

1. Parish: Melton

Meaning: Mill homestead/village.

2. Hundred: Wilford

Deanery: Wilford (–1914), Carlford (1914–1972), Woodbridge (1972–)

Union: Woodbridge

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

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1956 and 1960
Woodbridge Petty Sessional Division and Country Court District.

3. Area: 1,417 acres, 6 acres water, 5 acres tidal water, 24 acres foreshore (1912).

4. Soils:

Fine loam and sandy soil, subsoil gravel, some deep sandy soil, possibility of acidity and risk of wind erosion.

5. Types of farming:

1086		1 cobs, 11 pigs, 37 sheep, 21 acres meadow, 1 mill.
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep–corn region, sheep main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening, barley main cash crop.
1804	Young:	‘This corner of Suffolk practices better husbandry than elsewhere’...identified as carrot growing region.
1818	Marshall:	Management varies with condition of sandy soils. Rotation usually turnip, barely, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn and grass.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat and barley.
1969	Trist:	Dairying has been replaced by arable farming.

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1983 Moderate small town development on west bank of River Deben which runs into Woodbridge.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 37, 1801 – 63, 1851 – 176, 1871 – 193, 1901 – 241, 1951 – 434, 1981 – 986.

8. Communications:

Road: A.1152 Melton to Eyke Road via Bromswell Road.
1844 Carriers to Woodbridge, Alderton, Bawdsey, etc.
Omnibus to meet London Steamers at Ipswich.

Rail: 1891 Rail station: Ipswich–Lowestoft line opened 1859, closed for passengers 1955. Used only for specialised traffic 1972 lead to the establishment of the Melton Stone Depot. Initially to receive two 700 ton train loads of roadstone and granite from Merehead Quarry, Somerset. Used for coal traffic 1984.

Water: Bridge crossed River Deben, rebuilt 1539

9. Population:

1086 – 34 recorded
1327 – 44 taxpayers paid £2 13s. 11d. (includes Ufford)
1524 – 35 taxpayers paid £2 17s. 10d.
1603 – 124 adults
1674 – 46 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 501 inhabitants
1831 – 707 inhabitants
1851 – 1,039 inhabitants
1871 – 1,237 inhabitants
1901 – 1,640 inhabitants
1931 – 2,197 inhabitants
1951 – 2,356 inhabitants
1971 – 2,325 inhabitants
1981 – 3,025 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £5 6s. 8d.
Portion to Prior of Ely 10s. £5 16s. 8d.

1291 Valued £9 6s. 8d.
Portion to Prior of Ely 10s. £9 16s. 8d.

1535 Valued £9 6s. 8d.

1831 Glebe house unfit for occupation. Gross income £356 p.a.
Incumbent also holds Rectory of Salcote, Essex.
Tithes commuted for £395 5s. 5d. p.a.

1912 Net value £210 p.a. 8 acres glebe and residence.

Patrons: Dean and Chapter of Ely (1603–)

11. Church St. Andrew (old church)

14th cent. Window in tower.
1937 Remains (tower and nave with 19th apse) used as mortuary chapel.

St. Andrew (new church)
(4 bay nave, N. aisle, 2 bay chancel, S. tower and spire)

Seats: 410 (1912)

12. Nonconformity etc:

William Pratt, Rector of Melton ejected by Suffolk Committee for Scandalous Ministers 1644
Small primitive Methodists chapel built 1860

13. Manorial:

Melton Manor/Melton with Ufford

1066/1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to St. Etheldreda's (known as the Abbot of Ely's Melton).
Allotted to the Prior and Convent of Ely by Hervey, 1st Bishop of Ely.
1911 Manor still belongs to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Ely.

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844 £2,649 rental value
1891 £7,748 rateable value
1912 £11,991 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 2 yeoman.
1550–1599 7 husbandman, 1 wheelwright, 1 bricklayer, 1 blacksmith, 1 milner, 3 twill weavers, 1 yeoman, 1 glover.
1600–1649 1 soldier, 1 weaver, 1 butcher, 7 yeoman, 1 collarmaker, 1 tallow chandler, 1 spinster, 1 inn holder, 1 miller, 1

	pedder (maker of panniers/baskets or pedlar), 2 blacksmiths, 1 surgeon.
1650–1699	7 yeoman, 1 butcher, 2 wheelwrights, 1 house carpenter, 1 cordwinder, 2 spinsters.
1831	76 in agriculture, 67 in retail trade, 7 professionals, 22 in labouring, 56 in domestic service, 7 others.
1844	Surgeon, grocer/draper, builder/surveyor, joiner/builder, 2 maltsters, iron founder/machine maker, 2 coal merchants, butcher, millwright, 2 brick/tile makers, beerhouse keepers, gardener seedsman, milliner, 2 hay/straw dealers, corn miller, asylum steward, asylum superintendent, midwife, blacksmith/wheelwright, constable, collar/harness maker, baker, barrister, baker, brewer, 3 publicans, 2 shoemakers, 8 farmers, 2 tailors. Large iron foundry and machine works 1874.
1912	Wheelwright, teacher, 2 builders, cattle dealer, 2 innkeepers, butcher, carpenter, baker, gunmaker, agricultural engineer, basket maker, carman, horse slaughterer, 3 grocers, boot repairer, 2 coal merchants, jobbing gardener, 2 publicans, motor engineer, 3 farmers, 2 laundresses, cycle/agent repairers, saddle/harness maker, market gardener, customs and excise officers.

19. Education:

1818	1 Sunday school established by minister (109 attend).
1833	2 daily school (39 attend), 1 Sunday school (54 attend). National school built 1845, enlarged 1885 and 1894, average attendance 1912 147.

20. Poor relief:

1776	£73 10s. 9d.
1803	£160 3s. 2d.
1818	£699 15s.
1830	£552 6s.
1832	£390 12s.
1834	£547 4s.

21. Charities:

<u>Church and Poor Estate</u>	1894	6 Cottages occupied by paupers 2 acres 1R 12P at Green Man Meadows let at £12 12s. pa for bread and distribution to poor. 27 acres 3R 17P called Church lands. 13 acres 3R 16P called Charity lands let at £36 p.a. to cottage and church repairs and providing fuel for 8 poor persons.
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22. Other institutions:

- 1803 3 Friendly Societies (134 members).
House of Industry; Red brick on 'E' plan, often holding upwards of 250 inmates 1765, disincorporated 1821. Purchased by County 1827. Opened for pauper lunatics 1829, 156 inmates 1831. More land purchased 1900, 943 inmates 1911.
Friars Dene: Former gaol situated on main road south of Post Office. Gaol in existence 1296, presents building 15th cent. 'Melton Old Gaol' by V.B. Redstone. PSIA Vol. XV p.65.
- 1912 Police Station Built
Woodbridge Gas Lights and Coke Co. Ltd.
Woodbridge District Water Co.

23. Recreation:

- 1600–1649 2 inn keepers.
1650–1699 1 inn.
1844 1 beerhouse, 1 brewer.
The Coach and Horses public house.
The Horse and Groom public house.
The Lion public House
- 1891 2 beerhouses.
The Station Hotel public house.
The Railway Tavern public house.
The Coach and Horses public house.
The Horse and Groom public house.
The Lion public house.
- 1912 The Railway Tavern public house.
The Coach and Horses public house.
The Horse and Groom public house.
The Lion public house.

24. Personal:

Francis Noone of Martlesham Hall: Confined to Melton Gaol prior to being burned 1558.

Prof. D.T. Austed: (no dates) authors of work on geology.

25. Other information:

Note: Population figures are influenced by the House of Correction and from 1821 by the lunatic asylum.