

1. Parish: Kelsale

Meaning: Remote valley of Cenel or Keles

2. Hundred: Hoxne

Deanery: Dunwich (-1868), Dunwich (South) (1868-1914), S. Dunwich (1914-1972), Saxmundham (1972-)

Union: Blything

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

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change (1883)
Abolished as civil parish to create Kelsale cum Barlton (1885)
Abolished as ecclesiastically parish to create Kelsale with Carlton (1844)
Blything Petty Sessional Division
Framlingham and Saxmundham County Court District

3. Area: 3,615 acres land, 5 acres water (1912) includes Carlton

4. Soils:

Mixed: a) Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
b) Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clay and fine loam over clay soils, some calcareous

5. Types of farming:

1086		9 acres meadow, wood for 60 pigs, 3 cobs, 2 cattle, 30 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
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products
1937	Main Crops:	Wheat, barley, beans, peas, roots, pasture
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

1854 42 acres in (East Green) Kelsale enclosed under General Acts 1844

7. Settlement:

1984 Small town development, church and manor house situated at northern end of development. Secondary settlement at Curlew Green, Dorleys Corner and East Green, North Green and Carlton Green
The hamlet of Carlton was situated at Carlton Green close to the southern boundary with Saxmundham.
Railway crosses parish to east of settlement from NE-SW

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 95, 1801 – not recorded, 1851 – 269, 1871 – 296, 1901 – 218, 1951 – 287, 1981 – 381 (1901 onward includes Carlton)

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Yoxford, Middleton, Saxmundham and Rendham
1891 Carriers pass through to Woodbridge and Ipswich

Rail: 1891 1 ½ miles Saxmundham station: Saxmundham-Leiston Aldburgh line, opened (1859), spur from Saxmundham to Leiston still operational carrying heavy goods for Sizewell Power station. Ipswich-Lowestoft line, opened (1859), still operational.

9. Population:

1086 — 86 recorded
1327 — 18 taxpayers paid £1. 14s. (includes Carlton)
1524 — 88 taxpayers paid £15. 3s. 2d. (includes Carlton)
1603 — 301 adults
1674 — 123 households
1676 — not recorded
1801 — 988 inhabitants
1831 — 1,103 inhabitants
1851 — 1,157 inhabitants
1871 — 1,017 inhabitants
1901 — 960 inhabitants (includes Carlton)
1931 — 843 inhabitants (includes Carlton)
1951 — 1,030 inhabitants (includes Carlton)
1971 — 1,090 inhabitants (includes Carlton)
1981 — 1,023 inhabitants (includes Carlton)

10. Benefice: Rectory (with Carlton) (1831)

1254 Valued £16

1291 Valued £20
 1535 Valued £20. 9s. 5d.
 1831 Glebe house. Joint gross income £700 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectories of Saxmundham and Thorington
 1844 58 acres 2R 38P glebe. Commodious residence £714. 10s. in lieu of tithes (1843)
 1891 75 acres joint glebe
 1912 Joint nett income £460 p.a. 75 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Feoffees of late Duke of Norfolk (1603), Lt. Col. Bruce (1831). J.B. Hart (1912)

11. Church

St. Mary and St. Peter

(Chancel with vestries, S. aisle, nave, S. porch, SW tower)

1086 Church + 30 acres land, 1 plough
 Norman Traces in tower and nave aisle, priests door in chancel, N. doorway
 14th cent. Tower and nave aisle
 15th cent. S. chapel, S. porch
 1643 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed 6 superstitious pictures, 12 popish inscriptions in Brass and ordered steps to be levelled and cross taken down
 1876-1877 Chancel aisles and vestries rebuilt
 1878 S. aisle rebuilt
 1890 Tower repaired

Seats: 500 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1851 Primitive Methodist chapel built. Seats 150 with attached Sunday school to hold 100

13. Manorial:

Kelsale Manor

1066 Manor of 4 carucates held by Norman, valued £24
 1086 Manor of 4 carucates belonging to Roger Bigot
 1066 Manor of 2 carucates held by Wulfeva
 1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Roger Bigot, valued £8
 1270 Inquis p.m. of Roger le Bigod, Earl of Norfolk (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
 1317 Thomas de Brotherton owns (linked to Bromswell, Ramsholt, Hollesley and Shottisham)
 1338 Edward de Montecuto owns
 1364 William de Ufford owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)

- 1400 Thomas, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
- 1549 William Hunyng returning to Dukes of Norfolk (1554) (linked to Carlton and Hitcham)
- 1611 John Holland owns (linked to Carlton and Mendham)
- 1620 John Bence owns (linked to Heveningham, Carlton and Cookley)

14. Markets/Fairs

- 1086 Market established by the Kings gift

15. Real property:

- 1844 £4,994 rental value
- 1891 £5,217 rateable value (includes Carlton)
- 1912 £5,363 rateable value (includes Carlton)

16. Land ownership:

- 1844/1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

- 1674 Sir Arthur Jenney
- 1844 Rev. L.R. Brown MA, S. Capon and J.L Farr
- 1891 Rev. G.I. Davies MA
- 1912 H.G. Aldous JP, A.R. Brailey MA, MC, FRCS, Major Gen. Sir R.B. Lane, KCB, KCVO and A. Mann JP

