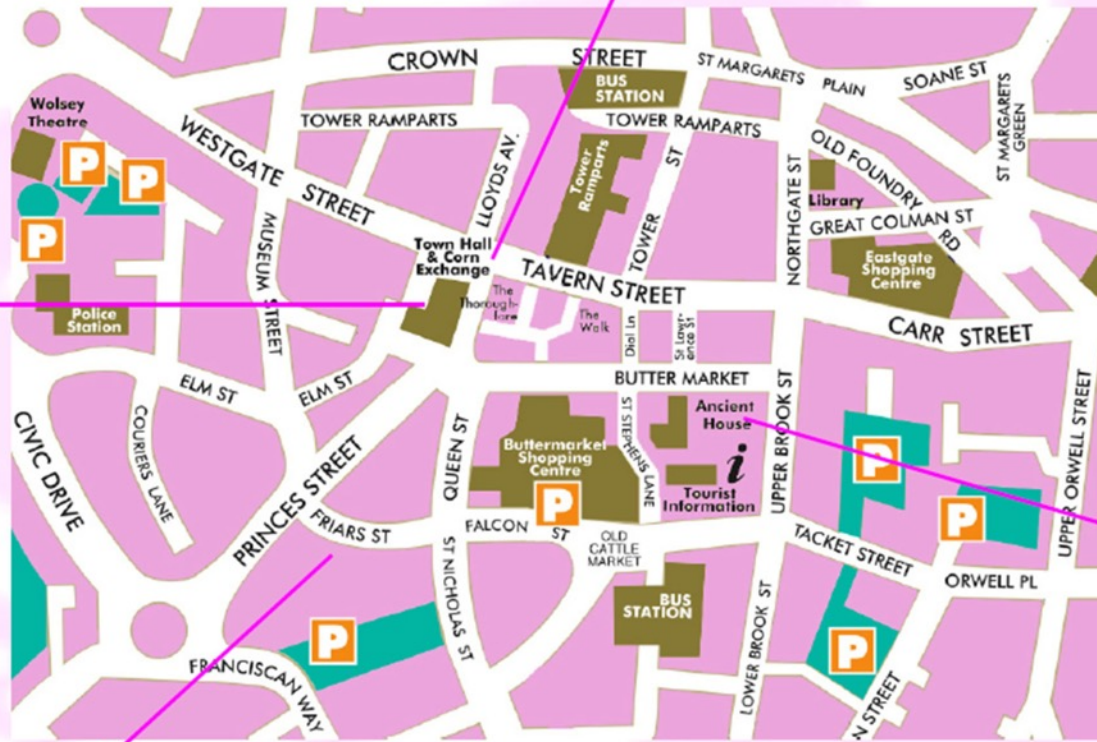




The Ipswich Society

Ipswich, our town on the Orwell has been continuously inhabited since 625. Granted a Charter by King John in 1200 it is home to more than five hundred listed buildings.

From this point on the Cornhill it is possible within minutes to see some of the finest examples of historic architecture in Britain.



Immediately south of the Cornhill is a fine Victorian edifice: the Town Hall built in 1868, Italianate in style. Notice three carved heads, King Richard, Thomas Wolsey and King John and at the top, four statues representing Commerce, Agriculture, Law & Learning and Justice.



To the south and west down Princes Street or Queen Street you come to a jewel of 20th century architecture: Britain's newest Grade I listed building – the Willis Building. Designed for insurance workers over three floors by Norman Foster, it was completed in 1975. Immediately next door an 18th century treasure is the oldest surviving timber-framed chapel in East Anglia: the Unitarian Meeting House of 1700 is also Grade I listed.



To the east along Buttermarket the Ancient House is a Grade I listed building dating from the 15th century. The building features Tudor parqueting and exquisite carving. The front of the building, added in the 1660s, bears the royal arms of King Charles II. To the north and south of this are two fine medieval churches. The graceful tower of St Lawrence holds five bells cast in the 1440s, the oldest circle of five bells in the world. To the south is St Stephens' church now the Tourist Information Centre.

It's our town
see our website
www.ipswichsociety.org.uk

Founded in 1960 the Ipswich Society is a community of people who care about the appearance, character and wellbeing of the town; we seek to preserve the best of the town's old buildings and to ensure that new building is of a high quality.