

1. Parish: Aldeburgh

Meaning: Old fort

2. Hundred: Plomesgate

Deanery: Orford (–1914), Saxmundham (1914–)

Union: Plomesgate

RDC/UDC: Borough disenfranchised (1832), Corporation continued unaltered, Aldeburgh MB 1885–1974), Suffolk Coastal DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Includes hamlet of Hazelwood –1866

Civil boundary change 1934 gain part of Hazelwood

Ecclesiastical boundary change 1958

Woodbridge Petty Sessional Division

Framlingham and Saxmundham County Court District

3. Area:

1,608 acres of land, 21 acres water, 74 acres tidal water, 115 acres foreshore (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed

- a. Deep, well drained sandy often ferruginous soils, risk wind and water erosion
- b. Deep, stoneless calcareous/non-calcareous clay soils, localized peat, flod land, risk of flooding

5. Types of farming:

1086		13 acres meadow, 5 pigs, 20 sheep, 12 acres free land, problems of acidity and trace elements of deficiencies
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilizing 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, barley, clover, wheat, or turnips, or preparation for corn and grass
1937	Main crops:	Mainly arable/dairy region

1969 Trist: Arable farming on reclaimed land at Aldeburgh Mere
Dairying has been replaced by arable farming

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1976/1977 River Alde forms natural boundary to the south and the Hundred river forms a natural boundary to the north. Associated marsh and wetlands in these areas restrict development
Open heath also occupies large portions of the parish.
Large and relatively compact coastal town development
Church situated in central position close to seafront
Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 101, 1801 – 201, 1851 – 383, 1871 – 440, 1901 – 557, 1951 – 879, 1981 – 1,189

8. Communications:

Road: To Aldringham and Friston
1844 Coach to meet coaches at Saxmundham every morning during summer
1912 4 omnibuses to meet all trains

Rail: 1891 Rail station: Saxmundham–Leiston–Aldeburgh line opened 1859. Line to Aldeburgh closed for goods 1959, closed for passengers 1966. Spur from Saxmundham–Leiston still operational

Water: River Alde: Navigable river to Snape bridge. 'Alde Estuary', by W.G. Arnott 1952

9. Population:

1086 – 5 recorded
1327 – 33 taxpayers paid £2 3s. 1d. (includes Hazelwood)
1524 – 115 taxpayers paid £22 14s. 8d.
1603 – 800 adults
1674 – 140 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 804 inhabitants
1831 – 1,341 inhabitants
1851 – 1,627 inhabitants
1871 – 1,990 inhabitants
1901 – 2,405 inhabitants
1931 – 2,479 inhabitants
1951 – 2,689 inhabitants

1971 – 2,791 inhabitants
1981 – 2,918 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage (with Hazelwood) (1844)

1254 Valued £6 13s. 1d. includes chapel of Hazelwood
1291 Valued £8 (with Hazelwood)
Portion of vicar in same £6 13s. 4d.
Portion of Abbot of Colchester in Aldeburgh £2
1535 Valued £33 6s. 8d.
1597 Incumbent also holds Bromeswell
1603 Valued £33 6s. 8d. Incumbent also holds Ufford
1831 Curate, stipend £133 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income
£222 p.a. Incumbent also holds vicarage of Friston with
Snape
1835 Valued £220 p.a. 15 acres glebe and residence
Mortuary built adjoining graveyard 1886
1891 Valued £309
1912 Nett value £170. 11 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Vernon Wentworth (1831)

11. Church Saints Peter and Paul
(Chancel with side chapels, nave, aisles, S. porch,
W. tower)

1086 2 churches + 60 acres
14th cent. Tower
1525/29 Nave, N. aisle, S. porch
1545 Chancel
1597 Chancel described as “utterly ruined”
15th/16th cent. Main structure
1643 Puritanical vandals (William Dowsing) ordered removal of
20 cherubim and 38 pictures
1853 Chancel enlarged
1881/1891 Restoration

Note: Ship auctions formerly held within the church c.15th
cent.

Troupe of actors (Earl of Leisters men) performed within
church 1573

Seats: 840 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1597 Margaret Neale “taketh upon her to cure diseases by prayer and
therefore hath recourse of people to her farre and nighe”–
accused of witchcraft and inchantment (Bishop Redmans
Visitation)

No Date Baptist, Congregationalist and Wesleyan chapels
 1908 2 Friends Meeting Houses
 1912 Baptist chapel, 100 seats
 Union Congregationalist chapel built 1822 seats 400
 Wesleyan chapel: small iron building
 Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady and St. Peter 20th cent.

