

1. Parish: Charsfield

Meaning: Field near to river (possibly called the Cear) (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Loes

Deanery: Loes

Union: Woodbridge

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

Other administrative details:

Woodbridge Petty Sessional Division and County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,358 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a) Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
- b) Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay soils
- c) Deep fine loam soils, slowly permeable subsoils, slight seasonal waterlogging. Fine loam over clay or with sandy soils

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		13½ acres meadow
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Wood-pasture region, mainly pasture, meadow, engaged in rearing and dairying with some pig-keeping, horse breeding and poultry. Crops mainly barley with some wheat, rye, oats, peas, vetches, hops and occasionally hemp
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, beans, barley, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1958 Roman road crosses parish E-SW
Small compact development. Central church. Secondary settlements at Magpie Street and Boardy Green.
Few scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 27, 1801 – 50, 1851 – 116, 1871 – 108,
1901 – 98, 1951 – 110, 1981 – 116

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Hoo, Dallinghoo, Clopton and Monewden
1891 Carriers to Woodbridge daily
to Ipswich Tuesday, Friday and Saturday
1912 Carriers to Ipswich Tuesday and Saturday
to Woodbridge Monday, Thursday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 5 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

9. Population:

1086 — 117 recorded
1327 — 24 taxpayers paid £2. 9s. 10d. (includes Letheringham)
1524 — 19 taxpayers paid £2. 4s.
1603 — 132 adults
1674 — 44 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 411 inhabitants
1831 — 558 inhabitants
1851 — 511 inhabitants
1871 — 457 inhabitants
1901 — 412 inhabitants
1931 — 416 inhabitants
1951 — 325 inhabitants
1971 — 316 inhabitants
1981 — 353 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy (1831) Vicarage (1891)

1254 Valued £10
1291 Valued £8
Anciently appropriated to Letheringham Priory
1535 Not recorded
1603 Valued £9
1831 No glebe house. Gross income £66 p.a. (£27 from Queen Anne Bounty)
1844 Ancient residence called the Rectory House. Old Parsonage pulled down (1861)
Tithes commuted for £160

1891 Residence built (1862-63)
 Valued £190
 1912 Nett value £84. 20 acres glebe and residence
 Incumbent also holds Hoo, Debach, Dallinghoo,
 Monewden and Letheringham

Patrons: Earl Howe (1831), E.G. Hodgson (1912)

11. Church St. Peter
 (Continuous nave and chancel, S. porch, W. tower)

1086 36 acres belonging to the church, valued 3s.
 Norman Windows in nave
 13th cent. Window in chancel
 14/15th cent. Main structure
 16th cent. Porch

Seats: 120 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

Baptist chapel built (1808) with burial ground attached
 (1912)
 Circa 1644 Robert Large, curate of Charsfield, Hoo and
 Letheringham ejected by Suffolk Committee for
 Scandalous Ministers

13. Manorial:

Charsfield Manor

11th cent. held by Roger Bigot as of Framlingham Castle (linked to
 Hacheston and Framlingham)
 13th cent. William de Weyland owns (linked to Westerfield)
 1546 Edmund Bedingfield owns (linked to Knettishall,
 Kedington, Martlesham, Grundisburgh, Denham,
 Fressingfield and Laxfield)
 1613 Sir John Leman owns (linked to Framlingham, Brampton,
 Shotley and Stradbroke)
 Circa 1735 William Jennens owns
 1909 Earl Howe owns (linked to Newton, Cavendish and Acton)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £1,903 rental value
 1891 not recorded

- 1912 £1,498 rateable value
- 16. Land ownership:**
- 1844 Not recorded
1891/1912 Land sub-divided
- 17. Resident gentry:**
- 1679 John Lemman and George Starling
1891 Capt. J.C. Pengelly-Manuel
1912 Rev. D.H. Medcalf MA
- 18. Occupations:**
- 1500-1549 1 husbandman
1550–1599 4 yeomen, 1 tailor, 2 husbandmen, 1 carpenter, 1 point maker, 1 twill weaver
1600–1649 9 yeomen, 1 weaver, 2 husbandmen, 1 millwright, 1 clerk
1650–1699 7 yeomen, 1 tailor, 1 carpenter, 2 wheelwrights, 1 blacksmith, 1 linen weaver
1831 95 in agriculture, 35 in retail trade, 13 in domestic service, 4 others
1844 Grocer/draper, boot/shoemaker, collar/harness maker, tailor, bricklayer/beerhouse keeper, wheelwright, bricklayer, victualler, blacksmith, joiner, shopkeeper, 2 corn millers, 2 butchers, 13 farmers
1912 Sub-postmaster, schoolmistress, shopkeeper, nurseryman, miller, 13 farmers, farm bailiff, publican, 2 builder/contractors, 3 shopkeepers, boot/shoemaker, blacksmith, 2 carriers, hawker, 2 market gardeners, fishmonger, 2 cycle agents, asst. overseer, grocer, thatcher, dressmaker, builder, saddler
- 19. Education:**
- 1818 1 day school (30 attend)
1833 1 daily school (20 attend)
Parochial school built (1863), 50 attend (1891), average attendance (1912) 54. To be closed (1987) and children transferred to Wickham Market
- 20. Poor relief:**
- 1776 £93. 16s. 1d. spent on poor relief
1803 £199. 16s. 7d. spent on poor relief
1818 £551. 19s. spent on poor relief
1830 £367. 9s. spent on poor relief
1832 £411. 8s. spent on poor relief
1834 £463. 10s. spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Kersey's Gift

1816 by will of Joseph Kersey. Interest on £800 (dividends of £33. 6s. 1d. (1840)) distributed in bread or coals among the poor of Charsfield, Dalinghoo, Marlesford and Earl Soham.

22. Other institutions:

Village Hall built (1927)

23. Recreation:

1844 1 beerhouse, THE HORSESHOE public house
1887 THE ROYAL WILLIAM public house and beerhouse
1891/1912 THE THREE HORSESHOES public house
Tennis Club (1930's)

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

The book 'Akenfield: Portrait of an English Village' by Ronald Blythe is largely based on this parish.

Newly erected post mill (1810), post mill demolished (1919)

'Charsfield: Deben Valley Place Names' (1977)

Steam engine exploded killing 3 (1863)

Charsfield Hall: Grade II listed (16th cent.)

Potsford Brook: area of oldest known settlement in parish

Hemplands recorded

Archaeological Sites

Med. moated sites (CRN 3261, 3262)

Causewayed ring ditches (CRN 3480, 3481)

Stray finds: Pal. Knife (CRN 3263)

Neo. Stone hammer (CRN 3264)

Scatter finds: Med. pottery (CRN 3260)

Rom. Coin (CRN 1809, 2935)