WHAT CAN THIS NEWLY FOUND GRAVE TELL US ABOUT LIFE AT SUTTON HOO?



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Archaeologists working at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk have discovered a strange grave containing the impression of a human body, but no bones. The body and bones disappeared because the soil was acidic. Over time, sand filled the space left behind and hardened into the shape of the person. The grave also contained beads, tweezers, a knife and a brooch. There may even have been a second person buried in the same grave. Sutton Hoo is famous for a seventh-century ship burial discovered in the 1930s. That burial contained a helmet, weapons, coins and other objects linked to a powerful ruler, probably Raedwald of East Anglia. The latest discovery is helping researchers look beyond the royal ship burial and learn more about ordinary people who lived and died in the same area.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

Sutton Hoo is often remembered because of its gold and weapons, but the new grave reminds us that history is also about people whose names were never recorded. Even when bodies vanish, small objects and marks in the soil can reveal how people lived, worked and were remembered.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

“Why might archaeologists learn more from a poor grave than a royal one?”

Source: Smithsonian Magazine

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/almost-90-years-after-discovering-a-ship-burial-that-rewrote-british-history-archaeologists-returned-to-sutton-hoo-this