

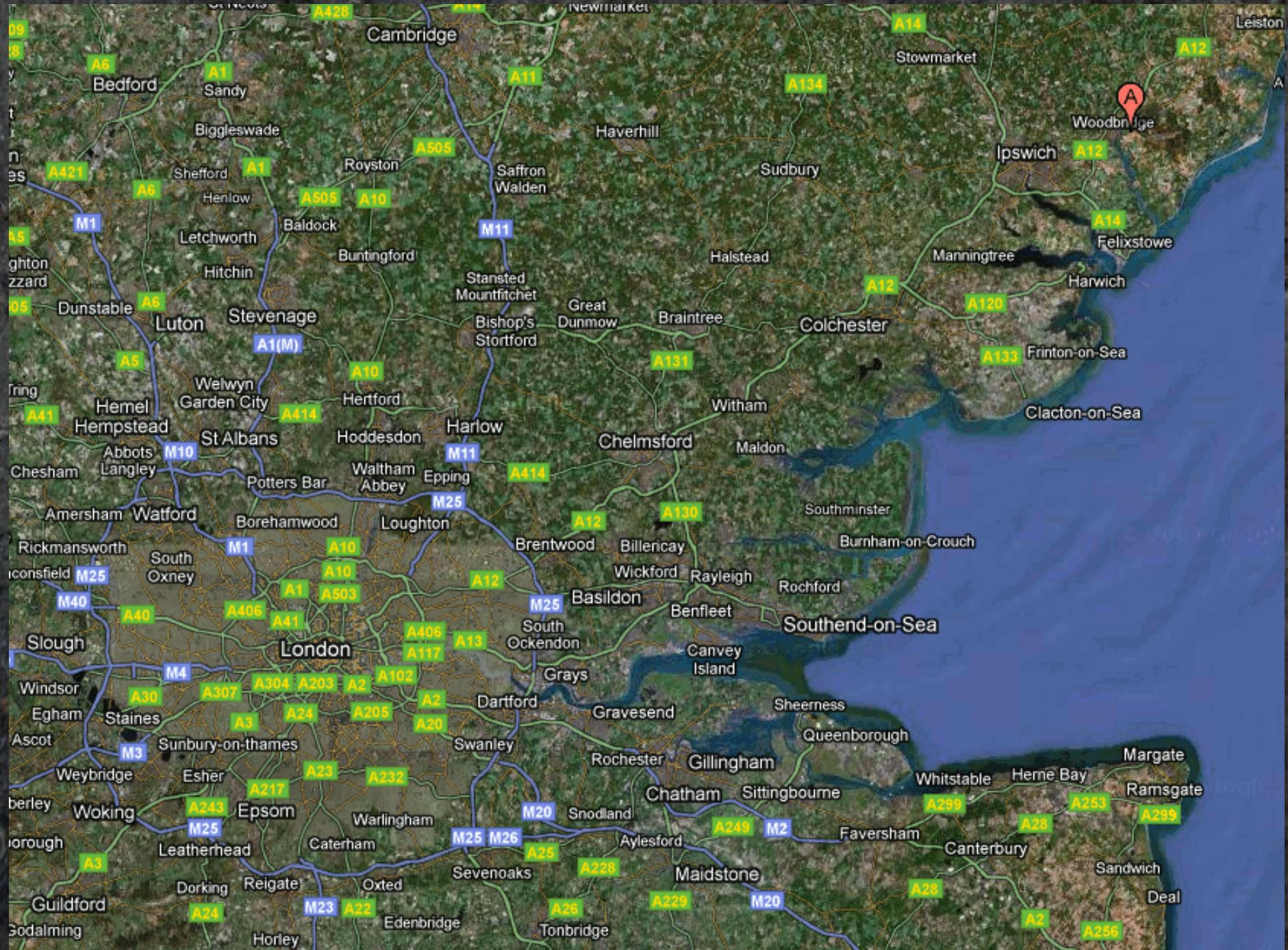
The background of the image is a dark, mottled texture that looks like a close-up of soil or charcoal. It has various shades of brown, black, and grey, with some lighter spots that could be organic material or ash. The overall appearance is grainy and lacks fine detail due to the low lighting.

Archaeology

Archaeological periodization

time range	era	characteristics	finds
9k–4500 BCE	Mesolithic	(Holocene warming)	Newbury, Star Carr
4500–2100 BCE	Neolithic	crop cultivation; animal domestication; refined stone tools	Stonehenge
2100–800 BCE	Bronze Age	bronze, inhumation, Beaker pottery	graves, artefacts, boats
800 BCE–800 CE	Iron Age	iron, systematic land cultivation, new weapons	Sutton Hoo, Prittlewell, Staffordshire
800–1066	Viking Age	Scandinavian artefacts	Lewis chessmen
1066–1500	Middle Ages	(feudal systems)	Norman forts etc.

