

IPSWICH HISTORIC CORE EXCAVATION ARCHIVE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT



Signposts to the Archive (Version 1.1)

Historic England Project 5746

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Image: Halfpenny of Alfred the Great c. 880-883 AD/CE, © Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service



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1 Introduction

The purpose of this document is to promote and draw attention to the results and raw data available as part of the [Ipswich Historic Core Excavation Archive project](#) which was carried out between 2009 and 2015 and the [Ipswich Urban Archaeology Database Project](#) (UAD) which was carried out between 2015 and 2017, and to highlight the research potential of the archive. Both projects were funded by Historic England and delivered by Suffolk County Council, with the UAD undertaken in collaboration with Ipswich Borough Council. The archive project consolidated the work of the 36 excavations that took place in Ipswich between the creation of the Suffolk Archaeological Unit in 1974 and the introduction Planning Policy 16 and associated changes in the funding of projects in 1990. The UAD enhanced the Historic Environment Record for Ipswich to national standards.

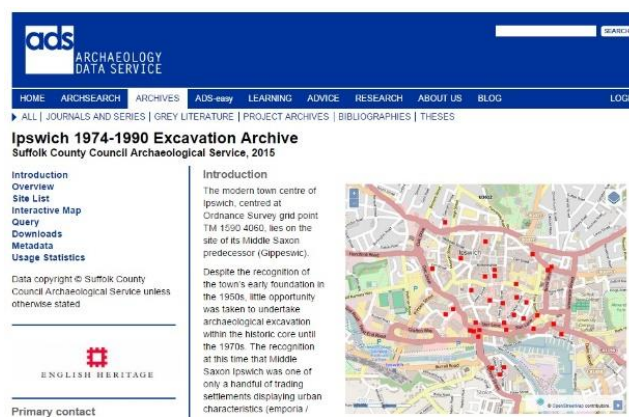
Specifically, this document signposts the features and finds and the archaeological significance of the 34 Ipswich Archive sites. This is aided by a synthesis of current understanding of the archaeology of Ipswich using both the resources of the Archive project and information from the Ipswich UAD. Finally, quantification of the important finds and feature types is presented, and next steps, aspirations and opportunities for further research are also highlighted.

1.1 Background

The modern town centre of Ipswich, centred at Ordnance Survey grid point TM 1590 4060, lies on the site of its Middle Saxon predecessor (*Gipeswic*).

Despite the recognition of the town's Saxon foundation in the 1950s, there was little opportunity to undertake archaeological excavation within the historic core until the 1970s. The recognition at this time that Middle Saxon Ipswich was one of only a handful of trading settlements displaying urban characteristics (emporium/wics) elevated the town's archaeological status to one of international importance.

1.2 The Ipswich Historic Core Archive Project (Historic England Project 5746)



The Ipswich Archive on the Archaeology Data Service Website

Between 1974 and 1990 the thirty-six excavations on thirty-four sites discussed here were carried out by the Suffolk Archaeological Unit (subsequently Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service) under the direction of Keith Wade. Much analysis had been done but further work towards publication was delayed and deferred following the introduction of Planning Policy Guidance 16 in 1990, which changed the way archaeological work was funded. The only fully published element is the 7th-century cemetery at the Buttermarket (sites IAS3104 and IAS3201) which preceded the full establishment of the town (C.Scutt,

Early Medieval (late 5th century CE – early 8th century CE) Cemeteries at Boss Hall and Buttermarket, Ipswich, Suffolk, Society for Medieval Archaeology 2009).

The aim of the project was “to secure the complete archive for future use in an ordered fashion so that it can be made easily and widely accessible in the near future... [to] enable potential researchers from a variety of contexts.... to draw up proposals for research without the need for a lengthy assessment of the material initially” (Plouviez et al 2009). The work was one of a series of pilot projects on approaches to major archives from historic towns, commissioned by Historic England.

The project produced

- An ordered and secure documentary archive, comprising physical and digital records, for all archaeological interventions in Ipswich between 1974 and 1990.
- An ordered and secure material archive of the finds and ecofacts recovered from those interventions.
- Digital catalogues to allow easy location of all elements of the archive by event, material and context.
- Key elements accessible online, along with good documentation of the project processes and management; this was facilitated by the Archaeology Data Service, (see below).
- A case study report which reviews the applicability of archive methods elsewhere (Plouviez, J [2016 Ipswich Historic Core Excavation Archive: end of project case study](#), Historic England Research Report 78/2016.

This was to provide the basis for long term storage and to facilitate future assessment, analysis and dissemination of the data.



Repacking of Finds

No new specialist analysis was commissioned, and readers must take note that most of the specialist reports mentioned here were written many years ago and have not been updated.

The digital archive can be accessed using the [Archaeology Data Service](#)¹, whereas the physical (documentary) archive is held by [Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service](#) and (finds) by [Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service](#). (NB, by the end of 2019, bulk finds will probably be curated by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).

¹ https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/ipswich_parent_2015/

On the ADS website, each site has a summary (the basis for those below), selected finds and site images and GIS files relating to development areas, excavation extents, and features.

- There are also a further 22 documents available including documents concerning the project history and the specialist reports that cover multiple sites. These include the Project Designs, description of the archive and recording systems, accounts of the history of excavation in Ipswich, the chronological system and specialist reports on pottery (imports and local), coins, hones, Anglo-Saxon strap-ends, environmental remains, animal and fish bones and buildings.
- There are 176 finds X-ray images available which were not catalogued but relate to the Ipswich sites.
- There are 10 spreadsheets available, 7 of them are part of the environmental report (Murphy 2004), 2 list the digital reports and one summarises the radiocarbon results.
- The tables from two databases are available, and a separate table of metadata for the 'IAS_Coredata' tables. 'IAS_Coredata' contains the site and finds data for all 34 sites. 'Ipswich Archive catalogues' contains lists of the full documentary archive for the 34 sites and some related material held by Suffolk County Council.
- The GIS shapefiles, available as 7 .zip files, consist of the following layers: churches, modern streets, old streets (survived), river, site extents, number divisions and core names. These provide an overall context for the urban core and the key to the site numbering
- All documentary (paper) archives were re-packed and are held in 139 archive containers (mainly archive boxes but also 3 plan hanging cabinets), the contents of which are fully catalogued; they are held by [Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service](#) (Plouviez, 2016).
- A total of 7,430 boxes of bulk finds were repacked and listed, of which 16 (pottery – illustration/report correlation queries) have been retained at Unit 4 Ipswich (SCCAS), the rest being transported to storage in Colchester. The total includes 6 pallets (architectural stone) and 30 outsize boxes (pottery). 275 boxes containing metalwork and other small finds have been re-packaged. 194 boxes of iron objects have been transferred to Colchester, but the remainder has been retained while the Ipswich Museum metal store was being re-furbished. These are held by [Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service](#) (Plouviez, 2016). (NB, by the end of 2019, bulk finds will probably be curated by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).

1.3 The Ipswich Urban Archaeology Database and Supplementary Planning Document (Historic England Project 7061)

Following the archive project, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service created a map-linked, publicly accessible [Urban Archaeological Database \(UAD\)](#)² for the whole Borough of Ipswich. A second part of the project involved producing a [Supplementary Planning Document relating to Archaeology for Ipswich](#), which was adopted by Ipswich Borough Council in November 2018.³ This highlights the considerations and processes for the management of archaeological remains through the development process and includes, for general interest, a summary of the archaeology of the Borough with contributions from period specialists.

The UAD has collated and enhanced information relating to archaeological aspects of Ipswich Borough's historic environment, structured in accordance with current best practice in Historic Environment Record

² <https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/ipswich-uad>

³ <https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/content/development-and-archaeology-supplementary-planning-document-spd>

data recording The UAD sits within the Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Record and has a map and subject-based search interface to aid researchers.

The project produced:

1. Enhanced event and monument records in the County Historic Environment Record using information from excavation and watching brief reports; archive material; assessment of the evidence and potential of un-finished and unpublished backlog excavations; records of observations; building surveys; notes from Scheduled Monument files; antiquarian notes; museum records and published sources; historic maps; indices of documentary material.
2. Records and maps for key features of the town (e.g. boundaries, town defences, streets, cemeteries).
3. Collated information on archaeological deposits, using a custom module for recording deposit information from excavations and borehole data within the Historic Environment Record
4. Deposit models of the Borough as a tool to understanding archaeological potential
5. Access to data and summary maps and information on the [Suffolk Heritage Explorer](#) website.

By way of background to the archive summaries, the next section presents a broad synthesis of the archaeology of Ipswich, detailing the history of archaeological investigation and the archaeology itself in chronological order. The origins and growth of the town in the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval periods are given special attention. IPSnumbers are taken from the Ipswich UAD.

2 History of archaeological work in Ipswich, by Keith Wade

Pottery and artefacts recovered from developments in the town were collected throughout the later 19th century by the Borough Museum (opened in 1847). Nina Layard excavated the important Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Hadleigh Road (IPS016). Also, the important Roman Villa at Castle Hill, discovered in the 19th Century, was excavated by Basil Brown in the 1940s (IPS015).

In the late 1950s, the large pottery collection at the museum was studied by John Hurst and Stanley West. They concluded that most of it was Anglo-Saxon and made in the town. The earliest pottery, which they termed Ipswich Ware, was dated to the Middle Saxon period (c. 650-c. 850 CE) and this was followed by Thetford Ware from c.850-1150 (so-called as it was first recognised in Thetford).

It was established that Ipswich was a large settlement, covering at least 30 hectares, and an international port during the Middle Saxon period. In the early 1970s it became clear that Ipswich was one of only a handful of trading settlements displaying urban characteristics (emporia) in North-Western Europe during this period. This elevated the town's archaeological status to one of international importance.

In 1974, the Suffolk Archaeological Unit was created, initially under the management of the Scole Committee for East Anglian Archaeology, and then Suffolk County Council. The Ipswich excavations formed part of a wider programme of research (*The Origins of Ipswich Project*) which included documentary research and the recording of standing buildings.

A total of thirty-six archaeological excavations took place between 1974 and 1990. All the sites lay within the historic core of the town with twenty-seven within the Anglo-Saxon and medieval defences, and nine within the medieval suburbs. Excavations were funded by English Heritage, Manpower Services

Commission job creation schemes, and site owners (particularly to fulfil Scheduled Monument consents, as many key sites were scheduled).



Hand axe from Foxhall Road © Jeff Veitch/Durham University

From 1991 onwards, all excavations were developer-funded following new planning guidance (PPG 16). Key sites investigated since 1990 include prehistoric remains at the fringes of the borough within the multi period sites at the former airfield, Lovetofts Drive (IPS283) and Stoke Quay, south of the river, in 2012 (IPS689).

2.1 Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology of the Borough of Ipswich, by Hannah Cutler

The varied geological deposits within Ipswich borough have yielded a wealth of Palaeolithic material. Generally, Palaeolithic material is found in isolated unstratified find spots. There are a small number of stratified sites and some nationally important assemblages mostly found during mineral extraction in the early 20th century. These include the Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) 11 handaxes from Foxhall Road (IPS050) and the Faunal Remains of MIS 7 age from the “Stoke Bone Bed” (IPS072, 163) and the MIS 3 remains from Bramford Road (IPS018)

Mesolithic occupation is sparser than Palaeolithic and even less well recorded, being made up of finds either unstratified or residual. Finds of tranchet axes and other forms have been reported from the shore of the River Orwell (IPS008) and elsewhere throughout the borough.

2.2 Later Prehistory, by Edward Martin.

In this part of England, the settlement sites of this period (Neolithic to Iron Age) contain timber buildings that leave only ephemeral traces in the form of post-holes and gullies.

