

1. Parish: Laxfield

Meaning: Leaxa's field (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Hoxne

Deanery: Hoxne

Union: Hoxne (1835–1907), Hartismere (1907–1930)

RDC/UDC: (E.Suffolk) Hoxne UD (1894–1934), Hartismere RD (1934–1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Hoxne Petty Sessional Division
Framlingham County Court District

3. **Area:** 3,713 acres land, 6 acres water (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Slowly permeable calcareous clay soils, slight risk of water erosion.
- b. Slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged clay and fine loam over clay soils, some calcareous.
- c. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		Wood for 260 pigs, 27 acres meadow, 5 cattle, 30 pigs, 6 sheep, 24 goats
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, turnips, pasture.
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1958/83 Railway crosses parish W–E (to north of settlement).

Small compact development around central church.
Secondary settlement at Banyards Green.
Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 106, 1801 – 128, 1851 – 223,
1871 – 237, 1901 – 198, 1951 – 212,
1981 – 301.

8. Communications:

Roads: To Stradbroke, Brundish, Wilby, Dennington, Badingham, Ubbeston and Cratfield.

1844 Carrier to Halesworth Tuesday and Friday.

1891 Carrier to Halesworth Tuesday and Friday, to Framlingham Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, to Stradbroke Wednesday.

1912 Carrier to Framlingham Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Rail: 1891 6 miles Framlingham station: Wickham Market–Framlingham line, opened 1859, closed for passengers 1952, closed for goods 1965.

1912 Rail station: Mid Suffolk Light Railway (Haughley–Laxfield) opened 1904, additional line to Cratfield opened 1906, opened for passengers 1908, closed for goods 1912, closed completely 1952.

Water: River Blyth: Navigable to Halesworth 1761, silted up.

9. Population:

1086 — 47 recorded

1327 — 41 taxpayers paid £3. 10s. 3d.

1524 — 71 taxpayers paid £9. 9s. 10d.

1603 — 360 adults

1674 — 143 households

1676 — Not recorded

1801 — 1,008 inhabitants

1831 — 1,158 inhabitants

1851 — 1,147 inhabitants

1871 — 1,018 inhabitants

1901 — 827 inhabitants

1931 — 763 inhabitants

1951 — 673 inhabitants

1971 — 658 inhabitants

1981 — 805 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage (with Cranfield 1831), Discharged Vicarage 1844

1254 Valued £33. 6s. 8d.

1291 Valued £38.

Portion of Prior of Eye 15s. 4d.

1535	Portion of R. Daneleres 13s. 4.	£39. 83. 8d.
1831	Valued £9. 13s. 4d.	
	Curate, stipend £82. Glebe house. Joint gross income £290.	
	New vicarage house built c.1841.	
	Rectory Tithes commuted for £617. 10s. Vicarial tithes for £220 1841.	
1844	13 acres glebe. Vicarage house occupied by curate.	
1891	Valued £220.	
1912	Nett value £200 p.a. 13 acres glebe and residence.	

Patrons:

Paul Bayning 1603, Lord Huntingfield 1831, E.W. Holland 1891, Simeon Trustees 1912

11. Church

All Saints

(Chancel, vestry, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

1086	Church + 43 acres, ½ plough
14 th cent.	Nave
15 th cent.	Main structure including porch and tower
	Note: It has been suggested the same mason constructed this church as well as Eye Priory c.1480.
1644	Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed 2 stone angels from steeple, 2 crosses, 2 superstitious pictures on stone, many superstitious inscriptions in brass and ordered steps to be levelled.
1945	Restoration.
20 th cent.	Tower severely damaged by lightning. Damage by lightning 1974.

