

= Ipswich Road , Colchester =

Ipswich Road , formally the A1232 , is a road in Colchester , Essex , England . It was the historic coaching route and main road to Ipswich from the Middle Ages onwards , and was part of the A12 , a main road in East Anglia , until the A12 was rerouted in 1974 .

Rovers Tye Farm , a pub since 1983 , was established by 1353 , and a causeway at this location had been built by 1429 , by which point Ipswich Road ran on its current route . The road once contained the County Gaol and County Police Station . The Grade II listed St. John 's Church was built in 1864 by Arthur Blomfield in the High Victorian Early Gothic style . The toothpaste tube manufacturer Betts opened a factory at No. 505 Ipswich Road in 1953 . More recently there have been the development of housing and industrial estates along the road , particularly automobile dealers , at the northern end where it meets the A12 .

= = Route = =

The road runs northeast from East Street , crossing the Great Eastern Main Line , to Ardleigh Wick where it meets the A12 , a major road from London to Ipswich and the Port of Felixstowe and the A120 to Harwich (and hence by ferry to Hook of Holland) .

The majority of the road is within the Borough of Colchester aside from a small portion at the northern end , which is in the Borough of Tendring . The main bus routes from Colchester to Ipswich , 93 and 94 , run along the road . It also serves a portion of the Colchester half marathon route .

= = History = =

= = = Pre 20th century = = =

Colchester has been inhabited since pre @-@ Roman Britain , but the ancient route to Ipswich followed a different path , leaving Duncan 's Gate and heading east of Castle Park and crossing the River Colne , thereby heading northeast to meet the current road . An excavation in 1930 found evidence of road ditches on this alignment . In 991 Byrhtnoth , Ealdorman of the East @-@ Saxons , decided to check the Danes . They had plundered Ipswich and were sailing south to plunder Maldon . Brihtnoth entered the well @-@ defended town of Colchester by the Ipswich road on his way south , later dying at the Battle of Maldon . The London ? Ipswich road passing through Colchester provided a vital economic connection to the capital , 51 miles (82 km) away , during the Tudor period . The royalist defenders of Colchester during the English Civil War (1642 ? 51) built Fort Suffolk to the north of Ipswich Road , one of eleven earthen fieldworks with timber palisades .

At the edge of the Greenstead Parish boundary is Rovers Tye Farm , which has been documented as being established by 1353 . A new causeway at this location had been built by 1429 , by which point Ipswich Road ran on its current route . This road was turnpiked in 1725 , when the road was predominantly rural in nature . In 1841 , a prison , known as the House of Correction or County Gaol , was built on the road to alleviate pressure on Colchester Castle , but it only held about 25 or 30 prisoners , both male and female , at any one time . When the War Office re @-@ authorized the militia in 1845 the 14th East Essex Regiment of Militia , which later became the Essex Rifles Militia , was given the old County Gaol as its headquarters . In 1875 the County Police Station was located on the Ipswich Road .

= = = 20th ? 21st century = = =

The road was bisected by the first Colchester Bypass in 1933 , an unemployment relief project . The railway bridge was also built in the Great Depression of the 1930s , using government funding . 7 @-@ ton locomotives were used to bring sand via a light railway from a pit on the Harwich Road to form the embankment for the railway bridge . The sand was topped with clay . The bridge

crossing the Great Eastern Main Line underwent major reconstruction in 1957 .

On 12 November 1940 Colchester was bombed by German air raids , causing damage in the vicinity of Ipswich Road . In the early hours of 30 April 1944 , a crew of seven on board a Lancaster UM @-@ K2 were returning from a bombing raid on Karlsruhe , Germany , when the engines caught fire , causing a fatal crash landing at what is now Space Makers Safestore on Ipswich Road . In 2015 , a memorial service was held at the site of the crash . In December 2014 , 24 World War II bombs weighing approximately 600 lbs in total were discovered at a recycling centre on the road . After the war , there were small private developments off Mersea Road , " west of Lexden Park , north of Colchester North railway station , between Ipswich Road and the railway , and north of East Hill " . St. John 's housing estate was built in the 1960s , and in 1979 , the Kier Group began developing the 730 acre High Woods site to the west of the road . Around 4000 houses and a shopping centre were subsequently built in the vicinity .

The toothpaste tube manufacturer Betts opened a factory at No. 505 Ipswich road in 1953 . In 2008 , the firm decided to close the factory and moved to smaller premises elsewhere in town . In 2014 , Bellway Homes announced they would convert the former Ipswich Road factory into a housing estate named Avellana Place . Locals protested against the name , which is Spanish for hazelnut , saying a more appropriate name would be after the 1944 Lancaster Bomber crash .

The road was part of the A12 when road numbers were first classified in 1922 , and remained the main route to Ipswich for motor traffic until the Northern Colchester Bypass opened in 1974 , which was extended towards Harwich in 1982 .

= = Landmarks = =

The Rose And Crown is at the southern end of Ipswich Road . It was established as a coaching inn in the 14th century and used as a stopping point for prisoners being transported from Europe and Suffolk to London . The building still contains two cells , retaining their original doors . The venue 's fireplace dates from the Tudor period . To the north is Colchester 's Magic Roundabout .

Beyond the railway bridge is the St Johns Post Office and Milton Lodge at No. 290 Ipswich Road , almost opposite it . Milton Lodge is a residential care home for elderly dementia sufferers and was converted into a care home in 2001 . Further north , at the roundabout with Highwoods Approach and St. John 's Road , is The Rovers Tye ? Flaming Grill restaurant . The Rovers Tye is set in a Grade II listed farmhouse dated to the 17th century , with additional extensions in the mid @-@ 18th , although an earlier building dated to 1353 . In 1983 , the building became a pub . Timber framed , it is a two storey building with five windows and a panelled door . Just to the north is St. John 's Primary School , and St. John 's Church beyond this . The church was built in 1864 by Arthur Blomfield in the High Victorian Early Gothic style . It is built from " red and gault brick with stone dressings and peg tile gabled roofs " and features a " circular bell turret with conical roof " . It became a Grade II listed building in 1986 .

The northern part of the road is characterised by industrial estates . There is retail centre selling cars , including Porsche Centre Colchester and Underwoods Mazda and Autoway Colchester . Colchester Business Park is at the northern end of the road , next to the A12 and A120 . It contains 250 @,@ 000 square feet (23 @,@ 000 m2) of office space . It contains the Premier Inn and further car retailers such as Cooper BMW and Glyn Hopkin Honda .