



Fig. 8 Map showing principal places mentioned, including finds of Anglo-Saxon animal brooches, sceattas and Beonna coins.

Ælfhun, Bishop of Dunwich, died in 798 (Whitelock 1972, 21). Bury St Edmunds where King Sigeberht entered a monastery which he himself had founded *c.* 635 (Whitelock 1972, 4) is another possible town with royal connections. Ipswich, although without royal connections in the 8th or 9th centuries, was an important Middle Saxon town and may well have had a mint.³¹ The location of the Beonna coin finds suggests there could have been a mint to the east of Ipswich in the 8th century, perhaps superseded by one in the Bures-Sudbury-Hadleigh area in the 9th century. Debenham, with only a single coin, is an unlikely site although its church is Late Saxon and so, on present evidence, is Burrow Hill itself.

There are three other possible candidates for a mint east of Ipswich: Rendlesham, *Dommoc* and Woodbridge. Rendlesham is known from Bede (*HE* III, 22; also II, 15) to have been *vicus regius* of the East

Anglian kings in the 7th century. This royal association there is enough to suggest a mint, but the phrase *vicus regius* may add some extra support because Bede's usual term for a royal residence is *villa regia* and *vicus* occurs on Merovingian coins. The only *vici regii* named by Bede are Rendlesham and Compiègne (France). The latter was in fact a mint town. Canterbury and York which became mints are usually described by Bede as *civitas regia*, *urbs regia*, etc. The port of *Dommoc* - identified by Rigold (1961 & 1974) as Felixstowe not Dunwich - which Sigeberht granted to Felix as the see of the East Angles (*HE* II, 15) is also a likely candidate for a mint town in East Suffolk.³² Finally, Woodbridge, lying roughly in the centre of the main Beonna coin distribution area, is suggested. It has yielded more separate finds of sceattas than anywhere else in Suffolk except Lakenheath (Rigold and Metcalf 1977, 41 and 50) and