

# 1. Parish: Ousden

**Meaning:** Owl valley

2. **Hundred:** Risbridge

**Deanery:** Clare (–1884), Thurlow (1884–1916), Newmarket (1916–1972)  
Mildenhall (1972–)

**Union:** Newmarket

**RDC/UDC:** (W. Suffolk) Moulton RD (1894–1935), Clare (1935–1974)  
St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

## Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change (1884). Detached part of parish amalgamated with Hargrave  
Newmarket Petty Sessional Division and County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,382 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Slowly permeable calcareous/non-calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		8½ acres meadow, woodland for 20 pigs, 5 cattle, 30 pigs, 88 sheep.
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, oats, barley, turnips,
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

1816 1,382 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1816

7. **Settlement:**

1958 Small well spaced development with clusters of settlement at the church and hall, Front Street, the school and Rectory and the Fox Inn. All of which are placed along the length of the road to Ashley. Secondary settlement at Back Street. Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 19, 1801 – 50, 1851 – 75, 1871 – 73,  
1901 – 66, 1951 – 67, 1981 – 85

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** To Ashley, Hargrave, Dalham and Wickhambrook  
1891: Carrier to Newmarket on Tuesday and Friday  
to Bury St. Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday  
1912 Carrier to Newmarket on Tuesday  
to Bury St. Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday

**Rail:** 1912 6 miles Higham station: Newmarket–Bury St Edmunds line  
opened 1854, closed for goods 1964, closed for passengers  
1967

**9. Population**

1086 – 28 recorded  
1327 – 12 taxpayers paid £1 6s. 1d.  
1524 – 27 taxpayers paid £0 16s. 2d.  
1603 – 118 adults  
1674 – 38 households  
1676 – 122 adults  
1801 – 274 inhabitants  
1831 – 328 inhabitants  
1851 – 384 inhabitants  
1871 – 345 inhabitants  
1901 – 277 inhabitants  
1931 – 211 inhabitants  
1951 – 198 inhabitants  
1971 – 180 inhabitants  
1981 – 216 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

1254 Valued £9 6s. 8d.  
1291 Valued £10 13s. 4d.  
1535 Valued £10 13s. 4d.  
1816 Tithes commuted for allotment of 328 acres and 12 acres glebe  
1831 1 curate, stipend £50 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation.  
Gross income £300 p.a.  
Valued £285 1835  
Residence built 1835, enlarged 1854  
Valued £380 1873  
1912 Nett value £200 p.a. + 340 acres of glebe and residence  
Incumbent also holds vicarage of Denham.  
Plans for new rectory 1949

**Patrons:** Margaret and Humfrey Moseley (1603), J.T. Hand (1831), J.T.  
Ireland (1844), B.J.W. Praed (1873), Sir H. Bulkeley Mackworth  
Praed (1912)

- 11. Church**                    **St. Peter**  
 (Chancel, nave, N. chapel, N. porch, central tower)
- 1086                    Church + 30 acres free land, ½ plough.  
 Norman                Tower, nave and N. & S. doorways (W. jamb of S. doorway  
                                  has 'mass' dial)
- 12/14<sup>th</sup> cent.            Additions  
 Modern                Chancel 18<sup>th</sup> cent. and chapel  
 1850                    Nave extended  
                                  Seats: not recorded

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

- 1662                    Minister ejected 2 houses set aside for worship  
 1676                    2 nonconformists  
 1872                    Memorial chapel built as response to opposition to local landowner  
                                  who bought the barn in which Primitive Methodists had met, in  
                                  attempt to oust them from the village. Account featured in extremely  
                                  rare pamphlet called 'Nailing up the Old Barn Door'  
 1873                    Primitive Methodist chapel built, seats 160

**13. Manorial:**

- 1066                    Manor of 6 carucates held by Leofric, a thane  
 1086                    Manor of 6 carucates belonging to Count Eustace

