

1. Parish: Sudbourne

Meaning: Southern 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:

Included with Chapelry of Orford.
Gained separate civil parish status early.
Always joined with Orford ecclesiastically.
Woodbridge Petty Sessional Division and County Court District.

3. Area: 4,878 acres land, large area of marsh, 28 acres inland water, 263 acres tidal water and 136 acres foreshore (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed

- a. Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid, risk wind erosion.
- b. Deep well drained sandy, often ferruginous, soils, risk wind and water erosion.
- c. Deep stoneless non calcareous/calcareous clay soils, flat land, slight risk of flooding by river.

5. Types of farming:

1086		8 cattle, 47 pigs, 160 sheep, 1 mill, 1 fishpond, 5 acres of meadow, 1 salt house, wood for 12 pigs, 2 cobs.
Domesday vill of Nordberia		4 cattle, 8 pigs, 40 sheep, 2 acres meadow, wood for 8 pigs. Problems of acidity and trace element deficiencies.
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilising 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, barely, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn and grass.
1937	Main crops:	Oats, barely, peas, roots. Mainly arable/dairying.
1969	Trist:	Dairying has been replaced by arable farming.

6. Enclosure:

1807		150 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands (1805).
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7. Settlement:

1978		River Alde forms natural boundary to east. Extensive marsh lands occupy most of eastern sector restricting development in this area. Widespread plantation occupies western sector. Small compact development. Church centrally situated. Sudbourne Park occupies large portion of SW sector. Few scattered farms.
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Inhabited houses: 1674 – 27, 1801 – 43, 1851 – 110, 1871 – 116, 1901 – 113, 1951 – 98, 1981 – 106.

8. Communications:

Road:	To Orford, Snape and Chillesford.
Water:	River Alde and Ore River Alde: navigable to Snape Bridge. 'Alde Estuary' by W.G. Arnott (1952). 1891 Ferry across River Ore.

9. Population:

1086 – 50 recorded
Domesday vill of Nordberia – 49 recorded
1327 – 26 taxpayers paid £2. 11s. 6d.
1524 – 26 taxpayers paid £9. 5s. 10d.
1603 – 468 adults (includes Orford and Gedgrave)
1674 – 29 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 441 inhabitants
1831 – 631 inhabitants
1851 – 601 inhabitants
1871 – 532 inhabitants
1901 – 518 inhabitants
1931 – 362 inhabitants

1951 – 306 inhabitants
1971 – 364 inhabitants
1981 – 298 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory (with Orford)

1254 Valued £26 13s. 4d. (includes Chapelry of Orford)
1291 Valued £33 6s. 8d. (includes Chapelry of Orford)
Portion of Priory almoner is same 10s. £33 16s. 8d.
1535 Valued £33 6s. 3d. (includes Chapelry of Orford)
1831 Curate, stipend £100. Glebe house. Joint gross income
£594 p.a.
1891 Valued £577.
1912 Joint net value £500. 8 acres glebe. Incumbent resides in
Orford.

Patrons: The Crown (1831 and 1912)

11. Church All Saints
(Chancel with transepts, nave, N. & S. porches, W. tower)

1086 Church + 16 acres, valued 2s. Church + 8 acres land.
Norman S. doorway, S. window and porch
14th cent. Main structure
14/15th cent. Additions
Church reputedly damaged by fire and rebuilt c.1676.
1643/44 Puritanical vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed 6
pictures, ordered removal of cross from steeple and steps
to be leveled.
18th cent. Leaded spire.
1878/79 Transepts added. Roof renewed.

Seats: 260 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1597 Rector fails to wear the surplice.
Baptist chapel built on the common 1863.

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 30 acres held by a free man.
1086 Manor of 30 acres belonging to Robert Malet.
Domesday Vill of Nordberia:
1066 Manor of 30 acres held by Edwin the priest, a free man of
the Abbot.
1086 Manor of 30 acres belonging to Roger of Poitou.

Sudbourne Manor

King Edgar is said to have given this manor to Ethelwold, Bishop Winchester for translating, into the Saxon/English tongue, the rule of St. Benedict c.981. The manor is said to have been given to the abbey of Ely.

1066/1086	Manor of 6 carucates belonging to Abbot of St. Etheldreda (Ely).
1550	Granted to Bishop of Norwich.
1587	Reginald Heigate owns although there seems to be some confusion around this time.
c.1621	Sir Michael Stanhope owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk).
c.1661	Leicester Devereux, 6 th Viscount of Hereford owns (linked to Earl Soham)
1909	Kenneth M. Clark owns (linked to Chillesford, Gedgrave and Iken).