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 80 acres held by Wulfric a free man of Edrics
 1086 Manor of 80 acres belonging to Robert Malet
 1155 William Martel owns (linked to Bedingfield), granted manor in frankalmoin to the Abbot of Colchester
 1405 Manor was in King's hands
 1508 Granted to Butley priory
 1525 Cardinal Wolsey owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
 1530 Granted lease to Thomas Russhe at rent of £45 6s. 8d. for 30 years
 1533 Thomas, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
 c.1696 Sir Henry Johnson owns (linked to Friston)
 1902 Commander F.C.U. Vernon-Wentworth owns (linked to Friston and Hazelwood)

Sub-Manors:

Vicarage Manor

17th cent Richard Topdiff owns
 1686 William Smith owns
 1703 Nathaniel Nobbs owns
 1779 Rev. James Benet owns
 1833 Rev. William Scarr owns

14. Markets/Fairs:

Market: Grant of market 1547
 Petition application for extra market to be held Wednesday deemed necessary due to increase in population 1568
 License to have a weekly market on Saturdays with court of Pie-poudre 1568
 Continued to held on Saturday 1792
 Markets formerly held on Wednesday and Friday (obsolete) 1891

Fairs: In the season: Fishing fair for mackerel and fresh fish 1679
 Fairs held on March 1st and May 3rd (for toys) 1759
 Fair for pleasure held on June 21st 1885
 Former fairs for pedlary held on March 1st and May 3rd (obsolete) 1891

Fair continued to held on June 21st (appears to have ceased by 1912)

Site of annual fair was Oakley Square until it became riotous and a nuisance at which time the fair was moved to the south of the town (no dates)

15. Real property:

1844	£2,005 rental value
1891	£7,689 rateable value
1912	£11,321 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	W.F.T. Vernon-Wentworth, principle owner
1891	T.F.C. Vernon-Wentworth, principle owner
1912	Commander F.C.U. Vernon-Wentworth, principle owner

17. Resident gentry:

1679	John Bence, Capt. Thomas Eliot, Sir Francis Theobald
1844	Lt. Samuel Bromley R.N., Rev. H.T. Dowler MA, Rev. J. Fleming BA, Capt. J. Osborne RN, Lt. F. Ramsey RN, W.F.T Vernon-Wentworth, Rev. G.A. Whitaker MA
1891	Sir H.E. Adair DL JP, Maj. Gen. W.H. Binny, N. Garrett JP, Rev. A.W. Harghton BA, Col. G. Money, Col. A.J.B. Thellusson JP, Rev. H. Thompson BA, T.F.C. Vernon-Wentworth JP, Rev. W.G. Wilkinson MA
1912	Capt. Sir F.E.S. Adair JP, MAj. W.J. Adams, P.E. Clark BA JP, H. Cowell JP, Rev. S.W. Goldsmith MA, W.H. Hall JP, Lt. C. Mure RN, Capt. E.S. Rogers, A.F. Saunders BA, Lt. H.E. Sharp RN, C.D. Somers JP, and R.B. Wrightson BA MD

18. Occupations:

1500–1549	6 sailors/mariners, 1 cooper, 1 husbandmen
1550–1599	1 roper, 40 sailors/mariners, 1 ships carpenter, 1 cooper, 3 yeomen, 4 tailors, 5 husbandmen, 1 butcher, 1 thatcher, 1 carpenter, 1 merchant, 1 boatwright/shipwright, 1 barber, 3 masons, 1 tinker, 1 sail sewer, 1 bailiff of the borough, 2 beer brewers, 1 mercer
1600–1649	17 fishermen, 1 roper, 13 sailors/mariners, 1 metalman, 1 maltster, 3 bakers, 1 ships carpenter, 1 cooper, 8 yeomen, 7 tailors, 4 husbandmen, 1 butcher, 2 thatchers, 1 rope maker, 7 cordwainers/shoemakers, 1 linen weaver, 1 blacksmith, 1 herdsman, 1 merchant, 3 grocers, 2 boatwrights/shipwrights, 1 clerk, 1 draper, 3 millers, 1 spinster, 1 barber, 1 bricklayer, 1 housewright, 1 anchorsmith, 1 woollen draper, 1 carter, 1 scavelman, 1 haberdasher