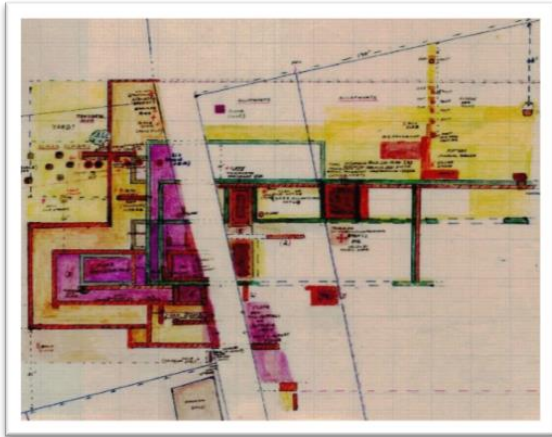


One of the Belstead torcs (© British Museum, Creative Commons Licence)

Stray finds have a fairly even distribution over the borough area, which suggests that settlement may have been present in most areas. There is a noticeable concentration of Neolithic stone and flint axes within the bounds of Ipswich which suggests that some may have been imported from the surrounding

rural areas. The most notable 'stray finds' in Ipswich are the Iron Age gold torcs (IPS079) that were found in the Chantry Estate/Belstead Hills area in 1968 and 1970. They are an important indicator that there must have been significant and very wealthy settlements in the near vicinity.

2.3 Roman by Jude Plouviez



1940s plan by Basil Brown of Castle Hill Roman villa.

During the Roman period (mid 1st to early 5th centuries CE) Ipswich borough was an area of intensively populated countryside. Roman settlements are often located on relatively high ground overlooking the River Gipping and its tributaries. It is also possible that there was a Roman farmstead within the later Anglo-Saxon town, with suggestive finds groups around Wolsey's College and St Mary at the Quay church (IPS054, 055, 745) and definite late Iron Age and Roman features at Elm St (IPS053/IAS3902).

The most significant Roman site is the villa complex at Castle Hill (IPS015, 200, 203, 421 etc,) comprising several buildings, perhaps arranged around a courtyard, in a prominent south-facing location at 35m above OD. This is the largest known villa in Suffolk, even though we do not have a complete plan, and it had the typical Roman architectural features including hypocausts, bath building, decorated mosaic floors and painted plaster on the walls. It seems to date from the 2nd century with considerable expansion and refurbishment during the 4th century and it continued in use until the end of the Roman period in the early 5th century.

2.4 Anglo Saxon Ipswich by Keith Wade

2.4.1 Early Anglo-Saxon (5th to early 7th century CE)

Prior to the formation of the town, settlement was spread in the Gipping Valley in a non-urban context. A settlement was partially excavated in 2003 (IPS280), 300m to the east of Handford Bridge and to the south of Handford Road and overlooking what was the Town Marsh. At least ten buildings were excavated including both halls and sunken-featured buildings. This is most likely to be the settlement whose inhabitants were buried at the Hadleigh Road cemetery, excavated in 1906 (IPS016).



Excavation plan from Handford Road in 2004 showing density of archaeological remains; remains of a Saxon building (inset)

2.4.2 Early Middle Saxon Ipswich (Seventh century CE)

During the 7th century, the focus of activity moved to the site of the present town. There is evidence for settlement north of the river crossing at Stoke Bridge, where Pre-Ipswich ware activity was found at Greyfriars Road in the form of two sunken-featured buildings and rubbish pits, associated with local handmade pottery and imported Merovingian wares. The distribution of handmade pottery suggests that occupation covered some 15 hectares, north of the river, up to the line of Silent Street, Tacket Street and Lower Orwell Street. There were associated cemeteries on the higher ground to the north and south of the river (in Stoke). At St Stephen's Lane, a seventh century cemetery was found with associated objects of Frankish origin.

2.4.3 The Middle Saxon Town (c.700-870 CE)

Around 720 CE, the town expanded to cover about 50 hectares. This involved an extension over the heathland burial ground to the north, along a newly laid-out grid-iron pattern of streets, and south of the river into Stoke. Extensive excavation has shown that the economy was based on craft production and international trade. Following the collapse of the Roman Empire in Western Europe, in the early 5th century, it is clear that town life disappeared. It was not until the early 7th century that it reappeared in the form of a series of emporia established around the North Sea coast. In what was later to become England, there was one such emporium in each of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

The emporia on the European mainland are also well-known. Ipswich, serving the kingdom of East Anglia, was trading mainly with Dorestad, on the river Rhine.

Craft production was dominated by the Ipswich Ware pottery industry. It was a large-scale enterprise, concentrated in the north east corner of the town, along Carr Street, but outlying kilns have also been excavated at the Buttermarket and south of the river in Stoke. All sites produced evidence of international trade - usually in the form of pottery, but trade also included perishable goods such as wool or woven textiles going out and wine coming in. Wine was imported in wooden barrels, some of which have been

found preserved and re-used as the linings of shallow wells across the town.



Ipswich ware kiln excavated at Stoke Quay (© Oxford Archaeology/Pre Construct Archaeology).

At the Buttermarket, in the centre of the town, a continuous row of rectangular, surface-laid timber buildings was found hard up against the street edge. In their backyards, various crafts were in evidence including weaving, bone and antler working, metalworking (silver, copper alloy, iron) and potting in the form of a single Ipswich Ware kiln. A different picture emerged either side of Foundation Street, on the eastern edge of the Middle Saxon town. Here, there were fewer buildings, set back from the street and within fenced enclosures. Environmental evidence indicates more emphasis on agricultural activities including livestock and cereal cleaning.

This implies that the concept of a town centre, with more commercial activity, and a periphery with a more agricultural function, may have existed from the start of urban life in England, but this needs testing by further excavation.

At this period, there was also much activity along the north bank of the river Orwell. A sequence of timber waterfront revetments, dating from the seventh century onwards, was found in excavations at Bridge Street in 1981. The Middle Saxon waterfronts, of simple post and wattle hurdle construction, were little more than a bank protection, providing dry land on which to embark from the shallow draft boats of the period. More complex timber structures were found more recently during excavations at the Cranfields Mill site, south of Key Street.



A snapshot in time at St Peters Wharf, by Bob Garnham.

2.4.4 The Late Saxon Town (870-1066 CE)

The Scandinavian invasion of England in 865 culminated in permanent settlement in Eastern England. Guthrum, one of the principal Scandinavian leaders, settled East Anglia from 879-880.

This period (880-920 CE) is one of great cultural change in Ipswich which must reflect Scandinavian rule and settlement. The town was surrounded with defences for the first time, probably late in the period, as a response to the threat of conquest from the Kingdom of Wessex. This involved the closure and diversion of some streets, which probably restricted access to three gates on the west north and east sides of the town. Building types also changed. The sunken-featured building was re-introduced and there is a very marked increase in craft activity. Metalworking included both iron smelting and smithing and copper alloy working. Moulds indicate brooch manufacture. It was also during this period that the Thetford Ware pottery industry replaced the Ipswich Ware industry. The industry remained mainly in the north-east area of the town, and kilns have been found along the south side of Carr Street and one at the west end of St Helen's Street. However, a kiln has also been found in Turret Lane, south of the Buttermarket. Thetford Ware industries were also established in the new Anglo-Scandinavian towns of Thetford and Norwich.

From the conquest by Wessex, in 920, to the Norman Conquest, the town grew very little, but it remained in the top ten of the most important Anglo-Saxon towns. The street pattern was that inherited from its Middle Saxon predecessor, modified only by the construction of the town defences. The townscape at this period was more uniform with buildings set back normally 10-15 metres from the street front. The buildings continue to be sunken-featured but they increase in size and become two-storied with the sunken feature acting as a cellar or half cellar.

The economy continued to be based on craft activity and international trade. It acquired a mint by the reign of Edgar (959-975). Local and regional trade, westward to the east Midlands dominated the 10th century but international trade picked up again in the eleventh century.

2.4.5 The Norman Town (1066-1200 CE)

The Domesday Book shows a severe decline after 1066, with 328 of the burgess plots lying waste and only 110 burgesses left who could afford to pay their customary dues to the king. By the middle of the

12th century, the town had fallen to 21st in the national rankings, partly as a result of competition from the network of towns which had been founded across East Anglia during the late Saxon period.

This decline is well represented in the archaeological record. On the major sites of Buttermarket/St Stephen's Lane and Foundation Street, buildings went out of use in the late 11th/early 12th century and the sites were not redeveloped until the 13th century. Some of these buildings were burnt down, which preserved a wealth of construction detail and in some cases also the contents of the buildings. The most likely cause of this sudden decline was the suppression by William the Conqueror of a rebellion against him by the earl of East Anglia in 1075.

The town also had a castle, constructed and destroyed in the twelfth century. Its location is unknown and various sites have been suggested. The most likely of these is the area bounded by Civic Drive, Westgate Street and Elm Street but there is no archaeological evidence to date.

2.4.6 The Medieval Town (1200-1450 CE)

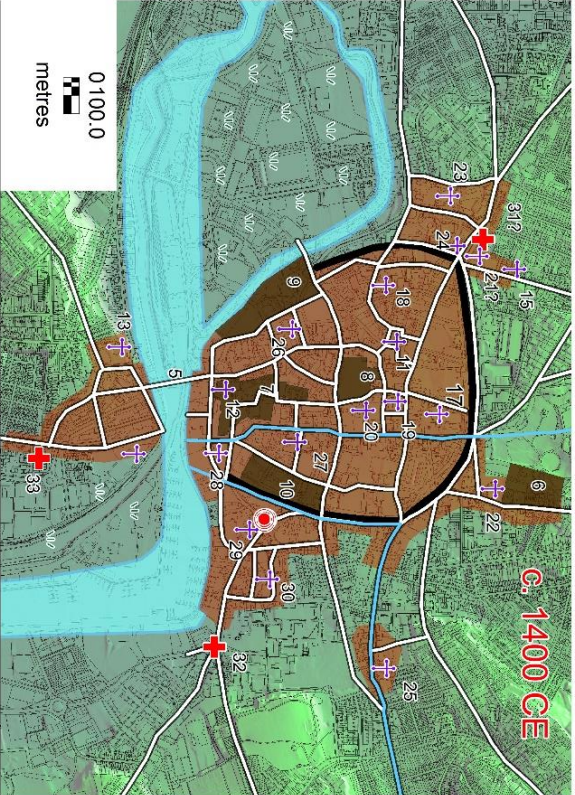
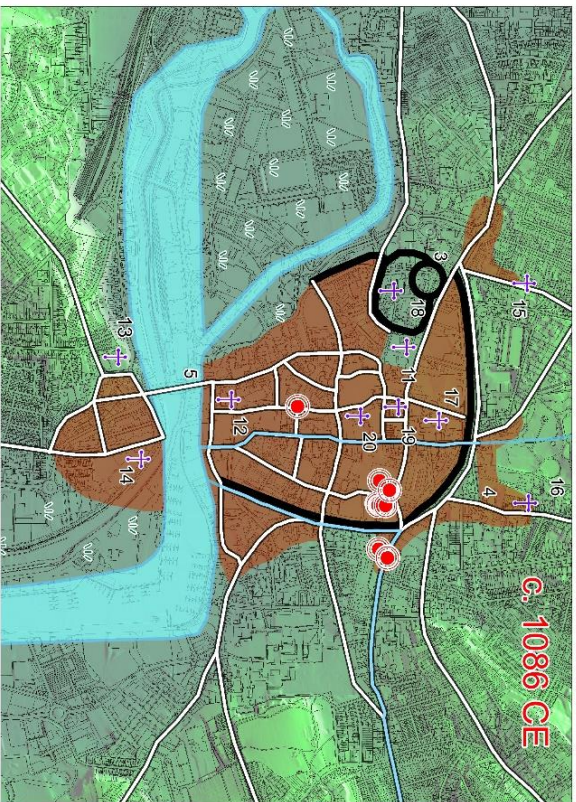
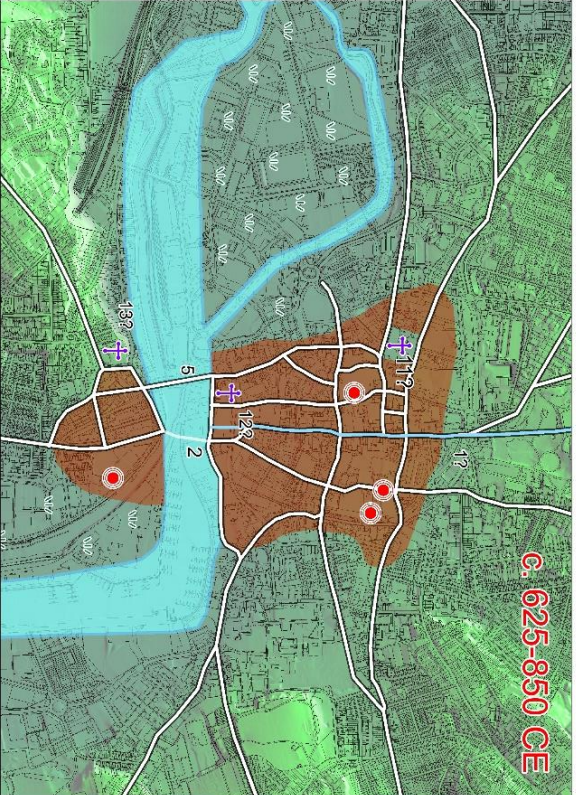
During this period, five new churches were built serving the suburbs: St Margaret's, St Matthews, St Clements and St Helens, on the fringes of the urban core and St John's in the hamlet of Cauldwell.

