

# 1. Parish: Chillesford

**Meaning:** Gravel ford (Ekwall)

## 2. Hundred: Plomesgate

**Deanery:** Orford ( -1914), Wilford (1914-1972), Woodbridge (1972-)

**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:

1,850 acres land, 2 acres water, 4 acres tidal water, 16 acres foreshore (1912)

## 4. Soils:

- Mixed:**
- a) Deep well drained sandy often ferruginous soils, risk wind and water erosion
  - b) 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 element 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:	Barley, oats Mainly arable/dairying region
1969	Trist:	Dairying has been replaced by arable farming

## 6. Enclosure:

**7. Settlement:**

1958 Butley river forms part of SW boundary. Tunstall wood intrudes quite extensively into northern sector of parish and Wantisden Heath intrudes into western sector. Small dispersed settlement. Church situated to west of development.  
Few scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 3, 1801 – 15, 1851 – 43, 1871 – 48, 1901 – 46, 1951 – 54, 1981 – 48

**8. Communications:**

Road: Roads to Tunstall, Orford and Butley  
1912 Carriers pass through from Orford to Woodbridge daily (except Wednesday)  
Carriers pass through to Ipswich Wednesday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 5½ miles Wickham Market station: Ipswich – Lowestoft line, opened (1859), still operational

Water: River Butley: formerly navigable (circa 1171). Butley Haven formerly accessible from the sea. River silted up (18<sup>th</sup> cent.)

**9. Population:**

1086 — 9 recorded  
1327 — 17 taxpayers paid £1. 16s. (includes Iken and Donigworth)  
1524 — 5 taxpayers paid £2. 5s. 6d.  
1603 — 19 adults  
1674 — 4 households  
1676 — Not recorded  
1801 — 154 inhabitants  
1831 — 179 inhabitants  
1851 — 203 inhabitants  
1871 — 221 inhabitants  
1901 — 216 inhabitants  
1931 — 191 inhabitants  
1951 — 173 inhabitants  
1971 — 161 inhabitants  
1981 — 136 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

1254 Valued £4  
1291 Valued £5  
1535 Valued £5. 3s. 4d.  
1831 Curate, stipend £80 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation. Gross income £300 p.a. Incumbent also holds vicarage of Darsham  
1835 Valued £295

1891 Residence built (1848)  
Valued £355. incumbent also holds Wantisden  
1912 Nett value £199. 9 acres glebe and residence

**Patrons:** Lord Abergavenny (1603), Mrs. C.S. Smear (1831), Rev. J. Dening (1844), Maj. Gen. Westropp (1912)

**11. Church** St. Peter  
(Chancel nave, S. porch, W. tower)

1086 Church + 5 acres free land  
14/15<sup>th</sup> cent. Main structure  
1860 Porch restored  
1949 Re-roofed and restored

Seats: 100 (1915)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

**13. Manorial:**

1066 Manor of 80 acres held by Ulf, a free man under patronage of Abbot of Ely  
1086 Manor of 80 acres belonging to Count Alan  
1280 Sir Thomas de Weyland owns (linked to Blaxhall, Buxhall, Middleton and Swilland)  
Circa 1381 Robert de Ufford owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)  
Circa 1405 John de Staverton owns, who granted it to Butley Priory.  
1539 Thomas Wriothesley owns  
1567 John Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick owns  
Circa 1586 John Soone owns  
1621 Sir Michael Stanhope died seised (linked to numerous manor throughout Suffolk)  
1740 Price Deverux owns (linked to Orford)  
1753 Francis Seymour Conway, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Hertford owns (linked to Gedgrave, Iken and Orford)  
1855 Arthur Heywood owns (linked to Hacheston)  
Circa 1896 Arthur H.E. Wood owns (linked to Orford)  
1909 K.M. Clark owns (linked to Gedgrave and Iken)

**Sub-Manors:**

**Russell's**

1212 William Russell owns  
Circa 1535 William Waller owns (linked to Falkenham and Shottisham)

1629 John Haughfen owns  
 Circa 1637 William Baker owns  
 1772 Francis Seymour Conway owns (absorbed by main manor)

**14. Markets/Fairs**

**15. Real property:**

1844 £1,514 rental value  
 1891 £1,336 rateable value  
 1912 £1,212 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

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

**17. Resident gentry:**

1891 Rev. B.J.S. Pattrick BA  
 1912 Rev. H.A. Westropp BA

**18. Occupations:**

1550–1599 1 yeoman, 1 husbandman  
 1600–1649 1 yeoman, 1 weaver  
 1650–1699 1 yeoman  
 1831 38 in agriculture, 6 in domestic service  
 1844 2 farmers, teacher, farm bailiff, shoemaker  
 1912 Large steam and water mill. Brick making.  
 School teacher, 2 shopkeepers, farm manager, farm bailiff, stock manager and miller

**19. Education:**

1844 Boarding school run by Sophia Dykes  
 School built (1857), average attendance (1891) 45,  
 average attendance (1912) 35

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£34. 6s. 4d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£97. 0s. 10d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£139. 1s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£220. 11s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£240. 13s	spent on poor relief
1834	£221. 15s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

**Sir M. Stanhope's Charity:**

1618 by deed of Sir Michael Stanhope: £5 p.a. distributed among parish poor

**22. Other institutions:**

**23. Recreation:**

FROIZE/FRIARS INN in existence (1734) known as Decoy House (private dwelling (1950))

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

Chillesford Lodge built (1875)

Decoy for wild fowl situated close to river, dates from (circa 1800), covers 20 acres (2 acres open water) (1891)

'Butley, Chillesford and Wantisden' by A. Snell

Carlton Mill (water), built (1530). Water mill still in existence (1908)

Windmill also existed on high ground, reputedly acted as land-mark for vessels using Orford Haven. Burned down (20<sup>th</sup> cent.)

Printed Parish Registers (1740-1876)

Friars Walk: ancient pathway leading to Gedgrave and Orford

'A Collared urn of the early Middle Bronze Age from Chillesford' by E. Owles and N. Smedley. PSIA Vol.31 p.108

**Archaeological Sites**

B.A. Barrow (CRN 2480)

Un. Barrow (CRN 2481, 2483, 2484)

Stray finds: Rom. Coin (CRN 2482)

Brooch (CRN 4098)

I.A. pottery (CRN 4096)

Neo. Worked flint (CRN 2221)

Scatter finds: Rom. Pottery (CRN 4097)