- 1650–1699 4 fishermen, 39 sailors/mariners, 1 maltster, 1 ships carpenter, 2 coopers, 5 yeomen, 3 tailors, 1 husbandmen, 3 butchers, 1 carpenter, 5 shoemakers/cordwainers, 1 blacksmith, 3 merchants, 2 grocers, 1 lime burner, 5 boatwrights/shipwrights, 2 clerks, 1 draper, 1 miller, 5 spinsters, 1 sailmaker, 1 school dame, 1 hosier, 1 house carpenter, 1 tobacconist
- 1701 1 block maker
- Note: 1679 Commodious Quay with warehouses and fish-houses plus facilities for fish drying. Only employment: fishery especially for Herrings. Said to be the only place in England for the drying and redding of Sprats
Decaying trade for Cod
Shipping consists of 4 sayl ship-built, 3 pinks or flyboats, a yacht and 2/3 hoys employed partly in coal trade and partly in passage
- 1831 30 in agriculture, 135 in retail trade, 11 professionals, 34 in labouring, 77 in domestic service, 8 others
- 1844 Shipbuilding yard. Trade of the port – export of corn and wool, import of coal and timber
Sea port, fishing town. Quay/wharf with coal yards and saltings
Wine/spirit/ale/porter merchant, shopwoman, collector of wharfage, 2 bricklayers, 3 gardeners, cooper, 2 shipbuilders, watchmaker/jeweller/stationer, basket maker, fruiterer, saddler, 2 mace bearers, lapidary and bath keeper, solicitor, 8 hotel, inns and taverns, 3 academies, 2 bakers, 3 blacksmiths, 2 beerhouse keepers, 7 boot/shoemakers, 3 butchers, 2 chemist/druggists, 6 coal/corn merchants, 2 corn millers, 6 farmers, 14 fishermen/smack owners, 2 glass dealers, 6 grocers/drapers, 2 hairdressers, 3 joiners, 2 lime burners, 19 lodging house owners, 2 maltsters, 12 master mariners, 5 milliners, 2 painter/plumber/glaziers, 2 pilots, 1 ship builder, 2 shipping agents, 2 straw hat makers, 2 surgeons, 7 tailor/drapers.
- 1912 Public officers, 2 newspapers, station master, coastguards, police officers, fire brigade, librarian, 3 butchers, 2 hairdressers, 2 fishmongers, 3 beer retailers, 5 publicans, 44 apartment owners, house furnishers, 3 bankers, 3 shopkeepers, 4 hotel owners, grocer, 2 tailors, farm bailiff, twine/net merchant, dealer in game, 3 confectioners, 4 carpenters, grocer/drapper, 2 teachers of music, lifeboat coxswain, 7 boot makers, 3 master mariners, 3 bakers, 3 coal merchants, 2 dressmakers, shipwright, ship Chandler, 3 farmers, photographic artist, dairy farmer, 3 bathing machine owners, 2 ironmongers, 3 builders, nurse, chemist/dentist, barge owner, 3 school teachers, 3 fishermen, boat owner, woollen depot, brewers, wine/spirit/beer merchants, 3 laundries, chemist, shipping agent, 2 smack owners, stationer, grocer, 2

drapers, toy shop, jeweller, market gardener, 2 insurance agents, outfitter/tailor, 2 stationer/tobacconists, chimney sweep, 2 surgeons, corn merchant, 3 solicitors, 2 fancy goods dealers, laundress, baker/greengrocer, florist/fruiterer, plumber, fancy repository, draper/milliner, midwife, watch/clockmaker, motor garage, wholesale/retail fish merchant, nautical surveyor, auctioneer

19. Education:

Grant for 6s for “a yeares skoolings” for son of P. Lombard (1581)
 Bequest of Thomas Oakley (1610): Land for grammar school
 Incorporated (1638). Aldeburgh School: Victoria County History Vol. II p. 349

- 1818 1 day school on Lancaster/Bell system (70–90 attend)
 1 day school (30 attend)
 5 womens schools (130 attend)
- 1833 3 daily schools (110 attend), 1 boarding school (20 boys attend)
 1 Sunday School (50 boys attend)
 National School built 1839 60 boys and 50 girls attend 1844,
 converted to coffee house c.1875
 3 academies 1844
- 1891 New National Schools built 1875, 350 attend 1891, average
 attendance 1912 357
 Boys day school
 Boys boarding and day school (Wyndham House)
 Ladies school run by Miss M.C. Schultz
 Preparatory boarding school (Eaton House)
- 1912 Preparatory school (Aldeburgh Lodge)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£149 9s. 3d.
1803	£324 4s.
1818	£430 19s.
1830	£740 2s.
1832	£775 2s.
1834	£806 3s.

