

# 1. Parish: Peasenhall

**Meaning:** Lake, valley and marsh where peas grew

2. **Hundred:** Blything

**Deanery:** Dunwich (–1868), Dunwich (South)(1868–1914), S Dunwich (1914–1972), Saxmundham (1972–)

**Union:** Blything

**RDC/UDC:** (E Suffolk) Blything RD (1894–1934), Blyth RD (1934–1974), Suffolk Coastal DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1885 gains detached part of Sibton.  
Blything Petty Sessional Division  
Halesworth County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,184 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

**Mixed**

- a. Slowly permeable, calcareous/non-calcareous clay soils, slight risk of water erosion.
- b. Slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged, some calcareous, clay and fine loams over clay soils.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		Wood for 278 pigs, 6 acres meadow, 2 cattle, 12 pigs, 26 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, barley, beans, peas, roots.
1969	Trist	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1983 Line of Roman Road crosses the parish from NW to SE. It is possible that the village marks the point where 2 Roman roads met. The road to Badingham, which also follows the course of

the Roman Road, crosses the parish SW to NE. Large, well spaced, development around cross-roads. Church situated close to centre. Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 55, 1801 – 86, 1851 – 180, 1871 – 203, 1901 – 179, 1951 – 197, 1981 – 187

**8. Communications:**

Road: To Heveningham, Sibton, Badingham, Kelsale, Bruisyatd and Walpole. Pettaugh–Peasenhall Road a section of Roman road.

1844 Carriers to Colchester and Norwich Tuesday and Friday, and to Ipswich Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

1891 Carrier to Woodbridge and Ipswich Monday and Thursday.

1912 Carrier to Darsham daily

Rail: 1912 4 miles Darsham station: Ipswich–Lowestoft line, opened 1859, still operational.

Water: River Minsmere

**9. Population:**

1086 – 38 recorded

1327 – 33 taxpayers paid £3 5s. 8d. (includes Bramfield and Mells)

1524 – 47 taxpayers paid £4 0s. 8d.

1603 – 103 adults

1674 – 65 households

1676 – Not recorded

1801 – 532 inhabitants

1831 – 773 inhabitants

1851 – 820 inhabitants

1871 – 930 inhabitants

1901 – 715 inhabitants

1931 – 643 inhabitants

1951 – 593 inhabitants

1971 – 537 inhabitants

1981 – 553 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy 1831, Vicarage 1891**

1254 Value £4

1291 Valued £4 13s. 4d.

Portion of St Leonard of Eye 10s.

£5 3s. 4d.

1535 Valued £4 (includes Sibton)

1603 Vicar has stipend of £10

1650 Valued £20

c.1818 Separated from Sibton

1831	Curate, stipend £55 pa. No glebe house. Gross income £120 pa. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Fordley and Vicarage of Westleton.
1835	Valued £117
1840	Tithes commuted for £123 2s. 6d. to curate and £9 12s. 4d. to Vicar of Sibton
1855	Reunited with Sibton, but separated again 1871.
1873	Vicarage house built
1891	Living consists of tithes value £120, rent of small farm in Brundish valued £22 and annuity from Ecclesiastical Commissioners of £100 pa
1912	Nett value £195. 22 acres glebe and residence.
Patrons:	Vicar of Sibton (1650), Mr Sayer (1831), J.J. Smyth (1891)

## 11. Church

### **St Michael**

(Chancel, S vestry, nave, N porch, W tower)

Consecration of churchyard of Chapel of Peasehall, the rights of which were preserved to the mother church of Sibton (1146–1174)

1234	Chapel of Peasehall annexed to church at Sibton
14 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup> cent.	N porch, lower stages of tower
1860	Nave and chancel pulled down and rebuilt in 15 <sup>th</sup> cent. style. Tower repaired and heightened

Seats: 250 (1915)

## 12. Nonconformity etc:

1597	Curate served parish without licence.
1809	Wesleyan chapel built
1912	Congregational and Wesleyan chapels in existence and Plymouth Brethren preaching room.

## 13. Manorial:

### **Peasehall Manor**

1066	Manors (2) of 2 curacates held by Norman
1086	Manors of 2 carucates belonging to Roger Bigot and held by Norman
1267	Roger Bigot, Earl of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
c.1303	Nicholas de Segrave owns
c.1322	Alice de Everyngham died seised
c.1350	Edmund Montacute owns, however, this seems to be disputed as the manor is also said to be mentioned in the Inquis pm of William de Claydon 1350
1372	Sir Walter de Manny died seized

c.1400	Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1611	Edmund Barker owns
c.1754	Mileson Edgar owns (linked to Witnesham, Wickhambrook, Westerfield, Coddenham and Hemingstone)
c.1770	Thomas Staunton owns (linked to Harkstead and Badingham)
1779	Sir Gerard William Vanneck owns
1792	John Clayton owns (linked to Badingham)
1843	Consisted of 562 acres sold to Robert Sayer (linked to Badingham)
1855	J.W. Brooke owns
1909	Egerton B.B. Levett Scrivener owns (linked to Sibton)

### **Sub-manors**

#### **Jurdis Manor**

1066	Manor of 40 acres held by Leofsi
1066	Manor of 1 carucate held by Stanwin under patronage of Edric
1086	Manor of 40 acres belonging to Robert Malet and held by Fulcred
1086	Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Robert Malet and held by Fulcred
12 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Robert Jurdis/Jurdey owns
c.1287	Manor given to Sibton Abbey
16 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Thomas, Duke of Norfolk owns (possibly absorbed by main manor)
1550	Thomas Hugins owns and had licence to alienate to Anthony Rous (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk) Manor sequestered for his alleged recusancy.

