

# 1. Parish: Hoxne

**Meaning:** Heel sinew (relates to shape of the spur of land being similar to that of a horse's hoof)

2. **Hundred:** Hoxne

**Deanery:** Hoxne

**Union:** Hoxne (1835–1907), Hartismere (1907–1930)

**RDC/UDC:** (E. Suffolk) Hoxne RD (1894–1934), Hartismere RD (1934–1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1884  
Ecclesiastical boundary change 1935  
Hoxne Petty Sessional Division  
Eye County Court District

3. **Area:** 4,031 acres land, 25 acres water (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  
c. Deep fine loam soils with slowly permeable subsoils, slight seasonal waterlogging, some fine/coarse loam over clay. Some deep well drained coarse loam over clay, fine loam and sand.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		40 acres meadow, wood for 250 pigs, 2 mills, 2 cobs, 12 cattle, 80 pigs, 17 sheep, 40 goats.
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, barley, beans, peas.
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

**6. Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1958 River Waveney forms natural boundary to north.  
Oakley Park extends into parish covering considerable area in western sector.  
Small compact development on eastern ridge of park, situated between church and Swan bridge, known as Low Street.  
Secondary settlement at Cross Street (close to site of Hoxne Priory), Heckfield Green, South Green and Green Street.  
Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:**

1674 – 91, 1801 – 132, 1951 – 265, 1981 – 244, 1901 – 202, 1951 – 230, 1981 – 283

**8. Communications:**

Road: Roads to Oakley, Syleham, Wingfield, Denham and Eye  
1891 Carrier to Diss Tuesday and Friday (also 1912)

Rail: 1891 3½ miles Eye station: Mellis–Eye line, opened 1865, closed for passengers 1931, closed for goods 1964

Water: River Waveney: Act passed to make Waveney navigable 1670, decline marked beginning of rail travel 1852

**9. Population:**

1086 – 76 recorded  
1327 – 123 taxpayers paid £8 6s.1d. (includes Denham)  
1524 – 126 taxpayers paid £10 19s. 2d.  
1603 – 360 adults  
1674 – 127 households  
1676 – Not recorded  
1801 – 972 inhabitants  
1831 – 1,243 inhabitants  
1851 – 1,262 inhabitants  
1871 – 1,090 inhabitants  
1901 – 838 inhabitants  
1931 – 744 inhabitants  
1951 – 742 inhabitants  
1971 – 626 inhabitants  
1981 – 717 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Vicarage (with Denham)(1831)**

1254 Not recorded

1291	To vicar of Hoxne £6 13s. 4d.
1535	Valued £12 3s. 6½d.
1831	Glebe house, joint gross income £480 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Little Cheney, Dorset Joint value £450 p.a. 1835
1844	Neat residence near church Great tithes commuted 1843. Vicarial tithes commuted at same time for £405 p.a.
1891	18 acres glebe Separated from Denham c.1891 Fee-farm rents (£5 3s. 6d. p.a.) paid for use of Hoxne Church since early date (known as Hallowmas Rents)
1912	Nett value £220. 18 acres glebe and residence
Patrons:	Lady Southwell (1603), Sir E. Kerrison (1831), Lady Bateman (1891)

**11. Church: Saints Peter and Paul**

1086	Church
1101	Granted to Norwich Cathedral Priory
14/15 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Main structure
1644	Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) removed 2 stone crosses and several pictures, defaced font
1700	Licence granted to build gallery although this never seems to have been added
1740	N. chapel built
1879/1880	Chancel and vestry rebuilt
1970	Tower restored, its pinnacles removed

Seats: 364 (1915)

**Free Chapel** for ease of inhabitants 1546. No incumbent. Yearly value 11s. 4d.

**Chapel of St Edmund** 1459

**11a. Other religious institutions:**

**Saxon Monastery: St Aethelberht**

Only evidence of existence is in will of Theodred, Bishop of London and Elmham. Bequest of land at Horham to minister/church at Hoxne AD 950. Possibly formed part of Bishops Palace.

**Hoxne Priory: God and St Edmund the King and Martyr**

Benedictine monks: cell of Norwich Cathedral Priory.

Believed originally chapel built over site of St Edmund's martyrdom – although this is a controversial and unsubstantiated belief.

- c.1066 Chapel of St Edmund rebuilt and given as convent by Maurice of Windsor  
1101 Given to Cathedral Priory by Bishop Herbert de Lozinga  
1226 Building completed, Prior and 7/8 monks  
c.1535 Valued approximately £40  
1538 Dissolved  
Foundations and boundary wall remain  
Note: 1291 Temporals valued 14s. 11<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d.