Sutton Hoo



Sutton Hoo

- grave mounds, mostly 6th–7th centuries
- elaborate ship-burial, excavated 1939















(reconstruction)



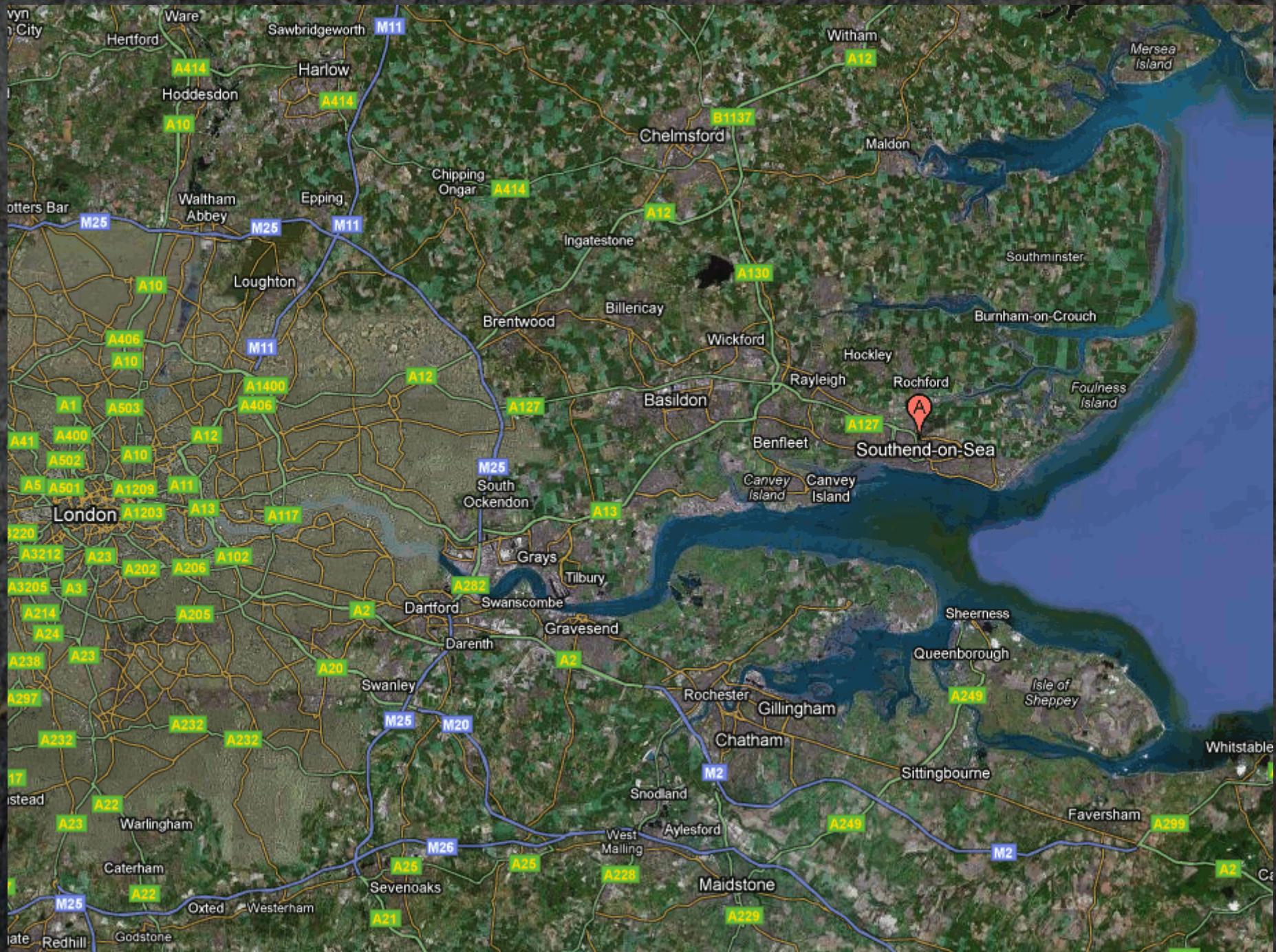
Whose was the Sutton Hoo ship-grave?

- East Anglia, 6th–7th centuries
- crazy rich
- not too deeply embedded in Christianity

East Anglian rulers

reign	ruler	reign	ruler
?	[Wehha]		Æthelhere
?–578	Wuffa	654–664	Æthelwold
	Tytila	664–713	Ealdwulf
599–624	Redwald		Ælfwald
	Eni		Hun
	Eorpwald		Beorna
	Ricbryht		Albryht
	Sigebryht		Æthelred I
	Ecgric	...	
636–654	Anna	~821–~839	Æthelstan

Prittlewell



Prittlewell

- tomb, Essex, 7th century, excavated 2003

[link to images]

