

EASTALL'S PIT BARHAM

River terrace gravels extracted here by AH Eastall & Co Ltd in the 1950s – 1970s, produced abundant mammal fossils of **Devensian** age, many of which can be seen in the Ipswich Museum collection. The site now consists of three lakes used by anglers, with public footpath access from an adjacent car park at Barham picnic site owned by Suffolk County Council.

The Devensian cold stage of the Pleistocene 'ice age' is dated between approximately 120,000 to 10,000 years ago. The river terrace gravels showing coarse, angular flint gravels with quartz, sandstone, limestone and igneous erratics, indicating glacial origins can be seen in the slopes and spoil heaps around the site.



The Barham fauna may date to a minor amelioration in the climate about 40,000 years ago with sparse plant cover and cool summers. The grey silty stratum at the base of excavation has yielded seeds of aquatic plants and mammal fossils:

- Lion
- Hyaena (mandible and tooth marks)
- Woolly Mammoth
- Horse (common)
- Aurochs
- Woolly rhinoceros (common)
- Wolf (femur)
- Reindeer



Ipswich Museum

The Gipping valley is carved into the Chalk, with overlying strata, including Thanet Clay, Crag sand, Kesgrave Gravel and Chalky Boulder Clay occasionally exposed in the valley sides. The valley has been infilled with gravels including the Devensian river terrace at Eastall's pit. The valley floor has Holocene alluvial deposits in the floodplain of the River Gipping. CM 2010