### **Secular College**

- 1040 Founded by persons unknown  
1072? Dissolved

### **12. Nonconformity etc:**

Baptist chapel built 1843, enlarged (no date), seats 500  
Plymouth Brethren meeting house 1912  
Minister ejected by Suffolk Committee for Scandalous Ministers 1644

### **13. Manorial:**

#### **Hoxne Manor**

- 1066 Manor of 9 carucates held by Bishop Aelmer  
1086 Manor of 9 carucates belonging to William, Bishop of Thetford, valued £20  
1087/88 Vested in Hubert, Bishop of Norwich  
1536 Charles Brandon owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)  
Reputedly held the Episcopal palace, the rectory and the advowson of the vicarage, all valued £92. 19s.  
1543 Sir Robert Southwell owns (linked to Holbrook)  
1621 Alexander Prescott owns (linked to Wingfield)  
c.1704 William Maynard owns (linked to Wingfield)  
1817 Matthias Kerrison owns (linked to Denham, Wingfield, Braiseworth, Brome, Eye, Yaxley and Thelnetham)  
1909 Lady Bateman owns (linked to Denham, Horham, Stradbroke, Wingfield and Thelnetham)

#### **Sub-manors:**

#### **Hoxne Priory/Late Priory of St Edmunds**

- 1538 Lands of St Edmunds Priory  
1538 Sold by Prior Castleton to Sir Richard Gresham (linked to Combs)

1544 Sir Robert Southwell owns (absorbed by main manor)  
 late 16<sup>th</sup> cent. John Thurston owns (probably built manor house from  
 demolished priory) (linked to Southolt and Worlingworth)  
 c.1640 Sir John Prescott owns (re-absorbed by main manor)

**14. Markets/Fairs:**

Market in existence pre 1066 held on Saturday on Bishops estates.  
 1086 Removed to Friday but in decline due to market  
 established by Robert Malet at Eye (held on Saturday)  
 Grant of market 1227 and Fair 1232  
 1619 Fair held on St Lawrence's Day (August) and St  
 Edmund's Day (November)  
 1759 Fair held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> for Scotch cattle  
 1792 Fair held on December 1<sup>st</sup> and lasted for one month  
 1844 Fair for chapmen on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Formerly held cattle  
 fair on same day (removed to Harleston, Norfolk 1780)  
 1891 Fair held on December 1st

**15. Real property:**

1844 £6,345 rental value  
 1891 £ 5,543 rateable value  
 1912 £ 4,280 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844 Land sub-divided  
 1891 Lady Bateman, F.E. Frere and small owners  
 1912 Land sub-divided

**17. Resident gentry:**

1679 John Thurston  
 1844 Rev. J. Hodgson MA, N. Scott, C. Smithies, Lt. Gen. Sir  
 E. Kerrison, and E.C. Kerrison  
 1912 Rev. W.A. Duval MA, F.W. French JP and E.H. Reynolds  
 JP

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1549 1 notary  
 1550–1599 1 cooper, 2 butchers, 9 yeomen, 1 tailor, 3 husbandmen,  
 1 locksmith  
 1600–1649 1 cooper, 13 yeomen, 2 tailors, 2 linen weavers, 2  
 husbandmen, 1 mercer, 1 clerk, 1 weaver, 1 beer brewer  
 1650–1699 3 yeomen, 1 spinster, 2 linen weavers, 1 husbandman, 1  
 cordwainer, 1 baker, 1 whitester  
 1831 159 in agriculture, 129 in retail trade, 5 professionals, 6 in  
 labouring, 61 in domestic service, 15 others

- 1844 Butcher, 2 carpenters, insurance agent, linen manufacturer and spinner, plumber, 2 bricklayers, 2 beerhouse keepers, wheelwright, auctioneer/surveyor, 2 saddlers, surgeon, corn miller, land steward, tailor, 3 academies, 4 blacksmiths, 4 boot/shoemakers, 25 farmers, 4 grocers, 3 inn keepers. Corn mill converted to flax mill
- 1912 2 sub-postmasters, police officer, 2 school teachers, shoemaker, 21 farmers, carpenter, 3 thatchers, poultry dealer, millers, physician, grocer/draper/general store, blacksmith, 2 publicans, 2 auctioneer/land agents, bricklayer, insurance agent, grocer, pork butcher, Hoxne Brick Works Co., boot repairer, wheelwright, grocer/draper/ironmongers, harness maker, photographer, head gardener, hotel owner, carrier, baker/grocer, butcher

## 19. Education:

School reputedly housed in monastery which taught and supported 2 poor children of the parish c.1536

- 1761 School founded by Charles Maynard (38 boys attend – 1867)
- 1818 2 endowed schools (40 boys attend) (20 girls attend)  
3 day schools
- 1833 2 endowed schools (50 boys and 30 girls attend)  
(40 boys and 20 girls assisted by endowment, 10 girls attend at expense of Lady Kerrison)  
3 daily schools (69 attend), 2 Sunday schools (85 attend)
- 1844 2 free Academies, 1 boarding school  
2 schoolrooms built by Charles, Lord Maynard c.1742  
1 school converted into Infants school 1874  
50 free scholars attend school 1891
- 1912 Cross Street public elementary school, average attendance 156  
Infants school, average attendance 21

## 20. Poor relief:

- 1776 £278 4s. 6d.  
1803 £736 9s. 7d.  
1818 £1,185 5s.  
1830 £1,396 7s.  
1832 £1,602  
1834 £1,261 13s.