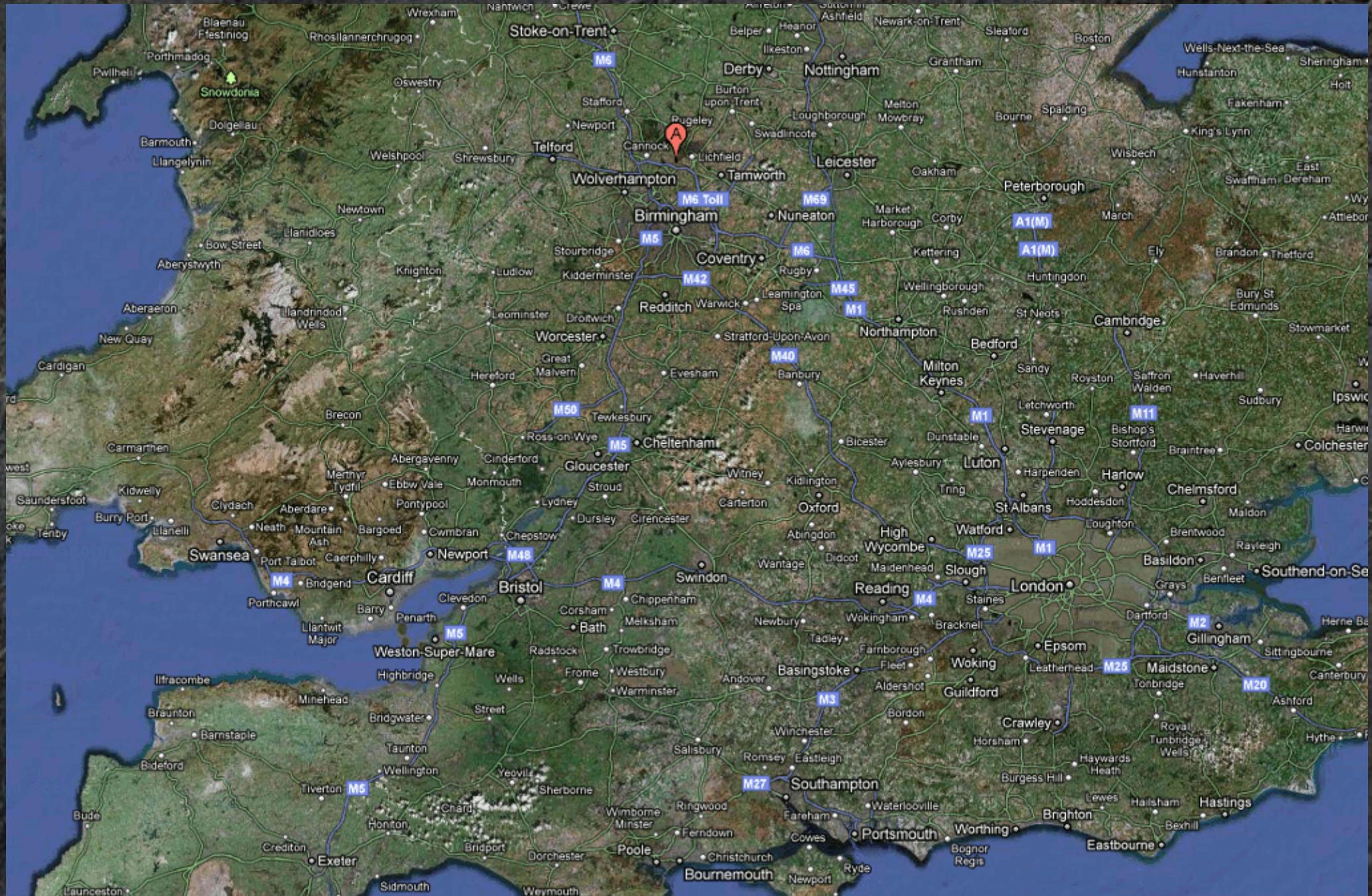
Whose was the Prittlewell tomb?

- Essex, 7th century
- quite rich
- some association with Christianity

East Saxon rulers

reign	ruler	religion
587–~603	Sledda	pagan
~603–616/617	Sæbryht	converted
616/617–617	Sexred & Sæward	pagan
617–~653	Sigebryht I the Little	pagan
~653–660	St. Sigebryht II	converted
660–664	Swithelm	pagan; converted
664–~694	Sebbi (& Sighere)	Christian/reverted
~694–~709	Sigeheard & Swæfred	Christian

Hammerwich, Staffordshire



Staffordshire

- martial items, West Midlands (=Mercia), 7th/8th century, excavated 2009
- over 1500 items: 11 lbs of gold, 3 lbs of silver















surge dne disepentur inimici tui
et fugent qui oderunt te a facie tua
[Nm 10.35]

What was the purpose of the hoard?

- stash
- votive offering

NB these are all martial artefacts, but no actual weapons.

Whose was it?

- script dated to time of Edwin of Northumbria (d. 632/3) or thereafter