

1. Parish : Pakenham

Meaning: Pacca's field or enclosure

2. Hundred: Thedwastre

Deanery: Thedwastre (–1972), Clare (1972–)

Union: Thingoe (1836–1907), Bury St Edmunds (1907–1930)

RDC/UDC: Thingoe RD (–1974), St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Blackbourn Petty Sessional Division
Bury St Edmunds County Court District

3. Area: 3,695 acres of land, 16 acres of water (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed:

- a. Well drained calcareous coarse/fine loams over chalk rubble, non-calcareous in places. Slight risk water erosion
- b. Small section of deep peat soils on flat lands plus small amount of seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay
- c. Some deep well drained sandy soils, in places very acid with subsurface pan, risk wind erosion

5. Types of farming:

1086		27 acres meadow, woodland for 104 pigs, 1 mill (2 pre 1066), 3 cobs, 48 cattle. 65 pigs, 190 sheep, 8 beehives, 1 winter mill
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region where main crop is barley. Sheep main fertilising agent, bred for fattening. Also has similarities with wood-pasture region with pasture, meadow, dairying and pig keeping.
1818	Marshall:	Wide variations of crop and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

1804 1,977 acres enclosed in under Private Act of Lands 1802

7. Settlement:

1978 Large well spaced development along line of main street. Church centrally situated but off-set to South of settlement. Small secondary settlements at Upper Town, Mere Farm and Cottages (on boundary with Great Barton) and Grimstone End. Blackbourn River marks eastern boundary. Wet lands restrict development in a central tract of the parish. Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 52, 1801 – 89, 1851 – 234, 1871 – 232,
1901 – 207, 1951 – 207, 1981 – 370

8. Communications:

Roads: To Stowlangtoft, Thurston, Great Barton and Ixworth
1844–1912:
Carriers to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 1½ miles Thurston station:
Bury St Edmunds–Cambridge line opened 1879, unmanned halt 1967

9. Population:

1086 – 120 recorded
1327 – 56+ taxpayers paid £4 18s. 2d.
1524 – 49 taxpayers paid £3 14s.
1603 – 200 adults
1674 – 82 households
1676 – 229 adults
1801 – 681 inhabitants
1831 – 979 inhabitants
1851 – 1,134 inhabitants
1871 – 1,033 inhabitants
1901 – 886 inhabitants
1931 – 736 inhabitants
1951 – 679 inhabitants
1971 – 981 inhabitants
1981 – 1,029 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage

1254 Portion of Rector £28
Portion of Abbey of St. Edmunds £2 13s. 4d. £30 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued £21 6s. 8d.
To Vicar of the same £10 13s. 4d. £32

1535	Valued £10 3s. 9d.
1674	Parsonage has 4 hearths
1831	1 curate, Stipend £53. p.a. Glebe house. Gross income £281 p.a.
1841	Tithes commuted for £908 2s. p.a.
1887	68 acres 1R 4P glebe. Gross rent £53 10s. p.a.
1891	Good vicarage house. 68 acres glebe
1912	Value £117 p.a. 71 acres glebe

Patrons:

1200–1501	Abbot of St Edmunds
1548/1566–71	
	Robert Spring
1621–48	Anne Gardiner
1661	Elizabeth Spring
1742–65	Discipline family
1778	John Godbold
1805–45	Lord Calthorpe
1861–1938	Jones family
1946	Phyllis Starkey
1967	Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich

11. Church

St. Mary

(cruciform building: Chancel, nave, transepts, N. porch, central tower)

1086	Church plus 30 acres free land as alms (suggested to have been nave, central space and chancel format)
11 th cent.	Original building
Norman	S. and W. doorways, 2 tower arches
13 th cent.	Parts of chancel
14 th cent.	Upper portion of tower
1849	Restoration. S. transept rebuilt, N. transept added

Seats: 124 appropriated, 244 free (1874)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1593	1 person does not frequent his own church but goes to other parish
1676	6 non conformists
1824–1835	4 houses set aside for worship
1846	Primitive Methodist chapel in Mill Road built
1888	Mission room built

13. Manorial:

Pakenham Hall

1066/1086	Manor of 7 carucates belonging to Abbot of St. Edmunds
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1199	$\frac{1}{3}$ of demesne and tithes assigned to St. Saviours Hospital, Bury St Edmunds by Abbot Sampson
1545	Links with Icklingham (Robert Spring)
1748	Thomas Discipline owns
1786	Links with Ampton (Lords Calthorpe)

