

Site name: Wingfield Street / Foundation Street

Site ref: IAS 4601 HER ref: IPS 210 CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.63
NGR: TM16564434 Extent: 1920 sq m

Circumstances of excavation

The site was surface car parks west of Foundation Street, and included Wingfield Street and Rosemary Lane to the south plus a strip of land south of the lane. The land was sold by Ipswich Borough Council to NCP with planning permission to build a multi-storey car park.

The whole area was within a scheduled monument (Suffolk 186) and scheduled monument consent was granted for development subject to prior excavation, which was undertaken by the Suffolk Archaeological Unit between March and October 1985.

Site constraints

An area smaller than the footprint of the new building was excavated for safety reasons and was excavated in three phases, in order to minimise the loss of parking spaces.

Funding bodies

National Car Parks, Ipswich Borough Council, Manpower Services Commission
Suffolk County Council and English Heritage.

Stratigraphic sequence (by period):

Early Middle Saxon: c.600-700 (EMS)

Two inhumation burials (0130, 0139) were located at the western end of the site. Grave goods, comprising an iron knife blade and a copper alloy buckle were recovered from Grave 0139 (Scull 2009, 324-6).

Middle Saxon: c.700-850 (MS)

Total number of features assigned to this period, mainly on ceramic evidence:

Structures: 5

Pits: 36

Boundaries: 9

Occupation of this period was found across the whole site with the majority of features in the western half of the site but this may be due to less damage from later activity, compared with the eastern half of the site.

As none of the structural features appear to have been replaced during the Mid Saxon period, a limited period of occupation is likely. Eleven of the twelve sceattas found across the site were lost c.750-65 and this might indicate the start of occupation in this area. Four of the coins were from MS pits (0113, 0357, 0472, 0648, small find refs 0006/4601N, 0009/4601N, 0012/4601N, 0018/4601N), the rest from later pits.

The two principal buildings (1176 and 1181) appear to front the east-west Rosemary Lane to the south.

On the western half, 1176 appears to have an outbuilding attached to its north side (1177). To the north of 1176 and 1177 there was a large fenced enclosure

(1170/1172) and within it a series of pits and wells and a further building (1174). Other smaller fence lines are found within the enclosure (1171, 1173 and 1175). The enclosure appears to have been extended southwards with a further fence (1182) at a later phase and it encloses four pits, two of which were not filled until the ELS period.

To the east of 1176 and 1177 a fence (1178) ran northward for some 13 metres before turning west towards enclosure 1170/1172.

A further pit complex lay at the north of the site associated with another fenced enclosure incorporating an outbuilding (1186).

On the eastern half lay building 1181 with a sparse survival of pits to its north. Various postholes in the south east corner, adjacent to Foundation Street are likely to indicate further structures of this period.

Two short sections of a linear slot (0709, 0798) might suggest the existence of a north-south property boundary parallel to and some 15 metres back from Foundation Street. If this is the case, it would imply that there were three tenements fronting Rosemary Lane. The frontage of the assumed middle one had dense later activity which would have removed any building in a similar location to 1176 and 1181.

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dimensions (L x W)</i>	<i>Description</i>
Building 1174	MS	>4m x 3m	Surface laid post hole building, cut away at northern end by later ditch 0048 (EMED).
Building 1176	MS	8.5m x 4.3m	Surface laid post and slot building, orientated east-west. Cut away in south-east corner. Irregular spaced wall posts. Building C abuts on north side.
Building 1177	MS	4.4m x 2.5m	Surface laid post hole ?outbuilding abutting north side of 1176.
Building 1181	MS	6.3m x 3.4m	Surface laid post hole building
Building 1186	MS	5.4m x 3m	Surface laid post hole out-building

Associated Finds: Flotation column from pit 0192 rich in ecofacts indicating stock keeping at this period. (Murphy et al 2003).

Faunal remains from 0192 support pig keeping on site (Crabtree 1994).

Early Late Saxon: c.850-900 (ELS)

Total number of features assigned to this period, mainly on ceramic evidence:

Structures: 6

Pits: 42

Boundaries: 3

There were four sunken-featured buildings (0493, 1003, 1075, 1155), and an additional rectangular pit (0665), with no structural features, but probably indicating building remains and a post hole and slot outbuilding (1187).

