

1. Parish: Farnham

Meaning: Meadow/enclosure where ferns grew (Ekwall)

2. Hundred: Plomesgate

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

Union: Plomesgate

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

Other administrative details:

Blything Petty Sessional Division
Framlingham and Saxmundham County Court District

3. Area: 1,199 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

- Mixed:**
- a) Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid, especially under heath or in woodland, risk of wind erosion
 - b) Deep peat soils associated with clay over sandy soils, in part very acid, high groundwater levels, risk of flooding.

5. Types of farming:

1086		21 acres meadow, 2 mills
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Problems of acidity and trace elements deficiencies. Sheep corn region, where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.
1804	Young:	“This corner of Suffolk practices better husbandry than elsewhere...”. Identified as a 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, beans, peas. Mainly arable/dairying region.
1969	Trist:	Dairying has been replaced with arable farming.

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1975/83 Railway crosses parish N-SW. Rivers form natural boundaries to the south, east and west. Associated wet lands restrict development in these areas. Extremely small development close to river crossing at Stratford Bridge and close to northern boundary. Church situated at southern edge of settlement. Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 12, 1801 – 23, 1851 – 43, 1871 – 44, 1901 – 39, 1951 – 46, 1981 – 33

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Benhall, Stratford St. Andrew and Blaxhall.
1891 Carriers pass through to Woodbridge.
Rail: 1891 3 miles Saxmundham station: Saxmundham-Leiston-Aldeburgh line opened (1859), line to Aldeburgh closed for goods (1959), closed for passengers (1966), spur from Saxmundham-Leiston still operational. Ipswich-Lowestoft line opened (1859), still operational.
1912 3½ miles Marlesford station: Wickham Market-Framlingham line opened (1859), closed for passengers (1952), closed for goods (1965).
Water: River Alde: navigable river to Snape Bridge.

9. Population:

1086 — 19 recorded
1327 — 42 taxpayers paid £3. 12s. 7d. (includes Benhall and Saxmundham)
1524 — 9 taxpayers paid 18s. 8d.
1603 — 45 adults
1674 — 18 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 216 inhabitants
1831 — 216 inhabitants
1851 — 195 inhabitants
1871 — 172 inhabitants
1901 — 136 inhabitants
1931 — 198 inhabitants
1951 — 162 inhabitants
1971 — 123 inhabitants
1981 — 101 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Donative (1603) Perpetual Curacy (1831) Vicarage (1912)

1254	Valued £2
1291	Valued £2
1535	Not recorded
1597	No incumbent. Living served by lay preacher.
1603	Curate has m£4 from Sir Henry Glemham
1831	Curate, stipend £80 p.a. No glebe house. Gross income £79 p.a. Parsonage house built (1842)
1891	8 acres land and residence
1912	Nett value £78. 8 acres glebe and residence.

Patrons:

Mrs. Longs (1831), W. Long (1844), W.E. Long (1912)

**11. Church St. Mary
(Chancel, nave, tower)**

Norman	Windows in north and south walls
14 th cent.	Chancel
1643	Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) removed popish inscriptions in brass
1883	Restoration
1982	Redundant

Seats: 150 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1606 3 recusant papists

13. Manorial:

12 th cent.	Sir Robert de Sankville/Sackville held of the Honor of Eye (linked to Braiseworth, Cotton, Falkenham and Brockford)
1171	Ralph de Glanville owns, he gave it to Butley priory (linked to Benhall and Gedgrave)
1513	Sir John Glemham owns (linked to Little Glemham)
Circa 1682	Sir Dudley North owns (linked to Blaxhall)
1789	Dudley Long owns

Sub-Manors:

Claydon

14th cent. William de Claydon owns (linked to Orford)

1428 John Glemham owns (subsequently absorbed by main manor)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £960 rental value
1891 £1,681 rateable value
1912 £2,103 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844-1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1891 Rev. E. Apthorpe MA and Capt. T. Ashburnham
1912 Rev. E. Apthorpe MA and Lt. Col. J.C. Ravis

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 yeoman
1550-1599 1 yeoman, 1 husbandman, 1 labourer
1600–1649 2 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 blacksmith, 1 weaver, 1 clerk
1650–1699 7 yeomen, 1 maltster, 1 husbandman, 1 blacksmith, 1 weaver, 1 spinster
1831 33 in agriculture, 10 in retail trade, 1 professional, 1 in labouring, 12 in domestic service, 8 others
1844 2 farmers, blacksmith, shopkeeper, machine maker/wheelwright, victualler, boot/shoemaker
1912 Sub-postmaster, 2 pork butchers, 5 farmers, publican/blacksmith/wheelwright, grocer/drapers

19. Education:

1818 1 Sunday school (41 attend). Some attend school at Stratford St. Andrew.
1833 1 infant day school (10 attend)
1891 Children attend school at Benhall and Stratford St. Andrew
1912 Children attend school at Stratford St. Andrew.

20. Poor relief:

1776	£19. 3s. 5d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£171. 12s. 8d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£501. 7s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£350. 6s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£312. 16s.	spent on poor relief

1834 £247. 3s. spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

1776 Workhouse with six inmates.

23. Recreation:

1844 The George Inn public house
1891/1912 The George and Dragon public house

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

1844 2 cases of incendiarism causing damage to workshops
valued £604.

Archaeological Sites

Rom. Bath house (CRN 2352)

Stray finds: B.A. bead (CRN 2351)
 Socketed axe (CRN 2353)
 Rom. Pottery (CRN 2354, 2359)
 Neo. Worked flint (CRN 2355)
 Axe (CRN 2356, 2357)
 Pottery (CRN 2358)