

1. Parish: Friston

Meaning: The homestead/village of the Frisians (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 DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Abolished ecclesiastically (1785) to create Friston with Snape
Civil boundary change (1934), gains part of Hazelwood
Blything Petty Sessional Division
Framlingham and Saxmundham County Court District

3. Area: 1,732 acres land, 5 acres inland water, 10 acres tidal water, 124 acres foreshore (1912)

4. Soils:

- Mixed:**
- a) Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid especially under heath or in woodland, risk wind erosion
 - b) Deep well drained sand and coarse loam soils, some slowly permeable subsoils, slight risk seasonal waterlogging

5. Types of farming:

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 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, peas, beans, roots. Mainly arable/dairying region
1969	Trist:	Dairying has been replaced by arable farming

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1977 River Alde forms natural boundary to the south. Parish of irregular shape. The southern sector comprises largely of mudflats, marshland, wood, few scattered farms, secondary settlement along the Aldeburgh Road and a portion of Knodishall village (which intrudes across northern boundary). This sector is joined to the northern sector by a narrow funnel of land. The northern sector widens beyond the funnel and gradually narrows again to a point. It comprises mainly of scattered farms. Friston village is small and compact situated at northern end of the funnel and intrudes over the boundary into Knodishall. The church is situated to north of settlement on boundary with Knodishall.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 30, 1801 – 40, 1851 – 114, 1871 – 102, 1901 – 109, 1951 – 207, 1981 – 229

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Sternfield, Knodishall, Aldeburgh and Snape
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
Water: River Alde: navigable river to Snape Bridge.

9. Population:

1086 — Not recorded
1327 — 36 taxpayers paid £2. 0s. 3d. (includes Snape)
1524 — 15 taxpayers paid £2. 12s. 16d.
1603 — 71 adults
1674 — 33 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 299 inhabitants
1831 — 466 inhabitants
1851 — 500 inhabitants
1871 — 400 inhabitants
1901 — 431 inhabitants
1931 — 465 inhabitants
1951 — 647 inhabitants
1971 — 625 inhabitants
1981 — 611 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage (with Snape)

1254	Valued £5. 6s. 8d.
1291	Valued £5. 6s. 8d. Given to Butley Priory by Ranulph Glanville
1535	Valued £5
1597	Incumbent also holds Snape and Freston
1603	Valued £5. Incumbent also holds Snape
1831	No glebe house. Gross income £194 p.a. Incumbent also holds vicarage of Aldeburgh
1844	2 acres glebe
1891	Incumbent resides in Snape. Tithes commuted for £129. 4s. 10d.
1912	Joint nett value £195. 2½ acres glebe.

Patrons:

R.H.W. Vyse (1831), Col. T.H. Vyse (1844), Commander Vernon-Wentworth (1912)

**11. Church St. Mary
(continuous chancel and nave, S. porch, W. tower)**

12 th cent.	S. doorway
14 th cent.	Tower
1597	Chancel is in some decay
1899-1900	Restorations
1901-05	Restorations

Seats: 200 (1912)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1597	Incumbent does not wear surplice Baptist chapel built (1830) seats 350
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13. Manorial:

-1524	Property of Snape Priory
1524	Cardinal Wolsey owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1532	Thomas, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
Circa 1532	Passed to Michael Hall who sold it to Sir James Bacon
Circa 1696	Sir Henry Johnson owns (linked to Aldeburgh) passed by marriage and inheritance to
1754	William Wentworth
Circa 1799	Richard William Howard Vyse owns

1909 Commander F.C.U. Vernon-Wentworth owns (linked to Aldeburgh and Hazelwood)

Sub-manors:

Becklings/Blecking Hall/Blicking

1308 Moriell Blanche owns
Circa 1385 Michael de la Pole owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
18th cent. Early 18th cent. Sir Samuel Clarke owns (linked to Freckenham)
Mid 18th cent. Thomas Wentworth owns (linked to Hazelwood) (subsequently absorbed into main manor)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £1,233 rental value
1891 £1,936 rateable value
1912 £1,822 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891 Land sub-divided
1912 Commander F.C.U. Vernon-Wentworth, principle owner

17. Resident gentry:

1674 Thomas Bacon occupies house with 20 hearths
1679 Thomas Bacon
1891 Col. C. Sewell
1912 N.A. Heywood JP and Commander F.C.U. Vernon-Wentworth RN, DL, JP

18. Occupations:

1550–1599 2 husbandmen
1600–1649 3 husbandmen, 2 yeomen, 1 linen weaver
1650–1699 1 clerk, 1 rector, 4 yeomen, 1 linen weaver
1831 74 in agriculture, 17 in retail trade, 3 professionals, 11 in labouring, 10 in domestic service, 4 others
1844 2 tailors, 2 blacksmiths, schoolmaster, wheelwright, corn miller, 2 shoemakers, victualler, 9 farmers
1891 Alva (silk alva) (a kind of seaweed) obtained from River Alde and used by upholsterers
1912 Sub-postmaster, school teachers, 9 farmers, 4 grocers, wheelwright/carpenter, corn dealer, farm bailiff, insurance

agent, head gamekeeper, blacksmith, publican, estate carpenter, miller

19. Education:

1818 2 dames schools (33 attend)
1833 1 daily school established (1827) (30 attend)
1 Sunday school for Particular Baptists established (1832) (130 attend)
1844 Schoolmaster recorded
1891 Infant schoolmistress recorded
Infants school built by Col. H. Vyse (date unknown), used as parish room (1912)
Public Elementary school built (1895), average attendance (1912) 97

20. Poor relief:

1776	£64. 14s. 10d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£122. 6s. 6d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£528. 3s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£645. 17s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£742. 15s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£737. 14s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Lambert's Charity:

1802 by codicil of Rev. John Lambert: Interest on £200 distributed at Christmas to poor housekeepers. Dividends of £7. 10s. p.a. distributed among poor persons not receiving relief (1840)

Gannon's Charity:

1912 Bequest of Miss Gannon. Interest on £200 distributed in coal and blankets to the poor.

22. Other institutions:

Working Mens Association (circa 1839) held at Chequers Inn

23. Recreation:

1844/1912 The Chequers public house

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Parish contains open moor of 60 acres (1844)

Friston Hall: built (16th cent.) by Michael Hare, rebuilt (circa 1696) by Sir Henry Johnson.

Chartism: Parish become known as 'The Suffolk Metropolis of Chartism'. Local shopkeeper named Hearn worked to create a centre of Chartist beliefs within the village community (circa 1839). The Chequers Inn became centre for meetings of Working Mens Association, delegates from the village and the surrounding area. 1st large rally for farm workers held in the village, attended by 1,000 persons (1839/40).

The following meeting held on Boxing Day, was the largest ever held (approximately 5,000 believed to have attended) in the region in support of Chartist ideals.

'Chartism in Essex and Suffolk' by A.F.J. Brown.

Parish said to contain disused decoy. Victoria County History Vol. II p.373

Archaeological Sites

Stray finds: Rom. pottery (CRN 2379)

Med. seal (CRN 2381)

Scatter finds: Rom. settlement (CRN 2378)

Neo. worked flint (CRN 2380)