21. Charities:

Slaughden Quay Trust Estate

1840 Quay (wharf) with coal yards, saltings etc. Tolls collected for loading and unloading barges. Let at £50 p.a. Revenues applied to support of school. Upkeep of the quay was expensive and only £5 was paid to the master of the Sunday School 1840

Poor Land

1840 1 acre arable land let a £3 p.a. distributed among the poor.

Rent Charge

1840 Town marsh – £11 p.a.
Capt. T. Chinery: Interest on £100 applied to sermon giver on Good Friday and distributed among poor.
Capt. W. Covell: £2 p.a. applied to find bread for the poor.

22. Other institutions:

Repairs to almshouse recorded 1626 and 1643

1844 Court of Sessions held by Corporation yearly in September
Moot Hall/Town Hall: half timbered building 16th cent, prison contained in the ground floor. Restored 1845/55
Custom House: small building, south end of town near Slaughden Quay
2 coastguard stations
Tower battery built 1806
Martello tower built c.1808 converted into holiday home 1974
Marine Telegraphic station and observatory
Charitable society for relief of poor estate 1843
Woodbridge Savings Bank

1891 Lifeboat station built 1891, lifeboat called 'Aldeburgh' lost 1899
Petty Sessions held fortnightly at the Town Hall on Saturday, changed to last Saturday in every month 1912
Gas works built 1856
Water works completed 1870
Reading Room built 1850
Literary Institution and Public Library established 1849
Jubilee Hall built 1889
Police officers

1912 Electricity Works built 1912
Church house used as working man's club, Sunday school and parochial meetings
Police station used as court house
Adair Lodge of Freemasons meet at White Lion Hotel monthly
Oldfellows Lodge (Oceans Pride) met at the Lads Brigade Hall (252 members)
Fire Brigade
Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners Royal Benevolent Society
6th Battalion Suffolk Regiment
2 newspapers
Aldeburgh Pier and Improvements Co. Ltd. 19th cent.
Small lying-in house at 62 High Street c.1919, later removed to Cottage Hospital founded 1921 extensively damaged by bomb strike (1942) when it was removed to it's present site
Festival club and gallery opened 1962
Britten-Pears library contains collection of books and music assembled by Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears. Established 1973

23. Recreation:

- 1550–1599 2 beer brewers recorded
- 1641 12 innkeepers
- 1692 Inquest of young man killed by fall while playing football
White Lion Hotel said to occupy site on which an inn has existed
Since 15th cent., White Lion established 1563
Theatre in existence c.1820
- 1844 8 hotels, inns and taverns
2 beerhouses
- 1891 Golf links and club, 440 members 1912
Tennis courts, 2 brass bands
Church Temperance Society tea and coffee rooms
The Cross, The White Hart, The Three Mariners
(lost to the sea in 19/20th cent.), The Cross Keys (built 1769),
The Brudenell, The Mill, The Railway, The Kings Head, The East
Suffolk (formerly known as The Commercial Coaching Inn)
public houses
The White Lion Hotel
2 beerhouses, 2 brewers
- 1912 Yacht Club founded 1898 120 members
Cricket Club (110 members)
Rifle Club established 1908
The Three Mariners, The Cross Keys, The Cross and The White
Hart public houses
3 beer retailers
The White Lion Hotel, 1 private hotel, The Railway hotel,
and The Brudenell hotel and The East Suffolk hotel
Cinema in existence (1965)
THE THREE MARINERS INN, Slaughden suspect of
involvement with smuggling. Photo in 'Alde Estuary', by W.G.
Arnott 1952, opposite page 9.

24. Personal:

- George Crabbe: 1754–1832 native of parish, poet
Suffolk Fair (July 1985), p.26.
'The Commemoration of Crabbe'
- Edward Clodd: 1889–1930, native of Aldeburgh of 'The Story of
Creation' and other best sellers
- Mrs. Elizabeth
Garrett Anderson: 1836–1917, Mayoress of Aldeburgh c.1907. By
1870 she had gained a Diploma of Society of
Apothecaries and a medical degree of the University of
Paris becoming the first women in the country to be
qualified as a doctor. Founded New Hospital for Women
at St. Pancras, London 1888, called The Elizabeth Garrett
Anderson Hospital since 1917. Founder member of

	Women's Medical School 1874, now the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine
	'Elizabeth Garrett Anderson', by J. Manton 1965
Newton Garrett: Aldeburgh.	18 th /19 th cent. believed to be founder of modern
Philippa (Garrett) Fawcett:	19 th /20 th cent., first women senior wrangler
Millicent Garrett:	19 th /20 th cent., leader and pioneer in non-militant cause of women's suffrage
Benjamin Britten:	1913–1976, moved to Aldeburgh 1947, composer and founder of Aldeburgh Festival 1948. Numerous books written about him and his works

25. Other information:

Maps held in Moot Hall show coastline 1588 and 1594 reproduced in 'Aldeburgh', by H.P. Clodd. These show Slaughden as self contained village (since lost to the sea).

