

1. Parish: Great Saxham

Meaning: Village of the Saxons

2. Hundred: Thingoe

Deanery: Thingoe

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

RDC/UDC: (W. Suffolk) Thingoe RD (1894–1974), St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Bury St Edmunds County Court District
Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessional Division

3. Area: 1,450 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

- a. Fine loam over clay, slowly permeable subsoils, slight seasonal waterlogging, some calcareous/non-calcareous slowly permeable clay soils
- b. Well drained calcareous coarse and fine loam soils over chalk rubble, deep non calcareous loam soils in places, slight risk water erosion
- c. Slowly permeable calcareous/non-calcareous clay soils slight risk water erosion

5. Types of farming:

1086	Saxham:	5 acres meadow, wood for 82 pigs, 4 cobs, 15 cattle, 36 pigs, 100 sheep
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.
1660	Blome	'being clay ground husbanded chiefly for the dairy' and 'fielding abounding with excellent corn of all sorts'.
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, oats
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1958 Small scattered village along main road almost surrounded by parkland. Church and school centrally situated. Secondary settlement at Frizzellers Green.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 17, 1801 – 25, 1851 – 52, 1871 – 54,
1901 – 46, 1951 – 49, 1981 – 68

8. Communications:

Road: Main Bury St. Edmunds–Newmarket Road
Roads to Little Saxham and Barrow

Rail: 1891 2 miles Saxham Station: Newmarket–Bury St. Edmunds line, opened 1854, station closed for goods 1964, closed for passengers 1967

9. Population:

1086 – 35 recorded
1327 – 26 taxpayers paid £1 7s. 9d.
1524 – 22 taxpayers paid £2 1s. 8d.
1603 – 81 adults
1674 – 31 households
1676 – 45 adults
1801 – 226 inhabitants
1831 – 260 inhabitants
1851 – 293 inhabitants
1871 – 247 inhabitants
1901 – 199 inhabitants
1931 – 165 inhabitants
1951 – 185 inhabitants
1971 – 176 inhabitants
1981 – 230 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £13 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £14 13s. 4d.
1535 Valued £11 13s. 11½d.
1674 Rectory has 5 hearths
1831 Curate, stipend £60 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation.
Gross income £330 p.a. Incumbent also holds rectories of Sutton and Little Henny, Essex
£373 p.a. in lieu of tithes 1839
Small thatched building. 15 acres glebe, barn, 2 cottages and 12 acres land in Whepstead 1855
1912 Nett value £190. 15 acres glebe and residence.

Patrons: Mr. Morley of London (1603), T. Mills (1831), William Mills (1855)
Charles Morbey (1912)

11. Church St. Andrew
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

Norman Doorways
14/15th cent. Main structure including porch and tower
1708 Largely rebuilt

Seats: 230 (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1 person attending Barrow Congregationalist chapel

13. Manorial:

Saxham Magna

1086 Manor of 5 carucates belonging to Abbot of St. Edmunds
(anciently owned by family of Frezill)
1541 Sir Richard Long owns
1573 Thomas Knyvet owns
Late 16th cent. Sir Thomas Kytson owns (linked to Hengrave)
1597 John Eldred owns
1745 Hutchison Mure owns
c.1794 Thomas Mills owns
1896 Charles Morley own
Custom: Gavelkind

Sub-Manors

Wodethorpe Hall

1333 Passed under nave of Sir Thomas's Tenement (probably Hemegrave)
No dates Sold to Earl of Stafford

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1454 £1 16s. 4d. rateable value
1844 £2,301 rental value
1891 £1,879 rateable value
1912 £2,018 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 W. Mills, principal owner
1891 W. Mills, principal owner
1912 C. Moreby, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

Sir Richard Long c.1541
John Eldred 1600
1680 1 gent recorded.
Thomas Richard Mills, High Sheriff of Suffolk 1871

18. Occupations:

1600–1700 Clerk, webster (female weaver)
1831 56 in agriculture, 5 in retail trade, 5 in labouring, 15 in domestic service, 3 others
1844 Victualler, farmers, butcher, wheelwright, horse dealer, blacksmith, shopkeeper, land agent
1912 Farm bailiff, blacksmith, farmers, builders / coal, nail etc. merchants, publican

19. Education:

1818 No school: report on educations observes 'poor are anxious to possess means of education'
School built 1862 30 attend
Public Elementary school 1876, average attendance 1912 34.
Sunday school, evening school 1876

20. Poor relief:

1776 £38 1s. 2 d.
1803 £195 13s. 3d.
1818 £379 7s. 0d.
1830 £277 10s. 0d.
1832 £324 15s. 0d.
1834 £303 6s. 0d.

21. Charities:

Mills Charity:

1834 by will of Mills: benefaction of money and sum for distribution in bread
1671–1721 Income from several wills distributed in fuel
1605–1641 Allen and other wills: income distributed in money

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

1844 /1912 The White Horse public house

24. Personal:

Sir Richard Long c.1541: Gentleman of the Privy Chamber, High Steward and Keeper of Several Crown Liberties, Captain of Islands of Guernsey and Jersey.

John Eldred 1600: first introduced nutmegs and other spices into England. His travels are described by Hackluyt in 'Collection of Voyages'.

25. Other information:

Large thorn tree stood by manor house called Eldred's Thorn. Traditionally John Eldred's favourite seat was beneath it.

Present Hall replaces Elizabethan mansion, built by John Eldred 1552–1632, known as Nutmeg Hall, burned down 1779. Present hall begun by Hutchison Mure, finished by Thomas Mills 1798. Ground landscaped by Capability Brown.