In the urban core, two of the major excavations (Buttermarket/St Stephen's Lane and Foundation Street/School Street) coincided with the precincts of medieval friaries, and the ground plans of both the Carmelite and Dominican friaries were recovered. Little is known about the other monastic establishments: the Greyfriars, largely destroyed by the development of that name, the Priory of SS Peter and Paul, east of St Peter's Church, and the Holy Trinity priory, on the Christchurch Mansion site. Some wall fragments and burials have been excavated in all three.

Further burials have been excavated in the churchyards of St Mary Quay, St Margaret's, St Nicholas, St Lawrence, St Clement's and the chapels of Our Lady of Grace, in Lady Lane, and St Edmund de Pountney, in Lower Brook Street.

In addition, cemeteries of lost churches have been partially excavated in Fore Street (the cemetery of Osterbolt), Westgate Street (unknown) and Berners Street (St George's Church) and the Leper hospital of St James, at the junction of Fore Street and Back Hamlet. A second Leper Hospital, St Leonards, is known to have been sited on the Wherstead Road but no traces have yet come to light.

Pottery kilns excavated in Fore Street show that pottery production continued during this period producing Ipswich Glazed Ware from c.1270-1325 CE.



THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF IPSWICH

Churches/Chapels



1. Meeting Place

2. Ford

3. Castle

4. Thingstead

5. Stoke Bridge

6. Holy Trinity Priory

7. Priory of St Peter and St Paul

8. Carmelite Friary

9. Franciscan Friary

10. Dominican Friary

11. St Mildred's Church

12. St. Peter's Church

13. St Mary's Church (Stoke)

14. St Augustine's Church

15. St George's Church

16. Holy Trinity Church

17. St. Mary Tower Church

18. St Mary Elms Church

19. St Lawrence's Church

20. St Stephen's Church

21. All Saints Chapel

22. St Margaret's Church

23. St Mathews Church

24. Chapel of Our Lady

25. St Helen's Church

26. St Nicholas's Church

27. St Edmund de Pountney's Chapel

28. St Mary Quay Church

29. Ostibot Church

30. St Clement's Church

31. St John's Hospital

32. St James's Hospital

33. St Leonard's Hospital

Hospitals



Pottery Kilns



Town Ditch/Rampart



Religious Houses



Town Extent



Marsh

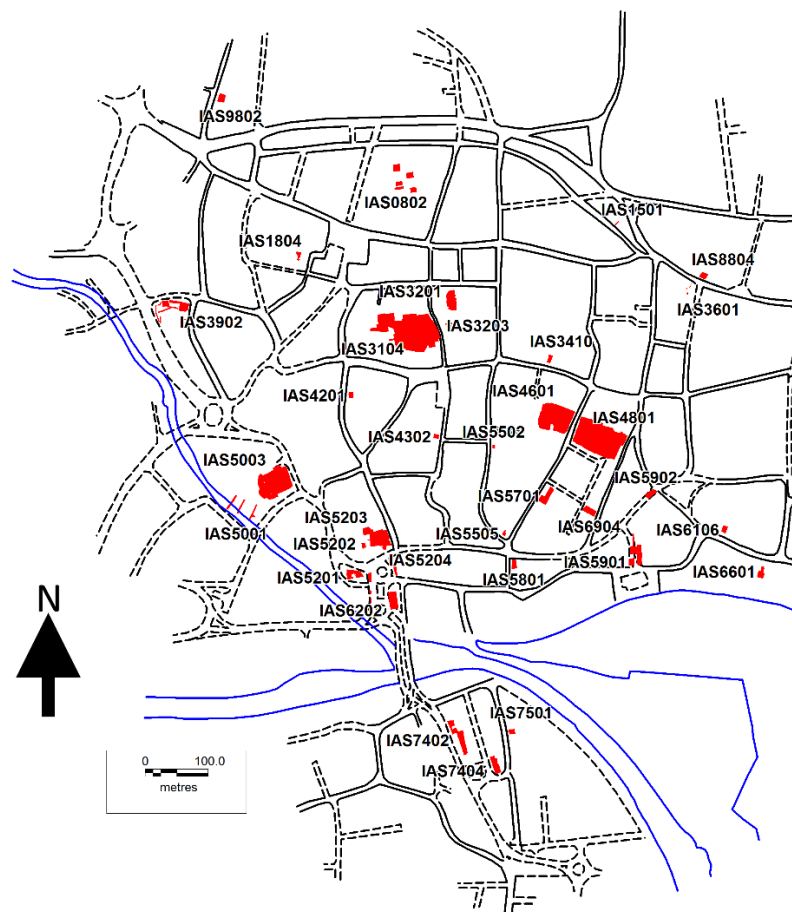


2.5 Late Medieval/Early Post Medieval (1450-1600 CE)

Most excavated sites in the urban core have produced evidence of this period and merchant houses, constructed in masonry, have been excavated on the sites along College Street and Key Street. Little is known about Wolsey's College which took over the medieval priory of SS Peter and Paul but substantial walls, including a brick turret have been excavated east of St Peter's Church.

3 Site Summaries

This document particularly signposts the archives from sites that were excavated between 1974 and 1990, for which post-excitation analysis was stalled, but from which a lot of the narrative of the development of the town can be drawn. The sites are briefly summarised; their locations within the historic core of the town are shown in the map of the town streets below. The sites represent a spatial sample across different elements of the historic town.



The Sites included in the Ipswich Archive in the Historic Core of the Town, (hard lines indicate ancient streets that are still extant).

Each summary notes:

- The Ipswich Archaeological Survey (IAS) number. This is the main archive number and relates to a geographic portion of the town (this is also a link to the site-specific page on the Archaeology data service website).
- The site name as recorded in the archive.
- The year in which the excavation took place.

- The Historic Environment Record reference (format IPSXXX) (see the Urban Archaeology Database).
- The accession number used by Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service.
- The UK National Grid Reference.
- The excavated extent in m².
- Some notes on key research areas.

The date ranges used in the text are as follows:

- Iron Age 800BCE– 42CE
- Roman 43CE – 409CE
- Early Saxon 450CE – 600CE
- Early Middle Saxon 601CE – 700CE
- Middle Saxon 701CE – 880CE
- Early Late Saxon 850CE – 900CE
- Middle Late Saxon 901CE – 1000CE
- Late Saxon 850CE – 1065CE
- Early Medieval 1001CE – 1150CE
- Late Medieval 1151CE – 1450CE
- Late Medieval Transitional 1451CE – 1600CE
- Post Medieval 1601CE – 1900CE

3.1 [IAS0802 Tower Ramparts School 1979/1981](#)

HER ref: IPS732, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.48, NGR: TM16324472, Extent: 377 m² of 3500m²



IAS0802 Tower Ramparts School 1979/1981

Four trenches were excavated within the area formerly covered by the school playground before construction of a new shopping centre. Despite disturbance by footings, cellars and air raid shelters there was evidence for middle Saxon posthole structures of unknown form, and pits. Similarly, from the Early Late Saxon period, two possible building slots were excavated, representing fences or the side of buildings, with associated pits. The Middle Late Saxon and Early Medieval periods were represented by pits and ditches. This was mirrored in the Late Medieval period and Late Medieval Transitional periods, with the addition of probable cellars in both and a flint and mortar wall from the latter.

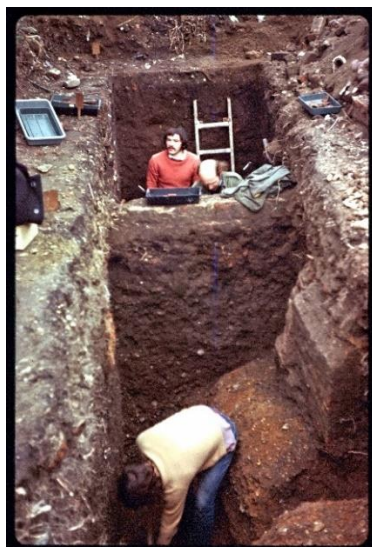
Notable finds include a Middle or Late Saxon copper alloy strap end and a Saxon strip with a rivet and ring and dot decoration. One pit contained a Coenwulf of Mercia penny deposited before c.840, which is confirmation that Thetford Ware was not introduced until the middle of the ninth century.

The unstudied faunal remains offer potential for further research.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	100830
Pottery Weight (g)	73240
Daub Weight (g)	49800
Mollusca Weight (g)	25470
Slag Weight (g)	2390
Raw Materials Weight (g)	4795
Fe Object Count	46
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	23
Objects Worked Bone Count	4

3.2 [IAS1501 Old Foundry Road 1974](#)

HER ref: IPS178, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG: R.2009.36, NGR: TM16664465, Extent: 10.9 m²



IAS 1501 Old Foundry Road 1974

A 1.5m wide trench was cut between standing buildings on the site. Layers which filled the inner edge of the town ditch were found in the northern end of the trench, associated with 16th century pottery. There were three roughly circular 0.9m diameter pits. It is likely that all three are postholes for very large posts and represent a palisade on the inner edge of the ditch.

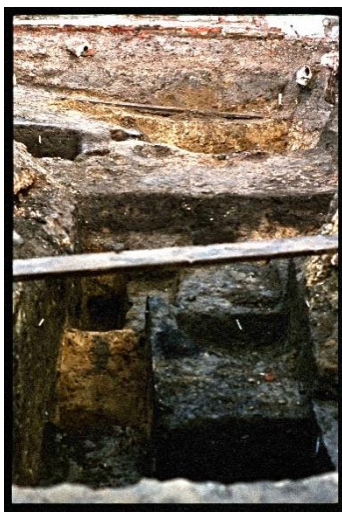
Based on the pottery associated, the slighting of the Late Medieval Transitional palisade occurred in the 17th century and following this, a series of brick walls were the foundations of houses and a small square outbuilding built along the Old Foundry Road street frontage in the late 18th or 19th century. A robber trench presumably indicates a robbed-out wall of the same date and a levelling of the site is probable in the 20th century.

