

1. Parish: Butley

Meaning: Butta's clearing (Ekwall)

2. Hundred: Loes

Deanery: Wilford (- 1972), Woodbridge (1972 -)

Union: Plomesgate

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

Other administrative details:

Ecclesiastical boundary change (circa 1530) gains Capel St. Andrew Woodbridge Petty Sessional Division and County Court District

3. Area: 1,973 acres land, 5 acres water, 21 acres tidal water, 40 acres foreshore (1912)

4. Soils:

- Mixed:**
- a) Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid especially under heath or woodland, risk of waterlogging
 - b) Deep well drained sandy, often ferruginous soils, risk wind and water erosion
 - c) Deep stoneless calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, localized peat, flat land, risk of flooding

5. Types of farming:

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. Rotation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn and grass.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, turnips Mainly arable/dairying region
1969	Trist:	Dairying has been replaced by arable farming

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1958/79 Butley river forms natural boundary to the east. Small compact development close to border with Wantisden. Church situated separately half way between village and site of priory. Two secondary settlements at Butley Low Corner and Butley High Corner. Stonebridge Marshes occupy large portion of SE sector.
Few scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 20, 1801 – 56, 1851 – 76, 1871 – 82, 1901 – 73, 1951 – 77, 1981 – 72

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Wantisden, Capel St. Andrew and Eyke
1891 Carrier passes through to Woodbridge daily
1912 Carrier to Woodbridge Thursday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 3½ miles Wickham Market station: Wickham Market – Framlingham line opened (1859), closed for passengers (1952), closed for goods (1965)
Ipswich – Lowestoft line, opened (1859), still operational

Water: River Butley: formerly navigable (circa 1171). Butley Haven (16th cent.) when Stonebridge marshes were enclosed. Ferry formerly crossed between Butley and Gedgrave (16th cent.)
Lease for ferry house exists (1632).
River silted up (18th cent.)

9. Population:

1086 — 17½ recorded
1327 — 34 taxpayers paid £2. 17s. 10d. (includes part of Marlesford)
1524 — 29 taxpayers paid 17s. 10d.
1603 — 145 adults
1674 — 26 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 250 inhabitants
1831 — 356 inhabitants
1851 — 375 inhabitants
1871 — 369 inhabitants
1901 — 270 inhabitants
1931 — 306 inhabitants
1951 — 262 inhabitants
1971 — 195 inhabitants
1981 — 196 inhabitants

- 10. Benefice:** Perpetual Curacy (with Capel St. Andrew) Vicarage (1891)
- 1254 Valued £3. 6s. 8d.
 1291 Valued £3. 6s. 8d.
 Vicarage endowed with all its offerings, mills, vicarage house and meadow, 1 acre land adjoining + 20 acres church free land and all other small tithes except hay. Hay, great Tithes, glebe and Rectory Manor belong to Prior of Butley (1271)
- 1603 Curate, stipend £13.
 1831 No glebe house. Gross income £85 p.a.
 1844 Valued £88 p.a. Augmented by Queen Anne's Bounty
 1891 Valued £152
 1912 Joint nett value £110. 17½ acres glebe
- Patrons:** Trustees of P.J. Thellusson (1831), Lord Rendlesham (1912)

- 11. Church** St. John Baptist
 (Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

Norman N. & S. doorways, lower portion of tower, nave
 12th cent. Porch
 14th cent. Chancel, tower
 1867/68 Restoration

Seats: 176 (1915)

Other religious institutions:

Priory of the Blessed Virgin Mary

For Austin Friars (Black Canons)

Founded (1171) by Ranulph de Glanville
 Priory covered area of 20 acres. Illustration of Seal. Victoria County History Vol. II p.108
 Richly endowed with many possessions in Norfolk and Suffolk including at least 23 churches and chapels in Suffolk, 11 in Norfolk, 2 in Essex and 1 each in Lincolnshire and London + 14 manors, 2 rabbit warrens and 1 mill in Chesilford

1200 Consists of 36 canons
 1291 Valued £195
 1534 Valued £318. 17s. 2¾d. In relation to nett general income the priory stood second to Bury St. Edmunds in wealth

- Dissolved (1538) – list of household at this date found in Registrar or Chronicle of Butley Priory 1510 – 1535 Appendix I
- 1540 Granted to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk
Grounds has extended to 20 acres enclosed by wall. Extensive remains. Plan of church revealed by excavations (1930) of Norman crossing and transepts, square east chapels, chancel with chancel chapels, nave and aisles of 9 bays (13th cent.), east end rebuilt 914th cent.).
Stone for the building of the church brought from Yonne, France, by boat to wharf (which has also been excavated) situated 600 ft. from site.
Gatehouse remains virtually intact (14th cent.), heraldry dates it to (1320 – 1325).
Prior suspected of aiding escape of canon imprisoned for treason (1536). Prior initially refused to sign the surrender but was finally forced to dissolve the above.
- 1538 Contained 12 canons, 2 chaplains, church clerk, schoolmaster, 7 children kept on alms, 2 bedesmen and servants.
Ruins of east end of priory removed (early 19th cent.)

