

# 1. Parish: Wantisden

**Meaning:** Want's Valley

2. **Hundred:** Plomesgate

**Deanery:** Orford (-1914), Wilford (1914-1972), Woodbridge (1972-)

**Union:** Plomesgate

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

## Other administrative details:

Woodbridge Petty Sessional Division and County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,133 (1912)

4. **Soils:**

- Mixed:**
- a) Deep fine loam soils with slowly permeable subsoils, slight seasonal waterlogging, similar fine/coarse loam over clay soils
  - b) Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid, risk wind erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

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
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1958 air base occupies large proportion of NW sector. Dispersed settlement with few houses at Wantisden Corner (on S. Boundary with Butley). Church situated in isolated position on edge of air base (in centre of parish)

Few scattered farms

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 5, 1801 – 8, 1851 – 23, 1871 – 20,  
1901 – 19, 1951 – 13, 1981 – 13

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** Roads to Butley and Chillesford  
**Rail:** 1891 3 miles Wickham Market station: Wickham Market Framlingham line opened (1859) closed for passengers (1952), closed for good (1965). Ipswich-Lowestoft line, opened (1859) remains operational  
**Air:** Bentwaters Air Base: built (1942) as USAF base, opened (1944) remains operational

**9. Population:**

1086 — 65 recorded  
1327 — 26 taxpayers paid £1. 19s. 8d. (includes part of Tunstall)  
1524 — 12 taxpayers paid £1. 3s. 10d.  
1603 — 32 adults  
1674 — 8 households  
1676 — not recorded  
1801 — 79 inhabitants  
1831 — 125 inhabitants  
1851 — 107 inhabitants  
1871 — 78 inhabitants  
1901 — 79 inhabitants  
1931 — 56 inhabitants  
1951 — 45 inhabitants  
1971 — 47 inhabitants  
1981 — 40 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy (1831), Vicarage (1891)**

1254 Valued £6.  
1291 Valued £6.  
1535 Valued £6.  
1603 Vicar has stipend of £10  
1831 No glebe house. Gross income £64 p.a.  
1912 Nett value £50. Incumbent also holds Chillesford where he resides.

**Patrons:** N. Barnardiston (1831), Col N. Barnardiston (1912)

**11. Church St. John (severely isolated by RAF Bentwaters)**  
(Chancel, nave, W. tower)

1086 ½ church + 20 acres free land and 121 acres land.  
4<sup>th</sup> part of church + 10 acres

Norman 4<sup>th</sup> part of church + 10 acres  
14<sup>th</sup> cent. Chancel arch, S. doorway in nave, window in chancel  
Main structure

**Seats : 80 (1915)**

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1597 Incumbent performed marriage in private home

**13. Manorial:**

**Wantisden Hall**

13<sup>th</sup> cent. Sir Thomas Weyland owns (linked to Tunstall, Lt. Cornard, Onehouse, Gt. Whelnetham, Witnessham, Clopton and Bramford)  
1349 Bartholomew, Lord Berghersh owns (linked to Tunstall, Carlton Colville, Clopton, Henley, Swilland, Gt. Glemham and Campsey Ash)  
1375 Sir Edward le Despencer owns (linked to Tunstall, Carlton Colville, Clopton, Middleton, Swilland and Blaxhall)  
1406 Priory of Butley own  
1544 Lionel Talmach owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)  
circa 1551 John Soone owns (linked to Westleton and Chillesford)  
circa 1593 Michael Stanhope owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)  
circa 1671 Sir Henry Wood owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)  
circa 1785 Sir William Chapman owns  
circa 1837 Nathaniel Barnardiston owns (linked to Freckenham, Bromeswell, Clare, Kedington, Kentford and Eyke)  
circa 1896 Lord Rendlesham owns (linked to Ramsholt and Rendlesham)

**14. Markets/Fairs**

**15. Real property:**

1844 £956 rental value  
1891 £1,081 rateable value  
1912 £779 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844 Lord Rendlesham and Trustees of J.W. Sheppard, principal owners  
1891 Lord Rendlesham and J.G. Sheppard, principal owners

1912 Lord Rendlesham and Col. N.W Barnardiston, principal owners

**17. Resident gentry:**

1679 Bryan Smith

**18. Occupations:**

1550-1549 1 yeoman  
1550-1599 2 husbandmen  
1600-1649 3 yeomen, 3 husbandmen  
1650-1699 1 yeoman  
1831 42 agriculture, 2 in retail trade, 5 in domestic service  
1844 3 farmers  
1912 2 farm bailiffs

**19. Education:**

1912 Children attend school at Butley and Tunstall

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£15. 14s. 10d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£89. 13s. 7 ¾ d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£207. 5s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£90. 15s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£122. 13s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£97s. 8s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

**Sir Michael Stanhope's Charity:**

1618 by Deed of Sir M. Stanhope: £5 for distribution among the poor

**22. Other institutions:**

**23. Recreation:**

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

Wantisden Hall: built (circa 1550) by Richard Wingfield. Red brick with stepped gables. Farmhouse (1844).

Med. Staverton Park: portion lies within Wantisden parish

The Old Yards: reputedly site of former manor house. Local legend places its destruction in (1381) during the Peasants Revolt.

'Butley, Chillesford and Wantisden' by A. Snell

'Monumental Inscriptions in Church and Churchyard at Wantisden' (1907)

Register of English Monumental Inscription Vol.I p.55

**Archaeological Sites:**

I.A. excavation/loom weight (CRN 2470)

Med. earthwork/pottery (CRN 2471)

Church of St. John (CRN 1677)

Scatter finds:            Neo. worked flint (CRN 2469)  
                                 Med. masonry (CRN 2472)  
                                 Med. pottery (CRN 2473, 2478, 2479)