See also, clay pipe report.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	6425
Pottery Weight (g)	22325
Slag Weight (g)	825
General Metals Count	17
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	13

3.3 [IAS1804 8-10 Arcade Street 1979](#)

HER ref: IPS196, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.45, NGR: TM16164460, Extent: 58 m²



IAS1804 8-10 Arcade Street 1979

An area of 50 m² was excavated prior to redevelopment. A series of inter-cutting pits ranging in date from the 10th to the 16th centuries covered the site, and there were traces of an Early Late Saxon building of slot and posthole construction and some flint and mortar walls of Late Medieval date. There was some Middle Saxon pottery, residual in later pits, but no features of that date.

Notable finds include a sceatta lost c. 760, found in an Early Medieval pit.

Potential for further research are the large quantities of slag which were found in Middle Late Saxon pits 0006 and 0040 and Early Medieval pit 0012 which merit assessment

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	29825
Pottery Weight (g)	20230
Daub Weight (g)	885
Mollusca Weight (g)	2770
Slag Weight (g)	43050
General Metals Count	31
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	4
Objects Worked Bone Count	6

3.4 [IAS3104 St Stephen's Lane 1987-1988](#)

HER ref: IPS228, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.65, NGR: TM16334448, Extent: 4177 m²

IAS3104 St Stephen's Lane 1987-1988



The Buttermarket shopping centre development excavations were the largest excavations carried out in Ipswich between 1974 and 1989. Finds include a 7th-9th century Saxon cemetery, probably extending further South and East, including c. 70 burials, with some small ring ditches. Traces of numerous 8th and 9th century buildings and features were found, two 8th century roads, and three 10th and 11th century buildings as well as rubbish pits with finds. An Ipswich Ware (decorated) kiln was excavated. Also uncovered was most of Carmelite Friary Church & cloister ranges, construction of which started in 1278, with demolition in 1538 after the dissolution. This was also site of 17th Century County Gaol and market, chapel, the Falcon brewery and a 19th Century public house.

Notable finds include grave goods such as swords, shield boss, two glass cups, bronze belt fittings, glass beads & coffin stains. There are also antler brooch moulds, textile and basketry remains as well as coins from the Saxon and later periods.

See also specialist reports: imported pottery, radiocarbon, slag, architectural stone, charcoal, human bone reports, manufacturing waste, carbonised bread and microfauna.

Scull (2009), has synthesised much of the post excavation work on the Saxon cemetery at this site.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	5106754
Pottery Weight (g)	2816850
Daub Weight (g)	1452925
Mollusca Weight (g)	940187
Rooftile Weight (g)	532143
FloorTile Weight (g)	383708
Brick Weight (g)	655155
Stone Weight (g)	571563
Mortar Weight (g)	32410
Slag Weight (g)	973901

Raw Materials Weight (g)	26351
Wood Y?	Y
Fe Object Count	9035
Human Bone Y?	Y
Coprolite Count	131
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects Ferrous Count	8837
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	2461
Objects Worked Bone Count	420 (+1?)

3.5 [IAS3201 32-38 Buttermarket 1987](#)

HER ref: IPS752, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.66, NGR: TM16404453, Extent : 397 m²



IAS3201 32-38 Buttermarket 1987

Excavation of 400 m² in 1988 as a part of the Buttermarket Shopping Centre development (for the larger area to west of St Stephens Lane see IPS228 (IAS3104)). Four inhumations representing the North East of the 7th Century cemetery were excavated. 8th - 9th Century posthole structures and wells were excavated as were sunken feature buildings from the later 9th century and the 10th century. Later periods were represented by pits (including a latrine pit lined with wicker hurdles) and wells. There was also an in-situ cooking hearth from the Medieval period.

Notable finds include 11kg of iron slag from middle Saxon well 0012 and 1kg of iron slag from Early Late Saxon pit 0009

As with IAS 3104, Scull (2009), has synthesised much of the post excavation work on the Saxon cemetery at this site.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	441565
Pottery Weight (g)	212295
Daub Weight (g)	13645
Mollusca Weight (g)	53060
Rooftile Weight (g)	42405
FloorTile Weight (g)	11005
Brick Weight (g)	39615
Stone Weight (g)	6840
Mortar Weight (g)	170
Slag Weight (g)	35780
Raw Materials Weight (g)	1035
Fe Object Count	809
Human Bone Y?	Y
Coprolite Count	9
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects Ferrous Count	925
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	187
Objects Worked Bone Count	32

3.6 [IAS3203 St Stephen's Church 1982](#)

HER ref: IPS277, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.53, NGR: TM16404449, Extent: 140 m²



IAS3203 St Stephen's Church 1982

Following removal of the pews in 1982, two small trial trenches were excavated either side of the central walkway in the nave. In the following year these were enlarged to include the whole area which had been occupied by wooden flooring in the nave), south aisle and chancel. The excavations uncovered various late Medieval wall foundations and floors and post Medieval tombs and graves.

Notable finds include 34 copper alloy finds of late Medieval to post Medieval date, including 7 jettons, 11 pins, 5 lace tags and 2 rings.

Finds Summary	Amount
Pottery Weight (g)	815
Mortar Weight (g)	185
General Metals Count	2
Human Bone Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	34

3.7 [IAS3410Tacket Street 1980-1981](#)

HER ref. IPS323, CIMS Accession No. IPSMG:R.2009.49, NGR TM16554443, Extent 67 m.

A total of 35 contexts, mainly pits, were recorded from this site from the Middle Saxon through to the Post Medieval period.

Notable finds include the assemblage from pit 0031, where characteristic Ipswich/Thetford Ware change over group of pottery, was associated with a coin of King Alfred.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	126500
Pottery Weight (g)	84200
Daub Weight (g)	38300
Mollusca Weight (g)	23000
Slag Weight(g)	6725
Raw Materials Weight(g)	845
Fe Object Count	41
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	13
Objects Worked Bone Count	3

3.8 [IAS3601 24 St. Helen's Street 1975](#)

HER ref: IPS329, CIMS Accession No.: IPSMG:R.2009.39NGR: TM16774454, Extent: 5 m²



*IAS3601 24 St. Helen's Street
1975*

Monitoring of footing trenches by the Suffolk Archaeological Unit observed the walls of a pottery kiln, producing Thetford Ware.

Monitoring also observed evidence of rubbish pits containing pottery and possible kiln debris. These pits could not be recorded and none of the pottery collected from them was stratified

Finds Summary	Amount
Pottery Weight (g)	47891
Fired Clay Count	41
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	1
Objects Worked Bone Count	1

3.9 [IAS3902 Elm Street 1975](#)

HER ref: IPS053, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.40, NGR: TM15954451, Extent: 485 m² (of which 44 m² was a monitored contractor trench)

The site straddled the known western course of the town defences; however, the site owners were not prepared to demolish the buildings until immediately prior to the start of development and, consequently, excavation had to be restricted to the open spaces between the buildings.

52 sherds of 1st century pottery were recovered, with a ditch, a structure and pits and post holes dating to the 1st-2nd centuries.

The Middle Saxon period was represented by an enclosure and it is likely that there was a cemetery on the site or more likely close by in the 8th/ 9th century. If there had been more burials on the site (there was a single grave), they are likely truncated by later Saxon and Medieval features. Residual human bone, of probable 8th-9th century date, was found across the site.

In the late Saxon period the site was occupied by ditches and a cellared building with fencing postholes and pits.



IAS3902 Elm Street 1975

The Medieval town ditch was recorded, and further fences and pits and ditches were present, but by the 15th century buildings of flint and mortar construction, with wells were present which appear to be traces of a large building shown as occupying the site on Ogilby's map of Ipswich (1674).

No faunal remains or environmental evidence was analysed from this site.

Notable finds include a penny of Edward the Confessor and a small amount of late Medieval/transitional non-ferrous metalwork. There was a knife and a tanged tool assorted with the single grave.

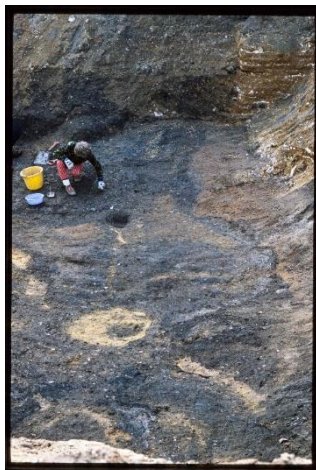
Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	64600
Pottery Weight (g)	28900
Daub Weight (g)	1325
Slag Weight (g)	110425
Raw Materials Weight (g)	200

Fe Object Count	26
Human Bone Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	7
Objects Worked Bone Count	6

3.10 [IAS4201 St. Nicholas Street 1983](#)

HER ref: IPS744, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.59, NGR: TM16244438, Extent: 60 m²

Excavation revealed middle Saxon to late Medieval features and finds, mostly pits, but also a late Medieval well and undated postholes.



*IAS4201 St. Nicholas Street
1983*

Notable finds include two middle Saxon sceattas.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	190535
Pottery Weight	60340
Daub Weight	15385
Mollusca Weight	6225
Slag Weight	11935
General Metals Count	185
Fired Clay Count	5
Charcoal Weight	4201
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	13
Objects Worked Bone Count	15

3.11 [IAS4302 Turret Lane 1978](#)

HER ref: IPS384, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.44, NGR TM16374431, Extent: 48 m²

Excavation of a sample area revealed 3m of Post Medieval build up, a probable Saxon well, late Saxon Thetford Ware kiln and occasional Medieval and Post Medieval pits.

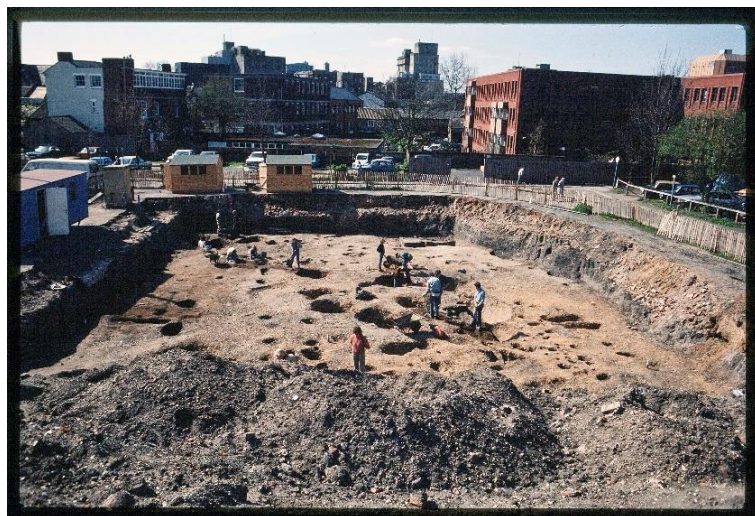
Notable finds include Medieval (14th century) coins.

There is an organic (wood) report and radiocarbon report.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	65475
Pottery Weight (g)	82970
Daub Weight (g)	15125
Mollusca Weight (g)	4500
Slag Weight (g)	3125
Raw Materials Weight (g)	1650
Fe Object Count	27
Human Bone Y?	Y
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	68
Objects Worked Bone Count	2

3.12 [IAS4601 Wingfield Street / Foundation Street 1985](#)

HER ref: IPS210, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.63, NGR: TM16564434, Extent: 1920 m²



IAS4601 Wingfield Street / Foundation Street 1985

Extensive remains were found on this site, there were finds and features from Middle Saxon to Post-Medieval period recorded.

The Middle Saxon to Early Medieval periods were represented by numerous structures, pits and boundaries. Two graves from the Early Middle Saxon period were excavated as were six from the Middle Late Saxon period.

During the Late Medieval period it is likely that the area was a non-domestic ditched enclosure.

Following this, transitioning into the Post Medieval period a building occupied the site which was used as the grammar school, until it was replaced by the late 16th century ("Felaws house") which survived until 1963. Wells and pits were also excavated.

