EAST ANGLIAN TRADITIONAL MUSIC TRUST Vaughan Williams' Folk Van Diemen's Land

This song tells the cautionary tale of the fate of poachers and other petty criminals transported to Van Diemen's Land, now the island of Tasmania, for their crimes.

Vaughan Williams collected this version of from singer James
Bloomfield. Mr Bloomfield met with him on several occasions between
December 1903 and October 1904 but he sang this song on a visit to
The Dog public house in East Horndon on 22nd April 1904, where
Vaughan Williams erroneously recorded his name as Mr Broomfield in
his notes. James Bloomfield was a general labourer from the area and
sang 18 songs to Vaughan Williams during this period.

The map shows the village of East Horndon in Essex.

Task: Find out more about "Van Diemen's Land", the colonial name for the island of Tasmania.
Around 73,000 prisoners were tranported there between 1800 and 1853.





East Horndon, Essex