Sub-manors

Newhall al Malkinshall al Beaumonts

1086	Estate belonging to Abbot of St. Edmunds
1486	Henry Le Strange hold manor of 'Bemans' of the Abbot
1545	John Seaman al Turner owns
17 th cent.	Links with Milden, Long Melford, Laveham, Brent Eleigh and Stowlangtoft (Paul D'Ewes)
1731	Thomas Browne Tonns owns, passing by diverse owners to Henry Wilson
1910	Arthur Maitland Wilson owns

Netherhall al Ladies Hall al Richardshall

13 th cent.	Vested in John de Pakenham, steward to Bishop of Ely
1544	Linked to numerous other manors in Suffolk (Thomas Bacon)
1601	3 messuages, 3 tofts, 1 dovecote, 100 acres land, 20 acres meadow, 100 acres pasture, 20 acres wood, 20 acres marsh, 100 acres firs and heath (Robert Bright)

Red Castle

Little known except statement given to Suffolk Institute in 1899 where it was described as a manor of Pakenham belonging to Prebendary H. Jones

14. Markets/Fairs

1256/57 Possible market and fair granted to Pakynton

15. Real property:

1844	£3,113 rental value
1891	£4.699 rateable value
1912	£3,953 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1884–1912 Lands always sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1578 Sir William Spring, High Sheriff of Suffolk

1674	Sir Willoughby D'Ewes and Sir William Spring
1844	Thomas and William Quayle, T. Thornhill, W. Bassett, Rev. W.J.S. Casborne, MA
1891	Sir Thomas Thornhill, JP, Rev. H. Jones, MA, H.W. Greene, Major General H. Percival, JP
1912	Sir E.W. Green, JP, Lt. Col. W.R. Green, MP, JP, Sir W.H.Q. Jones, JP, Maj. Gen. H. Percival, RA, JP

18. Occupations:

1500–1549	1 husbandman
1550–1599	8 yeomen, 2 carpenters, 1 blacksmith, 7 husbandmen, labourer, 1 spinster
1600–1649	1 tanner, 17 yeomen, 1 tailor, 6 husbandmen, 1 glover, 1 shepherd
1650–1699	3 tanners, 22 yeomen, 2 tailors, 2 carpenters, 3 blacksmiths, 5 husbandmen, 1 cook, 1 miller, 2 clerks, 1 spinster, 1 cordwinder, 1 farmer
1844	Collar/harness maker, 2 victuallers, 2 cattle dealers, gamekeeper, plumber/glazier, schoolmaster, butcher, gardener, 13 farmers, 2 bakers, 2 blacksmiths, 3 boot/shoemakers. 2 bricklayers, beerhouse keeper, 4 carpenters, 2 millers, 2 grocer/drapers, 1 tailor, 1 tailor/draper/hatter, carrier
1912	Sub-postmaster, schoolmaster, police officer, carrier, electrical engineer, 9 farmers, 2 publicans, head gardener, beer/wine retailer, baker, miller (wind), 5 farm bailiffs, bird and animal preserver, coach builder/painter/wheelwright/carpenter, bricklayer, miller (water), butcher, baker, dressmaker, lime burner, carpenter/wheelwright, shoemaker, 3 grocers, grocer/draper, 2 beer retailers, hurdle maker, whitening manufacturer

19. Education:

1818	1 Sunday and daily evening school on Madras system (118 attend)
1833	1 daily school (10 attend), 7 at expense of private individual
1842	1 daily school (61 attend), 1 Sunday school (78 attend)
1842	National School built (110 attend), enlarged c.1891, average attendance 1912 110
1960's	New primary school built (under threat of closure due to falling numbers 1987)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£184 13s. 5d.
1803	£398 1s. 11½d.
1818	£1,097 19s.
1830	£923 16s.

1832 £1,179 6s.
1834 £716 2s.

