

## 1. Parish: Yaxley

**Meaning:** Coukoo clearing or wood (Ekwall)

**2. Hundred:** Hartismere

**Deanery:** Hartismere (-1897), Hartismere (North)(1897-1931), N. Hartismere (1931-1972), Hartismere (1972-)

**Union:** Hartismere

**RDC/UDC:** (E. Suffolk) Hartismere R.D. (-1974), Mid Suffolk D.C. (1974-)

### Other administrative details:

Hartismere Petty Sessional Division  
Eye County Court District

**3. Area:** 1,257 acres (1912)

**4. Soils:**

**Mixed:** a) Deep well drained fine loam over clay, some with clay subsoil  
b) Fine loam over clay soil subject to seasonal waterlogging

**5. Types of farming:**

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, sugar beat
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

**6. Enclosure:**

1812 243 acres enclosed in Thrandeston, Brome, Yaxley, Oakley and Eye under Private Act of Lands (1808)

**7. Settlement:**

1958 Compact but long development at staggered cross-roads.  
Church at southern end of settlement. Roman road runs  
SW-NE across parish. Railway crosses W-E and Aye  
airfield is situated at NE corner of parish.  
Scattered farms

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 36, 1801 – 68, 1851 – 62, 1871 – 100,  
1901 – 89, 1951 – 97, 1981 – 109

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** Roads to Stoke Ash, Scole, Mellis, Eye  
**Rail:** 1891 2 miles Mellis station: Mellis-Eye line, opened (1867),  
closed for passengers (1931), closed for goods (1964)  
Ipswich – Norwich line, opened (1849), station closed (1966)  
**Air:** Eye Airfield: constructed for USAP as heavy bomber base  
Transferred to RAF Bomber Command (1945), sold for  
Industrial development (1962/63)

**9. Population:**

1086 — 24 ½ recorded  
1327 — 28 taxpayers paid £1. 17s. 8d.  
1524 — 25 taxpayers paid £7. 18s. 3d.  
1603 — 100 adults  
1674 — 52 households  
1676 — 145 adults  
1801 — 382 inhabitants  
1831 — 478 inhabitants  
1851 — 550 inhabitants  
1871 — 462 inhabitants  
1901 — 339 inhabitants  
1931 — 322 inhabitants  
1951 — 269 inhabitants  
1971 — 257 inhabitants  
1981 — 312 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Vicarage**

1254 Valued £13. 6s. 8d.  
To the Prior of Eye 13s. 4d.  
Goods to the Prior of Oxene (Hoxne?) £3. 6. 8d.  
Goods to the Prior of Norwich, namely the Almoner £1.  
£18. 6s. 8d.  
1291 Valued £12  
1535 Valued £6. 6s. 5 ½ d.  
1831 Curate, stipend £50 p.a. Glebe house unfit for  
occupation. Gross income £160 p.a. Incumbent also hold

Rectories of Cockley Cley and Thurgarton +  
sequestratorship of Caldecot, Norfolk.  
Rent charge of £139 in lieu of tithes (1842)  
Vicarage house built (1848). 35 acres glebe  
Rectorial tithes comuted for £287. 17s. p.a (£26. 13s.  
belongs to Lord Henniker, £18. 15s. to J. Cobbold and the  
remainder to Sir E.C. Kerrison) (1855)  
1912 Nett value £145. 39 acres glebe and residence

**Patrons:** The King (1603), J.T. Mott (1831), Mrs. Ann Sewell (1855),  
Society for the Maintenance of the Faith (1912)

**11. Church St Mary**  
(Chancel, nave, S. aisle, N. & S. porches, W. tower)

14<sup>th</sup> cent. Tower and chancel  
15<sup>th</sup> cent. Ornate N. Porch  
1868 Restoration. Chancel substantially rebuilt  
1987. Brief guide to the church produced

**Seats:** 180

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1603 18 nonconformists  
1676 1 papist, 4 nonconformists  
Congregational and Wesleyan chapels (no dates)

