

# 1. Parish: Snape

**Meaning:** Pieces of land or poor grasing (Ekwall)

**2. Hundred: Plomesgate**

**Deanery:** Orford (1785-1914), Saxmundham (1914 -)

**Union:** Plomesgate

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

**Other administrative details:**

Abolished ecclesiastically (1785) to create Friston with Snape  
Blything Petty Sessional Division  
Framlingham and Saxmundham County Court District

**3. Area:** 1,981 acres land, 30 acres tidal water, 123 acres foreshores (1912)

**4. Soils:**

- Mixed:**
- a. Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid, risk wind erosion
  - b. Deep stoneless non-calcareous/calcareous clay soils. Flat land. Slight risk of flooding by river
  - c. Some deep peat soils associated with clay over sandy soils, high groundwater levels, risk of flooding by river.

**5. Types of farming:**

1086		Wood for 6 pigs, 6 acres meadow, 1 mill, 2 cattle Problems of acidity and trace elements deficiencies
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilizing 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.

**5. Types of farming (cont'd):**

- 1937 Main crops: Wheat, barley, beans, roots. Mainly arable/dairying.  
1969 Trist: Dairying has been replaced with arable farming

**6. Enclosure:**

- 1860 248 acres of Church Commons in Snape enclosed under General Acts (1859)

**7. Settlement:**

- 1977/83 River Alde forms natural boundary to south. River Fromus forms natural boundary to west. Associated wet lands restrict development in these areas. Extensive heath land occupies majority of eastern sector (called Snape Warren) Small compact development not far from river. Church stands in secondary settlement at Church Common. Further secondary settlement at Cromford. Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 21, 1801 – 78, 1851 - 123, 1871 – 120, 1901 –118, 1951 – 171, 1981 – 201

**8. Communications:**

- Road:** Roads to Benhall, Sternfield, Friston and Tunstall  
1844 Carriers to Woodbridge and Ipswich  
1891 Carriers to Woodbridge Monday, Thursday and Saturday  
1912 Carrier to Woodbridge Monday, Thursday, Saturday  
Site of toll-gate at junction of Grumford Land with the Aldeburgh to Ipswich Road (1948)
- Rail:** 1891 3½ miles Saxmundham station: Saxmundham – Aldeburgh line opened (1859), line to Aldeburgh closed for goods (1959), closed for passengers (1966). Spur from Saxmundham to Leiston still operational  
1912 Rail station for goods only opened (1859), still operational

## 8. Communications (cont'd):

**Water:** River Alde: navigable to Snape Bridge for vessels of 100 tons (1844)  
1844 Regular trading vessels to London Wednesday  
'Alde Estuary' by W.G. Arnott (1952)

## 9. Population:

1086 — 72 recorded (includes Domesday vill of Becclings)  
1327 — 36 taxpayers paid £2. 0s. 3d. (includes Friston)  
1524 — 34 taxpayers paid £2. 16s.  
1603 — 124 adults  
1674 — 37 households  
1676 — Not recorded  
1801 — 402 inhabitants  
1831 — 514 inhabitants  
1851 — 576 inhabitants  
1871 — 546 inhabitants  
1901 — 529 inhabitants  
1931 — 603 inhabitants  
1951 — 557 inhabitants  
1971 — 590 inhabitants  
1981 — 541 inhabitants

## 10. Benefice: Vicarage (with Friston)

1254 Valued £4. 13s. 4d.  
1291 Valued £4. 13s. 4d.  
1535 Valued £5. 5s. 7½d.  
1603 Vicarage valued £5. 5s. 7½d. Incumbent also holds Freston  
1831 No glebe house. Gross income £194 p.a. (curates stipend included with Aldeburgh) Incumbent also holds Vicarage of Aldeburgh  
1844 2 acres joint glebe  
Vicarial tithes commuted for £124. 4s. 9d. p.a. (1848)  
1891 Incumbent resides rent free at Snape House. 2 acres glebe at Friston and ½ acre glebe in Snape  
1912 Joint nett value £195 with residence

**Patrons:** R.H.W. Vyse (1831), Col. T.H. Vyse (1844), H.H. Howard-Vyse (1891)  
Commander F.C.U. Vernon-Wentworth (1912)