#### **Falesham Hall**

1286	Sir Nicholas Falesham owns
1313	Sibton Abbey owns (absorbed by Jurdis Manor)

#### **14. Markets/Fairs:**

#### **15. Real property:**

1844	£2,359 rental value
1891	£3,157 rateable value
1912	£2,760 rateable value

#### **16. Land ownership:**

1944–1912	Land sub-divided
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**17. Resident gentry:**

1912 H.J.R. Collett JP, Rev. E.A. Cooke MA and Capt. R. Crawshay

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1549 1 carpenter  
1550–1599 3 yeomen, 1 cordwainer, 1 joiner  
1600–1649 6 yeomen, 1 cordwainer, 1 barber, 3 husbandmen, 1 cooper, 1 spinster, 1 Chandler, 1 tailor  
1650–1699 2 inn holders, 7 yeomen, 1 blacksmith, 2 bricklayers, 1 linen weaver  
1831 113 in agriculture, 47 in retail trade, 5 professionals, 25 in labouring, 42 in domestic service, 2 others.  
1844 Farrier, 2 victuallers, schoolmaster, baker/confectioner, straw hat maker, plumber/glazier, bricklayer, auctioneer, cooper, corn merchant/miller, saddler/collar maker, land agent, 2 surgeons, drill manufacturer, Messrs James Smyth and Sons (est. 1800) corn seed, manure drill manufacturers (inventors of the Suffolk Drill), tailor, 3 blacksmiths, 5 boot/shoemakers, 3 butchers, 18 farmers, 2 joiners, 2 grocer/draper, maltster, 3 wheelwrights, shopkeeper.  
1912 Sub-postmaster, schoolmaster, 2 publicans, 17 farmers, miller, 4 shopkeepers, carrier, farm bailiff, harness maker, surgeon, carpenter, cycle dealer, grocer/draper, butcher, baker, blacksmith, fruit grower, Suffolk Drill manufacturers, 2 bootmakers, jobbing gardener.

**19. Education:**

1597 Curate teaches children  
1818 1 day school (20–30 boys attend), 2 day schools (40 attend)  
1833 2 endowed daily schools (57 attend)  
2 daily Dissenters schools (39 attend)  
1 established church Sunday school (26 attend), 1 Dissenters Sunday school (36 attend)  
1844 Schoolmaster recorded  
1874 School Board formed  
1875 School built, 170 attend in 1891, average attendance of 140 in 1912

**20. Poor relief:**

1776 £71 11s. 11d.  
1803 £142 19s. 3d.  
1818 £303 14s.  
1830 £323 12s.

1832            £431 14s.  
1834            £310 10s.

**21. Charities:**

**Louffe's Charity Estate**

1580            by will of Robert Louffe: refers to Town lands (below).  
Rent charges applied to poor relief.

**Cutting's Charity**

1639            by will of Edmund Cutting: 52s. pa distributed in bread  
fortnightly.

**Church Lands**

1840            1 acre let at £5 15s.  
4 acres in Sibton let at £21 5s. pa (originates from the will  
of Edmund Kempe 1490)  
Allotment of 1 acre 0R 37P made on enclosure of Sibton  
Green 1809 let at £2 pa applied to Churchwardens  
general account

**Town Lands**

1840            14 acres let at £17 17s. pa. Cottage (called Giffords) let at  
£1 pa (unoccupied) applied to poor relief.

**22. Other institutions:**

1803            2 Friendly Societies (104) members)  
1855            Mechanics Institution established with library and good  
reading room (60 members)  
1888            Assembly Room built with accommodation for 300.

**23. Recreation:**

1670 and 1675 2 inn holders recorded  
1844–1912 The Angel and The Swan public houses

**24. Personal:**

1902            Rose Harsent murdered. Presumed killed by William  
Gardiner although this does not appear to have been  
proved even after 2 trials. Received much press  
coverage.  
1934            'Trial of William Gardiner (The Peasenhall Case)' edited  
by W. Henderson.  
1962            'The Peasenhall Mystery: a Reassessment of the famous  
unsolved murder' by J. Rowland.

1969 'The Women of Peasenhall: novel based on the murder of Rose Harsent in 1902', by R.J. White

**25. Other information:**

Ancient House: frontage 18<sup>th</sup> cent., internally some 16<sup>th</sup> cent. linenfold panelling.

1487 Camping close of 2 acres recorded abutting Peasenhall Street to the south. 'Sibton Abbey Cartularies IV', edited by P. Brown.

15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> cent. New Inn: small hall house, timber framed with cross wings.

Windmill: power driven smock mill.

1805 Drill Mill dates.

1965 Under the East Suffolk County Council Planning policy the village was designated a 'Key Village'.

1969 'A View into the Village', by E. Sandon has a chapter on Peasenhall with photographs (p 36).

1979 Village sign unveiled: depicts Smyths seed drill.