

1. Parish: Clopton

Meaning: Homestead on or near a hill/hills (Ekwall)

2. Hundred: Carlford

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

Union: Woodbridge

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Woodbridge RD (1894-134), Deben RD (1934-1974), Suffolk Coastal DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Woodbridge Petty Sessional Division and County Court District

3. Area: 2,098 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion

5. Types of farming:

1086		18 acres meadow, 7 cattle, 135 sheep, wood for 10 pigs, 2 cobs, 40 pigs
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, root crops
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1958 Development of moderate size but of well dispersed nature. Church situated at southern boundary. Secondary settlements at Clopton Green and Clopton Corner.

Airfield intrudes into parish at SE corner. Roman Road crosses parish W-E in fairly central position.
Some scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 38, 1801 – 66, 1851 – 80, 1871 – 82, 1901 – 69, 1951 – 98, 1981 – 113

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Monewden, Otley, Burgh and Grundisburgh
1891 Carriers to Ipswich Tuesday and Saturday
Carriers to Woodbridge Thursday
1912 Carrier to Ipswich Tuesday and Friday

Rail: 1891 5 miles Woodbridge station: Ipswich – Lowestoft line, opened (1859). 4 miles Little Bealings station: Ipswich – Lowestoft line, opened (1859), station closed to passengers (1956), closed for goods (1965)

Water: Small stream running through parish believed to have been navigable (no dates). Circumstantial evidence in field name 'Clopton Dock'

Air: Debach airfield built by US Army (1943/44) used as POW holding camp (circa 1945) later accommodated displaced persons

9. Population:

1086 — 63 recorded
1327 — 37 taxpayers paid £2. 18s. 8½d.
1524 — 26 taxpayers paid £2. 18s. 10d.
1603 — 112 adults
1674 — 46 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 389 inhabitants
1831 — 468 inhabitants
1851 — 390 inhabitants
1871 — 382 inhabitants
1901 — 317 inhabitants
1931 — 272 inhabitants
1951 — 456 inhabitants
1971 — 322 inhabitants
1981 — 326 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £20. 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued £16. 13s. 4d.
1535 Valued £16. 13s. 4d.
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £550 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Marlingford, Norfolk. Rectory house improved.
Valued £538 (1835)

1912 Tithes commuted for £694. 19s. 10d. p.a. (1843)
Nett value £419 p.a. 14 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Thomas Lawrence (1603), G. Taylor (1831), Rev. C.H. Frost (1891), Mrs. Frost (1915)

11. Church St. Mary
(Chancel, S. tower, nave)

1086 Church + 15 acres, value 2s.
Circa 1300 S. doorway to nave
15th cent. Upper portion of tower
1883 Chancel rebuilt

Seats: 150 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1606 5 persons negligent in attending church
1603 12 persons not receiving communion
1912 Iron mission church built near school

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 1 carucate 22 acres held by Edmund the priest,
a free man of St. Etheldreda
1086 Manor of 1 carucate 22 acres belonging to William of
Arques

Copinger identifies a further Domesday manor of 1 carucate 42 acres
in this parish however this study finds this unsubstantiated

Clopton Hall at King's Hall

1066 Manor of 1 carucate 20 acres held by Burgric, a free man
of Ralph the Constable
1086 Manor of 1 carucate 20 acres belonging to Countess of
Albemarle
1127 William, 3rd Earl of Albermarle owns
1304 Margaret, Countess of Cornwall owns
1360 Elizabeth de Burgh died seised
1363 William Bardolf owns
1518 Sir Richard Wingfield owns (linked to Dallinghoo,
Shottisham, Brantham, Kersey and Martlesham)
1539 Anthony Rous owns
Circa 1693 William Betts owns
1872 William Sidney Calvert owns (linked to East Bergholt)
1908 Hon. Alexander Hewitt Kerr owns

Sub-Manors:

Brentha al Brendhall

13 th cent.	Robert de Aula Combusta/de Brendhall owns
1369	Bartholomew de Burghersh died seised
1375	Edward le Despencer owns
16 th cent.	Alice Lewgore died seised
1551	Thomas Codd owns
Circa 1562	Thomas Rouse owns (absorbed by main manor) (linked to Burgh)

Rouse Hall

1066	Manor of 1 carucate 22 acres held by Wulfric, a free man under patronage of Harold
1086	Manor of 1 carucate 22 acres belonging to Roger of Poitou
1201	Sir Ernold le Rous own (linked to Hasketon)
Circa 1288	John de Weyland owns (linked to Witnesham, Lt. Cornard, Onehouse, Great and Little Whelnetham)
1369	Bartholomew de Burghesh died seised (absorbed by main manor)
16 th cent.	Sir John Audley owns (linked to Witnesham and Sproughton)
Circa 1579	Robert Gurdon owns (linked to Lt. Cornard and Assington)
1600	Thomas Rous owns (re-absorbed by main manor)

Wascolies al Westelyes

Circa 1273	John de Wascoyl owns
1558	Thomas Codd owns (absorbed by Brendhall and ultimately by main manor)

14. Markets/Fairs

Grant of market and fair to Sir John Weyland at Rous Hall Manor (1303/04)
Described as long obsolete (1844)

15. Real property:

1844	£3,310 rental value
1891	£2,689 rateable value
1912	£1,666 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844-1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1679 Capt. Joseph Tye

18. Occupations:

1550–1599 2 yeomen, 3 husbandmen, 1 carpenter
1600–1649 14 yeomen, 1 tailor, 1 husbandman, 1 spinster
1650–1699 15 yeomen, 1 farmer, 1 tailor, 1 spinster
1831 100 in agriculture, 9 in retail trade, 2 professionals, 20 in domestic service, 5 others
1844 Shoemaker, blacksmith, wheelwright, 13 farmers
1912 Sub-postmaster, schoolmaster, builder, 19 farmers, shoemaker, wheelwright, storekeeper, farm bailiff, grocer, hardware merchant/furniture remover/carrier, publican, insurance agent

19. Education:

1833 1 daily school (10-12 attend), 1 Sunday school (est. 1831) (35 attend)
School board formed (1874)
School built (1875), opened (1877), 60 attend (1891), average attendance (1912) 63

20. Poor relief:

1776	£96. 3s. 11d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£210. 7s. 1d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£765. 3s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£828. 15s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£874. 16s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£769. 16s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Town Estate:

1840 4 tenements occupied by poor rent free
14 acres let at £32 p.a. (held since 1489 for repair of church and relief of poor)
1½ acres let at £2. 5s. p.a. to repairs to church bells

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

1891/1912 THE CROWN public house

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Annual customary court held in court-house in July (1844)
Clopton Hall: (circa 1500) hidden behind 18th cent. frontage
Parish rooms housed in iron building near the school (1908)
Sand pits contain large quantities of fossil remains

Archaeological Sites

Rom. Road (CRN 3265)

Med. moated sites (CRN 3266, 3271)

Pos. Med. settlement (CRN 3274)

Stray finds: Rom. Roofing tile (CRN 3267)

Pottery (CRN 3277)

Mes. Worked flint (CRN 3269)

Neo. Worked flint (CRN 3270, 3275, 3276)

Med. arrowhead (CRN 3278)

Pottery (CRN 3279)

Scatter finds: Sax. Pit/pottery and bone (CRN 3268)

Pottery (CRN 3273)

Rom. Pottery/metalwork (CRN 3272)