## 11. Church St. John Baptist (Chancel, nave, S.porch, W.tower)

1086 Church + 8 acres, valued 16d.  
12<sup>th</sup> cent. Door jambs to blocked N.door  
circa 1300 Traces in nave and chancel

## 11. Church (cont'd):

14 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Main structure
1597	Chancel decayed in thatching
1643/44	Pruitanical Vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed 4 popish pictures and took up 4 brass inscriptions
1864/1905	Restorations
Seats:	300 (1915)

## 11a. Other religious institutions:

### Priory      Blessed Virgin Mary

#### For Benedictine Monks

1099	Manor of Snape given to Abbot and Convent of St. John, Colchester. Priory was cell of that Abbey
1155	Cell complete
14 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Pope granted independency. Disputed by Henry IV. Priory continued as cell of Colchester
1508	Cell of Butley Priory for one year only
1524	Granted to Cardinal Wolsey
1525	Dissolved
1535	Valued £99. 1s. 11½d. Situated to west of Snape Bridge. Some remains visible 'snape Priory'. Victoria County History Vol. II p.79/80 Illustration of Seal. Victoria County History Vo. II p.72

## 12. Nonconformity etc:

Primitive Methodist chapel built (1862)

## 13. Manorial:

### Snape Manor

1066	Manor of 4 carucates held by Edric of Laxfield
1086	Manor of 4 carucates belonging to Robert Malet and held by Walter
circa 1099	William Martel gave the manor to St. John at Colchester for the foundation of Snape Priory (which did not occur until 1155) (linked to Aldeburgh and Bedingfield)
Circa 1524	Granted to Cardinal Wolsey (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1533	Thomas, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)

**13. Manorial (cont'd):**

**Snape Manor (cont'd):**

Circa 1791 William Wentworth owns (linked to Friston)  
1909 T.F.C. Vernon-Wentworth owns (linked to Friston,  
Haslewood and Aldeburgh)

**Sub-manors:**

**Courtlets/Cantlets**

No date John Okolte owns  
1431 William de la Pole owns (linked to Aspall, Cotton,  
Debenham, Dagworth, Wattisfield and Creeting St. Olave)  
early 18<sup>th</sup>  
cent. Sir Henry Johnson  
circa 1791 William Wentworth owns (absorbed by main manor)

**Bekling**

1408 Michael de la Pole owns (linked to numerous manors  
throughout Suffolk)

**Tastards**

1405 William Worstade owns, gave to Snape Priory (absorbed  
by main manor)

**Rysing**

No date Robert de Rising owns  
1428 William de la Pole owns (absorbed by Courtlets)

**Scotts**

Believed to have followed same course as Tastards

**Snape Hall**

circa 1352 Nicholas Launce owns

**14. Markets/Fairs**

1618/19 Fair held on 15<sup>th</sup> August and Our First Lady in Harvest  
1792 Fair held on August 11<sup>th</sup>  
1805 Fair held on 11<sup>th</sup> August for horses  
1844 Large horse fair held at Snape Bridge on 11<sup>th</sup> August  
(also called Dunningworth Fair)  
1891 Fair on August 11<sup>th</sup>, obsolete by (1908)

**15. Real property:**

1844            £1,191 rental value  
1891            £2,123 rateable value  
1912            £1,817 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844/1891    Land sub-divided  
1912            Commander F.C.U. Vernon-Wentworth, principal owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