Notable finds include a few Roman items (two coins, Domitian c. CE86 and Tetricus (c.269-272), a penannular brooch and a fragment of a finger ring with a glass intaglio depicting a dolphin. A substantial group of Anglo-Saxon small finds includes personal ornaments (copper-alloy brooches, silver, copper-alloy and bone and antler pins, copper-alloy hooked tags, 9th Century strap ends), toilet implements (antler combs, copper-alloy tweezers), bone casket mounts, stone hones and two fragments of copper-alloy balances.

Unfortunately, the digital copy of the iron catalogue was lost; there are over 900 objects in the X-ray catalogue.

Only a sample of the faunal remains was studied.

See specialist reports, Copper alloy, Human bone, and radiocarbon.

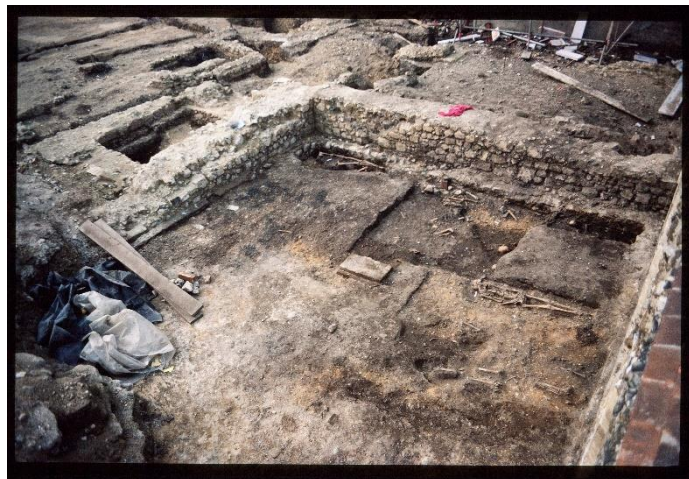
Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	1927604
Pottery Weight (g)	799780
Daub Weight (g)	570039
Mollusca Weight (g)	492985
Rooftile Weight (g)	83378

FloorTile Weight (g)	3879
Brick Weight (g)	18879
Stone Weight (g)	13251
Mortar Weight (g)	447
Slag Weight (g)	198204
Raw Materials Weight (g)	13330
Wood Y?	Y
Fe Object Count	2286
Human Bone Y?	Y
Coprolite Count	50
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	294
Objects Worked Bone Count	146

3.13 [IAS4801 School Street-Foundation Street 1979](#)

HER ref: IPS355, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.46., NGR: TM 16634431, Extent: 3369 m²

This large site was on the location of the former Blackfriars (Dominican) Friary. There were also substantial Saxon remains.



IAS4801 School Street-Foundation Street 1979

There was a small quantity of residual prehistoric and Romano-British Pottery residual in later contexts. There was also evidence for Early Middle Saxon occupation in the form of handmade pottery sherds.

The Middle Saxon period was represented by 19 pits, spread across the whole site, three probable wells (one of which was lined with oak timbers) and only one recognisable building.

By the late Saxon period a road (the precursor of Fore Street) crossed the north-east corner of the site and it is assumed that Foundation Street bounded the west edge of the site. Features include many buildings (sunken and posthole), wells, pits, fences and evidence for iron smithing. Two Saxon Cemeteries were excavated (95 and 10 inhumations). They are both of Middle to Late Saxon age, but it is uncertain whether they are contemporary. Also, the entire Late Saxon town bank and ditch was buried under later town banks on the east of the site.

During the Early Medieval period there were five sunken feature buildings, the town defences were enhanced, and an east-west ditch was cut across the site.

In the Late Medieval period, the town ditch was visible on the eastern limit of the site however the main feature of this period for several centuries (1263-1538) was the Dominican friary. Much of the ground plan was excavated including the church, sacristy, chapter house, reredorter range and refectory, as well as numerous buildings and associated burials. The post Medieval demolition and re use of certain buildings was also observed.

Notable finds include residual Roman coins and brooches, Saxon and early Medieval coins, iron slag and imported continental pottery.

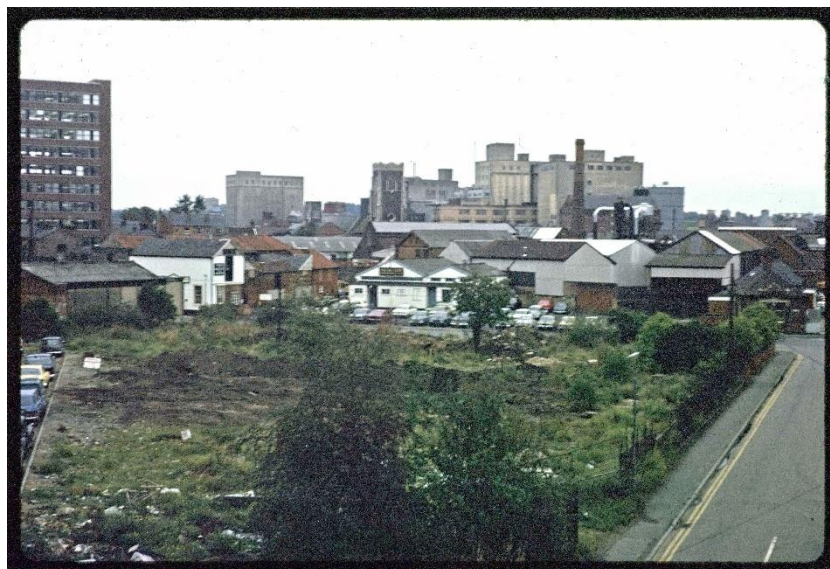
See also specialist reports: Bone, dendrochronology, slag, architectural stone, and organic textile.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	2343426
Pottery Weight (g)	1237895

Daub Weight (g)	208612
Mollusca Weight (g)	439861
Rooftile Weight (g)	416016
FloorTile Weight (g)	25995
Brick Weight (g)	62593
Stone Weight (g)	101044
Mortar Weight (g)	78007
Slag Weight (g)	384889
Raw Materials Weight (g)	42891
Wood Y?	Y
Fe Object Count	6054
Human Bone Y?	Y
Coprolite Count	103
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects Ferrous Count	6059
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	694
Objects Worked Bone Count	223

3.14 [IAS5001 Cecilia Street 1974](#)

HER ref. IPS264, CIMS Accession No. IPSMG:R.2009.37, NGR TM16064420, Extent: 184 m²



IAS5001 Cecilia Street 1974

This site was known to lie within the precinct of the Medieval friary of the Greyfriars and adjacent to the known course of the River Gipping, which ran south and was covered in the late 19th century. No pre-Medieval contexts were encountered. One sherd of Ipswich Ware and 15 sherds of Thetford Ware were found residual in later contexts and indicate sparse activity on the riverbank during the Anglo-Saxon period.

In the late Medieval period, there was a short length of timber revetment at right angles to the river channel. Preserved textile was associated with the timbers.

By c. 1300 there was a substantial stone wall on the line of the precinct boundary of the Greyfriars (Fransican) friary.

Various later (c. 1450-1600) layers were present, some of which related to level raising but also demolition relating to the dissolution in 1538. There was also another timber structure, possibly acting as a small jetty into the river. The dating of finds from around the posts suggests that the structure is no later than 16th century in date.

Notable finds include the leather fragments, including the sole of a shoe.

For further research the evidence needs to be combined with that from other sites to analyse the water management of the Town Marsh to the south-west, the Gipping channel and Stour Navigation to the north of the marsh, the suggested tributary running north-east of the site, and the operation of the mills at Horswade, to the north-west of the site and Stoke Mill to the south-east.

See also specialist reports: organic leather, organic wood, and dendrochronology.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	13300
Pottery Weight (g)	1980
Mollusca Weight(g)	1425

Slag Weight (g)	1350
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	1

3.15 [IAS5003 Franciscan Way 1990, 2004, 2006](#)

HER ref: IPS720, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG: R.2009.70, NGR: TM16124424, Extent (all phases): 1,996 m²



IAS5003 Franciscan Way 1990

The site lies on the south-western edge of the Saxon and Medieval town and during the latter period it formed part of the Greyfriars precinct. The River Gipping, which at this point now runs underground, is very close and the low-lying nature of the area must have made flooding a regular event in the past. Because of this danger the site is in an area that has always been peripheral to the urban development of Ipswich and this characteristic is reflected in all of the phases of activity that can be recognised. Very little evidence was found for domestic occupation of the area in either the Saxon or Medieval periods and the amount of pottery and number of artefacts recovered from the site was relatively low compared with other Ipswich excavations of a similar size. Finds include Middle Saxon Wells and Ditches. Iron working remains and debris date from the Middle Saxon and Early Late Saxon periods. Early Medieval ovens were also excavated. The most significant aspect of the Medieval and later sequence was the use of the site for burial. A total of 150 individuals were excavated.

There were also possible fishponds and industrial features from the Late Medieval to the Late Medieval Transitional periods.

A further small excavation was undertaken during late 2002 extending the 1990 area on the corner of Wolsey Street and Franciscan Way, Ipswich. A number of pit features belonging to the Early Medieval period and over fifty inhumations of a possible 13th/14th century date were excavated and recorded. It revealed two other areas of human burials as well as evidence for Saxon and Medieval occupation.

The area was increased to the west in 2006; the excavation was funded by Swift Developments Ltd which went into liquidation without satisfying its planning obligations to ensure an archive and report.

Notable finds include Saxon barrels (lining wells), coinage (Saxon and Medieval), Iron Slag, antler moulds. See also specialist reports: skeleton, environmental, slag, antler moulds.

Scope for further Research includes analysis of the metalworking residues from this site (and others) which would make a significant contribution to the study of Anglo-Saxon urban industry.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	480865
Pottery Weight (g)	136050
Daub Weight (g)	207960

Mollusca Weight (g)	156420
Rooftile Weight (g)	64980
FloorTile Weight (g)	9635
Brick Weight (g)	17110
Stone Weight (g)	38190
Mortar Weight (g)	1730
Slag Weight (g)	724833
Raw Materials Weight (g)	8905
Wood Y?	Y
Clay Pipe Weight (g)	90
Ceramic Pipe Weight (g)	1080
Fe Object Count	172
Human Bone Y?	Y
Coprolite Count	4
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects Ferrous Count	185
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	89
Objects Worked Bone Count	59

3.16 [IAS5201 Greyfriars Road 1982](#)

HER ref: IPS753, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.54,NGR: TM16274409 Extent: 60 m²

The north-south soil strip, prior to storm water relief pipe trenching, revealed several pits and a potential sunken featured building of Middle Saxon age.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	8150
Pottery Weight (g)	5085
General Metals Count	1
Objects Worked Bone Count	1

3.17 [IAS5202 Greyfriars Road / St Peter's Street 1982](#)

HER ref: IPS754, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.55, NGR: TM16314410, Extent: 51 m2

Three middle Saxon pits were excavated, one of which had a column soil sample taken for environmental analysis. There were five Early Late Saxon pits.

Notable finds include undated beads, daub, quern and slag.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight(g)	45000
Pottery Weight(g)	14225
Daub Weight(g)	125
Slag Weight(g)	675
General Metals Count	4
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	2

3.18 [IAS5203 St Peter's Street 1986/1987](#)

HER ref: IPS215, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.64, NGR TM16284415, Extent: 916 m²

1986: Excavations by SAU prior to development. Saxon to Post-Medieval Features and finds and features included sunken featured buildings.

Two sunken feature buildings and nine pits belonged to the Early Middle Saxon period.

The Middle Saxon features, defined by the presence of Ipswich Ware in their fills, were concentrated at the south end of the site, as in the Early Middle Saxon period. No definite buildings were recorded but there were 30 pits, two wells, one ditch and evidence of two fenced enclosures.



