

1. Parish: Playford

Meaning: Ford where sports were held

2. **Hundred:** Carlford

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

Union: Woodbridge

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

Other administrative details:

Woodbridge Petty Sessional Division and County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,329 (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a) Deep well drained sandy often ferruginous soils, risk wind and water erosion
- b) Deep fine loam soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slightly seasonal waterlogging. Some fine loam over clay, some deep well drained coarse loams over clay, fine loam and sandy soils.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		Wood for 20 pigs, 23 acres meadow, 1 mill, 1 cattle, 25 pigs, 26 sheep, 1 beehive
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop. Also has similarities with wood-pasture region with pasture, meadow, dairying and some pig keeping
1818	Marshall:	Wide variations of crop and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands
1937	Main Crops:	Wheat, barley, roots, extensive meadow land
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1958 Small compact development to north of railway. Church situated slightly to NE of settlement.
Small rivers criss-cross the parish, associated wet lands restricted development in these areas. Heathland occupies southern sector of parish. Railway crosses parish centrally W-E
Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 18, 1801 – 24, 1851 – 59, 1871 – 56,
1901 – 56, 1951 – 70, 1981 – 87

8. **Communications:**

Road: Roads to Kesgrave, Rushmere, Culpho and Little Bealings
1912 Carrier to Ipswich, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 1 mile Little Bealings station: Ipswich-Lowestoft line, opened (1859), station closed for passengers (1956), closed for goods (1965)

9. **Population:**

1086 — 49 recorded
1327 — 13 taxpayers paid £2. 6d. (includes Brightwell)
1524 — 20 taxpayers paid 18s. 10d.
1603 — 24 adults
1674 — 22 households
1676 — not recorded
1801 — 216 inhabitants
1831 — 299 inhabitants
1851 — 260 inhabitants
1871 — 258 inhabitants
1901 — 238 inhabitants
1931 — 212 inhabitants
1951 — 207 inhabitants
1971 — 277 inhabitants
1981 — 255 inhabitants

10. **Benefice: Perpetual Curacy (1831), Vicarage (united with Culpho) 1915**

1254 Valued £6. 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued £8.
1535 Not recorded
1831 No glebe house. Gross income £53 p.a. Incumbent also holds Vicarage of Rushmere
Good vicarage house built (1845)
Annexed to Culpho (1882)
1891 Rent-charge of £100 p.a. in lieu of tithes, 40 acres glebe
1912 Joint nett value £120 + residence

Patrons: Marquis of Bristol (1831), Marquis of Bristol and Lord Cranworth (1912)

11. Church **St. Mary**
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

1086 Church + 10 acres, valued 20d.
circa 1300 Nave and N. doorway
late 14th Tower
cent.
1643 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) removed 17
'popish' pictures and 2 superstitious inscriptions
1874 Chancel rebuilt during restoration programme

Seats : 150 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1597 Incumbent performed marriage in private home

13. Manorial:

Playford/Playford Hall with Mitchelis

1066 Manor of 3 carucates held by Godwin, son of Alphere
under the Queen
1086 Manor of 3 carucates belonging to Robert Malet and held
by Unfrid, son of Robert
12th cent. Richard de Playford owns
1400 Sir George Felbrigg owns (linked to Rushmere,
Bucklesham, Sproughton and Mildenhall)
circa 1476 Thomas Sampson owns (linked to Brettenham,
Rushmere, Kirton and Sproughton)
circa 1546 Thomas Felton owns (linked to Rushmere, Bucklesham
and Sproughton)
1741 John Hervey, Earl of Bristol owns (linked to numerous
manors throughout Suffolk)

Sub-Manors:

Meer/Mere Hall

13th cent. John de Holdbroke owns (linked Rushmere, Kesgrave,
Bucklesham, Brantham, Burstall, Chelmondiston and
Woolverstone)
circa 1537 Arthur Rushe owns
1558 Thomas Seckford owns (linked to Newbourn,
Bucklesham, Felixstowe, Nacton, Boulge, Dallinghoo and
Wenham Parva)
16th cent. Thomas Felton owns (absorbed by main manor)

