

1. Parish: Iken

Meaning: Ica's stream

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:** 2,664 acres land, 4 acres water, 92 acres tidal water, 429 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 elements 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:	Wheat, barley, beans. Arable/dairying region
1969	Trist:	Dairying has been replaced by arable farming

6. **Enclosure:**

1804/05 Approximately 100 enclosed under Private Act of Lands

7. Settlement:

1977/78 River Alde forms natural boundary to north. Marsh land and associated wet lands restrict development in this area. Small dispersed settlement. Church situated in isolated position at bend in river and presumably on rising ground.
Few scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 33, 1801 – 31, 1851 – 70, 1871 – 68,
1901 – 64, 1951 – 46, 1981 – 43

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Tunstall and Sudbourne
Rail: 1891 3 miles Aldeburgh station: Saxmundham-Leiston Aldeburgh line, opened (1859), line to Aldeburgh closed for goods (1959), closed for passengers (1966)
Water: River Alde: navigable river to Snape Bridge

9. Population:

1086 — Not recorded
1327 — 17 taxpayers paid £1. 16s. (includes Chisilsted and Doningworth)
1524 — 30 taxpayers paid £1. 13s. 9d.
1603 — 125 adults
1674 — 37 households
1676 — not recorded
1801 — 282 inhabitants
1831 — 382 inhabitants
1851 — 321 inhabitants
1871 — 290 inhabitants
1901 — 279 inhabitants
1931 — 234 inhabitants
1951 — 164 inhabitants
1971 — 107 inhabitants
1981 — 121 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £4. 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued £6. 13s. 4d.
1535 Valued £6. 13s. 4d.
1831 Curate, stipend £50 p.a. No glebe house. Gross income £320 p.a. Incumbent also holds vicarage of Longborough with Seizincote, Glos.
1835 Valued £311
Tithes commuted for £430 (1839)
1891 20 acres 2R 14P glebe

1912 Nett value £295. 21 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: The King (1603), C.J. Baldrey (1831), Mrs. Wainwright (1912)

11. Church St. Botolph
(Chancel, thatched nave, S. porch, W. tower)

Saxon	Length of cross-shaft in base of bell tower
Norman	2 windows in N. wall. Nave foundations
circa 1300	Thatched nave
pre 1529	S. porch
1862	Chancel rebuilt

Note: Thatched roof destroyed by fire (1968) Church said to be burnt out (1974)

Seats : 150 (1915)

11a Other Religious institution:

Monastery

For Benedictine monks:

Monastery of Icanho found by St. Botolph (654)
Believed destroyed by Danes (circa 870)
Excavation revealed middle Saxon timber framed building under the present church (1977) and unique carved stone cross (Saxon) almost certainly identifies the site with the present church.

12. Nonconformity etc:

1597 Incumbent performed marriage in private home

13. Manorial:

Iken/Iken Cum Framlingham

1225	Sir William Esturmy owns (linked to Buxhall)
circa 1340	John Ruley owns
1363	Sir Thomas de Felton owns
circa 1400	Sir Robert Wingfield owns (linked to Stradbroke)
circa 1677	William Henry Nassau owns (linked to Easton, Hoo, Wickham Market)
1761	Francis Seymour Conway owns (linked to Chillesford, Gedgrave and Orford)
1909	Kenneth M. Clark owns (linked to Chillesford and Gedgrave)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£1,305 rental value
1891	£2,087 rateable value (includes Carlton)
1912	£1,537 rateable value (includes Carlton)

16. Land ownership:

1844	Marquis of Hertford, principal owner
1891	Arthur Heywood, principal owner
1912	Kenneth M. Clark, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1891/1912	Rev. A.W. Wainerwright MA
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18. Occupations:

1550-1599	8 husbandmen, 3 yeomen, 1 tailor, 1 butcher
1600-1649	7 husbandmen, 5 yeomen, 1 glover, 1 weaver
1650-1699	1 husbandman, 1 clerk, 4 yeomen, 1 miller
1831	69 agriculture, 9 in retail trade, 2 in labouring, 10 in domestic service
1844	Victualler, corn/coal agent, shopkeeper/tailor, blacksmith, 5 farmers
1891	Wharf for corn and coal, obsolete by 1891
1912	Sub-postmistress, schoolmistress, thrashing machine owner, shopkeeper, blacksmith, 4 farmers, farm bailiff, decoyman

19. Education:

1833	1 Sunday school established (1822) (35 attend) National school built (1866) on glebe land, 40 attend (1891), enlarged (1910), average attendance (1912) 55
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20. Poor relief:

1776	£73. 17s. 0d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£142. 8s. 4d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£345. 6s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£617. 5s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£491. 10s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£466. 10s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Town Estate:

circa 1814 Workhouse + 29 acres exchanged for
1814 Workhouse let to parish by Marquis of Hertford at
peppercorn rent for 10,000 years + £36 p.a. rent on
approx. 300 acres to be used for benefit of the poor

22. Other institutions:

1814 and Parish workhouse in existence
1844

23. Recreation:

circa 1800 The Boot public house (was also a butcher shop)
1844 The Anchor public house

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Decoy for wild fowl in existence (1844), date from (circa 1757), covers 16 acres (2 acres of open water) with 6 pipes.

Remains of Roman encampment: suggested site – Campen Close near the Rectory. Icenis believed to have fought with Romans near this site.

Large heath extending to 1,0000 acres to SW (1844)

Monastery of Icanho has been reliably identified as Iken. Excavation revealed carved Saxon cross-shaft found in base of bell-tower of church (1977)

‘St Botolph, the Iken Cross and the Coming of East Anglian Christianity’

‘Suffolk in the Middle Ages’ by N. Scarfe (1986) p.39

‘St Botolph and Iken’ by F.S. Stevenson. PSIA Vol. XVIII p.29

‘Iken, St Botolph and the coming of East Anglian Christianity’ by S.E. West and N. Scarfe. PSIA Vol. 35 p.279 Includes details of church excavations (1977) and discovery of cross.

Originally the parish had extensive marshlands (now reclaimed) which it is suggested would have virtually isolated certain parts of the parish including the rising ground on which the church stands.

Poem called ‘Iken’ written by Alastair Davis reproduced in ‘Iken: Its Church and Manor’ by A. Davis (1931)

Parish contains area of ancient oak woodland

Archaeological Sites:

Round barrow (CRN 2558, 2559, 2560)

Sax. cross shaft (CRN 1709)

Sax. pottery (CRN 1729)

Church of St. Botolph (CRN 1730)

I.A. salt working site (CRN 2568)

Rom. salt working site (CRN 2569)

Stray finds: B.A. pottery (CRN 2562)
 Rom. pottery (CRN 2567)
 Neo. worked flint (CRN 2571)

Scatter finds: Rom. pottery (CRN 2561, 2566, 2569, 2570)
 I.A. pottery (CRN 2568)