IAS5203 St Peter's Street 1986/1987

In the Early Late Saxon period there were 49 pits, a ditch, a small cemetery and one linear feature but no buildings. This differed to the three buildings and seven pits from the Middle Late Saxon period and a further three sunken buildings in the Early Medieval period. There were no Late Medieval buildings present, but the 25 rubbish pits imply their existence. These may have been removed by later road widening and may be true for later periods as well.

Notable finds include sceattas, loomweights, slag and a wooden barrel, used to line a well.

Research Potential

- The small Early Late Saxon cemetery merits further research being a tightly dated in the later 9th century (Danish occupation of the town). Further analysis for potential family connections, pathology and dating would be useful in understanding why such a group was buried within an occupation area especially when other examples are known from the town.
- More precise dating of the Early Middle Saxon occupation is critical to an understanding of the settlement at this period and its relationship to the Buttermarket cemetery and the Middle Saxon occupation.

- A re-examination of the imported pottery from this site (and others) is also critical especially as much of it remains unattributed and knowledge of the kilns and products of this period in North West Europe has advanced since the original study by Coutts (1991).

See specialist reports: dendrochronology, human bones and imported pottery.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight(g)	2978650
Pottery Weight v	630791
Daub Weight(g)	362691
Mollusca Weight(g)	444456
Rooftile Weight(g)	57725
FloorTile Weight(g)	11000
Brick Weight(g)	45940
Stone Weight(g)	2102
Mortar Weight(g)	200
Slag Weight(g)	325124
Raw Materials Weight(g)	63320
Fe Object Count	3626
Human Bone Y?	Y
Coprolite Count	130
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects Ferrous Count	1954
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	557
Objects Worked Bone Count	255

3.19 [IAS5204 Greyfriars Road \(Island Site\) 1989](#)

HER ref: IPS747, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG: R.2009.68, NGR: TM16244409, Extent: 200 m²



*IAS5204 Greyfriars Road
(Island Site) 1989*

Two pits certainly belonged to the Early Middle Saxon period, which is characterised by handmade pottery, often associated with Merovingian imported Wares, dating to the seventh century.

By the Middle Late Saxon period there was a single sunken featured structure in contrast to the pitting of the Middle and Early Late Saxon periods. The Early Medieval period featured a foundation trench with postholes and numerous pits. The Late Medieval period only featured a single large pit, possibly for the disposal of industrial waste relating to nearby mills. There was also a Post Medieval cellar.

See also plant remains report.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	517740
Pottery Weight (g)	87700
Daub Weight (g)	13320
Mollusca Weight (g)	123822
Rooftile Weight (g)	24200
Floor Tile Weight (g)	7745
Brick Weight (g)	22950
Stone Weight (g)	3095
Mortar Weight (g)	55
Slag Weight (g)	31470
Raw Materials Weight (g)	4310
Wood Y?	Y
Fe Object Count	365
Coprolite Count	18
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	74
Objects Worked Bone Count	45

3.20 [IAS550215-17 Lower Brook Street 1975](#)

HER ref: IPS365, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.41, NGR: TM16484430, Extent: 387 m²

This was the site of the Medieval Cemetery for the demolished Chapel of St. Edmund de Pountney but there were also Saxon finds and features from the Early Middle Saxon period. The Lower Brook street frontage produced evidence for a Middle Saxon building including a hearth and possible gravel floor.

Early Late Saxon wells, both of which contained wood lining were observed and a Middle Late Saxon sunken feature building was excavated. A pit of this age contained a mass of disarticulated human bone which were likely disturbed in the Medieval period.



IAS5502 15-17 Lower Brook Street 1975

By the Early Medieval period there were three boundary ditches. A building, three pits and three isolated post holes belong to this period on the main site with a further three pits. It is suggested that the boundaries marked tenement boundaries in the 12th century.

The cemetery occupied the site from circa 1290-1550 and the remains of 106 skeletons were excavated in various states of completeness. There were robber trenches which could have related to the chapel itself, but this is uncertain.

A bake house was on the site from the early until the late 16th century.

See specialist reports: dendrochronology, human bone, radiocarbon.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight	399950
Pottery Weight	122985
Daub Weight	18040
Mollusca Weight	3750
Slag Weight	17050
Fe Object Count	131
Human Bone Y?	Y
Charcoal Weight	450
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	63
Objects Worked Bone Count	16

3.21 [IAS5505 Lower Brook Street / Foundation Street 1988](#)

HER ref: IPS733, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.67, NGR: TM16484416, Extent: 30 m²



IAS5505 Lower Brook Street / Foundation Street 1988

The majority were structural features, relating to a sequence of buildings, constructed on a north-south orientation. Only two features contained Ipswich Ware only (one sherd in each). As both features appear to belong to later structures, it is possible that the Middle Saxon period is not represented at all on this site.

Notable finds include an Early Medieval bone thread picker.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	9180
Pottery Weight (g)	3475
Daub Weight (g)	165
Mollusca Weight (g)	10270
Rooftile Weight (g)	25
Slag Weight (g)	220
Fe Object Count	9
Coprolite Count	1

3.22 [IAS5701 Smart Street 1984](#)

HER ref: IPS212, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.62, NGR TM16554422, Extent: 265 m²



IAS5701 Smart Street 1984

Pits, wood lined wells and a hearth and a Middle Late Saxon building were present. Beyond this the Early and Late Medieval periods were characterised by further pitting. During the late Medieval period the site was within the precinct of the Ipswich Blackfriars, but south of the friary buildings in an area described on Ogilby's map (1674) as the 'Friars Garden'.

Notable finds include Middle Saxon sceattas.

See also dendrochronology report.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight	343636
Pottery Weight	122075
Daub Weight	50787
Mollusca Weight	78232
Wood Y?	Y
Fe Object Count	316
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	43
Objects Worked Bone Count	23

3.23 [IAS5801 Foundation Street \(Cranfield's car park\) 1979](#)

HER ref: IPS745, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.47, NGR: TM16504411, Extent: 177 m²



IAS5801 Foundation Street (Cranfield's car park) 1979

This site was dominated by pits of various ages. There was one possible Early Late Saxon sunken featured building that was heavily truncated. No features of Iron Age, Roman or Early Saxon age were excavated, but pottery from all periods was found in later features. This was also true of the Middle Late Saxon period. confirming a break in occupation at that time.

Notable finds include nine residual Roman coins, and a sceatta.

Columns for flotation analysis were taken from eight pits.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	139300
Pottery Weight (g)	48265
Daub Weight (g)	1100
Mollusca Weight (g)	14015
Slag Weight (g)	1700
Fe Object Count	69
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	35
Objects Worked Bone Count	4

3.24 [IAS5901 Key Street 1982](#)

HER ref: IPS369, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.51, NGR: TM16694413, Extent: 468 m²

A portion of a likely Bronze Age ring ditch was excavated, but there was no further evidence for occupation until the middle Saxon period with pits a ditch and a previously unknown cemetery heavily disturbed by later features.

By the Late Medieval period. a cemetery, two or three buildings, two ditches five pits and a slot clearly belonged to this period. A total of 53 graves produced skeletal remains of 61 individuals. The Medieval cemetery is obscure in the documentary records but there is one reference, in the Ipswich Rocognisance Rolls for the year 1347-8, which refers to a message of John Hered being east of 'the cemetery of the former church of Osterbolt' (eastgate)

The area was built on in the immediate Late Medieval/transitional period, with flint and mortar walls

John Ogilby's map of Ipswich, dated 1674, shows the site occupied by buildings on all four sides of a quadrangular courtyard with a gap for an entrance from Key Street and the buildings suggested by these walls undoubtedly represent the west and east ranges of this complex.

Further buildings were constructed in the post Medieval period but all the buildings on the site were probably destroyed during a Zeppelin raid in 1916.

Notable finds include Bronze Age pottery sherds, Early Late Saxon round headed pins and a nail cleaner in a decorated antler or bone container



IAS5901 Key Street 1982

See also, Human bone report, Pottery Report.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	100028
Pottery Weight (g)	63712
Daub Weight (g)	4915
Mollusca Weight (g)	100
Slag Weight (g)	8204
Human Bone Y?	Y
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	62
Objects Worked Bone Count	12

3.25 [IAS5902 Fore Street 1982](#)

HER ref: IPS746, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.56, NGR: TM16714422, Extent: 141 m²



IAS5902 Fore Street 1982

Three ditches of early Anglo-Saxon date. They are likely pre-urban arable field boundaries due to the lack of domestic refuse. Further ditches and pits were present until the Middle Late Saxon period when a sunken featured building was present.

A total of seven pits a well, a building a hearth and seven post holes or small pits belonged to the early Medieval period.

A pottery industry was established on the site during the Late Medieval period, producing Ipswich Glazed Ware. One complete kiln, and parts of two others lying outside the excavated area, were recorded along with 12 pits containing kiln waste. Over 2100 sherds of Ipswich Glazed Ware were recovered from the site.

In the Late Medieval transitional period, a building was present. Footings were made of brick, septaria and mortar. There was also a cess pit.

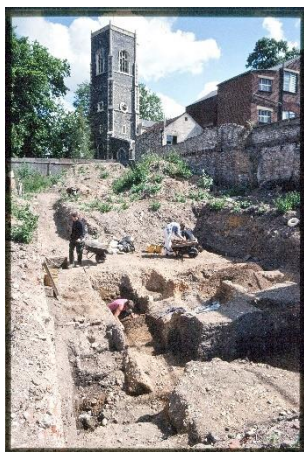
Notable finds include an Edmund memorial penny (c.905-915).

See also, Archaeomagnetic dating report.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	16917
Pottery Weight (g)	109441
Daub Weight (g)	40280
Mollusca Weight (g)	5664
Slag Weight (g)	2012
Raw Materials Weight (g)	437
Fe Object Count	39
Human Bone Y?	Y
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	7
Objects Worked Bone Count	4

3.26 [IAS610685-87 Fore Street 1990](#)

HER ref: IPS585, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.71, NGR: TM16834416, Extent: 72 m²



*IAS6106 85-87 Fore Street
1990*

Although no contexts of Middle Saxon age were recorded, the site produced 921 sherds of Ipswich Ware, of which only 350 came from the Early Late Saxon features. A ditch, a short length of foundation trench, five pits and a possible well belonged to the early late Saxon period. The assemblage from pit 0040 was particularly interesting in that the 32 Ipswich Ware sherds were accompanied by one complete Thetford Ware vessel only. Similarly, well 0011 and pit 0016 had very small quantities of Thetford Ware. These three features, which run in a north-south line on the east side of the site, must represent the period when Thetford Ware was first available i.e. c. 850. The early Medieval period saw two sunken featured buildings on the site, followed by a later 15th/16th century building.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	92520
Pottery Weight (g)	46335
Daub Weight (g)	4440
Mollusca Weight (g)	20470
FloorTile Weight (g)	1105
Brick Weight (g)	7390
Stone Weight (g)	2585
Slag Weight (g)	8905
Raw Materials Weight (g)	1235
Wood Y?	Y
Fe Object Count	46
Coprolite Count	1
Objects Ferrous Count	47
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	15
Objects Worked Bone Count	7

3.27 IAS6202 Bridge Street 1981

HER ref: IPS378, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.52, NGR: TM16294406, Extent: 365 m²



IAS6202 Bridge Street 1981

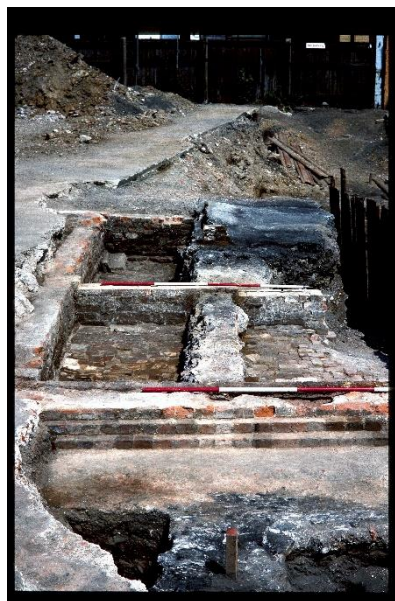
From the Early Middle Saxon period there were successive timber structures associated with land reclamation. In the Late Medieval periods there was a septaria and mortar wall. Tree ring dating of the timber framework suggests that the wall had been constructed later than 1303 CE. A building and a linear trench containing a lead pipe of Late Medieval age were excavated. The pipe must be the one which carried water from the 'fountain' in Stoke, across the river and millpond, south of the site, to the Priory of St Peter and St Paul, 75m north-east of the site. To the north of this wall, several ovens (likely for bread making) were present, over which a series of layers predominantly composed of gravel, were laid, raising the ground surface. A building or buildings were constructed on this layer in the 15th/16th centuries.