**Ousden / Newhall**

- 12<sup>th</sup> cent.                William de Criketot (linked to Blythford)  
 13<sup>th</sup> cent.                passed to Humphrey de Criketot (held 1 knights fee of the Honor  
                                  of Boulogne)
- 1361                    Thomas Fitz Eustace died seised  
 c.1377                    Richard de Bokenham owns  
 c.1410                    Sir Richard Waldegrave owns (linked to Boxford, Acton,  
                                  Assington, Stoke by Nayland, Preston, Monks Eleigh,  
                                  Edwardstone, Bures, Polstead and Wickhambrook)
- 1567                    Humphrey Moseley owns (linked to Wickhambrook)  
 1800                    John Smith owns  
 1804                    Rev. J.T. Hand owns  
 1885                    Sir Herbert B.M. Praed owns

**14. Markets/Fairs**

- 1252/53 and  
 1253/54                Grant of market and fair to Sir William Criketot

**15. Real property:**

- 1844                    £1,348    rental value  
 1891                    £1,743    rateable value  
 1912                    £1,355    rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844	T.J. Ireland, principal owner
1891	H.S. Praed, principal owner
1912	Sir H.B.M. Praed, principal owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

1679	Moseley
1844	T.J. Ireland
1891	F. Fenn

**18. Occupations:**

1600–1649	2 husbandmen, 4 yeomen, 1 tailor, 2 labourers
1650–1699	3 husbandmen, 2 clerks, 1 yeoman, 1 shoemaker, 1 weaver, 1 bricklayer, 1 salesman, 1 miller
1831	47 in agriculture, 16 in retail trade, 1 professional, 4 in labouring, 10 in domestic service, 1 other
1844	Boarding school owner, shopkeeper, shoemaker, schoolmistress, tailor/drapery, corn miller, blacksmith, victualler, gamekeeper, wheelwright, miller, 3 farmers.
1912	Sub-postmaster, schoolmaster, blacksmith/wheelwright, grocer/drapery, 4 farmers, publican, carpenter, baker Ousden Brickworks employed approx. 12 persons c.1929 Article in East Anglian Magazine Vol. 38, No. 10 (Aug. 1979), p.599

**19. Education:**

1743	Endowment for schooling of 20 poor children
1818	1 endowed school (20 attend), 22 attend 1833 2 daily schools (30 attend), 41 attend 1833
1844	Boarding school listed and schoolmistress
1858	Thatched school built by T.J. Ireland (60 attend)
1878	Public Elementary school built, enlarged 1890 and 1911 average attendance 1912 96

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£50 15s. 11d.
1803	£188 12s. 0d.
1818	£386 16s. 0d.
1830	£270 8s. 0d.
1832	£211 0s. 0d.
1834	£207 1s. 0d.

**21. Charities:**

**Deynes Gift:**

1593	by will of William Deynes: 13s. 4d. p.a. from piece of
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land in Barrow. Accumulated till fund reaches £2 and distributed in bread among the poor.

**Moseley's Gift:**

1743 by deed of Richard Moseley: £10 p.a. from farm in Ousden to schoolmaster and education of 20 poor children

**Town Estate:**

1840 Cottage called Town House occupied by poor  
3 acres arable land let at £4 10s. p.a. applied to church repairs and parish clerks wages

**22. Other institutions:**

1908 Parish Room and working mens reading room opened, a gift of Sir. H.B.M. Praed  
1912 Burial ground and mortuary chapel of St. Barnabas donated by Sir. H.B.M. Praed

**23. Recreation:**

1844–1912 The Fox public house  
Football team 1929/30

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

Ousden Hall: believed built c.17<sup>th</sup> cent. by Moseley family. Wings added 1750. Requisitioned by soldiers of 8<sup>th</sup> Army of N. Africa and later used as P.O.W. camp for Germans and Italians 1939/45. Hall demolished 1955. Clocktower and dovecote remain standing (18<sup>th</sup> cent. buildings).

Map of Ousden Hall with drawing of Hall 1724.