ELS features are located across the whole of the excavation area. However, none of the sunken-featured buildings were found on the west half of the site, suggesting that it may have continued as an enclosure for stock into the ELS period.

A fence (1180), some 11 metres long, runs north to south, parallel to and some 10 metres back from Foundation Street. Building 1003 lay east of this and building 0493 to the west. Building 1075 and possible building 0665 lay to the north.

See scanned plans IAS4601_0493.tif, IAS4601_1003.tif, IAS4601_1075.tif, IAS4601_1155.tif.

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dimensions</i> (depth below natural subsoil surface)	<i>Description</i>
0493	ELS	4.2m (E-W) x 3.2m x 0.56m deep	Sunken featured building. Cuts pit 0668 (ELS), cut by pit 0491 (MLS). Possible entrance at eastern end.
0665	ELS	c. 4m (N-S) x >2m x 0.5 – 0.6m deep	Possible sunken featured building. Cuts pit 658 (ELS or earlier). Cut on its east side by later cellared building 0667 (MLS) and infill deposits cut by pit 0664 (ELS), suggests abandonment before the end of the 9th century. No structural elements located within the pit area.
1003	ELS	3.6m (N-S) x 1.8m x 0.7m deep	Sunken featured building. Cut by pit 1072 (MLS).
1075	ELS	3.3m (N-S) x 1.9m x 1.6m deep	Sunken featured building surviving below the floor of later building 0697 (MLS).
1155	ELS	4.5m (E - W) x c.3m x 0.8m deep	Sunken featured building (south half only)
1187	ELS	5m+ x 3.5m	

Middle Late Saxon c.900-1000 (MLS)

Total number of features assigned to this period, mainly on ceramic evidence:

Structures: 8

Pits: 49

Boundaries: 0

Graves: 6

The tenth century occupation is the most intense and, significantly, concentrated on the east side of the site, with only three pits of this date on the western half. This lack of occupation may be partially explained by the existence of a contemporary cemetery. However, only six certain graves were recovered (0009, 0010, 0182, 0207, 0281, 0321) and two possible graves (303,305). They were all shallow burials, which did not cut the subsoil surface and, as a result, many were seriously damaged in the initial site clearance. The date of the cemetery is also uncertain as the only stratigraphic relationships were skeleton 0281, which cut a late 9th century pit (0117), and skeletons 0182 and 321 which both overlay features of uncertain date.

As many as eight sunken featured buildings occupied the eastern half of the site over the course of the 10th century. The stratigraphic evidence indicates at least two phases of activity.

No tenement boundaries were identified but it is likely that two tenements are represented, with a boundary on the line of the later (EMED) ditch 0048.

Although the buildings were set between 5 - 20m back from the street frontage, they were undoubtedly all accessed from Foundation Street.

Large numbers of pits of MLS date lie around the buildings and between them and Foundation Street. Two pits contained contemporary coins (0477, 0713, small find refs 0013/4601N, 0021/4601N).

See scanned plans IAS4601_0497.tif, IAS4601_0549.tif and IAS4601_0549_Sect.tif, IAS4601_0667.tif, IAS4601_0697.tif and IAS4601_0697_Sect.tif, IAS4601_0832.tif, IAS4601_0928.tif, IAS4601_1156.tif.

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dimensions</i> (depth below natural subsoil surface)	<i>Description</i>
0497	MLS	7.0m (E -W) x 3.9m x 0.86m deep	Phase 1: orientated E-W. Base of pit covered with a fragmentary clay floor. Iron objects - clenched bolts & nails (0630) strewn over floor area. Possible entrance in north-east corner (0483). Penny (0015/4601N) found in cellar fill deposited c.905-15.
0549	MLS	7.0m (N - S) x 4.8m x 0.9m deep	Phase 2: replacement of building 0497-orientated N-S. Pit (0510) cuts the fills of 0497 but is cut by 0549, suggesting that replacement was not immediate. No evidence of flooring materials.
0667	MLS	>6.0m (N -S) x 3.9m x 1.0m deep	Phase 1: cuts ELS building 0665. Cut by MLS pit 0779. N-S Orientated Contemporary/similar/to adjacent Building 0928. Pit lined with closely spaced, possibly squared posts. Clay floor.
0697	MLS	7.1m (E - W) x 4.3m x 0.9m deep	Phase 2: cuts ELS building 1075. Orientated E-W. Similar to buildings 0497 and 0549. Close spaced post holes around all four sides of the pit. Entrance central to east gable end. Reduced in area in 2 nd phase (0677, EMED)
0740	MLS	c. 6m (E-W) x 3.5m x ??m deep	Un-phased: large rectangular pit, truncated by extensive later pitting. The remnant areas of the pit (0740, 0945) were devoid of post settings, and displayed vertically cut sides with no signs of any wear prior to backfilling.

