

## Ufford Heritage Trail

### 17. Sogenhoe Chapel

On this site stood a chapel that served the ancient manor of Sogenhoe. The hamlet of Sogenhou (later Sogenho or Sogenhoe) is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. Sugga was a known Anglo-Saxon personal name and the "hou" element means a ridge of land, so this was Sugga's ridge of land. The hamlet no longer exists.

At the time of the Domesday Survey, the unfree Anglo Saxon tenants of the manor would have been obliged to work on the land for their Norman master. In 1291, the Chapel appears in a Papal valuation under the heading of Bredfield, yet the manor of Sogenhoe belonged



to Ufford. The Chapel received endowments from the Rectors of Grundisburgh, Easton, Ufford and Bredfield totalling 8 florins, equivalent to thousands of pounds today.

A rental record of 1442 shows Sogenhoe Manor holding 42 tenements, some of them with as little as one acre of land. As well as its own Chapel, it had its own windmill and lands in Ufford, Bredfield, Melton and Woodbridge. The Chapel was dissolved in 1545 by King Henry VIII at the time of the Reformation. Records from that time say that none could recall when or by whom it was founded.

The site of the Chapel passed through various hands, eventually becoming glebe land of the Church of Ufford at some point in the 1600s.

In 1735 John Kirby notes in his Suffolk Traveller "There is in this Parish the ruins of a Chapel", so the ruins of the Chapel must have been visible 190 years after its dissolution.

In the early 1900s, farm workers said that pieces of masonry often appeared here after ploughing the land. The particulars of the sale in 1932 note "Although no ruins remain, this site has a certain antiquarian interest and the foundations of this ancient manorial chapel can still be traced".

In 1932, Reverend Herbert Williams purchased the site, at which time he placed a wooden cross there. In 1938, the site passed to East Suffolk County Council, then subsequently to Suffolk County Council. The County Council, in turn, leased it to Ufford Parish Council in 1996. The land is restricted "to be used by the public forever within the meaning of the Open Spaces Act 1906".

*[Note - this description is transcribed from The Information Board which is dedicated to Diane Alexander, who cared for the chapel site.]*