

1. Parish: Sternfield

Meaning: Suggested as Sterne's field or stony field

2. Hundred: Plomesgate

Deanery: Orford (–1914), Saxmundham (1914 –)

Union: Plomesgate

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

Other administrative details:

Blything Petty Sessional Division
Framlingham and Saxmundham County Court District

3. Area: 1,108 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed:

- a. Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid, risk Wind erosion
- b. Deep stoneless calcareous/non-calcareous clay soils, flat land, slight risk of flooding by river.

5. Types of farming:

1086		6 acres meadow Problems of acidity and trace elements deficiencies
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilising 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, barley, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn and grass
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, beans, roots. Mainly arable/dairying
1969	Trist:	Dairying has been replaced by arable farming

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1975 River Fromus forms natural boundary to west.
Small dispersed settlement. Church situated close to western boundary.
Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 18, 1801 – 36, 1851 – 44,
1871 – 45, 1901 – 45, 1951 – 57,
1981 – 43

8. Communications:

Road: To Saxmundham, Knodishall, Snape and Benhall

Rail: 1891 1 ½ miles Saxmundham station: Saxmundham–
Aldeburgh line opened 1859, line to Aldeburgh closed
for goods 1959, closed for passengers 1966. Spur from
Saxmundham–Leiston still operational
Ipswich–Lowestoft line opened 1859 still operational

9. Population:

1086 – 39½ recorded
1327 – 12 taxpayers paid £1 3s. 3d.
1524 – 13 taxpayers paid £14s. 7d.
1603 – 69 adults
1674 – 23 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 170 inhabitants
1831 – 203 inhabitants
1851 – 188 inhabitants
1871 – 197 inhabitants
1901 – 182 inhabitants
1931 – 171 inhabitants
1951 – 159 inhabitants
1971 – 151 inhabitants
1981 – 114 inhabitants

10. Benefice:

1254 Value not recorded
1291 Valued £8
Portion of St. Felic 13s. 4d.
Portion of Abbess of Colchester in Aldeburgh £2.
£10 13s. 4d.
1535 Valued £8 14s. 4½d.
1831 Curate, stipend £60 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income
£299 p.a.

- Incumbent also holds Canonry of St. Georges Chapel, Windsor, Rectory of Pulham St. Mary with Perpetual Curacy of Pulham St. Mary Magdalene, Norfolk
- 1844 Neat residence + 87 acres 2R 37P glebe. £399 p.a. in lieu of tithes
- 1912 Nett value £219. 84 acres glebe and residence
- Patrons: Bassingbourne Gawdy (1603), Mrs. Long (1831), W. Long (1844), Lt. Col. W.B. Long (1891), W.E. Long (1912)
- 11. Church** St. Mary Magdalene
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)
- Norman 14th cent. Masonry in nave?
Tower and porch (W. face of tower exhibits armorial shield for de la Pole)
- 1764 Chancel rebuilt, re-gothicised 1877
- 1877 Restoration
- Seats: 140 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

- 1597 2 persons excommunicated for failing to attend church.

13. Manorial:

Mandeville's

- 1066 Manor of 50 acres held by Leofric under patronage of Norman
- 1086 Manor of 50 acres belonging to Roger Bigot
- 12th cent. William Gulafre owns
- 1290 Robert de Mundeville/Amoundeville owns
- 1384 Inquis p.m. of Michael de la Pole 'for the parson of Sternfield church'
- 1546 Francis Framlingham owns (linked to Debenham, Pettaugh and Ashfield)
- c.1654 Sir William Gawdy owns
- c.1708 William Johnson owns
- 1719 Dudley North owns (linked to Saxmundham, Blaxhall and Farnham)
- 1909 William Evelyn Long owns (linked to Saxmundham)

Sub-manors:

Virlies/Glanvilles

- c.1266 Gilbert Glenville, Baron of Bromholm owns
- c.1335 Sir John Wingfield owns (linked to Saxmundham,

	Fressingfield, Stradbroke, Syleham, Wingfield and Framlingham)
c.1385	Michael de la Pole owns (absorbed by main manor) (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
c.1541	Anne of Cleves owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
c.1571	Edward Glemham owns
c.1607	Sir James Bacon owns
1763	Thomas Sheriffe owns
1782	Charles Long owns
1909	William Evelyn Long owns (linked to Saxmundham) (re-absorbed by main manor)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£1,309 rental value
1891	£1,298 rateable value
1912	£1,016 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891	Land sub-divided
1912	W.E. Long and Capt. Sir F.E.S. Adair, principal owners

17. Resident gentry:

18. Occupations:

1550–1599	3 husbandmen, 1 yeomen
1600–1649	2 husbandmen, 2 yeomen, 1 tanner
1650–1699	4 yeomen, 1 clerk, 1 tanner
1831	43 in agriculture, 2 in retail trade, 1 labouring, 11 in domestic service, 3 others
1844	Shoemaker, gardener, woodman, 6 farmers
1912	8 farmers, head gamekeeper, horse slaughterer

19. Education:

1818	1 day school (10 attend) 1 Sunday school (10 attend)
1833	1 daily school (22 attend)
1891/1912	Children attend school in Saxmundham and Benhall

20. Poor relief:

1776	£55 11s. 9d.
1803	£106 18s. 10 ³ / ₄ d.
1818	£123 12s.
1830	£212 17s.

1832	£223 11s.
1834	£178 18s.

21. Charities:

Town Estate:

1840	2 tenements let at £3 and £2 p.a. respectively 1 acre meadow let at £1 10s. p.a. Cottage, stable and 44 acres let at £48 p.a. applied to church repairs, fuel and clothing for the poor and education.
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22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Licence to Michael de la Pole to make castle of his mansion in
Sternfield c.1385