0832	MLS	4.4m (E - W) x 3.1m x 0.5m deep	Phase 1: building fill cut by MLS pit (0831). Clay floor to pit and sloping entrance towards east end of the south wall. Walls comprising close spaced post holes.
0928	MLS	6.1m (E - W) x >3m x 0.85m deep	Phase 1: building fill cut by MLS pits. Closely spaced posts holes around the walls of the pit – contemporary/similar to 0667.
1156	MLS	>3.8m (E- W) x 2.6m x 0.9m deep	Phase 1: cuts ?building 0740. Access to pit via sloping entrance from the west. Closely spaced, small diameter posts along east wall. More substantial posts, spaced further apart along west wall

Early Medieval: c.1000-1200 (EMED)

Total number of features assigned to this period, mainly on ceramic evidence:

Structures: 2

Pits: 26

Slots: 3

Boundaries: 2

Hearths: 1

While the majority of activity in this period remained towards the eastern half of the site, at some stage the area was divided by a ditch (0048) running in a west – east direction, which culminated in a butt end some 10 metres from Foundation Street. Five metres north-east was the southern end of a second ditch (0777), running north - west implying an entrance way leading between the two butt ends. This second ditch (0777) undoubtedly turned west along the line of the ditches 0346 and 0383 which were not finally filled until the LMED phase.

The Northern enclosure

The area within the two ditches (0048 and 0346) contained a cellared building (0677), the remodelled MLS building 0697. While the north face of ditch 0048 ran fairly hard against south wall of the building, it would appear likely that both existed contemporaneously. A surviving section of linear trench (0774), c. 3 metres long, may comprise the remnant of a post in trench building. Pits were fairly evenly spread across the enclosure area, the only interrelated being pits being 0689 cutting pit 0690, and pit 0733 cutting 0848, which lay within the gap between the two butt ends of the ditches.

South of ditch 0048

The main feature of note, lying south of ditch 0048 was a cellared building (0506) lying 6 metres north of Rosemary Lane. The majority of contemporary pits were ranged along an east – west line, running parallel to the Rosemary Lane frontage, with only a few smaller ones associated with Foundation Street. Phasing within this period was limited to a large pit (0505) cutting the fill of the cellared building. An irregular clay filled feature (0446), cutting an earlier EMED pit (0458) may be the remnants of an EMED oven. Two lengths of trench (0466 and 0467), running north - south may be the remnants of a second post in trench building.

The Buildings

See scanned plans IAS4601_0506.tif, IAS4601_0697.tif and IAS4601_0697_Sect.tif.

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dimensions</i> (depth below natural subsoil surface)	<i>Description</i>
0506	EMED	>3m (E- W) x 3.2m x 1.25m deep	Unknown proportion of building removed on west by LMED feature (0484). Cut by EMED pit 0505. Stepped entrance on south side, far east end. Pit cut to depth close to water table with original clay floor at this level. Floor raised by 0.25m in second phase. Mixed post hole & slot construction, mainly dating to this second phase.
0677	EMED	4.9m x 4.1 x 0.9m deep	A rebuilding of building of 0697 but shorter in length. Burnt down, with good survival of carbonised material (fired clay, pegs, planking, foodstuffs).

Associated finds: Carbonised material (Murphy) from building 0677 produced evidence for horse(s) on site confirmed by iron horseshoe and spur. Two samples C14-dated, but with impossibly early results.

