The Ufford Heritage Trail

Produced by...

Thanks to...

Ufford Place House ...

Top: Ufford Place House.   Below: Ufford Place Gates c1910 looking towards Church Lane

How to find Ufford...

Travelling south from Lowestoft:
Continue down the A12 and take the exit marked Ufford, approximately 3 miles south of Wickham Market

Travelling north from London:
Continue up the A12 until the Copdock junction with the A14. Take the turning towards Felixstowe. Take the Lowestoft exit (A12). Continue up the A12, taking the Ufford exit approximately 2 miles north of Woodbridge.

Nearest train station: Melton. Taxi service available at the station.

To London
A12
To Felixstowe
A14
A14
Ipswich
A14
Ufford
A12
To Cambridge
A140
To Lowestoft
To Norwich
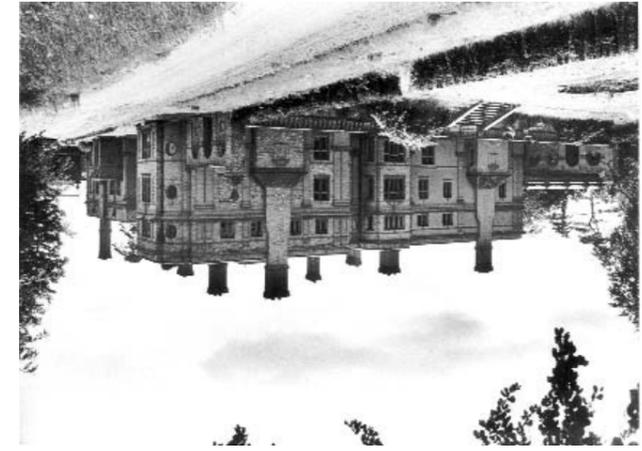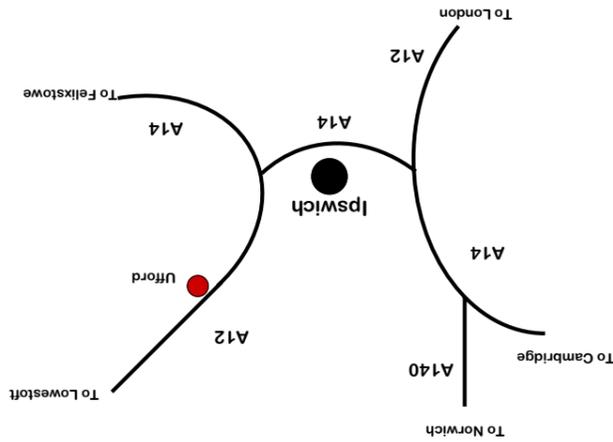
Discover Ufford's history...

1) **Stocks** (left) Probably moved to here after the Old Green was enclosed. A note in the 1680 Churchwardens' accounts shows 2s (10p) paid for repairs.

2) **Church & Yard** Guide available in Church.

3) **The Old Green** Originally included all the land now occupied by the Dower House and the houses in Church Lane.

4) **The White Lion** (below) Dates from before 1614 when owned by Francis Ballett, son of Richard Ballett, whose brass skeleton plaque is on the north wall of the Church. The room where the beer barrels are kept, with the sloping roof, was once a butcher's shop.

5) **Aldgate Meadow** The last common land of Ufford, enclosed in 1818. Its Old English name suggests an ancient landing place on the river. Suffolk Punches can often be seen grazing here.

6) **Ufford Bridge** (above) Called Hawkeswade Bridge, from the Old English 'Hakerswade', meaning an acre swathe, from at least the 13th century. The current bridge was built circa 1750. Photo c1910.

7) **Crisp's Meadow** The first traceable Suffolk Punch was foaled here in 1768. It belonged to Thomas Crisp of Butley Abbey; all today's Suffolk Punches are descended from this horse.

8) **Melton Hamlet** These cottages and their gardens are the last remnant of lands in Ufford belonging to the Abbey of Ely's Saxon manor of Melton Ufford. The Vicar of Ufford had to pay the Vicar of Melton a sum in lieu of tithes.

9) **St Anne's** Converted from three cottages to one during 1983/4. During this work hair, thought to be a child's, was found behind the old fireplace which was hastily re-bricked up. The owner regularly feels the presence of a ghost cat on the stairs at night. Guests have been frightened by a 'being' in their bedroom.

10) **Almshouses** (above right) Built on the green 'for the ancient and indigent men and women of Ufford' by Thomas Wood, Bishop of Lichfield and supported by a gift in his will of 1690. Modernised in 1959 and refurbished in 1990 for two alms persons, they are now maintained by Ufford Charities.