**13. Manorial:**

**Yaxley Manor**

1066 Manor of 1 carucate (part in Thrandeston) held by Bishop  
Aelmer  
1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to the church of Hoxne  
and held by William, Bishop of Thetford  
1294 Chapel of Ringshall settled on this manor by Prior of  
Norwich  
16<sup>th</sup> cent. Anthony Yaxley owns (linked to Mellis)  
18<sup>th</sup> cent. Sir Edward Kerrison owns (linked to Thelnetham)  
19<sup>th</sup> cent. Lady Bateman owns

**Sub Manors:**

**Bull's Head with Blodgates Al Boles Manor**

1086 William, Bishop of Thetford held as tenant  
14<sup>th</sup> cent. William Bull/Bole owns  
1367 Sir Ralph de Hemenhale owns (linked to Thornham)

1583	William Yaxley owns (possible annexation to main manor)
1808	Rev. J. Thurston Mott owns

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

Grant of fair (1225/26 and 1226/27) to Jackell (possible refers to Yaxley)

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

1844	£1,617 rental value
1891	£1,896 rateable value
1912	£1,652 rateable value

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

1844-1912 Land sub-divided

#### **17. Resident gentry:**

1679	William Felgate and Mr. Sherman Charles Yaxley
1680	1 gentlemen
1844	Mrs. Leeke and P.R. Welch
1912	Sir George Makgill, Bart

#### **18. Occupations:**

1550-1549	1 husbandmen, 1 yeoman
1550-1599	3 husbandmen, 1 yeomen, 1 spinster, 1 vicar, 1 turner
1600-1649	1 husbandmen, 2 yeoman, 1 tailor, 1 millwright, 1 carpenter
1650-1699	1 husbandmen, 1 thatcher, 7 yeoman, 1 fanwright (exact definition unknown: works in riven timber: possible association with winnowing), 1 comber
1831	99 in agriculture, 17 in retail trade, 1 professionals, 20 in domestic service, 5 others
1844	2 wheelwright, cattle dealer/victualler, 2 shop-keepers, miller, barrister, blacksmith, grocer/draper, 8 farmers
1912	Sub-postmaster, 11 farmers, coal merchant, 2 publicans, blacksmith, carpenter, cowkeeper, beer retailer, bricklayer, shopkeeper

#### **19. Education:**

1833	3 day schools (35 attend), 1 Independent Sunday School (50 attend)
1891	Church of England school
1912	Public Elementary school, average attendance 49

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£146. 1s. 5d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£288. 11s. 5 ¼ d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£536. 6s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£534. 3s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£567. 14s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£416. 5s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

<b>Town Estate:</b>	1840	Guildhall and cottage let to poor rent free Approx =. 22 acres in Mellis, Thrandeston, Thornham Parva and Yaxley let at £35. 9s. 4d. p.a. to church repairs and repairs to house occupied by poor. Surplus to clothing for poor, apprenticing and rents.
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>	1840	£4. 16s. p.a. distributed to poor £1. 13s. 4d. p.a. to highway repairs

**22. Other institutions:**

1524	Guild of St Thomas
1840	Former guildhall in existence
1803	2 Friendly Societies (69 attend)

**23. Recreation:**

1844	The Bull and The Red Lion public houses
1891/1912	1 beerhouse/retailer, The Bull and The Red Lion public houses

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

Yaxley Hall: Elizabethan style mansion with Folley Tower within grounds, built to imitate church tower, said to have 15<sup>th</sup> cent. Doorway

‘Yaxley Hall: It’s owners and occupiers’. PSIA Vol. XVI p.1 and 135

‘The Medieval glass in Yaxley Church’ by C. Woodforde. PSIA Vol.XXI p.9

‘Restoration of Yaxley Pulpit’. PSIA Vol.XXI p.170

‘Heraldic carvings in Yaxley Church’ by T.M. Felgate. PSIA Vol.31 p.84

### **Archaeological Sites:**

Med. Moated sites (CRN 3954, 8593)

Stray finds:           Rom. coin (CRN 3955, 3958)  
                              Med. token (CRN 3957)  
                              Neo. Axe (CRN 3957)

Scatter finds:         Med. pottery (CRN 3956)  
                              Rom. pottery (CRN 3959, 3961)