

1. Parish: Campsey Ash

Meaning: Island with a field or enclosure (it is possible Ash was formerly a separate place) (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Loes

Deanery: Loes

Union: Plomesgate

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

Other administrative details:

Ecclesiastical boundary change (1934)

Woodbridge Petty Sessional Division and County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,812 acres land, 13 acres water (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Deep fine loam soils, slowly permeable sub soils, slight seasonal waterlogging. Fine loam over clay or with sandy soils

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		11½ acres meadow, 2 mills, 2 cobs, 8 pigs, 20 sheep, 2 beehives
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.
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
1969	Trist:	Barley and sugar beet are the main cash crops with some rye grown on poorer lands and a little wheat, herbage seeds and carrots

6. **Enclosure:**

7. Settlement:

1958/80 Railway crosses parish NE-S. River Ore forms natural boundary to north. River Deben forms part of western boundary. Associated wetlands restrict development in these areas.
Small well spaced development close to rail station.
Church situated to east of rail line. Secondary settlement at Ash Corner.
Few scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 24, 1801 – 38, 1851 – 79, 1871 – 82, 1901 – 74, 1951 – 101, 1981 – 115

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Tunstall, Blaxhall, Wickham Market, Pettistree, Rendlesham, Hacheston and Marlesford
1891 Carrier to Woodbridge Monday, Thursday and Saturday Ipswich Saturday

Rail: 1891 Rail station (called 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: Rivers Ore and Deben

9. Population:

1086 — 24½ recorded
1327 — 28 taxpayers paid £1. 9s. 1d.
1524 — 11 taxpayers paid £1. 17s. 10d.
1603 — 123 adults
1674 — 34 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 327 inhabitants
1831 — 392 inhabitants
1851 — 371 inhabitants
1871 — 374 inhabitants
1901 — 345 inhabitants
1931 — 366 inhabitants
1951 — 351 inhabitants
1971 — 319 inhabitants
1981 — 334 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £13. 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £16. 13s. 4d.
The rector has 3 acres arable, valued 4s. 6d. p.a., rents of assize 3s. 6d., tythe of hay + ½ acre meadow belonging to the church £1. 18s., tythe of hemp and flax

	10s., tythe of milk and claves, hens, pigs £1 10s., tythe of apples 3d., profits of mortuaries and burials + other small oblations £4. 0s. 4d. (1340)
1535	Valued £14. 5s.
1674	Parsonage has 4/5 hearths
1831	Glebe house, gross income £350 p.a. Incumbent also hold Ashwicken with Leziate, Norfolk
1844	Tithes commuted for £432 p.a.
1891	9 acres glebe and residence
1912	Rectory house partly rebuilt (1907)
	Nett value £246. 9 acres glebe and residence
Patrons:	The King (1603), Trustees of Thelluson property (1831), Lord Rendlesham (1891)

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

14 th cent.	Tower, S. doorway
15 th cent.	Doorways
1792	Remainder of church rebuilt
1869	Chancel and porch faced with flints
1878	Chancel restored, gallery removed

Seats: 200 (1915)

Other religious institutions:

Chantry and College

For Austin nuns

Founded by Theobald de Valoines (1195)
Ash Collge founded by Maud de Lancaster, Countess of Ulster within same establishment (1348) for 5 chaplains.
Removed to Bruisyard (1354)

Nunnery: Blessed Virgin Mary

	Consisted of Prioress and 19 nuns
1291	Income valued £107. consisting of approx. 21 nuns
1534	Gross value £213. 0s. 5¼d. Dissolved (1536)
1543	Granted to Sir William Willoughby Remains exist within farm building

12. Nonconformity etc:

13. Manorial:

- 1066 Manor of 50 acres held by Brictrmer a free man of St. Etheldreda
1086 Manor of 50 acres belonging to Gilbert, Bishop of Evreux
1066 Manor of 60 acres held by Swarting and Edric free men under patronage of Edric of Laxfield
1086 Manor of 60 acres belonging to Hervey of Boulges

Campsey Manor

- 1293 John de Moese owns
Circa 1369 Bartholomew, Lord Berghesh owns (linked to Lt. Glemham, Carlton Colville, Clopton, Henley and Swilland). It is disputed whether this manor passed into the hands of Campsey Priory
1543 Sir William Willoughby owns (linked to Blaxhall and Hacheston)
1556 William Vesey owns (linked to Whatfield)
1565 William Hunwick owns
1569 John Bull owns (linked to Hacheston, Burston and Sproughton)

Sub-Manors:

Priory of Campsey

- 1203 Theobald de Valoines – gave to his sisters to found a nunnery (linked to Butley)
Joan de Valoines the first Prioress
Circa 1535 Sir William Willoughby owns (absorbed by main manor)
The two manors thereafter become completely confused

Morehall Hall

- Circa 1529 Richard Wentworthowns (linked to Lt. Blakenham)
Circa 1578 John Glover owns (linked to Frostenden)
1654 John Sheppard owns in which family it remained (1824)

Ash

- 1560 Lord Abergavenny owns
1604 Thomas, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
Circa 1640 John Braham/Brame owns (linked to Blaxhall and Hacheston)
1757 John Rivett owns (linked to Hacheston and Cretingham)