11) **Ufford Place Gates** Probably erected circa 1850 by Francis Capper Brooke. One of the last remaining features of the lost house of Ufford Place, the gates were the rear entrance to the Brooke Estate.

12) **Ufford Place House** Possibly on the site of a mediaeval manor house, Thomas Ballett built the first recorded house which his widow sold for 1000 guineas in 1627. The Hammonds rebuilt the house in 1674 and that year's Hearth Tax records 13 fireplaces. Let in 1791, the house was described as 'a capital brick mansion house containing three parlours, kitchen and servants hall etc. on the second floor seven good chambers, on the third floor five good attics'. The Rev Charles Brooke, whose family owned the house in the 19th century, found bones, a shield's iron boss, a spear and a bronze ornament, all of Anglo-Saxon origin and indicating the site of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery here. Billeted by army officers during WW2, the house was left in such a bad state of repair that the Brookes could not afford to have it refurbished. In 1957 it was demolished and sold for development into the current Ufford Place

13) **The Avenue** Constructed circa 1825 by Rev Charles Brooke to replace old Soneyeves Lane which ran from Ufford Church to Bredfield, and the part of School Lane that passed through his estate. Photo (right) c1900.

14) **Avenue Cottage** The present building is reputed to be one of the oldest in Ufford. There is said to have been a house on this site since the 1100s.

15) **Parklands** Part of the original park area of Ufford Place Estate. Requisitioned by the army during WW2 for R.E.M.E.'s tanks and guns. The concrete bases of some of the Nissen huts used as barracks can still be seen hidden in the woods.

16) **Ufford Cross** Edmund's Cross, a roadside shrine for travellers, once stood at the junction of the Turnpike (former coaching route) and Soneyeves Lane to Bredfield.

17) **Sogenhoe Chapel** (site of) See notice on site.

18) **Evacuees' Oak Tree** Children evacuated from the Grays area of East London in 1939 were billeted in Ufford. Returning 50 years on, they were entertained by Ufford Parish Council and visited their wartime village friends. To commemorate the occasion an oak tree was planted at the junction at the top of the Avenue. They presented Ufford with a framed pictorial map of Grays and an engraved glass goblet.

19) **Crown Nursery** Apart from selling plants, it also houses an orchard preserving East Anglian heritage varieties of apple.

20) **Clapper Path** So called because the original stile on the Turnpike had a bar which lifted to allow people to climb over, which dropped back, making a clapping noise.

(below left: High Street c1907)

21) **Crown Inn** (above) Old coach-stopping place on the Turnpike, in 1524 was the private house of a Simon Toveld. It was described in 1750 as 'the tenement called Tovells having the sign of the Crown'. The development in School Lane was recently named Tovells after this.

22) **Forge House** Dating back to at least 1674, this was still a forge within living memory. At one time owned by members of the Garrett family, one of whom lost it in one night playing cards with Mr Sayer, landlord of the Crown Inn.

23) **Crown Farm House** (left) A woolmerchant's home dating from the 1500s, once home of Thomas Wood, Bishop of Lichfield, who was born and buried in Ufford. He became bishop through the influence of his niece whom he had encouraged to marry an illegitimate son of

Charles II. Note the gable ends with brick noggins.

24) **Vale Farm** The old manor house of the Manor of Otleys in Ufford, it was the childhood home of William Otley, Lord Mayor of London in 1434.

If you leave the trail and follow the footpath to the left you can see....

25) **The Sick Cottages** Also known as the Pest House and Sicken Housen, they were built to house victims of the plague circa 1666.

Return to the trail which will lead you down to....

26) **Malthouse Farm** A recently demolished part of this house was once used for making malt from the farmer's barley which he used to brew his own small beer.

27) **East Lane** A Richard Est lived here as early as 1327. Was he named after the Lane or the Lane after him?

28) **Willow Farm House** Possibly the site of one of the de Ufford's (Norman) manor houses.

29) **Water Mill** Thought to be the site of the Ufford Mill mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1087, the house dates from the 17th century. The mill is earlier.

30) **Smock Meadows** In 1637, John Sayer, yeoman of Woodbridge, left these meadows to the Parish. The income from them provided smocks for deserving men and women of Ufford and thirty dozen loaves at Hallowmas and again in Lent. Ufford Charities sold the meadows in the twentieth century. Income from the invested money assists in the upkeep of the fabric of the Church and the Almshouses.

31) **The Old Rectory** One of the few mediaeval priest's houses left in Suffolk. Built in 1450-1500, it was enlarged in the 1800s.

Key
- – – Footpath
- Heritage Trail
- .... Easier access (avoiding stiles)
- ⊠ Stile
- ⚲ Site of Sogonho Chapel
- ✝ Church
- Woodland
- 🔆 Viewpoint
- P Parking

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