21. Charities:

Town Estate:

1840 55 acres 2R let at £58 9s. 6d. p.a. to repair of church, buildings and relief of poor

Cook's Charity:

1651 By will of John Cook: 10 acres let at £15 p.a. distributed among poor

Bright's Charity:

1713 by will of Thomas Bright: £5 p.a. to purchase of shoes, stockings, clothing, half distributed among poor of Pakenham, residue to poor of Thurston

22. Other institutions:

1521 Guilds of St. Peter and St. John Baptist
1647 Charity Cottages built, known as The Workhouse or The Guildhall
1674 Almshouses built
1891 4 Working Mens Reading Rooms:
1. Free Reading and Coffee Room in the Street which is supported by Sir E. Walter Greene
2. Church Hill opened 1859
3. Grimston End, built 1888 (also used for religious services and temperance meetings etc.)
4. Working Mens Conservative Club
Police officer listed
Well sunk and pump presented for public use by Sir E. Walter Greene
1912 Pakenham and Woolpit Habitation of Primrose League: Newe House

23. Recreation:

1844 The Bell Inn and The Woolpack public house
1 beerhouse
1890's Quoits Club, Football Club, Bowls Club
1891 3 beerhouses, The Bell and The Fox public houses
1950's Playing field
1974 Nether Hall Country Club closed 1985
1975 Hamlin House Hotel built

24. Personal:

Rex Whistler (d. 1944) distinguished period portrait artist. Soldier in Guards Armoured Division in 1939–1945 war. Last painting before being killed in action is said to be the 'Whistler Window' at Pakenham Vicarage.

25. Other information:

'Pakenham – Village of Two Mills', by N.R. Whitwell 1985.

First mentioned in will of Theodred, Bishop of Suffolk AD 938 and granted to Osgot, Eadwolf's son.

Neo. lake dwellings found during drought at Barton Mere 1868.

Parish contains Roman fort and villas: red tesserae found 1765. Brick-floored Roman kiln with draught flues and furnaces found plus several other kilns 1955. Section Roman brickwork.

Nether Hall: built in Queen Anne style, restored and enlarged 1875 and 1891, well wooded park and pleasure grounds.

Newe House: built c.1660/2 by Robert Bright.

Engraving of Church by H. Davy 1822 – 'Etchings Illustrative of the Architectural Antiquities of Suffolk' 1827.

Parish includes wood of 124 acres, noted as fox cover 1891.

Village hall: originally 1st World War army hut, rebuilt (date not known).

Village sign erected 1978 (carved from 300 year old oak from barn at Pakenham Manor).

Robbery at Nether Hall 19th cent. of gold and silver items valued £6,000+
Parish contains 3 pits for highway upkeep a. Chalk pit near Bunbury Arms, Great Barton, b. Stone pit (Gravel Pit wood), c. Clay pit (beneath Hamlin House Hotel).

Pakenham brickfields and works adjoins Plains Cottage.

Church said to stand on ancient fortified site.

H.R.H. Prince of Wales held numerous shooting parties in parish c.1900.

Booklet 'Record of Celebrations of the Royal Jubilee of 1887 at Pakenham' with subscribers and accounts – in parish folder, includes programme of sports and fireworks.

Vineyard at Pakenham Manor won trophy for its wines at English Vineyard Wine festival 1980.

Well sunk in village street 1891, pump presented to village 1902, pump restored though not connected to well beneath 1984.

3 cottages at Church Green converted into homes for the elderly 1960. Reputedly the only parish In British Isles to contain both windmill and watermill in working order 1974.

Water Mill: dates from medieval period although present building is 18th cent. Included in Department of Environments list of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest. Handed over to Suffolk Preservation Society 1978, opened to the public 1981.

Survey of 1756 shows smaller mill on site possibly absorbed by present mill during extension work later in 18th cent.

Tower Mill: Visible from windows of water mill. Built 1810 on site of previous mill. Last working windmill in Suffolk 1960. Opened to public 1964. Restored 1963. Architectural Survey by P. Eley 1961.

'Excavations at Grimstone End, Pakenham', by B.J.W. Brown, G.M. Knocker, N. Smedley and S.E. West. PSIA Vol. XXVI, p.189.

'A small kiln at Grimstone End, Pakenham', by N. Smedley and E. Owles. PSIA Vol. XXIX, p.67.

'Two kilns making colour-coated ware at Grimstone End, Pakenham', by N. Smedley and E. Owles. PSIA Vol. XXVIII, p.203.

'The Vicars of Pakenham', by Rev. C.W. Jones. PSIA Vol. VIII, p.408.

'Pakenham Church', PSIA Vol. I, p.169.

'Pakenham', by Rev. C.W. Jones. PSIA Vol. X, p.169.