

1. Parish: Blaxhall

Meaning: Blaec's valley (Ekwall)

2. Hundred: Plomesgate

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

Union: Plomesgate

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

Other administrative details:

Woodbridge Petty Sessional Division and County Court District

3. Area: 2,011 acres land, 7 acres water (1912)

4. Soils:

- Mixed:**
- a) Deep well drained sandy often ferruginous soils, risk wind and water erosion
 - b) Deep fine loam soils, slowly permeable subsoils, slight seasonal waterlogging. Fine loams over clay or with sandy soils
 - c) Deep peat soils associated with clay over sandy soils, in part very acid, high groundwater levels, risk of flooding

5. Types of farming:

1086		6 acres meadow
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Problems of acidity and trace elements deficiencies. Sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop
1804	Young:	“This corner of Suffolk practices better husbandry than elsewhere”... identified as carrot growing region
1818	Marshall:	Management varies with condition of sandy soils. Roatation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn or grass
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, peas. Mainly arable/dairying region
1969	Trist:	Dairying has been replaced by arable farming

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1980/83 Rivers Alde and Ore form natural boundary to the north. Railway clips northern sector of parish crossing from NE-SW. Heath and common land occupies large portion of eastern sector of parish. Small compact development in central position. Church in isolated position to west of village. Possible secondary settlement at Stone Common.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 23, 1801 – 38, 1851 – 121, 1871 – 122, 1901 – 112, 1951 – 110, 1981 – 92

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Farnham, Snape, Tunstall, Campsey Ash and Little Glemham

1891/1912 Carrier passes through to Woodbridge Monday, Thursday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 4 miles Saxmundham station: Saxmundham – Leiston – Aldeburgh line opened (1859), line to Aldeburgh closed for goods (1959), closed for passengers (1966) spur to Leiston still operational

Ipswich – Lowestoft line opened (1859) still operational
2½ miles Wickham Market station: Ipswich – Lowestoft line opened (1859) still operational

Water: River Alde: Navigable river to Snape bridge
River Ore

9. Population:

1086 — 39½ recorded

1327 — 29 taxpayers paid £2. 6s. 3d. (includes part of Tunstall)

1524 — 30 taxpayers paid £5. 5s. 6d.

1603 — 96 adults

1674 — 26 households

1676 — Not recorded

1801 — 373 inhabitants

1831 — 525 inhabitants

1851 — 577 inhabitants

1871 — 546 inhabitants

1901 — 536 inhabitants

1931 — 479 inhabitants

1951 — 342 inhabitants

1971 — 290 inhabitants

1981 — 237 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £10.

1291 Valued £13. 6s. 8d.

1535 Valued £20

1603 Valued £20. Incumbent also holds Rendlesham
 1831 Curate, stipend £50 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income
 £500 p.a. Incumbent also holds Ufford
 1835 Valued £498
 Tithes commuted for £538 p.a. (1841)
 1844 80 acres glebe and residence
 1912 Nett value £362. 84 acres glebe and residence

Patrons:

The King (1603), A. Arredectene (1831), A. Ingleby (1844), Rev. A.N. Bates (1912)

- 11. Church** St. Peter
 (Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)
- 12th cent. Fragment carved stone in west wall of nave
 14th cent. Chancel and nave
 15th cent. Tower and porch. W. doorway
 16th cent. Early 16th cent. Hammer beam and arch-braced collar
 roof
 1863 Restoration

Seats: 250 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

13. Manorial:

Blaxhall Hall al Ashe Bigots

Circa 1280 Thomas de Weyland owns (moiety of this manor held as
 of the Manor of Dunningworth) (linked to Chillesford,
 Buxhall, Middleton and Swilland)
 Passes by marriage and inheritance to
 Circa 1369 Sir Edward le Despencer (linked to Carlton Colville,
 Clopton, Middleton and Swilland)
 1638 William Saunders died seised
 1705 John Bence owns (linked to Cookley, Heveningham,
 Carlton and Kesale)
 Circa 1729 Dudley North owns (linked to Farnham)
 1909 Earl of Guildford owns