Seats: 500 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

One person burned at Laxfield for their religious beliefs 1557,
Baptist chapel built 1808

13. Manorial:

Laxfield Manor

1066	Manor of 6 carucates 80 acres held by Edric
1086	Manor of 6 carucates 80 acres belonging to Robert Malet who gave the manor to Leiston Abbey.
1536	Charles Brandon owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
c.1538	Sir John Wingfield owns (linked to Wilby)
1602	Sir Edward Coke owns (linked to Horham, Stradbroke, Trimley St. Mary, Wherstead, Cratfield and Aldham)

c.1770 Sir Joshua Vanneck owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
 1853 Thomas Mayhew owns (linked to Knodishall)
 1885 Misses Crabtree own
 1909 Henry Edwin owns (linked to Wilby)

Sub-Manors

Studhagh/Stodhagh

13th cent. Henry de Swinesthorp owns
 1375 Sir Philip Deneys owns
 1375 Sir Robert Carbonel owns (linked to Badingham and Creeting St. Peter)
 1474 Robert Gedding owns
 c.1582 Sir John Brewse owns (linked to Carlton Colville)
 c.1644 Wolfran Smith owns
 1662 John Borrett owns

Laxfield Rectory

11th cent. Lands of Robert Malet given to monastery of Eye
 c.1536 Edmund Bedingfield owns (linked to Denham, Fressingfield, Knettishall, Kedington, Martlesham and Grundisburgh)
 c.1616 Paul Bayning owns
 1804 Joshua, Lord Huntingfield owns
 1909 Henry Edwin Garrod owns (absorbed by main manor)

Wathersdale

1305 Robert de Rous owns
 1550 Nicholas Smith owns (linked to Mendham and Cookley)
 1601 Robert Davy owns
 1605 Thomas Greene owns

Burt's/Bourt's Hall

1481 Sir John Wingfield died seised (absorbed by main manor)
 16th cent. Henry North owns
 1683 John Lee owns

14. Markets/Fairs

Grant of market on manor of Studhagh to Richard de Swinesthorpe 1226.

Grant of weekly market and two fairs to Sir John Wingfield 1472.

Further grants 1472/73, 1473/74, 1474/75.

1619 Fair held on May Day and St. Edwards Day (Oct.).

1759 Fairs held on May 1st, St. Lukes Day and October 18th for toys.

- 1792 Fairs held on May 12th, St. Lukes Day and October 18th.
 1844 Local farmers meet buyers at Royal Oak Inn weekly (Monday) to sell corn sample.
 1844 2 large cattle/sheep fairs held on May 12th and October 25th.
 Fairs abolished 1872.

15. Real property:

- 1844 £5,383 rental value
 1891 £5,188 rateable value
 1912 £3,750 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

- 1844/1891 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

- 1679 Giles Borret, Henry North and Wulfran Smith
 1891 Rev. W.F. Mothersole MA
 1912 Rev. V.M. White MA

18. Occupations:

- 1500–1549 1 yeoman, 1 priest/vicar, 1 baker, 1 tailor
 1550–1599 1 husbandman, 10 yeomen, 1 tailor, 2 shoemaker/cordwainers, 1 servant, 1 blacksmith, 1 glover, 1 turner, 1 wheelwright, 1 carpenter
 1600–1649 5 husbandmen, 26 yeomen, 2 tailors, 1 shoemaker/cordwainer, 1 weaver, 1 spinster
 1650–1699 2 husbandmen, 1 brick layer, 1 linen weaver, 10 yeomen, 2 tailors, 1 shoemaker/cordwainer, 1 priest/vicar, 1 glazier, 1 grocer, 2 weavers, 4 spinsters, 1 gardener, 1 vintner, 1 butcher, 1 labourer, 1 tanner
 1831 185 in agriculture, 72 in retail trade, 9 professionals, 32 in domestic service, 7 others
 1844 Butcher, surgeon, baker, bricklayer, currier, plumber/glazier, postman, 4 academics, 2 blacksmiths, 6 boot/shoemakers, 2 corn millers, 34 farmers, malters, 3 drapers, 4 innkeepers, 3 beerhouse keepers, 2 saddlers, 3 tailors, 6 wheelwrights/carpenters
 1912 Sub-postmaster, police officer, 2 school teachers, station master, 2 bricklayers, banker, shoemaker, butcher, publican/butcher, surgeon, 23 farmers, accountant, 3 publicans, baker/confectioner, tailor/clothier, 2 bootmakers, maltster/butcher, insurance agent, 2 grocers, ham curer/general dealer, corn/flour merchant, 3 blacksmiths, miller, 2 carpenters, pork butcher, wheelwright, glazier, cycle repairer, grocer/drapers, market

gardener, stationer, saddler/harness maker, newsagent,
plumber/glazier, carrier, cabinet maker

