

A STAMFORD WARE PITCHER FROM IPSWICH

By J. G. HURST, M.A., F.S.A.

Amongst the finds rescued by the Ipswich Museum from a building site at the junction of the east side of Blackhorse Lane and Westgate Street, Ipswich in 1958, was a fragment of Stamford Ware. Other finds ranged from Middle Saxon Ipswich Ware to late Saxon Thetford Ware and some of these are described by S. E. West in his Cox Lane report.¹

The Stamford sherd is part of the side of a pitcher with a small O spout, three small strap handles and a sagging base. The paste is pinkish in colour with an inner flaking surface and a pale yellow glaze with staining outside (Fig. 48). The base survives for a small strap handle double thumbed at the bottom.

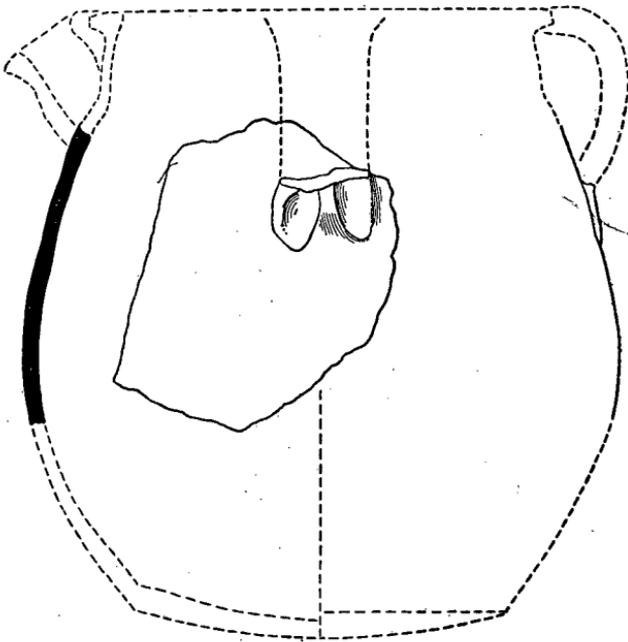


FIG. 48.—A Stamford Ware Pitcher from Ipswich (3)

¹ *Medieval Archaeology*, vi (1962) forthcoming.

This pitcher is typical of many which were exported between the 9th and the early 12th centuries from the area of manufacture, at or near Stamford, as far north as York and as far west as Oxford,² south west as far as Salisbury and south as far as Canterbury.³ In 1956 only one other sherd was known from Suffolk, a small sherd from King Street, Ipswich found in 1931.⁴ There are still no other finds from Suffolk but recent work in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire suggests that Stamford Ware may be found on all sites producing late Saxon pottery.⁵ More Stamford Ware, and for that matter Thetford Ware,⁶ may therefore be expected in many parts of Suffolk and either the author or the Ipswich Museum will be glad to be informed of any finds which may date to this period.

² *Proc. Cambridge Ant. Soc.*, LI (1957), 37-65.

³ *Medieval Archaeology*, III (1959), p. 71 and fig. 39.

⁴ *Proc. Cambridge Ant. Soc.*, LI (1957), 53 and fig. 6, No. 6.

⁵ *E.g.*—Torksey and Welton-le-Wold, Lincolnshire; and Weaverthorpe and Wharram Percy, East Riding of Yorkshire, may now be added to the previously known sites.

⁶ *Proc. Cambridge Ant. Soc.*, L (1956), 29-60.