1912            Rev. F.G. Cliff B.A., H.F. Fox M.A. and G.H. Garrett J.P.

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1549    2 yeomen  
1550–1599    3 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 carpenter, 1 spinster  
1600–1649    5 yeomen, 2 blacksmiths, 6 husbandmen, 1 glasier, 1  
carpenter, 1 petty chapman, 1 inn holder  
1650–1699    3 yeomen, 1 blacksmith, 2 husbandmen, 1 smith  
1831            77 in agriculture, 32 in retail trade, 1 professional, 16 in  
labouring, 12 in domestic service, 4 others  
1844            1700 quarters of barley shipped to Garrett warehouse in  
Snape yearly, mainly for the London market. Cattle  
dealer, wheelwright, blacksmith, farrier, corn/coal  
merchant, book-keeper, pilot, joiner/builder, victualler,  
schoolmaster, glover, brickmaker, butcher, 4  
boot/shoemakers, 2 corn millers, 12 farmers, 3  
grocer/drapers, 2 whiting manufacturers, wharfinger  
1912            Sub-postmaster, schoolmaster, station master, rabbit  
warrener, gamekeeper, 2 shopkeepers, 6 farmers,  
grocer/drapper, photographer, 2 farm foremen, miller,  
carrier, blacksmith/farmer, miller, brick/tile manufacturer,  
pork butcher, publican, midwife/district nurse, beer  
retailer/grocer, cowkeeper

**19. Education:**

1818            1 day school (13 attend), 1 dames school (20 attend)  
1833            3 daily schools (14 attend)  
1844            Schoolmaster recorded  
School built (1836) near to church by William Long,  
enlarged (1881), 180 attend (1891)  
Public Elementary school built (1905) as memorial to  
Newson and Louisa Garrett, average attendance (1912)  
115

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£36. 0s. 8d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£190. 8s. 5½d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£761. 18s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£514. 7s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£574. 7s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£603. 6s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

**Lambert's Charity**

1802 by Codicil of Rev. John Lambert: Interest on £200 distributed among those not receiving parochial relief at Christmas

**22. Other institutions:**

1776 Workhouse (20 inmates)  
Village Hall built (1923)

**23. Recreation:**

1642 Inn holder recorded  
1844 Crown Inn public house  
1891/  
1912 Crown Inn public house and beer retailer

**24. Personal:**

Newson Garrett (circa 1812-1894): began melting business at Snape (1854) and built the Maltings. His home was in Aldeburgh but during the period of winter malting he lived in Snape.

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976): composer, founder of the Aldeburgh Festival. Lived at Snape Mill (1942-1947)

A.J. Swinburne: resident of Snape (20<sup>th</sup> cent.), former H.M. Inspector of Schools. Author of 'Memories of a School Inspector'

**25. Other information:**

The Maltings: built in 'functional' tradition of red and yellow brick with white weatherboarding. 4 hoists. Oldest portion was on quay side  
Dates (1859, 1884, 1885 and 1952)

Original building erected (1812/093) for Newson Garrett.

Converted to concert hall for Aldeburgh Festival (1966/67)

Restoration after severe fire (1969/70)

'Snape Maltings Concert Hall – the Next Step' (1970's)

## 25. Other information (cont'd):

Barrow: survivor of group of approximately 6 such barrows. 3 were excavated (1840 and 1863)  
Ship burial found few yards from surviving barrow.  
'Snape Tumuli'. Victoria County History Vol.I p.628  
Illustrations and excavation notes of Snape ship burial. Victoria County History Vol.I p.326-329  
Illustration of cinerary urn found at Snape. Victoria County History Vol.I p.267  
'The Snape Boat-grave' by R.L.S. Bruce-Mitford. PSIA Vol.XXVI p.1

'Snape: The Short History of a Suffolk Village' by R.A. Irving (1948)

Snape Bridge demolished (1959)

'Over Snape Bridge' by R. Simper (1967)

Snape Quay is actually in the parish of Tunstall

'Antiquities on Snape Common'. Proceedings of Society of Antiquaries 2<sup>nd</sup> Series II p.177

'Anglo-Saxon Cremation Burials from Snape' by S.E. West and E. Owles. PSIA Vol. XXXIII p.47

Snape manor held a water mill and rabbit warren (1530)

Frame of barn at Abbey Farm dates from (14<sup>th</sup> cent.)

Area known as Gromford/Grumford has also been called Caldwell Green, Cordial Green and Cundle Green.

Lords Demsne lands were divided up as 30% pasture/fen, 7% meadow, 21% close, 21% wood and 21% unspecified. Suggested reconstruction of these lands is on p.216 PSIA Vol.XXXXV

'The Shaggy Man of Snape' by C.R. Elliott. East Anglian Magazine Vol. 40 (November 1980) p. 36