## 21. Charities:

### Church/Hallowmas Rents:

1840 Fee-farm rents: £5 3s. 6d. p.a. applied to church repairs

**Town Estate:**

1840 Barn, 50 acres, 2 cottages, house and yard let at £81. 16s. 6d. p.a. applied to apprenticeships, payment for bell ringers, providing bread and coals for poor and general poor relief

**Hobarts Gift:**

1786 by gift of John Hobart: rent charge of £1. p.a. for purchase of bread for the poor

**Free School:**

1734 by will of Thomas Maynard: endowment for education

**22. Other institutions:**

1776 Workhouse (40 inmates)  
1803 Friendly Society (51 members)  
Reading Room built 1879 (St Edmunds Hall)  
5 almshouses to SE of churchyard, built 1844 by Gen. Sir Edward Kerrison  
1891 Police officer listed

**23. Recreation:**

1844 2 beerhouses, The Grapes, The Red Lion and The Swan public houses  
1891 The Grapes, The Red Lion and The Swan public houses  
1912 The Grapes and The Red Lion public houses, The Swan hotel  
Note: The Red Lion was destroyed by fire at date unknown

**24. Personal:**

‘A Wheelwright of Hoxne’ by Betty Rutherford. ‘People and Places: An East Anglian Miscellany’ 1973.

Thomas Sayer ejected by Suffolk Committee for Scandalous Ministers 1644.

**25. Other information:**

Gothic cross erected 1842 in Oakley Park to commemorate Sir Edward Kerrison’s favourite horse.

Oakley Park (formerly Hoxne Hall) built 17<sup>th</sup> cent., remodelled 1830 by Sydney Smirke for Sir Edward Kerrison. Demolished 1930’s.

Hoxne Place: 17<sup>th</sup> cent. renovated c.1974.

Goldbrooke Bridge: built 1878 replacing former footbridge, restored c.1981. Local legend states the bridge carries curse aimed at couples on their wedding day. King Edmund is supposed to have hidden beneath the bridge but was betrayed by newly weds.

Parish claims to be the site of St Edmund's martyrdom (although this is contested by site at Bradfield St Clare). Stone cross erected 1879 marks the suggested spot on which had stood St Edmund's Oak. Fell down 1848 at which time it was reported that an arrowhead was found embedded at a depth of more than 2'. 'King Edmund and Hoxne'. East Anglian Notes and Queries (New Series) Vol. I, p.15.

Parish held the site of Bishop's Palace built by Bishop Herbert of Norwich, see reproduction of map (Plate 23) 'The Suffolk Landscape', by N. Scarfe. Described as 'the seat of the bishopric of Suffolk' 1066.

Former name of parish given as Eggesdune.

'A Few Notes on an Iron Anglo-Saxon brooch supposed to have been found at Hoxne, Suffolk', by C.W. Low. PSIA Vol. XIV, p.1.

Hoxne Brickearth Pits: One of the most important Pleistocene sites in Europe. It was from flint tools discovered here in 1797 that John Frere recognised the true antiquity of man. Lake deposits here are the type-site for the Hoxnian Interglacial of the British Quaternary Sequence. Also important for the rare association of human artefacts and rich environmental evidence. Excavations have taken place at intervals between 1859 and 1978.

'The Lower Palaeolithic Site at Hoxne', by J. Wymer. PSIA Vol. 35 p.1 p.69.

'Hoxne, John Frere of Roydon and The Old Stone Age' by P. Ashbee, East Anglian Monthly, June, 1981, p.32.

'Account of Flint Weapons discovered at Hoxne in Suffolk by John Frere'. In letter to Rev. J. Brond 1797. Norfolk and Suffolk Pamphlets, p.204.

'The Font in Hoxne Church, Suffolk', by C.R. Manning. East Anglian Notes and Queries Vol. I, p.329.

Published Parish Registers 1548–1837 in Suffolk Parish Registers: Marriages Vol. III, p.1.

3 Dutchmen and 1 Frenchman recorded as resident within parish 1524.

Incident associated with the Swing Riots recorded 1830.