

1. Parish: Benhall

Meaning: Remote valley where beans were grown (Ekwall)

2. Hundred: Plomesgate

Deanery: Orford (-1914), Saxmundham (1914-)

Union: Plomesgate

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Plomesgate RD (1894-1934), Blyth RD (1934-1974), Suffolk Coastal DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Blything Petty Sessional Division
Framlingham and Saxmundham County Court District

3. Area: 2,163 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

- Mixed:**
- a) Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid especially under heath or in woodland, risk wind erosion
 - b) Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clay and fine loam over clay. Some calcareous clay soils

5. Types of farming:

1086		2 acres meadow Domesday vill of Carlton: 3 acres meadow, ½ fishpond, 1 cob, 170 sheep
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop. Also has similarities with wood-pasture region with pasture, meadow, dairying and some pig keeping
1818	Marshall:	Wide variations of crop and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, beans
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1975 Railway crosses parish N-S. River forms natural boundary to east, the adjoining wetlands restrict development in this area.
Small compact settlement at Benhall Green sandwiched between the railway to the west and wetlands to the east.
Church situated in isolated position to west of railway
Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 41, 1801 – 67, 1851 – 164, 1871 – 151,
1901 – 134, 1951 – 163, 1981 – 175

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Farnham, Swefling, Rendham, Sternfield and Saxmundham
1844 Omnibus to Ipswich Wednesday and Friday
1891 Carrier passes through to Woodbridge and Ipswich Monday and Thursday

Rail: 1891 2 miles Saxmundham station: Saxmundham – Leiston – Aldeburgh line opened (1859), line to Aldeburgh closed for goods (1959), closed for passengers (1966) spur from Saxmundham – Leiston still operational carrying heavy goods for Sizewell power station
Ipswich – Lowestoft line opened (1859), still operational

9. Population:

1086 — 31 recorded (Domesday vill of Carlton – 61 recorded)
1327 — 42 taxpayers paid £3. 12s. 7d.
1524 — 31 taxpayers paid £3. 11s
1603 — 124 adults
1674 — 55 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 533 inhabitants
1831 — 668 inhabitants
1851 — 713 inhabitants
1871 — 644 inhabitants
1901 — 536 inhabitants
1931 — 508 inhabitants
1951 — 503 inhabitants
1971 — 486 inhabitants
1981 — 446 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage

1254 Valued £12
1291 Valued £13. 6s. 8d.
1535 Valued £7. 1s. 3d.

1831 Glebe house. Gross income £190. incumbent also holds rectory of Stratford St. Andrew and Weston St. Peter
 1835 Valued £173
 Tithes commuted: vicarial for £216. 18s. 1d., rectorial for £499. 5s. 4d. (circa 1844)
 1912 Nett value £132 p.a. 4 acres glebe and residence

Patrons:

Sir Henrye Gleniham (1603), Trustees of E. Holand (1831), E.R. Holland (1912)

11. Church St. Mary
 (Chancel, nave, N. transept, vestry, S. porch, W. tower)

Norman S. doorway
 14/15th cent. Remnants in tower
 19th cent. Transept and vestry, box pews, gallery

Seats: 300 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

Circa 1644 Robert Sugden, vicar of Benhall ejected by Suffolk Committee for Scandalous Ministers for incontinency with several women, being a frequenter of ale-houses and a notorious drunkard

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 40 acres held by Wulfnoth a free man under patronage
 1086 Manor of 40 acres belonging to Roger Bigot

Domeday vill of Carleton:

1066 Manor of 80 acres held by Edric
 1086 Manor of 80 acres belonging to Robert Malet
 1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Count Alan and held by Hamo

Benhall Manor

Circa 1160 Ralph de Glanville owns passing by marriage to (linked to Farnham and Gedgrave)
 Circa 1195 Sir William Auberville (linked to Butley)
 1292 Guy Frere owns; possibly held as of the Honor of Eye
 Circa 1336 Robert de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)

1544	Thomas, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1608/09	Ambrose Duke owns
1732	Edmund Tyrell owns (linked to Thelnetham)
1738	John Rush owns (linked to Raydon)
1801	Admiral Sir Hyde Parker owns
1810	Edward Hollond owns (linked to Frostenden)
1909	Edmund Robert Hollond owns

Sub-Manors:

Benhall St. Roberts

1292	Robert de Benhall owns
Circa 1400	Michael de la Pole owns (absorbed by main manor)
1406	Given to Master and Chaplain of Wingfield College
Mid 16 th cent	Sir Thomas Gawdy owns (linked to Brockford, Stoneham, Freston, Tattlingstone, Woolverstone and Weybread)
1595	Nicholas Jeffreson owns
1602	Thomas Base own
1680	Arnold Browne owns
1736	John Sheppard owns

