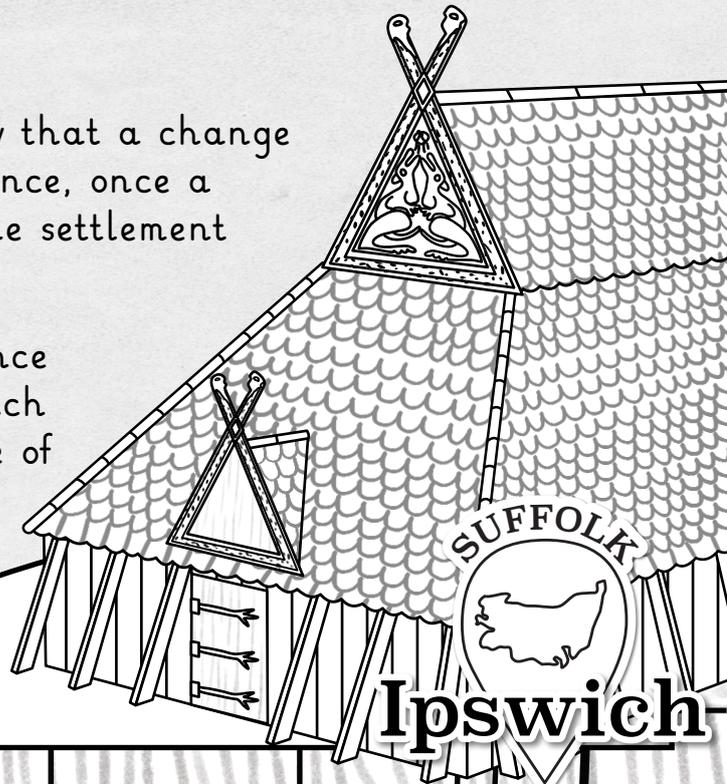
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Ipswich



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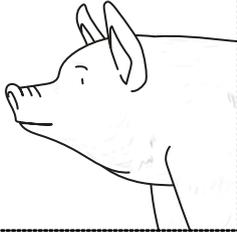
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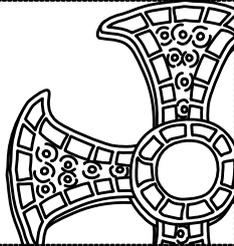
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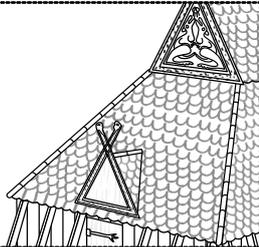
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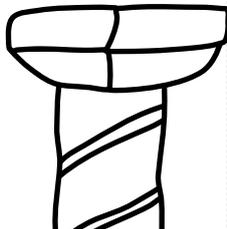
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Local History

Historic England and Teacher's Pet have come together to bring you a collection of free resources that you can use in your local history teaching.



Historic England



Teacher's Pet

Who are Teacher's Pet?

Teacher's Pet have been providing downloadable and playable educational content to early years and primary school teachers for over 14 years. We cover all areas of the curriculum and use a team of in-house teachers and designers to create engaging and memorable concepts, that the children will love.

Why local history?

At [Teacher's Pet](#) we want to empower primary school teachers by giving them the tools they need to deliver inspiring and thoughtful lessons about the local area and its history. We believe local history teaching has such an important part to play in a child's wellbeing – helping to give children a sense of pride in where they live.

Our Local History project is designed to provide teachers across the UK with everything they need to successfully carry out a full scheme of teaching about their local area, through key enquiry questions and source led activities.

Working with [Historic England](#) gives us access to archived maps and photos for resources and information from knowledgeable local historians, as well helping us to provide the content to you free of charge.

For more information about our Local History project or to find out more about Teacher's Pet Classroom Resources, please visit our website.