

## Ufford Heritage Trail

### 30. Smock Meadow

You are standing in Smock Meadow, a field of just over 3 acres and one of Ufford's water meadows.

In his will, proved in London on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 1638, John Sayer, yeoman of Woodbridge, gave the Smock Meadow to the Parish. He intended that the income from the land should provide bread and smocks for the poor of Ufford.

The following extract is from "A Supplement to the Suffolk Traveller or Topographical and Genealogical Collections concerning that County" published in 1844:

and is at present in good condition.—A piece of meadow land, containing 3A. 3R., called Smock Meadow, was given to this parish by a Mr. Sayer, but at what time is unknown, to the intent that out of the rent, sixty dozen of bread should be yearly bought, and distributed to the poor; and that the remainder of the rents should be applied to provide smocks for the poor of the parish. The rent is £8 a year, which is laid out partly in buying shifts for poor women,

In John Sayer's day there were no cars, telephone or radio. A journey was a hazard and roads and communications were poor; sometimes non-existent. Assuming John Sayer lived until middle or old age he would have known the death of the great Queen Elizabeth in 1603, the life and death of William Shakespeare and the founding of New England by the Pilgrim Fathers.

Ufford Charities sold the meadows in the C20<sup>th</sup> and income from the invested money assists in the upkeep of the fabric of the Church and the Almshouses on Church Lane.