19. Education:

1 person teaches school 1597
Bequest of John Smith 1718 for education of 20 boys and
to aid apprenticing
Further bequest for education made by Ann Ward 1721
1818 1 endowed school (20 boys educated and part clothed
and apprenticed) 36 others also attend
1 endowed school (20 boys, 10 free)
1 endowed school (34 girls, 17 free)
1 endowed school (32 girls, 17 free)
1 daily boys school (20 attend)
1833 1 endowed school (53 attend, 20 free)
1 endowed school (14 boys attend, 10 free)
1 endowed school (16 girls attend, 10 free)
2 infants schools (32 attend), 3 daily schools (51 attend)
1 Particular Baptist Sunday school (250 attend)
National school built 1843, 100 attend in 1891
Smiths Endowed school rebuilt 1869, enlarged 1879,
average attendance in 1912 of 70
Laxfield girls and Infants school built 1845, average
attendance in 1912 of 112.

20. Poor relief:

1776	£190. 4s. 11d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£620. 18s. 11d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£1,519. 17s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£1,331. 4s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£1,416. 13s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£1,177. 10s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Parish and Charity Estates:

1840 Town house and cottage occupied by poor.
Farm and 28 acres 2R 38P let at £42 p.a.
Farm and 9 acres 2R 9P let at £20 p.a.
House and 43 acres 2R 37P let at £75 p.a.
3½ acres let at £6 p.a.
Rent charge of £2. 12s. p.a. for bread for poor.
Rents applied to church repairs and purchase of bread
and coals for poor + parochial relief.

John Smith's Charity:

1718 by will of John Smith: Lands and endowment for
schoolhouse and education of 20 boys.

Ward's Charity:

1721

by will of Ann Ward: £10 p.a. from rents and profits for education and to benefit poor.

Garney's Charity:

1455

by Deed of William Garneys: Rent-charge of 46s. 8d. to benefit poor.

Well's Charity:

1875

by will of John Wells: Interest on £450 applied to purchase coal for annual distribution among poor.

22. Other institutions:

1776

Workhouse (30 inmates)

1803

Friendly Society (41 members)

1891

Police officer listed

1912

Guildhall in existence, S. of church, timber framed
Laxfield and District Horticultural Society
Laxfield and District Ploughing and Horse Society
Laxfield Institute and Reading Room
Local History Museum held in Guildhall

23. Recreation:

1844

The General Wolfe, The Kings Head, The Royal Oak and The White Horse public houses, 3 beerhouses

1891/1912

The General Wolfe, The Kings Head, The Royal Oak and The White Horse public houses

20th cent.

Football Club (uses former railway ticket office as changing room 1950s–1975)
Badminton & Bowls clubs, Choral group, horticultural society.

24. Personal:

Edric of Laxfield: major landowner 1086.

Lewis Hockalls Cottingham: 1787–1847, native of parish. Restored Norman tower, Bury St. Edmunds.

John Noyes: shoemaker, burned for his religious beliefs in Laxfield 1557

William Dowsing: d. 1679, native of parish iconoclast of 1643/44. 'The Journal of William Dowsing', PSIA Vol. VI, p.236. Appointed to demolish church ornaments etc. in Suffolk. The journal is also available in published form.

25. Other information:

'Hill Farm, Laxfield: A Lobby-entrance house of the late 17th cent.' by I. Johnson, PSIA Vol. 35, p.53.

Extracts from parish register: East Anglian Vol. 2, p.256.