Lees

circa 1439 Margery Sampson owns (absorbed by main manor under Thomas Sampson (1476))(linked to Kirton, Sproughton, Brettenham and Rushmere)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£1,710 rental value
1891	£1,857 rateable value
1912	£2,556 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	Marquis of Bristol, principal owner
1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Marquis of Bristol and H. Biddell, principal owners

17. Resident gentry:

1679	Sir Henry Felton (owns house with 25 hearths 1674))
1844	Thomas Clarkson
1891	Sir George B. Airey and G.E. Crisp
1912	F.S. Stevenson BA, DL, JP, and Rev. C.H.L Wright MA

18. Occupations:

1550-1549	1 yeoman, 2 husbandmen
1600-1649	3 yeoman, 2 husbandmen, 2millers, 1 carpenter
1650-1699	5 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 spinster, 1 mariner
1831	49 agriculture, 9 in retail trade, 11 in domestic service, 7 others
1844	Land valuer/chief constable, farmer, shopkeeper, shoemaker
1912	Sub-postmaster, carrier, estate agent, shopkeeper, bricklayer, farmer

19. Education:

1818	1 Sunday school (30-40 attend)
1833	1 daily school (12-14 attend), 1 Sunday school (50 attend)
1891/1912	Children attend school at Little Bealings

20. Poor relief:

1776	£28. 19s. 7d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£60. 15s. 8d.	spent on poor relief

1818	£420. 18s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£371. 16s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£252. 8s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£194. 19s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

1896 Parish Hall built by Mr. & Mrs. Stevenson

23. Recreation:

24. Personal:

Thomas Clarkson (1761-1846): resident of Playford Hall, involved in conjunction with Wilberforce in the abolition of negro slavery. Obelisk raised to his memory in churchyard (1857). 'Clarkson – The Man and His Life'. East Anglian Monthly (August, 1985) p.20

Felton family: (particularly a Lt. Felton) who in 1629 assassinated the Duke of Buckingham. This family also resided at Playford Hall. 'Playford and the Feltons' by A. Hervey. PSIA Vol. IV p.14

Memorials to Airey family in church – Victorian Astronomer Royal (Sir George Biddell Airey (1835-1881)) and Anna Airey (20th century Suffolk artist)

25. Other information:

Playford Hall: 'L' shaped fragment of Elizabethan moated mansion. Represents part of centre and W. wing of original, E. wing still existed (late 18th cent) Moat crossed by bridge. Bell on roof of hall inscribed 'Sir Antony Felton 1595'.

Playford Mount: built (1867) by E.C Hakewill in Gothic style, stands in ground of 18 acres

'Roman urn found at Playford' by A. Biddell. PSIA Vol. III p. 398

Playford water mill in existence (1841)

Archaeological Sites:

Round barrows (CRN 3330-32)

Med. moated site (CRN 3333)

Church of St. Mary (CRN 1678)

Stray finds: Un. worked flint (CRN 3329)
Rom. coin (CRN 3334, 2268)
Rom. pottery (CRN 3341)
Pal. worked flint (CRN 3335)

Mes. worked flint (CRN 3336)
Mes. stone implement (CRN 3337)
Neo. polished axe (CRN 3338)
Neo. polished axe/stone implement (CRN 3339)
B.A. implement (CRN 3340)
Sax. brooches (CRN 2269, 2261)
Med. bronze book mount (CRN 2270)
PMed pendent (CRN 2271)

Scatter finds:

Rom. pottery (CRN 3328)
Rom. pottery/metalwork (CRN 56, 59)
Med. pottery/metalwork (CRN 57)
Med. metalwork (CRN 62)
I.A. pottery (CRN 58)
Sax. metalwork (CRN 60)