Hearth Tax 1674 shows that of 136 houses, 34 were empty and a further 25 were impoverished.

Moot Hall: Timber-framed c.1528/40 brick noggin of 1654 when upper floor was inserted. Has served as a meeting place of Corporation, Court House, and police station. Ground floor (original timber arches) has been used as a prison –1894 and an open market. Sundial dates 1560 installed at cost of 7s. 6d. beneath this were the barred windows of the lock-up. Restored 1855.

Martello Tower: built 1808–12 as defence against Napoleonic Invasion. This particular tower is larger than the others along the east coast.

Elizabeth Court: housing for the aged, built 1964/1965.

Sea encroachment resulted in the loss of market place and cross together with many buildings 18th cent.

Plan of town exists dated 1559.

Charter 1529 gave town Borough status. Governed by 2 bailiffs, 10 capital 1832 and designated Municipal Corporation. Corporation insignia comprises 4 silver maces and gold chain and badge presented by Garret family for use by mayor.

Town saved from poverty 19th cent. as it became favoured as a sea resort by "families of distinction".

Aldeburgh Mere: formerly large shallow lake, drained 1908 land cultivated.

'Notes and Jottings about Aldeburgh', by N.F. Hele 1870.

'Aldeburgh: The History of an Ancient Borough', by H.P. Clodd 1959.

Town believed to have a small Roman port.

Right to common seal granted by Charter 17th cent., the seal cost £52 13s. to produce.

By order of the Corporation victuallers were forbidden to supply men's servants after 8pm c.1630.

Reproduction of picture of market place and cross with Moot Hall 1769 which can be compared with the picture on the following page of the Moot Hall

919th cent.), can be found at 'Aldeburgh', by H.P. Clodd, opposite page 44. These show the land lost to sea.

Whipping post remained in use till 1631.

Matthew Hopkins, Witchfinder General, paid £2 for finding out witches 1645. In same year John Pame was paid 11s. for hanging 7 witches.

Casino, otherwise Thellusson Lodge, built by Marquis of Salisbury, 19th cent.

Construction of pier begun opposite Moot Hall: project abandoned when pier was only half it's intended length of 180 yards, 19th cent.

'The Growth of Aldeburgh', by N. Scarfe 1951

Gun platforms swept away by the sea 1640.

'Aldeburgh Story', by A. Jobson 1954.

Aldeburgh Festival: founded 1948 now administered from Aldeburgh but actually takes place at the Snape maltings. Concerts took place at Jubilee Hall, Aldeburgh, –1967.

Old Custom House: stands in Crabbe Street.

'Slaughden Story', by C.H.H. Smith.

Cannons mounted at Fort Green emplacement (no dates) lost to sea during severe gales 1897.

'Records of the Borough of Aldeburgh: The Order Book 1549–1631', transcribed by A.T. Winn 1925.

'Record of the Borough of Aldeburgh: Poll Tax 1641', transcribed by A.T. Winn 1925.

'A Short History of the Aldeburgh Cottage Hospital 1919–1980', by Brig. E.M. Ransford.

'Handbook to Aldeburgh', by J. Hooper.

'Aldeburgh Described', by J. Ford, c.1820.

'Barretts Illustrated Guides: Suffolk Coast: Aldeburgh, Leiston, Orford and Butley', 1892.

'All Sayles Bearinge', by E. Burnet 1967.

'Aldeburgh Anthology', edited by R. Blythe 1972.

'The Discovery of roman Remains at Aldeburgh 1907', by C. Ganz. PSIA Vol.XIII, p.24.

'Copy of the Poll for the Election of MP 1812', Suffolk Tracts Vol. VI No.8.

'Records for the Corporation of Aldeburgh', Historical manuscripts Commission 1907, Vol. IV, p.279.

Chamberlains accounts books 1566–1856 in existence.

Stocks removed to end of Town House 1741.

'Aldeburgh: It's History', by V.B. Redstone. PSIA Vol. XII, p.202.

'Borough of Aldeburgh: Official Guides'.

Benjamin Britten based the story of Peter Grimes on the poem 'The Borough' written by George Crabbe about Aldeburgh.

'Suffolk Sea Saga: The Epic Story of the Aldeburgh Lifeboats', by R. Burton, extract from East Anglian Life 1965, held in parish folder (RO).