

**Site name: Greyfriars Road**

Site ref: IAS 5201    HER ref: IPS 753    CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.54

NGR: TM16274409    Extent: 60 sq m

**Circumstances of excavation**

The 'Stoke Bridge and Approaches' road scheme, included the construction of a new Anglian Water storm water relief system under the new road in 1982. It ran from west to east along Star Lane to its junction with Greyfriars Road, and then south to the river west of Stoke Bridge. The north-south soil strip, prior to the pipe trenching, revealed a number of pits and a potential sunken featured building.

**Site constraints**

Ipswich Borough Council granted the Suffolk Archaeological Unit permission to excavate the area over the course of a weekend, when the site was not operational. In view of the time constraint, the outline of 11 features over an area 13.5m x 4.5m were planned, and following a brief assessment of their date, six contexts were selected for excavation.

**Funding bodies**

Suffolk County Council.

**Stratigraphic sequence (by period)**

Of the six excavated contexts (0003, 0004, 0006, 0007, 0009, 0011), two (0004, 0011) had no finds. The others were dated by pottery, confirmed by stratigraphy as follows:

***Early Late Saxon: c.700-850 (ELS)***

One pit (0009), cut away, on its south side, by MLS building (0003) and by EMED pit (0007) is likely to date to this period. However, as only one sherd of Thetford ware was recovered, it could equally be an earlier phase of MLS.

***Middle Late Saxon: c.900-1000 (MLS)***

**Building 0003** (see scanned plan IAS52010003.tif)

Only partially exposed, this sunken featured building was 3.6m wide and over 4m long (it continued west outside the excavated area). The sunken feature was 0.74m deep below the subsoil surface. A total of 7 structural posts (0013-0017, 0019-0020) were found along the east and south edges of the pit. Remnants of a hearth (0012) were found on the floor in the north-west corner of the cellar.

***Early Medieval: c.1000-1200 (EMED)***

One pit (0007), cutting through the filling of cellared building 0003, belonged to this period.

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

A shallow ditch, (0006) running north-south, was cut by PMED pit 0005. Its south end extended off the excavated area, while its northern limit was lost in a complex of unexcavated pits.

**Undated**

A post hole (0004), located at the far northern end of the trench, and a small pit (0011) cutting MLS building 0003, contained no datable material.

*Keith Wade 2013*