

1. Parish: Bawdsey

Meaning: Baldhere's land

2. **Hundred:** Wilford

Deanery: Wilford (-1972), Woodbridge (1972-)

Union: Woodbridge

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Woodbridge RD (1894-1934), Deben RD (1934-1974), Suffolk Coastal DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Ecclesiastical boundary change 1960

Woodbridge Petty Sessional Division and County Court District

3. **Area:**

1,595 acres land, 6 acres water, 54 acres tidal water, 211 acres foreshore (1912)

4. **Soils:**

- Mixed:**
- a. Deep well drained sandy soil, some very acid with bleached sub—surface especially under heath and woodland, risk of wind erosion
 - b. Some clay soil with peaty surface, subsoil loam and crag.
Cliffs celebrated for fossil remains

5. **Types of farming:**

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 soils. Rotation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn and grass
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley and sugar beet
1969	Trist:	Dairying has been replaced by arable farming Problems of acidity and trace elements deficiencies

6. Enclosure:

16/17th cent. Reclamation of Saltmarsh carried out
1812 14 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1811
(Bawdsey Common)

7. Settlement:

1973 Long straggling development along Alderton road. Main features of Church and school are well spaced. The main street seems extremely long, habitation appearing widely spaced towards coast. Development possibly influenced by marshland to the south. Secondary settlement at RAF Bawdsey. Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 23, 1801 – 66, 1851 – 106, 1871 – 99,
1901 – 102, 1951 – 101, 1981 – 103

8. Communications:

Road: To Alderton
1844 Carriers to Woodbridge on Wednesday and Friday
to Ipswich on Monday
1891 Carriers to Woodbridge daily
to Ipswich on Tuesday and Saturday
1912 Carrier to Woodbridge daily
Rail: 1891 9 miles to Melton station: Ipswich–Lowestoft line
opened 1859, closed for passengers 1955, used for
coal traffic 1984
Water: River Deben: steam ferry operates 1874 between Bawdsey
and Felixstowe

9. Population:

1086 – 57 recorded
1327 – 53 taxpayers paid £5 1s. 2d.
1524 – 35 taxpayers paid £3 3s. 6d.
1603 – 78 adults
1674 – 28 households
1676 – Not recorded
1796 – 296 recorded
1801 – 344 inhabitants
1831 – 454 inhabitants
1851 – 478 inhabitants
1871 – 402 inhabitants
1901 – 400 inhabitants
1931 – 376 inhabitants
1951 – 627 inhabitants
1971 – 438 inhabitants
1981 – 315 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage

1254	Valued £13 6s. 8d.
1291	Valued £10 Church appropriated to Butley Priory by Ranulph Glanville 12/13 th cent.
1535	Valued £6 13s. 4d.
1603	Impropriation endowed with vicarage, valued £6 13s. 4d.
1831	Curate, stipend £70 p.a. No glebe house. Gross income £170 p.a.
1912	Nett value £100. Residence

Patrons: The Crown (1831), Sir W.E.C. Quilter (1912)

**11. Church St. Mary the Virgin
(Chancel, nave, S. & W. doorways, W. tower)**

1086	Church + 20 acres land, valued 3s.
13 th cent.	Evidence of arched pier arcades in N. and S. walls of nave, blocked up 1937
14 th /15 th cent.	Tower (top has been lost), chancel (also missing)
1842	Destroyed by fire, rebuilt 1843 using old walls and tower

Seats: 120 (1912)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1644	Henry Ralinson: Vicar of Bawdsey and Rector of Hollesey ejected by Suffolk Committee for Scandalous Ministers
1810	Small Wesleyan chapel built

13. Manorial:

Bawdsey Manot

1066	Manor of 62 acres held by 14 freemen under patronage of Godric
1086	Manor of 62 acres belonging to Ralph of Beaufour
1086	Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Robert Malet. The estate held by Robert of Glanville
1290	Ownership shared between Butley Priory and Robert de Ufford
1400	Willoughby family owns (linked to Combs, Ufford, Bredfield and Parham)
19 th cent.	Sir William Cuthbert Quilter owns (linked to Sutton)

Sub-manors:

Bawdsey Antley al Glover's/Bawdsey Willoughby

12/13th cent. Anabel, daughter of Ranaulph de Glanville, owns
 1275–1538 Butley Priory owns (absorbed by main manor)
 1538–1609 The Crown owns
 1609– Various owners including William Humberston 1609 and
 William Glover 1645

Note: Surveys of manor ((1437/8, 1474 and 1570) in
 MSS in British Museum

14. Markets/Fairs

Robert de Ufford obtained licence for weekly market 1282/3 to be held
 on Friday and a fair on the eve, day and morrow of Virgin Mary
 Market discontinued 1797, fair discontinued 1835

15. Real property:

1844 £2,014 rental value
 1891 £2,855 rateable value
 1912 £2,710 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 Land sub-divided
 1912 Sir W. Quilter and E. Brookes, principle owners

17. Resident gentry:

1680 1 gent recorded
 1686 Charles Smith

18. Occupations:

1550–1599 3 husbandmen, 3 yeomen
 1600–1649 9 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 gardener
 1650–1699 5 yeomen
 1831 71 in agriculture, 13 in retail trade, 1 professional, 13 in
 labouring, 11 in domestic service, 3 others
 1844 Overseer, grocer/draper, joiner, bricklayer, 2 victuallers,
 shopkeeper, butcher, thatcher, 2 boot/shoemakers, 5
 farmers
 1912 Sub-postmistress, teacher, coastguard, sub-agent, 2
 farmers, 1 marshman, estate agent, 2 publicans, head
 forester, shopkeeper, clerk of works, estate clerk, farm
 bailiff, grocer

19. Education:

1818 Boys taught twice weekly. 1 Sunday school (40 attend, 20
 girls are also clothed)

1833	Sunday school (56 attend)
1874	Spacious schoolhouse in existence
1898	Public Elementary school erected, average attendance 1912 60

20. Poor relief:

1776	£44 6s. 0d.
1803	£140 17s. 4d.
1818	£431 14s.
1830	£273 11s.
1832	£221 17s.
1834	£303 5s.

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

1803	Friendly Society (35 members)
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Bawdsey RAF Station: Established 1936 for experimentation and implementation of radar led by Sir Robert Watson Watt. Developed first Air Defence Warning Station. Operational and training radar station 1939 for 'Chain Home' network (was the installation which tracked Neville Chamberlain's flight to Munich in September 1938)
 The 'Chain Home Low' system was developed solely at Bawdsey for use in detecting low flying aircraft.
 Winston Churchill visited Bawdsey in June 1939.
 Station developed small radar sets for carriage in aircraft.
 Remains in hands of RAF and Ministry of Defence 1972.

23. Recreation:

1844	The Lifeboat and The Star public houses
1891	The Lifeboat and The Star public houses
1912	The Lifeboat public house and The Star Inn

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Martello Towers: built by Royal Engineers as defence against Napoleonic invasion, 5 built 1810–1812.
 Area famed for smuggling.

'The Development of Radar in Suffolk', by C.F. Brown. Suffolk Fair
June 1980, p.45.
'Bawdsey Church', by G. Dyke. Suffolk Review Vol. 1, p.160.
'Account of Roman Castle, Bawdsey', Gentlemens Magazine 1788
'An Anglo-Saxon playing-piece from Bawdsey', By D.M. Wilson. PSIA
Vol. 32, p.38.