14. Markets/Fairs

Grant of market and fair to Guy Frere at 'Kelton' within Benhall Manor (1291/92)

15. Real property:

1844	£2,621 rental value
1891	£3,433 rateable value
1912	£3,305 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	Land sub-divided
1891	E.W. Hollond, principle owner
1912	E.R. Hollond, principle owner

17. Resident gentry:

1674	Sir John Duke occupies house with 32 hearths, in occupation (1679) Samuel Rush, High Sheriff of Suffolk (1780) George Rush, High Sheriff of Suffolk (1799) Edward Hollond, High Sheriff of Suffolk (1814)
1844	Rev. J. Mitford, MA and Rev. Edmund Hollond
1891	E.W. Hollond
1912	Rev. L.B. Delap MA and E.R. Hollond BA JP

18. Occupations:

1500-1549	3 husbandmen
1550-1599	2 yeomen, 4 husbandmen
1600-1649	1 blacksmith, 12 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 2 linen weavers, 1 turner, 1 weaver, 1 clerk, 1 thatcher
1650-1699	1 blacksmith, 13 yeomen, 4 husbandmen, 2 tailors, 1 spinster
1831	108 in agriculture, 31 in retail trade, 6 professionals, 11 in labouring, 14 in domestic service, 12 others
1844	3 shoemakers, tailor/drafter, 2 schoolteachers, 2 joiners, insurance agent, hurdle maker, blacksmith, gardener, 2 shopkeepers, victualler, corn miller, wheelwright, brickmaker, 12 farmers
1912	Sub-postmistress, schoolteachers, police officer, shoemaker, 2 farm bailiffs, 9 farmers, cattle dealer, asst. overseer, builder, grocer/beer retailer, plumber, dressmaker, grocer, builder, foreman of works, basket maker, head gardener, land agent, brick/tile/drain pipe maker/coal merchants/farmers, coach builders, head gamekeeper

19. Education:

Bequest by Sir Edward Duke for establishment of Free school (1731)
34 attend (1818), 37 attend (1833)
National school built (1840) on Benhall Green by Rev. E. Hollond (115 attend, 1844), average attendance (1912) 141

20. Poor relief:

1776	£85. 1s. 6d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£401. 17s.	spent on poor relief
1818	£1,300. 10s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£748. 7s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£1,021. 5s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£833. 8s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Duke's Charity School:

1731 by will of Sir Edward Duke: Profits from £1,000 of establishing school and provision of education

Cobbold Charity:

1746 by will of William Cobbold: £5 p.a. to education

Hollond Charity:

1829 by bequest of Edward Hollond: \$500 for repairs to masters house and to increase teachers salary

22. Other institutions:

Friendly Society (1803) (10 members)
Working Mens Association (1840)
Village Club opened (1885)
Police officer listed (1912)

23. Recreation:

1844 THE HORSE AND GROOM public house
1891 Beer retailer

24. Personal:

Rev. John Mitford: (1781-1859) vicar of Benhall (1810), editor of The Gentlemens Magazine (1834-1850), died Benhall Vicarage (1859). His manuscript notes held in British Museum (1908)
Duke family established in parish from (1598). Sir Edward Duke created Baronet (1661)
'Letters and Reminiscences of the Rev. John Mitford' by C.M. Sampson Low' (1891) by Mrs. M.C. Houston
'Honourable actions of Edward Glenham described as of Benhall' (1591). Suffolk Tracts Vol. 2

25. Other information:

Benhall Working Mens Association held successful meeting against The New Poor Law (1840) despite presence of County Police
Old Benhall Lodge built (1638) by Sir Edward Duke
Present Lodge built (1815) on new site by Edward Hollond. Park and gardens extend to 130 acres (1891), suffered fire damage (1885), restored soon after. Serious fire damage (circa 1981)
Map based on maps of 1783, 1836 and 1846 identifies Kelton End (possible site of the market granted 1292) and pottery production site enar the river. 'Suffolk Landscape' by N. Scarfe p.175
Benhall House: built (18th cent.) pulled down (circa 1810) and rebuilt in present form

Archaeological Sites

Med. toft (CRN 2372)
PMed garden house (CRN 2371)

Med. moated site (CRN 2373)

Stray finds: Med. axe (CRN 2375)

Neo. Axe (CRN 2376, 2377)

Scatter finds: Neo. Pottery (crn 2374)

PMed building debris (CRN 2370)

Rom. Pottery (CRN 1440, 1441)