See also, copper alloy report, dendrochronology report, Environmental report, Organic wood report.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	409115
Pottery Weight (g)	173540
Daub Weight (g)	5985
Mollusca Weight	66935
Slag Weight (g)	36345
General Metals Count	139
Wood Y?	Y
Leather Weight (g)	2269
Human Bone Y?	Y
Charcoal Weight (g)	410
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	33
Objects Worked Bone Count	29

3.28 [IAS6601 Neptune Quay 1989](#)

HER ref: IPS292, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.69, NGR: TM16894409, Extent: 126 m²



IAS6601 Neptune Quay 1989

A series of three strand-line ditches were recorded (Early Medieval date) which suggested that the riverbank then followed a more north-east to south-westerly alignment (coinciding with Speed's map of 1610). A stone (flint & septaria) and brick wall was revealed to the south of the ditches, running on a similar alignment. A group of vertically placed timbers behind the wall was interpreted as being contemporary with the wall and representing part of the tie-back structure anchoring it into the riverbank to the north. The deeply stratified river deposits, comprising a combination of naturally accreted layers and deliberate dumping, were also sampled (to the south of and beneath the wall itself). The bottom of the sequence was not encountered with the lowermost sediments sampled appearing to have accumulated during the middle Saxon period (mid 7th to mid-9th century).

In addition to the archaeological deposits associated with the river, investigation was also carried out into the 19th/early 20th century clay pipe industry known to have been located in the area of the excavation (owned by the Goodwin family of Titmarsh & Goodwin). While the actual kilns were not identified, there were large quantities of kiln lining (formed from broken pipes and pipe clay) and kiln waster pipes. Furthermore, large quantities of broken pipes, many with highly decorated bowls, were recovered.

Notable finds include organic material with leather shoes particularly common.

See also specialist reports: plant remains and tree rings.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	32116
Pottery Weight (g)	13705
Daub Weight (g)	47285
Mollusca Weight (g)	16155
Rooftile Weight (g)	55615
FloorTile Weight (g)	5270
Brick Weight (g)	22970
Stone Weight (g)	1485
Mortar Weight (g)	380

Slag Weight (g)	84265
Raw Materials Weight (g)	490
Wood Y?	Y
Fe Object Count	74
Human Bone Y?	Y
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects Ferrous Count	65
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	63
Objects Worked Bone Count	2

3.29 [IAS6904 Shire Hall Yard 1982](#)

HER ref: IPS211, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.57, NGR: TM16624419, Extent: 183 m²

A single Romano-British ditch was present as were four Middle Saxon pits.

There were no identifiable structures of but a group of postholes in the north-west corner of the site was probably part of a structure of later Middle Saxon or Early Late Saxon date.



IAS6904 Shire Hall Yard 1982

A large north-south ditch probably belonged to this period although its pottery assemblage was early late Saxon. However, there was no Middle Late Saxon occupation on the site and not one sherd of St Neot's Ware from the entire site. The ditch is the Middle Late Saxon town ditch.

The east side of the ditch had been removed by the cutting of the Late Medieval town ditch, but it was at least 5m wide and 2m deep, if the half width (to the lowest point) is doubled.

Two north-south linear features belonged to the later Medieval period: the town ditch and the precinct wall of the Dominican Friar. The wall, which ran the whole length of the site from north to south, was 60cm wide and made entirely of septaria and mortar

Notable finds include a single sceatta.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	50740
Pottery Weight (g)	10870
Daub Weight (g)	3010
Mollusca Weight (g)	100
Slag Weight (g)	3075
General Metals Count	10
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	5
Objects Worked Bone Count	1

3.30 [IAS7402 Vernon Street 1975](#)

HER ref: IPS141, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.42, NGR: TM16414384, Extent 457 m²



IAS7402 Vernon Street 1975

The earliest features on this site were Middle Saxon. A ditch, six pits, postholes, and a linear foundation trench (and two possible structures) belonged to this period.

Occupation during the Late Saxon/Early Medieval period was absent. Later occupation was entirely represented by pits, until the 19th century when terraced housing was built along Vernon street.

Notable finds include a single sceatta

See also, clay pipe report.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	229225
Pottery Weight (g)	69920
Daub Weight (g)	6175
Mollusca Weight (g)	300
Slag Weight (g)	400
General Metals Count	60
Fired Clay Count	1
Fe Object Count	58
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	20
Objects Worked Bone Count	8

3.31 [IAS7404 Little Whip Street 1980](#)

HER ref: IPS143, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.50, NGR: TM16474379, Extent: 242 m²

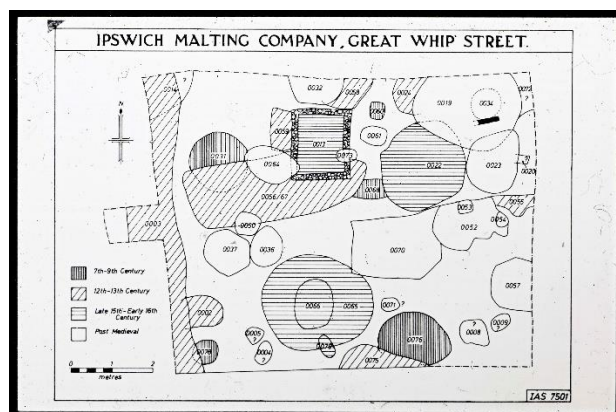
Finds and features from the Middle Saxon to the Post-Medieval period, including a Post-Medieval oven were present. Foundation trenches from the Middle Saxon and Early Medieval periods were present. Redevelopment of the area had started by the late 17th century.

Notable finds include one Roman bronze coin, a 3rd century radiate.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	26929
Pottery Weight (g)	28172
Daub Weight (g)	72
Mollusca Weight (g)	6050
Slag Weight (g)	4961
General Metals Count	69
Environmental Y?	Y
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	9
Objects Worked Bone Count	2

3.32 [IAS7501](#) Vernon Street-Great Whip Street 1974

HER ref: IPS144, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.38, NGR: TM16494385, Extent: 65 m²



Some Middle Saxon pits and a foundation trench were present. A short length of foundation trench belonged to the Early Medieval period. The Late Medieval/Transitional period and Post Medieval periods were represented by wells, the older of which had a timber lined shaft.

See also, charcoal and organic textile reports.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight(g)	11315
Pottery Weight(g)	10570
Slag Weight(g)	1875
General Metals Count	16
Fe Object Count	6
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	14
Objects Worked Bone Count	1

3.33 [IAS8804 St. Helen's Street 1983](#)

HER ref: IPS753, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.60, NGR TM16804457, Extent: 93 m²



IAS8804 St. Helen's Street 1983

Finds and Features from the Saxon to Post Medieval periods.

There were no Middle Saxon features, but the site produced 1,368 sherds of Ipswich Ware, residual in later features.

Almost entirely removed by an Early Medieval structure, the base of a kiln was visible in the south edge of the excavation as a surface of clay. The shape of the kiln implies a single flue up-draught Thetford Ware kiln, presumably of late 9th/10th century date, like that excavated on the other side of St Helen's Street (IAS3601). The site produced 3436 sherds of Thetford Ware, mostly residual in later contexts.

There were also two Early Medieval structures, a Late Medieval pit/tank and later features.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight	12515
Pottery Weight	69255
Daub Weight	19765
Mollusca Weight	1445
Slag Weight	6429
General Metals Count	139
Fired Clay Count	27
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	17
Objects Worked Bone Count	3

3.34 [IAS9802 St. George's Street 1983](#)

HER ref: IPS165, CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.61, NGR: TM16034485, Extent: 120 m²



IAS9802 St. George's Street 1983

Only 32 sherds of Ipswich Ware were recovered from the whole site indicating that it was peripheral to the Middle Saxon settlement. Pits and post holes were excavated. There were also property boundaries with late 12th/early 13th Century pottery. The site had a likely break in occupation from 1200-1450. There was a partially excavated clay lined pit dating from c. 1450-1600.

Notable finds include a Medieval arrowhead and knife fragment, and floor tile of similar age.

The research potential of this site is very low but should be considered alongside the larger site excavated in 2007-08 (Everett and Gardner 2011), as the primary evidence for the extra-mural occupation in St George's parish.

Finds Summary	Amount
Animal Bone Weight (g)	4900
Pottery Weight (g)	7425
Daub Weight (g)	2045
Mollusca Weight (g)	1660
Slag Weight (g)	650
General Metals Count	13
Objects non-Ferrous Metal Count	1
Objects Worked Bone Count	1

3.35 Feature Quantification

Summarised here are quantifications from the archive of archaeological feature types from the archive, and from the dataset overall. The Ipswich [Urban Archaeology Database](#) as part of the HER also includes the mapped extents of certain important features within the town.

Feature	All known features.	From the 1974-1990 Archive Project only
Grubenhaus	70	57
Building	79	53
Structure	11	8
Ring Ditch	14 (6 with graves)	9 (5 with graves)
Furnace	2	2
Kiln	3	0
Pottery Kiln	14	6
Oven	24	13
Well	87	65
Boundary (fences/ditches)	44	20
Air Raid Shelter	20	3
Aisled Building	1 (3 phases)	0
Bath House	1 (2 phases)	0
Revetment	19	18
Trackway	2	0
Cemetery	10	8
Cess Pit	11	3
Ditch	227	52
Wall	5	3
Enclosure	3	1
Fence	30	15
Hearth	35	27
Hut Circle	2	0
Road	5	5
Carmelite Friary Features	Walls, Church, Chapter House, Sacristy, Reredorter, Great House, Cloister	
Dominican Friary Features	Walls, Cloister, Refectory, Church, Sacristy, Tower, Reredorter, Cess Pit	

4 Opportunities

4.1 General potential

The archive from the 1974-1990 sites, and other sites captured in the UAD, reflects the high significance and quality of the archaeological record from Ipswich. In particular, the resource from the 1974-1990 sites relates to key excavated sites in the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval town. It is not fully published (see below), but in the meantime has the potential to support publication and research proposals and inspire

display and presentation to residents and visitors. The heritage of Ipswich into the 11th century rivals that of places such as York and Dublin, which capitalise on their stories in the *Jorvik Viking Centre* and *Dublinia* attractions. Ipswich has a similarly vast collection of artefacts from the excavations and a fascinating story to tell.

4.2 Ipswich Historic Core Excavation Archive – future research Keith Wade and Abby Antrobus

There are several highlights of the 1974-1990 project. In total, 98 Anglo-Saxon buildings were recorded, associated with large artefact and ecofact assemblages of national importance. To recap, the evidence clarified the development of the settlement from the seventh century onwards. We can now say that Ipswich started as a 7th century settlement of 20-30 hectares ringed by cemeteries. The occupation has a high proportion of Merovingian imported pottery and the burials in the cemeteries include some that are definitely Frankish. In the early 8th century, a new town was laid out north of the 7th century precursor. The economy was based on international trade and craft production, dominated by Ipswich ware pottery production. In the late 9th century there is evidence of significant Danish settlement. The Ipswich assemblage provides one of the finest groups of early Scandinavian antler combs from the British Isles. During the 10th-11th century the townscape was dominated by large sunken-featured buildings, some of which were certainly two-storied with a cellar and living accommodation above. The town was devastated after the Norman Conquest, with many buildings burnt.

