

1. Parish: Stoke Ash

Meaning: Place of the Ash (Ekwall)

2. Hundred: Hartismere

Deanery: Hartismere (-1897), Hartismere (South)(1897-1931), S. Hartismere (1931-1972), Stowmarket (1972-)

Union: Hartismere

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Hartismere R.D. (-1974), Mid Suffolk D.C. (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Hartismere Petty Sessional Division
Eye County Court District

3. Area: 1,215 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed: a) Fine loam over clay soil with slowly permeable subsoil. Subject to seasonal waterlogging
b) deep well drained coarse loam over clay

5. Types of farming:

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
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1958 Very Diverse parish with no real centre of development.
Roman Road crosses parish from S-N
Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 21, 1801 – 34, 1851 – 68, 1871 – 43,

1901 – 52, 1951 – 60, 1981 – 75

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Yaxley, Thwaite and Wetheringsett
Rail: 1891 3 ½ miles Eye station: Mellis to Eye line opened (1867),
closed for passengers (1931), closed for goods (1964)
3 miles Mellis station: Mellis-Eye line as above
Ipswich-Norwich line, opened (1849), closed (1966)

9. Population:

1086 — 51 recorded
1327 — 20 taxpayers paid £1. 10s. 4d
1524 — 14 taxpayers paid £1. 11s. 6d.
1603 — 80 adults
1674 — 25 households
1676 — 89 adults
1801 — 275 inhabitants
1831 — 392 inhabitants
1851 — 392 inhabitants
1871 — 334 inhabitants
1901 — 231 inhabitants
1931 — 264 inhabitants
1951 — 198 inhabitants
1971 — 194 inhabitants
1981 — 207 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254	Valued £6. To the Prior of Eye 4s.	£6. 4s.
1291	Valued £10 Portion to Rector of Stokes in Rishangles £2 Portion to Prior of Eye in Stokes 4s	£12. 4s.
1535	Valued £11. 1s. 3d.	
1603	Incumbent also holds Rectory of Diss	
1831	Glebe house. Gross income £277 p.a. 16 acres 1R 17P glebe. Rent charge of £358 in lieu of tithes (1842) Rectory house rebuilt (1846)	
1912	Nett value £230. 13 acres glebe and residence	

Patrons: Edmund Buckenham (1603), J. Ward (1831), Incumbent
(1855) J.A. Morgan (1912)

11. Church All Saints
(Chancel, nave, S. porches, W. tower)

1086 church + 15 acres land, ½ plough

Norman	S. & N. doors of nave (stoup in porch)
14 th cent.	Nave, restored W. tower (old lines of nave roof visible on E. face of tower)
15 th cent.	Brick porch
1868	Restoration

Seats: 150 (1855)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1676	1 nonconformists
	Baptist chapel (1805) seats 600

13. Manorial:

Stoke Hall

1066	Manor of 40 acres held by Wulfeva under patronage of Stigand
1086	Manor of 40 acres belonging to Robert Malet
11 th cent.	Given to Benedictine Monks of Eye
1536	Edmund Bedingfield owns (linked to Redlingfield)
1596	Edmund Bokenham owns (annexed to Stoke Ash with Thorpe)

Sub Manors:

Stoke Ash with Thorpe

1609	John Bokenham of Thornham owns
1781	Henniker family owns (linked to Gt. Thornham)

Woodhall

1206	Manor of 1 ½ carucate belonging to William de Geradvile
1270	Advowson confirmed in Priory of Eye
14 th cent.	Poley family owns followed by
1640	Edmund Harvey of Wickham Skeith
1706	William Ellis of Cotton owns
1738	John Ellis owns
1752	George Turner owns

14. Markets/Fairs

1844	Fair for hiring of servants held on October 11 th , obsolete (1891)
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15. Real property:

1844	£1,471 rental value
1891	£1,594 rateable value

1912 £1,183 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844-1891 Land sub-divided
1912 Lord Henniker, principle owner

17. Resident gentry:

1680 2 gentlemen
 John Pack, High Sheriff of Suffolk (1697)
1844 Rev. J. Ward.
1912 Rev. E.C. J. Bowen BA

18. Occupations:

1500-1549 1 husbandman
1550-1599 1 yeoman
1600-1649 3 husbandmen, 3 yeomen, 1 gardener, 1 rector, 1 tailor
1650-1699 2 husbandmen, 1 clothier, 1 weaver
1831 68 in agriculture, 20 in retail trade, 3 professionals, 17 in
 domestic service, 2 others
1844 2 shoemakers, wheelwright, blacksmith, victualler, miller,
 carpenter, 10 farmers
1912 Sub-postmaster, publican, wheelwright, blacksmith, 8
 farmers, 2 shopkeepers

19. Education:

 1 schoolmaster/tutor mentioned (1704-07)
1818 Sunday school discontinued
1833 1 Church of England Sunday school (27 attend), 1 Baptist
 Sunday School (162 attend)
1891 Schoolmistress recorded
1912 Voluntary school, average attendance 39

20. Poor relief:

1776	£60. 11s. 5d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£217. 1s. 1 ¾ d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£475. 1s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£502. 17s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£513. 5s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£429. 16s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

1844 Petty Sessions held 11 times per year in ancient inn

23. Recreation:

1844-1912 The White Horse public house

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

'On the parish and parish church of All Saints, Stoke Ash'. PSIA Vol. IV p.417

Archaeological Sites:

Med. moated sites (CRN 8028, 8029)

Stray finds: Neo. axe (CRN 8035)
Rom. dress fitting (CRN 7363)
Rom. spindle whorl (CRN 8037)
Rom. pottery (CRN 8037)
Med. religious token (CRN 2296)

Scatter finds: Rom. pottery (CRN 8030, 8031, 8033, 8034, 8036)
B.A. pottery (CRN 8032)