1909 Lord Rendlesham owns (linked to Butley, Hacheston, Rendlesham, Boyton, Ramsholt, Capel St. Andrew)

14. Markets/Fairs

Spears Saleyard and market opened (1922), stock, cattle and auctioned goods held on Monday

15. Real property:

1844 £2,656 rental value
1891 £3,218 rateable value
1912 £3,643 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844-1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1679 John Breme, Mr. Scott and John Sheppard
Edmund Sheppard, Sheriff of Suffolk (1689)
John Sheppard, High Sheriff of Suffolk (1709 and 1714)
John Sheppard, High Sheriff of Suffolk (1779 and 1798)
J.W. Sheppard, High Sheriff of Suffolk (1830)
1891 Hon. W. Lowther JP (Member of Parliament)
Hon. J. Lowther (Speaker of the House of Commons)
Rev. F.G.L. Lucas MA

18. Occupations:

1500-1549 1 yeoman, 1 nun
1550-1599 1 knacker, 2 husbandmen, 1 miller
1600-1649 2 yeomen, 1 cooper, 3 husbandmen
1650-1699 2 weavers, 7 yeomen, 1 brick burner, 1 clerk, 1 miller
1831 62 in agriculture, 19 in retail trade, 1 professional, 4 in labouring, 26 in domestic service, 4 others,
1844 Shopkeeper, boot/shoemaker, grocer/draper, schoolmistress, collar/harness maker, blacksmith, victualler, 2 corn millers, 9 farmers
Parish contained brick kilns
1912 Sub-postmaster, schoolmistress, station master, head gardener, 2 shopkeepers, 4 farmers, miller, shoeing/general smith, 2 farm bailiffs, publican, sanitary inspector, bookstall owner, boot maker, hotel owner

19. Education:

1818 1 day school (18 attend)
1833 1 daily school (15 attend)
1844 Schoolmistress recorded

1891 National school (70 attend), enlarged (1896), average attendance (1912) 54

20. Poor relief:

1776	£102. 12s. 8d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£217. 1s. 3d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£502. 15s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£450. 16s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£470. 4s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£398. 4s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Parish Estate:

1840 Messuage called Town House + two acres land let at £10 p.a.
Waste land (1 acres) with sand pit. Applied to repair and ornamentation of the church

22. Other institutions:

Town House: 2 tenements adjoining Pinsted Lane (1794)
Reading and Lecture room built (circa 1880) by J.G. Shepard.
The Iron Room: built as village ha;;, used as hospital (1914 – 18), church meeting room (1981)
Friendly society (41 members) (1803)

23. Recreation:

1844 THE BUCKS HEAD public house (mentioned in Terrier of 1794)
1891 THE BUCKS HEAD public house and THE TALBOT hotel (built circa 1860)
1912 Parish Library housed in parish rooms in the rectory grounds
THE BUCKS HEAD public house, closed (1950's), THE TALBOT hotel
Camping field (field name) possible site where medieval football was played
Cricket ground (20th cent.)

24. Personal:

Ralph de Ufford, buried at Priory (1347) as were other members of the Ufford family
The Lane family o Campsey Ash: Pedigree 1560 – 1711. Miscellanea Genealogica at Heraldica 5th Series Vol. 2 p.57

25. Other information:

Ash Abbey: remains of timber building relating to the college exists within the house. Modernised (1964). Remnants of Priory remain in the farm buildings.

6 stone coffins found (1843)

Park House: believed to be remains of the Chantry House attached to the Nunnery. Contained carved chimney piece dated (13th cent.)

High House: built (circa 1600) by John Glover, servant to Thomas, Earl of Norfolk, rebuilt in Elizabethan style (1865) by J.G. Shepard. Demolished (1950's). grounds contained bowling green edged by yew hedge planted (1667) and two tree lined avenues of lime and elm. Park covered 175 acres stocked with deer (1891)

'Collection towards the History and Antiquities of Elmswell and Campsey Ash' Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica No.52 p.21 (1614)

Parish contains disused decoy (1614)

Seal of Priory illustrated in Victoria County History Vol. II p.126

Water mill attached to Ash Abbey contains remnants of the Abbey as does the large barn. Mill in use (- 1950)

'P'oratus de Campsey' (inventory made at Dissolution). PSIA Vol. VIII p.113

'Excavation at Campsey Ash Priory 1970' by D. Sherlock. PSIA Vol. 32 p.122

'Medieval Floor-tiles from Campsey Ash Priory' by L. Keen. PSIA Vol.32 p.140

'Campsey Ash: Deben Valley Place Names' (1977)

Aysshe Green recorded (1433)

Ice house to hold 200 tons of ice, 21' deep in existence (1883)

Not: Aysshe: 1524 – 24 taxpayers recorded paying £5. 16s. 4d.

Archaeological Sites

Med Priory (CRN 7)

Stray finds: Pal. Handaxe (CRN 6)

Rom. Coin (CRN 9)

Bowl (CRN 10)

Sax, coin (CRN 11)

Scatter finds: Rom. Pottery (CRN 608)