18. Occupations:

- 1500-1549 1 yeoman, 2 husbandmen
- 1550-1599 6 yeomen, 5 husbandmen, 1 sawyer, 1 labourer, 1 tailor
- 1600-1649 25 yeomen, 6 husbandmen, 1 sawyer, 1 cooper, 1 shoemaker/cordwainer, 1 painter, 1 thatcher
- 1650-1699 16 yeomen, 3 husbandmen, 2 linen weavers, 1 bookseller, 1 spinster, 1 miller, 1 shoemaker/cordwainer, 2 butchers, 1 fellmonger, 1 rector, 1 carpenter, 2 weavers, 1 tailor
- 1831 173 agriculture, 52 in retail trade, 3 professionals, 16 in labouring, 35 in domestic service, 24 others
- 1844 Watch/clock maker, cooper, beerhouse keeper, 4 school teachers, glove maker, dressmaker, butcher/cattle dealer, saddler, tailor, victualler/butcher, cattle dealer, 2 blacksmiths, 10 boot/shoemakers, 2 bricklayers, 2 brickmakers, 2 corn millers, 34 farmers, 4 grocer/drapers, 4 joiners
- 1912 2 Sub-postmasters, police officer, school teacher, 26 farmers, 2 millers, 2 beer retailers, 2 pork butchers, 2

1972 gardeners, wheelwright/carpenter, 2 asst. overseers, head gardener, shopkeeper, marine store dealer, blacksmith, 2 wheelwrights, 2 farm bailiffs, publican, basket maker, butcher, brick makers, cowkeeper, chimney sweep, 2 bricklayers, nursery keepers, market gardener, head gamekeeper, grocer, fishmonger
Small industrial estate in existence

19. Education:

circa 1765 School house mentioned in account of Town Lands Trustees (1753) (school possibly held within the church)
Free school mentioned and endowed for education of 10+ poor children, same charity aids apprenticing and maintains some grammar pupils at Cambridge University

1818 Grammar school gives free education to 85 boys (97 attend 1833)

1833 1 daily school (29 girls attend)
1 day and Sunday school (68 attend)

1844 Schoolmaster teaches 90 children in Grammar school.
Free school for girls supported by rector (50 attend)
Guildhall converted into school (1870) (200 attend)

1912 Public elementary school, average attendance (157) (held in Guildhall)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£181. 13s. 2d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£303. 17s. 11 ³ / ₄ d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£1,231. 6s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£1,200. 2s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£1,440. 3s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£1,256. 10s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Kelsale Charity:

1840 3 farms, blacksmiths shop and cottage, Guildhall school, 1 message and 207 acres 1R 39P let at £341. 7s. p.a. applied to provision of education, church repairs, apprenticeship, coals and clothing for poor

Cuttings Charity:

1639 by will of Edmund Cutting: Rent-charge of land in Peasehall (52s p.a.) for weekly distribution of bread

Eade's Gift:

1716 by will of Stephen Eade: £8 p.a. shared equally with Carlton for bread distribution and to aid the clothing fund

Grimsby's Charity:

1754 by will of Thomas Grimsby: Interest on £100 for distribution of bread

Filmer's Gift:

1840 by bequest of Sir Beversham Filmer: £2 p.a. for distribution of bread

22. Other institutions:

1439 Guild of St. John Baptist
1776 Workhouse (40 inmates)
1803 Friendly Society (34 members)
1860 Foresters Court 'Pride of the Valley' established, 128 members 1891
1870 Kelsale and Carlton Reading Room and Lending Library, occupies ground floor of Guildhall
1891 Church House Club built (1891)
1912 Police officer listed

23. Recreation:

1844 1 beerhouse, The Six Bells public house (licence transferred to building on opposite side of the road when it became known as)
1891 The Eight Bells public house (when two extra bells were hung in the church), 2 beerhouses
1912 The Eight Bells public house, 2 beer retailers

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Guildhall: (circa 1550), restored timber-framed house. 200 yards SW of church, used as almshouse (circa 1614) and school (1870). Administered by the churchwardens (-1775). Teacher training centre (1972)

'Kelsale Guildhall' by G.G. Holland. PSIA Vol.30 p.129

'The Kelsale Wonder' by Alison E. Baker. Local Population Studies No.26 (1981) p.43. An account of the birth of a baby with two perfectly formed heads (1545) with transcript from parish register.

Extent of Manor of Kelsale (1480). PSIA Vol.30. p.146

Parish holds site of ancient deer park: limits preserved on maps of 1616 and 1638. Keepership of Kelsale Park recorded 1486. Sketch map contained in Suffolk Landscape by N. Scarfe

Manor House: restored and enlarged (1906)

Published Parish Registers (1538-1812)

Vinyard established at Manor Farm (1967) believed to be first in Suffolk since 16th century

Archaeological Sites:

Med. moated site (CRN 2360-2364)

Med. chapel (ruin) (CRN 1263)

Stray finds: Neo. axe (CRN 2366, 2367)
 Pal. artefact (CRN 2368)
 Rom. pottery (CRN 2369)

Scatter finds: Rom. pottery (CRN 2365)