

1. Parish: Little 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: 1,320 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, turnips
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1978 Small compact development bordered by parkland. Church centrally situated by green area. Moated site of Little Saxham Hall separate from main settlement. Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 18, 1801 – 34, 1851 – 35, 1871 – 36,
1901 – 36, 1951 – 30, 1981 – 27

8. Communications:

Road: To Gt. Saxham and Westley

Rail: 1891 1 mile Saxham Station: Newmarket–Bury St. Edmunds line, opened 1854, station closed for goods 1964, closed for passengers 1967.

9. Population:

1086 – Not recorded
1327 – 24 taxpayers paid £2 1s. 1d.
1524 – 26 taxpayers paid £1 5s. 2d.
1603 – 53 adults
1674 – 21 households
1676 – 58 adults
1801 – 194 inhabitants
1831 – 198 inhabitants
1851 – 191 inhabitants
1871 – 183 inhabitants
1901 – 159 inhabitants
1931 – 127 inhabitants
1951 – 83 inhabitants
1971 – 91 inhabitants
1981 – 83 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £10
1291 Valued £10 13s. 4d.
1535 Valued £8 11s. 5½d.
1674 Rectory has 4 hearths
1831 Curate, stipend £50 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation.
Gross income £300 p.a.
Private dwelling dated 1638 appointed as rectory house 1852
Yearly rent £360. 40 acres of glebe and residence 1855
1912 Nett value £200. 40 acres of glebe and residence.

Patrons: Mr. Thomas Crofts (1603), Marquis of Bristol (1831–)

11. Church St. Nicholas

(Circular Norman tower, aisle, nave, chancel, Croft Chapel)

1086 2 parts church + 6 acres land

Late Saxon Original building
 Norman Doorway with small holy water stoup.
 12–15th cent. Belfry, N. aisle + 3 bay arcade, S. nave and chancel
 18th cent. Altar rails from Little Livermere. (Transferred and installed 1947)
 Note: described as ‘most spectacular in Suffolk’ Pevsner

Seats: 4 appropriated, 179 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

2 persons attending Barrow Congregationalist chapel 1941

13. Manorial:

Saxham Hall Parva/Graces

1086	Manor of 2½ carucates belonging to Abbot of St. Edmunds
1484	Thomas Darcy owns
1504	Thomas Lucas owns (linked to Barrow and Horringer)
1551	Sir John Croftes owns
1789	Marquis of Cornwallis owns
1795	Exchanged this property with Robert Rushbrooke for lands in West Stow
1808	Exchanged this property with Marquis of Bristol for lands in Rushbrooke

Sub-Manors

Geddyngs/Topesfields

	Anciently held by William de Saxham
12/13 th cent.	Nicholas de Geddyng owns
1412	William de Topesfield owns
1504	Alice Coke owns
16 th cent.	Thomas Lucas owns (absorbed by main manor)

Large's

1244	Thomas de Rushbrook owns
1301	John de large owns
14 th cent.	Robert de Hethe owns
1531	Inquis p.m. of Thomas Lucas (absorbed by main manor)

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1454	£2 10s. 2d. rateable value
1844	£1,727 rental value
1891	£1,580 rateable value
1912	£1,496 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	Marquis of Bristol, principal owner
1891	Marquis of Bristol and T.R. Mills, principal owners
1912	Marquis of Bristol and C. Morbey, principal owners

17. Resident gentry:

1660	Right Hon. William, Lord Crofts
1680	Baron, Crofts Hall, Baronet, 2 gents recorded

18. Occupations:

1600–1700	Shepherd, servants, blacksmith, sexton of parish, labourers, clerk
1700–1800	Farmers, servants, shepherd, clerks, sojourner, labourers
1831	46 in agriculture, 2 in retail trade, 7 in domestic service
1844	Farmers
1912	Farmers, station master

19. Education:

1818	1 dames school
1833	Daily school supported by Marchioness of Bristol (20 attend) 1 day school 1876, average attendance 1912 35 1 Sunday school Mr. Richard Wood, the minister 1594 may have held small school

20. Poor relief:

1776	£65 7s. 10 d.
1803	£179 3s. 9d.
1818	£210 14s. 0d.
1830	£119 15s. 0d.
1832	£151 12s. 0d.
1834	£101 9s. 0d.

21. Charities:

Green's Charity:

1814	by will of Mary Green: sum for distribution in fuel.
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Rodwell's Charity:

1850	by will of Thomas Rodwell: sun for distribution in clothing.
1599–1712	Income from wills distributed in fuel and flour.

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

20th cent. Football Club

24. Personal:

Thomas Lucas: 1516 sent to Tower of London 'for speaking scandalous words of the Lord Cardinal (Wolsey)'

Lord William Crofts: 1666 Gentleman of the Bedchamber to Charles II

25. Other information:

Thomas Lucas caused Hall to be built and moat dug (1500). Left side of Bury St. Edmunds / Saxham Road, ½ mile from church – foundations and moat remain. Charles II made several visits to Little Saxham, staying with Lord Crofts 1666 – 1676.

Crofts Place 1635: partly moated, owned by national Trust 20th cent.

Reservoir constructed by Anglian Water Authority to serve Bury St. Edmunds 1975.

Foundations of Little Saxham Hall laid 1504, demolished 1773.