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£3,295 rental value
1891	£4,591 rateable value
1912	£3,733 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891	Land sub-divided.
1912	K.M. Clark, principal owner.

17. Resident gentry:

1674	Viscount Hereford owns house with 36 hearths.
1844	Marquis of Hertford
1891	A. Heywood JP
1912	K.M. Clark JP

18. Occupations:

1550–1599	3 yeoman, 4 husbandmen, 1 labourer
1600–1649	1 blacksmith, 14 yeoman, 9 husbandmen, 1 labourer, 1 tailor, 1 wheelwright, 1 physician.
1650–1699	2 yeomen, 2 labourers, 1potter, 1 thatcher.
1831	127 in agriculture, 20 in retail trade, 1 professional, 11 in labouring, 28 in domestic service, 6 others.
1844	3 shoemakers, victualler, blacksmith, wheelwright, butcher, 13 farmers.
1912	Sub–postmaster, schoolmaster, nurseryman, 6 farmers, boat builder, secretary to K.M. Clark, publican, 2 shopkeepers, 2 farm bailiffs, head gamekeeper, blacksmith, thatcher, master mariner, wheelwright.

19. Education:

1818 2 day schools (60 attend) some dames schools.
1833 1 daily school (30 attend), Sunday school is held in Orford. School built 1875, enlarged to double its size 1882 by Sir Richard Wallace, 100 attend 1891, enlarged 1912, average attendance 1912 80.

20. Poor relief:

1776 £144 16s. 2d.
1803 £346 5s. 3½d.
1818 £829 11s.
1830 £925 5s.
1832 £924 2s.
1834 £819 11s.

21. Charities:

Church and Poor Estate:

1840 Workhouse occupied by poor.
Cottage occupied by poor rent-free.
61 acres 5P marsh land let at £161 2s. 3d. p.a.
Rent charge of £6 p.a.
Rents applied to church repairs and general relief of poor.

Town House:

1840 Situated in Orford, managed by Overseers for the Poor of Sudbourne: 2 tenements, one occupied rent free, one let at £7 p.a.

Sir Michael Stanhope's Charity:

1618 by deed of Sir M. Stanhope: £10 p.a. distributed among the poor.

22. Other institutions:

1776 Workhouse (30 inmates), still in existence and occupied by paupers 1840.
1803 2 Friendly Societies (70 members).
Cottage hospital with 6 beds built 1905 by K.M. Clark.

23. Recreation:

1844–1912 The Chequers public house

24. Personal:

'The venerable Francis Mason: A Tercentenary Memoir', PSIA Vol. XVII, p.151. 16/17th cent. Rector of Sudbournecum Orford, earned title of Vindex Ecclesiae Anglicanae. Chaplain to King James.

Sir Michael Stanhope 16/17th cent. Groom to Chamber of Elizabeth I and James I.

25. Other information:

Sudbourne Hall: (formerly called Chapmans) built by Sir Michael Stanhope c.1621, rebuilt c.1784 by James Wyatt for Marchioness of Hertford, enlarged by Sir Richard Wallace. Reface with brick and restored 1872/173 at which time a gas works for use by the house was also built. Remodelled internally c.1905. Prince of Wales visited Sudbourne Hall 1879 followed by the Duke of Cambridge 1881. Hall stands in park of approximately 500 acres 1891.

Church Farmhouse 17th cent. shaped gable ends.

During excavations near the church, beds of oysters were found c.1912.

Headquarters of the St Etheldreda's Liberty 970–19th cent. (an administrative area) was first situated at Sudbourne. 'Suffolk Landscape' by N. Scarfe p.40. It consisted of 5½ Hundreds: Information on Liberties can be found in 'An Historical Atlas of Suffolk' Edited by D. Dymond and E. Martin p.18, 1988, and 'The Evolution of Local Government Authorities and Areas in Suffolk 1555–1894, 1970, p.4–13.

Village evacuated (1939–1945) for use as an area for tank training exercises. Estate and hall requisitioned by War Dept. Hall used as Officers Mess. Tank Corps camped in Park.

Estate released 1950 however Hall was left in such poor condition it was demolished 1953. Photo in 'Guide to Country Houses Vol. III by Burk and Savill.

'Orford, Suffolk' by J.I. Carter and S.R. Bacon 1978.

'Oreford-nigh-the-sea' 1935.

'Medieval floor-tiles from Orford and Sudbourne', PSIA Vol.32 p.198.

'A Letter of Thomas Manning, Bishop–Suffragan of Ipswich 1537 concerning lands at Sudbourne', East Anglian Notes and Queries New Series Vol. XIII, 1909/1910, p.81.