12. Nonconformity etc:

- 1912 Methodist chapel built (1835), new chapel built (1863) in front and adjoining the old chapel
Wesleyan chapel in existence

13. Manorial:

Butley/Brochons

- Circa 1180 Theobald de Valoines owns (linked to Campsey Ash)
1236 Sir William de Auberville owns (linked to Benhall) appears to have given manor of Butley Priory
1538 Thomas, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1544 William Forthe owns (linked to Boyton and Capel St. Andrew)
Circa 1785 William Strahan owns
1909 Lord Rendlesham owns (linked to Campsey Ash, Hacheston, Rendlesham, Boyton, Ramsholt, Capel St. Andrew)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£1,139 rental value
1891	£1,574 rateable value
1912	£1,316 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	Lord Rendlesham, principle owner
1891	Lord Rendlesham and A. Heywood, principle owners
1912	Lord Rendlesham and K.M. Clark, principle owners

17. Resident gentry:

1679	Walter Devereux
1844	Rev. S. Hobson LL.B.

18. Occupations:

1500-1549	1 yeoman
1550-1599	3 husbandmen, 2 yeomen
1600-1649	5 husbandmen, 7 yeomen, 1 carpenter
1650-1699	1 husbandmen, 3 yeomen, 1 miller, 1 blacksmith
1831	65 in agriculture, 14 in retail trade, 6 in domestic service, 5 others
1844	Grocer/drapery, blacksmith, boot/shoemaker, wheelwright/blacksmith, tailor, joiner, victualler, wheelwright, 6 farmers, corn miller
1912	Sub-postmaster, schoolmaster, blacksmith, 4 farmers, publican, carrier, grocer, miller, shopkeeper, builder/wheelwright, boot maker

19. Education:

	School maintained in Priory although without master (1494)
	Schoolmaster and 7 children kept in alms to learning (1538)
1833	2 daily schools (40 attend), 1 Sunday school (45 attend 1818), 70 attend (1833)
	School built (1842), enlarged (1886), average attendance (1912) 82

20. Poor relief:

1776	£65. 5s. 3d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£128. 11s. 7d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£339. 17s.	spent on poor relief

1830	£190. 4s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£227. 9s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£187. 2s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Poors Land

1731 by deed of Thomas Lynd. 1 acres let at £1. 5s. + rent of 10s. 6d. for small piece of land formerly occupied by workhouse/town house, distributed among poor persons at Christmas

22. Other institutions:

Guild of St. Trinity and St. John Baptist (1450)
 Workhouse/town house in existence (circa 1731),
 demolished by (1840)
 Village Hall opened (1950) by Earl of Cranbrook

23. Recreation:

1844 THE OYSTER public house – first recorded (1732)
 although part of interior is (circa 16th cent.)
 1891/1912 THE OYSTER INN public house
 Sports ground (1950)

24. Personal:

Michael de la Pole: interred in the church. Died during battle of Agincourt

25. Other information:

Parish contains extensive sandy heathland stretching westward towards Woodbridge which included large area open sheepwalks (1844)
 Priory Gatehouse: gatehouse (14th cent.) converted into large dwelling by George Wright (circa 1737), restored (circa 1841), became the vicars residence (- 1923)
 West side incorporates heraldic series.
 ‘Butley, Chillesford and Wantisden’ edited by A. Snell
 Priory woods opened annually to the public (circa 1950)
 ‘The Cottage in the Forest’ by Hugh Farmer (concerns Butley and Staverton Park)
 ‘Butley Priory, Suffolk’ Foundation Charter preserved at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge
 ‘The Register or Chronicle of Butley Priory 1510-1535’ edited by A.G. Dickens (1951). Apart from Introduction and footnotes this is in Latin.

- 'An Elizabethan Note on Tangham Manor' by N. Scarfe. Suffolk Review Vol. I p.104. Survey of (circa 1594) for Robert Forthe of Butley priory.
- 'A Graffito at St. John the Baptists Church, Butley' Suffolk Review New Series No.9 p.13
- 'The Earthwork near Butley' by H. St. George Gray
Staverton Park came into the possession of Butley Priory (1529)
- 'Staverton and Butley gateway' PSIA Vol. X p.71. contains plan and identification of shields on Priory Gateway (p.79)
- 'Butley Priory in the Hundred of Loes' by R.J. Day. PSIA Vol. IV p.405
- '14th cent. Rent Roll of Priory of Butley' East Anglian Notes and Queries Vol. XI p.1

Archaeological Sites

- I.A. Settlement (CRN 2581)
Med. Priory (CRN 2584)
Field system (CRN 2304, 3658)
Stray finds: Sax. Pottery (CRN 2582)
Brooch (CRN 1830)
Rom. Brooch (CRN 2302)
Med. Cauldron (CRN 2628)
B.A. pottery (CRN 2630)
Hoard (CRN 2676)
- Scatter finds: Sax. Metalwork (CRN 2583)
Pottery (CRN 359, 2617, 2624)
I.A. pottery (CRN 357, 2615, 2620, 2627, 2629, 360)
Rom. Pottery (CRN 358, 2303)
Coin (CRN 2616)
Metalwork (CRN 2621)
B.A. pottery (CRN 2614, 2619, 361)
Med. pottery (CRN 2618, 2622, 362, 2625)
Coin (CRN 2305)
PMed pottery (CRN 2626)
Coin (CRN 2321)