Sub-Manors:

Valence

1543 Sir William Willoughby owns (linked to Campsey Ash and
 Hacheston)
 1558 William Wheatcroft owns

1576 Francis Saunders owns
 1610 Sir Michael Stanhope owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
 1618 Dame Elizabeth Tollemache owns
 1650 John Brame owns (linked to Campsey Ash and Hacheston)
 Circa 1824 John Sheppard owns (possible links with Benhall)

14. Markets/Fairs

Early 20th cent. Ship Inn Fair held on Whitsun Wednesday

15. Real property:

1844 £2,203 rental value
 1891 £2,648 rateable value
 1912 £2,762 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 Hon. Mrs. S. North and the Trustees of J.W. Sheppard, principle owners
 1891/1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1844 Rev. E. Wade MA
 1891 Rev. H. Linthwaite MA

18. Occupations:

1550–1599 4 husbandmen, 5 yeomen, 1 tailor, 1 servant
 1600–1649 4 husbandmen, 7 yeomen, 1 labourer
 1650–1699 10 yeomen, 1 tailor, 1 clerk, 1 labourer
 1831 93 in agriculture, 18 in retail trade, 5 professionals, 6 in labouring, 23 in domestic service, 4 others
 1844 Joiner, blacksmith, victualler, cooper, 4 shoemakers, blacksmith, postman, tailor, 8 farmers
 1912 Sub-postmaster, school teacher, 8 farmers, surveyor of highways, blacksmith, publican, shoemaker, insurance agent, grocer/draper, farm bailiff, grocer, sheep dresser, hawker

19. Education:

1818 Original school reputedly situated on Mill Common
 70 attend day schools, 1 day school for the poor (35 attend)
 1833 2 daily schools (48/50 attend, 24 assisted places)
 National school built (1851), enlarged (1879), 120 attend (1891)

Public Elementary school built (1881) by John G. Sheppard, enlarged (circa 1912), average attendance (1912) 100, closed (circa 1976) converted to Youth Hostel (circa 1976)
 Children attend school in Snape and Tunstall (1976)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£95. 2s. 2d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£373. 14s. 3¼d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£575. 4s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£541. 8s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£602. 8s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£468. 9s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Garthwaite's Charity:

1652 Bequest of Thomas and Elizabeth Garthwaite: Messuage called Red Cross, Woodbridge let at £18 p.a. (1840) applied to provision of clothing for the poor

22. Other institutions:

1803 Friendly Society (45 members)
 Parish Room rebuilt (1911)
 Youth Hostel established in old school (circa 1976)

23. Recreation:

1844 THE SHIP public house (built circa 1700), reputedly involved in smuggling
 1891/1912 THE SHIP public house
 Football Club founded (circa 1970)

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

'Village Recordings' by G.E. Evans. Suffolk Review Vol. 1 p.37 contains snippets from pre World War I memories recorded by B.B.C.

'Ask the Fellows who cut the Hay' by G.E. Evans (1950's), contains map with field names

Blaxhall Stone: Mass of sandstone weighing about 5 tons. Situated at Stone Farm, believed to be an erratic deposited in this position during the Ice Age. Local tradition: the stone grows.

Tradition: Population virtually wiped out by Black Death (14th cent.) to be largely replaced by gipsies

Blaxhall Pits: formerly a quarry/old stone pit. Used for motor cycle scrambling (1976)

Archaeological Sites

Rom. Barrow (CRN 2419)

Un. Barrow (CRN 2420)

Rom. Pottery production site (CRN 2421)

Stray finds: Rom. Pottery (CRN 1272)

Pal. Handaxe (CRN 2423)

Scatter finds: B.A. pottery (CRN 2422)