Beyond site the site-specific opportunities mentioned in section 4, post excavation study of the finds collected during the 1974-1990 excavation is at variable stages of completion:

4.2.1 Specialist Reports soon to be Completed to Modern Standards (as of February 2019):

- A monograph on the bone and antler working by Ian Riddler is close to completion and will be published in East Anglian Archaeology;
- The animal bone evidence by Pam Crabtree is also with East Anglian Archaeology for publication.
- Rosie Broadley has been commissioned to report on the glass vessels.
- Andrew Woods will be reporting on the early coinage for an upcoming monograph by Keith Wade.

4.2.2 Specialist Reports to be Revisited:

- The imported pottery was studied by Cathy Coutts as a PhD thesis (Coutts, 1991) but, many of the fabrics could not be sourced at that time. However, caution is needed before embarking on a new study as it is a very large assemblage and there is still a lack of compatible data from the critical areas, especially north-west France.
- The report on the local pottery by Paul Blinkhorn (1993) merits further analysis and publication.
- No overall synthesis has been undertaken of the human skeleton remains. Reports on all the cemetery groups were undertaken. An overview based on these reports and the Stoke Quay cemetery (shortly to be published in East Anglian Archaeology, Brown et al forthcoming) would be an important contribution to population studies.
- An overall synthesis of the fish bone evidence following Jones, (1979) would provide an insight into both diet and the fishing industry through time.
- Detailed study of the contents of the 11th century burnt building cellars would provide an insight into the function of these buildings.

4.2.3 Finds Categories which were Assessed and where Analysis was Recommended but not Commissioned:

- The metal-working evidence (both ferrous and non-ferrous) was highlighted as suitable for detailed analysis.
- The medieval stained glass from the Carmelite and Dominican friaries.
- The decorated floor tiles from the Carmelite and Dominican friaries.

4.2.4 Finds Categories which were not Assessed and Merit Full Analysis and Publication:

- Ferrous objects-this would now have to rely of the X-Rays as the objects have degraded.
- Non-ferrous objects.

4.3 Constraints on the Evidence as it Stands

A fuller understanding of the role and importance of Ipswich at each period in its history is hampered by a lack of evidence from the following critical areas:

4.3.1 Origin and Development of Ipswich

- Virtually no excavation has been possible in the 'core urban area', with a grid-iron plan, either side of the main east-west road (Westgate Street, Tavern Street, Carr Street) and the main north-south road (Upper and Lower Brook Street). The lack of development in these areas and the fact that much of it lies below listed buildings increases the importance of any excavation opportunities in the future.
- Excavation to modern standards is needed in the Anglo-Saxon pottery production, south of Carr Street. There are many questions about the industry. When did pottery production become focussed on this area? How was the industry organised? Did potters live alongside the kilns? Is there evidence for an overlap in the production of Ipswich ware and Thetford ware? This is an area where development is likely in the foreseeable future.
- The old 'Civic Centre' area with its town plan distortion seen in the course of Elm Street implies that it is avoiding a large feature such as Ipswich Castle. It also lies across the line of town defences and is likely to be developed in the foreseeable future.
- Post excavation and analysis of sites excavated after 1990, which include the important waterfront sites on College Street/Key Street. Funding for post excavation work on these sites disappeared with the bankruptcy of the developers.

4.3.2 The Hinterland of the Town

Only a handful of post Roman rural sites has been excavated in the hinterland of the town rendering a meaningful understanding of the relationship between the town and its hinterland impossible. Some sites which have been excavated have not been subject to post excavation analysis. Within the Borough boundary, Handford Road Early Anglo-Saxon settlement (IPS280) and Whitehouse Middle Saxon settlement (IPS247) are priorities. Outside of the town, the Burrow Hill (BUT 001) and Barham (BRH 066) Middle Saxon settlements are of particular importance. Since 2008 Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service has been co-ordinating archaeological survey and investigation on the royal settlement at Rendlesham in south east Suffolk. Building on this previous work the UCL Institute of Archaeology led [Lordship and Landscape in East Anglia](#) Leverhulme funded project (running 2017-2020) will allow some progress regarding the context of Ipswich. This project is interdisciplinary and takes as its starting point the new perspective offered by recent archaeological discoveries at Rendlesham and has the East Anglian kingdom as its primary case study. The relationship between the newly discovered Royal settlement of Rendlesham and other contemporary key sites, including the port and town of

Ipswich, will be examined. The project aims to establish a new understanding of pathways to territorial lordship and regional kingship in early post-Roman eastern England through analysis of the development and role of central-places in society, economy, politics and ideology, and the networks of which they were a part

Suffolk County Council are also currently applying for funding for a stage two National Lottery Heritage Fund project, [Rendlesham Revealed](#), this project (to run 2020-2023) will involve new fieldwork down the Deben Valley in south east Suffolk which will also help to put Ipswich into the context of the wider Anglo-Saxon communities of which it was part.

4.4 Selected Further Themes/Questions

A detailed, informed research agenda for the town would require assessment and synthesis of the data beyond the scope of this document, but the resource presents opportunities for several research themes that resonate on a local, regional, national and international level. This section should be read with reference to the [East Anglian Regional Research Framework](#)⁴, which is currently being updated.?. Some high-level starting links between the Ipswich Archive data 1974-1990 and the emerging revised Research Framework are here suggested. Research themes in the original Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) are pertinent.

4.4.1 Middle and Late Saxon (Hoggett forthcoming)

- The relationship to and role of towns in developing kingdoms (page 5) – the [Lordship and Landscape in East Anglia](#) and [Rendlesham Revealed](#), projects are already noted above for connections to investigation of the East Anglian Kingdom, to which the *wic* site at Ipswich is significant.
- Climate and coastal change (page 6) – work on the Ipswich assemblages, particularly models from waterfront reclamation, have potential to contribute here. Investigations were initially undertaken by Pete Murphy, available in the archive.
- Research into planned Anglo-Saxon settlement (page 10, taking a cue from Blair 2018) – GIS data and information from Ipswich may contribute a case study and, conversely, be investigated through a morphological approach.
- Using a full range of osteoarchaeological and new scientific techniques on Middle Saxon (and Late Saxon) assemblages to research physical identity, pathology, diet and lifestyle (page 11) – Ipswich assemblages could be pertinent to this.
- Transitions in burial practice, particularly in the conversion period. Hoggett (page 12) notes that our understanding of the origins of ‘churchyard’ style burials is relatively poor – what contribution can the Ipswich material make to the debate? Can it be explored for the changing role of the church?
- Environmental evidence and agricultural practices, relationships between sites and their hinterland (pages 10 and 16). There have been inroads in asking these questions of the Ipswich archive (see also above, page 11, for comment on a hypothesis of differentiation between an urban core and more agricultural areas in the earliest town). How does it compare to other sites?
- Ceramics - the research framework summarises debate on the chronology of Ipswich ware production (page 17), and highlights the ongoing work of Sue Anderson on the post-Roman pottery in Suffolk, to which Ipswich assemblages will contribute (and, conversely, benefit)
- Coinage and the minting, circulation and use of coins and insights into trade (page 18)– Andy Wood’s work (see above) will contribute a significant assemblage.

⁴ <http://eaareports.org.uk/algao-east/regional-research-framework/>

- Urban settlement patterns in East Anglia. Hogget notes revised theories about the development of Norwich and other towns in the region (page 19) – Ipswich contributes to the corpus.
- Scandinavian settlement – the research framework notes (page 19) that we should contemplate the ‘degree to which their influence might be more readily detected, in settlements, burial, agriculture, economy and the rise of urbanism’. Ipswich material (including, for example, small finds, with questions of trade, imports, local production, personal and cultural identities, buildings, changing trade and industry) has potential to explore this question, as indicated throughout this document.
- Continental connections – the research framework provides a reminder to look East.

4.4.2 Mediaeval Urban (Antrobus and Ayers forthcoming)

- Understanding relationships of towns to their hinterlands, and links between urban estates and rural institutions (Themes 4.1, Demography, and 4.2, Social Organisation, pages 7 and 10-11). The Ipswich material has potential to contribute, including in the application of new scientific techniques to palaeoarchaeological and zoological remains (note also that the work undertaken by Pam Crabtree was of a considered (large) sample of remains only, of what were considered the best groups). For the medieval period, historical research into the town’s religious and other institutions could be combined with archaeological archive information.
- Using a full range of osteoarchaeological and new scientific techniques on Medieval (and Post Medieval) assemblages to research physical identity, pathology, diet and lifestyle, questions of migration, mortality, disease and health, gender and gender roles (Theme 4.1, Demography, pages 7 and 10). Ipswich assemblages could be pertinent to this, and offers populations from diverse cemeteries, including a well dated 9th century one noted near St Peter’s church, IAS 5203, and friary cemeteries, to compare to the Stoke Quay parish church, shortly to be published. As a port town, the population was cosmopolitan.
- The role of institutions within towns, including the church but also the impact of lordship in the broadest sense, and the development of parishes, the impacts of organisations on their surrounding areas (Themes 4.2, Social Organisation, and 4.4, Culture and Religion, pages 8 and 10-11, 15). Ipswich data may begin to lend itself to analysis of this over the late Saxon/medieval periods.
- Settlement morphology, including the establishment of basic chronologies, more developed understanding of spatial analysis, understanding planned and organic growth, and changes to settlement layout and building density and social zoning, for example (Theme 4.2, Social Organisation, pages 7 and 11/12). Systematic map regression techniques combined with archaeological information may be a worthwhile approach to available Ipswich data. The layout of the past water, streams and river channels is not fully understood, although deposit data and existing models can begin to contribute.
- Impacts of political change such as Viking Conquest, Norman Conquest, the long 13th century urban boom, reformation (Theme 4.2, Social Organisation, page 11). Ipswich archaeological archive covers all of these periods, including also the ‘long 8th century’.
- The development of suburbs (Theme 4.2, Social Organisation, page 12). Ipswich archive sites offer potential for investigation of the character of different areas of the town (as noted in the site summaries).
- Evidence for activity, for zoning, for resource acquisition, for organisation of activity (Theme 4.3, Economy, page 13). The Ipswich material has potential.

- Culture and religion (Theme 4.4, page 14). Ipswich small finds, just as an example, have potential to offer insights into material culture and identity. Urban buildings can be investigated in terms of evolution, sub-regional variation, national trends.
- Impact on ecosystems, landscape change, water and waterways, resources, resource management and pollution (Theme 4.5, Climate and Environment, page 15). Archive data can be studied with these questions in mind. There is evidence in Ipswich for water management (for example, Bridge Street IAS 6202 and Cecilia Street, IAS 5001, noted above).
- Continental connections – the research framework provides a reminder to look East.

5 Next Steps

5.1 Monograph

A key next step, which would serve as a foundation for research projects, is the publication of a synthetic monograph. The importance of publication of the Ipswich data is highlighted in the revised Regional Research Framework (Hoggett forthcoming, 19). A monograph proposal by Keith Wade/SCCAS and accepted by East Anglian Archaeology proposed to publish understandings of the development of the town, building on earlier publications. (Wade, 1988a, 1988b, 1993, 2001). A current limitation to research projects seeking to use the archive material is the lack of this detailed narrative, compounded by problems of developer bankruptcies in the recession which followed 2008 which means that along the waterfront in particular some nationally important excavations have not been analysed or brought to publication and are not in the public domain (e.g. Anglo Saxon waterfront structures from the Cranfield's site, IPS446). A publication programme on these archives by those with expert knowledge of Ipswich is a key aspiration and would provide an opportunity for specialist review to inform a more detailed future research agenda.

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