

1. Parish: Otley

Meaning: Otta's clearing

2. **Hundred:** Carlford

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

Union: Woodbridge

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Woodbridge R.D. (1894–1934), Deben R.D. (1934–1974), Suffolk Coastal D.C. (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Woodbridge Petty Sessional Division and County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,168 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

- Mixed:**
- a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non-calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
 - b. Some permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay soils

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		8 acres meadow, wood for 29 pigs, 6 cattle, 50 pigs, 2 cobs, 100 sheep, 25 goats, 6 beehives
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, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

1809 25 acres of Otley Green reputedly enclosed

7. Settlement:

1958
(Clopton–

Small compact development around crossroads

Framsden and Cretingham–Ashbocking with extension along road to Cretingham called Otley Green. Church situated at extreme southern end of development on road to Clopton. Secondary settlements at Otley Bottom and Gibraltar.

Some scattered farms.

Line of Roman road crosses W–E in southern sector of parish.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 36, 1801 – 36, 1851 – 134,
1871 – 142, 1901 – 120, 1951 – 166,
1981 – 216

8. Communications:

- Road: To Hemingstone, Swilland, Grudisburgh, Clopton, Framsden, Cretingham and Ashbocking
Line of Roman road
1844 Carriers to Ipswich Tuesday and Saturday, Postman to Ipswich daily
1891 Carriers to Ipswich Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday (also 1912)
- Rail: 1891 6 miles Westerfield station: Westerfield–Felixstowe line opened 1877, Ipswich–Lowestoft line opened 1859, both still operational
6 miles Little Bealings station: Ipswich–Lowestoft line, opened 1859, station closed for passengers 1956, closed for goods 1965

9. Population:

- 1086 – 63 recorded
1327 – 25 taxpayers paid £2 15s. 10d.
1524 – 35 taxpayers paid £8 12s. 10d.
1603 – 130 adults
1674 – 38 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 415 inhabitants
1831 – 616 inhabitants
1851 – 661 inhabitants
1871 – 625 inhabitants
1901 – 530 inhabitants
1931 – 518 inhabitants
1951 – 528 inhabitants
1971 – 471 inhabitants
1981 – 627 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £14 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued £16
1535 Valued £16 6s. 5½d.
1831 1 curate, stipend £120 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation
Valued £510 1835
Rectory house built 1839
72 acres 2R 9P glebe. Tithes commuted for £670 p.a. c.1844
1912 Nett value £400 p.a. 70 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Lord Burgavenne (1603), Earl Abergavenny (1831), Marquis of Abergavenny (1912)

11. Church St. Mary

(Chancel, clerestoried nave, N & S porches, W. tower)

1086 Church + 20 acres, value 4s.
14th cent. Main structure
15th cent. Clerestory added
1643 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) removed 50 superstitious pictures, cross from chancel, 2 inscriptions and 20 cherubim
1879 Restoration, majority of chancel rebuilt

Note: Church contains a very rare example of an immersion font 7' x 4'. Thought to have been used by Anabaptists in 17th century.

Seats: 300 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

Baptists chapel built 1800, enlarged 1837, renovated 1868, seats 500

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 2 carucates held by Edwold a free man of Harolds
1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Roger of Poitou and held by Andrew

Overhall

1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Lustwin under patronage of Edric
1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Humphrey the Chamberlain

1250	Henry de Hastings, prior, owns
14 th cent.	John, 3 rd Earl of Pembroke owns
c.1492	Sir George Nevill, 3 rd Lord Abergavenny owns
1870	Edward Broughton Rouse owns
c.1872	John, Lord Tollemache owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)

Sub-Manors:

Netherall

12 th cent.	Adam de Otteley owns
14 th cent.	Thomas de Cressener owns
c.1454	John Gosnold owns
17 th cent.	Isaac Martin Rebow owns
1909	Hector John Curdon Rebow owns

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£3,697 rental value
1891	£3,121 rateable value
1912	£2,163 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Not recorded

17. Resident gentry:

1679	Mr. Armiger and Lionel Gosnold
1844	Rev. Francis Storr MA
1912	Rev. H.W.C. Geldart MA

18. Occupations:

1500–1549	1 husbandman
1550–1599	4 yeomen, 1 carpenter
1600–1649	10 yeomen, 3 coopers, 1 shoemaker
1650–1699	13 yeomen, 1 clerk
1831	131 in agriculture, 22 in retail trade, 1 professional, 3 in labouring, 18 in domestic service, 2 others
1844	2 victuallers, postman, grocer/draper, 2 schoolteachers, grocer, tailor, bricklayer/plasterer, shopkeeper, seedsman, collar/harness maker, 2 blacksmiths 4 boot/shoemakers, beerhouse keeper, 2 corn millers, 20 farmers, 2 joiners, 2 wheelwrights

1912 Sub-postmistress, schoolmistress, police officer, grocer/draper, dressmaker, 14 farmers, 4 farm bailiffs, 2 shoemakers, miller, carpenter, shopkeeper, wheelwright, baker, carrier, surgeon, insurance agent, grocer, saddler, cycle repairer, blacksmith

19. Education:

1818 A school, few attend due to poverty of the parents
1833 1 daily school (8 attend), 1 Sunday school (established church) (founded 1830), 45 attend
1 Baptist Sunday school (established 1827), 64 attend
School built 1839 by Rev. Francis Storr, improved 1874, average attendance 1912 72
School Board formed 1873

20. Poor relief:

1776	£78 17s. 10d.
1803	£166 18s. 8d.
1818	£910 13s.
1830	£599 10s.
1832	£712 4s.
1834	£799 13s.

21. Charities:

Pleasant's Gift:

1840 Of Geoffry Pleasants: £1 p.a. paid by Ipswich Corporation and applied in bread to poor most in need.

22. Other institutions:

1803 1 Friendly Society (25 members)
1912 Police officer listed

23. Recreation:

1844 The White Horse and The White Hart public houses, 1 beerhouse
1891 The White Hart public house
1912 Otley Athletic Sports and The White Hart public house

24. Personal:

John Gosnold: Gosnold family occupied Otley Hall for many years but were forced to sell the estate as a result of their Royalist sympathies. See Suffolk Review No.3, p.25.

(d.1628) Solicitor-general 1552. Monument erected to him claim royal descent.

Bartholomew Gosnold: discoverer of Cape Cod 1602. Believed also to be the discoverer of New England. One of the founders of Jamestown, Virginia 1607. Died of swamp fever c.1607.

(See Gosnold family folder in box file in RO).

Robert Gosnold: Cavalier: showed courage at sieges of Carlisle and Oxford 17th cent.

25. Other information:

Otley Green: comprised of 25 acres in its pre-enclosed state.

Otley Hall: ancient mansion, wall said to contain date 1440. 15th/early 16th cent. building, built by Robert Gosnold, exhibits 4 centred entrance arch. Part moated, formerly had gatehouse and drawbridge.

High House: c.1500 timber framed building with brick noggin in parts.

Barrow: motte and bailey castle mound, ¼ mile S. of church.

'Excursions to Otley', PSIA Vol XE, p.205 – concerns Otley Hall which contains former open cockpit and bowling alley – PSIA Vol.35, p.242.

'The Mount' called Otley Barrow: 20' high, flat summit surrounded by fosse (3' deep), indications of bailey on northern side.

High Hall: c.1500. See PSIA Vol.35, p.242.

'A Roman road at Otley' by E.J. Owles. PSIA Vol.31, p.185.