Late Medieval: c.1200-1450 (LMED)

Total number of features assigned to this period, mainly on ceramic evidence:

Structures: 0

Pits: 12

Boundaries: 3

A group of 8 pits was located in the northeast corner of the excavated area, close to the Foundation Street frontage. Two of these cut the in-filled EMED ditch (0048). Three more pits and a well (0017) lay in the southern half of the site. The east-west ditches along the northern edge of the site (0346 and 0383) were in use during this period as was the ditch alongside Foundation Street (0460) with an entrance between the two in the north-east corner. The evidence suggests that the whole area was a ditched enclosure not used for domestic occupation during this period.

Late Medieval Transitional: c.1450-1600 (LMT)

Total number of features assigned to this period, mainly on ceramic evidence:

Structures: 2

Pits: 18

Hearth?: 1

Boundaries: 1

Industrial: 3

Phase 1(c.1450-1540)

Two, rectangular, flat-bottomed features, 0711 and 0715 were cut through ditch 460, side by side, up against Foundation Street in the north-east corner of the site.

A third large rectangular clay lined feature (0484) lay in the southern half of the site. It is assumed that all three were used for some industrial process.

North of the rectangular features 0711 and 0715 were remnants of a building (1179). All that survived later truncation was a septaria wall with an internal drain and an adjacent patch of clay floor. Documentary evidence indicates that this building became a grammar school for the education of over 100 boys in 1483 and was known as Felaw's House (Blatchly 2003).

Phase 2 (c.1540-1600)

An 'L-shaped' building (1159), probably replacing building 1179, with a rear courtyard bounded by a wall was constructed on the Foundation Street frontage. The front range, parallel to the street, measured some 18m x 7m and the rear range, extending from the south-west corner, was 10m x 7m. Wall footings were predominantly of septaria and mortar. The courtyard in the angle of the ranges was bounded by a wall of the same construction and incorporated a garderobe pit (0413), which had a final filling of LMT material. Next to this was an entrance leading westward to the open area behind.

Felaw's House survived until it was demolished during the Borough Council's slum clearance in 1963 and during demolition records were made of the structure. The ground floor walls were all of septaria with a timber-framed first floor (Penrose ...) which is typical of the 16th century (Aitkens....).

Unphased

A slot (0500) south of Felaw's House and parallel with Foundation Street, could be the footing of a back wall of a further contemporary building fronting Foundation Street.

Eleven of the eighteen pits dating to this period lie to the west of the rear wall of Felaw's House, and probably indicate domestic rubbish disposal from the school on what was open land. Maps of the town (Speed 1610 and Ogilby 1674) confirm that it continued an open area in the 17th century.

Post-medieval: c.1600-1900 (PMED)

Total number of features assigned to this period, mainly on ceramic evidence:

Structures: 0

Pits: 10

Wells: 6

Boundaries: 0

Pits and wells of this period are located in garden areas behind the terraced properties which were built along Foundation Street, south of Felaw's House, Rosemary Lane and the newly built Wingfield Street in the mid 19th century. Felaw's house was divided into three terraced houses (1159 phase 2) by the demolition of the rear range, and the insertion of a cellar in the rear half of the front range and the insertion of light wells and attachment of rear outbuildings..

Finds data

The copper-alloy assemblage includes a few Roman items (two coins, Domitian c.AD86 and Tetricus (c.269-272), a penannular brooch and a fragment of a finger

ring with a glass intaglio depicting a dolphin, described in IAS4601_copperalloy_R13.doc).

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 C 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.

Scope for Future Research

Only a sample of the faunal remains was studied as follows:

Context	Date	Number of bones
17	<u>LMED</u>	599
104	<u>MS</u>	<u>2379</u>
<u>115</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>1658</u>
<u>117</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>2666</u>
<u>118</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>4150</u>
<u>121</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>478</u>
<u>181</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>2400</u>
<u>278</u>	<u>EMED</u>	<u>860</u>

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Murphy, P. et al 2003	The Environment and Agrarian Economy of Saxon and Medieval Ipswich, unpublished report, archive ref R161
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Wade, K. R., 1993	The Urbanisation of East Anglia: the Ipswich Perspective, in <i>Flatlands and Wetlands – Current Themes in East Anglian Archaeology</i> , ed. Gardiner J., EAA 50, 144-151
Aitkens	Felaw's house